

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

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WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

By the Editor

The answers we could get to this question, "What is a Christian?" would be many, perhaps thousands; but there can be but one true answer. Do you know the correct answer? Some say one thing, and some another, but what saith the Word of Truth? Do you know you are a Christian? Christians know God and His Son Jesus Christ: those who are not Christians know neither God nor His Son. Many profess to be Christians, and belong to church; but know not God nor His Son; they are only tares, and are known by the fruit they bear.

Last Sunday I tuned in on the radio to see if I could get a good sermon or a religious program. As I turned the dial, I heard, one after the other: a Christian Science preacher, then a preacher of one of the large denominations, then a Latter Day Saint (Mormon), then a Catholic priest. I listened to each of the four for a few minutes, and decided that I could not stand with any of them and be safe with God.

The Christian Scientist said, "Man is Never Apart From God:" but he turned immediately to praising Mrs. Eddy, instead of God—they are Eddies, and not Christians.

The preacher in a large city church of one of the large denominations was making quite a fuss. Among other things, he said he didn't believe in a lot of things devoted Christian people believe and practice, such as retiring to the closet to be alone with God, and the singing of such songs as "I've Reached the Land of Corn and Wine," and "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." The all-important thing with him, he said, "Is to be Intellectually Honest;" so these songs could not be intellectually appreciated, and he said, "There is absolutely no time to waste going to the closet to pray." Well, this must be the man Paul speaks about in 1 Cor. 2:14, saying, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for

they are foolishness unto him." This man is ich in the wisdom of men: but despises the wisdom of God; and Paul says (Rom. 8:9), "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." There are millions in this man's boat, but I am afraid their boat will not be able to reach the port.

The Latter Day Saint (Mormon) quoted much from the Bible; so brot out more truth than the others. He made it plain that God has often spoken to man and is still speaking to man: but he pointed to Joseph Smith who sits in the seat of power over the Mormon church; and all Mormons hear and follow him. I fear for the professed Christian who permits man to come between him and his God.

The Catholic priest, highly educated and an excellent speaker, very cunningly presented the Catholic way of salvation; but "Mary Our Mother" means more to them than Christ does. The Lord tells about this condition in the message to the church in Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29), where a woman is worshipped instead of Christ.

"Thyatira" means a woman instead of Christ. "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His" (2 Tim. 2:19).

We have seen what a Christian is not, now, what is a Christian?

A Christian is a person who abides in Christ: Christ says (John 15:7), "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

A Christian is a branch of the Lord: for the Lord says (John 15:5), "I am the true vine, ye are the branches."

A Christian is one in whom Christ dwells: "Christ in you the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).

A Christian is dead to the world: "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world" (Gal. 6:14).

A Christian is created in Christ: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).

A Christian is a new creature: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature" (2 Cor. 5:17).

A Christian is a new man: "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph. 4:24).

A Christian's life is kept in God: "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3).

A Christian, then, is one who has had a definite, miraculous experience in the new birth: "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7).

A Christian is a born again person who, by his life and service, reveals that he is a new creature, that he has a new nature, a new disposition, and a new interest in life. His desire is to continually honor and glorify his Lord and Savior.

*"My soul, be on thy guard;
Ten thousand foes arise:
The hosts of sin are pressing hard
To draw thee from the skies.*

*O watch, and fight, and pray;
The battle ne'er give o'er;
Renew it boldly every day,
And help divine implore.*

*Ne'er think the victory won,
Nor lay thine armor down;
Thy arduous work will not be done,
Till thou obtain thy crown.*

*Fight on, my soul, till death
Shall bring thee to thy God;
He'll take thee at thy parting breath
To his divine abode."*

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TERMS

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We are always glad to receive articles, letters, reports, etc. from our readers for publication in the Gem, along any line that will help the cause.

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WHEN YOU AND I WERE YOUNG, NEIGHBOR

(TUNE—"When You and I Were Young, Maggie")

By J. E. Shaw, 623 North 4th St., Fort Smith, Ark.

I wandered today to a church, Neighbor,
Where once people met to worship God;
They loved one another then, Neighbor,
And together the way of life they trod;
But Satan has entered that church, Neighbor,
Taken charge of both pulpit and pew;
Some members do not know the Lord, Neighbor,
Real Christians I find are very few.

They have entertainments and feast, Neighbor,
And say they are happy and gay;
They say that they still love the Lord, Neighbor,
Not many are going His way;
The shouts of the saints you do not hear, Neighbor,
For they do not allow it any more;
I believe that the Spirit of Christ, Neighbor,
Has almost now passed out that door.

They moved out the old mourner's bench, Neighbor,
It's a thing that they never more use;
They go in by a way of their own, Neighbor,
And they stay in by paying their dues;
Some never have been born again, Neighbor,
'Tis sad but it really is so;
How awful their doom, when they hear, Neighbor,
The Lord saying, "You I do not know."

LIFE'S GREATEST BLESSING

Composed by Sister Pauline Arnold and was an actual experience in her life. Today she and her good companion are real live wire Tulsa church workers.

My heart was heavy with a load of sin,
My thoughts were not what they should have been.
Christian workers I would always shun,
Dances and parties were my greatest fun;
But when I would retire in the wee hours of morn,
God would reprove me, look on me with scorn.

Then life got loathesome, what could I do?
Oh, if I could only begin life anew!
But I had strayed so far from the fold,
Had even forgotten the Scriptures so old.
I went to a neighbor who had let her light shine,
And told her of the misery and heartaches of mine.

She told me the story of Jesus in Heaven,
How He died, that our sins might be forgiven.
She quoted some Scripture that just hit the spot,
Hope went through my veins just like a shot;
I knew I could start live all anew then,
I'd go to church, repent, and be born again.

I could hardly wait for Sunday to come,
God smiled on me then when the day was done.
He led me to the Free Will Baptist o'er the way,
I said, "Have your way Lord, I'll do what you say."
I went to church Sunday, and that night I was saved,
And since then no worldly pleasures I've craved.

Eight months have passed since that glorious night;
I have helped three souls to see the light.
My sins are under the blood, I'm thankful to say,
But the path is such a dim narrow way,
I must ask guidance of God on bended knee,
For the gates of Heaven are locked and prayer is the key.

God said to Solomon: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land."—2 Chron. 7:14.

"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness" (Hab. 2:15)

"And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible" (1 Cor. 9:25).

Temperance

Eph. 5:18—"Be filled with the Spirit: Abstain from all appearance of evil."—1 Thess. 5:22

By the Editor

For some time we have wanted a Temperance page in the Gem, but it seemed we were not able to get it started—so much to do, and so little time and energy left, that we have just let it go: but, even now it is not too late; so our Temperance page starts with this issue.

We solicit items for this page: Good short, pointed items that hit tellingly against booze, and for Temperance

THE WETS PROMISED THERE WOULD BE LESS DRINKING AFTER REPEAL

But we Find that More Liquor is Drank, More Cigarettes Smoked, More Cards Played than Before.

Treasury figures for February showed that Americans drank more liquor, smoked more cigarettes and played more cards in 1936 than the previous year.

Taxes were paid on 114,887,916 gallons of domestic liquor in 1936, compared with 90,618,171 gallons in 1935, and on 14,713,257 gallons of imported spirits, against 7,222,909 in the previous year.

Beer and other fermented malt liquors increased from 45,207,080 barrels in 1935 to 53,197,820 in 1936.

Stamp-tax sales indicated the country smoked 153,166,336,093 cigarettes last year, compared with 134,607,741,257 in 1935.

There were 400,000 more packs of playing cards sold in 1936 than in 1935.

Whisky By The Trainload

WHO said they drank because of Prohibition? Figures released by the Federal Government indicated 352,638,966 gallons of whisky in bonded warehouses on October 31, 1936. This, besides other distilled liquors. Someone with a mathematical turn of mind has figured that this quantity will fill 672 trains of 50 tank cars each.

The Government report further shows that Californians drink 11 per cent of all distilled liquors consumed in the whole country. Eventually, then, California will drink nearly 74 train loads of the whisky now in bonded warehouses, to say nothing of other liquors, or of whisky yet to be produced. A gallon of hard liquor contains 100 drinks.

Seventy-four train loads of whisky is nearly four billion drinks. Any one of them may cause an accident. Any one may take a life or even several lives. When will sober men and women awaken to the terrible prospect that faces California through the consumption of seventy-four train loads of booze? When will we end the menace of beverage alcohol?

—The National Voice.

PROHIBITION COMING BACK

Some may say, "What's the use to spend time and effort for Prohibition, we can't win." Well, to think we can't is to fail: to believe we can is well on the way to victory. With only a few working, many dry victories have already been won, and there is considerable dry territory even now and we can win more, if we believe we can.

The dries in Arkansas won a decisive victory during February, when the State House of Representatives at Little Rock voted to repeal the Thorn Liquor Legislation Act of 1935.

"It was the first round of a battle that will put Arkansas in the dry column," say the dry campaigners in the state.

Rapidly growing dry sentiment has been in evidence throughout the state especially in rural sections since repeal. Eighteen towns, five townships and five counties have already voted against liquor in local option elections.

By a vote of 84 to 37, the House of Representatives of the Kansas Legislature passed a bill last Monday (Feb. 16th) outlawing the sale in Kansas of any beverage containing the least particle of alcohol. If this bill is passed by the State Senate, which is very probable, Kansas will become "bone dry" May 1, 1937.

On November 3, 1936, the State of Oklahoma gave new encouragement to the dry forces over the whole nation by overwhelmingly rejecting a liquor proposition involving the repeal of the State Prohibition Constitutional Amendment—for retaining Prohibition, 391,083; for repeal, 267,280.

"The Little Brown Jug, or The Little Brown Church?"

"Come all ye folks from the country 'round,

And listen to my tale.

There isn't room for the Little Brown Jug

And the Little Brown Church in the Vale.

