

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. 4.

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50 cents per year.

"PRESS ON"

By Eld. Wm. R. Buster, Thebes, Ill.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:13-14).

A soldier is not expected to retreat or look to the right or left; but straight ahead. We are expected, as children of God, to keep our eyes centered on Christ, heaven and heavenly things. There is nothing to be gained and all to be lost by retreat. Peter, for instance, got along fine as long as he looked toward Christ; but as soon as he began to look back, or at the waves, he began to sink. When we begin to look back, we lose confidence and become unworthy. "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back is fit for the Kingdom of God." The road is not wide enough to turn around on!

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended...." Paul says, in effect, I don't count myself to have gained the victory, yet; but I can forget the things which are behind and just press on towards the prize.

We notice that in order to press on successfully it was necessary to "forget those things which are behind" If we sin, come short of our duty, become condemned of a mistake, etc., confess it then and there to God; pray it through and forget it. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

Then, we must forget our victories, as well as our shortcomings. Paul was not always referring to his past victories, in fact, he seldom referred to them. His attitude toward his past accomplishments may be summed up in this statement, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Gal. 6:14)

Quite often Christian workers are

successful for awhile, and as they look back over past blessings and victories, become self-satisfied and lose their further usefulness. "Bighead," will kill a horse! God gives the victories, anyway. It doesn't matter how great a blessing you have received in the past, it won't suffice for today. There is always a greater one just ahead. "Launch out into the deep" (Luke 5:4). But, in order to do that one must cut the shore lines, and pull in the anchors, and lay aside the besetting sin and just "Launch out."

Nominal Christians often try to stay too close to the place where they waded in. There are a great many "Ankle-ites" in our churches, people who never get more than ankle deep in God's grace and won't stay in long enough to get their feet wet. Are you an "Ankleite?" Let's do like Ezekiel, just wade out about shoulder deep and take a big drink, it'll be free of wiggletails and tadpoles (Ezek. 47). Get the "Second Blessing," and the ninety-second. The sky is the limit. Press On Toward the Prize!

Then, too, we must pray without ceasing (1 Thes. 5:17). It is true that one cannot always be on their knees before God, when at work or play, or traveling from one place to another; but one can keep themselves on their spiritual knees, and the heart in an attitude of prayer. The Devil cannot enter a praying heart. Jesus said, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation. The spirit, indeed, is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Mt. 26:41).

In this great task of pressing on, one may well ask, "How often shall we pray?" There isn't any definite, inflexible rule regarding the number of times, or the minutes, or hours one shall pray each day. But, it seems that David and Daniel have left us some good examples in that respect.

"Evening, morning, and at noon will I pray and cry aloud, and he shall hear my voice" (Psa. 55:17). David, a man after God's own heart, prayed three times a day!

"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did afore time" (Dan. 6:10).

We notice in this verse that Daniel tells us how to pray, and how often to pray, and in what position to do the praying, and the direction to look, while we are at it!

If we are familiar with Dan. 6, we know that the leaders of the kingdom under Darius had the decree signed to destroy Daniel; because, he was preferred by Darius and the Spirit of God was in him. Brother, the Devil will try to stop you, too! Daniel served a King that was able to set decrees aside, and Daniel offered up the best Devil Chaser the world ever heard of—prayer. He didn't go home and hide in the clothes closet, or under a stack of quilts! He did not even close his windows! I don't believe he even took the trouble to whisper his prayers!

He kneeled down upon his knees and looked toward Jerusalem, "The Holy City," and prayed three times a day as he did *aforsetime*. He didn't just pray when in great trouble. It was a habit of his!

He had his windows open toward Jerusalem. No wonder he was able to stand uninjured in the lions' den! If we will get the windows of our soul open toward The New Jerusalem (heaven), and our minds off the world and worldly cares, He'll give us grace to stand, too.

Let us keep *PRESSING ON*, "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13).

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

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REPORT OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING

Crowded out last month

Dear Truth-Seekers:

The third fifth Sunday meeting of Cave Spring Associ-
 ation convening with the Royal Oak church, near Alton,
 was opened by singing, reading of 96th Psalm, and prayer
 by Eld. J. H. Tally.

Eld. E. E. Simpson, elected moderator pro-tem, appoint-
 ed brothers W. E. Crews, Claude Dotson and S. E. Coble
 as pulpit committee.

Reports of churches showed encouraging progress.

At eleven o'clock, Elders J. H. Tally and H. C. Crase,
 with Rom. 5 as Scripture lesson and Rom. 6:1 as text:
 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that
 grace may abound?" lined out a pattern of a real Chris-
 tian's walk. One mind in Christ, filled with His Spirit,
 growing in grace daily and helping strangers become
 acquainted with our Lord because they see we are keep-
 ing close by His side, a soul filling message, which was
 followed by a bountiful dinner for the temporal man.

Verbal reports were given of five churches not represent-
 ed by letter.

Brother Eugene Davis of the Social Band Association
 in Arkansas reported that they were about their Father's
 business, growing in Sunday school work and member-
 ship.

As some of our churches have no Sunday school, Bro.
 Russel Muse was elected as Sunday School Missionary
 for the coming year.

Mill Creek and Pleasant Hill, gave League and Mission
 reports.

The Liberty church secures the next meeting on May
 28th and is not far from Calm post office.

Following, was a wonderful praise and testimony ser-
 vice when the Lord's presence was with us feelingly.

Ministers enrolled: H. C. Crase, E. E. Simpson, B. H.
 Woodring, Clarence Dodson, Elmer Hodges, T. J. Dunkin,
 W. P. Stogsdill, H. H. Beatty, Billy Rogers, J. E. Rolan,
 and J. H. Tally.

Deacons: T. L. McDonald, L. A. Martin, S. C. Pierce,
 E. L. Frey, J. P. McCullough, Lee Clark, W. E. Crews,
 Com Crews, Russel Muse, and S. E. Coble.

At 7:30 p. m., Elders Dunkin and Rogers brought soul
 stirring messages on St. John 14:23:

Sunday morning Eld. Harry Beatty told us if we would
 love our neighbors as ourselves, our Lord supremely and
 do His will, there would be very little trouble in keeping
 our church covenant.

Bro. Rolan then told us that the Palestinian Covenant
 had never yet been fulfilled, as Israel broke it and were
 dispersed all over the world as the Lord had warned them
 would be the result, but God never broke His part of that
 covenant, which was to eventually gather them from the
 uttermost part of the earth and bring them back to Pal-
 estine where they would remain forever in peace; they
 would never be in want, the desert would rejoice and
 blossom as the rose, and Jesus would return to reign over
 the earth at Jerusalem during the thousand years, and
 these changes are beginning to take place now, just as
 God in so many places in His Word has told us they
 would; a wonderful fulfillment of a wonderful God!

Continued on page four

EASTER AND THE RESURRECTION

By the Editor

On the first Sunday after the first full moon after the 21st of March, each year, we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, and we call the day Easter. There is no greater fact in history than the resurrection of Christ; and it is a fact that should mean much to all of us: for His resurrection guarantees the resurrection of every born again person who walks "not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." "Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming" (1 Cor. 15:23).

The word Easter is found in the Bible only once (Acts 12:4), and there it means, or should be translated Passover. East and Easter come from the same source, and mean a rising or coming forth—Easter suggests the spring time when all nature is coming forth in renewed life. East suggests the rising sun: Easter points back to the empty tomb, and reminds us that Christ is risen, and ever liveth.

The sun rises and brings light and heat, without which nothing could live; and the Lord says, "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings" (Mal. 4:2); and His rising brings life to all that are His.

We think of our bodies as being composed of flesh and blood, and bones, and that is true; and Paul says that "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." The human body was made of dust: "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7). And God said unto Adam, "For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Gen. 3:19).

All the above is quite true of the body, yet there are great and precious promises concerning the body after death, given to them that love God.

Paul said (1 Cor. 15:44), "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body."

"And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly" (1 Cor 15:49).

"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal

bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Rom. 8:11).

Man is a triune being, composed of body, soul and spirit. At death the body returns to the earth as it was; and the spirit returns to God who gave it (Eccl. 12:7). The soul also goes to God at death: for John the



Revelator said (Rev. 20:4), "And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus." And when the fifth seal was opened (Rev. 6:9), John "saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God"

These Scriptures plainly show us that only the body goes to the grave; and it returns to dust, yet the body shall be raised up, its redemption is promised (Rom. 8:11, 23). There is mystery here, there are things we cannot understand: but we know that we have a natural body, and we shall have a spiritual body: for God says we shall be like Jesus.

"God is light," and "God created all things from Himself;" so our human bodies, in their final state, must consist of light. At death, our bodies, being made of atoms of light, which may be separated and scattered: but these atoms of light, being indestructible, remain in the knowledge of God, and He will fashion them into a glorious spiritual body.

The particles or atoms which form the bodies of them that believe are to be glorified: for God shall change our vile bodies and fashion them like unto the glorious body of Jesus (Phil. 3:21). In fact the process is already begun. Paul, in speaking of spiritual glory, said, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even

as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor. 3:18)

Paul has a great deal to say about the resurrection in the 15th chapter of First Corinthians. He says in verse 35, "But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?" With glorified bodies, bodies of light, bodies the natural eye cannot see, bodies of flesh and bones, just like the Lord's resurrection body—our natural bodies are flesh and blood, and bones; and our spiritual bodies will be flesh and Spirit, and bones. Our present natural life is in the blood: our future spiritual life will be in the Spirit—instead of blood we shall have the Spirit coursing through our bodies.

And Paul said (1 Cor. 15:41-43), "There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power." So then

What is sown is mortal.

What is raised is immortal.

We, who are Christians, now have eternal life abiding in us; but our bodies are mortal. Paul said (2 Cor 4:7), "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels." Yes, we have life now in mortal bodies that are subject to death; but we are to have immortality in immortal bodies that are not subject to death (1 Cor. 15:53).

As we finish this life; so will the resurrection find us—we will find life or death in the resurrection; and we are to decide now which it shall be.

"For He is Risen, as He Said"

Matthew 28:6.

Christ hath risen! Hallelujah!
Blessed morn of life and light;
Lo, the grave is rent asunder,
Death is conquered thro' His might.

Christ hath risen! Hallelujah!
Friends of Jesus, dry your tears;
Thro' the veil of gloom and darkness,
Lo, the Son of God appears.

Christ hath risen! Hallelujah!
He hath risen, as He said;
He is now the King of glory,
And our great exalted Head.

REPORT OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING*Continued from page two*

Adjourned for 11:00 o'clock service, when brothers Rolan and Woodring gave us another rich spiritual feast, taking Mark 2 as the Scripture lesson and Matt. 5:20 as text.

Another bountiful dinner was served.

At 1:30 Bro. Dunkin gave a very enlightening message on "What Does Perfect Mean in the Bible,"

Topic No. 4: Where does the Bible seem to show that people would be healed now as they were when Jesus and the apostles were on the earth—if they only had faith enough? Bro. Crase said that he expressed his faith in prayer for the sick, believing that the Lord would do for them according to His will, not ours, but he was unable to find any promise in the Scriptures that healing like that done by Jesus and the apostles would be performed since then.

Bro. Tally gave us an interesting message on the meaning of the fourth chapter of Micah, which was very timely and uplifting.

We had a good time in the Lord, and He wonderfully blessed us all through the meeting, and with a loving hand clasp we parted, all realizing that it was good to be there.

Salute all the Saints!

—Eld. J. E. Rolan.

ZION HILL CHURCH REPORT TALALA, OKLAHOMA, Feb. 16, 1938.

Dear Gem Readers:

I will try to write a few lines again to let you know that we are still in the fight for the Lord. We have had several visiting preachers with us the last month, and Feb. 13th, Bro. Lindel and Bro. Kieffer from Tulsa brought the morning message. In the afternoon, we had the singing convention at the church, with a very large crowd attending.

The 6th of February, Sister Wilson took her League class to Tulsa for the League Rally. They all had a wonderful time. Each program presented had a wonderful message in it. Bro. Paul Pursell brought a great message to the young people at the eleven o'clock service.

We are looking forward to a great revival in May, with Bro. Paul Pursell as the evangelist. We feel, that if we continue in prayer services, that the Lord will wonderfully bless in our community and church. Pray for us.

—Daisy Merchant.

A REVIVAL AT SUBLETTE

Well, this time it's victory at Sublette church, here in Northeast Missouri Association, where people have been praying and enjoying the blessings God showered on us.

Eld. Winford Davis was our evangelist and did some wonderful preaching, and helped us get close enough to God for His Spirit to touch our hearts. Bro. Davis came February 2, and started for victory from the first. Our people came together and laid everything on the altar, with self crucified and a mind to work.

Bro. Davis and I worked together several years before I came here.

There were 24 professions in the meeting. The church was greatly benefitted and the whole community was

affected and stirred, as well as neighboring churches. We expect to have baptizing in the near future.

Many of the people were attracted to the services by the prophetic messages of Bro. Davis, which were accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and a wonderful demonstration of God's power. It was a real treat to us to see sinners broken up with conviction and then weep and pray their way to the Lord.

We sure did use Bro. Davis while he was with us; having two services each day and three on Sundays.

Besides the services at Sublette church, we had one service at each of the three churches: Stahl, New Harmony, and Hazel Creek Union, where Bro. Davis delivered a spiritual message each time, also encouraged our people to be loyal to our denominational enterprises.

We feel that God has been especially good to us in sending His servant to us, and we certainly hope he comes this way again.

May the Lord bless and reward you, Bro. Davis, we won't soon forget you, nor the good times we had in the Lord.

—Elder Noel Turner.

THAYER, MISSOURI, Feb. 23, 1938.

Dear Gem Family:

The Pleasant Hill Mission Circle met Tuesday, February 22, at the Pleasant Hill church house with five members, and one new member was added. Our Mission Circle is making and selling aprons to earn money. Since our last report, we have furnished some flowers for one funeral, and gave one shower to a needy family.

—Thelma Rolan, Reporter.

