

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

ORGAN OF THE MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST
AND THE WESTERN GENERAL ASSOCIATION—FOR FREE WILL BAPTIST EVERYWHERE

Vol. VIII. No. 12.

Purdy, Missouri, December, 1936

50 cents per year.



"FOR HE CARETH FOR THEE"

"The sharp little vexations,
And briars that catch and fret,
Why not take all to the Helper
Who has never failed us yet,
Tell him about the heartache,
And tell him the longings too;
Tell him the baffled purpose
When we scarce knew what to do;
Then, leaving all our weakness
With the One divinely strong,
Forget that we bore the burden
And carry away the song."

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Organ of

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Published monthly at Purdy, Missouri


ELD. B. F. BROWN, EDITOR.

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

TERMS

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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Glory to God

By the Editor.



REAT IS THE NEED at this Christmas season, when people are so steeped in sin and shame, and looking to the schemes and plans of men and governments for the things they vainly hope will bring comfort and satisfy their fondest hopes. So few people know, or even care to know, the real meaning of Christmas. Practically all people think of Christmas, talk about Christmas, and plan for it, to

enjoy Christmas festivities, giving and receiving gifts, and feasting: but few of them ever seriously think of the Christ Child. We cannot have a real Christmas unless Christ is in it, right in the center of it. We cannot glorify God, at Christmas time, nor any other time, if we fail to respect and honor the Christ Child in the things we indulge.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men," sang the angels on that first Christmas night. During the nearly 2,000 years since the angels expressed this wonderful promise for the children of men, has this prophecy, uttered by the angels, been fulfilled among men? has it been fulfilled in your life? Yes, those who have believed the Word of God, and submitted themselves to Him, willing to do His will, have glorified God, and it is these that do God's will that do promote peace on earth; likewise, it is the Christ-like that have and practice good will toward men; thus those who really love God, do fulfill this prophecy of "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

If we would have strength to win in the task God has given us and reach the goal He has set for us, we must see the glory of God. Moses was given a task, and he prayed that he might see God's glory (Exodus 33:18). Isaiah saw the glory of God, responded to it, and was commissioned to carry God's message to the people, to go for God according to His word (Isaiah VI.).

Glory to God in the Heavens

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork" (Psa. 19:1). The things which God created praise Him, and glorify Him: He created all things for His glory. But man, with whom and in whom God left a knowledge of Himself, has not glorified God, only a few have glorified Him (John 1:9; Rom. 1:20, 21; Psalms 145 to 150). It is our privilege to be a branch in the Vine, and bear fruit to the glory of God (John 15:5-8). Jesus came in humiliation and died on the Cross, that all those who believe in Him might have life and be able to glorify God: if we fail in this, we lose everything.

Glory to God in the Tabernacle

"Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle" (Exo. 40:34). This happened after Moses had done all that God had commanded him: after he had made everything according to the pattern given him. It was the "tent of meeting," where God met with Moses and manifested His presence and His glory filled the place. Then it was through the

Continued on page sixteen

✠ GUIDED FEET ✠

By Mrs. Lina Claxton, Hartville, Mo.

Dear Editor, Wife and Gem Readers:

As we look out at the window this morning, we can see only a small bit of God's footstool, but everything seems to say, "What wondrous love is this!" Oh, my soul, just think! this is October 29, 1936, and the sunshine is so beautiful, the grasses so green, the little brooks flowing with pure crystal water, the trees yet green, some flowers still blooming. As I was looking at a rose just a few moments ago, it called my mind back to when I was a little girl, and went to school, and studied in the old McGuffey readers, and this lesson I learned, said, "Come, and I will show you what is beautiful, the rose is beautiful, but he that made the rose is more beautiful than the rose."

Then I think of what the Psalmist David said, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied when I awake with thy likeness" (Psa. 17:15).

Oh, I want the old time religion to be my theme day and night. I am so glad He said to His disciples, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." We know this is truth, because He said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

I have been wondering this morning if it would not be more pleasing to God for people to pay more attention to their feet, and not so much to their faces. I know a great deal is said about the face, but let us think seriously about the feet, as we are hungering and thirsting after righteousness, that we may be filled. This might be thought of too in a temporal way. You let a really hungry man sit down to a well filled table, there would have to be something a little unusual happen to get him to quit eating until he is full. Let us look at 1 Sam. 2:9, "He will keep the feet of his saints."

Prov. 4:10—"Hear, O my son, receive my sayings: and the years of thy life shall be many."

Psa. 40:2—"He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings."

"Blessed is the man that maketh the Lord his trust: and respecteth

not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies."

Psa. 66:8, 9—"O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard: which holdeth our souls in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved."

Isaiah 52:7—"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publish salvation."

Luke 1:78, 79—"Through the tender mercies of our God, whereby the day spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Luke 7:37, 38—"And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet." I am told that it is a very small number of church members today that would reverence God as did this poor sinner woman; we see she guided her feet to do good.

Luke 24:39—"Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see."

Isaiah 59:7—"Their feet run to evil: . . . waste and destruction are in their paths."

Isaiah 60:12—"For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted."

Romans 10:15—"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things."

Psa. 37:23—"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way."

"Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell forever more."

Eph. 6:14—"Stand therefore, having on the breastplate of righteousness: and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace."

I want to speak just now, for example, of temporal things. I have heard this told by truthful men, that somebody went to some man's smokehouse, chickenhouse, cornfield, or some other place, to steal, and this thief was found by the shoes he wore on his feet. Some had the soles of their shoes filled with round headed tacks, some with heel irons, enough at least to condemn the man that made the tracks by the shoes which he had on

his feet.

Ecc. 5:1—Vanities in divine service—"Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear than to give the sacrifices of fools: for they consider not that they do evil." There would not be so many empty benches at church if only we would follow the footprints of Jesus, though they lead through the cold dark mountain seeking his sheep, or along by the fountain helping the meek, footprints of Jesus that make our pathway glow: we will follow the steps of Jesus where'er they go. Oh, how He loved his disciples! We see Him washing their feet, laying His hands on little children and blessing them, healing the sick, casting out devils, and doing many wonderful things! Then, if we are Christians, we should be Christ-like; we know we could not be Christ, but by His Spirit we can obey Him and do the things He told us to do.

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

God does not command anything of us unreasonable! Do you think, if Jesus were here, and walked among men, as He did of old, that He would go with the church members to the places they are going to? No! No!! No!!! He said for us to shun the very appearance of evil. I think we should be very careful where our feet take us; for there never was a time that we needed Him more than now.

*The path of God we cannot find,
Unless we give Him of our time,
To read His Word, and fill our mind,
With all His laws sublime.*

*To pray to Him, we must,
Daily, and in Him trust.
If we would tread His path,
We must seek what He hath.*

I am asking all that read this to pray for us, because we need your prayers. God bless and save all who trust in Him.

Your unworthy servant, and an old fashioned mother.

THE GIFTS OF THE WISE MEN

'Tis not in the weight of jewel or plate,
Or the fondle of silk and fur;
'Tis the spirit in which the gift is rich,
As the gifts of the wise men were;
And we're not told whose gift was gold,
Or whose was the gift of myrrh.

—EDMUND V. COOKE.

NEW EDINBURG, ARKANSAS

November 19, 1936.

Dear Editor, Wife and Gem Readers:

As I haven't sent in a report from old Macedonia since June, I will begin from there.

I want to say first, that I am thankful to my blessed Lord for the many blessings received from His bountiful hand since I last wrote: for I realize it's in and through His tender mercy that I am able to be writing again.

Now for the report: We had our regular appointment filled by our pastor, Bro. J. E. White, the third Sunday in July, with good services, our church being in fairly good shape, with our prayer meeting and Sunday school strengthening. We began our revival Saturday night before the 4th Sunday in July. This meeting continued ten days. Many of the back-slidden members were revived, old members reclaimed, and we had twelve converted, and twelve added to the church, in fact the Holy Spirit was with us through the entire meeting, with old Bro. and Sister Ashcraft to endorse the good sermons and testimonies, I can truly say it was good for us to be there.

We had our regular appointment in August, and chose Bro. J. E. White as our pastor for another year.

Dear readers, you that know the worth of prayer to pray earnestly for this young preacher, for he has God's cause at heart.

We still have our prayer meeting and Sunday school and our regular preaching until this good hour.

A sister in Christ,

Mrs. Iva Mae McClellan.

OAKLAND, MISSOURI, R2

Dear Editor, Wife and Gem Readers:

Here I come again, with the same old story: I love my dear Savior more and more, and I love to talk with Him, and I love to talk about His goodness to us all.

I am so thankful we are serving One who will always be near when we call on Him, even in the dead hours of night we can use the Royal Telephone and feel the current moving on the line, if our souls are connected up with the power house of God. O how thankful I am that I ever found the narrow way in my youthful days and have only one regret, that I didn't find it sooner, though I was converted at the age of sixteen years, and the more I serve Him the more I want to serve Him; and my dear brothers and

sisters in Christ Jesus our Lord, let us all live closer to Him, striving to do more each day we live for Him.