'One or the other must soon pass out.'

I hear the wildwood wail.

'There isn't room for the Little Brown Jug,

And the Little Brown Church in the Vale.'

There isn't room for prayer and booze;

One or the other must fail.

Which shall it be—the Little Brown Jug,

Or the Little Brown Church in the Vale?

It is up to you who sit in the pew,

And you who sit on the rail

Which it shall be—the Little Brown Jug,

Or the Little Brown Church in the Vale."

OTHER DRY AREAS

FLORIDA—19 dry counties.

ILLINOIS—500 dry towns in 60 counties, 51 dry precincts in Chicago.

KENTUCKY—25 dry counties.

MAINE—248 towns sell no beer.

MASSACHUSETTS—One city and 89 towns 100% dry, malt liquors banned in 3 cities and 124 towns.

MISSISSIPPI—17 counties have voted against the sale of beer in their areas.

PENNSYLVANIA—390 municipalities in 44 counties, in addition to one county completely dry, have banned the sale of liquor since repeal.

NEW MEXICO—One dry county, ROOSEVELT.

TEXAS—100 counties are now "bone dry," 37 are dry in the sum of their subdivisions, and 57 have legalized beer, but bar heard liquors.

VERMONT—Official returns from the elections of March 3, 1936, in the 248 towns show that all alcoholic beverages were voted out by 126 towns and all except beer and wine in 54 towns, total 180 towns (townships). This is a definite gain over last year, the figures then being 100 fully dry, and 34 dry except for beer and wine.

WISCONSIN—All alcoholic beverages have been voted out by 192 towns, 13 villages, and one city, all except beer by 108 towns, 36 villages, and 6 cities. Many others are "dry" simply because there would not be enough patronage to support a tavern. Total, 356 units.

Then there is considerable dry area in the following states: Colorado, Georgia, Louisiana, Minnesota, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Connecticut, Nebraska, Oregon, Ohio, etc.

THREE BARMAIDS TO EVERY GIRL IN COLLEGE

THREE TO ONE—that is the proportion of barmaids and waitresses to girls in universities, colleges and teachers' normals in the United States, said the Anti-Saloon League of America.

There were 439,640 girls enrolled in all institutions of higher education, colleges, universities, etc., in the United States in 1934, and the number has decreased since 1934.

There were 1,350,000 girls enrolled in 1936 in liquor-serving institutions, taverns, road houses, night clubs, and other places catering to drinkers.

THREE TO ONE—that is the proportion of per capita expenditure for liquor as compared with that spent for education.

The total amount expended for education in 1934 was \$1,941,556,979.00.

The amount spent for liquor in 1936 was \$5,000,000,000.00, a per capita of \$39.93 for the United States.

THAYER, MISSOURI*(Received for last month, but too late)*

Dear Friends:

What peace abides, when we remember that the Friend of sinners said, "Ye are my friends if ye do what-so-ever I command you," and a few of us were doing that at our fifth Sunday meeting at Norman church, near Alton, Mo. last Saturday.

I was intending to start on Saturday morning, but when Neighbor Rolan came along Friday afternoon, and said, "Let's go," we went afoot something over eight miles. But owing to the ice storm, there was no sermon that night. Next morning Bro. Rolan was elected moderator pro tem, and appointed Brothers Griff Harrison, Com Crews and John Pingleton as pulpit committee.

Only eight churches reported, and two of them had no delegation.

Bro. E. L. Frey was appointed ass't moderator.

At 11:00 o'clock Elders Talley and Rolan gave warning and warming messages on the "Gifts" of 1 Cor. 12, especially the pure love which should dominate us.

Bethany church, near Myrtle, was chosen for next meeting.

Pleasant Hill was reported as having League work helpfully going on, and Myrtle and Pleasant Hill both have live Mission circles (Let Sister Melba White take notice).

Moderator, Eld. Harry Beatty, came late, but we forgave him for he brot Sister Lucille and the baby along just as usual—and may the baby not grow up to be a preacher some day, having such early associations?

Officers for the new year were elected, or rather continued, for they contended for Eld. Harry Beatty, Moderator, Eld. J. E. Rolan, Assistant, and Ralph Hoyt, Clerk.

Only five ministers were present: Harry Beaty, B. H. Woodring, W. P. Stogsdill, J. E. Rolan and J. H. Tally, another kind of Baptist with about the same kind of religion.

Seven deacons: Johnny Pingleton, W. E. Crews, S. E. Coble, Fraley Jenkins, Geo. Moore, Com Crews, Ralph Hoyt.

At night Elders Beatty and Woodring gave searching warnings founded on the last three verses of Rev. 6.

Sunday morning several more preachers came: Billy Rogers, H. C. Crase and J. M. Williams a visiting minister.

Bro. Rolan explained that the first

two verses of Gen. 1 indicate that the earth was created, and then perhaps on account of angelic rebellion, was made void; and verse three and on show the rehabilitation as suggested by Jer. 4:23-26. Isa. 24:1 and 45:18; Ezek. 28:12-15 and Isa. 14:9-14 certainly go beyond Tyre and Babylon.

Bro. Tally gave an interesting resume of Jesus and his heavenly Jerusalem.

"Is a lie ever justifiable?" was most thoroughly and helpfully presented by Elders Crase and Woodring. A lie always brings a curse and will shut us out from Heaven. —Ralph T. Hoyt.

CONWAY, MO., Feb. 5, 1937.

Dear Gem Readers:

While I am housed in because of bad weather, I will try to send in a report of my work so far this year.

At our Laclede County Association, which convened Aug. 13-15, 1936, I was elected evangelist for this year. Two weeks after the Association, I attended the Quarterly Meeting at our Green Ridge church in Camden Co., and remained there for a two weeks' meeting. Eld. C. E. Butts is pastor of this church. There was no conversions there, but we trust the meeting was not in vain.

On Oct. 4th, I began a meeting in Miller Co., not far from the Bagnell Dam. There was a church building there without any doors or windows. The church had disbanded years ago, and the community hadn't had a service of any kind for nine years. It was formerly a Missionary Baptist church. The meeting started off with fair interest. The Lord began to save souls on Wednesday night of the first week and I continued the meeting two weeks with 16 precious souls saved.

On Oct. 18th, at the close of the meeting, I baptized 12, and Eld. Chas. A. McAlister, Deacon Willie Calkin, and myself organized a Free Will Baptist church with 14 members. They elected me as their pastor for this year.

From there I went up in Hickory and Benton Counties for two meetings. Preached one week at the Ousley school house with poor interest, and two weeks at the Antioch school, with two conversions.

Then I conducted a meeting for Rev D. F. Woolery a Methodist. Protestant minister, at the Bethel church in Benton county. Remained there three weeks with three conversions

and the church revived. The church is about 100 years old. It was an old Methodist camp ground years ago. The report came to me that one night during a camp meeting years ago, the services lasted all night with 75 souls saved, and at another camp meeting, 33 years ago, when Bro. Woolery was converted, there were 45 souls saved one night. When I heard these reports, I felt like Moses of old, that I was treading on holy ground. In the last few years the church had got in a very run down condition, but I found a few who had been faithful, and after the meeting they seemed to be encouraged to go on and fight the battle even harder. I never worked with a finer man than Bro. Woolery, he is such a zealous worker for the cause. There is a large field for new work in Hickory, Benton, and also in Camden and Miller counties. The fields are white already to harvest and the laborers are few.

I am giving our new Elm Springs church half time, with services each 2nd and 4th Saturday nights, Sundays, and Sunday nights of each month. A Sunday school was organized and has not missed a Sunday this winter. Also prayer meeting each Wed. night with a full house at every service. The young converts lead the prayer services and pray and talk in public. It is inspiring to be there. We have doors and windows in the building, also good seats and a large stove, so the building is comfortable. I went down to fill my appointment on the 2nd Sunday in January and they were wanting another meeting, so I stayed for two weeks, but was hindered by a big snow and had to miss three nights. Two souls were saved, so we are expecting others to unite with the church in the near future. Our next quarterly meeting will convene there in May, and we invite any who can to come and be with us. Would be glad to have Free Will Baptist preachers to visit us at any time.

The associational year is half gone now. I have preached 101 sermons, witnessed 23 conversions and traveled over 2,400 miles. I desire the prayers of God's people, that I may be even more useful in the Lord's service in the future than I have been in the past. I have seen more hearts that are longing for the pure Gospel of Christ the past few months than I have seen for several years, and as I look upon their faces, I am more burdened for lost souls than ever before. Even tho I get so worn out in body, I feel that

we must work the works of Him that sent us while it is day, for the night will soon come when no man can work.

Brethren, it is up to us who have the Gospel to take it to hungry hearts. "Why sit ye here all the day idle?"

—Eld. Cecil E. Horner.

Bownemont, W. Va., Jan. 30th.

Dear Editor and Gem Family:

I wish to make a brief report of the Kanawha Quarterly Meeting, which was held with Chesapeake church, but I was there only one day, Saturday, January 30th.

The conference was called to order by the clerk at 9:30 by Scripture reading, and prayer by Rev. Willis Comer.

Rev. Jeff Thomas was elected moderator, and Rev. Willis Comer, Ass't.

The minutes of last session were read and approved.

The usual committees were appointed. Church letters read and received. Fifteen churches reported by letter and delegates, and two gave verbal reports. \$27.30 conference money was sent with the letters. 30 ministers were reported through the letters, but only 15 were present.

Corresponding messengers were welcomed to seats as advisory members.

Rev. John Henson from Brotherhood conference brought a wonderful message that was enjoyed by all.

Adjourned for dinner and were called back together at 2:00 p. m.

Committee on next session reported that the next Q. M. will be held with Ruth church, with Rev. Willis Comer to preach the introductory sermon, Rev. Hanbrick alternate.

Business committee reported, recommending that a council be appointed to examine the deacon for Wirts Ave. church, also the deacon for Slater's Creek church for ordination.

