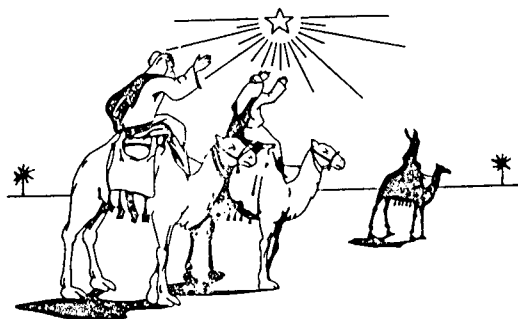


# The Free Will Baptist Gem

ORGAN OF THE MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Monett, Missouri, December, 1945 Volume 16

Number 12



## Come and Worship

"Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth!  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and Worship—  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing;  
Yonder shines the infant light:  
Come and Worship—  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Sages, leave your contemplations,—  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations;  
Ye have seen his natal star:  
Come and Worship—  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Sinner, wrung with true repentance,  
Doom'd for guilt to endless pains,  
Justice now revokes the sentence,—  
Mercy calls you,—break your chains:  
Come and Worship—  
Worship Christ, the new-born King."

—Selected

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# GOSPEL SERMONS



## The Birth of Jesus

Matthew 1:18; Luke 2:1-20

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins.

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God, with us.

Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife;

And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that

she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying

and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

No wonder the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God. This was the child that was promised when man had sinned and God said to the serpent "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The Shiloh that Jacob was looking for when he blessed his sons and said to Judah, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."

The people had looked forward to the Redeemer. Isaiah told how he was to be born. Isa. 7:14. Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel. Isa. 9:6, For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

## Where is the Christ of Bethlehem

*Rev. K. V. Shutes, Cordova, Alabama*

I Peter 3:22

Have you wondered where the Christ is who caused so much excitement in Bethlehem in the long ago? I am sure that every sinner and probably some professions of religion have wondered where the Christ is, who caused angels to come from Heaven and Shepherds to come from the hills and wise men to journey from afar to see the one who was to be King of the Jews.

Let us answer this all important question from the Bible and see where he really is.

I. He Is Gone Into Heaven we read in Psalm 68:18. "Thou hast ascended on high, thou has led Captivity Captive, thou hast received gifts for men." We know that to ascend is to go up. We know according to His book he is really living on high.

We also read in Mark 16:1 "So then, after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into Heaven and sat on the right hand of God." This scripture tells of the exact location of Jesus. He was received into Heaven, not just near it. And is seated at the Fathers right hand. Also we find in Luke 24:51 "And it came to pass while he blessed them, he was parted from them and carried up in-

to Heaven." You remember how Enoch and Elijah were parted and carried away. Well this Jesus had proved himself master of the Devil, sea, dead and now he shows that he has power over gravity; So as they gaze into the Heaven he finally goes out of sight, and "Will come again in like manner as ye have seen him go into the Heaven."

Luke gives a glorious picture in Acts 1:9 "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight." When he comes after his church, we will be caught up in the clouds to meet Him in the air. You talk of going in a moon rocket 3600 miles an hour, and riding a ray of light but brother, we will travel just as fast as the man who made the ray of light. You talk of stratosphere flights, but we will take one.

Listen at Paul tell you where Christ is: Heb. 9:24 "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are a figure of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." Glory! Jesus is now at the right hand of the Father making intercession for my sins and yours.

II. So then you see Him in the second place at the right hand of God. Luke 22:

69 "Hereafter shall you see the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God."

When Stephen was being stoned to death he saw Jesus there; when Paul was caught into the 3rd. heaven, he saw Him there. When John on the lonely Isle of Patmas, saw Him, he saw Him at the right hand of the Father. Paul writes to the Ephesian 1:20 "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his right hand in the heavenly places." Also in Phil. 2:9 "Wherefore God hath highly exalted him and given him a name which is above every name." V. 10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth."

III. Also He is where He has the pre-eminence. John gives us one of these pictures John 3:31 "He that cometh from above is above all. He that is of the earth is earthly and speaketh of the earth, He that cometh from heaven is above all! Paul Rom. 14:9 "For to this end Christ both died and rose and revived that He might be Lord of the dead and living."

Heb. 1:4 "Being made so much better than the angels as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name."

Heb. 3:3 "For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, in as much as he who hath builded the house is worthy of more glory than the house."

He will one day have the reins of Government and be honored on earth. When He was here before He was despised and rejected. They spit on Him, whipped Him, spiked Him to a tree, but one day He will be conquering King.

Listen to the prophets tell you about the Christ. Isa. 9:6-7 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders and his name shall be called wonderful, counsellor, the mighty God,

The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and upon His kingdom, to order it and to establish it with judgement and with justice, from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of host will perform this." He who was treated so cruel while here and who is now appearing in the presence of the Father for us is one day coming as the conquering King. He will have the reins of government in His hand. And if we study these two verses carefully, you will see the zeal of the Lord is going to perform it. The meek are just as sure to inherit the earth as the Bible is true.

Zec. 9:10 "His dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the river even unto the ends of the earth."

It doesn't matter who the rulers are, when Jesus comes, His kingdom will cover the globe and the knowledge of the glory of the Lord shall cover the earth as the water that cover the sea.

Zec. 14:9 "And the Lord shall be king over all the earth."

Dan. 7:14 "His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

When He comes back with the Church and cast the Devil in Hell and wins the battle of Armageddon, the saints will have a glorious time.

Read Isaiah, chapters 11-35-61-65. These scriptures will flood your soul when you find out what the Lord has in store for His children. Also Zechariah, chapters 9-10-14.

I am glad we know what direction Jesus went from and what direction to look for Him. So let us do what Paul said in Heb. 9:28 "Unto them that look for Him, shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

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## HARK! The Herald Angels Sing!

By Henry F. Milans O. F.

---

So many wondrous gifts have come to us through the birth of Mary's lowly manger-Baby at Bethlehem that it is little wonder the finite mind becomes ba-

wildered when we try to comprehend them.

Much has come of Jesus' birth to make life beautiful. We have inherited from Him a new and divine way of life that means happiness and peace to all who will walk uprightly.

There is the blessedness of His acceptance and the assurance of His pardon and love, even for those who fail Him because of sinful weaknesses. We have churches, free schools, colleges of learning and missions to the darkest corners of the earth. He has taught us to share with the unenlightened heathen the blessings of civilization, education, free intercourse and understanding, to the end that all the creatures of God shall be equal in opportunity as we are all equal in His sight. This is God's plan, and in His good time it will be brought to pass. Mary's Babe at Bethlehem was the genesis of this plan.

He came to save us all!

We could go on almost without end enumerating the blessings that have come to the world through the birth of Jesus, for they are eternal. His spirit has filled us with generous impulses; we want others to be happy because we have found happiness in Him. Through the Bethlehem Babe we have the blessed certainty that our peace is God's constant concern. The whole world revolves around this Babe, born in a lowly stable. He is the miracle of all ages—God, manifested in the flesh, that the beauty of this sinless God-man may be reflected to others by our likeness unto Him.

At the time of this momentous event in Bethlehem, only Mary knew of its true significance. Through an angel, God told her that she was to be the mother of the promised Messiah, for whose coming all Israel was looking and longing and praying. But it is easy to doubt that even she could foresee its full scope.

Mary lived in such a little world; she was such a lowly maid. The minds of the people of Israel were centered solely upon the coming of a deliverer. They were bondslaves, and they thought of the coming Messiah only as one who was to liberate them from their masters—not to free them from their transgressions. They wanted only power to conquer Caesar Augustus; not wisdom to conquer themselves.

Israel yearned to rule instead of being

ruled. It could not understand Jesus when He said: "I have come that ye might have life and have it more abundantly." The chief concern of its leaders was the political issue: who was to be first in the new kingdom? Nor was it any part of Israel's idea that the Messiah should include the Gentiles in any of His plans.

How, then, could the mind of Mary, the lowly Hebrew maid, embrace the all-inclusive plan of world salvation that was the intent of God for the Babe born in a stable?

Mary's world was such a drab world, such a very somber world. Because the minds of Israel's people were fixed wholly upon their hated enemies and their captivity, there was no room for gladness in Israel's heart—no music in Israel's soul. Many of her Psalms, chanted by the priests were imprecations of hate, calling upon God to destroy her oppressors. The congregations in the temple sat silently in sackcloth and ashes.

Then, suddenly one night, the angel of the Lord appeared to some shepherds out on the hills; the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and the angel said:

*"Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all peoples. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly host, praising God, and sayings, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' "*

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Amid a joy that the world had never known, Jesus was born, and out of that first celestial anthem came the grand hymns of the Church, without which our worship and, indeed, our very spiritual life, would be dull, inert and entirely without inspiration; for they have set all peoples the world around singing at every Christmas time:

*Joy to the world,  
The Saviour reigns!*

Two billion Christians give expression to their love for Jesus in singing hymns that at every Christian assembling lift our adoring souls into the very presence of God and of His Son. Their beautiful poetry and uplifting harmony will live until Jesus comes again.

We sing our joy; all the people rejoice greatly; congregations of the righteous, with one glad voice, raise their souls to the Most High in these inspiring hymns that had their birth in the hearts of men when Jesus came. The world found its singing voice in the anthems of Heaven which the angels sang at His birth. We've been singing of Him until this day. We'll be singing of Him when He comes again to reign triumphantly forever and ever.

I wish that every Christian could stand as I once stood, with a host of twenty thousand Christian people, while a choir of five hundred voices sang the "Hallelujah Chorus." We seemed to be in the very presence of God, with our arms up-

stretched in adoration, as the last grand Hallelujah split the very Heavens open to let us see Him in glorious majesty upon the Throne.

*The Kingdom of this world  
Is become the Kingdom of our Lord  
And of His Christ; and  
He shall reign forever and ever  
King of Kings and Lord of Lords  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

Contrast this paean of praise with that other humble hymn of confession, as it came to me, in the darkest hour of a life that seemed to be utterly beyond any restoration by God or man, and burned its way into my blackened soul:

*The mistakes of my life are many,  
And my spirit is sick with sin;  
But I come as He has bidden,  
And my Saviour will let me in.*

It was the Babe of Bethlehem who inspired both of these—the one a grand hymn of exaltation by His followers; the other a plaintive plea for His mercy.

I think that the ear of the Jesus I know will always catch first the sobbing of the plea for forgiveness and mercy.

We are glad Christians because we are singing Christians—glad for our hymns that were born with Christ at Bethlehem.

*Shine on, O Star of Bethlehem,  
Till darkness disappears!  
Ring out, O Bells of Bethlehem,  
The joys through all the years,*

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## Crisis, Christmas and a CHILD

*By Roy L. Smith*

---

It was a terrible peace—a peace enforced by crosses, spears and spies that prevailed throughout the world on that starlit night when the shepherds of Bethlehem listened to the chorusing angels as they announced the birth of a Saviour.

