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The Free Will Baptist Gem

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The Bible -- God's Holy Book

This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Christ is its subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given to you in life, will be open in the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy precepts.—Author Unknown.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

ORGAN OF THE MISSOURI STATE
ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS.
SERVING THE CHURCH EVERYWHERE.
ENDORSED BY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

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REV. LLOYD T. JEFFREYS

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PLAN TO OCCUPY NEW
STRUCTURE SOON

1113 Alexander St.
Kirksville, Missouri

Dear Brother Editor:

I am sure the many friends and co-workers would be interested in knowing how the new work here at Kirksville is progressing. The Lord is blessing in a wonderful way, for which we give Him all the praise.

We purchased five beautiful lots in northwest Kirksville and are well on the way in the erection of a new church building. The building will be 42x70 brick veneer with eight Sunday school rooms, a Pastor's study, and the main auditorium. If the weather permits we hope to be in the new building in the near future.

We have been in a series of revivals since coming to Missouri. We held one at Sublett Church. We have just closed a wonderful revival at Graysville Church with nine souls saved and a large number of Christians added to the church that had never joined a church anywhere. We are now in a revival at Shibley's Point Church, where my son, Rev. Bobby Jones, is pastor. We feel the Lord is blessing in a wonderful way in Northeast Missouri Association.

We desire the prayers of God's people everywhere that our work here may continue to grow.

We wish you folk, at the Gem, a blessed Holiday Season and may God continue to bless the good work you are doing there.

In the Master's service,

Rev. Lester Jones



FEW DATES OPEN

We learn in correspondence with Rev. Wm. Buster of Thebes, Illinois that he has some open dates yet for February and March. If you want an evangelist of ability and a passion to see souls saved, you will want to contact Bro. Buster at once for these or later dates.

CHURCH MEMBER
BEATITUDES

Blessed is he whose program contains prayer meeting night.

Blessed is he who serves faithfully on a committee.

Blessed is the church official who is not pessimistic.

Blessed is he who loves his church before his business.

Blessed is he who can walk as fast to a religious service as to town.

Blessed is he who invites people to come to church and comes along himself.

Blessed are those who never gossip about the faults of the church, but work to make it better.

—Religious Telescope

The devil is so fond of those who take a back seat in church that he's going to give them a front seat in hell.

—Contributed

DEPARTMENTALIZED LIVING

Rev. Raymond Riggs

TEXT: "For me to live is Christ." Phil. 1:25.

Today, we are no doubt living in the Laodicean age of the Church. It is so easy to find ourselves living for a program, or living for a principle, when in reality we should be living for a person, and that person is the Lord Jesus. We should live with a view to Him! His interests are your interests: His objectives become your objectives: His thoughts become your thoughts: His love becomes your love: His wish, your wish. You are living with a view to Him; that is, if you are living the *Christ Controlled Life*.

This is not living for things, and that hits rather hard, for I have noticed in my travels a great desire for things. There are necessary things in our daily experience, but God forbid that we should ever be content to live for things, no matter how good they may be. Many people are living for things—when the Lord Jesus Christ said "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he posseth."

Our Greatest Need

When we moved into headquarters building here in Nashville, Tennessee, Bro. Damon Dodd, Bro. W. S. Mooneyham and I went into an upstairs room, closed the doors and discussed in detail our plan of work and the general needs of our denomination. Each of us felt very keenly our responsibility. We all agreed that within ourselves we were entirely too small for the enormous tasks assigned to us. We felt, and still do, that the success of the Denomination as a whole depends largely upon the intimate mutual unity and understanding of those who hold leadership responsibilities in our denomination. We are conscious that Satan in all his subtlety will attack on every hand, and in our weakness and many times, our carnality, this unity will only prevail as we live a Christ-controlled life. Thus, I conclude and have been preaching wherever I go that our greatest need is not money, it is not more preachers or missionaries, neither is it a better program. I'm sure our greatest need from the smallest local church on up, is a deeper depth of consecration on the part of

our present constituents. *Things* of all kinds, to the individual Christian, the local church or a denomination that is in the directive will of God, are secondary. Matt. 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Departmentalized Living

Arthur B. Whiting, Th. D., pastor of First Baptist Church of New York City, has well described the present day when he wrote:

"It is a tragedy when man begins to live for things, but thousands of believers are doing just that very thing. They seemingly know nothing of the Christ-mastered life, because they are running their lives on the basis of a department store. They have a department of education, a department for business, a department for recreation, a department for their Christianity, and the Lord Jesus crowded off into the small department. The testimony of the Book is that it is the Lord's desire and right to run the department store of the believer's life. He wants to be the Manager of the recreation, of the education, of the business; every area of life is to be under His control. He is to be the Lord of all, or, as it has been well said, He is not Lord at all!

"You do not catch the full significance of the statement when you read it in the King James version or in the American Standard version. But when you are reading along in the Greek New Testament, it really hits you between the eyes, 'To me to live Christ.' You don't even find that little word 'is' there. 'To me to live...' Yes, what does it mean to live Christ? That means the whole horizon of life is filled with Him. He is the One who is the Captain, the Master, the Superintendent, the Manager, the Engineer, the Director."

Christianity and Sunday Clothes

After the morning service on the Lord's day, two persons accidentally bump into each other in the vestibule of the church. They go their way. Monday dawns, and early in the morning two cars approach an intersection traveling at a rapid rate of speed. There is a grinding of brakes and two cars come to a stop with fenders touching. The same two persons who bumped each other in the vestibule of the church have bumped each other at the

intersection on Monday morning. Conduct has a way of changing according to circumstances when the Lordship of Christ is not a reality in experience. Thus it is that on the Lord's day morning in the vestibule of the church there will be effusive apologies, but on Monday morning under different circumstances, there will not be any effusive apologies but explosive articulations. Why? If Jesus Christ holds the reins of life there ought to be the same courtesy at the intersection as there is in the vestibule of the church.

Why is it that so many believers seem to put aside their Christianity with their Sunday clothes? It is because Jesus Christ is relegated to just a little area of their experience. But Paul says, "For me to live is Christ"—that is the Christ-dominated life, the Christ-controlled life.

When our lives are Christ controlled we shall go forth into all the world with the Gospel of Peace.

WANTS NAMES; ADDRESSES

This Is An Urgent Appeal To Free Will Baptists Everywhere!

Dear Brother Jeffreys:

We know there are many Free Will Baptists that have left their home town and moved to the St. Louis, Missouri area. If you have a friend or a relative, if anyone in your church has moved to St. Louis, we appeal to you to send their names and correct address to us.

The names you send to us will be given to the pastor of the church nearest to them. We have active working churches in the St. Louis area. We will contact these people.

It is important that people attend church regularly: if they don't, they soon grow cold and may be lost. We know that there are thousands of Free Will Baptists who have moved to St. Louis who do not attend church. Help us reach these people.

Pastors, we appeal to you; please do something about this appeal. St. Louis is a city of more than a million people—we cannot find these people without your help.

Rev. James Barker
2612 Minnesota
St. Louis 18, Missouri

Pastor of the Third Free Will Baptist Church of St. Louis, Missouri.

OKLAHOMA ITINERARY FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

As Promotional Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, it is my privilege to visit various states in the interest of Foreign Missions. It is a real joy to visit our different churches and especially to have fellowship with our fine pastors. I think there is no higher calling than that of being a pastor. I have especially appreciated my association with our pastors in the State of Oklahoma. They love their people and are doing a fine job shepherding their flocks and leading souls to the Lord Jesus Christ. They also are leading their people into the support of our Foreign Mission Program.

One of the highlights of the itinerary was meeting with the State Mission Board of Oklahoma at Wewoka Church on December 14. This board is composed of some of the finest of our pastors and to be in their meeting was to observe their interest in Mission work, both at home and abroad.

Following is a report of the itinerary. December 4, Bixby, Rev. Jesse Stepp pastor, 175 attendance, \$3.32 received. Dec. 6, Lewis Avenue (Tulsa), Rev. E. M. Kennedy, 150 present, 6 people consecrated their lives to service, 51.35 received, 706.00 pledged. Dec. 6, Lawnwood (Tulsa) Rev. H. E. Staires, 200 attendance, 7 consecrations, 7.24 received, 300.00 pledged. Dec. 6, First Church Tulsa, Rev. John H. West, 200, one conversion, 50 consecrations, 53.98 cash, 1,070.00 pledged. Dec. 7, Drumright, Rev. Harry Beatty, 100, 7 consecration, 37.05 with 320.00 pledged. Dec. 8, Wewoka, Rev. Ralph Staten pastor, 175, 5 consecrations, 154.59 received, 245.00 pledged. Dec. 9, Ada, Rev. Weldon Wood, 100, 20 consecrations, 75.00 cash, 60.00 pledged. Dec. 10, Admore, Rev. E. J. Wilson pastor, 125, 20 consecrations, 38.78 with 170.00 pledged. Dec. 11, Norman, Rev. Robert Duncan, 27, 1 conversion, 4 consecrations, 43.82 received, 135.00 pledged. Dec. 12, Rev. Delbert Akin, 50, 3 consecrations, 26.11 paid, 25.00 pledged. Dec. 13, Central Ave. (Oklahoma City) Rev. Jack Dodson pastor, 175 present, 15 consecrations, 60.27, 265.00 pledged. Dec. 13, Capitol Hill, Rev. E. E. Morris, 30 present. Dec. 13, Seminole, Rev. Melvin Shelton, 131, 6 consecrations, 20.36, 85.00 pledged. Dec. 14, Turley, Rev. D. D. Dipboye, 120, 1 saved, 10 consecrations, 71.05 received, 100.00 pledged.

