

# THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

ORGAN OF THE MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST  
AND OF THE CO-OPERATIVE GENERAL ASSOCIATION—FOR FREE WILL BAPTIST EVERYWHERE

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50 cents per year.

## Bethlehem, the House of Bread

*By B. F. Brown, Editor*

The picture on this page is a view of the City of Bethlehem, and was taken from the bell-tower of Bethlehem's famous Church of Saint Mary. It was taken by Rev. Gerald Winrod, and appeared on the front page of The Defender Magazine, of which Rev. Winrod is editor. We had a new plate made of it, that it might appear on the front page of the Gem.

Bethlehem is situated about six miles south of Jerusalem, it stands on a fruitful ridge over looking the Valley of the Kedron on the north, and the deep chasm of the Dead Sea on the east, to the Christian one of the holiest places on earth.

Bethlehem is one of the oldest towns in Palestine, and is associated with some of the most important events in the religious history of the world. Here it was that Ruth gleaned after the reapers of Boaz; here was the home of David the shepherd boy who was anointed King of Israel; it was here that Jeremiah, after telling of God's terrible judgments upon the people foretold the coming of "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Jer. 23:6); and it was here our Lord was born, and the angels came singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The name signifies House of Bread, and here, in a manger, the "Bread of Life" became incarnate. Truly it may be said, Bethlehem has given to our perishing race the Bread of Eternal Life.

It was probably along the road that leads from Bethlehem to Jerusalem that Abraham journeyed on his way to the Mount of God, leading his only son as a lamb to the slaughter (Gen. 22); along this same road came the

Virgin and her husband to the "City of David, which is called Bethlehem;" then along the same road came the "Wise Men," with costly gifts and to worship the new-born King; and long before all this, when the Jebusites held the old "Castle of Zion," Jacob, as he journeyed back to Hebron, traveled over this same road; and it was here that Rachel, Jacob's beloved

a Christian church over the place where Christ was born. This church, which has been repaired and kept up until now, is called the Church of the Nativity. It is the oldest Christian church in the world.

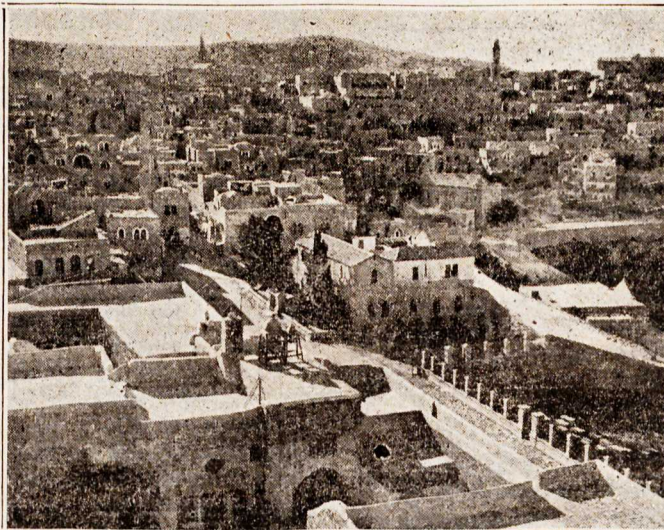
We learn from the second chapter of St. Luke, that, when Jesus was born, Mary took him, "and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid

him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Now, an Oriental inn, or khan, is merely a place of shelter from the weather, or protection from robbers, where men and their beasts can safely lodge, prepare and eat their meals; but they must furnish their own bedding, food, and so on. Part of the inn was for the people, and part for beasts, and those coming in late might find the inn full, and have to make their beds in the manger with the horses and camels, as Joseph and Mary were forced to do.

Tradition locates the inn of Joseph and Mary at Beth-

lehem on a portion of the estate of Boaz—the old homestead of Obed and Jesse—so that the birthplace of David was identical with the birthplace of Jesus, his illustrious successor and King eternal.

In the little Book of Ruth we have an account of Elimelech and Naomi, and their two sons, leaving their home at Bethlehem the House of Bread, and going to Moab, because of the famine. And when Naomi was bereft of her husband and two sons, she returned to Bethlehem and Ruth, her daughter-in-law accompanied her. Boaz, her nearest of kin, redeemed Naomi's inheritance and married Ruth of whom was born Obed the father of Jesse who was the father of David,



wife, died as she gave birth to her second son, Benjamin. How sad and touching the narrative, "And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem. And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave" (Gen. 35:19, 20). Nearly 4,000 years have gone by since this mother in Israel died, and Jacob set up a stone of memorial over her grave; but the tomb of Rachel is still there by the road-side, and Jews, Christians and Mohammedans all protect it as one of the most sacred spots in the Holy Land.

The spot where our Lord was born was well known by people of the early centuries of the Christian era, and about the year 325 A. D. the Empress Helena (Constantine's mother) built



## THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Organ of

## THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

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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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## THAYER, MISSOURI

Received too late for February issue

A little snow Friday night slowed things down Saturday morning, Dec. 28th, but after hoofing about two and a half miles, I met Bro. Lee Clark of Shiloh church, and we trudged the remaining five miles to Cotton Creek to attend our second fifth Sunday meeting. Others were also slowed, only a few being there when we began business.

Singing, reading of 19th Psa. and prayer by Eld. H. C. Crase was followed by his election as moderator, as neither that officer nor the assistant were present.

Brothers Luther Sutton and Lee Clark were appointed as the pulpit committee.

Delegates from seven churches were there—less than half. Bro. Crase preached, reading Micah 6 as the lesson, with Mal. 3:1, 2 for a text.

Many are running to and fro; knowledge is being increased in temporal affairs, while evil men and seducers are waxing worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived, as we sadly know: yet every one who has hearing ears will know the truth that makes them free, because the eternal God is their refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms to keep us from falling.

A bountiful dinner was followed by a business session. Moderator made a stirring appeal to contribute something toward home missions every week—even one cent would be over a half dollar per year, or over \$250.00 for Cave Spring members.

Mill Creek church, at Myrtle, was chosen as next place of meeting, on March 28, 1936, the pastor, Eld. H. H. Beatty, to preach the introductory sermon.

With only 12 delegates and three preachers (Brothers H. C. Crase, Billy Rogers and J. E. Rolan), and most of them speeding homeward, the Ministers' meeting might seem slim, yet with our one minister, Bro. Rolan, and 21 auditors, we were given a true and glorious account of "Why There is No Depression in Palestine," Sunday p. m. Seemed like a ministerial dictator, but Bro. Rolan did well.

Preaching Saturday night, Rev. 1:1-8 being the lesson, and the seventh verse the text: "Jesus is coming with a reward for every one who is ready and looking for Him, but He must judge every one according as his work may be," a warm loving message to the ready ones, and faithful warning to those as yet away from the tender Shepherd's care.

As we went home with our hosts, snow was falling plentifully, and the bright sunshine of Sunday morning showed about four inches of it. "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;" and have you ever seen anything whiter than fresh-fallen snow?

Most folks seemed rooted to their firesides; as very few of them went up to the house of God. Bro. Rolan preached on the Four Calls that come to every one: Repentance, Service, Death and Judgment. We may not heed the first two calls, but every one of us must meet death and judgment—and the way will be easy, the burden light, and the end eternal glory, if we now do heed the first two.

Another feast for the outer man was followed by the glorious things now on in Palestine, because God's people are finally going back home. Bro. Rolan read what the Lord told Ezekiel to write about it over 2500 years ago, and, now as always, the prophecy is fulfilling exactly.

Isn't it wonderful that God never makes any mistakes, knows just what we should do and will tell us if we are willing to hear? Continued on page eleven

# THE WATERS OF ELIM

By Jesse E. Pratt, Rose Bud, Ark.

"And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and three score and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters" (Exodus 15:27).

When Moses and the Israelites were traveling in the wilderness, we find that for a period of three days they were without water.

And when they did find some water at Marah, they must have been sorely disappointed, for the water was bitter, and they could not drink it.

The people murmured against Moses, finding fault with him, in the same manner that they did when they saw the Red Sea before them, and Pharaoh's army behind them, they were not depending on the One who has supreme power in Heaven and in earth. They did not realize that the God who had the power to divide the waters of the sea, also had the power to make the bitter waters at Marah sweet. But Moses the loyal servant of the most high God knew that they would not be forsaken, so he cried out unto God, and his cry was heard. The Lord told him to cast a certain tree into the water and the water would become sweet, and good to drink.

Then we find that they traveled on until they came to Elim where there were twelve wells and seventy palm trees. We can hardly imagine their delight at finding such a beautiful place, supplied with water and shade, where they might camp and rest in the shelter of the trees.

We might compare the bitter waters of Marah to the bitterness and folly of a wasted life, of some one who has failed to heed the warning, but has heedlessly passed on down the mile stones of life, having become bitter and fault-finding at the world.

We believe that St. Peter had such people in mind when he said, "These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever." But I thank God, that through the blood of His Son, we can have access to the Holy Spirit, that will remove the bitter, and leave a sweet, deep settled peace in our soul, that will cause us to rejoice, because we are promised a haven of rest, that will far outshine any earthly existence, that will be to us a fountain that will not run dry, where no bitterness will enter in, but we can rest in the arms of Jesus.

of the Gospel by St. Luke, we have another expression of that division into two distinct parts of the world of departed spirits. Two men had died, and their spirits entered hades the unseen world—world of the dead. The one went into the "lowest" portion of hades where the fire of God's anger is kindled, for he was tormented in flames. When he had "lifted up his eyes," literally *looked up*, he saw across a *great gulf fixed between* and saw the departed spirit of the beggar in the better portion of hades which by a Talmudic expression, is called "Paradise" or "Abraham's bosom." The latter signifies "with Abraham."

