

The Free Will Baptist Gem

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

Vol. 21—No. 8

Mcnett, Missouri—August, 1950

\$1.00 per year



The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.—Psalms 23.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM
ORGAN OF THE MISSOURI STATE ASS'N.

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EDITOR-MANAGER
REV. LLOYD T. JEFFREYS

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Rev. J. E. Hodgens, Chelsea, Alabama 7
Rev. Jas. F. Miller, Farmington 7
Rev. O. T. Allred, Monett, Mo. 5
John Bough, Stockton, Mo. 5
A. W. Hartley, Wichita, Kan. 5
Rev. Harvey Hill, Lemay, Mo. 5
Rev. W. W. Winters, Vernon, Texas 5

ASSOCIATIONAL DATES

Arkansas Association: with Wilson Church near Bellville in Yell County, Thursday night, August 31.

Illinois Yearly Association: with the F.W.B. Church of Pittsburg, Wednesday night, September 6.

Eastern Oklahoma Association: with the Christie Church near Westville, Thursday night, August 24.

Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting: with the Third F.W.B. Church at 1330 Geyer Ave., St. Louis, August 22.

Mission Association: at Wolf Creek Church south of Hartville, Thursday morning, August 10.

Indian Creek Association: with the Jones Chapel Church, Tuesday night, August 29.

Central Western Missouri Association: with Verdella F.W.B. Church near Iantha, Tuesday night, Aug. 22.

Missouri State Association: with the Mt. Grove F.W.B. Church, Tuesday night, September 12.

Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas Association: at the Philadelphia Church near Pattonsburg, Mo., Thursday night, August 24.

Northwest Brazos Association, Texas, with the Vernon Church, Tuesday night, August 29.

John Wheeler Association, with East Bristol Church, East Mary Street Extension, Bristol, Tennessee, Thursday, August 31.

WHILE HE MAY BE FOUND

Rev. J. E. Hodgens, Chelsea, Ala.

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near" Isaiah 55:4.

Undoubtedly the prophet's eyes had been anointed with some of God's eye salve because he saw a day out in the future when the Lord would be in reach and in hearing of every man. Isaiah looked out in the future and saw this gospel dispensation or age when God himself would look down on this sin-scarred earth with tender compassion and decide to give it another chance. That chance is in and through the merits of Jesus Christ. And he, Isaiah, also saw the day of Christ's birth, Isaiah 9:6, "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, counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

The Prince of Peace was slain about two thousand years ago, and by that sacrificial life I hold a hope beyond this vale of tears. Thanks be to God that He, God, ever consented to let Jesus pay the debt that I owed. While Jesus was here on earth He tasted death for every man, and that took me in. Dear people, are you not glad God fixed a way so that we would not have to go down to a place that was prepared for the Devil and his gang? Well, didn't David say, "Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord?"

But God, in line with Isaiah, says, "My spirit shall not always strive with man" Gen. 6:3. God sent a message to this age when He said, "This is my beloved Son, hear ye him" Matt. 17:5. He also said, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness to all nations." I really think all nations at some time have had a chance. My Bible says, "The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men."

Then on that great day of days for which all other days were made, I fear you will hear some children say, "I never heard my parents pray." Great Master, it is awful to think of that day when the door of mercy will close. Over in Proverbs 1:23 He says, "Turn you at my reproof, behold I will

pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known words unto you. Because I have called and ye refused I have stretched out my hand and no man regarded; but ye have set at naught all my council, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity, I will mock when your fear cometh. When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirl wind, and distress and anguish cometh upon you, then shall they call upon me but I will not answer, they shall seek me early but they shall not find me, for they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord. They would none of my council, they despised my reproof."

In conclusion, dear people, let me as an old minister of the gospel, beg you to "Seek the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near," for His spirit will not always strive with you. Dear sinner man, if your eye should chance to read this message from this country preacher going now into his 85th year, now over my four score, please give it a little place in your heart and remember that Jesus said, "Today is the day of salvation." The Devil might try to make you believe you are too late. If the spirit strives yield to and call on God and make Heaven your home. God bless you is my prayer.

REPORT OF MISSOURI STATE SUNDAY SCHOOL MEET

The Missouri State Sunday School Convention met at our Youth Camp on June 19-20, 1950. Rev. Johnnie Postlewait brought the message at 8:00 p.m. He used for his subject, "Living Epistles," the theme for both the Sunday School and League Conventions. Increased interest in the convention is apparent. The attendance was larger than in any previous session held at the Youth Camp.

Our State Sunday School Convention is a comparatively new organization, having been in existence only some 10 years. Considering this fact, we have made definite progress. However, we yet have many goals to reach.

Several recommendations were presented, which, if materialized, will advance our Sunday Schools remarkably. Outstanding among these was the recommendation that the Teacher-Training Course prescribed by the Evangelical Teacher-Training Association be taught to local groups. This is a preliminary course provided by the Evangelical Teacher-Training Association for the benefit of Christian workers who cannot enroll in a standard training course in any of the co-operating schools. Since our own Bible College is a member of the Evangelical Teacher-Training Association, students who have completed the standard course there are eligible to teach the preliminary course. This course consists of 72 hours, divided into six units of 12 hours each, and distributed as follows: I. Old Testament Law and History. II. Old Testament Poetry and Prophecy. III. New Testament. IV. Child Study. V. Pedagogy. VI. Sunday School Administration.

On the completion of each unit of study, the names of all students attaining a grade of 75 per cent or more are sent to the Secretary of E.T.T.A. for registered certificates of credit, to be signed and awarded by the teacher. When the six units have been completed, the secretary of E.T.T.A. will award a teacher's certificate.

Officers elected for the coming year are: President, Rev. Harvey Hill; Vice President, Lorene Bowman; Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. Rolla Smith; Assistant Secy-Treas., Mary Ruth Wisheart; Promotional Worker, Rev. Wm. Reeves.

Business was completed by accepting the reading of Minutes of this session. We were recessed at 10:50 and called to order at 11:00 for the program which was as follows: Song, "Jesus Saves." Devotional by Rev. LaVerne Miley. Topic—"Teaching Them to Observe All Things," by Lorene Bowman. Fellowship handshake. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Woodrow Matthews.

The time and place of next Convention will be designated by the Executive Committee.

PERSONAL SOUL WINNING

By Mrs. Eunice Edwards

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AT THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE

Eld. J. W. Handy, Fresno, California

Away back yonder some 487 years increased by the thought of the cool, refreshing water so near and yet not accessible to Him. He had no rope nor water jar and the well was deep. The lot of humanity was His so He waited for some one to come to draw. A woman of Samaria approached and seeming unconscious of His presence filled her pitcher with water. As she turned to go away Jesus asked her for a drink. Such a favor no oriental would withhold. In the East water was called the gift of GOD. To offer a drink to a thirsty traveller was held to be a duty so sacred that the Arabs of the desert would go out of their way to perform it. The hatred between the Jews and the Samaritans was all that prevented this woman from offering this kindness to Jesus. The Saviour was seeking the key to this heart, and with the tact born of divine love He asked for, instead of offering, a favor. The offer of kindness might have been rejected but in this case trust was awakened. The King of Heaven came to this outcast asking a service at her hand. He who made the ocean, who controls the waters of the great deep, who opened the springs and channels of the earth, rested from his weariness at Jacob's well and was dependent on a stranger's kindness for even the gift of a drink of water.

