

R. I.  
Monett, Mo.

# THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

ORGAN OF THE MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST  
AND OF THE CO-OPERATIVE GENERAL ASSOCIATION—FOR FREE WILL BAPTIST EVERYWHERE

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## Weighed in the Balances

By Elder C. E. Mann

TEKEL; *Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting*—Dan. 5:27

Babylon was the seat of government of the Chaldean country, and was built on both sides of the Euphrates River. The city was fifty-six miles in circumference, and was the most magnificent city that ever existed. It attained the height of its splendor and power during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar.

The city was surrounded by a wall which was at least seventy-five feet high and thirty-two feet thick. Around the entire wall was a ditch, which was lined with brick and water-proof cement, and was for the protection of the wall from the butting-ram, an equipment of warfare. For the protection of the inhabitants of the city, the banks of the river were levied, and in order that the work might not be interrupted, an artificial lake was constructed which was forty miles square and thirty-two feet deep into which the overflow was turned, and in order that this might be accomplished, a gate was constructed which shut off the water at the upper part of the city wall.

Nebuchadnezzar invaded Palestine about 606 B. C., took Jerusalem captive, and carried away the gold and silver vessels from the house of the Lord. At his death his son, Belshazzar, succeeded him to the throne.

For two years preceding our text, Babylon had been besieged by the Medes and Persians, but without success. Belshazzar desirous to celebrate this victory called a thou-

sand of his lords into a great feast, in which his wives and concubines joined. During the course of the wine drinking, Belshazzar commanded the gold and silver vessels which his father had taken from the house of the Lord in Jerusalem, to be brought, and they drank wine in them. Immediately the hand of the Lord appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, and Belshazzar saw the part of the hand that wrote. He then called the Chaldeans and soothsayers that they might read and make known the interpretation, promising a reward to the victorious one. Failure followed their attempt. There is one thing the world can not do, in all its wisdom; *find out God*.

Then was the king's countenance changed and his lords were astounded, but the queen came to his rescue and declared there was a man in his kingdom in whom was the spirit of the holy gods. So when Daniel came into the presence of the king and saw the writing, he knew and understood

I am sure that Daniel could have read the writing immediately, but there were some things he wanted to tell Belshazzar first.

Two years after my father's death I received a letter from him. Upon taking the mail from the box, what was my surprise to behold the topmost letter addressed by my father's own hand. I knew it. Father wrote a very plain hand such as I never saw, and I knew it was father's hand-writing. Upon opening the letter I found it had been written ten years before father's death and had been lost in the mails.

So Daniel knew the handwriting, because it was his Father's. Belshazzar had knowingly sinned, and Daniel saw his opportunity of informing him of these sins as he waited for an interpretation. First, Belshazzar knew there was a God who not only ruled in heaven, but who ruled over the kingdoms of the earth. There are many who, like Belshazzar, see the handiwork of God, but who are unwilling to acknowledge His omnipotence.

Second, he knew the true manner of worship, yet turned his attention to the worship of idols. There are those who condemn Belshazzar for his manner of worship, who are as foolishly worshiping idols of iron, wood, pleasure, dress, (and many others) and whose worship is one of condemnation.

Third, Belshazzar commanded the vessels that were made to be used in holy worship to be desecrated. God created us a vessel unto honor, (2 Tim. 2:21) and intended that we should be used in the worship of holy things, and to glorify Him. Many have defiled the vessel by pouring the vials of sin therein until they drained the cup to the bitter dregs. Every time one drinks therefrom, the hand of God records His condemnation.

Daniel knew the end of Belshazzar's offered reward and replied, "Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet will I read the writing." Although he knew the power of Belshazzar, he also knew the power of Him whom he served, and also that Belshazzar's power would cease because God had appeared on the scene, and without a fear he read calmly; the

sentence of death, the condemnation upon his life, and the division of his kingdom. Sin may offer many rewards, but the end of those things are ruin and death.

We are being weighed each day of life, and the hand of God is keeping the records, and some day we will be called to account. I wonder if in that day we will be weighed in the balances and found wanting, or if we will be weighed and found trusting.

May I exhort you to accept the plan of salvation, begin the Christian life, and through faithfulness, love and sacrifice bring to the world that Spirit of Life that God desires should shine in the hearts of all men, and to yourself happiness and eternal joy.

## Repentance

By Elder R. F. Haskins

For the purpose of this article, I choose as a text Hosea 10:12, the latter clause, "Break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you."

The Prophet is talking about seeking the Lord, but he is talking to a people that are living in sin. Fallow is a transitive verb, meaning "to keep untilled till it is to prepare for seed." In II Chron. 20:33 it is said, "Howbeit the high places were not taken away: for as yet the people had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their fathers."

In the parable of "The sower who went forth to sow," the seed was the Word of God, the field is the world, but the inanimate world is used to represent the people. The seed fell on the hard ground, along the road way, among the thornes, and on rocky ground, as well as on the good ground.

The first three kinds of ground mentioned were not tilled, i. e. had not been prepared, was fallow. This has no reference to a natural inability for which the person is not

accountable, but to a failure to prepare the heart by breaking up the fallow ground by repentance. Seemingly so many of the professed conversions these days are among those who know very little about repentance. The fallow ground has not been broken up. They are instructed a great deal about faith, but not in Scriptures like Matthew 54: "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted, or like James, after giving such a scathing rebuke to sin in verses seven to ten of the 4th chapter, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh unto you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." Here is a real breaking up of the fallow ground recommended by James.

Perhaps we overlook just what Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost really meant to those people who had so lately participated in the crucifixion of the Lord. It may not appeal so very strong to us to read, "They were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said, "Repent."

But let us examine what the prophet Zechariah said: "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son; and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn" (Zech. 12:10). This surely was a time when the Spirit was poured out. (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:1-4). I think when Peter charged them with their sins this was the way they felt. Oh, the bitterness

of that mourning! The unprepared hearts of those people were broken up, and no less than three thousand souls were brought into relationship with God.

Let us look for a moment at what Paul says of the gospel in Romans 1:16. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek," and in verse seventeen, "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." This is what it does for the one who has faith, but as for the man in sin verse 18 says: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." This is the work of the gospel, when preached with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven. (1st Peter 1:12) The Holy Ghost brings conviction (St. John 16:8-11). This leads to repentance, Romans 2:4, the breaking up of the fallow ground for receiving the seed. This is the good ground that brings forth, some thirty, some sixty, and some an hundred fold. The churches are being filled with unconverted people. May God pour out the spirit of grace and supplication upon the people, and bring about a great revival is my prayer.

## The Mote-puller

By W. H. Adams

Uncle John says he is not a preacher, yet he thinks he could do better preaching than a great many of our ordained preachers are doing, if the Lord and the church have called them to preach. He seems to think that the Lord and the church missed their calling, when they passed him up, when they were calling for men to go out and preach the Word. Yet Uncle John is not a man that will lay down on a job and say that there is nothing he can do.

[Continued on page 16]

## THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Organ of

## THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

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We will be glad to change your address for the Gem, if you notify us. Please give both the old and the new address.

Your time is out if a pencil mark appears here  

We are always glad to receive letters or articles for publication from our readers along any line that will help the cause.

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**Editorial****The Co-operative General Association**

The Co-operative General Association is still alive. Though it has been inactive for some time, there is some promise that it will again function to the good of our denomination.

The called session convened at Macedonia Church, near Purdy, Mo., Tuesday night, Dec. 3rd and adjourned Thursday evening to meet at Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Tuesday night before the 3rd Sunday in Nov., 1930.

The delegation was not large but seven associations represented and considerable business was transacted.

