

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. VII. No. 1

Purdy, Missouri, January, 1935.

50 cents per year.

USAGES OF OUR DENOMINATION

Qualifications and Duties of Church Officers

By Elder Jas. F. Miller

By request from some of our young pastors, I am writing some articles on the "Usages" of our denomination. "The Qualifications of Church Officers and Their Duties."

On page 43 of the Treatise, section one, governing the organization of churches, we read, "When several believers wish to be organized into a church, they request a council of three ordained elders, which make an examination of the Christian character, doctrine and fellowship of the applicants, and their ability to sustain a church. If the examination proves satisfactory, the organization proceeds as follows:

1. The Bible is presented as the only rule of faith and practice.
2. A church covenant is adopted (The covenant is found on pages 80 and 81 of the Treatise).
3. A prayer of consecration is offered.
4. The hand of fellowship is given by the chairman of the council.

Thus we have the church where it may legally elect its officers.

Officers are elected as follows: A Clerk and Treasurer a Pastor, and a Board of Deacons.

Each officer should be carefully instructed as to their duties. Said instructions should be given by the council organizing the church.

At this point we shall try to outline the duties of each officer:

It is the duty of the Clerk to keep a correct record of all business meetings of the church, legal transactions to be properly recorded in a minute book, provided by the church or otherwise provided; also to keep a correct record of the membership of the church. Such records should be kept so that they may be referred to at any time when necessary.

The duty of the Treasurer is to receive all the funds of the church, and to make and keep a record of the same, to see that the funds of the church are properly handled, and be able to show by his or her record what funds have been received and how they have been used.

Then comes the duty or duties of the Pastor. And just here we will discuss this very prayerfully and carefully.

Pastors are a God called people. In Ephesians 4:11, "And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." Hence pastors are a people who should feed their people with knowledge and understanding: they should always have a shepherd heart.

The outstanding duty of the pastor is to preach the Word. All else that he or she may do that helps to make him or her a good Pastor should be considered secondary. It is of course the duty of a Pastor to meet his people where it is possible, and encourage them in the study of God's Word, church attendance, the spiritual and financial support of the church. It is also the duty of the Pastors to encourage the people of their churches to support the denominational enterprises, read the denominational papers, and support the cause in a general way. These are just a few of the duties of the Pastor; they are so many that we could not hope to mention all of them.

One other thing is very necessary: A Pastor should attend the business meetings of the church and council with his church, and encourage the membership to attend the business meetings; also to attend quarterly meetings, yearly meetings and associations. Every Free Will Baptist should know how to moderate a business meeting, however pastors, where it is possible, should moderate the meetings.

We will not say any more about the duty of the Pastor at this time, but will think of the duty of the Deacon. Some one may say, "Just what is the duty of a deacon?" The word deacon means servant. It was an official title given to one who superintends the temporal affairs of the church, first read of in Acts 6. Our Treatise says, "Deacons should possess sound piety, good business capacity, and large benevolence," etc. A deacon, to be a good deacon, must have the cause of the church at heart; it is his duty to assist the pastor at baptismal services and the Lord's Supper, to co-operate with the pastor and church in all the program of the church.

The question has often been asked, "What does a deacon have to do to disqualify himself?" The answer is, "Nothing." A deacon is ordained to be a part of the official board of the church, and that board is to promote order and activity in the church; reason teaches us that an inactive board could not promote activity in the body. So when any official members of a church fail to discharge their known duty, they disqualify themselves; and the church should declare the office vacant and elect some one to fill said vacancy. Let us reason from this point of view: If a pastor quits filling his appointments, fails to preach the Word and to perform his duties, what is the result? The church calls another pastor. Why? Because the pastor has quit coming and cannot be depended upon. He may be clean, he may not have done anything desperate, he has just quit doing for the church. And

if that is the right thing to do in the case of a pastor, why not in the case of a deacon, clerk, treasurer, or in fact any others who may have official duties to perform?

I have been a pastor for twenty years, and in that time have learned that a church seldom, if ever, rises above the official membership. Therefore, if a man or woman is not going to discharge the duties of the office they have been elected to fill, they should be fair enough with the church to notify the church and resign. And if they will not do that, then rather than the church suffer, the body that is the church should declare the office vacant and elect some one to fill the vacancy who will work.

If I should undertake to picture a church that I thought was a church ready to meet the Lord, it would be a church with a pastor on fire for God; a board of deacons, every one ready for service; a church clerk with a record up to date; a treasurer with a record equal to the best; these all surrounded with a group of laymen ready to co-operate with them in the spread of the Gospel.

Hoping that these few lines will be a blessing to some one, especially to our young ministers, I beg to remain, your humble servant.

THE NEW KINGDOM

Part 9. The R'se of Antichrist.

By Elder Everett Wilson

We are now ready to take up the second act of the second coming of Christ. We have seen Him as He came in the air for His Church, which went to meet Him at the first stage of His second coming; and now we see Israel in real repentance going out to meet Him, and saying, "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." For, when they rejected Christ at His first coming, He told them they should never see Him again until they should say these wonderful words (Matt. 23:37-39). What a glory it will be to rejecting Israel when her heart has at last been turned back to the Lord, and all her backslidings have been healed! The troubles of the great tribulation under the leadership of the Antichrist has truly caused the Jews to turn as one man to the Son of David, and cry out for mercy. Finding no way to turn but to Jesus, whom they have so long rejected, and all terms with the Beast broken by him, and the beloved daily sacrifice taken away, and Antichrist, showing himself as God, sitting in the Temple of God, turns against them in all his fury, demanding that they take his mark, number, or name. It is then that they cry out to God, who has so often in times past sent deliverance to them, and now once more He hears the cry of His children as they turn to Him and cry for His Son from Heaven. Here read again Zech. 14.

The visions recorded in the thirteenth chapter of Revelation seem to follow the events related in the twelfth chapter. The man child being caught away, and the woman protected from the Dragon, and all his efforts to carry her away with the floods he is throwing out after her, being defeated by Michael and his angels in battle, and is cast down to the earth, the Dragon begins his short reign on earth by giving his strength to the Beast, or Antichrist who is sitting in the Temple of God at Jerusalem.

For, according to 2 Thess. 2, the Temple is there when Jesus comes with His saints to take the throne of His father David.

Rev. 13:1. John sees the Beast rise up out of the sea, which in Bible terms means the great mass of humanity. The Beast has seven heads and ten horns upon his heads, and ten crowns upon the horns, and on his heads the names of blasphemy. You will notice here, it is the horns that are crowned, and not the heads, as in chapter 12, for these horns are kings which have received no kingdom as yet, but receive power as kings one hour with the Beast, or Antichrist (Rev. 17:12).

Verse 2. "And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion; and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."

Now notice that the dragon, or Satan is empowering the beast out of the pit to make the final stand against Christ. All wisdom and lying wonders are given to him to deceive all who worship his image, and Satan is no longer "the prince of the power of the air," as in times past, but is now working through the Beast (Antichrist), and the false prophet.

Verse 3. One of his heads wounded unto death. No doubt this was when Papal Rome conquered Political Rome, and this head, the one in power when John was writing, the one which he said, "now is," or the sixth, which was Rome. The seventh king seems to be the one who desires to restore the Roman Empire. We will hear from him in our next article. The political head of this world system will be completely restored when the Beast King comes into power, and the whole world will be ruled by him. He has all the characteristics of the first three great world empires and come up in the time of the fourth, although it is mingled with iron and clay. "He is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition" (Rev. 17:11).

V. 4. "And they worshipped the dragon (or Devil), which gave power unto the beast." Devil worship is already a fact, as there are many cults who worship the Devil. Who is like this Beast? Who can make war with him? No nation could send out an army, no matter how large or how well equipped, they could not stand in combat with the resurrected man of sin, whom Christ will take and cast alive into the lake of fire.

Verses 5 & 6. "And he openeth his mouth in blasphemy against God, . . . and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven." Power to continue 42 months.

V. 7. "To make war with the saints." How perfectly this fits the woman of chapter 12 who is protected for three and one-half years, and then no doubt is overcome by the Antichrist and his forces, but not conquered, as the tribulation saints are raised to ever be with Christ (Rev. 7:9-17). No one will escape whose name is not written in the Lamb's Book of Life, for power is given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

V. 8. "ALL that dwell upon the earth SHALL worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life." How important it is to preach a born again experience, without which no one can

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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

50 cents 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.

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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 CHRISTIAN'S HOPE

By the Editor

To hope for anything, is to expect it with confidence that it will be obtained.

The source of hope; that in which one trusts to bring forth that which is expected or desired.

The farmer plows his ground, breaks and crushes the clods and prepares it for the seed, then he puts in good seed: the sun warms the soil and the rains give moisture; so the seed germinates and grows. As the farmer cultivates his growing crop, and observes the healthy, vigorous growth, he rejoices in hope.