When man dies, his spirit enters the world of the dead—*sheol*, or the unseen world of departed spirits—*hades*. If his spirit departs with faith in God, it goes immediately into Paradise, where Abraham is, which we might rudely classify as the *upper part of hades*. If his spirit departs with no hope in God, it goes immediately into the "lowest part of hades" which is a place of fire. The spirits of good and evil men await the resurrection in their respective portions of hades.

The words *sheol* and *hades* are sometimes rendered *grave* which is entirely too narrow and it has given rise to such corrupt doctrines as "No hell" and "Hell is just the grave." If the grave has any connection with *sheol*, the world of spirits, it is only with the idea of a waiting place for the body until the resurrection, since there is to be a literal resurrection when the spirit shall return from *sheol* or *hades* and reunite with a glorified resurrected body. The Hebrews understood something *beyond the grave* by the term "*sheol*" which is evident from the fact that the common name for that receptacle of the dead body is *kehber*. In Greek it is *mnema* or *mnemeion* which is literally remembrance and so *tomb*. It was not in *kehber* (grave), but in *sheol* (world of departed spirits) that the aged Patriarch expected to meet his deceased son (Gen. 37:35), into which the fathers had entered and whither their sons were removed at death to join their society (Gen. 25:8; 35:29; 49:29; Deut. 32:50). In all these passages, the being "gathered to his people" is spoken of as something distinct from mere burial. In the case of Abraham and Moses, the sense of *kehber* is very incongruous since the former had no "people" in the cave of Machpelah, and of the grave

*Continued on page fourteen*

## HELL!

### Where Are The Dead?

### Did Christ Go To Hell When He Died?

By John B. Rollins, Eldridge, Mo.

Some men argue and postulate—Philosophers ponder—many believe not—Infidels criticise—honest men, in ignorance, earnestly inquire—The Bible answers!

We find one word in the language of the Bible that presents the whole issue. That one word, by the Hebrew tongue, is *sheol* (*sheh'ole*) which means *world of the dead*; the invisible world, or place of departed spirits, in the intermediate state, prior to the resurrection. The word is derived from the root *shac* (*shaw'al*) which means to ask or seek; demand, inquire—signifying a place with respect to which it may be asked, "Man giveth up the ghost, and *where is he?*" (Job).

The corresponding word in Greek is *ades* (*hades*) meaning not to be seen with the idea of an *unseen world*. Both *sheol* and *hades* are employed to express the state of the dead in its most comprehensive point of view. They are very often improperly rendered *hell* in our common versions.

*Sheol*, or *hades*, is divided into two parts. Deuteronomy, chapter 32, verse 22, is an expression of that division. God spoke through Moses, "For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the *lowest hell* (*sheol*), and shall consume the earth with her increase." There could not be a "lowest" part of *sheol* unless there was some kind of a division. The lowest hell contains fire. In the 26th chapter

## REV. WILLEY'S ITINERARY

Following is Bro. Willey's Itinerary for the State of Missouri. This is only partial. You who want Brother Willey in your church please let us know at once.

Rev. Willey is endorsed by the National Association of Free Will Baptist as Missionary to South America. In connection with his inspiring messages he will show stereopticon views of the South American Mission fields. Don't fail to have him in your church. He will be at

Monett church ..... April 6, 7  
Macedonia church ..... April 8, 9  
Hannon church ..... April 10, 11  
Aurora Ch. Sunday, April 12, a. m.  
and Sunday night  
Blue Eye church ..... April 13, 14  
Merl's Chapel church ..... April 15, 16  
Jones Chapel church ..... April 17, 18  
Carterville church, Sunday, April 19,  
at 11 o'clock and night.  
Gospel Tabernacle, Corner Booneville  
Ave. and Lynn Sts., Springfield, Mo.

April 20

Neola Ch., near Greenfield, April 21  
NORTHEAST MO. ASSOCIATION

New Harmony Church, April 24, 25  
Union Church Sunday morning and  
Sunday night, April 26

Sublette Church ..... April 27, 28  
Lowground Church ..... April 29, 30

Martinstown Church ..... May 1, 2  
Green Grove Church, .. Sunday and  
Sunday night, May 3

Connellsville Church ..... May 4, 5  
Bethel Church ..... May 6, 7

Stahl Church ..... May 8, 9  
Shibley's Point Church, Sunday and  
Sunday night, May 10

He will be in the following churches in Southeast Missouri, two nights each: Flat River, Desloge, Leadington, and Fredericktown, but we feel it is advisable to withhold the exact dates for this part of the state until the April and May issues of the Gem, as some other requests may come in and we wish to place him with S. E. Missouri last, as that is on his way back toward the East. We are trusting you will co-operate with us in getting the services well announced in your various communities. If you want him in your church, please let us know at once. We wish to say here, The Gospel Singers of KWTO will take part in the service at Springfield. Watch the Gem, so as to keep up with these dates.

—Winford Davis.

## ABOUT OUR PROGRAM ON THE AIR OVER KWTO

No doubt you have received a card by this time from Mr. H. B. Terry of Verona, Missouri, as he mailed one to

each Gem subscriber, asking for \$1.00 or more to finance a series of broadcasts from Springfield. I wish to give some more detailed information.

Mr. Terry, and also many others have approached me numbers of times about getting a period each week over KWTO. So a few days back, I visited the station, and asked them for some time; but was unable to obtain any free time. However they said I could use some afternoon time, somewhere between 2:00 and 5:00. They said they would make it to me at half price. In a day or so I saw Mr. Terry, and told him what they said, and his words were, "Well, I will see that the money is raised."

He mailed the cards and a nice amount has been received from them already, not enough to secure the time yet; but enough to make us feel that there is most certain to be a sufficient amount come in. I could go ahead and start the program, but I don't want to be risky. I would rather the money would all be in first. But if, and when, it does come in I will start immediately. Now, it is just up to you folks. I will be making nothing at all out of it; but will gladly give my time, and render the very best service within my limited ability.

I feel I can keep the financial part of it going after I get started. But the station sells time only on a 13, 26, or 52 weeks basis.

I will expect to be of service in announcing revivals, associations, rallies, our church paper, etc. Of course the program will be mostly singing, and perhaps some preaching. It will be a 30 minute program, one day out of each week. I intend to try for 4:30 till 5:00 p. m., Tuesday. Though the time I shall begin depends altogether, as you have seen by what we have written.

In closing I wish to thank every one for what you have sent in, and I also thank Bro. Terry for his interest and effort. Bro. Terry is a member and an earnest worker in our Aurora church, though his address is Verona.

My prayer is only that the Lord will lead in the undertaking.

Your humble servant,

Winford Davis.

## PROGRAM

2:30 p. m. Opening ..... Moderator  
3:00 p. m. .... Talk on Faith  
Rev. C. L. Lybarger

3:15 p. m. .... The Local Church  
Rev. J. M. Holleman

3:30 p. m., The Preacher Dealing with Sinners in and Out of the Church  
Rev. O. H. Doss

7:00 p. m. .... Introductory Sermon  
Rev. S. A. Morgan,

Alternate, Rev. J. A. Stephens

## SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

9:00 a. m. Opening ..... Moderator

9:30, When was Salvation Possible For the Gentiles?  
Rev. C. E. Wilson

9:45, What is the First Resurrection?  
Rev. J. A. Stephens

10:00 ..... Love  
Rev. R. E. Pruitt

10:15 ..... Devotional Service  
Rev. W. B. Maddox

Fifteen Minute Intermission

11:00 ..... Sermon

12:00 to 1:00 p. m. .... Lunch

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON

1:00 Opening ..... Moderator

1:30 ..... Temperance  
Rev. Jesse E. Pratt

1:45, Qualification and Duty of the Deacons to their Church  
Rev. J. H. Hartsell

2:00, ..... The Gifts of the Spirit  
Rev. E. C. Adkins

2:15, ..... The Converted Sinner  
Rev. Dermont Smith

2:30, Report of all Committees and Preachers.

2:45, Business Session, ... Moderator

7:00 p. m. .... Sermon

## SUNDAY MORNING

10:00 a. m. .... Sunday School

11:00 a. m. .... Sermon

Every one interested in the work of the Lord is invited to attend this meeting, AND DON'T FAIL TO COME ON FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1936, at 2:30 p. m. We ask that all churches report by letter if possible, and bring your 50c to help pay expense of the Quarterly. Pray that this might be one of the best meetings ever held at this place, and that all the people might be lifted up in the most holy faith. And brothers and sisters, don't forget, 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.

Program of the fifth Sunday Meeting of the New Hope Association of Free Will Baptist, to be held at New Heart Church, about five miles south of Rose Bud, Ark. Friday, 2:30 p. m., March 27, to March 29, 1936.

**HARTVILLE, MISSOURI**

Dear Readers of the Gem:

It has been many a long day since I sent in a few lines to the paper, and I can truthfully say many a change has come to our home since I wrote.

It is a beautiful morning, it is cold and the ground is covered with snow, yet the sunshine is almost like a smile from heaven. I am all alone today and a little lonesome. I have been thinking, singing, and praying, and if you are alone, that makes heaven seem not so far away. And I have been thinking over some letters I have read in the Gem, some have been food to my soul each month. When we get the paper, I glance the pages to find Aunt Lina Claxton first, not that other articles are not good, but I have known Aunt Lina all my life, and I think how few of the old fashioned mothers we have left here in this world. I know she won't care for her name being called, and I am wondering, when she leaves this world, who will be worthy to take her place. I would have to hang my head, and say, "Not me;" but I do pray that the Lord will help me to do just a few of the little helpful things to help others along life's pathway, that Aunt Lina has done so many of. Her letters have been lots of help to me; and when her hand is still and can write no more letters, who can take Aunt Lina's place in the Gem? God bless Aunt Lina and Uncle Jim and crown their last days with joy and peace.