Dec. 15, Muskogee, Rev. Eugene Rid-
dl., 10 present, 1 consecration, 23.90,
80.00 pledged. Dec. 16, Stigler, Rev.
Bob Maxwell, Jr., 100, 10 consecrations,
29.23 cash, 305.00 pledged. Total, 1,908
attendance, 3 saved, 164 consecrations,
\$698.05 cash received, \$3,861.00 pledged.
Note: The amount listed from Bixby
and Lawnwood Churches represents
one-third of their offerings, since two-
thirds was sent to state and national
home missions.

My thanks to the Mission Board of Oklahoma and especially to Rev. Ernest Kennedy who helped to arrange the itinerary; also to every pastor and to our fine people who gave and pledged to Foreign Missions.

As of this date (Dec. 29) counting the cash and pledges received from Oklahoma, we only lack \$255.00 having her suggested quota for Foreign Missions. With six months yet to go and with the assurance that I have that you will pay your pledge, I predict that Oklahoma will go over the top for Foreign Missions by June 30, 1954.

During this itinerary we traveled over 2,000 miles, saw 164 of our fine young people come into the altars of our churches and dedicate their lives to God to be used of Him wherever He leads. Then too, there were three souls saved including an elderly man who had formerly been a tavern operator and gambler.

We praise the Lord for the opportunity to serve our Blessed Lord.

Rev. Raymond Riggs

ARKANSAS SCORES AGAIN

Since Arkansas is on the trail between headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, and the State of Oklahoma, we recently stopped off for a few services enroute to our western destination and also returning from the land of oil and cattle.

It was a real blessing to visit in six different churches, the most of whom had never been visited by a National representative.

Our tally sheet shows that in these services there were 570 people in attendance, 54 young people dedicated their lives to God for service, \$190.00 in cash given for Foreign Missions and \$790.00 pledged to be paid by June 30. Arkansas is the first and only state to have reached her quota for Foreign Missions during the first half of the

fiscal year. She no doubt will double her quota by June 30.

Following is a report of the services. December 4, Bethel Church at Rosbud, Rev. Lonnie Coffman pastor, 150 were present, and \$30.00 cash was received. Also the Greenbrier League gave 10.00 on the same date. Dec. 17, Walnut Street Church, Fort Smith, Rev. Leonard Crowder pastor, 20 attended, 12 consecrations to service, 10.00 received, 150.00 pledged. December 12, Greenbrier Church, Greenbrier, Rev. R. G. Lane, 100 present, 15 consecrations, 32.75 with 300.00 pledged. Dec. 19, Macedonia Church at New Edinburg, Rev. Lewis Barker, 110 attended, 5 consecrations, 26.50 and 100.00 pledged. Dec. 20, Ross Hill at Monticello, Rev. J. E. White pastor, 100, 16 consecrations, 32.54 cash with 150.00 pledged. Dec. 20, Mt. Pleasant, Route 1, Hamburg, Rev. Robert King pastor, 130 attended, 6 consecrations, 44.00 and 90.00 pledged.

Rev. Raymond Riggs

FIRE DESTROYS CHURCH

Marble Hill, Missouri

Greetings:

We come to you at this time to make a report of our work here. Our number in attendance is good, but as always, we hope to see it grow.

The Lord is good to us in many ways, and at this time we feel our great need of Him. As Job stated that the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, but blessed be the name of the Lord, and though He slay me, yet will I serve Him. We of Marble Hill Church feel the same as Job did. They can do what they may but we are still determined to have a Free Will Baptist Church here.

We have a wonderful man of God to lead us in our work, and with the help of our God we are going forward. Our Father never said that the way would be an easy one, but promised to go with us and make a way for His people, and our people aim to do just that. We know the way seems rough and dark just now, and our progress has been slowed down at present, but our Lord will bless us—we feel, by giving us even better.

On December 27, 1953, our church building and part of the contents was destroyed by fire, just as we were about to begin Sunday School. The fire seems

to have been caused by a defective flue, and was first noticed at 9:55. The building was leveled to the ground by 11:15. Enough of the furnishings were saved for us to continue with services, but of course it was impossible to save all that was in the building. We thank God for what we still have.

The American Legion moved our things to their hall and offered us the use of it for services until we can plan otherwise. Also the Boy Scouts came and repaired the seats and set every thing up ready for our services that night. People from other churches came, and helped too. We do plan to rebuild as soon as possible and as funds come in for the building program. We are small in number here, but in faith believing, we aim to have a church.

There was not very much insurance coverage and it will not meet our needs, so we are trusting in God for a church here, and in our many friends who care to help to give a donation to this cause. We intend to keep on serving Him who doeth all things well.

Send any offering you desire to send to any of these men: Pastor, Rev. Cecil Sheppard, Route 3, Fredericktown, Mo.; Clerk Basil Smith, Lutesville, Mo.; Deacon, Wm. D. McFarland, Route 1, Cape Girardeau, Mo. We thank each one of you for your kindness to us in our great hour of need. We thank our God from whom all blessings come.

Yours for the Master's Cause,

Marble Hill Church

From Earlier Correspondence—

The Ordination Board was called to our church on December 5 for the purpose of ordaining two deacons. Those ordained were Bro. Sanford Jackson and Bro. William D. M. Farland. In charge of the service was Rev. Woodrow Matthews, Rev. Albert Halbrook, and Rev. O. D. Matthews.

The Sunday School is growing, and the highest average was reached in November with the average being 43. On December 20 we organized a League in our church. Our attendance has been good—around 32, and the offerings are good. There is much to learn about the work, and our people are willing to learn.

We have a great field here in which to work. We still have some on our prayer list who are not Christians and we desire your prayers for them, and

for our church that we will receive a greater burden for the lost.

—Reporter

STATE TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT

October, November, December, 1953.

CO-OPERATIVE FUND

Flat River First	\$217.13
Oak Grove	5.00
Myrtle	23.32
Fellowship, Flat River	397.84
South Side, St. Louis	135.00
Merl's Chapel	59.90
Desloge	42.96
St. Louis Fourth	83.30
Sublett	11.00
Leadington	80.20
Hannon	20.07
Carterville	21.67
Mine LaMotte	58.38
St. Louis Third	127.57
Mtn. Valley	26.11
Fredericktown	181.61
Hazel Creek Union	45.29
Richwoods	60.31
Faith and Hope	16.00
Wagoner	32.00
Verdella	39.46
Coppermines	16.47
Don Harrison, Salem, Mo.	27.00
Howard Maxville, Graff, Mo. ...	9.00
Mill Creek	24.00

Total\$1,857.28

GENERAL EXPENSE FUND

Laclede County Assn.	\$ 5.00
Cave Springs Association	12.88
Carterville	5.00

Total\$22.83

STATE ENTERTAINMENT FUND

Cave Springs Association	\$11.22
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FOREIGN MISSIONS FUND

Fellowship, Flat River	\$100.00
Fredericktown	132.93
Aulsbury Chapel	76.72
Hartville	15.56
Union Light	50.45
Wolf Creek	15.00
Verdella	76.21
New Harmony Mission	4.00
Joplin	22.96

Total\$493.83

MISSIONS FUND

Twin Oaks	\$ 20.15
Rock Chapel	19.77
Macedonia	46.75
Mrs. A. L. DeWeese, Easton, Mo.	6.00
New Harmony S.S.	195.74
Jewel	24.62
Flat River First	86.55
Old Bethel	12.05
Mt. Pisgah	13.55
Shibley's Point	18.26
Martha Ricketts, Liberal, Mo. ...	5.00

Total\$508.45

STATE HOME MISSIONS

Monett	\$ 5.51
Joplin	22.15
Leadington	6.32
Myrtle	6.86

Total\$41.64

LIGHTS FOR CUBA FUND

Central Western Missouri Assn.	\$23.58
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HANNA FUND

St. Louis Third Church	\$140.00
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NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS FUND

Monett Church	\$5.50
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CO-LABORER FUND

Monett Auxiliary	\$34.14
Fredericktown Mission	5.00

Total\$39.14

Total Receipts for Quarter ..\$3,143.49

Mrs. Jewell Campbell, Treasurer

YEARLY REPORT OF NEW HARMONY S.S.; GREENTOP, MISSOURI

January 1-December 31, 1953

Average attendance	72
Average offering	\$ 22.00
Taken in during year	937.54
On hand beginning of year	522.71
Yearly total	\$1,460.30
Total expenditures for year....	970.13
Leaves a balance of	\$490.17
Our Sunday School has been growing and several precious souls have been saved during regular preaching services. The Lord is doing a wonderful work through our faithful pastor, Rev. Mildred Gilliam.	