The officers elected at Glenwood, Ark. last year were retained, but the Moderator, Eld. W. A. Hearron, was not present and the assistant Moderator, Eld. W. E. Dearmore moderated the meeting. The Clerk, Eld. M. L. Sutton, was not present and Eld. O. T. Allred was elected clerk pro. tem. Elders Winford Davis and Selph Jones were elected members of the Executive Board in the places of W. T. Miller and P. H. Coffman, whose places were declared vacant because of non-attendance.

The preaching services were good and were enjoyed by all, and grew in interest from the first to the last, closing with Communion and Feet Washing Thursday night.

Elders A. B. Talbert and E. A. O'Donnell were chosen to preach Tuesday night, and brought a very helpful message on the subject: "An Altar of Prayer, or Mourners' Bench Religion."

Wednesday at 11 o'clock Elders T. L. Pyles and W. E. Dearmore brought a wonderful message on "The Second Coming of Christ."

Wednesday night Elders A. B. Epperson and M. M. McKee brought an interesting message on "The Good Samaritan" (10th chapter of Luke).

Thursday at 11 o'clock we were not only entertained but instructed and helped by the message on Prov. 15:3. "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good," by our preacher boy Joseph Brooks (a boy of 14). Eld. Cecil Horner followed.

Thursday night Elders J. E. Burney and Charley Findley brought a soul-stirring message on "The Holy Ghost Fire." This was followed by Communion and Feet Washing in which about forty participated.

Thursday afternoon Sister Merl Robberson was given time and asked to make a talk. She took for her subject: "Talking with Jesus." She didn't get to talk very long; for the shouting was such that speaking was out of the question. Then Thursday night Bro. Findley was shouted down about the time he got well started.

It was good to be there and some, like Peter, might have desired to stay but I didn't hear any one say so. Will tell you more some other time.

## FROM THE FIELD

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 14, 1929.

Dear Readers of the Gem: I am writing again to tell you that we are having a fine Sunday school. I am interested in our boys and girls. I don't like to boast but I just can't help it. We got started late with our entertainment, but we are coming along fine and having a good time.

Bro. Linard White sure knows how to handle boys and girls. I think we'll have the best Christmas program that our Sunday school ever did have. Sister Steward is handling the songs and she knows how to get good singing out of the girls and boys.

Our revival meeting closed Dec. 1st, after running four weeks, with something like fifty people giving their lives to Christ. We had a great meeting. Bro. Mike Cleaver did the preaching and that boy can preach some real sermons, and with power, for God is with him. Mike is one of our boys, I saw him pray through and get the the victory. We had two baptizings during our revival meeting, and will have another this Sunday, Dec. 15th. Our revival is going along with our regular Sunday meeting, and several of our boys and girls came in from our Sunday school. Let's keep up this good work. Our pastor, Bro. Hill, got back home again after holding revival meetings down in the Lead Belt, and he had some fine meetings down there. Bro. Hill will administer the ordinance of baptism at our last Sunday night meeting.

Bro. L. A. Ferguson of Flat River, president of the Free Will Baptist League of Missouri, paid us a visit and gave us a short talk on organizing young people, but he could not stay for services. Come again Bro. Ferguson, we would like to hear you preach. Bro. Grace who was saved in our meeting preached for us last Sunday, now he has gone to Illinois to preach. I think our little church turns out more preachers than any

church in the state. We have two traveling, and one at Stahl, Mo., and about six here at home, preaching at different places, and one is holding a two weeks' revival.

I see in the Gem that a Sunday School Convention is to be held at Desloge, Dec. 29th. and I see they have put Bro. Charley Miller of St. Louis on for one of the speakers, Topic, "Leaks in the Sunday School." I am glad they selected Bro. Charley to make a talk, for he is a good teacher and a fine preacher and I am sure he will say some good things about Sunday school.

And I don't want to forget Bro. Earl Hughes, he is in the young men's class and Bro. Linard White is his teacher. I am sure you would enjoy hearing Bro. Earl talk, for he is a fine Christian young man.

There is some talk about getting a larger building, for we are crowded for room. But it will be heart breaking for some when they think they will have to move, for so many have been saved in this place.

Our organ is going bad, so we are getting a piano and then we will have better music.

Let's help Bro. Brown to make the Gem the leading paper of the state.

Francis McCauley, S. S. Supt.  
1st F. W. B. Church, 611 Rutger St.

## The Spirit of the Holiday Season

By Ida Eden

In the midst of the holiday season, our thoughts should not fail to turn to the needs of the poor. There are people in almost every locality whose necessary wants are poorly satisfied, and there may be some who actually suffer, on account of a lack of food and raiment.

Christmas is a time that should inspire a spirit of truest charity and generosity towards those who have been overtaken by sorrow, distress or misfortune. It is a time when best wishes and best sympathy should go out with a helping hand, for the aid and relief of the unfortunate class.

Next Wednesday will mark the anniversary of a day that embodies in its memories and associations the tenderest sentiment of love and charity, as exemplified in the life of One who went about doing good. No eulogy or form of praise can fully tell the story of the life and character of the Christ who came to save the world. In every trial and experience from Bethlehem to Calvary, He was the same meek and lowly Nazarene, whose speech and conduct illustrated the highest virtues and the broadest sympathies, incomparable tenderness and purity. He was the incarnation of the divine conception of compassion and benevolence, and at every step of his pilgrimage on earth, he bestowed blessings for the relief of the poor and unfortunate. He was the friend of the poor and needy, and his love went out for all mankind. May we not comprehend in its fullest and sweetest sense the true significance of Christmas, and carry our gifts to some door shrouded by pain and poverty? A word to cheer, accompanied by some act of charity, may lighten some poor widow or orphan of their burden, and put joy where otherwise there was sorrow. One errand of kindness like this is worth a thousand Christmas trees where money is squandered on worthless trinkets for the children of the rich, while the children of the poor go empty handed, and cry for bread.

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2:11.*

There's a song in the air!  
There's a star in the sky!  
There's a mother's deep prayer,  
And a baby's low cry!  
And the star reigns its fire while the  
beautiful sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King.

### St. Louis Mo

Dear Readers of the Gem:- We are glad to report victory through the Lord. Since our last report we have received thirty-one members to the church, thirty of those as a result of Bro. Mike Cleaver's meeting. One saved and united with the church since. Bro. Cleaver had altogether fifty-three professions in his meetings. We are all real proud of him. He was saved at our church about three years ago. From here he went to Mill Creek to dedicate the new church building there.

While Bro. Cleaver was in the meeting here I was in a meeting at Elvins, Mo. We had three conversions at Elvins and one at Wortham as a result of these meetings. The building at Elvins is owned by the Nazarine brethren and we just had it rented. We closed our meeting because of the cold weather. You see the building has not been ceiled as yet and it was so cold we could not keep warm in it. We expect to take up the meeting again some time in the future. Much credit is due Bro. and Sister Boone, two of the members of the Nazarine church of Esther, Mo. and also others, for their good work in our meetings.

Our Young People's Union is still on the firing line for the Master, and our Sunday School is still growing under the management of our dear Bro. McCauley. Bro. McCauley is a member of the Missionary Baptist church, but superintends our Sunday School. We love him and would hate to give him up.

May the Lord bless and make us all soul winners for Christ.

W. C. Hill

Pastor, 1st Free Will Baptist Church, 611 Rutger St., St. Louis, Mo.

### Mt. Grove, Mo., R4, Dec. 8th.

Dear Readers of the Gem: I will write a few lines to let you know that I am still on the job, but I am

not preaching very much, am just pastoring two churches.

On the 24th day of last June I left home to go to Rolla, Mo., and was there almost six weeks, in the U. S. Hospital, on account of my eyes. I had ulcers on my eyes and they are not entirely well yet, but are much better.

After I came home I held a meeting at a Missionary Baptist church close to my home. Bro. M. J. Kent, a General Baptist minister, helped me in the meeting. We had a good meeting with sixteen conversions. I baptized eight at the close of the meeting.