I ask an interest in the prayers of all who read this, that I may ever live a true Christian life for my Lord; and if I do, I will not be found at a Sunday ball game, the old swimming pool, at the bridge party playing cards and, O so many other "no harm" sins I could name, but any true child of God knows what they must do to gain a home in heaven. It means much to say, "I am a child of God" and feel His holy presence in our every day life we live in this old sinful world.

O the help we get in prayer, and prayer is needed so much in this day. God help us all who know the worth of prayer to pray much and, that we may be more careful of one another's happiness, watching over one another in love.

I am so glad to hear of the good revivals in different places over our land and country; and may the good Lord help us older children of God to ever set the right example before the young converts, that they may ever live close to Him and do more for the cause than we older ones ever have.

I ask, again the prayers of all that read this, that I may be one among that great number when the saints go marching in.

Your sister in Christ,

Miss Daisy Raney.

WESTERN GENERAL ASS'N

By Eld. J. B. Rollins, Clerk, Purdy, Mo.

The Co-operative General Association of Free Will Baptist met with the Tulsa church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Nov. 3, 1936. A very spiritual and harmonious atmosphere prevailed from the very start.

Eld. F. C. Zinn of Pierce City, Mo. preached the Introductory sermon, using Zech. 10:12 for a text.

The body adopted the "Basis of Agreement" drawn up at Denison, Texas in 1934. This causes this body to be known as the Western General Association of Free Will Baptist.

Officers elected as follows:

Moderator, Eld. Jas. F. Miller,

Flat River, Mo.

Ass't Mod., Eld. W. E. Dearmore,

Wanette, Okla.

Clerk, Eld. John B. Rollins, Purdy, Mo.

Ass't Clerk, Eld. Harry Staires,

Drumright, Okla.

Treas., Eld. Melvin Bingham,

833 N. Utica St., Tulsa, Okla.

The Executive Board is composed of five members as follows.

Eld. O. T. Allred, Chair., Monett, Mo.

Eld. I. W. Yandell, Oklahoma City, Ok.

Eld. Cecil Campbell, Cartersville, Mo.

Eld. W. L. Bean, Cushing, Okla.

Eld. B. F. Rogers, R9, B374, Tulsa, Ok.

The Western General Association elected Eld. E. A. O'Donnell of MeLoud, Okla. as Statistician.

This Association heartily endorses the proceedings of the National Board of Education in trying to secure the school plant in Weaverville, N. C. We also agree to co-operate in a financial way. We endorse our members of the Board, to wit: Eld. Selph Jones, Eld. Melvin Bingham and Eld. E. E. Morris.

The Loyal Givers' Chart, given to the Association by Sister Phinney of Bryan, Texas was adopted in behalf of the school plan. We are looking forward to see this plan working in every Free Will Baptist church.

The Free Will Baptist Gem was endorsed as the official organ of the Western General Association. We also endorse the printing of Sunday School and League literature at Ayden, N. C., and that we use influence to have lesson comments by capable Free Will Baptist.

The printing and distribution of tracts setting forth the Free Will Baptist doctrine was also endorsed.

The Western Association recommended that ten per cent of all Home Mission funds be set aside for Foreign Missions. We resolved to pray for the Home Mission, since the Foreign Mission work depends upon the Home Mission work. A greater work in Home Missions is the aim of the Western body.

Eld. Winford Davis of Monett, Mo. was elected Secretary of Foreign Missions. It was resolved to pray for our Foreign Missionary program as we never prayed before.

Sister Willey brought a very soul-stirring message, revealing our need and opportunities and blessings of a Foreign Missionary program; and an offering of \$38.43 was given for our Foreign Missions.

Eld. John Bean of Oklahoma City, Okla. was elected evangelist for the Western Association.

The next session of the Western General Association will convene with the Oak Grove church, near Norwood, Mo., beginning on Tuesday night, before the second Sunday in November, 1937. Eld. I. W. Yandell is to preach the Introductory sermon, Eld. Melvin Bingham alternate.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Self

WEDDED FIFTY YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Self celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary Sunday, November 1, 1936. An informal reception was held in their honor in the parlors of the Methodist church with 100 of their friends and relatives in attendance. Mr. and Mrs. Self were married in Kirby, Arkansas fifty years ago, Nov. 4th, with the Rev. Jim Williams, a Primitive Baptist minister performing the ceremony. Mr. Self is 72 years old, and Mrs. Self is 67. They have no children.

They are members of the local Free Will Baptist church where they have been valued members for many years. Mrs. Self is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Berry, and was reared in Gonzales County, Texas.

—Mrs. Chas. A. Price.

A SPLENDID WESTERN ASS'N

You know it is somewhat human nature, that when we find something good, we want to tell others about it.

I, and some others of the Hannon church, drove down to Tulsa, Okla. last Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 4th, to attend our Western Association. Did we find a great meeting? We most certainly did. It proved to be one of the best Western Associations that I have ever known anything about. The Lord was there in such a wonderful way. Love and harmony ruled supreme. I so much enjoyed meeting the many I had not seen for so long. So many of our Oklahoma brethren I had met in the past; but had not

seen some of them for a number of years. It was good to be there. Then too, I had the privilege of meeting Sister Willey, wife of our Missionary, for the first time, and it was indeed a privilege. Sister Willey certainly has the work at heart. We were so glad for all those from Texas who met with us, including not only Sister Willey, but Bro. and Sister Phinney, pastor and wife, of our church at Bryan, Texas, and Brother Edge. I am sure every one felt that their meeting with us was a great blessing. Then, of course, we saw so many of those dear old faces from Mo., that we have been under the yoke with for quite a while.

The last day we were there Eld. Henson and Eld. Marlow came in from West Virginia. Just think of the miles they traveled to be at that Association. That really shows interest and sacrificial spirit. May God bless them.

Brethren, I feel that the stage is set for the advancement of our Free Will Baptist cause in a most wonderful way. This Western unit of the National Association looks prospective to me. I am sure we all are thankful. May the Lord just keep us bound together in Christian love.

The afternoon we left you at Tulsa, we drove back to the Hannon church, arriving in time for service. We felt too tired to go into a service of any kind, but the Lord saved three young men that night. We are yet in the revival, and desire your prayers.

Winford Davis.

OUR FOREIGN MISSION WORK

By Winford Davis, Sec'y of Missions.

Since being chosen Secretary of Foreign Missions at our last State meeting in October, I have received and forwarded the following for Bro. Willey who is now in Panama looking out a field for our denomination:

St. Francois Co. Quarterly M.	\$21.84
Col. taken at Mo. State Ass'n,	14.50
Sublette church	1.00
Eld. S. H. Marcum	2.50
Union Third Fork Mission	2.00
Cassie Kelsey	5.00
Nola Apple	1.00
Virginia Wilks	1.50
Flora Fulp	5.00
Richard Talbott	1.00
Carterville church	5.00
Col. taken at Western Ass'n	38.43
E. O. Callen	1.00
Union Third Fork church	4.00

Total receipts \$103.77

We are very thankful for this am't. Just urge you to keep sending your donations. Since our meeting at Tulsa recently, we are now going to look for donations from all over the West. I am so glad of the interest that was manifested there in behalf of Bro. Willey and his undertaking to establish a foreign mission work. Let's not become luke warm about this work, brethren, but keep this missionary fire burning on the altar of our hearts constantly.

I am appealing to each church and each auxiliary work to be mindful of our missionary, and send in your donations. Each Mission, League and Sunday school, form you a system of giving for missions. What better Christmas gift could one offer than to help send Jesus to the boys and girls in 'darkness' who have no Christmas? They have no Christmas because they have no Christ. Can we, with good grace, spend lavishly of our means this holiday season, as our American people are accustomed to doing, and forget our Missionary, and those for whom he is laboring?

VAN BUREN, ARKANSAS

Dear Readers of the Gem:

As I haven't written to the Gem in some time, I will write a few statements in regard to my visit with the Oklahoma State Association. Bro. Ben Pixley, his Brother Plumer, Bro. Jim Carlton and myself attended the State Association at Non, Okla. We were overjoyed over the great work that God is doing through the Free Will Baptist churches in that state, and especially proud to see some of the good brothers and sisters we had become acquainted with through our little paper. We may never see their faces again, but we will be expecting to hear from some of them through the Gem.

We were strengthened by the good preaching of the able brethren, and feel that the Spirit of God led us there to be nourished and strengthened to fight the battle of faith. We were enlightened in many ways; and were welcomed with an open heart by the Association and by the people at Non. We enjoyed the fellowship with our Oklahoma brethren, and drank with a thirsty soul the spiritual drink that came from the fountain of God.

May God's blessings rest upon us all until we meet in that heavenly home.

—Eld. Glenn Dipboye.

BOONEVILLE, ARKANSAS

Dear Bro. Brown and Gem Readers:

If you will give me space, I wish to say a few words in regard to my past year's work. I have been silent for twelve months, and am wondering if my brethren haven't thought that I had taken out. I have been very busy all the time.

My first revival was at Gravelly, Ark. We had a good meeting there, but not what we expected.

From Gravelly I went to Slaty Crossing, near Dardanelle, Ark. God really blessed our efforts at this church—45 conversions, with 38 additions to the church.

From this church we went to Rose Creek, near Cassa, Ark. for a few days. God really blessed our efforts there. We had a good meeting and organized a church that is really alive for God.

