

Thora Grider
Star Route
Greenfield, Missouri

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The Free Will Baptist Gem

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The World's Bible

Christ has no hands but our hands to do His work today;
He has no feet but our feet to lead men in His way;
He has no tongues but our tongues to tell men how He died;
He has no help but our help to bring them to His side.

We are the only BBibles the careless world will read;
We are the sinner's Gospel, we are the scoffer's creed;
We are the Lord's last message, given in deed and word;
What if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?

What if our hands are busy with other work than His?
What if our feet are walking where sin allurements is?
What if our tongues are speaking of things His lips would
spurn?

How can we hope to help Him and hasten His return?

—Annie Johnson Flint

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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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EDITOR AND MANAGER
REV. LLOYD T. JEFFREYS

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**THE MASTER GARDENER
OF GALILEE**

Mrs. John Ferguson - Louisa, Ky.

The Master Gardener of Galilee
Works with more than seed and soil.
He reclaims men's wasted lives
By endless loving toil.

He lifts the warped and stunted soul
From bogs of gloomy despair;
Transplanting them into fields of love
And tends them with patient care.

He enters the jungle of careless minds
Where brambles grow in disarray;
Removing the thorns of envy and strife
And the useless weeds that bring decay.

He gently stirs the arid soil
In hearts all hardened by sin;
Searching for the seed of life
Buried so deep within.

He frees the tangled vine of thought
From hate, indifference and doubts;
Grafting in new buds of faith
That live and grow to healthy sprouts.

Gently He touches bud or seed
With the desire for life anew
Helping them grow in spiritual grace,
With showers of love as sunshine and dew.

The Master Gardener of Galilee
Works with more than seed and sod.
He redeems men's dying souls
By leading them back to God.

Knowing this there shall come
in the last days scoffers, walking after
their own lusts.—II Peter 3:3.

**MRS. EDITH PHENICIE
WRITES FROM CUBA**

Apartado 27
Pinar del Rio, Cuba

Dear Brother Riggs:

We received your letter and check.
Thank you so much.

You asked about the money we re-
ceive direct. Everything that has come
direct has gone to the boys to meet
their expenses. Some months it has
been enough to cover the \$130.00, other
months we have had to send them
extra. Our allowance here is just what
you send us from Bible Center. We
are thankful for the way the Lord has
made it possible for the boys to be in
school, and for that which has been
given for us here.

I had the privilege of giving the
Christmas lesson in one of our new
fields. There were over 60 present and
ther was a real hunger for the Word.
We had to go over a terrible road—the
car broke down and we got stuck in
the mud—but it was certainly worth
the effort. We have been able lately
to get into some of the "out of the
way" fields with the accordian which
always pleases the people.

May the Lord richly bless you and
provide for your every need as you
make this trip to India. We will be
praying for you.

Sincerely in His Service,

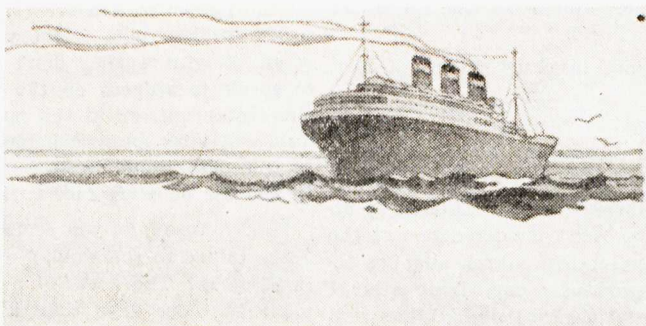
Edith Phenicie

Note: The Phenicies' have twin boys
in high school in Tocca Falls, Georgia.
Many times missionaries are separated
from children, all for the glory of God
and the salvation of souls. We are
grateful for these wonderful people
and to have them on our missionary
staff. Remember them in prayer.

Rev. Raymond Riggs

**CALVARYS RE-APPLY
FOR VISA TO INDIA**

We have received word that Rev.
and Mrs. Wesley Calvary have again
applied for entry permits to India.
Their request for visa was previously
rejected in line with a policy in India
to no longer admit persons for work
as missionaries alone. Let us pray that
these restrictions be amended and that
our missionaries can answer the call
to service in that needy field.



REQUIREMENTS OF A MISSIONARY

Education, good health, practical experience are all essential. A missionary must not have only a good education and good health but must also possess executive ability and force of character, steadiness of purpose, and common sense—practical down to the Nth degree. And the ability to work with others is a most necessary qualification. These things are not only important but are a *must!* But let us take a look at the other side.

What I believe to be the most essential thing, the *PRIME QUALIFICATION* for a missionary is maintaining a Spirit-filled life. We can have all the other required qualifications and if we are not up to the mark spiritually, we will be useless and a failure out on the mission field. Of course, anyone who has surrendered himself to God for missionary service is living close to the Lord. *But* are you sure *Self* is really and fully crucified with Christ—so crucified that he will not raise his ugly head out here and cause you and others indescribable trouble and grief? And if self is put down, what about your Bible Study and Prayer Life? Maintaining a consistent Bible study and prayer life are the two essentials to always having right relationship between yourself and God. This is most important and it can be pretty difficult to maintain sometimes—what with the unending demands, your work and language study. Many times you will feel too weary to get up for that quiet time ere the day begins and all the noises of the mission field incessantly ringing in your ears! But up you must get if you want your life to count for God and lost souls.

All of us pray but how many of us know anything about prevailing prayer

accompanied by child like faith? Not just a little time spent in prayer, but a great deal of time. Are we willing to spend a great deal of time waiting upon God and do we really pray or do our minds wander to and fro? Can we pray on and believe on in the face of great discouragements and trials and difficulties? Do we believe in the dark what God promised us in the light? Can we sing in the night time as well as in the day? If we can, then we will be able to weather any storm! Do all types of storms only drive us to our knees and to such a helpless dependence upon Him that we will joy in the face of every storm? Can we just keep on keeping on and praying just a little harder when adversity sets in? Can we indeed persevere and look—without faltering—unto God? If so, we will be spiritual giants for God wherever He places us, and mighty in prayer. The secret of power is *prayer*.

Another thing we should be certain of before we ever set sail from our homeland is that there is no unfessed sin lurking in our hearts, known or unknown. It will hamper and hinder us if there is. If we ask God to reveal sin to us, the searchlight of the Holy Spirit will fall upon us and show us anything that needs to be taken care of. Then we shall be on speaking and praying terms with God and we can ask anything in the name of Jesus and receive.

The foregoing is my impression of the prime qualifications of a missionary. I write out of my experience of two and a half years on the mission field. We must know God and His Word and how to wait upon Him with all our desire before Him, calling unto Him until He rends the heavens and comes down. And I emphasize that we must be sure that we have followed Proverbs 28:13. If we have, we possess

God and His mighty Spirit and we need nothing more to enable us to accomplish the task He has called us unto. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zech. 4:6.

Yours because of Calvary,
Volena Wilson

THE HEART'S GARDEN

*The heart is a garden
Where thought flowers grow;
The thoughts that we think
Are seeds that we sow.*

*Every kind, loving thought
Bears a kind, loving deed;
While a thought that is selfish
Is just like a weed.*

*We must watch what we think,
Each minute, all day;
And pull out the weed thoughts
And throw them away;*

*And plant loving seed thoughts
So thick in a row
That there will not be room
For weed thoughts to grow.*

Contributed by Mae Heide, Patton, Mo.

STATE TREASURER CHANGES

Since we have accepted the call for work outside the State of Missouri, and inasmuch as the State Executive Board has accepted my resignation as State Clerk-Treasurer, and have examined and found my record books in order and correct, I take this means of expressing my appreciation to the people of Missouri State Association for the honor they have bestowed upon me by allowing me to serve them and the Lord in this capacity.

I feel it an honor to have served my church in this official position and trust that God shall continue to bless our State work through the support of its people.

Please accept my sincere appreciation for the co-operation of both the churches and individuals from whom I have received correspondence and offerings.

As of now all offerings and correspondence concerning the office of Clerk-Treasurer should be sent to the new Clerk-Treasurer appointed by the State Executive Board, whose address is: Mrs. Lorene Williford, Rural Route, Freeman, Missouri.

WASHED OR WHITEWASHED

Mrs. John Ferguson-Louisa, Ky.

