

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

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

Vol. X. No. 1.

Purdy, Missouri, January, 1938.

50 cents per year.



"Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?" (Job 38:22, 23).

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Organ of

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Published monthly at Purdy, Missouri


Eld. B. F. Brown Editor
 Mrs. B. F. Brown Associate Editor
 Eld. John B. Rollins Associate Editor

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TERMS

50 cents per year, cash in advance. Paper will be discontinued when subscription expires.

We will be glad to change your address for the Gem, if you notify us. Please give the old address with the new.

Your time is out if a pencil mark appears here 

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

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THIRD FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

Dear Gem Readers and Friends:

It has been about a month since I have written to the Gem. Our church is moving along fine under the leadership of Bro. W. C. Hill who is pastor. Services are good and well attended, and are good spiritually. The band bought a loud speaker and when the weather permits, they can preach to the people on the street as they pass by.

It is a wonderful thing to know that Jesus is still blessing His people and filling them with joy and gladness, that they may look forward to that glorious day when they can hear the roll call.

Well, the church gave Bro. Hill a birthday surprise party, and there was quite a crowd present, and Bro. Hill, who is getting up in years, received several presents. The writer has worked with Bro. Hill for about nine years, and we have some good times serving the Lord and working together in the Lord's vineyard.

The League is coming along fine, with good interest. Bro. Johnson teaches the older people, Bro. Gill teaches the Seniors, and Bro. Charley Miller teaches the Juniors. He has a fine class of young folks who come together to study the Bible and learn what God has in store for them.

Our Sunday school is going fine with Bro. Lincoln as superintendent. They are starting to-day getting a Christmas program started, and we are looking forward to some great things.

Francis McCauley, 1622 Hickory Street.

GREENTOP, MISSOURI, R2, December 6, 1937.

Dear Brown and Wife and All the Gem Family:

I want to write a few lines to the dear readers of the Gem, as I am sending my renewal. I would rather do without some temporal food than our paper. We don't get to go to church any more, as we have no way to go and my husband isn't able to go. So if it was not for the Gem we would get awful lean, if we didn't starve to death, but I praise the dear Lord that we can still read the dear messages and feast on them. I sure was glad to read Bro. Mann's letter, it did my soul good. I love all the writers, but I sure miss Aunt Lina Claxton. I used to hunt her piece the first thing. I wish I could write something that would help some one over the rough places, but I can't remember well enough.

From one who loves the Lord and all His people.

—Mrs. Jeff Fowler.

CASTROVILLE, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brother Brown and the Gem Family:

I am getting the Gem paper now, and I am very thankful that I am, too. I love so much to read the letters from God's children, it makes my heart to rejoice to read of so many souls being saved and know that the good work is still going on.

I have been away almost two years, but I am still looking to Jesus for my help. I go to church and Sunday school here. May I have the prayers of God's children, that I may serve my Savior more faithfully?

—Josie Raney.

Our Wonderful Bible

By the Editor

Continued from last issue

In our last study, we left off with the deeds of Elisha the prophet as set forth in the Second Book of Kings. We want now to continue our study of Second Kings, and consider the state of Judah and Israel under the kings which ruled during the 300 year period covered by Second Kings, or from Elijah's time to the captivities.

Near the middle of this period, or about 741 B. C., Israel was carried into captivity to Assyria, and 133 to 163 years later, of from 607 B. C. to 577 B. C. Judah was carried into captivity, some to Egypt, but most of them to Babylon. These captivities still continue, except the few hundreds of Judah that returned with Ezra and Nehemiah, and about 400,000 from different countries, who have recently returned to Palestine, otherwise they are still scattered among the nations of the earth.

According to the record of Second Kings, Israel had eleven kings who reigned at Samaria during the 156 years from 897 to 741 B. C. (The kingdom of Israel continued 356 years, or from 1097 to 741 B. C.). Not a word of good is spoken of any of these kings, not one was said to be good. It is true that Jehu was commended for doing such a good job killing off the house of Ahab (2 Kings 10:30), but what a terrible indictment against the hundreds of the ruling family, who were slain because they were worthy only of death. These kings, beginning in 897 B. C., were Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, Joash, Jereboam, Zachariah, Shallum, Manahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea. Hoshea the last of Israel's kings had been reigning nine years when Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and carried king Hoshea and his people to captivity in Assyria (2 Kings 17:4-6).

The reason for this carrying away of Israel into Assyria was that they had almost completely forsaken God. "For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, . . . and walked in the statutes of the heathen, . . . and the children of Israel did secretly those things which were not right against the Lord their God, . . . and they set them up images in all the high places, . . . for they served idols" (2 Kings 17:7-23).

Now the poorest of the children of Israel were left in the land; and the king of Assyria sent people from the cities of Assyria and re-peopled the cities of Israel. It was a mixed people then that populated the cities of Israel, a people that knew not God. Since they "knew not the manner of



the God of the land," they did not serve Him; and God sent lions among them. When the people complained that "they knew not the manner of the God of the land," and that they feared the lions, the king of Assyria sent them a priest that had been taken from Samaria, that he might teach "them the manner of the God of the land." Now turn to 2 Kings 17 and read verses 24 to 41.

The people which now peopled the land of Israel were from many nations, and every nation made gods of their own. So, it is said of them, "So they feared the Lord, and served their own gods" (v. 33).

The story told in Second Kings is a horrible one, it is an awful picture that is painted, it shows us the pitiful condition of God's people just before they were taken away into captivity. And awful as the condition is that is described, it is not much worse than the condition of the visible church of today. There are multitudes of professed Christians today that profess to fear and serve the Lord, and serve their own gods. Israel had her false prophets, and the world is full of false teachers, preachers and prophets today: but there were also true prophets in Israel in those days, and there are many consecrated men and women in the churches of today. But the rank and file of the children of Israel, king and all, did not believe the message God sent by His holy prophets,

and, sad as it is, only a few really believe the message of God's true ministers in this time of spiritual declension.

There is a great deal of unbelief in the visible church of today, which many think indicates the last days of this Dispensation, and why not? The Bible describes just such conditions as we now have, to be in the last days. Israel, just before they were taken into captivity, practiced and indulged all the things God said He would cast them out His sight for: and the present day visible church has, and supports, about all the world has: they profess to fear the Lord, but serve their own gods.

Church members who drink, play cards, gamble, dance, love the world and the pleasures of the world, make these things their gods, and serve them just as the Israelites of old served idols. God did not spare His people who forsook Him to serve other gods in the old dispensation; neither will He spare those of this dispensation who forsake Him to serve other gods.

Our wonderful Bible tells a simple plain story about man and his duty towards God; it tells of man's evil as well as his righteous deeds; it condemns the man, who out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth evil things; and blesses the man, who out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth good things (Mt. 12:35). And Jesus said (Matt. 12:37), "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

The Bible raises the question, "What is man?" and answers it. Men raise the same question, and try to answer it; but if we want to know what man is, we must go to the Bible. Many scientists deny the truth of the Bible, but not one of them can prove that he is a man, and not some animal without the Bible. Likewise there are many things we can not know without the Bible. Wise men have much to say about life, but not one of them can tell us what life is. The Bible also has much to say about life, and tells us what life is. Jesus is life: "He that hath the Son, hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:12). Jesus also said (John 6:63), "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

To be continued

OBITUARY

Raney.—Nearing the close of the Sabbath evening on Dec. 26, 1937, the mystery of God's will was witnessed once more, in the home of Willie Levi Raney, when he, the husband and father passed into eternity.

Mr. Raney was born in Pulaska County, Ky., on Jan. 1, 1861, and at the time of his death had attained the age of 76 years, 11 months, and 25 days.

He came to Wright County, Mo. at the age of 18 years.

On July 6, 1890, he was united in marriage to Sarah Jane Kelly, and to this union nine children were born, one son being called away in early life.

He was converted to the Christian faith when 63 years of age, and united with the Free Will Baptist Church at Oak Grove, where he held membership at the time of his passing.

Brother Raney had lived, with his faithful companion, on the same farmstead for 39 years.

He was well and favorably known, spending most of his life in this community where he enjoyed the affection, trust and confidence his useful and upright life had so richly merited.

The deceased is survived by his companion, four sons and four daughters: Mrs. Minnie Coffman, Mt. Grove, Mo., Mrs. Ida Gumes, Dawson, Mo., Mrs. Myrtle Whetsline, Grinnell, Iowa, Mrs. Erma Land, Seymour, Mo., Frank Raney, Shafter, Calif., Fred Raney, Strafford, Mo., Lieu and Ezra Raney of the home address, 21 grandchildren, one great grandchild and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning at the Oak Grove Church, conducted by Rev. Homer Smith and interment in the Oak Grove cemetery.

Butcher—Minerva Raney, daughter of Aaron and Jane Raney, was born in Pulaska County, Ky. on Dec. 4, 1858 and departed this life on Dec. 19, 1937 at the age of 79 years, 15 days.

She came to Wright County with her parents at the age of 20.

She was united in marriage to Leu A. Butcher in January, 1881.

To this union were born seven children, three having been called in infancy and one daughter, Mrs. Lawrence Atkison departed this life about four years ago.

She was converted to the Christian faith at an early age and became a charter member of the Free Will Baptist Church at Oak Grove, remaining the true and faithful servant until her passing.

Bro. and Sister Butcher have diligently and faithfully served the community and church in the capacity of deacon and wife for many years.

She has surely heeded the admonition of the Apostle Paul "to be grave, sober and faithful in all things."

This beloved couple have spent 57 years of happy wedded life together, 53 years of this time being spent on the farmstead where she lived when the call came.

The deceased is survived by her companion, two daughters, Rhoda Goolsby and Zona Smith both of the home address, and one son, Fred Butcher of Springfield, Mo., Eli Atkinson, the husband of the departed daughter, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, one brother, Willie Raney, Hartville, Mo., and a host of other relatives and friends.

In her passing, our community has lost one of its oldest and most highly respected citizens, having lived a long and useful life. The entire community will miss Sister Butcher and extends sympathy to the bereaved family in their dark hour.

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning at the Oak Grove Church conducted by Rev. Selph Jones and Rev. Homer Smith, and interment in the Oak Grove cemetery.

HEAVEN ON EARTH

By J. M. Doughty, Strafford, Mo.

Jesus wants us to be happy. We know this because He taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Surely this means that Jesus desires us to enjoy a bit of heaven on earth.

But Jesus expects us to get the right attitude toward this prayer. He wants us to co-operate with Him and do all we can to help answer that prayer.

We can be assured of this because farther on in the Lord's Prayer, we are taught to say, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." That is, we must forgive if we expect Jesus to forgive us.