I am pastoring Mt. Grove Church, and was fortunate enough to get Eld. Selph Jones of Mansfield, Mo. to help in our revival. Bro. Jones is a rural mail carrier. He would carry the mail each day, then drive twenty-five miles to Mt. Grove, and preach, then drive home. We had a good meeting with nine converts, sixteen additions to the church, five were baptized. This was the first time in four years I had been with Bro. Jones in revival work. Brother Jones is a very able minister, one of our very best.

I have a meeting planned to start the 2nd Sunday in January at Pleasant Ridge (the Findley) church. Bro. Levi Koch will be with me in this meeting and I am expecting a good meeting as Bro. Koch is a good revivalist. He and Bro. J. F. McCall held a meeting at Mtn. Valley with forty-two conversions. There has been several good meetings in this part this fall and winter.

Bro. Jones wanted me to help him in a meeting at Hartville, but I can't possibly go. I sold my farm last year and have been renting, so I have rented another farm just north of Dunn and will have to move again this winter.

I sure am glad to read of so many good meetings in Okla. and southwest Mo., and down in Ark. Bro. Davis, I feel that you and Brother Hollars are doing a great work in that part. I sure am glad to read

of it. I believe in the old time religion, the kind our fathers lived and died for. Paul said he was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it was the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. So many people have taken the power out and the preach has become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.

May God's richest blessings be with you all.—Eld. G. W. Scott, Jr.

### La Rue, Arkansas

To the editor of the "Gem,"—I have been reading the Gem for one year, and think it is the best Religious Paper I ever read. I wish it came once a week, instead of once a month. I surely do enjoy reading those good letters from the brothers and sisters in Christ.

I want to see this paper grow and glow,

And I must help to make it so.

So I am sending in three subscriptions. Please find enclosed check for same.

I wish one and all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Pray for me and my husband, that we may always travel on this good way with the Lord.

Mrs. J. W. Allred.

### Enon, Arkansas

Dear Readers of the Gem:—I am writing a few lines for the first time. I had seen a few copies of the Gem before we ever took it. We have been taking it ever since September. I sure think it is a good paper, and wish it was in every home.

We haven't had a pastor for our church since August, and I hope God will just send some one here to hold a revival. We have our Sunday school and prayer meeting still going. We sure had a good League here at Enon. Every one took their part, until they all got scattered out, and we let it die down because there were not many

[Continued on page 13]

### Niangua, Mo.

Dear Readers of this precious little paper:—I had lost out with our paper, and Bro Selph Jones sent it to me. It sure is fine.

Three years ago the second day of this month, I buried my dear companion. It makes this month sad for me, but God keeps me and helps me in my troubles. I could not live without Jesus. When we get close to Jesus he helps us.

Remember me in prayer.

Emma Clift.

### Hartville, Mo.

Dear Editor and Readers of the Gem:—As it has been quite a while since I have written a letter, thought I would like to talk a little while and tell you some things about the State Association at Flat River, Mo.

It was a real meeting to me, so many interesting sermons, songs, prayers, and testimonies, all soul-stirring services to me. And it was encouraging to see the young as well as the old trying to preach the Word in its purity, that it might awaken those that are lost in sin, that they might see their condition and repent and be saved.

My husband had said to me on Sunday before we went to Flat River, that he did not believe we would ever see anybody saved in the old-time way at the mourner's bench. But, thanks be to God, we saw one woman get on her knees and pray through. Oh, I was so glad we found the old-time religion there in that large congregation of people, that seemed to be in love and fellowship one with another! It surely did seem good to be there and I just felt like saying, "Glory!"

Mrs. La Brot took us to her home and surely did make us feel welcome. It was a treat to visit in a home like that, where Jesus rules the home, and can't ever thank her and her husband enough for their kindness.

I did not get to stay as long as I wanted to. Should I live until they

get the new church built, I should like to be there when it is dedicated. Oh, may God's richest blessings be on the people at Flat River. "Be strong and of good courage."

I want to thank the good people of Union Association through the Gem for their kindness in electing me as delegate to the State Association, and making it possible for me to go, although I felt I was the weakest and most unworthy one they could have sent. At least I know of plenty of others who could have been useful, although I haven't language to express how much I did appreciate your respect, and the kindness shown me. I thought it a great honor. It brings to my mind the language of David when he said: "Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth" (Psalms 71:9). When I am old and gray-headed, O God, forsake me not" (Psalms 71:18).

I was very glad to meet Bro. and Sister McAdams again at Flat River, as we learned to love them years ago, also a number of others whom we have heard preach. May God bless the "Gem" readers, and I wish every Free will Baptist family would subscribe for the Gem. Be loyal to your church, dear people, and let us get all the subscriptions we can between now and 1930. May God bless all who have a part in this great work is my prayer.

Lina Claxton.

### Blue Eye, Mo.

Dear Editor:—I am sending one renewal for the Gem. We think the Gem is fine. It is God's messages through his servants that are scattered about over this land. We enjoy reading letters from different ones that we have met and learned to love as brothers and sisters in Christian fellowship. It makes our hearts swell with joy when we read the reports of evangelists, and how God is feeding the hungry souls of men and women on the bread

of life. Oh, how I wish people would open their heart's door and let Jesus come in and take up His abode in their lives that they might enjoy the blessings that God has in store for them!

Our faithful pastor, Bro Winford Davis, and Bro. O. T. Allred of Monett, Mo. have just closed a two weeks' meeting at our church here. There were about thirty souls saved and reclaimed, and seventeen additions to the church, for which we are thankful to God. But our hearts are still burdened for so many in this community, especially mothers and fathers who need Jesus in their lives and homes, and to be enlisted in the battle against sin. May God bless the editor and readers of the Gem.

Sincerely yours for Jesus,  
E. O. Callen.

### Purdy, Mo.

Dear Brothers and Sisters:—We started our meeting near Cassville, Missouri Oct. 22nd and closed Nov. 17th. There were thirty-four conversions, a Sunday School organized and a Free Will Baptist church organized. The name of the church is Merl's Chapel, and they are having Cottage prayer meeting once each week.

The writer is the pastor for the coming year. This was our first meeting.

Your sister,  
Miss Merl Robberson.

**An Explanation**—We are omitting the Sunday School lessons from this issue of the Gem because we have to reduce the paper to sixteen pages, while we are putting out minutes, and we didn't feel like giving them room, for we have a lot of manuscript from the field. We must do minute work because we must have more finance than we receive for subscriptions. If your article is not printed this month, it will be soon as we can get to it. We are doing the best we can, so please bear with us and pray for us.—Editor.

# The Free Will Baptist League Lessons

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

Ora Mae McKinney Davis, Editor

(First Quarter, 1930.)

January 12, 1930

**Our Motto:**—"The Kingdom of God First"—Matt. 6:33.

**Benediction:**—"The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another."

Greetings to Our Young People of the Free Will Baptist League

We are facing a new year of joyous youth, with its opportunities of golden moments with which to mark our lives. Are we looking into a year that shall bring glory to God? Will we walk with Christ this year, He being our guide and instructor? Or will we let the evil one lead us farther away from God?

What will be the seeds of a harvest, sown when this year has come to a close? Young men and women, little children—boy or girl—will you, before this year is gone, give your heart to God—you who are not saved? "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them" (Eccl. 12:1).

Now is the time: now is the day of salvation, while you are young, while the beautiful flowers of childhood are abloom with glory—little children, and older ones as well—prepare to meet thy God. Jesus loves you all—He gave Himself to redeem you and save you—give Him your lives while you are tender plantings. Jesus needs you for service; for sunbeams; little messengers for God, to bring glad tidings to others.

## How can Nations Practice the Golden Rule?

(Read Matt. 7:12; and 20:20-29).