If it is not asking too much space in the Gem, I would like to have this song printed. It is one of my own make up, and probably poorly composed, but some day I expect to drink out of that river, and walk those streets of gold; and I do need the prayers of the Christian people. Let us pray more for each other.

Emma Pryor.

**ON MY WAY**

I am on my way to heaven,  
With the glory ports in view,  
To live in realms of glory;  
That is what I mean to do.  
This life is full of trouble,  
And sometimes hard to bear,  
But praise the Lord for ever,  
My burdens He will share.

Oh, they tell me to be patient,  
Loving, true and kind,  
And when this life is over,  
Full of happiness I'll find,  
I am on the old ship Zion,

She is sailing toward that shore,  
Some day she will land us safely,  
With Christ for ever more.

We will walk down by the river,  
That is flowing from the throne,  
With a band of holy angels,  
We will sing the victor's song,  
We will walk the streets of heaven,  
They are paved with purest gold,  
With loved ones gathered round us,  
And singing Home Sweet Home.

Then our troubles will be over,  
No more heart aches to bear,  
With the Savior's smiles upon us,  
And glory everywhere.  
We will sing his praise for ever,  
We will shout the victory song,  
For ever and for ever  
We will roll the theme along.

**TULSA, OKLA., Jan. 30, 1936.**

*Received too late for February*

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

We are glad to have another opportunity to report another wonderful meeting of the East Side Mission circle, which met with Tulsa church, Friday, January 17th.

We had six churches represented: Allen, Blue Bell, New Home, Pleasant Valley, Tulsa and Antioch. This was a convenient time for each of them to attend a rally. We hope it will be possible that they can attend each rally from now on. Each church reported that their missions are still working for God.

Sister Pruitt brought the eleven o'clock message, followed by Bro. Will Bean. Text, "He that endureth to the end shall be saved." Both brought soul-stirring messages.

Bro. Othel and Harry and Sister Glenna Staires visited with us until noon. We were glad to have them with us again. We had lunch in the basement at the noon hour.

The president read the Scripture lesson in the afternoon. We had some good talks on Missions, and Bro. Kelly Mathis of Antioch church, near Claremore brought the afternoon sermon, which was very good.

The next rally will be held with Allen church, Friday, February 21st. Bro. Biggs is to bring the eleven o'clock message. You who are missing these rallies, are really missing something.

Dear Christians, the night is soon going to come when man's work will be o'er. Each service we attend makes us just a little stronger and better equipped to overcome the things that confront us in this life.

Pray for the success of our missions, and also pray for me, as my whole heart's desire is to live for God and do His blessed will.

Lela Payne, Sec'y-Treas.

**EUCHA, OKLA., Feb. 14, 1936.**

Dear Gem Family:

I will try this evening, by the help of our dear Lord, to write a few lines to our little paper.

I just thank God for the many blessings we have received, and for the beautiful sunshine this evening, as the weather has been somewhat cold here, and a number of cloudy days, and I am so thankful for the love of Jesus shed abroad in my heart this day, not only the past days, but at the present time; for it matters what we are now at the present, if the Lord should call us home. I so often think of the condition so many are in this day and time, and some are church members; but my Lord and my God, help them to repent and come clean before it is too late, is my prayer to God for them.

Well, I am praising God for sending a man of God to this community to hold us a short revival. He is only a babe in Christ, been saved only ten months, but preaches the word so plain, and takes the Bible all the way through his sermons. Had one conversion in about a week and a half of revival, but I am so thankful to know that she made peace with her Savior. The seed is sown now, and I hope how soon Bro. Halfbreed or some other minister can come and reap the harvest. The community needs to be stirred up more yet, and awakened to accept the Lord. We had large crowds every service, but people don't seem to be interested as they ought to be. Sister Oscar Williams has moved, so she don't preach for us now, but came and helped all she could in the revival, and we were glad to have her back with us, and to have her visit me in my home. We had a Christian hand-shake at the close of the revival, the first hand-shake I've had the privilege of enjoying since I've been in this county. I requested it and some said, "All right." They were just old fashioned enough that they believed in Christian hand-shakes too, but one church didn't seem to take so much interest in it, neither did they help in the meeting as I think they should. Now, I'm not condemning another church, don't think that, for I don't believe in that, but it seems to me that all

children of God should worship together, where salvation is in the heart and not just in the head. Thanks be to God for salvation. If we can't serve God here on earth together, one with another, how can we one with another enjoy heaven together? "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God" (Rom. 8:8).

Let us all try our very best to please God, and if it pleases any one else, or not, walk together, love one another, bear one another's burdens; if we can do so, I feel that we will enjoy the blessings so much more.

I am so thankful for a forgiving spirit, and for a God who hears and answers prayers. We, some of us, asked for a minister to be sent to this place to preach, and I am yet thanking God for His real servants He did give us, and I hope more real preachers will come to this place and hold meetings, for we need them; so many here that know not the Lord. They sin, sin, God help them to repent before it is too late for them.

Well, I will close for this time, thanking my heavenly Father, that it's even as well with us as it is.

Pray for me, that I may hold out to the end.

—Birtie Youngblood.

## TULSA CHURCH REPORT

Tulsa, Okla., Feb. 25, 1936.

Dear Bro. Brown and Gem Readers:

As we begin our report this a. m. it seems that the whole world is smiling, because of the beautiful sunshine and spring-like weather, after so many weeks of cold and clouded skies. But let us not fret or become impatient with what God sees fit to give us, because He doeth all things well for them that love Him.

Our Sunday school attendance is building back up after a decided decrease due to the cold, and interest and enthusiasm in God's work is going forward at a rapid pace. Tulsa church knows no defeat from the Devil and as warmer days are approaching, the different departments are making preparations for their greatest year's work.

The Easter committee meets tonight to lay plans for an entertainment.

Next Saturday night the Star class, taught by Sister Bingham, is sponsoring a short program followed by selling pie, cake, hamburgers and coffee, the proceeds to be applied on building fund.

On Tuesday, February 4th, Bro.

Sam Haynes unloaded the first load of stone for our much longed for new church. The enthusiasm is so great among some of the members to get us a larger and more comfortable building that our dear old 68 year old janitor, Bro. Brown, tried to help unload, but due to age and being subject to heart attacks, he stood around and admired the good work.

We have all been busy nearly every night in the week picking out pecan meats, Bro. Melvin continues to find a ready sale for them and nearly \$75.00 has been derived from their sale.

Our choir girls held a pie and cake sale first of the month that was both enjoyable, as well as profitable.

Our Mission mothers are working over time piecing and quilting quilts and Sister Bingham's class continues to fill orders for pillow cases, lunch cloths and hand painted tea kettles, and various other useful articles.

Bro. Bingham and our delegates have just returned from the Quarterly Conference, and they report the best spiritual and all around good meeting they ever attended. Our heart over flow because one of our boy preachers was ordained, Bro. R. V. Whitten. Let us get behind these young ministers with our prayers and boost them all we can, because the fields are white and the laborers are few.

We are looking forward with much interest to a visit from our Missionary, Bro. Willey of Goldsboro, N. C. who will be with us and preach for us one or two nights during the first week of April, we extend a hearty welcome to all who would like to come and be with us and hear him.

Bro. Easton, whose membership is at Cushing, preached for us last Sunday morning.

We are very sorry to lose one of our good members, a boy preacher, Bro. Arnold who is leaving this week for Redwood City, Calif., to work through the summer.

Bro. Oliver Lindell and Bro. Prock still hold services at Owassa each Sunday afternoon and report good meetings, and six conversions.

Tulsa church has had six conversions and four additions to the church and held two funerals since last report.

Bro. Bingham was called to officiate at the funerals of the very tragic fire victims, a little child of three years, and its grandfather, who lost their lives when their home burned.

We continue to ask an interest in the prayers of all praying people.

Evelyn Miller, Reporter.

## A MESSAGE FROM NORTH CAROLINA

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

This is my first attempt to write to the Gem, as I have only been a reader since July, 1935.

It was my privilege to attend the 1935 session of the General Conference over at Black Jack church in Pitt County, North Carolina. It was while there that my husband and I subscribed to the Gem, giving our subscription to Bro. Melvin Bingham of Tulsa, Okla. Since then we have been constant readers, never missing an issue. I wish to say it is a wonderful little paper, filled with spiritual food for hungry souls. I feel impressed to write just a few lines to let you good people know what our church is doing away out here in the extreme eastern part of North Carolina, at a little village called Davis.

We have for our pastor Bro. R. N. Hinnant of Micro, N. C. He is indeed a wonderful preacher filled with the power and Spirit of the Lord Jesus. We are always glad when our meeting time comes so we can hear Bro. Hinnant deliver some of his powerful messages. We have an evergreen Sunday school with an average of 80 wide awake members. We also have a live Ladies' Aid society, with 41 on the roll, which are all doing a great work for the Master. A Missionary society was organized in our church in July, 1935, now we have a membership of 75 live active members, filled with the mission spirit that our Savior left on record when He said, "Go ye into all the world and preach my gospel to every creature." It is a fine thing to follow the teachings of our blessed Master.

I wish to ask the prayers of all God's children, that our work here will continue to grow and prosper through the New Year of 1936, and on and on until He comes again.

Pray for us.

(Mrs.) Maggie Willis.

## ST. LOUIS, MO., 1622 Hickory St.

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

I will write a few lines, as it has been some time since I wrote a letter to the Gem.

The church at 1405 Seventh Street is going forward under the leadership of Bro. W. C. Hill. Everything is getting along fine. Souls are being reclaimed and put into service for the Lord. Services are pretty well attended considering the weather, and

Continued on page ten

**JAY, OKLA., R1, Feb. 21, 1936.**

Dear Readers of the Gem:

Some time ago, while visiting a dear sister in Christ, she gave me a number of Gem papers to read and, in reading them, I found some letters that were written by my old friends, and one or two from one of my old school teachers, I. C. Allen, who taught our school when I was a small child. It made my heart to rejoice to know those old friends were living for God. I love the children of God wherever they may be, and am sending these few lines to let you know that I am holding on to God's promise, and trying to serve Him every day. My prayer from day to day is for lost souls.

