

SEPTEMBER 1970

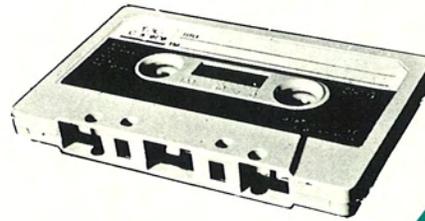
contact Of The National Association
Of Free Will Baptists

convention



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by the
Executive Secretary
Rufus Coffey



THE CONVENTION IN RETROSPECT

A good driver not only keeps his eyes on the road ahead, he does not neglect glancing occasionally into the rear view mirror. With a pictorial wrap-up in this issue, the 34th annual session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists is now history. Most conventions, like Christmas, are soon put out of the mind until the next year. Before closing the chapter, however, some reflections and observations still linger.

Those who attended and especially the ones driving were reminded anew how far our brethren in California have to travel every year. The local committees had worked hard preparing for the convention. Between the gracious efforts of our host state and the use of excellent facilities the convention activities functioned very smoothly.

How refreshing it was to renew fellowship with those of like faith and practice from almost forty states. It was a blessed experience to pray, sing, and worship together. Hearts were warmed by the faithful preaching of the truth. The Holy Spirit was especially evident in the missionary service. Besides a large number of visible decisions and a record missionary offering many more were stirred to a new sense of commitment to world evangelism. A pastor and his wife who did not make a public decision have already applied to the Foreign Mission Board for service in France.

Departmental progress reports were encouraging and stimulated a greater interest in the universal cause of Christ. The adoption of a denominational budget exceeding \$2,300,000.00 challenges us to a greater manifestation of stewardship responsibility. An attempt to present an overall view of the work of the national work was somewhat overshadowed by quibbling over controversial matters and misunderstandings.

As usual, our diversity becomes more evident when differences of opinion arise. It is always a cause for dismay when strong voices attempt to drown out weak voices. It sometimes appears that some are prone to forget they are at a church convention instead of a political convention. Contention and confusion is nothing new. But it is a poor example for our young people who are emerging as future denominational leaders; it is distasteful to laymen who are

attending in greater number than ever before; and it is certainly grievous to the Holy Spirit.

The value of a convention is difficult to determine because of the many factors involved. Yet, when so much time, energy, and money is spent, some kind of evaluation is necessary.

As I reflect on the convention, the most significant thing was the adoption of two resolutions, that were published in the last issue of CONTACT. The first resolution reasserts our unswerving faith in the verbally inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God. The second resolution reaffirms our whole-hearted commitment to the fundamentals of the Christian faith in general and the Free Will Baptist denomination in particular, and likewise our stalwart opposition to all forms of false doctrine, including modernism, and to all philosophies which soften resistance to false doctrine, including Neo-Evangelicalism.

These resolutions are important for several reasons. In a time of theological confusion when the Word of God is under attack by renowned religious leaders and many denominations are unwittingly drifting into modernism and infidelity, it is reassuring to know Free Will Baptists are withstanding this spiritual apostasy. The national body did not hesitate to speak loudly and clearly.

This decisive action also reveals that Free Will Baptists have not lost their sense of direction. By unequivocally refuting theological error, it is quite evident that liberalism has no foothold among us. The resolutions furthermore serve as a deterrent to any theological pied piper, who might arise to lead us astray. Finally, the resolutions are a witness to the guardians and defenders of the faith that we are united in maintaining an uncompromising position of purity on Biblical principles.

It is gratifying to be a part of a movement which seeks to faithfully honor the Lord and His Word of truth. As we continue to adhere to the truth which we have reaffirmed, our mandate is to go forth and zealously proclaim this truth to an unbelieving world. The convention strengthened me and gave renewed determination to work and pray for the advancement of God's kingdom work through Free Will Baptists.



A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Jim Owen Jones

A picture is worth a thousand words, they tell us in communication circles. So to give you some idea of the people, the events, and the spirit of the 1970 convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, we have selected several photos of convention activities for our cover feature.

The photo story concludes with a preview of the 35th annual session to be in Nashville, Tennessee next July 12-15. Department heads and denominational leaders are already planning for an attendance of at least 5000. Since Nashville is situated squarely in the heart of the Free Will Baptist populace, their estimates could possibly run a bit short. It will no doubt be the largest convention ever.

A story by Roger Reeds, director of the National Sunday School Department, offers a valuable lesson for us in this issue. It is about a blind man who has become an unusually successful Sunday school teacher.

Donna Field's poems are featured on page 10. They are presented here because of their forthright beauty and simplicity. Poems have a way of making us reflect on ourselves and on our relationship toward God.

The Woman's National Auxiliary Convention will be featured next month. An early editor of the Missouri Gem, one time the voice of the Free Will Baptists, credited the women with putting the Free Will Baptists on the map in foreign missions work, both during the early history of the Free Will Baptist movement and again in 1935. Next month, we shall see.

