

# The Free Will Baptist Gem

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

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## "That He Might Believe"

By Roy E. Martin

"In the far off beginning," said John, "was the Word,  
For aeons of time ere the foot of man trod  
The pathways of earth, ere the heavens were shapen,  
The Word was with God, and the Word—it was God."

"From out of the void and dense deathly silence,  
The chaos, confusion and darkness of night,  
Reaching out to the farthestmost borders of space,  
Came the voice of Jehovah, with "Let there be light."

"In the cool of the day" came God's sentence, prophetic,  
When the wiles of the serpent our parents confused,  
"Thou art cursed above all of the beasts of creation,  
By the Seed of the woman thy head shall be bruised."

"And thou Bethlehem, although small among thousands,  
From thee there shall come forth a ruler of worth,  
Whose glory and fame and whose life-giving precepts  
Shall conquer, engulf, and encircle the earth."

"Behold there shall be, a son—born of a virgin—  
The fair house of Jesse be famed evermore,  
In equity shall He reprove and pass judgment  
Upon the world's lowly, the meek and the poor."

"Immanuel, Wonderful, Great Prince of Peace,  
Are some of the titles by which He'll be known,  
His name—it shall ride on the sea's farthest tide  
Till all tribes and nations shall call Him their own."

"A man of great sorrows, with dire grief acquainted,  
Despised and reviled and rejected of men,  
And when He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter  
He spoke not—though questioned again and again."

"All the ends of the earth, they shall hear and remember  
I am poured out like water, my strength, blood, and breath,  
To my jaws my tongue cleaves, with hands and feet pierced,  
Wax-hearted, I meet with the foul dust of death."

"And as the hours pass, midst their wild scornful laughter,  
My bones out of joint, and my life ebbing fast,  
My raiment is parted among those who slay me  
While lots for my vesture are eagerly cast."

"I—Omega and Alpha the end and beginning—  
I reign to Eternity's farthestmost shore,  
He that trusteth in me, though he meet the grim reaper,  
Shall 'rest from his labors' and live evermore."

"What think ye of Christ?" He who fed the five thousand,  
What was His mission? And "whose son was He?"

The way my heart answers these soul searching questions  
Will some day determine what Christ thinks of me.

From The Gospel Messenger.

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#### CHRISTMAS

##### The Rest of the Story

By Rev. L. W. Beckley

We are wont to sing of Shepherds,  
And the heavenly glory bright,  
Of the angels and their message  
On that peaceful, holy night;  
Of the virgin mother Mary,  
And the Babe so meek and mild,  
Of the worship of the Wisemen,  
When they found the Christ Child.

But so oft we end the story  
When 'tis only just begun,  
For we fail to give the message  
That this Child is God the Son;  
God come down from heaven's glory  
Here to pay and toll and suffer,  
Here we pay and toll and suffer,  
Here to live the perfect life;

Here to give Himself a ransom,  
Crucified on Calvary's tree,  
Through His blood providing pardon,  
Perfect cleansing, full and free,  
And the tomb, thank God, 'tis empty!  
Jesus sits at God's right hand,—  
Now a loving, mighty Savior;—  
Spread the news to every land!

Oh, I love the Christmas story  
When the news is told complete;  
For 'twas thus the Spirit brought me  
Prostrate at the Savior's feet;  
And when He shall come in glory,  
Takes me to Himself, I know  
I shall still repeat the story  
That I learned so long ago.

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS

—USPEAKABLE GIFT—

#### WHAT CARD PLAYING DID FOR A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

While a friend of mine was conducting a meeting one morning, a tramp came in and said, "My father and mother used to sit in this pew. It is the first church I ever attended. My father was an officer in this church. Seven boys used to sit in this pew in the Sunday school class. We had a great love for our Sunday school teacher. Saturday afternoon she invited us to her home, entertaining with music, eatables and a look over the lesson. After a while she was anxious to please us and hold us, and she taught us the names of cards. None had ever used cards. We became enthusiastic over it, leading different games. After a while we would not give so much time to the lesson, but she let us have more time for playing cards, and would show us some more tricks. After a while we were off in the cotton gins playing cards and not going to her home. Later we failed to go to Sunday school. Cards, cigarettes, after a while drink and gambling. We all at different times left our homes. Two of those boys have been hung, three are in state's prison for life, one a vagabond like myself. No one knows where he is and if the authorities knew I was here, I would be arrested and put behind the bars. All I wish is that that teacher had never taught us how to play cards.

As he stood there broken-hearted, a lady at the right and near the pulpit, dressed in mourning, arose, went to where the man was, fell on the floor with a scream, and said: "My God! I am the Sunday School teacher that did it." She fainted and we did not know but what she was dead. She revived. The woman was not seen any more in the meeting and the man has not been seen since.  
—From The Evangel.

"I am not much of a 'mathematician,'" said the cigarette, "but I can ADD to a man's nervous trouble, I can SUBTRACT from his physical energy, I can MULTIPLY his aches and pains, I can DIVIDE his mental powers, I take INTEREST from his work, and DISCOUNT his chances for success."

—From The Defender.

# Important Facts

By B. F. Brown, Cassville, Mo.

One "Important Fact" is, That the Gem is still alive. After a vacation of seven months, the Gem comes forth to you on a very definite mission: it comes to you with vital information concerning the condition and needs of our denominational work, and it comes to encourage you and to give you spiritual food.

The Executive Board of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptist met at the Gem office in Monett, Missouri, November 5, 1946, for the purpose of providing a way to resume the publication of our beloved Gem paper, if it could be done, and for the transaction of other important business.

All members of the Board were present, together with three other brethren who were seated to sit in council with the Board. We spent six hours in earnest counsel and consideration, and prayer to God. No one was available for Editor, but we did provide for the printing of this issue of the Gem.

The Board has done all it knew to do; and had hoped with great desire that, at this sitting of the Board, a capable, qualified man would be available and ready to consider becoming Manager-Editor of the Gem; but no one was found. However, we have learned of two parties who are interested enough to promise to consider the matter of editorship. We formulated an announcement or advertisement "Editor Wanted" to be printed in other Free Will Baptist papers, which we hope will interest some capable person or persons.

Perhaps what we have had to offer any one qualified to edit our paper hasn't been very attractive; for it has ever been the rule, That the incoming Editor pay the retiring Editor for all his printing material on hand at the time he takes over, and accept all unexpired subscriptions as his obligation. The stock now on hand at the office, belonging to Bro. C. B. Dees the retiring

Editor invoices about \$900.00, and there are about 1,000 unexpired subscriptions now on the books. Under the old custom an incoming Editor would need at least \$1,500.00 in ready cash to pay for the stock and have a working capital. We believe this \$900.00 stock should belong to the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, and

After careful, earnest consideration and prayer, the Board moved by a unanimous vote "To ask our Free Will Baptist people for donations and pledges for the purchase of said stock, which is to become and remain the property of the Missouri State Association. And the Editor who shall have the use of said stock shall ever be responsible to the Association for the amount of stock invoiced to him when he takes over the work.

When this is done and the Association owns the present stock, and a new Editor is installed, he will need only a few hundred dollars as a working capital. He will have the expense of moving, then the expense of the home and office must be met from the start. But after the work is started the income from the office should be sufficient to pay all expenses, buy stock as it needed for the work, pay for the needed help, and have something left as profit. The Editor pays nothing for the stock turned over to him when he takes over, but when and if he gives up the work he will be responsible for the amount of stock he received when he began the work.

It was agreed by the Board that no certain amount in donations and pledges should be asked from any one—only freewill offerings are asked for, the size of the offering is left entirely with the giver. It was also suggested that, if one dollar for a year's subscription to the Gem was sent along with the offering, it would help the Editor and help to build up the circulation of the paper.

It seems to us that this plan for the purchase of the stock at the Gem office is ideal, and the best thing we CAN do to help put our Gem paper back in circulation. We feel sure the plan will go over in a big way, and that we'll soon have a regular Editor in the Gem office—we MUST resume publication of the Gem, and make it better than it ever was. Our hope and desire is to have a regular Editor installed by next month; but YOU must help, as you are able. May we all pray, and give and do what we can to make all this come true, so that we can start the year 1947 with a regular Editor assured that the Gem will be published every month. Your vigorous response to this call will make it sure, that the Gem will be published for January, 1947.

