



CHRISTMAS —

When God smiled.

A star,
A shining brilliance,
A simple shepherd band,
A group of Eastern wisemen,
Rich gifts to God from man,
A roughly furnished stable,
A simple, godly maid,
A glory in the heavens
That made the men afraid,
A song by heavenly voices,
A tiny, newborn child,
All earth looked up in silence,
For on us God had smiled.

Mary R. Wisehart

DECEMBER, 1974

contact

OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

The Missionary's

"Santa Claus"

By Olena McLain

A MISSIONARY MOTHER'S STATEMENT THAT HER CHILDREN DIDN'T BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS BUT THEY BELIEVED IN THE PROVISION CLOSET PROMPTED THIS ARTICLE.

One year Christmas drew near and as far as gifts go things looked rather bleak in this missionary's household. There would be gifts, but the children were told not to expect too much. They replied, "Well, we'll get some things from the Auxiliary." They didn't really know who or what the Auxiliary was, but they knew they could count on it. They had never been taught to believe Santa Claus brought their gifts, but they did believe in the Auxiliary at home.

Many missionaries have returned to the states on furlough with one suitcase per person and a box or two of souvenirs for friends and relatives. Yet, a household has to be set up during this furlough time. Then when it is time to return to the field, provisions have to be gathered for the next four years of living in a country where American sized sheets and many other necessities are not available, or if available, quite expensive.

Where will the money come from for

all these things? On arriving in Nashville, the missionary family is welcomed to a 12' x 20' area in the National Office Building and told with a smile to "take what you need."

The children are wide-eyed, the wife is overwhelmed, and the husband is thankful. In this area they see stacked essentials for setting up a household. There are linens, bedspreads, blankets, quilts, towels, dinnerware, stainless steel, irons, tupperware and lots of other needful articles. These things are not second hand, not castoffs, but brand new, pretty and clean.

First, the wife thinks of the number of beds that have to be fitted with linens, the number of towels needed, and on and on. Mary is shown the stacks of sheets and asked what color she would like. Sometimes her decision is slow in coming because there are such pretty ones, and they have been taped together in sets with the pillowcases to match. Don, too, is allowed to choose

the color he likes. Again the children may not understand this store where you do not pay money, but they have heard from Mommie that somehow or other it is connected with "The Auxiliary."

There's another area in which the Auxiliary assists materially.

A missionary mother blinks back tears as she helps pack suitcases for that six-foot son or that suddenly grown-up daughter. They are ready for college in the states. As any other mother, she wants to provide and help pack all the things needed for dormitory living. But one can't carry sheets, towels, blankets, bedspreads, etc., plus all one's clothing in suitcases the airlines say are not to exceed 55 pounds. But this missionary mother knows that upon arrival in Nashville a smiling friend welcomes her child, takes them to that well-supplied closet and says, "take what you need."

These are just a few examples of people who are blessed by what is known as the Missionary Provision Closet. The above examples have tended to say that only missionaries in areas outside the United States get to choose from this supply center. But missionaries going to a new work within the United States are encouraged to take advantage of this "closet" to meet their needs also.

Women's Auxiliaries from Free Will Baptist churches all over the United States have linen showers, Tupperware parties, and other gift collection times with no visible guest of honor. But they know that their gifts are going to be received with joy and thanksgiving by someone they have read about in their denominational papers, mission directories, or have seen walk across the stage on mission's night at the National Association.

The Provision Closet, not only provides material needs for many, but also gives the recipients the joy of knowing there are those who want to share with them in the Lord's work.

Perhaps if any missionary family has any regret about walking in and freely picking up what they need from the Provision Closet, it would be that they are not able to express their thanks personally to each individual who has helped supply the Provision Closet.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. McLain serves with her husband, Jim, as a Free Will Baptist missionary in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan. ▲

"Operation Partnership"

CAMPAIGN TO RETIRE NATIONAL OFFICE DEBT LAUNCHED

By Staff Writers

"Operation Partnership," a campaign designed to raise funds to pay off the existing indebtedness on the denomination's National Office Building, is officially being launched. The campaign was authorized at the 1973 session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Macon, Georgia when the body instructed Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey to take the necessary steps to initiate such a drive.

Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, moderator of the National Association, will be the campaign coordinator. His work in this campaign will be in addition to his ministry with the National Sunday School Department.

The goal of "Operation Partnership" is to raise \$150,000.00 to retire the indebtedness by July, 1976, when the National Association meets in Tulsa, Oklahoma. To accomplish this goal, 3,000 people are needed to give \$5.00 monthly for 10 months or a one-time gift of \$50.00. In an effort to reach these 3,000, Dr. O'Donnell has organized Gideon's Army. He is seeking to enroll 300 volunteers in this army who in turn will enlist at least 10 people, churches, Sunday school classes or groups to pledge \$5.00 a month for 10 months.

The work of Gideon's Army will be implemented in various ways.

1. The personnel of the various departments, in their planned

travels, will be used to solicit army members.

2. The telephone will be used extensively to solicit army members by the campaign coordinator.
3. The campaign coordinator will travel to key areas to sign up army members and to promote "Operation Partnership."
4. All media of the various departments will be used to advertise "Operation Partnership."
5. A date will be set for all the churches to give an offering to "Operation Partnership."
6. Selective mailings will be used to get pledges for "Operation Partnership."

The members of Gideon's Army will be recognized at a special meal in Tulsa in 1976. Special recognition will go to the three persons with the highest number of pledges above 10.

"Operation Partnership" will benefit all the departments of work now housed in the National Office Building. These include Foreign Missions Department, Home Missions and Church Extension Department, Sunday School Department (Randall Bookstore), Woman's National Auxiliary, Executive Office, and Executive Church Bonds.

A donation will therefore, be a gift to each of these departments. It will relieve them of the monthly obligation of paying off this indebtedness in the form of a note over the next ten years. The campaign is projected to save the denomination a sizeable sum of interest. ▲

WHERE IS GOD LEADING?

MISSIONARY LONNIE SPARKS offers admonitions based on the verse "Ponder the path of thy feet," (Proverbs 4:26).

The other day as I watched a little eighteen month old boy playing with cars and making the appropriate sounds, I marvelled that he had these inclinations so early. But I have learned that this is normal for little boys.

In Africa, we often saw little girls with dolls or something of like similitude tied to their backs, wanting

to be like mother who ties the baby to her back.

Doubtless, so it is in all cultures with boys and girls. As they grow up, they may at different times in their lives express interest in certain vocations which normally interest their own sex. This is healthy, normal and to be expected. Early in their development, they should be taught and reminded regularly that God has a unique plan for everyone. In God's eyes every person is special. The wisdom of God who is all knowing has gone into designing the plan which includes our *salvation*, our *life mate*, our *vocation*, and the *area or areas* where He would have us live and work.

