

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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The Old Time Revival

By Eld. Winford Davis

My honest convictions are that this is an age when great multitudes of our common people are hungering and thirsting for a great wave of old time revival power, and we all love to think back in days past and gone, when but a child, of the real old time revivals. It seems that in this age of science and modernism, and doubt and skepticism, that the masses of people have drifted away from the true salvation of God. Easy ways are being held out to men, the word of God is being smoothed and soft-soaped—it is a day of white-washing instead of washing white. Sin is being covered up instead of being cleansed out.

The prophecy of the great apostle Paul is being fulfilled before our eyes; "Having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof" (2 Tim. 3:5). So many of the ministers seem to think they have to put on this modern, scientific, powerless form, and are shunning to declare the whole council of God. A good place for the revival fire to start is in the pulpit. We need ministers in the stand today who are god-fearing men of power, who are preaching with a vision; "Where there is no vision the people perish" (Pro. 29:18).

The cause is suffering for bold preaching, for the word preached with power. Little essays on current events, etc. will never make sinners say, "Men and brethren, what must I do to be saved?" It will never make "Felix tremble," will never awaken the soul to its great need, and will never reveal to a sinner that he is lost, already lost. We need ministers that will condemn

sin, expose sin, renounce sin. We ride along the road and we come to a bridge, and a sign is erected that says, "This bridge is condemned;" why is it condemned? Because of its weak, unsound condition. We need ministers today that will so construct their messages and so preach the word that it will show the lost sinner that he is condemned in the sight of God; we need more Nathans that will say, "Thou art the man."

The revival seldom gets higher than the one who is conducting it. One minister said to me, "I wouldn't know what in the world to do with a revival if I should get one on my hands." Another minister said, "There is no danger then of him having one." I think the latter hit it about right. The true beginning of a revival in the pew and back in the dark corners of sin is a minister in the pulpit who is on fire for God.

He who claims the days of the old time revivals are over is simply fooling himself, why should we think such possibilities are past just because it is a day of extensive education and much learning, of much scientific discovery, and great accomplishments? Learn if you can, discover if you can, accomplish if you can, but do it all in the name of a crucified but risen Savior. If there is a class of people in the world who, in their work, should have a definite experience with God, it is our educated people of today. It doesn't deprive you in any way in the least, why think it does? It only adds to and strengthens you.

Let's draw a pen picture of an old time revival, a great battle against sin. The people have gath-

ered early tonight because the minister said last night, "We will meet at early candle lighting." The mothers have gone one way and are having their prayer meeting; the fathers have gone the opposite direction. O, what travail of soul! what agony of spirit! seems we can hear a great rumbling of voices; Zion is truly travailing that sons and daughters may be born into the kingdom. At once I hear a shout go up, someone has prayed through. What is that! a shout from the other direction, they are gaining the victory, faith has pierced to the throne of God, heaven is being opened, power is coming down. Then I see them as they are coming back to the church. There is a dear old sainted mother that has shouted till her hair has fallen down and is hanging down her back, and the fathers are returning, glorifying and praising God; form is gone, pride is forgotten, fashion is not there, and the Holy Spirit of God has right of way in the hearts of His children. Sin is being blotted out and the salvation of lost souls is the motive in view. The evening service has already begun, an old hymn is given out in outline and the old church roof is almost being lifted while the whole congregation are lifting their, not so much trained, but Spirit thrilled voices to God in song. Underneath the song I hear a murmuring voice that causes somewhat of a discord, but it doesn't seem to hinder at all; what is it? it is a dear saint with a burdened heart for, maybe, a son, maybe a daughter, maybe a companion, and is kneeling over against the wall, calling on the Lord. The minister is now in the stand, his text is an-

nounced, his eyes are red from tears he has just been shedding. I see a little dust yet on the knee of his trousers he failed to brush off, his voice is thrilled as he begins to expound the everlasting Gospel with power, the great throng is sitting up and taking notice, his very voice and manner command attention, the very countenances of the sinners change, their heads droop, the fire of God has pierced the soul. Sinai is thundering, Gethsemane is groaning, Calvary is bleeding, and Pentecost is blazing; the call is made, souls flock to the altar, there is one already saved on the way to the altar, some are bowed in the back of the house, and Christians, alive, awake, ready to move at God's command, are back there praying for them. The result of this service is a great victory over sin.

Then someone will rear up and say, "Yes, that was true in that age, but it can't be done any more." It can be done: "According to your faith be it unto you." I will agree that such meetings are a rare thing these days, but it is greatly to the displeasure of God.

I was in Eureka Springs, Ark. which is noted for its great healing springs. I was out to the Magnetic spring and began to question an old lady as to the origin of the spring, its name, etc. She said, "I was once healed by this stream: it then came out over there on the other side of that rock from where it is now. They began work to change the course of the stream, and I told them they better leave it alone or they would ruin its medical power: they wouldn't listen to me, just went ahead and changed it, and I can tell today by watching others drink the water that it has not the power to cure it had when I was cured." I said, "How true when applied to the stream of salvation; modernists have tampered with it, misapplied it, denounced it, until it has largely lost its effect.

O, let us stand for a heart-felt salvation! the old time revivals, and not compromise with the modern Sanballats. There is too much

coming down today, leaving the principles of Christ and, as a result, we are losing our power.

Paul said, "The kingdom of God is not in word, but in power" 1 Cor. 4:20. He also said in 1 Cor. 2:1-4, "And I brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power."

Life After Death

By Stella Stark

Is there life after death? This is a question that is being asked by many over our land today. Let us find the answer to this, not from the theories of men, but from God's Word.

Truly this would be a sad world, if there was no hope after death: if all ended at the grave.

It is surprising to find the number of folks today, and especially young folks, who by the time they have finished college, have lost all hope of a future life because they have become cursed with that curse that so many of our colleges leave on our young folks, *Atheism*.

If it were not for the Christian's hope of life after death, this earthly life would indeed be a sordid affair. We find in Heb. 9:27, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment," showing that there is life after death, also we find in 3 Cor. 5:1 "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Isn't this a glorious hope?

Another precious promise we find in Rev. 14:13, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from

henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." Also in John 5:28-29 we find, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in their graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." This last verse in itself is enough to prove that there is life after death.

Just now comes to my mind a poem, written by a noted man of the South intitled, "Just after death—what then?"

This life will end some future day;
Another life will then begin:
Are you prepared for that event?
Just after death—what then?

Just after death, Oh, answer me,
Where will you spend eternity?
When time on earth shall cease to be,
Just after death—what then?

The saved shall have eternal life,
And they shall safely enter in
To share the glories of the Lord,
Just after death—what then?

The lost will go into despair;
Their torment there will then begin;
They'll cry for mercy from the Lord,
Just after death—what then?

It is indeed sad to think that men of high intellect, men of power, of influence and of prominence, and upon whom the eyes of the world are looking, should fail so miserably at the last, when they die without hope of a future life. Take for example a man who has lately been much in the public, the great Clemenceau, known the world over as the saviour of France. Yet he who saved France could not save himself, for he did not believe in God, and died a confirmed atheist. What a horrible climax to the life of a man who was noted for his wisdom. But we find in 1 Cor. 1:19

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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 Light of the World

"Ye are the light of the world" Matt. 5:14.

The Lord didn't say, "Ye carry the light," but "Ye are the light." We are apt to think of this light as truth, as doctrine, as something to be believed and held and expounded. The Lord gave this *light* and made it *incarnate* in true disciples that He might dispel the world's darkness and, in order to do this, it must be vitalized; it must glow in human hearts, it must burn on human tongues, it must shine in human lives. *A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.* Neither can a true, live Christian be hid, nor his light.