They also recommended that a committee be appointed to try Rev. J. L. Patterson on charges brought by the world. The committee: Rev. Willis Comer, Rev. Ray Parsons, Rev. H. W. Scott, Rev. Will Morton, Rev. Hambrick. They are to meet at Chesapeake church on Feb. 15th to clear up the talk in some way.

The committee recommended that \$5.00 be given to one of our old blind ministers, and \$5.00 to our State evangelist. The committee also recommended Rev. Melvin Pennington for ordination, as requested in the letter from Wirts Ave. church, but as he had only been licensed three months, his

license was extended to the end of the year.

While waiting on the committee, Rev. W. H. Scott made a good talk on Prayer. Then the two deacons were ordained; and we adjourned at 5:00 p. m. to meet at call of the moderator.

I don't know what was done afterward, but am told that the closing services were good.

Pray for us, as we need your prayers.

—F. E. Nicholas.

BLUE EYE, MISSOURI

Dear Brother and Sister Brown and Gem Readers: I have been reading the Gem and enjoying the good things printed therein; and just thought I would try to write a short article.

"How my memory loves to linger
Round a certain time and place,
When was seen a great out-pouring
Of our Father's saving grace.

'Twas a good old fashioned meeting
With the old time mercy seat,
When the lost ones came repenting,
Humbly bowing at His feet.

There conviction deep was given,
By the Spirit from above,
And the soul came up rejoicing
In the new found Savior's love.

Some were shout'g, laughing, crying,
What rejoicing! Oh, what rapture!
Just to see God answer prayer,
Just a taste of Heaven there!

Those were bless'gs that will help us
Overcome this world of strife,
And the memory will go with us
To our home beyond this life!"

—Mrs. Belva Zinn.

PAINTSVILLE, KY., Feb. 12th.

Dear Editor of the Gem, and all the Gem Family: I will give a brief report of our big Johnson County Conference, which met with the Paintsville church on the fourth Saturday and Sunday in January, 1937, beginning on Friday, with the introductory sermon by Eld. Millard Vanhooose. Text, Rom. 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ."

We had a wonderful meeting, although there were not so many from a distance, on account of high waters. I think the good Lord is trying to convince our state and others that He is against liquor and the Devil; and if it takes a flood, He has plenty of water, or anything else. Now, don't

some old unbeliever say, "It wasn't that." If not, what was it for? He burnt Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and left other places alone; why can't He destroy one place now and leave others go by unpunished?

Well, back to our conference. We met back Friday at 1:00 p. m.

Bro. H. Conley was elected moderator and took charge.

Ministers' conference was called to order and questions were discussed. We had some hot discussions.

Met back at 7:00 p. m. for preaching by Eld. T. H. Winchel of Jenkins, Ky. Had a good meeting.

Met back at 10:00 a. m., had preaching by Eld. Frank Morrison of Cottlesburg, Ky. Had a wonderful sermon; may the Lord bless you, Bro. Frank, and restore back your health.

Met back at 2:00 p. m., and were called to order for business.

24 churches responded with letters and delegates. \$58.06 received with letters. The Alka church sent the highest amount of any, \$10.00 with their letter, and just on the heels of that the Lord sent them a big revival resulting in 53 conversions. The Lord wont bless a tight fisted church, and some of our churches can't wake up to the need of our people—we need money to run the business; so may we wake up to that truth!

There were two for ordination to preach the gospel, may God bless them.

Our next conference will be held with the Rock House church April 4th, Saturday and Sunday, where we had an old time revival just before the conference. We have been preaching for this church about fifteen years. Haven't rusted out, nor worn out, yet the church is still on the go for God. We have just organized a big Sunday school at this church, with Eld. Ervin Rice as superintendent; may the Lord bless him in his work.

Preaching Saturday at 7:00 p. m. by Eld. Hubbard of Burdine, Ky. Had a good service.

Met back Sunday morning.

Offering was taken for the poor and needy whom the flood had driven from their homes. Received \$75.00, for which we thank the people for their gift to feed the hungry.

The conference also sent Bro. T. H. Caline of Cottlesburg, Ky. \$25.00. He is pastor of the Free Will Baptist church at Sandy City. The water was nine feet deep in our church at that place, and five dwellings or homes went with the flood from around the

church, but thank God the old church stood the test of the flood, and was not moved from her foundation.

Pro. Willey Horn and Bro. Roy Bellomy preached Sunday morning. Had a wonderful time in the Lord.

Our next conference will meet at Rock House church the first Saturday and Sunday in April, 1937.

Eld. Millard Vanhooose.

BUCKLEY, CALIF., Feb. 21st.

Dear Brother and Sister Brown and all Who Read the Gem: I am glad that this beautiful Sabbath day still finds me this side the Judgment bar of God, doing the little things that God would have me do.

It seems that I am one of the smallest and weakest among God's children, but I know deep in my heart that I have the presence of the Holy Spirit with me. Just now I have no desire to turn back into the old sinful life I once lived. Why? Because it holds nothing in store for me, only grief, disappointments and the destruction of my soul. May I say just here, Let us hold fast to God's unchanging hand, and above all of our disappointments and trials, let us look to the unseen future where we will inherit that home in Heaven, not made with hands.

Jesus tells us in John 16:32, 33—"Behold, the hour cometh, yea is now come, that ye shall be scattered every man to his own, and leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Jesus has given us so many blessed promises that are sure, and it behooves us to look forward to the life beyond. As I read and study God's blessed word, it encourages me more and more to live closer and closer to Him than ever before.

I have said that I did not care what the world thought of me, for I was not trying to please the world, but I do care what God thinks of me—I want to please Him: but the question in my mind is, Do I please Him? We wonder about Pilate, what he must do with Christ, as these thoughts come to us. We may ask ourselves the very same question, because we have the same before us. Are we going to condemn him? If we do not live as we say we live, we are crucifying Christ, because He says we cannot serve two

masters; and if we should love the things of this world, and in our heart make them our god, we are crucifying Him in our lives because it makes His heart bleed to see it, just as it grieves the heart of an earthly father to see his child go wrong, only more so.

I have in mind something which might be termed a church member's beatitudes:

Blessed is he who will not strain at a drizzle and swallow a down-pour.

Blessed is he who tries a little harder when all around him says, "it can't be done."

Blessed is he whose program contains prayer meeting nights.

Blessed is he who serves faithfully on a committee.

Blessed is the church official who is not pessimistic.

Blessed is he who loves his church before his business.

Blessed is he who can walk as fast to a religious service as to town.

Blessed is he who invites people to church, and comes along himself.

Blessed are those who never gossip about the faults of the church: but work to make it better.

These things are sometimes seen. But there is more good done in seeing the little things in our own lives than any other way, if we are true followers of Christ. Blessed are God's promises. I would just love to set all the promises God has given us in the New Testament, both direct and indirect, but it would take too much space in Gem each month, so I will just say, I love to read the good testimonies each month, and ask the prayers of all who know the worth of prayer, to remember us in your prayers.

—W. H. Riddle.

NEW EDINBURG, ARKANSAS

Feb. 22, 1937.

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

I wish to make a report of our last fifth Sunday meeting which was held with Macedonia church, at New Edinburg, Ark., January 30, 31, 1937.

Meeting opened Saturday morning with class singing.

Letters from the different churches were read as they came in.

Bible reading by Hazel Brown.

The Introductory sermon was delivered by one of our licensed ministers, Bro. H. P. McClellan, using for his text, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Concluded by Eld. J. E. White.

Dismissed until 1:15 p. m.

Came together at 1:15 by singing.

Bible questions discussed, followed by Bible reading, "The Life of Christ," by Della Higgins.

Discussion: "The Greatest Needs of the Church," by Eld. J. E. White, followed by the elders and deacons.

Election of Officers

Eld. J. E. White Moderator
Eld. J. R. Hartley Ass't Mod.
Leonard Doggett Clerk
Lewis Barker Ass't Clerk
Called together at 6:30 by singing.
Prayer by Bro. J. H. Meeks.

Then we enjoyed a testimony service, after which Bro. White took the stand and brought us a wonderful message. May God's richest blessings rest upon our young ministers.

Called to order at 10:15 Sunday morning by singing, followed by 15 minutes of song service.

Eld. R. M. Moore of Star City, Ark. arrived in time to preach at 11 o'clock. He gave the young people as well as the old people, some good advice.

Sunday evening service open with class singing, then some quartet numbers by the Pace Quartet of Montecello.

Bio. Grumbles, a Missionary Baptist brother of Star City, gave us a fine talk on Sunday Schools.

The next fifth Sunday meeting will be held with Harmony church, near Rye, Ark.

We ask an interest in your prayers.
—Lewis Barker.

GLEANINGS OF THE THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION OF ARK. STATE ASSOCIATION

By Eld. Ralph Staten

(Received too late for last issue)

The ministers, deacons, delegates and associational clerks composing that part of the Church of God or Christ, commonly known as Free Will Baptist of the Arkansas State Association met in annual conference with the Alice Brooks church at Sharum, Randolph Co., Ark., Oct. 1-4, 1936.

The inception and rest of the session was marked by a large representation from many localities of the state. A very spiritual and harmonious atmosphere prevailed throughout the meeting.

The people of Sharum community, assisted by Social Band Association, had made arrangements to serve the noon and evening meals on the church grounds.

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

While waiting for committee reports, at intervals and in the devotional services, the Hartford Quartet, directed by Prof. J. A. McClung, Prof. L. G. Presley, a representative of the Stamps-Baxter Music Co., Prof. J. W. Coffman and Eld. J. D. Coffman, rendered several numbers to the spiritual edification of the associational convention. The session was characterized with good singing by other leaders. The pianists were Sisters Elsie Lawlis and Willie Doyle.