We should never be led to believe that God who established order in the

universe and nature would fail to have a plan for man, the highest of His creation. God obviously likes variety; for none of us are identically alike. He also is concerned with detail and doesn't leave anything out of His plan for us. Not a hair of our head falls without His knowledge. He counsels us in Prov. 3:5, 6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

He wants our entire being. He wants

Christmas at Papaw's

by
Garnett H. Reid

The wintry chill of the mountain air outside the small, simple East Tennessee farmhouse cannot put a damper on the spirit of warmth and fellowship inside the house. This spirit characterizes a Christmas at Papaw's, a Christmas which is remarkably akin to the first Christmas at Bethlehem.

"Aunt Mary and Uncle Harley! Where have you been for so long? It's so good to see you again!" Expressions

such as this one reveal the excitement and joy of being at home with close relatives, just as we are at home in Christ's love, a kindred family born again as a result of the first Christmas.

In the kitchen of Papaw's house at Christmas is found the best food in all the world. Ham, turkey, potatoes, homemade bread, country vegetables, cakes, candies, and other scrumptious delicacies adorn the entire room. Yet at Bethlehem on the first Christmas was found the food for all ages — the Bread

of Life. Each Christmas we can taste anew the food which Jesus alone gives.

Fancy decorations and ornaments are not to be found during Christmas at Papaw's, for simplicity comprises the beauty of the occasion. This same element of simplicity characterized the birth of Jesus. Indeed, what a joy it is to experience the simplicity of Christ's salvation.

Christmas at Papaw's would not be complete without the family gathering around the old stove in the living room and warming up to the fire on a cold, wintry night. But this warmth can

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Reid is a sophomore at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. He is a member of Cofer's Chapel Church, Nashville.

us to recognize Him, acknowledge His existence, presence, wisdom and interest in all our ways. If we do, He will direct our paths.

THE PATH OF SALVATION

We must put our trust in Him before we will receive His direction. First, we must realize all are sinners as is made clear by the Word: "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Next, we need to realize that "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23a). If, however, we will but look to God, He will save us. "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:13). God doesn't lie. Take Him at His Word. Trust Him. Call on Him and He will save you. This is the first path to take.

THE PATH OF MATRIMONY

As you seek to follow the paths of the Lord, you can be quite sure that He has chosen a wonderful mate for you who will be a complement to you in every area of your life. It is God's will that almost everyone marry, and, doubtless, you are in that number, especially, if it is your desire to do so. In line with this point, a few suggestions are in order:

"Keep thyself pure." Do not lose this most precious possession in the name of so-called love.

Even when you become serious with

someone, do not rush into marriage. There is time, even though you may not think so at the time. You should not only come to know your future mate well, but, if possible, his or her family as well.

Do not become involved with someone who is not saved. One should be very cautious about even dating an unbeliever because once young people become involved like this, it is so easy to lose perspective and forget that the Word of God commands: "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness" (II Cor. 6:14). It is *never* (and be sure you underline never) right, nor is it in God's will for a Christian to marry an unbeliever. Don't fool yourself. He will never lead you into such a union. He simply does not lead people to break His commandments.

Be very careful about someone who makes a decision after you have begun dating. A person may make a decision and deceive even the very closest of friends. However, once you are married such an individual will show his or her true character. You cannot be too cautious about making sure that you marry the one God has chosen for you. Otherwise, you may find it impossible to enter the path of service which the Lord has chosen for you. Please do not let this happen to you. Let me assure you that it can.

THE PATH OF SUBMISSION

"The gifts and calling of God are without repentance." As has been pointed out, God has preselected a place for you in His wonderful plan to bring all men into reconciliation with Himself. It is voluntary. It isn't forced on you, but it is very, very serious if you fail to comply with His wish. And if you aren't convinced, look again at the verse I have just quoted: "The gifts and calling of God are without repentance." You can

choose to accept or reject His will for your life, and you *will* do one or the other.

Failing to do His will will ultimately be more dangerous than "moteling" three days and nights in the belly of a great fish. Remember that Jonah repented, and God gave him a second chance. Thank God for second chances. He has given so many to us. Failing to find, accept, and follow the calling which our heavenly Father has chosen for us is rebellion, nothing less. And God's Word tells us that "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry" (I Sam. 15:23). To rebel is to resist authority. Stubbornness is refusing to yield, obey, or comply. Rebellion and stubbornness are practically the same. One is on par with witchcraft, which has to do with practices carried on by a witch who supposedly has supernatural power by a compact with the devil or evil spirits (Webster). Stubbornness is likened to idolatry which has to do, of course, with worship of idols.

According to God's law given by Moses in Old Testament times, a witch was put to death (Ex. 22:18). We see how God regards idolatry in Exodus 32 in the story of the golden calf which the Israelites made to worship. Were it not for God's mercy, they would have been destroyed immediately. In Galatians 5:19-21 we read, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, *idolatry, witchcraft, . . .* of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things *shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*" So if "rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry," then according to the Word, the chances of a rebel inheriting God's kingdom without repenting and turning from his rebellion are nil. Resisting



CONTACT

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hardly compare to the warmth which the shepherds must have felt around Jesus on the first Christmas. Christ gives that same warmth today if we only draw near to him.

Christmas morning at Papaw's is another wonderful time. The excitement and joy of exchanging gifts in love calls to remembrance the first Christmas. It was then that God gave to us the most important of all gifts. His love through His son, Jesus. We should recognize our acceptance of God's gift by giving Him our lives.

Every Christmas at Papaw's is a wonderful experience, but the most wonderful experience of all is actually feeling the warmth of that first Christmas at Bethlehem for ourselves. This is truly the warmth which melts the wintry chill of the mountain air. Δ

WHERE IS GOD LEADING?

(Cont. from page 5)

Christ's Lordship, (i.e. His authority in our life) is rebellion.

In seeking God's will, we need not expect Him to call us to do what we dislike doing most. This is a distorted

concept of the character of God. He is not a killjoy; He seeks only that which will give us lasting joy and satisfaction. Whatever He calls us to do will be in line with our gifts and capabilities. Of course it will require God's help. We will not be able to accomplish His will without His assistance. In fact, we may feel very incapable of doing what He calls us to do.

When the Lord was desiring to feed the five thousand, the disciples said, "We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. He said, Bring them hither to me . . . And he . . . took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake . . . And they did all eat, and were filled (Matt. 14:17-20). He wants us to come to Him, submit our heart, will, and life to Him to do as He knows best. He will take us, break us, and make us a blessing to many. Our life in His hand, under His power, makes us fit for the job He has selected for us. He multiplied this one little lunch thousands of times, and it was more than enough. You plus the Lord will be more than enough to fill the need of the place in life He has for you.

We must not feel that God only speaks and deals specifically with those He calls into what we term full-time Christian service." In His plan, He calls farmers, factory workers, lawyers, teachers, housewives, administrators, firemen, truck drivers, doctors, etc. He does not want everyone to be either a pastor, missionary, or educational director. He wants His followers in all *honorable* vocations in order for us to be witnesses. The full-time Christian worker cannot have access into all areas to witness. Actually the life and words of a faithful fellow worker usually will mean much more than that of a stranger. Please note that I mentioned honorable vocations.