Of course Christ Himself is the Light of the world, but the personal Christ could remain on earth for only a few years; so He must be represented by His faithful disciples. When our Lord placed this responsibility upon His disciples and said unto them, "Ye are the light of the world," He spoke for the centuries; so the responsibility is on us as it was on Peter and John and the others.

Yes, our light is only moonshine. The moon has no light of her own: the light that radiates from the moon is the sun's light. Neither do we have any light of our own: the light we "let shine" is the Son's light. If you are a Christian, the world is looking for your light. What will men think of Christ from what they see in your life, and mine? If our light grows dim, and others are lost because of it, what a price we must pay! Christians are the world's Bible.

It was the Lord that said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Here is a plain command to "let your light shine," yet so many Christians seem to do all they can to hide it, refusing to speak about their hope of salvation and their love for Christ and spiritual things, thus rendering their Christian influence and their testimony for Christ as small as possible.

The secret of this Light is Christ in the heart. To illustrate this we borrow the following paragraph from *King's Business*:

"A nobleman having been concerned in conspiracy, was compelled to hide himself. His wife was asked where he was, and she answered, 'I have hidden him.' This confession led to her being brought before King Charles II., who immediately demanded, 'Where is he?' telling her that nothing but her discovery of his whereabouts could save her from the torture. 'And will that do?' she inquired. 'Yes,' replied the king. 'I'll give my word for it.' 'Then,' said she, 'I have hidden him in my heart; there and there alone you'll find him.' Can you answer concerning Christ: *'Where is He?'* (Matt. 2:2; Eph. 3:17).

Editorial Paragraphs

—o—

WE WISH to call attention to the answers to the "Undecided" brother, printed on pages 15 and 16. We are glad for the interest manifested in this brother's behalf, and we are glad the answers are short and to the point.

We hope that, not only our "Undecided Bro., but all who read these answers will be helped. The following song, sent in by a good sister as her favorite song, may help someone:

Time is filled with swift transition,
Naught of earth, unmoved can stand;
Build your hopes on things eternal,
Hold to God's unchanging hand.

CHORUS

Hold to God's unchanging hand.
Hold to God's unchanging hand.
Build your hopes on things eternal,
Hold to God's unchanging hand.

Trust in Him who will not leave you,
Whatsoever years may bring,
If by earthly friends forsaken,
Still more closely to Him cling.

Covet not this world's vain riches,
That so rapidly decay,
Seek to gain the heav'nly treasures,
They will never pass away.

When your journey is completed,
If to God you have been true,
Fair and bright the home in glory,
Your enraptured soul view.

MOVING TIME draws near and we are thinking much about moving lately. It has been our intention to move in March, but a careful consideration of the whole situation has led us to defer moving until in April. We still have several minute jobs to finish and send out, and we will print the April issue of the Gem before we move. We must also paint and paper our house here before we leave it. We want to sell, but there is so little demand for resident property that we have but little hope of selling. It will take us till April 1st to finish our work, and just as soon after Apr. 1st as we can pack and get the stuff ready, we'll load up and pull for Purdy, Mo. Sanballats. There is too much

WE WISH more of our people would come alive and send in more subscriptions to the Gem. Since so many have been silent for so long a time, it has been a hard pull for us financially speaking. Now that winter is about over and all nature shows signs of new life, let us wake up and minister to the needs of the little Gem. Perhaps some are holding their subscriptions back until we get moved, but dear brother, sister, if you knew how much your dollar is needed in helping us to get moved, you would do your best to send it at once.

Under the pressure we had to discontinue the Sun school lessons, and were not able to print the League lessons. We are very sorry we could not print the League lessons, especially on Sister Davis' account, for she has nobly done her part in preparing the lessons.

We hope and expect that the Gem will receive sufficient support, so that we will be able to enlarge the paper so as to include both the Sunday school and League lessons, beginning as soon as we get settled at Purdy. Come on friends, and let us make the *little Gem a big Gem*.

WE THANK those who have supplied us with manuscript for the Gem, and we are glad for so much matter sent in for publication that is so good—no paper has better. We are thankful too, that we have plenty of articles, reports, etc. and have some left each time. It gives us something to start on at the first of the month. Several times last year we were late getting the paper out because so little was sent in for publication till late in the month. It is different now and we are glad it is. Several good manuscripts are left over for next issue, for which we are glad and thankful, and hope no one will be offended if their article must wait for another issue.

May the Lord bless our paper,
dead which die in the Lord from

FROM THE FIELD

MISSOURI

Monett, Dec. 11, 1929—

Dear Gem Readers:— Well I suppose by the time this gets out all those anxious thoughts of Christmas will be over and we will be entering into another new year and 1929 will be referred to only in the past tense. I am praying that 1930 will be a wonderful year for the Gem and I have great faith to believe it is going to be, havn't you? How can any Free Will Baptist start the New Year exactly right without subscribing for the Gem? If every subscriber would get a sub. just think what it would mean.

The Co-operative Meeting was a decided success. God stamped His approval upon it by just pouring out his spirit. There wasn't a great many sresent, something like about fourteen ministers but we had some real old time shouting services, and it seemed surely the spirit of every one was greatly revived.

Eld. O T Allred and myself just closed a good two weeks' meeting at Blue Eye about a week ago, thirty-one souls were saved and renewed, eighteen have united with the church as a result of it, and I baptized thirteen there last Sunday at my regular appointment, and what happened Sunday after services but the setting of a beautiful birthday dinner all to my surprise; that day being my birthday. I tried to tell them how much I appreciated it, but couldn't.

Little Joseph Brooks went with me to Blue Eye this time and preached some for them; he will be fourteen years old the 25th of January and has been preaching about a year and a half. He joined the new church we organized near Cassville, Mo., about a month ago. I hope and pray to God He will send more laborers in the field to help advance the cause.

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Say, I haven't seen very much said thru the Gem about the "budget system" which was launched at the State Association. Do you know what it is for? Well here it is in a nut shell: each church is to send in each year to the State Treasurer ten cents per resident member to help finance our state work. If your church has one hundred resident members then your budget is \$10.00 or if 200 resident members then your budget is \$20.00, or if fifty resident members then a budget of \$5.00, and so on. Folks we know it is a fact that we can't advance to any great extent without some financial system, and you know we can raise the above stated amount if we even try a little. If each church would send in their budget then we would have a nice sum for the printing of minutes, helping to enlarge publishing house, scattering Free Will Baptist literature or what ever might be most needed. It was a shame that at our state meeting this year one night a public collection had to be taken to get money to have our state minutes printed. It brings a reproach on our denomination; people will say it's a poor denomination that can't raise, among their own members, enough money to have their minutes printed; and they tell the truth when they say it too. I, as state treasurer, am going to expect to receive a lot of budgets from over the state, just think, only ten cents per resident member and remember this money cannot be used only as voted by the state association, or by the Executive Board between sessions. Come in with your budget.

Well I must close. May God bless you all, let us be active in duty let us stay humble, let us depend wholly on God, let us strive to be Spirit filled and Spirit led.

Winford Davis.

Buffalo, Dallas Co.—After attending the 5th Sunday meeting of the Niangua Association I came and started meetings in the Free Will Baptist Church in the town of Buff-

alo. Buffalo is the county seat of Dallas Co., Mo. God gave victory in the meeting right from the start. In spite of the bad weather and bad roads, we had good crowds and good order. People would get happy and would shout and praise God for hours at a time.

