

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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\$1.00 per year.

God's Guidance

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in his way" (Ps. 37:23).

This doesn't say that the steps of a bad man are ordered by the Lord, but the steps of a good man. If we are living for Jesus, we can be assured of the guidance leadership, and protection of God. He certainly dictates to, and advises them that go to Him for such. The prophet said His name should be called "Counselor" (Isa. 9:6). Isn't it strange how we will go to every member of the family, every neighbor, every business man, many times to the wicked, and resort to every source for advice; then at the very last, when there's nothing left to do, we finally come to Christ for counsel. Yes, and there are many that never go to Him at all. If it is good to go to Him at the last, then it would be better to go to Him at first.

Jesus said, "Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth." I think of how the Lord told Phillip to arise and go toward the south (Acts 8:26). Can you imagine Phillip questioning the Lord, "Why, what's the use?" "What's the object in view?" "If you will show me the purpose then I will go."

Truly the poet has said in his song:

"It is not mine to question the judgments of my Lord;
It is but mine to follow the leadings of His word."

Paul said that we walk by faith and not by sight.

I see Phillip as he got up and went at the command of the Lord, knowing that orders from God were never amiss, but could always be relied upon. The result was that God used him in bringing a great man of Ethiopia to Christ; yes Queen Candence's treasurer. Don't you suppose that Phillip praised God when He gave him this victory? Much has been said lately in our religious publications about the conversion of China's president, General Chiang Kai Shek. We can but imagine the feelings of the Rev. Kuang as he asked the president if he desired to accept the Christ, and he answered that he did, and then the pastor proceeded with the baptizing. I imagine that this minister and the president will never forget the morning of October 23rd—something to really praise God for: not something to be exalted over, but something for which to give thanks. Another writer gives us the following: "A negro evangelist, Rev. Carter, was used in healing, through prayer, the little daughter of a high official of China. While Mr. Carter was there the president came in to inquire of the girl's condition. Mr. Carter began exhorting him to repent. The president's wife said, "You must not talk that way to my husband; he is the president of China." Mr. Carter replied, "In the sight of God he is a sinner like any other man." Who knows but what this statement had just as much to do with the conversion of China's president as any other. Let us trust

that these 450,000,000 will follow this act of their leader in accepting the One and only true God.

Abraham was led out into a country, and Paul says in Heb. 11th chapter, "Not knowing whither he went;" but he answered the call, and how he was blessed is beyond explanation. Any one will be blessed who will heed God's leadings. Sure Abraham had times of great anxiety and perplexity, times when the mountain seemed almost too steep, moments when there was scarcely a hand hold to grasp; but all was well and turned out well, because the Creator was leading and the creature following.

Rebekah started out following the servant to Isaac—all she knew to do was to follow the servant—it made no difference how he went, through what he went, or over what he went, she was to follow. Typically speaking we are Rebekah the bride; the Holy Spirit is the servant; Christ is Isaac the Bridegroom. But before Rebekah started she gave her own consent to the servant and said, "I will go" (Gen. 24:58). Now the question is, will we follow? The Spirit may lead us to denials, sacrifices, through dark places:

"Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my omnipotent hand."
"The soul that on Jesus doth lean for repose;
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;

That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake; I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

The last verse in William Cullen Bryant's "Ode to a Water-fowl" gives me an inspiration: "He who from zone to zone

Guides through the boundless sky thy certain flight,
In the long path that I must tread alone,

Will lead my steps aright."

The Lord may lead you to preach the Gospel; the Lord may lead you to accept salvation; the Lord may lead you to help some poor minister of the Gospel; the Lord may lead you to do personal work; the Lord may lead you to unite with the church; the Lord may lead you to quit that sinful habit; the Lord may lead you to subscribe for the Gem; the Lord may lead you to give \$200.00 to the Gem office. Will we stop and question Him? or will we obey?

Yours for Jesus and the cause,
Winford Davis.

DISCUSSION

(Continued from last issue)

The Church of God continues to advance more and more toward the perfect day. We have proved that the church existed before the flood, and afterward we read in Acts 7:38, "This is he that was in the church in the wilderness, with the angel which spake to him in Mt. Sina: and with our fathers who received the lively oracles to give unto us." Where we have plain facts and can open the Bible and read of the church in the wilderness, and Moses in the church, and with every officer they needed to carry on the work of the church, it doesn't look like men would deny the existence of that God blessed family. They loved God; they were looking to the coming of One who would deliver them from some of the things that had become burdensome; and the reader will note carefully how

the change came about.

Elder Black said to me, "These things are passed, why fool with them?" When I read to Mr. Black and that great congregation of people from Acts 7:38, "This is he that was in the church in the wilderness," it was hard for him to deny, so hard that he did not at present deny it. There was the church with its officers, and keeping the commandments and statutes of the God of heaven. I thank God for the ones who lived the lives that they lived in that day.

We will now ask the readers to note Heb. 8:8-10, "For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah. Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt: they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws in their mind, and write them in their hearts, and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people." Note that the New Covenant was given to the house of Israel, the same people that God made the covenant with when He led them out of Egypt. They were God's people, and were delivered from these commandments of the law; that is all that was contrary to them, "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were made under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Gal. 4:4-5). Note that those people were redeemed from under the law; may the Lord help the readers to see the people that once received a covenant that God gave them and led

them out of Egypt, and who later received a new covenant. Thank God that they can with this covenant read the law of God, for it is written in their hearts, and every man can be taught by it.

We will notice when this new covenant was given. We have proved that it was given to the house of Israel, and now we must know when it was given. "It shall come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow into it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people, and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Oh, house of Jacob, come ye and let us walk in the light of the Lord" (Isa. 2:2-5). Praise God for the time when He will bring to pass the prophecy and give the New Covenant to His people who love and serve Him.

We will note that there is a difference in the mountain of the Lord's house and the house. The house is the church, the mountain of the Lord's house is the law that governs the house. The word of the Lord shall go out from Jerusalem. Well, when the disciples were told by Christ to go to Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father. They went and were tarrying or waiting; and there were dwelling at Jerusalem, Jews, devout men out of every nation under heaven. What a great meeting took place at

(Continued on page 11)

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Eld. B. F. Brown, *Editor*.

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

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We are always glad to receive articles, letters, reports, etc. from our readers for publication in the Gem, along any line that will help the cause.

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THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

A Great Opportunity

On page 15 you will find an announcement by Bro. W. H. York, announcing his contract or agreement with a Chicago publishing house. This gives us an opportunity that we cannot afford to neglect.

I understand that the \$1000.00 is already deposited in a Chicago bank, to be turned over to us when we have sent in 1000 subscriptions to their paper at 25 cents each. Can you find a Free Will Baptist who cares so little for the welfare of our denominational work that he wouldn't give 25 cents for a sub to the magazine, knowing that it will bring \$1.00 into our State fund to be used in the support of our work?

Bro. Allred and Bro. Davis are already talking this proposition and it is being well received by all who have had a change to consider it. Can't you get up a club and send in to Bro. York? We are offering the Gem at 75 cents along with the magazine, both papers one year for only \$1.00. In other words, if you subscribe for the Gem at \$1.00 per year, we will pay your sub to the "Mothers Home Life" magazine, so you may send your combination sub to us and we'll forward it to the magazine.