Several years ago I had a conversation with a young man that made a lasting impression on my mind. I have forgotten the name of the young man and the name of the minister he mentioned, but I still remember what he said. I had just become acquainted with him in connection with Sunday school work and in the conversation which followed, he said:

"Do you know preacher — —?"

I said, "No."

He replied, "I used to go to hear him preach and I thought real well of him until I went home with him for dinner one day and heard him talk to his wife; I haven't had much use for him since."

The young man felt that the Christian religion should be for home folk as well as for church people.

My friends, what do you think about it? Was the young man right?

What did Jesus say about preaching the Gospel?

We find in the book of Mark that the last command of Jesus while on earth was: "Go unto all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

Is not this command broad enough to reach home folk?

Previous to this, Jesus had said: "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Are not our home folk our closest neighbors? Did not Paul say, "Be kindly affectioned, one to another, in honor preferring one another?"

We all associate heaven with happiness. So if we are to have heaven on earth, we must do what we can to make others happy. This furnishes a wide field for thought and action. Happiness for the Christian is a mutual relation. We are to make others happy, and if others are to be happy, we must give them a chance to make us happy.

I once knew of a little girl, who was happy in getting supper for her mother. But the mother came in and scolded the child and drove her out of the kitchen. What an opportunity that mother missed of being happy herself and making her little daughter happy!

I know of another mother who made her little daughter happy by letting

her cook from the time she was tall enough to look over the top of the cook stove. That girl is a young woman now and her cooking has brought much happiness to herself, her mother, the home folk and many associates.

In my opinion our Lord permitted Mary to anoint Him with the precious ointment and dry His feet with her hair because He knew that it would make her happy.

Jesus said: "In my Father's house are many mansions." Is it not reasonable that the finest mansions will be given to those who have helped Jesus answer the prayer: *"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven?"*

TODAY

By Miss Cassie Kelsey, Greentop, Mo.

A New Year is at our door. Are we welcoming it as we see new opportunities afforded us, or are we waiting until tomorrow to resolve to help our church, our fellowmen, our publishing house fund and our missionaries?

Resolutions are saely put off. We don't have to wait until tomorrow to be merciful, to humble ourselves for lowlier tasks, to do personal work, but we can begin NOW! Tomorrow holds no assurance for us.

Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 6:2, "... Behold, now is the accepted time ..."

Heb. 3:7, 8—"... Today if ye will hear his voice harden not your hearts ..."

God speaks to each of us every day, but many, many times we fail to respond to His urgent message, especially when we're busy with other duties. It's so easy to say, "I'll wait until I've finished my work, then I'll pray. I feel as if I should visit my neighbor, who is sick, but I'll wait until tomorrow.—I won't bother to go to prayer meeting tonight. The crowds are always small, and it isn't interesting anyway. I want to visit my sister this Sunday, Lord, but next Sunday I'll attend Sunday school and church." God doesn't expect us to be loafers, nor shirks, but He does expect us to be racers.

Paul entreats the Ephesians to walk circumspectly, and to redeem the time, because the days are evil. Eph. 5:15-16.

Rev. John Thomas says the Greek definition of the word circumspectly means walking like an acrobat. So,

if we are to walk circumspectly, we must watch our own steps.

We know how carefully the acrobat starts across the rope. His mind is centered upon the one thing he wishes to accomplish, and he has to keep it there too. So must our minds be centered upon Jesus, our great example, if we wish to succeed in our walk along the Christian way. The acrobat is being watched by all spectators—they are thrilled if he accomplishes his feat well; and those who are watching us in our daily walk are thrilled if we hold up the banner of our King Emmanuel. Even those opposing or persecuting admit it silently, if not openly. Oh Christian friends, be true! So much depends upon your staunchness. Be brave! There is so much to dare.

The hand of yesterday may try to clamp down and retard your progress of today, but rebel against it. Do not allow the fears of yesterday to station themselves on the trail of the present. The past can do all kinds of bad things for us, if we will allow it, but the glorious dawn of Today can lift us up, if we rely upon the One who said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" Jno. 12:32.

The time came in Paul's life that he spent much time in prison. He was chained to a guard. These guards were changed every few hours. But Paul made each moment precious. He loved the souls of those men, and I can see glorious results from his effort as a guard goes out to tell others of his acquaintance with Jesus—of the new birth. Oh, those personal contacts with those who need our help! Don't they leave precious memories in the hearts of the helper and the one or ones helped?

So as our motto for the coming year, let us take a message Paul gave to the Colossians in Col. 3:12-18:

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

"And above all these things, put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts to the which also ye are called in one body, and be ye thankful.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord:

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus; giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

F. W. B. LEAGUE REPORTS

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MONETT LEAGUE REPORT

Clara May Vosburgh, Reporter

During the month of November our league has been striving to keep God's goal in view. On the other side of this goal, we could see our reward.

We have had many lessons the last month to help us keep our courage and desire ever stronger. "The Shed Blood," "Whence Cometh Our Salvation," "Thanksgiving," and "Like Him," have made us remember the great sacrifice that Jesus gave. It has also kindled a flame of courage and strength in our hearts to ever "keep right" and be in His army.

Our leaguers have fared fine through this last month's cold and chill. The attendance has fallen off some, but not over five or six members. We also have had a large number of visitors. Almost every Sunday night, we have enjoyed specials, given by different members. We are thankful that we can boast of these members not afraid to show their talents for God.

We desire the prayers of every child of God, that our league will be a more united band of followers for Jesus.

TALALA, OKLA., Dec. 31, 1937.

Dear Readers of the Gem:

I thank the Lord for another opportunity to write a few lines to our paper.

I would like to say that we had a wonderful program at the church in memory of the birth of our Savior.

The church presented a new suit to Bro. Wilson as a surprise Christmas gift. We feel that we have the most faithful pastor any church could ask for. The Lord has blessed our church in many ways since Bro. Wilson has been with us.

We have our church building almost completed at this time, and are looking forward for a great revival this coming year.

We are going to try to start the New Year right by doing more for the Lord than ever before.

We look about and see so much sin on every hand, and feel that it is time we Christian people should wake up to our sense of duty, and get on the firing line for God.

We ask an interest in your prayers, and wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

—Daisy Merchant.

OUR REVIVAL AT UNION THIRD FORK

We just recently held a revival with the Union Third Fork Church in the Northwest Missouri Association, 15 miles east of St. Joseph, Mo. The meeting continued three weeks, and we had a very good meeting, but the weather was so very much against us. The first week of the meeting was the only nice weather we had, and during that week I thought I never saw a better prospect for a revival; but after the first week we had mud, then rain, then cold, then ice. The first week folks were coming from St. Joseph and all around; but of course when it rained the mud stopped our crowd to a very great extent. I have heard so much about the difficulties in trying to hold meetings in the north part of this state in the winter months, and I have about decided that what I have heard is true. But in spite of the odds we saw eight souls saved, and three consecrations. Besides this we saw a number take up the practice of tithing, and our church there took four of the publishing house loyalty charts and are filling them in a splendid way. This means that church will be turning in \$44.00 on the publishing house program before long.

We met a lot of wonderful people in that church and community, I don't think I ever met better, and they are alive in the service of the Lord. They certainly treated me wonderfully. Rev. Kenneth Turner is pastor of this church, and he was with me throughout the meeting. I enjoyed working with him very much. They are fortunate in having Bro. Turner as pastor. Not many would make the sacrifice he does in going so far to serve the church. Bro. Turner serves this one of our north Missouri churches, while he lives in the extreme south part of the state.

I am now in a meeting with my home church, Macedonia. We desire your prayers for success in this revival.

—Eld. Winford Davis.

TULSA CHURCH REPORT

Mrs. Evelyn Miller, Reporter

Dear Brother Brown and Gem Folks:

As the old year is rapidly drawing to a close, and we begin to look forward to the coming of the New Year, we have been sitting here and pondering over the progress of time and of God's work, and wondered if we have done everything that we should

have done.

So today we want to say that Tulsa church is still on the forward march, holding up the blood-stained banner of Jesus Christ. We have found that as long as we keep Christ in our lives, that there is no place to stop, we can always find plenty to do; so today, we are thanking Him for willing workers.

The month of December has been a busy month for us all, while some were busy preparing a Christmas program, others were gathering in and preparing some 500 bags of fruits and candies for our children, which was donated by the different merchants of our city.

Our program was the best that's ever been presented, with a beautiful picture of the city of Bethlehem, showing the birthplace of our Christ, and each character taking part being dressed in a very original and appropriate costume, making it all so real.

Following the program, the children received their treat, a bag of candy and fruit, and all went home happy.

While some were rejoicing and exchanging gifts and praising our Lord, other homes were made sad by the appearance of the death angel, that came and plucked out a precious flower, leaving a vacant chair—and broken hearts. We have witnessed four or five funerals since we sent in our last month's report, also eight reclaims and conversions this month.

On December 21st, some of the membership gave Bro. Melvin a birthday supper, it being his 36th birthday. He received a nice grocery shower and a number of cards and various gifts and a beautiful red and green cake with candles on it, all trying in their own way to express their appreciation for his faithfulness and co-operation in his church.

Remember us when you pray.

THE GEM OFFICE FORCE HAS A SURPRISE

Early Christmas morning, as we came into the Gem office to do some much needed work, Bro. John Rollins came across the street from his rooms with a big load of bundles in his arms, and laid them carefully on the table. Mr. Brown looked around to see what was going on, and I said, "Johnnie, did you bring your Christmas presents over for us to see?"

Johnnie said, "No, Mrs. Brown, these are your Christmas presents. They were sent in my care, and they came from Desloge, Flat River, and

all around, and I've had them in my room for several days. Just look at them!"

Well, we all became excited then, and began to take the beautiful presents out of their wrappings of pink, white and cream tissue paper, and to look at the names on the packages. Some of them were for Mr. Brown, and some of them were for Johnnie, and some of them were for ME!

When we had looked them over, and had admired them again and again, Mr. Brown sat down and expressed the feelings of the entire office force, when he said, "Well, those things are very beautiful, and very useful, and very appropriate, but that is just the least thing about them that makes me so happy." He didn't say anything more then, but we understood. We knew he was thinking of the dear friends who had sent the beautiful gifts. It is so good to have friends, and we certainly appreciate ours. May the Lord bless them all, and we know the dear Lord *does* bless them.

—Grace Irene Brown.

NACHES, WASH., Dec. 24, 1937.

Dear Brother Brown:

I sure enjoy reading the Gem so much, it is like getting a letter from my folk, and of course it is, as I was raised in the Free Will Baptist church.

I am at present working for the Master in the Assembly of God church, because there are no Free Will Baptists in the Northwest.

I was 61 years old the 10th of Dec. I have been preaching 37 years now, and I am still happy on the way. I am pastor of our church here.

May God bless the Gem family.