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convention

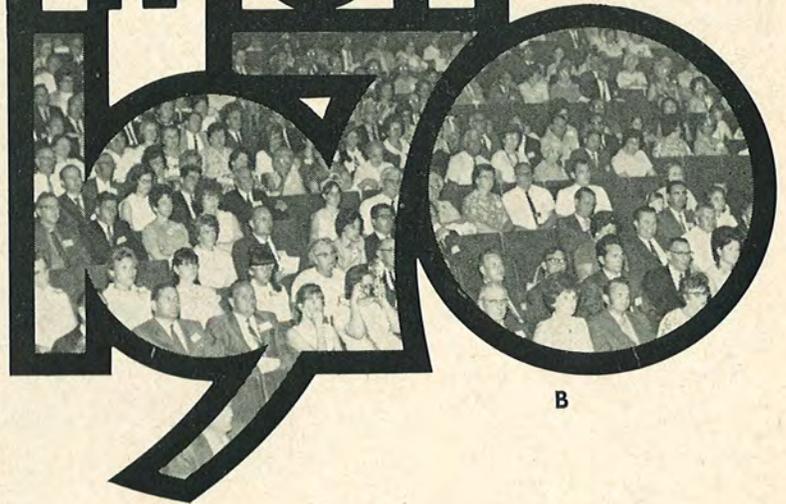


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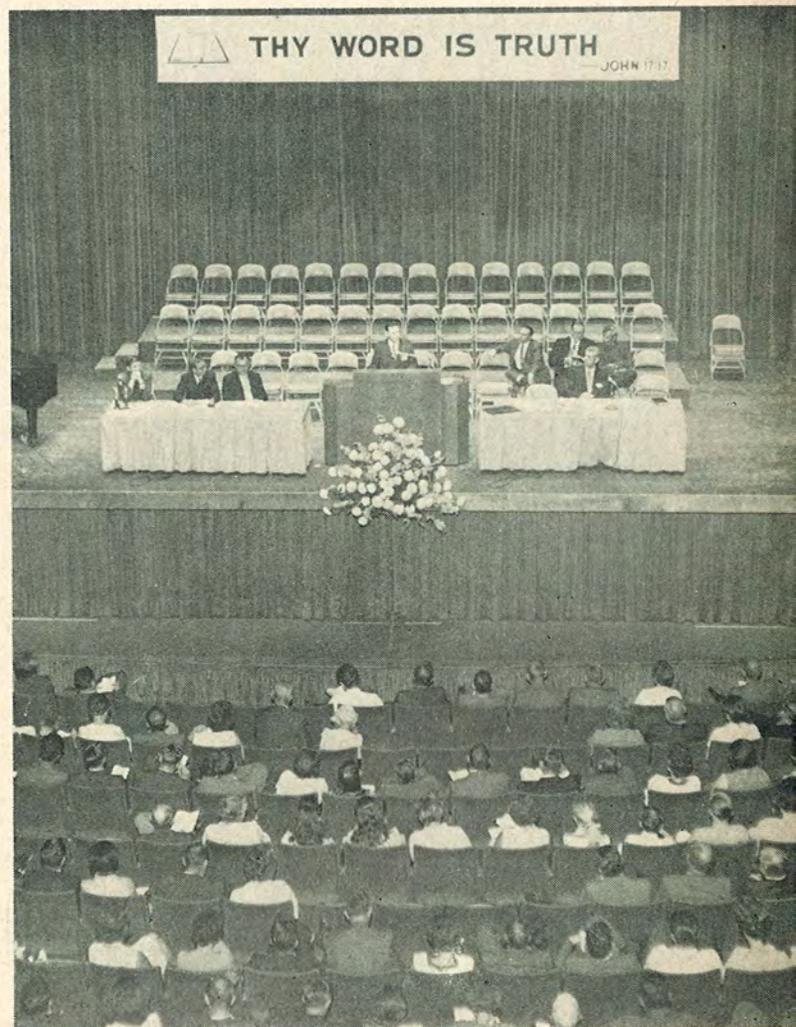
- A. Looking toward the Fresno Convention Center from atop the Del Webb TowneHouse.
- B. Nearly 2,000 persons met for worship services. Theme was "Thy Word is Truth"—John 17:17. Four outstanding speakers spoke on variations of the theme: Rev. Henry Litteral, pastor; Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, president of Oklahoma Bible College; Rev. Archie Mayhew, missionary; and Rev. J. E. Blanton, pastor.
- C. Archie Mayhew delivers missionary message.

MINISTER, delegates, visitors and missionaries representing 39 states, two territories and five foreign countries attended the 34th annual session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, July 13-16, in Fresno, California. The purpose of the annual meeting is threefold: to carry on the denomination's business, to fellowship among believers of like faith and practice, and to worship the Lord in one faith, one fellowship, and one spirit.

When the National Association convened in Fresno, two other meetings were held simultaneously. The Woman's National Auxiliary Convention met on Tuesday, following preliminary sessions of its officers on Monday. The National Youth Conference opened the week's activities with its Sunday night youth service, then held its contests on Monday afternoon and Tuesday, and awards were presented to the winners Tuesday night. A Spanish banquet late that evening highlighted the youth conference. An excursion trip Wednesday afternoon and a Project LIFE program capped off the activities.



B



C

On Monday, the General Board spent the entire day in session, receiving reports and conducting other National Association business. The board consists of 41 elected members, but about 60 persons attended the open session.

Masters Men and the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention had special programs during the four-day session. On Tuesday, the WNAC conducted business and a morning worship service, then hosted a fellowship dinner for 244 guests that evening. The Master's Men hosted a noon luncheon on Thursday on the campus of California Christian College, a Free Will Baptist school in Fresno. About 100 laymen and pastors attended.

A highlight of the convention came Wednesday night during the special missionary service when nearly 100 persons came forward at the invitation by Missionary Archie Mayhew to make decisions for Christ. Some came broken and weeping to give their lives for missionary service. All home and foreign missionaries attending the convention were introduced from the stage, and received a standing ovation. The Wesley Calvery family from Japan presented exceptionally beautiful numbers in song.

- D. *Approximately 60 persons attended the all-day General Board meeting.*
- E. *Mrs. Vonette Bright, wife of Campus Crusade founder, Bill Bright, was featured speaker at the WNAC dinner.*
- F. *Officers of the WNAC were official hosts for the dinner.*
- G. *244 guests attended the WNAC fellowship gathering.*
- H. *Mal King, district attorney for Ventura County, California, was featured speaker at the Laymen's Luncheon.*
- I. *About 100 persons attended the luncheon on the California Christian College campus.*
- J. *Ray Turnage, outgoing director of Master's Men, hosted the luncheon.*
- K. *Harold Hashimoto (third from left) received the Layman of the Year award. Rev. and Mrs. Luther Sanders (left) brought a group from the Waipahu Free Will Baptist Church, Hawaii.*
- L. *Home and foreign missionaries were introduced from the stage. Seated in front of them are Rev. Joe Ange, foreign missions board chairman; Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey; and Rev. Malcolm Fry, songleader for the convention. Foreign Missions Director Reford Wilson and outgoing Communications Director Jerry Ballard (not pictured) introduced the missionaries.*
- M. *The Wesley Calvery family, missionaries in Japan, presented special music during the Wednesday evening missionary service.*
- N. *Some gave their lives for missionary service. Missionaries to France, Dan and Margaret Merkh (right and left) pray with a young couple (center).*



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Five thousand persons are expected to attend the 35th annual convention in Nashville, Tennessee, next July 12-15. Main assemblies are scheduled for the giant Municipal Auditorium. National departments are already planning large-scale activities.

With a large percentage of the denomination's membership within a 500-mile radius of Nashville, hundreds of families will have their first opportunity to attend the convention. The National Association was organized in 1935 in Nashville. Thousands will be able to tour the denomination's National Offices to see the programs that have been achieved in the past 36 years.

Make your plans now to attend!