Remember when grandmother told you to scrub the greasy black spots from the smoke house walls and then put on a new coat of whitewash? You didn't like the job of scrubbing those spots with cold water and lye, so you left that undone and brushed on the whitewash instead. Remember how in a few days the whitewash began to peel and flake off and how the stuff would rub off on you if you brushed against the walls at those spots? Even if you used good paint those spots would show through in a short time.

I think we have some church members like that. They have been whitewashed instead of washed.

On the bus one day I overheard two women discussing a revival that was being held in the small town where I lived.

"I just can't understand," said Mrs. Johnson, "what is wrong with the sinners in our town. They'll come to church the first night or two, then go home and many never return. We have the hardest bunch of sinners to touch that I ever saw."

"I can't understand either," replied Mrs. Jones. "Brother Adams is a wonderful preacher and so many people in our town really need salvation."

Both were silent as the bus stopped to take on another passenger.

"Good morning!" Mrs. Jones spoke as the red headed woman hesitated at a vacant seat near the women. "Nice morning, isn't it Mae?" she smiled.

The woman spoke and smiled at Mrs. Jones, but passed on by and took a seat farther back in the bus.

Mrs. Johnson looked reprovingly at her friend and sat with tight closed lips until the red headed woman had alighted at the next bus stop, then turning she spoke.

"I'm surprised at you Nancy, speaking to Mae Roberts like that. You know how she's living openly in sin."

"Yes," said Mrs. Jones, "I know that the man she is living with is not her husband, but I went to school with Mac. She was a good girl then and we were friends. Tell me just how is it going to hurt me if I speak to her now whenever I meet her?"

"Well," Mrs. Johnson tossed her

head, "I certainly wouldn't speak to such a rank sinner as she, anywhere except in church."

"Why just in church?" asked Mrs. Jones.

"Because," returned Mrs. Johnson, "it is our Christian duty to speak to every one that comes to church."

I was shocked at Mrs. Johnson's attitude. She was considered one of the main props of our church and her remarks stayed with me. Long after I had gone to bed that night I was still turning them over in my mind. I wondered why our little church did not seem to grow and why the sinners here were so hard to reach. Were there other Mrs. Johnsons in our church? Yes, I decided, and there were Mr. Johnsons also. And I recalled an incident from the past.

In a small coal mining town we were keeping boarders. We had a bunch of very nice boys staying with us, some Christians and some sinners. A preacher came there and wanted to board with us but when he found that some of the other boys were sinners he left. He said that he could not afford to sleep under the same roof with sinners or sit at the table with them.

We have no record of Jesus sleeping under the same roof with sinners, but we do know that he ate with them. We do have a record of some of the disciples spending the night under the same roof with sinners even though it was in jails, and we have records that wherever they spent their time, day or night, they left Christians behind them instead of sinners. They were not afraid to speak to sinners outside of the church. They had been washed clean of their own sins and were not afraid of being smirched by the sins of others while obeying the Master when He said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel..." All the world means all around you as well as in foreign countries. The man next door, the couple down the street, how are you going to win them for Christ if you speak to them only when they are in church? They may never come to your church, then what? It's your job as a follower of Christ to take the gospel to them. Often a friendly smile and a handshake or a kind word or deed will do far more to bring a sinner to Christ than a long sermon. These things make him realize that you care what becomes of him.

Many a sinner has been converted at

his own fireside because his neighbor or the pastor paid a friendly call. If you have had your heart washed instead of whitewashed don't be afraid to speak to sinners on the street, at the restaurant, or in the bus station. You will miss many a happy moment if you pass them by with your nose in the air or your face turned aside.

Mrs. Johnson, do you remember how Jesus talked to the woman at the well in Samaria? There was no more public place in those days than a well, for one well often furnished water for the entire village, yet Jesus stopped and talked to the woman there. Remember how he said, "Thou hast well said, I have no husband." Do you think He did not know this before He spoke to her? Then, Mrs. Johnson, do you remember how that woman went into the city and brought others to Jesus, and how she and many of those she brought were saved? Yet you refuse to speak to a woman that you knew on the bus. Why? I am afraid that you have taken the easy way and just whitewashed your soul instead of getting down to the hard work of getting it scrubbed clean. When the Lord cleans up your heart He washes it clean. There are no sin spots left to show through. And as long as we are working for Him there will be none.

If just speaking to a sinner at the table with them makes sin spots show on you, then you can be sure that those spots did not brush off on you from the sinner, they were there inside your own heart, and are just showing through the whitewash you have covered yourself with just like the greasy spots on the wall came through. The whitewash or paint only covers for a short time, then the original spots will show through.

Be sure that you have your heart and soul washed clean by the blood of Jesus, then you will never be afraid to speak to sinners wherever you meet them. And your chances for winning them for Christ will increase greatly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We wish to announce that there will be a Home Coming the Fourth Sunday in March at Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Route 1, Ashville, Alabama.

Chester O'Donnell, Clerk

SPIRITUAL DETERIORATION

Mrs. John Grider - Greenfield, Mo.

—o—

HE THAT killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations. Isaiah 66:3.

What an astounding statement to come from God, who had ordained that the avenue of approach between Himself and His people should be by the sacrifice of blood from the firstlings of their flocks and herds! Now He says that to kill an ox is as much in His disfavor as to kill a man, which to do in that day meant to pay with one's own life according to the Law in Ex. 21:12. He says, too, that for one to sacrifice a lamb is as if he cut off a dog's neck, the inference being to the Law in Deut. 23:18, stating that to bring the price of a dog to the house of the Lord would be an abomination. To say that for one to offer an oblation was as if he was offering swine's blood was putting that act on the lowest level, as the swine was an unclean thing to the Israelite (Lev. 11:7). The visitation of God's wrath was promised to the third and fourth generation for idolatry (Ex. 20:4,5), so the burning of incense was of no particular consequence we would conclude. Of what importance is all this?

God has never delighted in the sacrificial offering as such, except as it is offered from an inward compulsion for service and love to God. In Isaiah 1:11 He asked the question, "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? ...I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats." In Isaiah 66:2 He says, "For all those things hath my hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word."

In consideration of conditions in the religious realms in that day I think we find an increasing condition of spiritual deterioration. By studying

the movement of the Israelite nation, from the time of its inception, with God's promise to Abraham, to its culmination as "the Church in the world" at the cross, it became increasingly zealous in its activity, yet decreased in true religious fervor. The deep devotion, and strict adherence to divine worship, which characterized the life of the early Israelite nation, as it began its pilgrimage, gradually became infiltrated with an element of unholliness, and increasingly so as they journeyed along, until sin had permeated every phase of their activity. Israel journeyed far, indeed, from the time it began its movements by setting up altars and making the worship to God foremost, to the time Christ had to rebuke those in ecclesiastical places because of their unholy, abominable practices in His Father's house.

The same spiritual application can be made relative to the activities of the "church" of our dispensation. The same implications are present in the New Testament, as were present in the "Scriptures." God's denouncement is just as emphatic against sin. The blood of multitudes of animals could no more atone for the sins of a rebellious and disobedient people in that day than can the blood of Christ of God atone for sin in this day—unless it is individually appropriated by faith to the heart.

Sin has wrought in the visible church of our dispensation an exact replica of its activities in the spiritual body of the preceding dispensation. The indomitable spirit and unswerving devotion which characterized the early church has been weakened by the recurring onslaughts of sin until the fortitude and integrity of the church has given way to a gradual deterioration of its moral and spiritual fiber. The visible church has come a long way, indeed, since the days of the early fathers, who suffered themselves to have their feet put in stocks, their heads cut off, be stoned to death, brought before the council, banished to remote isles, and all manner of punishment for their defence of the Gospel, rather than retract from the purpose for which their lives had been committed, to the present day with its too social program in many instances.

There is no lack of outward expres-

sion of worship, and the fact that the rituals and practices of the church are adhered to with as much, or more, zeal than ever before is irrefutable. Yet in view of the irresponsible, indifferent attitude of the church, we are reminded of the words of Christ, "for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." Matt. 23:27. There are many signs of "the removing of the old landmarks." Among them are: desecration of the Lord's day; lack of consecration in the matters of giving and doing; substituting a social program for a soul-searching program; and lack of separation from the world in everyday living.