There are certain vocations where the believer does not belong. Any vocation which requires that we engage in something or that we do something in direct violation of God's Word is off-limits to the Christian. Don't fool yourself; God does not lead His children

into such occupations. One pastor is said to have told one of his members that it was all right for him to own a liquor store, but we read in Habakkuk 2:15, "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him . . ." An occupation which requires you to dress immodestly, serve alcoholic beverages, or enter questionable places of amusement should be avoided. When you are doing what is dishonest or in some other way violates the clear teachings of Scripture, don't say that the Lord led you into it. He doesn't operate like that. The Lord will have other means to reach those who are engaged in dishonorable employment and will not require the believer to violate His Word in order to have opportunity to witness to the lost. Prostitutes are lost and need a witness, but the Lord would never call a girl to become one in order to win them. The example may be extreme, but it is in the same vein.

THE PATH TO SERVICE

God doesn't just select a type of service for us and leave us to flounder or work wherever we think best, but He directs our paths to the area or areas where He would have us serve. All we need do is to look to Him to guide us. He does not give us a complete plan of our life all at once. We often know only a step at a time, but He will let us know when we are to take the next step. He has said, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye" (Ps. 32:8). Trust in Him and He shall direct thy paths.

Paul said, "I beseech ye therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1). To follow the path of service the Lord has chosen for us means submitting oneself to Him, with no strings attached, to be at his disposal, to be used by Him just as the sacrifice in olden times was at the disposal of the priest. Everyone who enters the path of service chosen by God for him can be sure that their life will be satisfying, happy, and filled to overflowing. This does not mean it will always be easy, but we will enjoy what He has for us to do. Let Him who knows our personality better than we do chose our paths for us. You will be thrilled you did. ▲

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

ARKANSAS

Albert Holbrook to Willoughby Church, Warren from Oaklawn Church, Chapmansboro, Tennessee

FLORIDA

Buford Pierce to Marvin Chapel Church, Marianna from Little Brown Church, Booneville, Mississippi

R. H. Reddick to Damascus Church, Freeport from First Church, Milton

William Compton to Damascus Church, Marianna from Mt. Zion Church, Vero Beach

Dennis Owen to Gap Pond Church, Chipley

Malone Cobb to Ensley Church, Pensacola from Mount Moriah Church, Ethelsville, Alabama

Graeme Savage to Scottsmoor Church, Scottsmoor from Ontario Church, Ontario, California

GEORGIA

C. F. (Neal) Harting to White Planes Church, Blakley from Oak Ridge Church, Oak Ridge, Tennessee

NORTH CAROLINA

Tommy Godley to Beacon Mission, Farmerville from Little Bethel Church, Johnsonville, South Carolina

OKLAHOMA

Fred Redfearn to Madison Avenue Church, Tulsa

Billy Wilson to Brockland Church, Lawton

Roger Hall to Calvary Church, Claremore

Ray Price to First Church, Cushing from First Church, Hobbs, New Mexico

VIRGINIA

Ronnie Floyd to Central Church, Norton from Pleasant Valley Church, Ashland City, Tennessee

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Sparks and his wife, Anita, are currently in language study in Madrid, Spain. Tentative plans call for survey work in that city in preparation for establishing a Free Will Baptist church there at a later date.

Free Will Baptist Music Ministries Makes Debut

MUSIC FELLOWSHIP GROUP CHANGES NAME, ADDS SERVICES

By Danny Thomas

This year at the National Association of Free Will Baptists held in Wichita, Kansas, a new service was developed to aid the local Free Will Baptist church in its music program.

Whether large or small, every church is engaged in a music program of some type. Free Will Baptists enjoy singing and expressing their love of Christ, joy of salvation, and personal testimony through the means of music. Music enables a person to express personal feelings which could not be expressed in any other way. Yet, music can either be an asset or a hinderance to the complete church service.

Realizing this, Free Will Baptist Music Ministries was begun. Music Ministries desires to aid the local Free Will Baptist church in further developing and improving its specific music program. Whether the church has a full-time music minister or a volunteer choir director, Music Ministries can be of service to each church in its own situation.

Music Ministries offers the following services to its members:

1. Music Ministries will encourage and promote music seminars in different sections of the country. Specific problems which might sometimes arise within a church's music program will be discussed at these seminars. It has been said that the music department is the "war department" of the church.

In light of this, these seminars might be paraphrased as being "summit meetings." New and innovative ideas will be discussed and new music introduced. It is felt that this type of gathering will greatly aid and improve the local church's music program and inspire new interest among its members. The seminars will also bring together individual churches for a common cause and, thus, edify each other. Information can be received here that otherwise might not have been attained.

2. Music Ministries will produce two bi-monthly papers. One will be written to pastors and music directors (volunteer or employed). This bi-monthly paper will be written by Blaine Hughes, Minister of Music at Bethany Free Will Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia. He will give new and innovative ideas that have been successfully used in other Free Will Baptist churches as well as suggestions of new songs or arrangements which might be used in the local church program. The other bi-monthly paper will be written to the local choir members. This paper will be written by Danny Thomas, vice-president of Music Ministries.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Thomas is Minister of Music and Youth at First Free Will Baptist Church, Beaufort, North Carolina. He is an alumnus of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee.

It will deal with the responsibilities of the volunteer choir member and will cause him to feel like he is a part of the total music ministry among Free Will Baptists. This paper will be written with the choir member in mind who knows little about music, giving him suggestions on how he might improve himself as a choir member.

3. One area that has greatly affected the music program in all churches is that of ever-increasing prices. This has been felt by all churches. To help the church music department in this area, Music Ministries has developed Free Will Baptist Subscription Service which will offer to its members a 20% discount on all music and music supplies. A member can order any music or music supplies and receive a 20% discount. This means that the local church music department could order 20% more music and supplies than before.
4. Also as a service, Music Ministries will plan an interesting, beneficial, and informative program at its annual meeting at the National Association each year.

Music Ministries has been developed with the local church music program in mind. It is now ready to serve you.

For further information about this organization write to: Free Will Baptist Music Ministries, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. △

In keeping with the
1974 National Association theme, "Growing Toward Maturity,"
a North Carolina layman shared the following thoughts
during a devotional period of that session.

GROWING THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

By Lee Thomas

My thoughts are based on deep convictions formed over the years and my interpretation of the scriptures found in Malachi 3:10 and I Corinthians 16:1-2. These scriptures read "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Host, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it," and "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

Others have based their messages on various aspects of Christian growth. I would like to approach the subject from a slightly different point of view — "growth through good stewardship." First of all, I believe that in our overall denominational efforts, we sometimes tend to overlook the importance of our local churches. Nothing is more important to a denomination than having good, strong, local churches. To develop strong churches, we need the help and encouragement of every agency and office involved in our denominational outreach. We need the involvement of each church in supporting these various ministries.