Another "Important Fact" is, That this matter has been presented in Southeast Missouri and more than \$100.00 has been pledged. Most of the pledges were for \$5.00, one dollar for a year's subscription to the Gem, and \$4.00 donation; so about one eighth of the necessary amount is already subscribed. These pledges will be due and payable when an Editor is found and installed. If you cannot give as much, or more than the S. E. Missouri brethren, give as you are able, and the Lord will bless you.

Now, friends of the Gem, let us hear from you. Be prompt and liberal and send your donation or pledge to The Free Will Baptist Gem, 211 Bond Street, Monett, Missouri, or to B. F. Brown, Cassville, Missouri.

If we print the Gem for Jan. 1947, and afterward, we must have manuscript along with your gifts. So prove your friendship and loyalty to the Gem by sending in your donations, pledges, and subscriptions, also articles, reports and letters for publication.

## Our Youth Encampment

Dear Co-Workers in Christ:—We, your State Youth Encampment Board, submit the plans for our Youth Encampment up to this date, December 1, 1946.

Our twenty and one-tenth acres of land, located one mile east of Niangua, Missouri, on the south side of highway "M", is all paid for and it is time for us to "rise up and build."

We plan to build a dining hall 30x40 feet, of native oak lumber, which can be used for all our services until we are financially able to build a chapel (which we pray will be soon). A well is now being drilled close to the space being reserved for the dining hall, thus supplying water for any needed purpose.

The recreation ground, as plotted, is 425 feet in length and 232 feet in width and contains two and one-half acres. Space is reserved for twenty cabins, ten on each side of the recreation ground, with lots of thirty feet frontage, and ten feet from the drive way. It is suggested that the cabins be either one-room cabins (14x14 feet), or two-room cabins (14x20 feet). We recom-

mend that all cabins be built of native oak lumber, so they will be all alike. The cabins may be built by individuals, or by the church, Sunday school or the League, and shall remain and be the property of the builder, who may use, rent or sell, as circumstances seem to justify.

There will be a drive way, entering from high way "M", and going all the way around the recreation ground, wide enough for parking cars and space enough for cars to pass.

Any person interested in this good work, and willing to help with their finances to get the Camp ready for use, may send contributions to Rev. William Reeves, Irondale, Missouri. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Write for information concerning this good work—information will be gladly given, if you ask for it.

We earnestly covet your prayers and your co-operation and your financial support, that our Camp may be ready for our use the coming summer.

Yours for the Cause,  
Rev. Wm. Reeves, Sec'y-Treas.

## A Message To Boys

By Mrs. O. V. Tadlock, Columbus, Kansas.

I wish to write a message directly to boys; for I am afraid that boys do not always receive the sympathy and encouragement that they deserve. I like boys. I like little boys, big boys, handsome boys and homely boys. I like tall boys, short boys, boys with education and boys who are unlearned. I like good boys and I even like bad boys. I don't think boys ever intend to be really bad, they are just careless and let Satan lead them astray. Then of course, a great number of boys have never been taught to be good boys.

Why do I like boys? Well, I have four boys in this world and one in heaven, a tall red-headed boy, with a million freckles and a sweet boyish grin, a boy who went away to war when he was

nineteen and did not come back. A boy who gave his heart to Jesus and who is now with Him waiting for the rest of us to come. I also have a grandson, so why shouldn't I like boys? And then you know, Jesus was once a boy. I like to think of the time when Jesus was a boy and went to church and Sunday school with His parents.

I don't think Jesus ever got sassy to Joseph and Mary, do you? I know you boys don't intend to be sassy or disrespectful to your mother and daddy either, but you do sometimes. I don't think Jesus ever talked to other boys while church services were going on, do you? I know you boys don't mean to be irreverent in God's house either, but sometimes you are. Do you know

that the church is dedicated to God and that His spirit is there? Do you think He likes it when you talk about marble games, ball games or the new colt at your home when you should be listening to what the minister or your Sunday school teacher is saying? They are telling you of the most important thing in the world, the love of God and of His son who came to this world and gave His life on the cross that all of us might be saved just by trusting in Him.

I have said that I even like bad boys. Well, God loves bad boys, so why shouldn't I? It was bad people that God sent His Son into the world to save. The only really good people in the world are those who have taken Jesus as their Saviour and they are not good through any merit of their own, but through the Spirit of Jesus in their hearts and lives.

I think boys are often misunderstood. People think that because they do not outwardly pay much attention to what is said at church or Sunday school that they do not think much about such things. Boys have deeper feelings than most people think they have and are more sincere and honest in their opinions than they often get credit for. Now, boys this does not mean that parents and teachers and maybe your neighbors do not like you and do not want to help you. It just means that you must let them know a little more about your problems and things that you don't understand.

I am sure that many times when a boy is absent mindedly whittling on the back of a church bench that he is subconsciously puzzling over something he has heard the preacher or Sunday school teacher say. This does not make it right to disfigure the furnishings in God's house; so boys, let time just bolster up your courage and go ask daddy or mother or the preacher about the things you don't understand. Better still, go away off in the woods by yourself and ask God about it. He has never failed anyone who came to Him and earnestly asked for help.

God bless all boys.

# Elijah The Prophet

And Facts Concerning His Origin and Appearance

By Eld. P. H. Coffman, Denison, Texas.

## First Scene

Nothing is known of his parentage. He is one of the most unique and dramatic characters of Bible history. Rugged in appearance and dress, he is a prototype of John the Baptist (2 Kings 1:8; Matt. 3:4).

## Second Scene

The main events of his life present a series of pictorial scenes of thrilling interest. Boldly and unannounced he appeared before the idolatrous King Ahab to announce a prolonged drought (1 Kings 17:1). By divine command he went into the wilderness and tarried by the brook Cherith, where he must depend upon unclean birds to bring him his supply of food, and he drank from the brook (1 Kings 17:2-6). Here his faith was tested by the drying up of the brook (1 Kings 17:7).

## Third Scene

As commanded, he arose and went to Zarephath, and just outside the famine stricken city the woman was gathering sticks, that she might bake her last morsel of meal, that she and her son might eat it and die; yet the prophet was sent to her to be fed (1 Kings 17:9-12). On arrival he begged for a drink of water and a piece of bread; but she told him that her supplies were reduced to a handful of meal and a little oil in a cruse (1 Kings 17:12).

## Fourth Scene

The strain of the famine was too great for the widow's son, any way he lay dead in the loft at the widow's home at Zarephath. But Elijah, by a mighty struggle in prayer brought the boy to life again (1 Kings 17:17-24).

## Fifth Scene

As Ahab and his servant searched for water, Elijah suddenly appeared before the king and commanded him to summon all the false prophets to Mount Carmel (1 Kings 17:17-19).

## Sixth Scene

On Mount Carmel the prophet called the people to a decision concerning God, and challenged the prophets of Baal to a fiery test (1 Kings 18:20-24). The failure of the false prophets (1 Kings 18:26-29). Elijah prayed and the fire descended and consumed his sacrifice (1 Kings 18:30-38). The verdict of the people was that "The LORD, He is the God". Then followed the destruction of the false prophets (1 Kings 18:39-40).

## Seventh Scene

This marked the end of the drought; for Elijah prayed for rain, and as the storm approached, he ran before the king to the entrance of Jezreel (1 Kings 18:41-46).

## Eighth Scene

Elijah the prophet is seen under a Juniper tree in the wilderness, having fled from the wrath of Queen Jezebel. Discouraged and exhausted, he desired to die; but was fed by an angel and went on to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:1-8).

## Ninth Scene

At Mount Horeb, the prophet poured out his complaint to the Lord. He was given a new and better revelation of the Divine Character, and was commanded to go and anoint two prospective kings and his own successor (1 Kings 19:9-17).

## Tenth Scene

On a farm near Abel-meholah Elijah found Elisha in the field plowing, and cast his own mantle upon him to indicate the call of this farmer to be his successor (1 Kings 19:19-21).

## Eleventh Scene

In the vineyard of Naboth, the prophet found King Ahab, who had come to take possession of inheritance which he had murdered Naboth to obtain. He pronounced an awful doom upon the wicked king and his wife (1 Kgs. 21:17-24).