It was midday when He rested at Jacob's well in the beautiful valley of Sechem. No doubt the noonday sun beat down upon His weary head. Being exhausted with His journey He sat down there to rest, while His disciples went to buy food. The Jews and the Samaritans were at variance with each other. In fact, they were bitter enemies and as far as possible avoided all dealings with each other. However, to trade with the Samaritans in case of necessity was indeed counted lawful by the Rabbis. All social intercourse with them was condemned. A Jew would not borrow from a Samaritan, nor receive a kindness, not even a morsel of bread or a cup of water: so the disciples in purchasing on this occasion were acting in harmony with the customs of their nation. Beyond this they would not go. To ask a favor of a Samaritan or in any way seek to benefit them did not enter into the thought of even Christ's disciples. As the Saviour sat by this famous old well, faint no doubt from hunger and thirst as a result of his long journey under the scorching rays of the sub-tropical sun, His thirst must have been

woman had not comprehended the words of Christ but she felt their solemn import. Her frivolous bantering began to change. Supposing that Jesus was speaking of the literal well before them she said, "Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself?" This poor sin-blinded woman could not recognize the blessed Son of God. She saw before her only a thirsty traveler, way worn and dusty. But she was looking back and cherishing with veneration the father Jacob who had given them the well. And, too, she was looking forward to the coming of the promised Messiah, little dreaming that the hope of the fathers, the Messiah himself, was just then by her side and she knew him not. Oh how many thirsty souls are today close by the fountain of life, yet they are looking far away for the well springs of life.

"Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) or Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ from the dead.) The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thine heart: if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" Rom. 10:6-9. Jesus did not answer her question immediately in regard to identity. More directly to the point we hear Him say "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" Jno. 4:13, 14. If we seek to satisfy our thirst at the fountains of this world, we drink only to thirst again. Everywhere men are dissatisfied. They long for something to supply the need of the soul, and there is but One that can meet that want. On that last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink" John 7:37. The divine grace which He alone can impart is as living water purifying, refreshing and invigorating the soul. Jesus did not convey the idea that merely one draught of the water of life would suffice the receiver. He who tastes of the love of Christ will

continually long for more and yet more. Nothing else will satisfy. The riches, honors and pleasures of this world do not satisfy him. The constant cry of his heart is "more of thee" and He who reveals to the individual the necessity of his soul is waiting to satisfy its hunger and thirst.

Every human resource and dependence will fail, the cisterns will be emptied and the pools become dry; but our Redeemer is an inexhaustable fountain. We may drink and drink again, and ever find a fresh supply. He in whom Christ dwells in His fullness, has within the fountain of blessing, a well of water springing up into everlasting life. Therefore let us pay immediate heed to the beseeching, pleading voice of our Saviour when He bids us "come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." So let us hasten to this great and only source of divine life and with joy drink of its effulgent fullness and live, and not only live but more abundantly live.

Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly" John 10:10. Then when all of life is over and our work on earth is done, with Him who is our life, we shall live on. Jesus is the one; yes, He's the only one. Let Him have His way until the day is done. When He speaks you know the clouds will have to go, just because He loves you so.—Selected.

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The Eighth Annual

NATIONAL FREE WILL BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL MEET

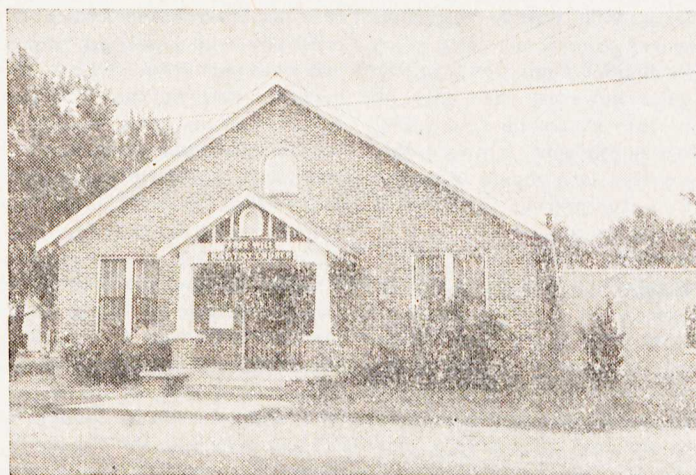
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EAST TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

AUGUST 8 to 10, 1950

Plan Now To Attend!!!!



The National Sunday School Convention will convene with East Tupelo

looking forward, with great anticipation, to this occasion that will bring our leaders in Sunday School work to our state and delegates from the different states where we have churches.

We cordially invite you to come to the Magnolia State in August and will do all we can to see that you enjoy your visit with us.

The following named committees, with the co-operation of host church and nearby F.W.B. Churches, will look after arrangements and see to the comfort and welfare of all visitors:

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Correspondence & Registration—L. E. Duncan, Chairman; Larue Marcy, Elizabeth Gibson, Jo Ann Parham and Lucille Winders.

Please address all mail to Committee on Correspondence and Registration, Box 1, East Tupelo, Mississippi.



Rev. Luther D. Gibson, Pastor

Free Will Baptist Church August 8-10, 1950.

The host church and Free Will Baptist Sunday Schools of Mississippi are

WHY OFFER A FOUR YEAR CURRICULUM AND A B. DEGREE IN FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE?

J. P. Barrow, 3609 Richland Ave., Nashville, Tenn.

We, the school faculty, have been making the expansion of our institution a matter of prayer for several years. This theme was the burden of our prayer and discussion in the last faculty meeting before the 1950 Bible Conference. We here agreed that both a four years' prep school program and a four years' Bible College curriculum were essential to meet the needs of our Free Will Baptist right now. In view of the fact, however, that only one branch of this expansion could likely be achieved at present, it was decided the prep school idea should be held in abeyance for the present; and that we advise the move that several of our board members were in sympathy with; namely, the adding on of two more years to our present curriculum and the awarding of the B. A. degree. The board in its 1950 session took a forward step by authorizing the administration to make this expansion move. Therefore we now offer a four years' course awarding the B. A. degree with a Bible major.

Many of our students need the training offered in this four years' course. Even though nearly all of our graduates feel that the most profitable two years of their lives are those spent here in our college, they do not feel that they have a sufficiency to meet the demands upon the field. Most of them have from time to time expressed a desire to return for the two years that were not offered when they left. Four returned for the third year last term and are planning to come back for their B. A. degrees next year. Several who have taken one year or more in other schools in addition to the two years formerly offered are coming back to finish the four years' course and receive the B. A. degree next year because they are aware of the need of further training in our own school.

We have no other institution in which students may be prepared for Christian service beyond our former two years' course. This should impel all interested Free Will Baptist into a sufficiently strong desire to give them an active voice in furthering

sentiment favoring this recently added two years' work. Many lay workers both urban and rural have completed a four to six years' course of study beyond high school to enable them to carry on in the field of their secular duties. Even though many of these have been patient and considerate as they have served as assistants to our ministers who have had two years or less, beyond High School, they are keenly aware of the fact that their spiritual leaders lack that in training that would make them and their service reach a maximum height in success. Thus our work is hindered, not because we do not have intelligent lay workers, but because our spiritual leaders have not had the Biblical or Theological training to bring them up to the standards that are called upon to set. II Tim. 2:2, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" and II Tim. 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." One must study before he can teach. Many of our spiritual leaders have made a failure because they are ignorant of the simple teaching of God's Holy Word. If your child is going to study Geometry, you want him to have a teacher who understands the science of geometry, especially its fundamentals and how to apply these fundamentals. If he is going to study chemistry, you don't want him to sit under some one that is ignorant of the fact that several certain elements exist and that under certain influences they react certain ways. You want him to study under some one familiar with laws governing these reactions so he can correctly inform your child that he may not handle these with an unskilled hand but that with a skilled hand he may become a successful chemist. Now every Free Will Baptist should have correct Biblical teaching because every Christian needs this. Your minister is your spiritual teacher. Teacher of other teachers, if you please. Your spiritual teaching is the most

important teaching in the universe because it is more permanent. If a chemist makes a major mistake he may blow up something, kill several people and so on, but that isn't nearly so important as wrong spiritual teaching. Those who lose this physical life if Christians, will do that only to enter that blissful state that Paul desired. Phil. 1:23 "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better." Luke 12:4-5, "And I say unto you my friends, be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, fear him." Matt. 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 16:26, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Whereas, those who lose the life beyond this stage of existence as a result of wrong spiritual teaching have an eternity of woe to suffer. This being true, we should put forth more effort, which can be done in this four year course, to give correct spiritual instructions.