When God created man, He made him a little lower than the angels, and now, when we see how corrupt the world is and see how far man has wandered away from God, we are often made to wonder how God can be so merciful and so longsuffering.

Even among people that call themselves Christians, we find so many with selfishness and prejudice in their hearts, not willing to worship or mingle with any one, only people of their own belief, when the Bible says, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jew or Gentile, whether we be bond or free, and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

And again it says, "And we being many are one body in Christ and every one members one of another."

I thank God this evening for an honest heart; thankful because I can extend the hand of fellowship to any and all brothers and sisters that are really living for God, the world over. "Therefore we know we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." Can we love our fellow man as we should, and yet refuse to worship together, and bid one another God's speed? No, Jesus said, "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

I'm praising God for a heartfelt religion, that gives us witness in our hearts, and for the old fashioned religion that leads us into the water for baptism, just as Jesus was baptized in the river Jordan. I feel that the washing of feet is just as necessary today as when Jesus set the example for us. May God help people to get their eyes open and accept the whole plan of salvation, for the time has come when people should "Put up," or shut up; for Jesus plainly said, "By their fruits ye shall know them."

It has been 14 months since the Lord called me to preach His precious truth, and I have been trying to do my best in my work, although there are some who do not believe in a woman preaching, but I am still standing on God's word as my guide, and I want the Lord's people to remember me in prayer.

Shortly after the Lord called me to preach, He directed me to Oak Grove school house. I don't know why, but that part is none of my business. I feel that God has a plan in my going, and I find "obedience is greater than sacrifice." So, if any of the brothers or sisters from Oak Grove school house in McDonald County should read this and are willing for me to come, I would appreciate hearing from you.

May God keep until we meet again.

—Orpha B. Williams.

**HARTVILLE, MO., Jan. 8, 1936.**

Dear Editor and Wife and Gem Readers: I am so glad to tell you that I am still living and am not tired of the old fashioned religion that makes us happy, makes us love one another, this is true.

On the 6th day of this month one of my granddaughters came to visit me, and she came by the postoffice and there was an insured package at the office for me, and she brought it to me. And, just like a little child, I could hardly wait to see what it was, all the folks looking on. It was a beautiful bouquet of flowers. I read the little message telling me they were from my friends, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Nicholas of Bownemont, W. Virginia. She said, "My husband and I made these flowers with our own hands, and they are for a New Year's gift, and we hope they will make you happy." The big tears flowed down my old wrinkled face, as I thought of how unworthy I am, then I thought about Jesus telling us to pray in secret. I left the sitting room and went into the bed room, and there I got down on my knees and asked God to bless the children that made those flowers with their own hands, and that their hands might always be ready to administer to the old as well as to the young. Oh God, I pray you to bless them and give them a home with all their loved ones; may they number as many in heaven as on earth. I haven't language to express my thanks to those good people for their kindness.

We find that the Lord often spoke to Moses, and would tell him what to

tell the people, he told him to speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, "I am the Lord your God, speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy."

Then we find that the Lord spake directly unto Aaron, saying, "Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou nor thy sons with thee, and that ye may put a difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean." There should be a great difference between the church member and the non-church member; sometimes we never know till we read their obituary, if they were Christian or not.

Then I think of the song: "While passing thro' this world of sin, And others your life shall view, Be clean and pure, without, within; Let others see Jesus in you. Keep telling the story, be faithful and true;

Let others see Jesus in you."

"Ye are the light of the world: a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid."

And if ever there was a time when Christians, need to hold out their light, it is now. Sin, sin all around us.

Even just a few days ago, we got an almanac for 1936, and on the back of it was a picture of the "National Barn Dance." I looked at it and I thought I had never looked on a more disgraceful picture. I got the scissors and cut it off and put it in the stove. I wondered to myself if this could be true. So in a few days a neighbor girl came in and, after a short talk, I said to her, "Do you know whether they really do have dances in barns or not?"

"Yes," she said, "they sure do. When we lived in Kansas, my mother went and took my sister and me." She said, "They danced in the barn loft, had the floor just as slick as glass. There were seats all around the wall so you could be comfortably seated, then on one side were all kinds of good things to eat, drink, and smoke."

Now, the reason I asked was this: Something like eleven years ago, Bro. George Scott was pastor of the Hartville F. W. B. church, and being acquainted with us, he came to our house to stay all night. I had been reading the county paper, and read where a lady I was acquainted with had had a bridge party; and I said, "She is a church member, I am surprised at her having a party, and why did she go to the bridge,"

This bridge I had in mind is a very

pretty bridge only a short distance from town, spanning a beautiful stream of water, called Wood's Fork, and I said, "But it looks like she would have had this party at her house, she lives in a large house."

Bro. Scott said, "I declare, Aunt Lina, I don't know what it means."

Well, the conversation was over, but when he came back the next time, he said, "Aunt Lina, I learned what a bridge party is: They meet and play cards, some kind of a game they call Bridge."

So it is said, "We never get too old to learn." But I don't want to learn a lot of things that church members know; I want to know things that the child of God, a true Christian should know.

The Bible tells us that Jesus says, "What I say unto you I say unto all, watch."

How often we read, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Do you believe God's word?

"Ye are they which justify yourselves before men: but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." Oh, dear pastor preacher, tell the congregation about these abominations.

I don't like to hear a preacher in the pulpit, say, "Jesus was just like other little boys of today, went to school and played games and was as other children." Tell me, who could have taught Him. I declare there never was another child begotten and born as He was. I thought, as I looked at that picture I spoke about, that I would never consent to a dance in our barn; I would not disgrace the house that was built for the poor dumb brutes. No, no, and more than all this, the dear Son of God was born in an oxen's manger.

In these perilous times the Devil is trying to bring reproach on the church of God, and so many mothers and grandmothers are falling in line with him. I would rather please God than man. I hate evil, I love good; I hate darkness, I love light.

It has been said of the old woman, when she kissed her old cow, "Every body to his notion, and me to mine."

I can say as did David of old, "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk up-

rightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee."

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Dear ones, pray for me, that I may ever be found walking in the narrow path that leads from earth to glory. I am one of them that believes in the Old Time Religion.

—Mrs. Lina Claxton.

## MIDWAY, TEXAS

Dear Gem Family:

Good morning. How are you this beautiful cold morning? The time flies so fast, we can't get to all we have to do, but we do want to tell our dear friends what the blessed Master has been doing in Texas, even if the weather has been cold.

First, Sister Franklin came to Falba and helped us in a few days meeting. We had very bad weather. Only seven were saved and one of the number was my precious brother. I have just one more left out of the fold now, and I want every one to help me pray for him.

We then went to Bryan and conducted a two weeks' meeting at a mission with a Presbyterian preacher and his wife who are splendid people. Sister Franklin was with us the first week and did most of the preaching. Several of her loved ones were saved, and she baptized three of them before she left for Missouri. After she left one of her dear brothers was saved, one that she had prayed for so earnestly. Bro. and Sister Phinney and a number of our people were in the services with us, and we so much appreciate them.

After the meeting in Bryan, we visited our companion for a few days and then came here to a sawmill town. We have had 21 conversions up to date, and we haven't had a good night. But oh, how God has blessed! Some pray through shouting. We have nine now for baptism, but it is so cold out in the open, we may wait for a warm day. The people here can't stand cold like they do in the north. Pray for us to still see more saved.

God bless our work everywhere and give us the best year we have ever had.

Lizzie McAdams.

## NEOSHO, MO., Feb. 16, 1936.

Dear Gem Friends:

It has been some time since I have

written to the paper, but I have never forgotten the Gem. I love to read our paper because everything in it is pure, wholesome reading. We don't have to choose that which we want to read, for it is all inspiring and edifying.

I wish to say that I'm still in the service of the Lord, just as determined to go on as I ever was.

The Lord has done great things for me whereof I am glad. This evening I feel very happy because I have that desire in my heart to serve Him each day. Sometimes when I feel despondent, I think of a song the choir sang at church this morning, "Just When I Need Him Most." Isn't it sweet just to think Jesus is near? "Just when I falter, just when I fear." It gives me new courage and resoluteness.

Above everything else, I want to be found in the service of the blessed Lord. Pray for me.

—Doris Turner.

## CAMERON, N. MEX., R1, Feb. 15

Dear Brethren and Sisters in Christ, and the Dear Gem Family. Greetings in Jesus Precious Name:

May I have a small place in the Gem? This is the first time I have tried to write in three or four years, as I have been in poor health for several years. I love the cause of my Master and want to be continually in His service, but haven't had the privilege to be in service much. I am bothered with high blood pressure and sinus trouble in my head, and last June was taken down with Erysipelas in my face, and haven't been very strong since, and the last of last Dec. I took the Rheumatism, and have worked only four days since. I get wearied and lonesome, and the most comfort I get is in reading my Bible, and the best preaching I get is reading the good letters and the articles in the Gem. How my heart longs to be where I can hear some good Free Will Baptist preaching again. It has been years since I have heard a Free Will Baptist preach. "If any man among you seems to be religious and brideth not his tongue, this man's religion is vain" (James 1:26).

O, the number of folks that claim to be religious, and all they can talk about is worldliness, and indulge in all kinds of worldliness. What an example they set before the world!

Pray for me, that I may ever be faithful in the Master's cause.