So it is with the Christian: by sorrow and suffering the heart is broken and is contrite; and being thus prepared, receives the Word of God (Seed). The love of God by the Holy Spirit warms and nourishes the life thus planted (Rom. 5:5), and there is rejoicing in hope.

Paul says in Rom. 8:24, "For we are saved by hope." Now he means that we are saved in hope, that is, we must continue in hope to the end of life if we ever enter into eternal life in the presence of God. The Holy Spirit is given to believers as the earnest or first payment of our inheritance (Eph. 1:13, 14), with promise of full spiritual blessing or full payment to all them that are faithful and live in hope to the end of this life.

Not long ago I heard a man preach, and he said, "We no longer believe in the coming of the Lord to set up His kingdom on earth, nor is our hope now centered in Heaven, as it was in the early church; but our hope is centered in an ideal social order; and we shall gain immortality through individual achievement and an ideal social order."

But Peter says (1 Peter 1:21), that God raised up His Son from the dead and glorified Him, "That your faith and hope might be in God."

Paul says (1 Tim. 1:1), that Christ is our hope.

And Paul says in Col. 1:27, "Christ in you, (is) the hope of glory."

I know a lot of church members who do not pray; they care little for the Bible; they render but little service for God and the cause of righteousness; but they do seem to enjoy Sunday ball games, picture shows, and many other things of the world; and they delight to feast upon the Devil's literature, yet they claim to have a hope of eternal life. What gets me is the fact that so many people are so void of understanding, that they think they can spend the whole time (a life time) allotted them to prepare to meet God serving the Devil, and expect to inherit eternal life when they die.

Paul says in Titus 2:11-13, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world; looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ." How can one be justified in the sight of God and live in hope of eternal life, when he indulges in and enjoys what this Scripture commands him to be free from?

Now let us briefly consider Eph. 4:4, "There is
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MONETT, MISSOURI

Dear Gem Readers: I haven't reported through the Gem for some time, so will do so this month.

On December 2nd, I closed a very successful six weeks' meeting at Hannon, Mo. There were only 24 saved and renewed, but one unusual feature was most all those were elderly people, and the greater part of them were what would be called old people. Fourteen were received into the church, and seven were baptized.

This is the 4th revival I have held at Hannon, and I am sure it was as good a meeting for the church there, if not the best one, I have held. I am on my second year as pastor there and the church is getting along fine. We have a live Gospel team, an extra good Sunday school, a ladies' mission circle, and a good prayer meeting.

We started a building fund during the revival, and also have a large list of tithers.

Sisters Merl Wright and Melba White held a revival for us at Maccodon'a the latter part of Nov. We are very thankful for the good done during the meeting; several souls were saved, and one or two new ministers answered the call.

We expect our next revival to be with the new church in Aurora, just as soon as we get the building enclosed sufficiently to get into it. I received two members and had one seeker at the altar my last appointment there. The little church is having somewhat of a struggle getting the building erected these severe times, but it is marvelous how the Lord is blessing. They are just paying as they go, and by so doing, are keeping out of debt. Every time funds are exhausted the Lord opens some new way. They now have a plan to present to me a new quilt, which they expect to add \$25.00 or more to the building fund, and of course you know such a plan as that suits me—naturally. The building is 34x50, just a frame building, but will be very nice when completed, and is located in a nice place in the resident district. The lot cost \$125.00. If you can see your way clear, we would appreciate a donation to help finish the church house.

We are still keeping up the regular appointment over station WMBH at Joplin each Thursday morning at 8:30, but are undecided as to how long we will continue to go unless we can get more time. Bro. Swaffar and my niece, Oleta Davis, goes with us each week.

It seems that my interest in the cause becomes greater all the time. I can't find time to do what there is to do and what I would like to do. I desire an interest in your prayers that I may be crucified with Christ, as stated by the Apostle Paul, and used only to His glory.

May the Lord bless the entire Gem family.

—Winford Davis.

YALE, OKLAHOMA, December 7, 1934

Dear Gem Family: Here we are again with another report of victory over sin and the Devil.

After leaving Earlsboro, we spent a few days in Konawa with some of our Free Will Baptist friends where we had planned for two nights' services, but were rained out.

Then we came on to Drumright and found a quar-

terly meeting in full force, the power of God was coming down and souls were being saved. Brother and Sister Harry Staires have the Drumright church now, and under Bro. Staires' leadership, the church is moving out and God is wonderfully blessing. We have some splendid young preachers in Oklahoma, and the work is on the rise all over the state. We saw many of our old friends too.

After the quarterly meeting, we came to Vance Chapel to visit a few nights with Bro. and Sister Epperson, and the first few nights it almost rained us out, then last Sunday morning a real revival broke out. We had 21 conversions, and up to date we have had 32, and we will be here another week.

Then we will visit the Cushing church for a few nights. Bro. and Sister Waltman have charge there now, and we love Bro. and Sister Waltman. We met them years ago in Drumright; and we are glad they are still in the fight against sin.

We will start to Texas Wednesday, Dec. 19th, to join our husband and daughter for a few days' visit, then spend Christmas with our mother, if it be the Lord's will. It will be the first time in 22 years that we have eaten dinner on Christmas in the old home we love so well. After Christmas our first meeting will be in Iola, Texas. We ask all to pray for a great victory there, and that many precious souls will be saved.

We don't want to fail to say how glad we are to be with Brother and Sister Epperson again, and the good people here, how we love them, also the good home we have to stay in, only three of the family at home: Bro. and Sister Blackburn and their daughter. They have done their best to make us happy and feel at home; God bless them.

We are sending five subscriptions to the Gem. Let us all work harder for the Gem, and may God ever bless Bro. and Sister Brown for being so faithful to our beloved cause.

Yours for Jesus,

Lizzie McAdams.

NORWOOD, MISSOURI, December 24, 1934.

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

I will report a very successful meeting held with Oak Grove church, closing December 19th.

On December 2nd, Sunday evening, Eld. Selph Jones, our faithful pastor for the past seven years, arrived at the church, bringing with him Eld. W. E. George of Springfield, Mo. The pastor welcomed him into the pulpit, giving him full charge of the preaching service, pastor conducting devotional and song services.

Bro. George started the meeting with a very soul-stirring message, and continued to bring inspiring and constructive sermons both day and night.

The Spirit of God, and of love and co-operation was felt among those present at each service and many were made happy in the old-fashioned way.

On Saturday, Dec. 15th, conveyance was furnished Bro. George, by a friend, to his home, returning at evening with his wife and two daughters who enjoyed the services, and their presence was appreciated until Monday, when they were taken back to their home by Elder O. L. Allen.

The meeting resulted in the salvation of 18 souls, nine were baptized (a number to be baptized at a

later date), and ten united with the church.

Bro. George expressed his thankfulness for the contribution which was freely given, amounting to about \$50.00 in money and provisions, our big-hearted pastor giving the full contribution to Bro. George besides helping some himself.

Bro. George has gained the friendship and love of the Oak Grove people. Our prayers are for him and his family. Transportation was furnished to his home by Bro. A. L. Fletcher.

—Elder H. B. Smith.

REPORT OF REVIVAL MEETING

On November 19th we went to Mountain Grove, Mo. to assist in a revival meeting. Bro. G. W. Scott, Jr., the faithful pastor had already preached Sunday at eleven and Sunday night. We arrived in Mt. Grove about 4 o'clock p. m. and went to the home of Bro. Riley Hutsell for supper, then arriving at the church we found a good crowd out, and it brought joy to our hearts to be with these good people in another engagement for the Lord, but we soon discovered that the church wasn't really prayed up and ready for the revival yet. They soon began to get lined up and under a burden for the meeting. Twelve souls were blessed in conversion or renewal, and God's people greatly revived in the eleven days we were there. The good people of Mt'n Grove will always have a warm place in our heart.

We are now at home with our church in Monett and, while we have been busy with a Christmas program, we have been able to enjoy the presence of the Spirit of God. Last Thursday night at prayer meeting one young man who had strayed away from God was renewed and a number made to shout the praises of God. On Thursday night the week before the Executive Board met with us and ordained one to the Gospel ministry and licensed two others.

May the Lord give us a prosperous year in reaching lost souls.

Yours in Christ,

Eld. O. T. Allred.

DRUMRIGHT, OKLA., Dec. 10, 1934

Good morning, everybody. Well, here I come again to chat with all the good readers of the Gem.

I have been so busy the last few months that I just failed to write the last two papers, but I have been on the go quite a bit and have met lots of old friends; we met some at the State meeting, and some at the Co-operative Association at Denison, Texas; and how we enjoyed seeing them all again. Then last month was our quarterly meeting of the First Mission Association, and we sure did have a fine meeting. We met at the Drumright church, and we had a fine delegation, and an old time shouting revival.