Interesting sermons were delivered by the following ministers: J. D. Coffman, "The Kingdom of Heaven Being Shut Up Against Men;" Carl Davis, "The Second Coming of Christ;" F. M. Hudson, "Sowing and Reaping;" G. W. Million, "The Church of God;" R. M. Moore, Memorial Sermon, "God's Goodness, Mercy and Patience;" A. N. Best, "Seven Steps of John 3:16;" J. D. Doyle, "The Beauties of Heaven and the Miseries of Hell."

The resolutions recommended at this session, in substance, are as follows:

The state wide retention of the 10c per member Burial Fund.

Each pastor of their respective churches are to be responsible for \$1.00 from each church, which is to be used for associational expenses.

No nominee shall be considered elected only when he or she has received a majority of all votes cast.

State Evangelists endorsed for the ensuing year are as follows: J. R. Hartley, Rison, Ark., W. M. Guinn, Booneville, Ark.

The following were selected as officers for the ensuing year:

Moderator, L. C. Doyle, Newport, Ark.
Ass't Mod., W. F. McGee, Russellville
Cor. Clerk-Treas., S. L. Woodard,

Warren, Ark.

Clerk, Ralph Staten, Pocahtontas, Ark.

The Executive Board is composed of the following:

F. M. Hudson Moreland, Ark.
G. W. Million Pocahtontas, Ark.
L. C. Doyle Newport, Ark.

Steps were taken and considered for admission into the National Association. We hope that this can soon be perfected.

The next annual convention of this Association will be held at Branch in Franklin County, Ark.

Partial reports showed at this time that the Association is composed of 123 churches, 140 ministers, 8,611

members. Since the last associational meeting, there have been 176 members received into fellowship, 25 excluded and dismissed, and 35 deaths.

Modernism, with her breath of intemperance, head of haughtiness, heart of formalism, hand of idleness, clothing of communism and feet of destruction is rapidly permeating the moral fabric of our country. What shall we do? Let God's people lift up their voices in tumultuous harmony and earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Such zeal and sacrifice will revive a greater response to the missionary work and evangelism among many of the indifferent and accomplish timely things for the world that now is, and that which is to come.

VAN BUREN, ARKANSAS

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

It has been some time since I have written for the Gem, and now I would like for all you readers to turn with me to Malachi 3:10, and read also verses 8 to 12.

The 8th verse reads, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings."

The 10th verse says, "Bringe ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

When I first began pastoring churches, a church I pastored resolved to pay two (2) cents on each dollar into the treasury. A deacon in the church objected because, he said, "Some had voted for it that wouldn't pay it, because they are not able." And neither was he able. Yet, if we fail to pay the 10 cents, or even the two cents, we are robbing God, it belongs to Him. That tenth goes to further the Gospel. When we see little churches gradually dying and becoming so cold that icicles freeze in the pulpit, and instead of tears of joy and gladness flowing down their cheeks, I see a cold unregenerated unmoved people, that act like they will be glad when church is over so they can go home and rest. I understand it—because we have robbed God in tithes and offerings; and God says in the 10th verse to the drowsy, unconcerned, disobedient church that can't be moved by the Spirit of God, that can't shed a tear over glad tidings; God says to this

backslidden bunch of people: "Bring all the tithes (not 2 cents), but all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house; and just try me, saith the Lord of hosts and see if I will not pour you out a blessing that your heart wont hold, that the house wont hold."

He says in the New Testament, "Awake, thou that sleepest and arise from the dead." In other words God says, "Awake, you people that have more money for joy rides, habits, smoking and seeing sights than you do for seeing people agonizing with the Lord."

God says in the 10th verse, "Just try me, just hand over to me that which is mine," to say nothing of the gifts we are supposed to give unto God. "Just hand over that which is mine, that you have been holding back, and slipping around trying to hide from my piercing, all-seeing eye—just fork over that which belongs to me, that you have no right to touch—just bring it into the storehouse (the church treasury), that the church may be able to send out and get a preacher that has the message for that place, that the church may feel no embarrassment in calling a minister to leave his home and come, as they can pay his expenses."

The Lord says, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house;" that there might be food and drink, that there might again be rejoicing, shouting and tears of joy and gladness. "Just try me," the Lord says, "and see if I wont open you the windows of heaven (that have been closed so long) and see if I wont pour you out a blessing that your heart wont hold—just see if I wont put a new heart in you—new life, new courage—just see if I wont turn this lonesome graveyard into a lively city in the Lord; and just see if you don't hear the shouts of new-born souls."

Read Acts 5:1-5, where Ananias and Sapphira tried to hide their possessions from God, and fell dead. What do we suppose God thinks of us, when we claim we are not able to pay two cents out of the ten that belongs to God? Many people will tremble before God just like Ananias and his wife did.

Paul says we are as lively stones, built up a spiritual house, all the building fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple. He further says, that we are many members of one body; and, if one member is injured, the whole body is maimed.

I know a poor man who has a lame leg and one arm off, yet he digs out a meager living for a large family; and because of overwork, his heart is becoming weak. He is doing with one

arm what was meant for two to do, and his good leg is carrying on that part of the work the other isn't able to do. I find churches where a few members are having to do the work that others are supposed to help do.

Paul says, "If one member is injured, the whole body is maimed."

We see little puny churches with one or two carrying on, while others are slipping into their vest pocket that which belongs to God. I find places where there are half a dozen ordained preachers and deacons, yet not lights or lamps enough in the church house for a preacher to read by, nor wood enough to keep people warm. No wonder then, we preachers can't preach, and deacons can't pray! When the churches go in with the world, in conspiracy against God, and try to cheat Him out of what is His, no wonder we have floods, droughts, diseases, greed, frauds, and utter destruction. The world has persuaded the church to give God the crumbs, and instead of seeking first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, they seek first the pleasures and comforts for self; then, if there is anything left, it goes to God. But God doesn't intend to be cheated; therefore nations and men find themselves in one of the worst and most heart-rending conditions they have ever been in. We cry out to God for reasons for all this sorrow and uneasy dread, and we hear the answer through Malachi: The God of Heaven says, "You have robbed me, you have shortened the measure, you have wasted my goods, you have starved hungry sinners, you have failed to promote a religious worship by handing over what belongs to me, you have prayed long prayers, you have even stood in the pulpit; and you have gone in together with old mother greed against me, you have handed the garage, the drink stand, the night shows, and many other fancies that which rightly was mine, that I gave you no permission to use for self; you have cheated God."

There are many churches that have no pastor, some use the same old pastor who feels that he has filled his mission, but hates to leave the church without a pastor: they can't pay the expense of one to come a long distance. If we would all pay into the treasury our tithes, we would have meat in God's house. If the church treasury isn't God's storehouse, then what is? I, at one time did not tithe, and a preacher opened my eyes, and I have been tithing ever since; and my religion seems sweeter, my burden is lighter, and God has opened the windows of heaven and poured me out blessings, that there isn't room in my heart to hold them.

God said He would withhold no good thing from us, in other words, God says, "Be fair with me, trust me, and quit robbing me, cheating, dodging and defrauding me; hand over that which is mine, and see if I won't open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there won't be room enough to receive it; give me

that which is rightfully mine, and see if I won't open up the windows of heaven and again smile on your heart and home."

Let the earth render unto God the things which are God's, and see if rain won't be more abundant, the earth warmer, and the sun brighter, and see if God won't reign in your life again.

FT. SMITH, ARK., Feb. 22, 1937

Dear Brother Brown and Gem Family: It has been some time since I have communicated with you, but now I am sending a report of the wonderful Fellowship meeting which it was the privilege of the writer to attend at the First Free Will Baptist church here on last Sunday.

On Sunday, February 21st, the First Free Will Baptist church threw its doors open for a fellowship meeting to last throughout the day.

Promptly at 10:50 a. m. the Moderator of the church called the congregation to order by giving a brief outline of the purpose of the meeting, then Bro. E. W. Simpkins the Moderator, called the singers to the choir to open the day's services with a song service.

Brother Joe Lovette was called to the stand and delivered a fine spirited message, and conviction could be seen on the faces of several sinners, and several gave their hands for prayer.

In the afternoon we assembled again at 1:45, to really enjoy ourselves in the fellowship of the Lord, and with others of God's people, as several different denominations were represented in the afternoon, and each minister present brought a brief spiritual message.

The entire afternoon was spent in songs, testimonies and messages, and it looked like the more that was said, the better it became, and each message was better and better until the closing hour arrived.

After the last message was delivered, we all joined in a real old fashioned fellowship hand shaking with all of us feeling greatly blessed by the wonderfully good time we had enjoyed together in brotherly love in Christ Jesus.

With the best of wishes to all the Gem family, I remain,

Your brother in Christ,
Eld. Ray Purdom.
3820 Armour Street.

REVIVAL AT FLAT RIVER

Following our joint committee meeting at Flat River in January, I stayed with the church there for a revival, beginning the meeting Wednesday night, Jan. 20th. We continued five weeks and closed Feb. 23rd, with 35 souls saved, and their faithful pastor, Eld. J. F. Miller, received 16 into the church, and baptized 11, with more to follow.

Never have I enjoyed my stay any-

where better than while there with those dear people who were so good to me. Bro. Miller indeed has a pleasant church to work with, and my work with any minister was never more pleasant than was this revival with Bro. Miller and his good wife. I so much enjoyed my stay in their home; also in other homes in which I visited. I am thinking so much of you dear people tonight, as I am sitting at home by the fire writing this report of our meeting. The little Juniors' songs ring in my ears. This report certainly would not be complete without special mention of the Junior choir with their lively, cheerful choruses. The singers, both old and young, together with those at the instrument, were very, very faithful.

The meeting was hindered a lot by so much extremely bad weather, and such an unusual wave of sickness, yet in spite of it all, the Lord blessed wonderfully, and our crowds most all the time were splendid.