In many other denominations four years of work leading to a baccalaureate degree are being offered. This is needed to sufficiently train men to give them an adequate back-ground preparatory to special training in law, medicine, the various fields of education, the ministry, etc. These denominations have graduate schools for their men to further their training in the specialized field of their needs. Since we are not at the present able to do that, we can offer approximately two years each in secular studies, such as English, science, history, Greek, education, etc., and give the remainder two years to Bible and kindred subjects. By kindred subjects I mean Evangelism, Bible doctrine, archeology, theology, etc. We must of necessity make this four years' program a minimum. II Tim. 1:13, "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." I Tim. 4:1, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." Many religious zealots today

who, with the passing days, are increasing with knowledge and ability to confound the teachings of the Saints of God, are spending ten to twelve years in Institutions that once rang clear with the truth of God but are now sold over to the Devil. Men of this caliber can put our inadequately trained orthodox men to shame in argument. Some of our prospective ministers have been going to these schools because we do not have a school that meets their needs, our needs, if you please.

During the whole six years that I have been here in our school I have heard the cry of many voices who ask for a program leading to a B. A. degree. These voices have come from every nook and corner where there is to be found a Free Will Baptist who is sufficiently aware of the crying need of our young people.

There is great danger in not having at least a four year curriculum. I feel that no one can appreciate more than I the need of more training than our own schools have offered up to now. When I had completed the course of study the best institution we had offered, I was obliged to seek further training elsewhere. This took me to several Institutions, some of them as true to God's Word as could be but with doctrinal views different in some respects from those I had been taught in our Seminary at Ayden. This made it hard for I wanted to be loyal to the school that was kind to me and had taken me in to offer what my own denomination couldn't. Some of these schools were not true to the teachings of God's Word but in some instances denied it and others questioned it. I took no religious subjects in these ungodly schools but had ungodly religious views imposed upon me as did all other students in my physics, psychology, sociology, history, or what. This had a bad effect upon my experience for even though I did not side with the views I had my spiritual fervor dampened for in many instances it was not possible to refute these views with my own soul. I did this in some instances for the sake of fellow students and as a result I suffered in grades.

Finally I must say that no student ever goes away from any class without absorbing something. This being true, any student will, to some degree, carry away from any institution somewhat

of its stamp upon his life and character. The Moody graduated Free Will Baptist is going to be a Moody Free Will Baptist, the Columbia Bible College graduated Free Will Baptist is going to be a Columbia Bible College Free Will Baptist, the Duke University trained Free Will Baptist is going to be a Duke University Free Will Baptist, etc.

Well, you say, what effect have these hybrid Free Will Baptist teachers had upon our denomination, for we have graduates from these and many other schools. Here it is. Instead of us having unity as a result of these schools having put their trade marks upon so many of us there has been a tendency to the other side. Whereas, without compromise we, one time, believed in Baptism by immersion and tenaciously held to that mode, giving sanction to no other mode of Baptism. We have men, so I hear, who think it would be all right to admit a sprinkled Methodist into our church without requiring Baptism. We once looked at the ordinance of washing the saints feet as one of our characterizing features, now some of the graduates from some of these schools, I have heard, are swinging their audiences from the old Free Will Baptist trait so fast that it is making some of the good old saints who practiced this from childhood wonder what we will be next, while others who have attended these schools are putting forth effort in the field of Calvinism, especially are they emphasizing eternal security.

All the teachers, and so far as I know all the supporters of the Free Will Baptist Bible College are the "old-time, dyed in the wool" Free Will Baptists that uphold and teach the original doctrines and practices of our forefathers. We are Free Will Baptist and don't care who knows it, and don't care who doesn't agree with us because of this, our personal as well as denominational belief; and we are not going to soft pedal any phase of it to meet one's lack of faith. We believe this conviction is needed and should be set forth in church, home, and school. This we aim to do with all our might. Nothing I know of will better serve us in our effort to return to the straight and narrow way walked by Free Will Baptist a generation ago than this four years' course which places major emphasis on a more thorough knowledge of God's precious Word.

ANNUAL REPORT NATIONAL FOREIGN MISSION TREAS.

July 1, 1949 to June 30, 1950

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Received by states:

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Michigan	4,410.08
Tennessee	4,175.75
Oklahoma	3,775.97
South Carolina ...	1,879.06
Georgia	1,590.69
Ohio	1,138.25
Virginia	1,128.30
Kentucky	1,101.63
Texas	1,077.29
Illinois	1,051.02
Alabama	873.49
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on loan	300.00
Refund from Mo.	
Home Miss'n Bd.	143.19
National Promotional Fund.....	116.42
Sale of books, "His Name Among All Nations"	70.25
Subs. to Review...	21.00

Total 43,091.14

Grand total\$46,004.52

Disbursements during year. 45,361.04

Balance in treasury July 1,

1950\$ 644.48

NOTICE—You will please mark up the mercury on your missionary charts according to these figures given. These figures are of July 1, 1950.

Thanking you,

Winford Davis, Treasurer

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From The Editor's Desk



SEND YOUR LETTER!!!

The July issue of the Gem carried an article "Sunday Baseball" introduced by Rev. George W. Waggoner. This article carried a suggestion that you write Commissioner Chandler your own convictions on this important subject. Recently, we asked a large audience for a show of hands of those who had written such a letter. Only one hand appeared. The congregation was almost entirely Free Will Baptist and enjoyed a good circulation of the Gem in their midst. Most of the group had read the article. Yet only one minister had complied with the request. Other ministers and a host of intelligent layity were there. The problem has touched many of them. Now, if you had been in the congregation could you have raised your hand? If not, why not? Isn't every problem of the Christian today your problem? No one can read our silence. We must speak our convictions in the light of the gospel. Your editor sent both a letter and a marked copy of the issue carrying the article to Commissioner Chandler, both were graciously acknowledged in a personal letter from the Commissioner. Your opinion is needed and will be duly considered. We suggest you again read the article and then voice your own convictions at once.

ASSOCIATION TIME AGAIN

Once again Associational time is approaching. Elsewhere in this issue there is a list of the associations that we have information as to their date of meetings. Look at it and make definite plans to attend. Those who attend such conventions find them a rich source of spiritual uplift. In such days as we are now experiencing and for these yet to come which hold much prospect of additional burdens and heartaches, it is vital that we attend such meetings and in so doing fortify ourselves for the problems that are and will confront the Christian. Then too, the local and state associations are important agencies through which to disseminate information to the local churches from higher bodies and agencies, and to place important moves

and suggestions before larger bodies. These associations are important. Be sure you attend.

DISTRIBUTING CATALOGS

We have been distributing our catalog of Christian books and supplies and are already receiving orders from them. Many express surprise and pleasure over the enormous content and variety in this book. The range covers such items as Bibles, plaques, song records and albums, tracts, book markers, Colportage Library, helps for the minister, teacher, and student, auto insignias, Christmas cards, all occasion cards, and countless other needs and gifts. We still have some of these catalogs. If we have missed you please send us your name and address. They are free.

SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT

Again we wish to ask that you do much praying and more writing for the content of the Gem. We are just a little short again this month and a few articles have come too late to get certain engraving done in time for this issue. We appreciate every writer and contributor. We must have your articles. On several occasions we have been complimented on the contents of the Gem. We can only make it what the contributions allow. This makes us appreciate your contributions even more. We thank you for every one of them. But just like yesterday's food will not suffice today's need, so also past articles will not make next month's issue of the Gem. A constant new supply of sermons and reports must be forthcoming. Will you make it a regular habit to be a steady contributor? We will certainly appreciate it. Our thanks to all for every article ever placed in our hands.

