

Mrs. Silas Wright 604 Oak

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

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

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The Christ of the Andes

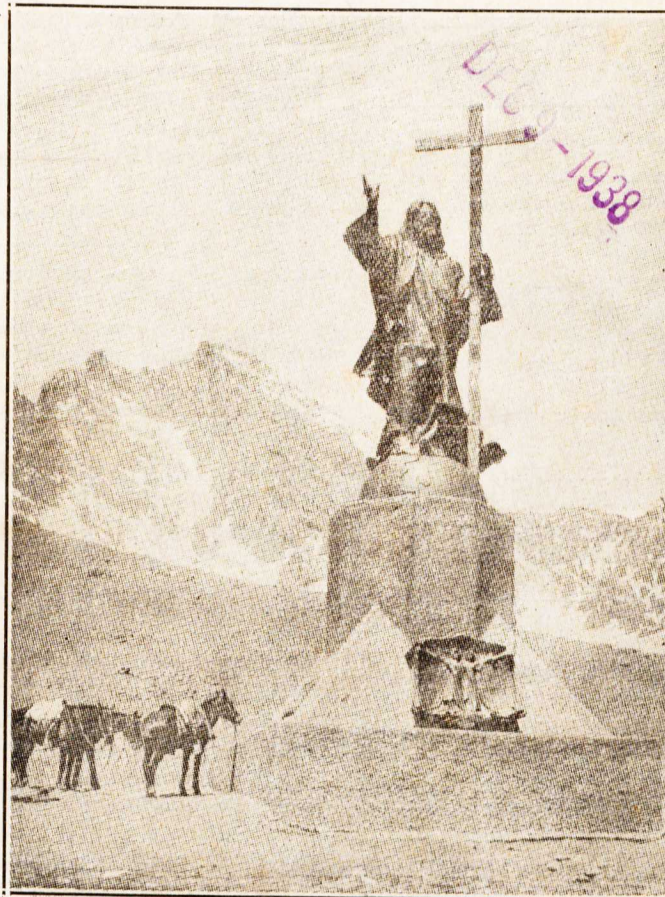


BENEATH the Easter solemnities in Boenos Ayres, South America, there was an oppressing spirit of unrest. Men gathered on the street corners and in hotel lobbies. The theme was War—war with the neighboring country of Chile. There was a long-standing dispute over the boundary line in the Andes mountains. Instead of schools, the two nations builded instruments of war—the cost was great. Bitter hatreds prevailed and war was inevitable.

Above all the clamor for war, good Bishop Benavente proclaimed his sermon of peace throughout Argentina, "Cease from strife, cease from war, cease from unrest," came his melodious Spanish, "Put your confidence, not in arms, but in the power of the Cross. Let a statue of Christ, our Lord, be placed on the crest of those mountains which are causing such unhappiness and unrest."

Bishop Jara preached for peace all through Chile. The people of the two countries were stirred by these ardent souls and their message. They flooded their respective congresses with petitions for peace. The British ambassadors at Boenos Ayres and Santiago, the capital cities of the two countries, argued for peace.

The two countries then submitted their dispute to the King of England



as arbiter. The King's expert statesmen and geographers divided the disputed territory as nearly equal as possible between the two South American Republics. The decision was accepted cheerfully by both countries without a single day's hesitation.

Thus, on May 28, 1903, the two countries ratified the first general Arbitration Peace Treaty in the history of the world.

Then the people remembered Bishop Benavente's suggestion. At Boenos Ayres, the old cannons, the instruments of death and destruction, were melted and molded into a beautiful bronze statue of Christ, the majestic sentinel of peace between the two countries. Erected on the boundary line between Argentina and Chile, on an Andean peak, 14,000 feet above the sea level, stands the great statue of Christ with His right hand upraised in blessing of those of His children who are keeping the peace He gave them. The left hand holds a great Cross, which towers above even the majestic figure of the Prince of Peace. The statue rests upon a granite sphere, representing the world over which Christ shall yet reign as King of kings. On the granite base are the words of the solemn oath taken by the Argentines and Chileans amid music, wild booming of cannons, and reverbrating mountain echoes: "Sooner shall these mountains crumble into dust than Argentines and Chileans break the peace which they have pledged themselves at the feet of Christ, the Redeemer."

This statue was unveiled March 13, 1904, and is an object lesson to the world concerning Christ's own words, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."



THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM
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TERMS

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

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

Your time is out if a pencil mark appears here 

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

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10th Anniversary

By John B. Rollins

The Gem is ten years old. Above the head-rule on the front page is the official statement, "Volumn 10. No. 12." That means the 12th issue in the 10th year. This issue completes ten years of publication in the service of the Free Will Baptist Church.

The Gem is, and has been for ten years, an organ of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptist; although it was started in Oklahoma, it very soon moved to its present office in Missouri. At the time of the moving, one issue was missed, which explains the fact that only 119 issues have been published.

Elder B. F. Brown has been the editor during these ten years, assisted by the earnest, faithful, whole hearted service of Mrs. Brown. These two consecrated, sacrificing servants of the Great Cause deserve honor for bringing the Gem through the depression, keeping it at all times free from debt. It has required some sacrifice, but they did it cheerfully as unto the Lord, and today the Gem IS a success with the smile of God's divine approval upon it.

This issue of the Gem speaks for itself regarding its success. We have no staff of official, regular contributors. Those who write are inspired to write, consequently, we have some of the cleanest, clearest, straight-from-the-shoulder sermons which are second to none. (I refer not to my own writings). Our "boys" who write are thrilled with an overwhelming desire to see God's cause advanced. They *live* and *write*, "commending themselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

The space allotted to the letters and reports of the churches is certainly most interesting. There one gets the news of the work and progress of the churches. It is not merely "news." It is the writings of ready pens, inspired by the same Spirit which prompts the writing of the sermons. To read these reports in the spirit with which they are written is certainly to enjoy that kindred Spirit which gives leadership to the great meetings in the different sections of our country.

Our Missionary Department is for Bro. Willey's voluntary writings, reporting his activities. Bro. Willey has been very faithful in his work, even writing under very adverse circumstances—using a canoe paddle for a desk. Our people, we are sure, are very appreciative of Bro. Willey, and his work, and his writings to the Gem.

The Gem started with only about 300 subscribers. The mailing list has steadily and surely increased through the years. It is still increasing as it wins its way into new fields. The Gem is mailed each month into 14 states west of the Mississippi river and 12 states east of the river, reaching across the nation in one unbroken chain from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts, and from Mexico and the Gulf to Canada and the Great Lakes..

Nearly two years ago, the Missouri State Association launched a campaign to secure a new and larger office and to more completely equip the same. We now have \$2500.00 on hand and are anxiously waiting for the Joint Committees of the organization to get together and begin the work. We hope to occupy a new office in the Spring or early summer.

The Gem Office wishes every one of you a Merry Christmas, and may GOD BLESS EVERY ONE.

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

Temperance

Eph. 5:18—"Be filled with the Spirit: Abstain from all appearance of evil."—1 Thess. 5:2

Thou Art The Man

Mrs. M. Conan, Phoenix, Arizona

EDITOR'S NOTE—This article is taken from the *Defender Magazine* of Wichita, Kansas. When we read it, we were struck with its timely truth, and decided to pass it on to our readers, hoping they would appreciate it.

MORE than half the young people of the United States drink intoxicating liquor—some are already habitual drunkards; 1,350,000 young women and girls are being used by liquor establishments to lure men to drink.

Our highways are filled with drunken drivers who menace the lives of travelers. In 1937 there were 39,400 deaths in traffic accidents, and many times that number of persons were permanently crippled and incapacitated.

Drugstores, restaurants, grocery stores, and other places, which five years ago carried only clean lines of merchandise, are now more or less engaged in the saloon business.

Births of idiotic and deformed babies (which were greatly reduced under Prohibition) are increasing. Our list of defective and underprivileged children soars skyward.

Saloons and dives abound without number. The demand for salacious literature has grown tremendously in recent years. Vile pictures and shows which contribute to crime and divorce, are popular. Our city streets are being infested with thugs and sex-fiends. Every city of any size has developed an underworld.

Syphilis and other death-dealing diseases are increasing to such a terrifying extent that our government has made large appropriations for the purpose of treating those afflicted and the eradication of such diseases. Which, we know, is time and money wasted so long as we allow the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors to continue.

Insane asylums, penal institutions and orphanages are filled to overflowing, and it has become necessary in recent years, to build many more such institutions to accommodate the increase in cases. Keeley Institutes and other "alcoholic cure" establishments are doing an increasing business. Hospitals are crowded with patients suffering from alcoholism.

Very few persons, in comparison to population, attend church; or take part in any religious movement.

Apathy, indifference and shirking of duty have become flagrant characteristics of a huge majority of our citizens. Those who still have a claim to

respectability and might influence others in the right directions, are content to close their eyes to the sad consequences of repeal of the 18th Amendment. They are content to drift along, making little or no effort to stem the tide of crime, which constantly grows deeper and more powerful, since it now receives the greater part of its nourishment from alcohol. *For while it is quite true that alcohol stunts the physical growth of persons and animals—it has never been known to stunt the growth of crime.*

"Who is to blame for these changes in recent years?" some one may ask. Our answer to that question is, THE VOTER. Yes, Mr. Voter, YOU are to blame!

You caused our Country to sink to lower levels. You did this when you put that "X" in the word "Yes" on your ballot, to repeal the 18th Amendment, instead of placing it beside the word "No" as you should have done. Perhaps you never dreamed that innocent little "X" would turn into a cross too heavy for us to bear—a gigantic cross of blood.

Mr. Voter, do you remember what the Bible says about the man who putteth the bottle to his neighbor's lips and maketh him drink? You never offered a man a drink in your life, you say. No, perhaps, literally, you never did, but when you voted wet you put a bottle to the lips of millions—millions of innocent boys and girls and you made them drunk; you placed a stumbling block in their path.

A man's vote is a sacred instrument, given him for use in the carving of his community's destiny. When you voted wet you used that instrument to destroy the Nation's character—and when national character is destroyed, all is lost!

"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken," says Habakkuk 2:15.

Yes, Mr Voter, YOU are to blame!

WHO'LL HELP?

Kind friends, we thank you one and all,

For giving such attention.

While we've arraigned Old Alcohol

And of his faults made mention.

And if you'd like to see him now,

Put in a pretty pickle,

Just lend a hand, and help us on,

By giving us a NICKEL.

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

He stalks the earth from East to West,
A deal of mischief doing.
But we are on the war path now,
Old Alcohol pursuing.
Now, if you'd like to see him caught
And punished for his crimes, sir,
Just lend a hand and help us on,
By tossing us a DIME, sir.

He robs our homes of peace and joy,
He fills the land with sighing;
Sets snares and pitfalls for our feet;
He'd better be a-dying!
So, if you think he should be slain,
As we believe he'd 'orter,"
Just lend a hand and help us on,
By handing out a QUARTER!

He boasts himself a King—by law
And license well protected.
But, see the children! We're afield!
We'll have him soon ejected!
So, if you'd see us tackle him,
And take him by the collar,
Just lend a hand and help us on,
By dropping in a DOLLAR!

—Selected.

WHEN MINORITIES WON

During the one hundred and twenty years that Noah spent in building the ark, he was very much in the minority. But he won.

When Joseph was sold into Egypt by his brethren, he was in a decided minority. But he won.

When Moses appeared before Pharaoh and demanded the freedom of the Israelites, he, too, was very much in the minority. But he won.

When Joshua crumbled the walls of Jericho, with the blasts from a handful of ram's horns, he was in the minority. But he won.

When Gideon and his 300 followers, with their broken pitchers and smoky lamps put the Midianite hosts to flight they were an insignificant minority. But they won.

When Elijah brought down fire from heaven, and put the prophets of Baal to shame, he was in a notable minority. But he won.

When Samson crushed the temple and destroyed his enemies, he was very much in the minority. But he won.

When David, ridiculed and laughed at by his brothers, went out to meet the giant, Goliath, in size he was in a decided minority. But he won.

When Jesus Christ was crucified by the Roman soldiers, He was a conspicuous minority. But He won.

When Luther nailed his theses on the door of the cathedral, he was a lonesome minority. But he won.



Our Surprising Saviour



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



HERE IS A Striking thought. Our Saviour is one continuing round of surprises. Almost everything about Him, His deeds, His sayings were surprises to those who heard or were contacted. People marveled, and wondered at His doctrine. Christ is Himself a great surprise.

The time when God became man is a surprise. Why wait 4000 years before assuming human nature? Redemption was promised, and held back the curse when Adam sinned, why did not the Second Adam appear in the first age of the world? The whole matter is a surprise.

It is a marvel that the Son of God became the Son of Man in a stable. We would suppose that finer surroundings would have saluted the King of Glory. The wise men may have been surprised to find the new-born king without the least vestige of royalty. If they were tempted with the thought that they had been deceived, and their journey was fruitless, they overcame it and presented their gifts and worshipped Him.

At the age of 12, in the temple, Jesus provoked surprise. The Doctors were astounded at His answers. Mary and Joseph were astonished to hear Him say, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" — The first recorded words spoken by Jesus, with just enough indefiniteness to make them wonder.

The life of Christ is largely hidden from us; this is strange. From infancy to the age of twelve is a blank. We see Him once, then another blank until He is thirty. The Unknown may teach us wisdom. A suitable distance from the Divine develops a finer reverence than an unsuitable familiarity.

Christ was sinless, then what a surprise when He presented Himself to be baptized. John exclaimed, "I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me!" Christ assumed the ob-

ligations of man. Persons affirm that it makes no difference whether they are baptized or not as the rite is merely secondary. It is far better for a man to be a follower of Christ than a follower of himself.

It may surprise easy-going people to learn that Christ was so constant in attending public worship. Since He was holy, might He not have rested at home? No: "He went therefore into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as his custom was." If the Saviour felt under obligation, much more should men who expect to be saved be duty bound to go to Church.

Jesus told the woman of Samaria things which surprise us. "The disciples marveled that he talked with the woman." He told her that He was the Messiah and the founder of a religion for all mankind. The people were startled at her message, "Come, see a man which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" They hurry to see the noted person, they listen to His words, they believe, then confess "that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world." How strange that Jesus favored such people with a fuller knowledge of Himself and His work than He did the Jews back in Jerusalem. Many did not learn that He is "*The Saviour of the World*" until after years of schooling.



Repulse is seen in the life of Christ and this is surprising. A scribe wanted to follow Him. Christ replied, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head." One wanted to bury his father and then follow Jesus. He is told, "Let the dead bury their dead; but go thou and

preach the kingdom of God." A rich young ruler is told to "sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor." The Syro-Phœnician woman asked for help in behalf of her daughter, but Christ answered not a word. She repeated her request and again is *ignored*. She will not give up, and Christ insinuated that she was a dog. She persevered and was at last blessed and praised. *Repulse* is the order of the day. It is seen in nature with its *severity*, in providence with its *trials*, in education with its *discipline*, and in religion with its *crosses*. Our adversities are stepping stones to a higher, fuller, richer life. The winter of time prepares for the summer of eternity.

