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STRENGTH FROM THE GEM

Cameron, Oklahoma
November 22, 1953

Free Will Baptist Gem:

Thanks a lot for your card remind-
ing me that my subscription had run
out, for I don't want to miss a copy.
I certainly love to hear from my
Brothers and Sisters through the Gem.
It cheers me in lonely hours and makes
me stronger in the faith of my dear
Lord Jesus.

If our Christian people would live
more devoted lives, our young people
would not go so far in sin. So many
of our people go to church on Sunday
and then will go to the shows two or
three nights in the week and sit side
by side with the sinner—no wonder
they (the sinner) say "I am as good
as he or she.

God bless our church members and
save the lost and unsaved is my prayer.
God bless you in the great work of the
Lord.

Yours in the good work,

Mrs. W. M. Easton

CHURCH HAS BEEN BUSY

South Side F.W.B. Church
3124 Mt. Pleasant

Dear Gem Readers:

South Side reporting again after
missing last month, and pray that I'm
not too late this time.

We have had busy times. South
Side met with the Leadington Church,
or St. Francois County Woman's Aux-
iliary Convention for a program "The
Work Basket." The theme was "Know

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God's Word." The Church was almost
filled, and I'm sure each one—including
about eight men, and all of the women,
enjoyed the program.

On Saturday evening, November 21,
South Side had a chicken dinner,
sponsored by the men of the church
with a goodly number turning out to
buy our dinner and help in our build-
ing fund.

As we are nearing Thanksgiving, our
prayer should be for each person to
thank the Lord for a nation where we
can still praise His Holy Name with-
out fear. Also, we should thank Him
for all good things of life, but most
of all for saving our souls and keeping
us, and make every day a Thanksgiv-
ing Day.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. James Franklin, Pastor
Olive M. Reeds, Corres.

THEIR PEOPLE OUT OF WORK

Richwoods, Missouri
November 19, 1953

Dear Bro. Jeffreys and Readers of the
Gem:

We come to you asking all to have
special prayer for us in Richwoods, as
many of our people are out of work,
and we have two in the hospital. Sis.
Much fell and broke her ankle and is
in the Christian hospital in St. Louis
and Sis. Ackerson has to have an oper-
ation and will be in the hospital near
Farmington.

We have started a cottage prayer
meeting here on Thursday night of
each week. We are trying to get the
Word of the Lord into homes where
the folks won't come to church.

We thank God for what progress
we have made, and we humbly wait
before Him and desire to be led by His
Holy Spirit.

May God bless you in His service is
our prayer.

Richwood Ladies Aid
Ettie Logsdon

Keep Christ in Christmas--

"...Because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7.

This text clearly indicates the kind of reception Christ received into the world. Never-the-less, there is real consolation when we recognize the purpose of His coming into the world. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." II Cor. 8:9.

Mankind had looked for the Messiah for ages. And the Scriptures contained many prophecies concerning Him, even to His name and place of His birth. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isa. 7:14. "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel." Micah 5:2.

With all this knowledge of Him, still men were too busy commercing, paying imposed taxes, and observing decrees that they crowded the Christ of God—the One and Only begotten, virgin-born Son of God, out into the manger.

Even so, in this good year of our Lord, 1953, men are taking Christ out of Christmas. Many times Christ is marked out in commercial advertisements and displays, and even by well meaning people who are hurrying along with the crowd. In reality the Spirit Christ is not in much of the present day program and celebration. In our wonderful country—the best place on earth to live—during the Christmas holiday season, many in America celebrate it in drunken gluttony and revelry.

We are in the midst of a rumor of a world church, in which the anti-Christ spirit is prevalent, and to which the cross of Christ is an offence and the name of Christ rejected since this is an anti-Christ movement and is counterfeited.

Let us render due reverence to God, as in Ephesians 3:14,15: "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father

of our Lord Jesus Christ of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." Jesus gave us a warning in Luke 21:28: "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth night."

In everything let us, as Christians, keep Christ first—in Christmas, in the Church, in worship, in business, in social life, and in civil government.

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all."

Your Brother in Christ,

Rev. Harry Beatty
139 E. Drumright St.
Drumright, Oklahoma

Peace On Earth



Good Will Toward Men

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And they... found... the babe lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-12, 16.

India Church in Harvest Festival

"Westfield"

Kotagiri, South India
October 31, 1953

"The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."

In a land of idolatry and continuous festivals to false gods, a festival of thanksgiving to the true and living God is a blessing that "maketh rich" indeed. The year-old calf being led up the hill along the footpath through the eucalyptus forest is making its way to church to be given as a thank-offering. From another direction a devoted young couple, only five months old in the Lord, are bringing a young hen which they have raised and set aside for this occasion. Others bring bananas and other fruits, while many bring grain and fresh vegetables, or eggs. One schoolgirl has brought homemade sweetmeats, another a bouquet of flowers from her humble garden. All come with an offering of some kind. Tables and benches are laden with the beautiful array. It is the annual Harvest Festival of Immanuel Free Will Baptist Church in Kotagiri.

School children have learned the Tamil of "Bringing in the Sheaves" and they open the service with a resounding chorus. Singing and thanksgiving fill the air for a time, and the harvest offerings are dedicated. The calf tied outside bleats in bewilderment and the hen cackles in confusion, but the harvest sermon proceeds: "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap... He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." It is a timely and searching message. There is evidence that God has blessed it to humble hearts. We seal it to our hearts as we sing, "There shall be showers of blessing; send them upon us, O Lord!"

Harvest offerings are sold at auction. Bids are enthusiastic—this is the Lord's business. (It is Saturday, of course.) And when all is sold and proceeds are totaled there are sixty Rupees to send to the Bible Society to help send the written Word to other places still in darkness. We were once in ignorance and darkness

and we know the sad plight. This Book has brought light and freedom to us and it is fitting that our thanksgiving offerings should go to help bless others in the same way. Heeding the message of the sermon, we want to sow good seed, and that bountifully, and to rejoice in the spiritual harvest in due season.

This is the sentiment expressed today by our group of humble Christians so recently out of spiritual darkness, and I want to pass it on to you tonight while the sentiment and the occasion expressing it are fresh in my mind. This is surely a part of the harvest which home friends and fellow-laborers have waited "with long patience" for, and have deserved to reap. It is the harvest of your sowing in a real sense. As I have sat here by the fireside at the close of this good day, and talked of the deeper things of God with one of our newest Christians, my heart has been humbled by the evidence of His gracious working. This young man, with his wife, has a passion to go all the way with the Lord, bearing the cross in true discipleship, hungry to know the Bible better, diligent in studying and preparing for the Sunday School class recently entrusted to him and resolved to win souls to the Lord. Seldom have I seen a new convert anywhere so willing and prompt to obey any new light that comes from the Word. A truth newly learned may cut right across all his customs and traditions, or crush all his human desires, but if God has said it, that is all he needs to know. When he poured out his broken and contrite heart in prayer tonight, pleading with God to use him to bring others to Him and to further His Kingdom, I felt the Lord was seeing in him the travail of His soul and was satisfied. It is because of a similar work in many lives that we could celebrate a Harvest Festival with such blessing today. The old man Stephen, baptized June 14, gave the

him in fun, "Are you bringing the fatted calf today?" Quietly he answered, "Yes." That was all. I never dreamed he was serious, for I wasn't. So you can imagine how I was touched

when later I saw his little grandson leading the calf to the church! At auction time several wanted to buy the calf, but no one had a place to keep it. Accordingly, the Pastor suggested that Stephen keep the calf another few days while we built a stall. But Stephen was mellow with sentiment, and replied: "It has been consecrated to the Lord. Can I take back to my house again an offering which I have laid on His altar?" Stephen can neither read nor write, but often indeed he refreshes us with his simple faith, steadfast devotion and fearless witness. Once when one asked him if he was going on in the Christian life he said, "Brother, when I took hold I caught on with both hands!"

Our thoughts have gone out today in a special way to our four consecrated young people, John, Wilson, Ahlezer and Chellamal, who are away studying and preparing for a lifework in His service. They are a special part of our harvest thanksgiving. And as this harvest goes on multiplying, as we are persuaded it shall under His good hand, our faith rises to a vision of the great ingathering which eternity will reveal. All our offerings will seem small indeed in the light of the fruit they have borne to His glory.