SUBSCRIPTIONS UP SOME

In the last issue we published an article under the heading "Subscriptions Fall Off." The article contained the names of several friends of the Lord's work who had in some way let their sub lapse. Our experience has

consistently been that these have done so only as an oversight and because circumstances of the moment have caused them to forget to send in their renewal. They are perfectly willing to pay for their sub and indeed anxious to receive the Gem. To help remedy this has long been a problem serious to the force at this office. We have thought and prayed. For some time we have felt we should publish such a list as we did last time. Yet for fear some would misunderstand such a move we hesitated for some time to do so. We tried to make it understood it was merely to help such subscribers and the active solicitors in the different regions to keep the subs as nearly up to date as possible. We wish again to say absolutely no coercion was intended or in any way attempted. We desire to reach those who may find joy and a spiritual help from the pages of the Gem. We are indeed grateful that so many have realized this and have graciously thanked us for so reminding them. Many have sent in their own sub and even subscribed for other friends. We are thankful for each one. We planned to continue this list again. However, last minute manuscript has altered this idea. If future space permits we will publish this list. We will be glad to furnish you with a working list of your community on request. We appreciate your help.

WE ARE DISAPPOINTED

In the July issue of the Gem we presented an invitation to our readers everywhere to make an extra contribution to the Lord's work here at this office. We tried to give you our reason for sending out such an appeal. Like all work dedicated to the Lord, this must be supported by tithes and offerings. No circulation anywhere can exist on a nominal subscription rate alone. They must have considerable other income. With this being true we felt we must present the facts to our people and invite their support. We did so with supreme confidence that helpful results would be realized. The total received was a bit discouraging. Nonetheless, we regard every gift very highly and thank you sincerely for it.

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OLDEST IN VILLAGE

The Baptist church, which was the first to have a building erected in Breckenridge, was organized April 10, 1878. It was started as a branch of the St. Louis church, under the direction of Rev. P. P. Farnham who was the first pastor.

Nine members constituted the original membership of the church

William Kipp was the leader of the first choir, which was composed of H.

ing from First Baptist. This made the church a member of the Free Will Baptist Wolverine Association of Michigan and also a member of the National Free Will Baptist Association of the United States.

Sunday School Board—John Corbett, Jim Briggs, and Mrs. Earl Dutcher.

The church has made recent plans to sell the present parsonage which is located on Third street, and erect a

to the re-establishing of our work in the North which is located 135 miles north of Detroit in the central area of Michigan.

—Contributed

NOTICE

I am now available for either pastoral work or evangelistic work.

Rev. Chester O'Donnell
Route 1
Ashville, Alabama



Gladwin, Cynthia Howd, Addie Comstock, Dr. C. S. Watson and wife, and Belle Watson. Ada Watson was the organist.

The church became an independent organization April 10, 1879 with a membership of 24. The present church edifice was erected in 1882 and was dedicated February 20, 1883, with Rev. Shafelt of East Saginaw and Rev. H. C. Beals conducting the services.

For the past two years Rev. Everett D. Hellard has been pastoring in the Baptist church. He graduated from the Free Will Baptist college, Nashville, Tennessee in 1948. He was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and is married and has a five-year old daughter.

Last year, the church came into the Free Will Baptist organization, chang-

ing from First Baptist. This made the church a member of the Free Will Baptist Wolverine Association of Michigan and also a member of the National Free Will Baptist Association of the United States.

Sunday School Board—John Corbett, Jim Briggs, and Mrs. Earl Dutcher.

The church has made recent plans to sell the present parsonage which is located on Third street, and erect a

The Breckenridge F. W. B. Church is the furthestest church north belonging to the National Association. It is made up purely of Northern people and thus is different to our churches in the Detroit area who are largely constituted of Southern immigrants. This church may be a definite stepping stone

CENTRAL WEST MISSOURI IN FIFTH SUNDAY SESSION

The regular Fifth Sunday Rally of Central Western Missouri convened at the Wagoner Church near Stockton, Missouri on Sunday, July 30. A large delegation represented all but one of the affiliated churches. Rev. Johnnie Postlewaite from Willow Springs, Missouri was the guest speaker of the morning and brought a fine message on "The Name that is above every name." With him were his father, Rev. J. J. Postlewaite, and Rev. Ezra Butts. We all appreciated having these good brethren from the Mission Association with us.

The afternoon program featured a number of special songs, readings and playlets. All numbers were greatly enjoyed and were attended by the presence of the Holy Spirit as He manifest expression in the hearts of those present. The large crowd enjoyed the day of fellowship together.

The evening service was devoted to the showing of different pictures of denominational enterprises and activities and pictures with a message of God presented by Rev. Kenneth Turner of Monett. This service was awaited with great anticipation and not one was disappointed. It proved both interesting and helpful. Rev. Turner was extended the invitation to return with more pictures of this nature.

The next Rally will be with the Independence church also near Stockton, Missouri on Sunday, October 29. Miss Lorene Bowman, a young lady called to Foreign Mission work, will be the morning speaker. You are urged to attend and enjoy the day in fellowship one with another.

NEWSY BRIFS

OBITUARIES - REPORTS LETTERS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRINGFIELD (MO.) CHURCH

July 28, 1950

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

I am happy to report the wonderful revival recently conducted at the First Free Will Baptist church of Springfield by Rev. Dale Jones of Lebanon, Mo. We do thank God for such a young minister as Bro. Jones. He preaches the Gospel as the Lord directs him. We learned to love him and hope we will have the privilege of having Bro. and Sis. Jones with us again in the near future.

Six souls found Christ during the revival. Five of these were adults. We also had four to unite with our church. You can see that the Lord did bless our church in our revival. Not only in the revival but every time we meet. We have had souls saved in our meetings for some time before the revival. We are still praying for the lost that are so near to the loved ones in our church. If this war doesn't end they may have to go into the army without the Lord if they don't soon give their heart to God. Pray with us that these souls will also come to God.

Yours in Christ,

Sis. Mildred Kensinger

RICHWOODS (MO.) CHURCH

July 8, 1950

Dear Co-Workers:

Greetings in Jesus' name.

It has been a good while since we have written to the paper about our work here in Richwoods. We are just a faithful few still fighting against sin and Satan. We have been having very good services with Rev. Roger Reeds our pastor. Rev. Reeds is from Lemay, Mo. We find him to be a fine Christian doing all he can to answer the call that God has called him to do. We all love our pastor and love to work with him.

We have had the blessed privilege of having Rev. John Vick visit us and preach for us a couple of times lately. Bro. Vick is a young man just starting out in the ministry. He lives in Granite City, Illinois. Bro. Vick sure does a good job of preaching the Word

of the Lord. We are so thankful for young men and women who are not afraid to step out and work for the Lord when they are called.

We had our Sunday School convention at our church July 2, and a good service was enjoyed by all who attended.

We are planning on starting our revival July 29. Rev. and Sis. Calvary from Texas, are coming to conduct these services. We ask everyone to pray that God will bless and send us a mighty old time revival and many souls will be saved from sin.

Our Sunday School is doing good. We have 41 on the roll. Everyone enjoys the lessons and are eager to learn more about Jesus our Saviour.

We are conducting a Bible study for the children and young people each Thursday evening until school starts. We have been having good attendance and we know it is a great help to everyone attending. We desire your prayers for our young people.

May the dear Lord bless His people every where. We ask every Christian to pray for us.

Yours for Christ,

Mrs. Sophia Ackerson

ALABAMA QUARTERLY

Ashville, Ala.

Dear Editor:

Our District Quarterly Meeting of Liberty Association No. 2 met in its 46th session on July 29, with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Alabama City..

The association will meet again in September with the Pleasant Grove Church, Route 1, Ashville, Alabama.