Well, I must report our mission work. We are still on the job. I didn't get to attend our November meeting, and that meeting happened to be at Drumright too. They had their share last month, but they have a fine pastor, and the pastor a fine bunch of people; so they are always ready to do their part. They all reported a fine mission meeting.

The first Friday in this month we met at Vance Chapel church. Sister McAdams happened to be there in a revival. We had a fine mission day. The Drumright pastor was there and something like 15 of his members, and they report they are just on top with their mission, and they have a fine Junior mission.

The Cushing pastor was present with a goodly number from his church, and they sure had a good report. They have been doing lots of quilting. They quilt for 50c a hundred yard spool, and they report they have 16 quilts ahead of them now.

The pastor from Arbor Dale gave in a report.

Then the mission president of Vance Chapel gave in a good report.

Then we came in with our church, as we have a fine mission work now at Silver City. They have quilted two quilts, gave their pastor one, made a number of sick calls, had a number of cottage prayer meetings.

We also had with us Bro. Will Bean and wife and several ladies from his church at Earlsboro. We sure enjoyed having them with us. They have started a mission spirit in that church, and may God bless them in their work.

Our message was brought by Sister Fincher. Subject, "Poor." We all enjoyed it fine.

Jennings was the only church that wasn't present.

We ask you to pray for us, that we might be on the job for God. We are now looking forward to the New Year, and praying that we might do a greater work.

Yours for the cause of Christ,

Rev. Hattie Newman, Reporter for Circle No. 1.

WAGONER, OKLA., Dec. 20, 1934.

Victory Hill Church

As new beginners, this is the first time Victory Hill church has been able to tell what we are doing for the Lord.

Elder V. E. Cooper of Tulsa, Okla. has been chosen pastor. We organized a church, beginning with seventeen members. Much interest is shown and a successful two weeks' revival was held in September, by Elder V. E. Cooper and twenty-seven were saved.

We have small attendance at prayer meetings, which is every Wednesday night, but the Lord is there. We have good attendance at Bible study on Saturday night, which is taught by Bro. Cooper. This is a greater upbuilding to the community than anything I know of.

By the help of the Lord and prayers of the Christian people we believe the Lord is going to bless us and give a good church here at this place.

We have some that are deeply under conviction, and ask the Christian people to pray for them. Somehow they just can't surrender; pray for them, that whatever the hindering cause may be, it will be removed before it is too late.

Pray for our little church, that it may prosper.

We expect to be able each month to let the world know that we are working for the Lord, and fighting sin.

—Mrs. Paul Whitten.

THIRD F. W. B. CHURCH of SAINT LOUIS, MO.

Dear Readers of the Gem: It has been some time since I have written from St. Louis.

Everything is going along fine, and members of the Third Free Will Baptist church are making preparations for their Christmas entertainment, and the children are looking forward to that night, when we remember that our Savior was born into this world to die for lost mankind. Seemingly people have forgotten what Christmas should mean. When people are giving and receiving gifts, they forget that God gave His Son to die for them.

Elder T. C. Ferguson was down from Weatherby, Mo. and held a revival meeting, and we had a good time. The services and interest were good, and several were saved. Bro. Ferguson was here about four weeks, and Bro. Mark Lewis was up for a few days. Come again, Bro. Lewis, we like to hear you preach.

Bro. Willard Lackey and his companion were up to St. Louis last week and went to Sunday school. Bro. Lackey is superintendent of Flat River Sunday school. Our Sunday school is getting along pretty well, but attendance is not so good this cold weather, but church attendance has been good and we are having a good time.

Our young people's league is coming along fine.

A few weeks ago the church and young people's league gave Bro. W. C. Hill, F. McCauley, Sister Ruth Lincoln and Sister Silvey Hill a birthday supper. We had a big crowd, with good music and singing, and all had a good time.

Come on, Free Will Baptist, and get the Gem while it is in reach of all.

Francis McCauley, 1622 Hickory Street.

THE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

As nothing has yet appeared in the Gem relative to the last session of the Co-operative Association, which was held in Denison, Texas last month, I will write a brief report of the same.

It was a wonderful meeting in every way. Perfect peace and love prevailed throughout. The matter of the merger of the East and West was finally settled. We all know that many prayers have been offered and many miles traveled in behalf of this matter, and there was some real rejoicing when the joint committee made their report, and it was unanimously accepted.

The East and the West still hold their Associations, which are to meet separately once a year for two years, then the two bodies meet together in a National Association once every three years. The first National meeting is to be held in Nashville, Tennessee next November. The only officers elected for the coming year were Moderator and an assistant Moderator, who are to act as program committee for the first session. Elder J. L. Welch of Nashville, Tenn. was elected Moderator and Eld. Winford Davis of Monett, Mo. assistant Moderator.

The new officers for the Co-operative Association will be found on the official, or page three of the Gem each month.

The ministers from the General Conference attending the Co-operative meeting were K. V. Shutes,

I. J. Blackwelder, E. C. Morris, J. L. Welch, C. J. Turrentine and M. L. Sutton.

We also were glad to have with us M. F. and F. S. Vanhooose of Paintsville, Ky, besides a large delegation from Missouri and Oklahoma.

May God continue to bless the work as He has been doing, for surely we are making great progress in extending the kingdom work of our Lord. If we but continue to pull together God will do the rest.

This is a brief report, but though I wrote at length, I could not tell you how wonderful the meeting was.

—Winford Davis.

DRUMRIGHT, OKLAHOMA, Dec. 26, 1934.

A happy New Year to the Gem and its Readers:

Will you please sit over and allow me a tiny bit of space, as this is my first visit to the Gem family in a long, long time. And to dear Bro. and Sister Brown, a friendly handshake.

I have not seen any news from Drumright, so just thought I would drop you a few lines to let you know that we are really alive and on fire for God here at Drumright. Elder Harry Staires, formerly of Tulsa, Okla. is our good pastor, and with his good wife, they are doing a wonderful work with the church here. The church is steadily growing under his guiding hand.

They came to us August 1, 1934. He at that time was assisting Sister Hattie Newman in a revival at the place where she is now in charge of a church.

At the close of that meeting she came here to assist Bro. Staires with a revival, which was one God blessed with 42 souls saved, and the church wonderfully built up. Since then the revival spirit has never ceased, but with each service God sends a wonderful Spirit on His people, and there is shouting and souls saved at nearly every service.

Since August we have seen about 70 souls saved and 76 additions to the church, and most of these have been adults, only two or three children.

We have also been remodelling and building onto our church house, which has added much to its value. We built a new kitchen, of which we mothers are very proud. It has built-in fixtures, also built a pastor's study and another class room, which makes us four extra class rooms. We finished and furnished our pastor's study as a surprise to him while he was at the State meeting.

We have bought about \$25.00 worth of new dishes.

Our mission is doing good work under the care of Sister Justice as president. We entertained the quarterly meeting in November. We had a large delegation, and served around 150 at each meal, but all were cared for in a nice way; thanks to our good president, Sister Justice.

Our Sunday school is growing too, the lowest number for this month was 217, and the highest 270 in attendance. We have a wonderful superintendent Bro. Edgar Malone who is putting his whole heart and soul into the work.

Sister Staires has charge of our Junior mission, and they too are very busy.

We have prayer meeting on Tuesday nights, with mission meeting and Bible study on Thursday nights,

with large attendance at each service.

We really love our dear pastor and his wife, and are thanking God for the success and blessings He has showered upon us. We always want to be humble servants for the Master, willing to suffer for Him.

I know many of the Gem readers have been to Drumright, but we want you to come again. Eld. M. M. McKee was with us last New Years Eve, and we had a wonderful service, which closed with communion and feet washing in which 88 took part. We get rather noisy sometimes, but you know the Psalmist said, "I will praise thee with my whole heart; before the gods will I sing praise unto thee."

Pardon me for staying so long and taking so much space, but I enjoy reading the letters from all the dear ones.

Pray for us, one and all.

Mrs. Mae Graham.

WEWOKA, OKLA., Dec. 23, 1934

Good morning to all you Gem readers. It has been some time since I wrote to the Gem, but I thank God, that He has been blessing my work.

I am pastoring the church at Wewoka, Okla. full time. We have a wonderful band of workers here. We have just closed a two weeks' revival and the Lord was sure in it. Seventeen were saved, sixteen united with the church, and the good work is still going on. There is a great work here to do. We have been here three months. There were thirty some members when we came, now we have 56 members, and they are not afraid to put their earnings into the work.

Bro. George McLain helped us in our revival. He is one of our young preachers, and is not afraid to preach the truth; may God bless him in his work.