But there is always the disappointing aspect of the work, for the Enemy does not approve of the blessings we enjoy. He knoweth that his time is short and so works diligently. Some are content to be 'saved so as by fire' and have no desire for the deeper life in Christ. Some fall into sin and bring reproach on the Name. And some (thank God, the small minority) even go back into the beggarly elements of the world. These experiences are bitter. But they bring out into clearer light those who do find their complete satisfaction in Him and who live only to please Him. As you give thanks with us, please pray with us for backslidden and lukewarm members, as well as for those (a large number) who have been for some time on the brink of decision but still unprepared to take an open stand for Him and bear the stigma of separation to Him.

On a tea estate eight miles away live six members representing four different families, who are a timely object for prayer. Baptized by Bro. Paul Woolsey early in 1952, these babes in Christ have had every disadvantage to

their growth and advancement. Working hours, often Sunday labor, and almost continual rains from July to now, together with other hinderances, make it impossible for them to come in regularly to services. Lack of work-
e.s and an already crowded Sunday schedule here make it impossible for us to go to them for a Sunday meeting. They are ignorant and backward, surrounded by idol worship and every form of heathenism. The village is situated on a mountain slope that catches all the biting cold winds sweeping over our tallest (8,000 feet) peak. It is also so situated that the rainfall accumulates there and keeps the place wet and muddy and favorable to disease. With ignorance of common laws of health and sanitation, and lack of warm clothing, disease and ill health are prevalent. Two weeks ago upon arrival for a meeting we found almost the entire village sick. Turning the Chevrolet into an ambulance we brought the four most serious cases in and left them in a government hospital. There is no place fit to hold a meeting. Rains of late would hinder open air meetings in any case, but even in the dry season the people shiver while we preach and teach. Greatly burdened for these dear souls who at baptism had truly separated themselves from idol worship but had not really had opportunity for systematic instruction, we waited earnestly in prayer for a plan to reach them and meet their need. Finally we were able to arrange a weekly meeting on Thursday evening late, after working hours, in the house of Bro. Peter Rangusamy. Even then we met with obstacle upon obstacle. Four small children in the home are always hungry at evening time, for the mother has been in the tea fields all day and no full meal has been provided during the day. The room, six by twelve feet, serves as family bedroom, kitchen, livingroom, woodshed, meeting-house and all. The fire must be lit for the evening meal, and as there is no outlet the smoke fills the room. I set up my flannelboard while pastor gets the hymns ready or makes friendly inquiries of the health and welfare of the group. The mother moves about amongst her pots and pans, and by the time we are into the Bible lesson the children are crying and the mother is scolding, the smoke belches out of the mud oven in great billows until the dim lantern

light is eclipsed and the figures on the flannelboard are mysterious. Fumes of "red-hot" chilies going into the curry mingle with the smoke, and our eyes burning and stinging are blinded with involuntary tears, throats choke and speaking is possible only by special grace. The only opening, at the end of the room where we entered, is usually blocked by spectators curious to hear the singing or to observe our queer doings. Added to these distractions the Enemy has frequently managed to occupy the men with some urgent task or errand just at meeting time, so that they come very late or not at all. So it has been a miracle task to conduct these meetings to any degree of profit. We were heavily burdened for we seemed to be getting nowhere. We prayed with deep concern about the smoke, the chilies, the babies, the irregularity in attendance. Then last week the real miracle! Every Christian in the village was gathered, waiting for us to arrive. Peter's wife, Lydia, had made other arrangements about the supper and did not even light the fire until we left, but sat down with the baby on her lap and the children around her, to listen carefully to the lesson. It was a great answer to prayer. No chili fumes, no smoke, no disturbance of any kind. Are we to take it that God is brooding over the chaos of these lives and once more commanding light to shine out of darkness, and order out of confusion? If so—and I believe so—I am sure you will want to join us in praying for the "perfecting of the saints" in that difficult place. I have tried to picture the situation so that you may picture us each Thursday evening and hold us up in prayer. Satan does not approve of last week's blessing and we may be sure will not approve of its continuing. "He only doeth wondrous things." This is the season of tedious sowing and watering. Water with your fervent prayers as we sow. God has promised that seed time and harvest shall not fail!

Yours in the joy of His service,

Laura B. Barnard

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ENJOY FIFTH SUNDAY PROGRAM IN N.W. MISSOURI

Plattsburg, Missouri

Rev. Lloyd T. Jeffreys:

I am sending you \$1.50 for the Free Will Baptist Gem. I am also sending some information I would like to be published in the Gem.

I am pastoring two churches here in Northwest Missouri: the Mount Zion Free Will Baptist Church and Union Third Fork Church. I became the pastor of these churches the last of September, 1953.

The Fifth Sunday meeting was at Mt. Zion on November 29, 1953. Two other churches were represented—Union Third Fork and Haddam, Kansas (Hickory Grove). This is the first time this church has had a Fifth Sunday Meeting in years. About 100 people attended the meeting. An interesting and helpful program was rendered. The church took an offering for Missions on Sunday night. The offering amounted to \$28.12. We sent the offering to Raymond Riggs. We wish the offering could have been larger. Our next Fifth Sunday Meeting will be at Union Third Fork Church in January, 1954.

The Lord is blessing the work in Northwest Missouri. We have organized a League in both churches. The people are receiving a blessing from the Leagues. They had a large part in the Fifth Sunday Meeting.

We are having prayer meetings in the homes each week. We have prayer meeting in the Union Third Fork community on Wednesday night and in the Mt. Zion community on Thursday night.

The Senior Sunday School Class is planning a program for the County Home in Plattsburg on December 13 at 2:00 p.m. This class is from the Mt. Zion Church. Pray for us: many of the people in the County Home are lost.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Edward H. Corn

Note: We are very happy to learn of this fine service and of the renewed custom of Fifth Sunday Rally Meetings in Northwest Missouri.—Editor

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MAN, A TRI-UNITY

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Genesis 1:26-27. This image is found chiefly in man's tri-unity, and in his moral nature.

Man is Spirit, Soul and Body

Paul supposed man to have a spirit, soul, and body: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." I Thess. 5:23. Paul was the greatest theologian that ever lived, outside of Christ.

There are certain schools of thought, philosophical and theological and in our dictionaries, that teach and claim that the spirit and soul are the same. But the Bible separates them, so I'll take the Bible reading.

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit." Heb. 4:12. Ecclesiastes 12:7 reads: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Ezekiel 18:20 says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." "When Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." Lk 23:46. In John 20:17, "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not, for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God." "And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43.

In Kings 17:21-22 we see where Elijah prayed and said, "Oh Lord my God, let this child's soul come into him again. And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came unto him, and he revived." "A" when he had opened the fifth seal, I

saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God." Rev. 6:9.

So we see by God's Holy Word that the soul and spirit can be divided. Also we learn that while on the cross, Jesus said unto the thief, "To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise." Also He cried, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." After He arose he said unto Mary, "I am not yet ascended to my Father."

"My soul faineth for thy salvation." Psalm 119:81. "Praise ye the Lord. Praise the Lord, O my soul." Psalm 146:1. We find that the human soul and spirit are not identical: they are divisible. At death the spirit returns to God who gave it and the soul that sinneth, it shall die. And the soul can be cast into hell: "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matthew 10:28.

The spirit is part of man which gets knowledge the soul should know. The spirit is that part of man which knows, "For what man knoweth the things of man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." I Cor. 2:11. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." Rom. 8:16. We might say that the spirit of man is that part of man that reaches out into the Spiritual and receives the information of the Spiritual and imparts it to our soul: also it reaches out into the world and receives and imparts to our soul the things of the world.

The Mind and Life of Our Soul

The soul is that part of man which errs and sins and dies if not redeemed—that part which Christ Jesus came to save. It is the seat of the affections, desires, sorrows and happiness.

I belong to a great order. I love it and most of its teachings and philosophy: but in its teachings it teaches that the soul and spirit of man are the same. But I take the Bible, the Word of God, as my authority.

We know it is a mystery. God is a mystery. Life is a mystery. The fact is all things are a mystery. Man knows nothing for sure. Without a faith and a belief in God and His Word, what would and could a man do or know? Science can only go so far and it comes up to a deep chasm it cannot

span until they put God there. Then they have the answer.

We all know the part of man that the spirit and soul dwells in—the body.

Warren Moffit
Winigan, Mo.

DOERS OF THE WORD

"BUT BE YE doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." James 1:22.