Caesar Augustus—stern, callous, determined, suspicious and ruthless—sat upon the throne in Rome, the complete master of the world. True, the world was quiet; at least outwardly so. Revolt flared no-

where, and the burnished shields of the marching legions were seldom stained with blood, except in some abortive riot when ruffians went adventuring.

The smooth military roads which provided for swift transfer of legions from one section of the empire to another, and the cleverly organized intelligence service which enabled the emperor to keep his finger on affairs even in the remote provinces, provided a threat so dire that no

man, save the most desperate, ever dared invite the terrible wrath of the government.

The Roman peace—had brought large benefits to the world, and shrewd business men were quick to recognize its advantages. Caravans of merchandise might travel all the way from Damascus to Rome, or from Alexandria to Athens or Corinth, in perfect safety. Caesar's police saw to that. Bandits and thieves lived a difficult life, except along the byways of the empire. Of course, the cost of transporting merchandise was excessive, and customs were demanded every hundred miles or so, but merchants who enjoyed special favors at the hands of their local governors or procurators were able to net a neat profit, for merchants will find a way.

Caesar's government was, actually, an alliance of big business men organized for mutual protection and for the perpetuation of their class. The plan was very simple.

In every province there were those who because of wealth or position, constituted the ruling class. But rulers who charge all the traffic will bear are always in need of the protection of an army and police force, and arms have always been expensive. This is where Caesar came in. He provided the military equipment with which to keep the world in order, and the local capitalists, ruling classes, money lenders and big-wigs paid for their protection in taxes levied upon the poor against whom they sought protection. Thus the "burden" of government was divided, with Rome maintaining the army, and the local lords paying the bills out of their rents, profits, usury and spoils.

Once we dig down under the polite language with which Luke tells the story, we come upon the sinister aspects of the situation. The decree of which he speaks (Luke 2:1) refers very frankly to the subject of taxes, but the actual facts and conditions were so well known to his first readers that it was unnecessary for him to explain them in detail. To the modern reader the account seems to tell of a very simple matter—Joseph had to go down to Bethlehem to pay his taxes. As a matter of fact, it was a far more complicated proposition. By virtue of the fact that Herod the Great had rendered a tremen-

dous service to Caesar Augustus in the early years of his reign, the Jews of Judea had been granted certain valuable favors. Any Jew who could prove that he belonged to a Judean family found it of very real advantage to do so.

Now the only place in the world where Joseph could prove his citizenship was in Bethlehem. There the family records were kept, and there he was able to trace his ancestry and prove that he was of the house and lineage of David. This made the journey to the little village necessary.

But establishing the fact of citizenship, and being enrolled was not altogether a simple matter. In addition to proving his identity, Joseph was under the necessity of furnishing to the Roman officers a complete inventory of all his property, including the tools of his carpenter shop back in Nazareth, and any stock of materials he might have on hand. Upon this inventory his class as a tax-payer was judged, and to make doubly sure, a duplicate copy of the inventory was furnished to the publican (tax-gatherer) in Nazareth. If that officer, in calling upon Joseph, discovered any real discrepancy between his inventory and the facts, the publican was at liberty to confiscate the excess property with liberal interest for his trouble.

The whole purpose of Caesar's decree was to make an economic invoice of the whole world, in order to determine how

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much the empire might hope to be able to squeeze out of the people. Back of every publican stood a squad of Caesar's soldiers with their terrible short swords and their brutal hearts, and back of every squad stood many legions.

The first contact that the Babe of Bethlehem had with the world into which He was born was with the tax machinery of Rome. His mother was driven to a stable and His own first cradle was a manger because of the cupidity of Caesar.

In the meantime the empire was a vast system of interlocking economic interests resting upon a quivering base of slavery. It was the slaves that furnished the labor for the world. The empire made war deliberately and avowedly for the purpose of recruiting workers for the vast industrial system by which Rome lived. Immediately following every military victory auctions were held and the captured armies were sold to the merchants or toil-ers. On one occasion as many as thirty thousand men were sold to a single buyer, from an auction block that was set up on the battlefield before the blood was dry upon the soil.

This system of militarism and slavery meant that some of the best educated, some of the most skillful, and some of the most intelligent men in the world were slaves. Their one crime consisted of fact that they had been on the losing side.

Again and again it happened that a highborn lad, captured in some raid, became a slave-boy in the home of some aristocrat. He might be educated, trained and disciplined for important service inside the household. In fact, many of the physicians of the time were youths had been so trained, and there are those who have suggested that Luke, the evangelist, was such a one, and that the "most noble Theophilus," to whom the Gospel and the Acts are addressed, was his master. That, of course, is no more than conjecture, but it well might have been the case, for the social conditions of the times could easily have made it possible.

At one time, so it is recorded, a proposal was made in the Roman Senate that every slave in the empire should be branded with the letter "S" on the forehead. Then it was discovered that three out of every five adult males in the city

of Rome were slaves, and the freemen became alarmed lest the slaves might discover their strength and overthrow the government and the existing system.

Caesar Augustus took great pride in the belief that he was a generous ruler. His grants of rights and powers to the people were heralded as vast benefactions. But he would never have admitted that any man had any rights except those he granted. The idea that any man was born with rights, by the fact of his creation, did not seem ever to have entered any Roman head.

According to Roman political philosophy, whoever sat upon the throne became the arbiter, of every man's destiny. It was only a short, quick step from that position to the next, and very terrible one—the divinity of the emperor. In Augustus' day there were those who sought to flatter the emperor by suggesting that he was a god, and as such entitled to divine honors. But he was far too practical and realistic an individual to be deceived by such blandishments, and consequently he brushed aside the idea rather easily. But less than a hundred years later Christians were being thrown to the lions because they would not swear by Augustus' successor, and pray to him as a god.

When the heralding hosts drifted down from the skies over the heads of the Bethlehem shepherds, and began their anthems of joy, there was not one man in all the countryside who dared call his soul his own. All he had, all he was, and all he might ever hope to be were at the mercy of Caesar. The picture we usually get of the adoring shepherds, and the sweet face of the young mother, with Joseph in the shadows, is an idyllic view of a very terrible world.

According to all the laws of the empire, the little Child who lay so helplessly upon the arm of the young mother had come into the world without one right, except those conferred upon Him by Caesar Augustus. We speak very glibly of our rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." But Joseph and Mary knew of no such rights that their Little One might ever enjoy, except by Caesar's largess.

Yet, in spite of all the terrible might and power of the Roman empire, the birth of that Babe in Bethlehem that first Christmas night spelled the doom of the

entire Roman system.

There is an amazing miracle in this. A Baby upset the world which Caesar and his legions held together with such awful power.

It was not that the Little One ever raised a sword. In fact, on the last night of His life He said to one of His friends who was ready to strike in His defense, "Put up thy sword." But during those years, as a preacher to the plain people, He let loose some ideas which brought Rome down in a mass of rubble.

From the very night that His infant cry was first heard coming from the manger the rights of every new-born babe have had a new status.

In Matthew's Gospel, in connection with the story of the visit of the Wise Men, it is said that the Easterners were warned that they should not report their discovery to Herod, so "they went home another way." The experience of the Wise Men is not peculiar. All the world has gone down along another way since that night when the angels sang.

Force, tyranny, materialism, might and power had gone as far as they were able to go. They reached their supremacy in Caesar, and there was nothing beyond.

On every hand there was a feeling that life had reached a crisis. Roman legions had established quiet over the earth; money and property were comparatively safe. One mighty empire ruled the world and one system of law operated everywhere throughout the earth. One language was official; one coinage was everywhere accepted, but there was no unity of faith. Indeed, there was no faith. Men everywhere

were groping.

So low had the religions of the earth fallen that the Greek gods were being burlesqued on the stages of the theaters of Athens, Corinth and Ephesus. No one in Rome ever thought of turning to the priests of religion for solace in sorrow, or for strength in the hour of need.

And the coming of the Child was in the midst of such a crisis.

In a world of insecurity here, at last, was something secure—in a manger!

In a world that admitted no rights except those an emperor bestowed, there was a Babe, destined to establish rights for every man—rights which no government or dictator might take away.

In a world where every man's property, and even his life, was at the mercy of a tyrant's whim, there was a new-born Infant upon whose little pink shoulders there rested the new government of men predicted by the prophets.

From the manger there began to flow influences that turned the tide of history rights which are, today, the dearest possessions of the human race.

To that stable, and that manger, we turn again at this Christmas season to offer our thanks for the emancipation that has come to the race through the gentle and powerful words that fell from those lips as the Babe, become a Man, preached by the shores of Galilee and from the mountainsides.

Let no crisis dismay us! Our faith was born in a crisis; our faith was born for a crisis. Christmas, the Child, and a crisis seem to go together.

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## The Christ of Bethlehem

*Rev. L. P. Cassel, Des Moines, Iowa*

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No other single event the whole year arouses so much enthusiasm among all classes of people, as does the day when God came into the world at Bethlehem in the person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. All other special events pale into utter insignificance when compared with this one.

For some four thousand years the Old Testament faintly contemplated the coming of the Messiah; now for some two thousand years we have celebrated the fact that He was born in Bethlehem. Who recalls the birthday of the great men of the earth, such as Alexander, Napoleon or Nero? Not the average person; a few tea-

chers of history may remember such dates, but everyone who has heard the story of Jesus being born in Bethlehem as recorded in Luke or the visit of the wise men to Bethlehem, to do homage to the new born king as recorded in Matthew, celebrates this annual occasion; even those who may have no time for the Bible or the Christ revealed therein, do Him honor with every calendar that hangs upon their walls, or the one they carry in their pocket or in their purse. This is not all, every time you write a letter or sign a legal document of any kind, you honor the birth of the Christ Child.

What makes this event so important in human history? Certainly it is more than lies upon the surface; by the shepherds finding the babe in Bethlehem's manger or the wise men of the east bringing their gifts and doing homage to the new born king some years later. Indeed, many people have missed the power that makes this story what it is because they have not taken into account what is back of it or what follows it as logically as night follows day.

The thought of the writer is to have you see four of the many things that make this one of the greatest stories of the ages, that thereby your soul may be blessed as his has been blessed, as well as the congregation who heard these truths in sermon form.