Eld. Jonah L. Shelton.

EMPTY MAILBOX

Contributed by Mrs. O. T. Fast

No letters again this morning—
It's two weeks ago today
I had the last from Fredric;
I haven't heard from Ray
For mor'n a month; an' Frankie
Will neglect to write.
I'm gettin' so I dream a heap
About them all at night.
They're all right, I reckon,
But a-body never knows—
I keep wonderin' about the baby
An' little Margaret Rose—
Of course they'd let me know it
If anything went wrong;
An' they have no way of knowin'
That the day seems twice as long
When I find the mailbox empty.
They think it's foolish, too,
For me to fret about them—
But mothers always do!

—Scott Horton.

BRISTOW, OKLA., Dec. 13, 1937.

Dear Gem Readers:

While I was on my knees this morning in prayer, talking with God, thanking Him for everything good that comes my way, and asking Him to guide me through this day, He put it in my heart to write a letter to our little paper.

Although the Gem is small in size, it is mighty in power. I get food to my soul, when in it from cover to cover I read so many good articles on how to live for God, and the good letters from our brothers and sisters in Christ, telling us what they are doing for Christ and what He is doing for them.

This is a dark, gloomy, dismal day outside, and looks as if the sun would never shine again, and to me it represents what sin is like; for sin is black as the darkest night, and no ray of hope comes from it if we remain in sin. But regardless of how dark it is to-day we can have sunlight in our souls: and it makes no difference how deep we go, God is able and willing to lift us up, take away the darkness and put light in our heart and soul, if we will only let Him.

I really enjoy serving my blessed Master; I feel and know that He is my Keeper at all times, regardless of how dark the way grows, and how hard the tests are in life, for we read in 1 Cor. 10:13, "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able to bear." I am thankful for this scripture, for we have to have trials and tests to try us out, to see if we have faith enough in God to stand on His promises. I am standing on His promises every day, and have a hungering in my heart to draw closer to Him and do more for the upbuilding of His kingdom. It seems that I am not doing anything when I look out on this wide world of sin and see so many people that need God in their lives. If we, as Christian people, would only take time to meditate and get a vision of this lost world, and get our minds off of ourselves and off of the things of this world and forget everything but the things that concern God, I believe we would wake up and get busy and go our limit in trying to win lost souls to God.

Instead of neglecting to serve God, we should feel it a privilege and a duty to serve God. There will not always be a time to serve the Lord; but let us work while it is day, while

we have a chance. Jesus said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

This year is fast drawing to a close, and will soon be history: let us each one ask ourselves the question, "Have I done all I could for my Master this year?" I am afraid there are many like myself, that haven't done their part. I really am ashamed to admit that I have not done all I could have done. But a true confession is good for the soul; so I will confess that in the forepart of this year I was slack in the service of God, and didn't attend church services as much as I should have; and we all know that when we neglect going to church we grow cold spiritually.

But praise the Lord I am back on the firing line for God, and have a burning desire in my heart to fight the battle through to the end, and help win lost souls to Christ.

I can truly say from the depths of my heart that this world holds no attractions for me; for what are earthly things? They are like the grass in the field, they will pass away. I am seeking for something that will never perish nor decay; so I have my eyes set on Jesus Christ, He is the goal I have set out to obtain, and I know that, if I serve Him while I live here on earth, I will make the landing safe.

I attend the Nazarene Church and hardly ever miss a service, because I enjoy the service of God. We do not have a large congregation, but they are real children of God, out to win lost souls to Christ.

Dear readers, let us take time to serve Jesus; let each one of us be a missionary, for there is work for us all to do. There's no time to sit down. The devil is never idle, and idleness is a workshop for the devil. So if we want to give the devil a black eye and make him look down his nose, let us get busy and serve God. We ought to enlarge our paper, write more letters and send in more articles to be printed. To keep a good thing going, we have to keep busy.

It may be through something we write, or some article that is printed that will be the means of lifting some soul that is discouraged.

May we all be true workers for God during the coming year, never shirking our duty is my prayer.

—Zula Lewis.

QUARTERLY MEETING PROGRAM

The New Hope Association of Free Will Baptist will meet in Quarterly Meeting with Bethel Church January 28, 29, 30, 1938.

Friday Afternoon

- 2:30—Opened by singing.
Scripture Reading, Moderator
- 3:00—Business
- 3:30—Talk on Laborers in the Vineyard (Matt. 20:1-17), by Rev. Dermont Smith.
- 3:45—Talk, "The Friend at Midnight" (Luke 11:5-8); by Rev. S. A. Morgan.

Friday Evening

Introductory Sermon, Rev. C. E. Wilson

Saturday Morning

- 9:00—Opened by Moderator.
Business.
- 9:45—Talk, Do We Have the Anti-Christ To-day, as Predicted in Matt. 24:24-27?, by Rev. J. M. Holleman.
- 10:00—Talk on Household Watching (Mark 13:34-37), by Rev. J. A. Stephens.
- 10:15—Talk, "Jonah's Deliverance," by Rev. J. H. Hartsell.
Reading, Hester Wilkinson
- 10:30—Devotional Service, conducted by Rev. W. B. Maddox.
- 11:00—Sermon.
- 12:00—Lunch.

Saturday Afternoon

- 1:00—Opened by Moderator.
Business.
- 2:00—Talk, Has the Marriage Between the Lamb and the Bride Taken Place? by Rev. J. W. Moore.
- 2:15—Talk on Sunday Schools, by Sister Alberta Overstreet.
- 2:30—Talk on Outward Righteousness and Inward Corruption, by Rev. C. E. Wilson.

Saturday Evening

- 7:00—Sermon.

Sunday Morning

- 10:00—Sunday School.
- 11:00—Sermon.

Every one is invited to be present at our meeting.

Rev. J. H. Hartsell, Moderator.
Rev. Jesse E. Pratt, Clerk.

REPORT OF PUBLISHING HOUSE FUND

Eld. F. S. Vanhoose,	
Paintsville, Ky.	\$10.00
Luther Mayberry, Neodesha, Ks.	1.00
Mrs. J.W. Allred, Larue, Ark...	2.00
Mrs. Lola Limb, Arcadia, Ks...	2.00
Eld. J. S. Damon, Ridgeway, Mo.	2.00

CORRECTION

Last month, in this report, it read Macedonia Church \$10.00, but it should have read Macedonia League... \$10.00

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSION FUNDS

Eld. Cecil Horner, Bagnell, Mo...	\$2.00
Ottis Martin, Greenfield, Mo....	3.00
Pleasant Hill Mission, by Hope	
Hoyt, Thayer, Mo.....	1.00
Mrs. C. N. Homan,	
Stewartsville, Mo.	2.00
Tulsa Church, by I. C. Arnold,	
Tulsa, Okla.	3.42
Blue Bell Home Mission and S. S.,	
by Martha Hellard, Sapulpa, Ok.	10.00
Hannon Mission, by Cora	
Limbaugh, Hannon, Mo.	2.00
Merl's Chapel S. S., by Marjorie	
Black, Cassville, Mo.	1.00
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Wilson,	
Anderson, Mo.	1.00
Eld. B. F. Henderson, Monett, Mo.	5.00

REVIVAL AT HUNTSVILLE

Dear Gem Family:

As it has been some time since we reported, we will give a brief sketch of our work here in Huntsville, Texas.

We have been here several weeks, have had over seventy (70) conversions and reclaims, and the outlook is good for a new church. So we ask the prayers of all our friends, for a good work to be established. The meeting is announced for two weeks yet.

We would have written before this, but have had serious sickness in the family. One of our brothers-in-law has been very ill for weeks, but we are glad to report that he is out of danger and able to be up.

We will give a full report of the meeting later.

God bless our Gem family and give each one a wonderful Christmas.

Yours for Jesus,

H. M. and Lizzie McAdams.

BOWNEMONT, W. VA. WHY I AM A FREE WILL BAPTIST

First, because they believe that the first step for a sinner to take is to see

himself as others see him, and to realize he is lost without a Savior; for no one will ever change till they see that they are wrong.

They believe that when one sees that he is lost, that he will be sorry for his sins; and the Scripture says, "Godly sorrow worketh repentance," not sorrow that some one has caught them in their sins, but because they have disobeyed God.

They believe that when one really repents and makes wrongs right, that God for Christ's sake, will forgive them of their sins, and right then their names are recorded in heaven: for the Lord has cleansed them as His own; for they have been redeemed by the blood.

They believe that the teachings of Christ Himself is good enough to save the world. They believe that when Christ told His disciples to "Go into all the world and preach His Gospel to every creature, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, . . . and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," that is just the way He meant for it to be done.

I don't know why Peter said, "Be baptized in the name of Jesus for the remissions of sin," neither do I know why he denied knowing Christ, but we take Christ for our Leader and Guide.

They believe that when Christ washed the disciples feet, and said to them, "If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye ought also to wash one another's feet," that He meant just what He said.

They believe in holiness and sanctification, but don't believe it as a second work of grace. We believe that when God has our names recorded in heaven, that is after our sins are under the blood. Then we do walk in newness of life; for we are new creatures in Christ Jesus.

They believe in a free table, just as much as they believe in a free salvation. When they take the bread and the wine, there are no lines drawn, but every one is just asked to examine himself, and so eat and drink; for we believe that when we all get to that home that is prepared for a prepared people, that there will be no difference.

They believe that all members should have the right to say who they should have for their pastor and officers, not leaving it up to a committee that never goes to church.

Now, I think that these are reasons

enough why I am a Free Will Baptist, so I will say a few personal things in closing.

We had our meeting on Chanler's Branch, that I announced in last issue of the Gem. It started on the fifth Sunday night in October and continued almost three weeks. We had a good meeting, in which nine wanderers came back to the Lord. Two nights during the meeting, the preacher didn't get to preach at all; for folks began coming to the altar in the prayer and song service; so he just continued the altar call and worked at the altar. It was a real good meeting. When our meeting closed our pastor, H. W. Scott, went over to Magazine to help Bro. Wes Hambrick in a revival. I was over there last night, and they had a good meeting, with six conversions, and the meeting still going on.

As I don't want to worry the editor or the readers too much, I will close. Just one more thing I must mention, that is our Ex pastor, Bro. C. E. Lee. He has been confined at his home for more than a year. I am saying that I know he is always glad to see any of the brothers and sisters come in, and anything they take him is appreciated and needed.

Remember us when you pray, and let's try to help and love each other better; for we are living in perilous times.