We are planning on a new church house in the near future; and we need your prayers, that God will help put this work over.

We have a good Sunday school and prayer meeting.

We went to church this morning and they gave us a Christmas present, it was a happy surprise. They gave me a nice overcoat and gloves, and wife some nice things.

We sure do thank them so much for them; may God bless them all.

Pray for us.

I am sending a list of eight subscriptions.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year, I am, as ever,

Yours for the cause,

Eld. W. H. Carter, R1, B282.

Thank you, Bro. Carter, for the eight subscriptions. That puts the Gem into eight homes, all in or near Wewoka. How we wish that many others of our good brethren would do likewise!

ZION HILL CHURCH NOTES

Dear Readers of the Gem;

I just want to express some of my true thoughts to the Gem readers. I do love to read the good letters that are published in the Gem.

I want to say a word about our little wide-awake church, always ready and willing to do something for our Lord. Bro. Scott held us a two weeks' meeting; the Spirit of the Lord was working, and several souls were saved.

We have prayer meeting each Wednesday night and the interest is good.

We have a wonderful Junior mission, with Sister Merchant as president. They are always about the Lord's service.

We have a good Sunday school, with an average attendance of 65 to 70, and all are working with good interest.

We thank God for our pastor, Elder O. H. Staires, who has been so faithful.

Inez Castleberry.

BRISTOW, OKLA., Dec. 24, 1934.

Dear Readers of the Gem:

It has been some time since I sent in a report of our church here at Liberty, 12 miles north of Bristow. I'm trying to go as the Lord leads me, praying that I may do more for my Savior who died for me.

Dear brothers and sisters, we don't do enough for God. As the year 1934 is drawing to a close, let's see if we can't do more for Him in the coming year than we have done in the past. May we re-dedicate ourselves and our all to Him, that we may be more de-

voted in prayer, more and more earnest for the salvation of lost souls, more and more desirous of helping one another and bearing one another's burdens and those that need our help.

We are still battling for the Lord. We have 48 members, but not more than half of them attend our regular Sunday meetings. We have a faithful few who are trying to keep the work going, but we read in God's word, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them." All down through the ages there has always been a faithful few.

We have Bro. V. E. Cooper of Tulsa for pastor, a real man of God and loved by all.

We hold conference on Saturday night before the 2nd Sunday. Our regular services are the 2nd and 4th Sundays. We have Bible study every Sunday night before services. We have prayer meeting on Wednesday night. We also have a young people's meeting. And we have a very nice little Sunday school.

Bro. Cooper brought a wonderful and touching message on the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of our Savior.

Pray for us, that we may do more for Him this year.

Stella Prince, Reporter.

Report of Blue Front Revival

Dear Gem Readers:

I will give a brief report of our meeting at the Blue Front, or the Northwest Picher church.

The meeting began October 21st and closed November 25th. This was a good spiritual meeting.

Eighteen precious souls were saved, twelve baptized, and ten united with the church.

The church was greatly helped and God blessed in the old-fashioned way. There is a real live bunch of Christians to work with at this church.

Sister Melba White was with us a few nights in the meeting, you saw her report of being here in the last issue of the Gem. We were thankful to have Sister Melba in our home. How I thank God for her.

I feel encouraged this morning to press on.

Pray for us.

Elders F. E. and Elda Crain.

OGLESBY, OKLAHOMA

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH NOTES

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am still living for God and want to do His will each and every day of my life.

Brother Stinnett was with us the first Sunday in this month and delivered a wonderful message, as he always does. He doesn't get to be with us as often as we would like for him to be.

We haven't got our church built yet, and we can't always get the school house. He was with us yesterday and last night and we were sure glad to have him.

We had a business meeting here at my house on Saturday night, December 8th, and some called for their letters from the church, but we must all remember that we can't live for God and the Devil at the same time, for God doesn't have that kind of children.

I am still praying for those that are out in sin, and the ones who are not living for God; hope they will see where they are going before it is too late.

We had a nice Christmas program and a nice Christmas treat for our Sunday school yesterday at Sunday school. We always have a good Sunday school, and the young people are doing fine in their meeting, and let us all pray that they will go on and be God's children some day.

Pray for me.

—Jessie Huff.

EUCHA, OKLA., Dec. 25, 1934

Dear Readers of the Gem:

I have moved to Okla. to make my home, not knowing how long we'll live here, probably for life, but thanks be to God, I find Christian people here. I've been to church once, and have learned to love the children of God here, but I haven't found any Free Will Baptist yet. I am trusting some will be passing this way and will preach some for us. We have the Church of God and the Missionary Baptist that I have heard about. They seem to be real Christians filled with the love of Jesus. As I had to leave my little home church, Mt. Olive of Blue Eye, Mo., I am truly thankful we can find Christian people wherever we go, even on earth and in heav-

en, when we have gone the last mile of our way.

I ask an interest in the prayers of all Christian people, to pray for me, that I may grow stronger and help to lead the lost to Christ, for we find unsaved people where ever we go.

May the dear Lord bless all who read this, is my prayer.

Mrs. Birtie Youngblood.

MANSFIELD, MISSOURI

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH NOTES

Dear Gem Readers:

It has been quite a while since I have had the opportunity to write to you. We are still enjoying reading the little paper, but failed to get our copy last month, which we would like to get yet if possible. Enclosed is \$1.00 for a 27 months' subscription. Please send me the paper for last month.

We had our revival at Pleasant Ridge church and had a wonderful meeting spiritually. Seven souls were saved and five added to the church and were baptized. Bro. Eli Burney and Bro. Fred Marler held the meeting. Bro. Burney is our pastor for the coming year. We were sorry to give up Bro. Geo. Scott, Jr. We wish him success and happiness.

We are still having a good Sunday school, and our little cottage Bible class meets every Wednesday afternoon. Would be glad to see more of the young folks come out and take a part with us. We are trying in our weak way to serve our Lord and Master.

We all enjoyed the old peoples' singing and ask God's richest blessings on them, and hope and pray they will be with us again next year. We ask the prayers of those old folks in behalf of our little church and Sunday school. May we all be found at our post of duty at all times, for there is plenty to be doing these depressive times.

Wishing all the Gem readers God's love and blessings.

Your sister in Christ,

Lula Crippen.

BLUE EYE, MISSOURI

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH NOTES

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I feel like saying a few words for Jesus, as He has done so much

for me, and is still doing.

How my heart goes out to those in sin and the ones who started and have fallen by the wayside. May God send someone to rescue every one.

Elder Everett Wilson and wife and our pastor, Elder Cecil Campbell, have just closed a meeting here. Bro. Wilson did the preaching and Sister Wilson and Bro. Campbell helped in other ways. We feel that they have been lots of help to us. We sure did hate to see the meeting close, but the weather has been so bad. We had two snows while they were here, and you know that we Ozark folks have to go far to church, but God was with us all the way through the meeting.

Several were saved and two joined the church; but there are lots of lost souls here yet. We earnestly ask you all to pray for us.

Dear readers, you know whether you are right with God or not, in your hearts. I am looking for that day when God will call us home. In that day when the last trumpet sounds, I want to be ready to meet the Lord and be gathered around the great white throne of God, and hear Him say, "Well done my good and faithful servants." I am determined by the grace of God to see the end of a Christian life. Thank God for that hope: No pain, no heartache, and when God will wipe away all tears from our eyes.

My sincere prayer is for lost souls. May God help us Christians to keep out of the way of sinners; we are leading others one way or the other. If we, as children of God, would stay on our knees more in real earnest prayer, we could see the power of God more and sinners would be converted and could enjoy the happiness that a real child of God does. Isn't it wonderful to be a child of God, and have that wonderful experience of being taken into His fold? "Verily, I say unto you, except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3).

We read in John 3:3, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

And in John 3:5, Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee,

Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

We are not the same creatures after we accept Christ as our Redeemer: we do not care for the worldly pleasures any more, but will try to do everything that is pleasing in the sight of our Lord.

May the good Lord bless the kind editor and his wife in publishing the Gem, our beloved church paper, is the prayer of a humble sister in Christ.

—Alice Taylor.

DESLOGE CHURCH NOTES

Our folks are busy preparing a program for Christmas Eve, in honor of the Christ child, our Savior, whose birthday we celebrate each year. The children tell some part of the beautiful Christmas story in each number on the program; the story that never grows old.

At our last conference two deacons were elected: Bro. Blaine Matthews and Bro. Elmer Stegall.

We were glad to have Eld. Wm Reeves of Esther, Mo. visit our Sunday school and church Sunday, the 16th. Bro. Reeves has just closed a splendid meeting at Mine La Motte, where he assisted the pastor, Eld. Lester Ferguson.

Programs are out for our next Sunday School Convention, which will be held with our church, December 30, 1934. Six schools are represented and we are looking forward to a good time.