All of us realize the value of an illustration or an example. I remember very well when I was in high school struggling over algebra. I liked algebra very much but sometimes a hard problem would occur and I would try and try to solve it, and, many times, to no avail. But if I could see an example of a similar problem worked out, then the rest would come easy. Once I got the principles and actually saw one solved and proven, then I seldom had any further difficulty. Later on I became a public school teacher and taught such subjects as history, English and mathematics, and I soon learned that the students would catch on much faster if they went through the steps of a simple problem. Thus the law of apperception was applied and we advanced in knowledge. Today you open the modern day textbook in mathematics and you will find sample problems all worked out, thus enabling the student to progress from the known to the unknown.

We all will agree that a walking sermon is more effective than a sermon talking. I also believe that by far the majority of genuine born again souls realize the joy and importance of practicing the Word of God. Many of us take great delight in obeying the Lord in things that He said we "ought" to do, such as washing the Saints feet, and tithing—and I, for one, intend to do them, but when it comes to executing the direct orders of the Lord Jesus many are failing today. It appears to me that we should do things in order. It also seems to me that the direct, positive commands of Christ should have preeminence over anything of a secondary nature. Such passages as Matthew 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the

name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 24:14. "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." Mark 16:15, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Luke 24:47, "That repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Acts 1:8, "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 earth."

These are more or less direct commands of Christ, and being among his last words on earth certainly should move us to action. The sooner we apply James 1:22 to the Great Commission of Christ the sooner we will have people all over the world believing our message.

All of us believe the Great Commission but few of us are putting it into practice in our prayers, preaching, gifts and going. What we need is a demonstration of our faith in obedience.

Before the demonstration of the Atomic Bomb, the people in general had very little faith in what it could or would do. It is true we knew that science had discovered something that they called atomic energy, and we had read and heard about its power, but it was not until Hiroshima that the world really took notice of the devastating power of the atomic bomb. So it is with our faith—we may believe it, talk about it, preach it, sing it and shout it from the house top, but if we do not demonstrate it, the world will never take notice of our message. I think we need some Hiroshima action in our Department of World Wide Missions.

Our Demonstrations should be Constant.

The man who has heard the gospel message once, certainly does not have the same right to hear it the second time as the man who has never heard it at all. There is a need in all parts of the world, including the home land, but who is there in the home land that cannot hear a gospel message these days if he would. With a gospel message almost any hour on the radio, with many gospel program being tele-

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vised, with Christian literature obtainable just for the asking, and even a whole Bible for as little as twenty-five cents, and with more churches than schools, where is there an individual that cannot learn the way of salvation if he really desires it? On the other hand, consider the tens of millions in distant lands who have not once heard that there is a Jesus Christ who has died that men might have eternal life. At home there is one ordained minister, not taking into consideration the thousands of other Christian workers, for every 514 of our population. On the foreign mission fields of the world there is one missionary for every 51,663, and in many parts of the world missionaries have a potential parish of 100,000 or more.

Then, too, if we were giving out food to a hungry multitude, would we give a hot meal to a man who had just eaten or would we first serve those who had not eaten in days?

There never was a local church, or denomination, that suffered in any degree by majoring on World Evangelism or reaching the unreached. On the contrary those local churches, associations, and denominations that emphasize missions have every local need supplied and a consistent spiritual fervor that overcomes every obstacle.

No longer can it be said that the Free Will Baptist Denomination does not demonstrate her faith. We are "doers" of the Word and not hearers only. It is true, some are slow to catch on, and ours is not a 'mushroom' demonstration, but give us time and some stewardship examples and we'll be there. I still believe that every state this year will meet her quota for Foreign Missions. Check the quota for your state NOW and plan something special for Foreign Missions.

Rev. Raymond Riggs,
Promotional Secretary

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Thanksgiving services were conducted Thanksgiving Day in the house located on the church grounds where the First Free Will Baptist Church of Kirksville is being erected. Everyone present received a wonderful blessing at the 11:00 o'clock worship and thanksgiving service conducted by the pastor of the church Rev. Lester Jones.

At 12:00 o'clock a bountiful dinner was served.

The men worked on the new church during the day. Those present to enjoy the blessings of the day were: Rev. and Mrs. Lester Jones, Rev. Orville Dobbs, Rev. Bobby Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Filkins, Mr. and Mrs. Ora Gates, Mr. and Mrs. John Thompson and Leona, Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Filkins and Butch, Mr. and Mrs. Russel Wellman, C. O. and Richard; Mr. and Mrs. Gene Mikel, Mr. Sam Lay, Mr. and Mrs. Bernice Lawson, Marilyn and Dale; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lawson, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Dare, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Will Thompson and Earnest Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Swisher and Kenneth, Mr. Dan Gilliam, Mr. Paul Daniels, Mr. and Mrs. Duane Matthew, Miss Leola Bea Paris, Mr. Junior Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Hediger, Mrs. Allie Peterson, Mrs. Lottie Claybrook, Mrs. Delma Newcomer.

We, the pastor and members of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Kirksville, wish to express our thanks and appreciation to those who have so willingly worked and donated to the erection of our new church. We especially want to thank those from other churches that have so willingly donated and helped.

CHURCHES IN MEXICO

A quarter of a million people from the United States visit Mexico each year. They buy lottery tickets, watch bull fights, look down on the "natives" and bring home souvenirs.

They should know that there are 584 Protestant churches in Mexico, some of which they might visit. These churches have doubled in membership during the last 14 years. American churches are not growing that fast. Let's get acquainted with our churches in Mexico. Let's be good neighbors. —From Drew Seminary, Madison, N.J.



THE MISSOURI STATE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Advancing With Christ

EDITOR: REV. MRS. OPAL JEFFREYS, 304 EUCLID, MONETT, MO.



❁❁ The Prince of Peace ❁❁

Rev. Opal E. Jeffreys, W.A. Editor

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isa. 9:6.

The Christmas season is upon us: a time when we are all busy with such plans that keep us rushing until the day has passed. I wonder if we have so commercialized Christmas until we lose sight of its real purpose and the gift, "The Prince of Peace."

Would you turn to Isaiah, 9th chapter, and read at least the first eight verses. The lesson tells of darkness and the promise of "a great light."

THE DAWN OF GOSPEL DAY

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." Isa. 9:2. The glory which God revealed through Isaiah was but a prelude to that greater glory which the Incarnation made manifest, when the promised Messiah would come and set at liberty the souls in darkness. There was indeed a great darkness hovering over the world. There was moral darkness. Look at Corinth—so much so that they were living and acting unrestrained or undisciplined in their morals. Look at Ephesus. Look at Rome, with their lusts and low morals. Think of the intellectual darkness when even the city of philosophy, proud Athens, erected an altar, which was a monument of its failure in the search after wisdom, "to the unknown god."

The death shadow hung heavy over the land. "The land of the shadow of death." This language does not apply alone to the article of death its self.

Every hopeless sorrow is a shadow of the grave. Death reigned supreme over human thought.

GREAT LIGHT IN DEEP DARKNESS

In wraith God remembers mercy. He makes us to "sing of mercy and judgment." He "will not always chide, nor keep His anger forever." Christ was indeed a welcome light. Light makes things beautiful, and this light from above transfigures the lot of man. Everywhere the blessed light shines, and oh, that all the world would receive it. To us who enjoy its brightness it makes us patient and hopeful in adversity, it gives cheerfulness to our pursuits and sacredness to our friendships. The time when Jesus was born was one of peculiar darkness. Ignorance, vice, superstition, violence, fanaticism, unbelief and despair were as never before. He became the Light of the world. His truth illumined the dark valleys of error; His life shed a bright light on the life of man. His redeeming death opened and made clear to all mankind the way of return and restoration to God.

A SPIRITUAL EMPIRE

"And the government shall be upon his shoulder." For what end was that wondrous child born, that holy Son given? He came not to restore a fallen human dynasty, but to "save his people from their sins." The most ardent and eager hopes of His countrymen were that He would overthrow the Roman power and to re-establish the kingdom of David. Jesus made it very clear that this was not His purpose. His kingdom, He said, was not "of this world."

THE WONDERFUL LORD

"His name shall be called Wonderful." And well may He have been named Wonderful, whose words, whose

works, and whose love were such as those of Jesus Christ. We look at the marvel of His teaching. He taught as one having authority and power. It struck the people with awe and with astonishment. Look at the wonder of His power—to heal, save and perform miracles. Look at the love of Christ, when He sacrificed Himself to the death of the cross for a sin-cursed world.