- O. *The National Youth Conference, meeting concurrently with the convention, began with a special Sunday night worship service, with about 700 persons attending. The California Youth Choir and a male quartet from California Christian College presented special music.*
- P. *Evangelist Ken Riggs was youth night speaker.*
- Q. *On Tuesday evening, winners of the national contests sponsored by the Church Training Service Department were announced. CTS Director Sam Johnson presented the awards.*
- R. *Following the Tuesday night worship service, teens enjoyed a late-evening Spanish banquet. The theme was "Over the border with Christ."*
- S. *These young people, who helped organize the youth conference, watch Mrs. Pearl Williams examine some of the 500 sashes she made for the Spanish banquet. Samuel Johnson looks on.*
- T. *Youths enjoy fellowship at banquet.*
- U. *National contest winners.*
- V. *21 booths displaying the work of the National Association and related ministries provided convention guests opportunities to learn about the denomination and its people.*
- W. *Downtown Nashville, Tennessee. The National Association convenes here next summer. (photo—courtesy of the Tennessee Conservation Department.)*
- X. *Scene of the 1971 convention—Nashville's Municipal Auditorium. (photo—courtesy of the Tennessee Conservation Department.)*



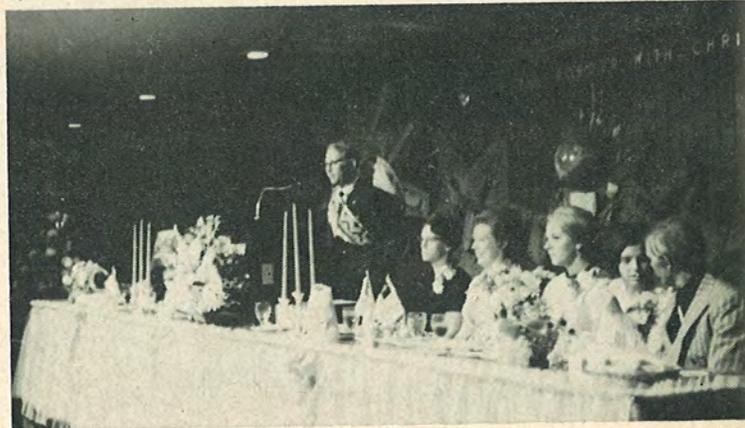
O



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X



How a Blind Teaches

W. ALMON CALVERT is a unique Sunday school teacher.

- ★ He teaches an Adult Bible Class with an enrollment of 40.
- ★ He spends at least 20 hours each week in lesson preparation.
- ★ He has earned his Preliminary Teacher's Certificate in the Evangelical Teacher Training Program.
- ★ He uses visual aids such as maps, chalkboard, flip charts, and object lessons.

These facts about Almon Calvert set him apart from many other Sunday school teachers. One other factor, however, makes Almon Calvert all the more unique. *He is totally blind.*

This distinguished, Christian gentleman is one of the most fascinating persons I have ever met. I recently sat in his Sunday school class and became completely absorbed in the lesson he taught. When introduced to Mr. Calvert just before class, I became aware that he was blind. He has unusual eye contact for a blind person, and holds up his Bible when he refers to it so that one soon loses the awareness of his physical defect. When he welcomed me to the class he looked right at me. I was amazed that the man knew where I was seated. I was told later that he has the class president welcome each person by name. He memorizes the names of those present and tries to recall where they are seated. As he judiciously asks questions throughout the Sunday school hour he looks to the person to whom he directs the question. The man seldom misses.

On the afternoon after my visit to his class, I went to the Calvert home, a small, five-acre farm just outside Florence, Alabama. For years Calvert ran a poultry farm but now is satisfied to "just raise a garden." He does all of the handiwork around the house which includes painting, fence building, and lawn mowing.

Born in Lauderdale County, Alabama, Calvert went through only the sixth grade in school because difficult circumstances forced him to get a job. In 1942, at age 21, he entered the service and was sent to Europe.

On June 6, 1944, the Normandy invasion of occupied France by land, sea, and air took place along a 115-mile front from Varreville to Calleville. One of the beaches called Saint-Laurent has been immortalized by the G.I.'s as Omaha Beach. Calvert participated in this

nd Man Sunday School

beach landing, and was wounded slightly in the arm and hand, but after receiving medical attention he went back to battle.

His 9th division pressed on across France and to the Seine River. They met heavy resistance from the Germans as they approached Paris. In the crossing of the Seine River Calvert was wounded a second time. He received shrapnel wounds in the back which required more than just brief medical attention. He was sent to the hospital and then home to the States for a convalescent period. In a short time he recovered completely and was sent back to France.

By the time Calvert rejoined his unit they had moved near the Rhine River in Germany. Forces were mustered to cross the Rhine for a sweep towards Berlin. The Americans were anxious to beat the Russians to that city. As Calvert reached the other side of the Rhine river with his division he was struck by a sniper's bullet. In an instant he became sightless. The bullet pierced his temple and passed behind his left eye, destroying the optic nerves in its path. The bullet exited through his right eye, destroying the sight of that eye also.

Calvert was taken to the field hospital where emergency surgery was performed. Long confinements at hospitals in Paris, New York City, and Palo Alto, California followed. Surgery was performed, but it was definitely determined that he would never see again. He was sent to Old Farms Convalescent Hospital at Hartford, Connecticut, where he was taught mobility without the use of a cane. As a result the 49-year-old teacher can move about on familiar grounds without assistance. He learned how to work in a machine shop and to raise poultry. He found Braille to be difficult and didn't bother to learn it, a decision that he regrets now.

Calvert returned to Lauderdale County, Alabama to make a new life. In 1946 he married Oline Staggs and settled down to poultry farming. He was not bitter about his blindness but preferred a life of solitude, working about his small farm. Calvert trained beagle hounds and followed them as they chased rabbits, thus spending his days and nights.

In September of 1954, he attended revival services at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Florence, Alabama. He responded to the invitation and received the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior. Almon Calvert became a

changed man. Before, he had preferred his solitude; now, he prefers the fellowship of the saints.

Calvert united with the church and went to work immediately. He accepted a responsibility with the Church Training Service group and later was ordained as a deacon.

In 1964 Calvert was asked to teach the Adult Bible Class at First Church. He accepted the responsibility and began to apply himself. He enrolled in the Evangelical Teacher Training Association classes taught by his pastor, the Reverend Willie Justice, and completed the first six units, receiving the preliminary Teacher Certificate.