If churches are to be effective in helping our denomination carry out the

Great Commission, they must develop financial strength. This requires that members be faithful and systematic in giving their tithes and offerings. The word "systematic" is one which has a very definite place in the Lord's work. It concerns me deeply to see the way much of our church work is carried out — without very much forethought or planning. We would not dare run our businesses nor even our households in such a slipshod manner. Needless to say, we would not be in business very long if we did.

If there is any business in the world which should be operated on a business-like, systematic, orderly basis, it is the Lord's business. The plan outlined in God's Word for financing and carrying out His work cannot be improved upon. God's plan is the systematic method of church members bringing their tithes and offerings into the storehouse on the first day of the week. From these funds the local expenses and the pastor's salary are paid. Support for various denominational causes, including our colleges, children's homes and missionary programs also come from this fund.

As a testimony of how this plan works, I would like to use my own church, Unity Free Will Baptist in Smithfield, North Carolina, as an example. Most of our members tithe. Our membership numbers about 150 and is made up of middle to low income working people. We operate on the

philosophy of "The tithe instead of the drive." We discourage frequent special offerings and our people understand that when they give to their church they are helping defray their fair share of local expenses as well as helping support foreign, home and state missions, Free Will Baptist Bible College and a children's home. We seldom mention money because our people have been taught the systematic, Biblical way of giving. And do you know what? We always seem to have money available (without any special drives) for whatever the need.

The Unity Church operates on a budget; this helps us to know where we are going, and it forces us to plan how we are going to get there. We do not attempt to plan without God's guidance. We seek His guidance and He blesses the efforts which are put into wise planning. We have increased our budget every year for the past several years. Last year, our budget was \$42,000, and our income exceeded the budget. Our budget for this year is \$50,000, and we do not anticipate any difficulty in meeting it. I believe the church budget is an essential part of a systematic plan for taking care of the Lord's business. You may be thinking, "this church certainly places a lot of emphasis on finances." Yes, we do stress our financial program for several reasons.

We believe that a church which has its financial house in order will have fewer problems in other areas. It has

been my observation that you can trace the problems of many churches to poor management of its financial affairs. Is it not true that when a church begins to have financial trouble, the members soon start blaming the pastor for their problems?

By operating on a budget and encouraging our people to give regularly of their tithes and offerings, our finance committee has a good approximation of what we can depend upon to operate our church. In turn, our Foreign Missions Department, Home Missions Department and the Bible College know what they can expect to receive from our church on or about the first day of every month. This kind of support makes it easier for these various departments to operate, since they can depend on consistent support. Is this method not more effective for all concerned than the "hit and miss" method of taking up special offerings and having one big push after another to raise money — hoping to get enough to pay the preacher, the light bill and, then, if there is any left, send some to the Bible College, the mission boards and to others who may need support? Our system works fine for us, and I believe it will work for almost any church. To say the least, it is a joy to serve as treasurer of a church where there is always enough money in the bank to pay the bills as they come in.

It may sound as though I am bragging on my church — and I am very proud of it. It is a spiritual church. We have a wonderful pastor, John Stewart Craft, whom many of you know as one of our former missionaries to Brazil. Our church enjoys a good image in our community and a reputation as a gospel preaching, evangelistic church. Because we have kept our financial obligations in good order, we have a good credit rating in our community.

Incidentally, I am proud of our church because we take good care of our preacher. He does not have to moonlight to make ends meet; he does not have to worry about making payments on his hospital, disability income or life insurance, retirement

plan nor his social security. Take a good, long look and see how your church is treating your pastor in this area. Let's stop starving our pastors!

There is another matter relating to stewardship that has been a burden to me for a good many years. When I pick up *Heartbeat* and see the deficit accounts of many missionaries or read about some of our missionaries who cannot return to their field because of insufficient funds, it bothers me. Then I pick up *CONTACT* and flip over to the report of the Cooperative Plan of Support and see how many states are contributing little or nothing through this plan. If we build strong local churches and if we will cooperate by pooling our resources to support our state and national programs, it seems reasonable that we would be able to adequately support our missionary programs, our Bible colleges and the other denominational causes of which we are all a part. Wouldn't it be great if our foreign missionaries could come home on furlough, visit our churches, tell us about their work and let us get to know them without feeling the pressure of having to raise funds for their return trip to the field? I believe, with the pressure of fund raising removed, our missionaries could promote their causes much more effectively. The same, I believe, would be true for the Bible colleges and children's homes.

In trying to find out why we do not have more participation in the Cooperative Plan, I have been given many answers — none of which have been valid enough for me to be able to accept. Unless there are better reasons for not doing so than I have heard — in the interest of making our denomination stronger and more effective in carrying the Gospel to all the world — I feel that we should urge our local churches, district and state associations to join hands with other Free Will Baptists across this great nation by adopting the Cooperative Plan of Support. Talk about growing to maturity, when this happens it will be a sure sign that Free Will Baptists are growing toward maturity.

I urge each of you to be systematic and business-like in operating the business of your church, and I also urge you to be willing to cooperate with other churches throughout our denomination in carrying out the work that God has for us to do. △

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Thomas, who is in the insurance business, is an active member of Unity Free Will Baptist Church, Smithfield, North Carolina.



**never
say can't**

You should have this book!

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THEOLOGICAL COMMISSION REPUBLISHES BOOKLETS

NASHVILLE, TENN. — The Commission on Theological Liberalism of the National Association has republished three booklets which were distributed at the National Association in Wichita this past July. The good response to these publications depleted the available supply at that time.

Now available for distribution are: *Morals and Orthodoxy* by Leroy Forlines; *Evaluation of Modern Translations of the Bible* by Dr. J. D. O'Donnell; and *The Charismatics and the Ecumenical Movement* by Dr. Robert Picirilli.

In lots of 100 or more, these booklets may be obtained at a cost of 6¢ per copy plus 10% for postage and handling. Smaller quantities are available at 8¢ per copy plus postage and handling. Address orders to Commission on Theological Liberalism, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

The Commission does not exist as a "watchdog" commission to seek out liberals in the denomination, according to Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, treasurer of the Commission. Its basic purpose is to call attention to dangerous trends on any questions that might pose a threat to basic Christian doctrine. These booklets and others have been printed to keep Free Will Baptist people abreast of various questions that are circulating at any particular time.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

OKLAHOMA STATE MEETING DRAWS CAPACITY CROWD

TULSA, OKLAHOMA — Drawing from a record attendance of 926 people, a \$2100.00 cash offering and pledges exceeding a total of \$3400.00 were received at the Wednesday evening Christian education service of the 66th annual session of the Oklahoma State Association. The funds are needed for the construction of a student lounge on the campus of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College at Moore. The lounge will be constructed adjacent to the existing Activities Building. Construction is expected to begin immediately.