God's day is too often desecrated by work, or activities of pleasure to the extent that God is given a secondary place. Churches which once were illuminated with a sacred, holy atmosphere by testimony, prayer, and waiting before God have become to a large degree, places of social fellowship rather than soul saving stations. Where once Christ was held up to be all-sufficient for young and old, and those of all ages received great spiritual experiences, Satan has so squealed the fullness of God that multitudes are not finding the sufficiency in God that would defy all the pleasures of the world. Consequently, every cunningly devised substitute of Satan's ingenuity is being installed in the church to satisfy the soul, which only leads to more spiritual chaos. We are told, "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness." Isa. 55:2. In Paul's letter to the Romans (11:33), he says, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" There is no sufficiency except in God, yet man seeks constantly after pleasures of the world to satisfy the longing of his heart to his own destruction. We would do well to heed the warning of Jude 5, "I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not."



From The Editor's Desk



"THE PRICE IS TOO HIGH"

In recent years, one of the biggest problems and of very great concern to promoters of religious publications, has been the vise-like pressure created on the one hand by ever rising costs of materials and production, and to "hold the line" in prices charged for the finished product on the other hand. This pressure has been tremendous. Countless publication have ceased operations due to this problem and more are sick unto death with the disease. Some continue to struggle on constantly seeking a workable level at the price end, and a few have dared to move up their prices as wisdom and fairness demand. Either of these last two courses has repeatedly brought complaints and severe criticism. To these complaints we must listen carefully and weigh them even more carefully. When the weighing is done, the answer is generally surprising—to the protestor. One of our brother editors, beset with our common problem, summarized it in the following manner and under the above caption.

"For the last twelve years now I have been a minister in the faith. Long before I became a minister I became a reader of the From the time I became a reader of the paper until this day I have been outspoken in its behalf, trying to get subs, trying to get people to read it. And ever since that day I began trying to get subs for the paper, I have heard this stock objection. I heard it when the paper was one dollar and fifty cents per year. I heard it when the paper went to two dollars per year. I heard it when the paper went to three dollars per year. It has always been the best excuse that many people could dig up.

"But I have seen those same people who said the paper was too high driving new automobiles for which they paid too much—and they boasted about how much they paid. I have seen them wear clothing that they frankly said cost too much—and said it with pride. I have seen them drink soda pop, smoke cigarettes, eat candy bars, and plaster on the cosmetics, and go to the movies—enough in three months to pay for

the for a year. I have walked into their homes and found the county paper that tells all about the accidents, murders, gossips and what have you spread all over the place. I have seen their tables loaded with monthly magazines about farming, homemaking, romance and adventure—all of which cost almost as much as the I have seen in some of these homes a never missed daily paper that costs a terrific sum of money when compared with the, but they bought them just the same.

"There are possible exceptions, I am sure of that. There are people who from one reason or another cannot afford the paper. But as long as a man can drive a car when and where he wants, as long as he can drink soda pop, eat candy bars and consume cigarettes; as long as his wife can powder and paint; as long as they can have secular magazines and papers—just that long I know they are both insincere and unjust when they say, "The paper is too high." I know that they buy what they want and they just don't want a religious paper."

The plight of our brother editor and his observations are so similar to our own that it was comforting to us, and I hope revealing to you.

Help put the Gem over—in your own church, Sunday School, League, and Auxiliary.

Are We Slipping?

With many years of outstanding accomplishments as our record in Missouri, we are falling behind this year in the financial department. With the year nearly two-thirds gone (62.5%) as of the first of February, we have contributed to Foreign Missions a total of \$4,195.70, or 46.6% of our suggested quota. This leaves but 4½ months as of then, to raise the other 53.4%. In looking around for the cause, we do not come up with any clear cut reason for this deficiency, nor do we make any indictments. To be sure Missouri has suffered badly by the ravages of a two year drought. However, this condition also prevails in Arkansas and they have caught the vision of the needs for missions and are already over the top on their assignment, with

a good chance of doubling their quota. Missouri is composed of a very high percentage of rural population. And it is not idle words that farm income is down. But again, so is it in the State of Arkansas. And as we examine other possible reasons, we run into the same situations elsewhere that do not seem to hinder the progress of the program. Likewise, we are at a loss to explain the failure to meet quotas to Home Missions, or to the Bible College, or in any other department. We do know that drought and lower farm income, and several other factors have contributed to lower giving, but surely it isn't cause to fall so much behind. We trust that greater emphasis and more effort will be put forth to meet these needs before the year shall come to a close in the middle of June.

If You Were Editor

Sometimes the editor feels sure that some might entertain something near resentment toward any editor, because the editor is in the peculiar position to write of his convictions on any subject, whereas the reader generally feels that he has little or no recourse. Also, we recognize that many readers may differ in opinion on some ideas.

Now, we have not tried to take advantage of our position to force you to receive something against your will. (We have tried hard to know the will of God in those things we have set forth.) Neither have we learned of any serious objections to ideas and policies here-to-fore expressed. And we are not now inviting debate. However, we frequently sit on the sidelines of an event or issue and state with all boldness, "If I were him, I would do thus and so." Sometimes such advice is less than worthless, for it comes with haste and is without sound reasoning. But many times it would well be heeded as a right solution or a better course than that actually taken.

We have always solicited your suggestions, opinions, criticisms, and your help in every way. We have been very sincere in this. A few have been good enough to speak their convictions. But the larger percentage of our readers remain silent and we never know what they want or don't want, what they

like or don't like, what has helped or hurt, what observations they have to offer—that if revealed—could be incorporated into a better service to you, the reader.

So again, we solicit your help. Consider "If you were Editor," what would you do? What are your ideas, what would be your policies, your course of action? It would thrill your editor to receive a flood of mail in response to this idea, and would prove of great value I am sure. So let us hear from you, sure.

We are thankful to those who do write, and for the encouragement you are to us. But we feel a real need to hear from all who will write. Will you?

HAVE TO 'BORROW' CHURCH FOR SHELTER AT FUNERAL; CAN PURCHASE BUILDING

Gallion, Louisiana
Route 1

AND A VISION appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them. Acts 16:9,10.

Dear friends, I pray God that each one who reads this will feel led by the Holy Spirit to send us help with a straight course, for I assure you it will find us where prayer is wont to be made.

I would like to tell you what we, a little band of Free Will Baptists, are doing, and what a wonderful door the Lord has opened unto us. Yet we are almost as helpless as a new born babe. But thank God, our Lord isn't helpless. He can do any thing through those that yield themselves servants to His cause.

In August, 1953, we invited Rev. J. E. White of Warren, Arkansas, into my home to preach for us. Since then he has been preaching twice a month for us, from house to house. I won't burden you with how the old Devil has tried to hinder. Suffice it to say, again our Lord has overcome.

In the beginning some told us there was no need to try, we can't even sing.

Why should we Free Will Baptists preach FAITH if we don't practice what we preach? When this new work was conceived in our hearts, I took it to the Lord in this manner: O Lord, our God, we know wherein we are insufficient. We know that you know our infirmities. Lord we are thine, and the cause we love is thine. O! God, grant that thou will supply that which we lack.

Friends, let me tell you the answer to this request. At every service we have made Old Zion ring in song. Not one time have we been lacking in that which we thought we didn't have. For the very first service, God sent a man and his family 40 miles to be with us, that knew music as it can be learned here on earth, and that was indeed with grace to sing in the power of the Spirit. Likewise, it has been so in every service. He not only sends us singers, but He also sends us special leaders in song, men and women that can sing in Spirit and in truth. Don't you think God fathered the conception of this beginning?

In tears and rejoicing we have worshipped the Lord from house to house, feasting upon the Word which is the power of God unto salvation. Now, for the main clause in this letter—the golden gate that stands ajar for Free Will Baptists here in Mer Rouge, Louisiana: opened I am sure for a purpose, by the Lord.

As I look at this opportunity I think of Moses as he led his people through the wilderness to a new country, and so are we led to a new country when we are begotten by the Word, and have become sons and daughters of God. I think of our forefathers as they cleared the right-of-way in their respective states, as Free Will Baptists, for the cause of Christ. As I look into the Scripture, I can see our land mark from the beginning, when God created the heaven and the earth. That, and the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ, through the blood of the cross, to whosoever will, is why I want to see us a goodly number in the population of Louisiana.

There are men with families here, that refuse to hear the gospel at the mouth of Methodists, the Missionary Baptists, and others. Who knows, they might hear it at the mouth of a Free Will Baptist.