It is surprising that the rites of the Christian Church are so few — simply baptism, the Communion of the Lord's supper, and feet-washing. The first performed only once; the second and third as often as love thinks best. When man works up a scheme of religion, there is no end of ceremonies. Christianity is being corrupted by a departure from the original simplicity by the addition of forms and sacraments, more sacred days and duties, new virtues and sins until Christianity is so near like heathenism.

The silence of Jesus at His trial is remarkable. Before the chief priests and elders, He answered not, even when men testified falsely against Him. To be silent when we are praised is easy, but not so easy when assailed by falsehood. We think it is a virtue to defend our character. He was willing to stand forth blackened by men who were deemed the purest. To be defamed by those who are known to be corrupt, affects us less than to be defamed by men who are viewed as holy. No court room ever witnessed such a scene. "The governor marvelled greatly." The eloquence of Silence spoke to him. The Creator was tried by the creature, and the Holy was condemned by the sinful, yet Christ uttered not a word.

What a wonderful Saviour! He went straight into souls. He lived in the realm of the mind. He spoke to the soul as if no body covered it, for He *knew* what was in man. His searching truth troubled men. His light was too clear for diseased eyes, and His purity was too pure for depraved hearts. Perdition with all of its hell is more at ease the farther it is from Paradise. The devils cried out when in His presence — they believed and trembled.



The Six Miracles of Calvary



By William R. Nicholson D. D.

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Revivals of Life in the Calvary Graveyard

"And many bodies of the saints which slept, arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."—Matt. 27:52, 53.

THE sixth of the Calvary miracles was the revivals to life that accompanied the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The text reveals to us that certain graves were opened by the earthquake at the death of Christ, and that the dead bodies arose and came out of them after Christ Himself had risen, and that they went into Jerusalem, and appeared to many. It is a statement of one of the grandest miracles, a gigantic piece of supernaturalism, supernatural in the sense of being wholly miraculous.

I

Let us review the historical truth of this statement. If it be asked how much may be said for its historical character, it is answered, as much as for the historicalness of all Scripture. By the suffrages of universal scholarship—and in some instances reluctant interpolation, but a part of the genuine words of the Bible. And if there be in all the world a document more absolutely historical than the Bible, it is yet to be discovered.

Is It an Invention?

But may not the evangelist have drawn on his imagination and out of some such ordinary fact as an exposure of dead bodies in graves, have constructed a myth of their rising from the dead? No, if the Bible is the Holy Spirit's words of truth and soberness, it precludes any writer from inventing his facts to gratify a propensity for the marvelous.

"But," as some have said, "it is difficult to account for such a transaction, and the words are extremely obscure." This is not true. The statement that the bodies arose and went into Jerusalem is not obscure. These words are self-luminous and their meaning as visible as light. The difficulty of accounting for the occurrence we are not concerned with, save only to consider it as divinely designed to stand in close connection with the death and the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

Self-Evidencing Marks

There are belonging to this statement, however, certain historical marks of its own. Not only is it a

part of Scripture, but it is so interlaced with Scripture that it could not but be there. It stands in a line with the miraculous events of the time. It harmonizes with and explains the wonder of the opened graves, just as that wonder was the product of the wondrous earthquake, and the earthquake was the counterpart of the wondrous rending of the veil, which rending of the veil answered back to the shout of victory from the Cross whose dying sufferer had just emerged in triumph out of the almighty horrors of the symbolic darkness! So if that line of Calvary's wonders is historical, then, by a harmonic necessity this is the only conceivable conclusion of the great series.

Moreover, it falls in line with the whole teaching of salvation. If we are in sympathy with Jesus, and stagger not in unbelief at the mightiness of His salvation, we shall perceive this. Instead of its being incredible that the resurrection of Christ was signalized by such revivals to life in the Calvary graveyard, we would say, upon finding that fact to be of record, "It has the right to be there. It is sublimely credible for it is an expressive pledge of the coming resurrection, when, from all the graveyards of the world, wherever the mortal remains of a saint may lie, this corruptible shall put on incorruption, and this mortal immortality."

Marvelous Reticence

Then again, consider the reticence of this statement. In that reticence we see a mark of truthfulness, before which babbling incredulity is forced to be silent, and in whose honor the severest criticism must express admiration. The evangelist tells his story of wonder; but we also have a story of wonder to tell of him, which is scarcely second to his own. Our story is that these few words are absolutely the whole of what he says. He tells us that on the occasion of the Lord's resurrection, certain of the departed saints arose, and left their graves, and went into Jerusalem, and appeared to many. But he says nothing more. Who they were, how many; whether they went into the houses of the people or only walked the streets; whether they appeared only once, or from time to time during the forty days of the Lord's appearances, is not stated. How they were affected by their return to this life; whether they spoke of the realms of the dead or of the recent entrance of Christ into those realms; how and when they finally disappeared or whither they went, on all these topics not a word, not so much as the faintest recognition of the possibility of such questions being asked.

Nor does the writer even tell us whether the risen saints had recently died. At first view, it might be inferred that this is implied in their appearing to many, for, why should they appear except to be recognized and identified? And yet Moses and Elijah were recognized by the disciples at the transfiguration although they had never before seen either the one or the other. The Holy Spirit is able to make known to one another those who before were strangers. He is able to do it as easily as the light shines or as a new thought comes into the mind.

Indeed, the thought in the text is not merely that they "appeared"—which does not fully express the original—but that they were manifestly made known. It is not said that they were made known as to their names. The only thing implied is, that they were manifestly made known as persons risen from the dead.

Now of such reticence what shall we say? Did ever a myth in all the range of fiction have so brief a setting? If ever history may be judged by the form she gives her chronicles, then this is history. And a divine history; for what uninspired historian ever practiced a like repression of imagination. Especially unmanageable is the desire to pry into the secrets of the other world. One of the oldest superstitions is that of seeking unto the dead. It was forbidden in the legislation of Moses. It was one of the world's naughty playthings in the untutored earlier centuries. And what a revival of it we witness now in this advanced age, when men think they have attained to the full manhood of understanding!

So, I say, this silence of our text is almost as wonderful as the fact itself. No merely human pen, having said so much, could have said so little.

II

And now, in the second place, what kind of a rising from the dead were they. Two kinds are exhibited in Scripture. There are six resurrections which were only restorations to this present natural life: the son of the widow of Sarepta (1 Kings 17), the Shunammite's son (2 Kings 4), the resurrection caused by the bones of Elisha (2 Kings 13), the daughter of Jairus (Matt. 9), the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7), Lazarus (John 11). In all those instances it was only a revival of the natural body which might die again, and which, in those instances, did unquestionably die again.

The Resurrection Proper

On the other hand, there is 1 Corinthians 15, where a resurrection body

of an entirely different kind is promised to our hopes in the day of the Lord's coming. "Sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption; sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; sown in weakness, it is raised in power; sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body." That is the resurrection body proper—the true rising from the dead.

Now in which of these two categories shall we place the resurrection of our text? Were those bodies instances of the resurrection body according to 1 Corinthians 15—spiritual, incorruptible, immortal? Or were they only the natural body revived to this present life, like the bodies of Lazarus and the others to whom we referred? Does the Scripture enable us to answer this question?

Now in that chapter of 1 Corinthians we are told that *all* who are Christ's shall be made alive in the resurrection body there described. Then we read, "But every one in his own order"—every one of the all who are so to be made alive in his own order.

And what is that order? "Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." Christ first—and He did rise in that kind of a body—and afterward, at His coming, every one of the all who are His.

Note it well. The apostle does not say that only such as may have risen before shall thus rise at Christ's coming. His language is absolute and all-inclusive—"they that are Christ's"—without making any exception. All belonging to Christ shall rise; all who are His out of all the ages. And then he adds, "But every one"—every one of them all—"in his own order," which order he explains as being "only after Christ," and only "at his coming."

Thus how particular he is to tell that in this order he includes all, out of all the ages, who were ever to have part in that kind of resurrection.

Hence, plainly, none of Christ's people have ever had as yet the spiritual immortal body, and none shall ever have it until His coming. Those Calvary saints went forth from their graves, but only in their natural bodies revived. For the true resurrection body they yet wait till the rising together of all of Christ's from all the ages. No one shall antedate another; no one be perfected before another. God has provided some better thing for us, that those saints out of the Calvary graveyard shall not without us be made perfect.

But What about Enoch and Elijah?

They were "translated that they should not see death," and have they not incorruptible and immortal bodies? The question must be met by the statement of Paul. If Enoch and Elijah at their translation received the body spiritual, then Christ Himself was not the first fruits, nor is it true that every one who is Christ's out of all the ages

shall so be made alive only at His coming.

It is no objection to this that Elijah was seen in glory when he talked with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration; for cannot God irradiate even the natural body with glory? Did not a glory beam from the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai? Did not Stephen's face before his martyrdom impress every beholder with its likeness to an angel? And did not the natural body of the Son of man become refulgent as the sun? And even when He descended from the transfiguration—His countenance still holding the memory of that radiance—were not all the people, when they beheld Him, greatly amazed?

Will They Return?

Therefore, let us abide by the answer of Paul, and be content. Enoch and Elijah may be now in a certain glory, although not the glory of the true resurrection condition. They still live in the natural body; for notwithstanding the corruptibility inherent in it, the age of nearly a thousand years was attained by Methuselah here on earth. Nor need they ever die, any more than the saints who shall be alive on the earth at the Lord's coming, and who shall be changed and caught up together with the Lord in the air.

It is indeed possible that God shall hereafter send Enoch and Elijah back to the earth on some service, the fulfillment of which may involve their suffering and death. As regards Elijah, the intimations to that effect are neither few nor faint. But at any rate, as to the true resurrection body, and they and we shall be together made perfect at the same moment.

Possibly the risen saints of our text were afterwards translated, like Enoch and Elijah, in their natural bodies, and did not die again. They may now with Enoch and Elijah be awaiting the future resurrection. Such a supposition may be true or false. We have no authority for affirming the one or the other; but this we say, that they had not, and they have not, the resurrection body of 1 Corinthians 15. And this being the fact, the recognition of it is essential to our instruction in the truth of God.

III

In the third place, then, what is it that God would here teach us? We answer, truth and certainty of the final resurrection. The teaching is symbolical. The Calvary revivals to life set forth the greater and coming glory. They were not *the* resurrection, but they were *a* resurrection; not the thing itself, but the shadow of it. Yet they were a substantial shadow, requiring no less a power than omnipotence. This was the analogue of that, a rehearsal of the more glorious scene yet to be.

Many are the verbal assurances God has given us of that coming glory; but also He would exemplify it beforehand. At the finishing of the work of Jesus and His departure from the world, the

great resurrection of the future was fore-enacted in miniature, with an expenditure of power only to what must be put forth for the grand realization of the future—a farewell display of purpose and power which was both a pledge and earnest of the Saviour's return to be glorified in His risen saints.

God's Purpose in the Event

What other purposes God may have designed to accomplish by them we do not know; but this purpose surely. When Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life," and to prove the truth of it raised Lazarus from the dead, the proof did not lie in the kind of body with which Lazarus came forth. That chapter of Corinthians to which we have referred exemplifies the meaning of Jesus being the resurrection and the life. But the proof lay in the fact that the restoration of Lazarus to natural life, the shadow of the true resurrection, required and actually displayed in like relations, the omnipotence requisite for the other.

Indeed, this combination of the historical and symbolical is the feature of the whole series of Calvary attestations. The three hours' darkness though real, was only a symbol; the rending of the veil, as though an artisan's blade had cut it from top to bottom, was a symbol; the earthquake, which broke the rocks, was a symbol; the grave clothes of Jesus, whose marvelous arrangement was a demonstration to John of his Lord's resurrection, were a symbol and here risings from the dead, living realities, yet only symbolical, were the harmonious completion of the wondrous group.

A Ground of Assurance

And now, by means of that scene before us, how strong and vivid becomes our assurance of the final resurrection! When a thing actually existent has been invested with a representative function, its symbolism is not only a verbal expression of ideas, but an acting of them out as well.

It was one of the most beautiful utterances of Jesus when He said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches." Now let a painter put a vine and branches on his canvas, and you have a picture of the vital union of Christ and believers; but only a picture. If, on the other hand, you understand, as you may, that yonder grape vine was planted by God's hand on purpose to stand as a symbol of such a union, you will have before you an analogous work of the omnipotent Creator; and how much more impressive your sense of the union of Christ and believers then becomes!

Symbols and Analogies

Precisely so, the white robes in the Apocalypse seen as clothing the multitude, while a symbol of the final resurrection and the glory of it, were yet only a picture, for they were not actually existent. But the occurrences in the Calvary graveyard were actual instances of death destroyed for the

time and natural life rekindled in the grave—actual instances of omnipotence working in human dissolution and revival. Those revived bodies of saints walking the streets of Jerusalem were designed of God as a similitude, a fore-shadowing of the life of immortality and eternal glory; but as actual occurrences, they were also a demonstration of the certainty of that which they were the similitude.

Grandeur of the Plan

Moreover, what an impression is here made upon us of the grandeur of God's plan! In the fact that those saints had *not* the body which "sown in corruption is raised in incorruption," is set forth God's purpose to make the final resurrection a sublime expression of the unity of the body of Christ, the Church.

"They that are Christ's at his coming." No one member of the body shall have been glorified before another. Its eye, its hand, its foot, its greatest and its least, whether their remains be under the snows of Greenland or the burning soil of Africa, they shall together be ushered into the fullness of eternal life. The whole body, then at length compacted out of all the ages, shall stand forth at one and the same moment in the finished symmetry of beauty and of glory.

IV

Another lesson is that only in the personal deliverance of Christ Himself are His people delivered. The saints of Calvary were revived from the dead only subsequently to and because of Christ's own rising from the dead. "Many bodies which slept arose and came out of the graves after his resurrection."

True, their revival was not their final resurrection, their resuscitated bodies were not fashioned according to His glorious body; but yet they stood in their revived bodies, the sublime symbol of the final resurrection.

Now, as being such a symbol, they are here projected on our view in a sequence to Christ which is both rapid and emphatic. They went forth from their graves, as it were, at the very heels of Jesus. They followed Him, as meaning follows language, as vision follows light.

Jesus First

That is to say, only by Himself exhausting the curse, and triumphing out of it in His own person, has Jesus Christ succeeded in removing it from His people.

As the sin-bearer for us, had He not become personally justified before the Father in the efficacy of His sufferings, never could we be justified by faith in Him. And so had He not attained in His own person to the true resurrection, never could we attain thereto. Thus His people are in Him, and are one with Him. His death was their death, His life is their life. "Because I live," said He, "ye shall live also."

