

The Free Will Baptist Gem

ORGAN OF THE MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Monett, Missouri, April, 1943

Volume 15, Number 4

The National Board of Foreign Missions



Rev. Mrs. Elsie Curtis, Illinois Rev. Bert F. Rogers, Oklahoma



Chester Pelt, N. C. Rev. C. B. Thompson, Texas Rev. Winford Davis, Missouri

The Free Will Baptist Gem
Organ of
Missouri State Association

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EDITORS

John B. Rollins
Herbert Henderson

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EDITORIALS

Representatives of the Gem

In compliance with the plans suggested by the Board of Directors in behalf of the circulation of *The Gem*, there has been seven representatives appointed. These are all in the state of Missouri; but the appointment of representatives in active churches in other states is solicited. Our representatives are:

- Mrs. Rowena Thomas Monett, Mo.
- Harold Baldwin Fredericktown, Mo.
- Edward Simmons St. Louis, Mo.
- Rev. Harvey E. Hill St. Louis, Mo.
- Mrs. Hope Eaton Stella, Mo.
- Miss Jeraldine Johnson Flat River, Mo.
- Howard Wilt Flat River, Mo.

Rev. James F. Miller, pastor at Flat River and one of the foremost leaders in the denomination, makes the following statement regarding this plan of operation, "Personally the plan appeals to me. I often find that people do not know when their subscriptions expire, and that they are not ready to renew when someone will send their renewal to the Gem Office for them."

Brother Jim has the right idea: the representative serves his church people in that very capacity. Each representative is furnished with information regarding each subscriber in his church, and he is prepared and anxious to send in the renewal and also new subscriptions. This is a simple, but very practical plan, and is already showing its effectiveness.

Other churches are adopting the plan and appointing their representatives. We urge all the churches, in the various states, to appoint representatives as soon as possible.

Our Associations and Food Rationing

Plans are already under way for the entertainment of the Missouri State Association in the Monett Church next September, also for the Indian Creek District Association in the Carterville Church. Our greatest problem is the food situation. Gardens are being planned with hopes of supplying vegetables and fruits. The Monett Church is planning a Free Will Baptist Garden for that purpose. Our rural churches can become a real asset in furnishing farm produce. These are very fine plans, yet there are important food items not available without points and stamps of the rationing system.

We have been wondering if it would be wicked or unlawful to turn any surplus sugar, coffee, or other food to the association for the purpose of feeding the delegation which comes to the association. If this could be done, it would go a long way toward solving the problem, but the church in Monett and Carterville would like to know how many would be able to do this, and about how much could be supplied. If it is possible for any one to do this please write to Rev. O. T. Allred, Monett, Mo.



GOSPEL SERMONS



Christ and Calvary

Rev. C. B. Dees, Desloge, Missouri

Calvary was the foulest spot about the city of Jerusalem. It was outside the walls, and infamous. It was the place where the vilest men were crucified and buried. Crucifixion was disgraceful, so much so that no Roman could be subjected to it. It was the last mark of detestation on the most abandoned and base of men. The soil on the hillside was thin and scanty. The victims of curcifixion had a hasty burial, and often from their scanty graves their limbs would be left protruding and the bodies of these slain were often unearthed by jackals and beasts of prey. The ground was strewn with the skulls and bones of dead men, and the hill was popularly known as "Golgatha, the place of the skull."

The Place Where Christ Died

As our Lord was to die the most ignominious of deaths, He must die in the place most infamous, so the counsels of men decided. But long before Herod,

Pontius Pilate, or Caiaphas took counsel together, the death, the season, and the spot were appointed in that heavenly council in which the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world, accepted the mission to save ungodly men. Infamous in the eyes of men, Calvary has hallowed all divine services since Jesus died there.

Jesus Walked Steadily To Calvary

Steadily the Son of God fixed His eye on Calvary, and toward it He directed His steps from His birth. He came not into the world to live, He came to die. He did live, of course, He grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. He left us an example of living, but all this was incidental, for without Calvary, He would not have trodden the earth at all. Onward, with a steady step, from the manger He moved to the cross. He saw its summit from His home in Nazareth. Its shadows fell on His path as He toiled beneath the hot sun in Nazareth, and all His thoughts were fixed on it. Devout Greeks at Jerusalem sought out His disciples, to whom they said, "Sirs, we would see Jesus." Our Lord knew that only through Calvary could the door of mercy be opened to the Gentiles. "His soul was troubled" at the request. The agony of the atonement pressed upon Him, and visions of the death He must die caused Him to exclaim, "Father, save me from this hour." The corn of wheat must fall into the ground and die. The strengthening voice of God from heaven swept away the agony from His brow, and, with uplifted eyes, He exclaimed, "But for this cause came I unto this hour."

Christ's Wonderful Life

Much could be said about the life of Christ, for it was the most wonderful life ever lived on earth. At thirty, He left the home of Joseph, a few tools, and the work of a carpenter to take up a course of power, renown and repute. People were awed



Rev. C. B. Dees

by His divine utterances; the sea and the elements heard His voice and obeyed Him; disease felt His healing touch and departed; demons knew Him and fled from His presence; the grave and corruption gave back their prey at His voice. His miraculous power was seen in all that He did. When men arrested Him, He told them that He gave them the power to do so, that it was by His permission that any man touched Him at all. In that senate, amid the fiendish mockeries of His judges, He could have called a legion of angels for His deliverance. He was arrested because He came to the world for that purpose. He laid down His life because He chose to do so, and no man could take it from Him. When He chose, He had the power to take up His life again.

Calvary His Supreme Work

Jesus might have done all these wonderful things, but without the death on Calvary, Jesus Christ would have been just another of the worthy characters to be numbered in the eleventh chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews along with Abraham and Moses and others while the world would have struggled on in sin with no remedy for its guilt. Of His boyhood days, from the time of His return from Egypt

until He was twelve years old, we know but little. From twelve years of age until He was thirty, we know still less. The scriptures dwell not on these things which would have been the material for the most wonderful biography ever written. Inspiration hurries on to the Cross as the goal of His work, and the deeds of those closing days that culminated in His death are recounted with a detail that loves to linger about that Cross.