Yours in Christ,

F. E. Nicholas.

MIAMI, OKLAHOMA

Dear Bro. Brown and Gem readers:

Just a few lines to let you know about the revival at Granby, Mo. My father, Eld. F. E. Crain, and I closed a nine weeks' revival, Dec. 12th. A good Methodist woman, Sister Skaggs, let us use her store building free of charge during the nine weeks. There were 19 conversions and renewals in all. On Sunday night, Dec. 5th, a Free Will Baptist Church was organized with 16 charter members. We called the Executive Board of the Indian Creek Association to do the organizing, but as Bro. Davis and Bro. Turner were away in a revival, Bro. Allred and Bro. Timmons supplied. The church elected me as pastor. My appointment is the third Saturday night, Sunday and Sunday night in each month. They have prayer meeting each Tuesday night and have also organized a Sunday school.

Well, I'll get back to the revival. A wonderful spirit prevailed. There was old time shouting and about ten or eleven churches were represented. The Methodist closed their prayer meetings and Sunday night services for the revival. The Missionary Baptist were wonderful to help, and oh, so many others!

We had an all day meeting one Sunday and had a good time. Part of the Gospel Team from Monett came one night, which added much to the service. The Monett and Jones' Chapel Gospel Teams will be at the Granby Free Will Baptist Church the third Sunday afternoon at two o'clock. A wonderful time is expected. I pray God's richest blessings on His people.

—Miss Elda Crain

PLEASANT STREET

Mrs. Opal Frazier, Hansen, Idaho.

The folk that live on Pleasant Street
Are just the kind you like to meet,
Smiling lips and twinkling eyes,
That make you think of sunny skies.

They always have a word to say,
That sends you happy on your way.
It gives you zest to merely meet
The kind that live on Pleasant Street.

Their dispositions are serene,
You know the people that I mean,
The kind one always likes to meet,
I wish more lived on Pleasant Street.

KING JOHN BARLYCORN

By Mrs. D. T. McKee, Neosho, Mo.

I am your king John Barleycorn,
I work from morn till morn,
I never sleep, I never shirk,
You'll always find me hard at work,
I know no law, I have no creed,
My one desire is always greed.

You must admit I am no fool;
I teach a kindergarten school,
Where, as coins drop into my till,
Children come and go at will,
I take them young and guide them well
Along the path that leads to hell.

In former days 'twas only men,
I did a small-sized business then;
Now women, boys, and girls I win,
They take their beer and drink their gin,

I am your King, I'll shout with glee,
When all mankind bows down to me.

Cross Roads, Mo. Dec. 22, 1937

Dear Gem family, Greetings and

love in our Savior's name:

As no one from Cross Roads Church has written for several months, I will write just a few words to let you folk know the little band is marching forward with the cross of Jesus going before, still fighting sin and holding on to God's unchanging hand.

We have had several good revivals down here in which the power of God has been wonderfully demonstrated in many ways. Many souls were saved, some reclaimed, many awakened out of their carelessness, strengthened and encouraged to go on and fight the battle of faith.

At our regular meeting in December, we had a glorious meeting. On Sunday at eleven o'clock, Eld. J. R. Reid brought a soul stirring message, he was followed by our pastor. There was much rejoicing and praising God. For several years Eld. J. R. Reid was our faithful pastor. When he goes to the reward that awaits the faithful, the church will lose one of its best.

Our pastor, Eld. Curtis Wilson, is now at Gardner, Mo. in a revival, he goes from one field of labor to another but seldom fails to be at his appointments in the three churches where he is pastor.

It will soon be another birthday of our Lord. Aren't you glad today that the holy Child Jesus was ever born into the world? And then upon the cross of Calvary, paid the price for you and me? How thankful I am today that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life." We can never do enough to pay for this unspeakable gift.

I pray God that he'll use me in a way that he will get glory out of my life, that I might so live that the lost might see and glorify our Father in heaven; that they might believe there is a reality in Christianity, and that our Redeemer liveth.

There is work for all and the night cometh when no man can work. Let's say, "Here am I Lord, send me." Of course we can't all sing like angels, or preach like Paul, but we can all tell how Jesus died for all. Sometimes it is the things we would call small that are greatest in the sight of God. So let's do what we can, let it be much or little. There are so many traveling that broad road that leadeth to destruction that, if we try we may help lead some lost soul to life and light.

Thank God for the Gem, it brings

so many good tidings of the good works that are being carried on by God's children scattered abroad.

January 27, 1938 the quarterly meeting will convene with the Cross Roads Church. Every one is welcome. Come over, we believe in old time preaching, praying, singing, shouting and all that goes with old time religion.

We desire the prayers of God's children, that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

—Mrs. Lee Roy Wilson

NINTH BIRTHDAY

By the Editor

As we work and plan, write and edit manuscript, set the type and print the pages of the Gem for the first issue of 1938, we have been thinking of many things.

The Gem is now fully nine years old, and this issue begins the tenth year of our publication. The first issue of the Gem was prepared and mailed at Tecumseh, Oklahoma in December, 1928. At our first mailing we had near 300 paid subscribers, enough to entitle us to the Second Class mailing rate. When we moved to Missouri in 1930 we had about 700 subscription on our books, and now, at the end of nine years, we have near 900 subscriptions.

Wife and I are both near 70 years old, and these nine years with the Gem have been the busiest years of our lives. Much of the time the work has been about all we could bear, but we have enjoyed it, always doing all we could to improve the paper, that through it we might help to advance the cause of Christ. We have increased the size of the Gem from 16 pages to 20 pages, and decreased the price from \$1.00 per year to 50c per year, all at our own expense.

But we are not satisfied to have only 900 subscriptions at the end of nine years. Our friends have helped us to reach our present circulation; and, since our friends are more in number, they will help us to go on to greater things. We have much to praise God for; and we have much to thank our friends for. By God's help and the help of our friends, our paper has prospered; in the same way it will continue to prosper. Come on friends, let's glorify God with our publication.

The Valley of Dry Bones

By Eld. Kenneth Turner, Granby, Mo.

"The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, and caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry." (Ezek. 37:1-2)

In what way could Ezekiel have better described the condition that was overtaking the nation of Israel? Yes, it is plain that Israel was the subject of this prophecy, for in the eleventh verse we read these words, "—, these bones are the whole house of Israel, —." When we think of bones, we naturally think of the remains of that which at one time moved about with life, but because of death and the process of decay there is only left that of the skeleton.

Israel, at one time, was very much alive. In its early life as a nation, it prospered under the hand of progress. Back at the beginning of the nation as God called out Abraham, then as Isaac appears on the scene, who in due time begat Jacob the Father of the twelve tribes, we can see righteousness in its realms. The Patriarchs of old were God fearing men, and generally speaking, they lived to please and glorify God. But it wasn't long, however, till so much sin crept in, causing the nation to divide into the northern and southern Kingdoms. They were yet called and looked upon as a nation with kings ruling. But the terribleness of sin continued to grip the nation with such force that its affliction was serious. This affliction of sin resulted in the death of the nation, that is, it was over-come by the foreign powers, carried away captive, and ceased to be a nation governed of its own will. Scattered into all countries just as Ezekiel has pictured in this prophecy, we can easily see how that this nation which at one time was really alive and going forward with a government of their own, died out and was buried in the open valley. This was exactly what Ezekiel meant. The nation ceased to be, and its people scattered abroad every where.

Ezekiel is shown the time when the nation would be resurrected. These bones that were scattered would

come together after a great shaking, unto their own land. The question with some people is when will this resurrection be? Ezekiel's words tell that it will be directly after a great shaking. And I want to say that surely the shaking is in motion right now and has been for the past few years, especially since the World's



War. Can you not see the way the Jewish people are being dealt with, how the different countries are carrying on to bring on the scene, the very things that are spoken of that would be at this time? Yes, it is just too plain, the shaking that Ezekiel speaks about is under way right now, and the bones are coming together and being brought back to their own land.

And more than that, there is to be life restored to the miraculously gathered bones.

If we will just read the entire 37th chapter of Ezekiel, we will find so much that will enlighten us on the condition of the Israelitish people, and what the great shaking will do. We spoke of the two divisions of the nation, but after this ordeal, there shall be no more a division, for in the 21st and 22nd verses, we read, "And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whether they be gone and will gather them on every side, and bring them to their own land: And I will make one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all." Then there will not be the two kingdoms Judah and Israel, but they shall be together as one nation. And the 24th verse says, "And David my servant shall be king over them; and they shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them." Just think, a time when the people of God will again possess the land of Palestine with one great and mighty king, who surely is our Lord, who is called David my servant.

The Fool

By Elder F. C. Zinn, Purdy, Mo.

Dear Gem readers: As I have been sitting here thinking over my past, I was made to think how foolish I have been many times, so I thought of the text in the Bible, "The Fool." I am endeavoring to speak through the Gem to you who read this paper on this peculiar subject.

Now don't misunderstand me to be calling any body a fool, the Word is what we will have to meet when we get to the Glory World, so let us look into the Scriptures for a while.

Psalms 53:1—"The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." Anybody knows that such a one is foolish, for we can see God on all sides of us; in the sky, in the ground, in the sea, and in all His creation. God has called him a fool so we must believe it.

Then go with me to Proverbs 10:18—"He that hideth hatred with

lying lips and he that uttereth a slander is a fool." He that tries to cover up his hatred with lying lips, or he who tries to slander someone, I wonder if we have any members of the church who try to do this. Remember what God says about it.

Prov. 10:21—"The lips of the righteous feed many; but fools die for want



of wisdom." So, preachers and all, let us be careful, that we are not numbered in this class of fools.

Prov. 14:9.—"Fools make a mock at sin; but among the righteous there is favor."

Prov. 15:5.—"A fool despiseth his father's instruction, but he that regardeth reproof is prudent." This is for those who think they know more than Dad.

Prov. 18:6-7.—"A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes. A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul." Here are two more classes of fools, are you in either class, Contentious, or entering into contentions, always wanting to argue with some one, *look out!* A fool's mouth is his own destruction. Let us be careful what comes out of our mouth. This is not just to the unsaved, but God's Word goes to all. I believe God wants our mouth to be saved as well as our heart. "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. So both are to be made clean, AMEN!"

Prov. 20:3. Here is another class, "It is an honour for a man to cease from strife, but every fool will be meddling." Did you ever see someone who wanted to know every body's business better than his own?

Prov. 28:20. Now here is one to both saved and unsaved. "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool, but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered."

Eccles. 7:9. Look out every-body! "Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry, for anger resteth in the bosom of fools." How about that old grudge

you have in your heart? "John just don't treat me right," or "Mary won't come to see me so I will just not go to see her."

Jer. 17:11.—"As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool." That is another class, so let us be careful not to cheat any one.

Matt. 7:26.—"And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which buildeth his house upon the sand." So it pays to be careful how we build and what we build on.

Luke 12:20.—"But God said unto him, thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee, then whose shall these things be, which thou hast provided." A man failing to realize that he would have to leave some day. Oh soul, let me plead with you to wake up and to serve God while there is time to serve Him, for you will wake up one of these days and find it too late.