I had to leave the meetings twice, once I went to Ash Grove, then to Barton county and spent Sunday with our Verdella church. The other time I went to our Pleasant Ridge church near Urbana, Mo. with their pastor, Eld. Wm. Millard of Buffalo, Mo. and preached a few times. We were glad to meet the good people of this place once more, and preach a few more times for them. We had some good meetings but there were no professions. This church is located in a community where nearly everyone is already a professor of religion.

Every time I came to our church in Buffalo the meetings would pick right up again, and soon there were more conversions. The results of the meetings were 48 professions and 36 added to the church by reclamation and baptism. Some of them had belonged to the church before and were reinstated. A part of the time that the meetings were going on the people who attended read two thousand four hundred and sixty chapters in the Bible.

I did all the preaching during the meetings, but Elders Wm Millard and J. D. Smith of Buffalo and Eld. A. Bailey of Plad, Mo. and many others were a great help in the meetings. We had a big baptizing of happy young converts; others are awaiting baptism and will be baptized later on. Last Sunday I baptized twelve happy converts.

I am leaving today to begin meetings at our Cedar Ridge church near the town of Long Lane, Dallas Co., Mo. While I was in the meetings at Buffalo I got four subs for the Gem. Eld. N. Sutton of Long Lane is the faithful pastor of our church in Buffalo, but on account of sickness he only got to attend two services. The Free Will Baptist of

Mo. ought to feel encouraged over the great revival meetings that have been held in some of our churches during the last few months.

Eld. T. C. Ferguson, Evangelist.

Niangua—Dear Gem Readers: I surely do enjoy reading this paper. The first copy I ever read was given to me by Elder Selph Jones. I enjoy reading it because it is so full of the good Lord's work.

We all hope that Bro. Selph Jones will preach at Amity again. Let us all remember him in our prayers.

May God bless you all. Remember me in your prayers.

Mona Johns.

Stahl—Dear Editor and Readers of the Gem: I have enclosed one dollar to pay for a year's subscription to the Gem. We like the paper fine.

We go to church and Sunday School at Stahl. We have a good Sunday School. Rev. George Miller is our pastor now. Rev. Jim Miller had been our pastor for several years, and we thought we just could not give him up as our pastor, when they told us they were moving back to Fredericktown, but we as a church prayed to God to send us a preacher, and when the preacher came, it was Jim's brother. We like him fine, and think he is a wonderful man of God.

When he first came to our church he organized a Young People's Union, and we find it a great help to us all. When the Union was first organized, we had twenty members, and now I think we have around fifty.

Rev. Mike Cleaver, and Rev. George Miller are conducting a revival at Stahl now, and we are having wonderful sermons each service. We are just praying that there will be many dear souls saved before the meeting closes.

May the Lord bless and make us all workers in His vineyard is my prayer.—Mrs. A. T. Lawson.

Buffalo—Dear Readers of the Gem: Just a few lines to you. I have been reading the Gem and think it is a most wonderful paper. Am going to take it right away.

We have been having a wonderful meeting at the Free W. B. Church at Buffalo, held by Elder T. C. Ferguson. He has been preaching some wonderful sermons, and many are being saved. There have been forty-seven converted, and most of them have joined the church. Had a fine service at the baptizing yesterday. A large crowd gathered at the water's edge, and many blessings were bestowed upon all.

I am a member of the Free W. Baptist Church, was saved under Rev. Ferguson's preaching. I teach a class in Sunday School of young girls and boys, and am organist at the church.

A sister in Christ,
Mrs. Alice Lamar.

Mansfield—Dear Gem Readers: As I pick up pencil and paper to write, I feel that the great God is with me. If he wasn't, I don't know what I would do.

I was saved this fall, and I feel very young and weak in God's great work, but I still keep praying for Him to make me stronger. Thank God, I can say that both my father and mother are Christians.

Elder Selph Jones is the pastor of our church. We all like him fine. We received the Gem through Bro. Jones, and we sure enjoy reading it.

As this is my first letter I will close, asking you all for your prayers.

Norma Rice.

Monett—Dear Bro. Brown: I will send in a report of the meeting just closed at Jones' Chapel.

Twelve precious souls were saved, and Bro. Noel Turner started into the ministry. Noel is a fine, clean young man, of strong influence. He is also president of the Leagues over our Association. We thank

God that He saw fit to call him into the ministry.

There was as good prospect for a revival as we ever saw at Jones' Chapel, if the cold, snowy weather had not come, but the Lord knows best. Three communities besides Jones' Chapel community were co-operating in the meeting before the bad weather struck. We finally just had to close out. The Lord's power was wonderfully manifested many times. One good old-time scene in the meeting was one night when Aunt Lizzie Turner came before service had started. She came down the aisle clapping her hands and singing, "Old Time Religion." The service started from that. Aunt Lizzie has been one of our denomination's best boosters for many years, and is still boosting. She has been away the past summer in places where they don't have much of the old time religion, so it did her good to get back to Jones' Chapel again.

Folks, have you renewed your sub to the Gem yet? I can't see why any one would not want to take the Gem.

Yours for Jesus and the cause,
Winford Davis.

Blue Eye, Feb. 16, 1930

Dear Gem Family, one and all: I have just been reading our wonderful little paper, the F. W. B. Gem. I can hardly wait from one month to another for my paper. I look forward to the coming of the Gem like I do for a letter from my own dear mother.

The writing by Mrs. Ora Mae McKinney Davis impresses me very much. We are very careful about our children physically but how many of us are careful about our children spiritually?

We have one boy that will be sixteen years old the nineteenth of Feb. We have four other children, and we are trying to teach them the right way. Our oldest boy professed a hope in Christ the 30th day of November, and he joined the

Free Will Baptist church and was baptized the 8th of December, 1929. Oh, how it thrills my soul, when I think of the day when he gave his young life to Christ!

It makes my heart ache when I hear parents use bad language, especially when they use this language before their little children, because the little children do not know any better than to say what they hear their parents say. We as parents should be very careful what we say before our children.

I have not always lived a Christian life before my children. I joined the Christian Church when I was fourteen years old, and I thought I was living a Christian life for a long time, and I was not. Two years ago this last fall—it was in November I think, when I was sick—prayer was held for me in my own home, and that night was when Jesus came into my life. The 11th day of May, 1929 I joined the Free Will Baptist church, and my husband is also a member of that church.

I ask the prayers of the praying people that we may do what God wants us to do, and always be found at the post of duty.

May God bless our dear little paper, and all its readers is my prayer.

Mrs. W. N. Cornelison

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

Dear Gem Readers: I will write a few lines to let you know that we are having a fine Sunday school with a good attendance. We had about 100 at Sunday school today. We had a good lesson and good teachers and our school is growing fast.

Bro. Mike Cleaver was with us the first Sunday in February. He preached some fine sermons and sang us a good song. That boy has the making of a good preacher. We had three at the altar and a glorious time. Old Dad Miller got happy and shouted—when God pours out His blessing something is going to move—

Quarterly meeting was held at our church. A good delegation was here and we had a fine time, and took care of all business that came before the body. We licensed two young men to preach the Gospel, Bro. Grace, and I can't think of the other's name, but both have preached at our church and made good talks.

Bro. Rochal Langley and his wife dedicated their little girl to the Lord today. Bro. Hill preached the sermon. Everybody was happy, and I think everybody was shedding tears. It was a glorious day and one never to be forgotten. One came to the altar and prayed through to victory and, while the people were rejoicing, another came to the altar, a young mother who lost her baby last week. God is pouring out His blessing in this little church.