Calvary the Center of History

Not only earth, but heaven magnifies Calvary. Two visitors from heaven came to Jesus and conversed with Him; they did not congratulate Him on His performance of mighty miracles, His great teachings, His perfect morality, though all these would have been worthy themes, but they spake of His decease which He should accomplish at Jerusalem. Even heaven could not be silent on the great theme of Calvary, and angels still look on that summit with wonder. Calvary will never pass away. When the decree goes forth that time shall be no more, Calvary, like a jewel from a crushed crown, will abide. Around it the redeemed, before the throne, shall meet and sing in the presence of the Lamb, "Thou hast redeemed us by Thy BLOOD."

A Challenge From Our Youth

Miss Alberta Dodd, Flat River, Mo.

A Hopeful Representative of the Youth of the Free Will Baptist Denomination

It was before an audience of 350 men and women of tomorrow that these striking words were spoken: "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." (Proverbs 22:1). Still, after seven years have passed, those words fasten themselves to my heart. Surely it wasn't the person who had spoken them, for she was a young lady bravely proclaiming the Word of the Lord, but it seemed to be the WORDS—fitly spoken as they were, still are not forgotten.

How many of those men and women of tomorrow remembered that proverb of Solomon? Such young hearts are "determined to know nothing" save good times and merry making. Were there any of those seemingly hard-hearted youngsters whose heart was not melted by the mes-

sage that followed? Facial expressions and emotions showed nothing, but had we been those youngsters only for a moment, could we not know their feelings and determination at that hour?

In "ye olden times," things were different, so we are told. Every child obeyed the parents who gave the orders and set forth rules to be obeyed. Did you ever listen to the stories that Mother and Dad tell about their "growing up" period? Comparing it with the youth problems today, we find an almost unexplainable difference. If we may use the word "modern", then let us say that youth was modern then in obeying the parents just as today the boy and girl are "sitting in class" if they call "boss Mom and Pop". Nevertheless, we

have young men and women today that are so consecrated to the Lord that no one can justly point toward them a scornful fignure and gossip about that one who is truly on the Lord's side.

Christian boys and girls are wishing that they might choose a good name rather than riches. Public schools are challenging our youth to make the proverb read "Riches are rather to be chosen than a good name." Young Christian boys and girls have greater trials in Christian living than almost anyone I know. I know not for how many I may speak, but the modern high school today is one of the hardest places about which I know to live a true Christian life.

Our youth today is asking for a Christian college where we might prepare ourselves to answer the great challenge that the world is presenting today. Yes, our prayers have been answered. Our young hearts were made to rejoice when the debt was lifted from our own Free Will Baptist School, even though many had not the privilege to contribute to its great fund. It is just what our hearts were yearning for. We were praying for God to give us such a place of learning and preparation.

Perhaps for many of us, it will only be a make-believe stone in our air-castle: something to dream about and wish everyday that we could be there. Only part of our dreams had been realized when the school

opened in September, 1942. Now we are still dreaming — offering a greater challenge to those who will feel the responsibility. We want to attend that school — that about which we have dreamed, hoped for, and anxiously awaited for the opening day. I have spoken to boys and girls in my own surroundings about attending our Bible School. They have answered like this: "It is what we have been waiting for. I am willing to go, but —" and then dreamed on hopefully.

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." That is just what we choose for ourselves. Many of us have exceptionally good names, but "gold and silver have we none." Shall our dreams be only dreams? Perhaps someday we may really have to pinch ourselves to find whether we are actually sound in mind or just building air castles that so easily tumble down.

We are offering this challenge to you from many Free Will Baptist boys and girls, praying that the Lord will someday fulfill our every dream and imprint upon the heart of Christian workers the challenge that the youth of the denomination is presenting. Before the debt was lifted from the school property, we heard this bold statement: "I wish the Lord would open the heart, mind, and pocketbook of Christians in our denomination." And so He did! He did it once, He can do it again —.



Missionary Department



Rev. Winford Davis, Chair.-Treas. National Board, Monett Mo.

On February 14th, 1943, the first Free Will Baptist association to be organized on foreign soil for many years was perfected in the province of Pinar Del Rio on the island of Cuba. Rev. Henry Melvin has recently made a trip to Cuba, under the sponsorship of our foreign mission board, to assist the Willeys in forwarding the organization work. Brother Bert Rogers, a member of our board, was planning to go with Brother Melvin, but took sick, and had to enter the hospital, just before his time to leave. We are very sorry Brother Rogers could not make the trip.

We are very proud, indeed, of the way our people are responding in a financial way to our missionary cause. I would like so much to thank each of you personally; but as that is practically impossible, I am glad of this means through the columns of our papers to render the thanks of my heart to you.

I compiled a complete semi-annual report, which covered from July 1st to December 31st inclusive, and it has been said to be the greatest financial statement for foreign missions ever to be set forth for any like period of time in the history of the Free



The (Quarterly) Convention of Free Will Baptists held at Vinales, Sunday, February 7th. Most of these people are of Pedro Oliva's ministry.

Will Baptist church. Praise the Lord for this renewed interest on the part of our people in this great work of sending the Gospel to foreign lands. Your loyalty in giving has made it possible for us to compile that splendid report.

At the last National Meeting, at Columbus, Miss., the largest offering ever given by any Free Will Baptist audience, at any one time, for foreign missions was received following Sister Willey's stirring message, and the picture display by Brother Turner. It amounted to \$175.00. No wonder that God is blessing our denomination, when we will show such an interest in the very purpose of God, in the entire church program, that is, the taking and sending the GOSPEL to the LOST. Anything in a church program, that does not tend toward that definite end, is amiss, if not an abomination in the sight of the Lord. Let us not fall short of the direct purpose of God in our lives as a denomination of people. We have no right to be proud we are Free Will Baptists, unless we can be consoled in knowing we are serving this very purpose. If we are conscious we are failing in this purpose, may God make us to be ashamed.