In another action approved by the body during the 3-day meeting October 22-24, the Hillsdale College administration was given approval to establish a special fund to secure financial backing for a \$55,000 four-plex married students apartment

complex. However, it is being constructed with the understanding it will be utilized for men's dormitory space at the present time. This will eliminate off-campus housing which was necessitated this semester because of inadequate housing on campus for men students. According to President Bill Jones, monies given toward this four-plex will be deposited in a special account earmarked for this project. Construction on the building will not begin until \$35,000 of the needed construction cost is received in cash with the remaining \$20,000 pledged for immediate future payment.

Receiving favorable approval by the body was the executive board's recommendation to the general board that the book store in Oklahoma City be remodeled both inside and out and that an additional shipping room be added to the existing structure. The executive committee, which serves as the placement committee, recommended that the state association meet for its 1976 session at the Civic Center in Muskogee, Oklahoma. The 1975 session will meet jointly with the First Church in Norman and on the campus of nearby Hillsdale College.

Other business items transacted while convened in Tulsa's Mayo Hotel was the adoption of a resolution calling for the appointment of a committee to study ways of promoting the work of the state. A committee was also appointed to study the possibility of changing the time of the state association to the spring of the year. That committee is to report back to the body next October.

The Reverend Lonnie DaVoult was re-elected as state executive secretary. The Reverend Homer Young, pastor of Capitol Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, was re-elected as moderator of this 20,000 member state organization.

MELVIN TO ASSUME TOP NAE POST IN JANUARY

WHEATON, ILL. — Dr. Billy A. Melvin, Executive Director of the National Association of Evangelicals since 1967, will assume the chief executive role of the Association January 1 upon the retirement of NAE General Director Clyde W. Taylor.



MELVIN

The appointment, by NAE's governing Board of Administration, combines the two top NAE positions under the title "Executive Director" and includes administrative responsibility for NAE's national operation at Wheaton, Illinois and NAE's Office of Public Affairs in Washington, D.C. Dr. Melvin will travel

to Washington on a regular basis to coordinate the Public Affairs concerns with NAE's total ministry.

Prior to his service with NAE, Dr. Melvin was for eight years the Executive Secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. During this time he served on NAE's Board of Administration and Executive Committee. A former pastor, he holds a B.A. degree from Taylor University, a B.D. from Union Theological Seminary (Richmond) and was awarded a D.D. from Azusa Pacific College in 1967. He has traveled extensively throughout the country in the interest of evangelical concerns, representing NAE's 30,000 churches from some 63 denominational affiliations.

Mr. Melvin is a member of the Butterfield Free Will Baptist Church in Aurora, Illinois.

FWBBC ALUMNUS ACHIEVES IN SECRETARIAL FIELD

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Miss Donna Ruth Watson has become the first alumnus of Free Will Baptist Bible College and the first LAMBDA ZETA Chapter member to receive the Certified Professional Secretary (CPS) rating. As executive secretary to the vice-president and controller of Life and Casualty Insurance Company in Nashville, she is one of three L & C employees holding the CPS rating. She is one of 300 in Tennessee and one of 8,000 such honorees in the United States.

Donna, a native of Lowland, North Carolina, was recognized earlier this year when she successfully completed all six parts of the examination administered by the Institute for Certifying Secretaries which is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri. Purposes of the program are to improve secretarial personnel by giving specific direction to a secretary's educational program and providing a measure of the extent of professional development. Beginning as a receptionist with her present company, Donna worked in various positions before being promoted to her present post. Desiring to improve her skills and services she enrolled at the University of Tennessee, Nashville, for accounting and also took the CPS review courses in preparation for the 12 hour CPS exam.

Donna is a member of Cofer's Chapel Church in Nashville.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL PERSONNEL ORGANIZES FELLOWSHIP

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE — Lorenza Stox, principal of Faith Academy, Goldsboro, North Carolina, was elected president of the newly organized Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Christian Day Schools. The organization came into being October 11 during the third annual Free Will Baptist Principals' Conference hosted on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College. The

purpose of the Fellowship is to provide, through the corporate efforts of each member's school, information, instruction, inspiration and incentive for affiliated personnel.

Other officers elected include: vice-president, Sigbee Dilda, Ruth's Chapel Christian School, New Bern, North Carolina; secretary, Mike Boggs, Welch Avenue Christian School, Columbus, Ohio; and treasurer, Steve Ange, Woodbine Christian Academy, Nashville, Tennessee.

Immediate goals of the group are the establishment of a committee to offer guidelines for the institution of future Christian schools, sharing ideas and goals among administrators and the establishment of athletic and academic competition among the Free Will Baptist Christian day schools.

Membership is open to personnel at any Free Will Baptist Christian day school which practices and promotes a distinctively Christian philosophy of education with the Bible as the foundation and Christ as the center of the school. The annual meeting of the group will be held in the fall in cooperation with the Principals' Conference and the spring meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual Bible Conference at Free Will Baptist Bible College. The group hopes to offer a seminar during the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

ARKANSAS CHURCH HONORS LONG-TIME MEMBERS ON 65th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

STAR CITY, ARK. — The congregation of the Pine Hill Free Will Baptist Church near here recently recognized a couple, who have been members of the church for the past 48 years, on the 65th anniversary of their wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Williams celebrated this marital milestone September 26. On behalf of the congregation, the pastor, Rev. Kenneth Faison, presented the long-wed couple with an electric blanket.

The Williamses are parents of six children, five of whom are active members of the Pine Hill Church. They have 24 grandchildren, 41 great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild.

PASTOR OBSERVES 12th ANNIVERSARY WITH NASHVILLE CHURCH

NASHVILLE, TENN. — The 12th anniversary of Pastor Richard Cordell's ministry with the Woodbine Free Will Baptist Church was commemorated October 13, 1974, with a record Sunday school attendance of 574 and an appropriate plaque.

In October of 1962, when Richard Cordell accepted the pastorship of the Woodbine Church, the church met in a basement structure and had a membership of 75. Under his leadership, the church has grown physically, numerically and spiritually. The first auditorium seating 400 was completed in 1965; an educational unit was added in 1969; and the enlargement of the existing sanctuary to seat 750 and the construction of additional educational facilities were completed in 1973.

The total-church program and the

multi-ministry concept is the basis for much of the church's growth, according to Pastor Cordell. Woodbine Christian Academy now includes grades 1-9. The church operates Kindergarten Kampus and a day care center. The church has a fleet of nine buses used weekly in the bus ministry and maintains a ministry for the deaf. "Voices of Praise," the church's radio program, is heard daily on a Nashville station.

Using such innovative practices as team teaching in some departments of the Sunday school and offering alternate classes at the adult levels in both Sunday school and Church Training Service has enabled the church to provide a more complete program of Christian education. The average Sunday school attendance for September was 457. The average,

attendance for CTS during the same month was 148.

Eight young men of the church have accepted the call to the ministry during the past two years. A total of 19 young people are enrolled in Free Will Baptist colleges — 14 at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, and 5 at Hilldale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, Oklahoma.