The church had a business meeting and voted to sell bricks and bonds to raise money to build a new church house, and two young men were appointed to be captains of teams. Our young people are having some fine meetings and good crowds. They are a lively bunch of young Christians and some of them are splendid personal workers. They are taking great interest in selling the bricks and bonds; they all want to be on the winning side.

Tuesday night was our last meeting night and we had a fine bunch out and this is the report of our new treasurer: \$3.13 in treasury when the book was turned over to her. Now we have \$4.12, after paying our electric bill of \$2.11. Our treasurer, Opal Hughes, is one of our Sunday school teachers and a fine Christian young woman. We are ready to sell anyone a brick for 25 cents and a bond for any amount you would like to pay. We will be glad to hear from anyone wishing to help in this good cause, and we'll be glad to explain anything you want to know. We will mail you sample brick and bond. Mail all orders to

F. McCauley,
611 Rutger St., St. Louis, Mo.

Monett—Dear Gem Family: I come to you this morning with a short letter and a sad heart, as my mind goes back to one Monday morning seven months the first day of February, when God saw fit to call home to glory a loving companion and father. While we know he is now enjoying the sweetness of heaven, it has broken up our home, and has left us here in this world so lonely, without the love and comfort of one who so dearly loved his home and family. It seems to me at times that there is no room for me here, then again I realize that I still have a great deal to live for, and that is to try the best I can to raise my five dear children, that God has seen fit to leave in my care alone. And with the help of my blessed Master I am going to do the best I can to bring them up in the right way. We cannot realize why our loved one was taken from us, only we know it was the will of the Master. But these sad thoughts, sad hours and sad days will come to us.

These cold, snowy mornings, the little boys had to get up and go out in the cold and do the work that Papa used to do, but they went right on without murmuring. I have thought so many times this winter that surely God was right with us, watching over us each day, and God forbid that any harm will ever come to one of my children, for my daily prayer is that He will watch over us and care for us. And I surely know He has already answered so many of my prayers. Since Papa left us, Jesus came into our home and saved the two boys, and now I am happy to say I have a Christian home. The two girls have been Christians for quite a while, and I am just praying that when the baby reaches the right age, God will come in her little life and save her soul. I have always asked God to spare my family that they might live for Jesus, and now I am proud to say that they are all able to pray and testify for their

Savior. I thank God so much for His wonderful power, and for what He can do for us. How can any one deny Him? I know if it hadn't been for the help of my Savior that we could never have lived through our troubles, but He has promised us a better place than this, where we will never grow old. Isn't it wonderful how sweet that will be!

A little better than a month ago; the doctor told me that my oldest girl would have to have an operation for appendicitis, and I thought I could never stand it without Clyde to help me pray through, but I knew he couldn't come back, so I just took it to the Lord and left it there, and asked Him to watch over her day and night and to guide the doctor, the knives and the nurses in the right way. So she just got along fine, and is now back in school. Why shouldn't we call on God oftener, and why shouldn't we believe in prayer?

May God bless all the sad hearts, and all the orphans and others as well. And I ask all who know the worth of prayer to pray for me and my children.

Mrs. Julia Davis and children.

Stahl—Dear Gem Readers: I will endeavor to speak a few words through our paper, the "Gem."

It has been some time since I have sent in my report. I believe I was in St. Louis when I wrote to the Gem Family before.

From there I went to Mill Creek where I hold my membership, a new church which I organized something like two years ago. I preached for them three weeks, God wonderfully blessing. Twenty-eight professed faith in Christ, twenty-eight additions to the church and twenty-one baptized. The larger part of this number were fathers and mothers. Elder M. Henderson is their faithful pastor. We organized a Young People's Union with twenty-one charter members. It has already grown to a much larger number. We also dedicated this building to our

Lord and Savior, to be used only for His service.

I have noticed in many parts of the country where I have been, that God's house is used as a place for all social gatherings. Friends, if we are determined to have these things, let's find somewhere else to have them besides in God's house.

I closed that meeting in the best of spirits and began at Fredericktown F. W. B. Church one week later. Was in this meeting during the severe cold weather, but at the close of three weeks fourteen had professed they had been saved from their sins. Seven were added to the church, and left seven to be baptized by the dear pastor, Eld. J. L. Yancy, who is a very able God-fearing servant of the Lord.

Was called to Northeast Mo Association. Came through St. Louis, Mo. and preached three sermons. On Sunday night we had three professions.

I am now here at Stahl, Mo, in a meeting with our dear Bro. George Miller, the pastor of the church. God has blessed five to date with pardon, and am looking forward to many. Please pray for us that God will move mightily among the people of Northeast Missouri, and many souls be saved.

I must not forget to tell you that Grandma Hughes has moved to her everlasting resting place leaving a number of God-fearing children. She was a mother to me in God's cause.

Pray for us, and let's see if we can't get more subs, for the Gem. Brethren, let's do all we can. I am proud of the Gem, as well as the editor, Bro. Brown, a sacrificing man for the cause.

Did you ever lay down on your bed at night, and look over your day's work, and your duties toward God and his cause? And just think how thing would be moving "if they all have done just what I have done this day and no more!" I say there are too many of these "goods box" and "nail keg" professors of

religion now. Let's all go to work and quit criticising those that are working.

Eld. Mike Cleaver, Evangelist.

ARKANSAS

New Edinburg—Dear Editor and Gem Readers: If you will give me space I will let you hear from a little band of Free Will Baptist down here in southeast Arkansas who worship at old Macedonia.

I'm happy, and thank God above all others for his richest blessings, and for this heaven-bought privilege of writing to this dear paper, a paper that should reach every nook and corner of this grand old U. S. A., though I haven't had the opportunity of reading but one issue, presented to me by our pastor, Rev. T. H. Dixon. I certainly do think it a real paper, and intend to subscribe for it soon.

Our beloved pastor, filled his regular appointment here last Saturday and Sunday and, believe me, he sure did preach some very exalting sermons.

How many churches in the ranks of the Free Will Baptists that have preaching and conference on Saturday at eleven o'clock? I'm happy to say we still love the cause enough to do this. And two months ago we had fifty-five members present on Saturday, but on account of bad weather, we only had thirty-three this month (Feb. 2nd).

I thank God for the wonderful sermon our dear pastor preached last Saturday. His text was this, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8: 18). A text that really applied to me, for I am afflicted with what is known as Acute Appendicitis, but I thank God for this text of Scripture. It encourages me so much, and makes my determination stronger. It makes me shout, "Hallelujah!" at every mile-post as I go through life, and may God bestow his richest blessings on our pastor wherever he

may be, that he may always love to preach the unsearchable riches of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I'm happy and praise God's dear name for Sunday school being revived again, and pray that it may continue to grow and prosper. I'm a firm believer in the Sunday School, for it keeps the church revived and teaches the young the ways of our blessed Redeemer, and makes better men and women of them as they fill their station in life and fits them to meet God in peace.

I have written to this paper before, under the name of Miss Thompson, and I ask God's richest blessings on all who read this, and for them to pray for Husband and me, that we may live so humbly, that our lives will shine out for Jesus. My sincere prayer is for the unsaved.

Your sister in Christ.

Mrs. Iva Mae McClellan

Tennessee

Van Hill—Dear Editor and Readers of the Gem: I will let the Gem Readers know some of our work.

We held our Northern Quarterly Meeting of the Union Association with the Grassy Creek Church, Jan. 24th and 25th, and will say we had a Pentecostal meeting at every service. We, as Free Will Baptists here in the mountains of Hawkins County, Tennessee still have the old time religion, and will say we have as clean a ministry as any denomination in the State. I want to say to the readers of our dear little Gem paper, let us hold our heads up. I believe we have the best doctrine under the sun because it is the only way of life and salvation.