## Twelfth Scene

Two companies of soldiers were sent by the king of Samaria to capture the prophet; and he called down fire from heaven and destroyed them (2 Kings 1:1-12). Later on he announced the doom of the idolatrous king (2 Kings 1:16).

## Thirteenth Scene

The last journey of Elijah was accompanied by Elisha; the two of them traveled through the country until they came to the Jordan river, where Elijah smote the water with his mantle, and the two passed over on dry ground. As they stood conversing together, Elisha made his farewell request. Suddenly a chariot of fire separated the two friends, and Elijah was taken up by a whirlwind into heaven (2 Kings 2:1-11).

## Post-Mortem Scene

On the Mount of Transfiguration Elijah re-appeared with Moses and talked with Christ (Matt. 17:3).

# Reception of the Christ Child

Scripture Reading, Luke 2:8-20 By Gweneth Talley, Aurora, Mo.

Christmas—The gladdest day of the year to us all, but especially to the children, with the spirit of cheer and good will, its merry gatherings in the home, its hallowed services in the church and Sunday school, its beautiful carols of praise, and its exchange of gifts among loved ones and greetings among dear friends. How anxiously we have looked forward to it in our child-

hood days! And for us who have grown older, what treasured memories cluster around it in addition to the ever deepening joy and spiritual blessings we desire from its reverent celebration!

All this, and much more, Christmas is to us, because it commemorates the birthday of the holy Babe, our blessed Savior.

It was about two thousand

years ago, in Bethlehem, a city of David, a Child was born who was the Son of the living God.

In Luke the announcement is not of a King of the Jews, but of a Savior, and so the news is not brought to the wise and the great, nor to the chief priests and elders, but to the shepherds in the field in the region near Bethlehem, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

While the shepherds were faithfully attending their duty, the angel of the Lord came suddenly and unexpectedly. The glory which shone around about them was the Shekinah glory of old, the glory which betokened God's presence (Exo. 40:34, 35 and 1 Kings 8:10, 11). This made them sore afraid, fearing evil tidings.

The angel at once quieted their fears by assuring them that he had a joyful message. He brought "good tidings of great joy." The news the angel brought to the shepherds was: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." It was not only good news in general, but it was good news to them. The birth of Christ was the most marvelous event that had ever taken place.

And what a strange "sign!" Christ the Lord, "a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger."

The angels in Heaven were stirred and enthused over the birth of the Savior. While the angel of the Lord was delivering the good news of His birth to the shepherds, a multitude of the Heavenly host came upon the scene. The angels promised the Lord—angels who had never sinned, and needed no Savior, and who could never enjoy redemption—angels who can never sing the sweet song of redemption, by the blood of Christ.

The angels did not sing as generally said, but they spoke. First, "Glory to God in the highest." Praise to God for the birth of the Savior. Second, "And on earth peace, good will toward men."

The shepherds were not indifferent to the news the angels brought to them. They may have

been uneducated men, but they were wise men. They went at once to see for themselves the thing the Lord had made known unto them. They did not go to test the word of God, but to "see" what had come to pass. It was the obedience of faith, and it was rewarded. They found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Then they went and told what they had seen to others. This was their reception of the Christ child. He was their Savior.

What is He to you? He is your Savior, your Redeemer, your Ransom, your Atonement. Have you received Him as did the shepherds of long ago?

Christ was born among us, that He might have the right to redeem us; for it was only the kinsman who could redeem the lost inheritance (Lev. 25:25; Heb. 2:14).

Christ was born for us, for He was manifested in human nature that He might die for sin; hence, He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself (Heb. 9:26). At this glorious season, let us strive to keep the Christ in Christmas, and receive Him joyfully into our hearts, that we might tell others of Him.

## GREAT OBLIGATION WITH GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

By B. F. Brown, Cassville, Mo.

At the 1928 session of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, held at Mt. Zion Church, we, the Free Will Baptists of the State of Missouri, covenanted together to publish a Free Will Baptist paper to be known as "The Free Will Baptist Gem," and promised to support it. The writer was elected Editor and, beginning with the January, 1929 issue, the Gem was published at Tecumseh, Oklahoma until May, 1930, when we moved to Purdy, Missouri.

It was on the first day of May, 1930, that we arrived at Purdy, with all our belongings, and settled down to continue the publi-

cation of the Gem; and for nine years the Gem went out from Purdy, once every month, on its mission of helping to advance our great and important work.

In 1939 the present publishing house was built at Monett, and the equipment was moved from Purdy to the new building about the first of July, 1939. The writer resigned at that time and Eld. John B. Rollins was elected and installed as Editor, by the Executive Board.

In 1943 Bro. Rollins resigned and Eld. C. B. Dees was elected Editor. Bro. Dees continued the publication of our paper from January 1, 1944 to April 15, 1946 when his resignation took effect.

At every session of our State Association since 1928 we have covenanted or agreed together to continue to accept our responsibility for our obligation to publish and support the Gem—it has become a "Great Obligation with Great Responsibility." During the past years we have donated thousands of dollars to build and equip our publishing house—it is a worthy record of the loyalty of our people for a worthy cause.

But for the past seven months we have been without an Editor; so have been without a paper. We are not laying any blame on anyone, but I know that it is a grief to every loyal Free Will Baptist that this is so. We have a building and equipment worth at least \$12,000.00, standing idle because we have no Editor. Has our contract or obligation to publish the Gem become null and void? or has our responsibility to fulfill our contract ceased to be binding? I sincerely hope that we can answer both these questions with a definite "No!" I know, it seems discouraging that, in our search for an Editor, we have failed to find one, but I can't believe that it is the time to give up the search; if we really "have faith in God," and unite our prayers in asking Him for what is needed, wavering not, He will certainly grant our petition (Matt. 18:19). And Jesus said (John 16:23): "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you."

When we do find an Editor he



may be inexperienced, and not trained to do the work; but he can be trained in a short time—we'll not leave him to work it out alone, but will help him till he can go it alone. We have a well equipped publishing house, which the Editor takes charge of, pays his own expenses and keeps all the income, and should make it pay a profit.

At this date (Dec. 10, 1946), we are at the Gem office getting out this issue of the paper. Bro. and Sister Dees are helping some of evenings, when their own days work is done, and Bro. Allred is helping with folding papers, etc. We are having to use the material on hand, and must use "news print", which may appear cheap but it is the best we can do under the present circumstances. Suitable manuscript is also short and we must borrow some from other papers. There are reports

and letters which were written several months ago, which we consider too old to print. But you'll find some good articles in this issue of the Gem and Christmas articles are not wanting.

Present conditions and facilities are not favorable for the publication of a perfect paper; but we are doing our best under the circumstances and we hope you will not be disappointed.

We hope that this issue of the Gem will revive hope in the heart of every reader, and that every one will be moved to action for the revival of our paper. If you feel like I do you will feel assured that an Editor will be on the job before long. If we all trust in God, and pray definitely for an Editor and the revival of the Gem, we shall have the thing desired.

May the Lord bless and move every one to do His will.

mas service than in that first year, but this number represents those enrolled in school and Sunday school during the past years, some of whom have definitely accepted Jesus as their Savior. These now celebrate Christmas with a personal conviction of its meaning.

Our Christmas program presented some impressive drills in which the children skipped gracefully in attractive formation and sang the Christmas story. Then came a conversation between a Hindu sanyasi (holy man) and a group of Christians, comparing the two faiths and their leaders, Krishna and Christ. In the end, the sanyasi was persuaded of the preeminence of Christ as Savior, and he renounced his old faith, discarded his holy robes and joined the group who had found the joy of salvation in Christ. Last and best came the Christmas drama, with the angel announcing the news to Mary and later to the shepherds; then the visit of the shepherds and the Wisemen to pay homage to the Christ Child. The characters were dressed most appropriately, their costuming being probably much nearer the original than anything we see produced in America. Most of the parts were sung, making it all the more impressive. I was amazed at the dignity, ease and sincerity with which the children carried out their parts. The little girl who played the part of Mary moved as in response to the angel's message. She sang "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word," and continued with the Magnificat, or song of praise. The virgin's dress was, not the snow-white finery in which Americans are so fond of garbing her, but a modest, colorful blue oriental dress with corresponding headgear draped according to old Palestinian custom. This scene of the angel appearing to the humble, devout girl stirred us with its real message. Then appeared the shepherds sitting out on the hillside by night, discussing the personal problems that pressed and perplexed them. Abruptly their conversation was interrupted and forgotten as they fell on their

## Christmas At Kotagiri, India, December, 1945

By Miss Laura B. Barnard, Springhill Kotagiri, P. O. Nilgiris, South India.