Here is a different class,—Rom. 1: 21-22. "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imagination, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, and they became as fools."

Eph. 5:15. Here is advice concerning our walk, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise." How is your walk? As we read this, let us sit down and measure ourselves and see which one, if any, applies to us.

out, "I see the star." And often they cried out both together, knowing so well when it would rise and where. So they grew to be such friends with it that before lying down in their beds, they always looked out once again to bid it good-night; and when they were turning round to sleep they used to say, "God bless the star."

But while she was still very young, oh, very, very young, the sister drooped and came to be so very weak that she could no longer stand in the window at night; and then the child looked sadly out by himself, and when he saw the star, turned round and said to the pale face on the bed, "I see the star." and then a smile would come upon the face, and a little weak voice used to say, "God bless my brother and the star!"

And so the time came, all too soon, when the child looked out alone, and when there was no face on the bed, and when there was a little grave among the graves, not there before, and when the star made long rays down towards him, as he saw it through his tears.

* * *

Now, these rays were so bright, and they seemed to make such a shining way from earth to heaven, that when the child went to his solitary bed, he dreamed about the star, and dreamed that, lying where he was, he saw a train of people taken up that sparkling road by angels. And the star, opening showed him a great world of light, where many more such angels waited to receive them. All these angels who were waiting turned their beaming eyes upon the people who were carried up into the star; and some came out from the long rows in which they stood, and fell upon the people's necks and kissed them tenderly, and went away with them down avenues of light, and were so happy in their company that lying in his bed he wept for joy.

But there were many angels who did not go with them, and among them one he knew. The patient face that once had lain upon the bed was glorified and radiant, but his heart found out his sister among all the host. His sister's angel lingered near the entrance of the star, and said to the leader among those who had brought the people thither:

"Is my brother come?"

And he said, "No."

She was turning hopefully away when the child stretched out his arms and cried, "Oh, sister, I am here! Take me!" and then she turned her beaming eyes upon him and it was night, and the star was shining in the room, making long rays down towards him as he saw it through his tears.

* * *

From that hour forth the child looked out upon the star as on the home he was to go to when his time should come, and he thought that he did not belong to the earth alone, but to the star, too, because of his sister's angel-gone before. There was a baby born to be a brother to the child, and while he was so little that he never yet had spoken a word he stretched

THE BRIGHT STAR

Contributed by Eld. C. R. Dick

THERE was once a child, and he strolled about a good deal, and thought of a number of things. He had a sister, who was a child too, and his constant companion. These two used to wander all day long. They wondered at the beauty of the flowers; they wondered at the height and blueness of the sky; they wondered at the depth of the bright water; they wondered at the goodness and the power of God who made the lovely world.

They used to say to one another, sometimes: Supposing all the children upon earth were to die, would the flowers, and the water, and the sky be sorry? They believed they would be sorry; for, said they, the buds are

the children of the flowers, and the little playful streams that gambol down the hillsides are the children of the water; and the smallest bright specks playing at hide and seek in the sky all night must surely be the children of the stars, and they would all be grieved to see their playmates, the children of men, no more.

* * *

There was one clear shining star that used to come out in the sky before the rest, near the church spire, above the graves. It was larger and more beautiful, they thought, than all the others, and every night they watched for it, standing hand in hand at a window. Whoever saw it first cried

his tiny form out on his bed and died.

Again the child dreamed of the open star and of the company of angels and the train of people and the rows of angels with their beaming eyes all turned upon these people's faces.

Said his sister's angel to the leader:

"Is my brother come?"

And he said, "Not that one, but another."

As the child beheld his brother's angel in her arms he cried, "Oh sister, I am here! Take me!" And she turned and smiled upon him and the star was shining.

He grew to be a strong young man, and was busy at his books when an old servant came to him, and said:

"Thy mother is no more. I bring her blessings on her darling son."

Again at night he saw the star, and all that former company. Said his sister's angel to the leader:

"Is my mother come?"

A mighty cry of joy went forth through all the star, because the mother was re-united to her two children. And he stretched out his arms and cried, "Oh, mother, sister and brother, I am here! Take me!"

And they answered him, "Not yet," and the star was shining.

* * *

He grew to be a man, whose hair was turning gray, and he was sitting in his chair by the fireside, heavy with

grief, and his face bedewed with tears, when the star opened once again.

Said his sister's angel to the leader: "Is my brother come?"

And he said, "Nay, but his maiden daughter."

And the man who had been the child saw his daughter, newly lost to him, a celestial creature among those three, and he said, "My daughter's head is on my sister's bosom, and her arm is around my mother's neck, and at her feet there is the baby of old time, and I can bear the parting from her, God be praised!"

* * *

Thus the child came to be an old man, and his once smooth face was wrinkled, and his steps were slow and feeble, and his back was bent. And one night as he lay upon his bed, his children standing round, he cried, as he had cried so long ago:

"I see the star!"

They whispered one to another, "He is dying."

And he said, "I am. My age is falling from me like a garment, and I move towards the star as a child. And, oh, my Father, now I thank Thee that it has so often opened, to receive those dear ones who await me!"

And the star was shining: and it shines upon his grave.

—Charles Dickens.

activities are not too many for Willie to be remembered. A week never goes by but that some word of greeting is sent to Willie in that other state. Why? One of the family is down there.

Free Will Baptist are everywhere. This story is a reality to me, and I am thinking of it this way: We have our missionaries on the field. Bro. and Sister Willey are in South America, and Bro. Paul and Sister Barnard are on their fields of labor. How are we thinking of them today? Are we, as a church, thinking of them as members of the family. Do we pray daily for them? Do we send greetings to them? I wish that every Free Will Baptist Church had a good well organized system of praying and giving.

Back to the story. We have interests that we have never had before. How disappointed we would be if we went away to another state or country and the home folks lost interest in us! Oh, may the day never be too busy for us to pray for our dear missionaries! And may we never become so entangled with the affairs of this life, that we have no time to think of our Missionary Program! And, if we think and pray, we are most sure that most all of our local organizations in the state will give liberally.

There is a special Missionary organization. I trust that every church in every state will (if you haven't already organized) adopt some good system of giving to our missionary program.

I wish to use Bro. Willey's name now, not that I would make him a preference, but he has been in your state, in your church, and in many of your homes; and when he was there you gave. But Bro. Willey has gone away, now, what? Are you going to forget? Please do not forget; it is more necessary that we give now than when he was here. Let's not forget: Let us pray and give. When you read this story, will you bow your heads and pray with me: "Oh God, help me to be what you want me to be. Help me to use what you have blessed me with for your own glory, help me to love you and your cause supremely, in Jesus' dear name?"

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." —Matthew 28:19-20.

Our Missionary Interests--What They Should Be

By Eld. Jas. F. Miller, Moderator Missouri State Association

When I was a boy going to school, our dear teacher told us this story and asked us to remember it. I have tried to do that, and now I pass it on to the readers of the Gem.

There was a fine family living in this state (Missouri), good folks, yes. But having heard about the people of another state, formed their own opinion about the people of that state, just like it is in so many cases.

Now in this fine family, there was a fine young man, whom I shall at this time call Willie. And in time Willie went away to college. While in college he met a fine young lady from this other state, which state happened to be Texas. Willie learned to love this fine young lady, and they planned to be married as soon as they were out of school, and he had the prospect of a position in that other state; so, before graduating, he told his parents of his plan. The parents were no doubt somewhat disappointed, but resolved to make the best of it. So the story goes: School closed, and Willie and the fine young wife came home for a visit, and she is not what

they expected. She is sweet, she is lovable, she has come into this new home to be one of the family. The family soon forget that she is from Texas, that other state; she is one of the family and loved by all.

Now, that the time of the visit is over, Willie and his fine young wife are going away to live in that other state. But things are different since Willie has gone away, and that other state has a different meaning for the family. The day is not too full, the



Obituaries

Dees—Sister Lena Dees, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andy Bennett and wife of Bro. C. B. Dees of Flat River, Missouri, was born in Wayne County, Missouri Dec. 7, 1906, and entered into her eternal rest, from the Bonne Terre Hospital, December 4, 1937.

Besides her dear husband and two children, she is survived by her father and step-mother, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Bennett, three brothers and three sisters, other relatives, and a host of friends.

Sister Dees was converted in January, 1935, in the revival that Bro F. C. Zinn held with the Flat River Free Will Baptist Church. She and her husband, who is now State field worker for our State League work, united with the Free Will Baptist Church and have been true to the cause since then.

Bro. Zinn and his wife were called from Hannon, Mo. to assist in the funeral service which was held at the Free Will Baptist Church in Flat River Monday afternoon, December 6th, in the presence of a large number of friends. The services were conducted by Eld. Jas. F. Miller, with Eld. F. C. Zinn assisting.

The quartet, composed of Eld. Noel Turner, Bro. Anthony Burcham, Sister Eunice Miller and Golda Kellerman, accompanied by Sister Glenda Moore, sang beautifully: "No Disappointments in Heaven," "Life Will Be Sweeter Some Day" and "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?"

Twenty-three of the friends of Sister Dees from the Young Ladies Classes were used in the funeral service, eight as pall bearers, and fifteen to carry the beautiful flowers.

Our hearts are sad, and we miss our dear sister so much, but we look up to God and thank Him for the hope of a better world into which we may all enter in God's good time.

Her Pastor, Jas. F. Miller.

EAGLE—E. E. Eagle, son of Benjamin and Lucinda Eagle, was born in Barry County, Mo., Aug. 14, 1865 and departed this life at his home in

Monett, Nov. 29, 1937, being at the time of his death, 72 years, 3 months and five days old. He was married, Dec. 23, 1886 to Minnie Ellis. To this union one child was born who is now Mrs. A. C. Lawson of Aurora, Mo. After the death of Mrs. Eagle, he was married to Ida Oxford, Feb. 4, 1893. To this union three children were born, one son, Ulula Eagle, dying in infancy. Those surviving are Mrs. C. O. Baker and Mrs. J. F. Dummit both of Monett. Other surviving relatives are his wife, the three daughters, twelve grand children and one sister, Mrs. Columbia Crossland of Monett. He had four brothers and one sister who preceded him in death.

He had been a life long resident of this community and was widely known and had many friends.

He was converted when a young man and united with the Baptist church at Pleasant Ridge, later leaving the church. Then on Dec. 25, 1931, he renewed his vows with God in a meeting conducted by Rev. Winford Davis and Rev. O. T. Allred, and on Jan. 26, 1932 he became a charter member of the Free Will Baptist church in Monett and served as deacon until God called him to reward.