Our next Quarterly Meeting convenes with the Christian Bend Church on Friday before the 4th Sunday in April.

Success to the "Gem," and many rich blessings on its Readers.

Pray for your humble servant,

Yours for Christ and for His cause,—Rev. W. H. Morelock.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

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

Greentop, Missouri

LITTLE THINGS

My Dear Young People: I wonder if you have taken time to think out the many things that appear small and of little importance, but which go to make up the great things of life.

The Johnny-Jump-Up is very small considering the size of many of the flowering plants, but how he gladdens our hearts and assures us of the coming Spring. The sparrow is a very small bird, but Jesus tells us that not one of them falls but that the Father knows. A little child is small of stature compared with many of the large men, but Jesus said that unless we were like unto them we could not enter heaven. The ant is a very small insect, but God said that we should go to the ant to learn many useful lessons.

Before you read further, I wonder how many things you can think of in the way of lessons we can learn from the ant. Now you try hard to think, and then I will tell you some of those which I consider the most useful.

First, the Ant is a very busy little fellow, he is always doing things. Again he is very neat in appearance and is very careful in regard to his home. You never find him building in a low marshy, or filthy place. His front yard is always clean, and his lawn mowed, and his back yard is never littered up with old tin cans or unsightly things. They are always ready to help each other and, if something injures their home, they will try to save every thing possible. If you were to place a straw across their pathway they will remove it rather than to make a new pathway, even though it takes the help of the entire Ant family. The law of kindness appears to be the rule of their home.

I hope you will try and add to these suggestions things in which you find the Ant to be an example for us, and then see if you can fit them into your life in such a way that people will say, "Go to those children and learn lessons in usefulness."

Lovingly yours,
Uncle Charley.

Here is a nice letter from a couple of little friends who desire to join Uncle Charley's family of boys and girls. We are glad to welcome Pauline and Lorraine.

Dear Uncle Charley:—Please permit us to join you and your family of boys and girls. I am a little girl eleven years old. My birthday is March 15th. My sister's name is Lorraine, she is nine years old. We go to school at Underwood. Our teacher's name is Miss Reck. We like her fine. We have three brothers and one sister. We go to Sunday School and church. Our superintendent is Mr. Breeding, and our mother is our teacher. Father and mother are members of the Free Will Baptist church. We haven't any League now, but we hope to have soon. We have been taken the Gem for about a year, and sure think it is a fine paper. This is our first letter and we hope you will print it. We always try to get boys and girls to go to our Sunday school and we will try to get them to write to you.

Your friends,
Lorraine and Pauline Badley.

Lock Springs, Mo.

Dear Uncle Charley:—I will write a few lines and ask to be admitted into the circle of happy children. I am a little girl six years old. I go to school. I sure do like

my teacher. Her name is Miss Hepler. I like my little school mates. We sure have fun coasting. I have a sled. My pets are a hen I call Bid-dy, and a cat I call Tom. I had to leave them on the farm when we moved to town. You are acquainted with my mother and daddie, and my grandpa and grandma Coberly. I go on the train to see them. I have a tricycle, a doll buggy and several dolls. They are Bertie Mae, Carrie Lue, Jimmie Boy, Minerva and May. Good by, Uncle Charley.

Your friend,
Lois Rue Krouse.

We are glad to get your letter Lois. Yes I remember your mother and father, and stayed with your grandparents when I held a meeting in Carlow a few years ago. Write again, Lois.

Uncle Charley

Springfield, Mo.

Dear Gem Readers:—We have been taking the Gem for a year, but this is my first time to write for it. We think it is a real paper to read, and I am sending the dollar to pay for another year, praying that the Lord will bless the Gem and all of its readers.

Just a few words to our preachers. As we can see so many churches drifting with the world, let us all wake up and stay with the old land mark—the old knee route, the kind our fathers died for. I refer you all to Heb. 12: 1-2. "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." 2 Tim. 1:7. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Paul said to

preach the Word and, dear brethren, that means something to us. Let us all preach the Word of God. Let us be even as Paul when he said, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth;" for the time is here when men will not endure sound doctrine. May the God of peace bless us all. Amen.

Press Fund Report

Knowing the time to be close at hand when the removal of the Gem will begin, I herewith give a full report of all funds on hand for the Gem Removal Fund. The first report was given in the June, 1929 issue of the Gem.

Ever Ready Class, Stahl, Mo.,	\$23.60
Bro. Ellis Reger, Galt, Mo.,	1.00
Eld. T. C. Ferguson, Ash Grove, Mo.,	1.00
Home Mission Workers, Flat River, Mo.,	25.00

Second report July, 1929.

Eld. Winford Davis, Monett, Mo.,	\$18.00
Eld. Ronald Hollars, Blue Eye, Mo.,	4.00
J. D. Fowler, Greentop, Mo.,	1.00
C. E. Mann, Greentop, Mo.,	2.00

Third report September, 1929.

Lola Brown, Stahl, Mo.,	\$.25
Ollie Mathews, Stahl, Mo.,	1.00
Bert Elsea, Stahl, Mo.,	1.50
Mt. Zion Church, By Georgia Everett, Gower, Mo.,	10.00
P. S. Peterson, Greentop, Mo.,	1.00
Mrs. Olive Coberly, Carlow, Mo.,	1.00
Eld. R. H. Emerson, Sulphur, Okla.,	1.00
Mr. & Mrs. G. Wade, Liberal, Mo.,	5.00

Received since September report.

Eld. B. F. Brown, Tecumseh, Okla.,	\$2.00
Miss Ella Riley, Chicago, Ill.,	6.00
Busy Bee Class, Bethel Church, Stahl, Mo.,	5.00
N. W. Mo. Y. M. By Miss Melba White, Hemple,	6.30
Velma Blevins, Enon, Ark.,	1.00
J. W. Moul, Freeman, Mo.,	1.00
W. S. Mosby, Freeman, Mo.,	1.00
Jones Chapel League, By Eld. Winford Davis,	3.00
Lloyd Warren, Archie, Mo.,	1.00
Eld. B. F. Brown, Tecumseh, Okla.,	3.50

Total, \$126.15

If any error has occurred in the record of any amount contributed, or any name miscalled, or any name omitted please notify me so a correction can be made. The contribution of \$53.60 of The Missouri State Association was turned to Eld. B. F. Brown, and is in his hands and will be used in the removal of the press, which will no doubt take place in April. As we still lack funds, please send in your contribution.

Respectfully yours,

Eld. C. E. Mann.

TRAVELERS

By Irene Mayberry

We are all traveling to some destination. As on a train with its load of people, there are stowaways, I mean those who take their place in the ranks as Christians but have no right to be there. They are Christians in name only. They may imagine they are all right and that they will not be detected, and will get to heaven at last; but they are bound in the coils of a terrible delusion, for they are not lawful passengers on the train that is bound for Glory. Their ticket is not purchased by the precious blood of Jesus, consequently they are without a passport that will admit them to the realms of Eternal Bliss.

Dear reader, how is it with you? Have you a ticket that will carry you to your journey's end? Are you sure that your ticket will bear inspection and that you will not be exposed and found in disgrace? Don't forget John Bunyon's description of the two who climbed over the wall instead of coming through the wicket gate, who were on their way to the Celestial City, but made a complete failure. Without real repentance and faith in Christ your ticket is no good, for you will only be a stowaway. God will have only reality. Life is real; Eternity is real; God is real; Salvation is real; so be real yourself. Do not be content with anything short of real religion, pure and undefiled before God. Don't wait till the Judgment day, but get right with God today; for today is the day of Salvation. Get your ticket now; the bell is ringing now.