Why is it that children play an important part in making the spirit of the Christmas season? For it seems to be universally recognized that without children all celebrations of the birth of our Saviour lack something of warmth and color. Can it be because our Lord Himself came as an infant and experienced all the joys and sorrows of childhood as well as manhood? Or, because He gave to children such a large place in His life and ministry, as, for example, when He said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven," and again, "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven?" Or, is it because little children in their simplicity and sincerity may somehow come nearer to an understanding of the true meaning of Christmas than we adults who are impeded by much veneer and many superfluities? Perhaps the answer to the question must be found in a combination of the foregoing possibilities. And here in our India work the Christmas

season has held for us many joys and much lasting blessing because of the large part our children have contributed to it.

Nine years ago the Lord gave me the unexcelled joy of leading this community in their first observance of Christmas. Nearly one hundred children who had spasmodically attended Sunday school during the preceding months took part in lighting the Christmas tree, reciting Scripture verses, and singing songs that told the story of the ruin of man and the coming of the Savior. What a memorable occasion it was! Following that service I lay awake that night my cup running over with the deep satisfaction of having witnessed among India's "people that sat in darkness," the shining of a Great Light. The good news of salvation had been clearly proclaimed.

Now, nearly a decade later, my joy is even greater, because I have seen further miracles of grace which the Spirit of God has wrought during these intervening years. Fewer children took part in this year's Christ-

faces startled at the sudden appearance of the angel. The audience, too, felt the shepherds' bewilderment, and seemed likewise to recover poise with them as the angel spoke the reassuring words, "Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings." Later, when the shepherds and wise men in turn visited the Babe and offered their gifts, the historic event lived again before us, especially as we saw one "Wise Man" enter with a bowl of real, smoking, fragrant incense.

Tears came unbidden as I sat as chairman for the occasion and drank it all in. Everything had been prepared without my help, except the selection of the material to be used. I had been busy with other phases of Christmas preparations and left the training of the children altogether with the teachers, Esther and Kamala. I had not even seen a rehearsal. Their accomplishments proved far beyond my expectations, showing genuine ability on the part of the teachers (one of whom is our very own girl), and most gratifying responsiveness on the part of the children. They seemed to feel that for the time being they actually were those shepherds, the wise men, the angel and the Jewish maiden, and this amused the audience to live with them for a few moments back in the atmosphere of old Judea. The children gave forth the Christmas message as sincerely and as convincingly as many have done from the pulpit this Christmas season.

That is why I felt the same thrill of joy I had felt nine years ago. Disappointments and difficulties dwindled into infinitesimal dimensions as I answered aloud to myself, "It is worth while—a thousand times worth while!"

We had presents for all—thanks to the Durham ladies for about twenty-five dolls and heaps of beads, and to the Bryan and Glenville ladies for clothing and a few other items—and it was a great pleasure to present the gifts after they had rendered such a dignified and spiritual program, their offering to the

On the morning of Christmas Eve we had our usual picnic treat, giving all (by Miss Coyle's generosity) fruit, candy, grain, buns. The unexpected visit of a friend in the British Air Force was a great pleasure to us. He took great delight in playing with the children and helping to distribute the eats. More important even than the cats was the honor of having the white man hand them fruit with his own white hands. He made a little speech, by interpretation, which added savor to the occasion and helped to make it memorable to the children.

Sunday preceding Christmas we celebrated in Aggal with the Kotas. This affair was less elaborate, yet yielding genuine inspiration and encouragement. The Kota children were called upon to read, to recite the multiplication tables, verses of Scripture, and to sing. This was chiefly for the wholesome purpose of demonstrating to their own people what their school was achieving. These children, of course, were not far enough advanced to present a program such as our Kotagiri school could do, but they nevertheless showed real progress. With the use of the Christmas Manger Set of stand-up pictures, we told the story in full of the coming of the Savior to save lost sinners; and the Kota community listened keenly to it all. We gave presents to these children also, and found here such gratitude as we seldom see elsewhere.

Upon entering the village we paused a moment at the diminutive school building where the children had gathered. From there we proceeded to the maiden (a large, open space in the village used for gatherings) where there would be room for all to gather. As the meeting began, one of the locked the school house door, came and placed in my hand the giant-sized key (fully six inches long), as a token of confidence and committal. Then, after our meeting was over, the same woman pushed through the crowd and approached me eagerly with message from the group: "Please

don't ever take this school from us. See what it is doing for our children and for us!" she pleaded. I had previously announced that we would close school for the holidays, and the people were afraid we might not reopen it.

It was a satisfaction to hear this urgent appeal from people who are becoming awakened to seek better things. One is reminded of a quotation from a letter Rama of our Indian Mission wrote some ninety years ago: "The Lord has caused Christianity, like a cloud of beauty, to arise over the minds of the people" (Reminiscences, page 210). What we see here is a very gradual change, but the rising of the 'cloud of beauty' seems sure. And nowadays, whenever I see any of the Kota men in Kotagiri or any other place where they go for work or business, they always take time to show unwonted deference. Next week this Tribe will celebrate their big annual festival to Kamatariya, and even their priests have invited us to come to the village during these festival days and preach Christ while all will be free from work and secular ties. Such an invitation is most usual, and, although we cannot tell just what it means, we feel inclined to grasp every opening for the Gospel. Our Rev. J. Phillips long ago wrote, "The Gospel must precede and arouse the dormant mind to secure its own best good, before it will be alive to progress." (Reminiscences, page 108). We feel this is one definite way in which the Gospel is making its power felt among the Kotas. Pray that His Word will not return unto Him void, but accomplish all that He pleases, prospering in the thing whereunto He sent it (Isa. 55:11). His pleasure and purpose will not fall short of salvation of souls.

Some time ago the Madras Presidency became stirred with an impulse to inaugurate compulsory education. The idea was propagated in the various districts of the Presidency and our district, Nilgiris, with great enthusiasm announced to all the schools that October 1 would see the scheme enforced. We were delighted, feeling this would be



a great help to us in our fight against illiteracy. But as usual, India moves slowly, and January 1946 sees no official step taken towards compulsory education. However, in our own quaint way we have unwittingly acquired a kind of compulsory education. The instigator and chief executive in this scheme is my twelve year old servant boy who goes to school as well as works. On the opening day of school after Christmas holidays this lad was late for school, although I had sent him away in plenty of time. Finally he came tramping in with a group of children, he bringing up the rear and carrying a long stick. Not wishing to call attention to the lad, I said nothing, though I was highly amused. One of the teachers, however, could not refrain, and asked, "What have you brought that stick for?" The boy replied with deep seriousness, "I had to take the stick to get the children to come. They were playing and didn't want to come, so I took the stick and made them come." Yesterday when he came in from school, his face beaming, he said: "Amma, there were more than forty children at school today." I was pleased to hear this, and was also glad that he was taking an interest in the attendance. He went ahead with his work and afterwards when he came to the room again he casually commented, "You know, Amma, I had to take a stick again this morning to get the children to school. Some of them won't come unless I do." Trying to appear calm about the unusual circumstance, I asked, "But what do the parents of those children think of your taking a stick to their children?" He said, "Oh, they are glad I do. They tell me to use it and make the children come along." So I suppose he has at least one verse of Scripture in his favor, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." And he has, incidentally, stolen a leap on the Madras Government in its dreams of compulsory education.

I would like to answer through this medium a few questions that have come in letters and which

I am thus far unable to answer personally. The best way to send money to India, unless it is as much as \$50, is by Foreign Postoffice Money Order. The sender pays the fee at the postoffice issuing the order, and the money is delivered direct to the person on this side, in its equivalent of Indian currency. The time required is about the same as for ordinary mail. Any amount as large as \$50 should be sent by cable through the American Express Company, as yet. Later, checks will be easily negotiable. This sounds as if I had been receiving, or were expecting to receive large amounts direct. Neither is true! But questions still come, and I should like this information to prevent any one's sending gifts by a means that is least convenient when the most convenient means might be used.