I found a fine lot of young people at Flat River, and enjoyed so much the meetings I had with the League on different occasions. I found the young people, as well as the older ones, progressive and enterprising in their ideas. Our Flat River church is loyal to our work in general; and church loyalty is an ultimate necessity to the advancement of our denominational work. We laid the new \$5,000.00 campaign plans before them on Sunday night, Feb. 21st, and the result was 15 hands short up for \$10.00 each, a great portion of this was paid in cash and the balance is coming soon. Then, to swell it even larger, the St. Francois County Q. M. paid \$100.00 in cash. On my way home, I spent the night with Eld. Selph Jones and family at Mansfield, Mo., which I enjoyed more than tongue can express, and Bro. Jones wrote a check for \$10.00 for the new publishing house fund. In all I got home with \$170.50 on this fund and \$100.00 more pledged. Such giving as that simply spells a new publishing house for the Missouri State Association in the not far away future. Bro. Rollins is now on the field raising money for this fund, and I understand he is having success.

Well, I must close this piece before it gets too long. May the Lord continue to bless you good people at Flat River, with your dear pastor and wife and children. I pray the revival spirit will continue in your hearts indefinitely. I shall never forget you. Please remember me when you pray.

With Christian love,
Winford Davis.

DOS PALOS, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brother and Sister Brown and Gem Family: I am impressed to write a letter to you, as many of you people come to my mind so often, this family contains some of the best friends I have in the world.

I appreciate our Gem paper, and my many dear friends more than tongue can tell. I know I have kept it to myself too much. This is, I think, about

the third time I have tried to write to this family, and most of you know the age of the Gem. Who is responsible for this neglect? I am mainly responsible. But we are not always all together responsible for things that happen with us and in our lives, so let us go away back down the line and look closely, to see what has happened along the way, and see what we have done or failed to do, that may have hindered in the advancement of the cause of Christ. Are we willing to confess our faults, our neglects and our transgressions? I want to make my confession before I go any farther. I know I have fallen away short of my privilege, which I regret very much: and possibly I failed to do things that would aid in holding up somebody's hands, which might have meant greater courage and strength to them, in carrying out the work of the Lord. We find in Rom. 12:5—"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." When we stand compactly each member working in his place, doing his part by the help of the Lord, we can be a brace and a support to each other in carrying out the work for the Master.

Oh, how the Spirit presses me! how sorry I am that so many of us have failed! Don't understand me to be judging: for God tells us we may know a tree by its fruits; then let us read God's Word and pray that He will help us to measure up and to see where and how we have failed. It is thru neglect of reading our Bible and praying that we become too weak to stand in our places in this body and be able to help other members that we are in contact with. Oh, how necessary it is that we realize our responsibility to God and to man!

In order that we get a vital understanding, we must have a heart impression. God will lead us, if we will only let Him, but how many of us like to have our own way instead of letting God have His way? Let us not try to put this on the other fellow, but let us take it home to ourselves.

It does my heart good to read the many good articles in the Gem. I noticed that some of the good brethren, spoke as our humble servants. It impressed me very much, and I wish I could only meet them for a good old time handshake and greetings in the Lord. It seems that I am unable to put stress enough on our responsibility. There is so much hinging on us realizing what we are responsible for, to God and man. We parents realize, when spring-time appears, that it is time to make preparation to plant our crops, that our families may have food. This is good in its place; but we should be more concerned about our spiritual lives, and for others.

Jesus says (Matt. 6:33), "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Do we ever put the cart before the horse; and let these temporal things be first on our minds and in our hearts? If so, such things make up our treasure. We all realize that God wants to be first of

all with us, and in our lives, and to help us in all of our duties and problems of life. Somebody is responsible for a lot of things that have been done in this world, and that are yet being done.

I have attended church and Sunday school where the attendance was good, mostly young folks and children, with several elderly people, but not many parents with the children; and when Sunday school was dismissed, most of the young folks and children went home, instead of staying for church. Who is responsible for this? The parents are, and due to their environment. The Lord taught that we should train up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, also to train them up in the way they should go, and when they become old, they will not depart from it.

Out here where we are many of the farmers work six days in the week, every night and Sunday too. You will hear but very little said about working on Sunday. I have mentioned it to several church members, and they say, "O, it's a custom here, and it looks like they must do it to take care of their crops." I've heard only one man condemn working on Sunday. I notice too, that the majority have compromised with the Devil. Let us watch and pray. We can't be too careful: for we don't know when the Lord is coming, nor what will overtake us; so let's be awake and ready. Let us not fail in helping others, and let us not forget the sheep that have gone astray, there is a cause. Let us do our best to bring them back, and let us present ourselves at the altar of the Great Shepherd. He will bless.

In conclusion I want to thank and praise the Lord for all the blessings of life, both spiritual and temporal.

I also want to thank the Lord for those who are always busy about our Heavenly Father's business, and are going farther day by day advancing His cause, and to arrange for better temporal equipment. Let us make as great a sacrifice as possible to help in this great work. I am very thankful for the people in our Association who are working to advance His cause.

May the Lord continue to bless the entire family, is my prayer.

—G. A. Garner.

DENISON, TEXAS.

229 W. Monterey, March 1, 1937.

Dear Brother Brown:

I am doing my best to build a new church house in Ada, Oklahoma, as our old building is about to fall down. We have concrete blocks already made and paid for; but we need help. We can have a church house in Ada that we can be proud of, if we can get it finished. I still live in Denison, and am trying to pastor full time at Ada.

If any one feels like sending a donation, even a small one, to help on this work, it will be appreciated.

Send your offering to Eld. P. H. Coffman, addressed to 229 W. Monterey, Denison, Texas.

Yours in the Lord.

Eld. P. H. Coffman.

Hurricane, W. Va., Feb. 24, 1937

Dear Editor and Gem Family:

Will send in a brief report of the Logan Quarterly Meeting, which convened with the Lake Free Will Baptist church, at Lake, W. Va., Feb. 5th, 6th and 7th. They have just about 25 ordained ministers and about 18 churches, with a gain in membership of 40 for the past three months.

One new church came in this session with 20 members.

There seems to be perfect unity, and the Spirit of the Lord was there in mighty power.

I was glad to greet many old friends and meet many new ones.

Heard some real old fashioned preaching, praying, singing, shouting.

—Eld. John M. Henson.

TULSA CHURCH NOTES

By Mrs. Evelyn Miller, Reporter

Dear Bro. Brown and Gem Readers:

We hope we are not too late to be granted space in the little paper that we enjoy reading so much.

When our last report went to press, Bro. Melvin and Bro. Rogers were in a revival at Monett, Mo. They reported 18 souls being saved in their short stay there, and many others were touched through the 15 minute broadcast from Springfield, as they have received a stack of letters and cards from listeners in several states.

Bro. Melvin delivered another good message last Sunday morning over the same station, when he and a group of 10 or 12 of our singers were given 30 minutes. We are thanking God for the radio, and this means of reaching some who might not otherwise be touched by the Gospel.

Bro. T. H. Willey is here with us now and expects to open an illustrative campaign of his work on the foreign field next Sunday morning at Tulsa church, and we extend a hearty welcome to each and every one to come and hear him and gain a greater vision of what a missionary's life really means. He is also permitted to speak 10 minutes over K T U L each afternoon, beginning next Monday.

Since our last report our church has lost three worthy members through death, one a deacon of several years, and their absence is keenly felt, but we must not mourn; for our loss is Heaven's gain.

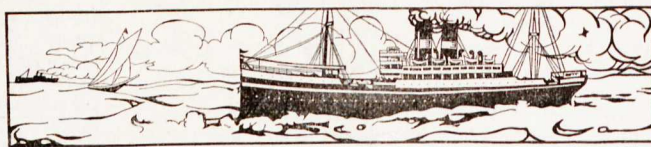
Bro. Melvin has conducted four funerals, made two trips out of the state for broadcasts, and we have seen 23 souls saved in Tulsa church.

The Tulsa County Singing Convention met with us Feb. 7th to worship God in song and music.

Bro. Melvin and our delegates are attending the quarterly conference at Olive church today.

We ask that you pray for us, that we might always be doing something for the Master.

MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT



The Regions Beyond

ELD. T. H. WILLEY,
OUR MISSIONARY TO
SOUTH AMERICA,
CRISTOBAL, PANAMA, C. Z.

ELD. WINFORD DAVIS,
SEC. FOREIGN MISSIONS,
WESTERN ASSOCIATION,
MONETT, MISSOURI.

Report of Our Missionary

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

I arrived home Monday, January 18th, having been aboard ship 18 days, during which time we encountered contrary winds and rough seas. The trip out of the interior of Panama was made by dugout canoes and banana boats, arriving in Balboa the day after Christmas. I am sending in a brief sketch to the papers to be published covering our findings.

Should we consider our work in the foreign department of our church as stages or steps, we might think of the itinerary among the churches which covered six states over a period of nine months, with the results that, considering unfavorable weather, our people responded loyally. The second step was made on the field covering a period of three and one-half months, during which time the Lord definitely led us to fields of dire need. There we stood at open doors and yearned to enter immediately. Now, as we present these needs to our people, we are facing the objective of the hour—getting located on the field as soon as possible, as a representative church group. I have no question in my mind regarding the response from our people when we are functioning as a missionary group.

We first considered Panama, as we stated in our plans during the Conference at Glennville, Ga. We went to the San Blas Indians and contacted my Indian friend, spending a week with him on the Island of Ali-gandi. We found that it was impossible to think of going into this needy field due, not to the Indians themselves, but to the government of Panama. We then made a survey of the needs of the Panama Canal Zone itself. There is no Baptist church at all among the whites in Colon, and we never saw a greater challenge than is offered to real old fashioned evangelism, as there are thousands of our own American soldiers and sailors much in need of the Gospel; for the present religious facilities are not such as we could recommend. I had the privilege of preaching to large groups of our soldiers every week that I was there and found a wonderful response. All the time I was in Panama I was

in touch with one of the greatest authorities on Latin America, Rev. R. R. Gregory, head of the American Bible Agency in the Carribean. I lived at the Bible House during my stay and was privileged to meet noted leaders of the different denominations. My second trip into the interior was made back toward Costa Rica. Here we found village after village in which missionaries had never worked. A friend took me on this trip, driving his own car and sharing a large part of the expense, thus saving me much time, many uncomfortable hours, and finances. We carried thousands of tracts and a large supply of New Testaments, which were given out as we went along.

