

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

Vol. 3. No. 8.

Purdy, Missouri, August, 1931.

\$1.00 per year.

Our Present Day Evils

The Lord says to us in Isaiah's prophecy, "Cry aloud and spare not; lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."

This awful sin problem has confronted all people of all ages, and we are not exempt from it. If the preachers of the Gospel, and all people of God ever had their hands full it is today. It looks as if the devil has sent all the imps of hell out over the land, laying out inducements before the people. Young and old have laid the reins on the neck of their lusts, and are worshiping the god of pleasure, having become atheistic, modernistic, socialistic, and liberalistic in their views and are tumbling headlong by the multiplied thousands over the awful precipice in their sin blinded condition into the dark regions of the damned. On every side it is the swimming pools, the card parties, the dance hall, the theaters, and these things are largely supported by church members. In many of our churches today, if you find the membership, you have to go to one of the above named places, instead of to the church altar.

The same woman that teaches the little children in Sunday school is found in the swimming pool where men and women are as one with not a lot more clothing on than mother Eve wore, even before she invented the leaf apron. The same man that heads the list among our church officials is found breaking up homes and

destroying happiness among men.

I once knew a preacher who would preach the Gospel on Sunday at 11:00 and then almost melt his socks down playing baseball in the afternoon. There was a preacher in our own country a short time back that went and filled his appointment, went home with some folks at night and before going to bed, pulled out a deck of cards and said, "Let's have a little game before we sleep." I do not know who this preacher was but I do know by good authority that it happened.

Some folks once asked me if I thought there was any harm in playing rook. I said this, "If you should come to my home and, upon opening the door, you should find me sitting at a card table, don't you know you would lose confidence in me, my preaching would fail to reach you as before, and you would brand me as a fake." Brethren, God doesn't want such men in His pulpit; but it is sad how the devil has found his way into every phase of the church.

It has come about now that a typical woman is one dressed in knickers, with a man's shirt and tie on, a boyish bob, a cigarette in her mouth, a drug store face, a poodle dog in her lap, and can rear back and look a man right in the eye and tell him what's what. A typical man is one with his face powdered, his sox rolled, bare headed, plenty of cigarettes in his pocket and booze in his car for both himself and his pet, and about enough clothing on in the middle of winter to keep a flea

warm. Sin has such a hold that it looks like the human family, generally speaking, is losing all the judgment and self-respect they ever had. I ask the question, "What is it that is going to take care of the situation?" I want to answer, "The only hope is the Church," I mean the church of the living God. The redemption of our people depends largely upon the actions of the characters who fill our pulpits. If the church fails it is just too bad. Our lodges will never do it, our schools will never do it, I tell you the halt, if ever brought about, must be brought about by the church. I realize that if I had all you as the Gem family gathered together, I would be standing before a great throng of people. I realize that when we talk to you through the Gem, that we have a chance to talk to more people at one time than we ever have in the way of a gathered congregation, and let me tell you that, if you are a church member and some of these statements cross your path, let me beg of you in great love and sympathy to flee the wrath to come; go to your knees and to God, turn your back on all these idols and serve the living God.

We so often hear the question, "Do you believe it is wrong to do this or that?" or "I have never thought that it is wrong." Listen, you never hear anyone ask if it is wrong to go to church. Why? Simply because going to church stands out among the principles of right, and these other things have their place among the prin-

ciples of wrong, and are understood to be wrong; so they are greatly questioned, even by them that practice them.

The president of our Barry County Song Convention stated it so well when he said, "We don't look at sin right; we ought to look at it as a poison Viper, a horrible, dreaded disease; we are too well acquainted with sin."

I want to hold up to you a mighty Christ, as a sweet, soothing remedy, and the only cure for this disease.

Eld. Winford Davis.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Dear Bro. Haskins and Readers of the Gem: I will say, Bro. Haskins, that you have the right idea of my belief on the existing Church of God, but you are mistaken on the kingdom and the church. I don't believe that the church and the kingdom are the same. Eld. Black and myself never discussed the kingdom. The Church of God is made up of members, and those members are the subjects of the kingdom: they are not the kingdom, but members or subjects in the kingdom. Yes, I believe that infants are saved; they have never been out of the church or kingdom, Jesus Christ atoned for them.

Question one. Are infants and idiots baptized into the one body? No, they have never been out of the one body. Where there is no law, there is no transgression.

Question two.....Did the kingdom exist prior to Daniel's prophecy? Bro. Haskins, if you have reference to the kingdom of God, it has always existed. And this kingdom has been prepared for the children of God from the foundation of the world (Matt 25:34). If you mean the kingdom that King Saul ruled, it had its origin with King Saul; he was the first king over Israel, which began about B. C. 1095. Daniel 2:44 says, "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and

it shall stand forever." Many kings ruled, but when the time came for Jesus to be born, and to fulfill this prophecy, while these kings were in power, the One came who had a right to it. Listen to the words of the Lord to Ezekiel, "And thou profane wicked princes of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him" (Ezek. 21:25-27). And, Oh, glory, when the One came who had a right to it, He took it over and these others fell. He did not say, "I will organize a new kingdom," but "I will set it up." And never more will God leave it to other people. It is now in the hands of Him who will rule it right; and I thank God that I am a child of a king. John the Baptist preached the kingdom at hand, the twelve apostles preached the kingdom at hand, the seventy that Jesus sent out preached, saying, "The kingdom is at hand." At hand means in reach of men. Listen, dear readers, "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" (Isa. 2:3). The king is now on the throne of his Father, and will reign until the Father says its enough, then he will leave heaven with a shout and with ten thousand of his saints, then this king will deliver all to the Father. God is ruling today thru Christ, but that sweet day will come when all troubles will be over. That will be a great day with those who are ready to go with Jesus when he comes. But, Oh, how horrible it will be with the nations that forget God! Think, when the tribes of earth begin to mourn, and cry for the rocks and mountains to fall on them to hide them from the face of him that sits on his throne.

Thomas H. Dixon,
Gravelly, Ark., Box 120.

"Think No Evil."

This charity has much to do with the inner man; it goes down to the intents and thoughts of the heart; it touches the roots of life; it works from the inside toward the outside.

"As he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7). Jesus said, "That which cometh out of a man, defileth a man." We hear people say that we cannot keep evil thoughts from entering our minds. Yes, that is true, but let us distinguish the difference between evil thoughts and thoughts about evil. We think of evils, such as adulteries, murders, wickedness, deceit, and all foolishness: all these things defileth a man. Now it is one thing to just think of these things, and quite another thing to let them get into our hearts, in a sense of creating a desire to commit sin.

We may think about sin with the mind, while the Spirit in our heart is revolting against it. It is possible for us to think about evil in a favorable sense until we find pleasure in it; then it is that our thoughts are evil.

Evil thoughts may take the nature of temptation; they may appeal to a person until he feels drawn toward evil; but God's grace is sufficient in every time of need, to keep the evil from entering the heart, the root of life. "Charity thinketh no evil."

Now, those who dress in such a way as to expose parts of their body, that ought to be covered, do much to lead the opposite sex into evil thoughts and temptation. styles of dress which leave much of the body exposed are often endorsed because wicked men and women delight in the evil thoughts that are presented. The modern bathing suits are endorsed because they feed the wicked thoughts of men. Dancing is a promotion of evil thoughts and the bathing pools where both sexes meet together. Those desiring to promote charity must abstain from exposing their bodies beyond their heads, hands and feet. Anything more is likely to lead to evil.

If charity thinks no evil, it should also do what it can to keep others from the temptation of thinking evil. The mind grows
(Continued on page 14)

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Organ of
THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Published monthly at Purdy, Missouri.


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

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 4, 1930, at the Post Office at Purdy, Mo., under the act of March 3, 1879.

TERMS:

\$1.00 per year, cash in advance. Paper will be discontinued when subscription expires.

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

Your time is out if a pencil mark appears here 

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.

MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

Moderator, Eld. E. T. House, Santa Rosa, Mo.
Ass't Mod., Eld. Jas. F. Miller, Fredericktown, "
Clerk-Treas., Eld. Winford Davis, Monett, "
Ass't Clerk, Eld. E. E. Winfree, Arta, Ark.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

J. P. McCullough, Alton, Mo.
Eld. T. C. Ferguson, Ash Grove, "
Eld. Jas. F. Miller, Greentop, Mo.
Eld. R. T. Langley, St. Louis, "
Dea. P. R. Henderson, Purdy, "

EVANGELISTS

Endorsed by the Missouri State Association
Serving without salary

Eld. T. C. Ferguson, Ash Grove, Mo.
" G. W. Scott, Sr., Mt. Grove, Mo.
" W. F. Millard, Buffalo, Mo.