I trust we have not forgotten our state quotas, which were set forth and accepted

at the National Association last July. For fear we might have forgotten, I am going to restate them to you here; taking them from page 25 of our National Minute. You will notice in the minute that the quota for the state of Missouri was set at \$1200.00 but here I am setting it at \$2000.00 for the reason that our state association last September voted to increase our state quota to this last named figure. So they stand as follows:

Missouri	\$2,000.00
North Carolina	1,800.00
Tennessee	900.00
Ohio	600.00
Michigan	500.00
Oklahoma	500.00
Texas	500.00
Georgia	400.00
Alabama	300.00
South Carolina	300.00
Kentucky	300.00
Virginia	250.00
Illinois	200.00
Mississippi	200.00
West Virginia	150.00
Florida	150.00
Total	\$9,050.00



The Pinar Association of Free Will Baptists was organized in San Luis, in the province of Pinar Del Reo, Cuba, on February 14, 1943, and licensed all our young Free Will Baptist preachers. Rev Henry Mevlin attended.



The (Quarterly) Convention in Sabalo. We also had the dedication of the Chapel in the background. Blas Serrano is pastor of the group. There were a number of conversions this day in the meeting.

Come on now, and don't let your state fall short of the suggested quota. In the first six months, some of the states went a little over half their quota; some of them came near the half of their quota; and some of them fell considerable short of half.

We hope that during the coming six months we will all completely come up to, if not over, the mark.

It is inspiring to think how wonderful our church name, and the name of Christ, has been taken to other countries during

these days of the modern missionary movement of our church. To Venezuela the message was carried by Miss Yeley, to India by Miss Barnard (which work is yet in progress), to Barbados by Miss Esterbrook, to Panama and Cuba by the Willeys, and to Liberia by Brother Paul whom we did help to support for awhile. May the work go on and on!

I wish to say a word about our monthly financial reports in the church papers. I would like to be able to make my reports in total amounts as from each state. That is, the total amount from each state, giving the name of state instead of naming each individual. This ideal would require a state secretary in each state whose responsibility would be to keep a record and publish the

names of the individual donors. All foreign mission funds from each state should be sent to the state secretary who would send funds monthly to the national treasurer. The financial report of the national treasurer would be greatly simplified when reporting by states. It is nothing but right that each individual giver to our worthy cause be named in the church papers. They are not giving for mere publicity, to be sure; but they are worthy of honorable mention which should be the task of the state secretary of foreign missions. Let us all do our best, and keep the good work going. The Lord is blessing and giving us wonderful opportunities, so let's continue to make the best of them.

Yours for the Gospel to the whole world

Report of National Foreign Mission Treasury

Report for February

Rev. Winford Davis, Treasurer, Monett, Mo.

St. Claire Memorial S. S. Class of St. Mays Church, New Bern, N. C.	\$10.00	Sale of missionary pictures by Winford Davis	1.10
First F. W. B. Church, Ft. Worth Texas	26.00	Eastern Union of S. C.	25.00
Wolverine Ass'n. of Michigan	69.41	State Line S. S. Convention of Ala.	5.99
Young People's League, Tulsa, Okla.	10.00	State of North Carolina by the state treasurer	30.17
Kanawha Q. M. of West Virginia ..	14.38	Mt. Vernon S. S. of Illinois	2.00
Claud E. Sawyer, Ware Shoals, S. C.	2.00	Sent in by Miss Barnard as a result of Miss Yeley's tour in Tennessee	69.04
Nat'l. Woman's Auxiliary Convention	36.00		
George Webster, Washington, N. C.	15.00		

Perseverance

T. H. Newsome, Springtown, Texas

Be not discouraged though you fail,
In tasks you try to do;
For if, in patience, you prevail,
Success will come to you.

Work — vs — Dreams

T. H. Newsome, Springtown, Texas

Great excellence is ne'er attained
By merely, idly, dreaming;
Life's chief objectives most are gained
While sweat from brow is streaming.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Executive Committee of the General Board of the National Association together with the Foreign Mission Board and the Trustees of the Bible School will meet in joint session in the Bible School, Nashville, Tennessee, at 10:00 A. M., April 13th. Recommendations for the good of all of our national work will be gratefully accepted from anyone.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Johnson County Free Will Baptist Sunday School Convention will meet at Paintsville, Kentucky, in the Free Will Baptist Church, on April 18, 1943 at 2:00 o'clock p. m. All superintendents and teachers are requested to be present at the meeting.

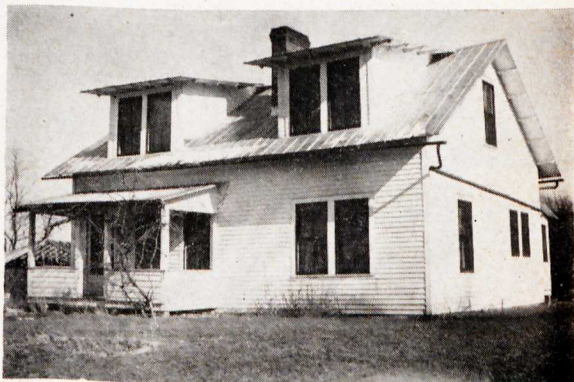
James H. Owens, Chairman
Mrs. Albert Webb, Secretary

Tennessee Free Will Baptist Orphanage

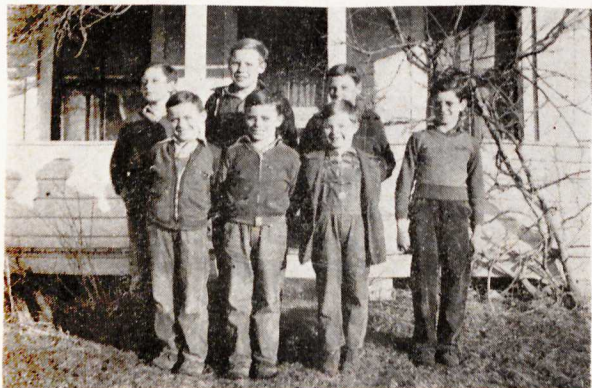
A Story Told in Pictures



Aunt Elizabeth Coontz, Matron of the Boys' Cottage, with her flowers on the cottage lawn