Some one has asked about Sunday School picture rolls. By all means, all pictorial material for Bible teaching is most helpful, and Sunday School picture rolls are particularly appropriate. And if friends would save their prettiest used Christmas cards and send them to me about September of this year, we could use them for blessing. Do not send them now, for there is no space for storing, and insects would destroy them in any case. Flannelgraph material is most acceptable, but I would ask friends to send figures that do not require coloring, cutting and flanneling, at least for the time being, while missionaries are limited here. I have some such material on hand which I have had no time to prepare, and it lies idle and useless for the moment.

The Lord has given the responsibility of a dear little girl of two years whose father had deserted her and whose mother had been taken by death. The child, Santha, is now in a home for orphans and is receiving all she requires of everything. She is such a winsome child and has gained so much since going there that she does not look like the same child. When she came to me she could walk only a few steps without growing tired and sitting down to rest. There were other pathetic evidences of mal-

nutrition. Now it is a joy to see her. I am supporting her as a personal obligation but if there is an individual or group at home feeling inclined to assume this obligation with the blessing it yields, I would welcome the transfer. The child is dedicated to God who rescued her in infinite pity and compassion, and I am believing He will claim this little life and use her in a service that will redound to His glory.

In previous communications I have mentioned that my personal luggage arrived some months ago. The sewing machine, bicycle, linens, silverware, movie camera, and other items. And now I have news that the folding organ presented by the South Carolina ladies has arrived in India. It takes a long time to reach Kotagiri by freight, the only feasible means of getting it here, so I have not yet actually received it. The radio, given by the North Carolina ladies, has not yet been shipped from home, because parts have to now been unavailable there and here. I would like all to know that what you have given has been deeply appreciated and whatever has been received on this side has been of great use.

Some have asked what magazines I receive. Moody Monthly, Sunday School Times, Union Signal, Child Evangelism, the Free Will Baptist are my sole receipts at present. It would be a great help to receive other magazines including such as National Geographic, Saturday Evening Post, Reader's Digest, Times of Life, and the standard household magazines. I have no access to any of these magazines and miss so much the contact with the outside world which they give.

As the New Year begins it is not too early to think of Christmas again, especially in India. If friends would again make pretty dolls and garments for children save their discarded beads (provided they are strung and the short strings that won't slip over the head have some means of fastening), second-hand toys, and send them to us, it would be a great help for our next Christmas celebration.

**OFFICE NATIONAL FOREIGN MISSION BOARD  
FREE WILL BAPTISTS  
205 Fifth Street, Monett, Missouri.  
(A Circular Letter)**

Dear Christian Worker:

Feeling a deep desire to have another talk with you concerning our dear missionary program, I therefore take pleasure in writing you this letter. I have far more to talk over with you than I can hope to mention in this letter; but will mention some of the most outstanding matters.

Am so glad to tell you that the Lord has answered prayer in giving us a couple for the work in India. For so long we have been praying for a man and wife to send out as helpers for Miss Barnard on the India field. After so long a time this couple has been given to us in the persons of Rev. and Mrs. Paul Woolsey of Greenville, Tennessee. Bro. and Sister Woolsey are well known in the bounds of our denomination, are dearly loved by our people, and promise to be of tremendous value to our missionary work. Their applications have been approved by the Board, and they are now in the midst of preparation for sailing. The plan is for them to sail early in January. Of course such procedure takes time and it is impossible to be definite as to a sailing date just yet; but we hope for them to get out at least in the very forepart of the ensuing year. Please remember them to the Lord in your prayers.

Happy to tell you the book written by Miss Laura B. Barnard entitled, "His Name Among All Nations", has been published and is now for sale at the price of \$2.00 each. You will please order from the office address. While the book is a history of missions from the birth of the church at Pentecost until the present, however it is especially compiled for study course work. It is just what is needed on the subject of missions. You should by all means own a copy of this splendid book. Send us your order and we will fill same promptly.

Some important steps are now

being taken relative to our work in Cuba. Most of you know that the buildings first erected in the establishing of the Cuban School of Missions were built only of temporary material. Financial means would not permit building them of anything different at that time. Now the school has grown to where there would be a student body of 75 to 100 if we could accommodate them. The first buildings are in need of repair. So in the face of this situation, it is deemed wise to undertake the erection of a new set of buildings.

These buildings are to be of brick with tile roof. They will be permanent and fireproof, something which will be adequate and will be indeed a credit to our missionary program in Cuba. Of course we do not expect to reach this goal of an entire new set of buildings in one year; or even two years perhaps. We will launch the campaign to reach out over a period of years and will be working all the while toward reaching the goal within the given time. Of course the present and most pressing need is some dormitory space. This we hope to provide first as we move into this campaign. You will be hearing more about this in the near future, and more in detail as the plans are just being laid as we get this letter out to you.

While we are so glad to tell you of these new developments and new plans in the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions department, and would be glad if we could devote each paragraph of this letter to the giving out of interesting information about our missionary work; but we are compelled to use some of this valuable space in trying to impress upon you more deeply the need of financial support of this great work. Our greatest problem continues to be that of arousing interest among our Free Will Baptist people in the great cause of spreading the gospel in the

world. We have many who are supporting the work splendidly, and in a regular way; but there is not enough of them. We must have more supporters. If you are not a supporter of missions then we are pleading with you to fall in line with your prayers and with your means. Do you realize that we have Free Will Baptist boys and girls in schooling now who are preparing definitely to go as missionaries to India, Cuba, and Japan? Are you aware of the fact that in just a short while all these will be looking to us for their support on the field? I wish I could show you what a staggering thing this F. W. B. foreign mission program promises to be in the immediate future. How wonderfully the Lord is moving before us. Surely we will not fail to move along with Him as He is so graciously leading in this great work. He is opening the door. Will we move in? It is now or never. The only hope for this sin sick world is the gospel. Will we do our part? Brethren let's redeem the years the locusts have eaten. Let us pray as Habakuk of old when he prayed, "Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years. In wrath remember mercy". We are praying God to give you a vision of the ripened harvest fields in the regions beyond. We are praying God to impress upon you more than ever the tremendous weight of the great commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature". You may not be called to go in person; but you can obey this great command of our Lord by simply giving of your means that the gospel may be taken by those who are called to go.

In conclusion let us say we are extremely grateful for your loyalty thus far. We are not unmindful of each offering that comes to the treasury from the least to the greatest. May the Lord bless you for it, and I know He does bless you. We appreciate everything you can and will do toward the furtherance of this missionary work. If you are in a position to help us enlist others toward its support then

won't you please do that. If you know of others you would like for us to place on our mailing list then write and give us their name and address. If you want our letters and papers sent to you in bundles for distribution let us know and we will gladly send them. Please remember to pray much for the missionar-

ies now on the fields, for those in preparation for sailing, for those in schooling, for the world in heathen darkness, for the missionary department in general, and then in conclusion, say, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Please remember we are depending on you.

Winford Davis

## The Purpose and Result of the Coming of Christ

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace" (Luke 2:14) "I came not to send peace but a sword" (Matt. 10:34).

In this message to you at this Christmas season I wish to have you approach it in a different manner than the ordinary way that you have heard so many times. Most everybody knows that want to, that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, seemingly but few realize the purpose of His coming.

How glaringly contradictory do these statements seem to be! The first agrees with all our ideas of the purpose of His coming, and harmonizes admirably with many other Scriptures: whilst the second is exactly the opposite. Some might ask: "Which is correct?" "Which am I to accept?"

Which have I to accept? Why both, for the two are correct, though they do seem to differ entirely. This view may seem illogical, but life proves many a proposition true that logic would readily demonstrate as false.

The first tells of His purpose in His coming; the second of the actual results of His coming. This phraseology is peculiar to the Bible where, sometimes, a person is declared to do only that which he permits.

This does not mean that our Lord's purposes have been finally thwarted, that He came to bestow peace, but lo! His purposes are not, and will not be realized. What He has set out to do sooner or later.