WEATHERBY, MISSOURI, Feb. 27, 1938.

Sister Mary Wellbaum filled her appointment at Center Point church, Feb. 27th. Her subject Sunday morning was "Man's Mistake." She brought out very clearly the mistakes men make every day in putting money and pleasures before God. "And he said this will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:19-21).

Sunday evening her subject was "The Prodigal Son." "And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.... And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." (Luke 15:14, 21).

The Bible study met before the evening service. They are studying the book of Matthew, the 24th chapter being the last lesson. These young people are doing fine work, and are learning a lot about the Bible. Every church should have a Bible study once or twice a week.

Bro. Dewey Helms preached the 5th Sunday in March, at eleven o'clock. The Lord's supper was served at this service.

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger: and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." (John 6:35).

We have fair crowds at Sunday school every Sunday. The Gospel of Mark has been very interesting, we get much spiritual food from each lesson.

We have a tithe march every Sunday morning. "And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord."

Elders T. C. Ferguson, W. R. Rush, and Dewey Helms came to hear Sister Wellbaum Sunday evening.

—Mrs. Stella Harms,

Reporter for Center Point Church.

MYRTLE, MISSOURI, March 1st.

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

On this beautiful morning I feel like writing a few lines to our paper.

We are having nice weather at this time, and we are thankful that the Lord has blessed us with a mild winter down here, and it looks as if we were going to have an early spring, the peach trees are in full bloom and the vegetation is coming right along, for which we are thankful. O God, we trust in Thee and Thou dost never fail thy mercies to freely give, for all our needs.

The early followers of Christ were dependent upon personal contact with Him for their inspiration, and did not at first see how they could get along without Him. What did He mean when He predicted that they who believe on Him should do greater things than He had done? Just this, that He was limited to a small area in Palestine, and to a few years, but that His followers down through the centuries would multiply and scatter throughout the world, teaching, healing and ministering wherever they went; thus today we find Christian physicians touching the bodies of men and making them well again, and we discover vast educational forces bringing light to darkened minds; everywhere churches lift their spires heavenward in every nation on the face of the earth, and ministers seek to bring hope and the abundant life to the most needy souls among all nationalities, and races of men (Read John 14:1-14), to bring to God's people the primary function of the Gospel. The great preacher and thinker reminds his hearers that they are to take comfort and to go out today to a ministry of helpfulness and comfort to their fellowmen. (Read Phil. 2:4-13).

The Christian man is bound to supplicate a throne of grace for all men,

but especially so for those who are in places of authority. The Christian care not neglect to pray daily for all who are in authority, in church and state; it is both his high privilege and his bounden duty, and they sorely need the sustaining power which comes from much prayer (1 Tim. 2:18).

And to comfort one another, let us not forget during these troublous days, that the world was never more desperately in need of comfort, of peace of mind amid aching hearts, of inspiration amid indifference, of security amid changes the church should stabilize through emphasizing those things which cannot be shaken.

Open your hearts to God just now, as you read these lines, and hear His voice as it speaks peace and brings comfort upon the wings of faith, and gain strength in these days of distress and heartache. May we keep the emphasis upon Christ the sure foundation; the way of life may not always be smooth, but with God as our companion, it will always be safe. I have determined never to give up; I will not allow hope to die; I will look for a better day when faith shall be sight.

—Mrs. M. B. Cockman.

CHIPLEY, FLORIDA, Mar. 14.

Dear Co-Workers:

You will see by this report that we are a long way from home. For some time we have felt led of the Lord to make a missionary tour east of the Mississippi river in the interest of the Women's work.

We left Huntsville, Texas the last of February, went by Bro. Y. W. Smith's church near Henderson, Tex., where we had a splendid service. Then we visited a Presbyterian church in Nacogdoches. The service was good and one woman was converted.

We then came on to Alabama and visited our Springfield church, near Dotham, where we had twelve converted and reclaimed, and a wonderful wave of spirituality swept over the neighborhood.

We then went over the line and visited Bro. Cherry's church in Florida. It is a large church with several hundred members.

We came back to Howard Grove and had two nights there, and two conversions. They have a good Sunday school, a good league, and aid. We expect to return later to organize a Young Ladies' Missionary Society.

We then went to Dotham for one night in a prayer meeting.

Then we came back into Florida with Bro. Cherry, to Piney Grove another one of his churches. It looked good as we drove up to the church and saw the ground covered with wagons and cars. Then, as we entered the church, we saw the men seated on the right side of the church. We had a wonderful service each time at this church. Bro. Cherry preached Saturday morning on the "Influence of the Bible." He is a splendid young man, 22 years old, and can preach in a deep spiritual way that beautifies the Gospel and attracts men and women to God. He turned the services over to us the rest of the time. We had twelve conversions and reclaims all together, and organized a Young Ladies' Missionary Society, with a splendid group of young ladies.

We will be in Florida about two weeks and visit another group of churches.

We urge our women everywhere to be sure and send in their per cent of dues to our national body. We are making this suggestion, for our women to get little banks and raise mission funds, home and foreign, aside from our regular system, and by the time our Association meets we can have several dollars for national work.

Our loud speaker is proving a great blessing. We had two open aid meetings Saturday, and in the second service we made an altar call and a number came forward, and three men were saved, and one woman reclaimed.

We have received several dollars on the speaker as follows:

Bro. Clyde Goen	\$1.00
Bright Light Mission Circle....	1.00
Rocky Mt., N. C. Mission Circle..	1.00
Durah, N. C. Mission Circle.....	1.00
East Nashville, Tenn. M. Circle..	1.00
Springfield, Ala. Mission Circle..	1.00
Howard Grove, Ala. Mission Cir.,	1.50

We want all to pray as you read this. We came on this trip by faith, with no money in the treasury for the home missionary, and until we get a system to support the home work, we can't get very far with foreign work. So we ask all to pray with us, and each society sending \$1.00 could soon help us pay for the speaker, which is a wonderful thing, to advertise our work, and help get to thousands of souls in the open air that never darken a church door; so if any individual feels like helping it will be greatly appreciated. Those that tithe, pray,

perhaps God will allow you the privilege of helping in this missionary tour in the east. Money is very scarce in this part of the country, and many of the churches are weak, almost all in the rural districts.

God bless you all, and pray very earnestly for us, that God will use us to His glory and the salvation of souls

—H. M. and Lizzie McAdams.

GRANBY, MISSOURI

On February 22nd, Bro. Allred and Bro. Claud Timmons of Monett came to our church in Granby and organized a Gospel team, with a good membership

The following officers were elected:
 Captain Erma Lou Peters
 Ass't Captain Orville Johnson
 Reporter Mrs. Audrey Farmer
 Treasurer John Dick

We selected for team name, "Granby Gospel Team."

Bro. Timmons gave some very good instructions about the Gospel Team. He brought out some very good points.

Bro. Allred preached for us.

Mrs. Aubrey Farmer, Reporter.

HEWETT, W. VA.

Dear Editor:

I am a Gem reader, and enjoy reading the Gem very much. I like to hear of God's wonderful working power through His people. I thank the Lord for His saving power.

Five years ago the blessed Lord spoke peace to my soul and has kept me in His power since then.

I ask an interest in the prayers of God's people, that I may always be faithful to my Savior.

I ask special prayer for our former pastor, Eld. W. B. Chafin, who has fallen by the wayside.

—Mrs. Arlie Thomas.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Third Free Will Baptist Church

Dear Gem Readers and Friends:

Just a few lines to let you know how our church is getting along.

Our revival has just closed. We had a good meeting, though there were not so many saved, the interest was good. Rainy weather interfered for one week. Bro. Lewis sure did some good preaching; I don't believe there is a preacher in the state that can beat him. The church is coming along fine with good services and good preaching. Bro. Hill has not been so well this winter, and sickness has

been pretty general among the members here. Old Bro. Cox has been quite feeble this winter—he is working and waiting for the Lord to call him home to his reward: for he has spent about fifty years preaching, and that is a long time serving his Lord.

We will have a baptizing service as soon as the weather permits.

Sunday school is doing fine, and we are starting an Easter program, but will not have a lengthy one. Attendance is fairly good. I had a young man from Brook's Bible school to talk to my class about two weeks ago. He was a good talker and had a large class to talk to.

I was at league meeting their last meeting night. They had a good attendance, divided into three classes. They are going to have their get together meeting soon, with a social time in the basement and a short program.

About two months ago some one suggested making up a name quilt, charging 5c per letter for the names for the quilt, and the one getting the most names should have the quilt. Sister Lincoln gave the quilt blocks, and the race started. So the members started selling names, and at the end of the race Miss Michael had \$5.05 to her credit, and James Langley and Vera Kenedy, working together, had \$13.45 to their credit, and they got the quilt. When all members had made their reports, we had \$24.70 all told.

—Francis McCauley.

MOUNT OLIVE CHURCH

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

I thought that I would like to say a few words this morning. God has spared our life for some reason, and we are at the beginning of another year. We hope it is for His glory and that we can help some one to live closer to the Lord. We still have a few that are trying to work for the Lord, and we are proud of our church and our pastor, Eld. F. C. Zinn and wife, whom we all love.

Our Sunday school and league are still working for the Master, and trying to please Him in all things.

We think of the Christian church as a body of believers in Jesus Christ. The visible church is an organized body of believers who have openly professed Christianity and entered into a covenant with God and His people. The word church is also used to designate a particular group of people who worship together as a con-

gregation. The invisible church is made up of all people who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior whether they have joined any visible church or not. The church is closely related to the kingdom of heaven.

If you think your church the best,

Tell 'em so.

If you'd have it lead the rest,

Help it grow.

When there is anything to do,

Let them always count on you;

You feel good when it is through,

Don't you know.

If you're used to giving knocks,

Change your style;

Throw boquets instead of rocks,

For a while.

Boost your pastor and your church,

Knock the knocker off his perch.

Lift the stumbler from the lurch—

With a smile.

When a stranger from afar

Comes along,

Tell him who and what you are—

Make it strong.

Never flatter, never bluff,

Tell the truth, for that's enough.

Be a booster, that's the stuff,

Don't just belong.

—Mrs. Alice Taylor.

STAHL, MISSOURI

Dear Gem Readers:

I felt that I wanted to write to our paper again, this beautiful spring morning.

We can see signs of life all around us this morning, the earth is being covered with a green carpet of grass, and the trees are sending forth their leaves. They seemingly died in the fall, and we thought of them as dead during the cold winter months. But now! What do we see? New life all around us. Now, isn't this a beautiful picture? And how it strengthens our faith in God, for we know we must all die before we can have that new life.

I'm now thinking of two deaths. The first is when we die out to sin and are born a new creature in Christ Jesus. The second is when we lay down our natural bodies, and cross the River Jordan to be with our blessed Savior in that home prepared for those who love the Lord. Then there will be no more deaths, neither tears nor sorrow. But joy.

How wonderful is this thought to all of God's children who are looking for the coming of our blessed Savior.

I want to be ready when He comes, don't you? How watchful and prayerful we should be!

I'm so thankful the good Lord saw fit to spare my life through another winter, and I'm still looking forward to the State meeting. I have only been permitted to attend one of our State meetings in my life, so I'm surely looking forward to this year, and praying God that it might be the greatest ever, because of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

We surely need an outpouring of God's Spirit in these days, which I believe to be the last days. We see so much sin around us, but of course that is just a fulfillment of time. May God's people be true, and sinners take warning and repent while there is time and opportunity: for the night will soon come.

Pray for us here at Shibley's Point, also pray for the revival meeting here, being conducted by our pastor, Bro. Dauber with the help of Bro. Cooper. We are trusting there will be a great harvest of souls e'er the meeting closes.

May God bless every one, and let us be true until He comes.

—Charity Hedrick.

STAHL, MISSOURI, March 18.

Dear Editor and Wife:

I see by the blue mark across the circle in my Gem paper, that my subscription has expired, and as I don't want to miss one paper, I will renew at once. I get so much good from reading our little paper; we get spiritual food for the soul, and that is what we need so much: for we don't get to go to meeting very often. My aged mother lives with us, and while I am busy with the house work, she reads the Gem to me, so we both get the good from the paper, only we wish it came once a week, instead of once a month. But we are thankful for it as it is; we read so many good articles from different people, and it does my soul good to read of such good revival meetings going on in different places, to hear of so many souls being born into God's great family, and to know God's work is still going on some place. Praise His holy name for His wonderful love and power! He does so much for us, I wish we could do more for Him. I believe if people would only stop and think, they would realize that all we have comes from our blessed heavenly Father's hand, and what

do we give Him in return? Not even one penny out of a dime. I have heard people remark, "If I ever get able, I will tithe," or "If I ever get on my feet again, I will help the cause of Christ." But, oh, dear people! you don't have to wait until you gain a lot of this world's goods to tithe: if you have a dime, you can lay aside one cent for the Lord, or one dime out of a dollar. The best I can tell from reading the Bible, God's part is one-tenth. Some say, "Way, you can't afford that, it is too much." No, it is not too much, that is only our reasonable service; we would have nine-tenths that much for our needs of life. Most any of us would spend a dime out of a dollar for candy, gum, or some other little thing that we would want and never think any more about it; why not lay aside a dime now, and then for the Lord's work? The Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him" (1 Cor. 16:2). Now God expects you to give according as you are prospered. He doesn't expect one to give what they haven't got. Christ said the poor widow gave all she had. God knows what we need, and all we have He has given to us, so why not be willing to give Him His share? Oh, if we could get people to understand and tithe, our preachers would receive more for their labor! There would be money to help build churches and other buildings for the cause of Christ, and our publishing house could go ahead, and perhaps our paper could come oftener, and we all would be happier and all get along so much better, and have preaching oftener. Try it, dear Christian folks. You would be surprised how the money would pile up in the Tithe box, but remember that you use nine times as much. And when you see the money pile up for the Lord, don't get stingy with the Lord, and say, "Now, I can't afford that," and begin to skimp the Lord's money. Sure as you do, you will fail: for God has blessed you with all you have, including life and health, and the dear old Bible tells us that "God loveth a cheerful giver."

