

The Free Will Baptist Gem

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

Vol. 23—No. 1

Monett, Missouri—January, 1952

Per Year \$1.50

RECIPE FOR THE NEW YEAR

Mrs. John Ferguson-Nolan, W. Va.

* * * * *

Take twelve full grown clusters of days from God's storehouse of time.

Remove each speck of envy, hypocrisy and hate. Then scrub them free of the lingering memories of all wrongs you have suffered. When they are free of all taint, wrap them in gratitude and place them in trust where they will be kept free of the poisonous molds of the past.

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Add a sprinkling of courtesy, a bit of joy, a dash of laughter and a heart full of unselfishness. Heat over a strong flame of love and serve liberally with kindness and sincerity. Never mix more than one day at a time, for like the "manna in the wilderness," this mixture will not keep fresh overnight.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

ORGAN OF THE MISSOURI STATE
ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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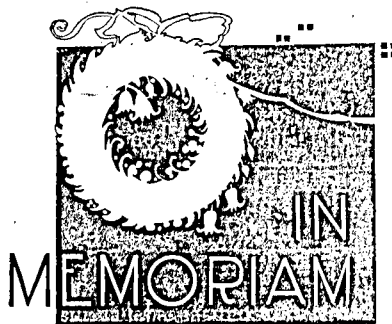
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MY OLD HOME

How oft have I traveled the path that leads

*To that little gray house on the hill,
The house that was once so cheery and gay,*

And now sits so dreary and still.

*Through rain or snow or heat or cold,
I've followed the path to the gate
Of the little yard all filled with flowers
Where Mother and Daddy would wait.*

With quickened footsteps I'd enter the door

Where loving arms would reach for me,

And two dear forms, with heads of gray,

Were all that I wanted to see.

And once I had entered that blest retreat

*No cares or worries I'd know,
For talking them over with Mother and Dad,*

They would fade like an April snow.

But a few short years has wrought a change,

*The path stretches cold and drear,
There is no lamp to guide my way,
No welcoming fire to comfort and cheer.*

*For both have gone to that other home
But I'm sure they are waiting still,
And wanting to welcome us once more
When they see us come over the hill.*

Composed by Mrs. Anice Tayler
Contributed by Mrs. John Filkins
Kirksville, Mo.

In memory of their parents, and to others who have experienced a similar loss.

Love's labor is never lost.

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The above is the standing of the present Honor Roll. It is a very encouraging report. Some new names were added this month with some very nice totals. Several churches have responded in a fine manner to the efforts of a personal worker in their midst. We are especially glad to welcome several from out of the state to the Honor Roll. We are grateful to you for your fine work, and trust you have found pleasure in doing it. May we again thank each of you and encourage you to continue to work in behalf of the Gem. The Gem stands much in need of your continued loyal support all through 1952, and particularly just now after a marked holiday slump.

BIBLE READING

How many times have you read the Bible through, or is that important? Is not your method of reading the Bible more important than the number of times you have read it? After associating with Christians and non-Christians for many years, I have come to the conclusion that one should read the New Testament first and get acquainted with the wonderful characters described therein. Then go back and read the Old Testament and we will see how the life of Christ and His followers have raised the moral standard of the world. Some of the great men of the Old Testament would be considered grossly immoral today. The Old Testament is a collection of books of love and peace.

In reading God's Word I find it a good practice to mark the verses that appeal to me, and review these verses often. By marking verses and reviewing them, we can make them a part of our life. They will mean much to us and to those with whom we associate. In reading the Scriptures we should remember that circumstances and customs are quite different from what they were at the time the books of the Holy Word was written. For example Paul encourages the Christians of his churches to greet the brethren with a holy kiss. Today we consider promiscuous kissing extremely unsanitary. Paul opposed women speaking in public, because it was not customary for women to take part in public meetings. In this day of an educated womanhood, and of woman's suffrage, women have a very important part in our religious and social life.

May God help us to read His Word with reason and make it appeal to those with whom we come in contact.

J. M. Doughty
Strafford, Missouri

OUR DUTY TO GOD AND MAN

Mrs. Sophia Ackerson - Richwoods, Mo.

Mark 5:19 says, "Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee."

If we are Christians we are like

Christ and we have great responsibilities and a great duty to do. Christ set the example for all His followers, as He prayed in John 17th chapter. He prayed for man. When He walked up and down the shores of Galilee, He talked to men about our Heavenly Father. Now He is sitting at the right hand of God talking to Him about men.

To some comes the call and ability to tell the glad story of salvation in pulpits, on the foreign fields, on the radio, through song and music. But God does not require this from all. But each of us have a post of duty some where in God's vineyard. God requires the best of our service and talents, be it great or small.

We find in this Scripture Mark 5:19, that there had been many people possessed with devils and Jesus had compassion on them and cast out these devils and saved them.

Then they had duties and responsibilities. He told them to go home and tell their friends and loved ones about the great things the Lord had done for them. It is our duty today to tell of the greatness of Jesus and all the things He has done and what He can and will do now. We may not be able to tell it in such beautiful words as others do, but we can tell those who are lost, Jesus loves them, and died for them and will save them if they will only believe. Andrew was not an outstanding disciple, but he led Peter to the Christ. Peter became a great preacher and won many lost souls through doing the Lord's will.

Prayer is a very great duty in our life. Prayer in the behalf of others. It is more than that, it is a great privilege. Friends, loved ones, the unsaved of our community, souls in China, India and the utter most parts of the earth can all be saved through our prayers.

I read a little story about a little cripple girl that went limping down the street of a city. She was crying because she was crippled and thought she could not work for the Lord. She happened to look in a window of a book store and saw a book with the title, "The Lord hath need of him," with Scripture notation underneath. She found it spoke of Christ needing a donkey. She thought if Christ could use a dumb animal like a donkey, He can use me. A good many years later a cripple Bible woman died in a hea-

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then land having won hundreds to the Lord and was loved by thousands. She used what she had for the Lord and He blessed her work. Let us use what we have and be blessed also.

So we have two great tasks to do. 1. Talking to God about man, 2. talking to man about God. So, who can say there is nothing for me to do in the Lord's vineyard. I'd like to send this reading. I think there is a great lesson for all who read it. It is taken from the "Lighted Pathway," written by Will Allen Dromgole.

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

*An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray;*

*To a chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a
sullen tide.*

The old man crossed in the twilight dim;

*The sullen storm had no fears
for him;*

*But he turned when safe on the other
side*

*And built a bridge to span the
tide.*

*"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting strength with
building here;*

*Your journey will end with the end-
ing day;*

*You never again must pass this
way.*

*You have crossed the chasm, deep and
wide—*

*Why build you the bridge at the
eventide?*

The builder lifted his old gray head;

*"Good friend, in the path I have
come," he said*

*"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass
this way.*

*The chasm that has been naught to me
To that fair haired youth may a
pitfall be*

*He, too, must cross in the twilight
dim;*

*Good friend, I am building the bridge
for him."*

"GREAT THINGS THE LORD HATH DONE" IN CUBA

December 27, 1951

Dear Co-Laborers:

As we look back over the past year in retrospect, our hearts thrill and we are caused to say, "See what great things the Lord hath done!"

Then we face the new year and know the challenge of the still unreached can only be met by the enabling of the Holy Spirit.

This year has been one of real advance. The other day I returned to Dimas, the isolated fishing village on the Gulf of Mexico. This time feeling the call to reach the people where there are no roads, we went on horseback. It took two days to get the horses to the foothills. Then, 7½ hours high in the pine ridges, one of those tropical squalls forced us to gallop to shelter in a Cuban home where we told them our mission. They begged us to stay and tell them more. That night a young man came to Dimas seeking me with a request to return and visit them. In the town cafe and pool room, lighted by a small power plant, the whole town turned out. A group of hoodlums decided to break up the service by noise, but in the Lord I felt that those interested must be told. God alone enabled me to talk above the noise to an intensely interested group.

This town Dimas had never heard a Gospel message, a Gospel hymn, or had a Sunday School until I went there two years ago. With \$800.00 we could build a simple Gospel temple and living quarters for a missionary. Please pray for the people of Dimas.

My next stop was at Arroyos. Here God is doing a marvelous work, using the young man Moses who went with us this last summer. In the four services while I was there, over 100 people came up declaring their desire to follow the Lord.

How one wishes for the multiplication of one's ministry in this needy land. I came staggering home to snatch a night of rest. There is the longing to go and tell, and in the telling there comes strength for the tolls of the way.