Something We Appreciate—

We have often been made glad because some one remembered us with a little token of friendship or appreciation. Our little tokens of love and friendship for each other are the things which enrich our lives and endear us to each other. On page 7 of this issue of the Gem you will find a letter from Sister Lina Claxton, in which she tells of some of her experiences. She relates her hospital experience and states that she is again able to do her cooking. We know that she is able to cook, for along about April first she baked a nice big Angel Food cake and sent it to us, and we are glad and thankful for the same. Every time we ate a piece of it we thought of her and the spirit that prompted her to remember us with such a nice cake.

About Our Revival Meeting—

The meeting is being held at the Methodist church in Purdy and Sister Lizzie McAdams is doing the preaching. We say "Our Revival" because it is a union meeting. The attendance is good, the interest is good, and Christians are being revived, but we haven't seen as many saved as we want to see saved. Four came to the altar last night (Tuesday night) and prayed through, and two were saved Monday night. Some of them came through shouting. Counting those reclaimed and those saved at prayer meetings, sixteen have been saved. There will be only five more night services, for the meeting is to close Sunday night, but we are hoping for the salvation of many more, for at last there is a real revival spirit awakened.

The Childhood of Christ

By Mrs. Asberry Davis

It seems as though we have but little record of the life of our Lord Jesus from the time of His birth until the time of His baptism. St. Luke gives us a glimpse into His childhood life in the 2nd chapter of his Gospel, running from verse 40 to verse 52. This is interesting because it is almost all we have of the childhood of Jesus. We have in the verses referred to the account of Joseph and Mary leaving Jesus behind in Jerusalem at the close of the feast of the Passover, and traveling for an entire day, on the supposition that the young child was with the kinsfolk and in the homeward bound company, but when night came on they were startled to find that they were mistaken; that Jesus was not found in the company. Oh, how much like a mother that was to become anxious and turn back in search of her child; for it was the least of Mary's intentions to leave Jesus behind. Nothing was farther from her than to leave Him behind. Mary knew that Jesus was of a miraculous birth, that He had no earthly father. She had learned from the annunciation angel that He was the fulfillment of a long line of prophecy.

Mary not only loved Jesus as a son, but she loved and revered him as the Savior of men, sent of God into the world on a mission of salvation. Mary would not intentionally have gone out of Jerusalem on her homeward journey, leaving Jesus behind under any circumstances, but she believed that He was with the kinsfolk, and took the risk of traveling on a supposition; in other words, in a hurry to keep up with the crowds and relatives, she was not as careful as she should have been to make sure that Jesus was with her. For this hurry she suffered deep anxiety and self reproach, just like lots of us do when we get in a hurry and try to rush God's plans through in our own way.

But when evening came on and they found that He was not in the company, they at once, in eager haste, retraced their steps back to Jerusalem and for three days they sought for Jesus. It is easy for us to picture their distress and the eagerness with which they hastened to those places where they thought they would most likely find Him. Now isn't that just like a mother? With quickened steps, and searching eyes they walked the streets, looking into the market places, searching among groups of playing children. I expect Mary, as most all loving mothers, ate but very little and slept but little; but searching late at night and at the dawn of early morning, with aching heart. No doubt she determined that never again would she travel on a mere supposition that Jesus was in the crowd, but would know positively that He was with her.

Is it not true that many of us who have found Jesus as Savior, or rather we have been found of Jesus as a good shepherd, seeking his lost sheep. We have believed in Him, we have found in Him a wonderful Savior, we have loved him, we have journeyed with Him along the road of life, but is it not true that sometimes we have gone off with the crowd and left Jesus behind? have there not been times when we wanted to keep up with the kinsfolk, or run with the crowd, or keep in the fashion?

Maybe we sought beyond our means, robbed God of His tenth, and strutted around with a coat or dress that we stole from God. We cut down what should have gone for missions to carry the Gospel to those for whom Jesus died, in order to keep up with the crowd that is running away from Christ. What about us anyway? Who are we and where are we? How are we living? What are we doing? Is Jesus with us? Do we know that we have in Him a present personal Savior? Have we that assurance that He saves us from our sins, that if death should call us, would we be ready to meet Him with praise?

Suppose we pause a moment, wait a while upon our knees, perhaps look into our own hearts; have we the Christ, or have we hurried off after something and left Him behind? Time will not be wasted in serious thought on this subject; if for any cause we should discover His absence, let us make haste as did His mother to find Him, to search everywhere and never be content until again we behold the Master in His love and mercy and feel within our hearts that we are fully restored to the loving embrace of His redeeming power.

A HABIT

By Eld. J. I. Branstetter

Since I started to school, which was about 18 years ago, I have continuously heard and read about habits. How that we should not form bad habits, but instead we should form good habits. Particularly have we read of this in regard to Physiology and Hygiene.

First, I want to speak of habits in general. In my way of thinking and looking at the subject of "Habits," I have come to the conclusion that habits are entirely a wrong thing to have. No doubt that seems queer to many of us.

Let's think of "Spiritual Habits." When we were children at home we were taken to church at most every convenient opportunity. We have been trained to go regularly to church. Now, I want to say that we should all go to church at every chance. But what good do we get out of going because it is a habit? If we go because we have a habit of going our part of the service will be formality, because we went by force of habit. We should not go to church as a habit, but because we feel deep down in our hearts that we owe it to our God, our fellow-man, and to ourselves. We do not go about our daily occupation as a force of habit, but we toil and labor because of the obligations we have to meet, to take care of the necessities of life, pleasure, and to lay up something for the future.

Paul says, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel." We all know that it is either work, steal, or starve. The Bible plainly tells us we must also labor in the kingdom of our God.

Habit in our religious worship is promoting formality: and formality has almost completely taken our day. We should not kneel to pray because of a habit, but because we feel that we should humble ourselves to the greatest extent we know how to call upon God. Keep habits and formality out of our worship and in its stead let humbleness and the Holy Spirit prevail.

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FROM THE FIELD

Blue Eye, Mo

Dear Gem Readers:—As I sit here thinking of the work carried on by our churches, I wonder how many of us Gem Readers attend Sunday School regularly. I think this is one of the most important duties of the Christian and church member. Not only those, but every one should attend Sunday School, to be taught more about our Savior who suffered and died for you and me.

Now in this way I think we should show our respect to our Savior, by trying to learn more of His blessed truths that He has left for us in our Holy Book, the Bible.

Our nation, as a whole, is not obeying one of the commandments which says, remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8) This is one of the things Christ has told us to do. Oh, are we doing it?

Our Sunday School at the Mount Olive Church, Blue Eye, Mo. is doing fine I think, but there is still much room for improvement, which we as church members should strive to help do.

I trust that each of us will resolve that in the future we will attend Sunday School regularly, to learn of our blessed Redeemer.

A lover of Sunday School work,
Viola Dodgen.

Blue Eye, Mo.