The Boys' Living Quarters, a modern seven-room house with a full-basement, bath and a furnace



The Seven Boys in front of their Cottage



Mrs. Myrtle Lauderdale and Miss Millie Lauderdale, Cook and helper. The Lauderdale folk are refined Christians, and superior in every way to the average help



The Entire Family Group on the Entrance Steps of the Main Building



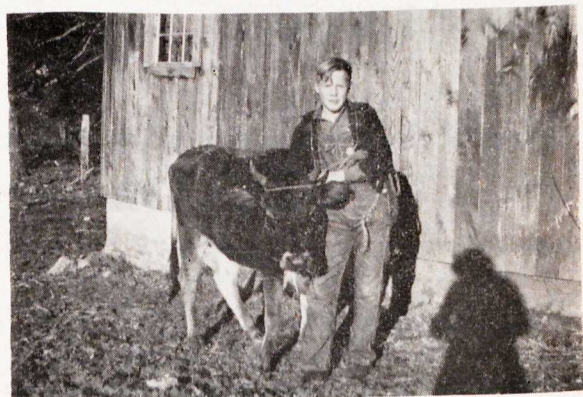
The Main Building from a distance



A Group of Boys and Girls in their Work and Play clothes



Pid, Jim, and Uncle Walter Coontz — Farmers. Pid is five years old, Jim is three, and Uncle Walter is slightly older



Jack, the oldest boy with the calf which took Second Prize at the County Fair



Three of the Youngest, Alice Fugate, Dorothy Bennett, and Bonnie Hall

WHEN IT RAINS—IT POURS!

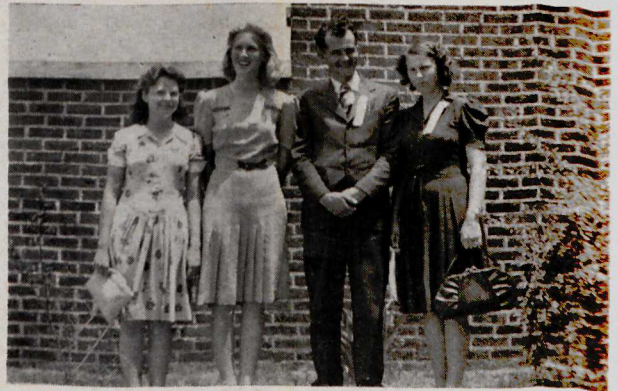
An Editorial

Sometimes, in my estimation, the Gem is rather plain in appearance. Then when it does rain, oh boy, it pours! I like pictures. Good pictures tell a great story. Just look at them! This issue of the Gem is extra-ordinary, and there are some more good pictures already planned for the May and June issues. The Monett Church will be shown in May and an Illinois church in June.

We have received wonderful co-operation from our people in this capacity and we are indeed grateful for their help in making the Gem more interesting.



Some of the Girls



Margaret and Trula, the oldest girls, and "Brother" Woolsey and Mrs. Woolsey in attendance at the National Association at Columbus, Mississippi. Margaret is a Junior and Trula is a Senior in High School

Report of Missouri Treasury

Report for February

Rev. Winford Davis, Treasurer, Monett, Mo.

Foreign Missions

Sublette Church, Greentop, Mo.	\$4.00
Mrs. Alene Worsley, Bronaugh, Mo.	1.15
Eldorado Springs Sunday School ..	1.10
Hazel Creek Union Church	50.71
Hickory Grove Church	3.40
Mrs. Margaret Turner, Granby, Mo.	10.00
Shibleys Point Church	1.00
Northeast Missouri Missionary Band	15.00
Mt. Olive (Neola) Church drill offering	4.37
Goldia York, Greenfield, Mo.50
Will Price, Arcola, Mo.	1.00
True Blue Class, Mt. Olive (Neola)	1.00
Mr. & Mrs. W. I. Jemes, Niangua, Mo.	15.00
Mrs. S. A. Davis, Monett, Mo.	1.00
Monett Church	5.05
Mine La Motte Sunday School	4.02
Willey Circle of Flat River Auxiliary	15.00
Corsicana Church and Sunday School	3.00
Aurora Church	4.40
Rock Chapel, Norwood, Mo.	2.00
Independence Church, Stockton, Mo.	31.25
W. E. Fresnell, Los Angles, Calif. ..	5.99
Blue Eye Church,	1.01

New Harmony Mission Circle	9.00
Myrtle Long, Patton, Mo.	1.00
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Warren, Archie, Mo.	2.00
Green Grove Mission Circle	5.00

Allocation Fund (Penny-a-Day)

Mt. Olive (Neola) Auxiliary	\$3.19
Monett Church	2.00
Meris Chapel, Cassville, Mo.	6.75
Macedonia Church, Purdy, Mo.	1.45
Aurora Church31

Benevolence Fund

Meris Chapel for Tenn. Orphanage	\$20.00
Robert Cross, Stockton, Mo. for the Tennessee Orphanage	2.50

Jehoida Chest Fund

Monett Church	\$1.00
Hickory Grove Church, Archie, Mo. ..	1.00

Educational Fund

Indian Creek League Rally	\$13.23
Mr. & Mrs. W. I. Jemes, Niangua, Mo.	10.00
Robert Cross, Stockton, Mo.	2.50

New Machinery Fund

Mrs. Margaret Tunner, Granby, Mo.	\$10.00
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Our Boys in the Service



Fort Bliss, Texas

Dear Brother Rollins:

I am sure you will be surprised to hear from me, but I am hoping it will be a pleasant one. I thought that you and other friends of mine might be interested in what I am doing, and how I am getting along. I am getting along just fine. I am located at Ft. Bliss, Texas, and am working in a hospital in the Army Medical Corps. I like the work just fine, only, like all others, I am wishing for the war to soon end so that I can go home to stay.

