



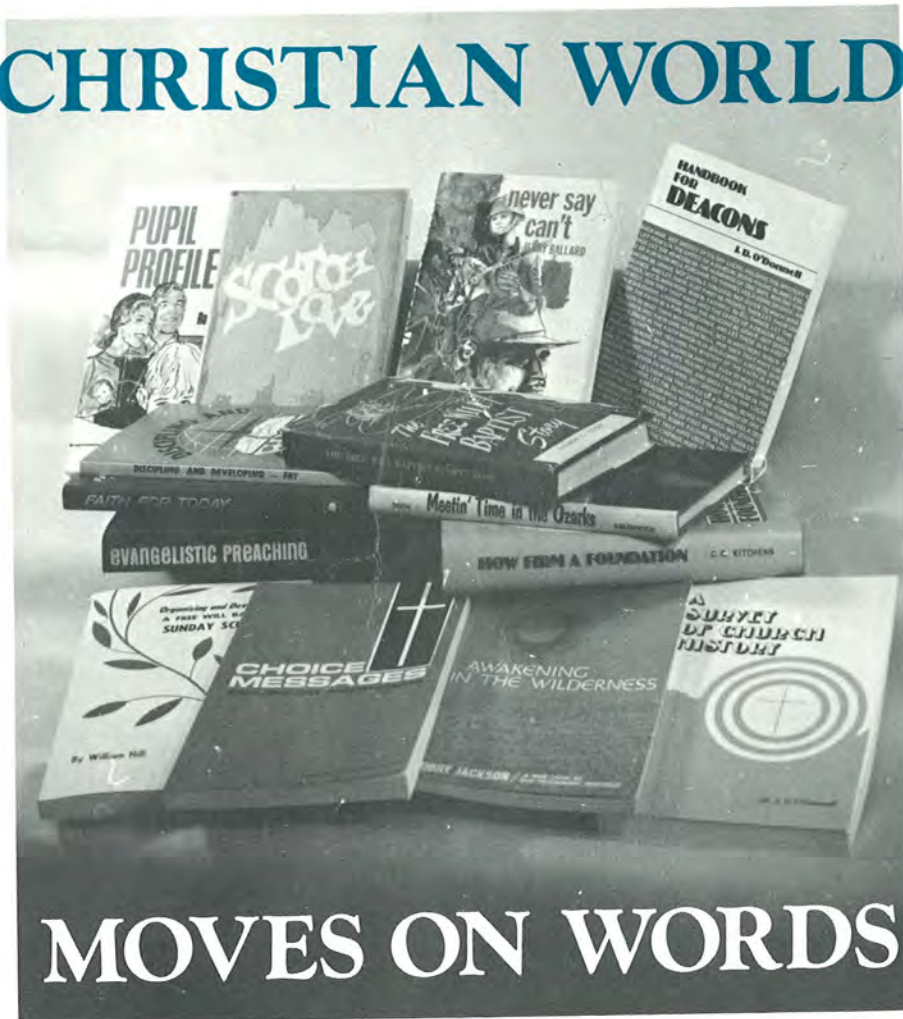
The Christian World Moves on Words

contact

of the National Association
of Free Will Baptists

FEBRUARY, 1974

THE CHRISTIAN WORLD



MOVES ON WORDS

ABOUT THE COVER

Featured in the cover photo is a sampling of some of the works authored by Free Will Baptists mostly within the last 20 years. The photo was made by Mike Trest of Nashville, Tennessee.

A pamphlet, prepared by the Sunday School Department, is available with a complete listing of existing Free Will Baptist materials. You may order this free pamphlet, *Free Will Baptist Materials*, from the Randall Bookstore, the retail outlet of the Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee, 37202.

You can only glimpse some of what God has done with Free Will Baptist literature for nearly 2 centuries. But perhaps this glimpse will make you appreciate what He has done, is doing now and will do in the future.

In 1811 the Rev. John Buzzell edited the *Religious Magazine*. It lasted a total of 4 years. Meanwhile, the very enterprising Rev. Ebenezer Chase of New Hampshire began producing the *Religious Informer*, a small, semi-monthly pamphlet "devoted to the interests of the denomination." Mr. Chase and his sons bought a press and type, hired a journeyman printer and went to work themselves as apprentices. After awhile, Mr. Chase reduced the subscriptions from 75 to 50 cents and enlarged the pamphlet to 16 pages.

In 1823 the Rev. John Buzzard, assisted by Elias Libby, produced a Free Will Baptist hymnal, which was reissued 3 times. Three years later, *The Freewill Baptist Magazine* was born in Rhode Island. It survived for 5 years.

GENEVIEVE WADDELL reviews writer contributions of *Free Will Baptist* writers. A pastor's wife, she resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

But all magazines and journals were overshadowed by the birth of *The Morning Star*, first edited by the Rev. Buzzell and the Rev. Samuel Burbank. This dream child of Burbank and Elias Libby was born in Limerick, Maine on May 11, 1826.

The first 2 pages of the magazine were devoted to "Religious Intelligence and Christian Correspondence," while the other 2 pages lent themselves to denominational news. *The Morning Star* was enlarged 4 times and subscribers topped the 10,000 mark early in its history.

The influence of *The Morning Star* on our denomination was very great, according to the Rev. I. D. Stewart in

the first volume of his *A History of Free Will Baptists*, published in 1862.

The magazine's parent company, The Free Will Baptist Printing Establishment, was responsible for publishing 18 magazines; 12 pamphlets, including *A Treatise of the Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists*; 6 hymnals; and 16 books, including Buzzell's *Life of Elder Benjamin Randall*. This was from 1830 through 1890. After the 1910 merger, the Cooperative General Association began publishing *The New Morning Star*, but no other magazine equalled the original *Morning Star* in influence.

But another significant publication, still in existence, is *The Free Will Baptist*, out of Ayden, North Carolina. It was begun in 1894.

The early 1900's produced many State papers, far too numerous to mention. Many were highly informative, interesting and journalistically good. Some, such as Missouri's *Gem*, still work for our people.

Gradually, Free Will Baptists began to think, "We need materials to help us understand the Bible and to explain what we believe and why we belong to this denomination." And God raised up men of vision who struck out, pen in hand, to fight sin and instruct our people in the Faith.

The Rev. I. J. Blackwelder was only one of many men who wrote *tons* of Sunday School and League quarterlies and magazine articles. Women, like Sister Lizzie McAdams, put fear in the hearts of sinners and missions in the hearts of Christians with her booklets in the 1920's. Then, in 1946, our pioneer missionary to India, Miss Laura Belle Barnard, lit the revival fires of missions with *His Name Among All Nations*. The Rev. Paul Woolsey followed with a beautiful story of God at work in *God, A Hundred Years and A Free Will Baptist Family*.

By 1953 the denomination saw the need for *CONTACT*, now 20 years old, and still proclaiming the message of Christ throughout the Free Will Baptist world. Published at the Free Will Baptist National Offices in Nashville, Tennessee, *CONTACT* keeps our people in touch with one another and informed of the events shaping our denomination, too.

In the 1960's the foreign and home missions departments began publishing their own periodicals, *Heartbeat* and *Mission Grams*.

About a decade ago, the Sunday School Department of the National Association of Free Will Baptists began expansion plans to meet the growing literary needs of our denomination. God supplied teachers and pastors who were burdened to share with others what God had taught them. Some of these are: Dr. Robert Picirilli, *Pauline Writing Notes and Tongues*; Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, *The Backslider: Dead or Dying and Faith for Today*; Dr. William Hill, *Organizing and Developing A Free Will Baptist Sunday School*; the Rev. Roger Reeds, *Pupil Profiles*; and Dr. Billy Melvin, *Free Will Baptist Minister's Handbook*.

Free Will Baptists realized that printed messages needed to be in our homes so they, too, began writing: the Rev. O. T. Dixon, *Meetin' Time in the Ozarks*; the Rev. Bobby Jackson, *Beyond the Stars, Awakening in the Wilderness*; and the Rev. Jack Paramore, *Evangelistic Preaching*; and the Rev. Van Dale Hudson, *The Killer and The Last Night*.

Gospel tracts, better Sunday School literature, records and tape cassettes followed. The Woman's Auxiliary and the Church Training Service Department also began producing much needed and informative materials.

Randall House Publications, the publishing arm of the National Sunday School Department, is making a vital contribution to the denomination's literature field. Their newest releases are: *An Analysis of the Book of Romans, Vol. 1* by Dr. Picirilli; *Biblical Ethics* by the Rev. Leroy Forlines; and *A Study Guide: The Book of Revelation* by the Rev. Damon C. Dodd, also the author of *A Free Will Baptist Story*.

Today's world is moving on words. You can have a part in this movement by praying for and supporting your local, state and national Free Will Baptist publications. God might even want *you* to try your hand at words. He has always used people to spread His message and one of the most effective means of presenting God's truth is through the printed page.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "Talent alone cannot make a writer. There must be a man behind the book."

As you review the written contributions of Free Will Baptists, you can see that another line ought to be added to this. "And God must be behind that man." That should be the prayer of everyone of us who attempts to write for our Free Will Baptist people. ▲

CHURCH PERSONNEL CHANGES

These changes in Free Will Baptist pastoral and other church personnel are provided by *CONTACT* Magazine as a service to its readers. No personnel will be listed as having left a place of service until he is called officially to serve with another congregation.

PASTORATES

ARIZONA

Gene Rogers to First Church, Tucson from Oxnard Church, Oxnard, Calif.

FLORIDA

Paul Reid to Shiloh Church, Bratt from West Side Church, Johnsonville, S.C.

INDIANA

Dan O'Donnell to First Bible Church, New Castle from First Church, Mt. Vernon, Ill.

Bobby Greene to Mt. Carmel Church, Indianapolis from Shady Grove Church, Adamsville, Ala.

MISSISSIPPI

Earl Langley to Beech Springs Church, Satillo from First Church, Ulysses, Kansas

Paul Robinson to First Church, Columbus from Prospect Church, Dunn, N.C.