A brother in Christ,

J. J. Murdick.



# 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.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Ethel Newcomer, Greentop, Mo., 1936  
Damon Dodd, Elvins, Mo., 1937  
Eld. Cecil Campbell, Stella, Mo., 1933

### FIELD WORKERS

For N. E. Missouri Association  
Eld. Archie Cooper ..... Stahl, Mo.  
For Cave Springs Association  
Eld. E. E. Winfree ..... Hoxie, Ark.  
For Union Association  
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

### BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

In talking to you this month, I take the title of an old familiar song. Do you ever sit down and just think of all your friends? I do. I find myself wishing I could see them when, at the same time I know it is impossible. How could we get along without our friends? We find ourselves depending upon each other so much. I find myself utterly helpless sometimes, were it not for my friends.

I feel that there is a cord of love and true friendship reaching from my heart to yours, then to the next one, and on, and on, and finally it returns, thus making an endless chain of Christ like love. Who is going to sever this cord? Surely not one. I feel that this tie is much more binding in recent years than it used to be, and may it continue to grow more binding. Each time we meet in an associational gathering or league rally it seems our hearts are more closely knit together. Then when we asunder part, it gives us inward pain, but we continue to be joined in heart and hope to meet again. We couldn't accomplish much if we did not have love one for another, could we? In my mind the cord of love is the strongest of all ties. Nothing can break it but we ourselves. I think of you leaguers a lot. While we can seldom be together, yet may that blest tie ever bind our hearts together.

Sincerely,

Winford Davis.

## REPORT OF FLAT RIVER LEAGUE

*Martha Burcham, Reporter*

As I again try to report for our league, I am so glad because we still have a few who are interested and faithful in the league work, and really love to serve the Lord.

We are sorry to say our league is not what we had hoped for it to be, owing to lots of sickness and the cold weather. It seems that people think it is too cold to come to the service of the Lord, but it never gets too cold to go other places. We are just hoping and praying that the time will soon come when every one will come back and take their places, and we will see our league where it once was.

We had a wonderful revival with a number of souls saved, and the church revived. Bro. F. C. Zinn was the evangelist, bringing soul-stirring messages each evening.

We ask an interest in your prayers.

## NIANGUA LEAGUE REPORT

*Freda Sell, Reporter*

It has been some time since you have had a report from us.

We are still in the battle and sometimes we feel that it is a battle to do our part toward holding up God's work. The weather has been so bad that our attendance has been small, but we are glad that most of our members are active workers.

We are looking forward to our League rally to be held at Oak Grove Free Will Baptist church.

We have elected officers as follows:  
President ..... A. C. Sell  
Vice President ..... R. C. Pointer  
Sec'y-Treas. .... Ansel Alexander  
Group Captain ..... Josie Pettet  
Quiz Leader ..... Gladys Fillmer  
League Reporter ..... Freda Sell  
Junior Sponsor ..... Gertie Dudley  
Junior Sec'y ..... Mildred Smith  
Jr. Quiz Leader ..... Beulah Smith  
Junior Reporter ..... Glenn Sell  
Pray for our league at Niangua.

## HOW I BECAME A LEAGUER

*By J. W. Boyte, Nashville, Tenn.*

As I was preparing my part for the League last week I noticed we were using the first lesson in the Senior Quarterly for this quarter on Missions.

The lesson got under my hide, so to

speak, for I was very much impressed with the construction of it. Then I began to examine the contents of the whole quarterly and to my mind it is a very fine piece of work. The selection of subjects as a group and also the carefully prepared lessons required no little time and study. I feel that the Editor of our league quarterly is on the job and deserves our appreciation of his efforts to give us the best he has. This also caused me to look back upon the life of our Free Will Baptist League a bit.

As I remember a few of the little incidents in my own life led up to my being connected with the Free Will Baptist League at old Cofer's Chapel church.

In 1916 and 1917 I was in East St. Louis and was working for the Singer Sewing Machine Company. I was not going to church, but to shows and other worldly amusements.

In 1917 when the great race riot took place and I was in some very close spots I decided to come home. I was beaten up and liked to have been killed several times. But an epidemic of small pox caught me and I was in the Contagious Hospital for seventeen days and not having been vaccinated was a sick boy and thought my time had surely come for the potters' field. But there in that little room alone, away out there in the Mississippi bottom pest house, eight hundred miles from home, I promised God, if He would let me live, I would live a different life. As soon as I was able I came back to Nashville where my people lived.

Then I began to go to church and some of the young folks asked me to join the league. I did and became interested in the work and also in the President, as Miss Martha Hopkins was the first President. Ha, ha, now Mrs. Martha Boyte.

After the war was over and I had finished at Old Hickory Munition Plant, I went back to work at Singer Sewing Machine Company. I had worked up to assistant manager's place that was bringing me one hundred and fifty dollars per month. I had bought me a new car and the League President and I were getting on quite well.

When our Association wanted to put on an education and orphanage campaign to raise money for both,

—Concluded on page ten

they had no one in school and no one in sight at that time. In the summer of 1921 I told Bro. Welch I would go to Ayden, N. C. and go to school. I resigned my place with Singer's and left my car in Bro. Welch's care and, with three others, I went to school. While attending school there I went to the Auxiliary convention at Little Creek church and introduced the name of the Free Will Baptist League to that body. It was adopted and then all of the Young People's Christian Endeavor Unions, and whatever it was called, took the name Free Will Baptist League, after which the quarterly was printed.

I am very much gratified to know that the League has done a great work. I have heard that thousands, maybe something like fifty thousand quarterlies were sold last year.

I am hoping that the league is going to do a lot more of the fine work it has been doing.

### ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

*Continued from page six*

Sunday school is getting along well. At a business meeting of the church this coming Monday night we will elect Sunday school officers for the year.

Well, I will have to say some good things for old Bro. Cox. I have worked with him in mission and church work for the last ten years, few days that we have not been together. I have seen him get happy and shout many times and I think, if there is a real Christian man, it is old Daddy Cox.

Eld. Brother Perrean Cox was born in Vernon County, Mo. in 1861, and gave his heart to God when he was a small boy. He went into the ministry when just a young man, and has been preaching the Gospel ever since. He has just passed his 75th birthday, and the church gave him a surprise Saturday night. There were about 50 people there, and he received several presents. It was sure a surprise for him; he was overjoyed with gladness. Old Daddy Cox is growing old and feeble in body and strength, but he is growing strong in the grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. We hope he will enjoy many more years in His service.

Mrs. Pearl Hill was called home a week or more ago, her mother being very sick, but she is now on the road to recovery. There is much sickness at present.

We have a fine string band at our church services.

—Francis McCauley.

### TORNADO, W. VA., Feb. 21st.

Dear Editor and Gem Family:

As I am writing to Bro. Brown a personal letter, I will write a few lines to all the Gem readers. I sure enjoy reading the reports and letters in our little paper, especially those from the people I know. I see three articles and reports from our own Y. M. in our last paper, was sure glad to hear from our State evangelist, Bro. Earl Gillenwaters. I would like to hear from more, and have been looking to hear from my old home church, Union Chapel for some time, have seen but one article or report from there.

I was at my home church at Chancellers Branch, near Charleston, W. Va. Saturday night, Sunday and Sunday night. Our dearly beloved pastor, Rev. C. E. Lee, is very sick and has been sick for some time, has been very bad for over two weeks. Bro. J. E. Nicholas and I went to see him Mon.

We have our little church house about two-thirds ceiled. We are all poor, and only about one of our members has a job, and our pastor is sick; if any of our readers can and wish to help us any amount, it will be appreciated. You may send your donation to F. E. Nicholas, Bownemont, W. Va. So long till next month. Remember us in your prayers.

Your brother in Christ,  
F. V. Nicholas.

### EASTON, MO., February 19th.

Dear Bro. Brown and Gem Family:

As it has been some time since I have written, I would like to let you know that we are still working for our dear Master. Although it is very cold and lots of snow, we are thanking the Lord, for we are well off to what some towns are. If we all look to and keep close to Jesus, He will provide for us, but we also must do our part too.

Our little mission is still working. We have made several sick calls and have visited several shut-ins, gave some clothing to the needy. We have been meeting every week. The roads are blocked in some places with snow, but we get there just the same, and feel like we all get a great blessing. We also are thankful for our faithful pastor who is always on the job. We enjoyed his wonderful sermon last Sunday. As the weather was bad, the attendance was not as large as usual, but we have a promise that where a few meet in His name, He

will be with us. We are still having Sunday school, praise God for it.

I ask all of you good people to remember us in your prayers, as we need to pray for one another.

We sure enjoy the Gem.

Yours for Christ,  
Mrs. E. W. Ellis.

### VAN BUREN, ARK., Feb. 27th.

Dear Readers of the Gem:

It has been some time since I dropped a word to the Gem family, but I have been enjoying the inspiring praise of Christ our Lord that has been expressed by the writers. I think every Free Will Baptist should take the Gem, and it would be a good paper to take, whether you are a Free Will Baptist or not, I have sent in several subscriptions for Christians who are members of other denominations.

When I read some of those testimonies given by lay members, I can almost feel the gladness that overflows the heart of the writer. The Gem paper brings us closer together, and therefore brings us closer to Christ. I feel like I am acquainted with some of the writers by just reading their articles in the paper.

Our next quarterly conference of the Zion Hope Association No. 2 will meet at Harmony church, eleven miles due north of Charleston, on the Vista road, where Bro. Tommy Robertson is pastor. Because of bad weather we were unable to have conference, and arrangements stand as they were.

The Conference will open Friday night, March 27th. Bro. Tommy Robertson will preach the introductory sermon, the writer to conclude.

I was one of four that went to Harmony in December, when weather did not permit us to have conference, and I wish to urge every one to come and help us make this one of our best conferences. The people down there are entitled to the conference, and are hungry for it. They have been very considerate about giving other churches a chance, so let us look forward to a great time in the Lord. We would appreciate visitors from other associations or other denominations, and may God be with you till we meet again in March.