Well, dear folks, I could tell how I came to tithe, but it is too long a story, and I have written more than I intended to write.

Will close by asking you all to pray for us, that we may be stronger and do more for our blessed Master's cause. Pray that God will open up

the way for us to build a church at this place, as the church burned down about two years ago.

—Mrs. E. J. Byers.

CONWAY, MISSOURI, Mar. 16.

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

I am getting the Gem paper now, and I am always glad when it comes. I enjoy reading the good letters from the brothers and sisters of the Gem family. But I know of so many I would love to see a letter from, that don't write. I sure enjoyed reading Aunt Lina Claxton's letters in the Gem so much, I wish I had them all printed in a book. I have been a shut-in most of the time for four years, don't get to go to church: But I am thankful I can read the Bible and pray at home. I would rather be a shut-in than to be a shut-out (I mean shut out from God). 'I'd rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness' (Psa. 84:10).

"I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord" (Psa. 118:17).

"For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole" (Job 5:18).

I am so glad that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

The way that leads to life is a straight and narrow way. But if we will read our Bibles and pray, and keep our light shining, we will never lose the way. But if we neglect to read and pray, our light will get dim, and we will get on the broad way that leads to destruction. The road that leads so many to the dance hall, picture shows, card parties, and so many other places of sin, where Jesus would not go, and don't want us to go.

Jesus said, "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved" (Matt 24:12-13).

Let us all pray that we may keep our light shining and walk the straight and narrow way: for we know not when our Lord cometh.

I want all who know the worth of prayer to remember me in their prayers and ask God, if it is His will, to restore me to health again.

—Mrs. Emma O'Dell

FLAT RIVER, MISSOURI

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I will drop you a few lines this beautiful morning.

As we look out across God's garden and see the green grass coming forth and the flowers and trees budding and blooming, it makes us think how near God is to us, and how real He is. Some say there is no God, but precious souls, if we did not have a living God, we would not have all these other living things.

But dear children, we must be careful, we must not be completely lost in the beauties of Spring. Remember that all these things are of God, but keep your eyes open and watch where you are going: for the old Tempter is hiding in these things waiting and watching for a chance to lead you astray. Young people especially, be careful of the places that will be opening up for business now just any day.

I am speaking to you this morning, dear folks, about the swimming pools, and dance pavilions and the road houses and beer gardens and the circuses and many other things that I could name, but all of God's redeemed children know these things, and if you will stay close to God these things will not have any influence on you. You will have to watch and pray that these things don't get hold on you, for it may be that the one that you think is your best friend will be the one that the old Devil will use to induce you to leave the straight and narrow way; don't let some friend beg you to leave your service on the sabbath to go on some pleasure trip, because you owe to your Lord your service on the sabbath day.

It is now the season that Christians should be on the firing line for God doing our very best to gather these pleasure seekers into the fold of God: for the time is getting short—we will not, at the most, have much more time to work for the Master, the condition that this old world is getting into is a direct fulfillment of God's Word and, dear folks, I am looking for Jesus to come any time now to call His Saints out of this world of sin and sorrow; so let's live daily for the Lord and be ready when He comes: for when He appears in the air it will be too late then to get ready and rise with the saints to be with Him in glory. So be careful, watch and pray.

Your Field Worker, —C. B. Dees.

TULSA, OKLA., March 18th.

Dear Bro. Brown and Gem Readers:

I have been neglectful about giving in a report of the New Home Church of Tulsa, of which I am pastor. But that does not mean that I have been neglectful in the Lord's service.

We have just closed a revival meeting here with 37 conversions and six additions to the church. Bro. Paul Pursell was the evangelist. Brother Pursell is also the evangelist for the First Mission Association. We all love Bro. Pursell, he is a wonderful man of God.

I am looking forward to our Western Conference. Look out, Brother Vanhooze, my Chevrolet is headed that way. I think it is wonderful that the Lord has blessed us in such a wonderful way of transportation, though we are many miles apart, we can soon sit together in heavenly places. I long to see the time when I can get back down in North Carolina and see Bro. and Sister Willis and all the good people down there.

We ask the prayers of all God's praying people, to pray for us in the great work of the Lord.

Eld. Bert F. Rogers, R9, B374, Tulsa.

GRANBY, MISSOURI

Dear Brother and Sister Brown and Gem Readers: At our last report we were at Desloge, Missouri, with Sister Tommie Franklin and Sister Reed and their good people. We were there four and one-half weeks. Nineteen professed faith in Christ, ten were baptized, eleven united with the church. May God bless all those dear people of the Lead Belt.

Leaving Desloge for Southwest Mo., we stopped and visited friends in Texas, Wright and Webster counties. We stayed over night with Eld. C. E. Mann and wife, near Marshfield, Mo. They seemed to be happy there on their little farm. We had a very enjoyable visit with them.

From there we went to Monett, and spent the night with Bro. and Sister Weston, then on to Purdy, and had dinner with Bro. and Sister Brown, also we saw Bro. John B. Rollins' smiling face.

Then we stayed over night with Eld. Kenneth Turner, and enjoyed two services with Jones Chapel Church.

On Sunday, March 6th, we began a meeting here at Oak Grove in their new rock church house. We are now

in the third week of the meeting, in which six have professed faith in Christ. Last Sunday was basket dinner, after a good service at eleven o'clock. Then at two p. m. folks came in from Monett, Cassville, Granby, Stella, and other places. Among those that came were Gospel teams, which go from place to place monthly and sing, pray and put on the "Challenge of the Cross." When this was over, many were weeping, and two men professed Christ. Many were shouting and praising the Lord. It sure is food for our souls to be in a meeting like this. I thank God for these Gospel team workers, which are made up from different denominations.

Bro. Kenneth Turner is the good pastor here.

Pray for us, that the Lord may use us in leading many souls to Christ.

Our next meeting will be with Eld. O. T. Alfred at Monett. Pray that God will give us a real revival there.

—Sam and Daisy Marcum,

Home address Cameron, Mo., R7.

**FINANCIAL REPORT OF
MISSIONARY FUND**

Robert Kelly, Stella, Mo.....	\$1.00
Mr. and Mrs. David Homan, Stewartsville, Mo.....	3.00
Cassie Kelsey, Greentop, Mo.....	10.00
Happy Circle Class, Hazel Creek Union by Ethel Newcomer, Greentop, Mo.	3.50
Tuskegee Church, by Edith Brewer, Edna, Okla.	4.00
Tulsa Church, by I. C. Arnold...	9.00
Eld. S. H. Marcum, Cameron, Mo.	2.00
Ruby Reed, Liberal, Mo.....	1.00
Paul Fast, Liberal, Mo.	1.00
Martha Dalton, Cassville, Mo...	2.00
Will Slagle, Anderson, Mo.....	1.00
John Wilson, Anderson, Mo....	2.00
Alvin Halbrook, Leadington, Mo.	.50
Mrs. Glenn, Greenfield, Mo....	2.00
Denmont Marshall, Arcola, Mo..	1.00
Merl's Chapel S. S. by Marjorie Black, Cassville, Mo.	3.35
Otha Scurlock, Long Lane, Mo.	3.00
S. P. Easley, Portales, N. Mex...	4.00
St. Louis Church, by Eld. W. C. Hill, St. Louis, Mo.	3.00
F. W. B. Mission Circle No. 1 by Willa Hallman, Bristow, Okla.,	5.00

**FINANCIAL REPORT OF
PUBLISHING HOUSE FUND**

Gladys Fillmer, Niangua, Mo.,	\$1.00
John Filkins, Novinger, Mo.....	5.00
Merl's Chapel, Cassville, Mo....	3.33
George Watson, Ravenden, Ark.,	1.00

TORNADO, W. VA. Mar. 11, 1938

Dear Editor and Gem readers:

While I am feeling so bad, and it is raining so I can't get out to work at anything, I will try to write a few lines, it has been so long since I have written.

I have been reporting the Union Q. M., but they have been so weak lately that I was ashamed to report, but I will try to send in a little report of the March meeting which was held with Young's Chapel on Bridge Creek in Putnam County, W. Va. I was there Friday night.

The introductory sermon was preached by Eld. Frank Lovejoy and Eld. Berry of the Brotherhood Q. M. Met back Saturday at nine o'clock a. m. Opened by the new clerk, Bro. Hobert Jorden.

Eld. R. L. Stanley was elected moderator.

Committees appointed.

Letters called for, four churches reported by delegates and letter, one by letter by mail, no delegates, three gave no report at all.

Adjourned until two o'clock p. m.

Eld. Charley Harper was called to the stand to preach, and he sure did preach a fine sermon.

We went to dinner and enjoyed ourselves in the homes of the good folks with their families and ate a good dinner.

Met back at two o'clock p. m.

Opened by singing and prayer.

Committee's report on next session. Sent the next Q. M. to Good Hope on Turkey Creek.

All business was transacted in regular form and in love and fellowship.

The Union Q. M. only has five or six preachers now, and only three were present, and two or three deacons and four delegates. There were three preachers from the Brotherhood Conference, that helped them out a lot. Pray for the Union Q. M. that they may grow and build so they can hold a conference without the help from the other quarterly meetings. I am so sorry they have become so weak.

The Union Conference was my home for over 40 years. We have had lots of preachers and lots of churches. Preachers and delegates and deacons would go for 25, or sometimes 50 miles through mud and snow on foot or horse-back and when they got back home it would take a week to tell their folks about the good meeting and the brothers and sisters shouting,

singing and praying. People then had old time religion, yes, salvation in the good old way. O may the time come when people will stop and look where they are going. They have good roads, cars, and good chances to go, only they don't have the time, and they can't miss a nickle they can make. In this part of the country, in the last few years, they can't get enough out on Saturday night to transact any business for the church. Right here at home, the last three meetings there wasn't enough to appoint a delegate to the Q. M., had to do that Sunday; it seems that they are altogether looking after the things of this world. I think there are some where in 40 names on the church book here and only four or five attend regularly. I cry and pray till I can't sleep at night. There is a lot more I would like to say if it would do any good, but it seems like nothing I can say or do does any good. Some educated man or woman will come along and tell the farmer to reduce his crops, and they will pay him for what he doesn't raise; but he must sign something. They say they would rather have the money than the work for it, and we know that is against the Bible and the Constitution. If they had come to me with that stuff, I would have said, "Get behind me, Satan," that was what Christ said when he was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. I don't know of but one church here but what has signed up that thing. I don't know what you call it, but I call it the mark of the Beast: for after they sign up they have to take a card; if he doesn't have the card or the mark of the Beast, they will take half of his crop. So the man who works and attends to his own business and wants to abide by the law and be free can't raise anything to sell. If he does, they will take half of it and give to the man that signs up to not work, and he cannot help the honest man in any way, but must do all he can to keep him from having anything. Well, you may think I had better send this to the Yellow Jacket, but this is not political, or I don't mean it that way. But it is spiritual, the good and evil spirit, the inner man and the outer man, and I don't think that God or a real God-loving Christian would endorse any item of the New Deal; for it is all evil, and the works of Satan, and is causing envy and strife among the people, and will bring war if not stopped; and I fear it is too late now. If this is printed, I hope all who read

it will take time to read their Bibles and see if I am not right, but don't get offended: for I mean good. I don't mean to offend, but to make peace.

May God bless and save you all is my prayer for all the Gem family.

—F. V. Nicholas

O'KEAN, ARK. Feb. 24, 1938.

Dear Bro. Brown and Gem Family:

I have been a subscriber to the Gem for only a short time, but I sure do enjoy reading it, and enjoy hearing from all our Free Will Baptist friends. I am a Free Will Baptist teeth and toenails, and I love the good old Free Will Baptist doctrine.

I was converted the second Monday night in August, 1921, and was ordained as deacon in 1923. I began preaching in 1925, was ordained as a minister of the Free Will Baptist church in 1928, and have been preaching ever since. I have pastored from one to four churches ever since, and am now pastoring two churches. Our church and Sunday school at Union is doing nicely with J. J. Colbart as pastor.

We read in your paper where you were asking for help to get subscribers for the Gem, and I always want to do my part, so I took your paper with me to my last appointment, and got two subscribers, for which I am enclosing one dollar.

—R. S. Shelton.

THERE IS A PATH

By Ralph D. Foster, Aurora, Mo.

There is a path no fowl hath known,
No lion's whelps have trod upon,
No vulture's eye hath ever seen—
A pathway bright, so pure and clean.
Repentance, love, and mercy meet
Upon this path at Jesus' feet.
The sinsick soul here finds relief
And rests secure from all its grief.

Upon this path the soul doth flee,
Redeemed from sin through Calvary,
To Spirit worlds and realms of God,
Where lion's whelps have never trod.
A path above the heaven's dome,
That leads unto our Father's throne—
Far out beyond the milky-way sheen—
No vulture's eye hath ever seen.

The Holy Ghost, hope, faith, and love,
With Spirit, Wisdom from above,
Salvation, Christ, and fear of God
Upon this path by pilgrims trod.
Who journey on to holy lands—
To mansions fair, not made with hands,
Far up above the heaven's dome,
Upon this path to home, sweet home.

MO. STATE ASSOCIATION IN SEPTEMBER

It won't be long now—until another Association, just about seven months. You know it is to be held in Northeast Missouri this time. Begin planning now to attend, and let's make this one of the very best yet. Our people here are already busy, and real enthusiastic about it; so do not disappoint us, but be here. Now is the time to plan. If you want to help in any way, or have a suggestion to offer, write, and for information ask questions.

Eld. Noel Turner, Greentop, Mo.

Why The Preacher Resigned

Contributed by Mrs. Noel Turner

A minister in an Alabama town took permanent leave of his congregation in the following pathetic manner:

"Brethren and Sisters—I come to say good-by. I don't think God loves this church, because none of you ever die. I don't think you love one another because I never marry any of you. I don't think you love me, because you never paid my salary. Your donations are mouldy fruit and wormy apples, and ye shall know them by their fruits. Brethren, I am going away to a better place. I have been called to be a chaplain of a penitentiary. Where I go you can not come, but I go to prepare a place for you, and may the Lord have mercy on your souls! Good-by."