But is there not another view of this matter, in order to es-

tablish peace, or in establishing peace, the sword of the Spirit is required?

There are two pictures of our Lord in the Bible. The most familiar one is that of the Lord bearing the Olive Branch. He came to make peace by the Blood of His Cross, and to preach peace.

But there is another picture, and one not so well known, that of our Lord with a drawn sword in His hand, Joshua saw the Lord, "over against him with His sword drawn in His hand" (Joshua 5:13) Christ is the Man of War.

In Revelation 1:16, John saw the Lord, when "out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword," teaching the mighty power of His Word. The Saviour we know and the one we have to deal with is tender and compassionate, yet One who can slay with the word.

(I) Before Christ can establish His peace in the heart of man He has to unsheath His Sword. In other words, before we can know Him as a peace bringer, we must know Him as peace breaker. The unsaved soul is, by nature, wrapped up in a deep, deep peace, the peace of spiritual slumber and of death. A peace that is the herald of the awful storm of Judgement. A sleep from which there is no awakening if left to ourselves. He comes to disturb that false and awful peace.

Arctic explorers speak of the soul-subduing silences of the Arctic region. A strange peace reigns supreme. No life, nothing but a chilling desolation. Ev-

erything is wrapped in the cold embrace of winter. Before the beautiful and refreshing peace of springtime can visit that region there must be a great disturbance. The sun shines with its gladdening rays of warmth, the great ice fields melt, and the results—an awful tearing and grinding, shrieking and rending, with explosions as of dynamite. So when the Sun of Righteousness shines upon the souls wrapped up in the cold embrace of spiritual death, there is a disturbance, a breaking up of the stillness of spiritual death. To change the metaphor, the Sword which is the Word of God begins its cutting and thrusting. But after conviction comes conversion, after repentance, comes peace through the Blood of His Cross.

(II) The establishment of His peace through the Blood of His ten means the unsheathing of the sword of persecution at home, in workshop, or elsewhere. Of this truth every Christian will fully vouch. Here is a worldly home, wrapped in carnal peace. One member of the family is converted. At once family peace departs, and persecution enters. The fact is that the presence of Christ in that one life becomes a disturbance, making all uncomfortable. We have sometimes wondered why a veil was drawn over our Lord's life at Nazareth. Perhaps it was a mercy that it was so. Was our Lord here speaking of personal experience? Was there strife and contention because of that Pure One? There are several significant facts in the New Testament. His kinsmen thought Him mad (Mark 3:21). And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on Him: for they said, "He is beside Himself." Even His mother and brethren shared the same view. And in John 7:5 we are informed that His brethren did not believe Him. But thank GOD, He gives peace to the persecuted ones.

(III) It is also true to say that every soul saved is sent forth with a sword to make war upon the host of sin.

Christ not only puts peace in our hearts, but a sword in our

hands. The note of warfare rings through the New Testament Epistles. There are hosts of sin and wickedness to be attacked, and the Word of God is the weapon He puts in our hands. There is the call for volunteers. Who will step out on the Lord's side?

(IV) Peace of God—A Peace within. This peace baffles all description. It surpasses all thought. It is that holy calm which rests in God alone, and which He is willing to communicate to us.

There are three steps to this enjoyment:

1. It becomes mine when I realize my standing in Christ, when I discover I have peace with God on the ground of the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

2. It deepens and increases as I grow in grace. It is the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22), and it comes to us by the aid of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17), and is the result of a deepened knowledge of God (2 Peter 1:2), and of increased spirituality (Rom. 8:6).

3. It follows the cultivation of the prayer-habit, as Phil. 4:7 clearly shows: "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

May we that know this peace endeavor to impart it to those that are still in darkness, and only know Christmas as a time to give and receive gifts.

Eld. C. B. Dees.

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## THE COLLEGE EXPANSION PROGRAM

Missouri was allotted \$10,000 of the \$100,000 proposed for the expansion of the Bible College; however, during the 1946 session of the National Association this allotment was reduced to \$7,000. Up to the present date \$1,687.95 has been applied on the 1945 and 1946 quotas. This leaves a balance of \$2,062.05 to be raised before the last of December, 1946, or Missouri will carry a deficit into 1947 to be added to the quota for next year. This is not necessary, as it should be an easy matter to get offerings which will

easily take care of the balance for this year. Assuming you have 100 churches in the state, an offering of \$25 from each church, or its equivalent, will put the state in good shape for opening a systematic plan for 1947. Let the pastor, or some other leader, see to it that this cause is fairly presented to each church and an offering taken before Christmas. Please mail the offerings in at the earliest possible date in order that the amounts may be applied on the 1946 quota.

We wish to recommend the Annual Endowment check plan for use in Missouri during the coming two years on the following basis: half of the churches to sign checks for \$2.50 a month and the other half sign for \$1 a month (this on the assumption that half of the churches are recognized as stronger and half weaker), that half of the Sunday Schools sign for \$1 a month, and half for \$1 every two months; Leagues sign for \$1 a month and women's auxiliaries for \$2.50 a month. Try this and I am sure you will be delighted with the results. Write as to your plans and request needed materials and instructions.

Missouri is being served by the college as no other state inasmuch as twenty five per cent of all students in training here are Missouri Free Will Baptists.

J. R. Davidson

## SALVATION

By Dr. M. F. Ham

The Christian has already been delivered not only from the fears that our political leaders are talking about, but he has been assured that he can conquer those difficulties he has to meet. He is not dependent on finite and human help to do these things. I'll confess that I would have little cheer and hope if I thought my source of help was from poor, weak humans like myself. My efficiency is in Christ, who has demonstrated that He has power over all things, both in this material world and the spirit world. Not only has the Christian been the beneficiary of the great life of Jesus, but by His death, he has been emancipated from man's worst enemy DEATH.

So he knows that he will never die. Though this body may fall asleep, he will dwell with the Lord, which is far better than being here. And then at the Lord's appointed time he will be given a new body in which to dwell forever.

When I look at that Bible as the Book of Christ, I see in Genesis the beginning of generation and degeneration. In the dome of this magnificent architecture of truth, I see the finality of generation, degeneration and regeneration; from Genesis to Revelation, I see a perfect revelation of the perfect man, the Son of God. Everything is either a figure, a type, a prophecy, or a precept, all of which has contributed not only to the victory of the Seed of the woman, but to the utter confusion and crushing defeat of the seed of the serpent. Certainly the Christian is not just an imitation of the truth, but he is the vital expression, a living memorial, and with the great Apostle Paul can say, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" Philippians 4:13.

The Church Press

—o-o-o—

There is one person in your church  
Who knows your preacher's life;  
She's wept and smiled and prayed  
with him.

And that's your preacher's wife!  
She knows your prophets weakest  
point,

And knows his greatest power;  
She's heard him speak in trumpet  
tone,

In his great triumph hour.  
She's heard him groaning in his soul  
When bitter raged the strife,  
As hand in hand she knelt with him  
For she's the preacher's wife.

The crowd has seen him in his  
strength,

When glistened his drawn sword  
As underneath God's banner folds  
He faced the devil's horde.

But she knows deep within her  
heart

That scarce an hour before  
She helped him pray the glory down  
Behind a closed door.

You tell your tales of prophets  
brave

Who walked across the world  
And changed the course of history  
By burning words they hurled.  
And I will tell how back of him  
Some women lived their lives;  
Who wept with them and smiled  
with them—

They were the preacher's wives!

# A TIME OF CHEER

Rev. L. F. Deffner, Wichita, Kansas.

At least once a year, men will smile and show an attitude of kindness. In these days, practically every one is making plans to bring joy to someone else. Men go to great lengths to add to the widespread good will of the Christmas season.

Why this strange interlude in a world filled with hate and cruelty, with sorrow, loneliness and heartache? Why this peculiar change in behavior?

Because nineteen hundred years ago in Bethlehem of Judea a Child was born, cradled in a manger bed, and in consequence of that lowly birth the whole Christian world desires to wear a smile and engage in deeds of love and mercy.

The birth of that Child had been predicted by prophets for centuries and when He came, the world was made to see that God is love. And strange as it sometimes seems, each year when Christendom magnifies Christ's birth and thanks God for His love, many outside the Church dispel their selfishness and neglect, and try to take part in the rejoicing of those who believe that in the Christ Child is our greatest joy and hope of peace.