**Topic For the Week:** The Hope of the World (Isaiah 11:1-5).

**Monday, Jan. 6.** The King's Highway. Read Matt. 7:12-14.

Key verse, 12: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them, for this is the law and the prophets." This one law, if practiced by the nations, would solve all international difficulties. Often it may be a problem to know how to apply this law with its instructions, but it is never a question as to whether or not it should be followed.

### What is the Golden Rule?

The words of Jesus framed with beauty the instructions given to us, when he said, "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself" (Luke 10:27). This was the contents of the Golden Rule given to us by the Lord. Nations are but organizations of individuals. They are as amenable as men to the right laws of living.

Lord Jesus, thou art our Lord, and thou art Lord of all nations. Thou hast shown us the way of Life. May the nations of the world learn to walk in it. "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and shall be called the way of holiness: the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein" (Isaiah 35:8).

**Tuesday, Jan. 7.** The way to Greatness. Read Matt. 20:20-29.

Key verse, 26. "Whosoever will

be great among you, let him be your minister." More and more Jesus had the idea of greatness as taking hold of the world.

The world now recognizes that the nations of the past were great just in the degree that they contributed something to the welfare of the world. The greatness of Greece was not in her triumphant armies, but in her works of art, literature, and philosophy. Rome was great, not because of her legions, but because of her laws. So will it be with the nations of today, providing they practice the Golden Rule. Nations will prosper because of respect and reverence to God.

O God of the nations, save us from the way of selfishness, the way of greed—the way that leads to failure. Help us to contribute something to the world that can never be lost or forgotten.

**Wed., Jan. 8.** A call to the Nations. Read Ezek. 34:20-31.

Key verse, 23. "And I will set up one Shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David: he shall feed them and he shall be their shepherd."

A nation, no more than an individual, has a right to do as it pleases. There is no liberty anywhere without law. A nation that is not willing to consider the good of other nations as well as its own seeming good, is not fit to be a member of the family of nations: nations can only be free when they are subject to the Lord of all Life. O Lord Christ,



be thou in truth the rightful Ruler of the nations.

**Thursday, Jan. 9.** The Hope of the world. Read Isa. 11:1-5.

Key verse, 4. "But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked."

Nothing is ever settled until it is settled right. War never settles any questions nor proves anything to be right: everything must be settled by *Justice*. There is no way of hope for the world except in the way of justice for all. When all the nations find in a world-court the way to international justice, regardless of prestige or power, we shall find a practical application of the Golden Rule. Give us justice, O God, in our relations with others. We thank thee for Christian leaders: give them courage always to advocate the right.

**Friday, Jan. 10.** A world at Peace. Read Isaiah 11:6-9.

Key verse, 9. "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

In every civilized nation the people have agreed to live together peaceably according to law. They no longer carry guns and daggers for protection. There are still out-laws, so every community of men must maintain a police force. When will communities and nations be willing to discard their armies, when will they be willing to let go of the navies, and man's way of ruling the universe? O Lord, may the nations soon find the *Golden Rule* the way to Peace.

**Saturday, Jan. 11.** A World Ruler. Read Isaiah 55:6-13.

Key verse, Matt. 2:2. "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship him."

When Christ becomes King of all individuals, He will be Ruler of all nations: and when He becomes Ruler of nations, He will be Ruler

of the whole world.

Then the will of God will be the supreme law on the earth. Good will and Peace will be obtained between all men everywhere. For this the Christ was born; for this angels sang, for this the darling Baby Jesus lay in a rough cold manger, and for this Jesus taught His disciples to pray: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done."

**Sunday, Jan. 12.** A united World. Read Acts 1:6-8.

Key verse, 8. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

A united world can come only through the universal practice of the Golden Rule. The Golden Rule will be practical and applicable only where the Holy Spirit controls the motives of men. The Spirit of Jesus controls only in the lives of those who have accepted Him as Christ and Savior, and have made Him Lord and King. The surest way to unite the world is for every Christian to be an ambassador for Jesus Christ.

Lord Jesus, wilt thou be so real to me that thy *power* may become real to all who know me.

**Introduction**—Have you ever thought of the King's Highway as being a narrow way? It is a pathway leading over the dark deep chasm of sin and crime, lifting us high above the mire and slime of sin. All who are permitted to enter upon this Highway are *blood-tagged*. They have a tag upon them that enables them to gain admittance to this Highway. It is for the redeemed, the chosen of the Lord; for the unclean shall not pass over it. This Highway of Holiness leads direct to heaven, en route by the way of the cross. Signs and instructions mark out the pathway which is narrow; there are sign-posts with blood upon them; you can't miss the way. The Golden Rule will tell you just exactly how to travel,

and when your journey is over you can rest at the close of a weary day with Jesus who sweetly said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me"—Jn. 10:27.

March, march, march, I can hear their *foot-steps*, the approaching multitudes that follow the Lord. They walk with gentle tread, as with unshod feet before the King; carrying high above them a *blood-stained* banner, giving glory to God.

God permitted His Son to die for three reasons:

1. To demonstrate Justice. (We cannot exist in any kind of comfort or peace without justice).

2. We must have Love.

3. We must have Mercy.

The exact amount of Justice, Love, and Mercy needed, is measured out to us in *Christ Jesus*, to meet the demands of the *Highway of Holiness*. This highway en route by the way of the cross is the greatest lesson ever given to us. In dealing with us God permitted His Son to be crucified, in order to teach us. God brought us into existence to be associated with Him. He must have intelligent beings that understand Him. His purpose to teach us is, that He is the only rightful and possible Ruler of the universe.

**2. The Way to Greatness:**

If God had taken just an individual of the human race that had been a sinner from the fall of Adam, and permitted him to have died for the remainder of the race, it would not have been successful at all, for Justice would have demanded that man die for his own sins.

There could be no such thing as a man of the human race, a sinner, dying for those who are sinners. So God stepped out of His way and produced someone who was handed down to us as a Redeemer, a Messiah, One who was able to take our place, One who had never sinned, One who stood as a man, conquered as a man, was crucified as a man, and redeemed us as a man, yet He was the Son of God. God brought us into existence that we might be a satisfaction and glory to Him,



through Christ Jesus.

### 3. A Call to the Nations—

For the purpose of God were we created. There never will be a lesson, doubtless in the universe again, such a frightful lesson as has been sent to us by the *cross*. We are compelled to know that God did His very best: He gave the best He had to pay the price—the only price that could be paid, to meet the demands of redemption for a lost world. We were lost but Jesus, beholding the rising flood of sin, watched the black clouds of judgment surround the earth, and He watched the tide of crime and despair—He heard the wail of agony and sorrow. He would go: He would give Himself! He not only heard, but He arose to answer. There was no arm to save, no eye to pity.

Though He was rich, He became poor. Though He was high, He became lowly. Though He was mighty, He became weak. He stooped to conquer, that He might lift us up. Jesus surrendered everything. He surrendered to God His *will*, and they nailed Him to the *cross*. Then He surrendered Life itself, to *redeem us*. And now there comes a call to the nations, a voice gentle and kind, saying, "Come unto me, all ye that are weary and heavy laden; and I will give you rest." "He that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out."

### 4. The Hope of the World.

The hand of the Father must have trembled as He gave that great gift to the world—His *only Child*. The King all-glorious, all-powerful, co-eternal with the Father, is the man who laid aside His royal robes of beauty, to rescue a fallen race of people. I wonder what Jesus really saw from the cross? I wonder how He could endure the agony as He did? I believe He looked away toward heaven and caught a glimpse of its glories untold, with the flowers of paradise that bloomed in beauty! He must have known that when He had paid the price, and had touched the gates of pearl, they would stand ajar for us all to pass through! Oh,

the pain of the cross! The cry that Jesus gave on the cross was from physical suffering, when He said, "I thirst, I thirst!" He still thirsts—for love, for your heart! The cross is a beacon light along life's pathway to heaven. The path is narrow, yet marked plain to us—with blood.