PAINTSVILLE, KY. Mar. 3, 1938

Dear readers of the Gem and all the good brothers and sisters everywhere, and that includes you too Bro. James F. Miller, Bro. Bingham, Bro. Rogers and Bro. Davis, ha ha: I want to give you all an account of my wrok and ministry this winter.

First, we had a meeting at my home church, Toms Creek Church, with 14 conversions; thank the Lord for ever.

Next I went to Lawrence County, Kentucky to help Bro. D. A. Hays. We had a glorious time with 106 conversions in a three weeks meeting. At the close of that revival, I went to Paintsville to assist Bro. H. B. Conly and had 18 conversions. I preached hard, but could not get the co-operation of the church, therefore, we did not get the results we ought to have had.

From there I went to The Alka Church, at The Alka, Ky., where I am pastor, with Bro. Scott Castle and Bro. Fillmore Gamble, two young Godly preachers who are members of The Alka church. "We had one of the most spiritual meetings I ever was in. We had 58 conversions. Up to this time we have had real success, for which we thank the good Lord for ever. 196 conversions in all.

Pray for us that we may keep this good work going.

—Elder Millard F. Vanhoose

CASTROVILLE, CALIFORNIA

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

I am so glad to get the Gem paper. As the days go by, so many storms and different things are taking people out to spend eternity somewhere. I trust that people will read all that is in the Gem paper: for there is enough in it to convert every soul, if they would give heed to it.

As you all know I have been clerk for the Oak Grove Church in Wright County, Mo., and reading the Gem, I found the obituary of Amy Lucus whom I have known all her life. It made me sad to read of her going away. Then the thought came to me, Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord, they shall rest from their labors and their works do follow them.

Her husband can know where she is: for her prayers to God will follow him.

I desire the prayers of all Gem readers and all Christians, that my family will all meet in heaven. One boy lives in Missouri, but the rest are in California. Pray that I may live before the ones at home, that they can know Christ as soon as they realize they are sinners.

—Mrs. Josie Raney

BOWNEMONT, W. VA. Mar. 6th

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

This beautiful Sunday morning finds me writing a brief report of the biggest revival that has been in any of our Free Will Baptist churches in West Virginia for years. The meeting has been going on three weeks tonight in the Lick Branch church, about three miles from Charleston, W. Va., with the pastor, W. H. Scott, in charge and doing the preaching. After the first week, all the churches of the community closed up their doors and turned all of their attention to the revival, and the Missionary Bap-

tist loaned us some seats for the crowds could not be seated. I went last night and there was not standing room in the house. W. H. Scott has done all of the preaching, as requested by the church, but all the other preachers and church workers have been busy in every meeting with those singing and praying and personal work. To know what a good meeting it has been and how the Lord has blessed, you would have to be here and see. I was there only five nights in the three weeks: for Bro Scott is our pastor at Chanlers Branch and I felt it my duty to be at our own church at all of its regular meetings especially when the pastor is not there. There were two conversions last night and that made even 100 in the three weeks. He had given an invitation for membership and 30 joined the church, so they are going to receive members Sunday and baptize.

Well, this is Monday and I have the final report of the Lick Branch revival, which closed Sunday night. It just lasted three weeks and there were 108 conversions and renewals, and received 40 into the church and baptized 27; so I think that was a wonderful meeting.

I was at our own church Sunday night and Bro. Floyd Jeffrey preached a good sermon, but seemingly we are up against a stone wall in our church, and no power is strong enough to move it but the power of God; so pray for us that we can go over the top and again be a soul winning station for the Lord. Yours in Christ,

—F. E. Nicholas.

TO BE LIKE HIM

By Lura Gebhart, Tulsa, Okla.

I do not seek the paths of fame
And things the world can give,
I seek a closer walk with God,
For thus my soul shall live.

I want to win lost souls to Christ,
And see them saved from sin,
Pressing on the upward way,
With Christ enthroned within.

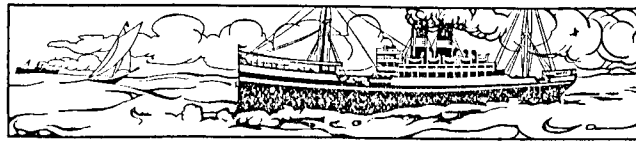
I want my heart so full of God
That all who know my life may see
That I am kept through every test,
And that His love abides in me.

And when life's journey's ended,
My battles fought and won,
I want to kneel at Jesus' feet,
And hear Him say, "Well done."



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CRISTOBAL, PANAMA CANAL ZONE.

ON THE RIO SAMBU

By Eld. T. H. Willey

I am writing this article under rather primitive conditions, my desk consists of an Indian paddle, the gift of a good Cholo friend. Just below the hut in which I am staying the Sambu flows steadily on its muddy race to the Pacific. I was poled down here in a dugout canoe by one of our Indians to wait for some means of getting back to civilization. The house in which I am staying is in good shape, but apparently abandoned. It is made like all jungle houses, of reed and palm laced together, open on all sides to catch the breeze.

I have been sometime now among the Indians, and am happy to say that I have been received gladly by those I met last year, and by new groups. I carried in some pictures taken of them last year and observe, with no small amount of amusement, their reaction as they studied their likeness on paper. They insisted on me taking more pictures of them. I visited a large village called Sabalo. It was necessary to walk through the jungle over a fair trail for two hours, and, as I walked and studied the land, it seemed ideal for a station back in there. I am praying that God will give us the hearts of the owners, so that we might get a gift of land. After steadily walking for two hours, I arrived at the village, meeting with large groups of Indians and talking with them; then later, I returned to the Sambu, and still later, with a native, walked from my present location to the nearest Indian home. After some time, talking with him and explaining my mission at length, I persuaded him to pole up to the next group of homes. I had visited with

these last year, and was greeted heartily by the old chief who laughed as I addressed him in his own dialect. This old Indian is remarkably noble in his bearing, both of face and body. His features are softened, probably by age, and with long locks of soft hair, he truly is a noble fellow. I love to think of him as the "Grand Old Man" of the Sambu. He has a large family of fine sons, and he and his son's families live in a group.

As soon as I placed my baggage, I was put to work with medical kit. First there were children with fevers to care for, then one fellow had a tooth to pull, another had a large sore on his leg, then they came with back aches and rheumatism. My medical work over, they brought me food which consisted of roasted banana and parts of an "Iguana," which is a large lizard. This was the second time I have been called on to eat this reptile, which is delicious, much better than chicken. You say, "Give me chicken." After supper, I began to study their language. The grand old man got real close to me and, pointing to different articles, he carefully pronounced the words. He is a fine teacher. I asked him if they had a word for God. He said, "Yes." Do you pray to him? "No." One thing that greatly pleases these people is to show an interest in the tribe, and in the study of their dialect. Then I asked them to sing for me; but they do not sing, so I had to do the singing. I sang "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia" and "My Old Kentucky Home." Then some hymns in Spanish. I wish it were possible to capture the thoughtful look on

their faces as we sat on the floor; it might have been rather an amusing scene to look in on a white man sitting on the floor of a thatched hut surrounded by a group of naked Indians, and the white man singing in another language. None of this was of much interest to the women, as the women and children can speak no Spanish. The old chief could not understand all of it. Then I showed them the Bible, the first Bible they had ever seen. I told them of its message to all men of all races. And I read at some length from the Gospel of Luke, but darkness came on and I had to conclude and get my Mosquito net ready for the night, but before turning in I talked to them about a school and a station. One man said, "No, we do not want our children to be 'ignoranties.'" It is rather an interesting sight to see row after row of mosquito tents pitched in those large dwellings. They are wise in sleeping under nets, as fever comes from the bite of the mosquito. It might be of interest to know that the mosquito must first bite some one that has the fever before it can carry it. I must say that my bed was not soft by any means, as it consisted of a piece of canvas stretched on the hard floor. The following morning and its events would have well repaid you who gave of beads and tinkets, could you have looked in on that group of eager faced Indians as they crowded around to look at the beautiful beads I had for them, and heard their exclamations of wonder and delight. How my heart yearned to tell them how trifling these were compared to the eternal gift of God's own Son, His love gift to them, and of the value of their souls in His sight! Do pray that nothing shall hinder as we labor among them. I am sure that many of you are praying as we seek to reach

the neglected of Panama; they are here, priceless jewels that must be salvaged and cut to sparkle in the diadem of our living Lord.

I have no idea how I shall get out this time, I can but labor in the glorious task of publishing glad tidings from Indian home to Indian home, seeing this scene repeated day after day as we move among them.

My food must come from the jungle now, as I am out of supplies. I shot a duck this morning and then bought another bird from an Indian. I am supremely happy in the will of God, as I prepare for my bed in this lonely jungle hut.

Early the following morning, I heard voices and arose to see a banana boat, a sail, coming up the Sambu, calling out to them if they had any sugar, I was invited aboard to eat breakfast, then arranged to go back again up to the mouth of the Sabalo where there were some Indians loading a large canoe with bananas. Arriving there, I saw a negro coming down river in a dugout in which he had tied in a pole crate a large hog, I made arrangements with him to go out to Garachine, thinking that I might get a sail out from there to Panama City. We paddled all that night. I cannot give you any idea of the feeling that comes to one as he paddles down these jungle rivers in the moon light as the call of loons comes from those high trees. It is like getting religion—you must experience it. At midnight, we arrived on the muddy flats of Garachine. The tide was down so we had to wade through mud to my knees with an eighty pound pack on my back, I felt so many times that I was literally covered with mud, and one time I felt so hard that my leg cracked, so that I feared that it was broken. Paul said, "I glory in my infirmities and sufferings for Christ sake," and in times like this we can rejoice, for He giveth us the victory. Arriving in the village which is all negro, a dirty shiftless and lazy company of people, we found them yelling, drinking and singing, keeping watch for the dead; four souls had died that night. This was worse, by far, than Indian huts, and there was no rest as I made my bed on the floor, open to all this, and tried to rest.

The next day I went about with gospels and tracts, from house to house and giving them the gospels. I suppose the priest will have fits when he learns that a heretic of a "protes-

tant" has moved among his flock. He comes once a year baptizing all who are willing to pay him a dollar, marrying those who have already been living together, and saying prayers for the dead. I found hearts open to the Gospel and took advantage of it, and one home in which I am writing this article (which has proven to be the cleanest I have found) was open to me to spend tonight. Here is a town in which there are 2,000 souls with no knowledge of the Gospel, and no doctor. Again the medical kit came into service, as I treated those with large open sores and ulcers, with an interesting group of spectators looking on.

I am completing this article surrounded by the comforts of our home here in Colon, and the happy voices of my children. Sunday night I went aboard a 29-foot sail boat, and at midnight we lifted sail and pushed slowly along. The deck of the boat was flat and one needed to hang on, even in his sleep. Fortunately, I discovered a small opening in the deck, just room for me to lower my body into the hatch, and by shifting a few sacks of rice I could get in on my back, but I found that once in the hole I could not turn over nor get in any other position. I breathed an earnest prayer that the tarantula, a large banana spider, might leave me alone and that rats and cockroaches might keep off my person. I had many occasions to be thankful for this warm bed. The crew was not by any means pleasant company, a group of loud-mouthed, ragged fellows, but before the journey was over, I found them thoughtful of the "Gringo Americano." Our food I will not mention, as the memory of it is not altogether pleasant. This journey of eighty miles took us forty-eight hours. Sometimes we would lie with flapping sails in the path of a silver sheen from the moon, this for hours, then a stiff breeze would blow and we would be driven, standing on our keels while water dashed up over the deck and sprayed us; again we would drift with idling sails in the scorching heat, while the skin would blister and lips crack open. Again it would blow cold and spray us till those poor fellows in their wet rags would shiver. Oh, how I thank God for His goodness! I had a blanket, and I am sure those of the crew had reason to look at my good, though rough clothes, and my heavy army blanket with envy.

My heart breathed a prayer of deep-

est thanks, when I came home and read Sister Griffin's letter stating that the ladies of North Carolina have decided to raise the money for a motor boat. With a motor, we need not suffer these hours of torture going into Garachine. We can get a fruit boat out of Colon or Panama, and drop off in the bay at the mouth of the Sambu, traveling by motor, and within fifteen hours we can be there, having fair food and a bunk to sleep in. Thank God for our good women! You might have a contribution to make to this fund. If so, send it to Bro. Blackwelder stating what it is for.

At noon Tuesday, we got a stiff breeze, and rode with it till six that night, then within twenty miles of Panama City it died. Then I began to pray for a breeze and God answered, first by a quiet swell in the sail, then as I prayed, by a steady blow. For hours we could see the lights of Panama City. At one o'clock we dropped sail in the harbor, and I went to the Methodist Sea Wall Mission, imposing on the grace and Christian brotherhood of the Superintendent there to put me up over night. I can assure you I looked a fright, but a shower and a shave put me right and now I am home to recover somewhat.

After this trip, I am convinced that we can never do our work without proper equipment. No interior country of the world is much harder to reach than our field.

"But our God is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above that which we are able to ask of Him."

AT KADESH-BARNEA

"At this time the whole church is at Kadesh-Barnea. God is calling her to go out and possess the nations in the name of Christ. Nothing less than a triumphant faith, born of a clear Vision of God Himself, will enable us to go forward. Sight can do small things. Faith alone is equal to infinite things. The question of the hour in Foreign Missions is not a question of finance; it is not a question of men. It is only whether the church is prepared to obey in faith. Art thou afraid of the toilsome pathway, and the weary battle, and the bruising? Then it is because selfishness is still dominant. When the eye is single, the heart undivided, and love unified upon the one principle of winning God's victory, there is no halt ing, no turning back."

—G. Campbell Morgan.

Is The Sino-Japanese Conflict A Fulfillment Of Prophecy?

By Eld. Winford Davis, Monett, Mo.