Oh, the inestimable certainty of our

promised heritage! We are bound up with Christ in the same bundle of life. Even now "our life is hid with Christ in God;" and a time is coming when "our vile body shall be fashioned like unto his glorious body."

V

And take this one lesson more. None but such as are Christ's shall ever attain to the resurrection body of 1 Corinthians 15.

None, but "saints" were revived from the dead in the graveyard of Calvary. None but saints, therefore, shall be of that "great multitude which no man can number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with robes, and palms in their hands." Those "many" of Calvary symbolized the "innumerable" of heaven.

They who are not Christ's, shall rise out of their graves; but it will not be because of the blood that saveth. "They shall come forth," said Jesus, "unto the resurrection of damnation." Instead of its being their rising from the regions of the dead, it will be their

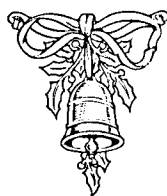
plunge into "the second death." Only the saints of God shall come forth "unto the resurrection of life."

None but saints, and yet *every* saint; for he that believeth on Jesus is a saint, and he that believeth on Him hath everlasting life, and shall never come into condemnation.

EDITOR'S NOTE—This is the last of the Six Miracles of Calvary, which have been published in the Gem in six installments, beginning in July.

We count it a happy privilege to be able to give the Gem readers this great work in Christian literature. We hope you have been built up in the Christian's hope, we hope it has done you good from every Christian standpoint.

We appreciate the co-operation and sincerely thank the copy right holder for the permission to publish "The Six Miracles of Calvary." You can secure this literature in a beautiful booklet, pocket size, for only 20 cents per copy from Bible Institute Colportage Association, 843-845 North Wells Street, Chicago, Illinois.



The Bells

By Leonard Earl Harris, Chicago, Ill.



Could you realize that China had bells in complete sets representing (their respective scales as far back as 3,000 years before Christ?

Do you know that Aaron wore small golden bells in his robe during the time of Moses, 1,500 B. C.? It was a sign of the peculiar spiritual nature of the bells as represented by its use at that time. Aaron did this in the same manner as is conveyed in the heavy chimes of the great cathedral today which has not changed in purpose from then until now.

During the middle ages bells were regarded as real personalities, and were believed to possess the power to avert calamities, or to frighten away sin and other dangerous foes. Should you chance to ascend the great tower of Notre Dame, in France, or many other of the old European Cathedrals, you could read the inscription in some of the real old bells which dedicate that particular bell to some saint or priest, you would not wonder at the power such a bell would exert over some imaginative people of that time, and even of today.

In Peking, China there are seven bells in one tower, and each bell weighs 120,000 pounds. I understand this tower is so old that even its his-

tory is not known, still those seven bells have been, and are still used today to a very great extent to drive away demons and evil spirits.

All along one can scarcely trace religion without the influence and use of the bell somewhere in its sacred and religious service. Even a tiny bell tones one to the spirit of prayer, bringing them out from voluptuous existence to a life of devotion and higher ideals.

One can hardly realize that the greatest bell ever made never rang. Early in 1733 in Moscow, Russia, a huge bell was cast, weighing over four hundred thousand pounds, more than twenty feet in diameter and twenty-two feet high. When the bell was finished and hung to its place, it was so heavy that it broke and fell to the ground, ripping a seven foot hole in its side. What a wonderful tone it might have produced had it not broken, but what a great blessing that God forbade, since it had not been designed for Christian use. It was silenced forever. God had another purpose in view for it to do. For one hundred and three years this bell remained just as it fell. Then some Christians came along who decided to use it. They placed it on a platform and made it into a chapel into which worshippers

could go to worship. Until today that two hundred and five year old bell is still used for a chapel where worshippers meet to praise God and offer up prayers of Thanksgiving. It has been used as a chapel for the past one hundred and two years. Few people know this, however, as the political conditions in Russia forbid anyone to worship God. They are punished to the extent of their life if they are ever caught in the act of worshipping God, or teaching a Christian religion. Moscow is noted for its famous bells, which is really a token of the past when far back in history there was the manifestation, and practice of a Christian religion there.

Have you ever been broken in spirit? Do you realize that your disappointment might prove to be an appointment with God? Your broken hope, like the hole in the broken bell, may become the door through which God may enter into your life today. Whatever may be your lot just now, dedicate it to God.

He wants to give you another chance. It is never the presence of difficulties which forecast defeat for us, but it is always the absence of God. Could we like the disciples of the past, cry out from the depths of our yearning hearts, "O Lord, teach us how to pray. Show us how to enter into the closet, shut the door, and then give us a burning passion to do just the things that Thou wouldest most have us do."

A few weeks ago I enjoyed one of the grandest thrills I believe I ever experienced. I was seated in the west Garret Balcony of the Chicago University Memorial Chapel, a structure which cost over ten million dollars. Some friends with whom I had earlier breakfasted, and I, had arrived early to meditate and to receive full benefit of the preliminary musical prelude, processions, corillions, etc. After some minutes had rapidly slipped on, we were really amazed at the charm of a great bell, weighing thousands of pounds, as it pealed out in beautiful

tones, over five hundred feet above our heads. It was a great and enormous structure, powerful in its very eminency. Despite effort one would certainly imagine he was in Europe. I wish I could describe or depict to you just how I felt at that moment, because it was really one of the grandest moments I ever spent. Later more bells began to ring, and in less than five minutes there were apparently thousands of bells—great, small, medium, tiny, all sizes and pitches, calling the entire campus and for miles around. They were literally just hounding and screaming to the entire parish to come to worship. The thrilling voice of hundreds of bells were seeming to say, "Come, the Master is here, and calleth for thee."

Are you saved? God loves you and IS still calling. One day it is going to be TOO LATE.

Yours in the service of our Master,
306 South Wabash Avenue.

"THE MESSIAH"

By Leonard Earl Harris, Chicago, Ill.

The visitor to London, by taking a few steps from Bond Street, celebrated for its shops, may walk to 57 Brook Street, where for a number of years lived one of the master composers of the world, George Frederick Handel. Here during the years in which he directed the opera, one might have seen every morning, a crowd of callers—singers whom he had engaged, singers who hoped to be engaged, and players for the orchestra.

But such was not the case in 1737 (he was fifty-two years old then), when we take a look into a room at the back of the house where he was accustomed to do his writing. Bankruptcy stared him in the face, his health was broken—soon to be followed by a severe paralysis. The one-time large circle of friends had almost wholly broken up. He felt the change keenly.

After his recovery his bent of mind seemed changed, for he is quoted as saying that "sacred music is best suited to a man descending in the vale of years." At any rate, he turned his attention to the composition of religious music and gave to the world oratorios which remain classics to this day. Although Handel's name is so

closely associated with English music he was German by birth. He was musically precocious, as is indicated by the well-known picture in which he is depicted playing in the attic of his father's house. He came to London



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to take charge of the performances at the principal opera house. He was a subject of the King of England who was the King of Hanover, in Germany.

Our next view of Handel's study is in 1741, and the day is August 22. From the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, had come an invitation to visit Dublin and give some concerts—an invitation which he was quite ready to accept. And so he set to work to write something new for the concerts. It is while he is busy with his writing that we shall survey him critically.

"His figure"—we are looking through the eyes of Burney, the historian, who knew him well—"was large and he was somewhat unwieldy in his actions; but his countenance was full of fire and dignity. His general look was somewhat heavy and sour, but when he did smile it was as the sun bursting out of a black cloud. There was a sudden flash of intelligence, wit and good humor beaming in his countenance which I hardly ever saw in any other." We can see that his features were well-moulded and handsome.

But see how rapidly he writes! It is as if his mind is teeming with musical ideas and lovely melody. Instead of needing the sense of the keys under his fingers and sounds in his ears, as is the case with many composers, he is improvising with pen

on music paper, hearing the sounds with the inner ear before they are transferred to the paper.

As he finishes a sheet it is tossed on the floor, perhaps to dry—for there was no blotting paper in those days. Unseen we pick up a sheet and despair of being able to read it, so rapid and so careless has been the writing. It is a mystery that anyone can decipher this mass of scrawling notes.

Arrived in Dublin, Handel is kept well occupied with arranging for the concerts, rehearsing and other duties, and it is not until April 13, 1742, for the benefit of charity, that *The Messiah* is sung for the first time in public, the proceeds reaching the sum of \$2,000. Now-a-days, nearly two hundred years later, it is the most popular choral work with the American public.

Nearly a year later, March 23, 1743, *The Messiah* was produced in London, with Handel himself at the organ. It seems that the audience was much affected by the music of the oratorio. But when the chorus reached the mag-

nificent fugal passage in the Hallelujah, beginning with words; "For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth," the King, who was present, rose to his feet in his excitement, which, of course made it necessary for every one else to stand. This is responsible for the well-known custom of rising while the Hallelujah Chorus is sung, which is still the rule in concert performances.

Our last look at the master is at a time near the end of his life, after he, like Bach, had lost his sight. He is to play the organ at a performance of his oratorio *Samson*. Led by a boy he comes through the hall, takes his seat at the organ, and presently the voice of the tenor comes to us, singing the words of the blinded hero of Israel:

Total eclipse! No sun, no moon!
All dark amid the blaze of noon.

It is strange that many of the audience are weeping silently and that we, too, feel the tears on our cheeks.

Yours in the service of our Master,



"His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful"

By Eld. Winford Davis, Monett, Mo.

This is indeed a wonderful season occasioned by the birth of a wonderful Saviour. Over 700 years before His birth, Isaiah gave Him this name, and very fittingly so: for just as Peter said unto them that believed, "He is precious," we might also say unto them that believe, "He is wonderful."

Wonderfully Prophesied Of

One of the most convincing proofs of the inspiration of the Scriptures is the fact of fulfilled prophecy. How wonderfully did the prophets of old foretell the birth of our Lord. Then to think how blind Israel was to His deity when He was walking in their midst. There was no reason, in the face of Old Testament writings, for Israel to fail to recognize this wonderful personage who was presented to them as their king. But the Christ Himself said, "If the light in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" Israel was too far out of accord with their God to be able to recognize His son. They were too far from the reality of the presented principles of the proposed kingdom (the sermon on the mount) to be able to recognize the king. Neither is there reason today

for the people failing to know the Christ; but their spiritual condition is too much like that of Israel of old, hence they are blind to the truth.

He Was Wonderfully Born

I don't reluctantly believe in the virgin birth of our Lord, I happily believe it. It is a joy to believe in the



Holy Ghost conception and birth of our Lord. Why any one would want to deny it is more than the children of God can understand. He wasn't just another good man, He was a God-man. He was either a God-man or He wasn't even a good man, for He said He was a God-man, and no falsifier is a good man. But truly, while He was truly God, He was truly man.

The material and the Divine were miraculously blended together. Critics say it is a physical impossibility. Certainly it was from a human viewpoint. It was out of the natural order to be sure. But has not the Creator power over that which He has made? Has not the former power over that which he has formed? We all concede it is so in the human realm; then why would it not be so in the divine realm? The virgin birth of the Christ Child is one of the most beautiful Bible facts. Truthfully, Isaiah could say, "His name shall be called Wonderful," for He is a wonder from His very birth.

He Was Wonderfully Raised From the Dead

"NOW IS Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept."—St. Paul. Rome, the world empire of the day, with her seal upon the stone and her soldiers at the tomb's entrance; with all her strength, with all her authority, with all the prestige that she had with men of that day, yet she could not prevent His powerful coming forth from the grave. Walls and closed doors could not prevent His appearance in the room. Certainly He showed Himself alive with many inallible proofs. The doctrine of resurrection power has been one of the chief heart gladdening Bible doctrines throughout the Church age. How wonderfully it banishes gloom, takes away the fear and sting of death, lights up the darkness of the grave, and in so many ways lightens the burdens of life.

He Wonderfully Ascended

He said, "It is expedient for you that I go away." He said, "I go to prepare a place for you." So when that hour had come for His departure, He and the disciples went out on the Mount of Olives, and in their sight and presence, He ascended. All the power of the natural law of gravitation could not prevent His going back to the Father from whence He came. The ascension is a very vital link in the great plan of human redemption. Since His ascension, the Spirit has come in His stead. He is seated as the merciful mediator between God and man, and so truthfully He said, "It is expedient (or better) for you that I go away."

He Wonderfully Saves

Last Sunday night, at our Macedonia Church, a noble young man came down to the altar and was **WONDERFULLY** saved. It seems sometimes there are people saved, and then there are peo-

ple wonderfully saved. Of course any amount of the Spirit of Christ is wonderful; but don't you like to see people wonderfully saved? We have no right to judge as to just who receives an experience and who doesn't, but we do like to see them wonderfully saved. I like to think of Christ as a wonderful Saviour. One who redeems man FROM sin. The Bible says if we will confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We are living now in an "ease" age. A time when so many seem to get a kind of a still-born experience. I fear a time of much profession without sufficient possession. But to them who will believe, He is a wonderful, marvelous, mighty Saviour.

He Will Wonderfully

Come Again

Last, but not least by any means, is the great fact of His second coming.

Really, it takes the second coming to complete redemption. He came the first time to redeem the soul. He is coming the second time to redeem the body. We are waiting for the redemption, to wit: the redemption of our body. Just as He went away, that certain we can look for Him to come again. He said, "If I go away, I will come again." May the very atmosphere be charged this Christmas season with, not only joy in the great fact that He has come, which indeed is wonderful and the joy therein commendable; but also with enthusiasm and anticipation of His second coming which surely is eminent. How the world needs Him today to take over the reins of control and the affairs of government, and for one time bring to us everlasting peace and happiness. Nothing else will ever be able to bring it but the wonderful, powerful, and glorious return of the Christ.

attention given to man's spiritual welfare? Is there too much attention and consideration given to the development of material things? We have many Spirit filled men and women who will honor and magnify our Saviour's name at Christmas time; but it is sad to think of the greater number of church members who are not Spirit filled. All who have been born of God have the mind of Christ and are led by the Spirit of God, for they are God's children (Read chapter 1 of St. John and chapter 8 of Romans). When Christmas time comes, these know what it should mean, and will know what gifts to give and how to give them. Christ means little or nothing to them who do not know Him and serve Him continually.

Socially speaking, our country has just about reached the limit—downward, yet the state of our social condition is just about what most of our people want it to be. Along our highways, in every village, town and city, there are road houses, dance halls, and many other places where alcoholic drinks are sold—it is hard to find a place to eat where they don't sell beer; but good Christians *will not* patronize any of these places. All these places exist that they might serve the public, and they are doing a thriving business: for they furnish what the public wants. And take a look at the city news stands—they keep what the people want—then see if you can find a book or a magazine fit for a Christian to read. At Christmas time these places will make a *splurge*—there will be dancing, drinking, feasting, gambling, a general carousal, and giving of gifts—a Christmas celebration! O Lord, have mercy, and help us come out from among them, and continually live lives that testify of Jesus, that our Christmas celebration and giving may be acceptable with Him and helpful to others.