Arriving home we went into the beautiful valley of Isabel Maria to baptize

seven believers, among them a precious man who, in company with Melitino, had received us with open arms. His first words on hearing the Gospel message were, "You have the answer." He then told us how he had been seeking the reality of God. When his small daughter was taken seriously ill, he sent for the doctor, to be told it was too late, no hope. He went to his knees and prayed to an unknown God and promised if He spared his daughter he would seek to know Him. His daughter lived, to the amazement of the doctor. It was my great joy to baptize both father and daughter high in a mountain stream. In this same mountain church, Johnny Cuba has led a company of young men to the Lord. Nine of them expressed a desire to learn to read and write but Cuba has so much to do that he cannot teach them. One of our recent converts, a young man teacher (graduate from a normal school in Pinar del Rio), offered to teach them and prepare them to enter the Bible school next year. So our heart thrills at the hunger in their hearts.

God has stretched our work over three provinces. Great progress is also being made in both the provinces of Havana and Matanzas.

Last month a temple was dedicated in the town of Jaruco, the first town we lived in upon coming to Cuba. The temple was packed with people and our brother Melitino is having a wonderful ministry.

About two weeks ago we visited Canasi, Province of Matanzas, for a few nights of services, a baptizing, and the wedding of two of our graduates, Osmundo Corrales and Celia Izquierdo (pastors in Vinales). This visit was closed with a convention in nearby San Ignacio amid the sugar cane plantations of Hershey. The convention was like a camp meeting, with notes of victory. One young man who feels the call to service came crying, "I must preach the Gospel." He and his family were marvelously converted through a radio program. I have no doubt but that all the young people in this home will be preparing themselves for service.

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My next service was the dedication of a chapel on the farm of one of our old Christians. The building was packed with people and our hearts thrilled in this another preaching center in the Province of Havana.

Our young preacher in Havana, Estenio Garcia, has found a group of 15 people, Christians who have been meeting together without a pastor. They are pleading with him to serve as their pastor. This great metropolis and seaport city is very pagan and has been barely touched by the Gospel. Estenio is, we believe, God's man for the place. He was, when saved, in the mad whirl of sinful activity in the same city, serving as soldier in Fort Ambrosio. He knows the dives of sin as none other. What a prince he has become, handsome, immaculately and correctly dressed, in his manner so perfectly courteous at all times, with one of the sweetest smiles, eyes that look upon the world with tenderness and at the same time with a wisdom of one who knows the answer and how to give it.

We feel more and more the answer to the challenge of any mission field lies in a strongly established training center from the halls of which flows a steady stream of loyal sons thoroughly versed in the Word and ready with an answer to a heavy-hearted world.

We believe this year holds rich and fragrant blessing for the white fields of Cuba. Our meeting this open challenge will be because the Lord has placed it upon your hearts to share with us as "laborers together with God."

Wishing for you God's richest blessings during the coming year.

Yours in His glad service,

Thomas H. Willey

A CHRISTIAN

Acts 11:26, "And when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."

We find the definition of Christian means Christlike. So the disciples and converts at Antioch was first called Christians because they were Christlike and different from the people of the world. In those days the name of Christian meant reproach if not certain death to the individual who claimed it. We must admit that the true meaning of this precious name has been misconstrued because many people are claiming this name who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. So Christianity is more than just a name! It means more than just living in a country where God and Christ are recognized or belonging to some church.

A Christian is a wonder to many. It is marvelous to notice while reading the Scriptures that only the poor are rich and a broken heart is the greatest blessing that one can possess. How surprising it is to the heart to hear the writer say, "We are sorrowful yet rejoicing, having nothing yet possessing all things or dying behold we live." How ridiculous did this appear to us before we were saved. But it is only by the mercies of God that our darkness is past and the true light now shineth." Read I Corinthians 2:14.

Paul said "I am crucified with Christ." The grace of God has much to slay in us. It has to slay our vain confidence, our self righteousness, our pride, our depraved affections. The grace of God finds us alive to the world and sin, but it soon leaves us dead to both, and we become alive in Christ Jesus. Crucify means a violent unnatural death and sin does not die of its own accord or from weakness or old age. It must be put to death by force. I have never heard of any one that became a Christian without some difficulty—self denial, sacrifice groans and tears.

In Galatians 2:20, we read these words of Paul, "Yet not I." Paul did not have the big "I", but kept himself

out of the picture as much as possible. Notice the trend of the following Scripture. They all speak of humility. "By the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly more than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Galatians 2:20 implies life also, "Nevertheless I live." There has to be evidence of life before one can prove that he has life. We, like Paul were once dead in trespasses and sin; and the things of God did not interest us in the least. But now we know we are alive because we love the things of God and they do interest us. They do impress us. They do excite our hopes and fears. We know we have life because we love the brethren, we know that we live because we breathe prayer and praise and feel the pulse of sacred passion. Because His Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.

The real true Christian is not a picture. A picture may be a very likeness. It may resemble the original but lacks life. It has eyes and sees not, has lips but speaks not. It is just a figure. A Christian is not a figure. You may take materials and make a figure of a man and give it parts of the human body and even make them move. A real true Christian is not moved by religious machinery but by life given to them by Christ the Saviour. Nothing is forced or artificial.

A young Italian boy knocked one day at the door of an great artist's studio in Rome and when it was opened, exclaimed, "Please Madam, will you give me the Master's brush?" The painter was dead and the boy longing to be a great artist, wished for the great master's brush. The lady placed the brush in the boy's hand, saying, "This is the brush, try it my boy." With a great flush of eagerness on his face he found he could paint no better with the master's brush than his own. Then the lady said, "You cannot paint like the great Master unless you have his spirit."

So it is with us' who claim we are Christians in the church today. If we are not filled with our Master's Spirit we cannot successfully carry on the Master's great work. So let each one of us be filled with the Holy Ghost and let our lights so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven.

*I sought at once my Saviour's side,
No more my steps shall roam;
With Him I'll brave death's chilling
tide,
And reach my heavenly home,
We'll work till Jesus comes
We'll work till Jesus comes,
We'll work till Jesus comes,
And we'll be gathered home.*

Mrs. Sophia Ackerson
Richwoods, Missouri

ASKS PRAYER SUPPORT FOR WASHINGTON REVIVAL

Nashville, Tennessee
November 26, 1951

On January 13, 1952, the Billy Graham Evangelistic party begins a revival campaign in the city of Washington, D.C. Christian people everywhere are being asked to pray for the success of this revival. I am sure that you realize how much it would mean to our nation and the nations of the world if success would attend this venture and heads of governments would accept Christ and reaffirm their faith in Christianity. THIS COULD WELL BE THE TURNING POINT IN THIS DANGEROUS WORLD CRISIS. We must join forces with the other Christian people over this nation in earnest prayer for the blessings of God upon Billy Graham's ministry in our Nation's Capitol.

THEREFORE, I am calling upon every Free Will Baptist church to call special prayer meetings for the specific purpose of praying for this colossal undertaking. I am also taking the liberty of writing Billy Graham to assure him that we, as a Denomination, are going to be praying for the success of his effort in Washington.

D. C. Dodd, Promotional Sec'y

Folks who never go to church until the pall-bearers take them are out-of-place when they get there.

WHY I DO NOT SMOKE

By Dorothy Akers Ranck
(A College Graduate)

If the "I" in the above title sounds too personal, you will forgive me, an unknown college girl, when you realize that it is less egotistical than to say "Why Girls Should Not Smoke"; because that would imply that I am an authority on the matter. And of course I am not.

Plenty of people who have a right to write such an article have been before me, and have given you forceful technical reasons tobacco is especially harmful to women. But let me approach the problem informally, from the point of view of one of the younger generation.

I assure you that I am a perfectly normal girl and I don't smoke. I am twenty-one, and, like any of Eve's daughters, I want to be as attractive as possible. The first requirement, of course, is good health. There is nothing charming about yellowed teeth, a sallow complexion, faded nerves, and that famous pariah about which even your best friends won't tell you. I want a clear skin, a clean smile, and breath untainted by tobacco.

In time nicotine yellows the skin of the face as it does the fingers, causing tired lines, sharp features, a languid, anaemic look, a coarsened voice, and an appearance of premature old age. Some one has suggested that the old saying that a woman is as old as she looks might well be changed to "A woman is as old as she smokes."