CHRISTIAN PEACE

"The Prince of Peace." The peace that overflows the heart of one who knows Him as the "Prince of Peace" of our individual heart. "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God," which is made possible by the atonement of Christ. The world may say instead of peace, all we have known is wars, rumors of wars, strifes and hatred, but again Christ did not come to bring a world peace. His is a spiritual peace which the world cannot know. Only can the world experience peace as individuals are willing to surrender their condemnation of sin to Him who is able to cleanse and save and give them the Christian peace that is not of the world but of Christ.

PIONEER EVANGELIST AND FAITHFUL W.A. WORKER IN SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

Dear Co-Workers:

It has been some time since I have written to the Gem. But on an invitation to speak at the Indian Creek District Auxiliary Convention in Joplin on November 11, I came without delay, and it was wonderful.

Two of the sisters from Carterville Church were right there to meet me on arrival, and I went to Carterville and preached that night. We had a splendid service. I met the pastor, Bro. Harold Hoover, whom I had not seen for years, but found him a very spiritual person and our fellowship was wonderful.

The next day we spoke to the women of the Auxiliary Convention on Home Mission work. In fact it was Mission

work—including both Home and Foreign. The women had a nice program.

Then that night we went with a number of friends to Pleasant Grove where Bro. Harry Sterling is pastor, and we had another wonderful service. This church was very wide awake and Bro. Sterling is doing a wonderful work.

We stayed with Bro. and Sis. Swank while there, and they are fine people. We will never forget our stay with them. They lived in Webb City. I would like to mention the good people in Cartersville we spent the day with, but I have forgotten their names, but they were very precious. Bro. and Sis. Swank brought us to Neosho and there we caught the bus to Monett.

After leaving the bus at Monett, we went to Dr. T. V. Pooles, and she was fixing to go to Merl's Chapel with Bro. and Sis. Allred, and we just went along. Before we got to church, we stopped to see Bro. and Sis. B. F. Brown, and truly it brought a blessing to our hearts to meet these two saints of God again before He took them home to heaven. Then we enjoyed a powerful message by Bro. Tommy Day from Springdale, Arkansas.

Sister Poole and I had so much to talk about, we never got to bed until 1:00 o'clock.

The next day I called at the Gem office and met Bro. Jeffreys who is a real servant of the Lord, and had a splendid visit with him: then called in his home and visited with Sister Jeffreys whom I hadn't seen for several years. We knew her in Illinois before she was married. She is one of our fine women preachers. Bro. and Sis. Jeffreys have a sweet family of two little boys.

On Friday night we went with Bro. Davis and some friends to Jones Chapel. They had a revival just starting, and Bro. Cunningham was the evangelist, of a powerful type, filled with the Spirit. They have had four souls saved up to date. Bro. Davis is also pastor of the dear old Macedonia Church, where he has been pastor several different times. It was arranged that I speak at the church (Macedonia) Saturday night. We had a splendid crowd, and one man came forward but didn't get through, but said he never expected to stop until he found the Lord.

All this time I was in Monett and the Lord was dealing with me to come

to Hannon, where I am now in a revival. Bro. Jeffreys said (as the bus connection was poor) he would bring me over. When we got here, we found the field ripe for a revival. The pastor here is a fine young man, Bro. Conrad Williford, from Durham, North Carolina. The story of his being here is he met Bro. and Sis. Willie Bowman's daughter Lorene while in school at Nashville, Tennessee. Of course they are a real couple, and she is a minister too.

All at Hannon wanted a revival as they had not had one yet. So we prayed and consented to stay. The meeting is fine up to date. Pray for us here. We expect to do a lot of personal work. Sister Roena Thomas and I went out yesterday afternoon and visited six homes, four were unsaved. We prayed for one fine young woman that was in a backslidden condition but she didn't get satisfied, so help us pray for her.

We are rejoicing to find most of the work in good condition and going forward.

Pray for us on this tour.

Yours for Jesus,

Lizzie McAdams

LOOKING FOR JESUS

First F.W.B. Church
Flat River, Missouri

Dear Sis. Jeffreys and all Auxiliary and Mission Workers:

Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." John 14:1. Jesus knew that the day would come on earth when there would be more trouble than peace. He was trying to prepare our hearts for this day—and reach those who have left the Lord Jesus out of their life. That is why we go to pray with them and try to teach them the way everlasting, the way of peace and joy after this life is over. I thought the Lord was coming for us all at the State Association. I know you did also. It would have been a wonderful time for Him to come: no hatred, no malice, no fun-makers, no gossipers, no jealousy! Won't it be wonderful in Heaven just to get away from all the trouble makers. Proverbs 3:33-35 says, "The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just. Surely he scorneth the scornors: but he giveth

grace unto the lowly. The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools."

The Lord is blessing our work in our Auxiliary here. Bro. and Sis. Kirby are wonderful people to work with for the Lord. Bro. Kirby is now at Salem, Missouri with Bro. Thompson in a revival. Our prayer is that the Lord will bless in this new church and many souls will be saved.

The introduction to our last Auxiliary lesson was given by Sis. Hazel Scott. Topics were: "Sarah, A Faithful Mother," by Sis. Lillian Williams; "Character Imparts," by Sis. Genevieve White; "Isaac, A Godly Child," by Sis. Helen Williams, and "The Value of A Christian Home," by Sis. Lillie Smith. The last topic makes your heart rejoice that we were brought up in a Christian home. Read Proverbs 3:1-5. The Bible says this is the happy state of the Godly.

May God bless everyone, and keep you happy in your soul 'till Jesus comes.

Mrs. Gussie Hamblen, Sec'y.
Rev. Fred Kirby, Pastor

GOOD FELLOWSHIP IN AUXILIARY MEETINGS

Fredericktown, Mo.
November 26, 1953

Dear Co-Workers in Christ:

We are glad to report that our work in the Auxiliary is very enjoyable to every member.

We meet on the First Tuesday night of each month for our Year Book, and on the Third Thursday of every month for our day service. Everyone brings a covered dish. We find sweet fellowship one with another in these meetings. The Lord does richly bless us in our evening service.

In our recent meeting the devotional service was opened by singing, "There Is Power in the Blood," and "I Choose Jesus." Prayer was by Bessie Baldwin. The Scripture reading was by Hattie Dettmer. Special songs by Sis. Easter Graham and Sis. Hattie Dettmer. A testimony service was led by Sis. Reba Matthews. Discussions were given by Sis. Olena Lewis, Sis. Lula Freeman and Sis. Reba Matthew.

Bessie Baldwin, Secretary
Helen Gamblen, President
Rev. Wm. Newsome, Pastor

ENJOYING W.A. SESSIONS

Fellowship Auxiliary
Flat River, Missouri

May we come in again, please. As I haven't given a report of our work for some time I thought I would send a few lines so everybody would know we are still here, and serving the Lord and enjoying His blessings.

Our Auxiliary met at the church for our all-day service October 29. There were 14 members, five visitors and nine children present. The theme of our program was "Faith and Prayer." Everyone enjoyed the presence of the Lord, and a wonderful spirit of fellowship was had. Truly we had a wonderful day.

At noon we had a lovely dinner and just thanked God because He is so good to us. After the noon hour we had Bible study led by Mrs. Marie Hilderbrand. The fourth chapter of Ephesians was our study. At the close of our study, all left knowing it was good to have been in the house of the Lord.

NOVEMBER MEETING

At this Thangsgiving may we all lift our hearts to our wonderful Saviour and thank Him for His love to us. We recently met in our monthly meeting with 15 members, two visitors and eight children present. The following program was rendered.

Theme, "Where Are the Nine?" Song, "Count Your Blessings." Prayer. Business. Scripture—Luke 17:11-19, Agnes Smith. Song, "Sunlight." Poem, "Gentlemen Gay," Rena McCormick. Topic, "The Thankful One," Della Getz. Topic, "Gratitude Is Becoming A Christian," Rachel Milburn. Topic, "Gratitude Honors God," M. Hilderbrand. Topic, "Gratitude Sweetens Life's Sorrows," Alberta Turley. Topic, "It Presents Avenues of Usefulness," Willa Mae Barker. Poem, "Truly Thankful," Josie Johnson. Reading, "Johnnies Thanksgiving," Bernice Dodd. Poem, "Billies Thanksgiving Answer," Wanda Ragsdale. Chain of Thanksgiving and Prayer. Dismissed for noon.

In the afternoon—Song, "What A Friend We Have In Jesus." Prayer. Bible study from Jude 1. Dismissed with prayer by Sis. Wanda Ragsdale.