CO-OPERATIVE GENERAL ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

Moderator, Eld. W. A. Hearron, R3, Trousdale, Okla.
Ass't Mod., Eld. W. E. Dearmore, B43, Wanette, "
Clerk-Treas., Eld. M. L. Sutton, Ft. Worth, Texas.
Ass't Clerk, Eld. O. T. Allred, R1, Monett, Mo.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Eld. A. B. Epperson, Tecumseh, Oklahoma
Eld. J. L. Waltman, Drumright, "
Eld. W. M. Guinn, Booneville, Arkansas
Eld. Winford Davis, Monett, Missouri
Eld. Selph Jones, Mansfield, "

NATIONAL EVANGELISTS

Serving without salary
Eld. T. C. Ferguson, Ash Grove, Missouri

THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

Dear Readers of the Gem: Perhaps an account of our trips and journeys to different parts of the field will not interest you very much, but we are reporting them here that we might tell you what our brethren are doing where we have visited, and how OUR work is progressing.

ON SATURDAY before the fourth Sunday in June, Bro. Johnnie Swaffar and I drove to Mansfield, Mo. on our way to Oak Grove church, which is located about ten miles nearly north of Norwood, Mo. At Mansfield we met Bro. Selph Jones and Bro. George Scott, Jr. We took supper with Bro. Jones, then drove out about seven miles to be with Bro. Scott in his night services at Wolf Creek church. We found quite a nice congregation gathered to worship God. We had a good service, which God honored with His presence.

We spent the night with Bro. Butcher, then, on Sunday morning, we started across the country to Oak Grove church, which we reached in time for Sunday school. There we met their faithful pastor, Bro. J. G. Koch. They have a good Sunday school, and the big church house was just about full at the preaching service. We spent the day round about the church, visited several homes, and had another good service Sunday night. We were asking for subs to the Gem and to Mothers' Home Life, on our campaign for that \$1000. We received a nice list of subs for both papers, and started on our homeward journey Monday morning, feeling that we had succeeded, though not as we had hoped.

ON SATURDAY afternoon before the first Sunday in July, Bro. Winford Davis and I drove over to Mansfield, and out to Bro. Selph Jones' where we visited until just about time for the evening service to begin, then we drove out through Hartville to Pleasant Hill church, about five miles west of Hartville. We arrived in time for services and found a goodly number of people gathered, including several preachers, and their pastor, Bro. J. G. Koch. We enjoyed a good sermon by Bro. Davis, and a good service because the Lord was there. It was rather a lengthy service, for it was election time, then we presented our proposition and asked for subs. It pleased the Lord to send a good rain during this service, for it rained from about 8:30 to about midnight; we were all glad for the rain.

Union Association will hold its annual session at Pleasant Hill church this year, beginning at 4:00 p. m. Wednesday before the first Sunday in Sept.

We spent the night with Bro. John S. Hickman, and drove into Hartville Sunday morning, stopping for a little visit at the J. E. Claxton home. We found them still praising God, and sure enjoyed being with them. We spent the day in Hartville at the Singing Convention. There was a large crowd (estimated at 1500), and some real singing, but only a part of them could hear the singing. We met quite a number of our people, and received quite a number of subs to both papers.

In the evening we drove over to Mt. Grove, visited awhile with Bro. L. J. Gearing, then went to attend services at our Mt. Grove church. A goodly

(Continued on page 10)

FROM THE FIELD

Hints for Association Goers.

I. Begin now to get ready; begin to lay aside such things as you will need days and even weeks beforehand. Don't wait until the last moment, and then say, "I can't go, because I am not ready."

II. Be there for the introductory sermon; get in at the beginning, and then you won't have to come in during the Association and feel at a loss.

III. Plan to "stay through," until it is over, until the last benediction is pronounced. Don't let the cares at home worry you; some one will care for these things when you are dead. Suppose you practice death for a few days and die out to all earthly things. Don't let the devil nor anything else run you off the ground till you receive a blessing. Do not look back—"Remember Lot's wife."

IV. Leave your feelings at home, then they can't be trampled on or rubbed against. It might be that you need them at home, but you won't need them at the Association.

V. Don't go for the loaves and fishes, as some did in Jesus' day; but go for that Bread of Life and Living Water. You might receive a bigger blessing if you wouldn't eat quite so much.

VI. Don't sit back or act like you are second or felt unwelcome, but go to the front and enter quickly into the spirit of the meeting.

VII. If you are sent as a delegate, then fill a delegate's place; don't be out of the house or off on a joy ride when business is in session. Do all you can, learn all you can, and be true to the church which sent you as a representative.

VIII. Don't be partial about the place you have to stay; don't be hard to please; remember your Master had a stone for a pillow.

IX. Stand up for what you want and believe; but whatever you do, be agreeable to the rule of the majority.

X. Don't stay away from the Association because you are broke; but do your best to go there with some money in your pocket; it

is very liable to be needed.

XI. Do not nurse your likes or dislikes; there are all kinds of people at an association, yourself included. The very one you dislike might help you the most. If you talk too much, you might prejudice a soul against the very one who could help him most.

XII. Begin now to pray for your Association; go there with a prayer on your heart; help lead souls to Christ as well as do business for God; pitch right in and help at the altar; remember the Association will be just what you and others make it.

XIII. Go with an open, receptive heart, expecting your vessel to be filled.

XIV. Go in expectation of the best Association you ever attended and you are sure to take home a full measure. The word says, "According to your faith be it unto you."

Yours for the cause,

Eld. Winford Davis.

Hartville, Mo., June 15, 1931.

Dear Editor and Gem Readers: This is such a beautiful Monday morning that I feel impressed to write a few lines, as we have had a beautiful rain, and after the rain the beautiful sunshine, the singing of the birds, and all nature seems to realize that "God is love," and that all "good and perfect gifts come from the Father of lights."

First I want to ask the dear editor and Gem readers to pardon me for writing so often. I know my letters are not important, but I do love to talk to Christian friends about the love of God, and this is the only way I have, as I am not able to go to Sunday school and church. I was taught the Golden Rule when a child, and have tried to practice it all through my life: "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so them," and have received great blessings from so doing.

In the year 1929 the Bank of Mansfield, Mo. was robbed by a very young man named Walter Thompson. He was captured by the officers and put in jail at Hartville. My husband went to the post office on the day of his preliminary trial and saw the

sheriff taking him from the jail to the court house and was telling me when he came home what an intelligent looking young man he was, and such a pity he did the crime. He was heard to say that he didn't want his mother to know about what he had done. Well I would wake up in the night, and the first thing on my mind, perhaps, would be this young man, Oh how I did sympathize with his mother! thinking how she might have been building air castles in her mind when he was only a little babe, how she caressed him and loved him! now he is grown into manhood and has done this terrible deed, Oh how could I live if it was my boy! and I was impressed by the love of God to go see him, if anything could be done, so I went to town one day and met with the recorder's wife and, being a special friend of hers, I told her that I would like to see this young man: and she said, "All right, I will go with you." The sheriff introduced me to him and will tell you our conversation as near as I can: "Walter, are your father and mother both living? Yes. How old is your mother? Something like 60. Is she strong for her age? Not very, she has sick spells. Is she a Christian? Yes, she and father both belong to the Primitive Baptist. Walter, I am sorry you did this crime, I am glad you got caught, but I do feel so sorry for your poor old mother. Would you care to write to her? Be glad to." He stepped back and brot me her address and reached it to me through the iron bars: "Mrs. Ed Thompson, Tecumseh, Nebr." Then he said, "Mrs. Claxton, I can do most any kind of work with but little instruction, I am a mechanic by trade."

Well I wrote his mother at once, as best I could, and told her of some of the precious promises we have, but all on certain conditions. I received a letter at once, mailed Nov. 6, 1929, requesting that I take it to Walter and let him read it. She thanked me again and again for going to see her baby boy. She said, as all mothers say, "He was such a good boy, I don't know what he was thinking about, some one has persuaded him to do this." Well on Sunday morning, the good Lord

had blessed me with the most beautiful chrysanthemums, white, red, yellow, etc., when I got ready to go to Sunday school, I went out and gathered a bouquet, I thought I had never seen anything so pretty. When I got to the jail on my way to Sunday school, the sheriff was standing beside the door. I told him I wanted to see Walter. He said, "All right," and went with me and treated me so kind. I said, "Good morning Walter." He smiled, then I said, "Walter, I don't suppose you have committed an unpardonable sin." Then I told him that we read in the Bible where it says, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow: though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." "Except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish." When I had told him the good things I had on my mind, I said, "Walter, here is a letter from your dear old mother; by her request you read it, and here is a bouquet of flowers, we will play like your own mother sent them to you." Then I hastened away to Sunday school, telling him that I wanted him to take care of the letter, I wanted it to keep. He forgot to leave it, but when he got to Jefferson City, he sent it back by the sheriff. I have two objects in view in telling you this sad but true story. First, if there should be any boys in the Gem family who read this, they should take warning from this young man and not let the old devil persuade them to do wrong. This young man had a very good education. He had a job of work and was working 56 miles from home, earning his own money, and a free boy; now he is having to work hard away from mother and home and loved ones.