At the close of the Rose Creek meeting I went to Vernon, Ala., and spent the month of October in that state. My first meeting was at Vernon, which began on Sunday night. Oct. 2nd. Bro. E. W. Graves is pastor here. We had a good meeting, and the interest grew from day to day; the Lord blessed each service. The good people of other churches co-operated with us, and were a great help in putting the work over. May God bless them.

From Vernon we went to Unity Grove church, about ten miles south of Vernon. This church is small in number, but they are really alive for God. I shall never forget Bro. and Sister Cole, with others who worship at that place.

From Unity Grove we went to the Progressive Association, which met with the Free Will Baptist church at Sulphur Springs, Ala., and let me say here, this Association is really alive for God. The Association opened with a revival and the longer the worse—there were several shouting God's praise at the same time. Here I met some preachers I had longed to meet, namely: Eld. J. B. Bloss, Bro. Lambert, Eld. W. H. Ryland, who delivered the message at the 11 o'clock hour on Tuesday. I shall never forget him. Space will not permit me to mention others that I met at this Association.

From this Association I went with Bro. A. J. Lambert to his church at Townley, Ala. There I met a live church, that I really enjoyed working with. Bro. Lambert is pastor, and he knows how to put things over.

I went from there to the Vernon Association where I met a fine congrega-

tion of people, and people that were really alive for God. I drove up to this place about 10:30, and in less than fifteen minutes I was on the program to preach at the 11 o'clock service. I used for my text, Romans 8:9, "If you have not the Spirit of God, you are none of his." Everybody seemed to enjoy the service. I was really glad to find my preacher brethren with me in doctrine. Unexpected to me, Bro. Haas of Tupelo, Miss. got up and told the people where he first met me, and how I came to be in his state as well as in Alabama, and he suggested that they take up an offering for me; and to my surprise the offering amounted to about \$12.00. May the great God of heaven bless them. Their Association closed that afternoon.

From there I went to Union Chapel, near Vernon. There I met a live church, a people who really love God. Bro. J. R. Frederick is their pastor. Bro. Frederick is one of the leading preachers in the state of Alabama. We began our meeting with this church on Monday night and stayed until Thursday night. The meeting with this church closed with a good interest. Many came for prayers.

From this church I went to Springfield church where Eld. J. S. Frederick is pastor, and he was with me in the meeting. It's a real pleasure to work with such men as E. W. Groves, A. J. Lambert and J. S. Frederick. God really blessed our efforts at Springfield, while I was only there from Friday at 11 o'clock until Sunday at 11 o'clock.

On Sunday night we met back at Vernon for our farewell message. All the churches where I have been represented in this last service. The good Methodist people called in their service on Sunday night and came to our church. I shall never forget these good people, wish I could remember their pastor's name; I really learned to love him, he is a man of God. May the great God of heaven bless all, is my prayer. May I say here that I enjoyed every minute I was in Ala. and wish to tell all that the people got behind me with their means as well as their prayers. I left satisfied in every way, except the number of souls that were saved. Of course I would have been glad if every unsaved soul had been saved.

While in my meeting with Union Chapel I made my home with Bro. Urby, who is 83 years old, and has spent the most of his life in the service of God; it was really an inspira-

tion to talk to him: may God bless him and his children, is my prayer.

Will mention Eld. M. L. Hollis and Eld. J. M. Haas who are live wires in Mississippi and Alabama.

As my letter is getting lengthy. I will close.

—Eld. W. M. Guinn.

ST. LOUIS, MO., Nov. 2, 1936.

Dear Readers of the Gem:

It has been a long time since I sent in my last report of our St. Louis church, but thank the Lord we are still going forward.

On October 18th Bro. Lester Ferguson of Flat River, Mo. closed one of the best revivals we have had at our St. Louis church in a long time. We had 24 conversions and restorations, and nine baptisms, twelve new members and some still standing for baptism yet. Our auditorium was filled to overflowing several times during the meeting.

We regret however that we could not reward Bro. Ferguson financially as he deserved. He got only \$26.25 for his two weeks' meeting, when it should have been several times more than that. Bro. Ferguson is a good strong, fearless preacher of the gospel.

Well, I was called to the pastorate of the church again for this year. For four years I served the church without salary, but this year they have put me on a salary. It is small, but wife and I are getting by on it, and keeping out of debt. The finances of our church are coming along all right. Well, may God's blessings rest upon them all.

Our friends will please note that we have moved from 1020 Hickory St. to 2618 Rutger St.

Eld. W. C. Hill, Pastor Third Free Will Baptist church, located at 1405 South 7th Street, St. Louis, Mo.

DRY KNOB, MO., Nov. 9, 1936.

Dear Gem Readers, Greetings:

I wish I could take every one of you by the hand. I certainly do enjoy reading the letters in the Gem.

I gave my heart to God more than fifteen years ago, and am sure if it hadn't been for that comforting love of Jesus, I could never have gone thru the trials and afflictions of life; but never has a night been so dark but that love could cheer me.

Sometimes I even thank God for the afflictions of life, because I think they make us draw nearer unto God.

I cannot say that our church is

really on fire for God, as some do, but I do believe it is more so than it was a year ago. We certainly have some wonderful meetings anyway, and the Spirit is with us. At our regular meeting in August, there were so many shouting and praising God, it made one want to sing "Old Time Religion," and it caused sinners to have a desire for the love of God in their hearts. Before the opening songs were over, they came flocking to the altar, and the meeting continued about a week, with ten souls saved.

We have more than a hundred members enrolled, five of them ministers.

We thank God for our pastor, Eld. Curtis Wilson, who has been so faithful. He has only been preaching a little more than a year, but in the first year of his ministry, he preached more than 80 sermons, pastored two churches, and has been called to pastor our church and one other the coming year.

Pray for me and our church.

A member of Cross Roads church.

Report of Christian Union Free Will Baptist church at Davidson, Arkansas.

Just a few words to our little paper in regard to our little church at Davidson. We are thanking God that in spite of the great battle we are having with Satan, and all his efforts to undermine us, and to choke out the Spirit of God, we can still assemble ourselves together in His name and feel God's Spirit working with us, and receive glad tidings of that great day. Some of us are a little like the Apostle Peter, when it comes to standing by our Savior in times of danger and discontent, but we are thanking God, that in spite of our weakness and shortcomings, God still loves us and continues to have patience with us, and feeds us from the fountain of life.

Our pastor, Bro. Dipboye, filled his appointment the third Sunday of this month (November). We had a large crowd Saturday night, and Bro. Dipboye was given the best of attention during the service. He delivered a message to the church, taking his text on Acts 20:28. The Spirit of the Lord was with him, and our hungry souls enjoyed the spiritual drink. It is good to go to the house of God and eat from the Lord's table.

After the service we joined in a hand shake and rejoiced in brotherly love. We gathered back Sunday morn-

ing and heard a good sermon on "Obedience."

Husband and I had to come back to Wister, where we live, but Bro. Dipboye preached Sunday night on "Friendship," taking his text from Proverbs.

Pray for us, that we may continue in the faith. We would enjoy visiting ministers on our pastor's appointment on the third Saturday night, Sunday and Sunday night of each month.

Mrs. Lillian Carlton, Wister, Okla.

TULSA CHURCH REPORT

Mrs. Evelyn Miller, Reporter

Dear Bro. Brown and Gem Readers:

We are glad today that God permits us another opportunity of sending in a report of Tulsa church activities.

Owing to the awful epidemic of Infantile Paralysis that has swept our city the past few weeks, closing the doors of our schools and churches to our children, thereby causing our Sunday school and church attendance to slump to about one-third of our regular record.

Our hearts were made glad by the coming together of the Western Association of Free Will Baptist in a three day session, November 3 to 6, with around 70 visitors being registered.

In the absence of Eld. F. S. Vanhooose of Paintsville, Ky., Eld. F. C. Zinn of Pierce City, Mo., preached the introductory sermon to a much interested audience.

We enjoyed each and every part of the conference, and it's hard to say just what the best feature was, but the message on Missions brought by our Missionary's wife, Sister Willey, in her quiet, capable manner, touched our heart and filled our soul to overflowing.

And we are so glad for all these good sisters and brethren gathering with us, some from as far as West Virginia, and Bro. and Sister Phinney, Bro. Edge and Sister Willey from Bryan, Texas.

We had intended having Dr. Yandell stay over and preach during a revival following the conference, but owing to the epidemic, it was postponed indefinitely. But God is still saving souls, as we had one conversion Sunday night. Brother Melvin preached one funeral this month, that of a precious little baby that God saw fit to call on to glory.

Pray for us, that we might get out from the grasp of this awful dreaded

disease, and that our children might soon be permitted to be back in the services again and help in their childish way to carry on God's work.

We close by asking an interest in your prayers.

PAINTSVILLE, KENTUCKY

Dear Editor and Gem Family:

After returning from my day's labor, and thinking of the dear Free Will Baptist family, I will try and give a brief report of our big Johnson Co. Quarterly Conference, which met with the good Free Will Baptist of Estel, Ky. They sure did show their hand in taking care of the people. We wish to thank Dock and Sister Pratter for their hospitality shown us while we were there, and also wish to thank all the good brothers and sisters that took care of all the brethren.