—Eld. Glenn Dipboye.

### HARTVILLE, MO., R4, Feb. 17th

Dear Bro. Brown and Gem Family:

I will try to write a few lines to let you know that I am still trying by the help of the Lord to fight sin.

on every hand, trying by the help of the Savior who suffered and died on the Cross for such poor sinners as you and me were; then dear souls, why shouldn't we all live for Him?

I do so want to serve Him each day I live in this world, for we know not how soon the summons from on high will call us to meet the great Judge of all judges.

Dear children of God, if ever there was a time when we all should be working for the Master, it is now. Let us all be using the Royal telephone so as to keep our wires connected up with the great power house of God. O, what it means to say, I am a child of God and feel that sweet assurance deep down in your heart, that all is well with your soul. O how we all should strive to live a better life in the coming year than we have in the past. I am sure none of us live so close but what we could live closer and do more for our Master.

I ask that you all remember me in your prayers. O, the worth of prayer!

May the dear Lord bless all of the ministering brothers, also each and every child of God, that we may go forth doing more and more for Him each day in His vineyard.

I am staying with an elderly lady who is blind. She is so jolly to be so afflicted, and is so patient and kind.

Daisy Raney, % May Robinette, R4.

## HARTVILLE, MO., Feb. 15, 1936

Dear Readers of the Gem:

It has been some time since I have written to the Gem, so will try to say a few words in honor of Christ and His cause.

Some people seem to get so little out of a Christian life, so we would ask, Does it pay to live for Jesus, or does it pay to be a Christian? Here is a Scripture I love to refer to: "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18), and Job says, "When he hath tried me I shall come forth as gold." To me the Christian life is the very best life one can live.

Here we would turn to the moral man. Who is there among us who does not love and admire a real moral character? Thank God we still have a few moral characters, but we might ask, Where is the moral man in the sight of God any better than the very wicked? What really counts is what we think of Christ and know.

I am truly glad I can say from the depth of my heart, "Thou art the Christ." I am so glad I have found Jesus a real Savior and Lord. I am now just a few steps from the dear old spot where I first found Jesus, and while there has been many a thorn in my pathway, yet there has been some real flowers that are still living and shall continue.

We see so many young people who are seeking pleasure, but my greatest pleasure is serving my Creator, and I have often said, If there was no life after this I had rather have the joy that comes from serving God as to suffer the results of sin. Sometimes I get so anxious to see Him who redeemed me I can hardly wait. We think of the Jews who rejected Christ as their Messiah, and Jesus told them they should see Him no more until they should say, "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord;" and that time, if I understand God's word, will be after the Tribulation when Jesus shall be revealed to all, and when they have been under the cruel hand of Antichrist, and have suffered at his will.

May God bless the entire Gem family and all who believe in our Lord.

## MY REPORT

I wish to report my work since our Indian Creek Association. Leaving the Association, we came to Mt'n Grove with Sister Gladys Towndrow. Had a good meeting, but no souls saved, yet I feel there was much lasting good done.

My next meeting was with a Free Will Baptist church near Niangua, Mo. with Bro. Faye George, a young minister just beginning in the Lord's work, and Bro. Ezra Vestal came along and helped us. The meeting closed with six souls saved.

May God bless and prosper the work, is my earnest prayer.—Lucy Deckard.

## THAYER, MISSOURI

*Continued from page two*

Three hundred thousand Jews are now "back home," and doing things. In 1929 Jerusalem depended on candles and oil lamps after sundown, now 43 miles of gas mains make daylight out of darkness.

Modern down-to-the-minute buildings and equipment on every hand—land selling for a small amount four years ago now brings ten times as much: always subject to scarcity of water, now one of the greatest feats

of modern engineering brings pure spring water nearly thirty miles in wonderful abundance.

All the chemical elements coming down from the mountains into the Dead Sea for thousands of years are there, for you know the Sea has no outlet. Potash is being evaporated from the water in a 1000 acre plant—and there's enough potash to supply the world for 2000 years.

On the bank of the Dead Sea is a mountain of salt, 98% pure, 6 miles long, 3 miles wide and 1090 feet high, with only a few feet of earth covering it. Maybe Lot's wife?

Five acres now sustains a family, formerly it took 60. Down to date experiment stations instruct in correct cropping; an extensive swamp will soon be drained, and, as God said so long ago, "It shall be as the garden of Eden."

As a worth while experiment, don't you suppose our own depression would lift if we, starting *here* and *now*, would follow the will of our Lord as far as we knew?

May the Lord help us to be ready for every call when it comes.

—Ralph Hoyt.

## TROUP, TEXAS, R2, Feb. 25th

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

Just a report of our meeting in the home this month, February 17th.

The weather was very cold that night, but we had a very nice little meeting, there being 13 present. The lesson was, "The Duty of a Watchman." Our music teacher could not be with us that night, but I thank the Lord for a Christian music teacher like her. One of our little neighbor girls, Zola Tedder, and our little girl, Eva Mae, played the music for us. Miss Campbell is our music teacher and is a great worker for the Lord.

I wish that I could be out in the services more, but if I can't, I am thankful for this privilege to have these meetings in my home with my neighbors and friends.

"Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

Please remember us in prayer.

—Amanda J. Kester.

# OBITUARIES

**SWAFFAR**—Thos. J. Swaffar died February 18, 1936, at 2:45 a. m., in his home at Purdy, Missouri, of a complication caused by a fall on the ice February 1st. His age was 80 years, six months and two days. He was born August 16, 1855, near Calhoun, Tennessee, moved to Barry County, Missouri in 1874 and has lived in and around Purdy for 52 yrs. He professed faith in Christ at the age of 21, and has lived a devoted Christian and member of the Missionary Baptist church.

At the age of 26 years he was married to Isabelle Hemphill at Calhoun, Tennessee. To this union four children were born, of which three survive: Arthur Boyd and Thos. Neil of Purdy, Mrs. Myrtle Belle Bradley of Cassville, Mo. Etta deceased in infancy. The wife deceased in 1889.

In the year 1891 he was married to Adelia G. Liner of Brightwater, Ark. To this union twelve children were born, of which eleven survive. Herbert Edward deceased in infancy.

Those surviving: Mrs. Anna Lee Shaw of Bellflower, Calif.; Guss of Lomita, Calif.; James S. of Purdy; William Merrel of Minden Mines, Mo.; Porter Dewitt of Purdy; John C. of Purdy; Joseph Howard of Bellflower, Calif.; Oswald Maynard of Wilmington, Calif.; Mrs. Almira E. Shepherd of Purdy; Ornan B. and Mary Ella of the home.

He leaves his widow, 14 children, 31 grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his passing.

Funeral service was conducted at the Arnhart church by Elders C. M. Smith and Winford Davis.

Interment in the Arnhart cemetery.

**BUNTON**—Clyde Estis Bunton was born December 28, 1918, departed this life February 12, 1936, being at the time of his death, 17 years, two months and four days old.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Bunton, three sisters and one brother, namely: Nona Hayworth, Ella Mae Brown, Frances Henderson, all living in this vicinity, and Junior at home. One brother, Billie Jean, preceded him in death.

He was converted to Christ about two years ago, and united with the Mel's Chapel Free Will Baptist church. He lived a consistent Christian life, and was ready to go, having

given a brilliant testimony at the last and asked his father to read the Bible to him. Clyde was a good boy to mind his parents, and was very obedient about the home.

For some reason unknown to us the Lord saw fit to take Clyde in the bloom of youth. But we bow in submission to the Father's will, realizing our loss is Heaven's gain, and knowing the Lord doeth all things well.

Clyde died of pneumonia.

He will be sadly missed in the home, church, and community.

Funeral service was conducted by Eld. Winford Davis in the Merl's Chapel church. Text, "It is a good thing, that the heart be established with grace" (Heb. 13:9).

Interment in the Sparks cemetery.

**PERIGO**—Martha Evelyn Perigo was born August 8, 1845, departed this life January 18, 1936, being 90 years, five months and ten days old.

She was united in marriage to William Mansfield at an early age. To this union six children were born, four children and father deceased.

In 1883 she was united in marriage to James Marcum. Three children were born to their union. He deceased in 1917.

She leaves to mourn their loss five children, namely: Mrs. Mandie Lawson, Mrs. Voda Pitts, Mr. Bennie Marcum, Mrs. Florence Marcum and Mr. William Mansfield, a number of grandchildren, and a host of friends.

She professed faith in Christ and lived a faithful life until death. She was a member of Mt. Zion (Cuba) Free Will Baptist church.

Funeral service was conducted by Eld. E. E. Vestal.

## HARTVILLE, MISSOURI

Dear Gem Readers:

I hope the other Gem readers are not so sad and lonely this morning as I am. Nine months ago today my darling companion was called home to glory, leaving me and my two children alone without the love and comfort of a companion and father, one that loved his family, home and church so dearly.

One consolation we have, that he is safe on the other shore and we are striving to meet him some glad day

in a better place than this, where partings will be no more.

We wonder sometimes why we have so much trouble and heart aches in this world, but we try to think it is for the best, and will think of the Scripture, "All things work together for good to them that love God."

A few days before he was taken sick, he said he had been so near the Lord that day, that he believed He would come back to earth before he made another crop, and He did come for him, and I believe He is coming for all the redeemed soon. So much prophecy has been fulfilled that we can see, that I feel that the second coming of Christ is not far off. So let us all watch and pray. I don't feel that He is coming as a thief for His own children, not that anyone knows the exact time, but if we live close enough I think we'll know that the time is close at hand.

As for me, I would love His appearing now, but oh, so many are not ready! I'm so thankful my children are Christians, but the evil of today is so great that my daily prayer is, that they won't be led astray.

I just want to say to the ministers' wives, Be real companions and you'll be so much help and strength to them and to the cause.