Total\$493.83 Martha Frances Buchanan, secy-treas.

JUSTIFICATION

W. S. Hottel

The doctrine of justification is one of the most important of all the doctrines taught in the Holy Scriptures. It is a subject that has occupied the thought and lifetime of the greatest theologians and scholars, in the centuries past or at the present time. It is a subject that has occupied the triune Godhead ever since, if not before the world began. It is a subject that affects the eternal destiny of mankind. Its importance can not be fully understood nor estimated.

This important doctrine is not clearly understood nor apprehended by multitudes of professing Christians. This fact is manifestly evident from the fact that they are constantly confused about grace and legality, and are occupied with 'doing' and 'being' something in order to merit the favor of God and finally reaching glory when their earthly life and pilgrimage are ended. Thus they are kept in chains of legal bondage all their days, and do not know the blessed assurance, the joy, the peace, the comfort, and the hope of glory the Lord would have them know and enjoy. The doctrine of justification, therefore, demands the most careful study possible.

The Nature of Justification

The first great question that confronts us in the study of this subject is, what is justification?

The answer to this question must be found in the realm and sphere of the judicial, it brings to mind a court, with the judge and a person in court and before the judge, charged with the guilt of crime.

Justification is the judicial act of God whereby He declares righteous the sinner who believes in Jesus Christ (Acts 13:38,39). Note that it is God, the righteous Judge Himself who justifies (Rom. 8:33).

Justification is an act of God alone. It is a righteous act, for in it God does not compromise with sin, nor act in leniency with sin. God is infinitely and perfectly righteous, and when He declares righteous the sinner who believes in Jesus Christ, He does so in strict and full conformity with His own righteousness (Ex. 34:6,7).

Justification is a complete act of God.

There is no trace of guilt left, and there is no charge left in the records of the court of God (Rom. 2:33,1). The believer is justified before God of every charge and has peace with God (Acts 13:39; Rom. 5:1). Justification is not merely pardon. A criminal may have mercy shown and be pardoned, but his pardon does not justify him. In actual fact he is still guilty of the crime he committed.

Justification is a change of standing or status before God, the change from guilt to righteousness, for Christ Himself is imputed to the believing sinner for righteousness (II Cor. 5:21; I Cor. 1:30). The believer stands in Christ before God, and he therefore stands before God in righteousness so infinitely perfect that no human deeds or merit can add to it and no human sin or demerit can subtract ought from it. The justified believer stands before God so perfectly free from sin as though he had never sinned, and so perfectly accepted as though he had never violated the Law of God. How blessedly wonderful and glorious!

The Ground of Justification

In thinking upon this point the question arises, how can God justify the ungodly?

The ground of justification is the accomplished redemption by our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 4:25; 5:1). The Lord Jesus in His death on the Cross fully met every claim of the offended holiness of God and every demand of God's holy Law, dying in the room and stead of the sinner. His death was substitutionary, vicarious and sacrificial (I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; Rom. 5:6-2). Christ's resurrection from the dead was the Divine proof of His Sonship and that He was the righteous One. God's own standard of righteousness (Rom. 1:4; John 16:8-11). In His resurrection and ascension life, Christ is the Surety of the believer before God; representing him before God in His own character and merit; hence the believer stands before God in Christ (Eph. 1:6; 2:6; I Cor. 1:30; I John 4:17; Col. 2:9,10).

It is on the ground of the redemption accomplished by Christ Jesus that God may be just, and at the same time justify the sinner who believes in Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:24-26). This passage also shows that the redemption in Christ Jesus vindicates God in having "passed over" sins from Adam to Moses

and the sins of believers under the Old Covenant on the basis of the atonement made by blood (Rom. 5:13; Heb. 9:15). To summarize: Christ Jesus fulfilled every priestly act and the whole moral law, both in His righteous life and substitutionary death. He proved Himself the righteous One, and died in behalf of the guilty sinner, thus satisfying the claims of God's holiness and the demands of the Law, and He now lives in the Glory before God as the Representative and Surety of all who believe in Him. For this reason God may be just, and at the same time justify the ungodly who believe in Jesus Christ.

The Principle of Justification

This point raises the question, what is the source of justification? What is it that led God to devise and provide such a wonderful scheme of redemption, whereby the guilty sinner may be justified?

The principle of justification is not good works and law keeping (Rom. 3:20; Gal. 2:16). The Law cannot save, nor justify, neither can it give life, because the flesh is too sinful and weak to keep the Law (Rom. 8:3). The Law can only kill, condemn and curse (II Cor. 3:6,7,9; Gal. 3:10).

The principle of justification is the sovereign and infinite grace of God (Rom. 3:24; Titus 3:7). Grace is the most expressive character of God, it is peculiarly God's own essential quality. God is said to be the God of all grace (I Peter 1:10). Grace is free, unmerited love and favor. And justification is by FREE GRACE (Rom. 3:24). Justification is therefore a causeless act of God (Eph. 3:2,7,8). It is without a cause on the sinner's part that God justifies the sinner who believes in Christ. Simply because of His own grace and love God has provided redemption in Christ Jesus His Son, and upon the simple and only principle of grace He justifies the sinner who believes in Jesus Christ.

Subjective Condition of Justification

This raises the question, what must the sinner do to obtain justification?

We must here sharply distinguish between "condition" and "ground." The ground is the meritorious cause. But this cause operates to secure justification, only when a certain relation subsists between Christ and the sinner. That relation on the sinners side is

evangelical faith. Justification is thus THROUGH faith but because of Christ's redemption (*Rom. 3:24*). Evangelical faith involves the earnest rejection of every other trust but Christ, and a hearty faith in Christ who died and rose again (*10:8-10*).

Let us be definitely settled, that only as the sinner believes in Christ is he justified of God. Scripture clearly teaches that all who do not believe in Christ, are children of wrath and under condemnation (*Eph. 2:3; Jno 3:36,18*).

We note that James speaks of justification by works, and thus seems to contradict Paul (*James 2:14-26*). The contradiction between James and Paul is only seemingly, however. Neither James nor Paul make faith in one's own works the condition of justification, and thus the meritorious cause of justification. Both make faith in Christ the condition, and both insist that it should be genuine and hence a working faith. James lays a great deal of stress upon works as the evidence of justification before men. But Paul in the Roman Epistle enforces the same thought presented by James, only in other terms. Works, as the 'ground' of faith, are sometimes very different from works as the 'fruit' of faith.

SHOULD WE CALL IT "THE NEW BIBLE"?

Wilbia Sell-Stockton, Missouri

I have spent some time thinking about the so-called New Version being referred to as the "New Bible." Should we as Christians speak of it as the New Bible? After all the King James version of 1611 is God's Holy Word and is not for private interpretation. "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." II Peter 1:20,21. The Bible is inspired of God and of divine authority.

"For I am the Lord, I change not." Malachi 3:6. In Isaiah 7:14 the new version has changed the word 'virgin' to 'young woman.' The changing of that one word in that one verse of Scripture is enough to discredit the whole book in the eyes of truly born again believers.

God's word speaks of the writers of the revised version when He called them presumptuous. The word presumptuous means proud, self-confident, taking undue liberties. "But chiefly them that walk in the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities." II Peter 2:10. Have not these self-willed spoke boldly against the most Dignified One by denying His virgin birth? They have corrupted the Word of God and changed the truth of God into a lie.

God's word plainly calls them false teachers and warns us that they will bring in damnable heresies and even deny the Lord that brought them. He also tells us that they will bring upon themselves swift destruction. Read His description of false prophets and their punishment in II Peter 2:1-4. The most destructive thing I can think of would be to miss heaven. By changing God's Word, we forfeit our heavenly home, for God plainly says in Rev. 22:18,19, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

In Matthew 6:13 of the King James version we find this Scripture: "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." The makers of the new translation have omitted the last phrase, "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." They are striving to rob God of His kingdom, power and glory. Seemingly they have laid hands on the Holy Bible to use it for their own means and glory.

This following paragraph is not original with the writer of this article but was found in a pamphlet written by a Presbyterian minister of Collingswood, N. J. We thought it very good and wish to pass it on to the Gem readers.

