

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. 12.

Purdy, Missouri, December, 1935.

50 cents per year.



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

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Organ of

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Published monthly at Purdy, Missouri.


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

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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.

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.

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A Christmas Message to Our Free Will Baptist People Everywhere

By Eld. Jim Miller, Flat River, Missouri

As I come to the time when I try to write on this most wonderful subject, I am asking the Holly Spirit to guide me in every word.

Nearly two thousand years ago, out on the Judean hills, I see a group of shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night. "And the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not." The angel had come to bring them the greatest message the world had ever heard: "Unto you is born this day . . . a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." This message not only said He (Jesus) is born, but told where to find Him.

The paramount object of every Christmas message should be not only that Jesus is born to be a Savior, which is Christ the Lord, but where and how to find Him.

I am wondering today, as we begin to plan for the Christmas program, what will it be like? Pastors, teachers, and evangelists, let us all pray; and may we have the prayers of every one, that in our Christmas program we may say with the angel of the Lord, "I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

I have thought sometimes, that we have lost sight of the real meaning of Christmas; and instead of thinking of it as a day to worship and bring something to Jesus, we think of the day as a time to eat and drink and get something from somebody.

The Wise Men came to worship and to give gifts to the new born King. Oh, may it be our highest aim to come and worship and bring gifts to the Savior! Then some one may say, "I have no gift in this time of depression." But, after all, it is the life of service that Jesus needs, and we can all give Him our life to be used to His glory.

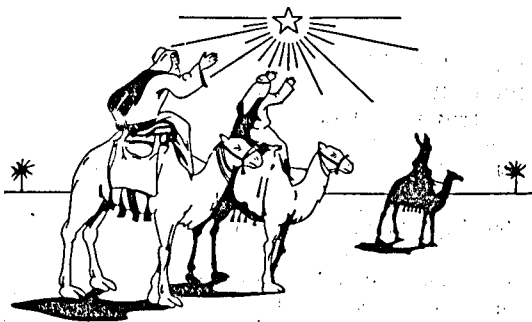
It was St. Paul who said, Present your bodies a living sacrifice." That is just our reasonable service. Since God has given the best heaven had, that we might have a Christmas, we should in return be willing to give Him the best we have. A real Christmas program is not made by giving away toys and candy, and putting on a show of some kind or other, but is a program in which Jesus Christ may be seen as The One who came, The One whom God gave, The One who lived and served, The One who died and rose again from the dead, that we might, after 1900 years, celebrate His birthday and, in thus celebrating His birth, may we praise Him in song, in praise, in prayer, in sermon, but most of all may we be so much like Him in our lives, that the Spirit in us may reveal Him to others.

Now, I bow my head and pray, "Oh God, bless the Christmas season, and help us all to so live, that we will have no need to be sorry for what we have said and done: but rather be able to rejoice because we have honored Jesus."



"Unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given."

BY B. F. BROWN



These words were written more than 700 years before the Christ-Child was born; but, as you will notice, the language is in the present tense: it is as if the prophet were speaking at the time of His birth; was the prophet carried in the Spirit to see the Son of God as a little babe at Bethlehem?

For more than 3,000 years before Isaiah's time the prophets had been telling about a Savior that should come, and it was necessary that He should come: for all the descendants of Adam were lost without a Savior. The first question in the Bible, "Where art thou?" (Gen. 3:9), which God asked of Adam when He came seeking His guilty children after they became transgressors (sinners), is plain evidence of man's need.

In Genesis 3:15 is the first promise of a Savior, the seed of the woman. It doesn't say whether this seed should be male or female, nor does it mention here about the father of the seed. In Genesis 12:3 we learn that the Savior should be of the seed of Abraham. Finally Abraham was given a son, Isaac, in whom the promise of God to Abraham rested: but God called Abraham to offer his son Isaac upon the altar. Abraham obeyed, but a substitute was found for Isaac, and Abraham saw Christ's day and rejoiced (John 3:56), he also saw Christ's crucifixion (Gen. 22:5).

In Isaiah 7:14 we learn that the Savior is to be a son, and His name Immanuel, and His mother a virgin. Then in Isaiah 9:6 we learn that this Son shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

In Micah 5:2 we learn that this Savior is from everlasting, and to be born (be made flesh) at Bethlehem.

These are just a few of the Scriptures that tell of the coming Savior, but enough to help us to understand the things recorded in Him in the New Testament. If we come to the study of the New Testament with our minds saturated with the Old Testament foreview of the coming Christ, we will find it an open Book.

Now, we come to the New Testament, to the first verse (Matt. 1:1), which tells us that Matthew's Gospel is "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham."

The Gospel of Matthew then not only records the birth of Christ, but covers the whole period of His life on earth. Matthew gives the generations from Abraham to Christ, 42 generations in all, and Christ's generation is as one of them.

We learn from Matthew and Luke that Christ was born according to the Scriptures; and we learn from other Scriptures, especially the 15th chapter of 1 Corinthians, that "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." We learn also that He is alive for ever more, and will come again for His faithful ones, and that they shall reign with Him.

When the angel of the Lord (Luke 2:8-15) came upon the shepherds, as they watched over their flocks by night, He said unto them, "Fear not: for . . . unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Yes, the child was born at Bethlehem: but this child was also the Son of God, given unto us" (Isa. 9:6; Micah 5:2; Romans 1:3, 4).

The angel virtually said to the shepherds, "He is here;" the star said to the Wise Men, "The King of the Jews is born;" His presence in the world was evidence to those

who would accept Him, that their Savior was among them; and we know Him, and are saved from our sins through faith in Him, and "the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Rom. 5:5), proving to us that these things the Scriptures tell us about His birth, His life and service, His death and resurrection, His ascension, and His coming again are true.

The Wise Men came "from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews?" (Matt. 2:2). This is the first question recorded in the New Testament, and I am wondering how many thousands since that time have enquired for the Christ, that they might worship Him and bring Him gifts. Christ gave Himself for me, and for you; what have we given for Him?

In this age of the world far too few seek Him, that they might worship Him, and give unto Him what they have to give. At the time of His birth there were but few who knew about Him, or even wanted a Savior: it is very much that way today, and growing worse every day. The world, even the Jews, did not want to give up their ways for the Lord's way of life; but the poor and lowly heard Him gladly, and the lowly shepherds went to see Him, and then "returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen."

The Wise Men honored Him with worship and gifts.

Simeon, a man with a pure heart, saw in the Christ-Child Salvation from sin; and praised God and prophesied.

Anna, a woman with a pure heart, saw that there was Redemption in the Christ-Child for all who would seek it.

Christ was born King of the Jews (Matt. 2:2); the Jews rejected their King and are unto this day scattered among the nations of earth; but their Messiah (Christ Jesus) is coming again, when the Jews will accept Him as their King, just as they accepted Moses as their deliverer from Egyptian bondage, after his 40 years in Midian.

Christ was also born Savior of all who will accept Him (John 3:16): He was God's love Gift to the world. And His Gospel is "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Romans 1:16).



A TIMELY MESSAGE

By Aunt Lina Claxton, Hartville, Missouri.

Dear Editor and Wife and Christian Friends:

I am still singing, "Give me the Old Time Religion," and I thank God this morning, that He gave me a father and a mother that had old time religion, and they told me about Daniel and the Hebrew children, and they sang to me about them.

Then when I think of modern mothers and grandmothers, and a lot of church members getting up dances to raise money to keep a pastor to preach for them, who doesn't condemn this thing by the Word of God—this is going on in hearing of my home;—we are sure living in perilous times.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Tim. 3:1, 4, 5). Read the third chapter of 2nd Tim. and the 12th chapter of Acts, how Herod persecuted the Christians.

Continued on page twenty

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING PROGRAM of the New Hope Association of Free Will Baptist will meet at Pleasant Grove Church, about two miles northeast of Greenbrier, Arkansas, at 2:30 p. m. December 27 to 29, 1935.

Friday Afternoon

- 2:30—Opening Moderator
 3:00—Talk, Are we commanded to keep the Sabbath, and if so, how should we keep it? Rev. W. B. Maddox
 3:15—Talk, How can I help in building Christ's Kingdom here on earth? Rev. J. H. Hartsell.
 3:30—Business session. Appointment of the following committees: Resolution, Finance, Divine Service, Cburuaries, Program Moderator.
 7:00—Introductory Sermon Rev. W. B. Maddox.
 Alternate Rev. C. E. Wilson.

Saturday Morning

- 9:00—Opening Moderator
 9:30—Talk, What should be a Christian attitude toward strong drinks? Rev. O. H. Doss.
 9:45—Does the Bible justify Christian people in going to moving picture shows and taking an active part in ball games? Rev. C. E. Wilson
 10:00—Devotional Service Rev. J. W. Moore.
 Fifteen minutes intermission.
 11:00—Sermon
 12:00—Lunch.

Saturday Afternoon

- 1:00—Opening Moderator.
 1:30—What is growth in Grace, and how is it obtained?
 Sister C. E. Wilson
 1:45—Five minutes Talk by each of the following young Ministers: Rev. J. E. Pratt, Rev. C. L. Bargarger, Rev. R. E. Pruitt, Rev. Dermont Smith, Rev. J. M. Holleman, Rev. D. M. Beckett.
 2:15—Business Session Moderator.
 2:45—Reports of all Committees and Preachers.
 7:00—Sermon

Sunday Morning

- 10:00—Sunday School.
 11:00—sermon

Everyone who is interested in working for the Lord is invited to attend this meeting, AND DON'T FORGET TO COME FRIDAY, at 2:30 p. m. We ask all preachers and churches to report by letter at this meeting, and don't forget the 50c from each church. Pray that this will be one of the best meetings we have ever held at this place, and that all the people may be lifted up in the most holy Faith. And don't forget that, if you subscribe for the GEM you will always get the program.

Rev. J. H. Hartsell, Moderator, Rose Bud, Arkansas,
 Herbert C. Holleman, Clerk, Rose Bud, Arkansas.

GLEANINGS OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE ARKANSAS STATE ASS'N

The ministers, deacons, messengers, and associational clerks composing that part of the Church of God or Christ, commonly known as Free Will Baptist, of the Arkansas State Association, met in annual conference with Harmony church, near Rye, Cleveland County, Ark., Oct. 3-6, 1935.

The inception was marked by a large and enthusiastic

confluence of people from the many sections of the state. This spirit prevailed throughout the entire session of the assembly..

The people of the Harmony community, assisted by the Saline Association, had made arrangements to serve the noon-day and evening meals on the church grounds. The arrangements were well carried out in a co-operatife way.

The Insignia: Badges of honor were pinned on the Conventional messengers from the several subordinate associations.

While waiting upon committee reports at intervals and in the devotional services, the Stamps Sunbeam quartet directed by Prof. Luther G. Feasley and the Hartford quartet directed by Prof. J. A. McClung rendered several numbers to the spiritual delight of the congregation. The entire session was characterized with good singing by other leaders.

Soul-inspiring sermons were delivered by the following ministers: L. C. Doyle, The Church and the Millennium; J. D. Coffman, The Oneness of God's Plan, anl God's Oneness of the Plan; W. A. Hearron, The Baptism of the Holy Ghost; C. E. Wilson, Memorial Sermon; J. D. Doyle, The Brazen Serpent.

Our Association has reserved a period for the young ministers. Each one is given the opportunity to make a five minute talk.

One of the resolutions recommended at this session of the body is as follows: Be it Resolved, That the State Association ask each church in the state to pay the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) per year to the Corresponding Clerk and Treasurer. The sum collected to be divided as follows: 50c to be used for the publication and distribution of the minutes, and the other 50c to be sent to the church where the next session of the State Association will convene for the purpose of defraying the associational expenses. If there should be an insufficient amount sent in, that said amount is to be collected during that session of the body.

State evangelists endorsed for the ensuing year are as follows: L. C. Doyle, Newport; W. P. White, Warren; J. R. Hartley, Rison; W. A. Hearron, Newhope.

The following were elected as State officers: Moderator, J. D. Doyle, Walnut Ridge; Assistant Moderator, W. A. Hearron, Newhope; Corresponding Clerk and Treasurer, S. L. Woodard, Warren; Clerk, Ralph Staten, Pocahontas.

The next sssion of this body will be held with the Alice Brooks Church, at Sharum, in Randolph County.

Our Association is composed of 114 churches, 111 ministers, and 9,461 members. Since the last Association, 414 members were received into fellowship, 63 dismissed, 45 excluded, 45 deaths. Incomplete reports showed that there were 2,005 Sunday school students and 900 league members.