#### HIS PRE-EXISTENCE

Jesus Christ lived in Heaven before the world was created. The Apostle John opens his Gospel thus: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God....all things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made." In Colossians 1:16 we read: "For by Him all things created, that are in Heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible." The apostle John is the only one that begins his Gospel with the life of Jesus in Heaven. For other references to this fact we must go to the old testament and the new testament epistles. He was the Joy of Heaven, for in Proverbs 8:30 we read: "I was daily His delight." Again in Hebrews 1:6, "Let all the angels of God worship Him." He was in existence long before Isaiah wrote of Him some 700 years before He was born

in Bethlehem. "He saw His glory and spake of Him (John 12:41). When the Jews boasted of Abraham as their ancestor, Jesus replied: "Before Abraham was, I am." More than seven times in the Gospel of John, does Jesus claim to be the "I Am." You will recall when Moses was commissioned by God to go to Israel, but said: "Who shall I say sent me?" Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." (Exodus 3:13-14). You will recall the Jews accused Jesus of blasphemy because he claimed to be God and forgave sins. He was God. He was with the Father and was active in creation; like Melchisedek. "having neither beginning of days or end of life"; thus He was eternal—God the Son, and existed from eternity before He became a Babe in Bethlehem. Why talk about the Christ of Bethlehem without recognizing this fact? viz.: HIS PRE-EXISTENCE!

#### HIS VIRGIN BIRTH

Jesus Christ came into the world in a way that no man ever came into the world before. He was not the son of Joseph, but the Son of God. Adam, the first man was God's creature by a creative act, but Jesus Christ was God's Son by being conceived of the Holy Ghost. This, however, does not detract from the fact that He was one of the Holy Trinity in which each person is co-eternal and un-created. A miracle, most assuredly, without which the birth in Bethlehem's stable would be meaningless and our Bible would be without authority.

Man had nothing whatever to do with the Babe of Bethlehem coming into the world. It is interesting how the Scriptures state this truth, for in Genesis 3:15 we read "the seed of the woman" (not of man and woman) in Isaiah 7:14: "a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son." In Jeremiah 31:22 "the Lord hath created a new thing in the earth, a woman shall encompass a man."

Again in Galatians 4:4, "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son made of a woman"; also Galatians 3:16: "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made; he saith not to seeds as of many; but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ." Kindly note the emphasis is upon the miracle:

"The seed of the woman; a virgin born child; a new thing in the earth." For a married woman to conceive and bear a son was no "sign"; neither was such an event "a new thing in the earth." Wherein is the reply to this mystery—this miracle recorded in the Gospel of Luke 1:35? It is in the message of the angel to Mary! "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the highest shall overshadow thee, therefore that Holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called: "the Son of God." Matthew 1:23, "Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" God in the midst of us. Thus Matthew and Luke give us the interpretation of the passage in Genesis, as well as the prophecies in Isaiah and Jeremiah.

In Eden sin came into the race thru the disobedience of Eve, but Paul in his epistles, not only shows thereby all were made sinners, but that the blame for this sin is attributed to Adam and not Eve, because he is the head of the race; therefore no man as a member of this fallen race could have any part in providing a Saviour from sin. Only God could do that which he did in the perfect and spotless life of His Son, Jesus Christ. You may be familiar with the art of grafting fruit trees; into the limb of a poor or scrub tree may be grafted a twig from a good fruit tree; the result is that the fruit produced does not take after the poor or worthless tree but after the good fruit that has been grafted in. Though Mary was a member of a sinful and fallen race, yet her son being conceived by a Divine act, means that we have Emmanuel—God with us. Why talk about the Christ of Bethlehem without recognizing this fact? viz.: HIS VIRGIN BIRTH.

#### HIS INCARNATION

Jesus existed before He was born in Bethlehem. No other person ever came into the world by their own choice, or chose their own mother, or the town in which they were to be born, or the village in which they were to grow up; but Jesus even chose the time and circumstances, under which He was to be born. It has been suggested by Bible students that the

Lord visited this earth some thirty times before He became the Babe of Bethlehem: for instance He talked with Adam, Enoch, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua and Gideon, besides many others; his appearance to Old Testament saints made them strong in their testimony to God. But it remained for the Apostle John in His Gospel and Paul in His epistles, to give us an insight into the mystery of His incarnation. John says: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; and we beheld His glory, a glory as of the only begotten from the Father. (R. V.) John 1:14-15. Jesus said: "I proceeded forth and came from God." (John 8:42). How striking! "The Word became." "I proceeded forth." This indicates a condition in which Jesus lived before His earthly appearance. "I came from God." "I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world." Herein we see the voluntary act of our Lord in His incarnation.

In Phillippians 2, Paul in speaking of Jesus Christ said: "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery (or a thing to be grasped after), to be equal with God," rather, His goal was to make Himself of no reputation, "and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." The reason for this is indicated in the epistle to the Hebrews. "Forasmuch as the children were partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself, likewise took part of the same." Or again, He took not upon Him the nature of angels, but the seed of Abraham. Thus Christ was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth as a child, and at the age of 30 years, began His public ministry in His home town; said ministry covering about three and one-half years. If you want to understand God, then study the life of Jesus as He ministered in the midst of men. As someone has reverently said: "When God spoke to us in Christ, He lost His speech, because there is nothing more to be said." Why talk about the Christ of Bethlehem without recognizing this fact? viz.: HIS INCARNATION.

#### HIS SACRIFICE

To talk about the Birth of Christ in Bethlehem without the cross of Christ is meaningless. Other men were born to live

but Jesus Christ was born not only to live but to die; to offer Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. Without this fact of His death, we would have no redemption from sin and the Bible would be no more than any other book. The apostle John said: "Ye know that He was manifest to take away our sins." In Hebrews we read: "Without the shedding of Blood, there is no remission." Jesus said: "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which is lost." Again, "the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." "I am come, not to judge the world, but to save the world." "I am come that they might have life." "The bread of God is He who cometh down from Heaven, that He may give life to the world." This self-giving is suggested in the passage already referred to in Philippians 2, where Jesus is referred to as descending from being equal with God, to take upon Himself the form of a servant, and that for a purpose; "and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Herein you have the climactic statement of the purpose of the virgin birth, the incarnation and His sacrifice upon the cross.

Now a fact that is often overlooked is this: that man could not of himself produce a perfect life that would become a perfect sacrifice for the sins of the race, because only God could do that, which he did thru Christ, the virgin born one. He had no sin in Him, but our sins were laid upon Him: "He became sin for us"; thus the author of our salvation was not of human, but of Divine origin. God taught Israel to have two animals to take care of their sins; the one was slain and its blood sprinkled upon the altar to make a covering for their sins. The other was the scape goat. The sins of the people were confessed upon its head and He was sent far into the wilderness, there to be lost in utter oblivion. How true is the testimony of the psalmist: "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us." Or as John said: "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world," or beareth away the sins of the world, and thus the Jews understood perfectly that Jesus was their Saviour who took away their sins. Why talk about the Christ of Bethlehem without recognizing this fact, viz: His sacrifice?



## Our Bible School



Rev. J. R. Davidson, Business Manager, Free Will Baptist Bible College

The picture is a likeness of the building on the last piece of ground purchased by the Board of Trustees of the Free Will Baptist Bible College for use in expanding the school's program. The ground on which the building stands is a very beautiful corner lot 100' x 200' in size. The building from front to back extends 80' with 54' breadth. In addition to the spacious living room on the first floor, there is a dining room, 20' x 24'; front room, 20' x 24' and the kitchen, 18' x 24', with a nice hall. The upstairs affords four large rooms approximately 20' square, with a nice hall and one small apartment. The floor space will make convenience

for two nice class rooms, library, and assembly hall with housing accommodations for male students on the second floor. Out-buildings consist of a servants' cottage and a large double garage building which is 20' x 20'. The heating system is what is known as "hot air" system. spacious living room which measures 12'

The picture is an interior view of the x 52' which will readily make accommodations for a nice assembly hall.

This property, a stucco building, was recently purchased for \$10,000 on a cash basis and the deed, guarantee of title, and so forth are filed in the safe in the college office. It will be necessary to spend



some extra money on repairs, improvement, and arrangement for use by the college, but with an expenditure of possibly \$2,000 we will have sufficient housing facilities to make possible an enrollment of fifty to seventy-five students.

We feel certain that our people as a whole are proud of the progress made thus far, and are looking with great anticipation into the future in the development of this institution. And, it seems that the progress made thus far, with the prospects that lie before us, should serve as a sufficient challenge to our people,

in the several states associated with the national cause, to hasten the raising of their respective quotas of the \$100,000 needed for the expansion of the college. We shall be looking with fond expectation for the incoming of your checks, money orders, annual endowment check books, and cash as an expression of your gratitude for the past blessings, the present program, and the prospective achievements.

Mail all remittances to the Free Will Baptist Bible College, 3609 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

The Great  
Commission  
— Our Mission



Woman's Auxiliary Department

The Whole  
World  
For Christ



## ATTENTION AUXILIARY

Due to the fact that the Board of Publication and Literature of the National Association bargained with the Revision Committee of the National Woman's Auxiliary Convention and purchased the manuscript for the 1946 issue of the "Book of Programs" and having the Books printed, they are expected to be ready for mailing by the 15th of December, 1945, from the office of the Free Will Baptist Press, Ayden, North Carolina. Prices are as follows: 20 cents per single copy, \$2.00 per dozen. Six or more sold at dozen rate.

Lateness of the time in filling orders are due to the difficult problem of getting printing done in these abnormal days. We are informed that first orders will be first served, so get your order in as early as possible.

Yours in the Master's Service.

Marie Hyatt, First Vice-President of  
N. W. A. C.