"It may be said that we have ignored favorable things that could be said about the Revised Standard Version. When there is arsenic in a loaf

of bread, one does not spend his time discussing the good ingredients of the bread, but warns against the arsenic—and properly so! The changes and defects in the Revised Standard Version we have pointed out here are more dangerous to human souls than arsenic is to the body."

Thank God for His promise to us: "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away." Matt. 24:35.

As we look into the pages of the new version it resembles a story book or a book of fables. God's word has this to say about fables: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." II Timothy 4:3,4.

Fables are stories or statements that are not true, as in legend; hence, a falsehood. To compose fables means to write or speak fiction. The Apostle Paul in his letters to Timothy warns against having anything to do concerning fables. "Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do." I Timothy 1:4. "But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness." I Timothy 4:7.

I wonder, are we justified to speak of a book, that has turned the truth of God into a lie, or fable, as the New Bible? Or shall we just refer to it as a book?

SEEING IS BELIEVING

An infidel assured a Quaker he would believe if he ever saw Him, but not otherwise. "Does thee believe in Spain?" inquired the Quaker. "Sure," replied the unbeliever, "But though I have not seen that country myself, I know people who have."

"Did thee ever see thine brains, or is there anybody that ever did see them?" the Quaker asked.

"No," said the other, "but that is different."

"Does thee believe thee has any?" asked the defender of the faith.

—Contributed



From The Editor's Desk



A HAPPY NEW YEAR

At last we are getting around with this issue. The Christmas rush about floored us, but we enjoyed it very much and survived in fairly good shape. We do wish to thank those of you who sent greetings at this time of the year, and thanks also to all of you who have made our work here possible and pleasant. It is a real pleasure to serve the Lord and work for His children.

Now we find ourselves embarking in a new year. We realize the future is very unpredictable when the future is regarded as one short year immediately ahead. Some view the year as just another period of monotonous repetition of a too familiar pattern of the past, and probably it will turn out about as expected to many people. But to most of us many unexpected circumstances will be experienced in the next 52 weeks. Some will rejoice from unexpected joys and good fortune. Some will be burdened and crushed by sudden tragedy and sorrow. Most people will experience the unexpected during the year, and all experiences will bring different reactions. Only those in close fellowship with the Master will be qualified for these unexpected experiences soon to come to pass, for it is of them that the Scriptures state that all things work together for good to them that love God. So we trust that you are adequately prepared for the events of 1954, and wish you a very Happy New Year!

Obligations the Same

As we look into the future, we expect no radical change in our privileges and obligations to the Church. Many church enterprises are in operation to the full extent of available finances and personnel; other enterprises need starting and present projects need to be expanded. Unfortunately, it is a constant struggle to maintain some phases of the work. However obligations do not lessen with changing calendars.

It is the opinion of your editor that once a clear call to the ministry is received that the obligation to this

call will not cease, nor will God recall it, as long as that person is qualified physically and mentally and as long as any needy field remains in which to labor. My observation is the same toward anyone ordained of God to any specific phase of work in His vineyard. Likewise the Church has a continuing obligation to meet definite needs of materials and personnel to operate the many enterprises of the Church in every part of the world. With this in mind let us take a brief look at some of the enterprises of the part of the Church to which we belong—known as Free Will Baptists.

Greater Support Needed

The department of Foreign Missions is perhaps currently the best known and best supported enterprise above the level of the local church. It has not always been so, even though the need has been self evident as long as the church has been in existence. The commission of the Lord Jesus is inescapable; we must bend ourselves to the evangelization of unsaved everywhere—in Jerusalem, in Judaea, in Samaria, and in the rest of the world. Gradually we have become aware of our obligation in the enterprise of Foreign Missions and have likewise gradually moved to meet this obligation. Many have been called to this important work, and some of them have gone out with very little assurance of support and have managed to accomplish remarkable things with inadequate support. Age and the rigors of the battle are beginning to mark the features of some of these faithful ones. Still they do not seek retirement, for their call continues, the need for their service continues, and your obligation and mine continues and is increased to support this enterprise with our finance, our prayers, our interest, and even with our own lives if asked. Don't expect to be relieved of this obligation in 1954 unless the Lord Jesus shall come again.

In the department of Home Missions we have been even slower to meet the needs. It would seem that when we are able to see the appalling need in every quarter of our land that we would readily respond. Quite to the

contrary we have demonstrated complacency. Some of us have felt that the heathen were the ones needing our help, and that heathen existed only in some remote corner of the earth. So we have sat comfortably and ignored this very needy department of the church. Only in the past two or three years has any program of dimension been in operation. Suggested quotas have been set up each year to furnish a minimum working margin of finance. We have never come close to meeting it. However, the department has accomplished remarkable results in the field of pioneering work right among us here at home. And with each accomplishment, a dozen new needs become apparent. How we need to meet this need. If you have never realized it, you have a big obligation toward this important work.

On to our Bible College—still young in years. This fine institution has successfully weathered the storms that have beat against it and has made unbelievable progress. The road has not been easy. As always, one of the most troublesome problems has been finance. It has been necessary several times already to expand to meet the needs, and further expansion is inevitable. You must support this fine enterprise, for it is supplying a need in our church that cannot be supplied in any other way.

The new Headquarters Building still needs your support. This has been a need for a long time. Now it is a reality, and is being used by several departments. It will be used in a far greater way as fast as other departments can adapt themselves to the use of it. Actually, it probably will not be long before more room will be necessary. A growing family always needs more room. So add this to your list for support.

Establish—Expand

There are several orphanages in the different states for the care of children who have lost parents and have no home or support. Their records are remarkable. However, they all need more support than heretofore received. To this program needs to be added some provision for our elderly people.

Some are now being turned to institutions or places of residence with an unfriendly attitude to their concept of the Saviour and certainly not conducive to a satisfactory devotional life. The need is great.

In the matter of church publications, far too many of our people take them for granted. Many times we contact someone who states, "I've just neglected it." (Sometimes the neglect has been of considerable duration.) Truly procrastination is the thief of time—and the cause of extreme hardship to your church publications. Please be prompt with renewals and diligent to reach others and secure their subscriptions to the church publications. You cannot make a better investment, and it means much to us. Yes, it is your continuing obligation. We will refrain (at least this time) from discussing finances of this department. But the need does exist. Prayer and support are needed.

There are so many other things that deserve our attention. There must be a workable program established for the consideration of the aged servants of the church who have given the best of their lives in the service of the church. Youth programs need to go forward for the training and edification of our Christian youth and for the evangelization of our younger unsaved friends. Radio programs need to be established and expanded. The list must also include programs peculiar to the locality of the individual church. Hence our obligations are many, and we can but expect they will continue through the year and any remaining years to come. Droughth, pestilence, famine, flood, disease, disaster—these will not release us from this duty and privilege. We do not need resolutions to realize better lives: we have but to meet these obligations and we will find ourselves living better and more useful lives. And you will realize a Happy New Year, 1954.

PASTORING YOUNG CHURCH

Oilton, Oklahoma

Dear Friends:

I would like to use this means of sending a word of greeting to all our friends who read the Gem: especially all our friends in Missouri. We have enjoyed many rich blessings from the Lord during the past year and we feel

indebted to Him for all His goodness to us.

Since coming to the State of Oklahoma and the Church of Oilton, we have met many new friends and have felt very much at home here. As many of you know, the Oilton church is just a young church, having been organized just four years ago. Much of the credit for the successful growth of the church should go to the Home Mission Board and the former pastors, Rev. Harry Staires and Rev. Jack Dodson. Last year the Sunday School had an average attendance of 105. We have a growing Sunday School, a well-organized Woman's Auxiliary, an Intermediate, Junior, and Story Hour League, and a very good Prayer Meeting. We are in need of more assembly and class room and other facilities. Pray for us that we may move to meet these needs under the leadership of God.

Last month in our business meeting we voted to support each phase of our denominational work with a regular offering to the co-operative program. Also we voted to send a regular monthly offering to the Children's Home at Kingling, Oklahoma.

As we are about to enter into another new year it is our prayer that God may bless His work everywhere. We extend an invitation to anyone who can to stop in Oilton and visit us and the church here.

Yours in His service,

Rev. Ben Scott

THOMAS—HORN WEDDING

In a beautiful ceremony, Miss LaRue Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ross R. Thomas of Liberal, Missouri, and Mr. Walter Lee Horn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter O. Horn of Irwin, Missouri, exchanged marriage vows at 10:30 o'clock Thursday morning, December 24, 1953.

The double ring service was read by Rev. Mrs. Marie Hyatt, sister of the bride, at the Hannon Free Will Baptist Church before a large company of relatives and friends. A lighted Christmas tree, large bouquets of white mums, red poinsettias and woodwardia fern decorated the sanctuary. Preceding the ceremony Miss Rosalie Needling of Kansas City, sang "Because" and "When He Gave Me You." She was accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Jean Williams, sister of the bride, who

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also played a short program of wedding selections and the traditional bridal marches.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was lovely in a gown of white lace and taffeta with nylon net, fashioned with high neckline and mandarin collar. Long sleeves tapered to a point over the hands and the fitted bodice tapered to a pointed waist line. A coronet of matching satin embroidered in seed pearls and bugle beads held in place the fingertip length veil of nylon net. She carried a white Bible topped with a red poinsettia and white mums with streamers of red ribbon. Miss Bettie Jean Williams of Carthage, Missouri was maid of honor.