Reports showed at this time that the Arkansas people are now beginning to see, to a greater extent, what the true interpretation of the fundamental doctrines of the Bible are. The doctrine hasn't been advanced far enough into foreign areas. We hope that our people by a greater support of missionary work and evangelism, with the necessary zeal and sacrifice, to make a better report of the cause of the kingdom of God at our next session of the State Association..

Ralph Staten, Clerk.

CONWAY, MISSOURI, Nov. 19, 1935.

Dear Editor and Wife and Gem Readers:

As I will have to write to have the address of my paper

changed, I will write you all a few lines. The best way I can think of to make the Gem paper full of interest is for us to take time to write a few lines. When I get the Gem, it is just like getting a letter from home.

I would that all we who are living a life for our Master, would call upon His great name at least once a day. You who are true children of God, have you not been walking along and come to a place that looked so beautiful and the thought came to you, Here is a good place to pray, but you would be afraid someone would hear you pray, so you went on to find another place, and on you went until you lost a blessing, and who caused you to lose that blessing, None other than the Devil who is always ready to do his work and at last drag you down to that awful place prepared for the devil and his angels. Let's be up and about our Father's business, for if ever there was a time in the world when children of God should be living the old knee route way, it is now. I want to so live in this world that when I am gone it won't be said that I did not live the life I should. I want to live a life, that no one can call me a stumblingblock, and by the help of my blessed Savior, I will live each day as though I thought my Lord would return tomorrow. We all know that the time will come when we should be ready to say, "Blessed be the name of the Lord, I am ready to meet you."

Dear children of God, I want to tell you about the good revival I attended at Mountain Valley church. Brother Homer Smith and Bro. Walter George of Springfield conducted the meeting. I attended almost one week, day and night, that is the way to get the good of revival. There were 55 converted during the meeting, and since it closed they are having cottage prayer meetings, and some have been saved at their prayer meetings. What was the cause of such a revival in the old time way, it was people having the old time salvation and praying God to save souls, and they had the pure true word of God preached to them each service, as anyone could tell that had been there at all. These men are both men of God, and I trust and pray that God will bless them with a great revival at Mountain Grove, as they are in a revival there and the last we heard, there had been 11 saved.

I ask that each one who reads this will remember me in prayer, that I may ever be what the Lord would have me be, and always live a humble and true life for Christ.

I do enjoy so much to read the Gem, and I especially enjoy reading letters from those I am acquainted with, but there are some who are like Jonah, they are shirking. I have read some real soul-stirring letters from some who have not written lately: I hope you will write again soon. I am also hoping that more will subscribe for the Gem, and if we could only send it to some one we know would enjoy reading it, then each month it would remind them how they came to be getting it.

Pray for me, a sister in Christ,

Miss Daisy Raney.

TULSA CHURCH REPORT, November 27, 1935.

Dear Brother Brown and Gem Folks:

As we try to write tonight, we hardly know where to begin or what to tell you about first, as God has been so wonderful to us and we've been enjoying such great blessings, that our cup is just running over.

At our last report we were having a week of prayer in preparation for a revival, which began Nov. 15th, and continued through 2½ weeks of the best services I was ever in. God surely heard and answered prayer, for we had 21

souls saved and many more gave their hand for prayer. Bro. Melvin did the preaching with the exception of Monday and Tuesday nights of this week, Bro. Bert Rogers brought the messages, and such wonderful sermons he did preach!

The quarterly conference met with us last week for three days, and was a good meeting from start to finish, with good attendance from most of the churches, and a good time for every one. Bro. Carter of Wewoka preached the introductory sermon, and we heard many other good sermons, testimonies and songs from many other good brothers.

We are glad to report that our Sunday school attendance is still climbing in spite of winter weather and much sickness, we had 202 last Sunday, and most of them remained to hear the eleven o'clock preaching service, and we had two souls saved at that hour—Praise God for that.

Four weeks ago a call was made to organize a choir of young girls, and the demand was so great for places in this group, that we are planning a second organization. We are so glad to see our young people so interested in, and stepping out in God's work.

Pray for us all.

Evelyn Miller, Reporter.

TULSA, OKLA., 808 N. Rockford St., Nov. 26, 1935.

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

We want to send another report of our East Side Mission Circle of First Mission Association, which met with Blue Bell church, November 15th.

The churches represented were Allen, New Home, and Blue Bell. All sent good reports, that they are still working for God.

The morning was spent in short talks on Missions.

Bro. Beasley and Bro. Hood brought the afternoon messages.

The next rally will be held with New Home church the third Friday in December. This is Bro. Rogers' church.

Tulsa church at this time is just closing a wonderful revival, in which many souls have been saved and reclaimed. Dear Christians, pray for them, that they may stay on the firing line for God, as Satan is going to and fro seeking whom he may devour.

All you Mission workers come out and be with us in our next rally

—Lela Payne, Sec'y-Treas.

QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT

The Douglas County Quarterly Meeting convened with Breeden Free Will Baptist church, near Pansy, Mo., Sept. 27, 1935, at 3:00 o'clock p. m., with Eld. T. B. Marler acting as moderator.

Prayer by Eld. T. B. Marler.

Introductory sermon preached by Eld. A. E. Wright.

Eld. A. M. Halford elected moderator, with Eld. L. M. Marler as assistant moderator.

Moderator appointed the following committees: Pulpit, composed of Bros. Elza Stillings and W. M. Phelps and Sister Bertie Letterman. Credentials, composed of Elders J. H. Claxton, T. B. Marler and A. E. Wright. Business, composed of Eld. O. L. Claxton, Bro. John Letterman and Bro. Virgil Stillings.

Adjourned until 8:30 Saturday morning.

Prayer by Bro. Dethridge.

Preaching services at 8:00 o'clock p. m. conducted by Elders O. L. Claxton and A. M. Halford.

ters, one licensed minister, five (5) ordained deacons, four (4) church clerks and twelve (12) delegates from the six (6) churches represented at this session of the Q. M. The remainder of the morning was spent in discussion of topics assigned to various members of the quarterly meeting. Preaching at 11 o'clock by Elders T. B. Marler and Ernie Dethridge.

Saturday afternoon was spent in regular routine of business: The Q. M. evangelist reported he had held two meetings and had been well pleased with the results of each meeting. Evangelist paid in full. The following churches sent in money to help pay the evangelist:

Breeden church,.....	\$1.00,	Harmony church,	\$2.00
Liberty church,.....	\$.50,	Pleas. Ridge church,	\$3.43
		Total.....	\$6.93

Voted by Q. M. to hold the next session of the Douglas County Quarterly Meeting with Harmony Free Will Baptist church, south of Seymour, Mo. Introductory sermon to be preached by Eld. Oliver Letterman, with Eld. O. L. Claxton as alternate.

Bro. Ernie Dethridge was granted a license to preach.

Bro. Oliver Letterman was ordained by the Q. M.

Financial report of the Q. M. read by the clerk.

Collection of \$2.00 was taken for clerk's expenses.

Letter of recommendation was granted to Eld. O. C. Keller to the Wright County Quarterly Meeting.

Adjourned until 8:30 Sunday morning.

Prayer by Eld. E. N. Owens.

Preaching services at 8:00 o'clock by Eld. C. J. Smith. Followed by Communion and Feet washing service, with the moderator, Eld. A. M. Halford, in charge.

Sunday morning the Q. M. was called to order by the moderator. Singing by the choir. Scripture lesson read by the moderator from third chapter of Ephesians.

Prayer by Bro. U. S. Findley.

The morning was spent in discussion of topics.

All committees dismissed.

Adjourned until next quarterly meeting which will convene with Harmony church, south of Seymour, Mo. on Friday at 3:00 o'clock p. m. before the fifth Sunday in December, 1935.

The community around Breeden church certainly showed the visiting delegation the best of hospitality and care, and extended to the Q. M. a most hearty invitation to hold another session of the Q. M. with Breeden church.

Preaching at 11 o'clock by Eld. E. N. Owens.

We, the Douglas County Quarterly Meeting, extend to all who possibly can do so, to attend the next Q. M. We also ask an interest in your prayers.

A. M. Halford, Moderator,
Arthur Lund, Clerk.

BLUE EYE, MISSOURI,

Dear Gem Readers:

I wish to send in a report from our Mission work at Blue Eye. We are still working for the cause of Christ. We enjoy the work and I'm thankful this afternoon that we as a band of mission workers have a desire to go on and help fallen humanity, the sick, distressed, and poor all we can.

We now have a special number at each meeting that has increased interest. In the past few weeks there has been 210 Bible chapters read, 41 sick calls made, and the floral committee visited seven homes and presented flowers to the sick. We are quilting at the present time.

We ask an interest in your prayers, that we may be a band of workers, pressing onward to that land of happiness and sunshine.

Lena Butler, Reporter.

TORNADO, WEST VIRGINIA

Dear Editor: I have just returned from the Union Q. M. which convened with Union church, near Griffithsville, W. Va. We had some good preaching.

Rev. Herbert Bell preached the Introductory on Friday night, Rev. D. W. Wade following.

Business session opened Saturday morning, after which Rev. Frank Widner brought the message.

Business session occupied all the afternoon.

Saturday night Rev. E. Adkins brought the message, Rev. Marlo following. Then the Sacrament and Feet washing followed.

Sunday morning we had Sunday school, and preaching at eleven o'clock by Rev. Herman Carpenter, followed by Rev. Thomas Belle. Rev. Carpenter and Rev. Widner stayed and preached Sunday night. Had a fine meeting.

I got two subscriptions for the Gem, which I enclose.

—F. V. Nicholas.

WEATHERBY, MISSOURI, November 30, 1935

This is the first report we have made of the Center Point church since July. We are glad to say that our church is alive and working. We are building an addition to the church house, which greatly improves the building. And it shows that the church is interested in taking care of the Lord's house, and in putting God's work first in the hearts and minds of the people.

Those who say, "I will" in answer to God's "You should" are sure of His blessing. When a church house is really the house of the Lord, it promotes both peace and prosperity. The realized presence of God makes any building or any place glorious.

"Wealth and riches shall be in His house: and His righteousness endureth forever" (Psalm 3:112).

The men donated the work on the building, while the women have raised a neat sum of money serving dinners at sales and ice cream suppers. We are now working on a name quilt which will bring in a nice amount.

Eld. E. T. House preached his last sermon July 28th, of his 9th year of preaching at this place. A nice basket dinner was served at the noon hour, in appreciation of Bro. House's years of faithful service.

Bro. T. C. Ferguson brought the afternoon message, and Bro. House preached at night. Bro. House began his 10th year the 4th Sunday in August. We were glad to keep these good people with us another year. We are planning for a revival meeting to start soon, and may God bless our church and give us strength to carry on.

Our Sunday school is still going on, sometimes attendance is small, but we are thankful for a few faithful ones, rather than none.

The young folks plan to give a home talent after Christmas to help pay on the building.

—Mrs. Herman Harms, Reporter.

THE SMALL NUMBER OF THE SAVED

By Jesse E. Pratt, Rose Bud, Arkansas

"And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian" (Luke 4:27).

Let us study the text quoted above, and see if we can find the reason for so few being saved. We will look far into the past to Noah, the preacher of righteousness, who obeyed God's orders and prepared the ark to the saving of eight souls. Dear readers, think of the awful calamity that happened to the world thru sin and disobedience. There were eight generations from Adam to Noah, and there must have been a great many people in the world, and they suffered death in the flood, only eight persons being saved from the great multitude of people.

Then we pass to the great band of God's people, that Moses led from the greivous yoke of Pharaoh's bondage. There was in that band of followers over one-half million men above twenty years old, able to go to war.

But because of sin, only two of this vast number lived to see the promised land. Joshua and Caleb were the only men who kept their allegiance to God. We wonder if the number of the saved is as small in proportion in this day as it was at that time.

When we read the facts as stated above, it should cause all of us ministers to preach and pray with all the power at our command, to cause the people of the world to heed the warning: for what happened in Noah's and Moses' day is happening in our day; the recording angel is just as busy now as then, and the all-wise God is still on His throne with His all-seeing eye watching us.

Continued on page nineteen

CHETOPA, KANS., Nov. 6, 1935.

Dear Editor and Wife, and Readers of the Gem: As so many of our friends at the Association wanted to know how we got over our wreck, I write a few lines to the Gem.

We arrived home safely and are all still thanking God for His protecting care, and for the spiritual food we received at the State meeting. We are so glad that there are still a few of God's people serving the Lord in a way that we can still meet in heavenly places and enjoy His blessings.