Sentenced for 25 years at hard work is not the worst. If you listen to that old serpent called the devil, he will lead you to hell to stay forever and ever. It is left to us to choose life or death. This old lady told me in one of her letters that she had another son whom she had not seen in nine years. He was a sergeant in the army. He had sent her a nice silver set of 32 pieces, of which she was very proud; they were a Christmas present, but her baby boy was behind prison bars; one son brought joy to his moth-

er's heart, the other brought grief. Oh, boys, don't grieve your mother by going wrong.

The last object is this: If you ever see him, tell him I still remember him and hope, if he is spared, to get out of prison; he may yet make a man, live a different life. As I am now 70 years old, I will not be here, if he has to stay his time out.

If you could read the three letters his poor old mother wrote to me you would feel sorry for her, but I have already made my letter too long, and will just say, "God bless the editor and wife, and all the Gem family."

Bro. and Sister McAdams have been in this very jail house I am telling about and had services. I remember one of the inmates reaching through the iron bars to shake hands with her, then he knelt while she prayed for him.

Your sister in Christ,

Mrs. Lina Claxton.

Report of Revival Meeting

705 N. St. Louis St., Tulsa, Okla.

Dear Gem Family: Another month has gone, and another battle over, a great victory won over the devil.

The meeting at Earlsboro was a real fight from the start. First, the people were so disturbed over their work; some had no work at all, others looking to lose their jobs; so we had divided minds to preach to, and several of our folks had moved away, but we found Bro. Epperson ready to go out into the highways and hedges with us to find the lost. Also a number of the church members and some that were not members of our church went out with us in bands to do house to house work. We had several visitors from Drumright, Tulsa, and other places during the meeting. Bro. and Sister Dickinson proved to be great personal workers the few days they were with us. They went out one day and had three saved in a home, then took up a man to ride with them and he was converted. Now can any of you beat that on the personal work? Oh, how we do need people to pray and ask for God to lead them to souls, and, as they go, ask God to give the right message! We also had Bro. and Sister Reger of

Nebraska with us a few days. They are young preachers that went out from Tecumseh College, and are making good.

We made our home with the dear Sangster family again, and just visited out from there among a number of the dear people.

Well, we praise God for the souls that were saved. One Sunday morning we went out to one of the school houses and had 21 children and one grown woman converted, it was a glorious time. We had 77 in all, 25 added to the church, and 24 baptized. God surely poured out His blessed Spirit in the last few services. We have some splendid people in the Earlsboro church, God bless them. We closed Sunday night under the tabernacle, went to the church Monday and Tuesday nights.

We moved the tabernacle here to Tulsa. We came by Drumright Wednesday night, had an old fashioned meeting and one precious soul was reclaimed, and one consecrated her life for service. We reached here this morning (July 2nd) and found a number of men on the ground with the lumber waiting for orders to begin on the erection of the tabernacle. Bro. Melvin Bingham is wide awake and has lent a helping hand in getting the revival started. We also have a young preacher with us by the name of S. D. Reger, that surrendered his life to preach the Gospel in the Earlsboro meeting. Let's all pray for him, that God will make him a great blessing.

The tabernacle is on Utica and Jasper Streets. Anyone coming from a distance will be welcomed by all. We ask all that read this to pray for a great revival in Tulsa. We also ask God's richest blessings on the dear people of Earlsboro. We thank all for their kindness to us.

Yours for Jesus,

H. M. and Lizzie McAdams.

—o—

Non, Oklahoma, June 16, 1931.

Dear Editor and Gem Readers: I have been a silent reader of the Gem for some time, but I certainly enjoy and get good out of the many good letters.

The folks are all off at work and I am alone, not alone either, for I feel the presence of the love

of Jesus with me. Isn't it great to have such a wonderful Savior, that when we feel lonely, that we can kneel before God, confessing our weakness and our shortcomings and get on the line with Jesus who continually makes intercession for us to the Father. It makes us feel good when we feel that we have made the right connection and can feel the love of God in our hearts, and we can get up and go about singing. Oh, how I love Jesus, and know that I love Him truly! I certainly do believe in prayer, for I think that prayer is the key that unlocks the windows of heaven, and the more we use the key, the more blessings we receive. Oh, that more people would pray! Sometimes I get to studying about what a good place to live, if every one would only bow the knee and worship God. Wont it be great when folks get to heaven where there is nothing but love and praise to God?

Pray for me, that I may walk right and talk right, for the Scripture says something about "one word rightly spoken is like apples of gold in pitchers of silver." My desire is to speak right.

May God bless the editor and all.

Florence Priest.

—o—

Grovespring, Missouri

To the Editor and Readers of the Gem: I have been reading the Gem, and rejoice to read so many good letters, the brothers and sisters have written. I get so many good thoughts out of them.

I have been trying to live a Christian for many years and am not tired yet, although I have had many ups and downs, and many heart aches and sorrows, but the blessed Lord has been with me and His loving Spirit has led me through. I know that when we let the Lord lead, we gain the victory; and by the help of my blessed Master I am going thru.

I have been a member of the Free Will Baptist church for near forty years and am not tired of that way yet.

I have been reading a letter in the Gem on habit, and it was good. I used to drink coffee and thought

I couldn't do without it, but I haven't drank a cup in 18 years, and get along very well without it. I thought it effected my nerves. My good old mother drank it, and lots of other good people, but I think it is mostly a habit, and there are many habits that will lead people to destruction. When people are tempted with some of these bad habits, such as whisky drinking, card playing, going to parties, etc. If they would say, "Get thee behind me, Satan," in a short time it would be easy to overcome them all.

I do not take the Gem myself, but the goodgirl that is staying with me takes it. I am always anxious for it to come, and don't think I will ever do without it in my home, if I can get it.

The Lord took my loving companion out of my home over three years ago. He has gone to his reward and I am trusting the same Lord that he trusted to take me home some day to my reward.

Bro. John Koch has pastored our church here at Mt. Olive for five years, missed one year, then pastored one year more. I love our little church and ask all who read this to pray for the upbuild of our church and community. We have a good Sunday school.

Pray for me, that I may ever live humbly and true to my blessed Master.

Mrs. J. F. Holman.

New Edinburg, Arkansas

Dear Editor and Gem Readers: With God's help, this beautiful morning, I will endeavor to say a few words in His precious name.

I'm happy to say that I am still living on the hallelujah side of life, and thank God for the good meeting we enjoyed last Saturday night, Sunday and Sunday night, July 4 and 5th. Bro. Dixon, our beloved pastor, brought us wonderful messages each service, with real Gospel singing by Bro. King's quartet of Gravelly, Ark. who came with Bro. Dixon; and with dear old Bro. Ashcraft in our midst we were made to sit together in heavenly places. Praise the Lord and hallelujah to His name.

The Bible says, "We know we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren."

And to know the King Quartet is to love them. Especially do I thank God for calling this young Bro. Robert King into the ministry, realizing that one thing we need most is more young folks in the service of God. Praying to God that He may call more laborers into the harvest field, for truly the harvest is white and the laborers are few. Oh, God, grant that we who profess to know thee in the free pardon of our sins, awake to our every Christian duty.

The time for our revival is near at hand and, Oh, God of heaven, stir up the pure minds of this people, that we may pray earnestly for a revival that will bring lost souls to the feet of Jesus. I am asking all who know the worth of prayer to pray for us.

We have chosen Bro. Robert King to sing for us during our revival.

May God's richest blessings rest and abide upon our dear editor and his wife.

As the poet says, I want to live so that others can see Jesus in me. My sincere prayer is for those who are seeking God's love to know.

A sister in Christ,
Mrs. Iva Mae McClellán.

VANCE CHAPEL CHURCH

Oilton, Oklahoma.

Dear Gem Readers: I would like to give a report of our revival, which Bro. Finney of Idabel, Oklahoma held for us. He sure is a good preacher and a fine man.

We had a two weeks' meeting. Had 31 saved, 9 added to the church, 10 baptized.

Vance Ohapel is still prospering. We now have 92 members, and a fine Sunday school.

The camp meeting of the First Mission Association will meet at Tulsa, beginning on the second Sunday in August. We are looking forward to the time when we will get to go to Missouri to the Co-operative General Association, where we will meet our brother preachers from all of the different States; and I am anxious to visit the Gem office, and meet my old friends again.

Your brother in Christ,
Eld. W. L. Bean.