Funeral services were conducted by the pastor, Rev. O. T. Allred. Sermon Text, St. John 14:1.

SORRELL—Elijah Sorrell was born in Randolph County, Arkansas, Nov. 30, 1857. Son of John and Edith Sorrell. He passed away at his home two and one half miles north of Myrtle, Mo., at twelve o'clock, Tuesday, Nov. 23, at the age of 79 years, 11 months 23, at the age of 79 years, 11 months, and 23 days. He was married to ing a happy life together 61 years.

To this union was born eleven (11) children, seven girls and four boys, of which two preceded him in death, one boy, Andrew, and one girl, Lydia. He was converted at an early age of 23 and joined the Free Will Baptist church and lived a devoted Christian life until death. Mr. Sorrell is survived by a wife, Caroline, and nine children who were all by his bedside during his illness: James Sorrell, Ella Crass, Finis Sorrell, Cleora Cantrell, and Leta Crass all of Myrtle, Mo.; Lola Caldwell and Albinis Sorrell of St. Louis, Mo.; Bessie

Jackson of Pocahtontas, Ark., and Zella Gregory of Thayer, Mo.; 30 grand children and 26 great grand children, three sisters, one brother; Isaiah of Warm Springs, Ark., Mary Taylor of Wenatchee, Washington, Mag Justice of Joplin, Mo., Nancy McCammon of Stroud, Okla. Also a host of other relatives and friends who will remember him for his many deeds of kindness and cheerful, helpful words at all times.

Mr. Sorrell was well known over the entire County as he had lived on his farm near Myrtle, Mo. about 58 years. He had the respect and friendship of all who knew him. He was an active helper in all community affairs. Though it was hard to give him up, his passing makes it easier for us to look beyond this life to heaven where he is waiting. He has fought a good fight, finished his course, always trusting in God who gave him strength to endure all things and to rear his large family, teaching them by word and example the way to live an unselfish life.

The pall bearers were his grand children; Alsia Sorrell, Cecil Jackson, Carl Dunkin, David Sorrell, Novel Cantrell and Ralph Crass. Funeral services were conducted by Sister Ludie Allen, Thursday, Nov. 25, at Myrtle. His body was laid to rest in the Myrtle Cemetery under the direction of Leo Carr.

Written by Alma Crass.

AFTER

"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."—Heb. 4:9

After the toil and trouble,
There cometh a day of rest;
After the weary conflict,
Peace on the Savior's breast;

After the care and sorrow,
The glory of light and love;
After the wilderness journey,
The Father's bright home above.

After the night of darkness,
The shadows all flee away;
After the day of sadness,
Hope sheds her brightest ray;

After the warfare and struggle,
The victory is won;
After the work is over,
The Master's own word, Well done.

After the deep heart sorrow,
An end of every strife;
After the daily crosses,
A glorious crown of life.

Evangelistic Message

By Elder Winford Davis, Monett, Mo.

"Launch out into the deep and let down your net for a draught" (Luke 5:4).

There is too much shallowness today. God's cause is dying for the need of those who delve deep, cut loose, and launch out. There is too much shallow preaching, shallow living, and consequently shallow conviction and shallow conversion. This is a kind of an "ease in" age. We have too many that are still born. Too many that are born premature. I like to see them peck their way through the shell. When they do this, they usually come through with a chirp; but if they are picked through too much, they are usually hatched out dead or so nearly dead that they soon pass out. If the new born babe did not soon show signs of life you would be alarmed about it.

In this text, Jesus was talking to a discouraged soul. When He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your net for a draught," Simon said, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing." We imagine we can almost see the discouraged look on Simon's face as he spoke these words. But, as he quickly reconsiders and takes special thought as to who is speaking, he says, "Nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net." Discouragement is one of the greatest weapons of the Devil. Simon was just like a lot of folk are to-day in that he was just about ready to give up. This is the greatest "giving up" age that you or I have ever seen. Paul said that this time would come, so we need not be alarmed at it. But I am going to give you one reason right here, among many others, why so many give up after making the start. It is simply because they fail to launch out into the deep for God. There is but one way to successfully live a Christian life, and that is to put your all into it. Too many stay fastened to the shore line. And along the shore line is where we find the croaking frogs, the poison snakes, the green scummed stale eddy water. If one would have the water fresh, they must get out where the water is deep. Do you recall the time, when just a boy, down at the old swimming hole, you were learning to swim? You really wanted to swim, but you

didn't want to get out where the water was really deep enough to swim in. In other words, you were afraid. Oh yes, there you are. That same spirit of fear that possessed you at the swimming hole, has kept many a soul from enjoying a Christian life, when we think of it spiritually. But you finally picked up the courage to push out into deeper water, and the moment you did so, and quit trying to



swim where you could really do nothing but mud crawl, and let down to where only your nose was out of the water, instead of trying to swim with your head and shoulders out of the water, you found that swimming was really easy, and the deeper the water the easier it is to swim.

Evidently the disciples had been fishing in shallow water. Note the Master said, "Launch out into the DEEP and let down your net." The moment they did this, and that at the command of the Christ, they enclosed a great multitude of fish. Just as you will see and experience wonderful things if you will launch out into the deep. Now the large fish are not caught in shallow water. Neither are hard-hearted sinners brought to Christ by the shallow preaching and living of this present day. We hear it said often, "Why can't we see more people saved?" Well, there is a reason. If you get that large fish you will have to dive deep and stay down long and noodle him out from under a rock or from a hollow log or some like place. You don't see him coming to the surface. He has had the gig in his back too many times. If you get him, you must go after him. But there is a way to get him. And there is a way to get the hard-hearted sinner. A two weeks' series of cut and dried services won't do it, nor short essays on mere current events from the pulpit

stand won't do it, but the unadulterated Gospel straight from the shoulder, so to speak, and that without fear or favor, really the kind and the only kind he admires, is mighty apt to get him caught in the net that he can't break out of. Try it and see.

I declare to you, sinners are going to hell in droves while the majority of the professed people of God are merely playing at religion. The greatest need of the hour is the straight Gospel from the pulpit and a general reconsecration of the church. We need to cut loose and really launch out in the fullest sense of the word. Cease compromising with the world and be out and out for God. We can't catch fish with a broken net. Some kind of fish will jump over the net but we can't help that; but we can keep the net mended until they can't go through it, and for that we are responsible. If the net does get broken, (and the net compares to our influence) there is but one thing to do, mend it immediately. Don't quit fishing, that will never do, but just fix it and go ahead. If you can't fix it with man just like you would like to then fix it with God. He is the One who knows, anyway.

Now, in this launching out, sometimes there are some fierce storms to encounter, the waves sometimes roll mountain high; but if we keep Jesus on our vessel, we can certainly out ride the storm. This living for God is not altogether easy sailing anyway, and we need not expect it. No where in the Bible are we promised it. The people who will get to heaven will be a people who have suffered. Let us remember the words of the poet in song, "No water can cover the ship where lies the Master of ocean and earth and skies." And it is entirely true. As long as we keep Jesus in our life, we can stem the tide and ride the waves. We can be more than conqueror through Him that loved us; but without him, we are already defeated.

Yours for undertaking in the name of the Lord.

A good spiritual message left by the postman every month in the home of your son, daughter, pastor, mother, father or friend, with your prayers that it might bless them, would mean much. Try it. The Gem from now until July, 1938, 25 cents.

The Doctrine of a Change of Heart

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

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." —Prov.23:7.

Certain great educators and psychologists may want to climb a tree or go sky-rocketing into the wind, or something else of like nature when they come face to face with the fact that the wisdom of Solomon declares that man thinks "in his heart." Strange as it may seem, the author of the Book of Genesis so relates the history of the Antediluvians by saying that every imagination of the "thoughts of his heart" was only evil continually—Gen. 6:5. When the greatest of all great teachers, Jesus Christ, stood before a throng of highly educated religionists and skeptics and proclaimed, "Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, etc."—Matt. 15:19, then we must accept the truth that man thinks *with his heart*.

On the other hand, many unlearned and ignorant men will jump at such a conclusion and strike themselves on the chest and preach about having religion "down below the collar bone." Some declare it to get "below the belt, even into the pockets." I am one of those who believe and practice the paying of the tenth-part of all my increase to the advancement of the work of the Lord and His Church, with an occasional gift and offering over and above the tithe—I enjoy it immensely. But these conjectures are misnomers, false comprehensions and are not the truth.

Man thinks with his *heart*, but I say with great authority that it is not with the physical blood pump within the chest and "below the collar bone," neither is it with a handfull of grey-matter located in the dome of the human anatomy, nor yet is it with a rope of nerves which extend throughout the interior of the spinal column. Then what is it that produces thought?

The Bible declares that the real thought producer is the *heart*, and by Scriptural analysis, the word "heart" (with two small exceptions) is translated from three Old Testament Hebrew words:

LEBAB—which means the heart, the physical organ.

LEB—the heart as the "vital principle—life." It is the transcendental

Ego, the real self. To the Hebrews, it is the seat of the *feelings, affections, and emotions* of various kinds; of love, Deut. 6:5; of contempt, Prov. 5:12; of confidence, Prov. 31:11; of joy, Psa. 104:15; of sorrow, Neh. 2:2; bitterness, Psa. 73:21; despair, Eccles. 2:20; security, Psa. 57:7-8. It is used in reference to the "mode of thinking and acting, that is, to the disposition and character of the individual." In this sense, it is ascribed to anyone as having a clean heart, sincere heart, faithful heart, or, a crafty, hidden, froward, ungodly heart. It is used as the seat of the *will, purpose, and determination*. Lastly, to the heart is ascribed the *understanding, intelligence, wisdom*—1 Kings 10:2, "She spake with him of all that was in her heart." that is, all that she knew.

Thus the Hebrew word **LEB** is called "heart" 498 times in the Old Testament, and after all analytical abilities are exhausted, the fact remains that it is *the consciousness of being*.

The Greek equivalent is **KARDIA** and it appears 158 times in the Greek New Testament as *heart*—"the seat of life."



NEPHEESH is the third Hebrew word that is translated "heart." It means *breath*, that is, the principle of life manifested in the breath. It is the *vital spirit* (animal spirit) through which the body lives. More than that, it is the nucleus or core

of our very being—the *rational soul*, the real *you*, the real thinker and producer of thought. **NEPHEESH** is translated "living soul" in Gen. 2:7. It is further translated in the Old Testament as follows:

"heart"—13 times, "life"—90 times, "soul"—472 times, "ghost"—2 times.

The corresponding word in Greek is **PSUCHE** which is the *soul or immortal part of man, the living spirit*. It is translated in the New Testament as follows:

"heart"—2 times, "life"—36 times, and "soul"—57 times.