MISSOURI

Andy Lay to Evangel Church, Webb City from First Church, Joplin

OKLAHOMA

John Bullard to Spring Hill Church, Lexington

Joe Wilson to Central Church, Tulsa from Highland Park Church, Stillwater

SOUTH CAROLINA

Joseph Wallis to West Side Church, Johnsonville from Shiloh Church, Bratt, Fla.

Merritt Floyd to St. John Church, Patrick from First Church, Aburndale, Fla.

TEXAS

Thurmon Murphy to First Church, Odessa from Grace Church, White Settlement

Raymond Getz to Conroe Church, Conroe from Western Hills Church, Fort Worth

Your basic affections are the things you drift to during leisure moments. It's not busyness that keeps you from reading, but a matter of daily commitment.

THE MIND YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN!

"A Christian is what he reads," voiced our Executive Secretary several days ago as he laid bare the burden of his heart for Free Will Baptists to discover the joys in reading.

And later as I mused on his evaluation, I happily agreed that believers who practice the art of reading find self-fulfillment. They achieve a sense of balance. Believers who read are great discoverers. Our teachers used to tell us, "Through reading you start thinking about the world in new ways." Good Christian magazines cause believers to reflect on their own perceptions, make distinctions of new areas of growth and become sensitive to them. One way to achieve spiritual maturity is through active creative reading of God's Word — always at the apex — and other materials that aid in understanding the Word and answer questions on specific subjects.

COMBATING PORNOGRAPHY

Pornography is gnawing away at the very fiber of American decency. As this \$800 million dollar a year business steadily increases, it leaves a trail of perverted minds. In an effort to halt the rising crime rate caused by pornography, conventioners at our denomination's 37th annual meeting voted enthusiastically to encourage every family in the Free Will Baptist denomination to subscribe to at least two Christian publications. If children are in the home, conventioners suggested that one of these magazines be youth oriented.

But reading evangelical magazines just to combat Satan's raging battle in the pornography war is only one part of the greater entity — an important one to be sure.

LAUNCHING AN OFFENSIVE ATTACK

What are some positive reasons for reading Christian magazines?

Self-discovery is an important reason for a believer to read Christian magazines. But this discovery is only realized when one develops the skill of creative reading. This skill is active and it requires as much learning as a sport or hobby.

A related value in reading Christian magazines is being able to shatter one's loneliness. The meaningful and challenging company of magazines is one of the joys of solitude. Magazine articles can create all sorts of moods. The purpose of reading is not just to gobble up words. We need to experience a mood, to meander through thoughts touched on by an idea.

Through Christian articles we look into other souls and share the problems and thoughts common to believers throughout the Christian community.

You can be enlarged emotionally and intellectually through reading. Concerts and television are often fascinating — but they are a snacks assortment. Reading is the real nourishment of the human mind. The magazine articles that expand your mind and increase your sensitivity are those articles with power to affect and change.

READING A CROSS SECTION OF MAGAZINES

Believers need to strengthen their minds so they can appraise issues for themselves. Read evangelical magazines that speak to the issues of the day. Learn what's going on in the world around you and what you ought to be

doing in this day of moral and social revolution. Know the Scriptural principles that relate to the major questions confronting the Christian in today's world.

What better way can a believer expand his horizons than by reading a variety of Christian magazines! Look through new windows of truth. By reading several evangelical magazines, you will be boosted to think of aspects of truth and facets of life that you might otherwise ignore. A variety of topics and writers will create for you a mind-stretching and spiritually stimulating experience.

"Read magazines outside your denomination," urged a prominent Christian writer during a seminar last summer. His suggestions included *Alliance Witness*, *Eternity*, *Christianity Today*, and *Christian Century*. "Read a cross section of publications," he continued. "Be flexible and keep your mind out of ruts."

A Free Will Baptist pastor's wife recently recommended *Sunday School Times*, *Gospel Herald*, *Home Life*, *Moody Monthly*, *Scope*, *Guideposts*, and *Young Ambassador* — not because she endorses every editorial stance in these publications. But she believes it's a mark of wisdom to get more than one opinion about events and issues. She does not always agree with the articles, but through reading a cross section of Christian magazines she has become enriched by angles which she had not considered regarding current problems.

Besides, there are times when you can use your opponents' own ammunition to shoot down their arguments. Learn their weak points and then you can be more effective in

presenting your opinions.

"Too often we have lived in a ghetto-type existence, out of touch with many of the challenging questions which are being discussed in student groups around the world," observed David Adeney in his *Christian Students Face The Revolution*. "If reading is limited to a small range of evangelical authors, there is little incentive to face the burning questions of our day, or to understand the thinking of a vast number of people whose outlook is diametrically opposed to the Christian view of life."

JUST 'TWEEN US FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

Create an atmosphere of appreciation for Christian magazines in your home. Keep them within easy reach in every room of the house. When you are relaxing, cultivate the habit of picking up a magazine that is within easy reach and read it. Keep a pen nearby so you can mark where you stop. Before long these "bite sizes" will add up to a "full meal" — and you'll complete the magazine.

Ask for and give subscriptions to Christian magazines as gifts. You'll experience the joy that comes in giving gifts with lasting value and eternal significance. And then you can talk to one another about various articles. "Say, what do you think about such-and-such an article?"

HELPS YOU WITNESS TO THE NON-CHRISTIAN

Reading evangelical magazines can give you excellent insights into the non-Christian's thought and life-style. Many authors are being used of God to help keep you abreast of current thinking in our pagan society. You need to know the answers being raised by non-Christians. Practically every question that's been raised about Christian truth has already been answered by Christian scholars and that information is available to you in

Christian magazines.

Reading Christian articles can give you new release and freedom, confidence and power in your witness. Evangelistically geared articles such as appear in *Decision and Sword Of The Lord* can change your life by giving you motivation or instruction as you deal with your failures in evangelism. And getting a proper perspective on God's role and your role in evangelism can also have a dramatic impact on you.

Communicate the Gospel to an unbeliever by giving him a Christ-centered magazine with the comment, "I think you'll find (specify the article) as interesting as I did. Let me know what you think about it." The next time you're together, discuss the article, and let the conversation be an instrument in the hands of the Holy Spirit to bring him to faith in Christ.

CONTACT: ITS PECULIAR ROLE

Several years ago a dairy company in a southeastern city used a "talking cow" in its television commercial as it appealed to listeners, "It's so nice to be wanted." This is the way *CONTACT's* editors feel. *CONTACT* has to be wanted badly enough to keep the subscription list up at least to a break even point. But we hope you want *CONTACT* for more important reasons than helping us break even financially.

What peculiar role does *CONTACT*, Free Will Baptists' official publication, play? How is it unique from all other evangelical publications?

No other Christian magazine informs Free Will Baptists of what Free Will Baptists are doing. No other Christian magazine touches base with our ministries and tells what's happening within our denominational circle. It is the peculiar role of *CONTACT* to promote Free Will Baptist ministries and unite Free Will Baptists into one family. In addition to tying us together and sharing information, *CONTACT* exposes the reader to inspirational and

challenging articles, news from other parts of the Christian world and editorial comments.

What should you expect of *CONTACT*? You have every right to expect the editor to speak with purpose and conviction. There should be consistency in his editorial thrust. You have a right to expect *CONTACT* to tell you what's going on in today's world — and present to you some basic Biblical guidelines by which the disturbances of our day can be appraised and combated. You have a right to expect your denomination's official publication to keep before you the trends in Christian thought and life so you can feel the pulsating life of Christ in His church.

If *CONTACT* ever ceases to honor and exalt Christ as Saviour and Lord, it forfeits its right to exist. It should always bear a positive witness for Jesus Christ.

Save articles from *CONTACT*. File them. Use them in teaching, devotions, and conversation. Share articles with others.

CONTACT is not perfect. No publication is without blemishes. We welcome your constructive reaction. When you have an important opinion at variance with *CONTACT*, tell us about it in a letter. Be factual and relevant. If your criticism has merit (instead of being a superficial emotional reaction), write your complaint. It will help you to get specific. And because few readers bother to write, your letter will carry extra weight.

FINALLY . . .

Is reading Christian magazines important to you? You can always *find* time to do the things that are important. One doesn't always find time to read Christian magazines — he usually *takes* the time.

Determine priorities. Evaluate your commitment to what is really important in your life.

Allow God's Spirit to communicate Paul's instruction to you: "...give attendance (devote your attention, or go ahead with) to reading" (I Timothy 4:13).

On the table, or desk, Christian magazines are useless. In our hands, heads and hearts they are powerful tools for Christ.

Ask God's Spirit to help you grasp the riches of reading.

— Contact Staff

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HOW IMPORTANT IS CHRISTIAN LITERATURE ?

By Van Dale Hudson

I first became convinced of the value of Christian literature when I was 15. Converted only a few weeks, I was struggling with doubts about my salvation. It seemed there was no victory over the gnawing uncertainty. Then someone placed in my hands the little book *How To Resist Satan* (published by Back to the Bible Broadcast). I read it like a drowning man clutching a life preserver and found in it a chapter describing someone else who had faced the same problem that was about to crush me.

The binding chains of doubt were snapped and peace came to my heart when I followed the guidelines set forth in this book. How thankful I am that God used this booklet to get me through that valley.

Since that time I have stressed continuously the vital role of Christian literature. Almost every night in the revivals I conduct time is taken to encourage the congregation to "be sure to stop by the booktable." A brief review of the books available is given to whet the spiritual and mental appetites of the listeners. Many hundreds of pieces of sound literature have been sold in this manner. The money received is used either to print more of my own material or purchase other Bible-based books for resale. According to the Christian Booksellers' Association, only a small percentage of Christians in America ever visit a Christian bookstore. Some folks don't have convenient access to a bookstore, especially in smaller

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Hudson is a full-time Free Will Baptist evangelist from Amory, Mississippi. A graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College (Nashville, Tenn.), he has written numerous pamphlets and several books. His most recent book is *WHAT MANNER OF MAN*.

towns. So, for that reason, plus the fact that many don't patronize the stores available to them, I feel it is a real ministry to carry the books to them during revival.