The Missionary Baptists have just moved into their new church, about two blocks from the old, which I am told, can be purchased for \$3,200.00. February 27 we had service in the home of Mr. Herb Sellers, with 35 present, four of them men that knew not God in the free pardon of sin, and three of them were married and have children. Do you suppose God looked down and saw these men and noticed their condition? Maybe He also saw others who haven't beheld their face in a glass in so long they have forgotten what manner of men they are.

Later.

Dear friends, because of death, I had to lay down my pen. We laid my brother in law to rest two days ago. Not having a church of our own, the Methodists opened their door to us. In the midst of a down pouring rain, Rev. J. E. White read the obituary and brought a consoling message fitting to the occasion, and in so doing looks like the Lord has opened wider the door of opportunity to us. They told us we could buy the old Missionary Baptist Church. I know that \$3,200 is a lot of money, but not for this lot and building. Besides I have asked the Lord for a crumb before and He gave me a loaf. When you ask for a crumb, and receive a loaf, then you more fully understand the Scripture according to James' writing. In the space of a few minutes after we learned that we could buy the building, we received the promise of \$450.00. Friends, can't you see the hand of the Lord in this work? I am sure our Home Mission Board has missed a blessing and a golden opportunity by drawing a line between them and small towns and communities. God said, "Go ye into all the world." Thank God, we are in the boundary of His jurisdiction. Friends, my love for the cause of Christ has made me so bold as to beg you, if God lays it on your heart, to send us help by a straight course, for I assure you we are where prayer is wont to be made. My address is Route 1, Gallion, Louisiana, and this is a community of a country store, a cotton gin, and a postoffice, on the Missouri Pacific Railroad, five miles from Mer Rouge, Louisiana.

Thank you all, and may God bless you.

Your Sister in Christ,

Mrs. Bertha Chappell

MIXED EMOTIONS

So THAT the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people.
Ezra 3:13.

This was a great day in Israel when the builders laid the foundation for the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem, as the remnant of the Jews were returning to Palestine under Zerubbabel by the decree of Cyrus in the year 536 B.C. There was much joy, shouting and singing praise to God as the Temple foundation was being laid. Now they could not only be established in their land, but worship in the Temple could also be restored. Just causes for rejoicing and giving praises to God, was it not?

Then why the weeping? Many of the priests, and Levites, and chief of the fathers remembered the contrast between the prosperous conditions prevailing at the time of laying the foundation of the first Temple and the desolate, reduced state of the country and the city now as the second was begun, as well as the inferior size and structure of the foundation and building that was to be built.

How like those ancient people are the children of God known as Free Will Baptists here in the State of Missouri. We are not speaking of others in other states or other denominations in this state, but of our own people and the work God has assigned us to do.

God has laid at our door certain responsibilities and in the admonition of Luke 19:13 we are to occupy (make use of) until he comes. Our mission field is the whole world. Our Bible College is a place where our young men and women may receive their training for full time Christian service in the respective field to which the Master calls them. This training is given under spiritual conditions which are highly conducive to developing them into real Spirit filled lives, trained to do the service the Master has called them to. Our church publications—The Free Will Baptist Gem, which has been a mighty factor in the hands of God in promoting and developing the various departments of the work; and the new national paper, The Contact, is serving a very useful purpose in our national work. Our

superannuated ministers, and Christian education and entertainment of our youth; in all of these we can rejoice and thank God for the interest, enthusiasm and support that is being given through prayer, the financial support through the State Co-Operative plan, and the information through our publications of the progress of this work.

On the other hand, we can well bow our heads and weep, not so much as we look back to other days, but for what our work could be today if all our people would awake and support the work. Instead of us having some 200 Prayer Pledge Cards filled and signed here in my study, we would have over 5,000 praying every day for our work. Instead of a few churches supporting the work with their offerings each month, all of the over 125 churches in the state would be tithing the income of the church to the State Co-Operative Fund and making special offerings to different parts of the work as the opportunity presents itself. Remember God said, ye have robbed me in tithes and offerings. The tithe to the State Co-Operative Fund is the basis of our financial giving; giving above that, as the Lord makes it possible, the zenith.

Then, instead of the Gem and the Contact going into only a few hundred homes, it would be going into several thousand homes in this state. There could well be three times as many copies of the Gem going into Free Will Baptist homes in the State of Missouri alone as is being mailed out each month to its readers in the various states.

Instead of our superannuated ministers receiving a \$25.00 check at Christmas time, each one would be receiving a check each month.

Our Youth Camp facilities could be improved and expanded to comfortably and adequately meet the need of our youth.

Many more missionaries could be maintained on the field, both at home and on foreign soil.

A larger and better equipped College, with many more attending each year is possible.

May we sincerely thank God for what advancement He has given us. Then humbly we should bow our heads and weep in repentance for our failures; then arise with faith, courage

and determination to possess for God the land He has offered us.

Yours for a greater work,

Rev. O. T. Allred,
Promotional Secretary

TITHING CHURCH INCOME

Niangua, Missouri

Dear Gem Readers:

Greetings in Jesus' Name. We wish to report the progress of the work at the Black Oak Church.

The church is moving along nicely, with preaching services two Sundays each month. Souls are saved during regular services, which encourages us very much. We also have singing practice on Saturday nights, with good attendance.

The ladies have organized their work into a Woman's Auxiliary now and meet every two weeks. Sister Minnie Chandler is president; Sis. Georgia McNabb, vice president, and Sis. Myrtle Swearingen, secretary-treasurer.

We also have organized a young people's League, with the following officers: Kenneth Reeves, president; Lola Fern Chandler, vice president; Sandra Clift, secretary-treasurer; and the program committee, Mrs. Layman, Jeanette Beck and Tommy Price. They conduct the League in a very interesting and efficient way, and all seem to enjoy the work very much and are learning to be better workers for the Lord's Cause.

We have a good Sunday School that averages about 30. Officers are: Sis. Minnie Chandler, superintendent; Bro. Carl Layman, assistant; Lola Fern Chandler, secretary-treasurer; teachers are: Bible Class, Bro. Ernest Clift; Young folks, Mrs. Paul Clift; Juniors, Miss Mary Johnson; Primary, Kenneth Reeves.

In all departments we are now using F.W.B. literature. In a recent business meeting it was decided to tithe our church income to help support the denominational enterprises. Also a number in our church are supporting the prayer band for the progress of our denominational work.

So we are asking your prayers that our church may grow and prosper in the cause of Christ.

Your Brother in Christ,

Rev. Wm. Reeves

SERVICES HELD IN HALL; LORD ADDS TO GROUP

Greetings from Marble Hill Free Will Baptist Church:

We would like to report that our attendance is good for all services, even under the handicap in which we worship here.

As usual, there are some who oppose and criticize us for using the American Legion Hall as a church, since it is also used for purposes other than ours. But we feel it is best to worship there and hold our group together until we can move into a place of our own again, and this is the only place available to us.

Since we have been in the Hall we have been greatly blessed of the Lord. First, we have witnessed the conversion of four souls. Then five persons have united in fellowship here with us. And there is conviction in every service, so our prayer is that these souls may be won for Christ, too.

Yes, God is meeting with us, and we give Him all praise for whatever is accomplished, for without Him we can do nothing.

There is fine co-operation from our young people. They render special numbers, lead in prayer and testimony services, and some are raising funds for our building program, which is being sponsored by Mrs. Wm. D. McFarland. Of course, our good pastor has his own plan to use in raising funds. So we hope to build again very soon. Also several donations have come in from other churches and personal gifts.

Our attendance has fallen down during January, but we hope to bring it up with warmer weather and a building of our own in which to worship and serve the Lord.

Remember us in your prayers.

The Financial Report

Our thanks in appreciation goes out to our many friends along with this report of donations sent to us on our building program. We cannot thank God enough for each one who has given, for mere words just cannot express our feelings. We thought you would like to know how our fund is at this time.