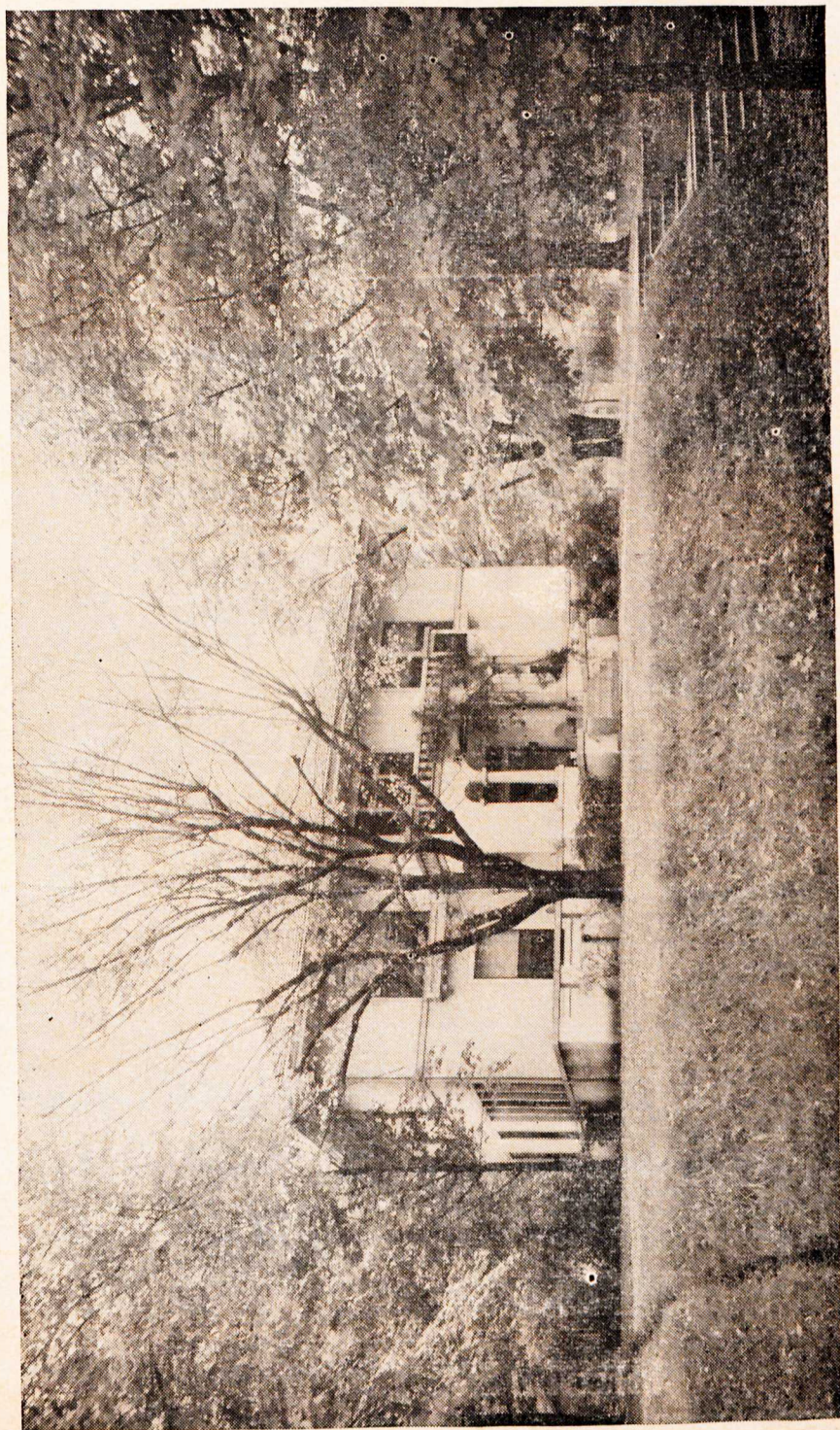
Subscribe to "The Gem"  
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## STATE FIELD WORKERS REPORT

Greetings from your Sister in Christ to the Auxiliary workers of Missouri. Ladies there is so much to do, the field is white and the laborers are so few. If we will put God first in our auxiliary we will do great things for the Lord. To have a growing Auxiliary we must first teach our women to be as Paul writes Romans 12: 1-5. "I Beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service, and be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly according as God dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and

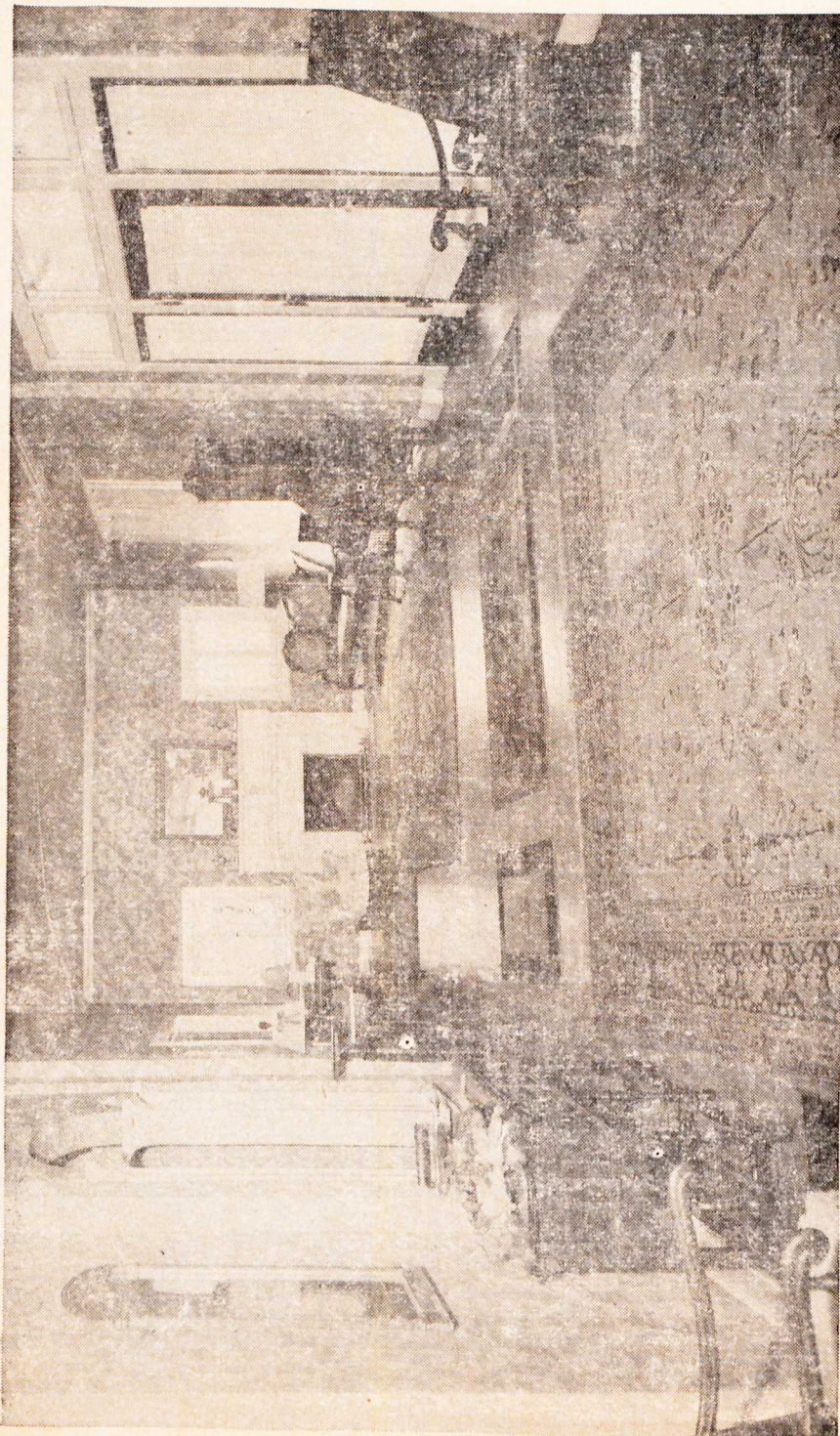
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RECENTLY ACQUIRED PROPERTY





INTERIOR VIEW OF THE LIVING ROOM



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

and members have not the same office; So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and everyone members one of another." Oh if we might realize how much work to be done before the Master's return. We are co-laborers together we must give our all for His service. May we put on the full armour of God and push forward in His name. Jesus is coming soon. Are we ready? Have we done all we could do?

Look around us, the heathen lands still need workers. India, Cuba, China, Japan what better way could we have peace, than to teach our enemies about Jesus. If we would have, in the past sent Japan more Missionaries, and taught them about the God of our salvation, instead of sending them scrap iron, perhaps we would have many more of our dear boys home today. Seemingly there was never a time in all history, that the church was being so neglected as now, women are we awake, are we doing our best. If we can't go to the foreign fields, are we helping to support those that are going? Thank God for the Natl. 3rd Vice president. May we assure her, the Missouri Auxiliary women are with her 100% in every way, of course we can't all be presidents, for as we have many members in one body, let us therefore do our best of the talent, God has given us.

We can be one of the growing branches of the church, with one purpose of life, to help win the lost to Christ. We can't all be the minister but we can do as Aaron and Hur, when Moses held up his hand then Israel prevailed, and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed, but Moses hands were heavy. And they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon. And Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. If we can't do anything but hold up our brothers hands, may we do our best of that, to hold them up.

I believe we are living in the last days. I am looking forward to the coming of the Lord. Surely we won't have long to wait for the Rapture of the church. Won't

it be wonderful, when the dead in Christ shall rise first, and the loved ones we have given up in death, is just wanting for us to meet them in the air. May we turn to 1 Thessalonians, 4-13-14. Oh some times I get homesick for heaven but then I think of the ones that aren't ready to go with me. And still there is heathens that need the gospel in Cuba and other fields as well as America and women I believe we will be held responsible for part of that work. I recently received a letter from some of our Missionaries in Cuba. They were telling us of some of the ways of life there. Women God has laid upon my heart to raise the idea of a jeep for the Dodd's. Oh how many more souls could be reached by some method of conveyance. The Island of Cuba is 700 miles long. And there is many a precious soul to be reached. If they could give their lives to go, surely we could make a way for them launch out over the island. God laid this on my heart at the State Meeting, but I didn't say much about it, but women we can go forward with this, I'm sure. I know God is in this plan. I have prayed earnestly about it. I would like to hear from some of you willing workers about this.

Women are we telling others about the Unified Program. I believe this program is a gift from God. Our giving should be done through our church. And our church tithe from the Treasury to the Unified Program. Mal. 3:10. If we launch this program for a "jeep" may we carry it in the name of "Free Will Baptist Churches" sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary. I believe our church should be the leader, and we are just one of the branches, striving to win the lost to Christ.

As the State 1st Vice President, I have a list of very good stewardship books, that may be purchased from the Ayden Press, Ayden, N. C. I would like for each 1st vice President to write me about this also I see great things for the 2nd Vice presidents to do for the Bible College in Nashville. While there recently, I was greatly moved by the Spirit that prevailed among those students, as they tried with

Continued on page 20

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# EDITORIAL

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**Merry**  
**Christmas**  
**and a**  
**Happy**  
**New Year**

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# GLEANINGS

By the Editor

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**REVIVAL FIRES IN FINLAND**—An evangelist reported concerning revival in war-torn Finland: "At the conclusion of a service all Christians except personal workers, and those unready to surrender to Christ, are asked to go home. Only those who are tired of sin and willing to accept Christ are permitted to remain. It is not unusual to have between fifty and a hundred remain each evening. The most remarkable evening in my whole life was when three hundred unsaved young people remained after the public service to surrender their hearts to Christ." —Missionary Worker.

**THE BEST RESULTS**—After five months intensive work during which 11,000 professed conversion, I found that the biggest response always came after an address in which I had shown the awfulness of sin, the certainty of punishment, and then had definitely spoken of a salvation through Christ.—Lionel B. Fletcher, Evangelist.

**A SERIES OF LAWS** guaranteeing religious freedom to all sects in Poland is being prepared by the new Polish government, according to a wireless announcement from Warsaw. Poland is basically a Roman Catholic country, but the government is trying to guarantee full freedom of conscience and belief to all other denominations as well.—Selected.

**NOT SO WONDERFUL**—We are told that 75,000 persons in that secret city in Tennessee were working on that atomic bomb and had no idea of what they were doing. What's so wonderful about that? Ten times that number are doing the same thing in Washington.