Calvert phased out the poultry business to apply himself to his studies. A set of records on which was recorded the whole Bible was secured for his lesson preparation. In addition, his wife, Oline, records the material from both the pupil's quarterly and the teacher's quarterly, and Calvert memorizes the verses that he wishes to stress and familiarizes himself with the story. Class members with whom I spoke praise Calvert's teaching ability. I especially noted the dialogue between teacher and pupils during the class hour as Calvert sought to get his class involved in the discussion.

When Sunday school is over, Calvert puts on a robe and lends his bass voice to the worship service choir. On Monday nights Calvert visits his absentees and prospects. As a result, his growing class has been divided once. Frequently, Calvert fills the pulpit for his pastor as a lay preacher.

I asked this amazing man if he had any advice for his sighted contemporaries. He did. He advises all teachers to learn to use their memory. "Leave the teacher's quarterly at home and use the Bible," he emphasizes. "Use notes if necessary, but keep the Bible foremost. Be careful with pronunciation. One can properly pronounce Bible names, places and terminology if he tries."

I wanted to know if Almon Calvert had any resentment about his blindness.

"Blindness has its advantages," he concluded. "We don't face the temptations that our sighted Christians do."

When I left the Calvert home, I had a greater concern for those who are *spiritually blind*.

Witnessing By Faith



by Donna Field

*I came your way
One day because
I had something to say
About the Savior,
And how, by faith,
There is victory.*

*We talked of many
Things, and then,
I asked if you
Had ever been
Introduced
To my Savior.*

*When you answered "no"
I opened my Bible
And began to show,
Verse by verse,
How victory
Could be won.*

*I asked if you were
Ready to receive
Jesus into your heart.
You were not ready to believe
Just then,
Almost persuaded.*

*I returned the next night.
You were not there.
You had taken sudden flight
They said; gone,
In the middle
Of the night.*

*Was my witness in vain?
This I deny.
I put my trust in Jesus,
And by faith, I
See you.
Inside the gate.*

This Boy



*This boy is not my own
And yet he is; this boy
Who lives in my home.
God gave him to me.*

*He is my boy for a little while;
To love and guide and instruct,
In wisdom and in truth, this
child,
Yet he is not my own.*

*O, Lord, help me not to despair
This bit of laughter, tears and
hope;
Of starry eyes and tumbled hair,
But to encourage him in Thee.*

*Let me not forget, dear Lord,
As I go through daily routines
Of living in a care-worn world,
To tell him of Thy saving grace.*

*For he is not my own
And yet he is; this boy.
How will he go Home,
If I show him not the way?*

Daydream



*How oft have I thought;
If I were a flower,
I could watch all nature
Hour after hour:
The birds soaring high,
The water rippling by,
The blue of the sky,
Created by God on high.*

*How oft have I dreamed;
If I were a tree,
And towered high,
Many more things I'd see.
Oh, yes, I'd be so tall.
It wouldn't be hard at all,
To wrestle with the wind,
and not fall:
Listening to God's own call.*

*And then again,
If I were a bird,
I'd soar to unknown heights
Singing melodies yet unheard.
Oh, how light I'd be,
Gliding along so free.
If I had the key,
A glimpse of heaven I'd see.*

*A flower can be plucked,
A tree cut down:
A gentle, singing bird
Brought to the ground.
My soul lives for eternity,
In complete serenity.
Because Jesus, from sin,
saved me;
Both earth, and heaven, I'll see.*

denominational news

Alicia Willey, Missionary Daughter, Dies

Miami, Fla.—Alicia Willey, 13-year-old daughter of veteran missionaries to Panama, Tom and Ruth Willey, and granddaughter of Mrs. Mabel Willey and the late missionary, Rev. Thomas H. Willey, Sr., died here Aug. 21 after an extended illness from leukemia.

Funeral services for the missionary daughter were held in the Latin Free Will Baptist Church of Miami.

The tribute given below was written by Foreign Missions Director J. Reford Wilson.

God is concerned. God is not blind. God has not forgotten. He has not lost His attributes of wisdom and power. Death is not a fatal end. Death is not a fatesome prison. The Christ of the cross is also the Lord of the empty tomb. Today the Christian hope is as real and exciting as it was when the women ran from the empty tomb to tell the disciples that Jesus was risen from the dead. This Good News is a comforting message for saints and a saving message for sinners. Tom and Ruth Willey have spoken this message of hope to thousands in Cuba and Panama. In recent weeks, this divine truth has been an anchor holding them steady while their older daughter lay seriously ill.

Alicia Willey "became absent from the body and present with the Lord" on August 21, 1970. This 13-year-old daughter of Tom and Ruth Willey and the granddaughter of Mrs. Mabel Willey and the late Rev. Thomas H. Willey, Sr. and of Mrs. Mabel Bennett and the late Rev. J. R. Bennett bravely endured a painful illness since June 8.

She, her seven-year-old sister, Kathy, and parents have lived in Panama since 1962. Alicia began her mission life with her parents in Cuba in December 1956. Her robust and zestful childhood added many exciting experiences to their missionary life. She loved the Latin people and was more at home on a horse among the rural people than in a party dress for a social event in the city. She was active among the young people in the church groups and for the past year had taught two Sunday school classes. She had attended elementary school at the Methodist Pan-American Institute and had completed

her seventh grade at the Curundu Junior High School in the Canal Zone. Alicia was an honor student in each of her grades. Photography had become her hobby and slides which she had made were used recently in the annual missions retreat. One slide was of her own baptism with a group of Panamanian believers baptized on Easter Sunday.

One could question why a life so full should be so brief. Jim Elliot, martyred missionary in Educador, wrote, "I must not think it strange if God takes in youth those whom I would have kept on earth till they were older. God is peopling Eternity and I must not restrict Him to old men and women.

Her passing was not premature because it is man, not God, who measures life by time. Each man is a being of eternity and earthly existence is a minute measure of his life. God has provided that through Christ we live forever in *perfected glory*. Who then can question the right of Alicia to gain now what we believe we will receive later? Sorrow is a natural response to an experience of death. But we sorrow not as those without hope for we believe that Jesus died and rose again and that when He comes we will be raised to be forever together with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17).



ALICIA WILLEY

Teen Evangelism Takes Hold of Hillmont Youths

White Bluff, Tenn.—About 40 campers and staff workers carried their newly-found evangelism spirit from Hillmont Assembly to Centennial Park in Nashville, Tenn., July 29 and 30. As a result, 20 first-time decisions for Christ were recorded.