This world is not my resting place: this world is not my home. I am so glad that our blessed Savior prepared us a home beyond this world. There are trials and temptations every day to overcome, but I'm thankful that His grace is sufficient to lead us over the rough places, that we may rejoice in His love.

My heart goes out after lost souls. How we mothers and fathers need to be more on our knees, crying for God's mercy to save our loved ones who are out in sin!

How we rejoiced to see so many young men preaching the Gospel. Eccl. 12:1, says, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

Our young pastor, Bro. Boyd Thornton, delivered three wonderful messages at our Fairview church at his regular appointment. Let us all hold him up with our prayers, that he may be a soul winner in our community.

We are praying that God will soon send us a great revival at our little church, for souls are perishing every day. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few, pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest" (Matt. 9:37, 38).

Pray for us.

—Mr. and Mrs. Glen McCarty.

MOUNTAIN GROVE, MISSOURI

Nov. 13, 1935.

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

I wish to try to tell you this morning how I love the Lord, and how He blesses me. I have been through many trying experiences, but He always gives me faith according to my need, and helps me to carry my load.

I sometimes hear folks complain, and say, "I don't see how we are going to get through." Neither do I "see," but I know that if I do my best and accept what the Lord gives, I will not suffer want. Things come much better than we deserve if we do our best, and put our whole trust in the Lord. But how often we complain of what He gives, instead of thanking Him for it! I have heard people say they wondered if we would go through as the saints of the Bible did for Christ. I have no doubt, for I know if the Lord wants me to go through that, He will give me faith to do so. If we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and put our trust in Him, we will not come against anything impossible for us to bear, although we must go through many

WEATHERFORD, TEXAS

Dear Gem Family:

I am writing this in honor of Bro. and Sister McAdams. They are planning on furnishing them a room at her mother's, and have it to drop into as a headquarters place. I think it would be a splendid time for us Free Will Baptist to show our appreciation for their years of faithful service. Each one of us could send them a small gift, say a silver offering, or it would be nice for Mission circles to send a gift, she can use things in a room like the rest of us. And if any of our men want to send money, that would help buy the furniture, and we could get our gifts in by Christmas. And if any of our circles didn't want to be bothered sending a gift, a \$1.00, or just anything, and if she didn't use it all on her room, she is our State president of missions, and also one of our national officers, and can put it to a good use.

Just pray as you read this, and think that all these years these servants of God have had no place to call home, and we would all get joy out of doing this. Our mission women here are giving her a nice quilt.

Send gifts to Mrs. Lizzie McAdams, Midway, Texas, or to Huntsville, if you send furniture or rugs.

—Mrs. R. L. White.

EASTON, MO., Nov. 13, 1935.

Dear Bro. Brown and Christian Friends: As we are working for the Lord, I thought I'd send a report of the Mission work at Union Third Fork church. We meet every two weeks. We have 22 members and still growing. We had our last meeting with Bro. and Sister Lewallen, and will meet with Sister Kerns this Friday, to work for the Lord.

We have our men folks in the mission too, although they do not sew, or anything like that, but they sure find work to do. We appointed Bro. Dave Homan as field worker, and a number of them will go with him to call on the poor and needy, and to get them in our church and Sunday school.

We all know that we need to work for our churches, and to keep our Sunday schools going.

Well, dear brothers and sisters, we need your prayers, so keep praying for us, that we may keep working for the Lord, and we will remember you in our prayers. —Mrs. Everett Ellis.

things we ourselves don't want to do.

We have eight children, and two of the three that have reached the years of accountability, have accepted the Lord. I often pray to the Lord to teach me to guide and train my children so they will come to the Lord while they are young. I believe this would be much better than letting them grow up carelessly, and trying to get them to come back later, when they are away down the road in sin.

May the Lord bless you all, is my prayer. Pray for me.

—Mrs. J. W. Coffman.

DRUMRIGHT, OKLA., Nov. 1st.

Dear Editor and Gem Family:

Here we come again with our Mission report from Circle No. 1 of First Mission Association.

We met with the Drumright church Nov. 1st. There were six missions represented, five of which sent in a written report:

Olive wishes to report they are still working and having good spiritual meeting each week. We had two fruit showers on elderly people, also had prayer in their homes. We had one pie supper, read 650 Bible chapters, made 50 sick calls and 15 service hrs. We ask an interest in you prayers.

Sister Millie Inman, Pres.

Silver City sends greetings:

We are still working for the Lord. We have made 25 sick calls, read 50 Bible chapters, have 15 service hours. We have had one ice cream supper, served dinner at one sale, sold one quilt, proceeds from all going to pay on our building. We still meet each Wednesday. About 45 people met and picked the church's cotton, and we gave our young folks a social in the evening, serving ice cream and cake. We also had one pie supper. We ask an interest in prayer.

Sister Baker, President,
Sister Tattershell, Sec'y.

Drumright sends greetings:

We wish to report our mission in good working order. We meet each Wednesday all day, and on Thursday evening. We are working on our cook book. We have read 114 Bible chapters, and made 31 sick calls. We wish to be remembered in prayer.

Sister Speck, President,
Sister Manning, Sec'y.

Cushing reports they have good interest in mission work, have quilted three quilts, made 93 sick calls, had one grocery shower, one clothing shower, one cottage prayer meeting. We ask an interest in your prayers.

Sister Mount, Secretary.

Vance Chapel sends following report:

We have made 16 sick calls, had two cottage prayer meetings, three handkerchief showers, served at two sales. We put a tenth of what we made in the church treasury.

Sister Robb, President,
Sister Winsett, Sec'y-Treas.

We received a petitionary letter from the Olive Junior mission, asking for membership in the circle.

We have read 224 Bible chapters, made 68 sick calls, had three fruit showers, one apron sale. We elected Sister Fay Bookout as our sponsor, Lorene Rusco as president, Evelyn Lacey as Sec'y-Treas. We ask an interest in your prayers.

Olive Junior Mission.

We had five visitors from Bluebell, members of Circle No. 2. We appreciated their presence very much and would be glad if we could visit oftener.

We had a very spiritual day at Drumright. Owing to the different revivals and the weather, our crowd was not as large as usual. Bro. Geo.

Continued on page ten

GRIFFITHSVILLE, W. VA.

Dear Editor, Gem Readers, and Sunday School Workers Everywhere:

Possibly you would be interested in hearing from the Old Union Free Will Baptist church down here in southern West Virginia. The building was erected of hewn logs, about 1897, by citizens of the community, and a Free Will Baptist organization was instituted, and has been a very strong organization ever since.

Many of the old charter members have passed to the Great Beyond, among them dear old Uncle Rufus Stowers, who went on several years ago. Uncle Ruf. was a faithful member and a trustee of the church, and was instrumental in its progress while he lived, and his work and life still live in this community. We sure miss Uncle Ruf.

My father, Elder J. S. Stanley, was and now is a trustee of the church, and through his help and influence has been and is still a wonderful help to us all. His health is rapidly failing and he is not able to get out to church in bad weather any more. But, like Uncle Rufus, he will still live in the hearts of the people in this community many, many years after he has crossed that great river.

Many folks who have lived in this community, and been members of old Union church, have moved away, some to other states, and some to other communities in West Virginia, too far away to attend our meetings. Among them is our friend and brother, F. V. Nicholas. We miss Bro. Floyd in our church and Sunday school, for he too, was a great worker.

Pray for Old Union church, that she may always stand as a shining light to the world.

Many folks during the years of the great prosperity in this community, your humble writer being one of them, wandered and drifted to the great industrial centers, but since the depression, I among others, have gone back home..

So we had no Sunday school in the church for several years. But in July, 1934, we organized a Sunday school, with Elder Tom Bell, a fine young man and Christian worker as Supt., and Eld. R. L. Stanley, an old Free Will Baptist minister, being in the work, I believe, about 35 years, as assistant Superintendent. Both of them are wide-awake Sunday school workers.

We have one hundred and sixteen

(116) scholars enrolled, and the number is still growing. Your unworthy servant and writer, by the unanimous will of the school, is teacher of the Junior class of boys and girls, to the number of fifty seven (57).

We have styled our class Willing Workers, and dear readers, they are living up to the name most wonderfully, and I can truthfully say they are the best workers I ever saw in any country Sunday school. No task has ever been too great for them to accomplish, that they been given yet.

We have an evergreen school, and held all through the past winter. It was very encouraging to see them coming in all kinds of weather, thru rain, high water, snow and mud, to be in Sunday school. There are several in the class who haven't missed a time since we organized. We expect to keep our class going through this coming winter.

The Willing Workers gave a Christmas program and tree for the community on last Christmas. We used the play, "The Star of Hope," as a leading attraction, and it was well performed on the stage to everyone's satisfaction. The tree was well decorated and loaded with many valuable presents for the children and old folks.

Many old ladies and shutins who were not able to attend were remembered and their names called several times, and their hearts made glad during Christmas time. Among them was my Mother who is 70 years old, and hasn't walked a step for four years. When I came home with a market basket full of nice presents of most everything she would like (She wasn't looking for nor expecting anything), I never saw such pleasure and joy manifested by anyone as my Mother showed on that night; and I felt fully repaid for all the time I had spent in helping the class produce the program.

We are now planning and working on a program for Thanksgiving; so pray for us, that we may accomplish that which we undertake for the betterment of the boys and girls of our community, and that we do all things for God and His cause.

Our Sunday school opens at 10:00 o'clock each Sunday morning, and any one traveling this way, don't forget to visit us. The door is always open, and you will be welcomed. The church is located one mile off West Virginia State Route 3, near Griffithsville, West Virginia.

Would like to hear from Sunday

school workers everywhere. Please write me, and pray for me.
Your earnest Sunday school worker,
—E. F. Stanley.

BRENTWOOD, CALIF., Nov. 12.

The service at Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Heyne's in honor of Grandma Davis' birthday was well attended. A large crowd gathered there to pay respect to dear Grandma Davis whose birthday was November 10th. She was 78 years old.

Oh, how the Lord has blessed Mother Davis with good health! She was in bed because of sickness only one day during 1935. Praise God for that.

Grandma's children and grandchildren and friends gave her a quilt piece shower instead of the customary presents. She received 33 yards of material from which to piece quilts. She wishes to thank everyone for what they did for her.

Sister Mabel Nelson brought the message and every one received a blessing from God. Then every one passed by Grandma and gave her a handshake and wished her a happy birthday, while they sang, "When the Saints go Marching In." The power of God fell on Grandma and she shouted and praised God as she skipped across the floor.

Then everyone was invited to stay for refreshments, and Grace was said by Sister Nelson. Cake and drinks were served, and everyone had a nice social time.

About 75 ate supper there, and every one's face was shining with joy and all went home praising God for His goodness to them.

If it is God's will to spare Grandma Davis until next Nov. 10th, we invite everyone back to another service.

Mrs. E. R. Heyne.

HAPPY CHILDREN

Composed by E. F. Stanley

We're a band of happy children,
Who go to Sunday school.
We study about our Savior,
And learn His blessed rule.

Jesus is sitting in Heaven,
Upon His snowy white throne;
He's watching and guarding our foot-
steps,
Wherever we may roam.

Come, all our fathers and mothers,
Go with us to that land;
Where we'll sing God's praise forever,
In one unbroken band.

GREENTOP, MO., Nov. 18, 1935.

Dear Bro. Brown and Gem Readers:

I feel just like writing to the Gem readers this morning.

We left the State meeting Spirited to the top notch, ready to preach God's truths and do our best to build up the cause of Christ. I feel at home with the Free Will Baptist and I have come to realize that I have always been a Free Will Baptist.

We went immediately to our home from the State meeting and began to get our few things ready to come to Northeast Mo. to begin a revival. We drove 362 miles north and east, and landed at New Harmony church, west of Greentop, Mo.

Bro. C. M. Dauber, their pastor, welcomed us to his home, and after a brief rest we went to service. The meeting began with good interest, but almost as soon as the meeting began the rain began. After two weeks the rain got so bad that we decided to go to Nashville, Tenn., so we loaded the Chevrolet with preachers and their wives and started to Tennessee. We drove to Flat River, Mo. the first day and stayed over night with Bro. Jim Miller and family, one of our beloved Free Will Baptist preachers. Then we journeyed on to Nashville.

As, no doubt, someone has already told about the meeting, we will not go into detail about the meeting, but we certainly had a good time, and we are stronger Free Will Baptists now than ever before.

We returned to New Harmony and resumed our revival, but we sure have had bad weather. But the church has been revived a great deal. I can see a great future for the New Harmony church, if the people of the church can only see and get together. If I ever saw a community that I liked to be in, New Harmony is one of them. Homes have been opened to us and we will always remember how well we have been treated.