I thought when my companion was living I was doing the best I could, but I can see now where I made many mistakes and could be much more help now. Seems like, if I had him back, I could stay on my knees all the time, praying for his success.

People have been so good to us and have come to cheer us and so many have sent cards and letters of sympathy, some of the senders I never saw, but they knew him. I want to thank you (those I haven't seen since) through the Gem, as I know some of you are Gem readers.

While these things don't heal the wound, they help lighten the burden, and the Bible says: "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Sometimes I think it takes troubles and trials to get us humble enough that the Lord can use us. I've had a lot of hardships the last year, and lots of sickness, but if it takes more to get me where the Lord wants me I hope it will come.

Pray for me and the children, that we might be counted worthy to obtain that better world.

—Grace Royster.



## SOCIAL BAND NEWS

The fifth Sunday Meeting of the Church of God commonly known as Free Will Baptist, of Social Band Association, convened with Hopewell church, at Old Reyno, Dec. 27-29, 1935.

This meeting was marked by a small attendance this time. However this was a repetition of most all the other meetings of the year. I am of the opinion that if this should continue the fifth Sunday meeting will lose its real spirit and purpose in our Association.

The devotional service was conducted by Bro. Ambrose Cavenar. The evening prayer was led by Eld. E. W. Tucker. The introductory sermon was preached by Eld. D. C. Jones. Scriptural reading, Jer. 23. Text, Gal. 1:10.

On account of inclement weather the congregation was very small on Saturday. Moderator Jones read for an opening lesson, Psa. 41. Prayer by Eld. C. E. Riggs. At this time the program was taken up and parts or subjects were assigned to fill the vacancies.

Motion prevailed to appoint a committee on investigation of the Burial Associations to effect such a business transaction as would secure a more economical program in our effort to take care of disabled and deceased ministers. The following committee was appointed: E. W. Tucker, D. C. Jones, C. E. Riggs, W. C. Forsyth, W. C. Hudson.

The program subjects were taken up at this time, and the following subjects were discussed as the Moderator called for them in their respective order:

Can one be a member of a church of this Association and declare himself or herself not a member of the Association?—Eld. Ralph Staten.

Who should have a voice in the calling of a pastor?—Eld. E. W. Tucker

Motion sustained that the body recess until 1:30 p. m.

The Saturday afternoon services were opened with song service by the congregation and prayer by Elder Ralph Staten.

The letter of Eld. T. J. Powell was read as requested of his withdrawal from the Free Will Baptist and uniting with the Missionary Baptist people.

Eld. W. C. Forsythe was selected as the one to preach the next introductory sermon.

Motion prevailed to close this session of the meeting at the close of the afternoon program.

Should our ministers be forsaken of the pastoral care of churches?—Eld. E. W. Tucker.

The mode of baptism.—Eld. C. E. Riggs.

Moved to carry final report of the Holder Monument fund over until the next fifth Sunday meeting.

### PROGRAM OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING FOR MARCH, 1936.

#### FRIDAY EVENING

Devotional service .... W. C. Hudson  
Introductory sermon, W. C. Forsythe

#### SATURDAY MORNING

Devotional service .... Lee Litherland  
Organization and Business.

Were the three and twenty thousand of 1 Cor. 10:8 once a saved people or in the church?—R. S. Shelton.

Are the following terms synonymous:—Salvation, life eternal, and everlasting life?—Ralph Staten.

Who or what is the "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, as mentioned in Ephesians 4:5?—E. W. Tucker.

Devotional service—Wiley Ricker.

Should a Christian vote or indulge in politics?—W. T. Shoffit.

What virtue was there in the laying on of hands as practiced in the apostolic days?—C. M. Kildow.

What gifts of the Spirit are operative today, as mentioned in 1 Cor. 12:28?—D. C. Jones.

#### SATURDAY EVENING

Devotional service—Ambrose Cavenar.

Are the following terms synonymous: Church, kingdom, and congregation?—C. E. Riggs.

#### SUNDAY MORNING

Sunday School Address—Raymond Riggs.

Have the people commonly known as Free Will Baptist, in church polity and doctrine, deviated from the teachings of the Scriptures and original practices of identity as other religious bodies have?—Ralph Staten.

Shall we as an Association take steps for admission into the National Association of Free Will Baptist?—W. C. Forsythe.

An exegesis of Acts 2:38—E. W. Tucker.

#### SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Will the unsaved be given another opportunity after resurrection to hear and accept the Gospel and be saved?—C. E. Riggs.

The immortality of the soul—W. T. Shoffit.

Are there any religious bodies who have an unbroken and distinct line of succession from the apostolic days?—G. W. Million.

Moderator, ..... Eld. D. C. Jones,  
Biggers, Ark.  
Clerk, ..... Eld. Ralph Staten,  
Pocahontas, Ark.

There are some so-called Christian homes today with books and papers on the shelves of the library that have no more business there than a rattler crawling about on the floor, or poison within the child's reach.

If the many scattered members of our Baptist family are to be witnesses and workers for Christ, according to His will, they must be informed, they must know. The warning echoes from days of old: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Let us know clearly the distinctive contentions of our people and the epics of witness and service that they by the grace of God have written. Let us earnestly seek, in the right spirit, to acquaint others with our distinctive convictions. Let us summon ourselves and our fellow-men everywhere, to the ceaseless study of the one authoritative source of religious truth and power, the Word of God. To that word would we ever look for guidance in all matters relating to religious doctrines, church polity, church ordinances, worship, and Christian living. A worthy revival of the reading of God's word and of the immediate occurrences of our associations among our people would bring noticeably a gracious uplift.

This enlarged knowledge will be followed by wider and better spiritual service. We shall be unfaithful to our high trust as pastors, evangelists, teachers, parents, if we fail to inform and to enlist in Christ's service every man, woman and child. "Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion!" If the unused strength of the Free Will Baptist family were fully dedicated to Christ's service and cause, there would follow such a release of spiritual influences and energies as would soon vitally affect the whole territory of our associations. Let us be utterly unwilling to leave our people uninstructed in the Holy Scriptures, thus making them religious weaklings and easy victims of seducing spirits.—Eld. Ralph Staten.

### THAT BOOK YOU ARE WRITING

We are writing a book,  
A chapter each day,  
By deeds that we do,  
By words that we say.

The world is reading what we write,  
Whether falsely or true;  
Say! what is that book  
According to you?

## WHERE ARE THE DEAD?

*Continued from page three*

of the latter, the people of Israel remained profoundly ignorant. The phrase cannot be kehrber for neither were buried in their family graves.

David had said something about his soul not remaining in hell (sheol) and the Holy One not seeing corruption (Psa. 16:10). Peter, preaching on the day of Pentecost, told the Jews that David was not speaking of himself, but being a prophet, "he spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his (Christ's) soul would not remain in hell (hades) neither his flesh did see corruption" (Acts 2:25-31). Christ said in His dying hour, "Today" He would enter "Paradise." He entered that portion of hades (called hell) which contained the comforted spirits of the departed spirits.

Hades was, at that time, spoken of as being downward, for Christ *descended* into it. While there, "He preached to the spirits in prison"—1 Pet. 1:18-20, who seem to have lived during the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared. According to Rev. 1:18, Christ must have obtained the keys of hell (hades) and of death when He descended to it. He then *ascended*, leading captivity captive (Eph. 4:8-10; Psa. 68:18), that is, taking with Him the imprisoned spirits who were literally "being held" in Paradise. Thus Christ moved the "upper hell" (hades) and took it with Himself to the very throne of God. The "great gulf fixed" between "lower hell" and "Paradise"

of Luke 16 is widened with a far greater gulf. The fact that Christ moved the "upper hell" (called Paradise) to the immediate presence of God on His throne is further proved by the fact that Christ is on the right hand of God, and Paul said that he had "rather to be absent from the body, and present with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8). Paul knew that if he died, his spirit would leave his body and go to Christ and would bask in the sunlight of God's presence.

"Lowest hell" is left with no change by the ascension of Christ. It is still a place of the kindled fire of God's anger, it is still the torment of the "rich man" and of every other man who goes there after death. At the end of the thousand years of Christ's personal reign on earth, called Millennium, death and hell (lowest hell) shall deliver up the spirits which are in them, and the sea (the earthly) shall deliver up the dead that are in it, or shall give up the bodies by the power of the second resurrection, which is unto damnation. Death and hell shall be judged and cast into the "lake of fire which burneth with brimstone." The reunited spirit and body shall be judged and cast into the same "lake of fire." Notice: Lowest Hell—a place of fire, is cast into the Second Death, which burns with fire and brimstone.

That place is too hot for me, therefore I'm on the road towards a better goal. By the grace of God, I am striving to attain unto the (first) resurrection of the dead.

## LIFE OR DEATH

*By Eld. J. B. Rollins*

Life is just a fleeting shadow, here  
On the earth, beneath the sun;  
We but faintly grasp its meaning, ere  
Life's short race on earth is run.

Death then comes just like unto a  
dream,

And we leave the shores of Time;  
We must cross the silent, mystic  
stream,

Leaving mortal cares behind.

We have come to earth and we must  
leave,

Then we must prepare, oh man!  
Christ the Son, in heaven intercedes.  
God extends to you a hand.

There's a higher life with joys untold,  
For ever and ever, oh glory!  
There's a second, deeper death foretold  
Where there's woe and agony.

Brethren, oh prepare! that Day will  
come,

Let it not be for the worst,  
For, to hear the Master say, "Well  
done"

Will be better than "Depart ye  
cursed."

There is peace, sweet peace, oh, pre-  
cious soul,

Jesus gives it full and free;  
Strive for heaven, 'tis a worthy goal,  
Let Him have His way with thee.