Yes, all adult persons (excepting those mentally incapable) are religious; but they are not all Christians—some believe one thing, and some believe something else; but only those who believe in Christ and love and obey Him are Christians; and only real Christians can know the meaning of Christmas and know how to keep the day to the glory of God. Multitudes of professed Christians, many of them preachers, deny the virgin birth, that Christ was divine, the blood atonement, and other fundamentals of the Christian religion; how can they properly celebrate Christ's birthday?

Christmas in 1938

By the Editor



AS THE CHRISTMAS season draws near, I am wondering what this Christmas, in 1938, will be like. I have already seen 68 Christmases, tho' I don't remember anything

about some of them, and the Christmas of 1938 will be my 69th, and I can't help feeling that it will be somewhat different from all that have gone before.

Never in the history of the world have conditions been just like they are this year. Morally, politically, spiritually, socially, religiously, industrially, and in many other ways this old world was never just what it is today.

Judging by what we hear and what we see and read, morality must be at a low stage. It is said that, in our own country, 19 million go to Sunday school, while 77 million attend the movies each week. Now, if four times as many people go to shows as go to Sunday school, and if eight times as much time is spent in shows as is spent in Sunday school, it is easily seen that wicked influences outweigh the influence for righteousness about eight to one: for the moving picture business is about the greatest source of evil that operates in U. S. A. How can movie stars and others connected

with the movie business be righteous, chaste, or even be honest, when it is their constant business to sensually inoculate the minds of the millions who attend the shows, millions of them children whose parents need to wake up? How can people who are fed up on movie love, sex, crime and war properly celebrate the Lord's birthday?

Politically we are drifting to Communism—we are almost there, and dictatorship is not far off. All this is anti-Christian and anti-God: yet



politicians, dictators and unbelievers will bestow rich gifts upon their friends at Christmas time, even the saloon keeper will spend some of his hard earned cash for Christmas gifts: but will such gifts honor the Christ whose birthday they pretend to celebrate?

And spiritually speaking, what can we say of the world? Is there enough

Such people as these and unbelievers can enjoy Christmas only as Spirit led Christians go to them in the Spirit of Christ, which is the Spirit of Christmas. There is always opportunity for Christians to help the needy, perform deeds of mercy, let their light shine so that others may see that they have been with Jesus and learned of Him, and tell the story of Jesus' love for sinners.

Christmas time offers a golden opportunity for Christians to manifest the Spirit of God in giving. God the Father gave the greatest gift ever given to the world, even His only begotten Son. And Jesus the Son of God

gave His life that we might have salvation in Him; that we might give ourselves for others.

Then when Christmas time comes, God forbid that we Christians should give as the world gives. And God forbid that we should, in our Christmas exercises, present to the world their own program: for worldly programs can never portray the Christ. Sinners cannot put Christ into the Christmas program; neither can such a program set forth the Christ.

Christmas commemorates the birth of Christ; and if we do not magnify and set Him forth, we have failed.

HEART'S DESIRE

By A. H. Camp, Osage, Ark.

I would make me an image of Jesus,
The humble, yet great mighty King,
Who forgave all my transgressions,
And made all my sorrows take wing.

I cannot engrave it with chisel,
I cannot make it of stone;
For the Christ of my life is a Spirit,
Who sits on the right of the throne.

I can come to Him only in spirit,
To the Lord of my life I will pray;
Though the least of all in His service,
These words to my Lord I will say:

"Oh grant I may yet help some sinner
To turn to the light of Day,
And see his name written in glory,
In the Lamb's Book of Life far away.

"No greater reward am I asking,
While below on this sin cursed earth,
That my work may encourage a sinner
And see him obtain the new birth."

Oh, sinner, won't you come to Jesus,
The molder and modeler of clay,
That your soul may shine with His image
When I see you on Judgment day?

Christmas in 1938

Still the old tale endures,
Still the Star shines above,
Only Truth lasts so long—
Truth, Faith, and Love.

See how the Magi come
To His low crib and stall,
Watch how His Mother's eyes
Smile at them all.

Darkness is in the world—
Night that is made by men,
Yet through the clouds of fear
Truth bursts again.

Dread not the hurricane,
Fear not the war-lord's might,
Over the earth there shines
Steadfast, His light.

they should be meditating about Christ the Saviour.

When we think of the fathers and mothers, in general, and their attitude toward Christmas, we are grieved. So many rush their children through the Christmas season with a gay time, visiting and eating, and leaving off the important lesson that should be taught them. One should not want for a better time to teach their children about Christ who was born into this world, lived and died for them, that they might be saved. Then their girls and boys might help other children to know something of their Saviour.

What Is Christmas To You?

By Eld. Kenneth Turner, Granby, Mo.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord"—Luke 2:11.

YES, There has been a Saviour born, who is a Saviour of all who will come to Him and accept His saving grace. The date of His birth is the hub on which all dates revolve. History of old dates B. C. (before Christ) pointing to the coming Christ. Dates A. D. (Lat. *anno Domini*—"In the year of our Lord") refers to the fact that our Saviour has been born. Christmas should be celebrated with the spirit and thought that this day is one set aside in memory of our Saviour's birthday. Can we not see the meaning, even the name of Christ in the word *Christmas*? But with some people the name of Christ is not desirable; so they strike it out and use Xmas. Maybe with some, this term is used unthoughtedly, but I love to know that folk use Christ's name in connection with Christmas.

We cannot say that December 25th is the exact date on which our Lord was born into this world; for with some nationalities different dates are used. Some say He was born in the Spring of the year. I do not know that it makes so much difference as to the time for the date, so that once in the year we honor the day that is set aside for this purpose, with a spirit of happiness and joy, thanking our God for His Son who is our Saviour. In reality, that is what Christmas is. But how sad to think of the millions who use it in memory of everything else. So many use it for commercial gains.

The manufacturers, for instance. The men at the head of the firms conceive of the idea, that Christmas is an ideal time to coin more money by producing articles for the Christmas season. With perhaps no thought at



all of the Christ, they mill out their products.

So many merchants will line their shelves and counters with articles which they know will be bought at that occasion, just as a middle-man to get gain, never thinking of the Saviour of their souls. Here we are reminded of the Scripture, "For the love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Tim. 6:10). They give away to the spirit of the Devil's temptation and forget the spirit of Christmas, the birthday of a Saviour.

Some think of Christmas as a time when they can cease from their work and celebrate their vacation in just any manner that might be the fad of the times. There are hundreds who will take their means and buy liquor, thinking it to be the only way to remember Christmas.

There are the sportsmen who cannot see beyond their gun and dog, when

The Greatest Gift

By Eld. Frank Linton, Stella, Mo.

Christmas is considered a time of giving and receiving gifts; and many of us don't seem to understand why Christ came into the world. Our text is a part of Luke 2:10, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Now, our Lord was the greatest gift that ever was given. He was given to save the world from sin. When the Angel of the Lord spoke to the shepherds, saying, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people," not only to the shepherds or to the local community, but to the wise men in the far East, and down in South America where our Brother Willey is, the Lord expects us to carry the story.

Let us see what else this precious gift was given for. God gave this gift (John 3:16) because the world was lost and without a Saviour, it was in darkness, going headlong into destruction. Yes, there were a few righteous people in the world who were looking forward to the time when the Saviour would come. We have this same world today with multiplied thousands of people unsaved, that need someone to tell the story of Jesus being born into the world as a Saviour.

Could our giving at Christmas time be in the spirit and love of our Saviour that it might carry a message? The gift from God brought spiritual light into the world, and there are people in darkness that a little gift of love from you would bring light to. The wise men in the East saw the great bright star. This star, to me, represents the Spirit of God. They followed

the star or the leading of God to where Jesus was, and they worshipped Him and gave Him gifts, costly gifts, the best they had, which is the only thing Jesus will accept today, the best we have. Unsaved man or woman, if you want to see Jesus the Saviour of the world, if you will only have the determination of blind Bartimaeus; don't take no for an answer when someone tries to discourage you, but cry out, "Thou Son of David!" Zacchaeus was determined to see Jesus, even tho' the throngs were in the way, but he went around and got ahead of the crowd. If the church is keeping someone from seeing Jesus, they are just a gang. The wise men must have traveled many miles over rough roads and burning sands to see Jesus. They had to stop and inquire the way, which was all right, and you might have to do the same thing. Ask some one that you know is a Christian, and they will be glad to help you; for that is a Christian's desire, to bring glad tidings of great joy.

Now, Brothers and Sisters; this great Christmas gift will never do any one any good unless he will accept it. Christmas will mean more to you if you will take the gift of God which is eternal life. When Jesus brought light and salvation to the world and finished His work here, He went back to the Father to prepare a place for the ones that accept Him as Saviour, and then when the place is finished, He is coming back to take us home to glory.

I guess I am entirely off the subject of Christmas, so I will ring off, hoping to meet you in glory.

PAINTSVILLE, KY., Oct. 25th.

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

I will try to give a brief report of our big Johnson County Quarterly Meeting, held Oct. 21, 22, 23, at Seco, Ky., with the Seco Free Will Baptist Church. It is sure growing fast. They don't have to hold their services in an old school house, but thank the good Lord for ever, they have a big new church house 38x60 feet; so when our good preachers go to Seco, they won't have to go to an old school house as I did when a certain preacher thought he could put the Free Will Baptist out of business, but you just as well try to stop the old ocean from rolling as to try to stop the progress of the old

Free Will Baptist Church—It is from the Lord.

Well, we met on Friday, and were called to order by the clerk, F. S. Vanhooose of Paintsville, Ky.

Motion carried that Millard Vanhooose be moderator and H. B. Conley of Paintsville, Ky. assistant moderator.

Moderator took charge and adjourned for preaching by Eld. Scott Daniel of Nippa, Ky. Had a good meeting and adjourned for lunch.

Met back at 2:00 p. m. and were called to order by the moderator.

Had a real Ministers' Conference, with twelve ministers present.

Adjourned for evening lunch, then

met back at 7:00 p. m.

Committee on supply of pulpit asked Bro. F. S. Vanhooose and Bro. Scott Castle to preach. Had a good meeting and dismissed till Saturday morning.

Called to order Saturday morning by the moderator.

Moderator appointed committee on business and committee on finance.

Adjourned for preaching by Bro. Blankenship and Bro. Winchel. Had a big meeting and adjourned for lunch. Met back at 2:00 p. m.

Moderator called for corresponding messengers from other bodies, and delegates were seated.

Letters were called for and 24 letters were handed in to clerk, with \$72.29 with the letters, thank the Lord, and a great increase in membership and two new churches presented letters and were received. Two were up for license to preach and one for ordination. You just can't keep the good Free Will Baptist from growing; they will grow in spite of the Devil.

All business was taken care of in a business way. Adjourned.

Met back at 7:00 p. m. and were called to order by the moderator.

Committee on supply of pulpit appointed Moderator to preach, with Bro. Kelly Patton to follow. Sure had a big time, with shouting and praising the Lord.

Finance committee reported with \$33.64. We thank the good committee for their splendid work, may God bless you. Total amount of money was \$106.61. Business committee gave Seco Church \$100.00 and the Lackey Church \$25.00.

Met back Sunday morning.

Committee on supply appointed Bro. H. B. Conley and Bro. Isaac Stratton to preach Sunday morning.

Vote was taken and the next quarterly meeting was sent to Alka Church one and one-half miles north of Paintsville, Ky.

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

STAHL, MISSOURI

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

As we are nearing another Thanksgiving day, I feel like writing of my thankfulness for all the good Lord has done for me.

Truly He is a wonderful Saviour, and I'm so glad for His power to keep us saved.

I was so happy to be in the State Meeting, and get so many blessings from it.

As I am 83 years old, I don't expect to live in this old world so very much longer, but I want to be faithful to the end and meet my dear loved ones who have gone on before me.

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, write, 'Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.'"

A Sister in Christ,

—Mrs. Charity Hedrick.

MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT



Rev. T. H. Willey,
Foreign Missionary.
Box 861, Balboa, Canal Zone.



Mrs. T. H. Willey,
Companion Missionary
Box 861, Balboa, Canal Zone.

The Regions Beyond



The Challenge of Faith

By Eld. T. H. Willey, Balboa, C. Z.



"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me" (Ps. 138)

The Hebrew rendering of the above Scripture is "go on in the center of trouble." What descriptive words! We have called on God in the day of trouble; we have pleaded His promises of deliverance, but no deliverance has been given; the enemy has continued oppressing until we were in the very thick of the fight, in the center of trouble. Why then trouble the Master any further?

When Martha said, "Lord, if thou hadest been here my brother would not have died," our Lord met her lack of hope with His further promise, "Thy brother shall rise again."

And when we walk in the center of trouble and are tempted to think like Martha, that the time of deliverance is past, He meets us, too, with a promise from His Word. "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me."

"Though His answer has so long delayed, though we may still continue to 'go on' in the midst of trouble, THE CENTER OF TROUBLE IS THE PLACE WHERE HE REVIVES, NOT THE PLACE WHERE HE FAILS US."

—Aphra White, in *Streams in the Desert*.

The past weeks have been those of testing common to the missionary of the tropical interior. In the midst of it all we find means of rejoicing, even in the midst of fever. Mrs. Willey was taken ill with malaria. I nursed her until she could stand no longer to stay here. As you know we are about eighty miles from Balboa. From the

Valley out to the main road there is seventeen miles of narrow, muddy, mountainous road. How to get out and over these roads was the problem. Then in the midst of our troubles God answered. An Arab friend who has a little store came to me, saying, "Senor Willey, take my car and get the Senora out."

I suppose that one of the wildest drives I have ever made was over that narrow, muddy mountain in the evening, praying every moment with my heart filled with concern for my companion lying in the back seat. Arriving in Balboa, I got in touch with a very dear friend, Sergeant Lindstrom who is an officer on the police force in the Zone. Here one of our young doctor friends was awaiting us. A test was made at once, confirming our fears of malaria.

I hurried back to our work and the babies in the Valley, leaving Mrs. Willey in Gorgas Hospital where she responded rapidly to treatment, though she was awfully weak. Then, feeling that she was safe, with David as my companion, I started for the Darien. The Y. M. C. A. was making a trip up the Rio Sambu and promised me transportation back; so we boarded the Nuevo Panama, a large banana boat, lifting our large Indian dugout aboard. The following morning the captain dropped us in the Bay of Darien, where from four o'clock in the morning till daylight, we were at the mercy of the dark waves. At the break of day we started on our long drive of twenty miles across the bay, getting breakfast at a native village called Tamati. Then, ten miles further we

were in the mouth of the Sambu. That night we were at the mouth of the Sabalo, completing in twenty-eight hours a trip that usually takes me five days to make without the motor. I have thanked God a thousand times for this motor, the gift of the women of North Carolina.