Two great outstanding conflicts are raging in the East at this time. One in the near East, the other in the far East. One the Spanish civil war, the other the Japanese aggression in China. Both are fulfilling the great prophetic Word marvelously. But it is not with the near East, or Spanish situation that I wish to deal just here; but with the Sino-Japanese conflict

In the 38th chapter of Ezekiel, and also in the 39th, we are taught that in the closing days of this age, we will see a great confederation of nations in Asia and part of Europe. It is called by prophetic students, "The Great Northern Confederacy." You will notice in reading these chapters that mention is made of Gog, the land of Magog, Meshech and Tubal, Persia-Ethiopia and Libya, Gomer, Togarmah, Tarshish and all her young lions, etc. Now let me pause here to say that all I shall give in this writing is not original with me; but I learn, just as you do, and that is by reading and listening. I don't swallow everything I hear and read, of course not, but the Holy Spirit somehow tells us and guides us as to what is right and acceptable. Many times when we preach or write certain things, some will say that we have been reading after So-and-so. Sure, we read. We compare. We study. Everyone should do that. The fellow in the ministry who never reads need never expect to get very far, that is certain.

Back to the subject. Now those who have delved into the original languages have found the above stated words in Scripture to mean as follows: Gog means Russia, Magog the land of Russia, Meshech and Tubal, large cities in Russia today by the names of Moscow and Tobolsk; Gomer means Germany, Togarmah Turkey, Tarshish and the young lions thereof means England and the offspring of England which, of course, would be United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc. You know "The merchant ships of Tarshish" is a familiar Bible statement, and any one knows that England has been the mistress of the sea for ages. Now the 37th chapter of Ezekiel, which is the account of the vision given to the prophet of the valley of dry bones, means nothing

else than that which is going on now, the restoration of national Israel. There has been a great shaking going on in the valley, so to speak, ever since 1917; or ever since the English general secured Palestine from the hand of the cruel Turk, and Great Britain gave the land back to the



Jews, and hence has started the great Zionist movement. So much for the 37th chapter.

Then in the 38th chapter, we find that at the same time there is a shaking taking place in the valley of dry bones, there is also a great confederacy being formed in the north; or north of Palestine. We also notice that as Israel gets established in her home land again, and is called here a people of unvalled villages, settled there, of course, with all her wealth (which they are taking back with them as they go), that this Northern Confederacy begins to look upon them with lustful eyes and will say, "I will go up to the land of unvalled villages...to take a spoil, and to take a prey" (Ezek. 38:11-12). So this great northern power, headed up by Russia, no doubt, will march down over the Caucasian mountains, God having put hooks in their jaws—verse 4, and will attempt to devour the restful, quiet people of Israel. But at that time, the western world, led by the revived Roman Empire, no doubt, will come to the rescue of Israel. Israel having already made a covenant with the Roman Prince or dictator for a period of seven years, in which he promises them protection (Daniel 9:27). And the 39th chapter of Ezekiel gives the account of the almost complete wiping out of this northern power by the opposing power that comes to rescue Israel. Please read

these chapters carefully.

Now with reference to the Sino-Japanese struggle where this is fulfilling prophecy is that it is paving the way for, or helping to form this great Northern Confederacy. No one knows what will be the result of this war. No one knows what nations will be subdued and what great arisings and awakenings will take place. Some believe that Japan will miserably lose in her attempt. And that she may do. One thing she is most certain to do, and that is to cause China to become military minded, and to thoroughly realize her need of present day modernization so as to be able to withstand the savagery that seems to be so prevalent in many modern nations today. China is a power and a real power if she ever comes to know herself or to realize her strength. Napoleon once pointed to China on the map, and said, "There is a lion asleep. Let her sleep." China with her six hundred million. Think of it! Five times as many as we have in the United States. Some one has said that one out of every four babies born in the world is a Chinese

Now Germany is destined to have a place in this great Northern union also. That at the present time might not seem probable, but in this day of rapid change, how quickly that could come about! Hitler and Mussolini seem to be on very friendly terms at the present time; but that cannot last; because in this great end time drama of events Germany must take her place according to Ezekiel, with the nations of the North. Hitler made an astonishing threat at Russia not many months back, in which he showed his covetous desire for Russian Ukraine, which is known as the granary of the world, and for the mineral wealth of the Ural mountains, and the timber wealth of Siberia. That whole country is just like a great embedded charge of dynamite with the fuse already lit and slowly but surely burning, which is bound to terminate in a gigantic explosion. Every one expects Russia and Japan to clash any moment.

Now here is something else to think about. We all know that Russia has been a bitter enemy and persecutor of Christianity, Atheistics to the core. Where-ever you find Communism you find Atheism. Russia has everything, but tried to tear God out of the sky. We have wondered how God has let her stand as long as He has. Never

mind, her doom is coming. It is prophesied of in Ezekiel 39. Germany has been a persecutor of the Jewish people; a thing no nation can do under God and get by with it. Very well. She too, will come to a bitter end. No doubt the main reason why the favor of God has been so wonderfully with the nations of Great Britain and the United States is because their doors have always been open to the Jews. Centuries past God said to Abraham, the father of Israel, "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse you." That promise holds good today. Also Japan need

not expect to carry on as she is and be blessed of the Lord; her destruction will come sooner or later.

Three great, and outstanding, movements are in progress today, which mean so much, yes, so very much, in the light of Scriptural prophecy. They are: The revival of the Roman Empire, the formation of the great Northern confederacy, and the restoration of national Israel.

The great march of events of this present day is certainly worth noticing. And, remember what Jesus said, 'What I say unto you, I say unto all; Watch!'

The Challenge To Christian Service

By Miss Bessie Black, Eldorado, Ks.

"Silver and gold have I none but such as I have give I thee; In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk" (Acts 3:16).

No devout follower of Christ can lightly turn aside from the challenge to Christian service. With some there may be certain limitations as to his ability to give or serve, but whatever the handicap, we must not withhold Christ's message of love from those who are in darkness. At all times we must be ready to give such as we have, in the name of Jesus. It is true we live in a world where there is sadness and disappointment. Much of it is caused because nations and individuals have left the old landmarks of old time religion, and are about to give up in despair.

How important it is for us as young people of today to stand by the old landmark amid the unbelief and modernism of our day; and live as witnesses to the power and grace of God that satisfies the longing of every heart.

With all the modernism and gaiety of this world, people are still dissatisfied and there is evidence everywhere of hungry hearts. Things of this world have failed to satisfy, there is still that hunger and thirst.

Oh that the churches of today had the power and influence to convince the world that its heart's hunger is for God—it is world wide, it is universal, and everywhere it is written upon the face of humanity. It lingers beneath the glare of the white lights where dissipating throngs drink and dance and revel in lust; it is evident in the crowded business parts of the world, it takes its hideous millions in suicides each year, it mocks the swindler and gambler in his losses each year, it casts the shadows of fear across the path of the dictator in his power and glory.

From the humble to the proud on the thorne there is a crying hunger that refuses to be filled to satisfaction

with the fruits of the soil, with the trophies of human ambitions or vain glory of the world; they go on in darkness and fail to see the provisions of God's grace because the God of this world has blinded their eyes. But we as God's children hold the only key to their promised happiness, for we know we bear the divine commission, to open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sin.

There is a great challenge that faces us today as a church and a people. Let us think now of the fields of Christian service which cannot be narrowed down to certain individuals, but is world wide. So let us as the Spirit filled Isaiah whose lips had been touched with a live coal from off the altar of God, say, "Here am I, send me."

Then the mighty flaming God, from the temple of His holiness, commanded this willing servant to "Go, tell this people." And when Isaiah asked, "How long?" the answer came back, "Until the cities be without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate." No missionary or preacher has ever stuck to his charge with more faithfulness than this. It is but the narrow selfish interests which causes a church to want to remain small and self-centered. The Spirit of our Master will lead us forth into the highways and open fields of the world.

To be Christ-like will give us an humble ambition to stand before the rich and the poor alike, with our message of salvation. It is in keeping with the great Head of the Church that we should want the Church to grow until its influence shall become world-wide. Wherever there is a heart cry; where there is a "bruised reed;" where-ever there are souls that live and die without God, there is our call; where-ever there is a need, that is our field.

But it is not enough that we strive merely to reach our fields as a church, we must retain the force of our message. This must be guarded with great diligence; for as a church grows the increasing temptation to popularity presents an ever present danger of tearing down in our message and losing our power as a saving force in the world.

The force of a church rests in its purity and power; it is not enough that we fill Sunday schools and churches with the lost from the "highways and hedges," it is not enough that we get big crowds, or have good attention; there must be a definite purpose in our contact, there must be a teaching of a saving Gospel.

There must be something in the Gospel we preach, and we must give our hearers the meats of truth to carry home, instead of the dry bones of theory. Christian preachers, let us reach the multitudes of our age with the Gospel, and when we reach them be able to say with the apostle Paul, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

The call of God to Christian service is not limited to ministers and missionaries that are over seas. The New Testament commandment is, "Let him that heareth say, come." This places the call to work for the salvation of men upon everyone who has heard and received the Gospel. And how marvelous would be the growth of God's Kingdom if all who claim to love Him would become soul winners.

And just think how much more successful would be the work of world-wide evangelism, if all of God's people would enlist in effective Christian service of some kind. And surely nothing short of this will ever please God. Then, too, I believe that if the life and passion of the Christian worker is what it should be, no type of evangelism is so forceful and certain of definite results as a personal evangelism.

Every Christian has felt, at some time, the call to win a soul for Christ, and the one who will respond to this call is the one who gets the most joy out of religious life.

The call to a Christian may come amid the glow and promise of the morning hours of youth, or it may come in the age of noon-day, or it may be heard amid the gathering of life's evening shade. But no greater joy can come to the follower of the meek and lowly Nazarene than that joy which he will experience when he is giving out in the service of God, such as he may have in the name of Jesus.

But some one just enlisting in the service may ask, "Where do the paths of Christian service lead, and what may I expect in return for my work?" Listen to what the Master said, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head."

Oh, Christian, if we would serve Christ, we cannot choose a path of ease. To follow Christ in service will take us to human paths of sorrow and woe. For when we stoop in Christ-like love to lift mankind, and learn to share and to bear their sorrows until we "rejoice with them that rejoice, and weep with them that weep." Then we are able to understand what is meant by Christian service. For our Lord has said, "As much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Oh, followers of Christ, do not put far into the future your plan of service for Christ; for I have found that our ways are not His ways; but we must follow in His steps.

We must not grow weary in the way; for paths of rugged service are sure to lead up the steep hills of sacrifice and self-denial. There is no other way to the crowning day. Much we do in "His name" may never be appreciated by those for whom we sacrifice most, and it may cause us to weep and wonder sometimes but it will hurt us least if we will remember that we have done it as unto the Lord, and not to men. Why do we as Christians look for an easy place to labor? There comes to my mind a

stanza of that good old song:

"Must I be carried to the sky
On flowery beds of ease;
While others fought to win the prize,
And sailed through bloody seas?"

Sure I must fight if I would reign,
Increase my courage Lord;
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,
Supported by thy Word."

Yes, the work of a true soldier of Jesus Christ will often lead to human paths of sorrow and woe, and into common tasks and walks of life, up the steep hills of sacrifice and self-denial; and often over stormy seas and beneath clouded skies. But, Glory to God, I'm so glad this way will lead at last to a victor's crown; and His "well done, thou good and faithful servant," will outweigh every hardship endured.

The servant of the Lord can truly be happy, if when called upon to lay the armour down, he can say with the apostle Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day." Glory to God, I'm going to work for Him, aren't you?

TRouble

By Eld. G. A. Garner, Dos Palos, Calif.

This is a subject I am sure every one is familiar with, as we Bible readers understand, through the disobedience of our fore-parents, Adam and Eve, the fall came to them and to the human family. The Serpent beguiled Eve and she did eat of the forbidden fruit, and she also gave to Adam and he did eat; so we see the Serpent, or the Devil was first responsible, then Adam and Eve. The Serpent is very wise and cunning and knew who to work on first, the weaker vessel. We should always beware of this enemy, as he lies still and quiet ready to bite and devour. He has been working ever since the fall of man, going to and fro, up and down in the earth, deceiving every one he can. He is the author of all confusion and wicked devices and awful disturbances and horrible calamities coming on the people. Oh, the trouble he has brought on the human family! Why has this occurred? Simply because the majority of the people are listening to the Devil instead of God, the world and its attractions are very tempting to the majority of people. We don't need to be surprised. Just let us think how the Devil tried to tempt Christ. What did Christ say to him? "Get behind me Satan." We can do the same, and by Christ's help, we can be complete overcomers of ourselves and the enemy.

We find recorded in Job 14:1 "Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble." So we see that if we live out our time according to

nature, it would seem short. We can always expect to meet plenty of problems and difficulties in life, which means trouble.

Psalms 46:1—"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Don't that sound good? David was a man after God's own heart, also continually pleading with the Lord to deliver him out of his troubles. And God can and will deliver us, as He has David and others. We bring much trouble upon ourselves through disobedience. When the fall came to our fore-parents, and they were driven out of the garden on account of their disobedience, don't you know this grieved God's heart? Oh, how His love went out for them! Gen. 3:24—"And he placed at the East of the Garden of Eden Cherubims and a flaming sword which turned every way to keep the way of the Tree of Life." His Spirit will direct us if we are willing to follow. John 14:1—"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." Christ was comforting His disciples: for He knew the nature of man and what man would meet, much sorrow and trouble. He was pointing out to them the Way the Truth, and the Life, and that there is no other way to see the Father only by Him.