Mr. Joe Gilmartin was best man. Mr. Myron Hyatt and Mr. Harold Smith were ushers. The rings were carried on a blue satin cushion by Jimmie Williams, nephew of the bride. The flower girl, Myra Hyatt, niece of the bride, spread rose petals from her white basket in the path for the bride.

Immediately after the ceremony a reception was held in the church parlor. The serving table was flanked by bouquets of white mums and covered with red and white cover. The triple tiered cake was topped by a miniature bride and groom with a wedding bell decoration. Mrs. Jean Crockett was in charge of the gifts. Miss Joyce Bigham, Miss Rosalie Needling and Mrs. Jean Williams assisted with serving; Miss Alberta Hoover was in charge of the guest book.

After a short wedding trip the couple will be at home at 2843 Woodland Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri.

Out of town guests attending the wedding were: Mrs. Maude Sutton of Sugar Creek, Mo.; Rev. and Mrs. Conrad Williford, Freeman, Mo.; Miss Rosalie Needling and Miss Joyce Bigham of Kansas City; Mr. and Mrs. Myron Hyatt and Myra of Warrensburg, Mo., and Duane Needling of Milo, Mo.



BURTON CRAIG AVERY

It is my unpleasant task to bring to you the news of the passing of our dear friend and Brother in Christ, Bro. Burt Avery. Uncle Burt, as he was known to his many friends, received his summons to 'Come up higher' on December 17, 1953.

He ate his breakfast and helped with the usual chores. About nine o'clock in the morning he became suddenly ill with one of his reoccurring attacks of indigestion: before noon he had gone out. His short passage reminds us of the words of our Master, "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh."

Jesus said he would reward every one according to their works, and we know Bro. Avery's reward will be rich and full. No needy hand was ever stretched out to him that did not receive aid: no one was ever turned away hungry from his door. He was always ready to aid those who were in need. Truly he was one who lived in his house by the side of the road and was a friend to man. I have always thought of Bro. and Sis. Avery as just such friends; their door was always open to all alike—the rich, the poor—all were welcome to come in and partake of their food and shelter.

Cares and troubles came to them, as they must to us all. But they never let troubles get them down. Though tears would sometimes come, they looked beyond, hoping for the brighter days.

Burton Craig Avery, son of the late John and Mary Carpenter Avery, was born November 10, 1875 in Panola County, Mississippi, and departed this life December 17, 1953 at the age of 78 years, one month and seven days, in his home near Blue Eye, Missouri.

Bro. Avery was converted in 1919 in the state of California, and united with the Free Will Baptist Church in Blue Eye, Missouri soon after it was organized, and was a faithful member till his death. Bro. Avery was united in marriage to Miss Martha Jane Husky, November 11, 1896. To this union five children were born, three of whom preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Martha Jane Avery of the home, one son Raymond Avery, and one daughter, Mrs. Nancy Kellett, both of Long Beach, California, one brother Will of Denver, Arkansas, two half brothers, John Avery of Oregon, and Lee of Green Forest, Arkansas; three half sisters, Rose Carpenter of Oregon, Abbie Miles of Oklahoma City, and Alice Hanks of Washington; seven grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren, a host of relatives and friends. Bro. Avery will be greatly missed by all, and we extend our sympathy to all—especially to Sis. Avery who has stood by his side, and together have fought the battles of life. She has been true to that vow, "Till death us do part," for more than 57 years. She will never have a regret that she did not keep the promise of nourishing and cherishing him, through sickness and through health.

Bro. Avery had requested Rev. O. T. Allred to conduct his funeral. Bro. Allred had visited in the Avery home numbers of times and was always a welcome guest. When Bro. Allred was helping conduct a recent revival at the church, Bro. Avery repeated his request. So it was no surprise to Bro. Allred when the message came to him to come to Blue Eye to conduct Bro. Avery's funeral. The service was in the Free Will Baptist Church at 2:00 o'clock on the afternoon of December 20, 1953. A large and sympathetic audience was present to pay their last respects.

"Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep; from which one never wakes, to weep." So we leave you, Sister Avery, the children, and all the loved ones and friends with this beautiful poem written by Anna Johnson Flint.

AT THE PLACE OF THE SEA

*Have you come to the Red Sea place
in your life,*

*Where, in spite of all you can do,
There is no way out, there is no way
back.*

*There is no other way but—through?
Then wait on the Lord with a trust
serene*

*Till the night of your fear is gone;
He will send the wind, He will heap
the floods,*

When He says to your soul, "Go on."

*And His hand will lead you through—
clear through*

*Ere the watery walls roll down,
No foe can reach you, no wave can
touch,*

*No mightiest sea can drown;
The tossing billows may rear their
crests,*

*Their foam at your feet may break,
But over their bed you shall walk dry
shod*

*In the path that your Lord will
make.*

*In the morning watch, 'neath the lifted
cloud,*

*You shall see but the Lord alone,
When He leads you on from the place
of the sea*

*To land that you have not known;
And your fears shall pass as your foes
have passed,*

*You shall be no more afraid;
You shall sing His praise in a better
place,*

A place that His hand has made.

Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Tharp

HAPPY AS A CHRISTIAN

South Side Church
3124 Mt. Pleasant
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Gem Readers:

I would like to wish A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to each and everyone of our Gem readers and friends.

I'm glad I'm a Christian. These past few years have been the happiest years of my life since I gave my heart and life to the Lord.

A lot of us sign Xmas, and that is it. I'm glad I can say Merry Christmas with Christ in it.

We at South Side have had a wonderful year. The Lord has blessed us in a mighty way. What has been left undone in '53, we hope to do, and more in '54.

Yours in Christ,

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



DEATH CALLS HOME YOUNG MISSIONARY ELECT

Catherine Gail Boyd was born June 25, 1935 at Glasgow, Montana and departed this life November 24, 1953 in her home at Myrtle, Missouri at the age of 18 years and five months.

She was converted at the age of 13 years and was baptized May 8, 1949 and united with the Myrtle Free Will Baptist Church. On April 25, 1950 she accepted the call of the Lord to special service as a missionary. Although her vision for foreign fields was never realized she was a missionary for God where ever she happened to be. Whoever knew her was influenced by her devout and consecrated Christian life.

Catherine was a faithful servant even under adverse conditions. She had been sick for the past two years, the last two months having been confined to her bed.

Catherine was a member of the Couch High School graduating class of 1953.

She leaves to mourn her passing her father, Truman Boyd, her mother, Ora, two sisters, Mary Lou Sorrell of Myrtle and Linda of the home, and a brother, George of the home, six aunts, four uncles, a step-grandfather, and a host of relatives and friends.

Catherine's home-going will be another beckoning hand from the "shores of glory" beckoning us to come to that eternal home where heart aches are unknown, good-byes are never spoken, and no tears dim the eyes.

Funeral services were conducted in

the Mill Creek Free Will Baptist Church at Myrtle, Missouri on November 27. Rev. O. T. Allred of Monett, Missouri, a former pastor, brought the message using as a theme, "The strength and beauty of a Christian life." Rev. George Scott, pastor, read the Scripture and offered prayer. Rev. Wm. Hill, a former pastor and now a student at the Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee, assisted in the singing and offered the graveside prayer.

WAS PREJUDICED AGAINST TITHING

Wapanucka, Oklahoma

Rev. Raymond Riggs:

I have just read Rev. W. O. Knight's testimony. I always enjoy reading as well as hearing testimonies like his, for it verifies God's faithfulness. "Thou wilt perform the truth in Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old." Micah 7:20.

It was in 1947 that I really decided it was my duty and privilege to tithe. A prejudice had filled my mind toward the doctrine since my conversion some twenty three years ago. In part it was due to not understanding the Bible on this truth, and the legalistic presentation of this subject by an inexperienced pastor who made a personal issue of it.

About the year of 1947 I acquired a copy of the book, Answer to Prayer, by George Muller. This book made a great impression on me. It created a desire to know more about this man who took God at His word, so I purchased a copy of his biography by A. T. Pierson. After reading this I began to see that giving should be voluntary on the part of the individual and practiced from a sense of gratitude and love to God who had done so much for us.