On December 27, 1953, the day our church was destroyed by fire, a man—stranger to us—was in town and upon hearing of our fire, said that he didn't

have much but wanted to give something. So this man, Eugene Hudson of Decatur, Illinois, gave \$1.00 to a business man with instructions for him to give it to our people on a new church building, and at once our fund was begun. The Lord blessed that man's dollar until today the fund is as follows:

Eugene Hudson, Decatur, Ill. . . . \$	1.00
Bollinger Co. Singing Conv. . . .	43.50
Hahas Construction Company . .	15.00
Troy McCutcheon, Marquand . .	100.00
Leo Garner, Chaffee	34.60
Mertie Cruse, Fredericktown . .	5.00
Farmington F.W.B. Mission . . .	23.00
Madison Co. S.S. Convention . .	50.00
Mill Creek F.W.B. Church	25.78
Mine LaMotte F.W.B. Church . .	26.50
Lindell James, Marble Hill . . .	5.00
Copper Mines F.W.B. Church . .	42.23
Twin Oak F.W.B. Church	23.25
Old Bethel F.W.B. Church	21.50
Mr. Charley Steven	20.40
Cliff Morrison	25.00
Union Light F.W.B. Church . . .	120.00
Richwoods F.W.B. Church	21.00
Fredericktown F.W.B. Church . .	60.10

Our Youth:

Dorothy McFarland, Cape Gir. . .	30.00
Ronald McFarland, Cape Gir. . .	12.00
Gracie McFarland, Cape Gir. . . .	9.00
Janet Jackson, Marble Hill	9.00
Reva Sheppard, Fredericktown . .	8.00
Johnnie Smith, Lutesville	3.60
Mary Lou Crader, Marble Hill . .	2.00
Olivette Jackson, Marble Hill . .	2.20
Rosemary Kemp, Fredericktown . .	3.70

Total amount of gifts . . . \$742.36

We appreciate your way of expressing your love for the Lord, and God loves a cheerful giver. Our prayer is that you may receive many rich blessings in return. We, as a F.W.B. Church, humbly bow our hearts before God in praise and thanksgiving.

Pastor, Rev. Cecil Sheppard
Clerk, Basil Smith
Reporter, Madeline McFarland

WANTS GEM FOR FRIEND

Cameron, Oklahoma

The Free Will Baptist Gem:

I am so proud of the Gem, for it is so much comfort to my lonely soul. We are old and can't go to church any more. We like the good letters from our good sisters and brothers in Christ. Oh, if there were more good letters it would be so much better.

When I must stay at home, and I view over the country and see so much of Decatur, Illinois, gave \$1.00 to a work to do for my Lord, I just say, "Lord, send someone in my place and help me to still let my Christian light shine out, and help me to be able to help hold up the weak ones."

I have a very close friend that has written me—a young mother that has joined a church, but can't seem to be satisfied. She asked things that I hardly know how to answer. She said that they didn't have an altar for prayer and didn't testify. She is just a Free Will Baptist in belief.

Please, if you have any will you send this lady a copy of the February Gem? It has some of her questions answered in the subject "The Human Heart;" also in the "Unseen Realities." And there are a lot of other good things in it. Also the January Gem. (We were very glad to send these issues to the person requested.)

God bless the many Gem readers.

Mrs. Esper Easton

TRI-STATE MEETING

The Tri-State Free Will Baptist Fifth Sunday Meeting was conducted at the Mt. Olive Church, January 31, 1954. The introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. Jerald Herd: Scripture, Luke 15:4-10.

A basket dinner was served at the noon hour.

The afternoon session was opened by Rev. Orville Johnston calling for a congregational song, followed by a message from Rev. Keck: Scripture, Genesis 1 and John 1. Song, "He Set Me Free." Message by Rev. Orville Johnston: Scripture, James 2:20. Song, "A Mansion Over the Hilltop," and "He Bore it All." Message by Rev. Jerald Herd: Scripture, Daniel 12:1,2. Song, "The Upper Window." Message by Rev. Noman Green: Scripture, II Peter 1:5. Congregational song, "What A Friend We Have in Jesus." Song, "I'll Be Your Comfort." Message by Rev. W. K. Weston: Scripture, Genesis 14 and Daniel 2:34,35. Song, "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Lord, Build Me A Cabin."

The next meeting will be at Granby, Missouri. Rev. W. K. Weston will bring the introductory message; Rev. Noman Green is alternate.

Hubert Green, Seneca, Missouri



THE MISSOURI STATE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Advancing With Christ

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



WANDA EDWARDS FUND

Dear Gem Readers:

As you all know, we have started a special Wanda Edwards Fund. The following is a report of the money received thus far. If your church or Auxiliary would like to send an offering, please make a check or money order to: Missouri State Woman's Auxiliary, or to Norma Kennedy. And let us also remember Wanda with our prayers.

Offering at State Association ..\$	78.70
Farmington Mission	10.00
Niangua Woman's Auxiliary ...	5.00
Rock Chapel Ladies' Aid	20.75
Leadington GTA	1.19
Leadington YPA	10.00
Total	\$125.65

Mrs. Norma Kennedy
915 Pardella
LeMay 23, Missouri

Missouri Woman's Auxiliary Sec-Treas.

PRAY FOR COMING REVIVAL

Fellowship Auxiliary
Flat River, Missouri

Greetings in the name of our Lord, to our many friends in Christ:

We just love to come in and say hello and God bless everyone. The Lord has been so very good to us since we last sent in our report.

The Auxiliary met at the church February 25 for our all day meeting. There were 22 members, three visitors and eight children present. The theme of our program was Prayer and Faith. Surely God did bless every heart as we studied together. We had a chain of prayers for our revival which will begin the 19th of March, with Bro. Joseph Ange, of Edgemont Church in Durham, North Carolina as evangelist. We are trusting God for a great revival.

At the noon hour a lovely dinner was enjoyed and a wonderful fellowship was had by all. The spirit of the Lord was with us throughout the entire day. We were called back in service in the afternoon by singing "I Want to Be A Worker for the Lord."

Prayer by Edith Brooks. Bible study was I Thess. 5 by Mrs. M. Hilderbrand. Dismissed in prayer.

God bless everyone is my humble prayer.

Mrs. M. Hilderbrand, reporter

AUXILIARY WORKSHOP

Southside FWB Church
3124 Mt. Pleasant
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Gem Readers:

Just a line to say the Lord is still blessing us and calling preachers from Southside. Bud Snyder answered the call to the ministry Sunday night.

February 10 was Woman's Auxiliary Workshop at Southside, with all other auxiliaries participating. I'm sure that everyone enjoyed the day. Sis. Edwards brought a wonderful message and one of the finest I ever heard from the book of Jude.

Pray for Southside that we as a church may always be in the center of God's will.

As ever, your Sis. in Christ,
Olive M. Reeds, corres.
Rev. James Franklin, pastor

HAZEL CREEK MEETS

The Hazel Creek Woman's Auxiliary met Wednesday, February 3 in Kirksville, with Mrs. Adelma Newcomer. There were nine members, one visitor, four children and two men present. The work for the day was tacking a comforter which was given to Mrs. Morton.

The devotional period opened with the song, "More Like the Master." Scripture reading, Mark 5:18-20, by the president. Prayer by Mrs. Myrtle Jones. Lesson, "His Command, My Task to Stay." Topics were given by Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Filkins, Mrs. Newcomer and Miss Thompson. Special feature, "Life's Stewardship," by Mary Filkins.

Plans were made for a baked food sale February 12. Voted for Steward-

ship Chairman to get books to study. Reports were: 743 Bible chapters, 40 sick calls, and 13 cards. The Co-Laborer Fund offering was \$1.13.

—Reporter

ANNOUNCEMENT

5516 Appleton
Kansas City, Missouri

I am asking all local Youth Chairmen to please write me at once in regard to some plans for this year's work in the Youth Department of our State Auxiliary.

Rev. Alice Dickey
State Youth Chairman

MONETT AUXILIARY MEETS

Mrs. Wallace Williams entertained members of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Monett Free Will Baptist Church at her home in their last regular meeting.

The meeting was opened by the group singing the theme song, "More Like the Master," followed with prayer by Mrs. Will Gates.

Mrs. Lyle Roller conducted the lesson from the yearbook on the subject "His Command, My Task to Stay." Mrs. Arthur Owens read the devotional from Mark 5, and topics were discussed by Mrs. Wayne Terrell, Mrs. W. L. Powell, Mrs. Will Gates, Mrs. James McCully, and Mrs. Cecil Campbell.

In the absence of the president, Mrs. Russell Weisman, Mrs. W. L. Powell, first vice president, presided during the business session. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved, and vice presidents gave their reports.

Mrs. Nolan Thomas presented a report on the quarterly meeting held last week at the Jones Chapel Church at Stella. It was announced that the next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. O. T. Allred.

Sixteen members and two visitors attended the meeting.