All along the river we met our Indians, and what a joy to go among them and see their faces light up with welcome to us, and have them hang upon my words! This trip was marked with sadness also, as one of the sons of Abraham, the grand old man of the Sambu had died of snake bite. This Indian Jose had been greatly interested in my last visit, as I talked to him of the Lord and about his soul. I am not able to get his death off my mind.

The morning of the third day we arrived at David's home. I had expected a jubilee when he arrived home, but on the contrary they all wept. We spent the following four days and nights in his home.

David's father needed him at this time to harvest the rice, so we left him for a month or so. Almost every home we entered had a boy they wanted me to take back with me; they are all enthused over a school on the Sambu. When we arrived at the home of Juan Olea, the head Indian at the mouth of the Sabalo, he wanted to return with me, accompanied by his small son. Juan is a very fine specimen of physical development and properly dressed would make a striking figure on the streets of Panama. This Indian is greatly interested in the mission station. Before leaving, Juan changed

his plans, due to the illness of his aged mother. He said, "After she dies I will go."

The wet season is on us at the present time, which makes it difficult to do any building in the Darian. I have a very good location in mind for our station. The land is ours as soon as we place buildings on it.

The Y. M. C. A. group arrived and spent a day on the river. One of our doctor friends was along and between us we treated the sick and that night on high tide we headed homeward.

Arriving in Panama, I learned that while I was away Mrs. Willey had returned to the Valley and contracted a bad cold and had to return again to Balboa. Again our friends responded. Rev. Tinnen of the Balboa Heights Baptist Church and Mr. Dwelle a very good friend drove in after her. She has been in about one week. Here in the Valley it gets quite cold and is very damp, at this season of the year, while in Balboa it is quite hot and an abundance of sunshine, which she needs.

I am starting to build our station here in the Valley. I am buying a large lot, about two acres, through which a fine stream runs. The lot is ideally located and I have been enabled to get it for two and one-half cents a meter, while the usual price on land located as this is five to ten cents a meter. There is an abundance of rock on the lot which I plan to use for building material. This venture marks another challenge to our people as we buy this land and build. It will represent financial responsibility, as we must buy cement, lumber, tin for roofing, and labor, but much of the construction I shall do myself.

May I suggest that probably there is a woman's group or a Sunday school or some class or church, which would be interested in contributing, bags of cement, the price of some lumber, or a few days' work. Cement costs, delivered here in the Valley, eighty cents per sack, lumber six cents per foot, labor fifty cents per day. Should you have such a contribution you could send it to Bro. Blackwelder designating the purpose.

This is not only a challenge to giving, but a challenge to prayer. Pray for the venture and pray for the missionary family. God has blessed the children with excellent health, and we are believing on Him for the full recovery of our mother.



Spiritual Babes

By J. M. Doughty, Strafford, Missouri



Christians enjoy the Christmas season as we are brought nearer to Jesus as we commemorate His birth.

Children receive unusual consideration at the Yule-tide. This is in keeping with the Christmas spirit, as Jesus is the children's Greatest Friend.

Christmas is an appropriate time to consider spiritual babes. Jesus told Nicodemus that we must be born again, born of the Spirit of Christ.

In the third chapter of First Corinthians, Paul writes of babes in Christ. Paul felt that the new convert is a spiritual infant and needs the care of the older brothers and sisters of the Christian Faith.

Peter wrote of the sincere milk of the Word for spiritual children. That is, that they should be nourished in their spiritual life by the Word of God. Judging from my years of association with the unconverted and children and the recently converted, I feel that children and those that have recently accepted Jesus should be encouraged to read the New Testament before reading the Old Testament. If spiritual children are to learn of Christ and grow in grace, they should read

the Book that tells about the life and work of Jesus the Christ, and of the early Christians. The New Testament is the *Guide Book* to the abundant life that Jesus so often mentioned.

One of the greatest things that the more experienced Christian can do for a spiritual child is to see that he or she comes into the possession of a copy of the New Testament that has large enough type to be read easily. Small print is hard on the eyes and nerves and has a tendency to discourage reading.

After one becomes acquainted with the New Testament, he or she is better prepared to understand Old Testament characters and to more fully appreciate the marvelous influence of Jesus and the Spiritual Giants of the New Testament.

If we read the Gospels and Paul's Epistles carefully, we will find that Jesus expects experienced Christians to be slow, very, very slow to condemn those that are new in the Christian faith, but rather the older brothers and sisters of the church should be ever ready to tactfully help the spiritual children to grow in grace and a knowledge of Jesus Christ.

REPORT OF SAM H. MARCUM State Evangelist

Dear Gem Family, Greetings in Jesus dear name:

At our last writing, we were engaged in a revival effort at Mt. Zion Church, twenty-three miles southeast of St. Joseph, Mo. We were there four weeks then it rained and snowed, and road conditions were such that folks could not get out. Only a few were at the last two services; so we thought it best to close though we were not through. Maybe we can arrange to go back some time. We found some fine folks to work with at Mt. Zion. While there in the meeting, Eld. E. T. House whom most of our Free Will Baptist people in Missouri know, moved into the community from southern Missouri, having given up his churches there because of failing health. Bro. House and family were attending prayer meetings and services at church until his aged mother (79 years old) fell and broke her hip. That kept the family and some of the neighbors from services. Doctors and the many relatives did what they could but could not stay the hand of death. On the morning of the 28th of October, Grandmother House passed on to be with Jesus. She praised her Saviour to the

end. Truly Grandmother House was a saint of God, and was loved by all that knew her. Thank God for our old fathers and mothers of the Cross.

Well, the meeting continued while Sister Melba White and the family went to south Missouri for the funeral and burial, four souls professed faith in Christ during the meeting. Many were stirred to their sense of duty, but failed to take their stand. In James 4:17, we read, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

We are attending a revival this week at Union Third Fork Church. This is where our next State Meeting is to convene. Eld. Kenneth Turner is the pastor, and Eld. Winford Davis is the evangelist. Last night was the first service. We sure enjoyed the good singing, praying, preaching and the sweet Spirit of the good Lord. We are praying for a real old time sin killing revival. This church is 30 miles from our home.

I am praying for our brethren everywhere. Yes, Bro. Miller and Bro. Zinn, I pray you may have a real revival. God bless our people everywhere. Our next meeting will probably be at Amity Church in Webster County.

Yours for Jesus,
—Sam and Daisy Marcum,
Home Address, Cameron, Mo. R. 7.

OBITUARY

HOUSE — Adella Elizabeth Ashworth House was born Dec. 23, 1858 in Polk County Mo., and departed this life Oct. 27, 1938, in Clinton County, near Plattsburg, Mo., being at the time of her death 79 years, 10 months and 4 days old.

At the age of 21 she was united in marriage to Benjamin Wesley House who preceded her in death a little more than 20 years.

To this union was born 10 children. 2 sons died in infancy. Eight children lived to be grown and married. Three daughters also preceded her in death; Mrs. Josie Meador, Mrs. Stella Rogers and Mrs. Alice Boyer. Those living are: Elder Ezra T. House of Gower, Mo., with whom she had made her home for some 13 years.. Mrs. Delphia Hodges of Urbania, Mo., Mrs. Effie Manes of Palo Verde, Ariz., Mrs. Julia Hood and Henry T. House both of Polk, Mo. She is survived by one brother, J. H. Ashworth of Malta Bend, Mo.; three sisters, Nettie Blach of Mo.; three sisters, Nettie Black of oma, Mich, and Lula Bronson of California.

She leaves to mourn her death 25 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.

She professed hope in Christ at the age of 17 years, and lived a faithful Christian life until the end. She has often prayed that her family would be unbroken around God's throne. She lived to see all her children accept Christ as their Saviour.

She left many beautiful testimonies, and shouted the praises of God even though in great pain. She enjoyed being in the service of God, and on her bed of affliction she did personal work for her Saviour.

A short service was conducted at the home by Eld. Sam H. Marcum, after which her body was taken back to her old home church, Pleasant Ridge near Urbania, Mo.

By her request, Elder Melba White had charge of the service, assisted by Elder Dan Lowe, an old friend and neighbor of the family.

"Grandma" House has been a member of the Methodist and Free Will Baptist Churches all her Christian life. Interment in the cemetery near by.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them."—Rev. 14:13.

SHARP — Elder William T. Sharp was born on April 5, 1856, in Lawrence County, Arkansas. He accepted Christ as his personal Saviour at the age of 14 years. He worked in the church for 26 years as a layman, then he was ordained to the full work of the ministry. He has been a great man in the work, pastoring from four to five churchse each year until his health broke down. No doubt he has witnessed thousands being saved. He was filled with the spirit of love and was always found on the right side.; ready to do all he could for the advancement of God's cause. At one time in life, he was well-to-do in financial affairs, but he gave it all for the cause of Christ and the salvation of souls, and died almost in poverty. The writer has heard him preach many times, and loved to sit under the sound of his voice and hear him tell of God's love.

He was united in holy wedlock to Miss Martha Holder on Sept. 2, 1875, and to this union was born ten children, six boys and four girls. He leaves his companion, five boys and one girl to mourn his departure.

He was afflicted about three years with that dread disease, Paralysis, almost losing the use of his speech. With patience, he bore his affliction to the end when God said Come up higher to a better home. On Oct. 3, 1938, at 6:00 p. m., he departed this life at the age of 82 years, 5months and 28 days.

His funeral was conducted by Eld. M. G. King and the writer, among a host off relatives and friends, after which his body was taken to the Old Friendship cemetery in western Lawrence County, and laid to rest to await the resurrection.

Another one from us is gone,

Another voice we loved is stilled,
A vacant place within our home
Which never can be filled.

"Only Father." the people say,

Who see the funeral on its way;
"Only Father." Yet Christian's tho't
He by the Saviour's blood was bou't.

A stranger passed by the new made bed
And, "Father, aged 82," he read,
Ere he passed on, he turned to say,
"Somebody's treasure laid away."

"Only Father" the children turn,
With aching hearts and eyes that burn
To leave the place where last he lay,
The form of lifeless dust and clay.

"Only Father," but forever more,
A happy angel on Heaven's shore,
And while we miss him here below,
He's safely housed we rejoice to know.

Eld. D. C. Jones, Portia, Ark.

WHEELER — Jasper D. Wheeler was born July 28, 1864, in Dallas Co., Missouri. He departed this life Nov. 13, 1938, at the age of 74 years, 3 months and 16 days.

He was converted at an early age and was a member of the Free Will Baptist Church at Piney. He was married to America Piercefield, Fe. 25th, 1894. To this union nine children were born. Three sons, Oscar, Ernest and Roy Wheeler, and six daughters, Edna Hammon, Mamie Bennett, Bertha Wheeler, Dorothea Stogsdill, Ruth Barton, and Pauline Wheeler who died in infancy. Surviving are his wife, eight children, twenty grandchildren and one sister, Mrs Verona Blanton of Slaton, Texas, and a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Crase and Rev. Combs at Garfield Monday, Nov. 14, at three o'clock.

BEVANS — Heads were bowed and hearts were made to bleed, when the death angel silently came into our home and took from our midst Rev. James A. Bevans, a Free Will Baptist minister.

He was born July 26, 1889, in Douglas County, Georgia, and departed this life Sept. 6, 1938, at his home in Henryetta, Okla., at the age of 49 years, 1 month and 11 days. When he was four years old, he moved with his parents to the state of Alabama where he grew to young manhood, and at the age of 26 years he married Miss Vauter Baird. To this union was born six children, four of whom are still living, the other two having preceeded him in death.

Rev. and Mrs. Bevans moved to Oklahoma in October, 1917, and have resided here since that time.

Brother Bevans was converted when he was 17 years old and entered the ministry at the age of 23 years.

To know him was to love him. He numbered his friends by his acquaintances. He was never too tired nor sick, the weather never too cold nor hot, for him to go and minister to Humanity. He was always interested in saving souls.

He leaves to mourn his passing: His wife, Mrs Vauter Bevans, three sons, Joe, R. C., and Jimmie Bevans, one daughter, Wanda Bevans; one daughter-in-law, Mrs. R. C. Bevans, and one grandson, Howard Bevans, all of Henryetta.

His mother, Mrs. Julia Bevans of Hermleigh, Tex.; four brothers, Willie Bevans of Corona, Ala., Lester Bevans of Hermleigh, Texas, Paul Bevans of Hamlin, Texas, and Silas Bevans of Hermleigh, Texas; one sister, Mrs. Pearl Reynolds of Checotah, Okla., besides a host of other relatives and friends.

"We loved him, yes we loved him; but Jesus loved him more.

He has gone to be at home, upon the Golden Shore."

Funeral services were conducted at the Nazarene church Thursday even-

ing at 2 o'clock with Rev. Mack Anderson, pastor of the Nazarene church and Rev. Taylor Champion of Okemah officiating. Interment was made in Woodlawn cemetery under direction of Buchanan.

He was well known in most rural communities, holding revivals in almost every community in a radius of 200 miles. Never was any of his acquaintances sick or in need without him always being present and he always seemed to be able to cope with any situation, saying the right thing always at the right time. He was loved and respected by all who knew him. He left this world still begging those who were lost to meet him. He had more conversions under his preaching than almost any other preacher of his denomination.

GOLDIA, ILLINOIS

Dear Co-Workers:

The Master has wonderfully blessed since we last wrote. We stayed with Bro. Jones and his church at Union three weeks. It was a glorious meeting. We only had seven conversions and seven additions to the church, but they had just closed a meeting a short time before we visited them. The meeting was deep and spiritual. We organized a League and women's auxiliary. We made our home with Bro. and Sister Jones, and they are two real saints of God. We visited many homes, and met so many fine people.

We then went near Galatia to another one of Bro. Jones' churches where we found another splendid band of people to work with. Bro. Jones didn't have a large membership at Union Grove, but all were anxious for the meeting, we only had two weeks, but God wonderfully blessed, and eight souls were saved and five added to the church. We left Bro. Jones still preaching, as they all felt led to run a few nights longer. This was a fine neighborhood. We made our home at two places. Bro. and Sister Rhynes' was our first home, and Bro. and Sister Cecil Edwards' was our second home, both were splendid places. We had two street services and had a man saved one Saturday, and a woman saved the next Saturday. An old man came up drinking, and said, "I am coming out to hear you." So sure enough, he was there the first service, and the second night he was back and asked for prayers. We prayed a long time, but he didn't get right. The next night he came back with a shine on his face and a report that he had prayer through in a corn field. Every one was so happy and he united with the church. I believe he was 62 years old. We will never forget the sweet fellowship of Bro. Jones and his people; God bless them.

We also attended two quarterly meetings during the time and met such splendid fellowship with our Illinois people. We visited several churches the last week we were in Illinois.

We left Union Grove and went back by Union and at Bro. Eddie Jones', we found the newly organized missionary society there to greet us with a nice bunch of gifts, and truly it was a glorious privilege to see them at work so early and beginning on the evangelist; God bless them.