We are working toward the buying of the press and raising money to buy equipment for the State meeting. Oh, how we love to work for God's cause! We have now found the place that God called us for. When we come to your church, just remember we are coming in the interest of the Free Will Baptist work.

We ask an interest in your prayers, for we realize we need your prayers.

Your brother in Christ,

Eld. Ferrell Zinn, Purdy, Mo.

PLATTSBURG, MO., Nov. 11th.

Dear Mission Workers:

It has been some time since we have written to you good people and the Gem family, but we are still on the firing line for God.

We were so sorry not to be able to be at the State meeting this year at Flat River, but on account of sickness in our home, we were unable to be with you this time. We are glad for the good reports we heard about the Association.

We visited the various churches in Northeast Mo. Association, also attended their Association and their fifth Sunday Mission and League meeting. We were glad to meet and worship with these good people, also to make new friends. Helped to reorganize the league at New Harmony church. Visited seven churches in the interest of Mission and League work.

The Connelville church wanted us to organize a mission, but owing to weather conditions we were unable to organize while there, but we hope they will go ahead and get organized soon.

We stayed in the home of Brother and Sister Welbaum while at Greentop. They are both licensed ministers and fine Christian folks. They certainly were nice to us, making it possible for us to visit the different churches and helping us in every way. May the Lord bless them and use them in His service.

We want to express our sincere thanks to the State mission workers for the love gift you sent us. May God richly repay you, is our prayer.

We feel that we should work here in the north when we can this winter. Let us, as mission workers, put forth a greater effort to have our circles better equipped in every way, but especially to win souls to Christ, to support our church and pastor, to pray more than ever before, and watch as well as pray, and not let golden opportunities pass by without doing something for the "Lone Galilean."

May God bless you one and all, is our humble prayer. Pray for us, and may we be "Instant in season; out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2).

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet" (Isa. 58:1).

Melba White.

Some will persistently shirk,

No matter what are their missions;

While others will willingly work,

Under most trying conditions.

**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
A SUCCESS**

We arrived home safely from the National Association, held in Nashville, Tennessee, with a happy settled feeling in our heart, that all had gone well. What a joy it is to know that, again, our denomination has a head, and is moving forward in a oneness, instead of being divided as heretofore.

There was a halo of glory that seemed to overshadow the entire session. Love and harmony was prevalent. The spirit of unity and co-operation predominated. Broader vision and a deeper concern were the principal things we brought back with us.

If I have not counted amiss, fourteen states were represented.

Rev. Willey of North Carolina was endorsed by the National Association as a missionary to South America. It was indeed wonderful to hear his message which he brought on Wednesday evening of the Association. We have hopes of getting Bro. Willey to come through this part in the not distant future to speak in some of our churches of the West; hoping to arouse among us a deeper interest in Foreign Missions.

A treatise was adopted with necessary revisions, which were minor, for our work throughout these United States; which really does make us one. Constitution and By-Laws were drawn up and adopted, and plans were set in motion for the beginning of a Bible School in Nashville, Tenn., which school is to start in September, 1936. Trustees were elected for the school.

Rev. J. L. Welch was elected Moderator. Rev. Welch is pastor of the church that entertained the Association, known as Cofer's Chapel, or the North Nashville Free Will Baptist church. We certainly were royally entertained, both in the homes and at the church. They have nice spacious church building, and a nice lot of folks. We very much enjoyed meeting the workers from the different states. We will never forget you dear folks, and hope how soon the Lord will permit us to meet together again. May our hearts be more closely knit together by pure Christian love, and the work in general more unified as time continues. God has a great work for the Free Will Baptist to do, if we will but arise and build.

—Eld. Winford Davis.

"Nor snow, nor rain can make us stay;

If we have tickets to the play;

But let one drop the walk besmirch,

And it's too wet to go to church."

DRUMRIGHT, OKLAHOMA*Continued from page seven*

Johnston brought the afternoon message, using Prov. 12:14. Subject, "There is a Way."

Our devotional service was led by Junior mission president, Sister Stephens.

The evening service was opened on the corner of Broadway and North Ohio streets at 7:15. Bro. Beaty brought the message. Lesson, Mark 10:17-26. Subject, "Suicide of the Soul." After which we met at the church for our fellowship meeting, there being eleven ministers to take the stand.

We had two special requests for prayer, one for Jennings and one for Arbordale. We ask you all to especially remember these requests.

We were dismissed with prayer by Bro. Clyde Howe.

Sister Hallman, Reporter.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

The Cofer's Chapel church at Nashville, Tennessee, was all tired but happy after the National Association. The meeting of this body in this manner had long been prayed for, worked for, and looked for. When it arrived we were ready to meet it face to face.

Just as we are praying working, and looking for the school, and when it is made possible, we will be ready to meet it face to face. We believe that God answers prayer.

When the people were all settled and in session somehow it seemed that the Holy Spirit led the whole thing. There just was no big ones in it. If anybody had any lopsided wheels or ideas they kept them to themselves and thought it was all for the Lord anyway.

There were tall ones, short ones, fat ones, and lean ones, old ones and youngsters baldheaded ones, and some not bald, good looking ones were present along with homely ones. Somehow they all seemed to be carrying the marks and scars from the same tools. Like the three wise men from the east they had seen His star and came to worship Him.

Nearly everyone realized that this meeting was a climax for one way or the other, and we are all so happy over the results. We feel like praising Him from whom all blessings flow.

Now we are working for one common cause as denomination of Free Will Baptist. I will say in conclusion that our church was more than glad to be honored with the convention and was happy to meet and have the entire delegation. I find that I am just writing to home folks now.

We hope every one enjoyed their trip and stay as much as we enjoyed having them. Of course we were proud to have our pastor honored so. We haven't seen much of him since, as he slipped off to Indiana for a revival meeting on the following Monday.

So farewell for the time being, as we hope to see you again soon.

J. W. Boyte

1513 Arthur Ave., Nashville, Tenn.

PAINTSVILLE, KENTUCKY

Dear Editor and Gem Family:

It gives me great pleasure to report our big Johnson Co. Quarterly Meeting just closed, that met with the good Free Will Baptist at Secco, Ky. Oct. 25th. Opened with song and prayer. Introductory sermon by Elder Millard Vanhoose.

Met back at 2 p. m. F. S. Vanhoose not present, the conference was called to order by the oldest minister present, Eld. Adron Davis.

Eld. Frank Morrison of Secco, Ky. was elected moderator, and Eld. Millard Vanhoose assistant.

Moderator appointed committee on business and committee on arrangement, then declared the ministers' conference open for discussion. We had a few hot discussions, then adjourned for preaching.

Met back at 7:30 p. m. Preaching by Eld. Charley Isaac of Commona, Ky. Had a real old time meeting. Closed by Eld. Mayfield of Tennessee. Three souls were saved, thank the good Lord for saving power.

Met back Saturday morning at 11:00 o'clock. Called to order by moderator. Scripture lesson was read and prayer was offered followed by song.

Preaching by Eld. Adron Davis. Had a good time in the Lord. Adjourned to meet again at 2:00 p. m.

Met at 2:00 p. m. Clerk, F. S. Vanhoose read Scripture lesson, followed by song and prayer. Called to order by the moderator.

Letters called for and 22 churches reported by letter, showing a great increase in membership. \$31.95 received with letters. Four churches gave in verbal reports. Corresponding messengers to other bodies gave in good report. Corresponding messengers from other bodies gave good reports.

Vote taken as to where the next Q. M. should be held, the Alka church of Free Will Baptist received a big majority of the votes.

Adjourned to meet back at 7:30 Saturday night.

Preaching at 7:30 by Eld. Keeley Patton. Had a real old time meeting. Three souls were saved, praise God.

Preaching Sunday by Brothers Bailis and Millard Vanhoose. Had a real Pentecost with souls praising the Lord. Took the parting hand, every body feeling good and praising the Lord.

I will close by saying, May God bless our big Free Will Baptist everywhere.—Eld. Millard Vanhoose.

ST. LOUIS, MO., Nov. 11, 1935.

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

Received my first issue of the Gem. Sure do appreciate it. Sure glad to hear from God's holy people. The picture on the front page sure is nice. Several I know, may God bless them in their future work. And I must say that I am just recovering from the wonderful spiritual blessings enjoyed while there among the good brethren. Can say that we brot some of the spirit back to St. Louis with us. Since we came back one soul has been saved, and healed, and

three have been reclaimed, praise the Lord.

Pray for our church at 1405 South Seventh St. Bro. Hill, our pastor is very faithful. May we all get closer to God in the future, always praying for the coming of our Lord.

—Eld. Sam Gill,

1225 South Sixth Street.

EDISON, NEBR., Nov. 25, 1935.

Dear Readers of the Gem:

It has been quite a while since I have written to the Gem, so I guess that I had better wake up, and speak up, and report my behavior once more, and let you know that I am still on the Lord's side, and still working for Him and the salvation of souls.

I am not in the active revival work like I used to be, but I still have some preaching appointments, and I also help in revival meetings, and also hold some revivals by myself, so far as other preachers are concerned.

Not very long ago I helped in a revival meeting at our Philadelphia church near to the town of Santa Rosa, Mo. Eld. J. S. Damon of Bethany, Mo. did most of the preaching. The meetings were a great victory. A lot of people professed Christ and were baptized and joined the church. I do not know how many as I left the meeting before it closed. Eld. Damon is a strong preacher and a good revivalist. He joined our Association last fall, coming to us from the United Brethren church. No church will make a mistake in calling him for pastor or to hold them a revival meeting.

Elder W. R. Rush is the faithful pastor of this church, and preaches half time for them. He lives in the town of Santa Rosa.

A little over three weeks ago I came up here and started a revival meeting at our Free Will Baptist church at Blackwood, a few miles from the town of Edison, in the south part of the State of Nebraska. We found the church had a good Sunday school, and quite a number of faithful members still left, hanging on to God and keeping up the work of the Lord, even if they had had no pastor for many years. As far as I know they haven't had a Free Will Baptist preacher to preach for them since I quit preaching for them about ten years ago. Although bad weather and sickness got in the way of the meeting, God gave us a good meeting. The church and community were revived spiritually and another deacon was elected and ordained for the church, and the Lord's Supper was observed. This church is an isolated church away off to itself and the great problem is to get them a pastor, as there is no other Free Will Baptist near to them. They are a fine bunch of people, and they sure know how to make a preacher feel at home with them.

There was a lot of professions in the meeting and four joined the church. No doubt more would join if they had a pastor.

I got four subscriptions for the Gem.

Your brother in Christ,

Eld. T. C. Ferguson, Weaterby, Mo.



Free Will Baptist League Reports

STATE LEAGUE OFFICERS

President, Eld. Winford Davis,
Monett, Mo.
Vice Pres. Ell. Noel Turner
Granby, Mo.
Sec'y-Treasurer, Eld. O. T. Allred,
Monett, Mo.

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Damon Dodd, Elvins, Mo., 1937
Eld. Cecil Campbell, Stella, Mo., 1933

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For Cave Springs Association
Eld. E. E. Winfree Hoxie, Ark.
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Eld. G. W. Scott, Jr. Mt'n Grove, Mo.
For N. W. Missouri Association
Chloe Lewis Pattonsburg, Mo.
For S. E. Missouri Yearly Meeting
Eld. Ruth La Brot Flat River, Mo.
Field Worker at Large
Eld. Melba White, Plattsburg, Mo., R1.



STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Leaguers: As we are approaching this joyous holiday season, I am thinking of all of you league workers over the dear old State of Mo. I am thinking how we are all made one in and through the precious Christ Child who was born that notable night nearly 2,000 years ago. I am so glad of the close relationship which exists among us, and to think it was all made possible by the birth and merits of the Christ, and our being born of Him. I pray you will all get much out of this Christmas season, because of having in your heart the real Christmas spirit.

What do you suppose folks get out of Christmas who have no insight into the real deep meaning of it all? I, myself, am made to wonder. God forbid that we should spend the season in any way other than in that way which would glorify the One for whom the day was set to honor. Of all the other holidays of the year Christmas conveys with it most happiness for me. There is something about it that is inexplicable. Its glory is beyond human expression. I think the reason why Christmas is so wonderful is because the event which sets it forth was, and is, beyond, and independent of human powers.

Especially let us all remember, this Christmas season, the Scripture, "It

is more blessed to give than to receive."

Your brother and co-worker in and through Christ.—Winford Davis.