I believe that the radical change in the war situation is due to so many people getting down on their knees, too, I think now that some down right "old fashioned" praying will bring the war to a close soon.

When you see any of our friends please tell them I said "Hello," and please pray for my wife and I.

My wife sends me the Gem from home, and it means a lot to me. I get to attend church at the First Nazarene Church in El Paso, and enjoy it very much.

I am sending you a song poem that I wrote today for the Gem, if you think it has quality and deserves any printing space.

Your friend

Cpl. Marvin P. Dalton
51st Gen. Hospital, Barracks No. 1

The Old Paths

There is a story of paths old and new,
Only the old ones are all that will do:
Mother has taught me and showed me the way,

I'll thank my mother till my dying day.

Many have trod them, we know them by name,

They always found they were ever the same;
So when there were storm clouds and when the winds blew,

They found the old paths were all that would do.

These paths leads us onward to Heaven's estate,

Where loved ones are waiting for us at the gate;

By keeping the old paths there is rest for the soul,

So I'll just keep going 'til I've reached the goal.

This sounds old fashioned to many to day,
But why fret and worry what others may say;

Our Savior is leading, He never was wrong,
He moves all our burden and leads us along.

Chorus.

I'll take the old paths and keep going on,
I'll keep on praying and singing a song;

Though I may stumble and some time get blue,

I'll keep the old paths the whole journey through.

Taken from Jer. 6:16, and dedicated to Rev. Talbert, Rev. (W.M.) Bingham and Rev. Carter. All are ministers of many years experience and members of the First Mission Association of Free Will Baptists of Oklahoma.

— 30 —

A.S.N. 35203175 Co. D. 150th Inf R.
A.P.O. 827 % Postmaster, New Orleans

Mr. Editor and Friends:

Just a few lines this morning to say hello, and to thank you for the Gem which I have been receiving. Since my grandfather is a Free Will Baptist minister, I am quite glad to receive it. I wanted to get hold of a copy before I did, and I made mention of the fact to the pastor back home, in one of my letters to him. I find in the Gem that men have begun to broaden out the scope of the Free Will Baptist denomination of which I am very glad.

In time past, before I became a soldier for Uncle Sam, I traveled some with granddad, and I have been in some wonderful revival meetings with him. I have always had a yearning to take his place some day,

but like David, I would even like to be a door keeper in God's house if that was what He would have me do.

The first copy of the Gem I ever saw was at a quarterly meeting at Kenova, West Virginia, several years ago, and I have liked them ever since.

Since I've been in the army, I have gotten away from the way I used to know a whole lot, but experience in both works has given me an experience that is worth more than gold, although I would't sell my experience

of the last two years, I would't want to go through it again, for my best days were at home, doing something I always liked to do.

Well friends, time is flying, and I must go, but I'll drop a few lines again one of these days

Again I thank you for your kindness of thought and may I wish for all you the very best in your fields of labor.

Sincerely yours,

Sgt. Everett Thomas



Our Bible School

Rev. L. C. Johnson, President

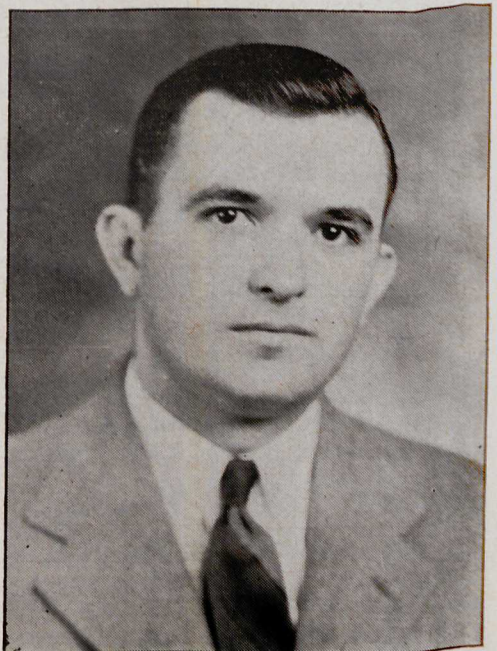


There is a period in history known as the "Dark Ages". This was a period when very little progress was made. There were a few progressive people who lived then, but things in general were in a slump. About the beginning of the 16th century there was an awakening. The bonds of ignorance and superstition were broken and the world enjoyed progress and enlightenment. We might say the Roman Catholic Church which had kept the doors of opportunity shut, was forced to open them and the world came to itself through the ministry of such men as Luther and Melancthon.

For many years our church might have compared favorably with this period known as the Dark Ages. We were inactive in denominational enterprises. We were carrying on no missionary or educational activities. There were a few among our members who were progressive, but were never able to bring about an awakening. But if it is true there was this period in the history of our church that compared favorably with the Medieval period in the history of the world, it is no less true that our church is now experiencing a renaissance. This is true in every department of our work, however we wish to think just now particularly of the educational phase of our work.

On September the 15th we began class work in our own Free Will Baptist Bible School. We had a small group of students on the opening day. (We are glad to say that the number has gradually increased). By October 13 God had so wonderfully

blessed in a financial way that we held the dedication service and retired the indebtedness. All through the first semester we were conscious of the blessings of the Lord. Then came on the second semester. We are glad to say that we did not lose a student at the end of the first semester, but had a fifty percent increase. However because of the war and other unavoidable circumstances some have had to drop out



Rev. L. C. Johnson

so that we have fourteen enrolled at the present time.

We are busy now making preparation for next year. A school bulletin is being prepared which will contain announcements for the next school year as well as a description of the courses. We hope to have this out in the very near future to mail out to all prospective students.