At the noon hour a lovely covered dish lunch was enjoyed by everyone and a wonderful fellowship was felt by everyone. Sunshine gifts were exchanged. Our Christmas meeting will

be held at the home of Mrs. Pete Barker.

Pray that we at Fellowship will ever be an humble people and follow the leadership of the Lord. God bless everyone is my prayer.

Mrs. M. Hilderbrand, Reporter

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI
HOLDS WORKSHOP**

Women of Southeast Missouri, in an effort to become more efficient servants of the Master, held a workshop on November 12 at Leadington Church. Much help was realized and fine fellowship enjoyed.

PSOGRAM

Year's Theme: "Know."

Quarter's Theme: "Know God's Word," II Timothy 3:16.

10:00 Devotional .. Mrs. Nellie Rasnic
10:15 Officers Plans and Ideas, Officers in charge.

11:15 We sing—we pray—we meditate
Message Rev. Don Ellis
12:00 Lunch

1:15 Devotional Mrs. Ollie Reads
1:30 Topic, "The Value of Study Classes" Mrs. Rolla Smith
1:50 Open Forum, Rev. Mrs. Eunice Edwards in charge.

2:10 Topic, "How Big is Your World," Wanda Edwards

2:30 Topic, "Good Stewards," Mrs. Don Ellis

2:45 Topic, "Go Home and Enlist," Mrs. W. T. Newsome
Praise Service ... Mrs. Blanche Pogue

3:00 Benediction

A large crowd was in attendance, and a real good day was enjoyed. Next Workshop is to be held with Southside Church in St. Louis in February, 1954.

HAZEL CREEK AUXILIARY

The Hazel Creek Woman's Auxiliary met Wednesday, November 4 with Ethel Thompson in a all-day meeting. There were 10 members, two visitors and seven children present. Two comforters were tacked and bound and more blocks pieced.

In the absence of the president, Sis. Ethel Thompson led the devotionals with all singing, "The Haven of Rest." Prayer was by Lena Miley. The Scripture reading was Eph. 5:21-33. Mrs.

Thompson introduced the lesson, "The Light of Truth Shines on Christian Parents," and topics were given by Lola Filkins, Maizie Sevits, Jaunita Newcomer and Minnie Thompson.

Those present reported reading 704 Bible chapters, making 39 sick calls, and sending 18 cards. Dues of \$1.50 were paid, and .93 was paid for the Co-Laborer Fund.

Dismissed with prayer by Lola Filkins.

PRAYS FOR CHURCH HOME

Malta, Illinois

November 16, 1953

Mr. Jeffreys and Gem Family:

I surely enjoy the Gem so much. It is such an inspiration to me to read about all the work that is being done for the Lord. And I know He is truly blessing every phase of the work at the Gem office. May God richly bless everyone who has a part in putting out the F.W.B. Gem. There isn't any Free Will Baptist Church around here closer than Chicago, so I can't attend any F.W.B. Church. I pray that God's will will be for one to be established here in the near future.

Mrs. James Ballard

KIND OF CHURCH MEMBERS

Some church members are like wheelbarrows—no good unless pushed.

Some are like Canoes—they need to be paddled.

Like Kites—if you don't keep a string on them they will fly away.

Kittens—they are more contented when petted.

Footballs—you can't tell which way they will bounce next.

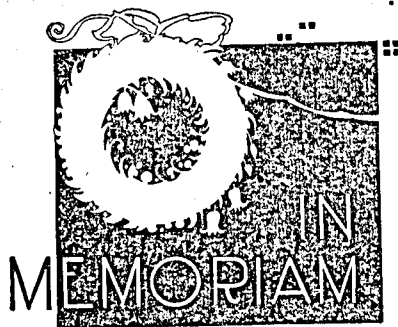
Lights—they keep going on and off.

Others let the Holy Spirit lead them, they show their faith by their good works and faithful service. What are you???

From a church bulletin

SUBSCRIBE TO THE "GEM"

Per Year,\$1.50



IN MEMORY OF BRO. M. E. PAYNE

Bro. M. E. Payne passed away Saturday night, November 14, 1953 at his home, 604 Drury Lane, Odessa, Texas.

Bro. Payne was a member of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Midland, Texas, and was a loyal Christian. He was afflicted with cancer and suffered more than any tongue could tell, but he so patiently bore his suffering without murmuring or complaining. Even after he was confined to his bed, unable to attend church, he mailed his tithes and offerings in to the church. He was truly loyal to his church and his Lord.

Survivors include a daughter, a son, a sister, some grandchildren and great grandchildren.

*They loved him; yes, they loved him,
But Jesus loved him more,
So He has called him up
To yonder shining shore!*

Funeral services were conducted in the First Free Will Baptist Church in Midland, Texas. Rev. J. A. C. Hughes and Rev. Pleas Richters officiating. The body was laid to rest in its last resting place in the Fairview Cemetery.

He is not dead—he's just away: yes, he's sweetly sleeping in that new made grave today.

By Mrs. Giola M. Onley

OLDER MEMBER PASSES

First Free Will Baptist Church
Flat River, Missouri

Mrs. Jeff Umfleet died suddenly at her home in Flat River on Saturday morning, October 17, 1953, from injuries received in a fall down stairs. Funeral services were held on Monday afternoon, October 19, at two

o'clock at the First F.W.B. Church in Flat River, conducted by the pastor, Rev. Fred Kirby, assisted by Rev. Carl Bennett. Interment was in Parkview Cemetery.

Mary Frances Clause, daughter of the late Jacob and Sarah Abbie Beard Clause, was born in Madison County, Missouri, on March 31, 1881, and at the time of death was age 72 years, six months and 16 days.

On July 29, 1898 she was united in marriage to Jeff Umfleet, and they were the parents of eight children: four sons and four daughters, a son, Gus, and a daughter, Helen (Mrs. Harold Brookman), having preceded her in death.

She is survived by her husband and the following children: Pearl (Mrs. Ed Sircum), Flat River; Walter, Sikeston; Hattie (Mrs. Noah Wampler), Farmington; Dean (Mrs. Roy Jones), Flat River; John, St. Louis, and Bob, Fredericktown. Also left to mourn her passing are two sisters, Mrs. Hattie Beckett of Libertyville, and Olive (Mrs. John Cooper), of Fredericktown; 15 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, other relatives and many friends.

She has been a member of the Free Will Baptist Church the past 20 years and was a faithful worker.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGES

The following average Sunday School attendance records are for October:

Fredericktown	180
Rev. Wm. T. Neusome, Pastor	
Lawnwood (Tulsa, Okla.)	140
Rev. H. E. Staires, Pastor	
First Church (Elizabethton, Tenn.)	198
Rev. Harvey E. Hill, Pastor	
Fourth St. Louis	50
Rev. Wm. Turnbough, Pastor	
Richwoods	50
Rev. Lesley Logsdon, Pastor	
Third St. Louis	100
League	46
Rev. James Barker, Pastor	
Marble Hill, S.E. Mo.	37
Phillips Chapel (Springdale, Ark.)	143
Rev. Tommy Day, Pastor	
Mountain Grove	195
Rev. Willard C. Day, Pastor	
South Side (St. Louis)	140
Rev. James Franklin, Pastor	

Okmulgee, Oklahoma	53
Rev. John Elliston, Pastor	
Union (Thompsonville, Ill.)	66
Rev. Ocie McClerren, Pastor	
Hannon	57
Rev. Conrad Williford, Pastor	
First Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma	299
Rev. John H. West, Pastor	
First Church, Springfield, Mo.	157
Rev. Henry Long, Pastor	
Monett	79
Rev. Cecil Campbell, Pastor	

The following are carried over from last report:

Wolf Creek, Mansfield	44
Carterville	45
Rev. Harold Hoover, Pastor	
Mt. Pisgah, Cabool	44
Fellowship, Flat River	166
Rev. Rolla Smith, Pastor	

We have some new reports this time. Also, some of the regular reporters are back again. Thanks so much. We want to encourage every Sunday School to send in averages just as soon as that last record is compiled each month.

TRAINS ARE DYING

Every few days a passenger train dies. In each case the obituary is about the same, "The short-haul passenger preferred his automobile to the train." Seventeen passenger trains were discontinued in Tennessee alone during the last four years.

All of the nation's railroads have lost money on their passenger service during the last six years, with one exception.