Hartville, Mo.**(Wolf Creek Church)**

Dear Gem Readers:—It is with a thankful heart this lovely afternoon that I write a few lines to our paper, realizing at this moment that it is just the hand of love and mercy that has spared our life down to this present time. We as a F. W. B. Church at Wolf Creek are still striving for that place called heaven, being bound together with that strong cord of Christian love that can only be given by the Father above.

I have just been reading the Gem, and only heaven knows how much I enjoy reading our church paper. In a letter written from Mountain Grove, Mo. by the pastor that preaches for that church, he said he was still somewhat of a back number. He still believes that a sinner has to be converted by the power of the Holy Ghost, and pray his way thru to salvation. I am praising God's name today that we still have a few back numbers. If it took the old knee route for our forefathers and mothers to get into the Kingdom of God, I'll tell you, dear readers, it takes the same old praying route for you and me. There is just one way, the way of the cross. It is God's plan and can not be changed. We may have our plans and our ways, but God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. People drift along with the tide, having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. But, listen! If we ever get a meal from the store house of God, we have got to be on the old humble knee route pulling on a direct line of purity. My heart aches when I think how people are drifting along with the tide of time, heedless and unconcerned about where they are going! There is an eternity to spend somewhere. This great rush will stop some day, and then all will be landed at the great judgment bar of God, and then, oh, sinner, where will you stand! Life is uncertain and

death is sure.

We are still holding our cottage prayer meetings. As a result we drink from the fountain that never runs dry, and our spiritual life is much renewed. We need more prayer meetings, more praying fathers and mothers, more old time salvation, for nothing less than that will ever land us through the pearly gates. Pray for me that I may ever stay in the old path, ready and willing at all times to look up and say, "Here am I, Lord, send me."

May the Lord bless all who may read our paper.

Yours for the Master,
Emma Pryor.

The Ladies' Aid

The old church bell had long been cracked;

Its call was but a groan;
It seemed to sound a funeral knell
With every broken tone.

"We need a bell," the brethren said,
"But taxes must be paid;
We have no money we can spare—
Just ask the Ladies' Aid."

The shingles on the roof were old,
The rain came down in rills;
The brethren slowly shook their heads

And spoke of "monthly bills."
The chairman of the board arose,
And said, "I am afraid
That we will have to lay the case
Before the Ladies' Aid."

The carpet had been patched and patched

Till quite beyond repair,
And through the aisles and on the steps

The boards showed, hard and bare.

"It is too bad," the brethren said;
"An effort must be made
To raise an interest on the part
Of members of the Aid."

The preacher's stipend was behind;
The poor man blushed to meet

The grocer and the butcher as
They passed him on the street;

But nobly spoke the brethren then:
"Pastor, you shall be paid!"

We'll call upon the treasurer

Of our good Ladies' Aid."

"Ah!" said the men, "The way to heaven

Is long and hard and steep;
With slopes of ease on either side,

The path 'tis hard to keep;
We cannot climb the height alone;

Our hearts are sore dismayed;
We ne'er shall get to heaven at all
Without the Ladies' Aid!"

Butler-Dunn Theology

The Butler-Dunn Systematic Theology, the standard book on Free Will Baptist faith and doctrine, is now reprinted, and every minister and Christian worker should have a copy. This is an important book in the SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE, conducted by Rev. John H. Wolfe. Ministers and Christian workers, wishing to better prepare themselves for Christian work, should have this book, and should take the correspondence course offered by the "School of the Bible." The book is well bound, has 476 pages, \$2.50 post-paid.

Send orders to the F. W. B. Gem, Purdy, Missouri or to Rev. John H. Wolfe, Pawnee City, Nebr.

Tulsa, Okla., July 23, 1931.

To the Gem Family: Just a word. As I was silent in last issue I want to say that we are still on the firing line.

I baptized four on June 21st. Sure had a wonderful time, with a wonderful service. Bro. Ferguson came by here from Kansas, on his way to Texas. He preached for us last night and brought us a wonderful message. He will preach again tonight and tomorrow night.

Our big Tabernacle Revival will begin about July 12th. The McAdams party will be here and we are over anxious to get started. Every one that reads this article, please pray that this will be a great revival. Every one come who possibly can. Come over and help us.

Eld. Melvin Bingham,
705 N. St. Louis St., Tulsa, Okla.

FREE WILL BAPTIST LEAGUE

John Swaffar, Reporter
Report of League President

It has been almost a year since we organized our leagues into an Association, and to see some of our efforts begin to result in something worth while.

Some of us had been working and planning for the organization for years before it really was accomplished. Now we have the League organized into a body, and, consequently, other things arise, which it will take time to get going successfully.

We, the committee on business which was appointed at our last meeting, have drawn up a Constitution and By-laws which we believe will meet the needs of our individual leagues, and both local and State Associations.

We want every league in the Indian Creek Association to send delegates to the Association in September at Jones' Chapel, so that we can adopt the Constitution, make amendments or do whatever is necessary. Each league may send six delegates.

The president, vice president and secretary are standing delegates. So send them, and three elected delegates. In case one or more of the standing delegates can not go, send some one in their place, so we will have enough leaguers there to accomplish the things necessary for the promotion of the League work.

Then, we want all who can to attend the Missouri State League Association, where we expect to accomplish more for the work, and perhaps complete the adoption of the Constitution and By-laws for the State Work.

Yours for better Leagues,
Eld. Noel Turner, Pres.

Blue Eye, Mo.

Dear Gem Readers:—It is hard to realize that half of 1931 is gone, and I wonder how many of us have lived the past half of this year in a way that would be pleasing to our Master. And how many of us have been devoting a portion of each

day in prayer to God, and in reading from his blessed book, the Bible.

If you haven't been living the life that is pleasing and worth while before God, let me beg you not to become discouraged and give up, but humble yourself before God, and continue pressing your claim for him, for we find in 1st Peter 5:5-6 where "God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble." Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

I am thankful for the Christian workers that are faithful in the service of God down here on earth, for rich will their reward be in heaven. Think of the glorious crown of righteousness that awaits us after the day of judgment. But, on the other hand, let us turn our thoughts to the sinner, the one who is in want. In want of what? Salvation. Dear sinner friends, it will be the hand that was pierced for you, the one whose hands your sins have crucified, it will be that hand that will point you your way down to Hell. And think of the separation and darkness that will come to the one that has rejected Jesus down here on earth.

My desire is that you will all prepare to meet God on that day of judgment, before it is too late.

Alta Rose Goodwin.

Dear League Workers:—

I wish to write a few lines again, as I feel a great need, and believe we owe to each other admonition, encouragement, and, just at the present time, a closer co-operation.

Folks, I have been visiting some more, and am glad to report Jones Chapel League making most wonderful progress, and oh! what joy, encouragement, and occasion to really thank and praise God when we see our League work attaining its purpose in the dear Junior department.

Folks, I really thank the Lord for the Juniors, and my heart does rejoice when I see pure young hearts and minds in the service of God, before the evil days come; standing

for God, and reciting in their own words their part in the league program in a most wonderful way. Leaguers, is it worth while? Sure it is! It is an inspiration, a blessing, and what could be a greater blessing for any community than seeing the men and women of tomorrow seeking "first the kingdom of God," and preparing for real service.

I was with the Rocky Branch League at LaRue, Arkansas the 2nd Sunday eve, and glad to report a fine league, and see the interest manifested and the real effort that is being put forth to forward the cause.

Third Sunday eve was with Macedonia League, and am very thankful for the faithful efforts of its officers and members as well. Both Junior and Senior departments are striving to grow stronger, do more and qualify themselves for service in the great cause of our Lord.

Leaguers, let's take courage, tho we're doing a wonderful work, let's do more. Read Neh. 6:1-3 and especially consider the third verse. Don't compromise with anything, realizing how great our work is, whose it is, its purpose which means so much to us and to our dear Lord. Can we afford to neglect this great work, or let it cease? Let's say with Nehemiah, "It's too great," and push right on.

Folks, there are some reports that have not been sent in this time. We sure need them to make our paper complete, and tho we do our best, we can't give the report when someone fails to report to us. Let's remember someone is looking for our report that is interested in us, and this really means much to us.

Folks, let's make some preparation for the coming Association. Be sure to send delegates, and be prepared for some expenses, as there will be some, and if I'm not mistaken each league is supposed to send as much as one dollar.

Your reporter.—Johnnie Swaffar.
(League work continued to page 14)

Obituary

Stone—Bro. J. E. Stone departed this life June 1, 1931, aged seventy-three years, four months and six days. He leaves to mourn his loss, his wife, one daughter, six sons, six sisters, two brothers and a host of friends.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church at Waynright, Oklahoma. The funeral service was conducted by Elder Melvin Bingham, 705 N. St. Louis, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Nance—Bro. Owren Nance was born in Green County, Missouri, October 20, 1907, and departed this life April 13, 1931 at the age of twenty-three years, five months and twenty-four days.