Pastor Cordell is assisted by a paid staff of 21 and several unsalaried workers in maintaining the programs of the church, academy and day care center. The Reverend Fred Carraway is assistant pastor. Mr. Steve Ange is principal of the academy and also serves the church as director of Christian education.

ALABAMA CHURCH WINS BOTH DIVISIONS OF CTS CAMPAIGN

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Hamilton Free Will Baptist Church of Hamilton Alabama, earned first place honors in both divisions of the 1974 National Church Training Service Campaign, "Invest In CTS."

To be declared a winner in the "Gainers" division, a church had to experience the largest percentage of increase in attendance in September over their average CTS attendance for the months of April, May, and June. An increase of 77 per cent qualified the Hamilton Church for this position. The church also gave a per capita contribution of 91¢ to the National CTS work to tie with the Hillview Free Will Baptist Church of Reynoldsburg, Ohio for the top spot in the "Dividends" division.

The South Avenue Free Will Baptist

Church of Lancaster, South Carolina had a high CTS attendance average of 179, the largest number reported during the September campaign. However, their percentage of increase did not qualify them for the "Gainers" division.

The top 10 churches in the "Dividends" division are listed with their per capita contribution for the month of September: Hamilton Church, Hamilton, AL, 91¢; Hillview Church, Reynoldsburg, OH, 91¢; Woodbine Church, Nashville, TN, 54¢; Fellowship Church, Bryan, TX, 28¢; Pigeon Church, Oil Springs, KY, 25¢; First Church, Elizabethton, TN, 20¢; First Church, Greenville, S.C., 19¢; First Church, Waco, TX, 17¢; Piney Grove Church, Chipley, FL, 15¢; and First Church, Blakely, GA, 12¢.

TOP TEN GAINERS

	Spring Average	September Average	Increase
1. Hamilton Church, Hamilton, AL W. B. Hughes, Pastor; Curtis Holcombe, Director	40	71	77%
2. First Church, Greenville, SC Bobby E. Bowers, Pastor; William H. Porter, Director	52	89	72%
3. Fellowship Church Bryan, TX Eugene Richards, Pastor; Jerry Fling, Director	4	74	68%
4. First Church, Norman, OK O. T. Dixon, Pastor; Ivan K. VanWinkle, Director	52	86	65%
5. Bethel Church, Woodbridge, VA Elzo Bevan, Pastor; Tommy Meade, Director	33	51	55%
6. Piney Grove, Chipley, FL W. C. Combs, Pastor; Wallace Peterson, Director	32	47	47%
7. Hillview Church, Reynoldsburg, OH Cayton Blackburn, Pastor; Bobby Blackburn, Director	11	16	45%
8. Pigeon Church, Oil Springs, KY Charles Stapleton, Pastor; Larry Wallen Director	40	54	35%
9. First Church, Blakey, GA Billy Bevan, Pastor; Charles English, Director	103	139	34%
10. First Church, Tucson, AZ Gene Rogers, Pastor; Glenn Guild, Director	73	96	30%

LOUISIANA MISSION OBSERVES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

BATON ROUGE, LA. — The first anniversary of the Baton Rouge Free Will Baptist Mission was observed September 29 with the Reverend Sidney Sawrie as guest speaker.

Mr. Sawrie, who is pastor of the Center Point Church in Vilonia, Arkansas, spoke to 102 people, a record attendance. Eight responded to the invitation for salvation during the anniversary service.

The Baton Rouge work is under the auspices of the National Home Missions Board. The first service was held in the home of the Reverend Larry Russell, missionary-pastor, with 8 in attendance. The group is temporarily meeting at Oak Manor Motor Hotel in Baton Rouge.

Readers who know of persons in the Baton Rouge area who might be interested in becoming a part of a Free Will Baptist mission work are asked to contact Mr. Russell at 3250 Courtland Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70814.

OUR READERS COMMENT

APPLAUDS SEPTEMBER ISSUE

I have just finished reading the September issue of CONTACT. The pictures are good, and all of the articles are very interestingly written. In fact, I feel almost like I attended the convention in Wichita.

It really thrills my soul to read of the interest, and harmony in the business sessions. The seminars were excellent I'm sure, and the "Eleven O'clock Specials" caused me to search my own heart, to determine if I am growing more like the Master as I live day by day.

Thank you for an excellent report of the convention. Praise the Lord for the progress being made for His Glory among Free Will Baptists.

*Mrs. Alma B. Worthington
Ayden, North Carolina*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT TO PUBLISH
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE**

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE — *Outlook*, a daily devotional guide based on the daily Bible readings suggested in the Sunday School curriculum, will make its debut in the spring quarter, 1975.

The publication will be written by the Reverend Jack L. Williams, Dean of California Christian College, Fresno. It will be published by the Sunday School Department.

Outlook is being published to fill the void left when *Depth*, also a daily devotional guide, temporarily ceased to be published by the Church Training Service Department last year. In the early days of *Depth* its scriptural passages were based on the daily Bible readings. However, in later years this policy was not followed. Sunday School Department officials expressed the desire that a devotional guide based on the daily Sunday school Bible readings will give additional help to teachers and students.

**FREE WILL BAPTISTS
EXTEND WITNESS IN
NEW MEXICO**

CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO — The establishment of a Free Will Baptist mission in Clovis has extended the denominational outreach in New Mexico. Under the auspices of the National Home Missions Department, the Reverend Edd Green began services October 13 in a rented wedding chapel. There were 10 present for the first service. The Chapel seats 75 people and has four classrooms which can be utilized for educational space.

Mr. Green, who is a native of the Mt. Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in Perryman, Maryland, is interested in obtaining from Free Will Baptists the names and addresses of friends and relatives in and around Clovis. He will do followup work to see if they are interested in helping to establish a Free Will Baptist outreach. Mr. Green's address is 805 Prairieview Drive, Clovis, New Mexico 88101.

CHRISTIANS ARE ONLY TEMPORARY OCCUPANTS

By Dr. Robert Picirilli

Sometimes we rejoice — and well we should — to learn that once we were strangers and foreigners in the household of God, but have now been made fellow citizens there (Ephesians 2:12,19). But we better not overlook the fact that this change of citizenship makes us strangers and foreigners in the world.

This idea, that we are not really at home in this world, is one that crops up in Peter's first epistle. To begin with, he addresses his epistle "to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia". (There were all provinces in the area we now call Asia Minor or Turkey.) There are some interpreters who think that this refers, mostly, to Jewish believers. They think this because it was common in those days to refer to Jews living outside Palestine as Jews of the "dispersion", and the world dispersion is the same as "scattered" here in I Peter 1:1.

But there really isn't adequate reason to limit this epistle to Jewish believers. I Peter 2:10, in fact, gives us the impression these were mostly converted Gentiles to whom Peter was writing (cf. 4:3). They might well have been people who had lived on Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia all their lives. How then could Peter call them strangers if they had been born and reared in those regions?

The answer is that every Christian is a stranger in this world. Peter makes it right clear that this is what he means when he returns to the idea in 1:17: "Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear," and in 2:11: "I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims."