Miss Tommie Franklin, our pastor, is spending the month of December in Texas. Her first stop was at Denison where she pastored the church for six years. She will spend Christmas and the holidays at Bryan with her parents, and visiting other relatives and friends. In her absence the laity of the church will take care of all services except Sunday evening. Elder Lester Ferguson conducted services the evening of Dec. 9th, and Elder Damon Dodd Dec. 16th. Both delivered good messages to attentive audiences.

REPORTER.

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH NOTES

Dear Readers of the Gem:

As we begin this report, it brings to our minds that we are

near another anniversary of our Lord, and that this is the last report for 1934.

It causes us to stop and ponder over each month as it has passed, and say in our heart, Have we done our best for Jesus? Realizing our weakness and our inability to do much, yet it's the greatest desire of our heart to spend each moment of life in the service of our Lord.

So this morning we want to tell the Gem readers that Tulsa church is really alive and on fire for God.

Bro. J. B. Huckaby of Scranton, Ark. and Bro. Bingham of Vera, Okla. brought wonderful messages on three different Sunday mornings in order to give our much overworked pastor a rest. The pulpit was filled at all other services by Bro. Melvin, with powerful messages to a crowded and attentive audience. Seven souls being born into the kingdom of God these last three Sunday nights, with much shouting and rejoicing.

Our hearts are made to rejoice by the many blessings that God continues to bestow upon our little church.

Through the courtesy of 19 business firms our church received two hundred 1935 calendars, carrying a picture of our pastor in the center, with Scripture verses church add beneath, surrounded by adds of contributing firms. We also received 50 miniature banks from the Sanders Mfg Co. of Nashville. These banks being loaned to the various members who in turn solicited donations for our basement fund, and nearly \$50.00 has been turned in to date.

Our Senior Sunday school class gave a very interesting program at the school auditorium Dec. 17th. The Arkansas Travelers furnished music. Ticket sales netted the class \$37.00.

At present the Junior classes are preparing a Christmas program for this Friday night.

Our Mission workers are busy making and distributing garments and food to the needy. One comfort, eleven new garments and several bundles of useful articles being sent out. At this time we are very much interested in the welfare of a home where death took away the father, leaving a wife and nine little children in a destitute condition, but God has

blessed this home by saving the mother's soul and most of the children are now in Sunday school.

Again our hearts were made sad by the passing away of Bro. Grissom, a faithful old true soldier of the cross, an attentive member and active in the Lord's work the greater part of his 90 years of life, 40 years having been spent in the ministry. To these bereaved homes we offer a sympathetic heart and point you to the Great Comforter that dwells in Heaven.

The reporter wishes to correct the statement made in last issue, that Bro. Melvis Bingham brot one message at the Co-operative Association at Denison, Texas. —My error. I am sorry.

Evelyn Miller, Reporter.

What Will You Do With Jesus?

By Elder P. H. Coffman

He is that Being in whom are united such apparent impossibilities, and of whom may be truly affirmed, many apparently contradictory statements. He was the man of sorrow, yet the Son of God; the poor wanderer over the hills of Palestine, yet the maker of all things that were made.

He had no place to lay His head, yet was Lord and Master, owner of all things. While dependent for His daily bread on friends who ministered to Him of their substance, yet He claimed that the silver and the gold of earth were His, and the cattle on a thousand hills belong to Him.

While He was a stumblingblock and a rock of offense to many, still He was the Rock of whom Moses sang, and the Rock that followed the Hebrews through their long wanderings in the desert wastes of Arabia. Not only are such seemingly contradictory things true of Him, but many others.

While He was born in a manger where cattle often fed, yet His birth was heralded by companies of the heavenly host, that filled the air with celestial music. His whole life shows that, while He was a man and lived among men, yet He was no common man.

Great men have usually attained to greatness by successfully destroying their fellowmen, but to be known as kind and pure and meek is almost a reproach. Jesus appears as perfectly innocent, but

no one ever felt that He lacked greatness. He successfully maintained His claim to be, in all respects, like His brethren the children of men, but never admitted that He had ever sinned. He never repented, never reformed.

He visited sinners and ate with them, and had compassion on the fallen, still no one ever felt that He was contaminated with them.

Pilate, who delivered Him up to be crucified, was constrained to say: "I find no fault in this man."

When we speak of Jesus, we mean that child, the burden of so many prophecies, of whom it was said, "He shall be called Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins."

At His birth wise men from the East saw a star and came seeking the Child born to be a King, and when they found Him, they made Him rich gifts and worshipped Him. Herod the king of Judea, was so filled with fear of this child, that he put to death the young children of Bethlehem, that he might escape the cruel jealousy of this King.

By divine directions, He and His mother were taken down to Egypt. Little is said of His childhood, yet we are told that every one loved and admired Him. He increased in stature and in favor with God and man.

Now again I ask the question, What will you do with Jesus? You are the one that has the right to say today, but tomorrow He may have the right to say what He will do with you and me.

PRAYER

By Stella Prince

Prayer is the key that opens the door of Heaven.

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire.

No prayer is truly Christian which does not breathe the spirit, not my will, but thine be done.

It is through prayer that we draw near to God and God in turn draws near to us.

Converse with God reaches its highest level when, alone with God, we pour out into His listening ear everything is our hearts.

Oh, the agony when the nails were being driven through His hands and feet! Jesus' only re-

sponse was, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

He had taught men to pray for those who spitefully used them, and what He taught He practiced.

Prayer is one of the very great treasures of the Christian church.

Some persons say they cannot love their enemies; this is because they have never tried. They have never tried because they feel sure it is impossible. But every one can love his enemies if he begins at the right place, the place of prayer.

"Pray for them which spitefully use you," so says the Master of us all. Talk to God about your foes; attack them through God; get even with them by means of God. It is a great day in a person's life, when for the first time he prays for his enemies. By his prayer, he ties his hands so he cannot work mischief: he strangles his tongue so it cannot say nasty things: he paralyzes his intellect so it cannot devise vengeance: he sweetens his heart so his mouth cannot remain bitter. The old law of retaliation fades out in the glowing light of love, the love that streams from the throne.

In mapping out the empire within which prayer as a force is operative, the sick room must be given a conspicuous place. Men have always prayed for the sick. They have prayed because they could not help it: they have been encouraged by the fact that Jesus prayed for the sick and gave sick people into the care of his disciples, and that in the Apostolic church it was customary to pray over the sick and anoint them with oil; and that through the generations, multitudes of praying invalids have been lifted up and strengthened. Just as truly as we need daily food do we need this daily cleansing and renovating of strength.

Christians are to pray that the thought of God may be kept holy, and that His kingdom may come on earth as it already is in heaven.

We, as God's children, should never venture on a new day without asking God's guidance and protection from the enemy of our souls. From experience, I find early morning prayer the sweetest and most effective: we should always put God first; "And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer believing, ye shall receive."

How to Learn and Know the Truth

By Elder Willard Day

Is it possible that we could believe we are right and be wrong?

Proverbs 14:12—"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Hosea 4:6—"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

1 Cor. 1:19—"For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."

Proverbs 1:7—"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

James 1:5—"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Job 32:8—"But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding."

John 5:39—"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me."

2 Tim. 2:15—"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Tim. 3:15-17—"And that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Isaiah 34:16—"Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them."

John 8:32—"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Tulsa, Okla., R1.

OBITUARY

IN MEMORY

In loving memory of our loving father and husband who left us one year ago today, the third day of December, 1933.

We are sad and lonely without him here, but so thankful to know that he was trying to live in such a way as to enter that mansion God has prepared for all who love Him.

We have a mansion not made with hands,

Eternal in the heavens, where Christ our Savior stands,

He went from earth to Heaven

This mansion to prepare,

And all His blood-washed children,

This house with Him shall share,

His praise we'll sing forever,

From all sorrow we'll be free,

There'll be naught but joy and gladness,

Through all eternity.

Mrs. Pete Peterson and children.

Marbut—George David Marbut was born December 17, 1856, in Barry County, Missouri, and departed this life October 31, 1934, at his home near Purdy, Missouri, being at the time of his death, 77 years, ten months and 13 days of age.

He was married in 1874 to Nancy Lane. To this union were born twelve children, three girls and nine boys, eight of them having preceded him in death. The surviving children are Everett and Edmond of Monett and Herschel and Columbus of near Purdy. The mother of the home passed away May 6, 1899, leaving six children in the home at that time, which was a great care upon the father. He later was married to Rebeckah Allen who had three children, one having passed on, the other two survive, namely: William Allen and Mrs. F. M. Bandy of near Purdy. He leaves to mourn his passing, besides the companion and children just named, three brothers and three sisters, namely: Elisha, John, Ira, Mrs. Lee Webber, Mrs. S. A. Davis and Mrs. I. C. Inman, all of this community, twenty-two grandchildren, one namely: Ethel Brown who has lived with his grandparents since the death of his mother several years ago, three

step grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and an unusual number of relatives and friends. His father and mother Mr. and Mrs. Washington Marbut passed on a number of years ago.