"The Holy Spirit was moving, blessing, and burdening the hearts of the youths," camp teacher Lonnie Skiles said, "until 4 a.m. Tuesday night." The pastor-camp worker said that the young people witnessed on the steps of the Parthenon Wednesday, and that "the joy fairly beamed on their faces." The Centennial Park Parthenon is an exact replica of the Greek Parthenon.

"The testimonies that night in the worship service were wonderfully Spirit-filled," he continued. "After the second day of witnessing, I really felt we had hit the apex of the camp experience. But the Thursday night worship service provided still greater heights of spiritual blessing. Bro. Berkner, the camp evangelist, presented the mission challenge . . . and the students were visibly moved."

A candlelight service at the lake nearby closed the evangelism campaign.

"My kids were thrilled," exclaimed one pastor whose three teenagers attended. Another minister said the same of his teenagers. "They came home, completely different in attitude."

One father said that he recognized certain dangers and limitations in this type of person-to-person evangelism, especially for untrained high schoolers who might confront Hippies or possibly some undesirables of questionable conduct and language. "But I like their witnessing and soul-winning," he said, "better than I like our *not* witnessing." Those kinds of persons you frequently confront on the street, he went on, are not going to be won in a church. We'll just have to do the best we can in today's world.

Foreign Missions News Briefs

Nashville, Tenn.—The Akron Ohio Free Will Baptist Church presented Missionary Dan Merkh a check for \$1000 Sunday, Aug. 9.

Merkh, whose account has been

\$2000 in the red, returned to France in September.

The youths of the church had already raised \$100 in a car wash project, and the ladies had raised \$200. The pastor said that he had sensed the Lord's leading him to bring the matter before the church, and he did. When Dan arrived on that Sunday, the church had raised the \$1000.

The Center Association Youth Camp of Oklahoma was also responsible for raising \$1,000 for a missionary. The youths decided on Friday of the camp week that they would present their total offerings to the Howard Gages, missionaries to Ivory Coast, West Africa, at the closing service Sunday night. The First Church of Ada, Okla., aided the youths by raising \$300 during the Sunday morning service when Gage spoke at the church. That night, offerings received in the final camp service where Gage again spoke pushed the total to more than \$1100, enough for their return ticket to Ivory Coast.

In other news, the Archie Mayhews left the States Aug. 25 for language refresher study in Switzerland, prior to their return to Ivory Coast where they will begin their second term of service.

Tommy and Nancy Hughes have been approved for missionary service in Brazil and are beginning their deputation work in the States.

James and Vickie Sturgill have also been approved for missionary service in Brazil, and will enter Missionary Internship this fall.

ANNOUNCING
area wide
Conference on Evangelism
October 12-14, 1970
Akron Free Will Baptist Church
1802 Eastwood Avenue
Akron, Ohio
Reverend Kenneth Frisbee, Pastor
Sponsored by
National Homes Missions and
Church Extension Board

Forlines Receives ThM Degree

Nashville, Tenn.—Rev. Leroy Forlines, theology and Bible instructor at Free Will Baptist Bible College, received the Masters in Theology degree from the Chicago Graduate School of Theology Aug. 21.

Forlines holds the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and Bachelor of Divinity, in addition to his most recent degree.

He is a member of the Theological Liberalism Commission of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, and he has written for numerous Free Will Baptist quarterlies and periodicals. He writes a monthly column on theology and doctrine for *Contact* magazine.

Bob Hill Joins Christian Life Publications

Wheaton, Ill.—Bob Hill has been named managing editor of *Christian Life Publications*, general manager of Religious Audience Marketing Service, and executive director of the company's new church development services division.

Hill will be responsible for the editorial management of *Christian Life*, *Christian Bookseller* and *Camp Management* magazines.

Formerly assistant editor of *Moody Monthly* and religious feature writer of *Chicago Today*, Hill served for 18 years as pastor of Free Will Baptist churches in Tennessee, Virginia and Missouri. He received his education at Rutgers University, Free Will Baptist Bible College, and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Hill served as editor for eight years of his denomination's men's magazine. At *Christian Life Publications*, he succeeds Will Norton, Jr., who formerly served as managing editor of *Christian Life* and *Christian Bookseller* magazines.



ALTON LOVELESS

BOB HILL

Missourian Joins Scripture Press Staff

Alton E. Loveless, former pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Joplin, Missouri and editor of the Free Will Baptist *Gem*, has joined the staff of Scripture Press of Wheaton, Illinois as a consultant in Christian education.

Rev. Loveless moved to Atlanta to assume his responsibilities Aug. 1.

Scripture Press, well known for its Bible-centered literature ministry, has other offices in Fullerton, California; Ajax, Ontario, Canada; and London, England.

Home Missions News Bits

Mr. and Mrs. Rogers McCarty have settled in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia in their new ministry. Additional monthly support is needed.

Mr. Joe Bragg, 1970 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, was employed last month as bookkeeper for the Home Missions Department, replacing Mrs. Ann Barker, who returned with husband to Louisa, Ky. Rev. Vernon Barker assumed pastorate of the First Church in Louisa.

Giving to Home Missions during the first six months of 1970 fell short by \$14,570.56.

Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Barron entered language school Sept. 1, preparing for ministry in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Rev. Nedo Eaddy, former pastor of Heads Church, Cedar Hill, Tennessee, is entering Brethren Seminary in Ashland, Ohio, where he will prepare for the chaplaincy.

Rev. and Mrs. Bill Van Winkle have begun a new mission ministry in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Wyoming Church Joins National Association

Nashville, Tenn.—A new church in a new state has been added to the directory of Free Will Baptist churches in the National Association.

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Torrington, Wyoming, was accepted

(Continued on page 16)



Wyoming church joins National Association



Rev. Fred Lucas

religious world news

Vote for Women Ministers Seen Periling Lutheran Unity

Minneapolis—A strong voice vote in favor of ordination for women in the Lutheran Church in America was seen as a threat to the unity movement among the three main branches of Lutheranism in the U.S.

The Rev. Dr. J.A.O. Preus, president of the theologically conservative Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, said his personal feeling was that churches should not ordain women. He claimed on theological grounds that such action would abrogate the "whole doctrine of creation." He saw this as complicating unity efforts.

Dr. Preus' reference was to the primacy of Adam, from whose rib woman was created. Also I Timothy 2:11-13 gives additional theological support. The passage, from the King James Version, reads: "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection."

'Large' Sunday Schools Predicted for the 70s

Wheaton, Ill.—The 1970s will be the "decade of the large Sunday School," according to a prediction made here by Elmer Towns, Sunday School editor of *Christian Life* magazine.