Most of us rejoice at the change from the boyish styles to the present graceful fashions. Girls wisely want to appear feminine again. Cigarette smoking is masculine and unfitting. How grotesque it is when a girl is in chiffons or trailing evening dress! I spent part of my life within sight of an illiterate, unkempt old Irish woman. Winter and summer she wore a small dirty shawl over her head and sat crossly on her doorstep, a frown on her leathery old face, and a pipe in her mouth. But Mrs. H—and her corn cob pipe was not so incongruous a sight as an attractive, well-dressed girl with her mouth askew to accommodate the ubiquitous cigarette.

Tobacco, however, affects more than the outward appearance: it is harm-

ful to the general health as well. The average young woman of today has a glorious heritage of good health. Cigarettes are petty thieves cleverly stealing this heritage little by little.

I was interested to learn just how bad is the reputation of tobacco with the medical profession. A bit of study brings to light the following dismal facts: Smoking injures the heart. The tobacco heart is an irritable heart, frequently intermittent in action and not to be depended upon under calls for severe physical exertion. Tobacco causes high blood pressure; it poisons the nerves, hurts the eyes, lessens resistance to many diseases, notably tuberculosis. It sometimes induces cancer; it stunts the growth of the young and it impairs efficiency and athletic power.

Nicotine is only one of an impressive list of poisons contained in tobacco smoke. And nicotine is so deadly that we read of a case in which less than one grain of nicotine, less than two drops, caused a person's death. When the younger generation carelessly refer to cigarettes as "coffin nails," they speak far more truth than poetry. For nicotine is a slow poison and a habit forming drug.

Unfortunately, once a woman starts smoking, she is apt to indulge in the habit even more often than a man. It is a feminine characteristic to go to extremes—especially regrettable in this case because cigarettes are undeniably more harmful to woman than to man.

Though I am still one of the younger generation, I have enjoyed the fine friendship of a number of sweet old people. And I, too, want to grow old gracefully. Querulousness and irritability come with smoking. Advanced years bring more frequent illnesses, and with most sickness the patient is not allowed to smoke. An inveterate smoker, deprived of the weed, is an especially fretful and unpleasant person to have around.

Recently I was chatting with a classmate of mine—a pretty girl, always dressed to the last mite of fashion's dictates. Your first impression would suggest that a serious thought never enters her neat little head. But I knew that she does not smoke, and I asked her why. She looked up, at once alert and interested.

"Aside from health reasons," she said, "I think it makes a girl appear so cheap and common. I know I cer-

tainly shouldn't want my mother to smoke. And incidentally if I ever have any daughters I wouldn't want to set a bad example for them. I think most girls smoke because they want to do what the crowd does. But boys say that few girls do it well. This summer the boy I dated most boasted, 'My girl doesn't smoke!'. So I'm proud that I don't smoke. It's being different not to, these days."

I quite agreed with her. A few years ago when a woman smoked, it was with something of a pioneer, adventuresome spirit, however misdirected. Now it is distinctive not to smoke. To smoke is to follow the line of least resistance. One of the arguments always heard when a person is defending a doubtful habit is the old standby, "personal liberty." But nicotine does away with one's personal liberty and becomes an insidious master to its unthinking slaves. And as for me, I want to assert my liberty and stand up for my right not to smoke—in these days when one is constantly offered cigarettes and when huge ads proclaim, "Be Nonchalant," and "Not a Cough in a Carload." Why worry about the cough, if you've no intention of smoking the carload? And who says, "Ten Million People Can't Be Wrong?" They can too. A whole shoal of fish may be caught in a net—big ones and little ones together—but that doesn't prevent any one of them from being a poor fish.

A popular student of a large university gave me his opinion thus: "Why do I hate to see a woman smoke? Because in most cases it is obviously a foolish and pointless affectation. She acts as though this little attempt at sophistication is certain to win the plaudits of humanity. The girls who smoke for the pleasure of it are a minimum. Ninety per cent of them smoke for the same reason they take a drink of liquor—it's 'putting on the dog,' 'hot stuff.' Anything like that gets me."

"The sweet young thing lights up, inhales luxuriously, assumes a bored look, gazing at the world through half-closed eyes, and naively imagines that the world is at her feet. But it's not."

"Lot's of fellows who are themselves inveterate smokers are loudest in their denunciations. Their explanation is something like this: 'Well, it just gets me—that's all.'"

"The fact is a woman who smokes jars one's sense of the aesthetic. Smoking is somewhat not feminine, and we like women who are thoroughly feminine."

And so I do not smoke. I trust to keep my good health, clear complexion, strong, white teeth, clean breath, my personal liberty, and my self-respect. Also, I shall keep my pin money, or at least I shall see that it is spent where it does not literally go up in smoke.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF F W B CHILDREN'S HOME AT TURBEVILLE, S. C.

Year Ending September 30, 1951

Cash Receipts:

South Carolina Association	.\$ 5,619.93
Beaver Creek Association	.. 894.25
Central Association 809.63
Eastern Association 405.40
State Association 133.50
Miscellaneous Churches 564.85
Miscellaneous Individuals	.. 1,057.12
Singing Convention, Jesse Williams, Pres. 1,052.91
Coop Sales 2,499.61

Total Cash Receipts ...\$13,037.20

Deduct:

Total Expenditures, Including Salaries 6,879.46
--	----------------

Net Cash Increase from Operations\$ 6,157.74

Deduct, Capital Investment:

Building No. 2\$ 178.50
Building No. 4 4,800.68

Total Capital Investment 4,979.18

Net Cash Gain for Year \$ 1,178.56

Cash and Bonds on Hand:

In Bank of Clarendon, Manning, S.C.\$ 3,943.66
In Bank of Olanta, Olanta, South Carolina 5,811.66
In United States Bonds 3,422.86

Total Cash and Bonds \$13,178.18

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CENTRAL WEST MISSOURI MEETS NEAR STOCKTON

The regular Fifth Sunday Rally Day meeting was with the Wagoner Church near Stockton, Missouri on December 30, 1951. Following the Sunday School hour, congregational singing was directed by Bro. David Williams, one of our service men on furlough. Songs were, "O, Say But I'm Glad," "There Shall Be Showers of Blessings," and "When I Get to the End of the Way." Prayer by Rev. Lloyd T. Jeffreys. The president, Sis. Izola Zellmer, took charge and called for Rev. Lorene Bowman to bring the morning message. Sis. Bowman based her message on Hebrews, first chapter, and her message emphasized that our greatest need is Christ. Home from the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville for the Christmas Vacation, we were very glad to have her in the services and to hear of some of her activities there. The message was a blessing to all. Dismissed by Bro. Preston Cross. The noon hour was spent in fellowship and consuming the bounteous meal served at the church.

The afternoon session came together with congregational singing led by Bro. Williams. Songs were, Victory in Jesus," and "Whosoever Meaneth Me." Scripture reading, Eph. 6:10-19,

devotional thoughts, "Soldiers for God," and prayer by Rev. Virgil Greenway. An interesting program of readings, songs, and a playlet with a message was rendered by the various churches of the association. An offering of \$41.13 went to the morning speaker to assist in her school work at Nashville.

The Fifth Sunday Meeting on March 30, 1952 will be held at the Independence Church, also near Stockton. Rev. Marie Hyatt is to be the morning speaker, with Rev. Opal E. Jeffreys, alternate.

—Reporter

TRI-STATE MEETING

The Tri-State Fifth Sunday Meeting was held at the Mt. Olive Church, near Seneca, Missouri, December 30, 1951. The Introductory sermon was by Rev. Elda Crain. A basket dinner was enjoyed at the noon hour.

At 1:30 the business session was called to order by the moderator, Rev. Raymond Woods. Songs, "Lord Send Me," "Sweet Are the Promises," and "I'll Fly Away," were by the choir. Message was brought by Rev. F. E. Crain; scripture, Hebrews 7:2. Song by the Crain family, "Face to Face." Message by Rev. Norman Green; scripture, Hebrews 11:1. Song by the Pitcher Church, "Showers of Blessings." Message by Rev. Elda Crain; scripture, Rev. 19:7; 7:4. Song by Rev. Raymond Wood and wife, "Where Could I Go." Message by Rev. Jess Johnson; scripture, Matt. 19:20. Song, "The Great Home Coming Day," by a quartett. Message by Rev. Keck; scripture, Matt. 13:44; Eph. 4:30. Congregational song, "The Royal Telephone." Song by the Green quartett, "Just A Little Talk With Jesus." Message by Rev. Bert Walgamott; scripture, I Sam. 17:29. Message by Rev. Lonberg; scripture, Jude 1. Song by quartett, "Just Over in Glory Land." Message by Rev. Gerald Heard; scripture, Gen. 19:26. Song by Bro. Eddy Milliard, "Sweet Hour of Prayer." Message by Rev. Raymond Woods; scripture, I Sam. 10:9.