(Mount Olive Church)

Dear Gem Readers:—I am a new reader of the Gem, and also a member of the Free Will Baptist church here at Blue Eye. I have been thinking seriously about writing something for the Gem, but could not decide just what to write but after reading the Gem for a while, have decided to write about the Ladies' Mission Circle.

We have twenty-two working

members, all alive and ready to work for our dear Lord, I am proud to say.

We are thanking God for our good prayer meetings that we have here in Blue Eye. We thank God for the young folks that help carry on God's work. Can say we have a fine Sunday School with good crowds. We have something over 200 members in our church, some good workers for God here in Blue Eye.

I thank God for his precious promises, and, Oh, God of mercy, help us as parents to so live that we will not be ashamed to have our children follow in our footsteps.

I'm determined by the grace of God to see the end of a Christian race, and, as a sister has said, I want to so live, that when this earth can no longer afford me a home, I can say with Paul of old, "I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith." I ask an interest in all your prayers.

A sister in Christ,
Mrs Wilburn Taylor.

—o—

Hartville, Mo.

Dear Gem Readers:—I have just been reading the Gem, and glad to say that in reading the many good things our little paper contains, makes our hearts broaden out spiritually, and we feel much elevated in the cause of Christ. I am so glad to say this morning that I am still traveling the upward way, praying each day that my feet might be planted on higher ground.

I am glad to report that we are still having prayer meetings in Wolf Creek neighborhood. Last Wednesday night we met at Bro. Kingsley Findley's. As the people gathered, you could feel a spiritual warmth hovering down. It seemed that every one gathered there, came with no other view than to take part in the service. Many good old sacred songs were sung, many uplifting prayers were prayed, and old time hand shake

and rejoicing on account of the Holy Spirit being one in our midst.

Our Sunday School last Sunday was fine. A large attendance, good singing, and every one seemed much interested in studying God's word. Dear Christian readers, pray for the little Free Will Baptist church on Wolf Creek, that it may, over all opposing power, bear the cross, stay humble and true, and stand as a light and be the means of drawing many closer to God on account of its spiritual rays being shed forth in a Christian love for one another.

May the Lord bless the readers of the Gem, and its worthy editor and wife. I ask an interest in all your prayers.

Your sister in Christ,
Emma Pryor.

Report of Cavespring Q. M.

Cavespring Third Quarterly Meeting convened with Many Island Church March 28, 1931.

After electing Elder Billie Rodgers moderator, Elder Milo Stanley assistant, E. L. Brewer reading clerk the regular routine of business was taken up with the receiving of one new church (Shilo) and the licensing of one new and young preacher (Harry H. Beatty of Thayer Mo.) Two-thirds of our churches were represented—as cold as the day was—and we had a good meeting from start to close.

At the 11 o'clock service Elder Beatty and Elder Rodgers filled the stand, after which dinner was served.

At night the stand was filled by Elders Harbison and Dunkin. Communion and feet-wrshing were engaged in.

On Sunday, the stand was filled by Elders Beatty and Dunkin, and while the sunshine warmed things outside the house, God's love warmed hearts within, and we had a real feast of love, after which dinner was spread and we had

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FROM THE FIELD

MIAMI, OKLAHOMA

(Notch Mound F. W. B. Church)

Dear Readers of the Gem: I have been thinking for some time of sending a report of our new church to the Gem, so will write a few lines this morning.

I am glad to say that this church is still in existence and is coming right along. They have a good Sunday school at 10:00 a. m. and prayer meeting on Thursday night. I was elected as pastor for six months. My appointment being the first Saturday night, Sunday and Sunday night in each month. This is the first church I ever had the care of, so you (pastors) especially know that I need help and much prayer.

This church is in its infancy, but prospects are good for a large membership. Some of the members are my school mates and acquaintances.

When my father and I first came to this place we certainly had a struggle. It seemed almost useless to try, but by feeling impressed of God, we battled on with much prayer and fasting, with a few others, until a great revival spirit swept over the community and, Oh, what a different place it is! Well I am proud of what God has done and what He is still doing for those who will lift their eyes and look on the fields. The harvest truly is great but the laborers are few.

So I'll close, sending an invitation to the Free Will Baptist to come to Notch Mound and help us. This church is 2 1-2 miles north of Centralia, Oklahoma. Will say in addition that they are a friendly bunch of people.

Elda Crain, Pastor.

CUSHING, OKLA., April 20.

Dear Bros. and Sisters in Christ: We are writing to tell you of the wonderful times we are having

here. Yesterday we spent with the Vance Chapel church in a Sunday School Rally. Drumright and some of the Tulsa Sunday school were with us. The program was great, a real blessing to all. May God bless Bro. Horner in his Sunday school work.

We at Cushing have had a lot of sickness among our members lately, but most of them are better at present. Our pastor, Bro. B. H. Perkins, was called away on his work, and we miss him a great deal. He has been away almost a month now, but the Lord has blessed us with Sister Perkins. One week ago yesterday she preached to the church. Subject, "Let your Light Shine." This was a wonderful sermon. Last Sunday night she brought us a wonderful message and four souls were saved.

Our churches spent Easter, or most of the day, at Drumright. Just here I want to speak of our children; I am very much interested in children's work, and was with them a great deal while practicing on our Easter program.

One of our sisters, with three of her little girls, had a car accident; but they were not badly hurt, for which we are very thankful. The news came to us while working on our program at the church. These little girls had important parts, so of course I was worried, not only because of the program, but we love them all a great deal. One little girl came to me and said, "Mrs. Waltman, give me Elva's part and I will learn it. I do hope that she is not hurt so bad that she cannot be in the program, but if I learn it, we can go right on." Now wasn't that fine? May God bless this little girl's life. I only wish we had more grown folks who would show this good spirit. Juanita has been just this way for the last five years. We have worked together. She is one of a lot of fine girls and boys at Cushing.

We are looking forward to the first of May, when the mission workers will all meet with us at Cushing. We hope to have a wonderful time, and of course we will. Now may God bless all His people everywhere.

Pray for us here at Cushing, especially for our children, that we might be able to win them all for Jesus; for this is the great desire of our hearts.

Your sister in Christ,
Mae Waltman.

—o—

BUCYRUS, MO., April 13, 1931

Dear Readers of the Gem: I will write a few lines again, that you may know that we are still in the land of the living, enjoying salvation and health. I have the care of four churches: Oak Grove, Pleasant Hill, Pleasant Grove, and Mt. Olive. All are doing fine. Sometimes I become discouraged, but considering these last days, there are a goodly number of Spirit-filled folks in each of these churches. My prayer and heart's desire is, that I may so preach the Word by precept and example, and with power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit that I might be instrumental in God's hand in helping these people home to God.

I often think of our State Meeting at Norman Church. The sweet communion and fellowship we had there with our beloved brethren. I haven't space here to greet each of them by name, but when you see this letter, remember I have a heart full of love for all of you. God bless you all my dear brethren. Pray for me, that I may ever be humble.

I see a pencil mark in my Gem, so here is my renewal, and I am sending one new sub.

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

Subscribe for your denominational paper, "The Free Will Baptist Gem."

5th Sun. Meeting Announcement.