—Grit

**70,000,000 PEOPLE** in the United States do not belong to any church. Many of those who do belong seldom go to church.

He who offers God second place offers Him no place.

**DOES ALCOHOL HELP?**—The great Canadian physician, Sir William Osler, was lecturing one day on the effects of alcohol.

"Is it true," asked a student, "that alcohol makes people able to do things better?"

"No," replied Sir William, "it just makes them less ashamed of doing them badly."

—Selected.

**JERUSALEM** has been proposed by the Arap members of the United Nations Conference at San Francisco as the permanent seat of the New World Security Council.

**A SCIENTIST** says we may look for greater earthquakes in the future than those that have happened in the past. Jesus said earthquakes would come in the last days.

**A PROTESTANT** was arrested in Montreal, Canada, some time ago for distributing Gospel tracts. This was due to Catholic influence there.

**BAR MAIDS**—An estimated 1,400,000 girls in America are employed as "Bar-maids" or the equivalent in handling and serving intoxicating drink. This is twice as many girls as are now enrolled in the colleges and universities of the nation.—Dan Gilbert.

Martin Niemöller says that there is and always has been "another Germany" different from the Nazi Reich.

—McGuffey's Reader

**THE MOST RESPECTED**—We have most respect for those families who do not attend movies.

—Editor "Christian Parent."

**Conscience Respected**—A move to prevent Tennessee's conscientious objectors from ever teaching in public schools, from holding a state job, or practicing any profession was overwhelmingly defeated in the House of Representatives at Nashville recently. Opponents of the measure attacked it as a violation of religious freedom. —Gospel Herald

## Continued from Page 17

all their power to learn more about the Master. Women we have just started, there is no place to stop. We must work fast, with untiring efforts. May we join hands together and work fast for the Glory of God. May the Lord Bless you all in your efforts to go forward.

Your Sister in Christ,

State Field Worker and 1st Vice president of Missouri.

Mrs. Verdun Bingham  
P. O. Box 635  
Flat River, Missouri

## A JEEP FOR THE DODDS

Dear Co-Labourers:

The Dodd's need a Jeep!

This need has been brought to my attention and at the same time I was asked, "Why can't we buy them a Jeep?" I know of no reason except that our people do not know about the need. I have learned that when our people are presented with the facts, they respond. So here I am, telling you this need, at the same time knowing you will answer the

call. In a letter to the church at Flat River, Brother Dodd says, "there is an urgent need for us to have a Jeep. The people here have practically no sense of time and as a result hours of valuable time are lost waiting on busses to carry us here and there on our many trips. Not only would there be time saved but the Jeep would enable us to go many places that otherwise we cannot go."

Now then, Missouri Free Will Baptists, do you remember how at our various conventions, Associations, and Yearly Meetings you said you would pray for the Dodds and if at any time you could help them you would be glad to do so? Remember?

(Missouri certainly does not want to be selfish about this, so if you live out of the State of Missouri and the Lord lays this cause upon your heart, we will be happy to share the blessings of this work with you.)

Send all contributions to our State Treasurer, Mrs. Marie Hyatt, Centerview, Mo., and she will see that it gets to the proper place. **PRAY BEFORE YOU GIVE!**

Yours for Jesus Sake

Mrs. Eunice Edwards, 3rd. Vice president of Mo. State Aux. Convention



## Missionary Department



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

## A LETTER FROM MISS BARNARD

Dear Friends,

It has been delightful to receive all the letters from the different ones who have wished to assure me of their thoughts and of their prayer support. If you have been looking for an answer and have been disappointed, please forgive me. When you can send new missionaries out to help, I can hope to have the pleasure of writing personal letters and keeping you in more intimate touch. Until then, however, we shall all have to be content with a pub-

lic letter. But I hope you will continue to write me.

In my last letter I think I wrote of my intention to re-open work with the Koto Tribe. A few weeks ago we made our first evangelistic visit to them, and found their hearts open and over-joyed at our returning to them. For several years they had no school in their village, and they were much concerned about this. Last week we met with the leaders of the village and arranged to open a school on October 10. Their small building is in a dilapidated condition, but they offered to replace the roof (which was off) and put it in good

repairs against the Monsoon which is now at hand. We had hoped to find the young Kota who had taught the school in the past, and use him again, but he is away on other work and not available. The only other possibility is a boy who is very young and entirely untrained. The leaders of the village, not feeling confident of the ability of the youth, asked if Mr. Mulli might not be permitted to come for a few months and conduct the school and train the Kota lad. This was asking a hard thing of Mr. Mulli, for the Kota village is no paradise. To live there would be out of the question, and it is a long, hard walk for an old man to make to and fro daily. Remaining there during school hours for five days a week is sacrifice enough. I wouldn't think of asking Mulli to do it. However, as we talked, Mr. Mulli bowed his head for a moment, and when he lifted it again his eyes were moist, and he said, "I'll do it, Ammu!" I felt sure he had received the call from above, and so we made the arrangement immediately. The Kotas' faces were radiant as he told them he would come and conduct their school until the Lord worked out some other plan. We earnestly ask prayer for Mr. Mulli as he undertakes this very difficult task, a task which few would stoop to do. (This letter has been interrupted and considerably delayed, and now I can tell you that the school has actually been in session a week. We opened it with a gathering of the villagers and a Gospel message. A young man in service from California was with us and delighted the Kotas by speaking a few words to them by interpretation. Fifteen children are thus far enrolled. From every aspect, the outlook of the Kota work at present is most encouraging.)

One interesting observation among these Kotas is the scarcity of children, a novel situation in India. There are in the whole village only about twenty children of school age. A high rate of infant mortality accounts for this to some extent, but I am of the opinion that the birth rate has noticeably decreased also. This I can confirm only after observation. One thing is sure, that there are fewer children among them now than at

any other time since I have known the Tribe. This is an appalling fact, and points to the gradual dying out of the Tribe. Pray the more earnestly, therefore, for the effectiveness of the Gospel message among them in these days of opportunity.

Our Kotagiri school proceeds with blessing. Although we have prayed earnestly for a qualified teacher with spiritual vision we have been disappointed to some extent. Meanwhile, however, the Lord has given us a lovely young woman with adequate experience and ability. Kumala Kanaka, sister-in-law to Mrs. Mary Kanaka who worked so nobly with us before she received her grand promotion to be with Christ, is able to turn her hand to many things and is proving a blessing indeed to us. Pray for Kumala as she serves the Lord here with us.

Our Kotagiri boys are arranging a football match with the Kota boys. This is a bit amusing. Their enthusiasm is unbounded, and to hear the discussions about this impending match would remind you of items in the Sports Section of the New York Times. These boys, like those of any other color, require physical activity, and if we do not direct them towards suitable entertainment, they, like all others, will naturally find it elsewhere. I am sure the Lord requires us to meet this need. All the young men who have gone out from us and standing true to the Lord are boys belonging to our Scout movement of former years. We therefore feel this phase of our work a very fruitful one.

Last week we had the privilege of a visit from another one of our soldiers who was in our school a few years past. He has confessed Christ openly and been baptized since he has been in the Army.

Salome is our new Biblewoman. She began work with us the middle of September and is proving herself a gem, knowing the Lord in a real way for herself and then having a gift for imparting the message simply and attractively. Already I have noticed a quickening of pace in the work in several particulars, due partly to her services. We have a weekly schedule visitation, taking us into every

community in this caste. We meet in someone's house, inviting all in that section to attend, and teach a regular course of study. It has been a wonderful experience to sit with these women and discuss the merits and claims of Christ and the Gospel. The sweet story is gripping their hearts. Pray for us and for them.

In our evangelistic work we have discovered a community of people who have migrated from a native state south of us. They are untouched by the Gospel but seem eager to hear. Some of them speak and understand Tamil and can listen to us, while others know only their own language. There must be about seventy-five of these people in one of our villages. Again I miss our valuable worker Mary Kanaka, for she was fluent in this tongue (Malayalam) and could have met this need admirably. We are trusting the Lord will put us in touch with someone speaking Malayalam and able to do a better part by these people than we can do with language limitations.

The zenana work for caste women in the Lazaar area has only been begun in a small way. As we enlarge our staff, our work also expands, so that we are still "pressed down beyond measure" and unable to meet the need. Another missionary or two from home would relieve the situation greatly.

A few weeks ago I was guest speaker at the Kotagiri Badaga Methodist Church on the occasion of their annual Harvest Festival, the largest affair of the year for them. At the urgent request of the pastor, with much fear and trembling I accepted the invitation—fearful because of my imperfect command of the language. But I am glad I did, because the Lord helped me wonderfully and gave tokens that He had used the effort. Of course it was polite for them to tell me I did well and that they had received blessing, but later the pastor informed me that his people had urged him to invite me again. This was an encouragement not only in the matter of language, but it also indicates that this church not hitherto noted for spiritual life, is reaching out for deeper things. As you pray, inter-

cede for them and for the India Church for a quickening of life and a burden for evangelizing India.

I could not give a fair picture of any particular field in India without commenting upon the precarious situation in all India. All are aware of the pending Home Rule. It is definitely anticipated that entrance of missionaries into all parts of India will be more and more difficult when Home Rule is effected. This statement should be read and re-read, with greater emphasis each time. Then, perhaps, we may realize something of the urgency of praying the Lord of the Harvest "that He may thrust forth laborers into the harvest field" at once.

Along with the foregoing, I must also state that at the present time missionaries are rapidly returning from the United States to India and new missionaries also are entering the country. Independent missionaries as well as those representing Boards of lesser significance than ours are getting out. I emphasize this in case any at home are thinking it is not possible to send out new missionaries now. Others are leaving the States and entering India; our missionaries can also. Persistence and perseverance will do it.

With this note go my loving greetings to all the dear friends in every State and my very special appreciation for all the letters and gifts received.

In His glad service,  
Laura B. Barna d

## A LETTER FROM THE DODDS

Greetings from Cuba:

At last our lifelong dream has materialized and we find ourselves on the Mission field in Cuba. Having been here only two weeks we can, of course, only give information from first impression but let me state in the outset that this first impression is indeed a very favorable one. If Cuba lives up to this first impression, we are going to like it very much.

Mrs. Dodd and I left the states on Thursday October 25, at 2:30 P. M. for Havana. we came by Pan American plane



from Miami, Florida, where we had been conveyed by automobile through the kindness of our good friends of Nashville, Tennessee, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Simpson. Our going had been preceded by two splendid farewell parties. The first one was given at our home church, in Flat River, Missouri and was sponsored by the new pastor and wife, Rev. and Mrs. Melvin Bingham. As a parting present, the church gave us a gift of \$250.00. The other party was given by the Dorcas Class of East Nashville Church. Mrs. Dodd and I are members of the East Nashville Church, having been pastor there for some 20 months prior to our going to the Mission field.