Christ is our burden bearer. Matt. 11:28-30—"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon

you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart: And ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." The mission of Christ was to always be doing something to help someone in time of need. When Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, became sick, they sent for Jesus: for they had much faith in the Master. But Jesus failed to get there in time to heal Lazarus and save him from death. He let Lazarus die no doubt, for different reasons. The first, that it might be to the glory of God that the Son of God might be glorified thereby. According to my understanding, there is nothing that will bring us any lower in the scale of humanity and make us feel the need of the Lord more than losing some of our loved ones, or friends. When Mary met Jesus, she fell down at his feet weeping, the Jews were also weeping in sympathy. "When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, He groaned in the Spirit and was troubled" (John 11:33). Also in verse 35, it tells us that "Jesus wept." We as a people are so much prone to try to carry our own burdens, instead of taking them to Jesus; yet how glad He is to lift us up and comfort and cheer us if we will go to Him as Mary, Martha and the Jews did. Let us do as Jesus tells us to follow him, also let him be our burden bearer. Spend much time in prayer as He did, and be in an attitude as He was just before His crucifixion. In prayer to his Father he said, "If thou be willing remove this cup from me, nevertheless not my will but thine be done."

THOUGHTS—OBSERVATIONS MEMORIES

By Mrs. F. E. Dalton, Cassville, Mo.

Why spend your time in sinning, dear soul,
When you know it will only bring sorrow?
How long do you think stolen pleasures will last?
They shall certainly end with the morrow.

The modern church needs:
Less entertainment; More worship,
Less discussion of finance; and more Gospel.

Does any Free Will Baptist claim to be better than his Lord? God forbid. Then someone may ask, "Why does the church discourage even a limited use of alcoholics, when Jesus turned the water into wine, and doubtless drank moderately of the beverage? Why the total abstinence? Is it a commandment?" No, but consider this: we all know that there are those around us who are too weak to prevent themselves from becoming

drunken, which, most emphatically is sinful and leads to more sin.

"Many excuse themselves for indulgence in alcoholic drinks on the pretext that it is beneficial to their health. The Biblical quotation (2 Tim. 5:23), 'Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine oft infirmities,' is abused. This would not be intoxicating wine that Paul advised Timothy to use; and if it were intoxicating no well-informed, Spirit-filled Free Will Baptist would ever use it as a tonic or as a beverage. The brewers would recommend wine, beer, and other liquors to balance the diet and to flavor foods, to make them more palatable; but they are only trying to increase their income through their sales, and know very well that they are lying; that every ounce of the accursed stuff that is taken into the human stomach ministers to weakness, poor health, general debility, and an early death."

A LONELY MOMENT

Does it really matter if the sun won't shine

Around my heart this hour?

The glow from heaven keeps warmth within,

The light! The hope, the power!

Is it too much if friends desert

My lonely heart today?

I still have Jesus, bless his name,
He entered the door to stay.

Must I this late, late hour despair,

Succumb to trials rare?

Ah, no, the Spirit comforts me,
He will my burden share.

For in my mem'ry lingers now

The times quite oft' before

When He, in gentle, sweet response
Has lifed me ashore.

And as I listen, do I hear

Him say, "Be not afraid?

My child, I won't forsake thee now,
For each, my plans are laid."

HE CARETH FOR ME

I do not try to understand

How it could ever be,

That thou, so great, so mighty, God,
Could stoop and notice me.

When I behold all nature, grand,

Product of thy creation,

Amazed am I, but satisfied

To take my lowly station.

I want no proof thou hast not given,

Great glorious King of Heaven;

Enough to know Thy Spirit leads,

And all my sins forgiven.

The Garden of Eden May Still Exist in all Its Beauty

By R. A. Biggs, Lincoln, Nebraska

The garden of Eden may still exist in all of its perfect beauty this very day, preserved by an appointed angel of God. When God drove Adam out of the garden, He placed an angel to guard it with a flaming sword; that flaming sword means that if any man attempt to break through the walls, he would be destroyed by fire. In this we know that God showed a plan of preserving the garden for a time at least, and if He preserved it at all, most surely He is still preserving it.

The question has been asked by most every Christian, "Where is it?" Let us reason the Scriptures to see if we can find a spot on this earth that God favors more than any other place. Then our attention turns from all corners of the world to Jerusalem. And, as we place a Scripture watch upon the second Adam, which is Jesus our blessed Lord, we see Him spending much time in prayer upon that blessed mount of Olives. The private councils with His disciples were on that mount, and when He was to fulfill

the Scriptures by riding into Jerusalem on a donkey to begin the week of passion. He chose to ride down from the mount of Olives. When He was to ascend to heaven, He chose His favorite spot on the mount of Olives. And when He returns with all His saints to set up His royal reign, He again chooses this same old favorite spot; but this time He throws back the covers on the mount of Olives in an orderly four way manner, to the north and south, to the east and to the west (Zech. 14:4). It is positively sure that He has great glory under that mount. Isn't it fair to think of it as the garden of Eden. That it is possible that it could be in a great cave over-laid with a mighty wall, and that the same light be in the cave as will be when our Lord throws back the covers of the mount (Zech. 14:6, 7) And the rivers of living water will again flow out from the garden of Eden. Yes, the same rivers as of Gen. 2:10 will flow from Jerusalem. (Zech. 14:8).

Nominalism Versus The Church

By Ralph D. Foster, Aurora, Mo.

We hear much these days from Nominal Christians, about "Our denomination" and about "My church," being torn to shreds and persecuted by the "Tribe of Christ;" so we have somewhat investigated why they howl, and we find that nominal denominationalism is not the church, nor is the worship denominationalism Christianity; neither does numerical numbers make up the church, which is the body of Christ, and the members of that body are the bride of Christ, and that Christ is the Head of it and the body that constitutes the church (not my or our denominationalism, which consists of men and women who individually have been born of the Spirit of God by repentance through faith unto salvation and justification, and that God said through Isaiah the prophet, "Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and unto our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Also God said He would blot out your past sins from the book

of His remembrance and remember them against you no more for ever, if you do these things.

Nominal denominationalism—falely so called a part of the body of Christ—does not recognize that true statement of Bible fact, for it is a collection of individual sinners into a body of the same name, who probably have a zeal for God, but have no knowledge of God, for the reason that they have been deceived, beguiled and blinded by following after the philosophies of men, and not after Christ.

Its nominal howl and wail about some one always wanting to tear up "my church," or "our denomination" sounds as pitiful as the bleating of a young lamb—left alone—on the banks of Panther creek, but too silly to be foolish, as it has no church to tear up: for "Nominal Christian" is just a high sounding name that has no meaning but its nakedness before God and the church: for nominal means pertaining to names; existing in name only; not real: and anything that is not real

cannot be justified (defended) as pertaining to Christ, the church, nor to Christianity; and Jesus told the Pharisees, "Ye are of your father the devil."

Just imagine, if you can, how utterly impossible it would be for puny man to tear up anything spiritual that was foreordained by the foreknowledge of God before the foundation of the world, that was established at Pentecost; that is built upon the Solid Rock of faith in Jesus Christ, the Immaculate Son of God—protected from the gates of hell, that shall not prevail against it.

It takes real genuine determination, tenacity, bull dog grit and courage for the young convert and babes in Christ in this Christian warfare, not to be shaken like a reed by nominalisms, camouflage of devilution which is being painted upon the screen of their minds by workers of iniquity and peddled by ungodly brothers of those who crucified man's Redeemer upon Golgotha's skull shaped dome that crowns

its rugged height.

Do not let the howl and pitiful sounding wail of wolves in sheep's clothing alarm nor make you afraid; but keep your eyes on the Christian's Goal—the New Jerusalem—never forget to pray earnestly from the sincere desire of your hearts, that God will give you a clearer understanding and knowledge of discernment, that you may be able to distinguish between truth and a seeming resemblance of the truth. Continue to worship in the Spirit and truth; fellowship nothing of the world; let not your hearts be troubled; let no man deceive you with vain words; for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Occupy till Jesus comes; endure unto the end; be faithful until death, and God will take care of you through all the way. *"Then the hours shall be full of music. With song and praise and prayer, And the burdens of life will be lifted, From those who enter there."*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Dear Christian Women:

I feel reasonably sure that you have not, in any state where the Free Will Baptist women carry on auxiliary work, been entirely inactive concerning Christian education. The North Carolina women have been actively engaged, for the past year, in creating an Educational Loan Fund for worthy young men and women which we trust will prove a great blessing to many. The South Carolina and Tennessee women, and maybe others that we have no information about, have also been at work. Although we have no definite building program in the Eastern states at this time for which to work, we should be very actively engaged in creating such funds in the largest amounts possible for use at such time as may be presented in the future, or funds for use as loans or gifts to our young men and women who desire to prepare themselves for work with us.

At the present we have a Bible School which has, for several years, been doing a small but definitely a good work for our denomination. If you are doubtful, just recall some of the young men that the Zion Bible School has turned out. This school is located in Southwestern Georgia. It is a worthy cause which deserves more support than we, as a whole, have given it. As Director of Chris-

tian education in the National Women's Auxiliary Convention, I am appealing to you in the behalf of the Zion Bible School, and am submitting a plan for every local womens' auxiliary in every state to work. I am asking that every Ladies' Aid Society raise the amount of ten cents per member in your society between the fifteenth of March and the thirtieth of April, and hold this as a separate fund in your treasury, until you are notified by me sometime in May through the Baptist, and the Gem where you are to send it. This is a very small amount to ask for, but it will mean quite a substantial help to this deserving Bible School, and I do hope that every single Ladies Aid society will respond to this request. It is an evident fact, in order for our church even to hold its own, we as a whole must do something quickly about encouraging and helping our young men and women.

Our auxiliary work has been generally accepted by the church proper as a substantial help, and I feel that we owe our best efforts to our church in any work we are able to do. At this time let us feel indebted to this, our only Bible School, and heed its worthy call. Later I am sure there will be other channels open to us to help our church in a definite educational program.

Mrs. M. A. Woodard, *National Director of Christian Education*
Winterville, North Carolina.

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE WESTERN GENERAL ASSOCIATION is to meet in its Third Session with Paintsville Free Will Baptist Church, Paintsville, Kentucky, beginning on Tuesday night, July 12, 1938. The session will continue thru Wednesday and Thursday, and perhaps through Friday following.

Eld. B. F. Rogers of Tulsa, Okla. is elected to preach the opening sermon on Tuesday night, with Elder Winford Davis as his alternate.

Begin planning now to attend, and let's have a full delegation. Missouri is sure planning to be there, to my knowledge. We will be expecting, with anxiety, some of our Eastern brethren to visit our sessions, and also our brethren in Illinois, Texas and Arkansas, besides our regular members of Missouri, Oklahoma and the Tri-State Association. We are expecting a good time transacting business for God.

Eld. John B. Rollins, Clerk.

GID, ARKANSAS, March 18th.

Dear Readers of the Gem:

I am renewing for another year to the Gem, and have been trying to get more subscribers to keep the price down so I can take the paper. I don't see how I can do without the Gem: for I sure enjoy reading the Gem, and so does my family. I would be glad to pay more for the paper and get it once a week, instead of once a month. I believe if any one ever reads the Gem, they would always take it, if they had to spend the last 50 cents they had.

I believe every Free Will member ought to take the paper; if they would all take the paper, and more good writers would write, it would be more interesting. Maybe we could make the paper large enough so it would take us a month to read it, or let it stay small and get it once a week or twice a month.

I am just a poor old farmer, but I believe in old time Salvation and will have plenty of time to read the Gem, don't doubt that.

Pray for me, for I feel like one of God's weakest children.

Your friend,

G. E. Richardson.

Jerico Springs, Mo., March 18th

Dear Brother Brown and Gem Readers:

I am holding a meeting in the Free Will Baptist Church at Wagoner, Mo. We began March 13th, so at this writing we are in the beginning of the meeting. Bro. Arlie Hoover is to join us Sunday, March 20th.

Before us in this place is a high mountain, as it was before Zerubabel, and the word came unto Zerubabel, saying, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." So the mountain shall come down and be as a plain.

And confronting us is a problem. We have only two members that live close enough to attend, no Sunday school or pastor; our only hope to build up the church is through the Spirit of God: so we ask your prayers for the church. We have good attendance thus far, and we believe that God will give us a great meeting.

—Arthur Kicenski.

AURORA, MISSOURI

Dear Readers of the Gem:

I will here give a brief account of our work at the Free Will Baptist Church here in Aurora. We are having very good attendance in all our regular services, and God has blessed. We closed out a revival just recently with twenty-five souls saved and reclaimed, and we believe many others were brought closer to God.

Bro. F. C. Zinn was our evangelist. We certainly appreciate the untiring efforts Bro. Zinn put forth, and his wife, and we recommend them as great workers for the Lord.

—Eld. Virgil Greenway.

BLUE BELL CHURCH
Sapulpa, Oklahoma

Dear Gem Readers:

I greatly appreciate this beautiful spring morning, as Mother earth is carpeted with her soft green grass and lovely little flowers, which were ready to send forth their sweet blossoms; when spring opened the door, the little flowers entered in, for us to welcome and rejoice over. How sweet it will be for us all to be as ready as those little flowers were, when Jesus opens the door of Heaven! What a wonderful time that will be! Let us then be true and faithful, trusting in Him every day.

We have been misunderstood, when we've done the best we could, others could not see the motives of our

hearts; and smiles we often see.

The little Blue Bell Church is still doing what we can, still have Sunday school, and preaching Sunday and Sunday night.

We gave two showers, one Stork shower and one Birthday shower. We all got great blessings. We gathered at the home of sisters in Christ. There were 23 of us, and we all had a nice time, and sure enjoyed the cake and ice cream. We got congratulations over the little unexpected gifts. We made some sick calls. We have a neighbor who is very sick, and he desires the prayers of all who will pray for him. The Lord says, "Pray for each other."

We are praying for a revival here at the Blue Bell Church, and we are hoping there will be many souls saved. We would be glad to have any of you Gem readers to come and visit our church.

I sure love the little Gem paper and I wish every one could be blessed with it, and I would be glad if I could get it every week.

May God bless every one and may we all keep the faith and love and hold to God's unchanging hand.

There are paths of love that I cannot know,

Till I cross the narrow sea,
There are heights of joy that I may not reach,

Till I rest in peace with Thee.

My life is not what it used to be,
My sorrow and sins are gone;
I sing and shout, Hallalujah;
I'm on my happy journey home.

Mrs. Tenny Feedback, Sec.-Treas.