STATE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Well, Dear Leaguers, here we are at the time to report our work for the Lord in the league work again, and, as this issue of the Gem is to be a special Christmas number, we leaguers should think of giving and receiving in a great way. Before we give we must have something to give. We read in God's Word where eternal life is a gift from God, then when we accept the gift God offers to us through His Son, we can then give to others, and as we give to God and to our fellow leaguers the best we have in humble service, the more we will have to give. The supply is not diminished by giving, but rather increased.

Then may each of us endeavor to see how much we can give in the service of God, of time, talent, love, and material things. If we do this with sincerity of heart, God will abundantly bless us for giving and will bless the gift, that it will be a real help to those who receive.

Yours for a great holiday season in the Lord.—O. T. Allred, State Sec'y.



REPORT OF AURORA LEAGUE

By Lena Hamby, Sec'y-Treas.

Aurora league is still on the firing line for God. It is still growing, but have no new members for some time. We are proud to say that our league has the Spirit of the Lord in it. We have had some wonderful League lessons to discuss. I got a wonderful thought from the lesson, "Religion is the Best Preparation for the Duties of Life." There is a lot of truth in that, because when we come to the end of our journey here on earth below, we will find out that our life for God will not be in vain.

We still have the old time shouting at our prayer meetings, and God is blessing in a wonderful way, His wonders to perform. You know we can't always understand God's ways, but sometimes after we have had a hard trial, and the sun shines through, we find that His ways are always best.

Pray for our league, that it will be a shining light set upon a hill that cannot be hid.

REPORT OF MACEDONIA LEAGUE

Mrs. Leslie Henderson, Reporter.

Dear Gem Readers:

We have reorganized our league since we reported last. We have 25 members now and there are some others who intend to join soon. We hope that many others will become interested enough to join. We have some real interesting lessons.

Our league voted to give fifty cents to help pay our part in making this issue of the Gem a Christmas number.

As Christmas is near and we are beginning to wonder what we will give our friends, why not subscribe for the Gem for the year, as a gift? I am sure it would be appreciated by anyone. It should be in every home.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas.



REPORT OF FLAT RIVER LEAGUE

Martha Burcham, Reporter

Dear Brothers and Sisters and League Workers: I am glad to report that our league is still progressing. I want to thank the Lord for the league work, and for what it means to me. I know if the league meant as much to others as it does to me, we sure would have more leaguers than what we have.

I thank the Lord for the State Association that was held with us in October. It certainly has been a blessing to our league as well as to our church and Sunday school, and also to our community.

We have been studying from the Bible, but we began Sunday night to use the Free Will Baptist League quarterlies, which every one seems to find to be very interesting.

We ask your prayers.



FREDERICKTOWN LEAGUE REP'T

Mrs. Lucy Murray, Reporter

We would like to become a member of the Gem Family.

Our league at Fredericktown was organized Sunday night, Sept. 29th, by our pastor, Eld. Wm. Reeves.

This league has 42 members divided into four groups. The attendance is good and every one interested.

We are to have a program the first Sunday night of each month.

We ask the prayers of every Christian, that the Lord will bless our work.

The Universal Reign of Christ

By Rev. George H. Gilmer, Draper, Virginia.

Taken From the Defender Magazine

"Ask of me, and I will thee thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." (Psalm 2:8). "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10).

In a former issue of *The Defender* we wrote of The Origin, Purpose and Destiny of Human Government. We saw in that article that human government is to be succeeded by divine government—"The Kingdom of the Heavens"—which is a kingdom here on earth, but the ruling powers are in heaven. It will be the universal reign of Christ; and His saints, now being called out of the nations, will reign with Him.

The first text quoted above is Jehovah addressing Christ (His anointed One) and instructing Him to ask and all the world will be His. The second text is Christ, through His people, addressing Jehovah and asking that the kingdom come and God's will be done in earth as it is in heaven.

In other words we are asking for the universal reign of Christ—God's King. We are asking that law and order be restored to this lawless world as perfectly as it exists in heaven. That prayer has gone up from millions of loving, longing, loyal hearts for nearly two thousand years. Will it ever be answered? Will law and order ever be restored to this lawless world? Will God's will ever be done on earth as it is in heaven? Yes, we have Jehovah's word for it. Jehovah has sworn by Himself time and again that He will do this thing, and He will do it. God can not lie. Trace God's oath through the Bible and see for yourself.

When and How

When He will do it we can not tell because He has kept the times and seasons in His own power. How He will do it we can not tell with entire certainty.

The theistic scientist says He will do it by the slow process of evolution, which will continue over millions of years. The devout Christian who pays but little attention to the vagaries of science, says He will do it by the teachings of His church, and by a great judgment day out of which will emerge a new heaven and a new earth

wherein dwelleth righteousness. May not both be partly right and partly wrong, as is usually the case when men differ on subjects of which after all they know so little?

May not God's methods be both gradual and cataclysmic? May He not work through what we call natural law for a time and then suddenly intervene with a miracle? After all what is to us miracle, may be just law with God. Who is so wise as to have exhausted the realm of God's laws? But why dispute about the *how* and *when* since God has sworn the thing shall be? He has promised to give to His Son the nations for His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession. He has declared that His kingdom shall come and His will be done in earth as it is in heaven. He has declared that the kingdoms of this world are to become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever (Rev. 11:15).

*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.*

Governments to be Replaced

Now let us study together some facts that have been revealed to us in God's Word about the universal reign of Christ. We can not go beyond the Word. It has been revealed that *Christ will come back to this earth to reign in person*. He is with us in Spirit, but not now in His very own person. When He left the world to go back to the Father, to prepare a place for us, and to act as our Intercessor at the right hand of the Father, the two men in white apparel (Were they Moses and Elijah?) said: "*This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.*"

The personal return of Christ to this earth is the world's only hope. The Bible calls it: "That blessed hope" (Titus 2:13).

The world has looked to human governments to save it, and they have not done it. They are becoming more and more impotent. The crash of the

downfall of human governments is heard reverberating around the world today. Human governments are divine in origin. "The powers that be are ordained of God." We should make them the very best possible. But after all they are a makeshift, a temporary arrangement. They will pass away. The kingdom of God will take their place.

New Monarch Needed

It is often said that America has the best government in the world. But America today has more crime than any other nation. But a short time ago it repealed the Eighteenth Amendment, abjectly acknowledging that it could not enforce it. Nor does it enforce any other law.

When the Eighteenth Amendment was law, thousands of our so-called "best citizens," even our judges and law makers, violated it daily because it interfered with their private vices. They were not our best citizens. They were criminals like the common herd. They placed themselves in the ranks of thieves and other law breakers. And all this just goes to show that human government is a failure.

What we proudly call the best government in the world is largely a failure. And the American government is a worse failure today than it was a decade ago. Now if that be treason make the most of it! I want to get back to an absolute monarchy. But I want the Monarch to be Jesus Christ. I long for the fulfillment of that prophecy in the second Psalm where Jehovah says: "Yet have I set my King upon my holy hill of Zion."

*All hail the power of Jesus' name,
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.*

"But," you say, "are you not making the same mistake the Jews made in thinking that Christ would come to set up an earthly kingdom?" I have never seen any evidence in the Bible that the Jews made any mistake. They made a mistake as to *how* the kingdom would be set up, and as to *when* it would come, but not as to its being an earthly kingdom.

It will be an earthly kingdom for it will be on this earth. The seat of it will be right here in this world. The

kingdoms of *this world* will be His kingdoms. God's will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Christ will possess the uttermost parts of the *earth*.

"But," you say again, "is not the kingdom of God the reign of Christ in the heart and over the life; is it not essentially *spiritual* in its nature?" Yes, it is essentially *spiritual*. But a spiritual kingdom will have material results and manifestations. When Christ reigns in the hearts and over the lives of all men this world will be made over again from a material standpoint, and from every other standpoint. More of this presently. Now I would impress upon you the fact that the kingdom will be on this *earth*.

*Let every kindred, every tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all.*

Wrath of God

"*This terrestrial ball*" will be the seat of Christ's universal kingdom. Christ's kingdom is essentially *spiritual*. It is the reign of Christ in the heart and over the life. It is perfect submission to His law. It is the universal reign of law, but it is *Christ's law*. And Christ will be here in person, with His saints, to enforce it.

Turn back read again the text first quoted above, and note the verse following it. Note what Christ is to do with the nations in rebellion against Him when God gives them to Him. "*Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*" Does that mean that all people in all nations will submit to the reign of Christ in their hearts and over their lives?

It certainly does not. Some will defy Him to the end. See what is being done today as the end approaches. The nations rage, the people imagine a vain thing. Rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against His Anointed. These are the "children of the evil one" of whom He speaks in His parables of the kingdom. They scorn His loving invitation: "Come unto me." They trample under their feet His blood, His blood shed for the remission of their sins. They hurl back into His teeth His dying prayer made for them: "Father, forgive them; they know not what they do." They crucify afresh the Son of God. So when He comes men will behold "the wrath of the Lamb." And He will break them

with a rod of iron, dash them in pieces as a potter's vessel.

Christ's kingdom is established by two processes, *regeneration* and *elimination*. Men are born into the kingdom and cannot get in any other way. If they will not yield they are eliminated. Note what Christ says He will do at the end of this age: "The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father." Christ will be here, the righteous will be here, and the wicked will be gone, and God's will will be done in earth as it is in heaven.

*Joy to the world; the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing.*

Nature to be Regenerated

We said there would be *material* results flowing from God's spiritual Kingdom. Let us see. When Adam and Eve lived in innocence, they lived in a beautiful garden which God Himself planted. It must have been marvelously beautiful. I am sure there has never been a garden like it since. But when they sinned God drove them out of the garden and said: "Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth unto thee."

So when Adam sinned the curse came on the ground. Sin, which is essentially of spiritual origin (Satanic spirit) had marvelous material results. God has linked the spiritual and the material together; it may be by unknown laws, which when they are known will be as plain as any other law. The acorn germinates and grows into an oak by what we call a natural law which is more or less plain to everybody. Man sins and the curse comes on the ground perhaps by a law which will be just as plain when we have discovered it. The man becomes law-abiding, by the reverse action of the law, the curse will be removed from the ground.

No longer will it bring forth thorns and thistles. As God Himself expresses it: "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree." That is what God says and I

believe it though I do not understand just how He is going to do it. He says the earth will be marvelously fruitful in that day and the desert will rejoice and blossom as the rose.

So the kingdom of God will not only be in the hearts of men but it will be over the heart on which men walk. The material seat of Christ's kingdom will be the earth from which the curse will have been removed, and the new earth will be one vast Garden of Eden. You may say this is grossly materialistic. Well, be it so. *I am not a Christian Scientist to deny the reality of the material; nor am I a materialist to deny the spiritual.* I believe in both. God made both and pronounced both good.

You may follow Mrs. Eddy and believe only in the spiritual, or you may follow the Sadducees and believe only in the material, but I am going to follow God and believe in both. And Christ's reign will extend over both.

Animal Kingdom to be Changed

When Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden in a state of innocence they lived among all sorts of animals, which were as gentle and harmless as doves. When they sinned, their sin in some way to us mysterious, affected these animals so that they became deadly and dangerous. Universal lawlessness broke loose.

Later man succeeded in a measure in taming some of these animals, but when he has learned to tame himself they will all be tamed. Man, in his state of lawlessness, is the most dangerous of all animals. He is the biggest hog, the cunningest fox, the most blood-thirsty bear, the fiercest tiger, the most terrible lion, the most deadly serpent. He has done a thousand times more killing than all the animals put together. When he is tamed by submitting to Christ's rule the other animals will be tamed also.

The wolf will dwell with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed together, the lion eat straw like an ox, and a little child may lead about these beasts as if they were household pets, yea, and play over the hole of the most deadly serpent.

Some men think these passages mean that people with wolf-like natures will be changed. Well, they will be either changed or swept out of the kingdom; but wolves and bears and lions will be changed also. None will hurt or destroy any more in all God's holy mountain, or kingdom. Paradise has been lost and thank God Paradise will be regained.

"His Name Shall Be Called Jesus"

By Eld. Everett Wilson, Denison, Tex.