NO EXCUSES, PLEASE

The only understandable reason a Christian can give for not reading is failure of eyesight. But even for the blind the Bible and other worthwhile literature can be obtained in Braille. And should the blind believer have problems learning the Braille technique, there is an enormous amount of recordings available. Even the blind can read with their fingertips or their ears.

Illiteracy is no longer a real problem. More people can read than ever before and those who can't read or write can be taught if they are anxious to learn, especially if they are Christians. I can think of at least two of our finest pastors who couldn't read or write when God saved them, but they now do a good job. God will give a man the grace and grit to better prepare himself.

The most common excuse for not reading is lack of time. However, we all have the same amount of time, 24 hours a day. What makes the difference is how we divide the time. There *is* time for reading if the Christian will take it, and take it he must.

TURN OFF THE TUBE

Perhaps you are spending too much time glued to the electronic eyeball in your den. Turn that button to "off" and dig into a faith-building book. It will be time well spent, whereas you will get a lot on the screen not worth seeing or even anti-Christian in content. (No discredit is intended toward the marvelous ministry being performed through television by many fundamentalists. After all, statisticians claim that 94% of all homes in America have televisions, while only 85% have

bathtubs. That means, I suppose, that Americans think boob tubes are more important than bathtubs, and that there are more brains being washed than bodies. It also means that one of the most effective means of reaching the most people in the shortest amount of time is by television.)

I am simply saying that too much time is wasted by too many Christians watching TV that could be spent digesting a helpful volume. And that's why many Christians can tell you so much about sports and entertainment and very little about the Bible and crucial issues facing the believer.

TAKE IT WITH YOU

Why not carry that book with you to the beauty shop, doctor's office, or on a trip? You can read while you wait. Perhaps you can buy some books and get permission to place them where people spend time waiting.

BOOKS IN THE BUDGET

You *can* afford good literature. Most of the reliable bestsellers eventually are published in paperback. The fact is, paperbacks sell eight to one over hardbacks. For example, the number one bestseller, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, has come out in "mass market paperback" (pocketbook size) which pushes its number-in-print to over five million. It was in hardback and equivalent-sized paperback for a couple of years. Now many more people will read it since it has come out in this inexpensive edition.

Could you spend 75¢ to \$2.00 every week or so for profitable reading? What about allotting \$5.00 to \$10.00 a month in your spending for books?

Some books such as commentaries, dictionaries, concordances, atlases, etc., will need to be bought in hardback. It will surprise you how soon you can build a good library if you discipline your spending to include Christian literature.

I would *not* advise you to join a bookclub, but rather seek the advice of a pastor or other Christian worker who has a good library. Outline much of your buying program with their help if you are not already informed on the most helpful books to buy.

LEAD ME TO THE LIBRARY

I have seen very few successful libraries in Free Will Baptist churches,

but we are gaining ground. It can be done and is being done by some. Suggestions? Appeal for donations of both books and money. Post a list of needed books with their prices. Feature a book review in the bulletin or newsletter. Obtain a good guide for starting and maintaining a church library such as *Successful Church Libraries* by Elmer Towns.

EQUIP THE KIDS

One basic reason for home and church libraries is to properly prepare our children to meet Satan's subtle snares without being entangled. Kids are all eyes and ears. That's why books with colorful pictures are so important, especially for the little folks.

Realizing what an impact *comics* have had on kids in the secular realm, Christian publishers are now producing comics which present thrilling accounts of various conversions and ministries. (Fleming H. Revell has produced *God's Smuggler* and *The Cross and The Switchblade* as the first two of a series of *Christian Comics*.)

Our two boys, ages three and seven years, have looked for hours at a set of Bible story books published by Concordia which gives one Bible story book in rhyme (59¢). They are tremendous. We use them in family devotions along with the Bible.

Moody Press has a vast amount of adventure books with a spiritual theme for all ages of reading youth. Buy some for your children.

PERIODICAL PLEA

To what do you subscribe? The daily paper? Magazines offered by students in their annual drive? Spread that magazine money out to include several informative and inspirational fundamental publications. Many of these can be received regularly free for asking or at a nominal subscription fee.

Every soul-winning church ought to saturate their area constantly with literature. Jehovah's Witnesses put out a lot more material in the average neighborhood than most fundamental churches do. The cults are filling our "Jeruselems" with heresy while we

ought to be filling them with truth (Acts 5:28).

Buy a printing press before you buy that new steeple. Put your money in the message both for your people and your prospects. Do you know that the Communists printed two pieces of literature for every person on earth last year? That's more than six billion pieces. They know the power of print! We need buildings, but don't forget that buildings are only *workshops* to get out the message.

THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO

Paul was writing the last book he would write before he died when he said to Timothy: "The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the *books*, but *especially the parchments*" (II Timothy 4:13). In the earlier letter to Timothy, Paul had said: "Till I come, *give attendance to reading*, to exhortation, to doctrine" (I Timothy 4:13).

Get involved in the ministry of Christian literature. It's a rewarding venture. ▲

what's your problem?



By R. Eugene Waddell

Question: I heard that the Free Will Baptist denomination opposes the ecumenical movement to bring Christians together in unity. Can you give me one sensible reason why?

Answer: Several good reasons keep Free Will Baptists from joining the ecumenical movement.

First, as an association of autonomous Free Will Baptist churches, no leader or board or convention of Free Will Baptist churches can organically tie all the churches to a council of churches, such as the ecumenists advocate.

Secondly, Free Will Baptists are a group of fundamental churches. That is, we believe in the verbal inspiration of an inerrant Bible, the virgin birth of the incarnate God, the vicarious death of a sinless Savior, the victorious bodily resurrection of the glorified redeemer, the visible bodily return of a conquering king and the vitality of the new birth by grace through faith and not of works. The only way we

could join the ecumenical movement is to compromise with some who preach that Jesus was a bastard, His life was only ordinary, His death was an accident, His resurrection was a hoax and His return is an idle dream. The Christ of the Bible and the so-called Jesus of the modernist are two different people.

If Free Will Baptists joined with any who believe any of this false doctrine, we would be denying our Savior.

Thirdly, God condemns cooperation with false teachers in 2 John 9-11: "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

Finally, I want to assure you very firmly that Free Will Baptists believe in spiritual unity among believers. Contrary to most other Baptists, Free Will Baptists believe in open communion and accept immersion by other evangelical groups, without requiring rebaptism of transferring members. We love and often fellowship with Bible-believing, born-again Christians from many denominations.

But we oppose the ecumenical efforts to force all churches under one earthly organization and head.

Readers may address their questions to Mr. Waddell at P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202 Please limit each question to one specific topic. There will be no personal correspondence regarding those questions which are not used in the magazine. The column will not necessarily be considered the official voice of the denomination relative to the problems involved. ▲

WE PUT GOD'S WORD BACK INTO OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Members of an Oklahoma church emerge triumphantly from an enterprising experience demanding forthright action and hardihood.

By Milburn Wilson

The cry that our nation needs to turn back to God is heard repeatedly from every "nook and cranny" of our great country. But where do we start? As a pastor, I firmly believe that the change should start in the local church.

One of the greatest problems the church faces today is the influence the public school system has on our church families. I was made aware of this damaging influence when dress codes were taken away in our school, and teachers began teaching theories of evolution as *fact* instead of theory in science and biology classes. Students who dressed like Christians and believed God created man and universe were ridiculed and treated like misfits. Several students came to me and told

me they were being mistreated in their classes and were not allowed to speak and express their convictions. Some were threatened with expulsion from class.

I went to the school and talked to the superintendent and asked him if he could remedy this problem. The school was not interested, so I took the matter to the church. We voted in church conference to challenge the evolutionist monopoly in the public school.

In years past the Genesis account of creation was all that was taught in public school classrooms. As the years passed, theories of evolution were accepted by those who did not believe the Biblical account of creation in Genesis. Teachers began mentioning these theories in the classroom and

eventually they were put into the schools' textbooks. They were, at first, taught along with the Genesis account and students were allowed to choose for themselves. However, today all the textbooks concerning creation are built around theories of evolution as being fact, and the Genesis account has been left out completely.

On March 12, 1973 First Free Will Baptist Church of Ardmore made the following request to the local Board of Education:

1. We request change in presentation of all materials that are taught in the classroom that have to do with theories of evolution concerning the creation of man, the universe, and all living creatures.
2. We request the Genesis account of creation from the King James Version of the Bible be taught along with other theories of creation which are presently being taught in the Ardmore Public School System. This would not cause any change in the textbooks being presently used. This would be taught as a supplement.

The Dramatic vs. The Non-Dramatic Conversion

By Leroy Forlines

As has been stated in previous articles, lack of assurance of salvation is occasioned by different causes. One of these causes is related to the comparison of one's conversion experience with that of some others. For example, the person who had a quiet conversion is sometimes made to doubt when he hears someone relate a dramatic conversion experience.

Before discussing ways to cope with this problem, let's make a few points clear. Salvation is *real* for all who experience it. All of us are thinking, feeling, acting beings. We feel with our hearts. The presence of forgiveness is also real. We dare not talk about conversion experiences in which a person is an emotional blank. There must be an inner reality.

While there must be an inner reality,

the nature and degree of emotional tone will not be the same in every case. Also, the way people give outward expression to that inner feeling is not always the same. The nature of our feelings and expression of love for father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, and child differ from one person to another. Yet, the love may be as real in one case as another. The same is true in the inner feeling and expression of our experiences with God.

Many things cause some people to have a more dramatic conversion experience than others. The person's general emotional state, the depth of sin in which one has lived, what he has observed when others were saved, etc. Also, it may fit into the purpose of God for some people to have a more dramatic conversion experience than others. Paul had a more dramatic

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conversion experience than most New Testament believers did. This was, apparently, related to the purpose of God for Paul's life.