There are two Greek words involved in these three verses. One is translated

"strangers" in 1:1 and "pilgrims" in 2:11. This word is *parepidemos*. This word is a double compound. The *demos* part means the "people." The *epi* part means "upon." The *par* part means "alongside." Literally, then, this word refers to folks who live in a country alongside the people of that country, but are not really part of the people.

gems

from the
Greek New Testament

The other Greek word used is *paroikos*, translated "sojourning" in 1:17 and "strangers" in 2:11. This word has about the same meaning as the first one. The *oikos* part means to "dwell", and the *par*, again, means "alongside." Literally, then, this refers to one who dwells alongside the true residents. Both words suggest that such a person is a non-citizen and is a temporary occupant of the country rather than a permanent resident.

And this is exactly what we Christians are. We have become strangers in this world, citizens of another country, not at home here. We live among and beside the permanent residents of this region, but we are not really of them. And we may as well expect them to regard us in this light. No wonder, then, that Peter beseeches us as "strangers and pilgrims" to have our conversation (way of life) honest among the Gentiles. They are watching us, and it is our duty to testify by our lives of the ways of that country where we will really be at home.

Not without reason, then, do we sing, "This world is not my home, I'm just passing through".

January—Bible Study Month

For Free Will Baptists

FOR RECOMMENDED LITERATURE, WRITE JANUARY BIBLE STUDY, P.O. BOX 1088, NASHVILLE, TN. 37202

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Corrupted Law Brings Corruption to Grace

PART II
By Leroy Forlines

In the previous article I discussed the concern of the corruption of the doctrine of grace by law. This is done when works are made a part of the condition for salvation. For a while this seemed to be the only concern. All was thought to be well, by many, as long as it was made clear that salvation was by grace through faith and not by works. To be certain that grace is not corrupted by law is a valid concern, but there is another way that grace can be corrupted that deserves our deepest

concern. That is the corruption of grace by the corruption of law.

Grace depends for its existence upon the existence of law. If that statement seems to sound strange, try to explain what grace is and say nothing about law or law related terms such as holiness, righteousness, justice, and sin. To destroy law would be to destroy grace. To weaken law is to weaken grace.

To interpret grace as diminishing the concerns of law is to misunderstand it. To make righteousness optional for the Christian is to threaten not only law but grace. Grace that does not protect the interests of law is not the grace of the New Testament. We must keep in mind

the words of Paul when he said: "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." (Romans 3:31).

The grace of the New Testament does more than forgive sins in justification. It changes lives in sanctification. It has an intense interest in righteousness. Paul tells us concerning grace: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:11-14).

There is no lack of moral concern in the grace of God as taught by Paul. To advocate the possibility of grace with an anemic moral concern is to do violence to the doctrine of grace in the New Testament.

In future articles, I will go into more depth on the relationship between grace and law to substantiate my claim that to corrupt law corrupts grace. Δ

OHIO

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OKLAHOMA

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SOUTH CAROLINA

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TENNESSEE

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TEXAS

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VIRGINIA

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WEST VIRGINIA

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Christian Day School Personnel Organize Fellowship, Dec., 11
Christian Textbooks Available to Free Will Baptists, Aug., 11
Hillmont Leadership Program Begins 7th Year, Mar., 10
Incorrect Addresses Proving Costly, April, 8
Medical Missionaries Need Help of Free Will Baptists, June, 14
Melvin To Assume Top N.A.E. Post, Dec., 20
Oklahoma Free Will Baptists Escape Loss of Life During Tornadoes, Aug., 11
Principals Conference to Hear Christian Professor, Sept., 14
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KENTUCKY

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OKLAHOMA

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NORTH CAROLINA

New Manager Named for North Carolina Bookstore, Nov., 7

TENNESSEE

Tennessee State Adopts Cooperative Plan, Jan., 12

The Thrill of Compiling a Christmas Card List

By Gertrude Cantrell

As the time drew near to compile the family's annual Christmas card list, I began to mentally name off people who live on our block that I felt our family was acquainted with well enough to exchange Christmas greetings. It suddenly dawned on me that we would add another family this year.

What a warm glow of excitement fills my heart as I remember the wonderful young family of 4 who live at the end of our street. Several months ago they began attending our church and soon the husband, wife and teenage son were gloriously saved and joined our church. In just these few months they have become such a blessing to everyone. Their new found joy and eagerness to serve have lifted and encouraged everyone, especially me.

WORDS FOR WOMEN

I have been awakened anew to how wonderful it is to be a Christian. I am experiencing again that feeling of excitement and enthusiasm that makes one feel he just can't do enough for God. I know afresh the exhilarating feeling of "knowing" that one is different, that he is a new creature who thinks differently, feels differently, and talks differently. With the "new life" there is a fresh outlook on living that one doesn't fully understand and cannot totally explain to others. A person doesn't know the "how" but he knows he is experiencing something wonderful. Suddenly one wants to share what he has with everyone — oh, the miracle of the new birth!

The shame is that as years roll by and the cares and trials of living come our way we sometimes let that "fire" burn low. We live below our blessings and potential as Christians. When I realized what was happening in my life, I prayed as King David, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation . . ." Psalm 51:12. But it took a radiant new Christian family to awaken me.

Now I am filled with joy to know that at this Christmas time, whereas a few months ago I had only

acquaintances in our neighborhood, I now have new brothers and sisters in Christ with whom I am close enough to exchange Christmas cards. We have a bond of Christian love the world cannot

understand.

"For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren" Hebrews 2:11.

Thank You for Your Gifts to the . . .

COOPERATIVE PLAN OF SUPPORT

October 1974

RECEIPTS:

State	Oct. '74		Oct. '73	Yr. to Date
	Coop	Design.		
Alabama	\$ 132.79	\$. . .	\$ 939.49	\$ 2,519.59
Arizona	. . .	. . .	. . .	852.56
Arkansas	. . .	. . .	1,999.50	11,232.57
California	740.23	. . .	870.73	5,470.92
Florida	469.26	(16.74)	707.18	7,768.10
Georgia	251.13	. . .	588.30	2,064.11
Idaho	. . .	. . .	. . .	429.88
Illinois	1,469.25	. . .	1,280.64	11,181.59
Indiana	. . .	. . .	. . .	578.78
Kansas	437.59	. . .	229.45	1,929.83
Kentucky	. . .	. . .	151.25	172.50
Maryland	65.00	. . .	75.00	579.43
Michigan	. . .	. . .	. . .	128.98
Minnesota	. . .	. . .	30.60	173.85
Mississippi	105.86	. . .	44.72	794.32
Missouri	2,963.90	(2,963.90)	2,920.06	30,182.85
New Mexico	. . .	. . .	. . .	66.24
North Carolina	75.00	. . .	75.00	1,375.18
Northwest Assoc.	3.00	. . .	. . .	95.51
Ohio	1,148.26	. . .	1,471.83	8,816.75
Oklahoma	3,859.13	(3,625.15)	447.10	32,106.63
Tennessee	347.65	. . .	237.14	3,294.01
Texas	50.00	. . .	126.21	1,456.28
Virginia	67.97	. . .	58.99	454.87
West Virginia	. . .	. . .	. . .	57.33
Wyoming	25.00	(25.00)	. . .	200.00
Totals	\$12,211.02		\$12,253.19	\$123,982.66