Mr. Marbut's grandfather, Philip Marbut, came to this country from Tennessee in 1841 and settled on what is known as the Old Marbut Place, west of McDowell, and there raised his family who have been known in this section since those early days; many of the descendants now live in various sections of the country.

George Marbut was converted early in life and became a charter member of the Macedonia Free Will Baptist church, living a very consistent Christian life until death, having demonstrated wonderfully a short time back in the old home church the precious Spirit of God. He served as clerk of the church for a number of years.

He was one of the oldest residents of this country, and has lived his entire life in Barry Co.

He will be sadly missed, not only by the family, but by the church, the community, and all who knew him. But the greatest consolation is the realization that our loss is Heaven's gain.

Funeral service was conducted by Elders O. T. Allred and O. M. Ennis Friday afternoon at the Macedonia church, and interment in the Bethel cemetery.

THE NEW YEAR

BY ELDER WINFORD DAVIS

Well, we are at the dawning of another New Year. The past year is gone. Whether we have made the best use of the time allotted us the past year, thereby enabling us to enter the New Year with a clear conscience and zeal for the future, or whether we have foolishly thrown away the time given us the past year filled with opportunities to save, does not arrest the hands on the old clock of time, the year is gone, gone into the eternity of the past. As has been said, "Time and tide wait for no man." It makes me think of a verse I used to study in my spelling book at school, as follows:

"Lost, somewhere, between sunrise and sunset,
Two golden hours,

Each set with sixty diamond minutes.
No reward is offered: they are gone forever."

How we should silently, and perhaps sorrowfully, bow our heads, and drape ourselves in attitude and thought for the occasion, as this silent but certain moving procession of time passes by and out into the dim mists of the past, and as if to a passing loved one, we say farewell to the year of 1934, with its sorrows and troubles as well as joy and gladness. Sometimes in victory, sometimes in defeat. As we have walked in companionship with the past year, have we proved true? Have we been faithful? Have we borne the burdens patiently that the past year has seen fit to bring upon us? In conducting the funeral service of a good father and husband a short time back I heard the wife say as she stood over the casket, "He has been so faithful." Can it be said of us, referring to our past year's work and problems, that we have been faithful? The past year and the God of all time has been faithful to us; have we done our part? Time seems to be so fleet-footed. The lungs and muscles of time appear to ever be empowered with a perpetual vigor, the legs of time seem never to grow tired. At the midnight hour as well as high noon, time is unceasingly on the forward march; in its mechanism it is so providentially adapted to constant and speedy travel. The passing of years is a passing of days. We live one day at a time. If we live 25,000 days we have lived to old age. We live 6,000 or 7,000 days in thoughtless childhood and care-youth. We are told the majority of men live less than 18,000 days. How short! Could we once think that man, so wonderfully and so fearfully made, was created to no purpose beyond this short sojourn? No indeed, life is but as a bridge spanning this swift stream of time between two great eternities and we must make preparation while on this span to step off into the great realm of God if we meet Him in peace.

But, while we are solemnly thinking in a retrospective manner of the past year and its passing out never to return, let us lift now our heads and look, for behold, comes another procession following in the wake of the one

just gone yonder. This is 1935 coming on a-pace, with just as much speed and just as tireless in travel as the foregoing years, and to us finite beings it seems with renewed swiftness. Now let us look with a prospective view. What are we going to do with this year? It is already bringing us new opportunities. It appears to be personified and speaking to us of the great possibilities it has in store for us. Will we grasp? Will we act? Will we, knowing our mistakes of the past year, profit this year by them? The only way to make good out of a mistake is to profit in the future by it. 1935 in prophecy promises to be a momentous year. Let's be awake, and alert, ready to be used where God sees fit. Let us, by our faithfulness, the coming year, avoid sorrow and regret next New Years dawn because of neglect and failure during our (then) past year.

You remember we received our first issue of the Free Will Baptist Gem six years ago this Jan. We have made marked progress. Though it has been slow, it has been permanent and lasting in its nature, which is best after all in the long run. Will we do more to make it a better paper this oncoming year? Let's begin now. Our denomination, as well as the outside world, needs the Gem and it needs you.

1935 is not only coming, it is here; it is not only going to pass, it is passing.

DRUMRIGHT, OKLAHOMA

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

Just a few lines to let you know that we sure enjoy reading the Gem and hearing from our good ministers, and of the great work they are doing in the Master's vineyard.

I also want to report about our good quarterly meeting, held November 23rd, with our church here at Drumright. There was old time snouting throughout the meeting. We started a revival nine days before the quarterly meeting, which closed at the close of the quarterly meeting with twenty conversions, and nineteen additions to our church.

I also want to report that our young people put on a wonderful program for Christmas, the play of the Story Beautiful, which was attended by some eight hundred

or nine hundred people. I want to thank God for our young people, that want to do something in the Master's vineyard. Let us help and encourage our young people, for they are our men of tomorrow.

We have been broadcasting with the Sunshine Quartet over KTUL, Tulsa, and are planning to be on the air once every week after first of the year. We would appreciate a card or a letter in care of KTUL, Tulsa, Okla. National Bank, Sunshine Quartet, or Harry Staires, for it is all for the glory of God and the upbuilding of His kingdom.

Elder Harry Staires.

CLAREMORE, OKLAHOMA

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH NOTES

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am sending you a few lines to let you know that we are still holding on to God's promise, and trying to serve Him every day; and we ask the prayers of all the brothers and sisters, that we may grow stronger in grace each and every day.

We are a very small church, with about 34 members, and were just received into the Association in November at Drumright.

We also have a nice Sunday school with about 80 enrolled.

We have a wonderful preacher, Bro. Mathis. We had preaching on the 16th of December and had dinner. There were five preachers present. Bro. Geo. Scott of Mo. talked to us at eleven o'clock and gave us a wonderful sermon.

Will close with best wishes and prayers for you all. Pray for us. A member of the Antioch church.

FLAT RIVER, MISSOURI

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH NOTES

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

Again I will try to write a brief report for the month of December. While the old year is gone, we will try to not forget God's blessings upon us and the church during the old year of 1934.

We have some sickness, but have had no deaths so far this winter, and that is much to be thankful for. We have our regular church services, Sunday school and League.

We had a wonderful Christmas program, which represented the Old Time Kind, which required much labor and skill of the pro-

gram committee to obtain such wonderful results, but it was worth the effort. The Sunday school gave a treat to all the school.

We desire the prayers of all, that the New Year will be a better year than the old, and may God's kingdom be extended.

Raymond La Brot, Reporter.

Stop Criticising and Pull

Selected by Esther Peterson

It isn't the preacher's flowing prayer,
Or the way the choir sings,
Or the size of the coin your neighbor gives,

Or the help your brother brings,
It isn't the size of your favorite church,
Or the cost of your favorite pew,
Or the style of the clothes your members wear,

For it isn't the church—it's you.

It isn't the way the work is done,
Or the way the money is spent,
Or whether the Gospel's all brought in,
Or whether there's some that sent.
It isn't the kind of a creed you love,
Or peculiar things they do,

Or whether the doctrine suits your taste,

For it isn't the church—it's you.

For a chain's as strong as the weakest link,

And it breaks with a heavy load.
But a church that's full of the links that pull,

Can level the roughest road.
If you get in tune with the Master's will,

With your heart and your labors, too,

You will love your church, tho it has its faults,

For it isn't the church—it's you.

"THE CRY OF THE JEW"

From The King's Business

"There is no Face in pity bent
When by the way I fall,
No anxious, loving Shepherd comes
In answer to my call;
There are no tender eyes to seek,
No gentle arms to hold,
No nail-pierced hands to take me up
And bring me to the fold.

"And when on naked, bleeding feet
To Calvary I go,
And stagger, crushed beneath the cross:
There's none to heed or know;
There's none to lift the cruel weight,
There's none to even share—
O Thou who climbed the Hill before,
Look down and help me bear."

—"A Jew."

F. W. B. LEAGUE REPORTS

STATE LEAGUE OFFICERS

President, Eld. Winford Davis,
Monett, Mo.

Vice President, Eld. Wm. Reeves,
Flat River, Mo.

Sec'y-Treasurer, Eld. O. T. Allred,
Monett, Mo.

FIELD WORKERS

For Cave Springs Association
Eld. E. E. Winfree..... Couch, Mo.

For S. E. Missouri Yearly Meeting
Eld. Albert Halbrook, Leadington, Mo.