Prospects are bright for our school both from the financial and student standpoints. From the student standpoint it is very likely we will have as many as we can accommodate next year. We are already mailing applications for next year to students who definitely plan to come. It will be wise for any one planning to come to let the school know of your plans as far in advance as possible. From the financial side we can only express our most hearty thanks to all who are so loyally and liberally supporting the school. The annual endowment plan has met with the most hearty response. Wherever this plan has been introduced it has met with the approval of our people. There is one particular

church that one of our students, Rev. Damon Dodd, is pastoring that is worthy of special mention.

Brother Dodd is pastor of Loyal Chapel Church at Columbia, Tennessee, which has a membership of 79, and is about three and a half years old. This one small congregation is paying into the school \$53.50 each month, through the annual endowment system. It might be said by some that this is the only thing the church is doing, but this is not so, for one thing they are raising money to build a new church as soon as the government will allow. This instance is cited to show the possibilities that lie within our denomination. We have only cause to rejoice over the financial response from our people.

May the school again express its thanks to every loyal Free Will Baptist who is making the school possible. It gives cause for rejoicing to know that in a world of confusion and disorder there are those who are still interested in the cause of righteousness. May the blessings of God rest upon every one who is making this great work go forward.

The Great
Commission
— Our Mission



Woman's Auxiliary Department

The Whole
World
For Christ



The Hour of Prayer

Mrs. K. V. Shutes, Cordova, Alabama

Prayer should become a fixed habit in our lives. It is a sin to neglect prayer. "Our Lord forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you." Many people do not pray only when they are down and out, or in some grave danger or trouble. When the sun shines brightly and all is well, prayer is neglected. God wants us to commune with Him regularly. We should have a certain time set aside every day as a period of prayer. "When thou prayest enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seest in secret shall reward thee openly." (Matthew 6:6).

It is encouraging to know that when

we pray we have the blessed Holy Spirit to help us. "We know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is in the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." (Romans 8:26-27). True prayer is prayer inspired and directed by the Spirit. When our prayers are directed by the Spirit, we will ask for the right thing in the right way.

One of the most important facts about the regular prayer life is that it keeps Christians away from sin. Prayer will keep one away from sin, and sin will keep one

away from God. Sin and prayer do not mix. "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me" (Psalm 68:18). "Your sins have hidden his face from you that he will not hear you" (Isa. 59:2). "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears are open unto their prayers" (1 Peter 3:12). "If our hearts condemn us not, then we have confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask we receive of him because we keep his commandments, and do those things which are pleasing in his sight" (1 John 3:20-21).

A regular time of prayer each morning will supply the Christian with spiritual refreshment throughout the day. If we turn our thoughts to God in the morning, we have a better chance of keeping Him in our thoughts all day. It prepares us for the day's work. "In the morning will I cry unto thee and look up." (Psalm 5:3).

While it is true that Christians should have special times of prayer, it is well to remember that our prayers should not be confined to that special time in the closet. We should practice the habit of uttering or breathing a silent prayer wherever we may be. Christ does not keep certain office hours, but He ever liveth to make intercession for us. We are instructed to pray "without ceasing". We can breath a prayer while walking down the street, in the office, riding in an automobile, washing the dishes or wherever we are. We should stay in touch with God all the time.

I am not outlining any definite objectives for April, but I am asking you to pray just as the Holy Spirit leads you at the nine o'clock prayer hour. I feel led to do this, so let us ask the Holy Spirit to inspire us as to what we should pray for. "Praying always in the Spirit."

Church Letters - Field Reports

Free Will Baptist Church Tulsa, Oklahoma

Rev. Melvin Bingham, Pastor
Mrs. A. F. Fipps, Reporter

Dear Gem Readers:

As we write, this Sabbath afternoon, we are still rejoicing over the wonderful morning service in which four precious souls were saved. Rev. Harry Staires who has been with us in a revival brought the message that truly was sent from heaven. His subject was "Automobile Religion." We wish we were able to tell you just how the Lord did bless. We are so thankful for a man of God who will sacrifice home and loved ones and preach the Word of God. Sister staires is in the hospital, and we pray for a speedy recovery for her. It seems that the devil is trying to keep the servants of the Lord from their labor. So far in the revival, there has been twelve souls saved and reclaimed, and about nineteen additions to the church. We are thanking God for these blessings.

We have with us R. B. Candry, music teacher and gospel singer of Cushing, Okla. who is directing the song service. After the revival, Bro. Candry will teach music

at our church. With so many of our young men in the service of our country, the younger and older ones must carry on.

From time to time, some of our boys in uniform are home, and how happy we are to see them come to church, and to hear them witness for Jesus. Just this morning, one of our boys came forward to bow at an altar of prayer in behalf of lost souls bowed there.

We are glad to have those from other churches visit and worship with us. We were especially glad to have the Drumright Quartet with us. We trust that God will direct them to come our way again.

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ATTENTION

Free Will Baptists of Alabama

On March 5, 1943, the Board of Trustees of the orphanage movement of the Alabama State Association purchased the old Baptist Academy of Eldridge, Alabama which is about 25 miles west of Jasper, Ala. on a good paved road.

The Missionary Baptists spent around \$100,000.00 here and had school for several years. They lost it in the depression, and

the Walker County Board of Revenue bought it for a state N. Y. A. School. As you know, there is no more N. Y. A. The Board of Revenue sold us this property for \$1,000.00

This property consists of a two story brick building with 45 rooms; a two story rock building with 6 rooms and an auditorium; a two story building with 16 rooms, the first floor of this building is rock while the second story is wood. There is a library worth \$500.00 or more, and more than \$500.00 worth of furniture in the buildings.

We are going to have an all-day working there on April 23rd. Come, and bring a group to help us.

We gave ourselves seven years to pay for it, but we hope to retire the debt this year. The way our people are giving, we will pay for it this year. We have 20,000 Free Will Baptists in Alabama. Send your money to V. C. May, Vernon, Alabama.