We then went to Colombia, South America, and here we found on the coast, that the republic is very liberal, making it possible for Protestant Missionaries to enter. The rate of exchange is very good in this country, one American dollar being worth one peso, 75 centoves in Colombian money. The climate here is very good, living conditions reasonable, fruits and vegetables plentiful. As a result of this trip, we have friends who will do everything in their power to assist us.

Returning to Panama, we went among the Chaco Indians on the Sambu Rio. These Indians are among the most neglected people and are the most primitive one might expect to find. They know nothing of the name Jesus, except that there is a river of that name emptying into the Sambu. This tribe offers a wide open field to us. I was fortunate while in Panama to make the acquaintance of a young man, a Panamanian, high in official circles, who has promised every possible assistance in our work.

These are vital factors, but there are a great many things we must consider that bear important relation to a successful missionary program. The first question we should ask ourselves is: What sort of a personnel are we, as a church, going to consider for this foreign work? I think any one with spiritual perception will agree that it must be those of the most profound consecration, those who are

thoroughly prepared to concentrate in language study, they must be students. I am convinced more and more that unless those we consider as candidates are willing to get the language so that they shall be able to speak without accent, and be assured this takes careful study, they should not be sent to the field. You can readily see how important this is if you think of foreigners in our own land who cannot speak plainly.

I have been under the conviction for some time that we need to place a young couple on the field as missionaries in training. Furthermore, we should have those of our own choice young people who are preparing under consideration. We can expect no constructive program until we look and plan for the future, and work in the present to materialize those plans. With this thought in mind, and as a result of a number of conferences with Rev. R. R. Gregory, we have studied what might be the wisest and most economical plan for the training of new missionaries in the field. As a church, we have no developed station as yet. As a usual thing new missionaries going out to the field are under senior missionaries and experienced men. They are not permitted to take a leading part on the Gospel program for at least a year, depending of course on the ability of the person to acquire the language; thus they are permitted to learn not only the language, but the customs of the people. These new missionaries are in the midst of strange people and to us their habits are queer. New to the field, they go through many transitions, probably finding the field much different than they had pictured it. The experience of many mission boards has proven that the new missionary should have the liberty to study under a native teacher. Mr. Gregory and I considered schools in South and Central America where a prospective missionary might get wise training. We talked of and considered Rev. Harry Strachen, one of the most remarkable missionaries of the day, who has a school somewhat of the same order as the Colombia Bible College, South Carolina. This school is in Costa Rica, Central America. Student missionaries would greatly benefit by being under a man of so very wide experience. Later I met Mr. Strachen

at the Bible House and had some conference with him, studying the field with him. I acquainted him with the hopes of our people, and he rejoiced as I told him of the loyalty of our denomination to the fundamental and the great possibilities of our denomination, and he promised me every assistance on his part. At the time I left for home Mr. Strachen was on a trip in Colombia, but since arriving home, I have had a letter from Mr. Gregory with further information and an invitation to take advantage of the training.

I have had Brother and Sister Phiney very much on my mind since I met him at Nashville during the National Association. Here we have a choice young couple, both of whom have prepared for foreign service. Sister Marie has been consecrated to this work for some time and the people of both the East and the West know them and have confidence in them. I hope the church will consider their application.

Next in importance should be the consideration of a National Mission-

ary Board made up of representatives from both the East and West. At the present we have no National Missionary Board, though we do have a National Secretary-Treasurer, who was elected by the National Association in Nashville a year ago this past Nov. It is imperative that we have a National Missionary Board as soon as possible, in order that we might launch our program for missions with full force and without loss of time. We have a number of ministers and laymen, leading men who have worked for missions—these men should be considered. Some states have wisely appointed mission secretaries who are doing wonderful work. This Mission Board should be appointed to consider the importance of the requirements to be met by candidates and the formulation of laws governing this department. I have observed candidates who were a disappointment and represented a great financial loss to the church, because they were not qualified for service in a foreign field. I hope we might, by some wise and simple rules, avoid such waste.

As I go to the people this time, we should have some definite plan to

present to them. In order for us to do this, I am suggesting that we call a meeting of the Executive Board of the National Association, together with the National Secretary of Foreign Missions, and, I believe it would be well to call into this meeting the regularly appointed State Secretaries of Foreign Missions. The Executive Board can then appoint from among those most vitally interested a Mission Board to serve until the meeting of the National Association, when they can be permanently elected by that body. It is necessary that this be done now, as we must not lose time. —It would seem to wait two years until the meeting of the National Association, the whole program will very likely suffer disaster. Neither can this work be done in the annual meeting of either the Eastern or the Western Association, as this missionary program is the work of the National body, and neither body has the power to vote for the other body. This meeting, I believe, should be called at the earliest possible date, informing the members of the Executive Board and the Secretary at once, that we might have time to hear from them.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSION SECRETARY

Following is my report of funds received for our Foreign Missionary program since my last report which I made in February:

Ralph T. Hoyt, Thayer, Mo. . . . \$2.10
Aurora S. S., by Margaret Apple 5.00
Eld. Richard Talbott, Liberal, Mo. 2.00
Flora Jordan, Carterville, Mo. . . 1.00
Tulsa Church, by M. Bingham, 2.40

We are always ready and glad to give prompt attention to your donations for Foreign Mission work.

—Eld. Winford Davis.

THAYER, MO., Jan. 20, 1937.

Dear Mission Workers:

I am finally sending a report of the Mission circle here at Pleasant Hill, for Dec. and January.

While Miss White of the Northwest Missouri Association was with us in our November 5th Sunday meeting, she helped us organize a mission circle. We organized with only four members, but since then one new member has joined us.

We decided to meet on Tuesday of every week. Each meeting opens with song and prayer. We started with the first of the New Testament, and are truly enjoying the Bible study.

On New Years Day, we held a food sale at a public auction and collected \$1.15. We are also tithing to collect money for the mission.

We sent one-tenth of our collection for the State work.

Pray for us, that we may grow and do more for the glory of God.

Hope Hoyt, Sec'y.

We, too, Might Deny the Lord

By Mrs. Essie Hearron, Newport, Ark.

"Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee" (Matt 26:35).

Peter, the great Apostle who had been permitted the most intimate walk with Christ, who had witnessed the chief events, and had been present at the time of the transfiguration, felt safe and firmly established when he spoke these words.

Peter was an impulsive man. When he heard of the Savior from his brother Andrew (who would not follow Jesus until he had told his brother Peter), he went at once, and Jesus named him Cephas, meaning a stone, signifying firmness of faith. Later at the miraculous draught of fishes, Peter fell at his Master's feet and said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord," just as Ezekiel fell on his face at the presence of the Lord, and as the publican who went up into the temple to pray, could not lift up his eyes to Heaven. But he went down to his house justified.

Peter the impulsive! See how he grew enthusiastic at the sight of his beloved Lord walking on the water! and essayed to walk on the water to meet Him. But the roar of the waves made him afraid; and he began to sink. Jesus rebuked him for his doubt.

When Jesus asked, "Whom say ye that I am?" Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

At the transfiguration, Peter wanted to build three tabernacles. So we see people today: let a revival break out, or we meet at some association or conference; their enthusiasm mounts to fever heights and, like Peter, they want to build; not doing as the Savior

told us to do. "Count the cost first, whether he hath sufficient to finish it." If we would wait to build our towns, schools, etc., until we have "sufficient to finish it," no man would mock us. As the Jews did under Moses, when they got ready to build their tabernacle; so let us do. "As they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work."

Peter got all wrought up and refused to let Jesus wash his feet, . . . then wanted Him to do more for him than Jesus proposed to do. Do we see this spirit manifested today? Yes, whole churches are going beyond all reason in their service, or show. They remember that Paul told Timothy to "Study to show thyself approved, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." But they cut the sentence in two, and remember only the first part, "Study to show thyself."

Peter the Impulsive! Don't we see him duplicated now, everywhere? People are doing as he did: Ready to die for the Lord, and denying Him every day. I've heard preachers declare that they would preach the Word if it cost them their lives—no hardship would be too hard—they would preach if they had to walk, preach if they had to do so in rags! But where are they today?

"Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold," Jesus said, "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matt. 24:13). So we must endure unto the end; not let our love wax cold, if we would be saved.

What we need now, most of all, is

to return to the old paths: "Set thee up way marks, make thee high heels." And, let us point out the way so plainly, that

*"None can say of the children of men.
Nobody ever has told me before."*

And as Peter who wept bitterly over his denial of Christ, let us go back and say, as he did, "For the

time is come, that judgment must begin at the house of God: and, if it first begin at us; what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" . . . and "Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him as unto a faithful Creator."

Free Scholarship Offer

By Leonard Earl Harris, B. A., M. Mu., 806 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, Illinois

There are many reasons why one should come to Chicago when a better acquisition of musical knowledge is desired; that I somehow hesitate to express the opportunity one actually has, for fear those who are not familiar with the situation and the wholesomeness of the artistic environment, might think I have misrepresented the whole affair.

When you stop to consider the opera season alone, where one is privileged to see and hear all the great celebrities and stars of opera, radio, stage and screen, you would say unhesitatingly that such an opportunity alone would be worth the cost of living in Chicago. If you were to consider the symphonic orchestra and Orchestra Hall, which affords opportunity to see and hear all the world's most famous and celebrated concert artists. The Art Institute with its millions of dollars worth of art displays, the many museums planetarium, aquarium, zoological gardens, biological conservatories, planet observatories and numbers of other educational repositories. Surely it is indeed useless to go on when any one of the above is sufficiently adequate to prompt or induce any music loving student to come to Chicago to study.