Rev. Chester O'Donnell

OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION IN ANNUAL YOUTH CAMP MEET

We, the First Mission Association, would like to report our youth camp. We had an enrollment of 143. There were 17 saved. The camp lasted 10 days, from June 26 through July 5. Rev. John H. West, pastor of First Church of Tulsa, was General Direc-

tor. We had our annual League Business Day on Thursday, July 6. Our new officers are: President, Rev. Wade Jernigan; Vice President, Don Wagner; Recording Secretary, Carolyn Franklin; Corresponding Secretary, Thelma Lister; Treasurer, Shirley Day; Sponsor, Rev. W. C. Day.

We ask your prayers for our leagues.

Thelma Lister, Ccr. Secy.

INDIAN CREEK ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RALLY CONVENTION

The Indian Creek Association League Rally was held with the Merl's Chapel church near Cassville, Missouri on Sunday, July 30. The regular Sunday School and worship service constituted the morning session with Rev. O. T. Allred bringing the morning message. Monett, Jones Chapel, Pleasant Grove and Merl's Chapel churches represented and took active part in the afternoon program which was much enjoyed and helpful to all present. Mrs. Evelyn Alyea, District Vice President, presided over the session in the absence of the president.

The next League Rally will convene with Pleasant Grove near Anderson, Missouri on Sunday, October 29. Rev. Noel Greenway is to bring the morning message. All Leagues are urged to attend and bring numbers for the program.

—Contributed

OILTON, OKLAHOMA NEWS

The Vacation Bible School was held from May 29 through June 10. There were 42 enrolled and a collection of \$13.09 was received. The program was given on Friday night, June 10. Awards were given to the following children for outstanding work: Charles Lomnick, Tommy Hicks, Betty Tyree, Judy and Charlotte Kidder, Bonnie Lomnick and Carl Roberson.

Rev. Harry E. Stairs held a two-week revival at Hobbs, New Mexico.

The church as purchased a building to be made into a parsonage. It has been torn down and moved in ready to be rebuilt.

Mrs. Natalie Casey

THIRD NATIONWIDE LEAGUE CONFERENCE

The Third Nationwide League Conference started Tuesday night, June 13, at the Municipal Auditorium in Norfolk, Virginia. People from all over these United States had gathered in this spacious auditorium to sing praises unto the Lord. The keynote for the conference was, "When Christ Controls." Stewardship was stressed in each session of the conference. The rich blessings of the Lord was upon us as He controlled each service. Hearts were stirred by the inspirational music rendered throughout the meeting. The college Girls' Quartet was featured during the conference. There were many other quartets, trios and solos.

Wednesday morning Rev. Damon C. Dodd told us through the message that "When Christ controls us, He will control our money." It makes us wonder if Christ controls some Free Will Baptists. On Wednesday evening the college presented a drama, "The Cloth of Sendony." It proved to be a great blessing to everyone; even the students received a blessing as they presented this stirring play, portraying the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.

Perhaps the thing that touched our hearts most was the message given by our Missionary Miss Laura B. Barnard. She is home from India, and her message made us feel as if we were visiting in India ourselves. She gave us a realistic picture of the work there. Miss Barnard is glad to be home, but her heart is in India. The tears streamed down her cheeks as she thought of the people in India and wished that they could have been there to enjoy the blessings of the Lord. Our hearts were thrilled again as we heard Benito Rodriguez from Cuba, give his testimony. A living example of what Missions in Cuba have been doing. He has graduated from the college in Nashville, and is going back to work for the Lord in Cuba. The voices of two future missionaries challenged our people to send them to the countries where God is calling them.

The Conferences in the afternoon were inspirational and also gave the people an opportunity to discuss any problems that might be standing between them and a life wholly conse-

crated for the Master's use. There were sections for every age group, from the Cradle Roll on up. The last day in the senior section, Miss Barnard gave a plea for a deeper consecration of lives for the Lord. In the quietness of that hour we could hear the Holy Spirit speaking to our hearts.

The last night of the conference was packed with blessings from the Lord. In a short testimonial service, ringing testimonies were given by people in the audience as to what the conference had meant to them. The Nationwide Intermediate Sword Drill was another outstanding feature. It would have thrilled your heart to see these quite capable intermediates handle the Word of God. The contestant from North Carolina was the winner.

A dedication service brought the conference to a close. Several young people came forward and presented their lives to be used for Christ where ever He might lead. If you missed this conference, you missed a real blessing from God. I'm sure each person went home with a greater determination to do God's will. The theme for the conference was a challenge to everyone to see what Christ can do with lives when He completely controls them.

Miss Lucy Wisehart
Myrtle, Missouri

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Another annual session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists of America is now history. The session was outstanding for the peace and harmony that prevailed. The Spirit blessed hearts of those present and the meeting is freely spoken of as "the best yet."

Many outstanding problems were considered and the expansion of different departments and enterprises discussed. Among these was the need of the College for a four year curriculum and the incumbent need of more housing.

The officers of the association remained the same. Rev. Winford Davis, Foreign Missions Promotional Secretary, was elected back to the Foreign Mission Board. This board did not complete all the items now before it and have scheduled a meeting in Nash-

ville, Tennessee in October of this year.

Miss Laura Belle Barnard, head of Missions in India, was present with first hand information of progress and current needs on that field. She is always a much appreciated speaker and this was no exception.

Different invitations for the next session were turned to the Board who will decide and announce later where the next session will convene.

Among those present from Missouri were Rev. and Mrs. F. C. Zinn, Rev. and Mrs. Harry Beatty, Rev. George Scott, Rev. Benjamin Scott and Rev. Kenneth Turner.

—Contributed

MT. GROVE AUXILIARY

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Mt. Grove Free Will Baptist church met on Friday night, July 7 at 8:00 o'clock. The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. Velma Elliott. Congregation sang, "The Light of the World is Jesus." Prayer by Sis. Bertha Dennis. Bible reading, Deut. 32:3, by Mrs. Coffman. Program chairman, Edna Carder, took charge and gave introduction of the lesson. Topic I—"Newspapers, Periodicals and Church Papers," by Leah May Postlewait. No. II—"Rules for Advertising," by Mrs. Chambers. No. 3—"The Radio and Publicity," by Mrs. Coffman. Poem, "O Zion Haste," by Murrell Hutsell. A good report on the trip to Niangua for the Auxiliary Conference was given by Mrs. Dennis, with additional comments being added by others attending: namely, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Coffman, and Edna Carder. Each thanked the Auxiliary for making the trip possible. Motion carried for secretary to order supplies for "Go-Tell Auxiliary." Secretaries report was read and approved. The next meeting will be held August 4, at which time topics will be given as follows: No. 1—"A Definition," by Zelen Altis. No. II—"A Biblical Basis for Education," by Artha Hutsell. No. III—"Available Agencies:" 1. "The Home," by Cinda Vandivort. 2. "The Church," by Mrs. Verba Smith. 3. "Free Will Baptist College," by Mary Halliburton.

The public is invited to attend and help carry on the work needed to be done.

—Reporter



THE MISSOURI STATE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Advancing With Christ

WOMEN'S EDITOR: MRS. EUNICE EDWARDS—DESLOGE, Mo.



ST. LOUIS 3rd CHURCH W. A.

We, of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Third Free Will Baptist Church of St. Louis, are beginning another year's work in the service of the Lord. In our last meeting we had the election of officers. Sister Wilson was elected as our president and Sister DeWitt as vice-president. We thank the Lord for women like them who are willing to do what they can for the Lord. We feel sure they are fitted for the positions they hold and with the help of the Lord and the cooperation of each lady in the church, we know the Auxiliary will grow spiritually and increase in number.

We thank the Lord for the new coffee urn our Auxiliary was able to supply our church kitchen with. Since the first Sunday of each month is building fund night, we were also able to give fifty dollars for that cause. There is still a lot to be done, and we are small in number so we as an auxiliary need your prayers.

Our church also has re-elected Bro. Scott as pastor for the coming year. Truly we thank the Lord for blessing our church with a good man of God like Brother Scott. Our church has known in the past how it was to be left without a pastor to lead the flock, and we also realize how much God has blessed us this last year by sending Brother and Sister Scott our way.