A Fifth Sunday Meeting of the Indian Creek Association will be held with the Centralia F. W. B. Church at Centralia, Oklahoma.

The meeting will begin at 9:30 a. m. Saturday, May 30, 1931, and continue over Sunday, May 31st. You are invited to attend these services and enjoy a few of the many blessings from God.

May we all put forth a special effort and make these services long to be remembered because of the out pouring of God's blessings, and the saving of souls.

Eld. J. A. Posey, Moderator
Luther Mayberry, Clerk.

HARTVILLE, MO., April 8, 1931

Dear Editor and Gem Readers: It has been so long since I have tried to write to you that perhaps you have forgotten me, but I am glad to say that I am still living on the hallelujah side of life and having some wonderful experiences; and my object in telling you some of them is that if you are ever placed in the condition I was in that it might help you to think.

First I will say that I was 70 years old on the 12th day of September, 1930, and the last of Nov. I was taken sick. My husband called the Dr. who put medicine in my arm and gave me ease for a short time, but we soon had to call him again, and he had my husband to put ice to my side. We tried this for one week, and on the seventh day, when the Dr. came, he said the only chance was to have an operation; so on the 8th day of December they took me to the St. James Hospital at Springfield, Mo. There I underwent an operation for appendicitis, and was there for three weeks. A part of the time I was as helpless as a babe. It was then that I began to experience more and of His love, and that I was wholly dependent on Him who said all power in heaven and on earth was

given unto Him. I tried to keep my mind stayed on Him and His promises which I had committed to memory. I would think them over and over and even at night I could look through my window and see the little stars and then I could say the little poem:

Twinkle, twinkle little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Then I thought of David when he said, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the Son of man, that thou visitest him?" Sometimes the clouds would hide the stars from my sight and then I could see the beautiful snow in the morning on the house tops that called my mind to Isaiah 1:18, "Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." They were all so kind to me: the old Sisters of Charity would come at all times of the night to see how I was getting along, and would lay her hand on mine and would say, "Have courage dear," and Christmas night Santa Claus came and stood by my bedside and talked to me and when he turned to go, he said, "Hang up your stocking, I will be back at midnight." So one of my boys came in to visit me and I told him to hang up my stocking, and he did, and Santa came and put quite a number of things in my stocking, among them was a doll. They played like I was a child, and it sure did bring back to my memory how father and mother used to like to do things like that to please the children. I suppose it was about 7:30 o'clock that a lady came to my room and asked me if I liked band music. "Yes" I said, "if it is sacred." She said, "Will it excite you?" "No, not at all." So the Boy Scout Band began playing "Holy Night." Oh, it was beautiful! Little boys from 8 to 16 years old.

Of course I could not see them; they were on the first floor and I was on the second, but I could hear them very plainly. Then I thought of that old song, "Let music cheer me last on earth, and greet me first in heaven." Oh, how wonderful heaven must be!

I came home on the 26th of Dec. The night before I left several nurses and a lady friend, Mrs. Johnson, came in when I was eating my last supper, and it brought back to my mind when Jesus ate His last supper with His disciples. What did He do next? The nurses all said they did not know, but Mrs. Johnson said, "He washed the disciples' feet."

I got so many Christmas cards and letters, then I could think of so many things that Paul wrote to encourage the disciples to be faithful. Some ministers and even some of their wives came to visit with me amid the pain and suffering of this old body, and I certainly did get a blessing again and again.

A few days ago my husband and I were talking about the Poor Farm and we had known of some good people who had to go there to die, and I told him that if I had to go there I would go with a smile and try to be cheerful, and make those that were there happy by telling them about the beautiful mansion that Jesus has gone to prepare for those that love and obey Him. He has been so good to me to prolong my life, and now I am at home, able to do my cooking.

I hope I have not worried you with this. I pray that God will put it into the hearts all Free Will Baptist families to subscribe for the Gem, and make it a weekly.

May God's richest blessings rest upon the editor and his wife in their great work here on earth, and then may they have a home in heaven.

With love to all,

Lina Claxton.

REPORT OF CAVESPRING Q. M.

(Continued from page 5)

a feast of the eats prepared by the good people of Many Island.

Our next Quarterly Meeting will convene with Shilo church, four miles west of Alton, Missouri on Saturday before the 5th Sunday in May, 1931. Our last meetings have been real interesting ones, and we ask your prayers that we may have a continuation of the same.

Yours in Christ,

Elder Billie Rodgers, Moderator,
J. R. W. Harbison, Clerk.

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Report of Fifth Sunday Meeting

The Fifth Sunday Meeting of March 29th, 1931 was held with the South Picher Free Will Baptist church at Picher, Oklahoma, Bro. T. E. L. Curry, moderator.

The services were opened with some old time, soul stirring songs, and we were led in prayer by Bro. W. B. Tipton and Bro. L. Mayberry.

At eleven o'clock a. m. the stand was filled by Bro. W. B. Tipton, who delivered a soul stirring message. All enjoyed the morning service and we were dismissed by Bro. Heard.

A basket dinner was served on the ground and enjoyed by all. Bro. J. A. Posey returned thanks at the meal.

We were called together again at two o'clock for the song and prayer service.

Bro. J. A. Posey filled the stand at this time and delivered an old-time soul-stirring message. It surely made us all feel that it was good to be there.

After this service we all enjoyed an old-time prayer and testimony service. Many testified to the goodness of God, and the joys of salvation. We were dismissed by an old-time soldier of the cross that is enjoying the blessings from God, Bro. Frank Tipton.

We are to meet with the Centralia F. W. B. church at Centralia Okla. Saturday May 30, 1931 at 9:30 a.

m. Bro. J. A. Posey was elected moderator for May 30, 1931.

T. E. L. Curry, moderator,
L. Mayberry, Clerk.

NIANGUA, MISSOURI

Dear Readers of the Gem:—This beautiful Monday morning with the help of God, I will write a few lines to our Gem.

After being blessed with the privilege of attending our church again Saturday night and Sunday, and hearing two wonderful sermons preached by Elder Selph Jones, I surely felt that it was good to be there and was wonderfully blessed. May God help his children to live closer to Him. May we be able to say as did Samuel, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth."

I realize this morning that God has a work for each one of us to do. Then may we not fail to do this work.

May God bless all his ministers everywhere. I thank God for the word as it was preached unto me, and I do not regret that I heard his call. May God help us all to live for Him. Pray for me and my home.

Lois Deckard.

SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

F. W. B. Sunday School

It has been some time since I have written about our Sunday School at 611 Rutger Street.

We have a fine school of boys and girls. Our S. S. has held up pretty well this winter, tho we have had lots of sickness, yet we can be thankful that the Lord has spared our lives. We are looking ahead to accomplish greater things for the Lord. We have good teachers. Our church services are good, and the Lord still reigns in the lives of his people. Bro. C. Miller is our pastor. Our church was full Sunday night, and we heard a fine sermon. Our prayer meetings are well attended, and the interest is fine. We have started home Bible reading and we go from house to house and

study the Bible. We have taken up the book of Genesis and have found it very interesting digging up things hid in the Word, which we would not have found just reading it over, but when you get to studying things it is different.