Well, we met the fourth Saturday and Sunday in October, beginning on Friday at 10:00 a. m., with song and prayer.

The clerk, F. S. Vanhooose, called the conference to order.

Motion by Bro. Adron Davis that Eld. Millard Vanhooose be moderator for the three day session, carried.

Moderator took charge and called Eld. Scott Daniel to preach the introductory sermon. Had a good service.

Met back at 2:00 p. m. in Ministers' Conference. Had some real discussions on three Bible topics. We sure have some fine preachers.

Adjourned to meet back at 7:00 p. m.

Service opened at 7:00 p. m. with Scripture reading song and prayer. Preaching by Eld. Allen Castle. Had a good meeting. Adjourned to meet at 10:30 a. m. Saturday.

Saturday morning called to order by the moderator.

Scripture reading and prayer by Eld. Kelly Patton, pastor of church at Estel.

Moderator took charge and called for business. There being no business, we adjourned for preaching by Elder Adron Davis. Had a good message from a good text, "Ye must be born again." Adjourned till 2:00 p. m.

Moderator called conference to order at 2:00 p. m. by reading Scripture lesson and prayer.

All visiting brethren were given a hand shake of welcome, then church letters were called for, and 22 letters were handed in. \$544.00 was sent with letters, which were received.

Motion carried to give Paintsville

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OBITUARY

Parkerson—Mr. E. P. Parkerson, age 86 years, 11 months and three days, affectionately known as Uncle Pokey, was born in Tennessee December 8, 1849, departed this life November 11, 1936.

He came to Yell county at an early age and was married to Rebecca Huckaby, December 26, 1873, to which union four girls were born, three of whom survive him: Mrs. Leatter Clack, Waveland, Mrs. Mattie Womack, Danville, and Mrs. Earnestine Lawson, Burkburnett, Texas. Besides these three children, he leaves 14 grandchildren and a host of great grandchildren, and other relatives and friends to mourn his going.

He was Ranger's oldest and best loved citizen.

Brother Parkerson who has been at Ranger 68 years, joined the Free Will Baptist church in 1890, and lived a consecrated member of that church until his death.

Funeral services were held by Rev. G. W. Hunnicutt of Danville at the Ben cemetery.

The flowers were many and beautiful, including a large spray of Chrysanthemums that came from Holdenville, Oklahoma.

MISSION REPORT

Thayer, Mo., Nov. 23, 1936.

Dear Gem Family:

Will send in brief report at this time of our efforts in the Mission field since we last reported.

We have visited some of the Mission circles that have been organized for a number of years. Some we find are still progressing, while others are in the back ground, but generally speaking most of them have better prospects than ever before in the history of Mission organization in Missouri.

People are waking up to the fact that we, as Mission workers, have a part to play in the religious activities of the church.

Our people are becoming Missionary minded, and have caught the vision of the harvest field that is ready to reap in gathering souls for Christ.

After the State Association we met with our Blue Eye church and had a few nights' meeting. We didn't have a very good attendance, but we are grateful for the faithful few, and we did have some good services.

We met with the Mission circle. Although the membership isn't as large as when it was first organized, they still meet and are active. They gave us \$2.00 to help on expenses.

Our offering all together was \$7.33, which paid our expenses there and back to Monett, also most of the way to Tulsa, Okla. to our Western Ass'n.

We had a wonderful meeting at Tulsa, met so many fine folk, and best of all met our Foreign Missionary's wife. She brought a wonderful message on Foreign Missions, wish you could have been there to hear the message, and meet Sister Willey.

We came from Tulsa to Mt'n Grove, Mo. with Bro. and Sister O. L. Allen. Bro. Allen pastors a union church by the name of Cedar Valley, about 45 miles from Mt'n Grove. We went with him and his good wife to this church. We brought the message at the eleven o'clock service. Text, Acts 26:19. The Lord opened up the way, and they caught the vision of Mission work, and we feel that the Lord will call some one out from this church to be a missionary. They gave us an offering of \$10.41. May God bless their good pastor and his flock.

We are now at Thayer, Mo. helping in a revival at the Norman church where we had our State Association a few years ago. I intend to work this Association in the interest organization of Mission work until about Christmas. Mission work is something new in this part of the state.

We request you Mission workers and all Christians to pray for us, that the Lord will make it possible to organize Mission work here, for it is so badly needed.

May the Lord bless you, one and all and give you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours for Jesus,

Melba White.

EAST SIDE MISSION REPORT

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

It has been some time since we have sent a report from the East Side Mission circle. We are happy to report that the work has revived and a new interest is taken. We have had four meetings since the beginning of the new year's work under Bro. Carl Hood as president. We meet each second Friday night. We made one trip between meeting nights to Sapulpa church, to help encourage that weak church. We had several special songs and musical numbers, and Bro. Day brought the message.

We have sent \$3.00 to the Free Will Baptist Orphanage at Middlesex, N. C. and \$2.00 to Bro. Willey, our Foreign Missionary.

The churches represented at the last rally were Blue Bell, Lawnwood, Sapulpa, Allen and Tulsa. After the business is conducted and the minutes and reports are read, each minister is allowed ten minutes to talk, 27 ten minute messages have been brought at these meetings so far. At the last one a precious young man came forward and gave his hand for prayer, that the Lord would save his soul.

Pray for us, dear readers, that we all might get a new vision of Mission work, and that we might launch out and do a greater Mission work than ever before. —Sister Lela Payne, Sec., 1411 East Haskell St., Tulsa, Okla.

BELLEVILLE, ARK., Nov. 22.

Dear Bro. Brown and Gem Readers:

As this is Sunday before Thanksgiving, we should be as thankful today as we are on Thanksgiving Day, and every other day. For Jesus taught His disciples to give thanks, and He is the same today as He was then, it is just the people that have changed.

We know why our forefathers came to this country years ago, it was so they could worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience.

I know the drought has ruined most of our crops, and because of crop failure everybody is having a hard time to get by. I think the reason we have so much drought and other failures is because we are not thankful enough for what God has blessed us with.

Years ago our forefathers came together on a certain day, after their crops were all harvested, to give thanks unto God. What do we make out of Thanksgiving now. It is a day for worldly amusements, such as shows, ball games, etc. The most of us never think to go to some lonely spot and pray, and thank God for what He has done for us. But we have a lot to be thankful for, even if we didn't make such a good crop.

Most of the people are like the Pharisee was when he and the publican went to pray. The Pharisee stood up and prayed: "God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice a week and give tithes of all that I possess." This man was one of the big boys among the people. He may

Continued on page ten



OUR BEST FRIEND'S BIRTHDAY

By The Apple Sisters, Aurora, Mo.



What can we give our Friend on His birthday? The question is not, "How many earthly things have we to give?" but "How much love have we to give?" It is something that will cost the rich all they have, but which the poorest can bestow, the love of the heart, loyalty, and trust that cannot be shaken. He who has given us so much, waits on His birthday to see what we will give Him. Will it be an occasional thought, a devotion that comes and goes, a trust interrupted by fear and worry? Or shall we bring the best of ourselves with all the love of our hearts?

Our best Friend's birthday is at hand: how are we going to keep it?

Throughout the world the twenty-fifth of December is celebrated as the birthday of our best Friend, Jesus Christ. Was there ever a Jesus Christ? The spirit of Christmas is the answer. There not only was, but there is a Jesus Christ. In the hearts of millions, even tho His presence is unseen. He exists as no other exists. How can we account for His power? He wrote no book, submitted to authority, was without money or home, had no powerful earthly friends, and gave His life for us. Was it His spirit and

simple words about life, "the kingdom of God," "love your enemies," etc. that found their way into the hearts of millions that made His birthday immortal?

The time is approaching for the celebration of this great event, the birthday of our Lord and Savior. How are we, as followers of Christ, going to keep His birthday? How would we keep a friend's birthday? Well, first of all, the friend should be the center of it. We should keep in mind that it is the birthday of the Friend whose friendship means life in its fulness. He who came that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly, should be praised; for He is worthy. It is sad that so many people have so much to enjoy, and so much to think of, that they have no time for Christ. In the lives of so many, from the time they are awake on Christmas morning until they fall asleep at night, their thoughts are of Santa Claus, gifts, feasts, gayety, songs and laughter; while through the excitement of it all the fact remains, they have failed to remember the Christ Child.

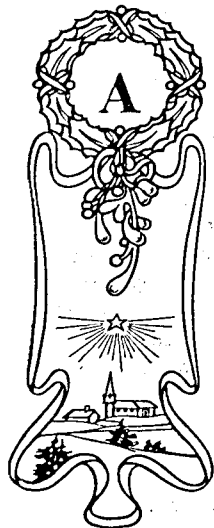
It is natural on a friend's birthday for one to think of that friend's pleas-

ure, and how he or she may please that friend. How can we please Christ on His birthday? We may be encouraged by the fact that not all present day Christmas celebrations are displeasing to our Friend. Christmas, the day of song, smiles, good wishes and laughter is pleasing to Christ, providing they are to His glory. How can we please Him better than by sharing our blessings of life with the less fortunate ones, and bringing joy to sorrowful hearts? It was Jesus who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." An incident is told of the Christmas after America entered the War, when the boys in the training camps were not privileged to go home for the occasion, of how families of nearby towns welcomed these soldiers into their homes as special guests, to share their Christmas cheer. It was a service worthy of Christ's approval, and something like it would be in order today. Let us crowd the chairs a little closer about the table, and set an extra plate for someone who will not have a Christmas dinner unless we do. Let us also remember that we are receiving as much, perhaps more, in return in our giving.