In the third annual survey of large U.S. Sunday schools, published in the August issue of the monthly publication, Mr. Towns reported that the 75 biggest Sunday schools in America increased their weekly attendance more than 10,000 over last year.

"There seems to be no secret or 'inside' information that causes these Sunday schools to grow," he said, adding:

"They simply apply the New Testament pattern of soul winning, prayer, teaching the word of God and constant revival. They are led by an aggressive, gifted pastor, who heads up a militant program of evangelism."

Days of Foreign Missionaries Limited in India Says Baptist

Green Lake, Wis.—A missionary who has returned home after 24 years of service in India predicted here that all Western missionaries will be gone from that Asian country within a few years.

"Under pressure from anti-Western and anti-Christian bodies, the govern-

ment has consistently reduced the number of foreign missionaries over the past few years," said the Rev. C. Louis Dau in an interview at the American Baptist Assembly here. Mr. Kau and his wife spent the month of July at the assembly as missionaries in residence.

"Perhaps the most tension-filled problem," Mr. Kau said, "has been for the missionary staff to realize that the time is past for us to retain administrative responsibility in school, church, or general organization."

Church Tax Exemption Growing Issue in Washington State

Seattle—That property-tax exemption for church-owned land and buildings has become a major concern in Washington State is reflected in appeals to boards of equalization.

Because of a state supreme court decision in December which opened the way to tax some church property, county assessors have put back on tax rolls certain summer camps, parking lots and church buildings.

The spate of church appeals stems from the court's decision denying tax exemption to the Warm Beach Camp and Conference Center of the Pacific Northwest Conference, Free Methodist Church. Because of that, it is probable that every church-owned facility, other than sanctuaries and parsonages, will come under the scrutiny of county tax assessors.

Even the church buildings may not escape—if they are used for purposes other than worship, such as day-care centers.

Michigan Votes \$22 Million For Private, Parochial Aid

Lansing, Mich.—Within 90 minutes, both houses of the Michigan Legislature passed a record-breaking school aid bill which includes a precedent-setting \$22 million for financially-pressed private and parochial schools.

The quick action in the House and Senate, following delays which had dragged on because of strong opposition to state assistance to church-related schools, ended nearly eight months of legislative debate.

The Parochial clause, which was to become effective Sept. 1—and only if

the state supreme court upholds its constitutionality—covers teachers' salaries in non-public schools. It guarantees 50 per cent of the estimated average salary of \$8,800 for the 5,800 lay teachers of such secular subjects as English, math, and science.

Vatican Wealth Put at \$80 Billion, 'Too Vast to Hide'

Washington, D.C.—An official Vatican newspaper's disclaimer of great Vatican wealth has been termed interesting but inaccurate by C. Stanley Lowell, associate director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

"The statement of Pope Paul VI that the Vatican has assets of a mere \$128 million and that the church is really quite poor, are interesting in view of the Pope's recent statement that the church must 'have the appearance of poverty,'" Lowell said. "It is understandable that the Roman Catholic Church would like to present an image of poverty, especially in these days of economic and social ferment. Unfortunately, despite the studied suppression of financial data which characterizes the policy of this church, its assets are simply too vast to remain hidden."

Lowell charged that the denial of wealth is accompanied by no financial report. He said the Roman Catholic Church in the U.S., like its Vatican counterpart, has never published an audit of its income and resources. He estimated that the wealth of the religious orders of men in the U.S. alone to be around \$11.2 billion.

Lowell is co-author with Martin A. Larson of the book, *Praise the Lord for Tax Exemption*.

The Largest Grows Larger

Minneapolis, Minn.—Circulation of *Decision* has now surpassed 4,000,000 monthly in the U.S. and Canada, according to Sherwood E. Wirt who edits the 10-year-old periodical of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

The magazine is issued in English, French, German, Spanish and Japanese. Circulation for the foreign editions ranges from 30,000 to 125,000 per month, in addition to the four million figure.

christian doctrine

by Leroy Forlines



All doctrinal or theological truth is related to God. The Bible is the authoritative source of data for theological truth. One's doctrine of God is foundational. The rest of his doctrinal system is the structure which is built on the foundation. A beginning point for laying a proper foundation is a correct understanding of terms.

III. The Doctrine of God

A. The Non-moral Attributes

Attributes refer to characteristics ascribed to God.

1. Eternity (Psalm 90:2)

There are different ideas concerning what is meant by eternity. One view understands eternity to refer to endless time, e.g., time without beginning or end. Time implies the possibility of past, present, and future. According to this view, God has always existed and always will exist, and it was possible for God to think of past, present and future.

Another view is called the "eternal now" view. For God all eternity is viewed as one "now" without any past, or any future. There is no time with God. Time is only for the created order where there is past, present, and future. Time was created and will pass away with the passing away of the present order.

A division of opinion exists among devout people concerning which view is correct. Space prohibits a critical treatment which would defend one view or the other.

2. Immutability (Mal. 3:6 and Heb. 13:8)

Immutable means unchanging. God is unchanging in His essence and attributes. This means that God will always be omnipotent, omniscient, holy, loving, etc. Every promise of God will stand fast. This does not mean that God cannot change His relationship to a person under any circumstances whatsoever. In fact, it is God's unchangeableness which guarantees that when the sinner accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, He will change His attitude from wrath to loving acceptance of the one who believes. God is unchangingly true to His promises.

3. Omnipresence (Psalm 139:7-10, Matt. 28:20)

Omnipresence refers to God's relationship to space and His creatures. God is everywhere present at the same time. He is always present for a personal relationship with His creatures. God does not have to move from one place to another. He is always present in every place.

4. Omnipotence (Job 42:2a and Rev. 19:6)

By this is meant that God is infinite in power. He has the power to do anything He wills. He is never limited in doing anything by the lack of power. This does not mean that God can do things that are inherently contradictory such as

making a square circle. A choice to such would be irrational. God is rational. God's will always reflects His moral and rational nature. That will is never limited by lack of power to accomplish its purposes.

5. Omniscience (Acts 15:18 and Job 42:2b)

The reference here is to the infinite knowledge of God. God fully knows everything that ever has happened, everything that is happening, and everything that ever will happen.

B. The Moral Attributes (Isa. 6:1-3, I Pet. 1:15, 16)

1. Holiness

Holiness refers to the fact that God is absolutely pure. He is absolutely free from sin in thought, word, or deed. He has never had to cast a sinful thought from His mind.