The short-haul passenger has gone from the railroads. Local trains are on their death beds. The automobile does not run on a fixed schedule, but at the convenience of the passenger, so we "take the car." This is the automobile era.

Our automobiles could make it possible for us to have large interesting rural churches. Ninety-three per cent of our rural schools are consolidated.

Ordinarily a pastor needs to serve an average of 333 members in order to get a living wage. The little horse-and-buggy parish or the one-mule church, like the short-haul passenger train, seems to be on its way out. We need larger rural churches.

—From Drew Seminary, Madison, N.J.

ORDAIN DEACON AT N.E. MISSOURI FIFTH SUNDAY

The Northeast Missouri Fifth Sunday Meeting convened with the Martinstown F.W.B. Church, November 29, with Sunday School at the 10:00 o'clock hour. The morning worship service was opened by congregational singing led by Rev. Alta Mikel. Prayer was offered by B.O. Dave Partin. After another congregational song, Rev. Orville Dobbs brought the 11:00 o'clock message. He read for a Scripture lesson Judges 16:1-20, using for his text a portion of the 20th verse, "And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him." His subject was the Powerless Church. At the close of the message a fellowship handshake was enjoyed by all. We were dismissed by Rev. Bob Jones.

A bountiful dinner was served at the noon hour.

The afternoon session was opened under the leadership of the vice president, Sis. Alta Mikel. After a few songs by the congregation, Bro. Noah Robins led in prayer. The congregation then sang "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be." Rev. Bob Jones read for a Scripture lesson I Corinthians 13, and made a few comments on the chapter.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, and Auxiliary letters were read from Hazel Creek, New Harmony, and the First F.W.B. Church of Kirksville.

Motion made and carried for each pastor to take it up with their church about sponsoring Rev. Lester Jones on the radio. Motion carried to take an offering to go to the F.W.B. Headquarters Building in Nashville, Tennessee. The offering was \$40.00.

The next Fifth Sunday Meeting will be with the Sublette Church, with Rev. Bob Jones bringing the eleven o'clock message; Rev. Lester Jones, alternate. We were led in prayer by Rev. Mildred Gilliam.

The following program was given. Solo, "I Won't Have to Cross Jordan Alone," Andy Lay. Duet, "The Pearly White City," Evelyn and Harold Kelsey. Reading, "I Kneel to Pray," Janetta Van Lanningham. Song, "It Is Well with My Soul," Fern Dobbs. Duet, "My Sheep Know My Voice," Mr. and Mrs. Orville Rowland. Reading, "A Church that Needs No Money," Chloe Gates. Duett, "Take Up Thy Cross," Mr. and Mrs. Dwane Matthews.

Song, "Bound for that City," Sublette mixed quartet. Recitation, "If Christ Should Come," Kay Wagner. Play, "A Soul Winner Goes Visiting," Kirksville Auxiliary.

The meeting was turned over to the Executive Board. Motion carried to give \$150.00 on the new First F.W.B. Church in Kirksville that is being built. The Executive Board also ordained Bro. Dave Partin as a deacon for the Shibleys Point Church.

We were dismissed in prayer by Bro. Paul Belger.

Leona Thompson, Sec'y-Treas.

Rendering Unto God

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people." Ps. 116:12-14.

We think of Thanksgiving Day as a special day of giving thanks unto God. We think of Christmas as a time of giving and receiving gifts. But what about the rest of the year? Is there something that we can render unto God each day we live? Revival time in the church is a great time for renewed fellowship with God and with one another. Also, it is a time for special effort to win the lost to Christ. But what about the rest of the year? Associational gatherings are a great time for Spiritual feasts and an increase in enthusiasm in the work of the Lord. But how about the labor of our hands for the rest of the year?

Notice in the above verses of Scripture the two things the Psalmist said he would do. First, he said he would take the cup of salvation. Many are ready to receive all the material blessings God will give them, but refuse His salvation. How foolish to reach for that which will perish with the using and refuse that which is eternal.

Then David said also, "I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people." Have we paid the vows we have made unto God at times when we have been awakened to a great need—sometime when God has stirred our hearts as we heard of great need on the Mission Field, at the Bible College, by our church publications, in the Superannuation program,

and in the program of Christian training for our youth?

I would like to receive a card from every person who is now praying for our work—or who will agree to pray—as we have been suggesting to you through the Gem and by letter to many of you. Again here is a suggested daily prayer calendar.

Monday Pray for Missions
Tuesday for the Bible College
Wednesday, for the church publications (especially for the Gem and Contact)
Thursday for Superannuation
Friday, for our youth (that proper Christian training be given them)
Then on Saturday and Sunday pray especially for your local Church, Sunday School and League.

I would also like to hear from every church in the state that is supporting our State Co-Operative Fund.

We are at your service in this promotional work. If you would like for us to come to your church or Quarterly Meeting we would be happy to arrange a convenient date with you any time through the week; our Sundays are taken up in pastoral work.

Yours in the Master's cause,

Rev. O. T. Allred,
Promotional Secretary

NOW SEVEN MONTHS OLD

Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Dear Gem Friends:

We of the Okmulgee Free Will Baptist Church wish you to know we are now seven months old, and have 32 members. We were organized March 28th of this year.

We have 81 enrolled on our Sunday School record and ran an average of 53 last month. We began our Sunday School from the very first on the "Six-Point" system. We give a nice Bible each quarter to the one bringing the most visitors for that quarter.

We have three Leagues—the Adults, who study the Treatise; the Teen Age, who use and really like the Intermediate League Quarterly; and the Story Hour. We have 47 enrolled in our Leagues, and last quarter we had an average of 31 present.

Our newest group added has been our Auxiliary. We organized with 11 charter members, and now have 14 enrolled. So far we are paid up 100%

on our 30¢ convention dues, also our 10¢ monthly, besides our offerings. Our projects are: (1) we pieced a quilt and put names on it, charging 25¢ a name. We got \$71.75 from our names. (2) Our second project is selling Christmas and greeting cards. This money is to go on our building fund. We have given one potted plant and sent several get-well cards. We meet once a week, and once a month we have a night service inviting the whole church and serve refreshments.

Our Auxillary is co-operating with our pastor for a weeks revival for Thanksgiving week. The pastor will do the preaching each evening, but a different lady will have charge of the devotional each evening.

Also, our Auxillary and League are planning together to fix sunshine boxes for shut-ins for Thanksgiving.

Our Sunday School superintendent is Mr. Kenneth Beveridge; Mrs. John Elliston is Auxillary president, and Rev. John Elliston is pastor.

Pray for us.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. John Elliston

HAVE ORGANIZED YOUTH; WANT A REGULAR F.W.B.L.

Cape Girardeau, Mo.
October 30, 1953

Dear Bro. Jeffreys:

This is to let you know the Sunday School average here at Marble Hill Church was 39 in October while it was 36 for September. Of course we are glad for this increase, but we do want to see it go even higher than this. It seems to be a slow growth here, but perhaps that is best and more lasting which is better to build upon.

We had a wonderful revival at our church with Rev. Woodrow Matthews as evangelist. We did not see any souls saved but we are thankful for the new interest the church has in the work here for our Lord. There is greater unity and fellowship among the people, and a better understanding of each other than there was before the revival, and all because of the greatness of God's love toward us.

We are about 40 miles from Fredericktown, and those wonderful people of God around there brought the Madison County Sunday School Convention here to convene with us Sunday, Octo-

ber 25, which sure was a blessing to our people. Those present for the convention numbered about 98.

We have recently organized a youth meeting in our church, and hope to be able to organize it into a regular Free Will Baptist League soon. We had 22 young people the first meeting and 26 the second. Our older people also attend, so the attendance is good.

Our Lord is wonderful to us in granting us that which we need, and we are thankful to Him and to all those who remember our church in prayer. May the Lord's richest blessing be upon each and everyone as we pray and labor together in this great vineyard for Him.

Yours in Christ,

Madeline McFarland

DOESN'T LIKE KINSEY BOOK

Strafford, Missouri

Dear Bro. Jeffreys:

I am sending you a clipping from the Christian Herald. The editor, Daniel Poling, is a great authority on book reviews, and I felt that you will be interested in reading Rev. Poling's review of the wicked Kinsey book.