He was converted and joined the First F. W. B. Church of Tulsa four months before his death. He was a consistent Christian, and bore his long illness and intense suffering as only a child of God can. His faithful experience has helped many and brought many souls closer to God. He leaves to mourn for him his father and mother, one brother, two sisters and a host of friends.

Let us not think of dear Owren as dead,

But just moved to a wonderful place

To wait for his own dear ones to come

And again fold him in their embrace.

And while we linger so lonely here,

But would not him recall,

He's waiting at heaven's gate so near

To welcome us, one and all.

The funeral sermon was preached by Melvin Bingham pastor of the First F. W. B. Church of Tulsa.

Jones—We have just lost by death Elder William Jones, who was laid to rest in the cemetery

at Niangua. At his death he was pastor of our church at Niangua and at Buffalo, Mo. He was no relation to Selph Jones of Mansfield Mo. He was son of old Elder Larkin Jones.

Elder T. C. Ferguson.

Owens—Martha M. Allen was born November 23, 1878 and departed this life May 28, 1931 at the age of fifty-two years, six months and five days.

She was married to Henry J. Owens December 24, 1896, and to this union were born eight children, three of them preceding her to the glory land in infancy.

She professed faith in Christ at an early age, uniting with the Free Will Baptist church at Oak Grove, remaining a faithful Christian worker until death. She leaves to mourn her passing a husband, two daughters, Mrs. Earl Barnett and Mrs. Alston Sheppard; three sons Alvin, Elmer and Tip Owens all of this vicinity; six grand children, five sisters, three brothers and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Selph Jones at Oak Grove and interment was in the Oak Grove Cemetery.

God needed our darling Mother,

Amidst His white robed bands,

So He sent His gentle angel down;

And clasped her sweet hands.

So sad it is within the home,

Since our precious Mother's gone

But Oh! How very sweet 'twill be

When we meet in the great beyond!

We would not call her back from heaven,

Her home up in the sky,

For she has gained that mansion bright,

Where we'll meet her by and by.

Faith

What is faith but a gift from God? Are we going out in God's work in faith? If we are not, then

we will not be able to accomplish much.

God has given us all a work to do and we have all received so much from the Lord. Are we going to hide what He gives us, as the man did in the parable, or are we going to give Him our best?

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Would any of us accept a promise and work for a man that we did not have faith in? But we have faith in God, and faith without works is dead. Is just believing that He is God sufficient, or should we walk in faith? God's word tells us that "the devils also believed and trembled." I don't believe that God saved us just to sit down and do nothing, but that we should use that which He has given us to rescue those that are lost. Have we doubled the value of that which He has given us by working for Him, or are we going to present Him with an old musty pound. I want to do my best for Him, and I don't want to just barely get into heaven, but I want to be right in the midst.

If I don't have faith in God, how can I work, but, thank God, I have faith in Him and I believe He will do everything He has promised to do. Are we going to disappoint Him?

Let us have faith in God and work for Him and He will reward us up in heaven.

I wonder if we do not cheat ourselves out of many blessings because we fail to have the faith in Him that we should. May God help us to have more faith in Him and work for Him every day.

It is irrational to pass by the moral and religious nature of children in our scheme of education.

—Newton Bateman.

Falsehoods not only disagree with the truth, but generally quarrel among themselves.—Daniel Webster

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor than silver and gold.—Bible

THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

(Continued from page 3)

umber gathered here to worship God, including several preachers and their faithful pastor, Bro. G. Scott, Jr. We had another good service and a good response.

We spent the night with Bro. Scott, about six miles out in the country. We sure enjoyed our visit at Bro. Scott's; as we always enjoy visiting in a Christian home, especially when the conversation is about God, Spiritual things, the Word of God, and more especially when those present engage in real worship. We started for home Monday morning.

ON SATURDAY before the 2nd Sunday in July, Bro. Johnnie Swaffar and I drove to LaRue, Ark. Bro. Swaffar was taking his mother to Rogers, Ark. for a rest and a visit with her sister, and I went with them, then Bro. Johnnie went with me to LaRue to be with us in the services Saturday night, Sunday and Sunday night. This was another occasion when we enjoyed the presence of God and His blessings. At LaRue we met some more real people of God, praise God for the saints of God who are satisfied with God, and can and do let the world go by. We not only enjoyed the services at the church, but our visits to the different homes.

The church at LaRue, called New Hope or Rocky, is a member of Old Mt. Zion Association. If I have understood right, their 1931 session will be held with Hickory Grove church, beginning at 10:00 o'clock Friday morning before the second Sunday in August, 1931.

ON SUNDAY, July 19th, wife and I went with our good friends, Bro. and Sister C. B. Campbell, to attend a Home Coming at the Cumberland Presbyterian church at Berwick, about 15 miles N. W. of Purdy. Bro. and Sister Campbell are Cumberland Presbyterians and we met a host of Cumberlands at the church. It has been a long time since we had the privilege of being in a meeting where the Spirit was so surely and beautifully manifested; it was good to be there and to know that those who

worship there are our own Father's children, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We not only appreciated and enjoyed the worship and the wonderful fellowship but the bountiful feast of good things provided for us to eat.

WE HEAR different ones say that the country church is fast passing, and is almost a thing of the past. All the churches I have mentioned above are in the country save our church at Mtn. Grove, Mo. It is a real live church but I can't see that it has anything ahead of the country churches. It is true that some of our country churches are dead; but most of the dead churches that I know of are in our towns and cities, and some of the dearest of them are making a big show. Just a little reflection on Matt. 6:22 and 23 will show what we mean: "If thine eye be single," with a wholehearted desire toward God, "thy whole body shall be full of light." But if the desires and thoughts be evil; "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" Modernism seeks the wisdom of the world; it is carnality and worldliness that plays havoc with the organized church, and with all things about us. Modernism leaves out the Christ who is the true light; therefore a light which is darkness predominates in the lives of many who are in the church today, that is, many professed Christians are following the light which is darkness; it is carnality; it is of the flesh; it is of the world, and it means death. But I want say that I thank God for the many who are still following the true Light, which is Jesus Christ.

We are glad that we can report victory in our campaign, which Bro. York is conducting for Mothers' Home Life, and for the \$1000 which we are to receive for 1000 subs at 25 cents each. We feel sure that we will win in this, but why not put forth a little more effort and make it sure, then we might get more than the \$1000, for every 25 cent sub we get above the 1000 will add \$1 to our prize. Remember that the time will be up Aug. 10th, and do your best.

Olney, Texas, July 5, 1931.

Dear Gem Readers: Just a few lines to let you know that I am not dead yet, though I haven't much news to write. I just feel that I want to send in a few words. I have just finished reading the little Gem paper, and I can't keep from saying that I thank God for the Free Will Baptist doctrine, for it just suits me.

I was raised by a praying mother and she was a Missionary Baptist, but 46 years ago a Free Will Baptist Church was organized at Myrtle, Mo., and I joined the church, and some folks said that it was rotten doctrine; it wouldn't stand, but we all prayed that it would be a church of God and a saving station for lost souls, for I really know some so-called Christians today who are trying to hide their sins by having their names on the church book. The same thought is raised by the Psalmist when he says in Ps. 19, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handiwork," and Jesus in his personal ministry, said in the Sermon on the Mount, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." I love to walk in the light of these other words of the apostle Paul; hear them as he writes to Timothy his beloved son in the Gospel, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, but is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Tim. 1:7-10). But there is a light shining on our way, never seen on land or sea; it is the light of the Christian's hope of the life beyond; it is the comfort of the rod and staff of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; it is the light which

Stephen saw when looking up through the fog and mist of time, he saw the Son of God with hand outstretched to welcome him home; it was the light that glowed on the Savior's face as He walked to Emmaus. God be praised for the light that shines resplendent in our hearts as we contemplate the valley of the shadow of death, for it is indeed true that Jesus has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light.

Dear Gem readers, I love the church and have a special affection for the Free Will Baptist, as I have spent the most of my life in that church, and I greatly long that we shall be first to lift to commanding prominence the cross of Christ as the standard of His kingdom, for be assured that not until church Christians become kingdom Christians, the salt of the earth and the light of the world, can we create a type of Christianity whose impact upon a sinful world will manifest its divine origin and energy, making our churches the channel of God's saving power for time and eternity to all the needs of every soul, and today as I write, I wonder if there are those who think that this life is the only one, but Oh, how my heart aches for the lost souls! They say there is nothing to the Bible, and will use God's name in vain, and then will say, "We are needing rain, everything is burning up," and never one time will they ever thank God for what He has done for them. I have always believed all of the Bible, I believed it before I gave my heart to Christ. I have never had a doubt about any of its vital truths. I believed all of the miracles, and would have believed a million more if they had been set down in the Scriptures, but there is one miracle which to my own heart is greater than all the rest, that sometimes seems beyond the limit of my faith: it is the pardoning grace of God. When I think of the times that reproach has been brought upon His dear name, and when I think of the sin that has been committed, sins that this world never knew, and when I realize that God in His grace and love forgives them, then I think this miracle is greater than any other in the Scriptures.