The person with the dramatic conversion is no more converted than the person with the quiet conversion experience. All who are converted are forgiven of their sins. They receive Christ's righteousness. They are regenerated by the Holy Spirit with a life changing experience. They receive the Holy Spirit who lives within them.

It is helpful for the person who is troubled when he hears someone relate a dramatic conversion experience if he also listens for those who had quieter

3. We request these changes be made effective at the Fall Semester, 1973.

We find it necessary to make these requests at this time because: When the evolutionistic material is presented in the classroom, students who hold to the Genesis account of creation are not usually permitted to express their views and convictions. If they try to, they are threatened with expulsion or with failing grades. This has created a problem in the emotional and spiritual make-up of Christian students.

When this proposal came to the attention of the local school board they told our church this matter must be brought through the local Ministerial Alliance (of which I am not a member). They knew the liberals were in control of the alliance and that they don't believe the Bible is inspired by God. The school's attorney brought this matter before the Alliance, and I was publicly insulted by the leadership who accept the theory of evolution as fact. They voted not to take a stand for or against the proposal. (Three of these pastors are no longer pastoring here.)

Again, we took our request to the local school board. This time the Board said we should take the proposal to the State Board of Education. This we did.

experiences. He might even inquire of various Christians concerning their own experience. Many of the most outstanding servants of God have had quiet, non-dramatic conversions.

Where there is conviction of sin, it can certainly be expected that a person will feel a sense of relief when he experiences forgiveness. This will be real, but the Bible nowhere tells us how we must feel or how we must manifest that feeling. The person who out of conviction for sin has placed his faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin and a change of heart and life can rest assured that he is saved. He need not compare his experience with someone else. He needs only to look for evidences of a changed life in which he loves Jesus Christ, desires to be holy, and desires to serve God. Such attitudes are found only in the heart of a person who has been redeemed. He is a child of God. ▲

The following are quotes from a letter received from the Oklahoma State Board of Education: "This matter is the responsibility of the local administrator and board of education." State School Superintendent Doctor Leslie Fisher said, "I will not take this matter to the State Board of Education, as they do not have the authority to interfere." In other words, it is the responsibility of the local school board and administration to make this decision.

We went back to the local board and they said the State and U.S. laws would not permit the adoption of our proposal — which was not true. The State Law under School Curriculum, Article XI, Section 149 says, "Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the reading of the Holy Scriptures."

The Supreme Court of our nation ruled in 1963 the following, "The court was careful to emphasize that religion has an exalted place in our society and that it was not saying that the Bible was unworthy of study for its literary and historical qualities. It observed that nothing in their opinion indicated that the First Amendment barred study of the Bible or of Religion when presented objectively as part of a program of education." This means that the Genesis account of creation can be taught along with evolutionistic theories.

At this point we knew that the local school board intended to do absolutely nothing about this matter unless forced. So we took the following steps:

1. We got our local senator and representative involved in the matter.
2. We began to ask for the support of Bible believing churches in Ardmore, and out of 60 churches 53 began to voice their opinion in our favor. This was 87% of our church community. Several people who did not claim to be Christians phoned and said they were behind us because they knew we were doing the right thing.
3. We were given free time on T.V. news at 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. five different times to invite viewers to voice their opinion and all the free

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Wilson is pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church of Ardmore, Oklahoma. He is a member of Oklahoma's Sunday School Board.

radio time we needed and wanted. The only news media that was against us was the local newspaper, and their stories were always slanted.

4. I was a guest on the 30-minute daytime show "Woman's World" and discussed the matter at length.
5. A local Christian judge gave us all the free legal advice we needed. (A lot of research had to be done concerning state and Federal laws.)

Soon the people began telephoning the local school board and school superintendent.

On August 14, 1973 we were contacted to come to the school and review new school policy concerning the matter. When the policy was explained it was exactly what our church had requested. This means that God's Word is again a part of our local system and students will at least hear that God created man and the universe and that he is not an animal, but the handiwork of God.

The outcome is well voiced by the Rev. Tom Cotten, Superintendent of Missions for the Enon Association of Southern Baptists, in an article he wrote in "The Enon Baptist News":

We have been informed that the Bible will be part of the resource material in the study of first things in the Ardmore School System.

The Bible will be available for study in all classrooms, and no teacher or student will be hindered in his theory of the beginning of things. The teacher and student are free by law to study the Bible and all other theories in their search for truth. No teacher or student need feel he is being ridiculed for his belief in the Bible and Creation.

Christian people of Ardmore are glad to have this assurance made known to them. The School System is to be commended.

This could be the story in your school system if Christians will take a vocal stand for God. Put the Bible back into your local school (have you checked to see if it is gone?). This action has won the respect of all our community for Free Will Baptists and has been a tremendous blessing to our church.

What a rewarding experience for members of First Free Will Baptist Church in Ardmore! Putting the greatest literature of all times back into our public schools — God's Holy Word! ▲

KEN RIGGS HONORED FOR 9 YEARS SERVICE TO CTS DEPARTMENT

NASHVILLE, TENN. — The Reverend Ken Riggs, professor in Christian Education at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, was recently cited for services rendered to the Church Training Service Department as a former employee and board member for a total of nine years. Mr. Riggs' term expired in July.

Mr. Malcolm Fry, General Director of the CTS Department, made the formal recognition during Chapel service at the college November 20, 1973.

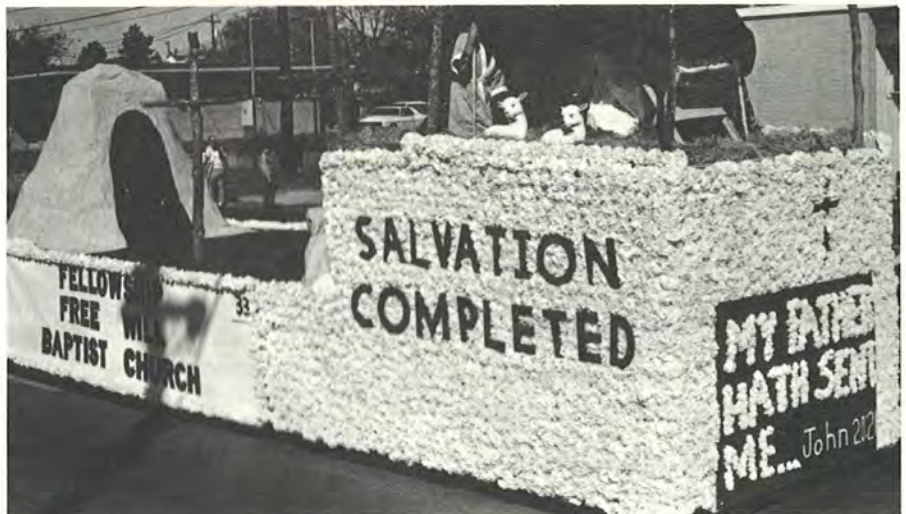
Mr. Ted Wilbanks, head of the music department at Free Will Baptist Bible College and secretary of the National Church Training Service Board, presented Mr. Riggs a plaque with the inscription: "In appreciation for faithful and effective service to the Board of Church Training Service, 1964-1973."

Mr. Riggs served as the first Director of Youth Activities for the Church Training Service Department from 1964 to 1966. During that time he assisted in implementing the first National Youth Conference, assisted in directing the first competitive activities, conducted youth rallies, and wrote key articles for *Teen Action* magazine in addition to numerous other responsibilities. Subsequently, Mr. Riggs served as a member of the CTS Board for seven years. He contributed greatly to the department in this capacity, especially in the area of formulating policies relative to the National Youth Conference and curriculum materials.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront



TEXAS CHURCH USES FLOAT TO SHARE GOSPEL

BRYAN, TEXAS — The Church Training Service of Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church here achieved two goals when they entered a float in the religious division of the annual Christmas parade sponsored by the

Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce. They won the \$125 first prize! But foremost to those who worked on the float, according to Pastor Eugene Richards, was that they were "more excited about getting the Gospel out than in just winning. We also believe this has helped our denomination in this community."

The purpose of the float was to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ from the time of His birth through His resurrection. A manger, cross and empty tomb were utilized in telling the story. The front of the float carried a quote from John 20 relating to Christ's earthly ministry. A sign on the rear of the float read "This same Jesus is coming again."

The float was prepared under the direction of Jerry Fling, CTS Director. More than 4,000 paper flowers were made by hand and wired to the float. The manger and the crosses were freshly cut trees in an effort to lend more realism. The tomb was built of paper mache.

The prize money will be used to help purchase new choir robes for the church.

MISSOURI PASTOR DIES OF CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE

KANSAS CITY, MO. — Dale Jones, 47, pastor of Central Free Will Baptist Church here, went to be with the Lord December 15, 1973. Death was attributed to a cerebral hemorrhage.

Mr. Jones' 28 years in the ministry were spent in his native Missouri. He pastored several churches in the Lebanon area, at Flat River and had ministered with his present congregation over 4 years.

Funeral services were conducted at Lebanon December 18 by the Reverend O. T. Dixon of Norman, Oklahoma.

Surviving are his wife, Farron, son David and daughter Beth, all of the home.



L to R Wilbanks, Fry, Riggs

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI MISSION EXPERIENCING GROWTH

SIKESTON, MO. — Seven months after the First Free Will Baptist witness was planted in this southeast Missouri city, the average attendance at the mission reached 90, according to Pastor Denzil Durbin.

Services are being held in the Sikeston Activity Center where the group held their first service April 29, 1973. There were 43 present for that first Sunday school. A building site is currently being sought in this city of 16,000 plus population.

Mr. Durbin has been in the pastoral ministry some 16 years, mostly in General Baptist churches in Indiana. The ex-Marine and his wife feel that the Lord has been preparing them 16 years for this ministry in Sikeston. An attendance goal of 200 is being

projected for April, 1974. Mr. Durbin feels the key to a strong church in Sikeston is a teaching staff grounded in Biblical doctrine as set forth in the Free Will Baptist Treatise. The mission endeavor is not under the sponsorship of any mission board.