I do not suppose there ever was a time when conviction for the sin of sending Jesus to the Cross, rested upon a nation as it did upon the Jews, part of them at least, when it was known in Jerusalem, that Jesus had been raised from the dead, and had been seen by many of His faithful followers. No doubt men were wringing their hands, and smiting upon their breast with their clinched fists, covering their heads with ashes, a sign of deep humiliation, and crying to God for mercy. But the heavens seemed brass, and their prayers fell unheeded at their very feet. They wished they had not had a part in crucifying the Son of God, as they were now convinced He was the very Christ. But regrets can never take away sin, or undo crimes of the past. Each thought or mention of them only opens the wounds deeper, for truly sin is the cruel thrust of a Demon's spear, for which he offers no healing balm. They had denied and crucified the only One who had ever been appointed of God to forgive sin, and give peace to the troubled conscience. Many who were convinced He was the Christ, but for fear of being put out of the synagogue, did not dare say so, but gathered in groups and told their fears to one another, but conviction only deepened.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, and such a day it was, so full of wonders and mysteries, no tongue could ever tell! Jews, from every nation on earth, heard from the lips of Galileans, the wonderful works of God. Only the Spirit-filled prophets, Isaiah and Joel, had seen this day. (Isa. 28:11, 12; Joel 2:28, 29). Conviction was settling over Jerusalem like the evening shadows. Men, women, and children were running into into the streets, as if some great calamity was about to overtake them, when some one said, "Listen, Peter, that cowardly fisherman, who ran away and denied he knew Jesus when He was before Pilate, is preaching from the Upper Room. He was among that hundred and twenty who tarried there. Hear how fearlessly he speaks, see how his face shines! My very heart pains with remorse, I wish I had not cried out against this Jesus! Peter says he saw this Jesus since He came forth out of the tomb. Listen, he is saying now, I, with above five hundred brethren saw Him ascend into heaven, just after He had told us to wait here in Jerusalem for the Holy Ghost, whom He would send to abide with us for ever."

And suddenly there arose up from the streets, a cry from thousands of throats, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

Peter cried out, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you (trusting) in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Such a turning to the Lord, and

about 3,000 souls were flocking to the waters edge to be baptized, because they had repented, and were saved and willing to show openly to the world, that they had buried the old man with his sins, and were resurrected to walk in newness of life. Nor did they forget the sermon of John the Baptist, who had said, "Bring forth fruits meet for repentance, and think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father." In other words, "We belong to this church, or that denomination." All well enough in their place, but they can not save, and this they found out, and so went to the ones they had wronged and made the past right, the only way to get right with God is to do what He says. Read Matt. 18:15-19; Matt. 5:23, 24; Ezek. 18:21-28; Ezek. 3:17-21; and Ezek. 33:1-20. This is the way to have a conscience void of offence toward God and man. "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things I say?" and Jesus says again, "In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines, the commandments of men." What singleness of heart, what rejoicing, what unity, what love, what liberality, what power, was in that early church! and that is what the church is today, when Bible demands have been met. People take repentance so lightly today, just drop down on one knee and offer a weak excuse to Jesus, and seem to expect Him to give them a bill-of-sale for the things they have stolen, but the Scripture says, "Take back that which you have stolen, and steal no more," go to the one you have wronged by talking about him with your long gossiping tongue, even going to the one who has aught against you, taking the blame, if needs be, to get right with him, and by so doing your way is clear to send a prayer to God on his behalf. You can never pray for the one you are not willing to forgive, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Such a prayer will surely avail much: "Oh God, I forgive, and you forgive!" "Charge it to my account," says Paul. I am not so sure you will not have to answer to God for the sin you see your brother commit, if you hold it your heart against him. Your unforgiving nature will condemn you before God, just as quick as unforgiven sin will bring your neighbor before the judgment bar of Christ. Oh that people would really repent and turn from sin! The greatest thing that can be said of a man is, "He squared up with the world when he got saved." Such repentance brings respect and confidence, but if we go on living just as we did before we went to the altar, our testimony will have very little weight with the people of the world.

"His name shall be called Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins," not in them, but from

them. Peter says of the man who goes back to his sins, after being forgiven of them, "He is like the dog, turning again upon his vomit, or the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire," not a very pretty picture I am sure. This is a word picture of a backsliden person, or one who has not complied with the whole act of repentance, cleaning up, and staying clean, getting on the highway of holiness and staying there, living every day above sin. Paul says, "Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust (or desire) of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16), and then goes on to name the works of the flesh (Gal. 19-21). I am sure you will agree with Paul, when he says, "They that do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God." There seems to be no Scripture that will license a person to do these things, no matter what his former experience may have been, and if there was, he would be a very poor example of the power of God to keep one from sin, he would be no witness to the keeping power of God, he must live an overcoming life. Jesus said the Father dwelt in Him, and He proved it by doing the works of His Father. He said again, "The works that I do shall you do," and this will be bearing witness that He is in us of a truth. This is not trying to raise the dead and cast out devils, although this has been done by those manifesting the fruits of the fruits of the Spirit, as in Gal. 5:22-23. We lay so much stress on getting a "born again experience," let us not forget to emphasize keeping it.

One repenting and receiving such an experience is a real candidate for Christian baptism, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Nowhere did Jesus ever give authority to baptize any other way, trusting in His name for the remission of sin, for as Peter says again, "There is no other name given under heaven among men whereby ye can be saved, but the name of Jesus." Nowhere did Peter, or any other apostle say, That being baptized in the name of Jesus only would save from sin, or heal the sick body, or bring the gift of the Holy Ghost, or do any miracle, but there are many statements where "Trusting in His name" will save, will heal, will fill with the Holy Spirit, will work miracles, will do every good and perfect work. No where in the Bible is salvation by baptism, nor is it by any other agency but the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and that only to those who repent, and trust in the efficacy of the blood. True repentance is witnessed by the effects of the blood applied, which gives victory over sin. This experience can be kept by constant living in a state of repentance. "Therefore being justified by faith (in the shed blood of Christ) we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

unspeakable, no one has ever been able to tell it, it expresses its presence in 'love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law.' Well may the poet sing of him who has repented and is born again.

*Tho' fiery darts at me be hurled,
I can smile at Satan's rage,
And face a frowning world.*

The beauty and glory of this wonderful Scripture, "His name shall be called Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." Amen.



LUKE 2:11



By Miss Tommie Franklin, Desloge, Mo.

In these days it is customary to announce the birth of children. Such a joy permeates the hearts of parents when a child is born into their home. Just as quickly as possible the news is heralded; telegrams and cards are sent to those deeply concerned, and oh, the thrill it brings! But I declare unto you, the greatest announcement, the the greatest thrill the old world ever received was when the heavenly messenger announced the arrival of baby Jesus.

Of course the prophets long ago had foretold His coming (Isa. 7:14; 9:6), but upon this occasion prophecy was fulfilled, and the angel said: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Well, glory to God: "A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel."

There are so many who deny this truth. Some tell us He was just a good man, and we should follow His

example, but He was not the Savior, was not Deity, was not born of the virgin Mary, and His blood was not shed for the sins of the world.

Thank God, Simeon and Anna the prophetess were waiting with faith in God for the Lord's Christ, and glory forever, their waiting was not in vain. Simeon took baby Jesus in his arms and blessed God, saying, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

Oh, that people would embrace Him today by faith! As His children, let us join in the heavenly chorus: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

It took life to give life, and for that purpose He came into the world.—Luke 19:10; Matt. 1:21.

OPPORTUNITY LOST—AND FOUND

Alas, I am that shepherdman,
Who watched the flocks by night
And heard the tidings of good joy
One brought on wings of light:
But when the other shepherds ran
To find in Bethlehem
The Child that was the Son of God,
I would not go with them.

*Good Shepherd cease, no more complain
Tonight that Child is born again!*

I am that king who stayed behind
To keep a state forlorn:
I let my wiser brothers seek
The place where Christ was born;
They bare Him gold and frankincense
As told in Holy Writ,
I was the king who saw His star
But followed not after it.

*Look up, poor king, and see for sign
Tonight once more a star gives shine!*

I am keeper of the inn
—What man will pity me,—
I heard one knocking at my gate
And rose not up to see;
I heard one crying in the dark
In need and travail sore;
I made no room to house God's Son,
But turned Him from my door.

*Goodman, rejoice! nor grieve in vain,
Tonight He seeks that door again!*

angels to the shepherds who were with their flocks that night, to notify them that in the city of David was born unto them a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. They left their flocks and went to see the Christ Child. The Wise Men came to worship the Lord, and brought gifts and presented them in the spirit of giving.

We have spoken of the two gatherings, one at the inn, and one at the manger. One a great group whose minds were far from the Lord, the other in the very presence of the Lord, I'll say again, we have both groups represented today, even 1935 years later. Today we see people by the multitude unconcerned about the Lord, with their minds on other things, and with hearts so filled with sin that there is no room for Jesus. They seem too busy and thoughtless to consider God, even when asked to make room in their heart and life for the Savior. The answer is, "No." It's sad, but true.

But when I think of those who love the Lord, and make an effort to see the work of the Lord progress, and come in the spirit of worship, giving and supporting, I really must praise God for such real, true, interested children of God.

Do you see the two outstanding classes of people? those at the inn, and those at the manger?

Where are you, with those at the inn, or with those at the manger?

The Inn or the Manger?

By Eld. Kenneth Turner, Granby, Mo.

About one thousand nine hundred thirty-five years ago, in a certain city, in the Eastern country, about 35 or 40 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, on the east and about 15 miles west of the Dead (or Salt) Sea, a great lesson is set forth for even us in the year of our Lord 1935.

All that are acquainted with the study of Geography have already placed in their minds the town of Bethlehem of Judea; and as we think of Bethlehem, especially at this season of the year, we think of the birth place of our Savior. I think too, of the inn (or hotel) where the keeper refused a night's lodging to the holy family. I see two classes of people in Bethlehem on the night of the setting of this writing, one occupying the inn, the other the ox's stall; and do not forget, those two classes exist today.

If we were permitted to use our imagination, we would say, that in the inn are the rich, proud, overbearing, worldly-minded. With their finance they were able to occupy a place there, regardless of the price. No doubt their haughty spirits told them they were too good to lodge any-

where else. We know they failed to give up their room to Joseph when he inquired, for the report was, "There is no room." I believe we are right when we picture them thinking of perhaps everything else, other than of the Lord. Why couldn't some one have said to Joseph: "Yes, you are welcome to my place of lodging," or why couldn't the keeper of the inn have said, "We'll make room?" But no one there had compassion for the weary travelers.

Does it not make your heart ache to think that Joseph and Mary were turned away? I see him yonder with Mary at the place where the cattle were placed for the night.

Joseph must have been much concerned about his beloved wife and the dear child. Could he have been the one who wrapped the darling babe in swaddling clothes and laid it in the manger? And can you not, with an imagining ear, hear him praising God, as perhaps he spoke the name "Immanuel?" The halo of glory surely rested upon the family there, for it was the birth of the Savior of the world. And to think of God sending His



"Let Us Go Even Unto Bethlehem"



BY ELDER WINFORD DAVIS



"Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." (St. Luke 2:15).

THE SCENE

The above Scripture is "Shepherd's speech," spoken in the sheep pasture on the Judean hills during the most noted night of all history. These men were not Bible characters; neither did they know they would ever be Bible characters. The chances are they were dead before Luke's Gospel was ever written—about 50 years later. The fact that they are Bible characters now does not make them Bible characters then. They were just ordinary shepherd men out on the night watch. Yonder in the distance, darker than the night, they could see standing against the Judean sky, the walls of Bethlehem. When suddenly, and no doubt unexpectedly, the heavens were filled with the most glorious music sung by a heavenly host. They were announcing the birth of the Christ Child. According to writings, said to be in the Jewish Talmud, these shepherds in describing the scene, said the night was light as day, and the music was most glorious. It would begin in the very vaults of the sky and then descend down to the very foot of the Judean hills. They state that they were afraid at first, but that it soon became to be real to their souls, and they felt more like giving thanks than anything else. It makes us think of the Scripture which says, "They were sore afraid, and the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy."

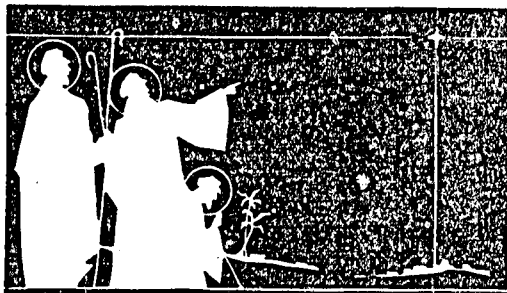
WHY THE SHEPHERDS?

The question arises, Why was this announced to the humble sheep herders? Why not to the Pharisees and doctors of the law over in Jerusalem? Surely there was a reason. This did not just happen to take place in the presence of these men. Yes, there was a reason. God knew these men would receive it and believe it wholeheartedly. The very language of the text shows that they did. Isn't the same true among men today? God's mysteries are revealed to those who will receive, accept, believe. Though many times, if not the majority of times, it has to be the lowly, the poor, the unlearned; the servant class. Simple faith, child-like belief is the doorway into the great exhaustless store house of God's mysteries or truths. How much more the Lord would show us, if He had evidence from our lives, that

we would believe it and appreciate it. Many things are hid from the wise and prudent and revealed unto babes.