Might does not make right!

The - Quack Doctor



by Rev. Paul Woolsey

The "Quack Doctor" is a booklet of 80 pages recently published by the National Board of Publication and Literature. Written by Rev. Paul Woolsey, returned missionary from India, it sets forth the dual life of Rev. and Mrs. Woolsey as they were pressed into the field of serving the physical as well as the spiritual. This is not a book of statistics, but a graphic account of life on the mission field. It will hold your interest from the first paragraph to the last. You may laugh; you will cry; and you will know much more about your missionaries and their work. Every Free Will Baptist should read this. Other denominations are also finding it helpful. Order from the Free Will Baptist Gem. Single copy, 40¢; three (to same address), \$1.00; postpaid. Order now.

ONLY A MINUTE

I have only just a minute, just sixty seconds in it;
Forced upon me—can't refuse it,
Didn't seek it—didn't choose it,
I must suffer if I loose it: give account if I abuse it,
Just a tiny little minute—but eternity is in it.

A Church Bulletin

SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGE ATTENDANCES

We are starting this month to give a continuous record of average attendances over a period of months. We think it will be both interesting and helpful. Help us keep the record accurate and up to date. Make it your personal responsibility—pastors, superintendents, secretaries—to get reports to us as soon as they are determined.

We are happy to tell you that Elizabethton, Tennessee and Oilton, Oklahoma Free Will Baptist Sunday Schools each set new records for attendance the past month.

	JA	FE	MR	AP	MA	JU
Richwoods	68..					
<i>Leslie Logsdon, pastor</i>						
Hannon (Barton Co.)	48..					
<i>Conrad Williford, pastor</i>						
Copper Mines (S.E. Mo.) ..	92..	90..				
<i>Woodrow Matthews, pastor</i>						
Third St. Louis	92..	93..				
<i>James Barker, pastor</i>						
Fourth St. Louis	53..	48..				
<i>Wm. Turnbough, pastor</i>						
Salem, St. Louis	56..					
<i>Laurence Thompson, Pastor</i>						
Fredericktown	158..	172..				
League	104..					
<i>W. T. Newsome, pastor</i>						
First Ch., Springfield	135..					
<i>Henry Long, pastor</i>						
Jones Chapel, Stella	53..	54..				
<i>Winford Davis, pastor</i>						
Monett	78..	78..				
<i>Cecil Campbell, pastor</i>						
Southside, St. Louis	156..					
<i>James Franklin, pastor</i>						
Mountain Grove	176..	193..				
<i>Willard C. Day, pastor</i>						
Elizabethton, Tenn. 1st	206..	217..				
<i>Harvey E. Hill, pastor</i>						
Oilton, Oklahoma	116..	133..				
<i>Benjamin Scott, pastor</i>						
Lawnwood, Tulsa	157..	165..				
<i>H. E. Staires, pastor</i>						
Phillips Chapel, Ark.	170..	165..				
<i>Tommy Day, pastor</i>						
Mt. Pisgah, Cabool	44..					
<i>Homer Smith, pastor</i>						
First Church, Joplin	50..					
<i>Paul Williams, pastor</i>						
Parkview, Desloge	86..	90..				
<i>John Long, pastor</i>						
Berkeley First, St. Louis ..	166..					
League	76..					
<i>Don Ellis, pastor</i>						
Wolf Creek, Mansfield	42..					
<i>Charles Mansfield, pastor</i>						

CENTRAL WEST MISSOURI FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING

The Central Western Missouri Fifth Sunday Meeting met January 31, 1954 with the Independence Church near Stockton, Missouri. Rev. Lowell Martin brought the eleven o'clock message using Phil. 3:7-21 as her text.

A bountiful dinner was set before us at the noon hour. Christian fellowship was shared one with another during that time.

The afternoon program was very inspiring. Short readings and songs were given by the little folks. A heart-stirring playlet, "The Challenge of the Cross," was given by the host church.

Bro. O. T. Allred, promotional secretary, gave a report on the "Prayer Band Pledge Cards." He urged Christians to pray for the work, and then to support it financially through the State Co-Operative Fund, to subscribe to and read our church papers to keep informed of the progress of each department of the work. He also gave a report on the Youth Camp.

Because Memorial Day is on the next Fifth Sunday, the date for our next meeting was set for May 23, 1954. We are to convene with the Hickory Grove Church near Harrisonville, Missouri. Rev. Conrad Williford is to be the speaker; Rev. Lloyd Jeffreys is his alternate.

Jeanne Barton, reporter

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT UNION THIRD FORK

A large crowd gathered at the Union Third Fork Church in Northwest Missouri for the Fifth Sunday Rally in January. Four churches were represented: Union Third Fork, Mt. Zion, Philadelphia (Muddy), and Hickory Grove (Haddam, Kansas).

Sunday School was at the 10:00 o'clock hour. The morning services opened by congregational singing led by Mrs. Dorlene Thomas with Melba White at the piano. After a few numbers in song, Mary Wellbaum led in prayer. The services were turned to Rev. W. R. Rush who had been delegated as speaker for the hour. The Scripture lesson was Acts 1:1-10: text, The Forgotten Man. A wonderful message was delivered.

A bountiful dinner was served at the noon hour.

The afternoon session was opened by congregational singing. Rev. John McKown led the devotional service and a praise service. After this a program was rendered by the young folks, the teen-agers (in a sword drill), several vocal solos, and a playlet by the Mt. Zion Church. An offering was taken for missions. At the close of the program, Mary Kathryn Eichman sang, "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You 'Till We Meet Again." These Fifth Sunday Meetings are a great blessing to everyone who attends. The next meeting will be with Hickory Grove Church, Haddam, Kansas, in May—the date to be set later.

Rev. Corn is pastor of the Mt. Zion and Third Fork Churches. God is really blessing him in his services. He has gone a long way with the churches since he begun his work there in September. He and his wife are real servants of God. They have old Satan on the run.

Everyone left late in the afternoon, feeling it was good to have been there.

Sincerely, a servant of God,

Mrs. Mary Wellbaum

MISSIONS ITINERARIES

—o—

IN MISSOURI

January 10—Fellowship Church, Flat River, Missionary Rally, Rev. Rolla Smith pastor, 150 attended, 16 consecrations, \$161.00 offering, \$365 pledges. January 17—Fredericktown, Rev. Wm. T. Newsome pastor, 100 attended, 12 consecrations, \$32.36 received, \$200.00 pledged. January 21—Flat River First Church, Rev. Fred Kirby pastor, 250 attended, 26 consecrations, \$85.00 cash, \$175.00 pledged. Total: 3 services, 54 consecrations, \$278.36 received, \$740.00 pledged. This totals \$1,018.36 received and pledged in three services.

IN TENNESSEE

January 24—East Sparta Church, Rev. David England pastor, 150 attended, 15 consecrations, \$25.87 received, \$175.00 pledged. January 24—Bethel Church, Rev. Arville Lee pastor, 125 attended, six consecrations, \$65.91 received, \$110.00 pledged. January 24—Cookeville Church, Rev. Carson Whitaker pastor, 200 attended, 18 consecrations, \$52.87 cash, \$265.00 pledged.

Totals: three services, 475 attended, 39 consecrations, \$144.65 received, \$550.00 pledged. A total of \$694.65 received and pledged.

IN KENTUCKY

January 26—England Hill Church at Cattlettsburg, \$10.72 received, \$95.00 pledged. Jan. 27—Sandy City Church, \$2.00 received. Jan. 27—Louisa Church, four consecrations, \$30.00 received, and \$50.00 pledged. Jan. 28—Betsy Lane Church, 16 consecrations, \$100.00 received, \$405.00 pledged. Jan. 28—Boldman Church and S.S., \$15.00 received. Jan. 29—Dunham Church, 10 consecrations, \$72.50 cash, \$125.00 pledged. Jan. 30—Southside Church at Paintsville, 12 consecrations, \$72.00 received. Total for Kentucky, 42 consecrations, \$302.22 received, \$675.00 pledged. This is a total of \$977.22 in cash and pledges.

This was one-third of the offering, as the same amount was given to Home Missions and to the Bible College.

Amount received from Modern Jonah was \$5.00; amount received from sale of Treatise, \$4.90.