God's holiness is His basic attribute. The very idea of God necessarily involves holiness.

God's holiness refers to what He is within Himself. However, it also involves what He will and will not tolerate outside Himself. God's holiness is inflexible. It must be maintained. As a holy God, God cannot tolerate sin. It is this intolerance toward sin, and God's absolute determination to be holy that gives rise to His wrath towards sin.

The fact that God is holy means that He cannot lie (Titus 1:2). God is unchangeably faithful to all of His promises and all of His warnings.

a. Righteousness (Dan. 9:14 and Rev. 16:5)

God's righteousness issues from His holiness. By God's righteousness is meant that He is right in all that He does. No accusation against Him can stand.

We are not to understand that the mere act of God's will makes things right so that God could have arbitrarily willed anything to be right. Rather, that which is right conforms to the holy nature of God.

In our present finite existence with the influence of sin, we cannot fully understand all of God's dealings, but we, in humble faith, believe that all His actions are right.

b. Justice (Rom. 2:5 and Psalm 58:11)

Justice is a particular limitation of God's righteousness. It is righteousness as it is applied in the meting out of punishments and rewards. God does absolutely right in so doing.

The meting out of punishment is called retributive justice. The distribution of rewards is called remunerative justice.

2. Love (John 3:16 and Rom. 5:8)

Love is the affectionate concern of God which moves Him to manifest His concern for the welfare of His creatures. This love reached its highest point when God sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world to bear the sins of the world on the cross—the just dying for the unjust (I Pet. 3:18) in order that "whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

a. Mercy (Eph. 2:4 and James 5:11)

Mercy issues from the love of God. In acting in mercy God manifests His love toward those who need relief.

comment

by Cleo Pursell



"Give us this day our 'gravy' bread," prayed a very young girl.

A Sunday school teacher asked what the women in the Bible brought to anoint the body of Christ in the tomb. The replies were amazing. "Rice," one boy answered. "Mice," said another. When the teacher explained that they brought "spice," the answer was, "Well, it *sounded* like mice."

One child told his mother, "We sang the funniest song in Sunday school today—"Crazy, Crazy, All the Little Children." His puzzled mother inquired and learned the song had really been "Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children."

We adults take so much for granted. Because something is clear and simple to us, we assume that the youngsters will understand it. But all too often the truths we teach are meaningless simply because the children do not understand what we are trying to say.

Our pastor recently cautioned us against using *abstract* terms when dealing with small children. For example he quoted John 10:9 where Jesus said, "I am the *door*. . . ." Immediately the child gets a mental picture of a wooden door!

After teaching the story of Adam and Eve being driven from the Garden of Eden because of sin, a Sunday school teacher asked her class of small children to draw a picture illustrating the lesson. She was amazed when one pupil depicted a man driving an automobile with two people in the back seat. When asked to explain, the child said, "That is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden."

It is especially important that those who work with young children know how to explain the message of salvation in Christ Jesus to them.

Marjorie Soderholm, in her booklet, "Explaining Salvation to Children," says Bible stories are more easily explainable than the imaginary, symbolic, made-up stories that are so often used. For instance, it is much easier to help a child understand Nicodemus' confusion at Jesus' words, "Ye must be born again" (John 3) than to help him grasp how a black kerchief stands for sin. She gives a simple guide as to what the child should know:

God loves you, You have sinned, Christ died for your sin, You must admit to Him that you are a sinner and ask Him to forgive you. Then you are in God's family. Suggested Scriptures are John 3:16, Romans 5:6, Romans 3:23, and John 3:36.

It all adds up to the fact that many who teach

gems

from the Greek
New Testament

by Robert Picirilli



In Hebrews 11:26, where Moses' faith is being described, we read in our King James Version that "he had respect unto the recompense of the reward." That's sufficient for us to get the point, but how much more powerful and meaningful it becomes when we read the original!

The verb translated "he had respect" is the Greek compound *apeblepen*. The main root (*blepo*) is a word that simply means to *look*. The preposition compounded on the front of the verb (*apo*) is one that means "off" or "away." So the literal meaning of the word is to *look away*, to *look off*.

Even more helpful is the tense of this verb. As has been pointed out in the column before, the Greeks had a tense system which enabled them to show action either as a simple act or as a continuing action. Here is Heb. 11:26, the verb is in continuing action. The meaning, then, is that Moses *kept looking away* at the recompense of reward.

In other words, Moses was a far-sighted man. He didn't think merely of the here and now, but kept before him a view of the final great day on which he would stand before his Maker and give account. And time and time again he looked down the road to that great pay-off and made his decisions accordingly.

Only in this light can one understand why Moses turned his back on the position (verse 24), pleasure (verse 25), and possessions (verse 26) that Egypt offered. But Moses' eyes were not full of the glitter of gold nor his heart distracted by the appeals of power and fun. He *kept looking away* to the reward promised by his Lord.

Naturally those of his comrades who did not share his understanding of spiritual things failed to understand his decisions, time and again. They said "Look here;" Moses said "Look yonder." And that's what makes the difference.

the very young may be taking too much for granted. We ought to check up occasionally to see if the children have really understood what we are trying to tell them. It may be that some of them are like Jimmy Brown.

"What did you learn in kindergarten?"

Asked the parents of Jimmy Brown.

"God is love, Be ye kind,

And sit down, sit down, sit DOWN!"

(Continued from page 12)

into the National Association at the 34th convention in Fresno, Cal. Rev. Fred Lucas is pastor.

The church was organized Dec. 5, 1969, with 25 members by Rev. Roy Thomas. The first service had been held on Sept. 22, 1968. Financial help was given monthly by the Exeter Church, Exeter, Cal. Attendance now averages from 30 to 40.

Bible College Hires New Teachers and Staff Workers

Nashville, Tenn.—Free Will Baptist Bible College administrators have added seven employees to its staff for 1970-71. Three new teachers have joined the faculty and four workers were added to offices of student supervision.

Henry Oliver, Abe Baerg, and Jerry Griffith, Jr. will be teaching this year. Mr. Oliver, an ordained Free Will Baptist preacher with 30 years of experience in the education field, has joined the faculty as professor of English and education. He has held offices in the Nashville public school system ranging from teacher and principal to Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Baerg, who has taught voice in both high schools and college, has joined the music department. He has degrees from Tabor College and Wichita State University. Mr. Griffith of McArthur, Ohio, will teach Spanish for the Bible College. He has taught in high school and has done extensive work with the Ohio State Youth Commission.