CHRISTMAS

By Miss Anna Reed, Desloge, Mo.

How beautiful the Christmas story,
Old, yet ever new,
Let us once again repeat it,
The story so grand and true.



AS WE NEAR THE Christmas season, our minds are filled with thots of God's great gift to the world, and just what it means to us today.

The story of the advent of the Babe of Bethlehem is indeed a beautiful story, a wonderful story; the crowded inn, the manger, the

watching shepherds, then the heavenly voices singing. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The shepherds believed the message of the angels was from the Lord, and were rewarded as they beheld the Baby Jesus, lying in the manger when they arrived at Bethlehem. Wise men from the East, guided by the Star, brought precious gifts and bowed in holy reverence to the new-born King, as they presented gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

During the Christmas season Christmas carols will be sung all over the world, in homes of the rich and poor; in every land and island of the sea; wherever the Gospel has been carried, happy children will again tell in story and in song of the birth of the Holy Child Jesus. Music has made our Savior the subject of many of our

sweetest songs.

Christmas is not only a time for worship, but of mirth and feasting, according to the customs of our country, a time when friends and loved ones meet, when families are re-united around the festal board; true, there may be a vacant chair, and for a moment hearts are sad, but we can rejoice after all, for does not the coming of the Christ mean to us eternal life, a re-uniting in the Home beyond the skies, if we have believed, accepted, and are trusting the One who has all things in His hands?

In the light of prophecy, His coming back to earth may be soon, when we shall behold Him, not as the Bethlehem Babe, but as King of kings and Lord of lords; when the universal reign of peace shall begin.

Are we ready for this event?

Can we say with the beloved Apostle John, the Revelator, "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly?"

PAINTSVILLE, KENTUCKY*Continued from page seven*

church \$100.00, also Betsy Layne church \$50.00.

The next conference goes to Paintsville church, to meet on the fourth Saturday and Sunday in Jan., 1937.

A letter from the Alka church, at Alka, Ky., asked that Bro. Scott Castle be ordained. Moderator appointed a committee to examine Bro. Castle for ordination. Committee reported favorable, and we proceeded to ordain. The Lord surely approved the work and sent the Holy Spirit as a rushing mighty wind.

Committee on supply of stand reported Eld. Millard Vanhooose for the Saturday night service. Had a real old time meeting.

Sunday morning, the stand was filled by Elders Wintchel of Dunum, Ky. and F. S. Vanhooose of Paintsville, Ky. Had a real old time meeting, where people were not ashamed to shout and praise the Lord.

Millard Vanhooose, Moderator,
F. S. Vanhooose, Clerk.

BELLEVILLE, ARKANSAS*Continued from page eight*

have been a rich man, any way it seemed that the people looked up to him.

But now let us tune in and hear the publican pray. He was standing afar off. He did not even lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote his breast with his hands, and said, "God be merciful unto me, a sinner." Now let us hear what Jesus said about the two men and their prayers: "I tell you, that this man (the publican) went to his house justified rather than the other (the Pharisee). For every one that exalteth himself shall be abased, and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Well, it looks like some of us are putting the cart before the horse.

I am away from all the Free Will Baptist churches. I have been preaching some, but will have to admit that I haven't preached and done all I could do.

I am staying about three miles from Ranger. Ranger is six miles north and east of Danville, Yell county, Ark. There was at one time a Free Will Baptist church at Ranger, now only one of the members is left, and that is old Bro. Black who was one of the deacons. He must be about seventy years old. He was in a storm last July.

I think it would be nice if some of you Gem readers would write to him, as he is alone now. His address is Eugene Black, Belleville, Ark., R2.

Old Bro. Parkerson died a few days ago. He was clerk of the Ranger church for twelve years. I am sending his obituary for the Gem.

Well, I guess I had better close and leave room for better writers.

A brother in Christ,
Eld. Robert L. Hidde.

GRANBY, MO., Nov. 23, 1936.

Dear Gem Family:

We want to report that we are still working for the Lord. We spent two weeks near Sheldon, Mo., in the Doyleport community last month, which was a worthwhile effort. While the weather conditions were a handicap, and the roads impassable at times, the Lord was with us. We again heard and saw folk there take their stand for God, and one precious soul was saved. We were at this place a year ago in a meeting. Brother Arlie Hoover of Arcadia, Kans. still has his appointment here once a month, but he was not able to be in the meeting with us, due to sickness in his home.

We had planned to go from there to Tulsa, Okla. to our Western Ass'n, but we failed to get there. However we were glad to hear the good report of the meeting there; glad to know the Lord is blessing our work in general. How we do pray that people everywhere will keep humble, submissive and sweet in the Spirit of the Lord, that He may be able to continue with His blessing upon us all.

On Nov. 10th, we boarded the train at Neosho, Mo. for Northwest Mo., to help in a meeting at our Union Third Fork church, near St. Joseph, Mo., where we are again pastor for another year. As the train rolled into the depot at St. Joseph, who did we find there to meet us? Bro. Sam Marcum of Greentop, Mo. was there, with whom we had previously arranged to conduct our revival effort. We have now been here two weeks and services are still going, with much good already accomplished. Three men, heads of families have been saved, and others have been at the altar. We are still praying that others will press their claim. Bro. Marcum is a real man of God, one who has said, "Here am I, Lord, use me." We are thankful for such men of God, who depend upon the Lord for help and strength, which makes one a power in his service, and his good companion seems so conse-

crated for the service of God. Hand in hand they labor in the vineyard of the Lord.

We plan to go from here back to South Mo. for pastoral appointments, where I live, and be with my good wife and children a few days. Again I can say of a preacher's wife who works with him hand in hand for the cause of Christ, She deserves credit and praise. Many times these words are said to me, "Go ahead and do your best, I will stay at home with the children, and we'll pray for you." For this I praise the dear Lord.

Then we go to Northeast Mo. to help Bro. Marcum in a meeting at Sublett church, starting Monday after the first Sunday in December.

Let us all pray one for another, that the Lord might gain much glory from each of our lives, everywhere.

May God bless all the workers in His vineyard, and save souls that need the blessing of salvation, is the prayer of your humble servant,

Eld. Kenneth Turner.

MODESTO, CALIF., Nov. 22nd.

Dear Gem Readers:

Well, I miss going to the little church that seems to be a dear spot to me, in the little town of Aurora, Mo. Although I go to church here in Modesto, Calif., at the Church of God, with a nice band of people and their pastor and his wife, who are both good preachers, and surely people of God, and one can sure feel the Spirit there, and they have a goodly number of workers in the church. God bless them, it is just like walking into a Free Will Baptist church.

I, for some reason, feel that it was God's will, and that He had something here for me to do, for I prayed from the time I began to think of coming out here until I started, for Him to provide a way, or open one in some way, and He did open the way in a miraculous way.

So, I am here, and I pray Him who is all powerful to use me at all times to His glory, and I am willing and ready at any and all times for the will of God to be done in me.

Today I heard a wonderful message on "Faith and Will-power." I got a wonderful lesson, and may God help me to keep more and more consecrated.

O, if we could see what little good there is in us, and how much good there is in our brothers and sisters, we could be of greater use for our Master. When Adam and Eve first sinned they discovered their naked-

ness and were afraid; but God prepared skins of animals, and with these made a covering for Adam and Eve. That was a prophetic act. Necessarilly one or more animals must die in order to provide such covering. The covering was provided because of sin, and God thus prophetically indicated that the sins of man could be covered and hid from His sight. But Adam could not, and neither can we hide our sins from the sight of God. So let us be careful, if we intend to make heaven our home, that we do not try to deceive even our fellowman, for if we deceive our brother or sister, we are not doing our Father's will. God is the Judge of the quick and the dead.

As we repeat the Lord's prayer: "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as in heaven," etc., let us see the littleness in our own lives and work, and see the good things in others, then God will be more prompt in answering our prayers.

Pray for me, that God will keep me and use me in His service.

—W. H. Riddle.

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
1049 South Herbert St.

Nov. 22, 1936.

Dear Bro. Brown and Gem Readers:

Just a few lines, I don't want to appear so important; so I'm not going to write much this time.

Being enroute west for the past few weeks. I am behind with my Gem reading, consequently I am not familiar with the late Gem family happenings. Before you see this in print, I will possibly receive my last two copies of the Gem and can catch up.

From my brief observation, it appears that there are a few Free Will Baptist on the West Coast. If any are in Los Angeles, that read this, I wish you would communicate with me. You see I'm interested in establishing a mission, and I'd like for people here to learn what the Free Will Baptist really are.

There is quite a bit of skepticism in the West, I find.