Turn toward the cross and keep straight on, following the sign-posts stamped with blood—you can't miss the way. None but Jesus could save the world, none but He could bear the anguish and sorrow of such a death: none but the meek, gentle Lamb of God.

5. A World at Peace:—The most glorious spot in all the world, of universal interest, is the Hill of Calvary. Calvary, where once enacted the scene that astonished heaven and interested angels; aroused hell and confounded the world. Calvary stands out as the most wonderful place in all the world, that blessed and holy place called Calvary. It was the place of suffering.

Even our soldiers, dying on battle fields are removed to some place of refuge where their tortured bodies may rest, where their weary heads may be pillowed. But yonder on Calvary there was nothing to soften His pillow of suffering. No shelter over that war-stricken, suffering frame of Jesus on the cross. The

creative hand of God placed on one side the door of birth, and on the other side the door of death. Above these he placed heaven; and below he placed the bottomless pit. God placed on one side the door of peace, and on the other side the door of battle. Sin has always brought battle. Rebellion came into the heart of man at the instigation of the devil; through disobedience came the fall. Oh, what a price it cost Jesus to bring peace to a lost world of sin and crime. The battle fields may be marred and scarred with the blood of the nations, and man can make his own decision as to whether he will live in peace or live in battle; but God must make us know that He will not have rebellion when we get to His glory yonder. The great

God with the creative hand; with the inviting hand; the redeeming hand; the giving and protecting hand, is also the God with the judging hand!

God's rule touches heaven; reaches to hell; goes to all the ends of the earth; and to all governments and empires of the world. For our own protection and for the protection of heaven we must see the Justice of God and know that He is the Great Judge, the Righteous Judge. For the good of all human existence He must hold that position. If we have rebellion in our hearts the wrath of God will follow us throughout the ceaseless ages to come, unless we obey God's plan of salvation through the blood of the cross of Christ.

Empires have fallen, monarchs have failed in the march of the nations, amidst peace and strife; and now, after 6,000 years of man's rulership and governments that have been a failure—after all these years of sorrow and battle, that have been spattered with brains and blood—we should all fall on our knees, down in the dust of humility, saying: "Oh God, we are done with battleships, done with poison gas, done with weapons. Have mercy on us, Oh God, and save us from our sins."

The nations are watching one another, knowing the frightful power that is locked up in the explosives that have been discovered, pleading with each other for something to ease the situation. This world is facing a complete shipwreck, when all kingdoms shall crumble, when God shall set up His kingdom that shall endure forever.

France holds in her heart those memory-fraught fields where poppies bloom: how we would like to visit these historic spots, stand upon them and beside them, but the most beautiful spot in all the world is the Hill of Calvary. It was there that death met Satan, and Jesus conquered the grave once, and for all, the one single spot in all the world is the place called Calvary.

(This should continue on page 10, but we got mixed in making up for the paper, and left part of it out—See page 12.

always will be—throughout the endless ages to come, the nail-prints will be the markings in *eternity*.

Disobedience began away back yonder in the Garden of Eden with its beauties of heaven. There was not one thorn, not one thistle, not one destructive insect, not one moment of heartache or sorrow. But, alas! Satan entered. At his foul touch of sin, the earth began to bring forth weeds and thorns, and the seeds of iniquity were sown in the *heart* of man. Something must be done!

And then the gentle hand of the Lord was outstretched as the *redeeming* hand. We are compelled to know that God is in earnest. He means just exactly what he says.

There is a lesson given in the *cross*, that God could not, and would not give up his rightful rulership and be God. He could not, "For He is God, and there is none other beside him."

Across the sky that eternal finger of God has written the *promise* of his coming, the coming of the Son of God, the promise that is tucked away between the rainbow ribbons. The glow in the eastern sky bespeaks the coming of Him who shall loose the world from its bonds of suffering and sorrow. God loves the soul of man, and Jesus paid a price of sorrow and death to redeem the soul back to God from whence it had fallen.

Through *disobedience* came the Fall. O what a price it cost Jesus! Yonder on Calvary there was no pillow for his suffering; but now that he has died for us, there is always a pillow upon which we can lay our dying heads.

The world is trembling on a volcanic eruption of war and disaster, such as we have never known. All kingdoms will soon crumble; all governments and powers shall vanish away as the chaff before a strong wind, and Jesus shall reign as *King* supreme, a divine *Ruler* who shall set up a kingdom which shall stand *forever*.

The day of mercy is closing fast

upon us. God is, and always has been, the rightful Governor of the universe; for He created everything, furnishes all the material, owned all the property-rights of all creation; therefore *He* is the rightful owner.

But the time came when man deliberately took that rightful ownership away from God by *disobedience*. But God sent his only child to save and redeem us. Jesus will soon be KING of all nations, the rightful Ruler of the *universe*.

Jesus paid the price of death to save our *soul*. What have we to give in return.

**7. A United World.** Read John 19:25.

Why was the crucifixion of Jesus necessary? Why was he hanging there?

The death and execution of Jesus has attracted more attention than all other executions put together. Christian people realize, as they study their Bible and look into the plan of redemption, that the *cross* is the ladder to Heaven.

Why did God permit his only Son, the sinless one, to be killed, slain in such a way as he was? One word solves and answers this question, *Love*. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

God was invited to give up his rightful ownership when the Hebrew Nation in Palestine asked for a king. The reigning prophet (Samuel) said, "You have asked for something that has grieved the Lord. You want the Government taken out of the hands of God, and you want a king."

"Yes," they said, "Give us a king as other nations have; something we can really see. We don't want this invisible kingdom (government) but a king we can see." God being grieved, gave up his rightful ownership and rulership, and gave to his chosen people the possession of an *earthly* king, thus trying to satisfy their desires. God helped

them as best he could with their disobedient ways of living. But the time came when their rightful rulership was taken from them, and the government passed into the hands of people which were not the chosen people of God.

The Government first went to Babylon, then passed on to other kingdoms, the Persians, Medes, Greeks and Romans; and these kingdoms have held that government and that land on down until now, passing on down into the hands of scattered Governments, and today we have a strange mixture.

Since the Government went out of the hands of God, our desires have been so selfish, that things are so mixed up, until there has been no peace upon earth, since kings and monarchs have been such complete failures. Deliberately taking the Government out of God's hand into our own, has been one of the most frightful calamities that has ever come—or ever could come—upon a race of human existence. God loved the world, but a serious thing it was that his children had done.

God brought us into existence that we might be a satisfaction and glory to him. We were not brought into existence to be just a satisfaction for ourselves, and live for the natural desires and pleasant things we have found in creation, but we are to recognize that God brought us into existence for Himself. "For the purpose of God were we created."

There never will be such a lesson, doubtless, in the universe again, such a frightful lesson, as has been sent to us by the *cross*! We are compelled to know that *Jesus* is the great Construction, the great Power which was to rule the world with a rod of iron; the one who bore the sins of the whole world—and the nation was to be upon his shoulders. In *Him* and through him only, can there be a united world. All those who are sheltered in Christ Jesus, all those who are "born

again" can abide in unity. They are the only ones who are subject in word and deed to the Law of God. Romans 8:7—"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."

God was grieved at the sin of mankind, and Jesus wept suffered and died to bring in unity the whole earth as a united world. The Scriptures teach us that "there shall be one fold and one Shepherd." The crucifixion of the Son of God is something that even the angels desire to look into, angelic beings that have those divine minds that God gave them, minds that penetrate into the works of God—desired to look in on the scene, but they have never entered into the depths of it.