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 2,290.40	\$ (868.55)	\$ 4,081.84	\$ 47,266.32
Foreign Missions	3,232.27	(2,161.07)	2,624.00	26,437.16
Bible College	2,280.13	(1,194.38)	2,242.28	17,142.39
Home Missions	1,893.06	(1,139.16)	1,562.19	15,122.22
Church Training Serv.	1,203.14	(579.39)	772.54	8,501.73
Retirement & Ins.	850.44	(434.59)	589.55	6,082.86
Layman's Board	365.68	(199.33)	297.27	2,599.14
Commission on Theological Liberalism	95.90	(54.32)	73.74	706.37
Miscellaneous	. . .	. . .	9.78	124.47
Totals	\$12,211.02		\$12,253.19	\$123,982.66

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Cantrell is a member of the Bell Gardens Free Will Baptist Church, Bell Gardens, California.

WHAT SHALL I GIVE *(MY PASTOR)* FOR CHRISTMAS ?

By Executive Secretary
Rufus Coffey

The time for selecting Christmas gifts for our family and special friends is upon us once more. Lists may have been carefully made to avoid overlooking someone — but, is the pastor included?

While we enjoy the excitement of receiving gifts, will the pastor do likewise? Most congregations are presumably considerate of their pastor. But some congregations may forget their pastor during this season of giving.

After all the benefits we have received from the faithful ministry of God's undershepherd throughout the year, it is unthinkable that the pastor's name should be omitted from the Christmas list. Surely, no church will fail to remember the pastor in some appropriate way.

As consideration is given to expressing gratitude to the pastor in a tangible way, don't forget that there are more important gifts than money, wearing apparel and other tangible gifts. They are gifts that bear no price tag nor gay wrappings. They are gifts which every church can afford.

You don't have to know the pastor's size, the color he likes or the style he prefers. These gifts are universal and can be custom-tailored to every pastor's need.

LOVE

The foremost gift is love. Without love the most expensive present would be empty, heartless and of little value. But a gift from a heart of love is of infinite worth even though it may be relatively inexpensive from a materialistic standpoint. Love desires and gives the very best for the one it embraces. It overlooks human frailties and natural limitations. Love sees the best in a person and it is willing to sacrifice in order for the one loved to have the best.

Love is a two-way street. Paul lamented in II Corinthians 12:15, "the more abundantly I love, the less I be loved." The successful pastor is one who loves his people. But he also needs this

affection reciprocated. Whether by card, letter, or direct communication, the greatest gift you can give your pastor this Christmas is an expression of your continued love.

RESPECT

Another gift we suggest for your pastor is respect. We need to hold God's anointed servant in proper esteem. Paul writes in I Thessalonians 5:12,13, "We request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work," NASB. As the leader of the church, the pastor needs to be held in highest regard.

Respect stems from recognition of the person he is and the office he holds. As a truly called man of God, he must be honored as a human instrument who is ministering the Word of God. Courtesy demands we recognize the pastor as a chosen vessel of the Lord.

Furthermore, respect demands that the pastor's influence be jealously guarded. Any reproach he incurs, reflects upon the whole church. He who honors and upholds God's servant also honors the Lord.

UNDERSTANDING

An understanding heart is a valuable gift for the pastor. The ministry is often misunderstood. As the shepherd of his flock, the pastor must protect his people as well as lead. He must not only preach, counsel, visit and feed the flock; he must also rebuke. He must correct error.

The wise and sympathetic congregation will recognize that the true man of God must take a stand for what he believes to be right even though he may be severely criticized.

Where no biblical principle is involved, a congregation must be flexible and tolerant of new methods employed to advance the church. Recognizing a pastor's natural abilities and accepting his human limitations will make it easier for a congregation to function with less misunderstandings.

CONFIDENCE

The degree of support for the pastor is measured by the trust that we place in him. If the pastor is to serve without being hampered by unjust criticism and petty faultfinding, we must give him our confidence. Just as the counsel of a doctor is of little value unless one believes in him, the leadership of a pastor is impaired unless his people believe in him. The pastor cannot have an effective ministry without the trust of the congregation.

Confidence is not blind loyalty. It is a willingness to follow the pastor's leadership because the people are convinced he is leading in the right direction.

ENCOURAGEMENT

God told Moses in Deuteronomy 1:38 to encourage Joshua. For the pastor to reach his full potentials of service, he must receive encouragement from church members. The word "encourage" conveys the idea of one person inspiring renewed courage in another. Thoughtful members can help a depressed, despondent pastor take new heart and find new hope when overcome by the problems and pressures of the ministry. A word of personal encouragement will inspire a minister to face his daily duties with a more confident attitude.

Encouragement can be given in numerous ways: Assuring the pastor of our prayers; giving undivided attention to his preaching; demonstrating by a godly life that we are practicing what he preaches; providing adequately for his material needs; protecting the pastor from unnecessary anxiety by avoiding rumors or unkind gossip; fulfilling our individual responsibility; showing our appreciation for his diligent labors — these are only a few ways we can assure the pastor of our support.

No doubt many other things could be added to the suggested list of gifts for the pastor. But these will stimulate thoughts. And as you remember the pastor in your giving this Christmas, you can make it the best Christmas he ever enjoyed!

VIEWPOINT



Currently . . .

BY
EUGENE WORKMAN
Administrative Editor

A Worthy Project

Did you ever feel a sense of accomplishment at the conclusion of a project because you felt it was going to benefit others? That's the way I felt 2 years ago when Volume **1XX** of **CONTACT** Magazine was indexed. I feel the same way about the index in this issue which is being offered as a service to our people for the third consecutive year.

This project does not have the appeal of a feature article but it gives readers an overall view of the vast scope of materials covered in the denominational magazine annually. Space will not allow the index to be accumulative each year. Yet a quick glance in the final issue of each volume yields resource information which can be utilized by a minister, Sunday school teacher, CTS leader, youth worker, Woman's Auxiliary member, and any other person involved in the work of the Lord.

Such an index should be a helpful tool to Free Will Baptists who have a particular interest in the denomination's archives.

CALENDAR OMITTED

For the past 3 years, the December issue carried a denominational calendar listing events which would affect the denomination as a whole. Because of a lack of response concerning its usefulness, it is omitted from this issue.

SUBSCRIPTION INCREASING

Effective January 1, 1975, individual subscriptions to **CONTACT** Magazine will be \$4.00 annually. The Church Family Plan will be 87¢ per quarter (\$3.48 per year) and the Bundle Plan will be 93¢ per quarter (\$3.72 per year). The increases were approved at the 1974 session of the National Association in Wichita, Kansas.

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