— Rev. K. V. Shutes, Reporter for Board

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Free Will Baptist Church Drumright, Oklahoma

Rev. Harry E. Staires, Pastor
Mrs. Vera Stanley, Reporter

Dear Gem Readers:

For the first time, I will try to report for our church here in Drumright. Our Sunday school attendance is progressing wonderfully, and our church attendance is good both in the morning and evening services. We thank God for a man who will preach uplifting sermons for the Christians as well as sound warnings to the sinners. He points out ways in which we, as Christians, are failing to do our part, and he helps us to be better servants of the Lord.

Our prayer meetings, every Wednesday night, are very inspiring, and we feel the presence of the Spirit of God. We are thankful for good old time shouting Christians that are not ashamed to testify for our Savior.

Last month, we enjoyed second Sunday singing in our church. Last Friday (Feb. 5th), the First Mission Association met here for their rally. The business session was in the morning, and inspiring messages were delivered in the afternoon by Bro.

Lane and Sister Hattie Newman. Both dinner and supper were served at the church by the mission ladies.

Short messages were given at the night service by Brothers Lane, Clint Fincher, Charlie Jones, Lonnie Hall, Herod Florence, Worley Hillard, Tolbert, and Sisters Hattie Newman, Sadie Fincher, Charlie Dressler, and Faye Bookout. Special numbers in songs were given during the evening by quartets from Silver City and Drumright.

The quarterly meeting will be at Drumright on February 24th to 26th. A large number in attendance is expected.

May our prayers be that God will bless us as a nation and give us peace and liberty.

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First Oklahoma Association League Rally

We, of the First Oklahoma Association of Free Will Baptists, are very proud of our ever growing League work. Of course, we have felt the dint of the war in the absence of so many of our boys, yet we can tell we are still growing in numbers as well as in interest. For this, we want to thank the older people of the church. Their interest, guidance, and faith in us young people spurs us forward to higher goals of Christian work.

January 31st, we held our first rally of this year at the Central Avenue Church at Oklahoma City. Considering gas rationing and the tire shortage, there was an exceptionally large attendance. Representatives were present from Earlsboro, Tecumseh, Pleasant Hill, and Roff.

Brother Evert Brown brought an introductory message on "Why Sit We Here Until We Die," which seemed to be very appropriate in this day of great need for wide awake and full-armourer Christian workers.

Lunch was served by the Oklahoma City church.

The following officers were elected:

President Brother Evert Brown
Vice President Bro. Clyde Argo
Recording Secretary Mrs. Clyde Argo
Corr. Secretary Sister Marie Burnsed
Treasurer Sister June McClain
Sponsor Rev. John H. West

Our next rally will be held on May 30th

at the Tecumseh Church. Brother Doss is to bring the introductory message. We are looking forward to that time.

Marie Burnsed, Corresponding Sec.

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**Sandy City Woman's Auxiliary
Catlettsburg, Kentucky**

The Woman's Auxiliary at Sandy City was organized by Mrs Lizzie McAdams in October, 1941. We have enjoyed our work and feel that it has been a blessing to us as well as to others. Our efforts have been feeble, but we thank God that He has used them to His glory. We have had monthly services at the County Home and the County Jail, and prayer meetings in the homes of the sick. From these services, there has been three conversions. These monthly meetings have been a blessing to all. We are looking forward to a greater plane in the field of service. We are giving a partial report of the work done in the last fifteen months:

Home Missions	\$45.48
Foreign Missions	8.48
Tennessee Orphanage	5.00
Kentucky Orphanage	27.13
Education	4.08
Ministerial Relief	28.36
National Convention Dues	11.00
Unified Program Fund	15.00
Sandy City Church Bldg. Fund ..	535.23
Superannuation	9.08
Benevolence	21.45
Food and Clothing to Needy	104.18

Total \$814.47

We are new in the work, and have much to learn, but we trust that this will be a better year and more souls will be saved. Our money has come through tithes and offerings. We earnestly covet your prayers in our behalf. Mrs. Ernest Griffith, Pres.

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**Free Will Baptist Church
Wewoka, Oklahoma**

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

We are reporting again after an absence of a few months. I was elected as reporter to the Gem from our church, and, from now on we are going to try to report to you every month.

Our Sunday School and church attendance

is growing, despite the fact that our pastor had to be absent a great deal during his illness; however, he is greatly improved now and is able to be back in the church to conduct services.

The Lord is still blessing our church in a wonderful way. One soul was brought to God last Sunday morning after Rev. Rogers brought the message, "Hindered Prayers".

Our pastor has just returned from the quarterly meeting held at Drumright. He reported it to be one of the best we have had. The next quarterly meeting will be held at the Old Ministers Home and Camp Ground Site. Another new dormitory has recently been added there for the girls at Youth Camp; an orchard has also been added. The new dormitory was added because of the growth of the girls attendance at last year's camp.

Remember our church when you pray.

Miss Wanda Rogers, Reporter.

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**Free Will Baptist Church
The Alka, Kentucky**

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

I wish to report our big revival held at the Free Will Baptist Church at The Alka, Kentucky. The meeting began on January 10th and was a revival, indeed, from the beginning. The good Lord came in mighty power. Elder Fillmore Gambel and Elder Don Fraley, both of The Alka, and Brother Bert Webb from Lawrence County, Kentucky assisted in the meeting. The Gospel was preached with Holy Ghost power, and what conviction resulted! Men and women came weeping and praying and found the Lord precious while the good people of God were continually praising His great name. It was a real Pentecost, they were not drunk, but filled with the Spirit. There were 28 who were buried with Christ in baptism, with more to follow soon. There were 69 saved in this glorious meeting. People came from a distance to hear the Word of God preached in its purity. We have a few God-called preachers whom God is rewarding with an ingathering of souls. The church at The Alka is really on the mountain top. May God continue to bless in His wonderful way.