Our trip over was very lovely. The air was smooth so the riding was comfortable. As the huge plane cleft its way through the skies, and as the waters of the sea slipped by under us, we could not help but exult in the fact that we were on a mission for the Lord. The pangs of parting from loved ones were not even present because we had committed them to the Lord. Ahead of us was the land of opportunity in the Lord's service. It was our "Canaan", our "Promised Land." And with the realization that we were going under the leadership of the Lord and in accordance with His will, nothing else really mattered. Miles rolled by quickly (and it was no wonder) because at one point in the journey our stewardess informed us that we were flying at 10,000 feet altitude at a speed of about 175 miles per hour. We made the trip to Havana in exactly 92 minutes from the time we left Miami.

One who has not had the experience of sighting a new land from the air for the first time cannot know what it does to one. We literally leaped with joy at the first sight of Cuba. While we were yet about 20 minutes out someone shouted, "There's Cuba." We both stretched our necks for a glimpse and sure enough there lay the island in the distance, still nothing more than a blur against the horizon. However, as we drew nearer, the land gradually took shape and we could make out the vast hulk of the island's outline.

In less time than one could think, we had swooped in over the island and were preparing to land. To our right as we came into the airport was the harbor at Havana with the beautiful Morro Castle. Under us stretched the city of Havana, snug-gled amongst numerous small hillocks. Mountains loomed up to the west, and the numerous royal palm trees everywhere testified mutely that we had at last come to "The Pearl of the Antilles."

The first sight to welcome us as we landed was three happy smiling faces. Yes, you guessed two of them; our own Bro. and Sister Willey. Never have two people looked so good to us as they did. The other was the superintendent of our work in Matanzas province, Bro. Herbert Sanchez. We had time only to wave to them and then were hustled off into the customs house where we awaited our turn to go through Customs. However, upon entering the examining room in the Customs division about fifteen minutes later, we found all three of our friends waiting there for us and what a glad time we had. We were very fortunate in getting through Customs and were soon on our way. We first went into the city of Havana and had a good American meal. From there we boarded the bus for Pinar Del Rio, where we arrived about 11 o'clock P. M. We were certainly glad to relax and get some rest for we had gone through a most strenuous day.

Up early the next morning, we caught another bus and came on out to where the Willey's live. It is a beautiful place just at the edge of town and here we are making our headquarters until our own house is set in order. We got our first idea of Cuba on this trip, as we came through the very heart of town. Pinar Del Rio is a fair sized city, reeking with Cuban people, Cuban sounds, Cuban smells and Cuban sights. It all seemed so strange that we were thoroughly fascinated with it. On every hand were new experiences and realizing as we did that we were indeed in a land of need, we breathed a prayer to God to prepare us to be of the greatest possible help to the people. The very air tinged with heathenism. The customs are some 100 years behind times.

The mode of travel is primarily by horse and cart or bullock and cart. The people are slow and bordering on indolency. No one has any sense of the value of time. As a result, hours and hours of precious time are wasted. Catholic temples dot the area and one could see that great numbers of the people wore crucifixes or prayer beads. In short the first impression was one of a desperate need on the part of the Cuban people for something that they didn't have—the true religion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our first contact with the Cuban Christians came when we attended a service just outside the town of Pinar Del Rio at a place known as "La Tirita" (The Terrace). There was a nice group of young people out for this service. This place offers a promising field of endeavor. As yet we do not have a building here for worship but the people want one desperately. The following Sunday night we attended services at our church in Pinar Del Rio. It was here that I had my first

experience at preaching through an interpreter. We had a precious service and much interest was manifested. The following week we were with Sister Yeley and her people at Rio Seco. Here we had an overflow crowd and again I preached through an interpreter, Miss Yeley serving as my mouthpiece. This was a beautiful service. Miss Yeley has a most promising group of young men here; young men with talent. Pray for the work in Rio Seco.

Perhaps our crowning experience thus far was our first trip to the school. Upon arriving on the grounds one could sense the presence of the Lord. As we became acquainted with the students and teachers we could well understand this. They are a consecrated group of people, anxious to serve the Lord. We had soon made friends with everyone and even though we could not converse with them, we had splendid fellowship.

To Be Continued

## The National Association

### ENTERPRISE DEPARTMENT

Rev. Robert B. Crawford, Executive Secretary National Association  
3609 Richland Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee

## The State Associations and their Activities

Many different State Associations have been recently held. Mention is made here of some of the highlight activities of these bodies.

The Tennessee State Association was representatively attended. Every phase of the work was discussed and plans were proposed to unify the efforts for the work. A plan to get a field worker was discussed to encourage those of the State Association to work more diligent and to get other associations in the State to join the State Association. Bro. George Dunbar is moderator of the State Association.

In West Virginia the state has been organized where the state as a whole is represented in the state body. The boards have been set up and are functioning. Favorable results have come from these boards. Bro. John Henson is State Field Worker. We predict for the work there much progress.

It was not my privilege nor Bro. J. R. Davidson's to attend the Missouri State Association, but reports from the state through our leaders from there reveal that good reports were made from all over the state. Also plans were made



for a better working order next year. Missouri will be the state to "show us" what they can do in a progressive way.

The North Carolina State Association was well attended. Rev. J. R. Bennett, president, presided over the body in an able way. Every department and District Conference showed great increases in their activities. Great interest was shown in the new chapel for the Orphanage, also the encampment or assembly grounds for the young people of North Carolina. Interest was shown in our Bible College. A report from the president of the Bible College, revealed that North Carolina was doing her part again as manifest in the expansion program of the Bible College.

Arkansas State Association voted to petition the National Association for membership. The people of Arkansas have been doing things for the departments of our work. Now we are happy that they want to join their forces with the whole denomination. We have some fine people and leaders in Arkansas. Bro Ralph Staten is moderator of this work.

The Oklahoma State Association was the greatest one in the history of the work. A wonderful spirit was shown all through the session. Good reports and plans marked the progress of the work. A highlight was a report and program by the State F. W. B. L. Convention Wednesday afternoon. For the past two years the power of the Holy Spirit has been so manifest until the program included one to three souls being saved in the F. W. B. L. afternoon of the State Association. No finer group of young people will be found. An Orphanage has been bought and paid for in one year, a real bargain and blessing to the people of the state. Rev. E. E. Morris is moderator of this State Work.

The Texas State work continues to make progress under the moderator Rev. M. L. Sutton. Good reports were made. Plans were adopted to do more for the State work and the National work. You can depend on Texas to come along and do things. Rev. C. B. Thompson was elected as State Home Mission worker. He is to work for every phase of our work. I believe the work will expand rapidly and constructively in Texas.

In Alabama some progress is noted. The phases of our denominational work were emphasized for greater activities next year. On Foreign Mission night, many dedicated their lives for Christian service. The Orphanage report was the most outstanding. Rev. J. J. Stabb is moderator of the Alabama State Association. He is an able and diligent worker.

The people of Georgia are well organized. Rev. E. C. Morris, State Field worker, has done a good work there along with Rev. H. L. Catrett, moderator of the State Association. Good reports were made by all the District Associations and State Boards. The encampment committee has done a good work.

Mississippi is getting better organized. Committees were appointed that will mean much to the work when they get to functioning properly. Rev. M. L. Hollis has led the people there. He has other fine leaders there to assist greatly in the work.

The second session of the Florida State Association should be numbered among the sessions of such assemblies which are reported as successful. The body was ably presided over by Rev. J. M. Rich. The first day's session was given over to reports and the examination and adoption of the proposed Constitution and By-Laws. Provisions were made through these for proper organization and direction of the work as a whole. During the second day's session provisions were made for the financial support of the cause in all of its aspects on a basis of what was considered as equitable. A prophetic word which predicts normal expansion of our cause in that section could not be considered out of order here.

The third session of the South Carolina State Association convened with the Liberty Church of Manning and was ably presided over by Rev. Louis A. Holliday. In this session a working order was revealed which might be classified as, almost, superior. The approach to the promotion of the various phases of the cause is through duly elected Directors. The effectiveness of the system was revealed through the reports to the effect that Orphanage, Education, Missions, etc., had been adequately supported through the diligence of these Directors and the co-oper-

ation of the ministers. No doubt the most outstanding achievement reported was that of the cash coverage for South Carolina's 1945 quota on the Expansion Program for the College. The Director for Education is Rev. M. H. Mellette, who, by the co-operation of his brother ministers, was able to prove the truth in the

often repeated statement, "The success of the cause depends on the ministry."

A wonderful spirit of fellowship was in every State Association. Great sermons were delivered in all the states. Food seemed to be plenty-ful every where. We have a fine people who will do greater things soon.

## CHURCH NEWS



### ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Dear Gem readers,

I would like to report that we are coming along just fine in our Church and Sunday School. We also started a Building fund program April 17, 1945, to raise \$1,300 by Jan. 1, 1946 to pay off our church at 1330 Geyer and within 7 months time we have raised that amount. We had a play Thursday night written by Rev. Mark Lewis. It was a wonderful play and we took in \$250.00 that night for our new church. We also had the Harmony Boys Quartet with us, and they sang 5 or 6 beautiful songs. We want to thank everyone that came and had a part in giving on our church.

As we hope to have a new Free Will Baptist Church in St. Louis in the very near future, and we give all the thanks and glory to God.

Rev. Mark Lewis, Pastor

Mrs. Mary Regh, Reporter  
1505 Buchanan Street  
St. Louis, 7, Mo.

### TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Dear Gem and It's Readers,

The Tulsa church of Tulsa, Okla. is to report to the Gem of the church. We are still progressing forward for God's cause. The Sunday School is good, the average attendance for the month of Nov. was 20. The League too is good, we are trying to go by the League Manual and we find it is successful. The ladies

Auxiliary is doing its great part too in keeping the church rolling.

Bro. West instructed a three night Sunday School training course for us. We feel it was a great help in our Sunday School work as we build our church through the Sunday School.

We are glad to have Bro. Marvin P. Dalton back after months over sea. We are glad to see him along with other boys. Bro. Dalton preached for us Sunday in our morning worship using as his subject, Rev. 21, second verse. Truly a picture of Heaven was drawn before our eyes. It was greatly enjoyed by all. It seems more like old times with our boys and men coming home. We pray that they will all come home soon. We can't fail to mention the men's brotherhood meetings, we don't know much about it, only what we hear and since men don't gossip much we don't know much, but we do know they sure do advertise and they have a good attendance and they say it's interesting so if you aren't attending it might pay you to attend the next meeting the 1st. Monday evening in the month of December.

We desire your prayers when you pray and we will continue our prayers for you.

John H. West, Pastor

Margarette Wtst, Reporter

### PORTERVILLE, CALIFORNIA

Dear Gem family:

I am here to tell you that God is still blessing us. Perhaps you have heard (as



I have) that when a person crosses the line into California that they leave God behind. Well I will admit that that seems to be the case with some, but there are SOME who do not. Thank God. There are some real fruit bearing folk in our church. We will start a revival meeting next Sunday if it is the Lord's will, sponsored by J. E. Yandell. We are looking forward to a great spiritual uplift and an ingathering of many souls.