The young people held their meeting Monday night, and elected officers for the next six months. Interest was keen, there were from three to four for every office, and these are the ones that were elected: Willie Hughes, Prssident, Noa Stacy, 1st Vice President; Harvy Hill, 2nd Vice President; Leonard White, 3rd Vice President; Nellie Langley, Treasurer; Opal Hughes Secretary; Sister Cox, Organist. F. McCauley was elected Corresponding Secretary for the paper, and I will try to keep our young people's work in the paper, so other unions can see how we are getting along.

Francis McCauley, S. S. Supt.,
911 Rutger St.

When you hate sin, it ceases to be a temptation.

The only thing in all God's creation that is vile is man.

If all the members of the church that you belong to were just like you, what kind of a church would it be.

All young people have a right to look up to old people for the right kind of an example. Old people, what are you doing about it? Wake up!

We can't be blameless, but, praise God, we can be faultless.

If you want others to be good, be good yourself.

Allow no one to live better than you do, if you know it.

FREE WILL BAPTIST LEAGUE

John Swaffar, Reporter

Are You Trying?

Dear Leaguers:—There seems to be a slight misunderstanding concerning the "Honor Roll" This is for the individual members of the Leagues. The secretary must keep a record of each member, and those that have a perfect record from March 1st until May 31st will be placed on the "Honor Roll."

I know of several leaguers who are trying hard to get on the Honor Roll, and I am hoping we will have a long list of names for June.

If you don't remember the rules for this, just get your February number of the Gem and look about the middle of page fifteen and read all about the "Honor Roll."

Presidents, Sponsors and League Promoters, tell your leagues about this Honor Roll and arouse their interest. Even the Juniors will be aroused and working hard to be among the number who have the perfect record.

We don't just want a long list of names for the "Honor Roll" but we are striving for a strong band of young Christians who will help carry on the Christian work for Jesus. So let us encourage the Leaguers, until they become interested in the work and we are all better able to do that which God has called us to do.

Noel Turner, President.

Report of Norman League

We are thankful to report that we are still improving in our League Work.

We use the quarterlies, and it seems as tho the lessons get more interesting all the time.

The little folks are especially to be praised for their regular attendance and excellent preparation of the lessons. They especially stress the need of each one knowing their

parts, so they will not have to read them off, and they have had good success. We find it makes the program more interesting to the audience.

We do not make paying the dues compulsory, but we think it is an important part. We had enough dues on hand to buy our quarterlies and some left over, which was given to help pay for a light for the church.

Asking your prayers for our League and for more and better Leagues we are

Sincerely yours,
Howard Blankenship,
President of Norman League.

Report of Blue Eye League

As there has been only one report of our League sent in, I thought I would write a brief report to our paper, so other League members and Gem readers may see where we stand as a League.

Our League is doing some very good work, but along with this work there is room for improvement. We are going forth in our work the way we think it will be most pleasing to God, and in the way it will strengthen and help the young people, as they try to do the work God assigns them each day.

We have had five new members since the last report.

The following four were seniors: Bill Matlock, Ralph Rhysinger, Eilene Cox and Mae Davis. Paulene McFall is a junior, making our senior enrollment sixty-eight, and the junior enrollment twenty-six. Total ninety-four. We have four groups of juniors and four groups of seniors under four group captains.

We are proud of our League and its work. I hope I can make a report of more and better work being done in the next month than in this one.

Darline Yochum,
Secretary.

Report of Macedonia League

On this 13th day of April I will attempt to write a few lines concerning our League. I sure do enjoy reading the reports from the different leagues, and I feel sure that every one does.

I wish the world was filled with more young people's organizations. Folks, these organizations mean more than we realize, I'm afraid. Through the efforts we put forth in our leagues, (or whatever title our organization goes by) we are learning the Bible, training ourselves to appear before the public, developing our speech and in numerous other ways we are being benefitted. The Bible says "Launch out." (Luke 5:4). I recommend the League as a suitable place to "launch out."

Let's picture some one that is somewhat backward and timid, and afraid to trust himself when it comes to standing before an audience. If you can get him to join your group of young people, and begin by assigning him a part each week, encouraging him, pushing him gradually into deeper water, taking care to help him in every way you can, if that person is really anxious, and feels that sooner or later he must perform a duty, you will see him launching out, studying hard, preparing the lesson, so he can can tell it in his own words. I can say all this from self experience. Our League has played a great part in causing me to take up my duty.

I wish we had more people like the Bible character Phillip, who was ready and willing to move when the Holy Spirit spoke. I wish every one who can would read the topic in our last lesson (April 12). Those who do not have the League Quarterly read Acts 8:5-40. If we were all like Phillip, we could turn the whole world for God in a very short time. Let's pray that our Leagues may be the cause of many people becoming like Phillip.

Kenneth Turner.

Report of Committee on the Budget System

Missouri State Association, October, 1930.

We, your Committee on the Budget System, submit the following report:

Seeing the great need of a better financial system for our beloved denomination; we have called on God to lead us to formulate a plan that our people will grasp and put into operation. After much prayer, work, and conferring with our strong men and women in the service, we feel led to ask each church and pastor to call for a volunteer offering from each member, not less than ten cents each, and as much more as the individual feels led of God to give. Never convey the idea in the Budget System that the individual must give. Let each pastor present this plan to his congregation in the spirit of love.

We also recommend that each church send half of their budget to their local Association, and half to the State Association.

It will take time to get this plan before our people; so we must not be impatient, but pray and let God work out the plan.

Committee { Lizzie McAdams
Winford Davis
E. E. Winfree

The Acre Plan

Folks, how bad do you want to be of some help to our denominational work? Bad enough to plant a small crop in its interest this spring? If I should come to you for the cash, you might say, "I haven't got the money," but you can't say that on this proposition, for this doesn't take money. You can't say, "I haven't time," for most of us have more time than anything else.

You ministers who live on a farm, why don't you get in on this and urge your church to do the same? I know this is something you can do, if you will. Time is limited, spring will soon be here; make up your mind about that old spot of ground that has laid out so long, and write me at once.

You can plant any amount and any variety of crop you wish. Some I know are planting a part of their garden, some as much as an acre, some a half acre, etc. Or, if it suits you better, you can make a pledge to be paid by October 1, 1931. It takes finance to carry on the cause of Christ, will you help raise it?

The list so far is as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Joey Turner and sons | Noel & Rupert, | Granby, Corn |
| Eld. O. T. Allred, | Monett, | Sweet potatoes |
| Eld. Winford Davis, | Monett, | Sorghum cane |
| Eld. Kenneth Turner, | Monett, | Sorghum cane |
| Eld. G. A. Garner, | Stella, | Corn |
| Mrs. B. F. Brown, | Purdy, | Potatoes |
| Clarabelle Roberts, | Aurora, | Potatoes |

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Mrs. Lizzie Turner, | Carterville, | A quilt |
| Johannie Swaffar, | Purdy, | Tomatoes & potatoes |
| Herman Finn, | Monett, | Sorghum cane |
| E. O. Callen, | Blue Eye, | Potatoes |
| Erskil Henderson & wife, | Purdy | Beans |
| Austin Humbard & wife, | Blue Eye, | Potatoes |
| Mrs. W. B. Niskern, | Wheaton, | Pledge, \$2.50 |
| Jones Chapel Mission Circle, | | A quilt |
| Mrs. Brendlinger, | Monett, | Potatoes |

Prayerfully submitted,

Eld. Winford Davis

OUR SONG BOOKS

Our 1931 Song Book, "Crowning Hymns No. 11," is now ready to ship. It contains 224 pages and retails at 35c per copy; \$3.50 per dozen; \$7.00 per 25; \$24.00 per 100 postpaid, 30 or more at 100 rate.