Mrs. Durbin, a teacher in the public schools, is presently recovering from serious injuries received in an auto accident last August.

VIRGINIA AND GEORGIA PASTORS TO SPEAK AT BIBLE CONFERENCE

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Two Free Will Baptist ministers, Billy Morris of Norfolk, Virginia, and Melvin Worthington, Albany, Georgia, are among the speakers for the 1974 Bible Conference to be hosted March 17-21 on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College here. Other program personalities will be announced at a later date.

Mr. Morris is pastor of Hyde Park Church in Norfolk. Mr. Worthington ministers with the congregation of First Church in Albany.

OHIO PASTOR WITH THE LORD

REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO — The Reverend Bernard Van Hoose, pastor of Brice Road Free Will Baptist Church here, died unexpectedly just prior to the Sunday evening service, December 9, 1973.

Mr. Van Hoose founded the Brice Road Church.



GEORGIA CHURCH HONORS CENTURION MEMBER

BLAKELY, GA. — Mrs. Ella Wiley, member of Zion Free Will Baptist Church here, has seen a century of living. To honor this lady who has exemplified the spirit of giving, sharing and doing for others over the years, members of the Zion Church commemorated "Ma" Wiley's milestone with a corsage, a century plant and a money tree decorated with hundred dollar bills during the worship hour Sunday, December 9. A dinner in the social hall of the church concluded the tribute.

The church also chose to honor all senior citizens on this special day in order to thank them for their leadership, guidance and contributions to Zion Church and Sowhatcee community. Some 50 senior adults were presented a corsage or boutonniere.

Ella Jane Alston was born December 12, 1873, in Miller County, Georgia. She married William Thomas Wiley, a farmer, on February 11, 1892. At age 30, Mr. Wiley began preaching and throughout the ensuing years he kept regular preaching appointments in Free Will Baptist churches. They were the parents of 7 children and also found room in their home and hearts to care for 8 orphan children. To have a Christian home was uppermost in their minds as they held a family altar every night and a special home service on Sunday nights. After 60 years of marriage, Willie died in June, 1952.

Mrs. Wiley contributes her long life to faith in God and love for and from her family and friends. She continues to spend time in prayer each day but can no longer read her Bible daily because of failing eyesight. At the present time, she has 11 grandchildren, 30 great grandchildren and 5 great, great grandchildren.

"I Will Build My Church"

Matt. 16:18

1974 SPRING ENLARGEMENT CAMPAIGN FOR FREE WILL BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOLS

BEGINS MARCH 3, CONCLUDES MARCH 31

COMPETE WITH CHURCHES IN YOUR DIVISION FOR LARGEST PERCENTAGE GAIN OVER AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 1973.

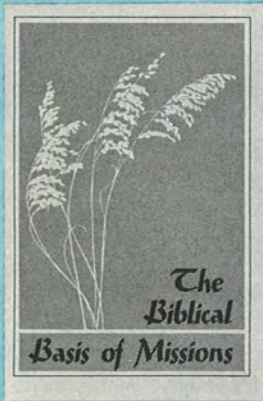
ENTRY DEADLINE: MARCH 1: REPORTING DEADLINE: APRIL 15

Campaign Materials Available:

Sunday School Department
P.O. Box 1088 / Nashville, TN. 37202

New Publications Released

Ten new books and booklets as listed below have been released by the Sunday School Department and are available for immediate delivery.

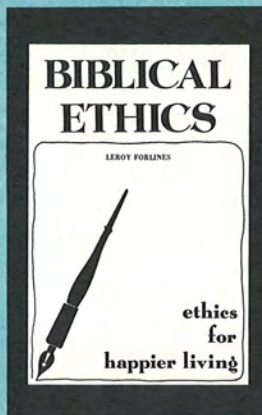


Biblical Basis of Missions —
Laura Belle Barnard — \$1.25
This is not light reading. It is a volume which probes the depths of God's Word to show the divine reason for missionary activity. Missions is shown to be the basis of God's revelation of himself to man.

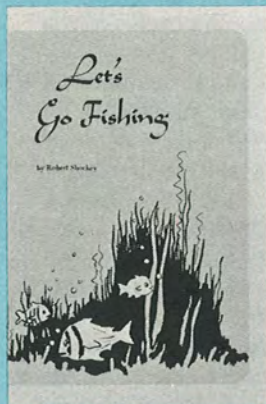
A Study Guide To Revelation —
Damon C. Dodd — \$1.25
A simple, easy to follow guide for studying this prophetic book. Presented from the premillennial point of view.



Biblical Ethics — *Leroy Forlines* — \$2.95
This is a much needed work in an immoral world in which the church tends to imitate the world. Mr. Forlines has done an excellent job in showing the scriptural basis for all the actions and works of a believer.

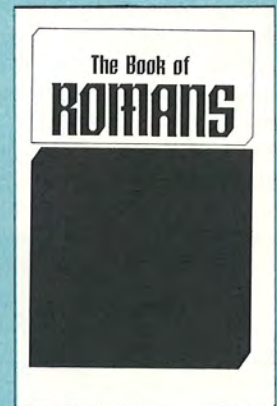


Evolution — *Leroy Forlines* — \$1.50
This is a brief and helpful essay which pinpoints the basic errors of the theory of evolution. It does not deal with the particulars of the theory of evolution but stays with a refutation of its basic principles.

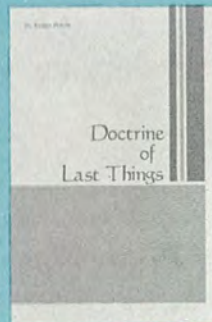
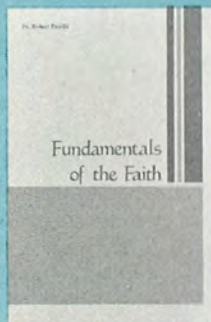


Let's Go Fishing — *Bob Shockey* — \$1.25
This is a very simple volume showing how to organize the soul winners in the church. By following the suggestions given here, a church can send forth an organized, aggressive body of soul winners.

The Book Of Romans (Vol. 1)
Dr. Robert Picirilli — \$1.50
This is Volume 1 of a three volume analytical study of the Book of Romans. This in-depth study outlines the book and then gives verse by verse comments which make this profound book understandable to any believer who will study it.

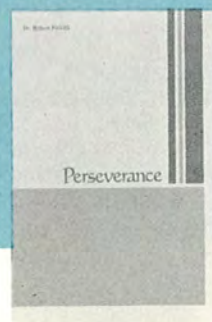
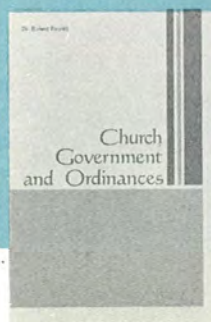


Fundamentals Of The Faith —
Dr. Robert Picirilli — \$1.25
Among conservative Christians there are two groups of doctrines: the essentials and those which make for denominational distinctives. Dr. Picirilli deals with two of those essential doctrines here: the doctrine of the Scriptures and the doctrine of Christ.



Doctrine Of Last Things —
Dr. Robert Picirilli — \$1.25
Some major differences among Free Will Baptists arise from the study of eschatology. Dr. Picirilli has done an excellent job of outlining the basic views of eschatology and pinpointing the areas of conflict among Free Will Baptists. At the same time he shows the areas when there is strong agreement.

Church Government And Ordinances —
Dr. Robert Picirilli — \$1.25
Doctrines which bring denominational distinctives are the subject matter of this booklet. The doctrine of ordinances is discussed. Free Will Baptists believe there are three. The systems of church government rejected by Free Will Baptists, as well as the system we accept, are described in a look at the doctrine of church government.



Perseverance — *Dr. Robert Picirilli* — \$1.25
This pamphlet opens with a discussion of the controversy between Calvinists and Arminians. The Free Will Baptist position on the question of perseverance is set forth clearly while the Calvinistic arguments are refuted. The paths to apostasy are outlined.

12/CONTACT/February '74



Golden Rules for Profitable Reading

By T. S. Rendell

Relax!

I am not going to give you a list of books and then say to you: "Read these books." I recall the old proverb that says: "What is one man's meat is another man's poison." What I find edible may turn you off.

I am not going to challenge you to keep up with the flood of books coming off the presses monthly. That is impossible for a number of reasons, not the least of which are time and cost.

I am not going to force upon you an artificial schedule for reading. So often such a program is like Saul's armour on the boy David — too big and too burdensome.

I have deliberately told you what I am not going to do in case you throw a book at me in frustration.

Well, then, in what direction are we going to go? Quite simply I would like to share with you from my own experience, observation, and discussion with others, seven golden rules for profitable reading. I believe you should relate these principles to all your reading, regardless of the kind of book.

First, I would say to you, keep your reading *focussed*.

Now focussed reading involves a number of things on our part.

First, focussed reading involves that we deliberately sort out and spell out our goals in reading. We need to ask ourselves: What are my objectives? What do I want to accomplish through my reading?

I find that very few Christians have really articulated the goals of their reading program. If we ask for suggestions, we could well get such views as: to increase our knowledge, to know more about our world and our

society, to find material for preaching. Now these are all probably valid, but they are not adequate. A Christian interpretation of the value of reading would, I believe, include at least two primary goals:

1. We should read to be better persons.

2. We should read to be better servants of the Lord.

The first of these goals relates to our character — that is, what we are; the second to our ministry — that is, what we do. They are listed in the right order, too: character, and, then, ministry.

To read merely to increase our reservoir of knowledge is not good enough. That does not represent a Christian interpretation of reading. There are those who tragically are always reading, but who never improve the quality of their living through their reading.