I would like, in this day of "falling away" and "departing from the faith," for mankind to realize (as I do), that "God is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." May they learn that He is a prayer hearing and a prayer answering God—"For my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory; by Christ Jesus our Lord" (Phil. 4:19).

Won't all you dear readers read and review this fourth chapter of Phillippians? In a way, I feel that it is my message, my testimony to you. Read it for comfort, read it for cheer,

it is a chapter that carries a blessing.

I must sign off and give place to some one else.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Pray for me.

Lloyd N. Weese:



Bethlehem's Gift

By Jewell Campbell, Cartersville, Mo.



Surely there are few things more blessed, or more noble than the art of *true giving*. How dark must be the mind of the selfish who scorn both the gift and the giver, and most especially the Divine Gift.

While we try to enumerate all the gifts that learned men have given to the world, that it might be a better place, let us not forget the greatest Gift ever given to mankind, and the place to which it was sent.

At this season of the year, our minds go back to the lowly place where Jesus the Christ was born, the place to which God chose to send His Son, to be the Light of the world.

Might we just picture the little town of Bthlehem as it sits high up on a ridge surrounded by sheep covered hills, with here and there a lone shepherd boy, his restless eye wandering over the great flocks of sheep? It was on these same slopes the boy David played as he watched his father's sheep.

Isn't it just like our Father to choose such a place to send His Son? Just a lowly little place, but oh, so full of memories to those ancient people, and so close to our hearts today!

Even today we could walk down the winding street of the village, and we would find it much the same as in those centuries ago. Perhaps here and there a cave in the side of the hill, and possibly the one in which the Christ Child was born.

So, with the history of the city, its peaceful atmosphere and its humble people, no wonder God sent His Son there to become man for our redemption. No wonder we can read of the anthems of the angels and the joy of the shepherds as "the glory of the Lord shone round about them," and the angels told them where to find the King who was promised to Israel so many years before.

History tells us that the hill the shepherds were watching from was a slope facing the village, some distance to the east, and the path that led

them up the mountain is in use today.

So, while the angels were singing and leading those simple shepherds to the Christ Child, just a few miles away, the high priest and the great men at Jerusalem *slept* through the most illustrious night of all history, all unconscious of the fact that the thing their forefathers had hoped to see, and they themselves were watching for, had been revealed to the very humblest of the people.

So it has been down through the ages. The Divine Revelations of God have come to those who will live humbly before Him and their fellowmen. And today the whole Christian world bows before the memory of that manger in lowly Bethlehem. As if by an instinct of our higher spiritual nature there comes up from the depth of our hearts, emotions far beyond our human expression. We seem to be lifted out of the sphere of our natural surroundings, and to reach forward to a more real blessedness.

If asked to explain this rapturous influence, which controls us, we could find no better words than those of the angels, "For this day is born unto you a Savior which is Christ the Lord."

So, God gave His Son; Jesus gave His life, and Bethlehem gave the most beautiful, the most peaceful scene and atmosphere, that the world has ever known. But what have *you* given? what *can* you give but a pure life, given wholly to God who gave to the world His most beloved?

Now, while we approach the dearest of seasons, let us bow to the memory of Bethlehem's manger, and in so doing, lift our very souls above this world to glorified visions of the Christ Child who so long ago lay in Mary's arms, "the Savior of men."

"But thou, Bthlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting" —Micah 5:2.



Among the Isles of the San Blass

By Rev. T. H. Willey, Our Missionary to South America.



Leaving Colon, Panama on a fifty foot trading boat loaded with bananas used in exchange for cocoanuts, with a crew of very dark brunette West Indians, and a furious looking Negro captain, we slid quietly out into the lagoon, on past France field at ten p. m. I tried to sleep on the deck covering the motor, with ten Indians. It was rather a hard bed for one not accustomed to a two inch plank, so I lay and watched the Panamanian foothills as they stood out clearly in the beauty of the tropical night.

In the morning, fairly early, we reached Puerta Vinear, the first of the islands, and clearing there, we headed on, passing many of the islands with their slender coconut trees and thatched huts nestled beneath them. At noon we arrived at Corozon de Jesus, or the old name Anagana. Here a fine work had thriven under two women, Miss Ann Coop and Miss Purdey, a few years ago. I first became acquainted with the San Blass Indians through reading Miss Coop's book, I think the title was "Ann Coop, Sky Pilot of the San Blass." Later I became personally acquainted with Miss Coop while a pastor in Miami, Florida. Wife and I spent many hours in her company. I looked upon those buildings she had built as representing the sacrifice of many humble people and the life work of Ann of the San Blass, and now the stronghold of Roman Catholicism. And as I looked, there came between me and the buildings, a living monument, Peter Miller, a young San Blass Indian educated by a lady of that name in the East. Peter speaks perfect English much better than the Spanish. Peter is probably a little afraid in his unfriendly setting to do more than he has. He has taken him a wife, and so he must stay and work for some time for her father. Peter took me about introducing me to his parents and friends, one a sailor who had spent some time in Nova Scotia. As we walked about we could hear the priests chanting at the top of their voices.

The captain made rather slow progress in selling his bananas, so we were compelled to lay over that night, with the promise of an early start. These people literally pick their money from the trees, or rather wait till it falls to them, as their only medium

of exchange is cocoanuts. I observed the children as they made their purchases and threw their cocoanuts on a great pile in the corner of the store.

The following morning we were headed for Aligandi (Alley-gande), the island on which my friends are working, and after making a few stops, we reached the islands by noon. I recognized my Indian friend as he stood on the wharf surrounded by a horde of little naked brown boys; all the boys to about twelve years are unacquainted with clothing, while the girls are very much dressed up, and so very picturesque. Each of the girls and women wear a ring of gold in the nose, increasing in thickness as they grow older. The cheeks are painted red, then down the nose a fine black strip is painted. Various beads of fish teeth, beautiful shells, wild hog teeth, etc. are suspended from their necks. Some of the women wear an immense brass disk in the ear-lobe with small disks encircling it.

The San Blass are a very clean people, bathing often, and have some of the finest sanitation laws I have ever observed. There is a rather strong under-tow all around the islands, so that when they need to evacuate, they wade out into the sea and the excreta is carried off. There is no rubbish lying about, but every thing is kept clean. Pigs are kept in pens and not permitted to run about. They show their wisdom in living on these islands, as they are free from mosquitoes, and consequently there is no malaria, then is always a cool sea breeze. They are expert sailors, using a ciaoko, a dug out canoe with a sail, thus they go to the main land for water and to tend their farms and gather their cocoanuts. These islands are numerous.

I had hoped by going to San Blass that I might fully ascertain the possibilities of a work among these wonderful people, but as I soon found out, the key to this whole field rests with this young Indian and his wife. Iglesias led me to his home and I met his wife, a remarkable young woman who does things out of the ordinary. She is a white girl from Detroit, Mich., a class mate of Mrs. Willey in Nayack Missionary Training Institute, where Iglesias also received his training. After a dinner of native food, consisting of smoked fish and native

rice, we went about the village, being stopped as we went about by the elders with a string of questions about as follows: 'What is his name? What part of the world is he from? How long did it take him to arrive here? How many children does he have? How old his wife? etc. That evening the village fathers visited us and we talked for hours. I was unusually fortunate in having this young man for an interpreter, and I took advantage of this to enquire after their traditions. I have always been interested in the albinos, and there are many of them here. These white Indians have a very yellow shade of hair and the pigment of the skin is very white, they neither seem to tan nor burn red, the eyes are affected by the light. They gave me their reason for this. Then when they found that I had lived with a tribe of Indians in Peru, S. A., they began to ask questions. One Indian had been accustomed to go to sleep when visiting, but now he kept wide awake. Some one remarked about this, and another old Indian spoke up and said: "We are hearing many strange things of people from other lands, we have been learning something new, which makes us forget tomorrow and our cocoanuts, this is the reason he sleeps not."

I was keenly disappointed to learn that no foreigner would be permitted to work among them, being prohibited by the government of Panama. The reason for this is, that some years ago, while Ann Coop was on Anagana, an American by the name of Marsh was at Aligandi. Marsh lived among them, studying their life and traditions, at the time they were being abused by the Government; so Marsh proceeded to arouse them in rebellion against the present administration, with the result that when the soldiers came to deal with the rebels, they were killed as well as the Indians. Marsh was finally deported to the States, Ann Coop was taken from Anagana by a British cutter, the property of Ann, which was valued at \$6,000.00 was confiscated, but fortunately, later on, \$3,000 was paid to Miss Coop by the government. A ruling was then made that the San Blass Indians were to be the charge of the Roman Catholic church. It is understood that there is a bit of fear, should the Americans go among the San Blass. They do love the Americans of the North, and they would in time of trouble, if it should come, and I hardly think it will, the Indian would prove his love with his

life. Here is a most fertile field made impossible by the unwise conduct of an unsaved man, one of our own people. I am sure he never realized the lasting harm that would come as a result.

These young people have no visible means of support, only as funds come in from friends. The Y M C A and the soldiers on the Canal send in a small sum monthly. Rev Morgan, a dear friend, an old friend of my school days in Asberry College, has proven an indispenible helper with the assistance of his church, the Union church of Colon, Panama. They need our prayers and help.