ABOUT OUR PAPER

By the Editor

As we come to this the last column of the 24 pages of this issue of the Gem, we find there are a number of articles left over. We will have these to begin the May issue of the paper; and we are thankful for them.

This issue of the Gem will go to several new subscribers, and we are sending a few sample copies to people we think might be interested, people we think ought to subscribe to the Gem. If we get the 800 or more subscriptions by July, our friends must help us to get them.

We are asking that every one that gets this issue of the Gem

will do three things: First, read the paper; second, have a friend to read it; then ask that friend to subscribe; then send us that friend's subscription with the 50 cents. How many will do this?

If all our subscribers would follow this suggestion, it is possible that we could receive more than the 800 subscriptions in one month. This would be an easy and a quick way to solve our problem, and would keep the price of the paper down to 50 cent per year. Don't wait to see what others are going to do; but do what you can, then you can expect others to do something.

You will notice that the Gem has 24 pages this month. Our present income does not pay for a 24 page paper; but we can give you 24 pages each month, if you will get us the subscriptions we are asking for; and as the circulation shall increase after that, the paper will be increased in size.

Now friends, this is a vital, serious question to us; and when it becomes thus with all the Gem family, then the Gem will go forward, and fill a greater place in our denominational work.

MEDITATION

I am the New Year, and I come to you pure and unstained,

Fresh from the hand of God.
Each day a precious pearl to you is given,

That you must string upon the silver thread of life.

Once strung can never be unthreaded, but stays,

An undying record of your faith and skill.

Each golden minute link you then must weld into the chain of hours,

That is no stronger than its weakest link.

Into your hands is given all the wealth and power,

To make your life just what you will.
I give to you, free and unstinted, twelve glorious months

Of soothing rain and sunshine golden;
The days for work and rest, the nights for peaceful slumber.

All that I have I give with love unspoken,

All that I ask—you keep the faith unbroken! —J. D. Templeton.

OBITUARY

JANES—Herbert Lee Janes was born Mar. 15, 1919 at Thayer, Mo., and died at his home here Saturday morning, March 12, 1938 at the age of 18 years, 11 months.

He leaves to mourn his passing his parents, Zentz and Hattie Janes, six brothers, Lawrence, Harrel, Otis, Leonard, Cleo, and Glen, and three sisters, Mrs Lee Roy, Annabelle and Velma, besides a host of relatives and friends.

Herbert's entire life was one of affliction. At the age of seven months infantile paralysis left him a partial invalid, affecting both his mind and his body. He spent all his years as a patient, innocent sufferer of this dreaded disease. During the last few weeks he bore another complication resulting from the measles which caused his death. Herbert could not live the life of a normal active child. Although he did not enjoy the pleasures of this world, we know that he has passed to an eternal home where nothing but happiness and bliss awaits him.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Mar. 13 at 2:00 p. m., with Elder Harry Beatty officiating, at the Pleasant Hill church and the remains were laid to rest in the Pleasant Hill cemetery.

EVANS—Emma C. Moul, second daughter of John Henry and Amy Elizabeth Moul, was born near Jefferson City, Madison County, Ohio, Dec. 3, 1860. She passed away Monday night, Jan. 10, 1938, at the family home in the Hickory Grove community about eight miles southwest of Harrisonville. At the time of her decease she was 77 years, 1 month and 7 days old.

In 1865 her parents moved to the community in Cass County Missouri where she spent practically her whole life.

October 24, 1888, she was united in marriage to Franklin S. Evans. The young couple located on the old Evans homestead. Except for four years they lived their married life in the vicinity of her childhood home.

Two children were born to this union one son and one daughter, Nannie Ethel, now deceased and John Henry Evans who survives and lives in Kansas City. She leaves behind her devoted companion and seven grandchildren. Two brothers are living, Fred Moul of Denver Colo., and Joe Moul of Kansas City, and one sister,

Mrs. Robert McDonald of Harrisonville. Other relatives are left behind and scores of friends.

Mrs. Evans was converted and united with the Grand River Baptist church when she was a young woman. Later she united with the Hickory Grove Baptist church. During all these years she has been a constant and faithful worker until she was confined to her home on account of ill health. But from her home she radiated the influence of a vivid personality. She was a wonderful wife and mother, and it can be said of her, "she looked well to the way of her household, and ate not the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed, her husband also praiseth her. Favor is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman that feareth the Lord shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands and let her own work praise her in the gate."

Mrs. Evans' life was one of great influence for good. The spirit to do good and help her neighbors was frequently shown. Her death takes from the Hickory Grove community one of the finest characters among us. We have felt her comforting spirit, enjoyed her loyal hospitality. In her death, I know we have lost one of the precious things of earth—a true friend.

Funeral services were held at the Hickory Grove church Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 12, conducted by the Rev. George C. Monroe of Harrisonville. Burial was in the Braby cemetery.

—Mrs. Ray Bouse.

PHILLIPS—Lucinda Jane Phillips was born July 9, 1870, and died Feb. 11, 1938, at the age of 67 years, seven months and two days.

She was united in marriage to Joseph Phillips Sept. 22, 1889, who preceded her in death. To this union two children were born, John and Clara Bess, who also preceded her in death.

Jane was converted in early life and joined the Free Will Baptist church at Cave Spring, and lived there until God called her home.

Jane was well known here, she was a nice girl, a fine neighbor, a lady and a good Christian mother. So we were sorry of her death. It was God's will. She cannot come back, but we can go to her.

Sleep on Jane, and take your rest, God called you and he knows best. We will meet you again some bright day in heaven,

Where we can all sing and shout forever.

Eld. Wm. Johnson, Alton, Mo.

CANTRELL—James C. Cantrell was born May 20, 1855 in Webster County Missouri, but lived in Oregon County Mo. the most of his life.

Bro. Cantrell passed away at the home of a friend in Thayer, Mo., Jan. 23, 1938.

He was married to Alice Wells in the year 1876. To this union eight children were born, of which six preceded him in death. Those surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Louise Moreland and Mrs. Maud Ferrell of Dallas, Texas, one sister, Mrs. Leu Cliff, and ten grandchildren.

Bro. Cantrell was one of the charter members of the Free Will Baptist church at Giteau and surely was a lover of the Word of Truth so, being inspired by truth, lived a consecrated life to the end.

Funeral services were conducted Jan. 23, 1938 at Carr's Funeral Home in Thayer by Eld. Harry Beatty. The remains were laid to rest in Thayer cemetery.

LEE—Elder C. E. Lee was 58 years old when he departed this life Feb. 25, 1938, after about two years of illness.

Elder C. E. Lee preached in the Methodist church for several years. Four years ago he went into the Free Will Baptist church of Magazine and a few months later, he and a few others went together and organized the Chancellors Branch church, and he was its first pastor. Bro. Lee was not able to leave his room many times the last two years, but he will be missed: For so many went to him for council. He was very patient during his sickness and said many times that he was just waiting for the call.

TAYLOR—Mary Frances Cox was born in Stone County, Mo., Jan. 25, 1866, and departed this life March 9, 1938, age 72 years, one month and 14 days.

She was a member of the Missionary Baptist church, and lived a devoted Christian life to the end.

She was married to James L. Taylor Jan. 11, 1885. He preceded her in death by a number of years. To this union was born nine children, two having passed away in infancy, and one boy passed on at the age of 12 years. The children surviving are as follows: Earnest and Cleo of Blue Eye,

Mo., Tommie of Auburn, Calif., Mrs. Wilson Butler of Blue Eye, Mrs. Floyd Keeling of New Castle, Calif., and Mrs. Winnie Flowers of Toppensish, Washington. Besides the children she leaves one sister, two brothers, several grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends.

Sister Taylor was loved by all who knew her. To think of her was to think of one of the Lord's true children. She was always a friend to the ministers, and took much interest in their welfare. It can be said very fittingly of this dear old saint of God as was said of one in the days of our Lord's ministry, "She has done what she could." There can be no doubt but what our loss is the gain of heaven. We bow in submission to the will of our heavenly Father, knowing that He doeth all things well.

Funeral service was conducted by Elders Winford Davis and F. C. Zinn in the Free Will Baptist church in Blue Eye Missouri in the presence of a large crowd of sympathizing friends.

Nelson undertakers of Berryville, Ark. in charge.

The Ministry Loses A Good Man

Charley Melvin Bamford was born in New York City, of Irish parents, on March 6, 1858, and died at his home in Purdy, Mo., March 21, 1938, being 80 years and 15 days old. After his conversion and entrance into the ministry at the age of 28 years, he received his schooling in the Iowa Wesleyan University of Washington, Iowa in which he qualified himself

to receive the degree of Doctor of Divinity. For over 50 years, he has traversed this nation from coast to coast and from border to border preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. His father was a preacher of righteousness with power and with a brilliant intellect. The family name of Mr. Bamford can be traced back into the dim recesses of the Middle-Ages, and it is one continuous lineage of Church-Men.

In early life, he was married to Miss Anna Karkuff, now deceased, and to this union were born four sons: Paul, Keith, Morris and Merton, of whom Merton Bamford of Joplin Mo. survives. He later married Mrs. Caldonia Jane Rogers of Purdy, Mo., who also survives. Other surviving relatives are a sister, Mrs Perry Karkuff in Iowa, and a brother, George Bamford in California.

Brother Bamford was an ardent lover of the Lord and His Church, he was an humble man, a brilliant soul, a master-piece of God wrought in humanity, a sinner saved by grace. He has gone from us to live in the Greater sense of Life—yet he still lives in our hearts.

Another Pioneer Gone to Reward

Elder Thomas L. York, one of our old Free Will Baptist ministers, has gone to his reward. He had been on the retired list for some years and lived with a son at Lafontaine, Kans. He was 81 years old, having started in the ministry when quite young.

Miss Velma Matthews, Desloge, Mo. Arthur Kicenski, Jerico Springs, Mo. One to be appointed by Bro. M. H. White for Northwest Missouri. Two to be appointed by Bro. C. M. Dauber for Northeast Missouri.

The board also asks that each Free Will Baptist Church in Missouri pay in at least \$1.00, to the State Treasurer, Eld. Winford Davis, Monett, Mo. And the pastors of the several churches asked to see that this money is collected and sent in. Our State Budget lacked about \$60.00 of meeting our State needs, and each state is asked to send at least \$20.00 to the Western General Association; so we will need at least \$80.00 to put our State Association in the clear financially.

Eld. B. F. Brown, Chairman,
Eld. O. T. Allred, Secretary,
Eld. Arlie Hoover, Member,
Eld. F. C. Zinn, Proxy,
Dea. L. C. Wade, Proxy.

PROCEEDINGS OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

On Saturday, March 19, 1938, the Executive Board of the Missouri State Association met in call session at Hannon Church, Hannon, Missouri, and appointed delegates to our Western General Association which convenes at Paintsville, Kentucky, beginning on Tuesday night, July 12, 1938.

Three regular members of the board, Elders B. F. Brown, O. T. Allred and Arlie Hoover, were present, and Eld. F. C. Zinn acted as proxy for Elder C. M. Dauber, and Bro. L. C. Wade acted as proxy for Bro. M. H. White.

Delegates appointed as follows:

Mrs. Belva Zinn Purdy, Mo.
Mrs. Jewell Turner Granby, Mo.
Miss Otha Campbell, ..Cassville, Mo.
Mrs. Eunice Miller....Flat River, Mo.
C. B. Dees.....Flat River, Mo.

ZION'S BANK

Contributed by Miss Esther Peterson

"I have a never failing bank,
A more than golden store;
No earthly bank is half so rich;
How, then, can I be poor:

"'Tis when my stock is spent and gone,
And I without a groat,
I'm glad to hasten to my bank
And beg a little note.

"Sometimes my Banker, smiling, says:
'Why don't you oftener come?
And when you ask a little note,
Why not a larger sum?

"'Why live so niggardly and poor?
Your bank contains a plenty;
Why come and take a one-pound note
When you might have a twenty?

"'Yea, twenty thousand ten times told
Is but a trifling sum
To what your Father has laid up
Secure in Christ, His Son.'

"Since, then, my Banker is so rich,
I have no cause to borrow;
I'll live upon my cash to-day
And draw again tomorrow.

"I've been a thousand times before,
And never was rejected;
Sometimes my Banker gives me more
Than asked for or expected.

"Sometimes I've felt a little proud
I've managed things so clever;
But, ah! before the day is gone
I've felt as poor as ever.

"Should all the banks in Britain break,
And that of England smash,
Bring in your notes to Zion's bank;
You'll surely have your cash.

"And if you have but one small note,
Fear not to bring it in;
Come boldly to the Bank of Grace;
The Banker is within.

"All forged notes will be refused,
Man-merits are rejected;
There not a single note will pass
That God has not accepted.

"This bank is full of precious notes,
All signed and sealed and free,
Though many a doubting soul may say,
'There is not one for me.'

"The leper had a little note—
'Lord, if you will you can';
The Banker cashed this little note,
And healed the sickly man.

"We read of one young man, indeed,
Whose riches did abound;
But in this Banker's book of grace
This man was never found.

"But see the wretched, dying thief,
Hang by the Banker's side;
He cried, 'Dear Lord, remember me';
He got his cash and died."

Spoiled Egyptians

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

God told Moses to command the children of Israel to "borrow" the Egyptian's jewelry. The Israelites did not "pay back," but instead, left Egypt; thus spoiling the Egyptians. The atheists and high (?) critics have attacked this fact in the Bible with great ardor; charging that this is a plain case of stealing, and that God authorized it or Moses was a liar and an impostor! With either being true, there is sufficient ground to warrant a general unbelief in any part of the Bible, for God is the acclaimed Author through such fanatics as Moses. Because such God-defiant unbelievers are so out of harmony with God, the precept upon precept of God's Word becomes a stumbling block to them, an incomprehensible jargon, that they might go (just let them go), and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken (Isa. 28:9-14).