"Ye Must Be Born Again." (John 3:7)

By Ora Mae McKinney Davis

How can I be born again? (John 3:9). This was the question which impressed itself upon the *soul* of Nicodemus. This was a problem he could not solve for himself, so he, fearing the Jews, came to Jesus by night and asked him to unfold this precious mystery of "How can I be born again?" Nicodemus was anxious, he was interested, and so it was that he approached the Master at night-time to ask Him this question. And Jesus, knowing his thoughts, and seeing written plainly upon his very life, a perplexity, a question, something concerning his soul, He said unto him, "Except a man be *born again* he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

The eyes of Jesus could look through the human frame at a glance. Well He knew the *soul* life of Nicodemus—He could see the *heart* within this man, and even before Nicodemus had put forth the question, Jesus had said just what this man wanted to know. The great question which stirred him was, "*I want to be saved, but don't know how!*"

"There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: the same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou

art a teacher come from God; for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?" (Jn. 3:1-9)

During the days that Jesus was upon earth, there were many who came to him with other perplexities, sorrows and problems which could not be solved without his guidance. But among the most important questions answered was this great question which has faced the ages. After Jesus had paid the price of death on the cruel cross-tree, this same Nicodemus came with "Joseph of Arimathea," and with clean linen wrapped up the precious, cold, lifeless form of our Savior and laid him to rest in the tomb. (John 19:38-40) But after Jesus arose from the dead he knew that he must depart from those he loved, and he said, "*I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you.*" We are to be his witnesses.

The question comes, "How can I be *born* again? How can these things be? The Angel-form of Jesus can answer this great question for you. He stands waiting with a sharp, two-edged sword, (the Word of God). First with gentle touch he must in some way puncture the

heart, that the *word* of God with *power* will cut a deeper wound. Conviction of sin has been wrought, and conversion of the *soul* takes place. A large cut, the heart opens, tears follow—repentance! "The sword of the *Spirit* which is the *word of God* has left a wound, the Angel-form of *Jesus* reaches out with love, he pours the shed *blood* into the open heart—which has been cut asunder—and heals the deep, grievous cut with the oil of the *Spirit*

Oh, what a change! *Cleansing has come*: evil thoughts are purged—everything is changed. I did love the show, but now I love the church. I did love worldly pleasures, but now my affections are set on things above (Acts 16:14). What has happened? I even love everybody better than I did—my enemies, those I disliked, I now love (Acts 16:15). "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Nicodemus said, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him and said, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." The unseen form of Jesus comes to you, you do not see Him, you don't know from what direction He comes, you hear His voice (when you hear the Word), just as you hear the wind when it blows: but the Spirit, the angel form of Jesus, goes His way and you know not whither He goeth, yet you know that He left a change in your heart. You heard the word of God, your heart was cut asunder, and the *angel form of Jesus* poured into your heart the blood that cleansed you from your sins; Yet He left the heart of sorrow healed and a "still small voice," saying, "Peace, be still." Faith comes and you have been *born again*. The angry billows of life may rage around you, the dark hours of trials and trouble may compass you about, but always there will be a "still small voice"

which says, "*Peace.*" A *peace* the world cannot take away from you, the voice of Jesus.

(To be Continued)

Hartville—Dear Readers of the Gem: I feel that I am one of the Lord's weakest servants, but feel it my duty to help out with the Gem. As Bro. Selph Jones made me a present of this paper so I feel that if Bro. Jones was interested in our home to have the Gem sent to us, I should be interested enough to be of some help.

While I am deprived of going out over the world as others do, to know of what is going on, yet I thank God that we don't have to go out among the world to find God. He is with us, at home and abroad, if we live true to him.

We generally like to talk about the things that interest our own minds, so, in the condition I have been in for twenty-three years past, home affairs are wonderfully interesting to me. I always want to do something to please God, and something to be of help to the ones that are unsaved. I pray with all my heart to God that He may show and teach me how to be of some help to others. I am deprived of the privilege other people have, but I want to do something at home to please God, while others go and visit the sick and pray with sinners. Still I thank God that I can pray at home all alone. God hears our prayers wherever we may be.

I surely do appreciate the Gem, and thank Brother Jones very much for his kindness in having it sent to our home. We enjoy reading it, and think it a fine church payer.

This is the fourth year that Bro. Jones has been the faithful pastor of Oak Grove Church. Everybody likes Bro. Jones around Oak Grove. As I am an invalid, and don't have the privilege of going to church, I don't know so many interesting things about the church and Sunday School, but services are good to my knowing.

I am forty-six years old, have been an invalid for twenty-three years. I have tried to live a true Christian life, for twenty-four years, the Lord being my helper. I have a good, devoted husband, one son and two daughters. The son and one daughter have homes of their own and I am glad to say that they are all laborers for the Lord.

While we have many heartaches in this life, we also have many things to be thankful for. The more heartaches we have the more humble we are to our Lord, I think. I feel that I know from experience. Our son was hurt so bad that he just did escape death. This accident happened to him two years ago and it almost took my life, I was so weak and nervous but, the Lord being my helper, I just prayed and prayed, hardly ceasing, for his healing and for the welfare of our homes, to be as good as the Lord saw fit to give us till we finally got so much better that I think the Lord did wonders in our home. Without the Lord's help we can do nothing.

We have many trials in this life, as you readers of the Gem can surely understand. Husband and I have enough to make us humble of heart, seeing our preacher son, 29 years old, disabled for life as far as we can tell at present, and he has a wife and two babies to support. But, the Lord being our helper, we expect to labor on in good faith, looking for a brighter day for us all. God knows what is best in all things so maybe we'll understand better by and by why we meet with so many trials and disappointment in this life. Brothers and sisters, pray for me and my family. May the Lord bless you all—Mrs. Geo. Owens.

The Great Separation

By Elder H. C. Crase

To the Editor and Readers of the Gem: I wish to write a short sketch for our dear brethren and sisters, which I hope will find space in the dear little Gem, which I feel is so worthy.

The subject on my mind will be found in Matthew 13:47-50, "The Parable of the Net."

Jesus said, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just." Here Jesus, the world's greatest teacher, brings to us a great lesson, and in this is endeavoring to show to all mankind the fundamental principles of salvation.

Let us first notice the sea, and second the net. As the sea is in its nature restless, perilous and dangerous, so this world (the sea) is full of all kinds of sinners, from the self-righteous to the worst sinner.

The gospel net. Jesus, while here among men in his great wisdom, selected and qualified and sent men out to preach his everlasting Gospel, which recognizes the world as lost, wretched and miserable, and it is declared by Paul to be the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, to the Jew and also to the Greek.

"But how can we believe on whom we have not heard, and how can we hear without a preacher, and how can they preach except they be sent."

As the fishermen labored and toiled, the fish were enclosed in the net, and when day was done they drew to shore, gathered the good into vessels and cast the bad away. So also will it be at the end of the world. Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

God has called, and is still calling, faithful men who are full of the love of God to proclaim His gospel in this world of sin and vice, to save men from their sins. We must toil and labor and deny ourselves of many things, and when the gospel is consummated or preached to

all the world for a witness, then shall the end come, the gospel net drawn from time to eternity. Then the angels will come and sever the wicked from among the just. God grant that lost men and women may have an ear to hear the blessed gospel of the Son of God ere it is too late, too late.

May the Lord bless all the Gem Readers.

Elder H. C. Crase.