I desired greatly to get some pictures, especially of the Indian women, but as soon as they would see the

camera, they would run for shelter. I managed to get a few by concealing myself in the hold of the boat and snapping through the port hole. I finally hit upon a happy idea. My camera has an attachment that makes it possible, with a tripod, to take my own picture; so I set it up snapped and moved among them, and thus secured a few. I was enabled to get one reel of moving pictures in the same manner.

The second evening the young men came to play games, and in the game I was led to cackle like an old hen after she has laid an egg. I learned to do this to perfection as a lad. This proved to be a means of amusement to them. By the following day the news had spread that the white

man could make a noise like a chicken, so I went in search of pictures. The women would come out, and say, "Make a noise like a chicken, and you may have my picture." I cackled all the afternoon like a happy old hen that could lay a dozen eggs a day, to get a few good pictures.

After a day and two nights, I said good bye to my dear friends of Ali-gandi, and made the uncomfortable trip back to Cristobal. I plan to go into the interior among the Darian Indians in the near future, hoping that I might find just where the Lord would have us fill a great need.

The address of this young couple is Sr. A. Iglesias, B 789 Cristobal C. Z. My address is Cristobal, Panama, C. Z. % American Bible Society.



A Message to Leaguers

By Eld. Myrtle Black, Cassville, Mo.



"There they dwell with the king for his work" (1 Chron. 4:23).

Here is a text that you would hardly notice, if you do spend a lot of time reading the Word. In this chapter you will find just the posterity of Caleb and Simeon, or, that is, the descendents of these two men. So the text used just mentions some of them as ordinary humble men, who were potters and gardeners for the king of Moab.

But I would like for you to just look at the text, this morning, in a spiritual sense. Let's just lift the text out of its setting and refer to the king as an heavenly, instead of an earthly king. And, if you please, just take the word "they" for you and me and all others who are humbly striving to live the true Christian life.

Just notice that the text can be divided when we are considering it spiritually. The first part: "There they dwell with the king;" we can call this the "Christian's privilege." Well, it's wonderful to think of it in this way. To think that it is our privilege to dwell with the King, yet how true! Are we living close enough to our great King, that we can say that we live with Him? Are we living that wonderful consecrated life; so, that when we enter our house, we can truly say: "Here I dwell with the King?" Can we call our homes "Bethels," places where God dwells?

Now, if you have not opened your heart and home to let Him come in

and dwell with you yet, then the words of this text are not for you. You are not dwelling with the King here, and, therefore, you have no hope of spending eternity with Him in glory.

And now, as for the second part, we can see in these three words: "For His work," the believer's duty. Remember we said the first part, "There they dwell with the king," is our privilege. Now we must remember that our privileges usually involve duty; that there is always the duty that the dignity of divine companionship entails. In the first part of our text we learn that we have a dignified position near the person of the King, if we are living in the King's service.

These men, then, were no idle pensioners on the king of Moab; they were accountable for so much service to be rendered to him. Their position involved responsibility. So the privilege, honor and dignity, that is ours to enjoy, involves responsibility on our part. Yet here is where so many people sadly fail. We can have that honor, dignity and privilege, if we consider it worth striving for. So, are you living with the King for His work? Or is there the selfish desire to enjoy living with Him without having His work at heart?

One of the happinesses of Paradise, or Eden, was employment, not idleness. And God Himself chose for Adam his occupation. He has done so also for each of us. In the garden where God puts you, He will find your work. That garden where He puts you is

within you. It is no longer Eden, but a place where the enemy hath come and sown tares (Matt. 13:25). Instead of the fir tree has come up the thorn, and instead of the myrtle tree has come up the briar (Isaiah 55:13).

God can make a Christian useful beyond his or her ability, planning and knowledge. "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:20, 21).

Then, my dear friends and Gem readers, delight yourselves in the thought that yours is the glorious privilege of dwelling with the King. But do not leave the text incomplete. Remember that the Heavenly King claims your loyal and devoted service and that we must show our loyalty by our lives, and love will make our service easy. It is not hard to work for those we love. God grant that each of us may be able to say, "Here I dwell with the King for His work."

A CONSOLATION

"I shall see Him,
But not nigh:
There shall come a Star out of Jacob,
And a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel,
And shall smite the corners of Moab,
And destroy all the children of Sheth."
—Num. 24:17.



LOVE

By Eld. G. W. Scott, Jr., Mt. Grove, Mo.



As Christmas is just around the corner, I will try to write a few lines on the subject of "Love." I realize that it is one of the greatest subjects in the Bible. John 3:16 tells us how God loved us, and gave us His only Son to die, that we might have life.

As we think of Christmas, we bring to mind so many people whom we love and would like to let them know that we do; however we can't send them or give them nice presents, because we are not able. But that doesn't keep us from loving them.

God gave His Son; the Son gave His life, suffered on the Cross, tasted death for all, was buried and arose from the grave, went back to God, and they sent the Holy Spirit—what a wonderful gift—all because of love!

We don't have to buy costly things and make some great display to prove our love for our fellowmen, but Jesus said in John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another." We can love one another, and can give gifts to all. How much better it is to say something good of our brother or sister than to say bad ugly things, and it doesn't cost any more, sometimes not so much.

I love God, and it hurts me to hear

people use His name in vain, as so many do. David said he loved the Lord because He heard his voice and supplications (Psa. 116:1). I can say I love the Lord because He has heard me.

If I were in trouble, and needed help, I wouldn't go to someone that I knew didn't love me, to ask for help. God loves us and wants us to love Him. We may have gone far in sin and have given our service to Satan, but when we need help, we will call on one whom we know loves us. So we are just one big family (we Christians), why not love one another and try to help each other, too? I love my family. I am not able to give each one of it a good farm or something very costly, but I can let them know I love them by doing the best I can. We have a little girl in our home. She often comes to me, gets on my lap, puts her arms around my neck, and pats me on the shoulder. There is something in that little pat she gives me that tells me she really loves me. We can overlook our brothers' mistakes and give them a little pat, and I am saying, that if we love them as we should, we will.

So, we can all love God, and love each other, and help each other to be better.

blessings upon men everywhere if they would stop in their recklessness, speculation, and wild careers, and counsel with the Christ. However He is no house breaker. He comes in only as an invited guest. He says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and will open the door, I will come in and will sup with him, and he with me." But, dear heart, the latch string to this door, which is the door to the inn of your heart, is on the inside.

Could They But Have Realized

If the keeper or keepers of the inn had known that to this mother, that very night, was going to be born the Son of Almighty God, they would have spared nothing whatsoever in making the most special preparation for her. Any one would have made any denial to have been honored with the privilege of cradling the Christ Child. Every other guest would have been readily turned away, regardless of high class or standing, and that with all grace, simply with the imparted words, "We are tonight to be host of the Son of the Highest." But they did not realize just who they were turning away. If people but knew today just what it means to say "No" to the call of His Spirit, they certainly would not say it. The privilege of this inn keeper to cradle the Child Jesus that night was an opportunity lost, never to be regained. You, too, are going to say "No" to the Christ for the last time. You say, "How can we realize? You should profit by mistakes of the past, both of others and of your own also. You should make any denial in order to house in your life the King of kings. Be careful how you turn Him away, it may mean a life time and an eternity of remorse.

No Room In The Inn

Luke 2:7

By Eld. Winford Davis, Monett, Mo.

Introduction

Nearly 2,000 years ago Joseph and Mary went up from Galilee to Bethlehem to register for taxation in compliance with the decree of Caesar, because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David. While there they sought lodging in an inn or, as we would say, a hotel. They were turned away because others had filled the inn and there was no room. It is very likely that they took refuge in a stable, and while there the time arrived for Mary to be delivered. "She brought forth her first born Son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes,

and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

Crowded Out

Today, very much like it was then, the Christ is crowded out of the heart, life, and business affairs of men. So many give Him no place in their life. We won't take time to be holy.

Even the governments and rulers of earth seem to have no time or place for the consultation of the Son of God. According to the Prophet Isaiah, one of His many wonderful names is Counsellor. It would invoke God's

Our Greater Opportunity

Where is the mother or father that would not have counted it the greatest of all opportunities to have just held the little heavenly gift in their arms? Indeed, it would have been worth any material price, regardless of amount. Where is the youth that would not have given much just to have been permitted to plant a kiss, give one stroke of the hair, or even just to have looked thereon? Had Bethlehem known who was born in their midst that notable night, the Babe would have had to have been guarded to a far greater extent than even the Dionne Quintuplets of today.

Yes, that would have been great.

but, oh dear reader, the present privilege is far greater. You can more than take Him in your arms. You can take Him into your very heart and soul. You can more than feel Him with your hands. You can feel Him with all the deepest affections and emotions of the inner man. You

can more than view Him with the natural eye. You can, by the spiritual eyes of faith, see into the deepest realities of Christ. Yes, beyond His physical features into His great nature of love, sympathy and mercy. And more yet, we can become partakers of His divine nature, if we will but make room in the inn of our hearts.

to enquire about it. When he found it to be in Bethlehem of Judea, he told the Wise Men to go, and then come back to him, so he could go to worship Him. Let us note that Herod asked them how long it had been since the star appeared. The Wise Men of the East now saw that they had missed the place by about six miles, they were too far north; so turning south, they again saw the star, which they had seen in the East. Matt. 2:11 tells us they reached the place and, behold, the Christ Child was not in the manger where the shepherds saw Him, but was in a house, however in the same town. True it is, that some time had elapsed, but how long?