Today is the day of Salvation, today is the day to practice the Golden Rule, today is the day for a united world, should Jesus come in the clouds of Glory; for only through Him can peace and unity be complete, when He shall establish a kingdom that shall stand forever.

The only means now of a united world is through the blood of Christ, praying much, with love for one another, doing unto others as we would have others do unto us.

The only united world today—are those who are safely sheltered in the fold of Christ. "There shall be one fold and one Shepherd." But soon the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and Savior, our King Supreme, Jesus!

#### Desloge, Mo.

Dear Editor of the Gem: I wish to tell you and all our readers something about our League here at Desloge, Mo.

We organized a year ago in September and am glad to say our League has increased in number.

We have had many interesting and instructive lessons and learned a great deal about the Bible.

[Continued on page 13]

## CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Eld. C. E. Mann, "Uncle Charley," Editor.

Greentop, Missouri

Enon, Ark., Dec. 9, 1929.

Dear Uncle Charley:

We want to be your friends. We are brothers, Joel and Ralph, and are twelve and eleven years old respectively. We go to school at Underwood. Our teacher's name is Miss Christol Keck, we sure think she is a fine teacher. We go to Sunday school at Enon, and prayer meeting Wednesday night. Our Sunday school teacher is Mrs. Fred Badley, our president is Mr. Breedeey. We sure like to go to Sunday school and church. Our father and mother are both Christians, some boys can't say that and we feel sorry that they cannot.

We have four sisters who are Christians, three joined the church. We have eight brothers and two of them joined the church and were baptized while Bro. Winford Davis was holding a revival here last year. We sure hope to hear from more boys and girls. We will try to encourage the boys and girls here to write. This is our first letter, but we want to be and remain,

Your true friends,

Joe and Ralph Blevins.

We are glad to receive this letter from Joe and Ralph, and are so glad they are going to encourage other boys and girls to write. We hope you will write again, Joe and Ralph.

Uncle Charley.

Mansfield, Mo., R. F. D. 4.

Dear Uncle Charley:

Please permit me to join you and your family of boys and girls. I am a little girl twelve years old. My birthday was December 8th. I am in the sixth grade at school. My teacher's name is Miss Doris Rippee. We like her fine.

I have four brothers. I go to

Sunday School when ever I can. Elder Selph Jones is our mail carrier, and it was through him we secured the Gem. Papa and Mama like the paper so well that they don't see how any one can get along without it. We sure do thank Brother Jones for asking us to subscribe for it. I must close, as I am a new born in your family, but have been born in the Spirit of God since I was seven years old.

Your friend,

Agatha Lloyd.

We sure enjoyed your letter, Agatha, and gladly welcome you into our family of boys and girls. We are so glad you are a child of God. Write again. Uncle Charley.

We received a letter from Stahl, Mo., (have forgotten the name) but in sending it to the Children's Editor, it somehow got lost in the mails. We are so sorry for this, but hope they will write again. Editor.

#### Verona, Mo.

Dear Gem Readers:- I feel impressed this beautiful evening to write a few words through the Gem and before I go any farther I want to speak a word for this little paper. In all my reading of church papers the Free Will Baptist Gem is the best I have ever read, May God bless the workers who so willingly labor to get this wonderful paper circulated. It should be in every home and I will never hesitate to recommend it wherever I go. I thank God this evening for Salvation and a determination to go all the way with my Savior. Although I am just a young convert, I have experienced such blessings since I have been saved that I wonder how

I could have stayed away from God like I did. Truly, there is nothing in this old world to go back to. Before my conversion my excuse was "I can't live it," but I wish to say right here sinner friends you can because we find in Second Corinthians, 12th chapter and 9th verse, where Christ says "My grace is sufficient for thee." and shouldn't we all want to do something for the One who has done so much for us? It is true we will have trials, but God will never leave nor forsake us.

Young Converts, it is very necessary that we do not neglect prayer. If we do we are apt to lose some of the joy that we experienced when we were first converted. We should never forget to ask God to guide us in our undertakings, as it is very necessary to have his approval on us at all times.

Another thing I wish to speak about is our conversation. We, as Christians, should be very careful how we talk as the world in general is watching us and, in a way that is not becoming to a Christian, they will have no confidence in us. We find in Phillipians 1:27, "Only let your conversation be as cometh the Gospel of Christ." This means much. We should never say anything that we would be ashamed for Jesus to hear. Our lives are examples, either good or bad and it behooves every one of us to pay strict attention as to how we live.

I pray that these few words will be a help and an encouragement to some one, and may God's richest blessings rest upon all the readers of the "Gem" is my prayer.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Stella Stark.

### Billmore, Mo.

Dear Readers of the Gem:— I wish to say a few words for our little Gem. I think it is just fine. I have been a reader of the Gem for some time and can hardly wait from one month to another, for I do enjoy reading the good sermons and letters.

We have a small church at Billmore, only nine members, but are at peace and we are praying we will have a stronger Church here some day. Brother H. C. Crase, our pastor, preached one more real soul-stirring sermon here the second Sunday.

I was a Methodist until a little over one year ago when some of the people began to talk of organizing a Free Will Baptist Church, and so they did. Papa, mother and I joined and am glad to say that as long as the Free Will Baptist Church is as it is now I am at home.

I am glad to say that I have met some of our faithful State Evangelist and had the pleasure of hearing two of them preach: Eld. T. C. Ferguson and Eld. Mike Cleaver. Must say that I enjoyed hearing them and hope some day to have the opportunity of meeting with them again. State Evangelist E. E. Winfree was our pastor last year and will say no one will ever regret calling him. Have also had the pleasure of attending some of our Fifth Sunday Meetings and they were just fine. Our next Fifth Sunday Meeting will be at Walnut Grove Church.

Miss Trecie Bryan.

### The League Lesson

(Continued from page 9)

There have been great battles to mark the ages; but the greatest battle, which waged against sin and death, was fought and accomplished by Jesus the Son of God, when He gave Himself on the Hill of Calvary. There has never been so frightful a lesson ever given to the world as that of the cross. This was the battle of all ages.

#### 6. A World Ruler.

God is going to carry out his own plan; He knows what is best; man's plan is the worst.

By the crucifixion of his dear Son, he must hold his divine and rightful position as Judge and Ruler, regardless of what people may say or think about it.

Jesus in his humility shrank from going to that bloody cross, with its sufferings untold. For our own protection we are made to see the justice of God, that he is the Great Judge. This is the reason the cross was lifted high on Calvary's Hill of suffering and death. That was the reason Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, was permitted to hang there; to be slain as he was!

God's seal is upon Jesus; and his body is preserved and marked—and  
[Continued on page 10]

### Watching Our Lives

By Neel Turner

Dear Readers of the "Gem" and F. W. B. League workers:

Do we realize how much influence we have over the ones with whom we associate? I'm afraid we don't stop to think what our lives count for with others. There is some one watching our lives and characters, not only on Sunday, but every day we live.

Perhaps we don't know who it is, nor just when we are being watched, but nevertheless some one is shaping their lives after ours. Oh, what a blessed privilege to have: the moulding of a character in our hands! Let us always be very prayerful, lest we become forgetful of our position in life.

We can't go to hell or heaven by ourselves, for we have too much influence over the precious souls of our friends and associates.

Let us get a picture of the great final Judgment, when all nations shall be gathered before God to hear their doom or receive their reward. When your name is called—what if you have missed the work and fallen short of your reward! When you hear the "depart from me", how sad that will be, to realize that forever and ever you must burn and be in torment! Then, as you turn away to go into that awful place, Hell, you'll hear some familiar voice telling you, that through your neglect on earth, you caused them to be compelled to spend eternity in flames and tor-

ment too. Then you'll recognize the voice of one of your associates back on earth. Oh, how will we be able to endure such, with no God nor comforting Spirit to go to, nor call upon, as we have here upon earth!