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

Tulsa, Oklahoma

3103 W. Easton Place

Report from the Lawnwood Free Will Baptist Church:

The second Quarterly Conference was held at the Lawnwood Church, February 25th and 26th. One hundred thirty one registered on Auxiliary day. Approximately 250 were present for the conference, with 21 churches represented. Rev. Ernest Kennedy was elected moderator.

Two churches were accepted into the First Mission Association: the Trinity Temple and Miami First Free Will Baptist Churches. Rev. Dale Munkus was accepted from the First Oklahoma Association. At the close of the conference, a love offering of \$55.52 was received for beds for the Children's Home.

Visitors were: Rev. Jess Stepp and Rev. Jake Gago from the Grand River Association, and Rev. Clyde Cain from Hopewell No. 2 Association.

Rev. N. R. Smith, pastor of the Bristol Church, brought the introductory message.

Rev. Harry E. Staires, pastor
Patsy Roberts, reporter

PITY THE MAN AT WHOM GOD LAUGHS

The Bible speaks often of joy and rejoicing of the saints. In I Peter 1:8, "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice, with joy unspeakable and full of glory." Has any one more right to be happy than a Saint of God? Even through darkest hours and during sadness there is a peace and joy that cannot be explained. The knowledge of sins forgiven, of our name written in the Lamb's book of life, to know that we are a Child of the King, and that all of God's wonderful promises are ours is enough to make us rejoice.

The laughter of a clean conscience of a redeemed soul is like music. God does not want a long faced, sour Christian. It is easy to laugh at the humorous things of life if your heart is right. But God says in Eccl. 3:4, "A time to weep, and a time to laugh." In Psalms 2:4 we read these words: "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision." *God laughs!* The Lord is speaking of a heathen people who took council against the Lord and His anointed. They seem to be successful and prosper financially. They may have a great following, be honored by all outward appearances, they may look as if they are right, and then openly defy God. They seem to go on their way unmolested. But God is on His throne, and is looking down upon them. He not only sees the outward works of man, but the inner thoughts also.

God, sitting on His throne, is looking down upon a people who's actions are similar to the heathen. This seems to be a time when the order of the day is "Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we may die." We wonder what has come over our civilized world, as we use to know it. Mothers living in fear when their children are out of their sight. Ghastly crimes related on every page of our newspapers. All Christians will agree that we are living in "perilous times, when men are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." There is no more sober thinking. That is old fashioned. Our churches are modern, with modern ideas. The attitude is anything for a laugh. And millions are spent to make people laugh. Sacred things are taken and are used to make a laugh. Quotations

are taken from the Bible and are used in jokes. God's name is used in irreverent songs and sung in a joking way. Nothing in life seems to be revered as we used to know it.

The Devil seems to be having a wonderful time entertaining the people, keeping men from serious thoughts, fooling them into thinking that being loyal to a good cause is all they need, that they must not think too much on religion or it might make them a fanatic. We could write a full book on sin as we see it. But God looks down on the high and low places, on a people who can give no excuse for rejecting Him. Prov. 1:24-26, "Because I have called, and ye have refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regardeth; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh."

Have you ever heard a cold, merciless laugh? Can you imagine what it will be like should you stand before God and He looks at you as a stranger and says, "Depart from me, I never knew you?" Then as you realize your eternal doom, at God's appointed time, and "I will laugh at your calamity," you must go out into eternal damnation with God's laugh ringing in your ears.

The Lord does not will that any should perish, but that all would seek eternal life. But we of our own free will, chose to reject all of God's mercies, and then will hear that merciless laugh at the day of judgment, unless we repent and make ready while there is still time. "After the pleasures of life are o'er, and we shall stand on that distant shore, careless soul, what then?"

There is another laugh—the laugh of the redeemed soul as all the earthly cares of life fall away from us as we step over into heaven. The cry of joy shall ring forth—free and home at last! As we greet Jesus, and our loved ones who have gone before us, can you imagine the joy of that meeting? Sometimes we hear friends and loved ones here who have been parted and are grieved at the separation. What a joyous, happy laugh will ring out when they greet one another. I remember as a child, hearing my father laugh as he shouted. He would throw his

head back and laugh as if he never had a care in this world. All burdens were lifted for a time and he was made to rejoice, and it was just a little taste of heaven on earth. There it will last forever and ever.

Prepare for that great day of the Lord! Will we rejoice and laugh with the redeemed, or will God laugh at our calamity? God help us to choose the right way.

Pearl Perriman, Illinois

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of our husband and father, Mr. Asberry Davis, who departed this life five years ago March 24, 1949.

Dear Daddy, we know that you have left us,

*But only your soul has gone away;
Your spirit is with us always
Until we join you some day.*

*God gave you to us,
And made us love you so,
The angels got lonesome without you,
So we know you had to go.*

Sadly missed by his wife,
Mrs. Nettie Davis and children

TO BUILD IN GEORGIA

Dear Gem Readers:

This is the first time I have had a chance to write to you since we came here in Cario, Georgia. We came here from St. Louis. We were members of Richwoods Free Will Baptist Church.

I would like to report that the Lord is really blessing us down here. Since November 1, 1953 there have been seven souls born to Christ and four others have joined the church. So you praying people everywhere pray that God will do more for us in the remainder of this year because there is a great need of a Free Will Baptist Church here.

We are just renting a building now, but we have a big lot and hope to start building in about 60 days.

We still get the Gem and enjoy it very much. Be praying for us.

Yours in Christ,

Ora Parish, clerk

Woodrow Messex, pastor

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS—*What About Drink?*

Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler; and whosoever erreth thereby is not wise.—Prov. 20:1.

What About Drinking?

Be not among winebibbers; among gluttonous eaters of flesh. For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.—Prov. 23:20-21.

About Drinking by Public Officers?

It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes to say, Where is strong drink? Lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the justice due to any that is afflicted.—Prov. 31:4-5.

What About Drunkards?

Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow? Who hath contentions? Who hath complaining? Who hath wounds without cause? Who hath redness of eyes?

They that tarry long at the wine, they that go to seek out mixed wine.

Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it sparkleth in the cup, when it goeth down smoothly.

At last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder.

Thine eyes shall behold strange things and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not hurt; they have beaten me, and I felt it not. When shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.—Prov. 23:29-35.

About "eye openers" and "night caps?"

Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that tarry late into the night till wine inflame them.—Isa. 5:11

About "Chronic Boozers" and "Tanks"

Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink; that justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him.—Isa. 5:22-23.

About "jolly good fellows" and "treating."

Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putest thy bottle to

him and maketh him drunken. (Which means voting it to him as well as handing it to him.)—Hab. 2:15.

What About Prosperity founded on Wrong?

Woe unto the crown of pride of the drunkards of Ephraim, and to the fading flower of his glorious beauty, which is on the head of the fat valley of them that are overcome with wine.

Behold the Lord hath a mighty and a strong one as a tempest of hail, as a destroying storm, as a tempest of mighty waters overflowing, will he cast down to the earth with his hand. The crown of pride of the drunkards of Ephraim shall be trodden under foot.—Isa. 28:1-3

What About Rum's Influence?

And even these reel with wine and stagger with strong drink: the priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they err in vision and they stumble in their judgment.—Isa. 28:7.

What About Rum Rules and Laws?

Wherefore hear the word of Jehovah, ye scoffers that rule the people that is in Jerusalem, your covenant with death shall be annulled and your agreement with hell shall not stand. When the overflowing scourge shall pass through, ye shall be trodden down by it.—Isaiah 28:14, 18.

What does it say About Raising Revenue from the License of Wrong?

Woe unto him that buildeth a town with blood and establisheth a city by iniquity.—Hab. 2:12.

What does it say About Our Internal Revenue System?

Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and to the writers that write perverseness; to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the poor of My people of their right; that widows may be their spoil and that they make the fatherless their prey.—Isa. 10:1-2.

What does it say About Electing Saloon Advocates to Office?

The wicked walk on every side when the vilest men are exalted. Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Psalms. 12:8.

What does it say About Legalizing the Wrong?

Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?—Psa. 94:20.

What does it say About License Money

It is not lawful to put it into the treasury, for it is the price of blood.—Matt. 27:6.

What does it say About "Tainted Money"?

Woe to him that getteth an evil gain for his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the hand of evil! Thou hast devised shame to thy house by cutting off many peoples, and hast sinned against thy soul. For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it.—Hab. 2:9-11.

What does it say About Ruining Others?