The next Fifth Sunday Meeting will be held at Granby, Missouri. Bro. Walgamott was elected to preach the Introductory sermon.

Rev. Raymond Woods, Mod.
Beulah Owens, Clerk

CHRISTMAS IN AFRICA

Mseleni Mission Station
Post Office Ubombo
Zululand, So. Africa
November 26, 1951

Rev. Raymond Riggs
242 Victor Avenue
Highland Park 3, Mich.

Dear Mr. Riggs:

Thank you so much for your letter and for all missionary news and reports that have been coming to us lately. Maybe we from afar can see even better than you at home that there has certainly risen a new interest and effort being put forth for His missionary work. I do send my sincere congratulations to you leaders for I believe that the people are only interested in as much as the leaders.

I certainly have done very little for promoting His cause among the people at home for very little correspondence has gone forth from here. I am sorry for this, for it has been failure in one sense, then in another way it would have meant that work here would have been greatly hindered for great are the demands from home for correspondence. But, the Lord guiding, I hope to do more of this for anew I have seen the need which only the missionaries can meet for they are in the midst of the battle and you at home only hear the reports from us. So, in any way possible I shall be happy to help through articles or pictures in the future.

As Christmas time approaches we too are planning to make it a happy time for our African Christians. We are calling them all in for a big Christmas Meeting from the 14-16 of December. This will give them time to return home before Christmas and we trust that they will be more refreshed to hold their own Christmas meeting. They will be coming from all of the 11 out stations. The farthest is 45 miles and many will walk this distance. We shall be furnishing their food of meal porridge and if the Lord provides by then we shall buy a cow and give them a feast which is always their custom at a big meeting. Last year we had the first big Christmas Meeting and about 500 came. Many of these were the dirty heathen that stood and happily looked at "Christmas." When you talked to them they

said, "We have come to see Christmas!" So pray that many of these may come to see Jesus, the Saviour born in Bethlehem this year. We are planning special children's meetings and shall divide the adults, too, for they are never able to enter the church for the great crowd on Christmas. We shall have Sword Drills for all of the children from far and near on Saturday and give awards

As at home, probably the most exciting time will come when the gifts are given out. They cut an ordinary tree and put it in the corner and on this they hang their gifts unwrapped—bunch of onion, handkerchiefs, clusters of corn, fruit from the forest, sweet potatoes and several squaking chickens under the tree as special gifts to the missionaries. At first we found these most amusing, but now after we have learned the people and know their poverty it touches the heart when you receive such gifts as these and you are just as pleased as if it were the prettiest thing from the shops!

We know that you will be praying for this meeting for we do want it to be a time when the people, Christians and heathens will see what Christmas really means.

In the Saviour,

/s/ Josephine Stevens

SANTALS USE WRITTEN SCRIPT OF DR. PHILLIPS

Mission House
Sonapurhat
Purnea District
Bihar, N. India

October 9, 1951

Dear Beloved in the Lord:

We are back in the harness after a few glorious weeks of Christian fellowship and rest in the mountains. Mountain top experiences are indeed wonderful but in some ways it is more wonderful to be back down in the valley of human needs. If there ever was such a valley we must certainly live in the midst of it. I have already visited six new villages on special invitation of the people themselves. They are all interested in the "Pearl of Great Price."

Those of you that are acquainted with the early history of Free Will Baptist Missions in India, before the merger at

the turn of the century, will recall that, by far, the largest part of that Mission work was among the Santals and that our most faithful workers were Santals. Not only are the Santals the most numerous of the Christian groups in North India but on the whole they have proven to be the most faithful and sincere of them all. An early Free Will Baptist Missionary, Dr. Phillips, found the Santals without a written language and reduced their language to writing, using the Roman Script. Until this day, this is the only written script that the Santals have of their own language. Usually, it is only the Santals that have attended a Mission School that can read their own language. The six villages mentioned above are Santali villages.

We have baptized Christians in two Santals villages and have candidates, who will continue to study for some time, in another. We also have Christians in three villages of the regular Hindi (not Hindu) race. In the past 16 months we have baptized 13, only three of whom were Santals and all three could read at least one other language besides his own, one has been a school teacher. With these three were six other candidates, but since they had been receiving teaching for a year and although we did not doubt either their experience or sincerity, we felt that since only two of them could read even a little and could understand little but their own language they should wait. This was four and one half months ago. They are still anxious for baptism. To date we have only baptized, counting those baptized by Bro. Cronk, for us, 17 Santals, the others were not Santals. Had we only been interested in numbers we might have baptized many times that number. Among our 37 church members only six could read even a few words before we came. Now at least 75% can, at least read a little. We are looking forward to a strong self supporting, indigenous native church in the future. However 90% of the people in this area cannot even write or read their own name. Therefore, we are proceeding with night schools wherever possible. We are having to train our own workers from those who were either entirely or almost wholly illiterate only a few months ago. It is almost impossible to realize how fast and far some of them have progressed. It would have been entirely impossible

without the active and progressive work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Of course this has added tremendously to our labors—but it is a labor of love.

We trust to have an active, spirit filled Association with from two to three Quarterly Meetings in working order before we leave for the U.S.A. The Cronks who have made vital contributions in many ways to our work here besides laying true foundations for the work in and around Kishanganj, will take over the general supervision of the work here. As some of you know we felt and so stated to the Board and others that our call to India was to North India to aid in the opening of a work there and we doubted if we would be applicants for a second term. We feel that, by the Grace of God, we have aided, in a small measure, the efforts of Sister Barnard and the Cronks toward this end. With two Mission Stations, seven Indian workers, several small Christian groups, Mission owned property and equipment here in North India, a small beginning has certainly been started. Pray for the work here. We will add that we are available for God and His people and their work here in India or elsewhere as God shall call.

Beginning October 26, we shall spend two months camping at various points near our people and those interested, holding Christian Institutes during the evenings. During the day, Trula, (the Cronks will join their efforts with ours during this time), will conduct something similar to the Vacation Bible School. The other women will visit the villages that can be reached returning to the tent in time for the Institute—there will be at least four different groups. Our first one will be eight miles from here. We are indeed thankful for the fine spirit of co-operation shown by both the Cronks. Be much in prayer that God will lead in this effort which is two fold in its aim. The first is to give teaching and instruction to our Christians; the second is to reach those who have no knowledge of our Saviour. May God's richest blessing ever be yours.

Yours for Him,

/s/ Paul Woolsey

P.S. We have about 20 candidates for baptism.

Little strokes fell great oaks. *Franklin*

HOME MISSION BOARD MEETS IN TENNESSEE

The National Home Mission Board of Free Will Baptists met December 3, 4 and 5 at Loyal Chapel Church. Those present were: Rev. J. B. Bloss, Chairman, Columbia, Tenn.; Rev. H. E. Staires, Secretary, Oilton, Okla.; Rev. Willard C. Day, Member, Mountain Grove, Mo.; Rev. James Evans, Member, Wilson, N. C., and Rev. George W. McLain, Member, Kerman, Calif.

National State Home Mission Directors present were: Rev. Homer Willis, Detroit, Mich.; Rev. Paul Pursell, Bristow, Okla., and Rev. E. C. Morris, Tifton, Ga.

Monday Night, December 3

Rev. Harry E. Staires, Secretary of the Board, delivered a very soul stirring message entitled "Gratitude." He used Rev. 1:5 for his text. Four souls were saved that night. His message was very good.

Tuesday, December 4

At the eleven o'clock service, the message was brought by Rev. Homer Willis, Michigan's State Director. His very fine message entitled, "The Church," was selected from Acts. He used, for his text, Acts 2:14. Lunch was served in the dining room of the church by the ladies.

At the evening service, the message was brought by Rev. James Evans, a member of the Board, from Wilson, N. C. His subject was, "This Mountain," and his text was Joshua 14. Four souls were saved at this service.

This service began as any other night. The usual "firsts," then the message that was so well put that it helped these four souls to find their way to the altar. Then broke such a spiritual feeling through the congregation that not one single soul was out of harmony. The Lord so wonderfully blessed that night, that it will be remembered with sweet reminiscences. Someone said, "The Half Has Never Yet Been Told," because there is not enough words in our vocabulary to fully describe with justice, the emotion of that meeting. It was just one of those meetings that is enjoyed with all you have and more, and are still unable to tell about it. Such as this makes us remember that God makes all possible, He can do as He sees fit. "Blessed be the name of the Lord."