Second, focussed reading involves that all our reading be related to these goals. Books may be classified in the following ways: books for Christian living, books on Christian thought and theology, books for Christian ministry, biography, etc. We should make sure that each book we read relates to our goals. In this way we shall be enabled to make the whole sphere of our reading converge on the goals we have established.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Rendell is editor of THE PRAIRIE OVERCOMER, a publication of Prairie Bible Institute in Three Hills, Alberta, Canada from which this article is reprinted by permission. The Bible expositor will be a featured speaker at the 1974 National Youth Conference July 15-18 and the Pastor's Dinner of the National Association.

Finally, focussed reading involves constant adjustment. It is easy to lose sight of the goals we have established. Accordingly, we are soon reading without achieving our goals. An unexamined reading program is ultimately an unprofitable reading program. Check up on yourself to see if your reading is truly focussed and goal-centred.

INTERRELATED

Second, keep your reading *interrelated*. Our reading should not be so compartmentalized that one book never meets another. All our books should be on speaking terms.

Let me give some examples of what I mean by reading that is interrelated and correlated.

Supposing you are reading a volume of sermons, say by C. H. Spurgeon or D. L. Moody. You should not be content to keep your reading of those sermons in a watertight compartment. You should now want to find out more about Spurgeon or Moody. The sermons should lead you to read a biography of the preacher. Or it could be the other way round: the biography could lead you to read a volume or volumes of sermons by the preacher.

Supposing you are reading a biography of an evangelist — let's say it is that of Charles Finney. The biography should whet your appetite to know more about the history of evangelism. In turn, therefore, you would be led to read Scharpf's *History of Evangelism* or Taylor's *Exploring Evangelism*.

But you may extend this principle of correlating your reading in another way: Supposing you have read a volume of sermons by Spurgeon. Why not read his lectures on preaching, or his volume on the illustrating of sermons?

Let's take a completely different segment of Christian reading. Let's suppose the book you are reading is dealing with a fundamental doctrine, for example, the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. Right after reading that book, you may want to read something on the history of the doctrine of the Spirit.

Or the book may be about missionary work, perhaps a biography of a missionary. The biography may lead you to read more about missions in the country where the missionary lived, or create within you a desire to know more about missionary strategy.



GOLDEN RULES FOR PROFITABLE READING

(Con't. from page 14)

If we follow this simple practice, we shall find that we are not reading a book in isolation or in independence, but in interrelationship.

VARIED

Third, I suggest you keep your reading *varied*. If there is one rule more vital than the rest, it's this one. We must not permit ourselves to come to the place where we are reading only one kind of a book — for example, devotional books — no matter how excellent they may be.

I came across a statement recently that corroborates what I am saying. In a context of student life, Mr. David Adeney, Dean of the Discipleship Training Centre, stated:

Too often we have lived a ghetto-type existence, out of touch with many of the challenging questions which are being discussed in student groups around the world. If reading is limited to a small range of evangelical authors, there is little incentive to face the burning questions of our day, or to

understand the thinking of a vast number of people whose outlook is diametrically opposed to the Christian view of life.¹

First, we may vary our reading by including in the sphere of our reading as wide a range of subjects as is possible and profitable for us to do.

The best way for me to emphasize and illustrate this principle is to give you a few of the titles on my reading list. Soon I hope to read a collection of monthly letters published by the Royal Bank of Canada on the subject of the family; a life of Rommel; a book dealing with survival on the campus — a book preparing Christian students for life and learning on today's secular campus; and Dr. Joel Nederhood's *The Church's Mission to the Educated American*. It is true that there is no requirement placed upon me to read any of these titles, but I am sure that each can contribute something either to my being a better person or a better servant of the Lord.

Again, we may vary our reading by including the old and the new. A few years ago there was a revival of interest in the writings of the Puritans. Several companies came into existence to meet this desire for their books. Now read the Puritans by all means, but do not read them exclusively. And do not, by any

means, try to imitate their style!

Writing in the last century, W. Arnot stated well the principle involved:

The literature of one century, whether sacred or common, will not, when served up in the lump, satisfy the craving and sustain the life of another. The nineteenth century must produce its own literature [and we would say the same about the twentieth — T.S.R.], as it raises its own corn, and fabricates its own garments. The intellectual and spiritual treasures of the past should indeed be reverently preserved and used; but they should be used as seed. Instead of indolently living on the stores which our fathers left, we should cast them into the ground, and get the produce fresh every season — old, and yet ever new.²

But, on the other hand, do not read only the new, and, certainly, not only the popular authors of today. Let there

1. Adeney, David. *Christian Students Face the Revolution* (Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 1973).
2. Arnot, William. *The Parables of Our Lord* (London: T. Nelson and Sons, 1876).

By Charles Thigpen

If the energy crisis gets as severe as government leaders say it will, how will the church fare? If every home and every individual will feel the pinch of the energy shortage, reason concludes that every church will encounter this crisis also. Will the fuel allocation to churches be cut? What about the availability of electricity? Will church members have enough gasoline for transportation to work, to attend church three or four times a week, and for other essential driving? Will the church be able to secure sufficient fuel to operate busses which presently are used to bring many to church? Also, in addition to this scarcity, fuel prices continue to soar and this will force prices up all across the board. As church members are caught in the resulting economic squeeze, less money will flow into the coffers of the church.

What should churches do in the face of this impending problem?

It is certainly not improper to

How Can the Local Church Cope with the Energy Crisis?

suggest that "effectual, fervent" prayer be raised to God about this emergency which may well cause some to be cold this winter, others to be prevented from earning a livelihood, and everyone hurt to some extent. The God of heaven who is aware of a sparrow's fall and keeps an exact account of the hairs of our heads is the One before whose feet we should lay this present need. It is comforting and reassuring to remind ourselves of Peter's admonition, "Casting all your care upon him for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:9).

A second approach is to give careful attention to planning ahead. Church members with the best minds and the most dedicated hearts should be brought together once the picture is sufficiently clear to know the problem

areas in the church brought on by the fuel shortage. This committee should seek divine leadership for practical solutions to the needs at hand. There is a workable plan that can be devised for any problem which the energy shortage brings to a church. Suppose the church is heated by fuel oil and its supply will be cut in half. Some possible approaches would be to heat only the auditorium for the winter months with a joint Sunday school hour being held for all students — or dividing into various "corners" of the auditorium for less than the usual number of classes. However, if electricity is not in short supply, small, inexpensive electric space heaters may be provided for each classroom with the auditorium still being heated by the fuel oil.

be a blend and a balance of the old and the new.

Third, we may vary our reading by including books presenting different sides of a subject.

Take the area of prophecy. You may be both pretribulational and premillennial, and be proud of it, but you should read books that present other interpretations and viewpoints on prophecy. Some of my friends may not appreciate this bit of counsel, but it won't really hurt you to read a book that is post-tribulational in viewpoint!

Or take the area of sanctification. You may have a doctrine of holiness worked out in great detail, but the truth is there are insights into the whole subject to be gleaned from other schools of thought!

Finally, we may vary our reading by reading books by different types of authors. Like preachers, authors come in different moulds. There are those who are philosophical and analytic in their approach; some are fond of documentation; others are informal and personal in their style of writing. Include some of all these types of writers. They will lend variety to your reading, and variety is the spice of reading!

Let us now consider the matter of gasoline shortage for automobiles. Why not help families join together in working out car pools? Also, instead of having all families come to church for mid-week service, why not set up mid-week service in homes which are geographically located where prayer meeting could be attended closer to home for everyone. The pastor could call these prayer group leaders and give specific church needs and announcements to be shared with each group.

In fact, riding together and meeting in each other's homes for prayer and praise might give the church at large a "shot in the arm" as members get to know each other better. In this way a

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Thigpen, Academic Dean at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn., is a doctoral candidate at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro. He serves as a member of CONTACT's Advisory Council.

PRODUCTIVE

Thus far we have suggested your reading should be focussed and interrelated and varied. Now a fourth point: Let your reading be *productive*. This is tantamount to saying: don't just read, but make sure that your reading is really worthwhile. If you have half a dozen fields under production, you should constantly be checking to see if each field is yielding an adequate crop.

I think it's important to grasp how we can make our reading productive.

First, let me suggest you make use of the results of your reading by incorporating illustrations and quotations into your messages. My subject is not preaching, but I cannot pass up the opportunity to encourage you — indeed, to exhort you — to make use of your reading in your preaching.

Now I do not mean by this rule that every sermon should be filled with illustrations and quotations. Houses should have windows, but we do not choose to live in glass houses. Be moderate and wise in the use of illustrations.

We may make our reading productive if we let it suggest to us topics and themes to be dealt with in our preaching ministry. I recently read a newspaper article on the subject of death

new closeness and spirit of brotherliness might well be the result.

Any critical area produced by the energy crisis may be brought into focus, analyzed, and solved. God's church will never face a problem that it cannot solve by God's guidance. Somehow, God's people have always overcome times of crisis. The writer of Hebrews speaks of problems through which believers of earlier times marched valiantly. These "quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight... they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented" (Hebrews 11:34-37).

Our present problems fade into insignificance compared with the crisis faced by our spiritual ancestors. The great consolation is that we serve the same sustaining God of the ages they served. May we be as faithful as they. ▲

education. This in turn led to my preaching a sermon entitled, "The Christian Attitude Toward Death."

I can guarantee that if you make your reading yield results like that, you won't have to wonder on Saturday night: What shall I preach on tomorrow?

Finally, we may make our reading productive if we record the suggestions that are given birth by our reading. Don't lose the seed thought! Keep it, for it may yet produce a whole crop of golden grain.

CHALLENGING

Our fifth golden rule reminds us that reading should never become boring. Our reading should be *challenging*. When the element of excitement dies down in our reading program, then we are in for trouble. When the wonderland of books turns into a dryland, then we need help.

To help you make your reading challenging and stimulating, here are some tips.

First, read a book that expands your mind. Don't keep on reading books that are elementary. If the subject is prophecy, for example, get into a book that really stretches the muscles of your mind. Get a major work and keep at it.

Second, read a number of books on the same subject at the same time. Presently I am reading in the area of the inspiration of the Scriptures. I have books that represent the fundamental view, the Roman Catholic view, and the liberal view. In this way I hope to understand more concerning the doctrine of the inspiration of the Bible.