Wishing you continued success in your work, and health and happiness, I am

Very truly yours,

J. M. Doughty

**SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN THE
HUMAN FEMALE**, by Alfred C.
Kinsey (W. B. Saunders
Co., Phila., 842 pp., \$8)

"As a contribution to science, I do not hold with those more competent to pass a judgment in this field and who say that the Kinsey 'study' is worth less than the cost of its paper and printing. But while it is too early to estimate the influence of the Kinsey report upon social behavior, I am ready to venture the opinion that we cannot expect the influence to be good. Had distribution been to scientists in all related fields, to educators, to clergy-men and to mature publicists, no fault could be found. But distribution is universal. Here is a best-seller. Specifically the adolescent girl is encouraged to believe that sexual experience before marriage may be conducive to a happy marriage. The encouragement

and intimated authority of 'science' will hardly strengthen morals in the American community. To one reviewer, at least, the report indicates clearly the author's bias against religion and against the accepted moral code in sexual behavior. Conclusions are drawn from only 5,940 'white' interviews; of these a few more than 700 are Catholics, a few more than 500 Jews. I have yet to know of, or to hear about, a single individual who was reached by the survey. Also it is apparent that these interviews were a supreme opportunity for exhibitionists."

LATE FLASH!

Missouri Church Reached an All-Time High in S.S. Attendance in November

The Sunday School of the Mountain Grove Church broke all previous records in attendance in the month of November, with an average of 216. In 1950 the church averaged 90; in 1952 the average was 127; in 1953 it was 178; and we are working for an average of 200 this church year.

The Sunday School has 17 classes four departments and 35 workers.

The group recently organized a home department which is held in a local rest home for aged people.

Forrester Hutsell, Gen. Supt.
Rev. Willard C. Day, Pastor

TEXAS STATE ASSOCIATION

The State Association of Free Will Baptists met with the Bryan Church October 28-30, 1953. More than 20 delegates and ministers were registered. The theme of the session was "The Abundance of God." Rev. Damon C. Dodd, national director for home missions, keynoted the session on Wednesday with a soul-stirring message. Over \$100.00 was taken in a special offering for Home Missions.

Officers elected for the next year were:

Rev. Gaston Clary Moderator
Rev. Everett Hellard Assistant
Rev. Herbert Richards Clerk
Mrs. W. W. Winters Assistant
Rev. Charles Sapp Treasurer
Rev. Noah Tuttle Publicity Direc.
Rev. R. E. Conner Statistician
Rev. Alvin Halbrook.. Parliamentarian



From The Editor's Desk



Here I am this time slipping in well toward the last. I had not intended to burden you with any of my ideas this time. But after all it is the Christmas season, and I certainly do want to wish you a very pleasant Christmas season. And while wishing you this sincere merry Christmas, it gives me the opportunity to briefly discuss the season, as well as the Thanksgiving season just past. I well realize that you have been or will be buffeted by countless summarizations, and hadard to add (briefly) some of my comments.

We would be blind if we were not aware that both of these special and sacred days were widely abused and serious revelry prevail, even with the pretense of prudently observing their meaning and purpose. Certainly the liquor industry has capitalized on these seasons as being a festive time, and urge that festivities run to merry-making, and that their poison be included in the quest for hilarity. Great success has been achieved by them. Even the most lax of us can easily note, and must admit, a large category of abuse of these dedicated days. But I did not start out to enumerate the sins of our time, and so will depart from this trend.

It is gratifying to notice some worthwhile aspects of these special seasons. I think most of us enjoy a diversified program of public and private worship. Certainly this helps eliminate formality and stiffness in our quest for a satisfying fellowship with God and with one another. But in the case of both Thanksgiving and Christmas, certain procedures and customs seem to have crystalized into set forms that actually help to curb the trend to flippancy and hilarity.

At Thanksgiving, if at no other time in the year, the fact of our complete dependence upon God to increase the toll of our hand and return it to us in materials and blessings which are necessary for us is emphasized. So long has this fact been repeated that even the hard and stony hearted are brought solemnly near to God by it, even if but for the day or just a few hours of it. The activities of the day are all summarized in the fact that what we are and what we are stewards

of is because God has made it possible. Everything else in the day seems to be anti-climactic to this evident fact. True, a high percent are able to offer only a feeble or perhaps unspoken supplication of appreciation to Him for His blessings; still everyone can feel the solemnity of the day. Custom has made it so.

Christmas brings us to God in an even more solemn and sacred approach, and again custom lends a strong support to the correct observation of the day. Perhaps the season is even more flagrantly violated—intentionally and otherwise—than any other day of the year. The terrible fact of the omnipresence of Satan might be questioned if it were not so, for he (Satan) is the arch enemy of Christ whose birthday the season commemorates. The tide of humanity is pitifully similar to an uncontrolled avalanche of water that knows but to follow the course of least resistance, which, in humanity, is the course mapped out by Satan. But Christ can put stability into the individual, for it is He that "quickeneth," and many are possessed of this virtue. Custom will not let these stabalized ones depart from the fundamental truth of the season, that Christ Himself is the greatest gift that has ever graced this troubled earth, and it is His proffered gift of peace that now gives strength and grace to the weary in the face of greatest adversity. So it is comforting that we can follow the pattern of custom annually, for as we attempt to emulate Him to the best of our ability, we are drawn nearer to Him and closer to one another. Who is it that his heart has not beat faster as from behind drawn curtains has come the low and lovely words of "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," as the Christmas cantata was about to unfold, or who has not felt spiritually exhilarated at the close of the program even though he knew pretty well knew what he would see and hear? Yes, we recognize a blessing in fundamental customs prevailing at these seasons.

REVIVALS

In our last report we made mention of several revivals either in progress or contemplated. Many of these have

run their course by this time. I do not know the result of all of them, but give you the following summary.

The revival at Monett closed after continuous services for about three and one-half weeks. Only one soul was numbered as making a decision for the Lord, but the church realized a great spiritual blessing and has noticeably benefitted from the revival. Rev. Winford Davis was the evangelist, and Rev. Cecil Campbell is the pastor.

Merl's Chapel Church, near Cassville, Missouri, realized a gracious outpouring of the Spirit during their revival services. Rev. Tommy Day of Springdale, Arkansas was the evangelist and brought outstanding and fearless messages. Many souls were drawn near the Lord. Rev. O. T. Allred is the full-time pastor of this congregation.

Jones Chapel Church, near Stella, Missouri, enjoyed an old-time revival of power in which six souls found Christ as their personal Saviour. Many mark the services as the best in their experience. Rev. Fred Cunningham brought the messages and Rev. Winford Davis is the pastor.

The church at Neosho, Missouri has closed its revival with four souls saved and the church strengthened and encouraged. Rev. C. M. Hatfield is pastor, and Rev. Virgil Greenway was evangelist. Fine spiritual services and good attendance were the observations.

Rev. Mrs. Lizzie McAdams, visiting in this section, was impressed to go to Hannon (near Liberal, Missouri) where the pastor and church immediately prevailed on her to conduct revival services. The church reports one of the best manifestations of the Spirit in some years. Rev. Conrad Williford is the pastor.

Hickory Grove Church, near Harrisonville, Missouri, held a revival with Rev. Paul Williams doing the preaching. Illness and other factors hindered after a fine start. Sis. McAdams is well acquainted there, and the church was anxious to have her with them again, so she consented to go there for a short time at the close of the revival at Hannon. We have not heard further from these services.

Other revivals are being planned in this vicinity for the near future. We

would like very much to have your revival news.

OUR VISITORS

Among the more pleasant experiences at the Gem office is the visits of our people. It is always a pleasure to us for you to call on us here. We have had several callers recently.

Rev. Tommy Day of Springdale, Arkansas paid us a pleasant visit, and while here picked up a supply of Treatise to use in the new fast-growing church at Springdale. Bro. Day is a very busy man for the Lord, and like many such faithful servants, has now reached the limits of his physical endurance and must regard his health.

Rev. Mrs. Willie Bohannon of Huntsville, Arkansas, clerk of Old Mount Zion Association in Northwest Arkansas, stopped in the office while on her way to visit her parents near Aurora, Missouri. We have had several very pleasant business transactions with Sis. Bohannon in connection with her office of clerk, and it was a great pleasure to have her visit us.

We were pleasantly surprised one morning recently when the phone rang and Sis. Lizzie McAdams was at the other end of the wire. In town for a short stay, she was a visitor at the office on a couple of occasions, and we certainly enjoyed the visit. We missed Bro. McAdams who stayed at home in Huntsville, Texas to recover from a severe cold. We owe much to these tireless pioneers of the faith.