Mrs. Bert Tippett has been named Acting Dean of Women. She has taught women's physical education at the Bible College since 1967. She is a 1962 FWBBC graduate and wife of the school's Director of Publications. Assisting her as dormitory supervisors are Mrs. Shirley Turner and Mrs. Sandy Goodfellow. Both are Bible College alumni. Also working with students this year will be Charles Branch. Mr. Branch will be dormitory supervisor among the men in Goen Hall.

Mission Begun in Roanoke, Virginia

Roanoke, Va.—12 persons attended the first service of the new Free Will Baptist mission in this city of 200,000 Aug. 16.

Rev. and Mrs. Jim Cox moved here Aug. 13, under the sponsorship of the Virginia Home Missions Board to begin a new church. This is an undeveloped area for Free Will Baptists.

The missionary couple said that they know of several prospective members, and are hopeful for a very successful beginning.

Jim Cox is a 1970 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn.

Kentucky Youths Hold Walk-a-thon

Glasgow, Ky.—On June 10 the High Teen and Teen Sunday school classes of First Free Will Baptist Church in Glasgow, Kentucky, sponsored a walk-a-thon that resulted in raising \$207.50 for the Development Program of Free Will Baptist Bible College. Inspired by a similar project by Nashville teens a few weeks earlier, participants walked 10-15 miles, demonstrating their concern for the needs of the Bible College.

Those pictured are: (front row) left to right—Jeff Satterly, George Cooper, Teen teacher; Regina Crisp, Shelia Key and Dale Jolly; (middle row) Vila Satterly, Vickie Dean, Carol Dean, Paula Cooper, Gary Davidson and Stephen Cooper; (back row) Mike Thompson, James Burris, Sunday school superintendent, Robert Davidson, High Teen teacher, and Larry Hardin.



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July 1970

RECEIPTS:

| STATE | July 1970 | July 1969 | Yr. to Date | Design |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Alabama | \$ 1,020.69 | \$ 935.85 | \$ 3,281.95 | |
| Arizona | — | — | 1,004.63 | |
| Arkansas | 455.69 | 278.88 | 4,647.82 | |
| California | 692.15 | 406.88 | 3,586.48 | |
| Florida | — | 152.20 | 939.49 | |
| Georgia | 435.27 | — | 3,089.17 | |
| Idaho | 76.88 | 24.80 | 242.77 | |
| Illinois | 779.58 | 784.47 | 5,760.50 | |
| Indiana | — | 51.19 | — | |
| Kansas | — | 90.00 | 674.00 | |
| Kentucky | 349.10 | 212.11 | 1,771.95 | |
| Maryland | — | — | 90.00 | |
| Michigan | 189.08 | 424.00 | 1,894.64 | |
| Minnesota | 15.36 | — | 105.56 | |
| Missouri | 2,107.37 | 1,984.95 | 15,042.88 | |
| New Mexico | — | — | 68.71 | |
| North Carolina | 104.64 | 103.65 | 658.00 | |
| Ohio | 668.18 | 304.56 | 1,664.64 | |
| Oklahoma | 1,634.04 | 1,514.64 | 13,365.28 | |
| Tennessee | 257.25 | 213.09 | 1,579.89 | |
| Texas | 222.62 | 145.29 | 970.87 | |
| Virginia | 22.66 | 22.71 | 152.19 | |
| Northeast Association | — | 44.09 | 115.22 | |
| West Virginia | — | 25.00 | 50.00 | |
| Wisconsin | — | 20.00 | — | |
| TOTALS | \$ 9,030.56 | \$ 7,738.36 | \$60,756.64 | |

DISBURSEMENTS:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Executive Dept. | \$ 3,063.02 | \$ 3,155.92 | \$22,890.86 |
| Foreign Missions | 1,923.79 | 1,476.52 | 12,440.85 |
| Bible College | 1,754.62 | 1,380.25 | 10,988.85 |
| Home Missions | 1,155.27 | 883.45 | 7,410.11 |
| Church Training Service | 596.77 | 443.27 | 3,767.58 |
| Retirement and Insurance | 298.40 | 221.64 | 1,832.89 |
| Laymen's Board | 179.00 | 132.98 | 1,060.49 |
| Commission on Theological Liberalism | 59.69 | 44.33 | 353.56 |
| Miscellaneous | — | — | 11.45 |
| TOTALS | \$ 9,030.56 | \$ 7,738.36 | \$60,756.64 |



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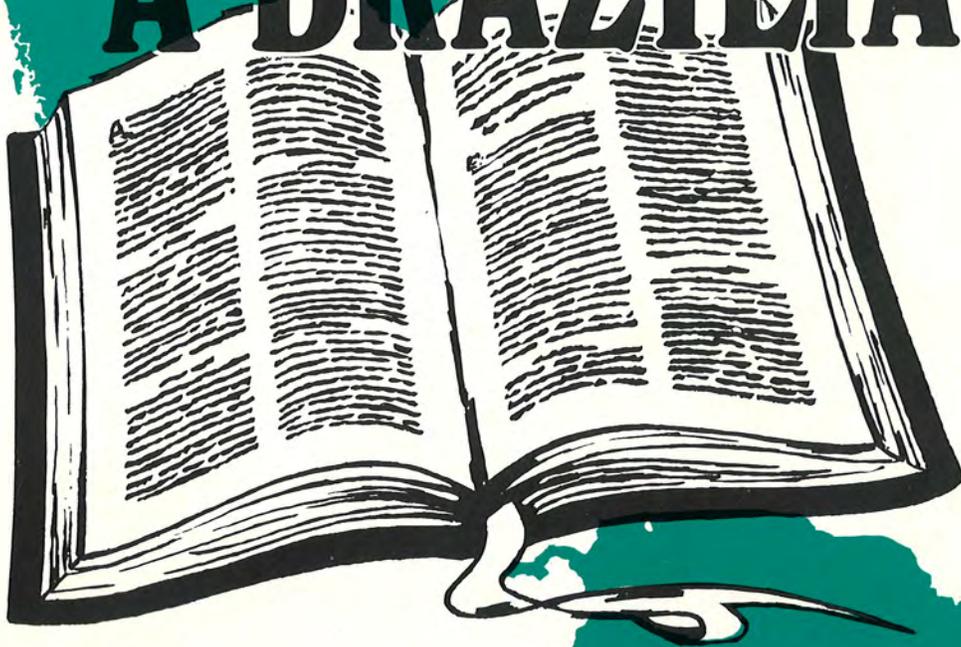
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