I left the South nearly ten years ago to specialize in music while my every ideal was to return to the South as soon as I could, to teach in some local High School near my home. As underserving as I was, I graduated with higher honors than I have ever seen bestowed upon any one, which resulted in my accepting a position with a highly accredited college in the North. Now, realizing the great need of specialized and applied leadership in our denomination, and in view of the fact that we have absolutely no educational repositories or institutional curricula, from which we, as a denomination, can hope or ever think of preparing or developing leadership, that I praise God for the opportunity I have in holding a position which allows me to offer free scholarships to worthy students and to assist the aid of a great supplement in the aspect of an educational program. What would you think if 15 or 20 specialized and trained workers were turned loose in the South to promote better religious and social conditions throughout our denomination? If each person were capable of organizing and conducting any form of religious group meetings? If each one were an artist at the piano and a splendid song leader? You no doubt would say, "Well, that's just

about what we need." But I say we need 20 times that many and then some. Perhaps it might interest you as a denomination to know that the Moody Memorial Church, an independent organization and entirely separate from that of the Moody Bible Institute, has 117 foreign missionaries on the field and they support 87 altogether, and assist in the support of the rest. The church has a membership of 3700. How does this compare to our entire denomination which I believe probably has a membership of more than one hundred thousand? I believe also that we have about three foreign missionaries on the field, some of whom are almost, if not entirely, self supporting.

My good people, the secret of the whole thing is this, the Moody Memorial church is run and operated by a specialized, highly trained, and applied leadership, while our denomination fails and suffers for the lack of educational proficiency.

It is indeed a most sincere and great privilege to be in position to bring this opportunity to worthy students of the Free Will Baptist denomination. Before I make the offer, I want to ask every one who may read this article to bear me up in prayer and also to offer PRAISES TO HIS HOLY NAME for what He has done for me in the past, as well as give THANKS TO HIM, for the opportunity which is now yours. I would that you be informed of this fact. I am the youngest faculty member of the College Department in the Chicago Conservatory of Music and am one of the busiest instructors of the entire teaching staff. I assure you were it not for God and His Miraculous Blessings upon me, I could never have attained half so much at my age, and had I not done so, I could never have been in position to offer free scholarships through the Chicago Conservatory of Music, the nation's oldest, finest and largest institution of its kind.

Pastors and leaders of all departmental organizations throughout the entire denomination please take notice and try to assist in getting all worthy students you know to participate in this scholarship contest award. Aside from the free scholarship, it will cost approximately \$67.00 per term to complete the required course as outlined by the International Board of Education. Should the student not be interested in working for a two, four, or six year college degree course, he need not worry about the additional

\$67.00 but will be at liberty to come and take advantage of the scholarship in either piano or voice absolutely free of charge. I believe every church in our whole denomination should be interested in having at least one of their members qualify for this contest because each church needs a trained pianist or song leader, and naturally the church whose member is selected as winner of the scholarship will benefit beyond measure. There will be six free scholarships offered, each valued at \$250.00.

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST:

Write a brief article on "Music as An Expression of the Soul" and mail it to me immediately, also a recent photograph of yourself. Any one may enter the contest and if you win and cannot use it, you may recommend some one whom you consider most worthy of the opportunity, provided they are able to meet the necessary required qualifications.

Requirements for Piano Scholarship

Select any of the following and memorize same:

- I. Easy
 - A. Sunbeam Dance by Kern
 - B. The Mill by Jensen
- II. Medium
 - A. One prelude or one waltz by Chopin
 - B. Homoresque by Rachmaninoff
- III. Difficult
 - A. One Sonata by Beethoven, Haydn or Mozart. (One movement to be memorized).

Requirements for Voice Scholarship

- I. Sing one verse of an Hymn from memory.
- II. One Ballade, semi-classic, by Penn, Tate, Speaks, Spross or Jewitt.
- III. Two sacred numbers by Roma, Guonod, Mascagni or Moore (Any one to be memorized).

It probably will be convenient to arrange a personal interview with each contestant this summer inasmuch as I shall be on a concert tour through Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri, Georgia, Florida and the Carolinas. Date and place of my concert performance in each state will be cheerfully furnished upon request. All applicants or persons interested in the above contest should write me immediately. Further details will be obligingly yours for the asking.

MOUNT VERNON, ILLINOIS 1911 Cherry Avenue

Dear Readers of the Gem:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend to you these able preachers of the Gospel and of the doctrine of the Free Will Baptist, T. E. and Gertrude McCord, who for several years did evangelistic work, and now after pastoring for several years, feel the pull to go back into the open field of labor. They are ready to receive calls for spring and summer at this address.

Lefton Harpool, Pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

The Lord Will and Does Heal

By Mrs. Lina Claxton, Hartville, Mo.

Dear Editor and Wife and Gem Family: This morning brings us to the 19th day of January of the new year, and I am wondering how the Gem readers are getting along with their new resolutions.

I am sure we need faith and courage to accomplish anything in Jesus' name this new year.

Heb. 11:6—"without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God, must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." I wonder how many of us really believe the Word of God.

Matt. 6:6—"And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the streets, that may be seen of men. Verily, I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

People are already talking about and making arrangements for the whole world dance, to make money, to heal the sick. If you believe God's word you know this is abomination to God, or rather in His sight. We read in Gen. 20:17 where Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech and his wife. And God said to Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:5), "I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee."

Then think of what David said, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?"

Dear Lord, help us to pay our vows unto thee, now, in the presence of all thy people.

Then let us think of Hezekiah, sick unto death, when Isaiah came unto him, and said, "Thus saith the Lord: Set thine house in order for thou shalt die, and not live." Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the Lord, saying, "I beseech thee, O Lord, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart." And Hezekiah wept sore; and God said unto him, "I will add unto thy days fifteen years." Read 2 Kings 20th chapter. This was not done by dancing, but by having faith in the Lord, and praying. The Lord hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed him. Hezekiah commanded

the Levites to sing praises unto the Lord with the words of David, and they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped

Psalms 103:2, 3—"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases."

Matt. 4:23—"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people." You can have all the doctors in the world, but if it is not Jesus' will for you to get well, you will die. Oh, He is so merciful! He has all power in heaven and in earth!

James a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, says (5:16), "Confess your faults one to another, and pray (not dance) one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

David said, "O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me."

Psa. 118:8—"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes."

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

"In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble."

"The sacrifices of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayers of the upright is his delight."

"The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the Lord: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness."

"Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way (Jesus is the way): and he that hateth reproof shall die."

Everything in the Book teaches us against sin: it tells us to shun the very appearance of evil. Here is where we must have courage to say, as Jesus said, "Get thee behind me, Satan."

"The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way (Jesus' way) preserveth his soul."

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

Christian friends, I would like to

mention some whom Jesus healed through prayer and faith in God:

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

"Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations: and repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face" (Deut. 7:9, 10).

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

Deut. 31:6—"For the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

James said, "Let them call for the elders of the church: and let them pray over them." If there ever was a time on earth we needed to humble ourselves and pray, it is now.

Jesus said to Peter, "What, could ye not watch with me one hour?"

Pray! pray without ceasing! The Lord give us faith and courage. Paul thanked God and took courage.

Pardon me, dear friends, for speaking of myself, I did not go very far in trying to live a Christian life till I found it takes courage, or sink into hell.

The first preacher my father got acquainted with after he came to the Ozarks was Rev. John Sheats, he was pastor of the Free Will Baptist church at Cold Water. He was having a revival, not just a protracted meeting, and souls were being saved. I had just lately enlisted in this holy war and I was called on one night to pray. Oh, I felt weak! knowing that without God, all was a failure. So this is what happened: A young man came over on the women's side of the house, and said, "Lina, I was actually ashamed of you tonight, don't you know that the Bible says it is a shame for a woman to speak in the church?" I was then young in the cause; so when we got home, and were all sitting around the old fire place, the rest of the folks talking about the meeting and I not saying anything, which was not common for me. Finally father said, "Lina, what has happened?" and when I told him, he said, "The Devil don't like to hear prayers, he can stand anything better than

prayer." The pastor heard the conversation, and he said, "You tell him to read Psalms 9:17, The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Paul said he took courage; and so did I, and I have been trying to pray ever since. Father said, "Lina, the Bible says, Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Dear Gem readers, I read the papers and hear it said day after day, that this nation has forgotten God, that they are looking to man for help, in this trying hour, instead of calling on God; and surely there will be great destruction in some way. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches: He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death; . . . Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

This is a song they used to sing when we all had old time religion and worshipped under a brush arbor:

*"Oh, Fathers, let us go down,
Down in the Valley to pray,
As I went down in the Valley to pray,
Studying about the good old way."*

Oh, it pays to trust in One who has all power, no other God beside Thee. Oh, how I wish I could hear the old Christian Harmony Band sing,

*"I Live on Through Eternity,
I Live On."*

Pray for us, that we may live on. God bless the Gem family, and help us to live nearer to Thee this year than we did last year.

Aunt Lina Claxton.

P. S. I want to mention and thank our friends for 44 Christmas cards we received; we're just glad like children. And on Thanksgiving Day, 1936, our dear children brought us a new radio, and we sure enjoy the good preaching, praying and singing. We kneel on our knees while they pray and sing, when we know the song; but turn off the world with its dances and jazz music, its no good to me, I sure don't want to hear it; for I sure want to go to Heaven, to get away from all sin.

Now, the little Gem paper would hardly be large enough to contain all that is said about healing. He told one to go dip in a certain water seven times, but I have never seen where He said to dance, and make money, to hire some doctor. We think of that old song,

*"The Great Physician now is near,
The Sympathizing Jesus."*

F. W. B. LEAGUE REPORTS

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Eld. Richard Talbott, Liberal, Mo., R2

REPORT OF LEAGUE RALLY AT MERL'S CHAPEL

On account of the bad weather, we will have no report of the Mission rally this month.