The Christmas fact being the main thing in the celebration of the Savior's birth, we must give due evidence of our faith in the Christ Child. We must bring to a suffering and bleeding and sorrowing world all the comfort of the sweetest story ever told. In

these days when the message of Peace on Earth is dimmed because many nations have no peace within their borders, the Church must show forth the praises and love of Him Who brings peace to the hearts of all who prepare Him room.

If it is true that, as a result of the conflict raging over the world, many men who formerly ignored and neglected the Church, now in the face of grim problems they cannot solve, are ready to listen to the message of the Church of the living God: if it is true that more Christians pray diligently than ever before, then this Christmas will find increasing numbers kneeling at the manger bed bowing the knee in patience and faith, offering their hearts and lives to Him who came to bring us peace with God.

The things we plan for our Churches, for our homes, and the joy we intend to manifest, must all be inspired by our faith in a good and gracious God who sent His Son as a gift of love to a lost world. To that end may the Festival of the Nativity bring all Christians a rich measure of grace and knowledge so we may be confirmed in our faith with rejoicing.

Let us prayerfully bow before our Savior. Let us bring Him the confession of our faith, the gifts of our hands and the devotion of our hearts, so that our days may be lived in Him and He may govern us with His love.

—From *The Defender*.

done and always will do; He will never forsake a promise. When Adam disobeyed the command of God the sentence of death passed upon him, and all the people of the earth inherited the nature to disobey God. When we were born into this world, we were born innocent, but we had the Adam nature; and as soon as we come to accountability we, like our Father Adam, begin to disobey; so we are all under the death sentence.

A woman once came to Jesus and asked that her two sons might sit with Him in His kingdom, one on the right hand and one on the left hand. Jesus said: "Can ye drink of the cup that I drink of, and be baptised with the baptism that I am baptised with?" They said unto Him: "We are able." He saith unto them: "Ye shall indeed drink of my cup, and be baptised with the baptism that I am baptised with" (Matt. 20:21). When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are forgiven of all the sins we have committed, but the sentence of death is still on us. I mean, of course, the physical death or the death of the natural body. Jesus gave His life for us and we will have to partake of death, the last enemy that we have to face; so let us walk up bravely to it, as Daniel did to Goliath. You say: "How can I not fear death?" Perfect love casteth out all fear and, if we fear, we have not been made perfect in love. The Master said He would be with us to the end, and would not leave us in six troubles, nor forsake us in the seventh. He said: "Ye believe in God, believe also in me." Are you willing to drink of the cup that He drank of? He met death for our transgressions, are we willing to meet it for our own? It is a debt we owe.

David said: "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil." "Oh death, where is thy sting? oh grave, where is thy victory?" Death is the last step between this world and the world to come. It is the crossing over point if we have made the right preparation, we step into eternal bliss; if we have not, we step into eternal darkness and despair.

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## Death and Preparation For It

By Hobert Conner, Whittington, Illinois.

The Apostle Paul said: "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more as ye see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:24, 25). Now Paul knew that, as the day draws nearer, that we will need more faith to stand, or rather God knew, and He it was that inspired Paul to write these words. Now, some may say, "How do we know when the day of Jesus is

coming? Well, brother, for you and me it will be when the message comes from heaven and says: "Your stay here upon the earth is at an end," and that day is swiftly approaching. Listen to the clock on the shelf and see how fast it is ticking off the moments of time; that is how fast we are coming to the Judgment.

Now, when God made the first man, he was made perfect and was told that, if he disobeyed, he would die. God made His promise good, as He ever has



# The Country Preacher

From The Pen of Bill Griz

Contributed by Eld. D. C. Jones

No class of people work harder, accomplish more, and receive less than the average Country Preacher; yet the average citizen seems to think that he lives a life of ease and comfort, and does manual labor only for past time or for pleasure. The average country preacher is the man who contributes most to mould the character and shape the destinies of the men and women who really accomplish things in life: for practically all the people of prominence hail from the rural districts, and it is the country preacher who is at least one of the great contributing factors which plant the seed and cultivate the plant that matures into prominence and success in life.

The average country preacher is a man of limited education, mostly in the grades, some in the high school, and seldom one who has attended college, much less received his degree; and yet demands made on him are such as to severely test the most skillfully trained mind. It is the country preacher who is expected to take the lead against sin and evil, and to be the scapegoat for all blunders; to preserve peace and harmony in the local community which he serves, and to blend together into a working unity the antagonistic ideas and plans of the neighborhood, and to be cussed and censored for any failure to do so; to nurse the sick, comfort the distressed, bury the dead, attend to the needs of the widows and orphans, and be ready to advise on all matters and subjects, regardless of time or expenses; and seldom does he receive thanks, much less remuneration for his services. Occasionally he receives a paltry wedding fee; but usually if a prominent wedding occurs, his city brother is called upon to receive the fat fee, and the distinction. He is expected to meet his appointments each month punctually, regardless of the weather. His flock may be

present, or "Having A Time."

And when the revival meeting comes off usually a preacher from afar is called, and is often paid more for his week's services than the faithful pastor receives for his entire year's drudgery. Beside, during the stay of the of the evangelist, it is continually dinned into his ears what great preaching they are having, and every effort possible seems to be made to cause the faithful pastor to feel disheartened and discouraged. And when the services close, none of the praise goes to the man who prepared the soil and planted the seed.

The average church member has but little concern as to what the country preacher has to eat or wear, and if "Tongue and Buckle" do not meet, the unfortunate preacher is said to be shiftless, or lazy, and his family extravagant and wasteful, while the pastor and family manage to exist by sheer economy and hard work.

Each year sees the country preacher breaking down prematurely from hard labor undernourishment and mental worry and agony, and ending his life in some charitable institution. The average pastor and his family are often criticised and frequently ostracised by those who should be his "Strong Stay", and frequently the heart bleeds and tears trickle down his cheeks, unbidden in the seclusion of his humble home; and yet he is expected to greet every one with a cheerful word and a pleasant smile.

The country is rapidly growing more wicked and will continue to do so until people recognize, honor and support those humble men whom Almighty God has called to the work of the ministry; and the future of the church and the state depends on the treatment those men receive.

Of the many foundations being laid, none would be more worthy than a foundation for a sustenance of the country pastors, and no marble would be too fine

or costly to erect a monument of appreciation to their memory. Those heartaches, disappointments, tears, jibes, unkind words and actions must be met with kindness. Be careful in your treatment of the man whom God has called.

## THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF PAUL'S MINISTRY

(By Senorita Carmen Freyre,  
Student in the Seminary,  
"Los Cedros del Lebanos,"  
Pinar Del Rio, Cuba).

Scripture: Romans 1:14-16.

**Introduction:** Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, and called of God to preach the Gospel is found in this passage declaring his purpose in preaching the message of salvation to all, while at the same time showing to those who were unsaved their need of salvation. Let us scan briefly the passage for the things which mark the characteristics of the preacher, Paul.

### I. His Debt of Love (v. 14):

a) Towards all who know not our Lord Jesus Christ.

### II. His promptness in announcing or proclaiming the Gospel (verse 15).

a) Because he had contracted a debt.

b) Because announcing and proclaiming the Gospel was his responsibility.

### III. His Bravery in Announcing the Gospel (verse 16).

a) Because it is the strength or power of God.

b) Because it signifies salvation to everyone who believes.

**Conclusion:** We have seen that Paul, a servant of God, had these three characteristics in his ministry.

#### 1. A Debt of Love.

#### 2. Promptness in Announcing the Gospel.

#### 3. Bravery in Announcing the Gospel.

Therefore, it is my opinion that as servants of God we should do as did Paul. We must feel a debt for the people who know not the Gospel and we must be ever ready to give the message and also have sufficient bravery to preach the Gospel, let come what may.



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Dear reader, if you are not prepared, let me persuade you to give your heart to God now, before you come to that crossing; for then it will be too late. Dear brother or sister in Christ, let us move up a little closer to Christ; for the day is drawing near; let us, like David of old, pray that we might be forgiven of our presumptuous sins, that we may be innocent of the great transgression. He said: "Who can understand his errors" (Psa. 19:12). You may say: "What is the great transgression?" What did Jesus say was the great commandment? "Thou shalt love the Lord with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind; this is the first and great commandment" (Matt. 22:37). So, if we break the great commandment, then we have committed the great transgression. I like to fight

Satan with all my power; and death is the last of his works. I will have to subdue and by the grace of God I am going to come out victorious over death and the grave, and over all of Satan's power.