Our Association too, is growing by leaps and bounds with the exception of one church we will soon have all of our own buildings and free from debt. Thank the Lord.

Jesus really had a table spread at our quarterly meeting last week at Lindsay. The writer did not get to attend much of the business part of the meeting, but was there for all of the night services and the League Rally on Sunday afternoon.

Our next quarterly meeting will be at Winters, starting on Thursday before the first Sunday in February.

We desire your prayers.

Rev. Ralph Geiger, church clerk and Reporter.

Dear Gem Family,

God has really visited us since I last wrote the Gem. We just closed a three weeks meeting with Rev. Dean Moore of Missouri doing the preaching. There were eleven conversions, nine baptized.

During the three weeks we have had seven additions to the church.

We are buying a building to be used for Sunday School rooms.

Rev. Ralph Geiger  
Church clerk and Reporter

### HICKORY GROVE CHURCH

Rev's. Vernie and Mary Wellbaum of N. W. Mo. Association have accepted Hickory Grove Church at Haysdam, Kans. The church is one of the oldest F. W. B. churches, Dec. 9th. it will celebrate its 75th Anniversary. We have full time work here. Parsonage just a few feet from the church. Oct. 14th a reception was given for Rev's. Mr. and Mrs. Wellbaum



### REV'S. MR. AND MRS. WELLBAUM

and granddaughter Mary Kathryn. This is the program given.

Sunday School at 10 o'clock.

Preaching by Rev. Vernie Wellbaum 11. Welcome address for the Church.

Mrs. Bonesteel of Washington, Kans.

Welcome for the Sunday School by Miss Daisy Eichman.

Welcome for the Mission by Mrs. Coder.

Welcome for the League by Miss Opal Shum.

Hand shake.

Benediction by Mr. Vincent.

Dinner was served at Parsonage.

Evening Services

Congregational Hymn.

Talk by Earl Coder on his visit to the Holy Land.

Talk by Rev. Poerch, Methodist minister from Washington, Kans.

Response by Rev. Vernie Wellbaum.

Response by Rev. Mary Wellbaum.

Song, "God be with you till we meet again."

Benediction by Rev. Vernie Wellbaum.

We feel it was a grand day spent for

the Lord. Pray for us that this will be a prosperous year for our Lord.

Rev's. Vernie and Mary Weilbaum, Hadam, Kansas.

### HANSLEY CHAPEL CHURCH

We, the people of Fansley's Chapel Church wish to thank Our Brother, M. L. Hollis, for the wonderful messages he brought to us during our two weeks revival.

Although we did not see a large number of souls borned into the Kingdom, our church was revived beyond measure. The members of our church were made to see, Jesus In All His Glory more fully. When church members are drawn near to Jesus we see souls saved. Why, just tonight a man we have been praying for for years was saved, and last Sunday three souls found Jesus precious to them. We are still having a revival and praying it will never die.

We wish to thank God too for His blessings and for sending Rev. M. L. Hollis, a man of God, to us that we as church members may understand the Bible more fully. We want you to know that your 1700 miles travel was not in vain.

We are looking forward to you being with us again in the future if it is God's will. We can assure you that we appreciate the time you spent with us. It shall long be remembered. Remember us in your prayers. It is our prayers that God will always bless you and your work.

Yours in Christ,  
Hansley Chapel Church

### HECTOR, ARKANSAS

Dear Editor and Gem readers,

Greetings in the name of Jesus. As Corresponding clerk of the Arkansas State Association, will give you a few brief lights of what we are doing. Our last State Association was a definite step forward. For a number of years we have had strong opposition against joining the National Association, but a strong effort was launched a year ago to present the facts and opportunities to our people and a major vote was cast in favor of joining,

in fact it was almost unanimous. A tent was bought for the State Meeting. We had visiting ministers from Mo., Okla., and the National Executive Sec. Rev. Robert B. Crawford from Nashville, Tenn. All rendered valuable service to the meeting. We feel that the National Ass'n. offers a door of opportunity for the Free Will Baptist that could not be had otherwise. May we live to serve humanity in a larger and better way in the name of Christ and the church.

Yours for Service,  
J. D. Coffman

### POSEY, WEST VIRGINIA

Dear Gem Readers,

This is the second time I ever wrote to the Gem about our Conference. Our last conference was held at the Packsville Church. We had a good Conference the Lord wonderfully blessed our hearts. The business was carried on in brotherly love.

There was two licensed to preach and one ordained as deacon. There has been thirty eight souls added to the Church since our last conference. Our treasury is still growing, our church debts are all paid and we have a balance of \$285.65 in the treasury.

Rev. Kennie French brought a wonderful message Saturday night, on the Doctrine of the Faith and Practice of the Free Will Baptist. We ask the prayers of all christians to pray for us that we will live our lives in the way that God would have us to and that our conference will still prosper to the glory of God.

F. R. Combs, clerk of the Raleigh conference, Posey, W. Va.

### LETTER FROM THE MISSIONARIES

Dear Gem Readers,

I received a letter from Rev. Damon C. Dodd our missionary in Cuba, requesting that I contact our folks here at home, requesting funds to buy a jeep for them, to use for their work on the Mission Field. He stated in his letter to me, that on one of his appointments, that he and Bro. Willey had to walk nine miles to get there.

It not only tires them out physically, but also waste so much time, going to and from appointments. Time that is needed so badly in getting to another place to help others that are so eagerly waiting to hear more about the Lord Jesus. I think the least thing that we could do, would be to raise the money at once, and send them a jeep.

Our church at Leeds, is starting the fund with twenty-five dollars. Each church or individual that wants to contribute to this fund, please send to Rev. J. B. Bloss,

Leeds, Ala. We will mail your receipt and have a list of all that contribute to this fund published in the papers.

Lets prove our love and appreciation to them for their sacrifice that they are so willing to make, that others might know the Lord Jesus, and get the jeep to them at once.

Come on Free Will Baptist preachers take an offering at your church at once for this worthy cause.

Rev. J. B. Bloss

## REPORT NATIONAL FOREIGN MISSION

Rev. Winford Davis, Monett Mo. Chairman, Treasurer

Receipts for the month of September 1945

Freedom Church of Arkansas .....	\$30.00
National Unified Fund by Robert Crawford, Treasurer .....	600.09
Oak Grove Church of Alabama .....	5.37
Auxiliary of Tulsa First Church of Oklahoma .....	5.00
Bethlehem Church of Tennessee .....	15.15
Clarence Hearron of Arkansas .....	2.00
Yearly Association of Illinois .....	56.00
State of Ohio .....	100.00
Altona Church of Ohio .....	5.00
Wewoka Church of Oklahoma .....	5.00
Houston Texas First Church .....	4.62
Auxiliary of Tulsa Oklahoma First Church .....	5.00
North East Mississippi Association .....	43.00
Trinity S. S. of Nashville, Tennessee .....	27.10
Wolverine Association of Michigan .....	117.75
Miss Rebecca Green, Charleston, W. Va. ....	10.00
Mr. Amos Martin, Nauvoo, Alabama .....	4.75
Mo. State Association by Marie Hyatt, Treasurer .....	270.48
Total .....	\$1,306.22

Receipts for the month of October 1945

Mrs. Maud Mills, Adamsville, Tennessee .....	\$65
Core Creek S. S. of North Carolina .....	5.00
From Texas by C. F. Goen .....	35.55
Rev. and Mrs. Dan Cronk, Columbia, S. C. ....	1.00
Union Meeting of S. C. Conference .....	75.00
Hickory Grove Church of Florida .....	10.34
Mt. Vernon Auxiliary of Illinois .....	5.00
Fellowship Church of Texas .....	3.69
Bethlehem Church of Tennessee .....	3.50
Arapahoe Church of North Carolina .....	6.25
Waltonville Church, Waltonville, Illinois .....	15.75
Progressive Association of Alabama .....	27.02
National Unified Fund by Robert Crawford, Treasurer .....	450.00
State of Ohio turned in by Kenneth Turner .....	471.29

Union Grove Aid Society of North Carolina .....	10.00
Auxiliary of Tulsa First Church of Oklahoma .....	5.00
Rev. G. L. Shutes, Kynesville, Florida .....	10.00
Altona Church of Ohio .....	5.00
C. E. Sawyer, Ware Shoals, S. C. ....	6.00
Core Creek S. S. of North Carolina .....	26.95
Missouri State Association by Marie Hyatt, Treasurer .....	264.59
Total .....	\$1,437.49

## MISSOURI STATE TREASURER REPORT

Marie Hyatt

October

### State Unified Fund

Monett Church .....	\$16.33
A Friend .....	10.00
Monett Church .....	20.00
Mine La Motte S. S. ....	3.00
Hazel Creek Union Church .....	88.24
Aurora Church and S. S. ....	3.09
Berkley City Church .....	7.60
Oak Grove Church (Cave Springs Ass'n.) .....	5.00
Fredricktown Woman's Auxiliary .....	4.80

### Foreign Missions

Shiple's Point Church .....	\$1.40
Providence Church .....	8.50
St. Louis Third F. W. B. Sunday School .....	11.84
Leadington Sunday School .....	2.58
J. K. Stephens .....	2.00
Fowler Union S. S. ....	6.40
Amity Church .....	38.00
Monett Church .....	6.50
Mountain Valley F. W. B. League .....	9.44
Monett Church .....	12.00
N. E. Missouri Mission Band .....	25.00
New Harmony Church .....	12.28
David C. England, U. S. Marines .....	10.00
Rock Chapel Church .....	15.90
Monett Church .....	50.00
Hickory Grove Church .....	4.38
Jewel Church .....	11.78
Buffalo S. S. ....	2.47
Niangua Quarterly Meeting .....	2.29
Mountain Grove League .....	10.90
Hickory Grove Church (Haddam, Kans.) .....	5.56
Mrs. John Worsley .....	5.00
Myrtle Long .....	1.00
Mt. Olive Woman's Auxillary .....	4.00
Mt. Olive True Blue S. S. Class .....	1.00
Mt. Olive Church .....	7.30

### Educational Fund

Leadington S. S. ....	\$ .87
Monett D. V. B. S. ....	16.52

### \$50,000 Auxiliary Membership Fund

Mrs. Ed Jones .....	\$1.00
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W. L. Powell .....	6.00
<b>Jehoida Chests Fund</b>	
Hannon Mission Circle .....	\$7.00
Hazel Creek Union Mission .....	3.00