Wednesday, December 5

The eleven o'clock message was brought by Rev. Willard Day, a member of the Board, from Mountain Grove, Missouri. His was a very fine message and a much needed one for he called it, "Human Needs." The text was Mark 10:46. We people are inclined to think of our needs as great quantities of material things, when all that matters is our need of Christ in our lives.

This meeting of the Board, has been good for all of us. We enjoyed every bit of it and look forward to having them meet with us again soon. We pray for great accomplishments for the Home Mission Board this next year; from the progress of the Home Missions, comes the success of Foreign Missions.

And to the eight souls saved during this meeting, "Let us labor for the Master from the dawn till setting sun. Let us talk of all His wondrous love and care; Then when all of life is over and our work on earth is done, And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there." May they also know the joy of being a true Christian; to share in the blessings and gifts of the Lord; to serve Him in His work; and to include Him in all, not part of, but all of their daily living.

—Elsie Price

RADIO HOUR POSTPONED

Because of a serious heart ailment suffered by the chairman of our Radio Commission, Rev. W. A. Hales, the first broadcast of the Free Will Baptist Hour scheduled for January 1, 1952 has been postponed for at least 60 and possibly 90 days.

Plans were developing rapidly for the first program until Mr. Hales suffered two heart attacks. Because of this, it was deemed advisable by the Commission to wait until he was recovered enough to resume his activities. Barring further delays the first program will be ready by March 1, or April 1.

We wish to express our thanks to the many individuals and churches who have responded financially to this cause and we urge you to continue your regular support. Send your contributions to Rev. James A. Evans, Box 203, Wilson, North Carolina.

Rev. W. S. Mooneyham, V. C.

Rev. James A. Evans, Sec.-Treas.



From The Editor's Desk



THE NEW YEAR—1952

Another year faces us. For most of us it will be just about what we make of it. To be sure many circumstances over which we seem to have no control will often involve us. A milestone, such as the New Year, causes us to reflect momentarily both on the past and on the future.

Too often our thoughts of the past dwell with most emphasis on failure, illness, tragedy, thwarted plans, and injury to pride and comfort. Fortunately, most of these thoughts turn to the brighter hopes of a future, yet unknown, in the new year. I think this is perhaps why many choose to be rather hilarious in their greeting of a new year. But with all our optimism of the future, there are many stern realities to be reckoned with, especially regarding the materials of life. There is the problem of fixed or limited income against ever increasing cost, the ever present depreciation of tangible property, limited earning power for many due to age or infirmity, and countless other perplexing issues. Thus goes the cycle, with pleasure often enjoyed but for a fleeting moment, then stern realities to be reckoned with again. But while we are thus reckoning with both the past and the future, may we share some of our blessings and perhaps some of our problems with you.

In retrospect, we wish to thank you most sincerely for a very pleasant year of 1951 spent in the service of the Lord here. Without your support, your prayers, and your encouragement, our position would certainly have been less enjoyable and perhaps untenable. We do appreciate the wide circle of friends that are ours. And while this is a bright feature of the past year, we trust that you will help us to gain new friends during the coming year. The average family is never too big. A new member of the family, whether by birth, adoption, or marriage, meets with enthusiastic welcome. We hope our Gem family will increase this year by leaps and bounds.

We have enjoyed very good health and strength unusual for us during the past year. It is fortunate that it is so. However, we are constantly ad-

vised by friends and competent medical authority to cut back sharply on our time and labor in the office. This we know we should do. But we stand in need of additional personnel in the office. We are looking to the Lord to lay it on the heart of those of His choosing to come this way in a service for the Lord. This work is as surely a ministry for Him as is any other department of work, including the Gospel ministry of evangelism. It is to our discredit that we have not so stressed it. I fear that because this truth is not generally realized, many have not appeared before the Lord in consecration to service fortified with this knowledge, and none are hearing the call to this urgent field of service. Long before 1952 is history, there should be those who have heard the call to a ministry of the printed page. It is high time we quit improvising against God and start improving for Him. While Mrs. Jeffreys and I should be in evangelism, at least part of the time, it is our firm conviction that there are those who should be in this full-time work.

As to finances, I think we have reason to rejoice for the past year. We do not have the final figures to offer. We know that we did not show a profit. We do not know of any religious publication that does. However, our deficit for operations was considerably less than we figured it might be. We have used all our strength and our ingenuity to keep this as little as possible. Just as surely as a laborer must be recognized as a ministry for the Lord, we must also recognize the operation of the press controlled by the church as one of its enterprises, and it must be supported to whatever extent necessary and in whatever amounts needed for its successful operation. Penny-pinching church members giving grudgingly to the local church never derive any satisfaction from that churches activities. Nor does stinted support of the church toward its enterprises reap any satisfaction to that church for its unwilling contributions. We are thankful for the ones that have contributed in any manner during the past year, but this support must increase in a marked man-

ner in the future. Will you help us in this matter?

Among our most cherished reflections of the past year are the visits that have been paid this office. From time to time Free Will Baptists and friends from over the state and from many other states have stopped in to see us. Some have been able to stay only a few minutes, while others have been able to spend a longer period with us. Regardless of how long the visit was, we were pleased that you stopped. We urge you to come our way at every chance. We enjoy your visits very much, and in this manner we become better acquainted with you and the work out over the field.

Mrs. Jeffreys, Marvin and I, each wish for you a very Happy New Year. We also enjoyed the many Christmas greeting cards received. They were too many to acknowledge individually, so we take this means of saying "Thank you, everyone."

THANKS FOR THE ORDERS

We recently distributed a number of catalogs listing a wide choice of Christian materials and notions. In the short time they have been out they have met with a fine response. Much of our time just prior to Christmas was taken up with our effort to get the orders out in time if at all possible. In almost every instance we were able to do this. If we failed you, we apologize.

In connection with these orders, or whenever remittances are made to us for any reason, we respectfully urge you to use a personal check. This avoids a money order charge to the sender and still provides a record and a safe means of transmitting your remittance. In two cases that have been brought to our attention, cash remittances have apparently been mailed to us but were never received. We have never had any trouble where checks were used. So if at all convenient to you, we suggest that you use this means.

We hope you will use your catalog often.

THE IDEAL CHURCH

Rev. Opal E. Jeffreys-Monett, Mo.

"And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," Matt. 16:18.

You will recognize immediately that Jesus is doing the speaking in our text. He said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." There has been grave dispute over this passage and we are not trying to speak as an authority, only give our most humble opinion and belief. Is the rock-foundation of the church, (1) Peter himself, (2) Peter's faith, (3) Peter's confession, or (4) Christ Himself, the Son of the living God? It is true that Peter did have faith and that he made a great confession, that Christ was the son of the living God. But I do not believe Christ was building His church on mere man's faith or confession but upon Himself.

A PRAYER CHURCH

In Acts 4:24, we read about the people lifting "up their voice to God with one accord." "With one accord" occurs eleven times in Acts. It is necessary for the church to be more and more intense in their prayers as the church was for Peter's imprisonment. "Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him," Acts 12:5. There is power in united prayer. It has pleased God to give special assurance to those who unite in prayer. God responds to the faith and fervour of the individual seeker, but in all matters of general interest, in everything bearing upon the well-being and progress of His church, God wants us to blend together in our supplications. Prayer is the answer to all our problems and obstacles in life. Let us not pray, to be heard of our much loud speaking, but in faith to believe God for the results of answered prayer. We have before us many examples of prayer. David, who found it necessary to pray day and night. Daniel, who in the face of a death decree continued his faith praying three times daily. Even our Lord found it necessary to spend all night in prayer. It is much more important for you and I to con-

tinue prayer "with one accord." In the face of adversity or overwhelming victory, keep on praying.

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth," John 4:24. "Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near and join thyself to this chariot," Acts 8:29. Ready to go, witness and worship at the leading of the Spirit, whatever the call. "Not slothful in business; fervent in Spirit; serving the Lord," Rom. 12:11. Let us not get the idea that the Spirit cannot lead in our business as well as our worship. Oh, that all of our living would be more Spirit filled and lead.