We pray that God will lead us on to greater service through this coming year.

We want to welcome each and every one to attend the yearly meeting to be held at our church this next month. There will be plenty of bed space and food, so come and enjoy a spiritual feast with us. Meet us in St. Louis for the Yearly Meeting.

Pray for us,

Sis. Jerry Bullis, Reporter

Tell me, sir, what you know about God.

—Helen Keller

The Bible is like a mirror. It makes a man face himself.

WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE TO BE THE WORD OF GOD

Rev. Eunice Edwards, Desloge, Mo.

There are a number of reasons why I believe the Bible to be the Word of God; but first, I would invite your consideration of the enduring nature of the Book and its indestructibility.

Through the ages, sinful, wicked men have sought to destroy the Bible and its teachings. If the Bible were only an ordinary book, man would not bother to assail its authenticity. However the very fact that the Bible has many enemies, speaks loudly to me, of its divine origin and purpose.

The infidel Voltaire, declared that the day would come when there would not be a single copy of the Bible left in existence, but today his former home is used as a storage place for Bibles by the British and foreign Bible Societies. God has prevented the destruction of His Word, proving that He is watching over, and caring for, His direct revelation to man.

The person who seeks to destroy the Word of God is fighting God Himself. Any one who tries to discredit the Bible, seeks to discredit the Word of God.

Think of the rulers of the Atheistic, war-torn countries who burned all the Bibles they could find, and yet as soon as these countries were liberated Bibles were to be found in many homes. The Book had been hidden and preserved, even at the risk of the lives of these poor people. Daring to possess a Bible, even though if it were to be found in their possession meant certain death. Only the Book inspires such courageous love. The world is full of books and yet I do not know of any other book that has brought forth such devotion.

Man made books have their day or year of popularity and are then forgotten. Not so, with this Book. It is still the "best seller" of all printed matter. Another proof of its enduring nature.

Almost incredible labor has been expended in comparing the ancient ver-

sions, translations, commentaries and manuscripts to determine the variations and the true text. God has not permitted one word, or jot, or tittle to be changed from that He would have us to know. The care of the Jews over the Old Testament Scriptures, is common knowledge. They would not allow even one erasure on their manuscripts; copied by hand, they would reject the whole papyrus if the slightest mistake was made. Do you think it was only the natural, meticulous care for exactness that prompted all this? I declare, No! God was watching over and caring for His Word.

The labor expended on the New Testament Scriptures has been scarcely less. In reference to the labors of researchers, Gaussen says, "They have discovered nothing, not even a solitary reading, which could cast doubt upon any passage before considered certain. All the variations, almost without exception, leave untouched the essential thoughts of each phrase, and affect only thoughts of secondary importance, such as the insertion or omission of an article or conjunction, the position of an adjective before or after a substantive, the greater or less exactness of a grammatical construction."

This Book has withstood the calamities of the Jews; the persecution the early Christians suffered at the hands of the heathen; the ignorance of the nominal churches; even our present day atheists, but It has survived them all, and has remained unadulterated and unscathed. Let us consider another vital truth concerning this Book. No other known book has ever brought to any person knowledge of sin to the point of conviction for the same, and conviction deep enough to bring that person to repentance.

The Bible contains such deep, vital truths, yet couched in such simple terms as to bring the most illiterate or the most highly educated to a knowledge of sins in their lives. No

wicked man could have produced such a book and certainly no good man would have wanted to.

The doctrines of the Bible have been personally attested to by the experiences of untold thousands. The extent of its influence on the lives and actions of mankind cannot be estimated. The Gospel is not just theory. It is a living, breathing organism that lives in men and women of each succeeding generation, as they each, by faith, accept the Atonement of Christ, as proclaimed in the Book.

The Bible teaches us of the instituting and carrying on of the ordinances of the Gospel. In all the books on meditation, higher living, philosophy, etc., in the world today, not one contains even an example of such human simplicity as the washing of the saints' feet.

Convince me, if you can, that that King, Prince, man of wealth, or whoever you might name, would stoop to wash the feet of those beneath his rank or station in life, except it be an higher power drawing them to this truth. The miracle of this drawing of God through His Word! Let us look at a few examples: Moses, though a man accustomed to the comforts of wealth, when God called for complete consecration, notwithstanding all this, Moses followed. Moses, the man who had been reared in a palace with the very best that was to be had in the way of physical comforts, going out to walk a lonely road; to lead the stubborn, rebellious children of Egypt; to suffer hardships, plagues, famine, etc. But it was to this Moses that came the honor of accepting from God His written Word. Written by God Himself with His finger on a tablet of stone.

Paul, one of the most highly educated of his day. But when God speaks to him, Paul forgets all his unbelief, unholy zeal, and personal fastidiousness. Gladly studying the Scriptures that he might proclaim Them in all of Their beauty.

The present day men and women who are unashamed to carry their Bibles openly. From whence came this boldness? The Word. Either read or preached. I am convinced that it is impossible to read the Bible prayerfully, without becoming conscious of sin and be converted.

The Bible is the source and fountain of all sound doctrine. We read its pages to get a fuller knowledge of God.

As one writer observes, "Weary human nature lays its head on the bosom of the Divine Word, or it has nowhere to lay its head." We believe its teachings to be happy and we practice its examples to prove our love to God.

In proceeding to the consideration of this subject, it may be remarked that the one great source of instruction is the Bible, confirmed by nature, and interpreted in the light of reason and experience. In the Scriptures, we find what God has revealed. We use

our own powers and whatever helps we may have, to learn what He has revealed, but once we learn these truths, we need to implicitly believe and practice them. The trouble with many today is that they try to fit the Bible to their own preconceived ideas or notions instead of their opinions to the Word. We need to allow God to straighten out our thinking for us, as a nation. He will if we will be faithful in reading and following His Word. All matters of Scriptural teaching are consistent with sound, common sense.

There is no greater text-book on the "Rearing of Children;" "Successful Business Methods;" "Happy Homes," etc., than the Book of Books! We find between its covers, a volume on child training; what children are to be taught; how to deal with "teen-age" problems; manner of child and adult discipline; how to select a life companion; balancing the budget; and a veritable wealth of ideas on choosing a career and how to make that selection most successful. Where else can you find such an all-inclusive list in one volume? To me, this is another proof of the Divine Authorship.

Yet another reason for my firm belief in the Bible as the Word of God is found in its perfect correlation of both theme and purpose, e.g. Prophecy, and then the fulfillment of those prophecies, to the smallest detail. I mention the following to substantiate this statement: (It should be remembered that the writers of the Old Testament foretold the details of many events that did not happen until hundreds of years after they died, and concerning which they could not have had any knowledge except by Divine revelation.) In Micah 5:2, we are told that Christ would be born in Bethlehem of the Jewish nation; in Matt. 2:1-8 we have the fulfillment. In Isa. 42:1-4 we have Him pictured as a faithful servant; in Matt. 12:14-21 we find the record of Him

being just that. In Isa. 7:14 we are told how Christ would be born; in Matt. 1:21-23 we find it literally true. It is foretold that the Jewish nation would not recognize Him as their Messiah, (Isa. 6:9, 10). We find it happening in Matt. 13:13-15.

Zech. 11: 12, 13 tells that Christ will be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver; in Matt. 26:14-16 and 27:3-10 we find that this the exact amount Judas received.

Psaln 22 tells of His cry that would ring from the cross: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" the piercing of His feet and hands, the mockery of His enemies, the parting of His garments. The fulfillment of all this is found in Matthew, chapter 27 and in John, chapter 19.

Even the resurrection of His body from the grave was foretold (Psaln 16:10). Also the four Gospels in the New Testament record this remarkable fact.

The New Testament writers also prophesied of future events, some of which has been fulfilled, some are being fulfilled today, and others will be fulfilled in the future.