But I thank God that there is another side to it all! When we hear God's voice telling us to "enter in to the joys of heaven," we will rejoice and be glad we overcame all of Satan's snares and temptations. Then we'll see *Jesus* and all the richness of heaven. We also will hear some—perhaps many—of our friends and loved ones saying, "I'm here because you are. I followed in your footsteps, and now I'm here!" How sweet it all will be to know that throughout all eternity we will be with those who overcame.

May God help us to live every moment as though we knew Jesus was coming the next, that our influence may be for the best. Then when we see those, especially the younger ones who are following in our steps, become men and women, we'll be glad to say that we had a part in moulding their characters and lives.

May God bless our labors.  
(Pres. Y. P. League, Jones' Chapel)

### Desloge, Mo.

Concluded from page 11

Many of us have learned to name the books of the Bible and our reference contests, held each time we meet, are very interesting.

We learn and relate Bible stories, have memorized many scriptures and altogether are learning much about the Book of books.

We made a trip to Mine La Motte about thirty miles away, in October, and put on a program; subject, "Opportunities." Then in Nov. we visited the Oak Grove church with a program; subject, "Missions"

We just hope every one of our churches will organize Leagues as they are educating and good training for children and young people.

The greater part of our mem-

bership are also members of the church.

Miss Sylvia Wood is our Pres.

We will be glad to see reports from other leagues in the Gem.

Charles Vance.

Secretary of Desloge League.

### Enon, Ark.

(Continued from page 5)

people around Enon. We let it die down last spring, but I think we did well to keep our Sunday School and prayer meeting going. We have prayer meeting every Wednesday night.

I hope some day to meet with you on that other bright shore, to rest with you through eternity. Pray for me, I need your prayers.

From one of God's children,

Thelma Blevins.

**It is Christmas Day**, and we are working just as usual. The paper is all filled up save this little space on page 13, which the editor is minded to use to touch on a few important things.

The Christmas Spirit is upon us, and all about us, and prompts us to express our appreciation to all you members of the Gem Family, for your friendly co operation and helpfulness in putting the Gem to the front; and wish you all a real Happy Christmas Season and a very Prosperous New Year.

We want to call your attention to the "League Lesson" printed in this issue of the Gem. Read it carefully.

Because of our limited finances and other conditions, we cannot print these lessons in the Gem, as we intended: to do so, we would have to devote just about all our time to the paper, and we can't live and pay expenses on what the paper brings in.

The Young People are wanting a 4-page weekly paper to carry the League lesson each week; so we are making the League officers a proposition to furnish them a 4-page weekly. We agree to furnish 500 papers each week for \$12.00, delivered to the Leagues, and on time. Or we will sign a contract to furnish 500-4-page papers each week for one year for \$500.00. Most of this, or all of it, can be paid with subscriptions to the paper at \$1.00 per year.

This is the very lowest price we can do this work for, and it is a splendid proposition and a golden opportunity for our Young People, for these lessons are fine—they are a real Bible study.

### Mrs. Leedom Passes

Dear Bro. Brown:- I am sending in the obituary of a dear friend who passed away recently. She was a faithful Christian and a member of our church.

On Armistice Day she was seriously scalded while washing clothes at her home. She suffered intensely for over four weeks, but was so patient and meek during her sickness that we all wondered how she kept her courage.

She lived in this community nearly all her life and was loved by every one. I'm sure many will appreciate it if you can find space to print her obituary in the Gem.

—Mrs. Wilbur Casey.

### Obituary

**LEEDOM**—Esther Content Bybee, daughter of William Bybee, was born February 9, 1897, and departed this life December 13, 1929, at the age of thirty-two years, ten months, and four days.

On October 25, 1919 she was united in marriage to Harry O. Leedom. To this union five children were born: Mamie Louise, age 8, Wilbur Lee, age 6, Eldora Maxene, age 5, and two who died in infancy.

She leaves to mourn her loss, her husband, three children, her father and mother, one brother, Ernest Bybee of Stahl, one sister, Ellen of Arvada, Wyo., and many other relatives and friends. One brother and one sister preceded her in death.

She was converted to the Christian faith over 11 years ago, was baptized the fourth Sunday in May 1918, and united with the Bethel Free Will Baptist Church. She lived a faithful Christian life until God called her to her heavenly home.

The funeral was preached at the Novinger Cemetary Church by Rev. William Walters, with burial in the Novinger Cemetary.

We sorrow not as those who have no hope, for all those who sleep in Jesus, He has promised shall live again at God's right hand.

# "Little Children" (Matt. 18:1-4)

By Mrs. Ora Mae McKinney Davis

"Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." (Mark 10:14)

We want to compare them as tender blossoms which bloom in Life's Garden, little rosy cheeks and baby eyes filled with heavenly sunlight. Jesus was once a little child, a little baby, who sweetly slumbered in a rough, cold manger. Only swaddling clothes to wrap about the precious bundle—the innocent baby *Jesus*.

The only begotten child of the Father, who laid aside his robes of beauty,—the Jewel of Heaven—and entered into a helpless temple of clay. Have you ever thought about this? Do you know anything more feeble than a precious, innocent baby? Why did *Jesus* come so helpless and so weak? What is the correct answer?

Jesus made his own decision to fulfill prophecy. What is *greatest* in the Kingdom of Heaven? "*A little child*," is the answer. Why? Because the brightest day in all the world was the day in which the *greatest* in the Kingdom of Heaven came to this world, wrapped in the mantle of childhood, and clothed with the innocent clay-form of babyhood.

Jesus was the first heavenly being that ever entered into this sin-cursed earth of misery, with the wrappings of human clay—the greatest in all the Father's kingdom was the only begotten Son, the precious baby born so long ago in a lonely stable of Bethlehem of Judea. Thus he came as an infant! He traveled all the way from the *cradle* to the *grave*. He could understand the cries and hurts of other little ones when he grew older, and he always loved and cared for the children and said, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3). In other words, "Except ye get right

with God and be humble, become small—for the Lord's sake—willing at any risk to pay the cost (as was Jesus). He entered into a temple of clay, and was forced to use our eyes for seeing, our ears for hearing—that he as a little child, helpless, was forced to live in our imperfect clay-form which we call the *body*—all this was a dark dungeon for an all-wise, all-seeing, almighty God. Jesus was driven by the fall of the human race to offer up himself, becoming a little child, "the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven"—becoming a child! Thus he descended to earth as a little innocent child; regardless of the cost and suffering he must undergo. He was fettered by the almost unbearable chains of human weakness; so that he cried as a child, was tired, hungry, thirsty, and slept *just as other children*.

That which we assume as only natural, and which we hardly notice in everyday life, was a constant grief to Jesus. And his mother, how she loved him! for the Scriptures say that she "pondered in her heart concerning her little son (Jesus).

Jesus was forced to eat earthly food that he might thrive and grow, yet for a *Living God*, it was a continuous dying.

Jesus traveled out through the heavenly portals, and to restore mankind, to save other boys and girls, he was found just a plain little boy, working in his father's carpenter shop. He had no schooling, for we read in the seventh chapter of John and the fifteenth verse that *he had never learned!* He had no need of schooling as other boys and girls who must learn. We as *human* need to learn our letters before we know them, but Jesus knew *all things*, therefore he needed no schooling. This is full proof that he was a child of heavenly wisdom, living in a human clay-form.

Away out yonder in a small village town called Bethlehem, there was a plain home, humble and very poor

where children ran and played. Joseph and Mary were the dear parents; there were brothers and sisters who played around the shaded doorway of the home of Jesus, but somehow there was something different about one of these children that others admired, his speech, his laughter, his love and *obedience* was that of quietness and reverence. He carried on his young shoulders the cares of the other children, while his thoughts were in the carpenter shop helping his earthly father. He wore plain clothes, ate, walked about, played, worked and slept, just as the other children. Nothing so different about him, he wore the same kind of clothes as his other brothers, ate the same kind of food, and slept perhaps in the same bed with his brothers. Nothing so different!