UNITED

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another," John 13:34, 35. United with mutual love. The ties which the Lord intended to knit His people together were three, and a threefold cord is not quickly broken; 1. Faith in Christ, 2. Love to one another, and 3. Benevolent effort for the world's salvation. Christ is the model for mutual love. He alone is the perfect example; He loved His people with a constant, patient and forbearing love; with a love active, practical, and self-sacrificing. As He loved us, so He expects us to love one another. "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace," Eph. 4:3. "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ," Eph. 4:13.

WITNESSING

"And we are his witnesses of these things and so is also the Holy Ghost whom God hath given to them that obey them," Acts 5:32. Witnessing for Christ means telling of Christ and His resurrection and His great power to save, such as Peter, when he witnessed and 3,000 souls were added to the church. To whom shall we witness? The world is the wide open field. "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come," Matt. 24:14. "For thou

shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard," Acts 22:15. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the world," Acts 1:8.

WORKING

In our natural life, it is so ordained that we must work for what we have. The Lord's kingdom requires work for survival and growth of us as Christians and as a church. We must show our faith by our works. "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart," Acts 2:46. "And daily in the temple, and in every house they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ," Acts 5:42. "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat," II Thess. 3:10. There is so much work to be done, and we feel our daylight hours are growing very short. There are souls yet to be reached. Many are in need of our helping hand and words of encouragement. Let us keep working until Christ shall come.

TRIUMPHANT

This is the climax of the "Ideal Church." This is the blessed reward of our praying, union, witnessing and working in the faith of Him, the rock-foundation of our Christian faith. Belief in Christ unites us to Him, and gives us a share in His victories, and He has overcome the world. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God," I John 5:4, 5. "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place," II Cor. 2:14. Now that we are entering a new year let us strive to make our church meet the needs of the sin-sick world. Souls are starving and dying for the Gospel. Their need is grave. Let us pray, witness to them and work our united efforts to rescue



THE MISSOURI STATE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Advancing With Christ

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



CHURCH ENJOYS BANQUET

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Bright Light Free Will Baptist Church, Route 3, Bryan, Texas, entertained the church in a fellowship banquet recently at the Harvey Community Center. The tables were laid with white linen cloths, centered with an arrangement of mixed flowers and yellow tapers. The guest speaker's place was marked by a corsage of mixed flowers.

After dinner, the pastor, Rev. Alvin F. Halbrook, introduced Mrs. Huey Gower of Henderson, Texas, and formerly of Nashville, Tennessee, who gave a review of the book, "How I Know God Answers Prayer" by Mrs. Rosalind Goforth, a former missionary to China. Mrs. Gower is now Fifth Vice President of the National Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Free Will Baptists and formerly served as Executive Secretary for the organization.

Forty six members and friends of the Church shared in the occasion.

Mrs. Alvin F. Halbrook

FELLOWSHIP AUXILIARY FLAT RIVER, MISSOURI

601 Buckley St.

Greetings to our many friends:

As we haven't had any report in the Gem about our work here, we thought we had better send a few lines to let our friends know we are still here and having a good time serving the Lord.

God has been so very good to us this past year. We couldn't begin to thank and praise Him for His wonderful blessings.

Our Woman's Auxiliary is growing in number, and best of all, is growing more in spirit. Each time we meet He is more precious to us. We have done a lot of good things through His help this past year, helping on the church work, giving baskets of food to those in need, giving baskets of fruit to those who are sick, and giving clothing to children to help keep them warm.

Oh, there are so many things to do as we go along, to make others happy, and now we thank God for a little place to serve in His Cause.

And how we thank God for our Woman's work and what they are doing. Sister Thelma Lewis is our good president, and it is a joy to work with her. We all have a wonderful fellowship together. On December 20 we met in the home of Sis. Della Getz for our Christmas party. We had 18 members and 14 visitors present. We had a good program entitled, "The Star Lit the Way."

After the program, sunshine gifts were exchanged and refreshments of pie, cake and coffee were served. All had a lovely time.

Pray for us and our work, and pray that God will keep us an humble people at Fellowship Church.

God bless everyone is our prayer.

Mrs. M. Hilderbrand, Reporter

THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Matt. 16: 1-4; Matt. 24.

The cry for a better world is sounding from many lips. Statesmen, churchmen, laymen, are grasping at straws as civilization sinks beneath the billows of total war and revolution, and they are calling for help—such help as no man can give.

We live in a world of many conflicts. One within another. As racial aspirations are satisfied in one direction, far greater issues rise to plague us in another. After labor and management settle their disputes, other and greater demands cause confusion and fear. The medical men find a cure for one disease only to be confronted with new problems. Thus we are spun about in a vicious circle.

Who will bring a halt to all these situations? This rise and fall of human hope? One who walked long ago on the troubled waters to a group of frightened fishermen, and said, "Peace, be still." To the willful purposes of man He will declare, "Thus far and no farther!"

Friends, we believe we have a word

of encouragement for those who are in despair, physically, mentally, or spiritually for we find it in the Word of God and it was written especially for the people of our day.

Mankind is bewildered today because they have been promised inevitable progress, they have been told that man has within himself the means to solve the problems of life, but the truth is: man is inherently bad, not inherently good. Man has no power to save himself. Only in Christ Jesus can we be victors over self, and it's inherent greed, lust and hate.

In this Scripture the people are asking for a sign of the times. Jesus answers with verses two and three. Again in Matt. 24, the disciples ask the question, "What shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world?" Jesus did not evade the issue but gave a clear-cut answer: "When ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the door." What are some of the signs of His coming that makes us to know that He is even at the door?

First, the climatic increase of war. War in itself was not to be a sign of the end. There have always been wars. But wars were to increase in great measure until they had reached a climax, and they would appear in "divers places." No generation in the world's history has known so much of intense, all-out war and such wide spread destruction as has our generation. This present war, despite our illustrious President terming it "police action," knows no boundaries. There are no people on earth today that do not feel the impact of this war, in one way or another. Such increase in intensity of war cannot continue for long and civilization survive.

Second, the increase of disasters was yet another sign. There have been famines, pestilences, and earthquakes since sin entered into our world. The sign that Jesus refers to in Matt. 24: 7, is their increase and far-reaching effect. We have to be on guard constantly against the spread of epidemics, scourges to plant life and animal life. Scientists tell us that there are

earthquakes, impulses and vibrations about every hour somewhere in the world. Famines are still with us in spite of modern genius, floods and droughts which most often are the cause of famine, are still unsolvable afflictions.

Thirdly, another sign was to be the religious confusion, Matt. 24:11. Christianity began as one body of believers who were united in faith and works. Today the 250 denominations and sects is certainly confusing. Scripture is being distorted to bolster the claims of men. As some one has said, "the fight between churches is the scandal of Christendom."

Fourth, the increase of crime and moral laxity. I give you the statistics quoted recently in St. Louis, Missouri, by the assistant to Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, to a group of ministers and civic leaders. In 1950 there were: 1½ million homes broken, 1½ million petty crimes committed, every 18 seconds a major crime was committed, and every 40 minutes there was one murder. There are 115,000 murderers loose in the United States, 25,000 more prison terms than the previous year. One million dope fiends, five billion dollars spent for dope (1,300 tons), and 15 billion dollars for crime. (This is six times what we spent for education and 24 times what we spent for religious purposes. The age group of 17-23 years was affected most). 100,000 illegitimate children born. We spent 50¢ per capita for God; spent \$750.00 per capita for liquor. Friends, you know full well today that everything from God to Satan is ridiculed in the United States.

Fifth, the Gospel is to be preached in all lands. The Bible, or portions of the Bible, which is the basis of all gospel preaching, is now translated into nearly 1,100 languages and dialects. Missionaries have gone out to all lands to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Second Coming of Christ in our day is now being definitely preached among most peoples on earth. With the special blessing of God and the accompanying power of the Holy Spirit, this work could quickly be finished. "And then," said Christ, "shall the end come." Friends, are you ready for that great and wonderful time? It could be today and if not today, HE IS COMING. He said He would and I believe He meant what He said. I'm looking for Him. Are you? —Editor

"LETTER TO MELITINO" BROADENS MISSIONS VISION

Alma, Arkansas
December 10, 1951

The Free Will Baptists of Zion Hope Association No. 2 of the State of Arkansas wish to express our most sincere thanks to Bro. Kenneth Turner of Monett, Missouri, for the splendid work he has done in our Association toward the work of Foreign Missions.

Bro. Turner has been here for the past two or three weeks preaching and showing films concerning our missionaries in their work. Several of our people over the nation have seen the picture, "A Letter to Melitino," but to those who have not seen the picture, I would recommend that you make a special effort to get it shown in your church.