Our new Church and Sunday School book, "Sing Unto Him," is also ready to ship.

We think it the greatest achievement of our whole career as music publishers. In its preparation we have associated with us such well known men as Charley D. Tillman, H. N. Lincoln, Jas. C. Moore, and L. E. Edwards, who have published and sold millions of song books.

The book is well bound in heavy manilla, contains 350 songs, price 45c per copy; sample 35c; \$4.50 per dozen; \$8.50 per 25; \$30.00 per 100, postpaid, 30 or more at 100 rate

"Our Little Evangel," bound in heavy manilla, contains 118 songs, at 15c per copy; \$1.75 per doz.; \$3.25 per 25; \$10.00 per 100 postpaid, 30 or more at the 100 rate.

We also have Quartet and Duet books, Sacred and Comic, at 25c per copy; 5 for \$1.00 postpaid.

Our "Paradise of Praise," a well bound book, containing 201 songs suitable for religious services of any kind. Because this book is printed with round notes, we are offering it at 15c per copy; \$1.50 per dozen; \$10.00 per 100 postpaid, 30 or more at the 100 rate. This is a bargain for those who like round notes.

THE OZARK MUSIC CO., Purdy, Mo., Box 94

An Invitation

We will have Mothers' Day program and dinner on the ground at our Blue Eye Church the second Sunday in May: also Communion and Feet Washing services at night.

We will have baptizing services and dinner on the ground at our Macedonia Church the third Sunday in May: also Communion and Feet Washing at night.

Come and enjoy both these days with us.

Winford Davis, Pastor.

DISCUSSION

(Continued from page 2)

Jerusalem! There it was that the church received the New Covenant; when the word of the Lord went out from Jerusalem, and seventeen different nationalities heard the apostles speak boldly in the name of Jesus Christ. On this date of A. D. 33, the Church of God or Christ received the New Covenant. The church traveled through the ages, looking by faith for the coming Christ. "Husbands love your wives as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it." Think, could you die for your wife if you had no wife? Jesus Christ died for the church; He had said to the apostle Peter, "Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). I would have the readers to keep in mind that Eld. Black was trying to tear down what I was building up. It was like a butting sheep I heard of once, that a family kept. She was butting at most everything that was loose; so to oust the sheep, they hung a maul in the hallway of the barn; so the old sheep came through and saw the maul, and began butting, and butted and butted until she butted her brains out, and the maul kept swinging. Listen folks, the church of God has come through the ages up to the present time. Men have fought against it, but it stands. Why does it stand? Because it is built upon the Foundation of the prophets and apostles, Jesus being the chief corner stone.

Eld. Black made a display on the words, "I will build my church." He would have the people to believe that the church had its origin in A. D. 33, using the word "will" as future tense. We admitted that the words, "I will" were future tense, but if Jesus were here today He would make the same statement. God,

Christ, and the Holy Spirit had been in the building through all the ages. Think of some of the material they had—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Enoch, Noah, Elijah, David, Joseph, Moses, and those who loved God, who went on to the heavenly home. The word "will" can be used in referring to building until the last piece of material is placed in the building. So God said in Isa. 28:16, "Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone." This stone was first laid in the sermon God preached in Eden when He said, "The seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head."

We are following the church line through the Bible. This is he that was in the church in the wilderness. Six hundred thousand crossed the Red Sea, that were able to bear arms, besides the old men and woman and children. Here in the wilderness is the largest congregation, or body of God's children we read of at any one place. Did those people have Christ back there? They did indeed. They did all eat of that 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" (1 Cor. 10:4). So we see they had a spiritual church in that day God and Christ were in that church. Jesus died for it, to redeem it from under the law, and gave it a new covenant. Listen dear readers, Behold, "a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars" (Rev. 12:1). The Bible says that the moon is the lesser light, the sun the greater light. The woman was figurative of the church; the moon was the old law; the sun was the Holy Ghost dispensation; the twelve apostles were the twelve stars. So we see the church with its bright shiny dress, with a new

covenant, new commandments, new ordinances. Any church that had its origin later than Abel is too young to contain all the redeemed, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one foundation, one body one Spirit, one road that leads to heaven. "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those the way-faring men, though fools, shall not err therein" (Isa. 35:8).

Thank God the church is on the highway, with everything that was contrary to them taken out of the way, and nailed to the cross. I asked Mr. Black if there was a church in the days of Christ and where He put the apostles when He said, "I have chosen you out of the world." He did not take them to heaven, I know He didn't send them to hell, and there were just two places for them to be while living on earth, either in the kingdom of sin or in the kingdom of heaven; and to be in the kingdom of heaven means to be in the church, and to be in the world was to be in the kingdom of sin. Jesus said, "I have chosen you out of the world." So Christ didn't at that time take them to heaven; so He must have put them in the church, and to be in the church means to be saved. To be out of the church means to be lost. By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, and that body is the church (Gal. 1:18). Then if Christ be the head of the church, which He is, and if there was no church until Pentecost, there was a head without a body. Mr. Black did not deny the divinity of Christ through the ages; and as sure as there was a Christ there was a church.

Jesus says, "I have chosen you out of the world" (John 15:19). Where did He put them? In the church. It was the world and the church, so it is now, and the saved

(Continued on page 14)

Obituary

Hopkins—W. P. Hopkins was born in Cumberland County Illinois October 16, 1862, moved with his parents to Cedar County, Mo. in 1883, married to Emma R. Cahill March 4, 1890, died March 18, 1931 at his home 715 N. West St., Nevada, Mo. Such is the short biography of a well known and highly respected citizen whom we are sorry to lose as a friend a brother in the church, and an old neighbor whom every one loved and respected for his pleasant smile and kind ways.

When death comes so sudden, it seems hard to bow in submission to His will and say. "Thou knowest best, Father," but it makes us stop and think more deeply of how "Life is uncertain and death is sure," and makes us want to do better. Today walking and talking among family and friends. Tomorrow, What?

Bro. Hopkins joined the Free Will Baptist church eighteen years ago, and has been a faithful and active member as long as his health permitted. He served as church clerk for several years.