## GILEAD'S BALM AND PHYSICIAN

*By Rev. Otto Freeman, Malden, Mo.*

"Is there no balm in Gilead? is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?" (Jer. 8:22)

Gilead is the name given to a ridge of mountains which extends from Lebanon southward on the east of Palestine, and gave this name to the whole district of country east of the Sea of Galilee. This name was given in the ancient compact made between Jacob and his Uncle Laban (Gen. 31:48). This country seems to have been in great repute, even in the days of Joseph, for yielding a sort of balm, which was very celebrated for its healing medicinal qualities, hence, we read that Joseph was sold to a company of Ishmaelites who came from Gilead, bearing spices, balm and myrrh

(Gen. 37:25). The prophet, after contemplating the morally diseased condition of the people, inquired, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" Let us then answer the three important questions in the text.

There is balm for the diseased soul of man, the Word of God is the recipe given. Hence it is said, "He sent his word and healed them" (Psa. 107:26). No other book apart from the word of God, in the whole world, can answer the question, "What must I do to be saved?" The Word of God reveals to man the danger he is in and the remedy for his guilt and misery. The Word of God converts men from sin and makes them know they are lost, and tells them how to be saved. The blood of Jesus is the healing balm;

all blessings connected with salvation are ascribed to the blood of Christ; we are redeemed by His blood, reconciled to God by His blood, sanctified and cleansed from all sin by His blood, He is the fountain opened for sin and uncleanness; Christ was nailed to the Cross, and shed His blood for the sin-sick soul. Yes, there is balm in Gilead, enough to heal every one that will believe; as in all cases, just coming into possession of a recipe, or even the remedy itself is not enough without the application, so also with the sinner. The sinner must have the blood of Jesus applied to his soul before it can be cleansed from sin; in this way its virtue will be felt and a certain cure effected—none ever trusted in the blood of atonement without obtaining salvation. It makes no difference how deep the sin stain has gone, however hopeless in man's esti-

*Concluded on next page*

mation. A dying thief was saved; the blood of Jesus applied will blot out all sin.

But, notice the second question, "Is there no physician there?"

There is a Physician for the afflicted souls of men, this Physician is Jesus. In the days of His flesh He went about healing the diseases, both of the bodies and the minds of men. As a physician He possesses unbounded knowledge, He knows all about the soul of man, He knows every disease of the soul. Not only does He know the diseases of the soul, but He knows the necessary application for its restoration. He is also in deep sympathy with the sin-sick soul, He is full of pity and tenderness, and He displays it to all who seek His aid. He is also accessible at all times and places; He is the Physician for the whole world; His practice is as wide as the earth, and as universal as the family of man. Then you do not have to go afar to hunt for Him; He is ever near and ready for service when you call on him.

Physicians of the body often err; their remedies fail and patients die. But not so with Jesus, all diseases are alike to Him: The spiritually

deaf, the blind, the dumb, the lame, the paralytic, and the leprous, and does He stop there? No, He even raises souls dead in trespasses and sin, and He never fails to apply the balm in the right place at the right time when called upon. His terms are of the easiest kind—without money and without price; you read of no fee demanded or given in the days of His flesh or since, it has ever been so, and will be so for ever; so all may have access to the healing, and whosoever will may come and drink of the water of life freely, the poor as well as the rich. Such then is the Physician to whom the sin-sick soul can have access.

Then observe the last question in the text: Why then are not the diseases of the soul of man removed?

We have spoken of a balm, which is a certain remedy, and of a Physician who infallibly cures; and let it be added, that this remedy is sufficient to cure the whole body—this Physician is willing to save every soul: "Why then is not the health of the daughters of my people recovered?" All the reasons must be with the sick themselves, and not with the Physi-

cian; if the sinner is not saved, it is his own fault.

Jesus said, "Whosoever will." But many fancy themselves to be well, and need no physician, when their soul is suffering with some loathsome disease. The Pharisees were suffering with self-righteousness, yet they thought they needed no physician. Many conclude that their diseases are not dangerous, and are therefore indifferent, their conversation and way of living say, There is no danger, therefore they live carelessly and die so. Many will not submit to Christ's remedy, it is too humble; they want a more exact way; they will not attend to His advice and exercise faith, and get under the drippings of the Cross. Some put it off until their dying hour, never dreaming of dying in sin. These are a few of the reasons why there are not more souls saved. If the sinner would come to the Physician, which is Jesus, and get the balm applied, which is the blood of Jesus shed on the Cross, then the health of the daughters of my people would be recovered, or rather the sins of the soul of man would be removed.

## SELF EXAMINATION--2 Cor. 13:5

*By Eld. A. L. Sapp, Urdana, Mo.*

The beginning of the New Year is the time for our annual moral house cleaning, the time when we take an invoice of good deeds done, and self-righteousness, brush off some bad habits and undesirable traits of character.

Some men have resolved to "turn over a new leaf," join the church, cut out cussing and fussing, and drink less liquor. Some women have decided to stop their nagging, gossiping and grumbling, overcome their bad temper. The trouble is not in our good resolutions, it is that they, when left to themselves, are only skin deep, and will melt away like frost before the rising sun, when persecutions arise. Stony ground converts.

"Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil" (Jer. 13:23). If this can be done, then Christ died in vain.

Examine yourselves; where is your faith? in yourself? I want you to examine it to see what kind of faith you have. Prove yourselves in times of prosperity, when everything is going well, when the sea is calm.

Where, oh where is your faith?

We are living in a day of shams in religion, when God, prayer, and the preacher are used only in times of emergency. When friends die, the boat goes down. There is a storm coming for every sailor on life's sea, and the time to prepare for trouble is before trouble comes. Know ye not your own selves how that Jesus Christ is in you?

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Rev. 3:20). Is Jesus in the boat, in your life? If so, how did He get there? He has never refused an invitation, nor remained where He is not wanted. If He comes into the boat, He will cast out the money changers, and dump the filth and rubbish overboard.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart, try me, and know my thoughts." Ninety percent of the professors have heart disease, and need a good dose of old fashioned mourners' bench religion, as the only cure.

If some preachers had as much fire

in their hearts as they have under their nose, they would drop the "Camel," and God would give them nerve to preach His Gospel, instead of fables. Water will cleanse the skin, the outside of the cup, and the platter, but it takes Jesus to set the heart right. He is our great Physician, and has enumerated the symptoms of man's condition (Matt. 7:21), prescribed a remedy for every known moral disease; but like lepers of old, many would rather die than obey.

No man in the history of the church and religion so completely fulfilled in his own life and character the true ideal of Christianity than did the Apostle Paul. To him Jesus was a living reality. Oh, how his letters of love, rebuke, and courage, cheer us on our upward way! He was ever true to the full surrender he made when on the way to Damascus, when he said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Onward, onward, undaunted by persecutions and trials, hear him say, "Be ye followers of me as I am also of Christ." Christ the beginning, Christ the end—"For me to live is Christ: to die is gain." He lived and walked by faith. The aim and ambition of this greatest and mightiest of men, was to be accepted

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of Christ, to be well pleasing in His sight; well might his exhortation arouse us from a state of lethargy!

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me."

"Examine yourselves!"

"Rock of Ages cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee."

May God bless all of like precious faith.

**DALLAS, TEXAS, Feb. 5, 1936**

Dear Brother and Sister Brown:

I know that you all will be surprised to hear from me after these long years. But I want to make an appeal through the paper about our little Free Will Baptist church here in Dallas.

This little church has been carrying on for two years this coming March. We are now without a building to meet in on account of being unable to pay rent. We are meeting in the members' homes and it seems like we are going down instead of building up. If we could only raise enough funds to pay two months rent, then the ladies' work could probably raise enough ahead to keep it paid up. There are only six members of the ladies' class and only three of them are loyal to the cause. We have cooked doughnuts and different things and sold them. One or two of the men have been able to help us sell.

Now, the church has twenty-six members, with six members that always come to the services. None of them have a salary, and we have just carried on through faith. Now we are to the point that we are going to have to ask the other churches to aid us in our struggle. You know the Bible tells the strong to help the weak and I feel that there are churches that could send us a small donation. The only way that I know to get in touch with them is to appeal through the paper. If you are interested in the cause spreading, then please help us this once. Bro. Brown, there is need of a church here in Dallas, a city of three hundred thousand people. I know you are interested, else I would not write to you asking help.

My husband does not go to church and I do not have much to give to the church, as he is not interested. However he makes a good salary. I am very anxious that the church go on here, because I feel that he will be-

come interested some day. And too, I want my children brought up in the church.

Any donation will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Sybil (Hearron) Dunaway, Clerk.  
615 Neches, Dallas, Texas.

### IS GAMBLING WRONG?

Contributed by Eld. T. C. Ferguson

Gambling as a money-making business is an unquestioned evil. It has a peculiar and unexplainable fascination for certain mentalities. Persons with such mentalities are easily lured into gambling games, and shrewd and unscrupulous persons see in this an opportunity to make money. The gambling house, run as a money-making business, if permitted, will use every art known to the modern psychologist to lure men and women into its place of business. Under the perilous fascination of the game, they are lured on to financial ruin.

—Dr. Thomas N. Carver.

### LORD OF THE QUIET HEART

Contributed by Rev. C. M. Bamford

Lord of the quiet heart, who knew the sound

Of raging streets with anger loud,  
Yet walked serene in faith that saw  
Beyond the blindness of the crowd—  
Help us to find the even way  
Through all the clamor of this day.

Lord of the gentle eyes, who saw the bright

Spear points beneath Thee gleam  
and toss,  
Yet heard with tenderness the thief's  
Faint cry for mercy from His cross—  
Remember us, that we may hear  
The whispered hope, the accent  
near.

Lord of the steadfast will, whose vision clear

Saw all the travail of the years,  
Beyond which lies the world to be  
That knows no human wrath or  
tears—  
Help us to see with eyes unsealed  
Thy harvest that the years shall  
yield!

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