The Apostle Peter spoke the sum of the whole doctrine when he said, "the hidden man of the heart." 1 Pet. 3:4. He was referring to the "inner man." When you look at me, you don't see *me*, you only see the temple of clay, the earthly house that I live in. "For man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh upon the heart." 1 Sam. 16:7.

Jesus said, "Out of the heart (soul) proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." *Like* has a tendency to produce *like*, consequently, when the thought is evil, it is positive evidence that the soul that produced the thought is also evil. Solomon was right then when he said "As he *thinketh* in his heart, so is he" for the soul produces thoughts "after his kind," just as naturally as the offspring of sheep is lambs. Man, in his natural state, is depraved, fallen and sinful, and being thus, his soul naturally produces evil thoughts and all the evil things Jesus said.

Paul said, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies...Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin." Rom. 6:12-13. Evidently he understood the great truth that a "lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood....feet that be swift in running to mischief" cannot perform only *by the consent* of the governing faculties of the soul within, and it is the soul then that is guilty of sin. Jesus said, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." Luke 6:45.

Now we can understand, "The *soul* that sinneth, it shall die." If there is any sin in us, it is in our soul. One church professor said he could

steal a horse (or anything) and his soul would not be guilty of sin, but the "out-ward man" would be guilty. I am not surprised that the "Father of Lies" inspires men to contradict Christ. Jesus said that stealing comes out of the soul—Matt. 15:19—for how could he steal without thinking it? Every deed we do is first a thought. It isn't necessary to premeditate, ponder and brood for hours, but to act on the very spur of the thought and yet it is a thought first. We just do not act "without thinking." I used to "cuss" without thinking about it, but it was a result of my continual thinking when I was "learning to cuss;" so, after all, my blasphemies were first a thought coming out of my very soul.

One philosopher said, "If you don't want to do a thing, don't think about it." Many corrupt teachers have employed this morsel of truth to teach the multitudes to think about religion and act as sanctimonious as a whole nest-full of young owls and their souls will be spotless white and their sins blotted out. This cannot be. Man cannot *think* his way into divine favor with God. He cannot change his soul. The soul is naturally sinful, and as long as it is, it will produce evil thoughts and it *cannot be prevented*.

A change of heart is wrought upon the soul by the power of God through the Holy Ghost. It is a definite experience and is a positive miracle, for it is a complete change from Matt. 15:19 to the joyful fulfillment of David's prayer—"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." Psalms 19 14.

It is said of the righteous, "His delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." Psalms 1.

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them." Ezek. 36:26-27.

OAKLAND, CALIF., Dec. 25th.
610 Brooklyn Street

Dear Brother and Sister Brown and Gem Readers: It has been some time since I added my testimony to the Gem, although this leaves me still on

the Lord's side, doing the little things the Lord would have me do, and trusting Him for all things.

This day, December 25th we keep in remembrance of our Lord's birth. On this day we should have a great love in our hearts and thanksgiving to our blessed Lord, and celebrate this day as His birthday, but as we look around and see them celebrating in a different attitude, celebrating in drunkenness and sin, instead of in love and obedience to our God, it makes our heart burn within us to look upon the wickedness and the awful sinful things that have cankered the souls of men and women.

We hear people always complaining that our days are few, and life is so short, and at the same time acting as if there was no end to this life, and building for nowhere but here. But the day is just ahead when this building will be done; and there's no hope, no future but everlasting punishment.

But on the other hand, thank God, if we build and lay our treasures up in heaven, some of these days, and it won't be very long, we will reap our reward and be with our treasures, and above all we'll be with our Lord; so we can't afford to lose any time here, doing good for our Lord.

Time is really short when we look back and see how little, O how little, we have done. What have I to offer? I oftentimes ask myself; What can I do to make it worth while with the Lord? I have done so little that I feel as if I had done nothing. Sometimes the precious old hymn comes to me:

"Must I go in empty handed,

Must I meet my Savior so,

Not one soul with which to greet Him,

Must I empty handed go?"

Would God greet us with a welcome, if we do not try to win some soul, or do our little bit, whatever that may be? I am afraid, if we don't try to be of some service, we will have no part in heaven. We are His witnesses and we have a mission of some kind, and we all have a part some where, and God will give us our mission to fill some where, and it is up to us to watch and be sure we don't let a chance pass by in which we could do good. We can speak to some one that is lost, we can act as a light house on the shore, we can call to some one that we see going down in sin, and we can cheer them that are down hearted. O, there are so many little things we can do. We can't all sing, we can't all preach, we can't all be up in the front row, but thank God, I can be among the least of them, and be pleased with whatever the Lord would have me be and do.

I earnestly ask every Gem reader that knows the worth of prayer to pray for me and my family.

—W. H. Riddle.

CHIPS FROM

Eld. T. C. Ferguson's Sermons

Who ever made hell seems to have made a mistake; for it wasn't big enough. Read Isaiah 5:14.

Several readers of the Gem lately have asked me to send in some more chips from my sermons, to be published in the Gem, and I will try to do so now.

Talk alone won't take you to heaven, it takes actions.

A Christian man once said to an unreasonable, insulting, sinful man, "I will do to you what the Devil will not do to you." He said, "What is that?" "Leave you alone."

I asked a sinful man if he had found Jesus yet. He replied that he never knew that Jesus was lost. I said, "He isn't lost, but you are."

Some people will worship anything, even a serpent. Read 2 Kings 18:4.

If some people's conscience bothered them as much as the corns on their feet do, it would soon lead to their reformation.

Some people had better try to get hell out of themselves before they try to get it out of the Bible.

The people who try to do away with hell are usually the ones who are afraid that they are going there.

The Devil makes people big heads instead of big hearts.

The load that we have to carry is heavy enough without loading a lot of grudges on it.

A sinner man said to me once, "Why do you make so much noise when you preach? do you think that God is deaf and can't hear?" I said, "I know God is not deaf, but you are."

Some people are so selfish that they take anything they can get from God, but they don't want to give anything back to Him in return for His goodness to them.

P. S. I am still preaching a lot, and doing quite a lot of Sunday school work
Eld. T. C. Ferguson, Weatherby, Mo.

A REQUEST

We have always done our best to put out the Gem as near the first of the month as possible. But some of our contributors seem not to know that we want all matter submitted for publication in the Gem office not later than the 25th of the month preceding the month of issue.

We must give credit to our contributors; for it is by your help that we are able to make the Gem what it is. So, dear friends, keep on writing for the Gem, it is appreciated. And all reports that reach us in time will be printed in the current issue.

But please send in your manuscript early, not later than the 25th of the month preceding the month of issue.

—The Editor.

MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT



ELD. T. H. WILLEY,
OUR MISSIONARY TO
SOUTH AMERICA,
CRISTOBAL, PANAMA CANAL ZONE



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

The Regions Beyond

ON THE CONTRABAND TRAIL OF PANAMA

By Eld. T. H. Willey, % American Bible Society, Cristobal, Panama

Back in the interior of Panama, down toward the Colombian line, there flows a steady stream of smuggled goods and emigrants, over swift flowing streams, through jungle bush and mud, their bare feet keep an open trail. During these past weeks I have been over those trails by dugout and afoot. I have no doubt that the American gringo was the means of many wondering comments. With an eighty pound pack and a seventeen foot canvas canoe many asked me if I were prospecting for gold. Truly I was prospecting, but not for gold. Something more, far more precious than gold, for souls hidden and lost in the darkness, needing to be discovered.

I left on a banana boat similar to that on which I made the trip last year, leaving this time from Colon. Within eight hours we made the transit of the canal. On into the night our motors throbbed and labored, arriving the next day in the bay of Darien where I had intended to leave the boat, and embark in the small canvas canoe at the mouth of the Sambu, but we found the rivers pouring out a stream of brush and trees, so I was forced to move on down the bay with the launch, going further on into the interior thinking to contact another group of Chacos on the border of Colombia, going down into the banana country on the Rio Tuira. Arriving at El Real, I met a Finnish fellow who has charge of a large banana plantation on the river. I was invited to go with him by launch down to the Indian village of Yapa, from whence I could travel on to the border village of Paya. I spent the night with him at the lodge and the follow-

ing morning tried to get Indians to accompany me, but due to the danger of travel, and the fact that they were unacquainted with the trail, they would not go; so I was compelled to return to El Real. The river steamer Baru had arrived, and I boarded and met the banana scout and buyer, and after talking with him, he urged me to return with him and contact more Indians. I did so only to meet with more rain and torrential streams, which were almost impossible to fight. On my return to Real, I met Juan Changlo the Indian I described so many times while I was with you last year in the states. Juan's face lit up with recognition and he hurried to meet me. He was on his way to Paya to visit his brother who was chief of the village. He urged me to return in the dry season to the Sambu. My problem was now to return home. I had found how difficult it is to fight the jungle rivers in the rainy season, without the proper equipments. No one can ever realize the strain on mind and body, traveling through days of rain and continually observing the natives struggling with the currents of those rivers, sometimes their boats turning over leaving them to fight for their lives, sleeping at night in a hammock in towns seething with noise and drunken brawling.

The town of El Real is practically all Negro. There were only four white men in the town: A Finn, a German, an Equadorian tramp and myself. If ever there is a place where God is figured out, it is there. The town is visited once a year by a priest and a religious celebration is given over to drunken orgy. One of the most repulsive sights I have ever wit-

nessed was on the river Tuira in the village of Paya, where naked Chaco Indians were stupefied and paralyzed by drink, and lying on the ground. I am led to believe that wherever so-called civilization has gone with any project, leaving God out, it is almost impossible to reach the natives and combat the evil influence of whisky. Whisky has always been the downfall of this strange and neglected race through all its history. I am hoping that the Sambu shall be kept free from its evil influence. Oh, to reach them with the Gospel! It is not civilization they need, but the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, that sets men free. Civilization without Christ in these tropical countries means the worst side of the white man's life. When we take Christ to them, we take the best that Civilization can offer. I was shocked to see children, Indian children, who were just able to walk, with cigarettes in their mouths. God have mercy on us as a people, who will send them cigarettes before we send them Christ the Savior.