The Bible can occupy the place of no common book. No middle ground can be taken concerning it. Its claims are such that it must either be received as the Word of God or rejected as the basest forgery. How, then, can we be absolutely sure we are not being deceived? By personal experience! Do you wish to determine if the Bible is true? Test it by your own experience! If you have read and pondered the foregoing in this article and you are yet credulous concerning the Divine Authority I would very earnestly invite you to "taste, and see that the Lord is good." Jesus said to the doubting Jews, "If ye will do His will, ye shall know the doctrine."

Permit me, please, a few words of personal testimony. Before conversion I was not a church goer. I had been reared by moral parents; taught to be fair with myself and my fellowmen; to pay my honest and just debts; and to mind my own business. Certainly, we always gave liberally to any civic or church activity. What I knew about the Bible could be summed up in two sentences: Lazarus was a man who had a lot of sores, and Methuselah had lived longer than any other man on record. These things could be found

(Continued on page 14)

I Believe Bible the Word of God in the Bible. We had a Bible in our home, but it was unused, and I did not know where to look for any given Scripture.

A womans' organization, of a local church, asked me if I would permit them to come into my home for a prayer service. I was married by then and in a home of my own. I granted these ladies this permission. They came and conducted a short prayer service. While praying, one of the ladies began to quote John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life," and I quoted it verbatim with her. Perhaps you are thinking that I knew this verse when I was a child, and I recalled it at this time. I had never been to Sunday School but about twice in my life. I was astonished and amazed at myself. Where could I find this that I had quoted?

I began to "search the Scriptures." I would read in the prophecy of Daniel and oh my! that was so confusing. So I would turn to near the end of the Book, and read the book of the reve-lator. That was even more confusing! But I wanted to find out about this God that loved everyone so much that He had given His only Son to provide them life, if they would only believe in Him. Oh! how much I wanted to believe, but I could not find the information I needed.

I continued to search the Word, and to try to pray a little, until one day this same lady came to call again. She said, "Do you have your Bible handy?" When I had brought it to her, she found John 3 and told me to read this. It was the very thing I had been looking for. Here, at last, was the instruction I needed. (Too proud to expose my ignorance I had suffered even more than I had needed to, because I would not ask for advice. This taught me a lesson in humility, too.) Another person, at one time, had been just as confused as I. Jesus told him how to be saved, and as I read these words I felt that Jesus was speaking directly to me also. I believed and was saved. From that time on I have not ceased to have a thirst for the Word of God. For more knowledge of the wonderful way of life. When temptations assail me, I find

help and strength to resist them in the Word. When trials beset me I find comfort in its words. I find complete satisfaction in the Word. This is my final proof that the Bible is the Word

of God, for it not only has been verified by all these other witnesses and facts, but it lives within my own heart and I am convinced of its authenticity. It feeds my soul and I am satisfied.

LIFELESS DOLLARS TURNING INTO LIVING SOULS

Language School
Landour, Mussoorie,
U.P., North India

Dear friends:

One day last winter, our first winter in Kishanganj, while I was studying, suddenly, someone appeared at the door. I saw there a slim Sikh standing in the door. (Sikhism is one of the religious groups of India.) I knew that he was a Sikh because of his tall stature, big black beard and neat turban. I might add that he looked just like you have imagined an Indian to look according to romantic stories of India, etc. He immediately let me know that he knew absolutely nothing about Christianity but that he wanted to learn something about it. I discussed the Christian religion in a general way, gave him a tract, and asked him to come back the next day and we would discuss the Word. The next day he came early and spent most of the day quietly reading the New Testament in English in our living room. I felt that since English was his third language, and because of the difficulty of trying to explain to some one who knows nothing of the Christian religion, and who might have false concepts of the Christian Way, that he would be better reached by bringing him directly in contact with God's Word. At the close of the first day of his reading the Bible I spent three hours teaching him the first three chapters of John. He seemed very impressed with God's Word. For the next few weeks he spent as many days as possible reading the English New Testament and completely read it through. We had no literature available in his mother tongue.

Now let me tell you the marvelous way in which the Lord led this man to our home. One day while I was on tour, a man came to the house to ask me to read the Bible in a service at the public parade grounds, in honor of Gandhi's death day. They were going

to read from the sacred books of the Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians, and therefore asked me to read from the Bible. Since I was not home Trula went to read from the Bible. She had only a few minutes to prepare and as she didn't know which language she would be asked to read in she decided to read part of the fourteenth chapter of John. Unnoticed by her at the time, a young unknown Sikh man sat near her at the service and heard the reading of the Word. This man as we later came to know was A. Singh Gill. He related to us some time later in words to this effect, "When Mrs. Cronk read from the Bible on the Midan it was the first time I had ever heard a word from the Bible. I thought as she read, 'People have always told me that the Christian Scriptures were bad books, but this is not bad teaching. In fact, this is wonderful teaching. I must go find out more about it.'" So for several days he searched the little town to find out where we lived and thus appeared at our door.

The Word of God had a tremendous grip on Mr. Gill. It drew him with a strong power. One day after he had been reading the Bible for nearly eight hours, I offered him a newspaper to read, thinking that he must be very tired from reading the Bible so long at one sitting but he replied, "No, this (the Bible) is more important." So day after day he read in English comparing it with the Urdu translation of the Bible. Urdu is his second language.

One day I was thinking that in only a few days we have to go to the hills and I can't go without giving this man an opportunity to accept the Lord. So after prayer I approached Mr. Gill about coming out and out for Christ and this is what he told me.

"Mr. Cronk, about the second or third night after you began studying the Bible with me, late at night I was suddenly awakened in my sleep as if by someone. I sat up and thought 'What is this?' Then I thought that

this must be the God of the Bible trying to talk to me so I said in my heart, 'If this is from God then may He do something again that I might know that He is the true God and I will follow Him.' He went back to sleep but soon was awakened again because it seemed that someone had rushed from the room and slammed the door. He sat up and looked around the room but the door was locked. He thought, 'This is the sign from the True God. I will follow him.' Then his roommate sat up and said, 'Who was in this room?' But Mr. Gill just lay back down and prayed to the True God.

Then he told me of later events. 'When I was in Katihar I went to the missionary there, as you suggested, and while we prayed and read the Bible I felt strongly drawn by the Power of God, and finally admitted to them that I was interested in Christianity.'

So all this time he was following Christ in his heart but had never said anything to me nor confessed to others that he was a Christian. He told me how God had answered his prayer one day when he was without money and had to travel back to our city. Then I gave him some Scriptures on assurance and asked him to confess Christ as his Saviour openly in prayer and to ask God to give him strength that he might live a life of prayer and Bible Study as a Christian.

God is still working in a marvelous way. We have waited these months to write this letter so that we might be absolutely sure that Mr. Gill's experience is really of the Lord. His life has certainly given evidence of the new birth in Christ Jesus.

Because of his experience as a contractor Mr. Woolsey was able to employ him in the construction of the house at Sonapurhat and thereby give him an opportunity to study the Word, and have Christian fellowship, and do some Christian work while overseeing the building of the house.

God is working in such a marvelous way. Gill has been going out with Mr. Woolsey for preaching in the villages. God has laid on his heart a burden for preaching the Gospel in unevangelized villages. I quote from a letter received from him some days ago. 'Brother, I am thankful that your company gave life. I was dead and through you I have found life. Now I request you to pray for me that I may be having a

burning ambition in my heart for our Saviour's service, that is, always praying to Him and carrying His Word to my brothers who are still dead. As He has given resurrection to me who was dead in sins through you, in the same way may I be able to bring back the Saviour's lost sheep. I am nothing and can do nothing, but He himself will do good to others. This desire is increasing in this heart of mine. May He fulfill it soon.'