Bro. Hopkins is survived by his wife, four daughters, one son and five grandchildren. One child preceded him to the grave. Those surviving are Mrs. Earnest Eaton Mrs. Harry Downey, Mrs. Glenn Smith, Mrs. Leon Steele of Nevada, Mo. and Homer Hopkins of near Moundville, Mo. He Also had one brother, Tom Hopkins of Arcadia, Kansas. The wife has lost a faithful and loving companion, the children a kind father, the church a faithful member, his friends a true friendship and last, but not least, the little grandchildren will miss their Grandpa. But with all our sorrow we can point beyond this new-made grave to the great beyond and

prepare ourselves, so if the great door opens suddenly, as it did for Bro. Hopkins, we shall meet our loved ones and our Savior, where no death can sever our relations.

The funeral service was held at Terry Funeral Home March 20, 1931 by Rev. David Emery who grew up in the old home neighborhood of Bro. Hopkins.

Soon the dark hours will be over,

Soon the tempest will be past,
Soon we'll meet our dear beloved ones.

And we'll be "at home" at last.

Just awhile we're left to linger,

In this world of grief and pain;
Then we'll meet beyond the river,
Where no tears shall fall again.

A Friend.

Boles—John E. Boles was born in Clay County, Tennessee, February 12, 1854. He came to Illinois during the Civil War, locating in Jefferson County, Illinois.

On July 17, 1878 he married Anna Cook. To this union seven children were born, the oldest, William E. is now living near Sesser, Illinois, the second, Walter, died January 23, 1897, the third, Nancy, now Mrs Burley Ramsey of Glendale, Arizona, the fourth, Edith, now Mrs. John Cook of near Sesser, the fifth, Hattie, now Mrs. Joe Ginar-di of Detroit, Mich., the sixth, John, died Feb. 15, 1929 at the family home near Sesser, and Georgie who died March 2, 1901.

About 1890 Mr. and Mrs. Boles removed to St. Johns, Illinois where they made their home until 1903. They then moved to Franklin County, locating on a farm near Sesser where they remained until April, 1929. After selling their home farm they spent two months in Glendale, Arizona, then returning they made their home with their daughter, Mrs. Edith Cook for about a year, and then removed to Sesser where they have since made their home.

He united with the F. B. Church at Bear Point a number of years ago, and remained a faithful member of this church until his death.

Uncle John, as he was known to almost every one, was a friendly and lovable man, and all who knew him loved and respected him for his honesty, his never failing good nature, and his wise understanding of the affairs of the world. He spent a useful life and was happiest when he was able to work and be about his every day business.

We do not know much of his family back in Tennessee. He had one brother who came to this state with him, and who died near Mulkeytown, Illinois a few years ago. He came here when he was still a boy, coming through with one brother and some other relatives. At least two brothers remained in Tennessee and possibly other relatives there of whom we do not know. One sister at least, of whom we know, came to this state many years ago and settled in Jefferson County, Illinois where she died several years ago.

Like the majority of the early pioneer settlers of Southern Illinois Mr. Boles came from Tennessee, and it was this stock of hardy and trustworthy citizens of Tennessee who adopted Illinois as a home and who have made this great state what it is today. The history of the development of the middle west is largely the history of the individual. From the Carolinas and Virginia the early pioneer came through the gap in the mountains into Tennessee and after a few years there they or their children came on across the country to settle and develop Southern Illinois. The story of one of these is largely the story of all. Theirs has been the privilege and the opportunity to form the Empire that now makes up the great states of the middle west, and theirs has been the thought and opinion that has given to us our schools, our churches, our

roads, and our present standing among the Nations of the Earth.

Uncle John began to fail in health some two years ago, and gradually since then has become weaker day by day. Some two weeks ago he become so weak he was confined to his bed and never recovered, but gradually sank until on March 21, 1931 he sank into the sleep that knows no waking.

He leaves to mourn their loss, his widow, Mrs. Anna Boles, the son and the daughters already mentioned, twelve grandchildren, five great grandchildren, and other relatives and friends.

—o—

Smith—Miss Minnie Dresher was born in Minneapolis, Minn., March 5, 1858 and departed this life February 11, 1931 at the age of seventy-two after a few days' illness from Flu and complications.

For a number of years she had been a resident of Verdella neighborhood, altho for the past five years living at St. Louis, Mo. and Bozeman, Mont. with her children. She was in Bozeman at the time of her death.

She was first married to Mr. James Edwin Coleman. Two children were born to this union. Mr. Coleman died November 23, 1885. Again she married Mr. J. P. Smith, moving into the Verdella community. Two children were born to this union, one dying in infancy. Mr. Smith died December 22, 1908.

Mrs. Smith was converted when a girl of fifteen, and united with the Presbyterian church, afterward she joined the Free Will Baptist church south of Verdella, where she was a member at the time of her death. She leaves to mourn her loss, her daughters, Mrs. Addie Jepson of St. Louis, Missouri, Mrs. Ruth Noel and Mrs. Josephene Sorenson, Bozeman, Montana, one sister living in St. Louis, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Services were conducted at the

South Baptist church by Rev. W. H. York. Interment in Barton City Cemetery.

Mrs. I. F. Ball.

Mansfield, Mo.

Dear Editor and Readers of the Gem:—This is my first time to write to the Gem, tho I have been a reader of the little paper for about three years, and I like the good letters from all the churches. It was through our pastor, Bro. Geo. Scott Jr. that I got my paper the last time.

I am a member of the Free Will Baptist Church at Pleasant Ridge. We are having an evergreen Sunday School at 10 o'clock each Sunday morning, preaching every 4th Sunday in each month, and we also have Young People's League each Sunday night.

All good must grow through battle. The Christian life is a continual struggle to overcome. Jesus is the Bread of Life, just as bread sustains and strengthens the natural body, so Jesus sustains and strengthens the soul. We are a band of Christians, working for our Master.

We are thankful to have Bro. Scott as our pastor, to help keep our little flock of Christians together and keep the good work going on for our Master. We ask the prayers of all Christians who may read our letter to the Gem, for, brothers and sisters, if there ever was a time when prayers were needed it is now. But if we will pray the Lord to keep us sweet at all times we will not have enemies.

Hoping this will miss the waste basket, as it is my first, I am

Your sister in Christ,
Mrs. Lula Crippen.

A Great Revival Now on at Purdy

The revival has just come, and sixteen souls have been saved, and the old-time power is felt all over town. Oh, such wonderful early

prayer meetings at six o'clock in the morning. People are praying at six o'clock each morning for miles around.

The meeting will continue thru this week, and a full report will be given in the next paper.

We will visit Ash Grove one night, then visit Blue Eye and Drumright. These places will be visited and then our next meeting will begin in Earlsboro, Oklahoma the 17th of May. Pray for us.

Yours for Jesus,
H. M. & Lizzie McAdams

Why and How We Should Support the Eighteenth Amendment

By E. O. Callen

The truth is the same no matter what changes of civilization may come; and the same argument against liquors and wines is applicable now as in the days past. The foes of prohibition have nothing new in the way of argument, but they may rearrange some of them. Prohibition was brought to this country by the process of education, and today one of the most effective means by which to fight the liquor traffic is by teaching our boys and girls against the evils of strong drink; and one good way to uphold the Prohibition Amendment is to educate people as to its benefits and the protection it offers to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, as guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States.