Elder, Millard Van Hoose, Pastor

Tom's Creek Free Will Baptist Church Nippa, Kentucky

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

I wish to let all the Gem readers know what a few of us are doing in this part of the world. After our big revival closed at The Alka Church, we just moved over to Toms Creek Free Will Baptist Church with Elder Fillmore Gambel, Elder Don Fraley and Bert Webb. This meeting began Jan. 27th. What a glorious beginning, with two saved the first night. The people praised the Lord from the beginning. How good it is for brethren to dwell together in unity, when everybody is being led by the Spirit. We sure have some humble preachers that God can use, and what power the Spirit witnesses through them. Many people came a great distance to hear the Gospel that can save them from their sins. There has been 68 saved to date, 35 have received baptism with more to follow, and there were 45 additions to the church. The whole church is built up in the faith, and the Lord is saving daily such as will be saved. We had some church members who didn't like it when some backsliders were reclaimed. They put me in mind of the elder brother when the prodigal son came home. Let them return to the Lord, it would be a great help if a lot more would come back home. We have a lot of requests for revivals, but we cannot tell just when we will get around to them. May the Lord bless all the Gem readers.

Elder Millard Van Hoose, Pastor.

The "Mission Band" of Northsat Mo.

At present, I am visiting among the churches in the Northeast Missouri Association. One of my main objectives in coming here was to attend the "Get-Together" of "OUR" Mission Band. Last September, John W. and Ida Adkins and I formed a mission band, and appealed to Rev Winford Davis and Rev. T. H. Willey for a boy to preach the gospel in Cuba for us. Through their kindness, we were assigned Rev. Luis Diaz, whom we received into our lives as our adopted son—in the ministry. Since organizing our band, Sister Isabell Buchanan and Sister Jessie Eggert have requested admittance into our band—bringing with them their tithe money.

During the business session, Feb. 27th, we voted to increase our assistance to Brother Diaz five dollars a month because he has married since we began our support. The one regret of our meeting was that Brother and Sister Diaz could not be present. How I desired that Brother and Sister Diaz could have witnessed the joy that was brother and Sister Adkin's as we discussed the matters concerning the life of our adopted children in Cuba. I say our adopted "children" for we have taken Sister Diaz into our lives as our adopted daughter.

I have visited two churches and two mission bands since coming here, and find them adopting plans for regular offerings for the different auxiliaries of the church. This is a mission tour, and I am not forgetting the Gem, thus inclosed the list of subscribers. Rev. C. E. Mann
Kansas City, Missouri, R3

OBITUARIES

DAVIS—The golden gates again swung open on the morning of Feb., 1, 1943, when the soul of our beloved sister in Christ, Katie Davis, soared away to the God who gave it, there to await the roll call of the saints on that bright eternal morning.

Sister Kate, as we all called her, became a Christian, and united with the Free Will Baptist church at Davis, N. C., in her early

girlhood, and was always faithful to her church, her home and community. Her faithful service and Christian influence are worthy of our deepest gratitude.

If she could admonish her sorrowing friends and loved ones left behind, she would, no doubt, say, "Be ye also ready, th's home is worth more than all your earthly realm."

She will be greatly missed by the many friends who loved her, and especially her Sunday School Class, for her pew was never empty when she was able to attend.

She leaves to mourn for her, one son, Corbit, with whom she was making her home: her husband, Kilby Davis, having preceded her to the grave three years before. She also leaves an aged mother, Mrs. Louisa J. Davis; two sisters, Mrs. Melissa Willis and Mrs. Mittie Davis; three brothers, Herbert, Jerome and Denard Davis, two grandchildren together with a host of relatives and friends.

Her going brings us much pain, but we weep not as those who have no hope, for we know that when our earthly house is crumbled and decayed, we have a house not made with hands eternal in heaven where there will be no more partings or sad farewells, but all will be joy and gladness for ever more.

Funeral services were conducted at the Free Will Baptist Church by Rev. M. E. Tyson of Stantenburg, assisted by Rev. W. B. Sprinkle, pastor of the local Baptist Church. The remains were taken to the cemetery and placed beneath a mound of beautiful flowers, a tribute of her many friends, there to await the coming of the blessed Son of God. To her loved ones left behind, may we impart this word of consolation: We know that to live is Christ and to die is gain, and we have the blessed assurance that she has at last reached that land where all tears are wiped away.

No tears in Heaven, no sorrows given,
All will be glory in that land.
There'll be no sadness, all will be gladness
When we shall join that happy band.

Written by a friend,
Mrs. Maggie Willis
Davis, N. C.

CURRY—Mrs. Mary Emma Curry passed away in Picher, Oklahoma. She was 82 years old, wife of Rev. T. E. L. Curry who is moderator of Tri-State 5th Sunday Free Will Baptist association. Sister Curry had been a resident of Picher 16 years and was a member of South Picher Free Will Baptist Church, located at 700 College St., Picher, Oklahoma. She is survived by her husband, two daughters, three brothers, three sisters,

and a host of friends.

Services were conducted by Rev. W. A. Evans, First Baptist pastor, and Rev. Lester Easterly of Miami.

Our loss is heavens gain for "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours: and their works do follow them."

In memory of our dear beloved husband and father, Claud V. Lincoln, who passed away one year ago, March 12th, at Esther, Missouri.

IN MEMORIAM

One year ago today you left us,
And our hearts are filled with pain.
We long for you right here at home,
But we know we shall meet again.
You're home in the beautiful hills of God,
In the valley of rest so fair.
Some day when our task is done,
With joy we will find you there.
Thank God for the faith that teaches,
When the struggle of life is o'er,
We shall meet our own dear loved ones
And know them all once more.
What matter though life be weary
And we tread its path alone,
If when the journey is ended,
In Heaven we shall know our own.
Sadly missed by
wife and children

— 30 —

Help Me Thy Will To Do T. H. Newsome, Springtown, Texas

Help me, Dear Lord, Thy will to do
Each day and every hour.
Keep me, Dear Lord, real close to you,
Sustain me by Thy power.
I cannot trust in human strength,
The flesh is weak and frail;
But, when I place my trust in Thee,
I know I shall prevail.
I am beset on every side
By sin's seductive call;
But through Thy grace, whate'er betide,
I'll over-come it all.
Help me then, Lord, to dedicate
My powers all to Thee.
My life I wholly consecrate
Forever Thine to be.