One day when Mr. Woolsey was unable to go to a village to preach, Gill went and brought his first message alone. I have just heard from Mr. Woolsey that Mr. Gill had such a strong desire to be baptised and that from Mr. Gill's work and testimony, and his progress in the Word of God and spiritual understanding, Mr. Woolsey felt that he ought to be baptised immediately. So they didn't wait but slipped off to the river and Mr. Woolsey baptised Gill. I feel, and Mr. Woolsey also, that Gill has an amazing grasp of the Bible and Spiritual insight for one who has known the Lord such a short time.

Some of you may say, 'But what is there to be excited about?' Just this. The prayers of F.W.B. at home and in India are going through to God. Our area is in North India, a cold area noted for its lack of converts. Yet God reached down and used us F.W.B's to give the Word and God saved an Indian man, a Sikh, our first convert in North India. Not only that but other missionaries are amazed that a new convert in so few months has read the Bible through in English, and parts of it through several times in English, Urdu, and Punjabi and is already preaching to others. As you can see from this story there is no praise to a mission nor a missionary but to the power of God's Word working in the heart of a man. It looks like Mr. Gill may become the first Indian F.W.B. to be set apart for the ministry of the Gospel.

I might add that Mr. Woolsey has been used of God in leading several people of a Christian caste into a full knowledge of Christ and are now ready for baptism. So it looks like we will soon organize our first church in India. Praise God that Free Will Baptist's lifeless dollars are turning into living souls.

Yours in His Faithfulness,

Daniel R. Cronk

YOUTH CAMP REPORT

April 15 to July 15

Brought forward\$ 123.89

Received:

Myrtle	\$ 15.19
Carterville	10.00
Mr. & Mrs. A. Cooper	2.00
B. E. & Elsie Lamb	5.00
Fredericktown	43.75
Southside	20.00
Laclede Co. Ass'n.	10.00
Merl's Chapel	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Buttler	5.00
Mr. & Mrs. K. Allred	100.00
Rock Chapel	12.50
Sent in by Rev.	
O. T. Allred	1.00
Leadington	2.00
Mo. State Ass'n.	40.91
Mt. Grove	11.35
3rd St. Louis	40.66
Georgia McDaniels	10.00
Hazel Creek Union	17.50
New Prospect	5.00
Amity	12.00
Jewell Church	3.00
Cecil Peterson	25.00
Rev. Orville Dobbs	5.00
Faith & Hope V.B.S.	7.00
Macedonia	10.00
Fellowship V.B.S.	2.02
Niangua S.S.	13.34
Niangua League	9.75
C. W. Mo. Association	10.00

473.97

Received from session:

For Board	\$543.40
Cold drink stand	111.63
Entertainment League	29.82
Entertainment S.S.	66.54

752.39

\$1,350.25

Expenditures:

Wm. Reeves from	
4-15 to 7-15	\$137.50
Other expenses	
of Session	647.17
Pd. Stigman Lum-	
ber Co. on home	500.00

\$1,284.67

Balance on hand\$ 65.58

At the close of the session, after checking our books and records, we bowed our heads in thanksgiving to

God for the way our people supported the needs of the camp, for we had a surplus of \$565.58. We paid \$500.00 on the indebtedness of our care taker's cottage, leaving a balance of \$685.35 which will be due September 30, 1950. We are praying that we can meet this when it is due. The Lumber Company has been very nice to us in our dealings with them. If you have an offering it will be deeply appreciated.

Rev. Wm. Reeves, Sec-Treas.

July 19, 1950

Dear Gem Readers:

Just these lines to say we had a wonderful time in the Lord during the Youth Camp Session this year. God so marvelously blessed in so many ways, both spiritually and financially.

Several souls were saved during the evening evangelistic services. Rev. Sterling Tucker of Flat River, Mo., by the help of the Lord, delivered some wonderful spiritual sermons. Rev. Mark Lewis assisted in some of the evening services but was called home by the death of his wife's grandmother. Lorene Dowd, a student from Fredericktown, was also called home because of the death of her grandmother.

To my knowledge this is the best year the Youth Camp has enjoyed as all students took more interest in the lessons. Forty-four received certificates. Also, Vacation Bible School, conducted by Mrs. Dodson of Myrtle, Mo. and Miss Betty Lou Cooper of Kirksville, Mo., was a great success and one soul was saved there.

We took in funds enough to pay for our Youth Camp "eats," paid all small bills and paid \$500.00 on the care taker's cottage. So we have much to thank God for this year.

Since the Camp Session God is still dealing through our youth. One young lady quoted Scripture to a backslider who had become entangled with the Jehovah Witnesses and tried to show her her mistake. How many of our older Christians have that much courage may I ask? Since leaving camp one young lady, by the help of the Lord, has preached her first sermon. I again say thank God for the youth of our land who are willing to forsake all worldly things and work for our Lord. May we as older Christians and church workers back them by our prayers and our finances. Let's rally

for our youth that many souls may be saved.

Our camp buildings are now valued at \$6,300.00 by the Insurance Co. We have a \$4,100.00 insurance policy at present time on the camp and cottage. So again I say God is for us and who can be against us. So let's all work the harder to pay off the \$685.35 yet due on the care keepers cottage. This must be met by the last of September as it is drawing six per cent interest until paid off.

God bless you all is our prayer.

Mrs. William Reeves

STATE TREASURER'S REPORT

April, May, June, 1950

STATE UNIFIED FUND

Monett	\$ 59.65
Southside Church	60.00
Fredericktown	183.90
Myrtle	22.34
Fredericktown Ladies	
Home Mission	5.00
Mrs. Goldie Elsea, Nevinger..	7.00
Mine LaMotte	25.01
Merl's Chapel	39.49
Oak Grove	7.00
Leadington S. S.	14.41
Flat River	187.95
Verdella	11.87
Total	\$623.62

EXPANSION PROGRAM FUND

Hazel Creek Union	\$31.52
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JEHOIDA CHEST FUND

Copper Mines	\$ 2.00
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TENNESSEE ORPHANAGE FUND

Hazel Creek Union	\$ 7.98
Hazel Creek Union S. S.,	
Sunbeam Class	15.00
Total	\$ 22.98

FOREIGN MISSION FUND

Hickory Grove	\$ 11.81
Sublette	18.00
Golden Oak S. S. & League....	10.00
Hickory Grove League,	
Haddam, Kansas	2.25
Hickory Grove Church,	
Haddam, Kansas	6.25

Amity	10.00
Mission Association by	
Rev. K. Turner	57.54
Hazel Creek Union	39.31
Hartville	24.70
Hannon	10.00
Fredericktown D.V.B.S.	6.54
Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Montgomery,	
Carl Junction, Mo.	20.00
C. R. Romberg, Myrtle	20.00
Mrs. Samantha Fowler,	
Green City, Mo.	5.00
Gladden Union Church	16.00
Independence	18.00
Leadington	15.00
Pleasant Home No. 2	7.50
Aulsbury Chapel	46.19
Verdella	24.26
Total	\$368.44

MISSIONS FUND

Neola	\$ 26.53
Mt. Grove	21.90
Fredericktown	27.60
New Harmony S. S.	45.23
Monett	15.95
Independence	14.39
Carterville	16.25
Flat River	158.38
Copper Mines	22.75
Mine LaMotte	18.52
Leadington	30.00
Opal Frazier, Monett	2.00
Faith & Hope League	2.20
Rock Chapel	69.48
Mrs. Grace Lawson,	
Brashear, Mo.	5.00
Jewel	17.33
Amity	10.00
Stahl	16.50
Morning Meditations	5.00
Blue Eye	15.08
Niangua Q. M.	8.55
New Prospect S. S.	7.13
St. Louis 3rd S. S.	33.40
Macedonia	34.88
Green Ridge Church	5.80
Pleasant Grove S. S.	48.36
Sublette D.V.B.S.	14.00
Union Third Fork	3.25
Total	\$695.93

Total Received on all Funds

April - June

Marie Hyatt, Treas.

"I hate life; and yet I hate to die," said Voltaire. "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain," said Paul.