Today no person seeks to disprove the facts that science has presented, and students of economic and social conditions have prepared, and when it is demonstrated that alcohol is a poison and that its use dulls the mind. The intellect is dwarfed, homes are broken up, jails are filled, crimes is spread, and individual are caused much suffering as a result of the use of alcohol. These deadly reactions always follow the use of liquor.

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DISCUSSION.

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are in the church. The church set up at Pentecost is four thousand years too young. Then the six hundred thousand that ate of Christ and drank of Christ could not have been in it; but let me quote again Acts 7:38, "This is he that was in the church in the wilderness," dated in history 1491 B. C. I asked Eld. Black who this church belonged to, God, Christ, or the devil? We know it belongs to God and Christ, because God led them out of Egypt, and they ate and drank of Christ. God and Christ and the Holy Spirit have worked together in all ages. "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made." Read the first chapter of St. John.

Mr. Black never denied my definition of the word "church." No learned man will do that; the church of God is the called out, the redeemed of Adam's race. The church is purchased by the blood of Christ" (Acts 20:28). "By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body" 1 Cor. 12:13). That one body is the church. The word "church" does not appear in the Old Testament, neither does the word "Christ" appear in the Old Testament. Did Christ exist? Sure He did. Paul said, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever." The word "congregation" of the Old Testament is the "Church" of the New Testament. It does not every time that we read in the Old Testament of the congregation appear that we are reading of the church but no doubt most of the time we are.

Note two quotations of scripture, one from the Old Testament, the other from the New. "I will

declare thy name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee" (Ps. 22:22). Now I will quote from Heb. 2:12, "Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee." The only difference between the two statements is that one says "Congregation" and the other says "Church." Both mean God's people, God's family. What I want the readers to note carefully is that God has had a people on the earth since Abel. "Unto him be glory in the Church by Jesus Christ throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21). All glory has been given in Christ, none out, and the glory was in the church. Could the disciples have done the work they did outside the church? No, Jesus says, "I am the vine, ye are the branches." Do you think they could have been the branches of the vine and not have been in the church? "I have chosen you out of the world." Where did He place them? In the church, for there was no other place for them. Jesus died for the church and when He makes His return, He is coming after the church. No one but the members of His family will be accepted. Are the prophets included? Yes, many shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the south, and from the north. Thank God for the promise He has made us, when He comes in His glory and all the holy angels with Him, He shall sit upon the throne of His glory, and before Him shall be gathered all nations. But the church will answer to the call, "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Note that this kingdom was prepared from the foundation of the world. Then the church will be completed, and not before.

May God bless and save is the prayer of your brother in Christ.

—Thomas H. Dixon.

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Why and How We Should Support the Eighteenth Amendment

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Personal folly is often used as an argument in defence of the use of alcohol and, of course the right of personal liberty should be preserved, but no one should seek to carry out his own desire when it is detrimental to society, and infringes on the rights of his fellow men. Paul was right when he followed the teaching of Jesus and said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

The proponents of anti-prohibition measures are doing all they can to effect the cause of prohibition. Every method they can think of is being applied to their own use. The "wets" are even trying to "cloud the issue," and cause Christians to doubt whether or not prohibition is right. Let us not be deceived by the "wets," for they twist and confuse their figures in an effort to deceive and misrepresent the facts. There is not always a direct attack made upon prohibition, but a "round about" method is occasionally used to purposely confuse the average busy person. It is time for Christian men and women of America to register a protest by their voice, and vote against this invasion of the enemies of our government. Today the study of temperance and prohibition is important in the programs of our young people's societies.

Prohibition did not get into the Constitution by chance. What were the motives of the temperance advocates? They certainly had nothing to gain personally. They were not trying to usurp control of the liquor trade for personal gain. No, the one and only reason for the reform was to do good to mankind; to deliver soci-

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A. Habit

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Now I come to a phase of habits which, to the best of my knowledge, I almost stand alone: "Tobacco and coffee." I want to say that I am so thankful that a few of our churches in parts of this State of Missouri have taken a stand against this awful habit. I do not write this to personate any one, but that it might wake our people up to just where they are. In all of my study in the last 18 years I have never, as yet, read a book on tobacco and coffee, but what they were classed under the head of "NARCOTICS." We all know what that word means. I don't believe that there is a true child of God living today but what says and believes that whisky is a damnation to humanity as it is generally used. Whisky creates a habit, tobacco creates a habit, coffee creates a habit; they are all injurious to the body. How often do we hear people say "If I do without coffee for breakfast I have the headache all day." "If I drink coffee for supper it keeps me awake all night," or "If I drink it at noon it makes me nervous." Then, on the other hand, give it to a person who has never drank it and see what it does for him. Let a boy smoke a cigar or a pipe and watch how sick he gets. Now what causes all these different reactions? It is the poison that is in the coffee or the tobacco the same as the poison in the whisky, which makes a person drunk. Some will say, "I was reared on coffee—I was converted while in the habit—that old habit again."

Paul said, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

How many of us would like to see our boys of 8 and 10 years of age chewing and spitting old tobacco juice? How many of us would like to see our wives or our daughters smoking a cigarette? Not a real man alive that would want to see that, yet some of us, and preachers included, practice it every day of our lives. Besides being injurious to our bodies, it is a nasty, filthy, and expensive habit.

Some people before their conversion were in the habit of cursing almost every breath. After their conversion, no doubt they were sorely tempted to curse, but by the help of God, they were able to overcome it. My advice to coffee and tobacco users who want to stand up for Christ and let their light shine, would be to say, "By the help of God I have quit such filthy and injurious habits."

Let your light shine.

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Why and How We Should Support the Eighteenth Amendment

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ety from an evil of such proportions that it must be dealt with on a broad scale by governments whose first obligation is to secure the well-being of their people. Like slavery, the liquor traffic could no longer be dealt with individually. Any one who challenges the nobility and truth of the foes of strong drink is speaking outside of the facts.

Of course prohibition interferes with the individual's liberty to do

as he pleases; and this, it must ever be borne in mind, is no price to pay for the end sought.

Other nations are watching America in her fight against liquor, and what we do will reflect around the world. This question is of great importance to people other than people of our own nation. Prohibition has not had a fair trial in this country. No other law has ever been so severely attacked or opposed. The American solution of the problem has not been tried and found impossible, it has not been fully tried. Let us, as Christian crusaders, plead and work together for a fair trial of the prohibition law. Prohibition is the one prayer born law of our land. We are instructed to be obedient to the law and it is our duty, as Christian citizens, to obey the law.

We can see the evils of liquor on every side. Let us unite our prayers that the Eighteenth Amendment will be more effective the future than it has been in the past. With prohibition written in our Constitution there has been a diminishing of the liquor. Of course the opponents of prohibition want the law repealed, but prohibition will not be defeated if we fight for it in the strength of our God. "Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." Let us assist our courts and our officers of our land in destroying this soul damning weapon of the devil.

Dives was doubtless a fine gentleman from a worldly standpoint; but he lifted up his eyes in hell, after he died. Men do not have to be extremely bad as the world views us, to reach the awful abyss that Dives found, a worldly gentleman who has not found Jesus will doubtless after death get into company he would not recognize here.

—The Free Will Baptist.