Then I made a careful study of the Bible to see what the Word said. Genesis 4:3,4 gives us the first account of offerings made to God. Cain "brought of the fruit of the ground" (minchaha) unto the Lord. The word minchaha is explained in Lev: 2:1 to be an offering of fine flour with oil and frankincense. It was in general a gratitude offering and is simply what is implied, "in the fruits of the ground." When we systematically give or tithe of that which God has given to us, we testify our

belief in Him as the Lord of the universe and the dispenser of secular blessings. Verse four states "Able he also brought." Able not only brought "a firstling of his flock" by which he acknowledged himself a sinner and in need of a substitute, but he also brought a gratitude offering or "fruit of the ground." Hebrews 11:4 states "God testifying of his gifts," that is Able's gifts. We note that the word gift is plural, signifying that Able brought more than one gift. In Genesis 14:20 we find the tithe first mentioned by name in connection with Abraham. Again in Genesis 28:22 it is spoken of as the tenth. To me in these instances the patriarchs were using the tithe as tenth as an expression of their gratitude and love to God for His goodness and mercy, in the same manner as the minchaha or gratitude offering of Cain and Able. There seems to be no indication in these passages in Genesis that the tithe or tenth was commanded. It seems to have been given voluntarily on the part of individuals as an indication of "the sincerity of their love." II Cor. 8:8.

I herewith quote from George Muller, "Only fix even the smallest amount you purpose to give of your income, and give this regularly; and as God is pleased to increase your light and grace, and is pleased to prosper you more, so give more. If you neglect an habitual giving, a regular giving, a giving from principle and upon scriptural ground, and leave it only to feeling and impulse or particular arousing circumstances, you will certainly be a loser."

We can't outdo God in giving, for He has said, "Give and it shall be given unto you." Luke 6:38. "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." Prov. 11:24.

H. L. Joyce (Contributed)

THREE DIVISIONS

In preaching on the text, "Adam, where art thou?" a Negro preacher said, "I make three divisions to de tex. Fustly, in the fust place, ebery man got to be somewhar. Secondly, some men whar they ought not to be. Thirdly, dey dat is whar they ought not to be is gwine to find themselves whar dey don't want to be."

—Contributed



THE MISSOURI STATE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Advancing With Christ

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



NEW HARMONY MISSION

The New Harmony Mission met with Mildred Gilliam on the afternoon of November 3, with eight members and four children present.

The devotions were opened by singing, "I'll Be Satisfied," and "Wonderful Words of Life," followed with prayer by Mildred Gilliam.

Bible study was Revelations 2.

Roll call was given by repeating a Scripture verse. There had been 132 chapters read, 14 sick calls made and 14 cards sent since the last meeting.

Martha Buchanan became a member of the mission. An offering of \$3.80 was received and 50 cents dues paid.

The meeting was dismissed by repeating the Lord's prayer in unison.

The Mission met with Mrs. Dora Fugate at her home in Greentop for the afternoon of November 17, with 14 members and five children present.

Devotions were opened by singing, "The Haven of Rest," and "I Am Thine O Lord." Prayer by Mrs. Allie Peterson. Bible study was from the fifth chapter of Ephesians.

The lesson for the afternoon was, "The Light of Truth Shines on Christian Parents." Topics were given by Mrs. Richard Talbert, Mrs. Oscar Western, Mrs. Luther Gregory and Mrs. Dan Gilliam. Roll call was answered by a verse of Scripture. There had been 179 Bible chapters read, 17 sick calls made, and four cards sent since the last meeting. An offering of \$12.50 was received.

The meeting was dismissed by repeating the Lord's prayer in unison.

We met with Mrs. Myrtle Lay on Tuesday, December 1 for an all-day meeting. A covered dish luncheon was served.

The afternoon service was opened by singing. Prayer by June Thomas. At this meeting there were 10 members, one visitor and two children present. The president read for a Scripture, Luke 5:17-20. The lesson for the afternoon was, "The Light of Truth Shines on Personal Witnessing." Topics were given by Mrs. Jean Grob, Dora Fugate,

Ruby Littmar and June Thomas.

One hundred seventeen Bible chapters reported read, eight sick calls made, and seven cards sent since our last meeting. An offering of \$3.40 was received.

The meeting was dismissed by repeating the Lord's prayer in unison.

The Mission met with Mrs. Allie Peterson in Kikksville on Tuesday, December 15 for an all-day meeting. The Kikksville Auxiliary ladies were guests at this meeting. A covered dish lunch was served at the noon hour. There were 16 members and five children present.

The devotional service was opened by singing Christmas carols. Prayer was by Mrs. Lester Jones. Roll call was answered by a verse of Scripture or something pertaining to Christmas. Two hundred eighty nine Bible chapters had been read, 21 sick calls made, and 22 cards sent since the last meeting. The offering was \$7.00.

The meeting was dismissed by repeating the Lord's prayer in unison.

Rev. Mildred Gilliam, pastor
Iva Daniels, president
Myrtle Lay, secretary

SUPPORT ALL PHASES OF CHURCH ENTERPRISES

Oilton, Oklahoma

To the Free Will Baptist Gem;

We would like to report a little about our Woman's Auxiliary work here at Oilton. God has been blessing us. We had a wonderful pre-Thanksgiving Prayer Week. We had good attendance each night with a good spirit prevailing. One night we had Rev. Harry Beatty from Drumright to speak to us and one night we had Rev. W. V. McPhail from Cushing. We closed out with a nice program presented by members of the Auxiliary. Our offerings for the week were about \$20.00.

On December 3rd we met for all day study at the home of Mrs. Sam Rader. We had a wonderful chicken dinner with all the trimmings. There were 34

present for dinner. We had 21 members present and the following visitors: Mrs. Wanda Newman, Mrs. Frame and Mrs. High. Our pastor, Rev. Ben Scott, always comes in for dinner and we are thankful to have him with us. This time there were also four other men present.

The president, Sister Violet Tyree, took charge of the business session. Our reports show that we have contributed to every phase of our denominational work this month. We also voted to buy a communion set as a gift to the church.

Sister Dan Scott, the Study Course Chairman, had to resign her office due to failing health. Sister Genell Scott was elected to fill the vacancy. We had our pre-Christmas week of prayer December 7 through 11 every afternoon at the church. We also had our Christmas party and program on the afternoon of December 17 at the church parsonage.

We ask all who read this to pray for us that we here in Oilton may always be at our post of duty.

—Publicity Chairman

THIRTY-TWO ATTEND ARKANSAS MEETING

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Pochontas Free Will Baptist Church met Monday night, December 14 at the home of Mrs. Virginia Hogan, with Mrs. Aldean Hogan as co-hostess. There were 28 members and four visitors present. Mrs. Opal Phillips, president was in charge and the meeting opened by the group singing the hymn of the year "The Haven of Rest." Dues for the month were \$9.00. An offering was sent to foreign missions, home missions and to the Free Will Baptist Bible College. The regular monthly program, "The Light of Truth Shines on Personal Witnessing," was given. Mrs. Wavon Sago gave the Scripture reading and Opal Phillips led in prayer. Mrs. Ellen Holt, Mrs. Shirley Million, Mrs. Esta Fowler and Mrs. Virginia Hogan gave topic discussions.

Publicity Chairman

KIRKSVILLE AUXILIARY

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Free Will Baptist Church of Kirksville met at the home of Grace Lawson at Bra-shear Thursday afternoon, December 3.

The meeting opened by singing "The Haven of Rest." Prayer was given by Chloe Gates, president. Alta Mikel read Scriptures Psalm 119:30 and John 8:32.

Nine members answered roll call, and there were five visitors and four children present. Three new members were received.

The committee reported six dollars had been spent for clothing for a needy family.

The members reported having read 73 Bible chapters, made 53 personal and sick calls and sent 22 cards.

The Auxiliary members are to visit the nursing home on Tuesday afternoon, December 8.

The afternoon lesson was "The Light of Truth Shines on Personal Witnessing." The introduction was given by Velma Wellman with topics by Grace Lawson, Helen Sor-nson, Lillian Wood and Myrtle Jones.

The next afternoon meeting is to be January 7 with Velma Wellman a Novinger.

**HAZEL CREEK AUXILIARY
ELECTS NEW OFFICERS**

The last meeting of the year for our Auxiliary was held at the home of Minnie and Leona Thompson, with 10 members and one visitor, Mrs. Lester Jones, and four children present.

The president led the devotionals by all singing "The Haven of Rest," followed by sentence prayers. Maizie Sevits gave the devotional comments, reading from Luke 5:17-20. The lesson, "The Light of Truth Shines on Personal Witnessing," was introduced by Emma VanLaningham and topics were given by Lizzie Filkins, Leona Thompson, Ethel Thompson and Jaunita Newcomer.

Officers were elected for the coming year as follows: President, Ethel Thompson; 1st vice, Oletha Parsons; 2nd vice, Maizie Sevits; 3rd vice, Dora Sponsler; 4th vice, Emma VanLaningham; 5th vice, Leona Thompson; secretary and treasurer, Lola Filkins.

Six hundred eleven Bible chapter read, 43 sick calls made, and 23 cards sent out were reported since the last meeting. The Co-Laborer Fund offering was \$1.00. Dismissed with prayer by Mrs. Jones.