THEIR IMMEDIATE ACTION

They said, "Let us now go." Not tomorrow, some time; at some distant date, but NOW. This was too important for them to make any delay. They seemingly forgot their duty toward the sheep. They simply arose and went. They were all taken up with this wonderful bit of news just heralded to them by this angelic messenger. "Even unto Bethlehem." That is all the way. Beyond the city of Jerusalem with its worldliness, temple formality, and Phariseeical costumes. Let us push on to Bethlehem, to the stable, to the manger, to the place of humility, to the place of insignificance (from the human view point), to the place of real birth, "and see." They believed it, but they wanted to see it. Folks will say,



"Yes, I believe it is right, but personally I am not interested. I am too much taken up with the duties and the cares of life."

These shepherds were not told to go to Bethlehem, there was no command given them. They simply moved of their own accord, actuated by the inspiration they had just received. I can hardly think of them as being men who were accustomed to such prompt action, and the manifestation of such interest in religious things; for what was there in those days to make them such? The voice of the prophets had been stilled for centuries, Jewish worship was submerged in tradition, Roman suppression was wielding a strong influence. One historian says, "Christ came when the world was most ready for Him;" but contradictory to that, I say, "He came when the world most needed Him." That was a dark time, a cold time, religious fires were burning low, tho there were a few who were faithfully waiting for the promise of the Father.

These shepherds are to be commended for their ready reception, strong faith, and prompt action in those days of such conditions. How the world is dying this Christmas season for

just that simple faith, that will cause them to push on, "even unto Bethlehem."

HALF WAY HOUSES TO BTHLEHEM

So many people get no farther on their journey than the banquet halls, the bazaar rooms, pride, and formality of modern day Jerusalem. Oh, how we need to push on to the stable, on to the miraculous! Modernism furnishes only a half-way stopping place toward Bethlehem. So many of the false religions, and deceptive teachings of today are only half-way houses to Bethlehem, spiritually speaking.

*"Though Christ a thousand times
in Bethlchem be born,
If He's not born in thee, thy soul
is all forlorn."*

*"I have heard of thee by the
hearing of ear, but now mine eyes
sceth thee."*

Many people start to Bethlehem each season, but are attracted by the gaiety, and revelry, which is so unbecoming to Christians, and fail to reach the manger. They likewise fail to enjoy the real Christmas spirit. How can there be any real enjoyment of Christmas other than in Him who gave us Christmas?

Many folks get no farther than the tree, no farther than Santa Claus; but I say, with the humble shepherds, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see." Push on through Yuletide to Bethlehem. Few push on to the pasture lands. Fewer still, push on to the darkened city, and feel their way through the back lanes until they come to Christ's stable. And yet you think that is exactly where common sense would bid them go.

Surely, surely, there is reality in this One around which all history centers, whose influence effects practically the entire world, especially at this season which is set apart in His honor, when even those who are vicious toward the Christ cannot ignore it. Commerce is jostled by it, industry is disturbed by it, the great forests of cedar and pine are touched by it, the adult and child world are greatly rearranged by it, banks, post-offices, universities, governments, all things great, and all things small—hell itself, are obedient to the sway of Christmas.

Let us see to it, that in our personal life concerning our relationship with the Christ, we do not stop short of the birthplace in Bethlehem.



WHY CHRISTMAS?

By Eld. Noel Turner, Granby, Mo.

As the seasons roll around, time passes and changes come. Nineteen hundred thirty-five years have passed since, in Bethlehem of Judea, the Christ Child was born. The royal banner, emblem of the nation, was not unfurled for the occasion, but nevertheless, an eye was watching, and the Royal Courts of Heaven were astir. The banner of Christianity was unfurled to wave over the world till Christ should come the second time to this earth.

Hundreds of years have passed, but each year the Christian nations of the earth set apart one day each year to remind us of the eventful time that, "To us a Savior was born." The occasion is celebrated, by giving gifts to each other, in token of the great Gift that God gave to us—"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Let us as God's people,—partakers of Christ—ever keep in our minds and hearts, the Christmas spirit, and never allow ourselves to lose sight of that for which Christmas is observed.

Little children look forward to Christmas from year to year with joy and expectation, because they have been, and are being taught, that Santa Claus comes with gifts at that time, and if they have been good all the preceding months, he will, while they sleep, leave the toys they like best. Then too, not only the children, but the majority of the population of the

nations seem to think of the Yule-tide season as a time to feast, visit and enjoy themselves in whatever way they like, forgetting the real significance of the occasion.

It is well and good for believers in Christ to remember the day and time of His birth, but let us worship Him, and not another. It may be possible that, through the teachings of parents, children give praise and glory to Santa Claus instead of the Savior of men.

Truly it's a time to be joyful, filled with the Christ-like (Christmas) spirit, and do good to one another.

First, because your own heart is right in God's sight. Then make some one else happy, pass along His love to others. No doubt there are many this year who will receive many gifts, because their parents and friends are financially able to give many gifts, but look into other homes, perhaps just next door, where poverty reigns, floors are bare, as well as the cupboard, and scarcely enough clothes to keep them warm, etc. What can that child expect at Christmas? Just a very simple gift will mean more to it than all the nice presents to the child of the rich parents.

Give your gifts as a token of love, along with the story of the first Christmas.

If we consider all that makes up Christmas, we surely will have the Christmas spirit. —Christ, Church, Home, Religion, Immanuel, Sabbath, Truth, Master, Almighty Son of God.



SOME DAY

When the shadows in the evening
come a creeping up the hill,
When the wheels, they cease a turning,
and the hum dies in the mill,
When the toilers, in a hurry, scatter
from the day's work done,
Then there's in my heart a longing;
for I want to be at home.

When I sit beside the hearthstove,
with strange faces all around,
When amid the friendly chatter, not
one voice familiar sounds,
When I hear the young folks singing
and the organ's cheery tone,
In my heart there's such a longing;
for I want to be at home.

Some day I will get my ticket, and
an invitation too,
To the Great, Grand Central Station
in Jerusalem the New,
Then I'll leave all earth's luggage,
yes, I'll throw my grips away,
Praise the Lord, my traveling's ended,
I'll be going home to stay.

—Selected by Mrs. Gladys Keeland.

Nowadays, when most people think of Christmas, the first thing they think of is, "How many presents will I get?" The next thing, "What will I have for dinner?" and the next, "Where will I go?" In some instances, thousands of dollars are spent for gifts, and not a cent for Christ. Tables are heaped with rich foods, topped off with hard liquors, and people eat and drink to intemperance on Christ's own day. Afterwards, they go to the ball-room and dance until human endurance is spent. How sad! but still, how true! The days go by and sometimes there is a dim recollection that Christmas has something to do with Christ. Thus, the day is spent and the name of the most High is not mentioned, unless in a curse.

Friends, if you wish to keep Christmas in a real, Christ-like way, keep it for others. No matter how rich or how poor you may be; no matter how high or how low, you can give to someone a real gift. If you are of Christ, tell someone in need how Christ loves them, and how He wants them to be His. If you are not of Christ, then give Him your heart and life and you will have given the greatest gift possible. Gifts to friends are fine, because they show love, but let's be careful not to value them above God's gift. Great feasts are permissible, if we "eat and drink to the glory of God. Then if we are so blessed as to be in a position to attend Christmas services somewhere, the day will be perfect.

So, friends, as we think of Christmas, let us also think of Him whose birth we are celebrating. Think of His love, service, and sacrifice for us, then keep Christmas for Him and through Him, and I assure you that it will be the most enjoyable day you ever spent.

Hoping that you will receive some good from these remarks, I beg to remain.

Yours for Christ and His Church.

HOW TO KEEP CHRISTMAS CHRIST'S WAY

By Eld. Damon Dodd, Elvins, Mo.

The Bible is intended to point out the coming of Christ, and bring Him to us. Almost 2,700 years ago the prophet Isaiah prophesied, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isa. 7:14). Ever since Abraham's day the Jews had looked and longed for this King. No doubt, they expected Him to come in regal splendor; to take the world by a great flourish of power, and to amaze all mankind by the majesty of the kingdom that would be His upon earth. Thus, they waited in tense expectation for the glorious moment.

One night the long expected King made His appearance into the world. Yonder in Bethlehem, to the lowliest and most humble of God's creatures, God showed His Gift to man; a gift that is nearly 2,000 years old, yet it has the same qualities today as then. No heralds went throughout stately cities proclaiming the event to the thousands of earth, only a choir of

angels told it in song to a lonely group of shepherds out yonder in the Judean hills. No kings or princes of the Jews were there to worship Him, only three foreign Wise Men and the humble shepherds paid Him homage.

Eight days afterwards he was taken by his parents, to the temple to be presented to God. No delegation was there to hail Him with "Hosannas and praises," only an old man called Simeon, and a prophetess named Anna greeted Him. And as Simeon took the child in his arms, and said to God, "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before the face of all people." I think Mary and Joseph began to see the full meaning of God's promise to them.

Truth, humbleness, and sincerity were manifest on the birthday of Christ Jesus. For nearly 2,000 years mankind has annually celebrated the day, but recent years have found us getting farther and farther away from the true meaning of the day.

WHEN THE ANGELS WENT CAROLING

By Eld. Everett Wilson, Denison, Tex.



Did you ever go caroling?

"Oh yes," I hear you say, "many times when we were young. We always looked forward to the Christmas time, and with songs ready, and instruments tuned, how we loved to bring a little cheer to the many aged people in our neighborhood, and to the 'shutins.' On Christmas eve we would climb into the sleigh and away across the snow we would go, singing,

*'Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new born King.'*

As we would drive up in front of an old fashioned home, we would sing,

*'Holy night, Silent night,
All is glory, all is bright.'*

"The door of the home would be opened, and in we would go to sing and play the good old Christmas carols. Sometimes a bit of refreshments would be served, and always as we were ready to leave, a word of prayer would be offered, and a hearty 'God bless you all' would make us happy as we would go on to the next home, such a true spirit of Christmas."

How we miss those good old days! Time has changed things, and, it seems all so many people get out of Christmas is what they get in their stockings. The blessing is gone, and the whole world seems so cold and selfish. Just as it was at that Christmas time more than 1900 years ago, at the coming of the Son of God, born in a manger in Bethlehem.

We picture the first Christmas night, just as the sun had turned the eastern hills purple and gold, as if kissing them a fond "good night" with his lingering rays. The western sky had turned pink, as if blushing a fond farewell to old Sol as he slipped away for the night, and then the sky had turned to a deep blue as the stars began to peep through, like so many tiny holes drilled through the blue dome of the heavens, letting the light from the Glory World shine through.

The shepherds had gathered their flocks safely around them and were watching over them. It was such a balmy night, just such a perfect night as one would expect when the Creator would send into the world, His only begotten Son, as a tiny little baby.

Joseph and Mary, on their way to the city of David to be taxed, had found a humble stable in which to spend the night. God formed the setting to usher into the world His own Son.

The beasts of burden had finished eating and stood quietly sleeping or lying in their stalls.

In the stillness of that holy night, Mary said to Joseph, "He who is born King of the Jews has come, His name shall be called Jesus."

Joseph probably said, "Oh, if we were only at home where you could receive better care!"

But Mary said, "All is well Joseph, for the angels are with us."

Out in the field there was a stir among the shepherds, as one said, "Hark, I hear singing."

"Yes, and I see them," said another.

"It is the angels," said a third one, "and they are singing, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Were the angel carolers welcomed by the shepherds? Oh yes, and how gladly they received the message sent on to them, "This night is a Savior born in the city of David, and you will find Him lying in a manger in the stable near the Inn, there was no room for Him at the Inn." And thus the shepherds found Him.

Only a few were looking for Jesus to come as a baby, for all the Bible said so much about it. A few wise men from the distant places were guided to Him by the Eastern star, and so coming, found Him and left their present and went away to their own country.

How the angels still rejoice when some poor soul believes on Jesus, God's Christmas Gift to a poor sin sick old world! I wonder if they do not sing that same old Christmas carol, that they sang to the shepherds. I think they must sing it over and over each year at the happy Christmas time.

As the 25th day of December draws near, I hope we will all get the blessing of worshipping the Christ, once born in a manger, and not the day, which is to so many, just another holiday.

I wonder how Jesus feels when He looks down on this old world and sees so many drinking and dancing and revelling on that day, which is supposed to represent His birthday. I fear He will not think they hold His coming very sacred.