May the Lord keep us all ready for that day, is my prayer; and may we lay by in store all the faith and grace we can muster up, and so much the more as we see the day approaching.

When the five unwise virgins said to the five wise virgins: "Give us of your oil," they said: "Not so, lest there be not enough for us and you" (Matt. 25:9). So you see that they barely had enough for themselves; and there will be no time to buy more when the day comes. Oh, Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee. Thank the good Lord from whom all blessings flow. Amen.

state of purity and holiness, into the depths of sin and disobedience, causing him to die a spiritual death; and he was driven from the presence of God, and the curse of sin passed upon all men (Rom. 5:12).

After he had disobeyed, Adam was ashamed to meet the Lord, and when he heard His voice in the cool of the day, he went and hid himself; for he keenly felt the reproach of his disobedience, and tried to make the Lord believe that he hid himself because he was naked. Before this he was not ashamed, but now his guilty conscience smote him on account of his sin, and he was ashamed to meet the Lord or be brought into the presence of His holiness. But God said, "Who told thee that thou wast naked?" Then He asked him a straightforward question: "Hast thou eaten of the tree whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldst not eat?" God knew what he had done, but Adam, like backsliders of today, thought to justify himself somewhat and perhaps lessen his penalty by putting the blame upon some one else; so he told the Lord that the woman who had been given him as his wife had caused him to disobey. And when the woman was spoken to about the matter she charged the serpent as being the cause of the whole affair. The poor serpent had no one to accuse, or he would doubtless have tried to justify himself in like manner. The seed of sin, having been planted in their hearts by the enemy of souls, then came the awful sentence from the mouth of the Lord and they were driven from His presence, away from Eden's holy ground and were shut out into the dark world to prolong their life of sin and earn their bread by the sweat of their face. A sad, sad sentence it was indeed, for the gates of Eden were shut against them, and guarded, lest they should return and eat from the tree of life and live forever, and thus be restored without repenting of their disobedience.

Now began their life under the curse of sin. While they had been created in the likeness of God, in their fall their children inherited the same fallen nature as

## What Is Salvation?

Deliverance From Danger or Evil and Sin.

By Rev. George Wilson. Whittington, Illinois.

Amid all the spiritual confusion and darkness of this world sin abounds on every hand. Misery and woe are depicted in the care-worn faces of mankind, and the nations of the earth seem to have forgotten God, or never to have known Him, and the blessed ways of His truth. Darkness covers the face of the earth and gross darkness the people; and they pursue the way of sin and travel in forbidden paths and in the road that leads to destruction of both soul and body.

But is there no way out of this darkness of sin and confusion, where the sin-sick soul can find rest and peace? Did God make man to be lost? What are the chances for the future of mankind? These with an endless number of questions seem to be coming from every side, from anxious inquirers after Truth, who are groping along in the darkness of this world.

God did not make man to be lost; it is His will that every one should be saved with an everlast-

ing salvation. Man was not placed here in this world in a sinful state, but was created in the likeness of God (Gen. 1:26), pure and holy, on a plane with his Maker, and could walk and talk with Him--this was indeed a blessed privilege. Not only was this the case, but he had the promise that he could remain in that relationship as long as he did not disobey God; he was however, told of the penalty of disobedience. Nevertheless he yielded to the voice of the serpent, through whose subtlety and cunning devices plans were laid to cause the curse of sin to be brot upon mankind through disobedience to God.

This enemy of souls began his evil work by telling Eve a lie, and persuaded her to disbelieve what God had said; then it was an easy matter to accomplish his desires and get her to disobey God by partaking of that which was forbidden by the Lord. Now, would Adam yield also? Alas, he too yielded to the temptation, which resulted in his fall from a

themselves. (Gen. 5:3), and this is the inbred sinful nature that has passed upon all men since that time. The seed of sin that was planted in the hearts of our foreparents is our inheritance from them. The first one born under the curse of sin was a murderer, and took the life of his brother; and the record of mankind since that time has been one of disobedience and the shedding of blood. Even good old David said: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me," which is evidence of the continuation of the curse of sin as an inheritance, and His knowledge of the same. We read in Rom. 5:12 that, "By one man sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men: for that all have sinned." Sin was not imputed unto the people until the law was given by Moses, however death reigned over them that did not sin in the same manner of Adam's transgression. God has had ways of dealing with the people, both with the just and the unjust, down thru all ages from the beginning to the present time. Cain was told that if he did well he would be accepted of the Lord and, if not, "Sin lieth at the door."

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous." It was for that cause that Cain became wroth and slew his brother Abel, thus becoming a servant of sin.

Noah faithfully preached to the wicked generation of his time who only scoffed at his words of warning until the Flood came and destroyed all but himself and his family.

Faithful Abraham pled earnestly for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, but wickedness was so great that only Lot and his family could be found numbered among the righteous. Not even his sons-in-law would heed the warning and flee out of the city before its burning.

When the law was given the people were brought under greater obligations to God, and sin was imputed against transgress-

ors, because of their greater knowledge of Him through His servants whom He had chosen to deliver the same. Before this time the people offered sacrifices, which were acceptable unto the Lord, but now, since the law was given, a strict observance of offerings was required, and when sins were committed there was to be offered a sacrifice as a sin offering, besides many others which the law set forth. As time went on the people were ruled by judges, then by kings, and they seemed to wax worse and worse until the ushering in of the Gospel dispensation in which full salvation was offered freely unto all men.

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### EDITOR-MANAGER WANTED

In as much as the Free Will Baptist Gem, formerly published at Monett, Missouri, was compelled to suspend publication because of the lack of an editor, and being desirous of resuming publication, we wish to contact some person who is qualified, and desiring to become Editor-Manager of the Free Will Baptist Gem at Monett, Missouri.

Anyone desiring this position, please call or write to Rev. C. B. Dees, 740 Rinker Ave., Aurora, Missouri, or Rev. F. C. Zinn, 306 Cedar St., Flat River, Mo.

Done by order of the Missouri State Executive Board of Free Will Baptists, while in session this 5th day of November, 1946.

Rev. C. B. Dees, Sec'y-Treas.

Note—The above "Want Add" was printed in other Free Will Baptist papers—we hope it will bring us the man we need.

—B. F. B.

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### A REPORT

Thank God for the opportunity of greeting the children of God through this special issue of the Gem.

To all who love the Lord, greetings in Jesus' name.

Since moving back to Monett, the last of August, we have had

the privilege of conducting three revival meetings. In each of the meetings we found folks who have not yet bowed the knee to Baal and are happy in the service of the Master. We have witnessed a number of conversions and had two baptismal services recently, one on the fourth Sunday in October, and one the second Sunday in November. We have pastoral work three Sunday each month, two Sundays at the Merl's Chapel church, near Cassville Missouri, and one Sunday with the Verdella church, near Lanthia, Missouri.

I am also glad to report that the Youth Encampment grounds have been plotted off, and that arrangements are being made to have a well drilled. We also plan to begin work on the main auditorium as soon as sufficient funds are available, and the ground has been staked off for twenty cabins, and we are now ready for individuals or churches to choose the lot they want to build on. The cabins will remain the property of the ones who build them. The suggested size of the cabins is 14x14 for a single room, or 14x20 for a two-room. Lots are 30 feet front, all facing the recreation grounds.

We also wish to remind all of our churches over the state of Missouri of the importance of supporting the State Unified Fund; for by this means both our state and national work is supported.

We also appeal to all who read this to live a separated life (separated from sin and separated unto God), that God may manifest His power through us. In order to have spiritual power it is necessary for us to have victory over the power of sin in our own lives, and not to endorse sin in the lives of others; for if we live a pure life and yet endorse impurity in others, we can not expect to be a successful soul winner.

Yours in Christ,  
O. T. Allred.

An evil thought passes thy door first as a stranger. Then it enters as a guest. Then it installs itself as a master.

—Saint Augustine.