November 1945

**State Unified Fund**

Sublette Church .....	\$26.06
Leadington S. S. ....	2.92
Merl's Chapel Church .....	4.00
Flat River Church .....	49.51
Hazel Creek Union Church .....	56.44
Fredricktown Woman's Auxiliary .....	2.10
St. Louis Third F. W. B. Church .....	38.77
Jewel Church .....	10.20
New Harmony Mission .....	9.92
Aurora S. S. and Church .....	6.24
Total .....	\$206.16

**Foreign Mission Fund**

Mt. Olive Church .....	\$6.18
Fowler Union S.S. ..	2.00
Amity Church .....	18.00
Hickory Grove Church .....	4.58
Merl's Chapel S. S. ....	6.97
Stibley's Point Church .....	1.10
Hickory Grove Church (Haddam, Kans.) .....	2.85
Independence Church .....	36.24
Mrs. Margaret Turner .....	10.00
Rock Chapel Church .....	19.88
Hartville Church .....	16.90
S. P. Easley .....	5.00
Pleasant Grove S. S. ....	9.00
Mrs. Jessie Thompson .....	9.00
Verdella Church .....	17.00
True Blue S. S. Class (Neola) .....	2.00
Mt. Olive Church .....	3.80
Total .....	\$170.50

**Educational Fund**

Hannon Church .....	\$10.00
Amity Church .....	14.00
Rock Chapel Church .....	23.50
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Smith .....	30.00
Coy Smith .....	25.00
Hartville Church .....	11.65
S. P. Easley .....	5.00
Jones Chapel Church .....	10.45
Cecil Campbell .....	1.00
Monett Church .....	7.20
Merl's Chapel Church .....	7.85
Macedonia Church .....	4.25
Total .....	\$149.80

**\$50,000 Co-Laborer Band Fund**

Flat River Auxillary .....	\$16.00
<b>Jehoida Chest Fund</b>	
Copper Mines Church .....	\$2.00
New Harmony Mission .....	3.00

	<b>Tennessee Orphanage Fund</b>	
Merl's Chapel Church .....		\$16.00
S. P. Easley .....		5.00
	<b>Home Missions</b>	
S. P. Easley .....		\$5.00

## REPORT OF YOUTH CAMP

Report of the Missouri State Free Will Baptist Youth Encampment Treasurer, from the time of the creation of the board at the State Association, September 13, 1945 to November 1, 1945.

Kansas City Gospel Band .....	\$25.00
J. K. Stevens .....	10.00
Flat River Beginners S. S. Class .....	10.00
Carterville Bible Class .....	10.00
Amity Church (Mrs. Philmer) .....	25.00
Hickory Grove, Primary Class .....	10.00
Amity Church (Mrs. George) .....	25.00
Callie Achord .....	5.00
New Harmony .....	25.00
Jones Chapel (Mrs. Turner) .....	10.00
Eldorado Church .....	10.00
Royal Oak (W. E. Crews) .....	25.00
Mrs. Finn .....	5.00
Desloge Church .....	25.00
Shiloh (C. H. Crews) .....	25.00
Hazel Creek Union Young Ladies' Class by Lizzie Filkins .....	10.00
Merls Chapel .....	70.00
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Potts .....	25.00
E. J. Enfield .....	10.00
Blue Eye Church .....	25.00
Rev. O. T. Allred .....	25.00
Hazel Creek Church .....	25.00
W. E. Pirtle .....	25.00
Rev. and Mrs. Damon C. Dodd .....	25.00
Mount Zion Sunday School .....	25.00
Mrs. York .....	25.00
Flat River (Loretta Pirtle) .....	25.00
Green Grove Church .....	25.00
Mr. and Mrs. A.T. Lawson .....	10.00
A. W. Hartley .....	25.00
Kansas City Gospel Band (Myrtle Dickey) .....	25.00
Aurora Church .....	100.00
Leadington F. W. B. L. .....	11.00
Ozella Wilson .....	50.00
Leadington Sunday School .....	20.00
Leadington Sunday School .....	10.00
Adell Halbrook .....	10.00
Hazel Barton .....	5.00
Rev. Cravens .....	10.00
J. C. Head .....	5.00
Hazel Creek Union (Laverne Miley) .....	25.00
Rev. and Mrs. Chas. Moyers .....	50.00
Myrtle Church .....	25.00
Rev. Harry Beatty .....	5.00
Black Oak Church .....	32.00



Total receipts .....	\$1,023.00
Disbursements: Printing of checks, cashing money order .....	\$2.96
Total Balance .....	\$1,020.04

I have recorded on my book and given to the Gem for publication the above names and figures exactly as they were given to me after my election to this position as the secretary-treasurer of the Mo. State's new enterprise, The Youth Encampment. I trust that no mistake has been made in the way you wanted your name mentioned in connection with this wonderful work. We do give the Lord all the praise for the gracious way that all have given to this worthy cause.

The Board is meeting in the very near future to look over two different tracts of land that has been offered to us for the Camp. We will be announcing more about the place as soon as we know anything definite. In the mean time keep sending your offerings; and please send them all to Rev. Mark Lewis, 2043a Sidney St., St. Louis, (4) Mo. Make checks or money orders payable to Rev. Mark Lewis.

Rev. Mark Lewis, Secy.-Treas.

### TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

*Fred Scott Shepard*

"Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people" (Luke 2:10).

A radiant light the shepherds saw  
 That first glad Christmas night;  
 The heavens aglow with holy light,  
 Filled them with reverent awe.  
 A blessed word the angel brought,  
 Which deep emotion stirred;  
 What joy it gave, when it was heard,  
 A joy men long had sought.  
 With eager zest, they haste away  
 To seek the Heavenly Guest;  
 In manger bed they find their quest,  
 And homage to Him pay.  
 God's only Son, by Heaven adored,  
 Came down earth's course to run,  
 That souls of men, lost and undone,  
 By Him might be restored.  
 Who could reject such offered grace,  
 Such wondrous love neglect,  
 Since man had sought without effect,  
 Sin's ruin to efface?

—Gospel Herald

### THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD

*Mrs. Griff Harrison, Thayer, Mo.*

Christmas is coming, with all of its cheer  
 The happiest time of all the year;  
 It's the birth of our Lord, so we recall,  
 How He suffered on the cross for the sake  
 of us all.  
 So let's pay a part of the great debt we  
 owe,

As through this pilgrim life we go;  
 Let's tell the world till all will know,  
 Jesus' blood cleanses whiter than snow.  
 How He left His home in Glory,  
 And in the form of a precious babe,  
 Took up a weary life's journey  
 From the cradle to the grave.  
 All the good that He accomplished,  
 No mortal tongue can ever tell;  
 As in the Garden of Gethsemane,  
 His prayerful voice arose and fell.  
 As the sweat stood on His forehead,  
 Like great drops of blood;  
 No one knew how His heart was aching  
 But the dear Father above.  
 "Not my will, but thine, O Father,"  
 Was the prayer that He prayed,  
 And God gave Him victory  
 Over Death, Hell and the Grave.  
 And so, like the wise shepherds,  
 Who followed His Star;  
 Let us worship our Saviour,  
 But not from afar.  
 Let's not foolishly spend our money  
 For liquor, strong drinks nor beer;  
 But let's fill some lonely heart  
 With comfort and heavenly cheer.  
 Let us follow the footsteps of Jesus,  
 Though the path be filled with thorns;  
 It will be worth everything,  
 Just to rest in Jesus' loving arm.

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## PEACE ON EARTH GOOD WILL TO MEN

In Bethlehem's manger,  
Behold Him, a stranger,  
Weak, helpless, unconscious of watchers  
around;  
In lowliest station;  
The Prince of Salvation  
Mid the beast of the stall on this morning  
found.

But the angels are singing,  
And Heaven is ringing  
With "Glory to God and peace upon earth."  
For the Infant so lowly  
Is God the all holy,  
And the spheres are declaring His woun-  
derful birth.

Then let us adore Him,  
And fall down before Him,  
As again "the glad tidings of joy" we  
recall;

Let us bring forth our treasure,  
And give without measure  
To Him who has given Himself to us all.  
Still more, let us tender  
In loving surrender  
Ourselves, body, soul, and spirit, complete;  
Yea, Lord, we confess Thee,  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee,  
Our Jesus, our God, as we kneel at Thy  
feet.

—Selected

## IN MEMORIAM

In memory of our dear husband and  
father who passed away on January 8  
1940, the Rev. W. C. Hill.  
Just a short time ago you left us,  
On this sad earth no more to dwell.  
How we miss you, Dearest father,  
None on earth but us can tell.  
At the dear home we no longer,  
All shall gather as of old,  
For our family still is broken,  
He has joined the heavenly fold.  
Missed by his wife and children.

In memory of our dear friend, Lois  
Dowd who so suddenly departed this life  
one year ago December twenty-third.  
Tho our hearts were left so sad and blue  
And life on earth still goes on,  
In our hearts of darling you,  
Precious memories still linger  
She was just a tender Rose-bud  
When called from this life;

Today she is a blooming flower  
Where there is no sin or strife.  
Here she was one of our Sunbeams  
And a sweet and smiling lass:  
Now she is with the Evergleams  
In the Saviour's Royal Class.  
Darling Lois has gained her reward,  
And is resting in peace  
With the Saviour and Lord.  
Our hope, our aim, our prayer,  
When our life here shall cease  
Is to be reunited with Lois  
In that land so bright and fair.

Sadly missed by Sunday School teacher  
and Sunbeam Class Teacher, Magdalene  
McFarland, Fredericktown Sunday School.

## OBITUARY

ALLRED— John Wesley Allred, son of  
W. H. and Martha Allred born October  
13th, 1870, Randolph Co., N. C. Departed  
this life December 4th., 1945 at the family  
home, 408 South B Street, Rogers, Ark.  
He moved to Larne in Benton County,  
Ark. with his parents when he was 10  
years of age and has been a resident of  
this County since that time. He moved  
from the farm on White River to the pre-  
sent home in 1939.

He was united in marriage with Miss  
May Hawthorne October 30, 1891 to this  
union was born three children, Mrs. H. E.  
Boydston, Mrs. Dow Boydston both of Rog-  
ers and one son, O. T. Allred of St. Lou's,  
Mo. Beside his wife and children he is sur-  
vived by one brother, J. M. Allred of Rog-  
ers. Also 10 grand children and three  
great grand children.

He was converted when a young man  
and united with the New Hope Free Will  
Baptist Church remaining a faithful mem-  
ber until death. He was ordained to the  
Gospel Ministry in 1918, serving his church  
faithfully until failing health forced him  
to resign pastoral duty in 1939. He was  
a faithful minister, serving his churches  
well. Always loyal to his churches and  
friends, he is one that will be greatly  
missed in this city and surrounding ter-  
ritory. Bro. Allred in his ministerial career  
was anxious to lead the lost to Christ that  
they might have eternal life, that life  
we feel that he now is enjoying.

Funeral services conducted by Rev. H.  
M. Knox and Rev. Bruce Phillips.

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