My Besetting Sin

Dear Reader of the Gem:—I believe every one of us has a besetting sin. I mean that every one of us has a particular weakness, through which the devil tempts us and works at us, and we yield easily, then we sin. It is not a sin to be tempted, but it is the yielding to temptation that is not pleasing to God. We read in the Bible where the devil tempted Christ. Did He yield? No. He was pure and clean in the sight of God. Jesus set an example for us to live by, and we should be *Christlike* as near as possible.

We should not be surprised if we are tempted, for just as sure as Christ was tempted, we will be also.

Some may have one besetting sin, and some another. The whisky bottle is a great temptation to some people. The devil knows it, if you like whisky, and, through this, he tempts you. It may be stealing or blackguarding that is your besetting sin. When we are tempted to do these *unchristlike* deeds, should we yield? No!

Prayer is the best way I know of to overcome when we find ourselves tempted. Just pray to God to help in this trying time. If we overcome one temptation, and say no to it, victory will be easier next time. On the other hand, if we yield, it will be easier to yield next time.

Let us examine ourselves and see what our besetting sin is. What is yours? My own is my temper. Yes, I'll tell you, you have heard that "an honest confession is good for the soul." I am extremely high

tempered and, through this, I am tempted, and find it hard to keep from yielding. I'll become angry and do and say things that I afterwards regret. I yield more times than I overcome, then I feel far from the Lord, and then it is hard to get back in line with my blessed Master. Will some one write a few lines in the Gem to help me to be a better overcomer of my besetting sin?

I thank God that I am as the Bible says. "Let your anger be as that of a child." Did you ever notice several children playing? One may become angry and vow that he or she will not play any more, but they hardly utter the words till they forget that they were angry and are playing just as cheerfully as they were before.

We should not yield to even one temptation, for as I said before, it will be more difficult to overcome next time. I think of a song that expresses the thought better than I can word it myself:

"Yield not to temptation,

For yielding is sin;

Each victory will help you

Some other to win."

How true that is!

I will ask again, will some one please write a few lines to help me? And if I ever get a chance to help someone, I'll do it and be glad to. "Bear ye one another's burdens" (Gal. 6:2). Folks, let's watch and not yield to temptation. God bless and help us to overcome our besetting sin.

"Children Without Blemish."

By Elder D. R. Royster

As I have felt for some time that I should write an article for our paper, I will now make the effort.

For a text I will use part of Dan. 1:4, "Children in whom was no blemish." This demand is very familiar to us today. I have heard all my life that such a person could not be found after they have reached manhood and womanhood, yet about 2500 years ago King Nebuchadnezzar sought for such characters the children of God (Rom. 8:10).

and found them.

"Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat." This meat is a great temptation to the children of men, and has produced many victims.

I do not want you to get the idea that I am holding out to you that God will not forgive sin. He will—except a wilful transgression—for he has promised to be merciful to us. But I haven't found yet where he has promised to blot out *our* sins, and remember them against us no more, *as he has to the unre-generated*. So I will say that sin is a disease of the *soul*, and it is very dangerous, especially *when it becomes chronic*.

For a long period of time King Solomon was able to keep hold on God with his many strange wives and the great number of horses which God had forbidden, but when he became old his wives turned his heart away after other gods First Kings 11:4.

I feel that this is a wonderful example to us. I think many times that we, the people of God, feel ourselves so lucky that according to our much success in the Lord's vineyard, He couldn't turn us away. I don't believe we have a character in the Bible that got more favor from God than Solomon, and I find no place where he turned again to God. I find in Luke 21:34 where the Son of God is giving us poor weak worms of the dust warning, "Take heed to yourselves lest at any time your hearts be overcharged." Let us now turn to the Prophet Job. (Job 19:20) "I am escaped with the skin of my teeth." A man God said was perfect. (Job 1:8)

Matthew declares that men shall give an account in the day of judgment for every idle word that they shall speak. (Matt. 12:36)

Here we are with much idleness in our lives, and I find but one remedy that will cover up our blemishes, which Job had in abundance (1st

Peter 4:8). Charity shall cover a multitude of sins, but this is left to the Lord's decision. I still declare to you that God expects us to be without blemishes.

Let us now turn to Eph. 5:27, where God intends to present to Himself a glorious church without blemish. This is the only kind of people God has promised to accept as a bride for His Son. "For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."

I have noticed in pastoring churches that many we thought were good Christians, when they looked over into Judgment, found mistakes in their lives that had been covered up for years. I believe we had better make a close examination of ourselves. "And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth" (Rev. 21:27).

There comes a time in our lives that we must make a complete decision as to whom we will serve (Rom. 6:16). And when the people of God take their stand for Him there will be lots of confusion. After Jesus had done so much for their son who was born blind they were afraid to stand as witnesses for Him, fearing they would be put out of the synagogue (John 9:25). Lots of people today would like to stand for the Lord but, in doing so, they will have a smaller number to associate with and, probably as they call it, a lower class, but God is looking at the heart of His people and not at the outward appearance.

Let us bring another scripture. When John saw our day in the churches, I will admit that he saw many in a luke warm condition, but thank God he saw some were not defiled—Children in whom were no blemishes. "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy" (Rev. 3:4).

Hoping that these words will find a place in honest hearts, and asking an interest in your prayers, I am yours for the cause of Christ.

Life After Death

[Continued from page 2]

"For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise." Also 1 Cor. 1:26-27, "Not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called, but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise." So beware of the wisdom of this world, if it teaches you that after death there is nothing, for let me assure you that hell was very real to the man who "in hell lifted up his eyes." Remember that even though he begged for some one to be sent back to warn his brothers of that punishment that comes after death, that God refused that request saying that they had Moses and the prophets, and that still holds good for us who are here in 1930. And if we let the wisdom of this world confound us, we will reap the same reward as did the rich man, and it will be very real to us then.

LIFE

By W. N. Dodgen

I wonder how many of us stop to consider life as it really is. What *is* life? Life is individual human existence. James says "Life is a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

We know, at the very best, we have only a short time to spend here on this earth. Life on this earth is nothing, when compared to eternity. Then how necessary it is that we spend our time in a way that will be pleasing to God. Each one of us belongs to the Lord. "For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8). Yet how many of us today ignore the fact that we belong to the Lord. How carelessly we spend our days and our time! In this busy world of ours, how few people ever stop to consider that God, the Maker and Creator of all, holds the very destiny of our lives in His hands. The air we breathe, the

food we eat, the clothes we wear, all come from the bountiful hand of God, and how few of us take the time to stop and thank Him for these great blessings that we enjoy. We do not consider the fact, that if the mighty, protecting hand of God should be withdrawn from us for a moment's time, it would be impossible for us to live.

I am made to wonder when I hear people say, "There is no God." It is true in this modern world of ours that man has played a great part in building up this place in which we live, yet when we look around us, we see many wonderful things that never could have been made by the finite hands of man. Nature itself proves that only God, in His infinite wisdom, could have made it so. And again, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth His handy-work."

"As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more" (Psalms 103:15-16). We have all noticed in the springtime when the sun begins to shine, and mother earth begins to warm, how the little flowers spring up here and there, to fulfill their mission of making this world a beautiful place for man to live, then when their mission is over, and they have played their part, they wither away and are gone.

When God created you and me, He had a definite work for us to do. In His great divine plan, he has a special place for each of us that no other can fill, yet how many of us, while our flourishing days are on, fail to fulfill the mission that God has set aside for us to do? How many leave this world a failure, because they did not fit themselves into the divine plan of God? Oh, that we might acknowledge God as Sovereign! No matter what the circumstances of life may be, the Christian has always a cause to rejoice. The

daily life of each person, should show thankfulness to God, for the manifold blessings we receive from His bountiful hands. Every place and condition of our lives, should be a witness of our gratitude to God. Life is given to us to do something more with, than merely to live. It is a wonderful thing to live. But life is not an end in itself, but a trust and a treasure. We are stewards of life with all that comes into our segments of it. God is going to hold us responsible for the way we spend our days, and how we devote our talents. May each of us strive to spend our time and devote our talents in a way that will be pleasing to God, so that when the flourishing days are over, He may say unto us, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Apostasy

By Thomas H. Dixon, Hector, Ark.