Third, occasionally choose a book that normally you would not select to read. It may be a secular biography or a subject that lies outside your immediate sphere of concern. This will expand your mental horizons and give you a wider sphere from which to select materials for illustration.

PROGRAMMED

Without outlining a reading schedule, I would say, sixth, that you should seek to keep your reading *programmed*.

There are various fruitful ways of programming your reading.

Here is a suggestion for those who are preachers.

As a preacher you will give priority to those books, commentaries, helps, etc. that relate to your immediate pulpit

(Con't. on page 17)

New Form for the Inner Person

By Dr. Robert Picirilli

The two key words in Romans 12:2 are quite similar in sound, but very different in meaning: *conformed* and *transformed*. These words have much to say to us about the nature of the influences that shape our lives as Christians, and the direction our lives should take.

The first word occurs in a negative command: "Be not *conformed* to this world." The Greek word is *suschematizo*, based on the noun *schema*, "fashion," combined with the preposition *sun* which means "together." Thus Paul is saying, "Be not fashioned together with this world."

"Fashion" is better for this word than "form." "Fashion" refers to the outward and external, the manner of one's life: habits, customs, styles, behavior, attitudes, and so on. "Fashion" is the way one manifests outwardly what he is within. You will appreciate Paul's negative command better if you realize that the word translated "world" is *aiōn*, "age." Paul is saying: Don't let the spirit of this age set the fashion of your life.

The second word presents the alternative, the positive side: "Be ye *transformed* by the renewing of your mind." The Greek word is *metamorphoo* (from which our "metamorphosis" comes), based on the noun *morphe*, "form," combined with the preposition *meta* which means "change."

"Form," then, is the right word here. "Form" refers to the very character and nature of a thing. If "fashion" is outward manifestation, "form" is the very shape and substance that expresses what one really is. Fashion, then, may be misleading, or even a pretense; form can never be. Trench gives a helpful illustration of the difference between the two words: if one were to change his Dutch garden into an Italian one, that would be a change of fashion only; but if one changed his garden into a swimming pool, its very form would be changed.

With this background, Romans 12:2 becomes clearer. On the one hand, the fashion of our lives is not to be determined by the shifting currents of this age that swirl about us. The way we live — our standards, values, styles,

customs, conduct — should not be shaped by such influences. Never fear, the world wishes to press us into its mold; we must steadfastly resist.

However, we do need changing. Only the change must go deeper than the outward fashion. The very form of our character needs reshaping, and that not by the world's influence but by

gems

from the
Greek New Testament

heaven's. Thus Paul stresses the renewing of our *minds*: the very inner man must be remolded according to this force. What is that force? Romans 8:29 answers the question dramatically. Here we read of God's purpose that we be "conformed to" the image of Christ. This "conformed" uses *morphe*, "form," not *schema*, "fashion." The character and personality of God's Son ought to be the influence that is brought to bear on the inner man, reshaping him into conformity with God's eternal purpose for His sons. Then the outward "fashion" will take care of itself. ▲

Georgia Church Sets Pace for Early Women's Work

By Mary R. Wisheart

Recently Miss Dot Harvey gave WNAC's historical collection the record book of the Free Will Baptist Woman's Missionary Society of Midway Church in Jakin, Georgia. In that record book was a copy of the constitution and by-laws for that society, dated November 5, 1905. This date suggests that the Midway society is one of the earliest in the present women's movement.

Because it is one of the earliest, its structure and the goals are of special interest. The purpose of the society was "to aid the church in spreading the Gospel at home and abroad."

This local group apparently felt the burden for helping women in other churches organize, for in addition to president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, the Midway society had an "organizer." The organizer seems a forerunner of the present field worker. Her duty was to visit each Free Will Baptist church and endeavor to organize

HISTORY CORNER

a society in each. The organizer was also expected to report at each monthly meeting.

Although officers of the organization had to be Free Will Baptists, the membership seemed open to any women and girls. Dues for adult women were \$1 per year. These dues could be paid quarterly. Girls between 12-18 paid 50¢ a year and girls under 12, 25¢. The women of Midway were quite open minded and invited men and boys to become members by paying the same dues as the women and girls. No male member was permitted to vote or hold office. He could, however, advise "if asked to do so."

Midway was represented at the organizational meeting of WNAC at the Black Jack Church in North Carolina in 1935. It still has an active auxiliary today.

Women have always been an

important part of Christ's work. Among Free Will Baptists the women have been active from as far back as we can trace the history. The *Free Will Baptist Cyclopedia* lists several women who were evangelists, pastors and licensed ministers. An active women's organization has long been a part of Free Will Baptist history.

For the purpose of a history of the women's organization, however, we are chiefly concerned with the first groups formed in the Southeast, West, and other places not affiliated with the work in the Northeast and lost in the 1910 merger. We are especially interested in groups which later fed into district, state and national organizations to form WNAC.

Except for one auxiliary organized in 1899 (subject for a later column), this 1905 date is the earliest record we have for a woman's group which became a part of WNAC. We should be glad to hear of any earlier organizations or even organizations existing about the same time. ▲

GOLDEN RULES . . .

(Con't. from page 15)

preparation. I am simply taking it for granted that you have done the necessary Bible study before you turn to the commentaries.

Thus, if you are preaching on the gifts of the Spirit, you should be reading books related to the charismata.

You may program your reading by selecting those books that relate to some specific purpose or goal. For example, for the message referred to previously on the subject of death, I read three titles dealing with the Christian interpretation of death.

You may relate your reading to seasonal needs: Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, Mother's Day. All these special occasions require a fresh approach.

Your reading may be programmed by choosing some special study that you wish to carry out, some special subject for research and investigation.

Let me give you two examples of this approach.

Mr. Don Shidler, President Emeritus of the Gospel Missionary Union, was introduced twenty years ago to the great neglected reformer, William Farel. Mr. Shidler decided to make Farel's life the subject of special study. Now after twenty years of research he has just published a biography of William Farel.

Mr. Arnold Dallimore has been pastor of the Fellowship Baptist Church of Cottom, Ontario, for twenty-three years! During that time he has also been researching and writing the life of George Whitefield. Volume 1 of his study has been published and volume 2 is expected in 1975.

These examples show how a pastor or a Christian worker may choose a subject for concentrated study over a period of years.

Finally, your reading may be programmed by making a list of those titles you wish to read. This was the method employed by Jonathan Edwards. Titles may be gleaned from book reviews, catalogues, and special bibliographies.

KEEP READING

Our final golden rule comes as no surprise. It is simply: *keep reading!* Let your reading be scheduled. Some time each day should be allotted to reading. Remember, as someone has said, fifteen minutes a day can enable you to read the longest book ever published.

Read during so-called spare moments! Keep a book handy while

you are waiting for your wife! It's better to read than to rave.

Now to review. We have suggested seven golden rules for profitable reading. Here they are once again:

1. Keep your reading focussed.
2. Keep your reading interrelated.
3. Keep your reading varied.

4. Keep your reading productive.

5. Keep your reading challenging.

6. Keep your reading programmed.

7. Keep reading.

If you are in a rut because of poor reading habits, why not try these seven principles? They may help you to grasp the riches of reading! ▲

Thank You for Your Gifts to the . . .

COOPERATIVE PLAN OF SUPPORT

December 1973

RECEIPTS:

State	Dec. '73		Dec. '72	Yr. to date
	Coop	Design.		
Alabama	\$. . .	\$. . .	\$. . . \$	3,861.70
Arizona	378.69	(378.69)	894.24	1,627.69
Arkansas	1,524.15	. . .	965.36	11,805.66
California	924.06	. . .	1,025.18	6,696.68
Florida	423.50	. . .	. . .	8,942.49
Georgia	239.34	. . .	563.48	7,527.84
Idaho	110.90	. . .	. . .	728.45
Illinois	762.79	. . .	. . .	13,136.53
Indiana	. . .	. . .	. . .	81.92
Kansas	. . .	. . .	. . .	1,584.87
Kentucky	. . .	. . .	267.09	1,165.67
Maryland	65.00	. . .	5.00	741.11
Michigan	. . .	. . .	. . .	127.90
Minnesota	. . .	. . .	43.07	415.91
Mississippi	37.29	. . .	29.42	800.26
Missouri	2,829.00	(2,829.00)	2,755.69	34,213.54
New Mexico	. . .	. . .	. . .	29.24
North Carolina	75.00	. . .	75.00	1,180.00
Northwest Assoc.	76.72	. . .	30.00	263.76
Ohio	1,532.48	. . .	500.28	10,751.19
Oklahoma	736.75	(736.75)	2,517.50	7,552.41
Tennessee	123.03	. . .	105.37	3,078.06
Texas	142.17	. . .	. . .	2,250.90
Virginia	35.08	. . .	36.90	684.07
West Virginia	. . .	. . .	10.70	35.00
Totals	\$ 10,015.95		\$ 9,824.28	\$119,282.85

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 1,347.00	\$(1,182.75)	\$ 3,363.40	\$ 43,267.35
Foreign Missions	2,775.23	(1,060.23)	2,174.26	24,810.93
Bible College	2,439.79	(747.23)	1,700.37	21,070.35
Home Missions	1,656.70	(574.73)	1,574.51	15,287.29
Church Training Ser.	797.72	(207.00)	453.98	6,652.25
Retirement & Ins.	610.57	(138.00)	332.07	4,963.80
Layman's Board	312.62	(17.25)	164.72	2,444.67
Commission on Theolog- ical Liberalism	76.32	(17.25)	60.97	762.90
Miscellaneous	. . .	. . .	. . .	23.31
Totals	\$ 10,015.95		\$ 9,824.28	\$119,282.85

YOU ARE WHAT YOU READ !

Have you recently read a faith-building book? Or one on self-improvement (like Ron Willingham's *Life Is What You Make It*)? Or a "how to" — be a better wife, cultivate more meaningful inter-personal relationships, improve as a mother, set and reach growth-producing goals?