The Lord told the Wise Men not to go back by way of Jerusalem to report to Herod, so they went back another way, shunning Jerusalem. When Herod realized they were not coming by to see him, he was angry and had all the children from two years old and under killed, according to the time the Wise Men reported the appearance of the star. So, in my mind, Christ could have been close to two years old when Herod sought to kill Him. But we know Joseph fled into Egypt with the Child and the mother for safety.

Some one may wonder how came the Christ Child back at the same town at the age of two years. It is possible and also probable according to Luke 2:22, that at the age of 33 days, they left the manger and took the Child to Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord, as the law required.

Luke 2:39 says they went to Nazareth, their home town, and as Joseph went back to Bethlehem each year at tax paying time, Mary and the Child probably went with him, and at the time Christ was two years old, they were again at Bethlehem, and at this time they were able to find lodging in a house, where they were when the Wise Men arrived.

These statements might help to account for some of the Scriptures that are hard to understand. If so, may the Lord be glorified and the teaching prove a blessing and a help to those who read them.

The Shepherds, The Wise Men, And Christ

By Eld. Kenneth Turney, Granby, Mo.

With a second thought and close study, we find much more considered in the stated subject than many folk think. In our few words here we want to take up each part of the subject and study it separately. At first thought it may seem that all we are going to speak about might have happened within a few days, and to some perhaps it may seem that the incidents were all of one night. We must remember that the acts of each, the shepherds, the Wise men and Christ can be three different studies, and yet we can study them in connection.

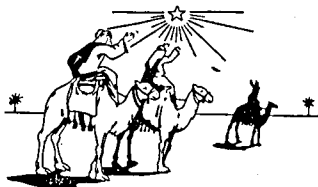
We must form in our minds the geographical arrangement of the country, which this study covers. Jerusalem the Capitol city where all the noted happenings generally took place, is located perhaps six miles north of Bethlehem, and near by, just to the west, we can imagine seeing the field where the sheep were being kept by night. Then yonder in the East, perhaps one thousand miles away, is the country spoken of as the origin of the Wise Men; and north of Jerusalem, perhaps seventy miles, is a city called Nazareth, where Joseph and Mary lived.

According to the second chapter of Luke, the command had gone forth that all people must register for the payment of taxes. So Joseph and Mary went to their county seat (as we might say) to be taxed, that is to Bethlehem. The town was so crowded with folks that all places of lodging were taken; so Joseph and his companion were obliged to seek shelter with the oxen.

Now we want to speak of the shepherds, in the same country. When they saw the angels of the Lord that came and talked with them of the birth of the Christ Child, and that they would find Him in the manger in

Bethlehem. "And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger" (Luke 2:16). It was the same day He was born that the shepherds came and looked upon Him, and returned to their flocks praising and glorifying God" (Luke 2:20).

No doubt at this very time the Wise men away yonder in the East looked into the western sky and saw the Star, which told them of Christ's birth. They perhaps began at once to make ready for the long journey of 1,000 miles. It would take them days and days to reach the place. We are made to think it was a journey that would perhaps take them two years, as their way of travel was very slow. They probably started out following the star, in the direction of Jerusalem, no doubt thinking they would find the Christ Child there, as it was the city where so many great occurrences took place, and at a distance of 1,000 miles a variation of six miles would not be noticed; so to Jerusalem they went. (The question is, how long was it after Christ's birth?) Here they seemed to have lost sight of the star, so they enquired where they might find him. According to Matt. 2:24, it seems that Herod the king had not yet heard of Christ's birth, for he had



THE VISIT OF THE WISEMEN

By Eld. C. M. Dauber, Greentop, Mo.

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him, and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts: gold, and frankincense and myrrh" (Matt. 2:11).

The birth of Jesus Christ was a miracle of the greatest magnitude. It was more than the birth of a child. It was God incarnated in human flesh. "That which was conceived in her

was of the Holy Ghost" (Matt. 1:20). That statement alone has been the subject of great controversy.

Modernists would have us believe that Jesus was just a child with unusual gifts, talents, and a will to conquer foes; therefore a good example for our social life.

If Jesus Christ was not conceived of the Holy Ghost, then He was born of fornication, and the Bible is untrue. If we do not accept the Bible state-

ment in Matt. 1:20, then we must admit that He was born of earthly parents, and is not divine, making the other passages of Scripture void of meaning. But, because the Bible is true, and God's promises are sure, we accept Jesus as the Christ, which "shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

When Joseph and Mary ended their journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and knocked at the door of the inn, they were turned away, because the inn-keeper said "there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7). Had he known the circumstances of the case, he might have received them gladly. If men and women whose lives are filled with sin could know the circumstances that surround the life of Him who says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock" (Rev. 3:20), they too, would open the door of their hearts and receive Him gladly.

While they were forced to take shelter in the stable amid the sound of the lowing of the oxen, and the bleating of the sheep, God was preparing a glorious reception. The shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks that night were visited by the angels of the Lord, "and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid" (Luke 2:8, 9). These glorious experiences or miracles did not last long, but were for a specific purpose. When the angels were gone away, the shepherds were left to make their decision. They said, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us" (Lk. 2:15). They went in haste (because it was important), and found Jesus, and when they had found Him, they began telling the world that Jesus is indeed the Christ the Savior of the world.

While all of this was taking place, the Magi, or Wise Men, of the East (probably of Persia), who had been studying the stars and the Scriptures, recognized a peculiar star that attracted them like the burning bush attracted Moses. They laded their camels with the necessary provisions for the journey, and followed the star. They were not going on a wild-goose chase, but took with them gold, and frankincense, and myrrh, that they might present it to Him who was born King of the Jews. When they reached Jerusalem, they began to enquire, saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" (Matt. 2:2). Herod who was the king was very wroth, because he feared his position would be given to another, and therefore, pretended to be interested in worshipping the Christ. His real motive was to put the Christ Child to death.

God led the Magi to the place, and immediately they presented their gifts. They presented gold to the Sovereign as the tribute of their possessions, to be placed at His command. Oh, for a worship today that would lead us to acknowledge God's hand in giving us earthly possessions, and to prompt us

in giving out of our possessions to His cause which is worthy of our gifts! This giving should be under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and should be systematic and regular.

Frankincense was presented for the altar of God, representing the frankincense of their spiritual devotions. The sacrifice that was placed upon the altar under the law was a lamb without spot or blemish. Under grace we are to "present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1); and the fragrance from the blessings which we receive richly repay us for the sacrifice.

They presented myrrh, the precious spice used for embalming the dead. Its bitterness bespoke suffering, the suffering that He would endure because of the sins of the world.

If we seek to destroy the life and reputation of His servants, we are no better than Herod. May God help us to be as the Wise Men, and enter into the spirit of worship. May we present our gifts to Him, and our lives in sacrifice and service for the cause for which God gave His Son on that first Christmas Day.

GLORY TO GOD

Continued from page three

tabernacle, the temple, the church, the individual Christian, as holy unto the Lord, that the glory of God is manifested, and seen of men—"Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you" (1 Cor. 6:19).

In the tabernacle and temple the priests went by way of the altar of sacrifice into God's presence; now, we Christians must come into God's presence by way of the Cross, being saved by faith in the crucified Christ, and living by the power of the risen ascended Christ.

Glory to God in the Son

The Son being the express image of the Father, had glory in Himself, "the glory as of the only begotten of the Father" (John 1:14). The Son came to do the will of the Father; and always did those things which pleased the Father (John 8:29). And our Lord, by doing what He was sent to do, glorified God. He said to the Father (John 17:4), "I have glorified thee on the earth. I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." And since we must follow Christ in all things, we too, must always do the things which please the Father.

Glory to God in the Cross

"For God so loved the world (or sinners), that he gave his only begotten Son (to die on the Cross for us sinners), that whosoever believeth in

him (is crucified with Him), should not perish (be punished with the wicked), but have everlasting life." God did truly love the world of sinners; for "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

The Cross was the means of an awful death; but it was on the Cross that the Son of God died for us; and it is at the same Cross that we are identified with Christ—"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Galatians 2:20).

Christ said (John 12:24), "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." Christ was the "corn of wheat," and the "much fruit" includes all them that trust in Him; and in the "much fruit" the Father is glorified.

Glory to God in the Believer

It is the Father's will "that we should be to the praise of his glory," having trusted in Christ (Eph. 1:12). And since we have believed, it pleases God to seal us "with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest (first payment) of our inheritance . . . unto the praise of his glory" (Eph. 1:13, 14).

Yes, the true people of God are His inheritance; and their inheritance is in the Lord (Eph. 1:18). Our God is "the Father of glory" (v. 17); and shall be glorified in His saints (2 Thess. 1:10).

As we testify of what God means to us, and serve Him to divine acceptance, we glorify God. It is our greatest privilege to be fruit bearing branches in Christ Jesus, and "bear much fruit" to the glory of God.

Jesus said to His apostles, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

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