My plans were to leave El Real on the Baru. The day for the Baru to arrive hundreds of long dugout canoes were lined up along the banks of the jungle river, waiting in the pouring rain. Hour after hour passed as these men waited with their cargo of green bananas, which would eventually land on your tables as beautiful golden fruit. Our wait ran into the hours of the night, while a cold rain continued its down pour. There was no place to sit, there was no fire before which one might warm and dry themselves, there was no bed in the town on which one might rest, just hours of dull tired waiting. As I observed the natives standing in that for two days and two nights, I was led to wonder how human beings can ever survive under such circumstances, clothed in

wet rags, having spent the day before struggling through the mud of a jungle banana plantation, cutting stems of bananas. Then the battle with the river, and then hours of waiting in the cold rain. Finally I became so weary that I adjusted my pack, which weighed about eighty pounds, and headed through the night, and through the rain and mud, to one of the best and cleanest buildings in that jungle town, a new slaughter house, and at three-thirty a. m. I tied my hammock up for a few hours of sleep. We waited all the next day. I saw naked Indians, men and women, and ragged natives stand shivering and hungry, and strange as it seemed, they did not give the impression that this was the unusual, they laughed and chatted. Finally a messenger in an outboard motor headed down river. A few hours later he returned with the tragic news that the ship Baru had run aground and crashed during the night, and was being beaten to pieces by the waves. This was the boat on which I was to return. I had anticipated my return on this boat with some comfort, and now the natives were going about mumbling, "La Baru is no more." Fortunately the crew and passengers were landed in safety. This was a tragedy to the dwellers on the Tulra, and would mean the loss of a week's labor. Finally, and unexpectedly, there loomed out of the rain the huge bulk of a river steamer. Arrangements were made for passage, then the boat began to load its cargo of bananas. They loaded from noon till midnight, then we began our journey down river, headed for Balboa. Then at three a. m. we ran aground on a mud bank and were compelled to tie up until five a. m. At ten-thirty we arrived abreast the Baru now being lashed to pieces by the waves. While we were plying about, a river boat came toward us bearing the passengers of the wrecked Baru.

That night at 10:30, we arrived at Balboa. At such a late hour there was no way to get over to Colon, so I went like a weary pilgrim to the Y. M. C. A. with the hope of a clean bed, the first to sleep in in weeks, but to my disappointment they refused to let me sleep there, because of canal regulations. I was not an employee, so I was turned out into the night with my pack which by this time began to feel like a hundred and fifty pounds. I must confess much resentment, till I began to think of the words of Christ, "The servant is not greater than his lord." "The Son of man hath no where to lay his head." This brought me a greater measure of peace and I began to praise God and give thanks that I at least

had a station bench on which I might rest till morning. Then to my surprise, a train passed going to Panama City, and a little later a group of people came, and to all appearance waited for an outgoing train. I had been told that there was no other train that night. I asked them if this was a special train, and they said it was a special loaded with Shriners coming from a party in Panama City. I am sure I am safe in saying that it was a special train for me, though it was arranged for another group.

Again I am in Colon with my family for a brief time, through the Christmas holidays. I wish it were possible to write each of you a personal message at this season of the year. I will say this, I often go again, in my mind, over the tours made during the past two years and into your homes, thinking of you in the East, the Southeast, the West, Northwest, and wherever we have been.

Continue to pray for us, that we might have the mind and the leading of the dear Lord.

OUR FOREIGN MISSIONARY OUTLOOK

It has been years since the outlook for Foreign Missions in the Free Will Baptist church was as bright as it is today. There was a time when the Free Will Baptist owned some splendid mission fields, the Bengal Orrisa Mission in India, for example, which was of great value. But through misfortune we lost these splendid assets; upon which loss we shall ever look back with grief; but thank the Lord our people are taking renewed courage and waking up to the need of the masses of heathen people. To me it has always been so foolish for people to allow themselves to be discouraged victims of past blunders and failures. We may get down, but we don't have to stay down. And it certainly is gratifying to see the marked progress our people are again making in missionary work. You of the West, who read the Free Will Baptist our eastern publication, surely were encouraged when you read the report of our National Secretary of Foreign Missions, entitled "Foreign Mission Efforts." This report appears in the December 8th issue. Bro. Blackwelder tells us in this report that in the six months beginning June 1, 1937 and ending December 1, 1937, he received \$1,365.85; and notice that he says \$548.92 of this amount was turned in by the people of the Western General Association. Now that should be en-

couraging to us.

I am indeed glad for our new Foreign Mission Board of the Western Association. I feel now that I have some more close help in this great work. And I am sure we can always depend on Bro. Bingham of Tulsa, and Bro. Vanhooose of Paintsville, Ky., as they were elected to serve with me in constituting our Western Foreign Mission Board.

We were very glad to have our National Secretary, Bro. Blackwelder of Nashville, Tenn., with us in our recent session of the Western Association. He brought great inspiration to us in the line of our missionary work. It is very evident that we are getting our missionary work better organized all the time.

Let us be certain to not forget our dear Brother and Sister Willey who are on the field in Panama at work, looking to us for support. If we should fail them and God, we have not only failed ourselves, but we have caused them to fail in materializing the great and wonderful vision that God has given them of Panamanian missionary possibilities. We are thankful to the Lord and to every one for all that has been given; but let us not slack our giving. Let us make it perpetual and even increase it. God is showing us what we can do in the foreign mission work, if we but will.

I contacted a small church a few days ago, in one of our larger Missouri towns. However it was not a Free Will Baptist church, but in talking with one of their church board, he told me that they all paid their tithes, and by so doing, it enabled them to pay their pastor \$50.00 per week, had \$25.00 per week left in the treasury for other church expense, and that their denomination, which is not a large one at all, is supporting 300 missionaries on the foreign fields. These people are not wealthy people either. Now they are doing no more than we Free Will Baptist could do, if we would only render unto God that which is His. It simply made me ashamed for us with our hundreds of thousands in membership, and merely supporting four missionaries, and some of them only part time. Yes, we are waking up, and for that we are thankful; but when we stop and consider, we have lots of room to wake up.

May the Lord help us in this coming year to do more for missions than we have done yet, and I have all faith that we are going to do more.

—Eld. Winford Davis.

THOUGHTS--OBSERVATIONS--MEMORIES

By Mrs. F. E. Dalton, Indio, Calif.

To what extent should individuals rely on their emotions? Too great a question to answer in a few words.

There is a sect who rely almost wholly on emotions for guidance. There is another who rely almost wholly on mentality. Many denominations let ordinances usurp the right to individual incentive and pursuits. We will do well to remember these words, "In all things be temperate." Give all sides due consideration and lean not too heavily on one alone.

Our emotions will lead us aright if we place them in the proper position; subject to the supervision of God's word. As an example (1 Cor. 14:30), "If anything be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace." Let us suppose then that the urge is strong within the first to speak. He is commanded to temporarily suppress his emotion or urge until such a time as order permits him to speak. This covers all sides—admits the presence of righteous emotions, yet wisely guides to order and reason.

If the urge to do or not to do a certain thing does not correspond with the Scriptures, you are not listening to the voice of God, but to the voice of your own dissatisfaction with your surroundings, the desire to escape monotony, or the fulfillment of personal pleasure, even though the motive may be hidden from your conscious mind.

Another thought relating to the same, A lady once said to me, concerning her home church, "Every time I go inside that door I get a cold chill. I think I shall no longer attend there, but elsewhere." I don't want to be a hypocrite. With no criticism for her, let me say that Satan would like all of us to feel the same. When you test this spirit by the Scriptures you will find it can't survive. Heb. 10:25—"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, etc."

Many feel that to worship in a congregation where Christianity apparently has given way to hypocrisy is not compulsory, but remember that we cannot pull up the weeds without uprooting the wheat also. If you possess the Spirit of Christianity, throw your influence along beside that of the faithful—Some of the weeds of hypocrisy will doubtless be smothered. Don't hesitate because you may be

classed with these poor misled souls. Suppose you are? your mission here is not to prove how good you are, but to bear the cross of Jesus. If this happens to be your particular "thorn in the flesh," bear it bravely; His grace is sufficient to sustain you. I'm sure that in due time the truth of your real character will be manifest. It has been my experience that the best things have to be waited for, yes, with patience and long-suffering.

* * *

This to the New Christian; You were listening to the voice of Jesus when you offered your life to Him. Did you suffer afflictions soon after that seemed to rend your soul? Ah, yes! you need not tell me. You were made a gazing stock and you felt that people required much of you. I pray you did not fail them. (2 Cor. 4:17) "For our light afflictions, which are but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

You also felt lonely and deserted, did you not? This feeling of depression was your first lesson in faith. Did you fail then? I pray you did not. Pray to pass this lonely phase. I'm asking you to take farther steps. Add to your faith, virtue, and to virtue knowledge, to knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity, in this order as advised in the first chapter of 2 Peter. These are the rounds of the ladder of Christianity, obtained by prayer, intense desire and perseverance. If you do not, you will soon forget that you have been purged from your old sins and commit new sins. You will have to take each in its order, to attain the first ambition of a new convert, namely: To see visible fruits for efforts made. Do not forget, dear child, that if this were possible, you would have no need for faith. We cannot always expect results immediately.

There are many plants that require a period of dormancy to develop anew, so do not fear to sow; "He that soweth sparingly, shall also reap sparingly." If you see no results, do not be discouraged. Perhaps the seeds are not yet ready to spring forth. Also a year in nature may be many years in the kingdom of Christ.

Your next desire will be to be very righteous. You may want to obtain

charity before you have learned patience, or temperance before knowledge, etc. Charity has been placed at the last of the list. Why? Because its true meaning is caring for others and you must have the period of long-suffering and afflictions that make you tolerant before you truly care. Of course you care from the first in a vague sort of way, but you have not reached its height until you have passed from the first stages of Christian development into a fuller knowledge of God's ways. In charity, you lose sight of self, you envy not, you act not rashly, you care not for the praise of men; you are no longer a babe in Christ, but a fully prepared and armored Christian. "If you do these things you will never fall." If you do not you will remain blind and cannot see afar off. If you think you can stand without obtaining these graces, "take heed, lest you fall."

* * *

Christian, have you offered your body a living sacrifice? Ask it not again. It still belongs to God. If the hardships of life wreck your health, perhaps God has accepted. Remember it is holy, acceptable, and a reasonable service. Compare this with the physical sufferings of Jesus and you will be more willing to give your life freely.

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A sister in Jesus name.

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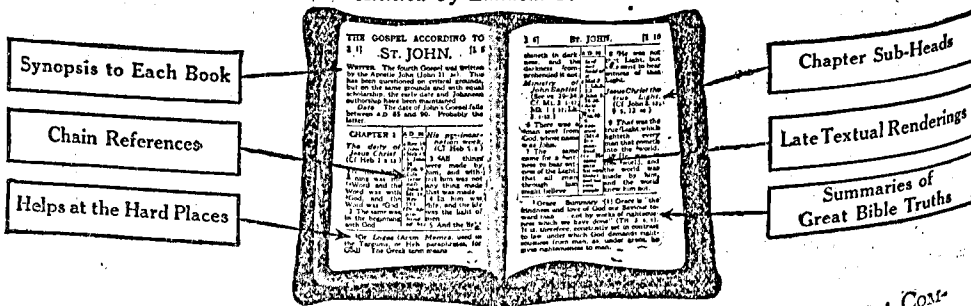
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