I began to study the case of stolen jewelry, and to study it properly, I went to the original language of the Old Testament. I opened into the Hebrew and scanned along until, in Exodus 11:2, I stopped upon the word *SHA'AL*, then I shouted for joy! I have been long acquainted with this word, it being among the first that I learned in the Jew's language. I saw this word often in my studies of future abodes (after death), and it carried a clear ringing definition, "To ask, to inquire, to demand," in the sense of Job's statement, "Man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?" Job 14:10. Upon a second study, I found the word *SHA'AL* to be translated as follows in the Old Testament:

ASK—107 times (my careful counting). "I ask one petition of thee." 1 Kings 2:16.

ENQUIRE—22 times. "And the king said, enquire thou whose son the stripling is." 1 Sam. 17:56.

DESIRE—9 times. "Behold the king whom ye have chosen, and whom ye have desired." 1 Sam. 12:13. The Israelites, in Palestine, desired a king—that isn't any proof that they stole one.

"And he (Rehoboam) desired many wives." 2Chron. 11:23. I would hate to go before a Sanhedrim Court and try to convict him of stealing wives, if I had to limit myself to this language for proof.

He forsook the law of the Lord and may have stolen some of them, but we cannot prove him guilty with this language.

DEMAND—4 times. "For I will demand of thee, and answer thou me." Job 38:3.

BEG—2 times. "Let his children be continually vagabonds, and beg." Psalms 109:10.

BORROW—7 times. "Let every man borrow of his neighbor...jewels of silver, and jewels of gold." Ex. 11:2.



In neither of the derivatives of the word *SHA'AL* is there any hint of stealing. There isn't so much as a pretense to pay back in the minor derivative *borrow*. There is no hook or crook about it. It is a plain case—the Israelites literally *asked* for the riches of Egypt, and the Egyptians literally *gave* their wealth away! Egypt did not ask for a note of security, for she did not want it, she did not expect a return of her jewels—she had given them away.

"And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they *lent* unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians." Exo. 12:36. The Hebrew word for *lent* in this verse is the same word, and in the same grammatical sense, as the word *lent* in 1 Sam. 1:28 where that sainted mother, Hannah, *lent* her son, Samuel, to the Lord, *as long as he liveth!* Hannah did not demand a note of security from the Lord, she did not

expect a settlement when the Lord should give him back to her. The Lord took Samuel when but a child and gloriously used him all the days of his life. In like manner, the Egyptians *lent* their jewelry which is a plain case of give-away.

There are severe objections to this conclusion in the face of the teachings of Jesus Christ concerning those who have riches and trust in them—rich men will lose their souls before they will give up their wealth. I recognize this truth, and I know it isn't natural for men who have intelligence to accumulate great wealth to become regular bone-heads and give it all away—and yet that is exactly what Egypt did! There is a very great reason for this action!

God, in one way or another, "lighteth every man that cometh into the world." The Spirit of God reproves the world of sin, often against the will of the sinner. That's what happened in Egypt. God was making Himself manifest and known as the All-mighty, All-wise, just, personal God, Creator and Governor of the universe. He does not force men to repent, accept, love and serve Him, but He does force upon them the knowledge that He is God and that they are out of harmony with God. Egypt, like men of today, resented and despised this knowledge, she had rather do anything rather than to repent, recognize and reverence God. In view of their hurting conscience because of their mistreatment of the Israelites, they deliberately gave all their jewelry to the object of their injustice and oppression in a vain attempt to appease the anger of a just God, and thus "get by" without repenting. They would go to the limit, even to the giving away of all their jewelry; anything besides to repent.

They loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. They hated the light that exposed their wickedness. And the light was forced upon them. No man can seriously reflect upon his conscious experience without finding a reason for his natural dislike of God; he finds an evidence of his own personal guilt; he is self-convinced and self-condemned at the bar of his own conscience; he remembers with shame the actual transgressions in which he resisted the dictates of reason, and resigned himself to the dominion of evil passions. When one, with these

convictions, is asked to conceive of God as a living, personal Being, every where present, beholding the good and the evil, whose "eyes are as a flame of fire," and who knows the "thoughts and intents of the heart;" who is the Lawgiver, Governor, and Judge, who demands the homage of the heart and the obedience of the life, and who has the power to enforce His rightful claims by the sanction of rewards and punishments; to the fears, remorse, and forebodings of an uneasy conscience, the thought of such a Being causes one to instinctively recoil and try to forget and deny God's claims. As the idea of God becomes more vivid in its unavoidable intrusion into the mind of every individual, one of three general courses is taken: One is to fall before the Eternal Being and cry for mercy, the second is the

opposite extreme of becoming intolerant of the idea of God and banishing the subject altogether, so that "God is not in all his thoughts," and thus plunge into blatant infidelity; and the third course is to alter and modify his views of the Divine character so as to have a God according to his own wishes, like unto himself, indulgent to sin, a God who is not strict to notice and punish sin. In this case, he "remembers God and is troubled." This uneasy well-being leads to the doing of penance, mortification, painful sacrifices in an effort to conciliate an offended Deity. Egypt took this latter course and sacrificed all her jewelry, but it failed to bring the results she wanted. Egypt became a "vessel of wrath fitted to destruction." —Cf. Romans 9:14-23.

CIVIL WAR IN ISRAEL

By Eld. Noel Turner, Greentop, Mo.

In many ways, the Children of Israel seemed like school children, or some big families of children at home; when some outside enemy threatened, they all went together against it with only one purpose in view, that was to conquer. When I was in school, sometimes a group of boys from another community, or school, would take a notion to whip all of us, and would meet us at some public gathering or any convenient place to accomplish their purpose, but all we boys would stick together, and plan our part of the battle with perfect cooperation and would often send the other boys away telling what they would do if they ever caught one of us out by himself.

But, maybe, the next day or two at school, when we were not planning battle against some other group, we grew restless and began to quarrel among ourselves and, of course, it would result in a fight—*CIVIL WAR*. We were ready to tear to pieces that boy who, only a day or two before, we stood side by side with and risked our own "hide" to help.

Israel's twelve tribes worked together faithfully while they were conquering the promised land; side by side they went against the enemy; and as long as they were following the leadership of God's Spirit, they were successful, but when they had settled, and their interests became divided, and the common foe was no

longer opposing, they began to fight among themselves, "Civil War in Israel."

We read in Judges 19 how the quarrel started, and in the beginning of the 20th chapter, a council was held, and since the people of the tribe of Benjamin would not deliver those wicked men of their tribe to be punished, but came out to do battle and the war was on.

26,700 men fought against Israel and the first day killed 22,000. Israel wept before the Lord, but God said go again. So the battle raged the second day, and Israel lost 18,000 men.

Should that have been some people battling against Satan, they would surely have given up in despair, and said, "It's no use, God isn't for us," but not so with Israel. They began to inquire about the "Ark of the Covenant" and to set their house in order; they became concerned about things and prayed.



Noel Turner

The Lord said, "Go up against him." They planned the battle and took notice of the enemy's tactics, and went for sure victory.

Now let's notice one thing about those men of Benjamin, there were 700 of them that were left handed and could throw a stone at an hair's breadth and not miss—Judges 20:16. While these men of Judah were fighting, and watching for a blow from the enemy, naturally expecting a right-handed blow, the cunning crafty men would deal out death with that left-handed accuracy for which they were noted. Israel became wise to all this and watched from all sides and won the victory at last.

How like the Christian's battle of every day living and fighting against Satan was that Civil War in Israel!

When God's people are working together in the church, there's no time for disputes or quarrels, but when they don't have a thing to do to keep them busy, they grow restless, and the result is likely to be *CIVIL WAR IN THE CHURCH!*

Satan always tries to strike that left-handed death dealing blow to every one of God's people, when they aren't expecting it. Each one knows his or her weak points and will naturally guard against it, but the Devil will come at another angle and overcome that individual, if at all possible.

Perhaps you remember the story of the old castle in some English province. It had been so built that there was only one way of approaching it, that was from the front, the sides and the back were protected by a great cliff which made it look securely fortified when an army stood on guard at the front.

It happened that an enemy wanted possession of the castle, and made war on the royal family who owned it. The guards were re-inforced and all available power of resistance was concentrated on the only road leading to the premises.

The enemy was well aware of all this, so went around to the back and with great difficulty climbed up the cliff, entered the castle and had possession of everything before the soldiers realized what was happening. They attacked from that point which seemed so secure—a left-handed blow. Now isn't that just like the old Devil? We must watch on all sides. Put on the whole armour of God.—Eph. 6:11.

When a church loses its ambition, and don't have any object in view,

the members will lose interest and civil war will follow, they will fall out with one another and quarrel, backbite and even fight. But when every one comes to attention, all in array for battle against the common enemy, Satan, they don't have time for disputes, nor differences, but if one member is weak all the others

are ready and willing to lift him up, and encourage him in the great undertaking, which all are equally concerned about.

Let's set a goal, and strive to attain to it. Keep every one busy in God's work, and so prevent Civil War in the church.

in His sight; and give us the right kind of love, that we will keep His commandments and walk in His statutes and live a life that is pleasing in His sight.

OUR HELP

By Gladys Keeland, Newcastle, Calif.

Two Loves, Both Sincere, One Natural-One Divine

By Mrs. Annah Cone, Charleston, Ark.

In the experience of Peter's denial, we see him drifting like some of us do, first in the flesh, second in the world, and third in the Devil. In Matt 26th chapter, we find Jesus teaching divine love, telling His disciples the awful things that were coming; we see His disciples (which we are, if he has had mercy on us and saved us) following him.

Now I want to call your attention to Peter, just as he was at that time, and I am made to wonder if some of us are not just like him, but I pray God that we are not. Oh, I tell you, I fear the thing we need to do is the thing we are leaving undone. Love is what I want to tell you about. Dear friend, Do you know? Do you discern the different kinds of love? Do you know that we can love Jesus above everything in this world, and if we don't love him with divine love which God the Father gives his children, that it won't profit us, but will condemn us? Do you remember that Jesus said, "Watch?" Well, let us pray lest a heart of unbelief enter in us. Here we see Peter when Jesus said, "This night ye all shall be offended because of me." Peter really thought he loved his Lord (and so do we), and answered Jesus, and said, "Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be." Listen friends, Peter loved Jesus, but not with the right kind of love, and this Scripture is written to teach us what the right kind of love is. When the mob came to take Jesus, Peter proved his love, what kind it was. He rose up with the sword to fight and shed blood. Now we know this wasn't the right kind of love; and Jesus proved to him just as he proves to us what kind He had. If Peter had loved Christ with divine love God the Father gives, he would believe him, but unbelief condemns us and weakens us—this is Peter in the flesh. Oh God, help us to understand your

Word!

Now we see Peter going up to the High Priest's office where all the Scribes and officers and rulers and noble men, and all the wealthy of this world were assembled together. Here Peter lost sight of Christ, and went in and warmed himself by the Devil's fire, and was one of the world again. Of course, the Devil knew he had him, he knew Peter's love wasn't the right kind of love, if he did stay with Jesus; so the Devil sent one of his imps to Peter, a maiden. I imagine she was just about like some we have today; I can see her when she asked Peter if he wasn't one of them, wasn't he with Jesus of Galilee? But he denied before them all, saying, "I know not what you say" (Peter was in the world then). He was in the presence of the wealthy, the proud, the smart, the high up class of this old world, but remember he was following Christ to the end: but he didn't have the right kind of love for his Lord. Oh God, help us to understand the Word of God, learn His way and have the divine love of God the Father in our hearts Praise God!

Now we see Peter away from his Lord, entering into the last stage of sin, swept off his feet by the things of the world. With a hard heart of unbelief, he began to curse and swear and deny his Lord outright; and the thing Jesus told him of happened, and he remembered the words of his Lord; and went out and wept bitterly. Now you know this is Biblical, and I believe you can see that Peter did not have divine love of God the Father: for I don't find where he ever did such a thing after he was indued with power from on high, and filled with God's Holy Spirit. So let us all pray God that we can keep the right kind of love in our hearts, and may God fill us with His Spirit and divine love, and send down the fire and burn every thing out of us that is not pleasing

If ever this old world needed help, it's now. Oh that men and women would look away from this troubled world to where our help is really found. "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Psalms 124:8). So many lost, fearful, unhappy, undecided what to do, should follow out Hebrews 4:16—"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Truly it is a time of great need for Scriptural things as well as physical. It seems that people are trying to find relief and help in every thing else except the One and only true way, from God.

Some seem to think our president will help us, and keep the U. S. out of war. "Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man." (Psa. 108: 12). I am sure God is displeased with the world, as he was with Israel, but he is so full of mercy. "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself. But in me is thine help" (Hos. 13:9). "If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked way, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chron 7:14). Do you see the requirements we are to meet before God will bless or *HELP* us?

O that people which call themselves Christians would be Christians, they would know that little petty *NO HARM* things are *SIN*! God help us to be more Godly.

We see the 24th chapter of St. Matthew being fulfilled. No, the end is not yet, but let us not be in a place where we cannot take God, for when he returns, it will be sudden; and now our only help and comfort is in Jesus, the one who gave His all for us.

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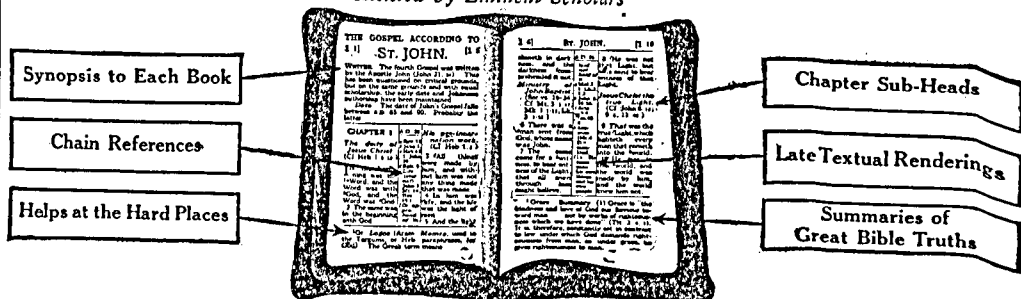
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