Tell me what you read and I'll tell you what you are. Tell me what you read — and how often — and I'll tell you how rapidly — or slowly — you're growing in Christ.

Keep God's Word at the top of your reading priorities this month. And then devote several hours to Jill Renich's *To Have and to Hold* and Larry Christenson's *The Christian Family* (on this year's Christian Best Seller List).

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY (Bethany Fellowship; Cloth \$4.95, Paper \$2.25)
By Larry Christenson

"The secret of good family life is disarmingly simple: cultivate the family's relationship with Jesus Christ. There is no phase of family life left outside of this relationship. There is no problem a family might face which does not find its solution within the scope of this objective," believes Larry Christenson.

The book is divided into two main parts: God's Order for the Family and Practicing the Presence of Jesus. The first section describes the Divine Order: "The husband lives under the authority of Christ... The wife lives under the authority of her husband... The children live under the authority of both parents." Christenson believes this plan is not understood (and still less practiced) and that happiness for the family rests within this context.

The author continues, in the second section, with a word of caution: Following this Divine Order is not enough. "As God's Order begins to shape the outward form of a family's

life, the presence of Jesus must be given full sway to transform its inner life."

The Christian Family contains many helpful illustrations and suggestions useful in making any family a more complete unit in Christ. A must for personal and church libraries.

— Reviewed by Brenda Spruill
W.N.A.C.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD (Zondervan, Paper \$1.95) by Jill Renich

Because she believes "each wife has all the potential and God-given help needed to grow into the wife that encourages the highest and best in her husband", Jill Renich wrote *To Have and to Hold*. This book is not another "marriage manual", but rather a series of chapters giving practical advice and personal illustration on how to meet problems of life head-on and win.

Throughout the book Mrs. Renich stresses the importance of right attitudes. "Right attitudes, followed by right actions, are the basis for a strong foundation in a happy marriage."

"Seek to understand your husband from his viewpoint," encourages the writer. "Seek to please him (in meals, homemaking, the way you dress). Encourage him and build him up. With God's help through prayer develop a meek (great strength under control) and quiet (not mousy or suppressed) spirit."

The book is divided into three parts:
Understanding Your Husband
Understanding Yourself
Understanding Your Problems

If you want to encourage the highest and best in your husband, you'll certainly want to read *To Have and to Hold*.

Both books may be ordered from:
Randall Book Store
P.O. Box 1088
Nashville, Tennessee 37202

— Contact Staff

READ, CHRISTIAN, READ!

Shivering in a cold, damp Roman dungeon, the aged apostle Paul wrote, "Bring the books." Amid his loneliness and exposure to hardship, Paul longed for comfort and personal solace. In addition to his physical needs, he needed reading matter for the mind.

Paul never lost interest in reading and studying. He could not do without mental stimulation and spiritual food. He was so conscious of the necessity for reading that he advised his "son in the faith" to "give attention to reading." This great missionary, teacher, preacher and scholar recognized the value of literature and reading. This is why he not only read but wrote for the benefit of others.

God believes in literature. He gave us the Bible which is the greatest literature in the world. Because of the 40 divinely inspired writers, we have a clearer knowledge of God and the truth concerning Jesus Christ.

Men like Luke, John, Peter and Mark wrote painstakingly in their own vivid style the truths and rare experiences of the spiritual life which Christ gives. They recorded the compelling Christian message as they saw it, felt it and knew it. These early writers investigated the facts and under the inspiration of the Spirit they reported their observations as the Holy Spirit guided them. They wrote the Gospels and Epistles on which our Christian faith is based. In addition to the preaching of believers and evangelists, the Gospel was spread throughout the Roman Empire by these written documents.

By
Executive
Secretary
Rufus Coffey



The power of the pen and printed page cannot be underestimated. Communists, cultists and the ungodly world have discovered the impact of the printing press.

Although the potentials of the pen have been recognized in measure by the Church, we have been slow to utilize and develop this potential for promoting the Christian faith as fully as we should have. This is particularly true among Free Will Baptists. Except for Sunday School and Church Training Service literature, we have produced far too few books and reading materials. For this reason our denomination ought to give greater priority to producing and distributing Christian literature.

Martin Luther said, "God's supreme gift to Christendom to aid the spread of the Gospel is the printing press." Daniel Webster declared, "If truth is not defused, error will be. If God and His Word are not known and received the devil and his works will gain ascendance. If evangelical literature does not reach every hamlet, the pages of a corrupt and licentious literature will." Benjamin Franklin thundered, "Give me 26 lead soldiers and I will conquer the world." There can be no doubt that the pen is mightier than the sword. The 26 lead soldiers of our alphabet are the greatest army in the world.

Almost every movement which has altered the course of history found its motivation and driving force in a written document. Whether it be the Reformation, the American Revolution or Communism, literature has always been successful in altering men's opinions and unifying them in a given course of action.

Several reasons underscore the uniqueness and effectiveness of literature or books.

1. It is permanent.
2. It is more economical.

3. It can go where people cannot go and witness effectively behind doors that are closed to an oral witness.
4. It never gets tired or sick. A book never encounters a health problem.
5. Books have a way of overcoming racial, social, national or political barriers more easily than any other means of communication. Literature teaches and trains because it is easier to comprehend and retain knowledge that has been read.
6. Printed matter carries a higher degree of credibility than what is spoken audibly. People are more prone to believe what they read than what they hear.
7. Literature is an effective means for evangelizing the unsaved. There can be no doubt that literature is one of the keys to unlock the door to world evangelism. The late Kenneth Strachem once reported that 85% of converts in Latin America were influenced to become Christians through literature.
3. A number of churches are installing book racks in the church foyer. Such a spin-a-rack may be limited in variety but it is a good beginning to teach people to read. If the proceeds of the books are put back into the literature ministry then any individual motive of greed or profit can be easily eliminated.
4. The church could well profit from instigating the use of study courses for the mid-week service or for home Bible study. An indepth study will enlighten the believer and enable Christians to grow spiritually.
5. Those responsible for the sustenance of a pastor might well consider giving him a book allowance. Books are tools. Just as a carpenter or a mechanic needs tools for the performance of his duties so a pastor needs helps. Helping your pastor purchase some much needed books will go a long way towards helping him improve the content of his message.
6. Churches should challenge young people to enter the ministry of journalism. In addition to Christian writers there is a great need for Christian journalists who can serve key roles in the public media.
7. Christians might well think of books first when considering a gift for a birthday, anniversary or even Christmas. Books are a lasting treasure. Milton once said, "A good book is the precious life blood of a master — spirit embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life."
8. Above all, a Christian can become an avid reader of good books. Christian literature must have a prominent place in one's self improvement program. Just as we buy personal toilet articles we ought to include books. Care for the inside is just as important as care for the outward part of our person.

How can we provoke greater interest in reading among Christians?

1. Christians can avail themselves of books that are available in the public library. If good Christian books are not available, the reader can suggest that the librarian order a certain title. If this does not prove to be successful then a Sunday School class or the auxiliary could sponsor a missionary project to purchase some good Christian books to place on the community library shelf.
2. Each church would do well to develop its own library. Many Christians do not read because they have not been encouraged to do so. Furthermore, other Christians do not know what to read. A church library can lead the way in helping to meet the spiritual need of the congregation by providing good Christian books. Knowledge produces motivation and motivation issues in action. Those Christians who really get excited about their Christian life are usually the ones who read and learn what God is doing in and through other Christians.

The church has a big share in encouraging its members to read. A reading church soon kindles a flame which spreads like a forest fire which cannot be put out even if it were desirable. ▲

VIEWPOINT

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OUR READERS COMMENT

Dear Brother Workman:

I want to express my appreciation for the articles relating to the Bus Ministry. I think the articles in the August issue dealt to some degree with most every aspect of the Bus Ministry. In the November issue you gave space for comment for those who approve of and practice the present day gimmicks and give-aways to entice people to ride their bus and those who oppose such practices. I think it is good to make available to our people both sides of any issue . . .

In 1964 I organized Free Will Baptist Bible Church. I was later ordained and have pastored this church for ten years. In 1969 our church was the first in this area to begin a bus ministry. It was a small bus that held only about twenty passengers, but it came in loaded on Sunday without any give-aways. In 1970 we purchased a forty-eight-passenger school bus to expand this ministry. Things were going well until an independent Baptist church began a bus ministry with the give-away

practice, and just a little over a year ago The First Free Will Baptist Church reentered this ministry using the give-away methods to get riders. We faced a decision either to get involved in the gimmick — give-aways or refrain from it. We chose to do the latter, and as the weeks passed we suffered the loss of our bus people . . .

My purpose for writing is not to express criticism and opposition to the gimmick — give-away method of evangelism, but to request that some of our more learned men give us a Scriptural approval of this method of evangelism. If this method of evangelism is scripturally sound and pleasing to God, then we all should use it to the uttermost because it does get a crowd of people. I assure you the very moment I find scriptural grounds to use this method I will use it to the fullest extent.

If the gimmick — give-away method of evangelism is right, . . . why limit it to bubblegum, goldfish, kites, and other trinkets?

Why not make the stakes real attractive and get adults as well as children? God will be just as pleased with an adult being saved in a service after having been drawn there with the hopes of winning \$500.00 at a lucky drawing as a child who has been saved after having come to receive a goldfish.

If winning souls is the purpose behind this method of evangelism, and if winning souls will justify the use of the gimmicks and give-aways, why not do something really big for God. Let's get a ball stadium — or some other place which will accommodate a larger number — and offer some worthwhile prizes like televisions, refrigerators, cars, etc., or maybe a cash prize of several thousand dollars. Just think of the thousands that could hear the Gospel!!

At this time I am not advocating that we follow the aforementioned plan, but when and if I find scriptural approval of the gimmick — give-away method of evangelism, I will be the first to use it.

Sincerely in Christ,
Norwood Gibson
Florence, S.C.