Well, as it is time to quit writing, I want to ask all you Gem

readers to remember me in prayer. I thank God for His wonderful goodness, praise His dear name.

A sister in Christ,

Mrs. M. B. Cockman.

Shreveport, La., July 1, 1931.

My Dear Christian Friends:

As I sit and read the Free Will Baptist Gem, it does my heart and soul good to know of so many people who are lined up for God and His work. I am away down south here where there are no Free Will Baptist people or any F. W. B. churches, but I am still lined up for God and His good work for lost souls. Sometimes I wonder if the end is very close, for the great and terrible day of the Lord, from the way people go on cursing God. I want all the Gem readers to know that I am ready to meet God when He calls me.

God will hear and answer prayers, because I have asked Him to help me, and I know that He has, because I have trusted and believed in Him. I have great faith in my Savior Jesus Christ. The devil attacks me more when I serve God, but just a word in prayer to our Lord puts him on the run. Let us be up and away for Christ.

Your brother in Christ,

Charles Edmondson.

Grovespring, Mo., July 8, 1931.

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

I will try to write a few lines, as I have thought for some time that I would write, but just kept putting it off. I sure do enjoy reading the letters, as it gives us new courage to know we have so many good sisters and brothers walking in that heavenly pathway that leads from earth to the gloryland.

I am glad to say that I am striving each and every day to walk in the way the dear Lord would have me to go, praying each day that I might live such a life that anyone I might meet with will

know that I am a child of God. Oh, it means something to be a true child of God!

I have not been a reader of the Gem very long, but sure do enjoy reading it, sorry I did not subscribe for it sooner; and I wish more would subscribe for it. There are so many people who will subscribe for most any old magazine and the daily newspaper, but think they can't spare the money to subscribe for the Gem; may God pity such people. Oh, that people would get more interested about the dear Lord's work! I do think that, if ever there was a time when every child of God should be on their knees praying to God, it is now. We need to be on our knees more, asking the dear Lord to help us in each and everything we try to do, for if we don't, we will fail; but we know that, He will never fail us, when we ask His help.

If people would be as interested in the dear Lord's work as they should be there would be no time for them to go to play parties, dances, ball games, rook playing, and many other things. I could name, which I think a true child of God should not partake of; and there are lots of Christians that do not take any part in any of these. I know I have been a child of God for about 15 years, and I am not at all weary: the more I serve Him, the more I want to serve Him. I would like to see more turn and follow Him.

I am now staying with a good Christian woman (Sister Rachel Holman). I believe she has old time salvation, and is happy on the way. We have a very good Sunday school here at Mt. Olive, and Bro. John Koch is pastor.

I like to be of help to others in advancing the cause of Christ and want to help raise the banner of Jesus Christ higher, and ask the prayers of all God's children, that I might ever be at my post of duty, and that all the young Christians might so live that we can raise the banner of Christ higher than our fathers and mothers of today, for some of these days they are going to lay down their work, and, Oh my God, who will carry on the Lord's work?

Pray for me.

A sister in Christ,

Miss Daisy Raney.

The Story of a Traveling Salesman

Dear Gem Readers: I have a little story that I am writing and I want you unsaved people to hear it. I didn't write this story, but I thought it was so good, I just want every one to read it:

The man I wish to tell you about was naturally a kindhearted man. He had a good wife and a sweet little girl, whom he loved very much, but he was not a Christian. His wife had experienced the saving grace of her Lord and knew something of the love of Christ that "passeth knowledge."

(A neglect of God's offered mercies never fails to harden the heart). "Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your heart" (Heb. 3:7, 8, 15).

He became careless and let the world and its pleasures win him away from his family. Then he began to neglect his little girl who longed so much for her papa, and his loving wife who prayed every day for her husband, but he became offended and said some things which his wife felt very sorry to hear him say. His pride kept him from begging her forgiveness, and so he drifted farther and farther away.

His faithful, loving wife's prayers followed him, and she continued to pray that he might be converted; but for a time her prayers were not answered.

One day when Charley, for that was his name, came to the depot he received a delayed telegram, stating that his wife was sick and for him to come home on the next train. He boarded the first train for home and began to think how good and true his wife had been to him, and of how she had been praying for him for a long time, and now she was very sick and probably would die. But, no, he would not believe that God would let such a good woman die. Thus he tried to persuade himself that perhaps she was better and would, in answer to his telegram, be at the depot to meet him; and he resolved that never again would he be unkind to her in any way. As the train drew up to the depot he looked to see his wife and little girl there to meet him, but they were not there; and as he stepped from the train he felt a sad loneliness steal over his heart. A friend drove up in a carriage and

asked him to step in and ride, as he was going his way.

As soon as they were on the way, he said, "And how is my wife? I hope she is better." His friend took him by the hand and said, "Charley, I have sad news for you, but you must be brave and strong for your little daughter's sake." And then his friend almost broke down himself as he said, "Oh, Charley! how can I tell you? Your dear loving, patient wife died this morning and her last words were a message to you: that she was ready to meet her Savior and felt so happy at being so near her heavenly home, but did so want to live just long enough to take you by the hand and bid you a last farewell, and to ask you just once more to accept Jesus as your personal Savior and so die with a full assurance that you would meet her in heaven. She asked us to tell you that she had prayed for you every day, that you might be saved, and that you would give her little daughter, Eva a Christian father's care. And as a sweet smile stole over her face, the spirit fled to its reward. And now, Charley, you must bear up bravely for your little girl's sake, for her little heart is almost broken. Her mother was her every day companion and the loss to her is almost more than her tender little heart can bear."

But Charley's heart had seemed to turn to stone at this sad home coming. And, Oh, what would he not have given if he had only come soon enough to have thrown his arms about his loving wife and asked her forgiveness for the thoughtless words he had once spoken, which hurt his darling wife's feelings, and that he might have told her how sorry he was and that he might have bid her a last farewell! Now it was too late, and he was left desolate and loaded down with grief and sorrow.

I will not dwell on how he tried to comfort his little heart broken daughter when he led her from her mother's grave, and of the heart broken sobs of the little girl as she saw and heard the clods of earth fall upon the box which contained the casket and the remains of her darling mamma. Nor can I picture to you dear readers, all

of the anguish of that father's heart as with the tears rolling down his own cheeks, he tried to smooth away the little girl's violent grief, as they were driven to their home. Home, yes, but what was their home without that darling mother? So as he reached home, he took his little girl by the hand and led her out into the garden, and by showing her the flowers and talking of the little birds which sang among the trees, he sought to divert her thoughts from their great sorrow, but even the beautiful flowers seemed to hang their heads in grief and sorrow, and the songs of the birds seemed sadder than he had ever heard before, and he realized more fully the great loss to himself and the little girl. He realized that all the wealth of the world could not replace even a small part of that great loss.

As they came to a little arbor, in which was a rustic bench, they sat down to rest. The little girl threw her arms about the father's neck and, amid her grief, told her papa how her mamma had taken her for a walk in the garden every morning, and at that same bench on which they were sitting, she and her mamma would kneel, and her mamma would pour out her heart in earnest prayer for her little daughter and for the father and husband who was away from home. Said the little girl, "Mamma would weep and pray that Jesus might convert your soul and show you how very much He loved you, and that you might become a Christian, and Oh, how mamma would plead that Jesus might, in some way, save you from all dangers and temptations that you might meet with; and to bring you back to your darling little girl. Now dear papa, what shall we do, since poor mamma is dead and we have no one to pray for us?"

The father could stand it no longer, and so with his little girl he knelt there at that little bench, and poured out his soul in humble confession and prayer to God. As the tears flowed down his cheeks, his heart melted with a tenderness that took hold of his whole life and raised him above the desires of the world and gave him a love for heavenly things; and he prayed for his little heart

broken daughter. As that father looked back upon his own wasted life, and realized that his sins were pardoned, and that he was now a child of God, he resolved that henceforth he would serve his God and Savior who had, at so great a cost, reached out after him and won him to Himself, and from the vain things of the world. He resolved that henceforth he would live a life for Jesus and, although he realized that their great sorrow could not be removed, he was made to rejoice in the hope of meeting his dear wife in the land where sorrow does not enter, but all is joy and happiness.

So it was through the death of that wife, so faithful and true, that God was able to reach that careless and neglectful husband, and although her prayers and efforts in life were not rewarded with immediate results, God did answer that loving wife's prayers.