For N. E. Missouri Association
Monte Peterson Greentop, Mo.

For Union Association
Eld. Geo. Scott, Sr. ... Mt'n Grove, Mo.

For N. W. Missouri Association
Chloe Lewis Pattonsburg, Mo.

Field Worker at Large
Eld. Melba White, Plattsburg, Mo., R1.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Eld. Johnny Swaffar, Purdy, Mo., 1935
Ethel Newcomer, Greentop, Mo., 1936
Damon Dodd, Flat River, Mo., 1937

REPORT OF FLAT RIVER LEAGUE

For the month of November
By Martha Burcham, Reporter

We are glad to report that our league is growing both in number, and also in spirit.

Our enrollment last month was 71, and we are glad to report that our number has increased from 71 to 96, for which we are giving God the praise.

Everybody seems to be interested in our league work. Each Sunday evening we have a special song number, from one of the different classes, which is very interesting.

We are also glad to report of the three weeks' revival meeting, which we have been engaged in, in which Bro. Noel Turner was our evangelist, bringing us, each evening, soul-stirring messages from God's word, and a number were saved and reclaimed; and we are glad to say that some of those new converts have become members of our league.

We are thanking God this morning for our revival meeting, for we feel that it has been a great spiritual uplift to our league. We are also thanking God for sending Bro. Turner this way. We feel that he has been a great blessing and inspiration to all with whom he came in contact.

We are asking the prayers of God's people, that we might continue to grow in His service.

CARTERVILLE LEAGUE REPORT

By Opal Boyd, Secretary

It has been some time since we sent

in a report of our Carterville league, but we are glad to report that our league is in good condition, and still serving the Master. We have 39 Seniors and 35 Juniors.

The officers at this time are:
President Marion Johnson
Vice President Lloyd Johnson
Sec'y-Treas. Opal Boyd
Quiz Leader Emmitt Streh
Group Captain No. 1.... Leonard Siler
G. C. No. 2, ...Margurite Blackburn
Junior Sponsor Leta Johnson

We have been having some wonderful cottage prayer meetings, which help very much to strengthen our leaguers.

We ask the prayers of the Christians, that our league may grow and glow.

NIANGUA, MISSOURI

We filled our regular monthly appointment at Niangua, Mo. the 3rd Sunday in December, and I am glad to report that we organized a Free Will Baptist League there Sunday night, Dec. 16th. While they had been meeting each Sunday night for the past few weeks to study lessons on the Bible, they hadn't really organized with a regular staff of officers. Sunday night before we took the stand to try to preach, we were called on to assist in the organization, which we were glad to do.

The following officers were elected:
President Bro. Champer Sell
Vice President Bro. Ira Walton
Group Captain, Sister Stella Walton
Sec'y-Treas., Sister Ansel Alexander
Reporter, Sister Verda Arthur
Sister Gladys Fillmer was appointed to act as leader for the first lesson, which will be the first Sunday in January.

Eld. Kenneth Turner.

THE TEST

By Eld. J. E. Phillips, Leslie, Ark., R1

Text, "And they stood every man in his place" (Judges 7:21).

What a wonderful lesson we have in the text, and things that transpired at the time they were written.

First, we see that every soldier in God's army is required to fill his place and God puts him to the test to see if he is worthy. This applies to the leaders the same as to the least in rank. Gideon was the fifth recorded Judge of Israel, and for many reasons, the greatest of them all. He was "A mighty man of valor" (Jud. 6:12).

Because he was humble, and that by his own strength, he could not accomplish the things God told him to do; for he said, "I am the least in my father's house" (Jud. 6:15). But the Lord said, "Surely I will be with thee." This would have satisfied a great many leaders, but not so with Gideon. He wanted to be sure that God would be with him, therefore he put the Lord to the test (Jud. 7:37-39). This reveals the wisdom of Gideon in not being hasty. "Try the spirits" (1 John 4:1). Put God to the test

and see what His will is. No one really knows what God can and will do until he has tried Him.

Lord, give us leaders like Gideon today, that will wait on God in prayer. The leaders of God's army today should be cautious and prayerful to determine the will of God, then, and only then, can we go forward without fear as to the difficulties that come up before us, no matter how great they may seem, and be well satisfied that God will take care of the results. Then preacher, you will be standing in your place.

Gideon had a great army, it numbered 32,000, but it was very small in quality. Some think that the success of the church is in numbers. A great many preachers, also lay members, think that when the church has a small membership it is time to stop, when it is really in shape to get results. God said, "I have not chosen you because you are great in number."

There is a grandmother living close to me, that said her church had 125 members enrolled and not enough salvation for six. Now if that is the truth, which I have no reason to doubt, what success can that church have in a revival or even a Sunday school? The Gospel of "strong men" should be preached in churches like that (and we have many such), and the test applied; then those that are left can really stand in place. In a measure that was what the Lord told Gideon to do: say to all that "are fearful and afraid, let him return and depart" (Judges 7:3); "and there returned twenty and two thousand"—afraid with a heart full of fear, having the spine of a jelly fish; the call had come for duty, the battle was to be fought, danger was just ahead, and the test was too great for them; they willingly made the statement that they were not qualified to stand in their place and fight the battle for God. Well, they were honest about it, and that's more than some are today.

The Lord knows that FEAR is man's worst enemy; that is why he said, "Fear not." Fear destroys faith in God, and when that takes place, a real fruitful Christian life is impossible. How much faith have you and I in God? Can we fully trust Him at all times? or do we trust Him like the good old sister?

When the team ran away with her, she was asked when it was all over, "Wasn't you afraid? What did you do while the team was running?"

"I trusted in the Lord till the hames broke, then I sure thought I was a goner."

Fear trusts only in material things of life. Some of God's folks today depend too much on the things of this world, thinking if they help support the church, they will starve sure—FEAR! Do you stand behind your church and your preacher? This is one test, are you equal to it? or it may be that you don't believe in paying the preacher, supporting the church, or the Gem. Well, there is nothing strange in that, the Devil doesn't either.

Continued on page sixteen

THE NEW KINGDOM

(Continued from page two)

escape the doom of Antichrist and his followers.

V. 9. "If any man have an ear, let him hear." How often we hear this in Scripture; and oh, that all would heed this warning, and search the Bible, and do what it says to do!

V. 10. "He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword." Force will be used by the Antichrist, and his armies will kill with the sword, and will be killed with the sword that proceeds out of the mouth of Jesus as He comes upon the Mount of Olives.

V. 11. Another beast like a lamb, speaking as a dragon. A false prophet coming up in the days of Antichrist, making up the satanic godhead of three: Devil, or Dragon; Beast, or Antichrist; and lamb, or false prophet.

V. 12. Has all the power of the first beast (Antichrist) before him, causing all to worship the first beast.

V. 13. And he doeth great lying wonders, by the power given him from the Devil.

V. 14. Deceives the worshippers of the Antichrist, and says they should make an image of the beast and worship it.

V. 15. Power to give life unto the image of the beast, and cause it to speak, and cause that all who would not worship the beast should be killed.

V. 16. Causes all to receive the mark, or name, or number of his name.

V. 17. And that no man might buy or sell, but they having the mark, or name, or number of his name. This does not, and cannot take place until the reign of Antichrist. So many have claimed the NRA to be the mark, but neither this, nor any other movement of the kind is Antichrist; they are only efforts to bring about better conditions, but these conditions will continue, and grow worse, if any difference, until a man able to cause craft to prosper shall come, and then, and then only, will the mark of the beast be given. No use trying to hasten these things, they will come all too soon, and thousands will fall to the false peace and prosperity he will bring. It has been a noble act of the head of our government to help the needy, but many are waiting now, desiring only this kind of help; and will fall easy victims to the plan of the Antichrist when he comes. Thousands of people seem to think the government owes them a living, and that the President ought to be able to furnish work for them all, and that he should control the markets, so there would be top prices for everything they may have to sell. How wonderful this would be! and a man who can put such a program into action will be worshipped as a god; he is coming, and will demand the allegiance and worship of those enjoying such privileges, and they must take his mark, number, or name.

V. 18. His number is 666, and is the number of a man, and there is a mark and a name that goes along with this and is not given, but will be known to many when the man of sin comes. Even the verse that gives this number 666 is 18, or three sixes; how strange! but God says, "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast."

OUR FIRST FOREIGN MISSIONARY

We, of the Glennville, Ga. Free Will Baptist church, are proud to announce to the brotherhood at large that we are now on the eve of furnishing the first missionary for the foreign field, in our entire fellowship. This missionary is Sister Laura Belle Barnard, who is expecting to sail for India not later than January 30, 1935, earlier if possible.