Just a dear little boy, looking out through those half-dim eyes of human weakness, eyes of childhood, seeing only the conditions around him—just as we. Why? Because he could understand the cares of childhood better *when he himself had become a child!*

Dear little boy Jesus! Wouldn't you love to have seen him? Would not you love to have drawn that childish face to yours and pressed a kiss on his little cheek, and have smoothed back the curls that some day must be encircled with cruel, cutting thorns? Oh, I would! The darling child-face of the Holy One, Jesus.

The greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven! The greatest jewel of great price that heaven possessed came to this earth, poor, despised, in poverty and sorrow, wrapped in the precious clay-form of a dear little child. Is it any wonder that Jesus loved the children? He had once been a child, he could understand. He knows the cries of childhood with its cares and perplexities. Jesus, the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven had come to this earth, a little child!

Down through the ages of time Jesus as a little child had opened

the door into the sheep-fold for other children who would follow him as their shepherd. How sweet he must have been, a little boy, with no guile even found on his lips, and no scars of sin even left any trace of sorrow upon his features! The little son of Glory, those dear, childish eyes, with the sunlight of heaven shining out from the *soul* of a living God!

In following the trial that reached down through the life of Jesus as a child, there was real unselfish love, there was always absolute truth in his speech. Even at the age of twelve years, when he was found in the temple with the doctors and lawyers expounding the will of his Heavenly Father, he was found with infinite authority when he said to his earthly parents, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" He did not mean his earthly father; for he it was to whom he was speaking. Whether he walked or stood, whatever he said or did, whether he was speaking or keeping silent, was absolutely right. Every moment of his life bore absolute proof of his identity as "the Son of God."

The Bible relates Jesus as being the Christ-Child,—his mother's name was Mary—and every Sunday it is continually proclaimed from the pulpit that "Jesus was the Son of the living God."

After the precious petals of babyhood had fallen from a withered rose of childhood, and the curtains of youth are drawn around Jesus, there appears in a distant province of the great empire of the Romans a man, a descendant of a tribe which had long ago lost all its historic importance.

The "jewel of heaven," born in a rough, cold manger, no soft downy bed, no ruffles for Baby Jesus, no soft cushion pillow for the curly head of Glory.

When childhood days were gone, he still had no easy, comfortable place of rest. A rock was his pillow while the hard earth was his bed. Out on the mountain side, out under

the stars with the moonbeams smiling down upon him, cold, hungry, associating with those of low estate, poor, beggars, laborers, fishermen, and other despised people. It was with these different classes of people that he did eat and drink.

He is only a young man, dressed like a common laborer, without seemingly any unusual traits, and is unknown to all—until a rumor is spread that he goes about healing the sick, and binding up the wounds of those oppressed and heart broken.

He comes from the little despised village of Nazereth, and is a carpenter by trade, working for many years in the shop of his earthly father (Mark 6:3). People of that vicinity recognized him, they were acquainted with his father, mother, brothers and sisters (Matt. 13:55-56). He has a certain seriousness about his words, he eats and drinks that which is offered him, he becomes tired, sleeps in a boat, or wherever he happens to be, he has no definite quarters, for he spends the night in the open or on the mountain saying: "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head" (Matt. 8:20).

This young man walked about with gentle, humble steps, proclaiming thus: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby ye must be saved! (Acts 4:12).

Jesus was humble, he shunned the leaders of the people and fled into the desert or out in the wilderness when they desired to make him king. Willingly would some of the people have made Jesus their king, but he did not come to rule over earthly kingdoms, for he was to be King over a kingdom (heavenly) that shall stand *forever!*

The silken curls of babyhood that circled the sweet innocent head of Glory, were likened unto tresses of shining gold, falling around dimpled cheeks of innocence and smiles,

while heavenly sunlight shone from the depths of a little *soul*, looking out into a broad expanse of world existence, two little eyes and a little soul, *yet the soul of a living God!*

(Continued in next issue)

## The Covenant of God

By Elder H. C. Crase

*The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day.—(Deu. 5:3)*

This being the last of the Old Year, and the coming in of a New Year, may God help us all who are alive this day to remember the text, and as one of the apostles said, "Examine ourselves and see if we are in the faith, and keeping the commandments."

I fear some have forgotten the covenant made with God. It is very necessary for us to take a retrospective view of ourselves as Christians. We notice the teachers in the annual examination of their pupils do so, and the merchant at the end of the year invoices his stock, so that it is a very appropriate subject for our meditation and study.

This text might have been applied to thousands last year, who have gone on to their eternal home, some no doubt who were expecting and looking for their dismissal, others who may have said, "I go to a certain country to buy and sell and get gain." We fear some have gone without any hope of eternal life with God. So, as a minister or servant of our Heavenly Father and one who loves to work for his Master, let me freely say to our dear brethren and readers of the good little "Gem" that is full of so many good things, as the old year goes out and the new one comes in, let us as preachers, deacons and lay members, more fully consecrate our lives to Him who has done so much for us, and has spared us almost to see another year come and go.



## Information

The Gem office is well prepared to do your job printing, and that at prices that are right.

We do minute work in first class shape, and want your work.

We print letterheads, envelopes, cards, circulars, posters, etc

Ask us for samples of any work you are interested in, and get our prices; perhaps we can make you better prices than you can get elsewhere. Give your publishing house a chance to do your job printing; it will help us to meet our expenses.

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Treatise of the Faith and Usages of the Free Will Baptist, 25c each, postpaid.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The announcement of your Association, Quarterly Meeting, or 5th Sunday meeting should appear here. Send in your announcement so it can be printed in the next issue of the Gem.

### The Mote-puller

[Continued from page two]

so long as he has the good of the church at heart. So he has a self-appointed position in the church that few can successfully fill, he being a man of very close observation.

Uncle John found that nearly all the defects and confusion and misunderstandings and divisions of the church were brought about by the motes that were in the eyes of the church. So, for the good of the cause and the church, he appointed himself General High Chief of the Mote Puller's Fraternity, (a side line of the church), and he is working with a zeal and determination that cannot be surpassed.

Church optometry is a very tender and particular operation, yet Uncle John does not hesitate to

take hold of it with a determination to rid the church of the awful Mote Pest that is so detrimental to the church, and he is leaving no part of the work undone. He works from the pulpit to the lowest foot-lights of the church. He says that the whole church is more or less infested with motes, and that they must come out.

Uncle John's intentions are of the very best, but like Paul of old, when he would do good, evil is continually with him, and his operations have been so severe that I fear he has so nearly blinded several of the very best members of the church, that they will never again be able to attend church or read their Bible.

Uncle John has not willingly or maliciously injured any one for, as has been said, his intentions and work is prompted by the very best of motives. But he himself is afflicted with a very serious defect of the eye that no one can understand, and it has so affected his sight, that he can no more see clearly to operate on the eyes of others. The church has employed the very best of eye specialists, and they have all agreed that it is the very worst case of *beamatism*, and that *it can never be cured*. The most peculiar feature of the case is, that the ones affected can not be made to believe that there is anything wrong with their eyes, until they lose their sight altogether. So it is with Uncle John, and regardless of the fact that he can not see clearly to pull the motes out of other eyes, he is still intent on doing the work, claiming that he is the only one in the church that is competent to perform the operation. So his work still goes on, regardless of the great handicap and trouble he is bringing into the church.

Motes are a great drawback in the work of a church, but God help the one that is affected with a severe case of "beamatism," and is so blinded that self is all the one that he can see in this world!