"The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much" (James 5:16). And now dear readers, God loves you and gave His only begotten Son to suffer and die for you, that you might be saved. He wants you to give your heart and life to Him and His service. He wants you to be happy in this life and rejoice in His love. Will you give yourself to Him now, or must He permit some great affliction to come upon you, filling your life with sorrow and sadness, in order to snatch you from the alluring vanities of the world, and save your soul from hell?

Jesus said, "It is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed; rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire" (Matt. 18:8). "Jesus said, 'I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am there ye may be also'" (John 14:2, 3).

And Jesus prayed, "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me" (John 17:24). Will you be there to behold the glory, or will you be missing from that joyful throng where all is peace and happiness forever and ever?

There are many Christians today that realize that God has had to give them losses, afflictions, and great sorrow, in order to

lead them to seek salvation.

God wants to save you without making your life full of sorrow and sadness, so will you not give Him your heart now?

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9). And more than that dear readers, "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Experience the fullness of His love and enter into the service of winning others to Him. The more you do this, the more will you rejoice in His love, and your crown in glory will be filled with bright gems. Dear unsaved ones, it is God's will that you be saved. Jesus gave His life for you. Your soul and mine, dear reader, has already cost the life blood of God's only Son. Many have refused the call of God and have been lost. The religion of our Lord Jesus is not an addition to life, but is life itself.

Dear readers, if you would know the real joy of salvation, get right with God and enter His service. It is because I enjoy the service of my blessed Lord, that I give you this message. May it prove a blessing to you, is my prayer.

Your sister in Christ,
Mrs. Cecil Randall.

Loyalty to the Church, and Why?

By Edna Eaton

First, we should be loyal to the Church because of its great history. The more we study its history, the greater our desire should be to be true to the church. We need not think that the form of it is perfect, nor that it does not sometimes need a change, but we should be very careful as to these changes; for we surely do not need the changes the modern world is putting into so many of our churches today. We can see that down through the ages of time devoted groups of fathers, mothers, and girls and boys, organized into churches of differing names, have followed the great ideal set by the head of the church (Christ Himself). How can we but be loyal to such a history? Nowhere else can we find such a

record of faithfulness to an ideal. We are not loyal to the church just because of what it has been in the past, but because of what it is today. True it is not doing what we would like for it to do, nor, as we would like, but let us remember that it is just what we are making it. If we, the people of God, are really loyal to the church, we are going to be found at the job, trying to help folks, endeavoring to show them a Christ who is a sufficient Savior for this old modern world.

We should be loyal because the church needs us, as much as we need the church. Then to be loyal to the church, we must be true loyal Christians. We find it a very hard task trying to live a Christian life when it seems we are all alone. Then we may be loyal to our church because of the comradeship we find there. It gives us a sense of fellowship, a knowledge that there is one more group of people bound together by allegiance to a common faith. Then here would be the time to ask ourselves the question, "Is my life a blessing to my brethren in the church?"

Loyalty to my church is shown, too, in the importance I give to its work, as I share my time and money to meet its needs.

Loyalty is also shown by an attitude on our part of wanting to fit in wherever our church needs us most and, if we always watch we are sure to find somewhere we are needed; and many ways to be a loyal Christian and church member.

—o—

Close By or Near To

A preacher who does not believe in immersion for baptism was holding a protracted meeting, and one night preached on the subject. In the course of his remarks he said that some believed it necessary to go down into the water and come up out of it to become baptized. But this, he claimed to be fallacy, for the preposition "into" of the Scriptures should be rendered differently sometimes, as it does not mean into at all times.

"Moses," he said, "we are told, went up into the mountain; and the Savior was taken up into a high mountain, etc. Now, we do not suppose either went into a

mountain, but unto it. So with going into the water; it means simply going down close by, or near to the water and being baptized in the ordinary way by sprinkling or pouring."

He carried this idea out fully, and in due season closed his discourse, when an invitation was given for anyone so disposed to arise and express his thoughts. Quite a number of his brethren arose and said they were glad they had been present on this occasion; that they were well pleased with the sound sermon they had just heard, and felt their souls greatly blessed. Finally a corpulent gentleman of Teutonic extraction, and a stranger to all, arose and broke the silence that was almost painful as follows: "Mister Breacher, I is so glat I vas here tonight, for I has had explained to my mint some dings dot I never could pelief before. Oh, I ish so glat "into" does not mean into at all, but shust "close by" or "near to," for now I can pelieve many dings vot I coul't not pelief before."

"We read, Mr. Breacher, dat Taniel vas cast into de den of lions and came out alive. Now, I neffer coul't pelief dat, for de wild peast shust eat him right off, but now it is so very clear to my mint. He vas shust close by or near to and did not get into de den at all. Oh, I ish so glat I vas here tonight. Again ve read dat de Hebrew children vas cast into de fiery furnace, and dat alwish look like peeg story, for dey would have been burnt up. But it ish all blain to me now, for dey vas shust cast near py or close to de fiery furnace. Oh, I vas so glat I vas here tonight."

And den, Mr. Breacher, it ish said dat Jonah vas cast into de sea and taken into de whalesh pelly. Now, I neffer coul't pelief dot. It alwish seemed to me to pe a peeg feesh story, put it ish all blain to my mint now. He vas not into the whalesh pelly at all, put shust shumped onto his pack and rode to de shore. Oh, I vas so glat I vas here tonight."

"And now, Mr. Breacher, if you vill shust explain two more passages of Scripture, I shall pe O shust so happy dot I vas here tonight. One of dem ish vare it saish de vicked shall pe cast into a lake dot purns mit fire and prim-

stone alwish. Oh, Mr. Breacher, shall I pe cast into dat lake of fire if I am vicked, or shust close to or near by, shust near enough to pe comfortable? Oh, I hope you tell me I shall pe cast only shust py a good vays off, and I vill pe so glat I vas here tonight." —Selected.

—o—

FREE WILL BAPTIST LEAGUE

(Continued from page 8)

Macedonia League Report

Dear Leaguers: This finds us started on our third quarter of 1931, and I wonder how many of us can say, "I have received much good from the last quarter's work and I've done my best to help to progress the cause of Christ, but I am going to try to do more this quarter."

Our officers for the next six months are:

Mr. Herman Finn, President
Mrs. Pauline Henderson, Vice Pres
Mrs. Lucille Finn, Group Captain
Miss Ruth Davis, Ass't Group Cap.
Mr. Dan Roller, Quizz Leader
Mrs. Pearl Allred, Ass't Q. Leader
Miss Ruth Davis, Junior Sponsor.
Miss Oleta Davis, Ass't Jr. Spoh.
Mrs. Pauline Henderson,

Secretary-Treas.

Mrs. Emma Henderson, Assistant Secretary-Treas.

We hope this group of officers will be able to do a great work, in which our leagues are to lead the young folks in study of our crucified but risen Christ who taketh away the sin of the world.

Kenneth Turner.

Think No Evil

(Continued from page 2)

with what it feeds upon; and nude dressing feeds the mind upon evil thoughts. That is only one side of the subject: the other is equally important. Charity does not think evil in the sense of cherishing evil against others. It does not cherish malice; nor does it give way to revenge. Those who hope to nourish this charity in their hearts must remember that vengeance belongs to God only. In the Old Testament order men were allowed to take vengeance in their own hands, but the New Testament law is higher than that and God says, "Vengeance is

mine; I will repay saith the Lord" (Rom. 12:19).

When others do you wrong, it may excite within you a desire to take revenge in your own hands: sometimes you may feel like paying them in their own money, but we must learn to let God have His own way. One may put out a false report against you, it may be a local matter or it might be published all over the church. You know that it is either altogether untrue, or it so misrepresents the facts that it places you before the people in the wrong light. What are you going to do about it? If one is disposed to seek justification, he can find an abundance of thoughts with which to reply and often he can make it look rather dark for his enemy, but this course is not in harmony with charity. Charity will never make such an attack upon anyone, but those who are attacked must not excuse themselves for replying. "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor" (Psalm 15: 1, 3). Charity thinketh no evil. Charity is a great force, and there are many things it keeps us from doing. "Charity thinketh no evil."

I ask an interest in your prayers.
E. O. Callen, Blue Eye, Mo.

—o—

THE WRONG CHOICE

Did you ever stop to think just what kind of a character it was that they released at the feast of the Passover and crucified Christ instead?