We went to Mt. Zion that night, one of Bro. Burton's churches, but on account of a stormy night only a few were present.

We then went to Plaster Grove, one of Bro. Armstrong's churches. The night was good, and we had a house almost filled. We were in Bro. Curry's home for a short visit. This was a happy privilege to meet him again.

Our next stop was Webb Prairie where we conducted the first meeting. We gave a missionary message to a large crowd, and had a wonderful welcome. I wish we had time to mention all the homes we visited,

We then went to Bakerville and Salem churches. These churches are pastored by Bro. Harpole. He was just closing his revival at Salem which was considered one of the best for years, old things were made new. Doctors and preachers of other denominations were there. We enjoyed both of these so much; then over Sunday we went to another one of Bro. Harpole's churches, and truly they all seemed to get better. We had two wonderful services there. The name of the church was Pleasant View. We went Sunday night to Rescue Church, one of Bro. Spurlock's churches. The house was packed, and oh, such a splendid program was rendered by the young people. Then the preaching service followed and a number came for consecration. Praise God for such men as Bro. Spurlock. It was a great joy to visit another one of his churches Monday night at Ina, and another full house. There are some dear people at both these places. After all these good services, Bro. and Sister Harpole, Bro. and Sister Spurlock, Sister Fraizer and Bro. Harpole's daughter met us in Ina Tuesday morning and we all started for Nashville, Tenn. Up to date we have had a glorious time, and feel that great things will be accomplished for the Master. Our next address will be Blue Eye, Missouri.

Yours for the Master,
—H. M. and Lizzie McAdams.

OAKLAND, MO., Nov. 8, 1938

Dear Editor, Wife, and Gem Readers:

On this beautiful autumn afternoon, I feel in my heart that I should write a few words for Jesus who suffered and bled and died on the cruel cross for you and me, that we might have eternal life, and live around the great white throne in Glory.

I feel that the dear Savior has blessed me so many times in the past few months, that I never can forget Him. It only makes me stronger, and I love

Jesus better every day. The harder our burdens are to bear, the greater the blessing is a little farther on.

I often think of the dear old song, "Life Will Be Sweeter Some Day."

My mind was wondering about a dear aunt and uncle that visited us in July, from Cushing, Okla. How we did enjoy our religion together! And a few weeks later two more dear aunts and uncles from Grandfield, Oklahoma came. We hadn't seen one of them for 41 years, and the other for 18 years; but we could plainly see they were all living their lives for Jesus, and were ready when He shall come and call for them. O how it makes my heart rejoice to see these good old Christian people living day by day for God!

We realize that we must live a godly life day by day and shun the very appearance of evil, to please our Lord.

I want all of you Gem readers to pray for me and my family, that we may live the way to please Jesus.

—Mrs. C. A. Dickinson.

ZION HILL CHURCH REPORT Talala, Okla., Nov. 22, 1938

Dear Gem Readers:

We are thankful for another opportunity to tell of a part of the blessings we have received from the Lord since our last report, but we can't begin to tell the half of them.

First, I will report our fifth Sunday meeting, which was held Oct. 30th at our church here, this being the first fifth Sunday meeting which is to meet each fifth Sunday in the year for a fellowship meeting.

There were five churches represented, with fifteen preachers present, and what a wonderful time we had!

We had a fine Sunday school, followed with preaching at eleven o'clock by Bro. John Parks and Bro. Erie, both delivered soul-stirring messages. Text, "Stand ye still and see the salvation of the Lord" (Exo. 14:13).

An old fashioned basket dinner was enjoyed by about 150 people.

We had lots of good singing in the afternoon, with a devotional service conducted by Bro. Coursey of Collinsville. The Lord really came on the scene and there was shouting, crying and laughing for joy all over the house, and by far the best of all, about the middle of the testimony service, the Spirit was so great that one man who had never known the Lord had to surrender, and came weeping his way through to the Lord, without an altar call being made. It really was a heavenly place to be, more came in the afternoon, there being about 200 present.

The pulpit was filled at 2:30 o'clock by Bro. Talbert and Bro. Erie. Text, Matt. 16:18, "Upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell

Continued on Page 21

MT. OLIVE (Neola) REVIVAL Greenfield, Missouri

Dear Gem Readers:

Because of the great things which we cannot comprehend, we want to give unto the Lord the glory due His name.

We had looked forward and prayed earnestly for a refreshing shower from heaven, and we surely feasted on the spiritual manna for three weeks. You know the Word says, "The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much." It behooves us to be "humble, that he may exalt us in due time."

Bro. Winford Davis brought the message each evening and the Holy Spirit worked marvelously. We were privileged to see twenty-two souls saved and reclaimed.

We couldn't begin to tell you all that was accomplished, those things are in God's hands. There is no way of knowing how much seed is sown by the Word of God. We met several evenings before service for prayer and then our souls were blessed more than we could tell. In a few of the meetings, especially a "Tarrying Service," the first week, such a glorious blessing was poured out that His children were compelled to shout praises to His name, because they couldn't help it.

We're so thankful today for mercy shown when we were out in sin and from spiritual blindness couldn't realize how dangerous was the ground we were treading on. We think of narrow escapes we had when we came so near being snatched into eternity without God, and oh, how we praise His name because He watches over us, and spares our lives and gives us opportunities without number, when we just grieve His Spirit and turn Him away. When we pause to think, we wonder how He could have so much compassion, and reveal such hidden blessings, even after we accept Him, when we do so little to merit His favors. But when we "commit our way unto him, he brings things to pass."

So many times the "Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." We yield to sin, but Christ rebukes and helps us up again. Things come in our pathway that we can't understand, and we feel ourselves weakened, but we somehow just grab hold of the unchanging hand and Christ responds. We are able to look back on higher obstacles surmounted and greater grace lent to do it with. Peter once said, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as tho some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." The things of the Spirit are unsearchable and God works in mysterious ways his wonders to perform.

We are glad to tell you, too, that God has laid His hand on one of our number for special service. Sister Lowell Martin acknowledged a call to the min-

istry. She confessed that the past year, especially, she had been hampered in service because she felt the call to definite work. Several who knew of her situation had prayed for her to be brought submissively to His will. She has preached to us twice, and other opportunities are presenting themselves, which gives her more courage and faith in the divine guidance. We are praying for God to use her in an amazing way, and to bring glory to our Savior.

Since the revival has closed, we have had some good prayer meetings and now we are planning to band together under the name of the "Gospel Band" and go to different communities to hold services, and Sister Martin will preach. We are praying for God's leadership, that we may go into the "by-ways and compel them to come in," by the love of Christ.

On the fifth Sunday in October Bro. Davis dismissed the morning service and he and quite a number went to the Hannon Church for the Mission meeting. Sister Martin was examined for a ministerial license, and Brother Lloyd Jeffreys was ordained a deacon.

We do not forget that this is the month in which we celebrate the birthday of our Savior. How our hearts thrill when we think of that night of all nights, over nineteen hundred years ago, when the blessed Christ Child came from heaven, in the form of a little babe, born in an humble manger over in Bethlehem, to redeem this old sin-cursed world of its sin.

He came down from His celestial abode, that men might be freed from their condemnation and know more fully that God is love. He's just the same Savior to the rich and to the poor, the old and the young. Do you suppose the keeper of that inn, on that memorable night, realized that he was entertaining the Prince of Glory? Or was Jesus so near and yet so far as is true even today? We know that Jesus came to this earth, suffered, bled and died in humiliation to save us, and do we turn Him away when He seeks admittance, or do we offer Him the best we have, though it may be humble, as was the stable in Bethlehem?

We may show Christ how willing we would have been to have pillowed His head, just by giving Him the best that is in us, giving a "cup of cold water," "entertaining strangers," and "seeking first the kingdom of God." Lord, help us to do that as Christmas draws near. Make somebody's heart glad, because of a kind deed.

Pray for us, and may we ever be found faithful in His service.

—Thora Arbogast.

TULSA CHURCH REPORT

By Ethel Renegar, Reporter

Dear Readers of the Gem:

We are now in the midst of preparation for our quarterly meeting which convenes with us only two days off,

on Nov. 23rd, and we are indeed looking forward to a good time in the Lord, and a very large delegation.

Bro. Bingham and his delegates have returned from the National Association at Nashville, Tenn., and he tells us that this was the best he has ever been privileged to attend; and that Oklahoma was well represented, having nineteen ministers and delegates there.

We had the Mission Rally at our church recently, but the writer not being able to attend the day services, makes it impossible to give a report on what happened that day, but I will say that we had a wonderful time at the night service.

New Home Church gave a short Mission play that was very touching, and we had several good specials in song rendered. Then each minister was allowed ten minutes in which to bring a short message.

The first one called to the stand was Bro. Hood from Lawnwood Church. He used as his text, "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning" (Luke 12:35).

Then Bro. Ralph Brown from Davis Church gave a short discourse on 2 Tim. 2:19, "The foundations of God standeth sure."

Next Sister Esther Miller from the Tulsa Church, with "Lord, if I perish, I perish."

Bro. Underwood from Tulsa Church took as a text, "Lord, look upon us."

Bro. Cook from Tulsa Church took for a text, "Let your light so shine." Followed by Bro. Oliver Lindle, Sister Gibhart, Bro. Day and Bro. Bingham. As the time went by they seemed to get more anxious to preach, and some failed to state where their text was found, and some didn't take any text.

An altar call was made and one young girl found the Lord.

Then Bro. Bingham opened the doors of the church and three united with the church. And the following Sunday two of them were baptized.

Now, since our last report, we have had six additions to the church. So you see our church is still growing.

Pray for us, that we may ever stay where the Lord can use us.

NEW HOME CHURCH, Tulsa, Okla., Nov. 18th.

Dear Friends and Readers of the Gem: Greetings to each of you:

Before going into the report of Nov. to the wonderful paper, the Gem, I would like to tell you how much I look forward to receiving my paper. I get so much inspiration from the different articles contributed. Those who are not taking it are surely missing some great blessings.

We are enjoying many blessings in our church. We have a very lively Sunday school—full of enthusiasm—working in a pleasing way for our Lord

We are sorry to relate that the president of our Mission lost her sister last week, who resided near Springfield, Mo.

For the past two weeks we have enjoyed a school of music in our church, which has helped us wonderfully. We are also purchasing new song books.

Our pastor is organizing an orchestra from among the young people. He has a number of instruments represented—I can assure you it won't be jazz. He is able to play several different instruments himself, so he is looking forward to an enjoyable time, and so is the congregation.

Thank you, Elder Brown, for putting in our long report last month; we will not put in quite such a lengthy one this time, but must add that we are very thankful for the spiritual condition of our church, and for several who have come in as members to help us, for we know they are tried and true to their Lord.

The call to loyalty is strong today. The party, the state, democracy, Fascism, Communism and many other groups demand absolute allegiance. How strictly these conceptions contrast with that which Jesus laid before His followers on the night of His betrayal! In a day when men sought to compel loyalty by fear, bribery, or death, as they do again today, Jesus declared that loyalty to Him and His kingdom is proved by loving, self-forgetful service for others, rather than by an oath of allegiance to a dictator, or by the wearing of a uniform.

More sure of himself than any deduced dictator, ruling by propaganda and persecution, Jesus let His loving death prove His power.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

"Build me a World,

Said God;

Not with a navy's strife,

Nor with a host in arms,

Compassing death, not life.

Build me a World, said God,

Out of man's fairest dreams;

Heaven must be its dome,

Lighted by prophet-gleams;

Justice shall be the stones

On which my World shall rise;

Truth and Love its arches,

Gripping my ageless skies.

Out of dreams, on the earthy sod,

Build me a World,

Said God."

—Mrs. Ed Jenkins, Reporter.

Report of First Fifth Sunday Meeting of Cave Spring Association, Held at Norman.

Saturday morning, Oct. 29th, began a memorable gathering of believers who were certainly built up in the faith

After the opening exercises, C. H. Crews, Luther Blankenship and Geo. Dunkin were appointed as pulpit committee.

Nineteen of the twenty churches were represented and the other has a pastor and is going on well.

At 11:00 o'clock Brothers T. J. Dunkin and Billie Rogers, using Eccl. 12 as a Scripture lesson and Titus 3:4, 5 as a text, gave us many illustrations of the continuing goodness of God to all, whether they are following Him, or going in blind ways of their own. The adversary always comes up behind as suggested by the Lord's decree in Gen. 3:15, "And thou shalt bruise his heel." Our main duty is to press into the kingdom of God and so live that others will want to help us in that way. At Pentecost, the ones upon whom the Spirit fell, told the Good News in other tongues or languages, so that each one heard in his own tongue in which he was born, the wonderful words of God—not unknown tongues, as Paul makes so plain in 1 Cor. 14.

Bro. E. E. Simpson gave a most encouraging report of the State Association and of the wonderful offering for the Publishing House fund. Tomorrow, November 1st, will meet it over the top; so no one can say, "Hand me back my fifteen cents, give me back my money."

So many of our prayers have been answered, so many new converts hereabout, that we are certainly thanking the Giver of all and taking courage.

On Sunday, Oct. 23rd, we were told that more people were baptized than ever before in one day, 97 in all and most of them seemed to have been of our own bunch. A new church, the 20th, just organized with converts, was unanimously chosen as the place of next meeting, Bailey Chapel, north of Alton, toward Greer. At night an offering of fair amount was taken for Bro. Harry Beatty, who had been in the revival at Norman for one month.

A splendid testimony meeting preceded the preaching service, and the simple earnest testimonies of so many recent converts, many quite young, but one 86 years old was certainly full of edification. Brothers N. Combs and E. E. Simpson preached on Faithfulness in Declaring the Whole Gospel to the Hearers. Bro. Combs, one of our oldest ministers, gave a sketch of his more than forty years of faithful work in the Master's cause, and both brethren gave a stirring revival message which seemed to reach the hearers

Oh, lest we forget, bounteous dinners were furnished both days, and we all found somebody willing to take care of us over night.

Sunday, at Ministers' meeting, Bro. Woodring and Bro. Combs told us that most of the same influences shown in 2 Kings 5 are still needed. There are still little maids who know where healing can be found, and, fortunately, there are still many who are finally willing to do the simple thing of putting their trust in their Savior.

At 11:00 o'clock, Brothers Crase and Rogers gave a mighty message of warning, to beware of falling among those who have no fear of God before their eyes, as Psa. 36 mentions. But

now it seems that there are great numbers of folks in that list, of both high in official life and every where else, and that is just what has been the matter with our country for many years back, but now, fortunately, the tide seems to be setting strongly Godward, and we rejoice the more.

If we are bound for glory, we must carry the proof along with us daily, so as to be ready finally to pass thru the gates into the city.

After dinner, Bro. Dunkin wound us up pretty thoroughly on "What is Sanctification, Justification, Holiness?"

Sanctification is never sinlessness, but simply a setting aside for a certain work. Jesus said, "I sanctify myself," and He was the only sinless person ever to be on this earth.