A handkerchief shower was given for Dorothy Houston, as she had moved from our community.

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

As we look back over 1953, we praise God for all that He has done for us materially and Spiritually.

First of all, we thank Him for our church, a place to assemble for worship, in complete freedom.

We are grateful for material blessings that affords us a full-time pastor, even though we are small in membership. At present we have about 151 members.

Until the early part of 1953 our church building consisted of one large auditorium which was not adequate for Sunday School services. Realizing our need to improve this condition, a building program was launched under the leadership of Rev. Wm. (Bill) Hill and wife. Even though our community suffered a drought the last two years, God provided sufficiently. An addition of three class rooms with basement, and a badly needed heating system was installed. The project was completed and a dedication service held October 25th, followed with a weeks revival. A wonderful time of fellowship and renewed spirit was manifested throughout these services.

We are thankful for our Auxiliary, and realize more the important place it holds along with the other phases of church work. We encourage every church to organize an Auxiliary starting in 1954. We will ever be grateful to Sis. Julia Hill, who first encouraged and led this organization in our church.

We are looking forward to the future work under the leadership of our new pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. George Scott. His wonderful messages have already been a great spiritual uplift.

During the Christmas holidays we were privileged to have visit our church, Rev. Adam Scott and family from Durham, North Carolina; Rev. Clarence Burton and family from Nashville, Tennessee, also an absentee member Mary Ruth Wischart, who is a student at Free Will Baptist College at Nashville, Tennessee. We enjoyed the wonderful messages from Bro. Scott and Bro. Burton on Sunday, December 27.

Space will not permit us to enumerate all of our blessings. We ask your prayers that the Myrtle Church may be a soul winning station in 1954.

Mrs. Geo. Brown, cor. secy.
Myrtle (Missouri) Church

FELLOWSHIP AUXILIARY

Flat River, Missouri

Dear Friends in Christ:

May we come in and say "A Merry Christmas to everyone?" We should all be so thankful to our blessed Christ who came to the world to redeem us from a world of sin that we should show forth His great love to mankind every where, not only at the Christmas season but also on every other day of the year.

Our Auxiliary met at the home of Mrs. Pats Barker on December 17 for our monthly meeting. There were 16 members and five visitors present. The theme of our study was "Thoughts of Christmas." A very good program was enjoyed by all present. After the program refreshments were served and gifts were exchanged. All enjoyed a good fellowship and are looking forward to the New Year, and hoping we can do more in His service. Do pray for us at Fellowship Church that we will ever be in His will.

Mrs. M. Hildorbrand, reporter

**MONETT AUXILIARY MAKES
PLANS FOR NEW YEAR**

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Monnett Free Will Baptist Church met for the last meeting of 1953 in the home of Dr. T. V. Poole. The meeting was opened with the group singing "I Want to Be A Worker," followed with prayer by Dr. Poole.

The lesson on the subject "The Plan of Work for 1954" was taken from the new yearbook, and topics were discussed by Mrs. C. L. Atwell, Mrs. Bratlin Wormington, Mrs. Roy Nichols and Mrs. Cecil Campbell.

Mrs. Nettie Harrell read the devotional lesson from Psalm 24.

During the business meeting, presided over by Mrs. Russell Weisman, president, roll call was answered by each member telling what she would like to see accomplished during the new year. Vice presidents presented their reports.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Russell Weisman.

REVIVAL AT MANSFIELD

The Lead Hill Free Will Baptist Church near Mansfield, Missouri was the scene of a recent revival that was graced by the outpouring of the presence of God in a mighty way on the services. While there was not a large ingathering of souls, many were encouraged and strengthened, and have a new determination to serve the Lord in whatever way He desires.

These services commenced November 30 and continued through two weeks. Old-time shouting and great rejoicing was manifest by the large congregation almost from the outset. Large crowds from the area attended each service. The evangelist was Rev. Frank Linton of Macks Creek, Missouri, and Rev. Ed Turner is the very capable pastor of the flock. Says Bro. Linton, "Besides the fact three souls were saved, which alone is cause for rejoicing, it seemed that the presence of the Lord was greater and more precious than in any revival I have witnessed in a long, long time."

SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGE ATTENDANCE RECORDS

Since we are late this month, and many of our reporters were very prompt, we publish averages for two months: the first listing is for November, the second for December.

Monett	87	86
Rev. Cecil Campbell, Pastor		
Marble Hill, S.E. Mo.	43	
Rev. Cecil Sheppard, Pastor		
1st Ch., Elizabethton, Tenn., ..	211	
Rev. Harvey E. Hill, Pastor		
Farmersville, California	70	
Aaron Lewis, Pastor		
Richwoods	54	58
Rev. Leslie Logsdon, Pastor		
Hannon	51	45
Rev. Conrad Williford, Pastor		
Copper Mines	97	91
Rev. Woodrow Matthews, Pastor		
Phillips Chapel, Arkansas	155	150
Rev. Tommy Day, Pastor		
Third St. Louis	93	99
Rev. James Barker, Pastor		
Fourth St. Louis	44	42
Rev. Wm. Turnbough, Pastor		
Salem, St. Louis	47	
Rev. Lawrence Thompson, Pastor		

Fredericktown	180	175
Rev. W. T. Newsome, Pastor		
Lanwnwood, Tulsa, Okla.	139	158
Rev. H. E. Staires, Pastor		
First Church, Tulsa	330	
Rev. John H. West, Pastor		
First Church, Springfield	151	
Rev. Henry Long, Pastor		
Fellowship, Flat River	149	
Rev. Rolla Smith, Pastor		
Oilton, Oklahoma	111	
Rev. Benjamin R. Scott, Pastor		
Jones Chapel	59	
Rev. Winford Davis, Pastor		

Thanks very much to the faithful Sunday School clerks and the church pastors for making this nice report possible. It is encouraging. We hope to see this list grow considerably yet, but it can only be done as you are regular and prompt with your report.

FROM THE MAIL BAG

I heartily endorse your position on the "New Bible" and feel that you have made a worthwhile contribution to the cause of truth.—M.B.H., Ohio. (We wish we could quote more of this interesting letter, but refrain at the suggestion of the writer.)

We certainly enjoy the Gem.—L.M., Missouri.

It (the Gem) should be in every home, and could be if we were diligent to our responsibilities.—J.T.Q., Miss.

I saw your address on the ... Minute. My parents used to take the Gem, and I want to subscribe for it.—B.M.D., Arkansas.

We certainly appreciate what you are doing.—H.H., Tennessee.

Since I do not agree with your position on the New Bible, I think it would be foolish to continue to subscribe to the paper. (We purposely omit the reference to the writer. It is one of two dissenting opinions on this issue that we have ever received. Both have ceased to take the Gem for that reason, and for that reason only.)

What do you think of the Gem? What features or services would you like to receive that is not now offered? Please let us know.

IN MIDDLE OF GOD'S LOVE

A Christian father stood one day on top of Cheviot Hill holding the hand of his little son. Pointing northward over Scotland, then southward over England, then eastward over the German Ocean, then westward over hill and dale, and then sweeping his hand and his eyes around the whole circling horizon, he said: "Johnnie my son, God's love is as big as all that." "Why father," the boy quickly replied with sparkling eyes, "then we must be right in the middle of it."—Church Calendar

FRED IS A PILOT

"Did you see that plane coming into Mseleni Mission Station?" It is bringing Dot and Fred Simmonds. They are Canadians and have been in this country for a year and a half. They have been sent to Mseleni to settle with us, and we rejoice in the future good they will be in the work. Can you imagine the stir of excitement here, when the plane arrived, and Dot and Fred with it? Already we have cause to marvel at the possibilities for our work. Fred was a pilot, trained in the Canadian Air Force, and this training is going to be a real boost to the work here. One afternoon he flew over five of our out stations in an hours time, which would have required a full day of hard driving by truck.

The plane will make it possible for us to work fourteen out stations more thoroughly and more frequently keep in touch with the schools and in holding meetings with the children. It will also make it possible for one of us to be with them every Sunday morning in the services, and furthermore, we shall now be able to open new work in new areas. But as far as transportation of necessary equipment is concerned, the plane will not solve this problem.

Mrs. Josephine Stevens

Note: Mrs. Harold Stevens is a Free Will Baptist working with her husband under the South Africa General Mission. She is being supported through the F.W.B. Foreign Mission Board by the French Broad Association of North Carolina. She is expected home for furlough in December. Remember them in prayer.