"But ye have a custom that I should release unto you one at the Passover" (John 18:39). Here they had the blessed Christ who had done no wrong; but the howling mob would not listen to his being released, but cried out, "Crucify him! crucify him! and release unto us Barabas instead." Now let's see what kind of a man the Gospels say this man was. Matthew says that he was a notable prisoner (Matt 27:16). I recall the time I went into the jail at Springfield to see a prisoner, Dobb Adams, who had committed several murders in that city, whose name was to be found on the front page of all the immediate news-

papers, and I realized as I beheld him in his cell, that I was looking upon a "notable prisoner." I suppose it would have meant almost a riot for Dobb Adams to have been released about that time. (Mark 15:7; Luke 23:19). He had taken that which he could not give, life. His actions had been in direct opposition to the teachings of Jesus who had upheld the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." We are filled with horror, even at the thought of Hickman and the severed body of little Marion Parker; and what would have been the result should he have suddenly been set free? John says he was a robber (John 18:40). He had taken that from his fellowmen that did not belong to him; when Jesus' admonition was to give instead of take. People's lives and possessions were not safe with this man running at large, yet they released him and crucified the Son of God. Each of the Gospel writers fail not to testify relative to this man and neither of them have any good thing to say about him. Luke and Mark also say that he had caused an insurrection and sedition in their city. Perhaps he had turned against the civil authorities, anyway he was a very undesirable, unlawful character; one who was to be dreaded; one who was no asset at all to the peace, safety, and welfare of his country. Isn't it strange how folks will make the wrong choice? Today we are letting almost human devils run at large, while the Savior is being crucified afresh and put to an open shame. We turn down a loving companionate Christ and take cold-hearted defrauding men of the world as our chums. We crucify our own peace and release unto ourselves trouble. We join the great throng which says, "Might makes right." We help make up the wave of public sentiment that influences honest men to go wrong. We exchange true liberty for the bondage of sin. So much depends many times upon the proper choice.

If you are a Christian, don't choose evil associates; it doesn't look well for you do so; besides they will lead you astray, and remember that "a man is judged by the company he keeps." The general opinion of the public is

that "birds of a feather flock together."

If you are a Christian, don't choose sinful amusements; it will ruin your influence, spot your character, bring reproach upon your church and the great cause for which it stands, and besides it will keep you from enjoying your salvation.

If you are a Christian, don't choose improper modes of dress; it doesn't show good taste; it isn't that which becometh a saint; it doesn't build your character, and you will feel nearer to the Lord and will feel more plainly that sweet approval of Jesus upon you, if you won't do it.

If you are a Christian, then, in all things, make your choice as becometh a Christian. Paul said, "If ye then be risen with Christ, Set your affections on things above, and not on things on the earth."

Winford Davis.

SPECIAL NOTICE

I want to say by way of explanation that, through a mistake by either myself as State clerk, or by the clerk of Union Association, the name of Eld. S. H. Marcum fails to appear in our State minute this year. I rather think this is a mistake of my own, but am not sure about it. Bro. Marcum is one of the able preachers of Union Association of Free Will Baptist, and is worthy of the appearance of his name in the State minute. We will try to do better next time, Bro. Marcum.

Winford Davis.

Purdy, Missouri

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Gem Family: This is my first time to write a piece for our paper. I sure do like the paper and it don't seem like I could ever do without it. I sure do wish it could come every week.

"Must Jesus bear the cross alone,
And all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for every one,
And there's a cross for me."

How happy are the saints above,
Who once went sorrowing here!
But now they taste unmingled love
And joy without a tear.

The consecrated cross I'll bear,
Till death shall set me free;
And then go home my crown to wear,
For there's a crown for me.

Upon the crystal pavement down
At Jesus' pierced feet,
Joyful, I'll cast my golden crown,
And His dear name repeat.

And palms shall wave, and harps
shall ring
Beneath heaven's arches high;
The Lord that lives, the ransom
sing
That lives no more to die.

Oh, precious cross! Oh, glorious
crown!

Oh, resurrection day!
Ye angels, from the stars come
down

And bear my soul away.
Cynthia Henderson.

Mansfield, Missouri

Pleasant Ridge Church

Dear Readers of the Gem: Just a line to say that our Sunday school is coming along fine and everyone seems to enjoy Sunday school. Had a good program Children's Day, the 2nd Sunday in June. Each recitation taught us a Bible lesson. We also had an interesting talk by Bro. Ollie Claxton and Bro. Marler, visiting brothers. The church and Sunday school welcomed them. They seemingly enjoyed the day and the basket dinner that was spread for all. Come again.

We get the next 5th Sunday meeting, which will be in August. Praying we have a good meeting, for we enjoy these good old time meetings, which are food to our souls to feast upon His love.

Each one of God's children has a work to do. Brothers and sisters, I am thankful for that. We have so many things to be thankful for. We have such wonderful sermons by Bro. Scott, Jr. each month, not only the Christians enjoy them, but sinners enjoy them too; what more could we ask for? Be a worker for our Master.

Your sister in Christ,
Mrs. Lula Crippen.

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.

Letter Heads

Printed on Hammermill Bond
Size 8½x11 inches

100	\$1.25
200	1.50
500	2.25
1000	3.50

Envelopes

Good envelopes printed as ordered

Size 6¼

100	\$1.25
200	1.50
500	2.25
1000	3.50

10 inch Size

100	\$1.35
200	1.70
500	2.75
1000	4.50

Blanks

Size 8½x11 inches

Suitable for framing

Minister's Ordination blanks, 10c
Minister's License blanks, 10c
Deacon's Ordination blanks, 10c
Evangelist's Cert. of Election, 10c
If less than 5 blanks are ordered,
5 cents should be added for postage.
5 or more, 10c each, postpaid.

Treatise

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

Letter Blanks

Letter from a Church to a Q. M.,
Y. M. or Association. Letter from
Y. M. or Association to State Asso-
ciation, 5c each, 6 for 25c, postpaid.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The announcement of your As-
sociation, Quarterly Meeting or
5th Sunday Meeting should ap-
pear here. Send in your announce-
ment so it can be printed in the
next issue of the Gem.

National Mission Rally

The National Mission Workers
Rally will meet during our Camp
Meeting at Tulsa, Okla. We are
expecting mission workers from
the different States, so be sure
to be there.

Camp Meeting begins second
Sunday in August. Watch for
announcements later or write to
Eld. Melvin Bingham, 705 N. St.
Louis St., Tulsa, Okla. and he will
tell you just how to get to the
camps. We are expecting to
furnish free meals to ministers.
Arrange your meetings to be with
us at least for the Rally.

A. B. Talbert, Supt. of Missions.

INDIAN CREEK Association
will meet with our Jones Chapel
Church, near Stella, Mo., begin-
ning on Wednesday night before
the first Sunday in September,
1931. Eld. Noel Turner to preach
the introductory sermon.
Mrs. Emma Henderson Clerk,
Purdy, Missouri.

NORTHEAST MO. Association
will hold their yearly meeting
with Bethel Church, located about
three miles northwest of Connells-
ville, and about three and one-
half miles northeast of Stahl, Mo.,
beginning on September 3rd and
closing with the night service,
September 6, 1931. Arrangements
will be made to meet folks coming
from a distance by rail, either at
Novinger or Stahl. We feel that
God is going to give us a won-
derful meeting again this year,
and so we are praying for a large
delegation.

C. A. Phillips, Stahl, Mo., R2.

MT. ZION Church, north of
Plattsburg, Mo., will hold their
Annual Homecoming Day the first
Sunday in August:

Sunday School at 10:00 o'clock.
Preaching at 11:00 o'clock.

Dinner at noon.

Short service in afternoon.

Everybody welcome. Come and
enjoy the day with us.

E. T. House, Pastor, Santa Rosa.

ARKANSAS Association will
meet with Mt. Olive church No. 3,
at Harvey, Arkansas, beginning
on Friday night before the first
Sunday in September, 1931.
O. C. Hunt, Clerk, Waldron, Ark.

CENTRAL WESTERN MO.
and SOUTHEASTERN KANSAS
Association will meet with Ver-
della Church, two miles south of
Verdella, Mo., beginning on Wed-
nesday night before the fourth
Sunday in August, 1931.

Eld. W. H. York to preach the
introductory sermon.

W. H. York, Clerk, Hannon, Mo.

MISSOURI STATE Association
will meet with Free Will Chapel
No. 1, better known as Pleasant
Ridge Church, near Urbana, Mo.,
beginning on Tuesday night be-
fore the third Sunday in October,
1931. Eld. E. E. Winfree to
preach the introductory sermon.
Eld. G. W. Scott, Sr., alternate.
Winford Davis, Clerk, Monett, Mo.

CO-OPERATIVE GENERAL
Association will meet with our
Macedonia Church, about four
miles northeast of Purdy, Mo.,
beginning on Tuesday night be-
fore the third Sunday in Nov.,
1931. This is a regular meeting,
and election time for all officers.
Eld. M. L. Sutton, Clerk, Box
211 Sylvania Station, Ft. Worth,
Texas.

NORTHWEST MO. Association
will meet with the Philadelphia
church, often called "Muddy,"
three miles northeast of Santa
Rosa, Mo., and six miles south
and a little west of Pattonsburg,
Mo., beginning on Thursday night
before the fourth Sunday in
August, 1931.

Eld. W. R. Rush, Moderator.
Melba White, Clerk, Hemple, Mo.