Justification is simply the setting free of a condemned person. The Jews were justified by baptism, the Gentiles by faith.

Holiness is our right when God, for Christ's sake, has put our sins behind His back and forgotten all about them. When we acknowledge our sins, repent and ask forgiveness, when we follow after holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord, we are following our Savior's footsteps and asking His help all along the way.

Bro. Beatty called all the new converts up to the altar where they knelt and each prayed for help and guidance in their own lives and, even more, that the light of the glorious Gospel of the blessed God might shine into the hearts of those who are yet in the dark, a most uplifting time.

Brothers Wm. Huddleston and Elgin Williams were ordained deacons for Bailey Chapel Church.

Ministers Present: E. E. Simpson, B. H. Woodring, Billie Rogers, H. C. Crase, N. Combs, T. J. Dunkin, W. P. Stogsdill, H. H. Beatty, Elmer Hodges, C. A. Dodson, Sam Bell and John Tatterow of Fairdealing Association.

Deacons: T. L. McDonald, W. E. Crews, J. A. Nicholas, J. P. McCullough, G. S. Harrison, J. T. Warren, G. W. Moore, Ed Arnold, H. F. Young, R. J. Wisheart, C. H. Crews, Elgin Williams, Wm. Huddleston, E. L. Frey, Rufus Evans, S. C. Pierce, John Pingleton.

Another shining milestone in our journey toward better living.

Pray that the Lord Jesus may be increasingly magnified here and everywhere.

—Ralph T. Hoyt.

FALCON, MO., Nov. 8, 1938.

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

Here I come with a few lines to the paper, from New Home Church.

Our church is progressing, and we have a good Sunday school.

Bro. Curtis Wilson is our pastor, and he is alive for God. It takes a minister full of the Holy Ghost to preach to the world at this day and age of the world. We have so many different

beliefs in the world that our young people don't know what to do.

Our older Christians are going out one by one; the church is going into formality; and if we older people don't pray for God to increase our faith (1 Cor. 2:5), "that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God," they are gone. Many people go to church and hear the preacher preach; and because he doesn't preach to please them, they don't go back any more. If they would read the Bible and ask God to give them more faith and understanding of His Word, and understand more about Jesus, and ask in faith believing, He would answer their prayers; but without faith it is impossible to please God.

Now go with me to 1 Thess. 5:8, "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation." We know by reading the Word of God, that, if we don't put on the whole armour of God and work in faith, believing, it avaleth nothing. For by faith we are saved, and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God. If we fail in the least, we are guilty of all. I pray God that people will wake up out of sleep, examine themselves, and see themselves as God sees them, and come to the only true God, the One who is able to save us.

Now go with me to the 11th chapter of Hebrews and read the whole chapter, and look to God as those people did. They looked by an eye of faith; and God heard them when they called. If we would pray in faith believing, God would hear us, and would answer our prayers, and would bless us.

Romans 14:17—"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

Rom. 14:23—"And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." We must exercise faith in God and trust in the Lord for faith to believe He will give us what we ask in His name: for Jesus said, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

Pray for me, that I may do more for the Lord in my old days than I have done in the past.

—Mrs. H. G. Hamilton.

MISSION REPORT

Thayer, Mo., Nov. 21, 1938

Dear Gem Readers:

I failed to send a report from our Mission Circle last month, so will try to report for both months this time.

We chose new officers at a former meeting, which are as follows:

President Mrs. Clarence Crase
Vice Pres. Mrs. Ben Meinders
Sec.-Treas. Mrs. Lawrence Janes
Reporter Hope Hoyt

Two of our members have been on the sick list for some time.

We have contributed to the pastor's salary and made a large number of sick calls. We are raising funds by collecting and selling old aluminum.

We are still trusting in the Lord, and at this Thanksgiving season we are truly thanking Him for His glorious blessings to us during the past year.

Pray for us that in the coming year our Circle will grow and accomplish more for our Lord.

—Hope Hoyt, Reporter.

NEOSHO, MO., R4, Nov. 21st

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

On this beautiful morning I feel that I ought to write a few lines to the Gem and tell you of the good work we are doing, and of the many blessings we have received from God since we organized our church in August, 1938.

We have only a few members, but we are having wonderful prayer meetings every Wednesday night and Sunday school every Sunday. We have Sunday school at one of the Sister's home, and we change about with our prayer meetings from neighbor to neighbor, and every fourth Sunday Bro. Ben Henderson brings us wonderful sermons, on Saturday night, Sunday morning and Sunday night.

We named our church Mt. Olive Free Will Baptist Church. We are ten miles west of Neosho on highway 60, and Joplin Special.

Our church house is not finished yet. We have the frame up and the boxing on, but we haven't got the roof on yet. We sure will be glad when we get it finished, so we can have services in it. This community sure needs a church; for there are so many souls that need salvation, but we have run out of money, and we are all poor people.

So we would like for all Free Will Baptist churches to help us all they can till we can get our church house finished. We need money now to buy the shingles and flooring, and for other work that needs to be done. May God help you to help us, and we will pay you back as we are able.

Everybody pray for us, for we sure need the prayers of all Christians.

May God bless you all, is my prayer.

—Chester Middleton.

BOONEVILLE, ARK., Nov. 4th.

Dear Bro. Brown and Gem Family:

After a silence of nearly two years, if I can get space, I would like to say a few words.

I have read Sister Hearn's report of our State Association, which met with Milo Church, where I served as pastor for three years; and oh, how I

would have enjoyed meeting the good people of that church and community again! But I was engaged in a meeting and just couldn't attend. There are so many people that need salvation!

I have served four churches as pastor this year, and preached to three other congregations. My work has kept me very busy. I held a meeting with each church, each meeting a success in every way, but the best meeting that I have been in in two years, I began at River Side, near Dardanelle, Ark. on the fourth Sunday night in October, and closed on the next Sunday night. We could have only night services, but oh, such a meeting! I never made an altar call until Friday night, which was near the close of the meeting. I was afraid the church or Christian people would not do their duty in talking and praying for them; but to my surprise, on Friday night, I made an altar call and nine came for prayer, and all were wonderfully blessed, prayed their way through to God. The Christian people, though only a few had done their part, on Saturday night ten came for prayer and all were saved. They all joined our church near this place and were baptized Sunday evening.

We had another good service on Sunday night, with two saved—it was a great revival. I closed the meeting promising the people to come and preach for them once a month, as I had one vacant Sunday.

On Saturday I go to my church at Perryville, to my regular appointment. I organized this church two years ago and am going to serve them again this year.

On Monday I come back to Cass for another meeting. We have no church at this little city, but will have some day. The Free Will Baptist have plenty of opposition in the counties where I preach. The M. B. people and Uncle Alex's boys at one time seemed to think they were the only turtles in the tank; but they have changed their minds. God blessed my work in their midst, even saved their children, as well as others. Brethren, the Free Will Baptist have the truth; preach it and God will bless your work. God has blessed my work and my family in such a way that I think, if possible, I love Him and the cause better than ever. I have a quartet of my own, my children and myself. And, Sister Hearn, if it's God's will, you may look for us in the next Association.

Pray for me and mine.

—Eld. W. M. Guinn.

TUPELO, MISS., Oct. 27, 1938.

Dear Bro. Brown and Gem Readers:

I am just home from our Alabama-Mississippi State Association, which convened with the Springfield Church, near Vernon, Ala. I am glad to report one of the best sessions that I have ever attended, considering it from every stand-point. We had seven Associations represented by ministers and delegates. Every transaction was carried out with the very best of feeling, and I feel that some very forward moves were made toward the success of our great work in the vineyard of the Lord.

The next session will convene with our church here in East Tupelo. We invite all our ministers to begin now to make plans to attend.

My work is going fine among my churches and the Lord has blessed in a wonderful way in all the revivals that I have held. I have been in revival work since the first Sunday in May; but am now back home for a while, and expect to give most of my time during the winter months to the churches that I am trying to pastor.

Pray for me and the work that I am endeavoring to do for the Master.

I am inclosing eight subscriptions to the Gem, which I secured while at our State Association. Please send each one of them a paper as early as possible, as they are anxious to get their first paper.

Yours in glorious hope,

M. L. Hollis.

ALLEN, OKLAHOMA

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

I will give a brief report of the fifth Sunday meeting that has just been held with the church at McCall Chapel.

Had a good delegation, with eleven churches represented, and eleven ministers were present during the meeting.

Eld. D. McGhee preached the introductory sermon on Thursday night, bringing a message on "The Goodness of the Lord."

The ministers and deacons met on Friday.

Friday night we heard a good message, brought by Bro. Lewis Wood, followed by Bro. Scott Jones, using as a text, Luke 6:46.

Saturday morning Bro. George McLain preached a wonderful message, using 1 Kings 19:12 as a text, followed by Brother Dunlap, which was much enjoyed.

At the noon hour a lunch was spread on the grounds.

Saturday night Bro. E. A. O'Donnell brought a stirring message on "The Blood of the Lord."

Sunday night Brother Bill Huddleston preached on "Repentance."

Bro. F. M. Wood is our pastor. Our church is not strong as it has been. I ask the children of God, who read this, to pray that it may be built up and be a bright light in the world.

A servant of Christ who enjoys the Gem very much, and appreciates the spiritual benefits of all good things.

Miss Winnie Price.

PERRYVILLE, ARK., Nov. 9th.

Dear Gem Readers:

I will endeavor to write a few lines to the Gem, and make a report of our wonderful meeting at our Cherry Hill Church, which was only organized two years ago. We had a wonderful meeting with twelve conversions and about sixteen additions to the church. Our church started with about sixteen members, now we have about thirty-five.

Our noble pastor, Eld. W. M. Guinn, has done a wonderful work for our community since he came into it. I pray God that much more good may be done through his efforts. He has been called to pastor our church another year.

Sometimes we become discouraged, our burdens are so heavy, but the Bible says, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).

Pray for us, that we may grow in number and work for the Lord.

—Mrs. Frank Moore.

FLAT RIVER, MO., Nov. 20th.

Dear Gem Readers:

Since the Lord has always called me for evangelistic work, and we all know there is plenty to be done, after tarrying in prayer, we have again launched forth in revival work.

We have just closed a revival at the Aulsbury Chapel Church in Southeast Missouri, which was to me a real revival, although there were only eight saved, but it is not every time that the number of conversions that makes the best revival. We had the best co-operation among the Christian people that I have ever had in my revival work.

We closed with a Communion service in which about 200 took part, of Methodist, Missionary Baptist, Church of God and Free Will Baptist.

We are to begin a meeting with the Flat River Church in Flat River, Mo. with Bro. Jim Miller, Sunday, Nov. 20, and request your prayers.

We will probably go to Fredericktown, Mo. for our next meeting.

We are at your service as an evangelist. I am not trying to take any work from any one else, just doing God's will. Write me for date, as there are several wanting revivals.

Eld F. C. Zinn and wife, Purdy, Mo.

HANSEN, IDAHO

Dear Gem Family:

Again I'll endeavor to write a few lines to the little paper.

I hope you are all enjoying the best of health wherever you may be. This leaves me feeling fine, and as I continue to improve, I think of the good prayers that go up from my good brothers and sisters for me; and I feel that God is answering them; and now I do appreciate it! Of course I am far from well yet, and will continue to rest a part of each day for a long time yet, but each X-ray report shows that I am gradually getting better, and that is encouraging. I am able now to do a little light work and am very thankful for that.

The rest of my family are enjoying good health.

Well it does my soul good to hear and read of the good Associations this fall. I'm sure it is indeed a feast to the soul to attend them. And too, I'm so glad to read of the good revivals that are being held, and only hope that the good work will continue.

I am praying for the denomination at large and just hope it will continue to grow and prosper.

I didn't know there was a Free Will Baptist Church anywhere in Idaho, but a neighbor woman here (whose belief is Free Will Baptist) told me recently that there is quite a strong Free Will Baptist Church in Castleford, a town some 30 or 40 miles from here.

Our children attend Sunday school at a church just recently started here, the Assembly of God is the name of their denomination. They hold church and Sunday school in the Woodman hall here in town. There is also a church here called the Community Methodist Church.

Well, we certainly do enjoy reading the interesting articles in the Gem by our missionary, Bro. Willey and wife, and are so thankful for such brave and humble servants who are not afraid to teach the Bible wherever they go and whatever kind of seed we sow, that shall we also reap, as is told us in God's Word.

So our letter is getting lengthy, and we must close and leave room for some of the other letters from the Gem family. As ever,

A sister in Christ,

Mrs. Opal Frazier.

ZION HILL CHURCH REPORT

Continued from Page 16

shall not prevail against it," both being very spiritual messages, punctuated with that old time shouting again.

The next fifth Sunday meeting will be at Vera, Oklahoma.

Now for our Sunday school report. We are having an average of 61 each Sunday.

Our little Mission is still trying to work. We have a good prayer service each Wednesday evening. The mission has bought a new stove for the church.

We have a wonderful class of young people for which we are very proud. They went to Collinsville with a good program Tuesday evening. We have some very fine young boys and girls that are taking a wonderful interest in the lesson discussions, and always ready to do whatever they can. Sister Plumer is a very devoted teacher and is doing a great work with the young people.

We ask an interest in your prayers.

—Daisy Merchant, Reporter

DRYNOB, MISSOURI

Just a word from Cross Roads Church:

On Saturday, Nov. 12th, our meeting day, our pastor being absent, Eld. J. R. Reid filled the stand at eleven o'clock. He brought a wonderful message, using for a text, "I have made a vow." At the evening service, Eld. S. N. Reid of Lebanon brought a good message. Text, "Remember me."

Sunday morning there was a large crowd out to Sunday school and preaching service at eleven. Eld. S. N. Reid brought the message. Text, "The dead in Christ shall rise first."

A good talk was made by Eld. M. E. Brashere with much rejoicing throughout the service. We love to hear these old ministers, because they have stood by the church so long, and because of them our pastor can feel assured that the flock will be cared for while he is away.

At this time, Eld. C. L. Wilson, our pastor, is at Climax Springs conducting a revival meeting. Our Sunday school is planning a Christmas tree and program for December 22nd, at our Cross Roads Church.

—Alpha Jane Wilson.

CHARLESTON, ARK., Oct. 28.

Dear Bro. Brown and Gem Readers:

I wish to report a revival meeting held at the Methodist Church at Mt. Hope, on Mill Creek mountain, north of Charleston, Ark. We began Oct. 2. The preaching was left to me, or to get some one else. I did the most of the preaching the first week, with Brothers Walker and Sutherland helping some. On Tuesday of the second week, Bro. J. B. Lovett came and was with us the rest of the week, and did the preaching

every night. On Saturday night after we got home and had gone to bed, a neighbor and the other preachers came and called me out to pray for a man that said he should have come to the altar, but didn't. So we went back to the church. He said, "There is where I feel the Lord wants me to go." So he went down on his knees and prayed through to victory.