I have been in this Association all my life, and have never heard a sermon on "Foreign Missions" preached here. Therefore, it never did interest me but very little. Though after seeing this picture I have become very burdened for the lost in foreign lands as well as in our home land. As I watched this picture I was made to understand that if my next door neighbor was not a Christian, then I must make an effort to get to him the Word of God. Then if the people here in Crawford County had salvation, and those across the Arkansas River in Sebastian County did not have, then it would be of a necessity that we do something about it. I then saw farther away from home by thinking how that I had worked from state to state. Suddenly I came to understand that if this was the thing to do, then it would also be well to go from country to country or nation to nation. When our Lord said (Matt. 28:19), "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations," certainly our nation was included in the word "all." So we cannot forget to attend to Home Missions as well as Foreign Missions.

Rev. Turner held, while in our Association, fifteen services, and every church that he went into, and some others who saw the film by visiting the churches in which it was shown, were convinced of the need of supporting Missions work.

Our people of Zion Hope Association are thankful for this man coming into our part of the state for a few days he was with us. We feel he is a real

man of God, with his work at heart.

So may I say to Free Will Baptists everywhere, "Let us join hand in hand for the saving of souls and for the achievements of the greatest church in the nation."

Gilbert J. Pixley

LIST PARTIAL NEEDS FOR JAPAN MISSION WORK

December 11, 1951
Route 3
Cedar Hill, Tenn.

Dear Bro. Riggs:

We received your letter recently with the request of Circle No. 2 of Bryan Church inclosed. As you know, we are not sure yet what type of work we will be doing when we get to Japan; so it is impossible for us to make a complete list of our needs. We will know better later on what we need. We have been told that we will need to take furniture, but we are not sure yet.

The following is a list of a few things that we had hoped to get before we left for Japan. Luggage, 35mm camera with flash attachment, portable typewriter, wool blankets, winter and summer clothes, a good set of Bible Commentaries and any other good books.

Also, we need a good, but light weight accordian. We have found one that we can get for half price, being missionaries. We can get it for a little less than \$200.00, with a life-time guarantee. We need the accordian now, so that Aileen can learn to play it before we leave.

In Christ,

/s/ Wesley Calvery
Prov. 3:5, 6.

Note—There may be some group or individual who would like to supply some of the above articles. If so, please write direct to Rev. Calvery at the above address.

Rev. Raymond Riggs

Gentlemen, the day is here when we must be prepared to take our battle stations for a knock-down, drag-out fight against forces who have nothing to offer but slavery and shackles, whose goal is not to improve mankind but to imprison it. *Eddie Rickenbacker*

NEWSY BRIEFS

OBITUARIES - REPORTS LETTERS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

MERL'S CHAPEL REVIVAL

On December 3, we begin a revival at the Merl's Chapel Church. Rev. Tommy Day of Huntsville, Arkansas, was our evangelist. The church had been looking forward to this meeting, praying, inviting people, and believing God for a victory. As always the case, when a church will do this God gives the victory. Bro. Day came to us as a stranger to most of the church but had no difficulty in getting acquainted, and had splendid co-operation, not only with the people of the Merl's Chapel Church but with other churches of the surrounding community, who came and worked so faithfully with us. This meeting continued until December 18, and was declared to be the best revival the church has witnessed for several years. Our hearts were especially made to rejoice when among those who came to Christ, were two fathers whom the church had prayed for so long. So far as we know this is the first church in this part of the state to call a full time pastor, and God is blessing them in their work.

Pray for us that we may stay humble and where God can use us to His glory.

Yours in His service,

Rev. O. T. Allred, Pastor

HOBBS, N. MEX. REVIVAL

Dear Gem Readers:

Would like to make a report of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Hobbs, New Mexico. We have a large building of which we are truly thankful to God for. Our church is not as large in number as we would like, but thank God we do have some good humble people.

Bro. George McLain came by and spent one week with us enroute to Columbia, Tennessee and it was a real blessing to our church. It seemed we were against a rock or as the Children of Israel, we were up to the Red Sea and thank God in Heaven, Bro. McLain, with the power of God led us through the Red Sea to victory. He came back after the Board meeting in

Columbia, Tennessee to carry the revival on, with great results. Souls were saved, additions were made to the church and thank God old time shouting was heard. Bro. McLain had to leave us sooner than he had planned, due to the illness of his wonderful Christian companion, that has stood so faithfully by his side and held him up with her prayers. We are thankful to God for Bro. McLain. He left here with a multitude of friends. We do want him to return as soon as it is God's will.

We as a church need the prayers of all God's children. We know beyond a shadow of a doubt that we are going through. We would enjoy a letter from each one that reads this. Again we ask an interest in all your prayers. God bless you.

Rev. Jacob C. Armstrong
404 E. Taylor
Hobbs, New Mexico
Former pastor, reporting

REVIVAL AT 'LITTLE VINE'

Niangua, Missouri
December 1, 1951

Dear Christian Friends:

Just some lines to report the wonderful revival just recently closed at the Little Vine Church. Rev. Leo Curtis was the evangelist and his wife the pianist. Several good Christian friends from Lebanon accompanied them and helped with the singing, and also helped with the altar work. We thank God for sending Rev. Curtis and his friends our way, and pray God's blessings on him and his work for the Master.

The meeting was begun just a few nights before the big snow storm arrived, so it was necessary to close until the snow melted away. Then on Friday night we decided to continue. There were souls saved from this date on. There were several young ladies, several boys, and some fathers and mothers saved. There was much shouting, and happiness did so abound in the services.

Thirteen souls were saved all together. There were nine additions to the church to date. Several are to be

baptized this coming Sunday afternoon if the weather permits.

Pray for us that we may be able, by God's help, to lead them into higher heights and deeper depths.

Rev. Wm. Reeves, Pastor

P.S. We have a fine group of young Christians, numbering between 25 and 30 in all.

Subscribe to "The Gem"

Per Year \$1.50

REMODELING CHURCH

2622 Rutger
St. Louis 4, Mo.
December 18, 1951

Dear Editor:

We would like to report that our church, The Third Free Will Baptist Church of St. Louis has started remodeling work on the building amounting to \$3,500.00. The work should be finished in a few weeks, depending on weather conditions. When the work has been completed the walls on the outside will be permastoned, adding to the appearance of the church.

Our church attendance has been improving and Sunday School attendance going up for which we are very thankful. This last month we had a revival and there were six souls won to Christ. Bro. Pursell was our evangelist. During this year we have had fifteen new members added to our church and almost all are active in the services.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the church have been helping a lot during this last year as they always have. We have a small group of girls now organized in doing work somewhat like that of the women only on a smaller basis. They haven't been working together long but they hope by the time Youth Camp comes around they will have earned their way to come.

We ask you to help us pray they might be able to grow in their work.

Yours truly,

Jerry Bulls, Reporter

TEXAS STATE ASSOCIATION MEETS NEAR HENDERSON

The Texas State Association convened in its 37th annual session, October 30-November 1, at the Mt. Olive church, near Henderson, Texas. Rev. A. A. Williams is pastor of the church.

The theme of the convention was, "Reaching the Lost." Speakers and messages were, Rev. Huey Gower, Henderson, "Passion for Souls;" Rev. R. B. Crawford, Bryan, "Reaching the Lost by Preaching From the Pulpit;" Rev. Henry Melvin, Nashville, Tenn., "Reaching the Lost Through the Ministry of the Free Will Baptist Bible College," and Rev. C. B. Thompson, Houston, "Winning the Lost Through Personal Contact."

The Association unanimously adopted a resolution reading as follows: "The Texas State Association of Free Will Baptist strongly oppose the appointment of an ambassador or envoy to the Vatican." Copies of the resolution were wired to President Harry S. Truman and Honorable Senator Tom Connally, Chairman Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The Association went on record as actively, prayerfully, and financially supporting Rev. and Mrs. Wesley Calvary in their preparation to get on the mission field in Japan and to support them after they get to Japan. An offering of \$215.16 was received for this purpose. Sufficient funds to increase this amount to \$300.00 was taken from the State Association treasury.

Rev. Henry Melvin, representing the F. W. B. Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee, received \$778.00 in cash and pledges for the College.

General officers elected were: Moderator, Rev. Noah Tuttle, Houston; Asst. Moderator, Rev. R. E. Conner, Buffalo Springs; Recording Secretary, Rev. Alvin F. Halbrook, Bryan; Treasurer, Rev. Herbert Richards, Denton; Publicity Director, Rev. R. B. Crawford, Bryan; Statistician, Rev. Gaston Clary, Bryan, and Parliamentarian, Rev. M. L. Sutton, Ft. Worth.