Oh that the world would turn back to the good old days, and join with the angels in the Christmas carols once again. "Yes, but the times have been changed," some one says, "and we must change too and keep up with the world." Just stop a minute, dear reader, and remember, Jesus never changes, for the Bible says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." He is up to date, and up to the minute, yes, and thousands of years ahead of the times, if we will only keep up with Him, we will leave this old slow, cold world far behind, and join the angels in the glad songs of "Moses and the Lamb."

May God be gracious to you all, and let be born in the manger of your heart, the Son of God, God's great Christmas Gift to man, and may He bring the glad Christmas carols to your souls again.

Because There Was No Room

No room for the Christ-Child in Bethlehem's inn,
O Little Lord Jesus, the shame of that sin
Burns down through the ages—would we had been near
To fling wide the doors for Thy mother so dear!

Room for the feasting, room for the mirth,
Room for the pride and hatreds of earth—
Here in the world-inn—but O, can it be,
Little Lord Jesus, still no room for Thee?

Blinded by beauty, humbled by awe,
Silenced with wonder, how starlight and straw,
Heaven's high angels and shepherds could meet;
Little Lord Jesus, we kneel at Thy feet.

No room for the Christ-Child? Adoring we plead,
Our lives be the shelter prepared for Thy need;
Our love be Thy manger, our hearts be Thy throne—
Little Lord Jesus, come bide with Thine own.

—Molly Anderson Haley

I heard the bells on Christmas Day—
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat.

Of peace on earth, good will to men!

—Longfellow

A Christmas Meditation

By Mrs. Erskil Henderson, Purdy, Mo.

*Came the Wise Men from afar,
Guided by a wondrous star,
And they followed where it led,
To the Christ-Child's lowly bed.*

As the Christmas season approaches, let us pause in our hurry and bustle of Christmas preparations to study some of the events connected with the first Christmas. Think of the Wise Men as they sought Jesus. Notice that they are called Wise Men. If we stop to consider, those who really and truly seek Jesus with a whole heart are the true wise men of today. The world usually terms a wise man as one who makes a wonderful invention, a new discovery, engineers the construction of a huge building, or has high scholastic standing. But is such a one really wise, even though he is able to invent a radio or something of that nature, but fails to seek Jesus and the salvation of his soul? Radios, automobiles, etc. are fine and we enjoy them, but what are they compared to the souls of men? Oh, that more men were wise in seeking the salvation of their souls, instead of the perishable things of the world!

In their manner of travel the Wise Men were different from most travelers. They traveled by night and slept by day, because their guide was a beautiful, wonderful star. So should the Christian travel in a different manner than those of the world. He should have for his guide book the blessed Bible which to worldly men is not very interesting. He should spend much time in prayer to God, love his neighbor as himself, bless them that despitefully use him, bless and curse not.

*"Of the Child that is born," said
Baltasar,
"Good people, I pray you tell us
the news;
For we in the East have seen his
star,
And have ridden fast, and have
ridden far
To find and worship the King of
the Jews."
And the people answered, "You
ask in vain,
We know of no King but Herod
the Great."
They thought the Wise Men were
insane,*

*As they spurred their horses
across the plain,
Like riders in haste, who cannot
wait.*

Even so it is today, a large number of people cannot tell you about Jesus. They don't know Him. They haven't taken the time out to meet Him. They have been too busy with the affairs of the world. Countless numbers of children have never been to Sunday school and church. They think of Christmas only as a time to hear about Santa Claus and get some coveted toys. So many times we don't tell them the real true Christmas story of God's great Gift to us.

Many times today, if there is a real downpouring of the Holy Spirit and some of the Christians get happy and shout, some of the world are ready to laugh and say they are almost crazy. That's what some probably thought of the Wise Men as they sought the King of the Jews.

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him, and when they had opened their treasures they presented unto him gifts; gold and frankincense and myrrh" (Matt. 2:11). And so may we when we find Jesus, fall down and worship Him. May we always continue to worship Him, and have no other gods besides the true God. May we also present to Him our gifts. Probably they won't be gold, nor frankincense, but we can give a lifetime of service.

In closing, let me quote Lyman Abbott:

Christianity means to me:

A new spirit of love, service and sacrifice to humanity. A relief from the heavy burden of remorse for past errors, blunders, and sins. Faith in ourselves and in our fellow-men: in our infinite possibilities because of our infinite inheritance. Faith in the great enterprise in which God's loyal children are engaged, that of making a new world out of this old world, a faith which failure does not discourage, nor death destroy. Faith in a companionable God whom we cannot understand, still less, define, but with whom we can be acquainted, as a little child is acquainted with his mysterious mother."

THE ★ STAR

*I do not wonder that God chose a star
To be the sign
For hearing the advent of our Lord;
The still, white shine
Of any star holds something in its
heart
Of the Divine.*

*He chose a star with its clean silver
fire
And brilliancy,
Its exaltation, and its steadfastness . . .
Its purity:
The one sign that the shepherds and
the kings
Alike, could see.*

—GRACE NOLL CROWELL

of the great mission of Jesus to this earth, beginning with His birth, and up to the time He shall reign as King. The prophets all along were expecting something to come to pass that would bring peace to this earth. Many lived and died, and didn't see the great Prince of Life, others came on the scene and passed on to their reward, but at last, yonder in the little town of Bethlehem, on a calm beautiful winter night, Heaven called together her chosen messengers of glory, and sent them down to earth with a new message of love.

Perhaps Joseph and Mary were the first to enjoy the divine gift of eternal life. How hard and tiresome the day had been with them! but now all shadows had passed away. Around the manger-bed angels sang for earth a new song, which when believed by us will bring salvation to our souls. It must have been glorious for Mary and Joseph to hear a voice from Heaven, saying, "Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee" (Heb. 1:5). Oh, glorious day, that brought a part of Heaven down to us!

Then it must have been greater yet when they heard the Master say, "A body hast thou prepared me . . . Lo, I come to do thy will, O God"—Heb. 10:5.

We leave this scene and go to the humble, faithful shepherds watching over their flocks by night: when suddenly upon their ears falls a new song filled with sweet heavenly music from over the Jasper Sea, not entirely a shock, but an overjoy for a long expected Messiah had come at last. These faithful men were worthy to hear the angels herald the birth of their long prophesied Savior, and they were ready to go see the thing which had come to pass. Were they disappointed? No, they found the babe as the angels had said. Praise God! Heaven gave and earth received the greatest gift that mortals could possess. It is the privilege of every Christian to live close to the Christ and say with Simeon of old, "For mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

The human side of many will be thrilled with thoughts of a great feast and gifts of different kinds. That is splendid, but let's be filled and thrilled with thoughts that will bring salvation to lost souls during the year 1936.

TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO

By Mrs. Lizzie McAdams, Midway, Tex.

The most outstanding character that ever lived and moved among the great masses of humanity was born in Bethlehem of Judea, nearly 2,000 years ago. Others have lived and died and have long since been forgotten, but He was born, lived, died, rose, and is alive forever more.

God's program is more than human, and in His great divine plan, the prophets saw the blessed day that means so much to us. No doubt Abraham saw things from Mt. Moriah that have never been chronicled, covering the entire life of the blessed Christ. Isaiah gives such a beautiful sketch

A TIMELY MESSAGE*Continued from page three*

Then I have been reading this morning in the 2nd chapter of 2nd Peter.

Verse 9—"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: v. 7—"And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

Verse 8—"For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds."

Verse 15—"Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam, . . . who loved the wages of unrighteousness."

Verse 22—"But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again: and the sow that was washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

Verse 21—"For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandments delivered unto them."

Well, we have so many special days to keep in memory. First, Christ's birthday, Christmas, then Easter Sunday. I believe these are the most sacred days, and should be kept as such, just 78 days now, till Christ's birthday, then we have Mothers' day, Fathers' day, Thanksgiving day, Washington's birthday, Lincoln's birthday, and a number more, but the great Judgment day should interest us, for every one shall appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

I want to tell you about my birthday, which was the 12th day of Sept. How do I know this? Because father and mother told me I was born in the year of our Lord 1860, and that makes me 75 years old.

Then another notable day I want to speak of is Sept. 16, 1877. My husband and I were united in the bonds of holy matrimony and have kept our marriage vows 58 years. My husband was born and reared in Wright Co., Missouri. I came here with my father from the State of Illinois in 1874. Then in '75 or '76, I just can't remember which, in the fall of the year I attended a revival meeting at the Crawford school house. This was another notable day—at 11 o'clock on the Sabbath day, I said, "Lord, take me just as I am," and while I knelt at the mourners' bench, I promised the Lord Jesus I would serve Him, and I accepted Him as my Savior. We have had to work hard to keep the wolf from the door, but putting our trust in God, He has given us our daily bread, never had to do without bread a single day.

Two years ago, Sept. 12th, my birthday, I heard a knock at my door and I hastened to see who was there, and there stood a little seven year old boy, with the most beautiful bouquet

of flowers I thought I had ever seen, and he smilingly reached them to me; and as he looked straight at me, he said, "Aunt Lina, I hope you have many more happy birthdays." Then I asked God to let him live to make a useful man in the world, one that will love and honor God. Then I think of what Job said, "Train up a child in the way it should go." Who train the child? Why, the parents are the very ones. I think this little boy's parents had something to do with this; God bless them.

Not that I felt worthy of such kind treatment, but nobody knows how old folks feel but old folks. This little bunch of flowers were worth more to me than a truck load when I am dead; I positively do not want a single flower about my dead body. They had not started this fashion when my father and mother went away. So, if you have any flowers for me, do like little Joe, give them to some old folks or to some shutins who are deprived of visiting the sick.

Listen, dear ones, I have no doubt you get tired as well as the editor, but here is one more thought I want to tell here. We have in mind some notable day, such as Thanksgiving day. Well, we expected to meet many of our friends on that day, but we were disappointed, for some reason they did not come. But when the Judgment day comes all will be there: "Every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wall because of Him. Even so, Amen. (Rev. 1:7)."

"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, Every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God" (Rom. 14:11).

"Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else" (Isa. 45:22; "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel" (Amos 4:12).

"And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 25:30).

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations and he shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats; and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left" (Matt. 25:31-33).

Now, church members, you who go to all kinds of worldly amusements, do you think you are profitable to the church of the living God? Jesus said you could not serve God and mammon.

"But he answered and said, 'Verily, I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh'" (Matt. 25:12, 13).

John the Revelator said, "For the great day of his wrath is come: and who shall be able to stand?"—Rev. 6:17.

Jim and I have no car or chariot, but we know we will be there, and what we want is to be ready. Pray for us, and may God bless His children.

The Small Number of the Saved*Continued from page six*

When God wished to make a covenant with man He found one person who was worthy, faithful Abraham.

Eliseus found only one leper worthy to be cleansed, although there were many lepers in the land.

Job the only upright man in Uz.

Lot in Sodom.

And in Isaiah we find the elect as rare as the grapes that have escaped the hand of the gatherer.

Why do such conditions exist?

The people had wandered away from God, and we are facing the crisis today, because the professed people, the church members, are not only failing in their duty to their God, to their church, and to the community in which they live, many of them are so spotted with the little "no harm" sins, that they are ashamed to talk to some wayward boy or girl—many of their lives are not in harmony with what they profess.

Let us look at our lives closely, and see if we need to go to the Potter's house and be made over, then we need to look after our church, and see if we are not harboring a modern Judas, or a dram drinking deacon.

No wonder there is a small number of the saved, when we see the condition of our churches throughout this land, filled with prejudice and envy, and Satan looking on with a cheerful smile while millions pass on to hell.

Brothers and sisters, the God above is going to hold us accountable for the way we keep house for the Lord.

For the love of our Redeemer, let us clean up our lives, our homes, our churches, and work for the salvation of lost souls.

HOLY NIGHT

To the crest of the hills, from the fountain's rim;

The flowers rise like a rising hymn; Blue of iris and pink of flax;

Wild narcissus, as white as wax;

Rise from the hills like a hymn of praise.

In the Western world there are lighted trees,

But in ancient Nazareth, are these.

In the holiest city under the sun,

City of David and Solomon,

Of deathless love and mortal sin,

Moslem city of Saladin,

Pilgrims move on sandaled feet

To Calvary, out of David Street.

Shall the East or the West be dazzled

by

A host of angels against the sky?

Though the light of the Bethlehem lamps is dim,

The silver lamps they have burned for Him

Brighten a young Child's diadem

And jeweled robes, in Bethlehem,

And tender feet that know no scars,

Yet shall blaze a trail across the stars.

So—there shall remain in that path

of light,

No East, no West, upon Holy Night.