The door of the office opened one afternoon recently and in walked Rev. Frank Linton. We had lost contact with him during the last two years as he migrated "up and down" the west coast. A native Missouri evangelist and pastor, he is back home, at least for awhile, and will undergo extensive dental treatment. Meanwhile, he is available for evangelism. His address is Macks Creek, Missouri.

If you are in our vicinity, be sure to stop by. The welcome mat is out at all times.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Renewals and new subscriptions to the Gem have started a slow trend upward. We are grateful for this, but we seek your help in keeping this matter ever before the people everywhere. We need—and must have—a constant effort and very favorable response on the field. Reduced earnings

always reflect in the Lord's work first. We have suffered noticeably from the effects of the drought and a recession in some earning power. Please be very diligent in working for the Gem—your publication. Above all else—*Do Not Neglect Us During the Holiday Season.*

In our mail recently we received a letter that read in part, "I will greatly miss the Gem...but I have been unable to work for the past xx months." He will receive the Gem, compliments of the office. This is not the only such letter we have received. We feel that is a definite ministry to meet such needs, and by faith we rely on sufficient income from some other source to make this possible.

THE YOUTH CAMP

One feature of the Gem that we at the office have missed is the regular monthly reports of progress made in maintenance and expansion. But we recently contacted a member of the Board who informs us that as yet they have been unable to find anything at all suitable or even adaptable to meet the requirements imposed for the next session. Could it be that the Lord is more pleased with results produced at our own Camp than we have been, and would effect our continued use of our very own facilities? Anyway all other efforts by the Board have netted no results or even a faint hope so far. If you know of a suitable location and adequate facilities, you are urged to contact the Board. If you wish you may send us the information and we will get it to the Board post haste.

READY FOR CHRISTMAS

Ready for Christmas? Just what do you mean?

*Quietly, spoke a voice in her dream,
"Have you seen the heathen lost in sin?
Have you given and prayed for one
soul to win?"*

*"Ready for Christmas? You've worked
it is true,*

*But just doing the things that you
wanted to do.*

*Ready for Christmas? Your circle's
too small;*

*Why you are not ready for Christmas
at all!"*

THE DIARY OF A BIBLE

JANUARY 15—Been resting quietly for a week. The first few nights after the first of the year my owner read me regularly, but he has forgotten me now I guess. Another New Year's resolution gone wrong.

FEBRUARY 2—Cleaning day. I was dusted with other things and put back in my place.

FEBRUARY 3—Owner quickly picked me up and rushed off to Sunday School. He did not open me, however.

FEBRUARY 23—Cleaning day. Dust-ed and put back in my place. I have been down in the lower hall since my trip to Sunday School.

APRIL 2—Busy day. Owner had to present the lesson at a church society meeting and quickly looked up a lot of references.

MAY 5—In grandma's lap every afternoon...a comfortable place. She let a tear fall on John 14:1-3.

MAY 10—Grandma's gone. Back in my old place. She kissed me goodbye.

AUGUST 2—Rather stuffy and hot. Two magazines, a book and an old hat piled on top of me. Had a couple of four leaf clovers put in me today.

A Church Bulletin

KEEP YOUR LIGHT SHINING

Moody tells of hearing two men who had charge of a revolving light in a lighthouse on a storm-bound and rocky coast. Somehow the machinery went wrong, and the light did not revolve. They were so afraid that those at sea should mistake it for some other light that they worked all the night through to keep the light moving round.

Let us keep our lights in the proper place, so that in the world others may see that the life we have for Christ is not a sham but a reality.

The proper place for the light is on the candlestick (Matt. 5:15). The candlestick in the Bible is represented as a local church (Rev. 1:20). Thus every Christian should be in a church.

To hide your light is the equivalent of the foolish virgin.

—Selected

A Church Bulletin

CALIFORNIA CONGREGATION PURCHASES FINE BUILDING

Dear Editor:

We are writing you about our new church we now have here in Bell Gardens, California (Los Angeles).

You carried an article back in 1952 just after we had organized our church here. Since that time the good Lord has blessed us here.

We bought lots that same year, but as it was so hard to build here in Los Angeles due to their restrictions, our plans were slow. We had our blue prints made and were being checked for approval when we began bargaining for this church we now have. So we sold our lots and purchased this one (formerly the Central Baptist Church), it being much larger and better equipped than we could have built.

Our church is 50 x 100 with an offset of 25 x 40. It has class rooms and a modern equipped kitchen, a nursery, a pastor's study and a baptistry.

We were glad to read about your continuing the Gem..

Rev. Euel Gorman
7612 Perry Road
Bell Gardens, California

MICHIGAN BRETHREN IN A NEW SANCTUARY

First Free Will Baptist Church
921 East Grand Ave.
Hazel Park, Michigan

Free Will Baptist Gem:

This letter is some what overdue, but due to the pressing matters in the life of a busy pastor it has been delayed.

As many of you will remember, I announced early in the year that Hazel Park was beginning a new church building. Since that time we have seen wonderful things happen, and we are now in the new church and have been since August 8th. I'm sure I must say that I have never experienced richer blessings from the Lord, and a more visible manifestation of His direct undertaking in a matter in all my 22 years in the ministry.

When we came to the church June 8, 1952, just a little over a year ago, there was \$600.00 in the building fund. I sensed that the time was right to launch the program. Now that we are

in the church, and have counted the cost, it has amounted to \$18,000.00. There is only a mortgage of \$7,000.00 on it. God has done wonderful things, whereof we are glad.

In this time there has been 46 professions, and some more than 20 of them have become members of the church. We rejoice in the new building, but we rejoice much more in the salvation of the souls of men.

At this time we are engaged in the first revival in the new building with the Rev. Charles A. Thigpen as the evangelist. There have been three professions and the revival is still in progress.

May God's rich blessings be on all as we labor together in the whited harvest fields in the last days.

In His glad service,

Rev. Mark M. Lewis

A CORRECTION

Dear Bro. Jeffreys:

I would like to make a correction as to the amount we are in debt on our church at Mill Creek. It is \$3,200.00 instead of \$320.00. Thanks.

Rev. L. A. Ferguson
Fredericktown, Mo.

Note: In the story "Small Group of Devout People Build Church" in the November issue we somehow failed to get the correct figure on the amount of indebtedness. We're sorry. However, the figure is still very low and this church is to be highly commended.

—Editor

GOOD REVIVAL REALIZED AT ELIZABETHTON, TENNESSEE

First F.W.B. Church
706 First Street
Elizabethton, Tennessee

Dear Bro. Jeffreys:

It has been some time since we have reported our work here in Elizabethton to the Gem. We are certainly thankful to God for the progress that has been made since our coming here.

We were privileged to have Rev. Wayne Smith, of Swananoa, North Carolina, conduct a revival at our church some few weeks ago. We thank God for Bro. Smith and for his wonderful messages. He found his way

into the hearts of many of our people. We hope to have him back at our church again soon. The meeting proved to be a real blessing to our church.

We were indeed happy for the blessings God bestowed upon us Sunday. Seven were baptized, one united with our church, and 232 were present at Sunday School. Our Sunday School has been averaging 200 or more each month for some time. However, for the month of October we averaged 198. We are off to a good start for this month. We ask your prayers that this may continue.

Yours for the Master's cause,

Rev. Harvey E. Hill, Pastor
Sue Perry, Correspondent

HOLDS TRAINING SCHOOL

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Editor of the Gem:

I thought others might like to know of a wonderful teachers and officers training school we have just finished.

The Free Will Baptist Churches of Tulsa and the Blue Bell Church and Allen Church near Tulsa met at the Lawnwood Free Will Baptist church for a five night training course, October 26-30. Rev. Harry E. Staires, pastor of Lawnwood Church, was the superintendent and gave a 20-minute lecture each evening. Three classes were offered with 85 enrolled. Rev. John H. West, pastor of First F.W.B. Church of Tulsa, taught "The Power of the Human Mind," by E. W. Thornton. Rev. Ernest Kennedy, pastor of the Lewis Avenue F.W.B. Church of Tulsa, taught "A Study of Methods," by E. W. Thornton. Mrs. Bessie Staires taught "The Six-Point Record System and Its Use," by Emma Noiland. At the close of the school on Friday evening, 53 certificates were presented for completion of the course, and refreshments were served by the host church Auxillary. We feel this a step of progress and many have expressed a desire to attend another course soon. Several visitors were in attendance each evening.

A wonderful time of fellowship and sweet spirit was manifested throughout the school.

Yours for greater service,

Mrs. A. F. Flippo, Reporter