Rev. Raymond Riggs

**FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE
YOUTH CAMP TREASURER**

(September 1, 1952-August 31, 1953)

Brought forward\$ 66.04
 Received:
 Southeast Missouri ...\$120.65
 Indian Creek 144.20
 Liberty Association ... 8.49
 Northeast 4.00
 Mission 12.45
 Co-Operative Fund 584.55
 Sub total 874.34

Special Offerings:
 Church of God\$125.00
 For plastic plates 33.81
 On new chapel 932.00
 Offering & cold drinks 353.83
 From campers1,123.89
 Total special offerings 2,568.53
 Total Receipts\$3,508.91

Expenditures:
 Caretaker\$612.50
 Cummins Grocery 480.20
 Cold drink stand 237.28
 Miscellaneous 657.76
 Camp session 570.21
 New chapel 834.11
 Total expenditures \$3,392.06
 Balance in treasury 8-1-53 ...\$ 116.85

(September 1 to December 15, 1953)

Brought forward\$116.85
 Received:
 State Treasurer\$350.00
 (to pay debts)
 Co-Operative Fund 187.95
 Cave Springs 3.72
 Southeast Missouri 5.64
 Indian Creek 11.65
 Sub total 558.96
 Total Receipts\$675.81

Expenditures:
 Caretaker\$ 50.00
 Labor on Chapel 28.50
 Stigman Lumber Co. ... 406.68
 Webster Electric 25.00
 Christmas Cards and
 Postage 6.40
 Tune, repair piano 23.00
 Total expenditures .. 539.58
 Balance in treasury 12-15-53 ...\$136.23

This is the report coming up to date from September 1, 1952 through December 15, 1953. A man has checked

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES

Beautiful Baptismal Certificates, 10 1/2 x 5 1/4 inches. On beautifully lithographed border forms, and suitable for framing. Every Church needs these for a record.

These certificates are in books of 20 and stubbed, check book style. Price, Post Paid \$1.00

my books, using an adding machine. The books are open. If there is a question we would go glad to answer it. I have recently renewed the bond on the Treasurer for \$1,000.00.

Your Servant,

Rev. Wm. Reeves, Niangua, Mo.

Note: Since this report was prepared, I have received a check in the amount of \$38.00 from the State Treasurer from the Co-Operative Fund. W.R.

BEAUTIFUL FEET

How many children know what the Bible says about "beautiful feet?" Well, here it is, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings." Would you like to have been one of those messengers of gladness? Read this, and you will see that you can be one now.

I visited a good old lady who was bedfast many years. All she saw of our beautiful world was through her small room window. A little schoolgirl neighbor came in with a smile and a flower to visit the weary old woman, whose face brightened as she saw the child. "I love her for thinking of me in my old age. She comes often, and is a little messenger of light and cheer to me," she said.

Then I called on a feeble old man living in his little room with his books. His eyes were dim, and he could hear but little. As we sat talking together, the sun dipping toward the horizon, a dozen school children, with dinner pails, drifted through the yard on their way home from school. As the children passed near the window, they waved their hands at the good man. That has lingered in my mind a picture of beauty ever since. "They often do it," he said to me; "it is their beautiful way of cheering a lonely old man."

Children, there are many ways that

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you can find for being kind and helpful and cheering those around you if you look for the opportunity. Even with your household pets you should always be kind, feed them well and house them in cold or bad weather. God watches over the sparrow and He is concerned for all His creatures as well as all His people.

By T. Richardson Gray

YOUNG PEOPLE ELECT

Members of the League of the Free Will Baptist Church in Monett, Missouri conducted an election of officers at their regular meeting on December 27, 1953 at the church. These officers were installed to serve for the next six months. They are: President, Charles Tennison; vice pres. Wesley Thomas; secretary, Mary Johnson; group captain, Helen Johnson; quiz leader, Nancy Alexander; song leader, Rosalee McCully; pianist, Carol Hill, and reporter, Lewis Eugene Campbell.

The League is proving an interesting and important auxiliary of the church. Two of our members have acknowledged calls to the special duty of preaching the Gospel, and both have brought messages to the church.

QUARTERLY MEETING

We learn that the regular meeting of the Liberty Quarterly Meeting will be at the Amity Church near Niangua, Missouri on Thursday before the Fifth Sunday, or January 21. We urge all clerks to keep us informed of dates of meetings and to follow through with a report of the conventions.

Even if you are on the right track you will get run over if you just sit there. . . . —Rays of Sunshine

MUST SECURE LARGER PLACE TO WORSHIP

Farmington, Missouri

Greetings in Christ's Name:

Here we are reporting from our little Mission at Farmington. We are not setting the world on fire, but a steady growth is continuing in every Sunday service. Our prayer meeting or mid-week service is something wonderful: only those present know the wonderful presence of God and His blessings in these services. Each time we meet the Holy Spirit certainly hovers in our presence. Such power I have never before experienced.

Well, would you join us in prayer? Our building is too small. It is only 14x32, and we have 36 in Sunday School. Yes, we are crowded, so join our prayer for larger quarters. We here at Farmington are asking just how many out over the state are concerned enough about us here at the Mission that you would send us some financial support. Are we Home Mission minded? Would you help us? Oh, how we need help. Yes, it is a far greater undertaking than we expected, yet we are today more determined than ever before to see this work finished.

On Monday night, December 23 we had our Christmas party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Grindstaff. A good number was present, carols were sung and special music enjoyed. Three accordians and two guitars were used to accompany the very Spiritual singing, during which there was some of God's wonderful word read and a short message, anointed of God, was brought by our good Sunday School superintendent Rev. George Hibbets.

Our Adult leader is a Saint of God who was born in Roumania in the old country. He tells us that the doctrine we preach and teach is also taught over there. What a blessing he is to us all.

Beginning January 3, we will have a radio program of our mission, Talent Time, 8:15 to 8:45 each Sunday morning. You that are in hearing distance please tune in KREI, 800 on the dial. If you have an announcement of any nature concerning your church program, we will be happy to announce it for you: just send your announcement to us.

God has wonderfully blessed us at the Mission with talent. Our young

folk, nearly all of them, have some sort of special talent. Join us in praise to His wonderful name.

In closing, please pray for us. Send us an offering if you will. Visit us when you can. Our Mission is at 109 East Harrison Street.

Humbly yours,

Rev. Chas. H. Moyers
402 Patterson Street

BIBLE COLLEGE EXTENSION SCHOOL HELD IN ALABAMA

The first Extension School ever to be held by the Extension Department of the Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee, was held in the Educational Building of the Alabama Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Eldridge, Alabama from November 16 1953 through November 27, 1953.

A good number of students attended the classes, among which were some ministers, Sunday school teachers and various other Christian workers.

The two subjects taught in this school were of the same caliber of those taught in the College in Nashville. Some of the same text books were used that are used there and classes were held the same amount of time that is required by the college to receive one semester hour for your work, thus giving those of us who completed the courses two semester college hours.

The subjects taught were "Bible Doctrine" and "The Sunday School and Its Importance as an Auxiliary of the Church." I know, from having attended, that a course in either of these subjects would be beneficial to every person.

Our most capable instructor was Rev. LeRoy Forlines, a graduate of, and now a member of the faculty of the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville.

We of Alabama, and especially those of us who were privileged to attend the school, consider it an honor to have had this school, it being the first of its kind, held in our state.

If you ever have an opportunity to attend any of these schools, may I urge you to make the best of that opportunity by attending everyone of them that you possibly can.

Louise Lambert, Reporter
Jasper, Alabama

YOU SEE GOD, IT'S LIKE THIS

We could attend church more faithfully 'if' your day just came at some other time. You have chosen a day that comes at the end of a hard week, when we are all tired out. Not only that but it is also the day following Saturday night. Saturday night is the one time when we feel we should enjoy ourselves. So we go to the movies or to a party, and often it is after midnight when we reach home. It is almost impossible to get up on Sunday morning. You have chosen the very day we want to sleep late. In fact, the children are often late for Sunday School because it is difficult for us to get up early enough. It is usually after 10:00 o'clock before the dishes are done. Then it is time to think about Sunday dinner, not to mention the Sunday paper. I mean no disrespect and do not claim that our judgment equals yours, but you do realize you have picked out the very day on which the morning paper takes the longest to read thoroughly, and also the day on which we have the biggest dinner of the week. Not only that, but you have fixed the hour for church service at the very time when we must be preparing dinner.

Then too, we must think of John. He is cooped up in an office all the week and Sunday morning is the only time he has to tinker with his car. There is no time in the whole week that is quite as good as Sunday morning for cleaning the car or for doing odd jobs around the house. When John gets into his old clothes and gets his hands greasy, you can hardly expect him to think of going to church. If you did not want him to tinker with the car, you should not have let him have one. Then there are the leaves that have to be raked into piles and burned, and nearly every one does that on Sunday morning during church hour.

I'm telling you these things because I want you to see our viewpoint, and that it is not our fault that we are not able to get to church on Sunday morning. We should like to go, and we know that we should go, but it must be clear that the real reason we cannot go is that you have chosen the wrong day. If you will select any other day than Sunday, we shall be glad to give it further consideration.

—Selected