Dear Editor and Readers of the Gem:—We hear it said: "Once in grace, always in grace; once a sheep, always a sheep; once saved, always saved." I shall begin writing on this subject. I will take but little space at this writing, and continue.

Many honest men and women believe "Once saved, always saved,"

Brethren and Sisters, Ladies and Gentlemen: Let's let God settle this through His inspired men. When we are dealing with the Bible, we should not let our kin folks nor anything else get in our way. It don't make any difference what I say the Bible teaches if I can't prove it.

Some say a Christian can't fall; the Bible says they did (1 Cor. 10: 3 to 8). "And did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither

be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand." Here were people eating of Christ and drinking of Christ, and died committing crime, did they fall? The Bible says they fell. Can men go to heaven committing such crimes? I answer "No," they can't. So we have proved that men once in Christ have fallen—men once in grace fell. Men could not eat of Christ without being in Christ, and men cannot remain in Christ and commit crimes.

Next we will notice 1 Tim. 4:1-2 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." We should never say we can not fall; when the Bible says they did fall. We should not say men shall not depart when the Bible says they shall. Our friends who hold the doctrine that, "Men can not fall," say that the word "Shall" stands between the believer and hell; and he cannot be lost. We will notice the word shall in John 5:24, which some say stands between the believer and hell, and notice John 3:36, which stands between the unbeliever and heaven. We must note that these scriptures are given on conditions. So long as the believer believes, he is saved; so long as the unbeliever disbelieves, he is lost.

"Undecided"

Answer No. 1, Bucyrus, Mo.

Dear Editor:—May I answer the "Undecided" man? Can a person's soul be saved and the individual not know when nor where they were saved? No. "We know that we have passed from death unto life" (1 John 3:14). "The Spirit beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Rom. 8:16).

I too, would be miserable, if I were in your condition. The Lord has said, "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7). "Not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God" (1 Peter 1:23).

I preach an experimental salvation, and that men know when they pass from death unto life. My advice to you is to go to the Lord with your miserable condition and, as did the Ninevites, cry mightily unto the Lord. He will have mercy and abundantly pardon (Isa. 55:7). Then, when pardoned, your misery will disappear, joy will take its place and you will know.

Yours in love of the truth,
Eld. J. G. Koch.

Answer No. 2, Knoblick, Mo.

Dear Undecided:—Read Heb. 11:1-6; Matt. 28:18-20; Jas. 2:17-18.

Remember God is a Spirit and that we must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. You will have to make your own decision.

Eld. Charles Canterbury.

Answer No. 3, Mulberry, Kans.

Dear Undecided:—I read your letter in the Gem, asking about where you stand. The following is gladly submitted for your benefit.

You are not sure whether you are saved or not. Let me say that salvation is too wonderful for you to miss, so make sure of it.

I am inclined to think that there is something in the way that cheats you out of the joys of salvation. Have you made a full surrender to the Master? Have you been exceedingly sorrowful for your sins? Most folks know when they receive pardon. Are you not holding back something that the Lord requires to you give up?

Do you love God so much that you are willing to do any and every thing He wants you to do? Are you so interested in your soul that you find your pillow wet with the tears you shed while trying to pray thru to victory? Victory is for you and I am sure the fault is with you and

not with God. Try giving yourself unreservedly to the Master, praying that He might be glorified thru your faithfulness.

Remember you must love every one, even your enemies, and you can do that. You don't have to love their ways, but remember their soul is just like yours.—Eld. B. Cassatt.

Answer No. 4,—In the February issue of our wonderful little paper, the Free Will Baptist Gem, I noticed a request from "Undecided," asking for advice or instruction from the readers concerning his condition before God.

Now we are not in a position to say just what it is, but feel led to believe that he is not far from the kingdom of God, for he says he has been uplifted by praying.

Dear Undecided Brother: The Scriptures say in 1 John 3:14, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." This is one thing that those who are unsaved cannot do in a spiritual or scriptural way. You say you wonder whether you were ever converted or not. This might be because of conversion at a young and tender age before sin had got a grip on you and it was an easy matter to accept Christ at that time, perhaps you haven't improved your talent nor lived up to your opportunities. Perhaps you have not developed the talent God has given you and you feel the remorse that a child feels after disobeying his earthly parent.

If you have earnestly sought the Lord thru prayer and believed to the acceptance of His Spirit, it seems in my opinion that you are in a saved condition. God forbid that I should lead you to misunderstand, but read your Bible prayerfully and carefully; Christ's words will tell you better than any one else. "Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life and they are they which testify of me" (Jn. 5:39) Read Paul's letter to the Hebrews, (Continued on next page)

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

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

Answer No. 4.

(Continued from page 15)

perhaps you can get light from that.

Hoping and praying that this may be instrumental in helping you to find yourself, and that others may also be helped, and none be harmed.

Prayerfully yours in Christ,

X Y Z

Answer No. 5, Buffalo, Mo.

Dear Undecided:—I know just where you stand: I stood in the same place just one month. May the Lord bless you. I believe that the Lord has pardoned your sins and you are failing to reach out and receive the blessings He has for you. God blesses folks that do things for Him. Please read Luke 11:24-30. Also Romans 10:10.

I found myself failing to do what the Lord wanted me to do, so my advice to you is to step out and work for the Lord. God will bless you when you are right and condemn you when you are wrong.

May the Lord be with you.

Frank Smith.

Treasures In Heaven

Dear Editor of the Gem—Please give me space to ask this question through the Gem. I am an earnest seeker after truth.

In the Sunday school lesson for February 2nd, in Matt. 6:20 the Lord says, "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." Now, if a Christian should backslide and miss heaven, what will become of the treasures he has laid up in heaven?

An Earnest Seeker after Truth.

Monett—Dear Bro. Brown and all the "Gem Family: Greeting in the Lord.

Being prevented by the cold rain and muddy roads from going to church tonight, I have just finished reading the February issue of the Gem, which reached us Saturday morning. It certainly is an inspiration to read the many good letters from our brothers and sisters in Christ; perhaps more so to us who have had the pleasure of meeting most of the writers.

But, Dear Reader, if your work in the Master's Vineyard does not call you out into the various fields, and enable you to meet the people of the various churches, you have the privilege of becoming acquainted through our paper, which I am thankful for. It is sometimes said, that it is the duty of every Free Will Baptist home to subscribe for the Gem, but I see it as a privilege that we have. Can you picture in your mind what it would be like to be without a live church paper? When we look at it in this light, we should thank God for the Gem, and be glad to avail ourselves of the opportunity of having it come to our home once each month.

If your subscription to the Gem is already paid in advance, wouldn't it be a real gift to send it to some friend? Just think what it would mean to the Subscription List if each one who is now a subscriber would send in a paid up sub. for some one of your friends? Now, I am not asking any one to do something which I haven't already tried.

I began a meeting at Mt. Joy Church, two and one-half miles from Purdy, Mo., on Sunday night of the 4th Sunday in January. Bro. Winford Davis is helping in this meeting. The interest and attendance have been increasing, until tonight, when we were unable to get there, owing to the rain and mud.

May God bless the Gem Family.
Eld. O. T. Allred.