The representation at the League rally was very small, but we had a good program. There were five leagues represented, namely: Aurora, Jones Chapel, Macedonia, Carterville and Merl's Chapel.

The program began about two p. m.

and each part is to be commended for its inspiration. After our program, it was asked that Bro. Rollins bring us a short message, which was delivered with power, and was appreciated by all who heard it. The subject of his address was "Adversity."

The next rally will be held with our Carterville church, with Bro. W. K. Weston to preach the Mission sermon.

JONES CHAPEL LEAGUE REPORT By Mrs. Lizzie Turner

We have not had a report of our league in the Gem for some time, but I am glad to say we are still moving along in the work for the Lord. Not many of our members have attended this winter on the account of bad weather and sickness, but we are hoping and praying that, as spring is so near, that we will have a larger attendance.

Those of us that have been able to go are still interested in the work, and are trusting the Lord to lead us on to higher things in His name.

We think the lessons that are given in the Quarterlies are fine and a spiritual uplift to us all.

The lesson for Feb. 21st, "Victory Over Sin," is a great lesson, telling us how to win the victory over Satan and his helpers, was very good, and I hope it will help our people everywhere to watch and pray, that they enter not into temptation. We all have temptations, but our Savior said, "My grace is sufficient to help you overcome all temptations."

Donald Campbell is our president. Remember us in your prayers.

What Is In Your Hand To Use For God?

By Mrs. Myrtle Black, Cassville, Mo.

*"What is that in thine hand?"
(Exo. 4:2).*

"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are" (1 Cor. 1:27-28).

As I took up my pencil and paper this morning, to write, I was at a loss as to what to write about. So I did the only thing I knew to do in this case. And as I began to meditate and pray for something to write on, the above question kept coming to my mind. The question that the Lord asked Moses: "What is that in thine hand?" Moses answered, "A rod." So, I could only answer, "A pencil." God gave Moses instructions to carry out, concerning the way he should put the shepherd's rod to use for Him, that He (God) might be glorified and that His purpose might be accomplished. So, if Moses could serve God with what was probably a

rude shepherd's crook; we can surely help to glorify the same God with just a simple pen or pencil.

All through the Bible we find God using the insignificant. Read 1 Cor. 1:27, 28. There are five things mentioned that God has specially chosen—The foolish, weak, base, despised, and things which are not.

And all through the Bible we find Him choosing poor, weak, and faulty men and women to carry out His work. So now, this subject and text combined stops all possible chance for us to try to excuse ourselves from any duty or from using the talent or talents we might have at hand.

When we see so many people spending their lives in sin, we not only see wasted lives, but wasted talents and time, also. I feel that there is no one living, but what has at least one talent.

And we know of some who are not living in sin, nor living a wasted life, but are Christians, and are wasting the talent and time their Master has entrusted to them.

Now, as the purpose of our League work is to develop and improve talents

in our young people, I hope this question will bear on the hearts and minds of every Leaguer, young and old, and that it will cause you to use that talent you have as the "Rod of God."

Oh, it makes our heart swell with God's praise to see our young boy preachers wielding the Sword of God, which is the Word of God, and allowing God to display His power in them, just by being willing to use "what is in their hands." And, also to see the young girls and boys using the talent of music, vocally or on the instrument of music to glorify the God who made it possible for them to have that talent.

Ah, how sad, but true. There are those who have just as wonderful talents, but are wasting them in the service of Satan. Then there are some who say, "I can't do anything worth while in the Lord's service. I can't do anything to help any one." Yes, what if Moses had said something like that, with all those children of Israel suffering in bondage? Then why should we say such things with so much of God's creation suffering in bondage to sin?

Let us see what are some of the insignificant things God has put to use.

Can you think of anything so insignificant as just a plain little sling to throw stones with? Yet, the boy David won a great victory for God with just that very thing. But that was the talent he was most perfect in, so he put it to use for God.

And what is of any less significance than just a simple sewing needle? Yet Dorcas served and glorified God with one. She had compassion on poor widows and orphans and had a talent to sew, so, therefore, she put that talent to use for God.

What seems any more foolish than going to war with nothing but a trumpet, a torch, and an empty pitcher in the hands of all the soldiers? Yet Gideon won another great victory for God in this way, because he was willing to be led by the hand of God.

Please get your Bible down and read about some of the victories that have been won for God by others, such as: Shamgar, with his oxgoad; Joshua, with the ram's horns; and Samson, with the jawbone of an ass.

And last, but not least, think what a lesson is taught us in the account of the widow and her two mites.

To God belongs all the glory. Then, if He is to make something worthwhile out of us, and is to display His power in us and get glory from our lives, we must become as nothing or become as clay in the potter's hands.

Verse 26 of 1 Cor. I, says, "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called."

Now, what have you in your hand? Whatever qualifications you already have, please put them to use for God. And if you want to make a mess out of your life, just let Satan use your best talent. To avoid a life of failure is to avoid a life of sin. But to gain power and to live an abundant life or a life full and complete is to live for God.

OBITUARY

LETSINGER—Maude Kirk was born in 1884, and departed this life Febr. 12, 1937, at the age of 53 years, at her home in Treece, Kansas.

She was married to Joe Letsinger November 1, 1906 at Carthage, Mo. He preceded her in death Jan. 3, 1937. To this union four children were born, two of whom preceded her in death several years ago.

She leaves to mourn her passing: Two daughters, Mrs. Alberta Heltzell of Joplin, Mo., and Mrs. Nellie Helms of Monarch, Okla.; her father, George Kirk of Picher, Okla.; one sister, Mrs. Naomi Lacey of Joplin, Mo.; two brothers, Earnest and Arthur Kirk of Picher, Okla.; three half-sisters; one half-brother; five grandchildren; two nieces and two nephews.

She professed faith in Christ and was baptized and united with the Free Will Baptist church in Picher in 1930, where she lived a devoted Christian life until she was called to pass from time to reward.

While it is sad to say good bye to her here, she has gone to her Savior, and we know we may all meet her in that beautiful land where there is no more sorrow.

Funeral services were conducted at the Methodist church in Treece, Kans. by the Rev. Cecil Campbell of Carterville, Mo., assisted in the singing by Opal Bowman and Roy Walker, with Elaine Walker at the piano.

The body was laid to rest in the Union Chapel cemetery north of Galena, Kansas, with the Durnil Funeral directors in charge.

SMITH—Minerva Brummette Smith was born in Brown County, Indiana in 1857, and departed this life in Carterville, Mo., Thursday, Feb. 18, 1937, at the age of 80 years.

In the year 1867, she moved with

her parents to Barton County, Mo., to a farm near Lamar, Mo., where in 1882, she was married to Samuel Houston Smith, after which they moved to Webb City, Mo., and lived near there the rest of this life. To this union seven children were born, four of which have preceded her in death.

She is survived by three children, Blanche Brown of Carterville, Mo.; Ethel Whitelock of prosperity, Mo.; and Earl Smith of Picher, Okla.

In the year 1884, she was converted and baptized, joining the Methodist church, where she lived faithful until death called her home to Heaven.

Besides her children, she is survived by a number of grandchildren, other relatives and many friends to mourn her passing, but our loss is heaven's gain.

Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Cecil Campbell at the North Methodist church in Carterville, Mo., Saturday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. He was assisted in singing by Rev. Maggie Hudson and Mamie Stafford.

Interment was made in Carterville cemetery under the direction of the Webb City Undertaking Company.

MAYS—In behalf of the Kanawha Conference of Free Will Baptist, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family and relatives of our brother, Herman Mays, 55 years old, who departed this life January 21, 1937, at his home on Wirts Avenue, Charleston, W. Va.

He was ordained as a deacon of the Wirts Avenue Free Will Baptist church just about two months ago at our quarterly meeting in November, 1936, at Dry Branch.

Funeral services were conducted by his pastor, Rev. Melvin Pennington, at the church where he belonged.

—F. E. Nicholas.

CHIPS

From Eld. T. C. Ferguson's Sermons,

Jesus is the Bible's Demonstrator and Teacher.

Return good for evil, and make people like you, whether they want to or not.

An agnostic is a man who believes that seeing is believing.

Salvation through Jesus Christ is three fold: it is a death, and a birth, and a resurrection.

If some churches had less ice cream suppers and less wienie roasts, and more prayer meetings, they would prosper more than they do.

You can't tell a fool anything, he knows it all already.

It takes some people only about five minutes to tell all they know.

A lie is the misrepresentation of the truth, it makes no difference how it is presented, whether by words or by deeds.

If you tell a lie, tell one so big and so black that no one will believe you, and call you a fool.

A lot of Jews caused Jesus to be crucified, now a lot of professed Christians disgrace Him, which is worst?

Laziness leads to stagnation, and that is the next door to hell.

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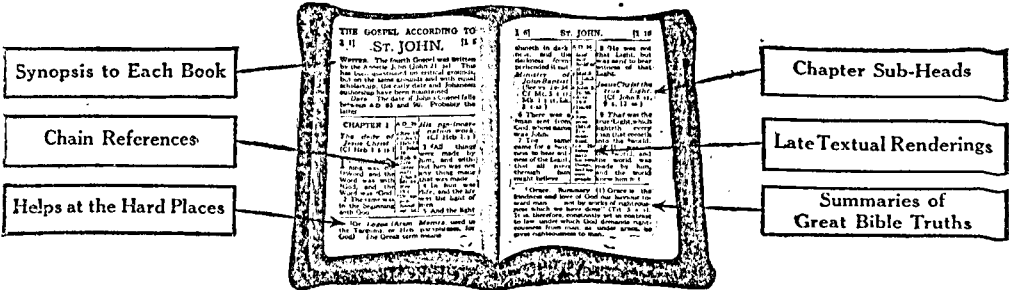
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