Sister Laura Belle was baptized into our church in her girlhood, but has held membership in another church in Florida for a number of years. Since moving back to our community this year, she has placed her membership again with the church of her first choice. We feel greatly honored by the Lord in being able to say that one of our own is giving herself on the altar for service on the foreign field, and in making whatever contributions we can to make possible her going to and staying in this field.

The door which the Lord has opened is in a "Rest Home" for missionaries, where weary, worn-out soldiers of the Cross, often wounded in rife battles for India's lost souls, may come and gain physical and spiritual rest, refreshment and restoration to fitness for service. While serving in this capacity it will be possible to become familiar with the language and to contact natives in personal service for Christ. She is well qualified for the work, having received her training in the Columbia Bible College, Columbia, South Carolina.

Her work will be with an independent board, the International Union Mission, and she will have a splendid opportunity to look out for the establishment of a mission work in the name of our church. I fully believe that this is the first stage of answered prayer for a work through our beloved church, in spreading the "good tidings of great joy that shall be to all people."

Those who read this are challenged to close yourselves in your closets and ask the Lord what He would have you do in raising \$250.00 for the transportation of this servant to the field which the Lord has opened to her. I shall be glad to receive each donation, keeping a list of the donors and publishing each name in our church paper. I propose this plan because of the limited time in which we have to do what we are to do. We must make haste if we are to share in sending our first worker over. So as soon as you read this, fall on your knees and ask the One who has all wisdom to guide you; then place your offering in an envelope and mail it to J. R. Davidson, Glennville, Ga. Be sure to give your name and address.

This is a personal appeal, but any church or auxiliary that can co-operatively donate may also take part. If the Spirit directs your heart to purpose a donation in this great work, do not say, I will see about it tomorrow, but do it now. Really, what is done must be done at once. We have prayed to the "Lord of the harvest" to send laborers into the harvest; now it is your opportunity to manifest your thanksgiving in a real way. I shall look to hear from many at once with liberal donations. None will be too small or too large to be appreciated and acknowledged, and surely the Lord will bless each contribution.

Yours for the "Go Ye" program,
J. R. Davidson, Pastor Glennville F. W. B. Church.

THE CHRISTIAN'S HOPE*Continued from page three*

one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling." The one body here is the (true) church (composed of all believers of every age), and is the body into which we are baptized by the one Spirit. The one hope is realized when we exercise ourselves in our calling according to God's will, which hope is the element in which we are called to live.

Everyone could have real and living hope if they all realized and cared that God is so much concerned about us all; that He has done great and wonderful things for us, that we might be able to live right and have eternal life.

John, the beloved disciple, reminds us of the great love God has "bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." Then he assures us that God has so provided for us, that we can be like Jesus and privileged to see Him as He is. Then he declares, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (1 John 3:1-3). Brethren, how about your purity and mine in the sight of God? Do we care enough to be like Jesus and see Him as He is to keep ourselves separated from the world and be clean and pure?

We may be of a keen mind, be well educated, and be able to do many great things, but the exercise of these powers cannot give us that living hope; neither will following some man-made plan of salvation give us that hope; "Have faith in God."

Only when we walk and do service as God leads and directs can we have hope in Christ; "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).

morning, go to church, preach a real sermon, seem to be blessed both soul and body, then after the sermon and church is out, will turn around to some poor wretched sinner and say, "Give me a match, I want to smoke," or "give me a chew, I am dying for a chew." What says the word of God? "All liars shall have their part in the lake of fire, where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched." The preacher lied when he said he was dying for a smoke or a chew; and not only that, but he was leaving a bad example for others to follow. I want to say right here that the tobacco habit and liquor have robbed many a good preacher of his tenth, that rightly belonged to God's ministers, also many humble homes of many home comforts and necessities of life. Such is the sly work of the Devil, justly called the Dragon. If he can't drag you into hell with liquor, he'll use tobacco, or card parties, theaters, dance hall goers, or swimming pool solicitors, and what not. Old Dragon drags on. Will he drag you, dear reader? or is it possible? Will he drag me? will he drag your family? will he drag mine?

Will we use slang for sinners and weaklings to look on and stumble over, or what will old Dragon get us to do in order that other may stumble over us? Will it be in our conversation? God have mercy on us older ones; and let us walk worthy of the vocation wherein we are called. Let's do our best and not bring a reproach on God's people. If we promise to go and preach at a certain place at a certain hour, let's be there at that hour.

Christians, don't give place to the Devil. Resist the Devil and he will flee from you. Draw nigh unto God, and He will draw nigh unto you.

Eld. Fred Lonberg.

LIFE'S LESSONS*Contributed by Mrs. John Kaighin*

A child came close to his teacher's side,
His book tight clasped in his little hand.
"Teacher," he said, with wistful eyes,
"We're coming to words that I don't understand;
I've turned the pages over and over,
And the words are so big, and they're all so new;
When we come to the lesson where they are put,
Oh, teacher, I don't know what I'll do!"

The teacher smiled at the troubled face,
And tenderly stroked the curly head.
"Before we reach them I think you will learn
The way to read them," she gently said;
"But if you shouldn't, I'll help you then,
And don't you think that the wisest plan
Is to learn the lesson that comes today;
And learn it the very best you can?"

And it seems to me it is so with us;
We look at the days that are still ahead—
The days that perchance may never be ours—
With a pitiful longing and nameless dread.
But surely the Teacher who gives the task
Will lovingly watch as we try to read,
With faltering tongue and tear-dimmed eyes,
And will help His children in time of need.

VERONA, MISSOURI, December 31, 1934

Dear Editor and Gem Family:

I will try to write again to our good paper. I want to say, "The Ten Reasons for Family Worship" certainly was good; and "Where Are You Going When You Die?" was also good.

"The Sinning Preacher" was excellent, and I will say that I am against sinning preachers, as well as any other kind of sinner. I don't believe in a gambling preacher, or one who tells lies. I've heard preachers use this slang, "I'll bet," and "You bet," and take the name of God in vain by saying, "My God," "My Lord," and different kind of ways of taking His name in vain, and never even consider how others look at such things. The word says, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." Vain means using it unnecessarily, or vainly. I remember hearing a certain preacher tell of his starting to preach and how he was up in the pulpit one Sunday morning, and how God was blessing him in his delivery, when he let loose, "You bet you!" and how his audience eyed him at these words. I remember how he told me he would have been glad to have used his pulpit that morning for a hiding place.

I now call to mind some who get up on Sunday

THE TEST*Continued from page thirteen*

Twenty-two thousand of Gideon's army gone, and still no complaint. I really think he would have faced the struggle alone. What courage! and it comes through faith in God only; but God told him there were still too many: "I will try them for you, bring them down to the water and there will be the next test." "And the Lord said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink. And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were 300 men; but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water" (Judges 7:5-7. Can you see the great lesson in this last test? The enemy was just beyond the water; and those that dipped the water with their hand, and looked forward, were not going to be caught un-awares; they were going to watch as well as pray, in fact they were the pick of God's army, standing in place ready for any emergency, using as little of God's time as possible for their own personal need or desire, and eager to carry the warfare to the enemy camp. Do you and I stand in the 300 class? or do we let the things of the world attract us, and loiter along the way, neglecting the work the Lord told us to do? or do we stand in the class with the 9,700 that are careless, blinded and indifferent to the great danger that the enemy can inflict? Are you careless about what comes into your home, or the environments that surround your child, that may shape its life to sorrow and failure through your carelessness? Where are you standing in your community? What are worth to it? Do you stand behind the law with your support? Do you stand between the bootlegger and your child who seeks to make your boy or girl a drunkard? Do you hate all evil that the world has to offer? Are you willing to help your church to fight sin with all the power of your soul, and by God's grace never give up till the victory is gained, or death calls? If so, then you will stand in your place that God expects you to fill and great will be your reward.

To the Free Will Baptist of Mo.

Whereas the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptist, while in session at Jones Chapel church, October 15-20, 1934, passed a resolution asking that steps be taken to secure a permanent, centrally located site for the erection of a suitable building, in which our Missouri State Association may hold its annual sessions.

Since this matter was left in the hands of the State Executive Board, we, as Chairman and Secretary of the Board, wish to take this means of inviting suggestions from any one who has a suggestion to offer.

If we can get something that promises to satisfy the need, then the

Board can take the matter up and consider it, with others, and be prepared to present some definite plan to the State Association when we meet at Flat River next October.

Send suggestions to the Secretary, or to the Chairman.

B. F. Brown, Chairman, Purdy, Mo.
O. T. Allred, Secretary, Monett, Mo.

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 Eld. 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."

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Our Treatise are all sold out—we cannot fill orders for Treatise.

NOTICE

Sunday School Literature is not printed at the Gem office—we cannot fill orders for Sunday School and League literature, but The Free Will Baptist Press of Ayden, N. C. does furnish literature for Leagues and Sunday schools. Send them your orders.

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