We started back to Bro. Francis' where his wife and children were, but before we got there, he stopped at his friend's house, a Mr. Posey, and went in and told him what the Lord had done for him, and wanted him to seek the Lord too. So when we got back to Bro. Francis' where we left his wife, Sister Lovett, Sister Walker and Sister Francis had prayed with her, and she was saved while we were at the church. So he had a different home that night.

I got back home about two o'clock and went back to the church Sunday morning in time for Sunday school. After Sunday school, Bro. Lovett said I had to preach. Sister Lovett led the devotional service, and it was just wonderful. And when Sister Lovett turned the service to me, I had lost my text. I got up, not aiming to preach, but just to testify, then have Sister Lovett make the altar call; but before I got through testifying, the Lord anointed me, and it seemed that the power of God fell on all in the house. So when I made the altar call, they fell in the altar and six were saved, among them were two of my children; and for a while we just enjoyed a foretaste of Heaven. Then Mr. Posey came to the altar, and said he couldn't get right till he saw Bro. Ben Pixley.

We went that afternoon about sixty miles, to Bro. Pixley's, and back to the church that night. Bro. Sutherland preached that night. The meeting closed that night, sixteen having been saved during the meeting. Five united with the Free Will Baptist Church at Harmony, and two with the Methodist Church at Mt. Hope.

Preachers that preached were Elders Virgil Walker, Sam Sutherland, J. B. Lovett, and the reporter, T. J. Robertson, with J. Z. Rainwater in charge of the singing.

Eld. T. J. Robertson.

THAYER, MO., Nov. 22, 1938.

Dear Gem Readers:

I wish to write and tell about our Free Will Baptist League which the young people of Cane Hill have organized. We met Oct. 23 at the Cane Hill school house with 15 members present and elected the following officers:

President Mrs. A. M. Wales,
Vice Pres., Mary Ellen Wales,
Sec'y-Treas., Martha Pingleton,
Reporter, Pearl Wales.

We then selected our leader for our next meeting and received our topics. We adjourned after having prayer and singing a song.

We have had two meetings since

we organized. Very interesting topics were given and each had his lesson well prepared. We feel the Lord has been with us during our meetings. Part of our League members are not Christians, but we hope they will become Christians before our year in League work is over. We sincerely desire the prayers of Christian souls for our unsaved members and our League work that we may have a good League and do work in the cause of our Lord.

Pearl Wales, Thayer, Mo., R1, B20.

CHARLESTON, W. VA.

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

As I look out upon the great world and the beautiful sunshine, and study the different ways the world is going, it brings a text to my mind (Prov. 14: 12), "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." We have plenty of that kind of people in West Virginia, that don't believe in church organization. They are standing in the way of others that would come in—they are in the way that seemeth right unto them.

Jesus taught two ways in Matthew 7:13, 14. One was a broad way that leadeth to destruction; but Jesus says to enter in at the strait gate. The world at large is now traveling in the broad way. But Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

Then, if Christ is the way, He said for us to follow; and, if we follow Christ as our pattern, it means that you and I must comply with everything that's in the plan of salvation. Jesus sealed the plan with His own blood, and marked out the way with signs and wonders. As we travel this way, we see on the sign-board where it says, "Repentance."

As we study the signs, and go that way, as we travel on we soon come to where it says, "He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).

We soon come to other signs which we should give a careful study. We find on the way-bill, which is the plan of Salvation, where Jesus killed the Passover and put away the first, that He might establish the second.

We turn over to John 13, where we find Jesus at the supper table. We see Him as He girds Himself with a towel and begins to wash His disciples' feet. This is one more sign on the way-bill, and I hope and trust that every Gem reader will study those marks on the way-bill.

I have done my best to lead the churches I pastor in the right way, which is the way of holiness.

May the God of peace preserve us and sanctify us holy until the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

—Rev. W. C. Cadel.

TULSA, OKLA., Nov. 28, 1938

To all Leaguers:

The Tulsa Church has organized a Young Peoples' League. We have 42 students enrolled. The officers are: Everett Keiffer, a young minister, President, Lloyd Barnes, Vice Pres., and Raymond Gibson, Secretary and Reporter, with Cliver Lindle as assistant reporter. George Miller is our choir leader.

Our meetings are held every Sunday night at 6:30 o'clock. Bro. Melvin Lingham, our teacher, asks questions from the Bible, and the student must give chapter and verse with the answer. We believe the student receives some knowledge in finding the answers that helps him to understand the Bible better.

We would like to see the young people of the state of Oklahoma organize these Leagues in all the Free Will Baptist Churches in time to have a large delegation at the National Conference to be held with Bryan, Texas next July.

We are asking all League members to pray for the success of our newly organized League.

Sincerely yours,

—J. R. Gibson, Reporter.

CORDOVA, ALABAMA

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

I will attempt my first letter to the Gem. I only found out about the Gem a few weeks ago. Since I have received my first paper, I have sent in four other subs. I certainly do enjoy reading the paper and the good messages in it.

We have a wonderful little Free Will Baptist Church down here in Cordova, Ala. Our membership is about 135, and we do have good services. Eld. J. B. Bloss is our pastor, and has been for a number of years.

Since this church was organized 12 years ago, there has been about ten of the converts called to preach. Out of the number of ten, several other churches have been organized and hundreds of people led to God. We meet lots of Free Will Baptist people throughout the state of Alabama. Several new church buildings are under way in some of our sections. At present, there are eight Free Will Baptist preachers living in Cordova. Of course the town and church doesn't employ that many. We are pastoring other churches in rural sections. The writer happens to be the evangelist in this section of the world for 1939. We are praying that God will open up the way and lead us to fields that we are most needed. The different reports show an increase in Alabama in membership for 1938. Thank God for that, we want to go forward and do what we can for the Master. I want a minute from each Association in Alabama and Mississippi. All Moderators please write to me.

—Rev. W. H. Ryland, B163, Cordova.

REPORT OF ASSOCIATION

The Alabama and Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist met with the Springfield Church, two miles south of Verona, Ala., Oct. 24-26, 1938, with Eld. M. L. Hollis as moderator.

This was said to have been the most impressive session of this Association in all its history.

There were eight local associations represented in this Alabama and Mississippi Association. We feel that each preacher and delegate will go back to his work more encouraged than ever before.

Reports show an increase in membership both in Alabama and Mississippi. Also the ministers' roll is increasing.

New church buildings are now under construction in Alabama in several sections. Also two reports come to us that new churches and additional rooms are being added in Mississippi.

We feel that every church should be a member of the local association, and every local association should be a member of the state body. Every effort is being made to get in touch with each association in both states. I am informed that there are 16 local associations in Alabama. I only have the names of 13 of them. I am requesting that each reader of the Gem in Alabama give me the names of any association you know of; also the location of it and the officers' addresses.

I only have the names of three associations in Mississippi. If anyone can furnish me with any information in Mississippi, please do so.

This Association has asked that all local associations in Alabama and Mississippi adopt a unified articles of faith, that is, those in the Treatise that are recommended by the General Conference. The Treatise is available at the publishing house in Ayden, N. C. Our goal for this year is to get every association in these two states into the Association.

The next session of the Alabama and Mississippi Association will convene with the East Tupelo Church, Tupelo, Miss., on Friday and Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1939, with Eld. M. E. Carpenter of Vernon, Ala., Moderator.

W. H. Ryland, Field Sec'y.

B163, Cordova, Ala.

THIRD F. W. B. CHURCH
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Gem Readers and Friends:

I will write a few lines to let you know how we are getting along. We are having fine services and good preaching. Bro. Lewis is a real preacher for a young man, and he knows how to bring a good message; for the Lord is with him, and I don't believe there are many preachers that can beat him.

We had a baptizing a couple of weeks ago, and three came up and gave their hand for prayer.

Bro. Hill is getting along pretty well and is preaching once in a while. Bro. Halbrook was up from Leadington Church some time ago. Bro. George Miller from Fredericktown was up here and held a revival meeting at Bro. Gulley's mission, and he had pretty good success. Bro. George can preach mighty well and I like to hear him.

Our Sunday school is coming along pretty fair, and we are getting busy with a Christmas entertainment for the children. It is not long until the election of Sunday school officers for the coming year.

Our League is going to have their monthly Rally, and we are expecting to have a good meeting that night. The two advanced classes are having a course, studying Paul's missionary journey. Competition is strong, and we have some good times in League with two of the best teachers that can be found. That is what makes things interesting and worth your time to go and listen to them.

Francis McCauley,

1622 Hickory St., St Louis.

THAYER, MO. Nov. 21, 1938.

Dear Bro. Brown and Gem Readers:

As I am heavy hearted tonight, I am made to feel that God has a message for me to write. As we look back into the past, we can see what we have done, but we cannot see ahead.

But as I think tonight that God knows our hearts, you know it brings joy and peace to my heart to know that we have a Friend to go to, and that Friend is God.

When your neighbors are against you, and the way looks blue, God has a way of rolling the troubles away if you will only bend your knee, and go to Him in faithful prayer; and if you believe in God, He will hear your prayer. In the 5th chapter of Matthew, God has great promises, "Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Another verse has come to my mind, I think it is in Matthew, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you." I am afraid that there are some who are failing to do that; and as sure as we forget God, our blessings will stop.

I am hoping that every child of God will look on ahead and pray as we have never prayed before, and that we may gain more souls for our works here on earth. Remember to pray for me, as I have only been in God's work a little over a year, and I feel that God has work for me, but some how I have never got where I could work as God wants me to work.

I look out and see Bro. Harry Beatty,

about my age—we grew up together, as he is in God's work. Oh, how it brings joy to my heart and soul to see that dear boy press onward for his Saviour! I want to ask that as you pray for me, pray also for that dear boy. I have a brother and sister out in sin, please pray for them that we may all meet in heaven where I have one brother who has gone where there will be no pain or heartaches. I pray that in some way God will look down on me as never before, and give me strength from above, that my light might so shine more than words can ever tell; and I am trusting God that He will provide a way for me and for my wife, that we will live in a way that will please Him, and that we may be able to teach our little boy the way that will be pleasing to God.

So pray for me and my family.

Yours in Christ,
Lawrence Janes, R1, B88, Thayer.

"Must we empty handed go, And meet our Savior so?"

For some reason, I find comfort in this scripture, "Nay much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble are necessary." It encourages me to think that even I, in my weakness may be necessary in God's great plan, and though my talent is but small, and I often think I'm the weakest, most feeble of all.

My greatest desire is to do what He would have me do. I'm afraid too many overlook the most important things, looking for something the world would call great.

A few days ago, I heard a person say, "I know the Lord has a job for me, but I have not found out what it is." Now this person was converted more than 20 years ago.

I was converted very young, in almost the first revival I ever attended. I hardly knew what it was all about, I only knew there was something lacking in my life, a *void feeling* this world could not fill.

When I let Jesus come into my heart, I knew a sweet, heavenly peace I had never known before, with the love of God flooding my soul, making me a new creature. I knew nothing about the church or a Christian's duty; but praise God for the Holy Spirit that will lead and guide us in all duty and truth, if we will only let Him. I knew by the revelations of God in my heart that there was plenty I could do in His blessed service.

For a few years, I lived a good clean life before God and the world, but then I realized I was not enjoying my religion as others; when I went to church, I was so miserable, fearing they would call on me to lead in prayer. I tried to dismiss this from my mind by making myself believe a woman should not speak in public. Now for you who are hiding behind that feeble excuse as I did—

come out and try, and see if you don't receive a blessing.

Realizing God wanted no idlers, I began calling upon Him to give me something to do. Some think they have to be at church to serve God, but most of my service for my Master has been at home: for when I felt empty handed, and called upon Him, He filled them with things I could do at home—things that kept one from church many times, but oh, the sweet blessings I receive from His outstretched hands.

Many times the way looked dark and the cross seemed heavy, then I remember He said, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you." I always find the harder the trial the greater the blessing.

Some day you'll come before the Master
Some day before Him you shall stand.
Oh, will you come with golden harvest,
Or will you come with empty hand?

Now if any who may read this are just drifting along, wake up saying, "Here am I, Lord, what will you have me do?" God has many blessings in store for those who do His will. I praise His good name forever for the blessings that have come my way.

Yours in Jesus Name,
Alpha Jane Wilson, Drynob, Mo.

GREEN FOREST, ARK. Dec. 1

Dear Gem Readers:

As Christmas is approaching, our minds are centered around the event that occurred almost two thousand years ago, and what it means to the world.

How the shepherds saw an Angel of the Lord, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, as they watched over their flocks by night. The Angel told them of the wonderful event that had just happened, and suddenly there was with the Angel a host of angels praising God. The shepherds were sore afraid: then the Angel told them to fear not, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

We bow our heads, and worship Him who is Lord of lords and King of kings, and praise His dear name, AND PRAY FOR HIS KINGDOM TO COME.

Yours in His name,

—Mrs. E. G. Tharp.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

When Jesus was born and laid in a manger,

The Angels were watching near by;
Truly the earth to Him was a stranger
Tho' He made it, and the sea and sky.

The Angels appeared to the shepherds,
That watched o'er flocks by night;
And told them the beautiful story,
Of Jesus our Saviour and Light.

How wonderful to them was the vision
When the heavenly throne appeared,
Crying, Hosanna to God in the Highest,
Peace upon earth, from the Lord.

The shepherds arose from their vigil,
And went to the town near by;
To see this wonderful Saviour,
Who in a manger did lie.

They raised their voices in thanksgiving
To God for His wonderful love;
Who gave His dear Son to redeem us,
And fit us for Heaven above.

The wise men came with their treasure
Of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
And presented them to the Christ Child
Whose Star had guided them there.

Oh, think of this wonderful Saviour!
Who came from Heaven above;
To the world, He is still a stranger,
To His people He is joy, peace and love.

Mrs. E. G. Tharp, Green Forest, Ark.

Christmas!

By A. M. Ardagh

O God in flesh indwelling!
Once more draws near the day
When Thou, by love's compelling,
Wast moved to put away
Thy Godhead's power and glory
And condescend to take
(Was e'er so sweet a story!)
Man's semblance for man's sake.

Lord, what has been thy guerdon?
Men's hearts Thy throne to be?
Thy praises made the burden
Of grateful minstrelsy?
We bow in shame before thee!
For Truth must answer, "No!"
Yet are there who adore Thee
A few! Lord, Thou dost know!

Beyond earth's power to measure,
To them Thy charms appear.
Above earth's costliest treasure
Thou art supremely dear.
All that the wide world offers
Is dross compared with Thee!
The sum of earthly coffers
As foam upon the sea.

Today their hearts adore Thee,
O Lord! Our God, Most High!
Yet bend in sadness o'er Thee,
O Babe who came to die!
Unfathomable myst'ry!
Immeasurable grace!
Synopsis of the hist'ry
Of our immortal race.

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—The Editor.

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