The entire session was blessed with harmony, fellowship, and the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

The next session of the State Association will be at the Pleasant Mound Church, Buffalo Springs, Texas, October 28-30, 1952.

Alvin F. Halbrook, Rec. Sec'y.

A BURDENED HEART

*I've prayed and prayed, and prayed
some more.*

*For friends, who do not darken any
church door*

*They tell me, that to church they
should go.*

*My heart is burdened, for them you
know.*

*Oh Jesus! keep knocking on their
heart's door*

*Might they accept thee, then find
themselves, praying on the floor.*

*For we all have been sinners, saved
by the Blood of the Cross.*

*Our hearts are burdened Oh God,
for the lost.*

*We ask that thy will O God, and not
our own be done.*

*But we pray, that before its too
late, they'll be one of your sons;*

*For Jesus died to save all who will
believe,*

*And I'm glad of this burdened heart
that from God I received.*

James Bonucchi

TAPE RECORDER BRINGS SERVICES TO SHUT-INS

Bellevue, Texas

December 13, 1951

Dear Editor:

Enclosed you will find \$15.00. Please renew our subscription. We enjoy the Gem very much.

I'm sending you a little news from our church if you care to print it.

The interest of the Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church, at Buffalo Springs, Texas is very good. Our Wednesday night prayer meeting is very spiritual, and uplifting. We have a wonderful ladies Auxilliary. We have 33 members, 23 were present at our last meeting. They drew the names of the children at the Children's Home in Oklahoma and brought the gifts to the meeting. Each child got three gifts, besides the candy, nuts, fruits etc. It was estimated at \$68.00. They have just raised \$275.00 and covered our church floor with tile. The ladies are always ready to help the sick, or lend a helping hand where ever they are needed. They are doing a wonderful work.

I have bought a tape recording machine. It has opened up a new minis-

try for me. I record the services, and take them and play it to the shut-in and sick people. They get such a blessing out of it.

May the Lord bless you there in your work.

Sincerely,

Rev. R. E. Conner

D. V. B. S. CATALOGS

We are trying to arrange for general catalogs of Daily Vacation Bible School needs. We would like for you to drop us a card if your church plans to hold a Bible school during the summer. Please give us the name of the pastor and the Clerk, and other information we might need. From this list we will determine the number of catalogs to arrange for. We would like for you to have one. Those using the materials last summer liked it very much.

THE LATCH IS ON YOUR SIDE OF THE DOOR

A minister was stopped by a stranger on the street who said, "God bless you a thousand times. I heard you say in preaching, 'The latch is on your side of the door.' I cannot tell you the effect those words had on me. You said many are waiting for God while all the time He is waiting for them. Do not wait for Him. The latch is on your side of the door. Christ is now knocking at the door of your heart for He says, 'Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear My voice and open the door I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with Me.' This came to me like a flash from heaven. I went home, knelt down and said, 'Lord, if Thou art waiting for me, I'll let the latch—come in and be seated.'

My two daughters, who had been seeking salvation for a long time and were expecting it would come to them somehow, were in the meeting with me and heard you say, 'The latch is on your side of the door.' Without speaking a word to me they each went to their room that evening and opened their hearts to Christ. Lifting the latch and letting Christ come in to our hearts has changed our home. I longed to tell you this. God bless you."

STATE TREASURER'S REPORT

July, August, September - 1951

MISSIONS FUND

Fredericktown	\$173.00
Rock Chapel	150.70
Monett	24.09
Jewel	10.62
Copper Mines	41.56
Green Grove	33.31
Mine LaMotte	9.05
Neola	16.45
Flat River	40.42
Amity	70.30
Bethel	5.00
Mountain Valley	32.39
Wagoner	14.84
Old Bethel	9.35
Carterville	15.00
Mountain Grove	18.00
Missouri State Auxiliary Con. ..	10.00
Missouri State Association	132.55
Hannon League	15.00
Pleasant Grove	3.00
Macedonia	26.64

Total\$851.27

STATE UNIFIED FUND

St. Louis Third	\$ 69.40
Monett	73.55
Verdella	14.06
Mine LaMotte	14.21
Myrtle	29.78
Mrs. B. A. Stafford, Exeter	20.70
Southside (St. Louis)	40.00
Green Grove	5.25
Merl's Chapel	23.00
Sublette	8.93
Fredericktown Ladies' Home	
Mission	5.00

Total\$303.88

FOREIGN MISSION FUND

Mt. Pisgah	\$ 8.00
Shibley's Point	47.87
Buffalo	22.29
Verdella	33.97
Aurora	4.75
New Home	20.00
Hickory Grove D.V.B.S.	40.00
Low Ground	17.00
Monett	29.00
Independence	25.66
Mrs. Leonard Henslee, Mans-	
field, Mo.	5.00
Copper Mines Sunday School	10.38
Hannon	47.00
Hannon League	30.00

Hannon and Verdella young		Happy Ridge	15.00
people	5.00	Rev. O. D. Matthews, Fred-	
Hartville	23.45	ericktown	6.00
Rock Springs	30.00	Mt. Pisgah	5.00
Green Grove and Shibley's		Ralph Stout, Monett	5.00
Point D.V.B.S. (Cronks) ...	35.11	Hickory Grove	10.00
Hickory Grove	11.08	Southside (St. Louis)	35.00
Hickory Grove, Haddam, Kan.	30.00	Fellowship	15.00
Wolf Creek	10.00	Neosho	5.00
New Harmony	3.89	Leadington	10.00
Jones Chapel	20.00	Union Light	5.00
Mrs. Charles Bullimore,		Sunnyview	15.00
Morrowville, Kans.	2.00	Fredericktown	20.00
Hazel Creek D.V.B.S.	16.40	Verdella	10.00
Hazel Creek Union	31.82	Macedonia	15.00
S.E. Missouri Association	515.70	Monett	20.00
C.W. Missouri Association ...	55.67	Walnut Grove	5.00
Verdella	10.00	Hartville	10.00
Seneca Mt. Olive	10.00	Pleasant Ridge	5.00
Green Grove	3.25	Alfred Bough, Stockton	2.00
Indian Creek Association	31.04	Mrms O. D. Crepps, Flat River	5.00
Mrms. A. L. DeWeese	6.00	Mrs. Harry Beatty, F'town	1.00
Twin Oak	5.00	Missouri State Association	
Merl's Chapel	43.00	Offering	53.21
Oak Grove League	6.70		

Total\$1,246.03

STATE ENTERTAINMENT FUND

Aulsbury Chapel	\$ 10.00
Myrtle	20.00
Hannon	15.00
Jewel	3.10
Jones Chapel	10.00
Mountain Grove	12.00
Amity	25.00
Mine LaMotte	10.00
Mission Association	60.00
Union Chapel	5.00
Green Grove	10.00
Pleasant Hill	10.00
New Harmony	12.50
New Harmony S.S.	12.50
Mountain Valley	15.00
Hazel Creek Union	10.00
Desloge	15.00
No. 1 Church, Huggins	15.00
First Church, Kansas City	5.00
Wolf Creek	5.00
Laclede County Association ...	15.55
Sublette	6.00
Copper Mines S.S.	20.00
Faith & Hope League	5.00
Union Third Fork S.S.	10.00

STATE GENERAL EXPENSE

Aulsbury Chapel	\$ 10.00
Mission Association	21.80
Liberty Association	10.00
Indian Creek Association	20.53
C.W. Missouri Association	12.00
Niangua Association	5.00
Laclede County Association ...	5.00
Missouri State Auxiliary Conv.	10.00
N.E. Missouri Association	8.53

Total\$102.86

TENNESSEE ORPHANAGE FUND

Hazel Creek Union	\$ 2.73
Sunbeam Class, Haz. Cr. Union	12.00

Total\$14.73

EXPANSION PROGRAM FUND

Jones Chapel	\$10.00
Hazel Creek Union	25.46
Missouri State Auxiliary Conv.	10.00

Total\$45.46

NATIONAL HOME MISSION FUND

Southside (St. Louis)	\$10.00
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JEHOIDA CHEST FUND

Copper Mines	\$2.00
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Total amount of all Receipts for
period of July, August and September,
1951\$3,184.09

/s/ Marie Hyatt, Clerk-Treas.

**The Great Doctrines
of The Bible**

By William Evans, D. D.

275 Pages, Cloth\$2.75