Because thou hast plundered many nations, all the remnant of the peoples shall plunder thee, because of men's blood and for the violence done to the land, to the city, and to all that dwell therein.—Hab. 2:8.

What does it say About being Our Brother's Keeper?

And he said, What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto Me from the ground.—Gen. 4:10.

We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us.—Gen. 42:21.

What is the Christian Law of Brotherhood?

It is good not to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor to do anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is weak.—Rom. 14:21.

What Bible Battle Cry Should We Adopt?

I looked and rose up; and said unto the nobles and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, who is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives and your houses.—Neh. 4:14.

What is the New Testament Attitude Toward Evil?

To this end was the Son of God manifested that he might destroy the work of the devil.—I John 3:8.

And behold now the axe also lieth

at the root of the trees. Every tree, therefore, that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.—Luke 3:9.

By their fruits ye shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles?—Matt. 7:16.

Every plant that my Heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up.—Matt. 7:19.

(This refers to brewery plants, distillery plants, saloon plants, gambling plants, and every other vice establishment that produces bad fruit. And if "cutting them down," "rooting them up," and "casting them into the fire," is not prohibition, what would be?)

A Tem-Press Tract

NEW CLERK - TREASURER

Elsewhere in this issue you will find an article explaining that due to a call to service outside the State of Missouri, the clerk-treasurer elected at last As-



Rev. Mrs. Lorene Williford

sociation, has resigned that position. Also, the Executive Board met in Monett to select a successor and to examine the records of the retiring clerk-treasurer. The editor thinks it fair to Sis. Campbell to state that the Board was highly pleased with her records and her work. We know this recognition was well earned, for we have observed Sis. Campbell's diligent attention to the office.

In a unanimous decision of the Board, Sis. Lorene Williford of Free-

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man, Missouri was selected to succeed Sis. Campbell. She has accepted this responsibility, and has already been to Monett to be oriented in the duties of the office, has received the books and all records and equipment of the office, and is now performing her new duties of clerk-treasurer of Missouri State Association.

Sis. Williford visited us while she was in Monett, and we found her very deeply impressed with the responsibilities of the office, but determined to maintain the high standard of efficiency that has here-to-fore been true of the office. Your editor is confident that she will do just that. Sis. Williford, then still Miss Lorene Bowman, spent one summer as secretary-book-keeper in this office. After that she spent two years in our Bible College, and is presently pastoring one church half time, while her husband, Rev. Conrad Williford, is a full time pastor. Both pastor in Central Western Missouri Association. Sis. Williford has been interested and active in the work of the Association for some time, and will be able to execute the duties of the office very efficiently and very conscientiously. The prescribed bond is carried by Sis. Williford.

Your offerings—for any enterprise of our denomination, on the State level or higher—should now be mailed to her, Rev. Mrs. Lorene Williford, Rural Route, Freeman, Missouri. Her name and address is carried on page two of the Gem—regularly, for your convenience.

A GOOD NAME

Young folks, choose it, don't refuse it,
'Tis a precious diadem;
Highly prize it, ne'er despise it;
You will need it when you are men.

Love and cherish, keep and nourish,
'Tis more precious far than gold;
Watch and guard it, ne'er discard it—
You will need it when you're old.

—Selected

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WHAT WE NEED

We mutter and sputter,
We fume and we spurt,
We mumble, and grumble,
Our feelings get hurt;
We can't understand things,
Our vision grows dim,
When all that we need
Is a moment with Him!

—A Church Bulletin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I have open dates for March and April for revival work, if some church should need my service.

Rev. O.T. Allred

The Liberty No. 2 Sunday School Convention will meet with the Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Route 1, Ashville Alabama, April 24-25, 1954.

Chester O'Donnell, Secretary

DO YOU ATTEND CHURCH EACH LORD'S DAY?

Sunday after Sunday, in a quiet and unspectacular manner multitudes of God's people find inspiration and hope in the house of God. Yet there are still vaster multitudes that are robbing themselves of the spiritual stamina, courage and help that they so sorely need to face the challenge of this age. Empty church pews make for empty lives. Your life will be richer for having spent time in God's house with

—Selected God's people.—A Church Bulletin.

AGING COUPLE REJOICE FOR LORD'S BLESSINGS

Bakersfield, California

Dear Editor and Gem Family:

I will now renew my Gem, for I enjoy it so much. I don't want to miss a copy. I have taken it all the years it has been published, and truly I hope I can take it all my days I live. Sometimes I really think that won't be too much longer, for my health is failing fast. I am so lame about walking.

My husband, Mr. Tom Youngblood, is in very bad health also. He has had so many strokes in the last two years, but praise God, he's still with us. The pastor, Bro. Hall, is called over to pray with me for him. But I realize the time will come when our prayers will fall for him at his age and condition. He is past 78 now. He can't talk too well, and can't very well walk without his cane and without our help. But I'm very thankful it is as well with us as it is just now, for it is by the help of our blessed Lord that we are even here now.

Praise His Holy Name!

Sis. Tom Youngblood

AN OLDER FRIEND WRITES

Ottumwa, Iowa

Dear Editor of Our Beloved Paper:

I read the obituary of Mrs. Charley Phillips in the last issue of the Gem. She was a good friend of mine. I was sorry to hear of her passing, but it is something we all have to go through. I am just waiting. I know I have many friends that reads the paper. I love you all.

If you think this worthwhile (and we certainly do) please print it. I want you all to pray for me and mine.

Mrs. Isabell Buchanan

ORGANIZED IN A GARAGE NOW HAVE OWN BUILDING

Huntsville, Arkansas

Dear Gem Readers:

Greetings in the Lord. I want to give a brief report of the Huntsville Free Will Baptist Church.

A group of us met in Bro. Noel Easterling's garage, January 19, 1952, and organized the church with 16 mem-

bers. We were given a lot and we built us a church thirty by fifty, and then built five Sunday School rooms on the back. We also built two rest rooms on the back, and it is a nice little church. We have it all paid except \$625.00. God has wonderfully blessed our efforts and has added to the church until we have a membership of 84.

We organized our Sunday School with 53. We have a wonderful interest in our Sunday School. Our average attendance in January, 1954 was 80.

We also have a good League with an average attendance of 25. We also have a good attendance in prayer meeting and Bible study.

We desire your prayers.

Eld. Cecil Garrison, pastor

CALIFORNIA CHURCH ORDAINS NEW PASTOR

Rev. Jerry Carr, of Bakersfield, California, was ordained to the Gospel ministry in the Free Will Baptist Church at Farmersville, on Saturday night, February 20. Rev. Jerry Dudley had charge of the service. Other ministers and deacons of the ordaining council were: Rev. J. N. Allen, Rev. Amos Fagan; deacons Ira Malson, Emmet Barr and Arville Nelson.

Upon ordination, Rev. Carr automatically became pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Farmersville, concluding an election agreement of some two months ago. Rev. Carr replaces Rev. Aaron Lewis, who resigned some time ago because of illness.

Ann Brown, reporter

PLAN NEW BUILDING

Elizabethton, Tennessee

Dear Bro. Jeffreys:

I certainly appreciate the Gem, for it brings to us news of interest of the denominational work in Missouri, in which I am not privileged to know since moving to Tennessee.

I am happy to report the progress of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Elizabethton. The Lord is richly blessing our work here the few months I have been their pastor. Since the first of this year there have been nine professions, eight new members added, and seven baptized. Last month (February) we had our largest average in

Sunday School since coming here as pastor. We averaged 217. Our over crowded building has made it necessary for us to elect a building fund committee to raise funds and make plans for a new educational building in the near future. Please pray for us that this may be accomplished.

Yours in His service,

Rev. Harvey E. Hill

WANTS OWN BUILDING

Rogers, Arkansas

Free Will Baptist Gem:

I have been a subscriber to the Gem ever since it has been published in Monett, and for many years before, even when it was published in Oklahoma.

My husband, the Rev. J. W. Allred, passed away in 1945. I am now past 80, and most of the time for the last two years, I have been in the home of one of my daughter, because of my failing health.

A few have banded together and are worshipping here in a rented building, but we have bought and paid for a nice lot. Now we are in need of all financial help we can get to go on with a building program. Our pastor is Rev. Amos Howard, and his good wife Eunice.

Sincerely,

Mrs. J. W. Allred

SUCCESSFUL REVIVAL

Free Will Baptist Church
Berkeley, Missouri

We have just closed a two-week revival meeting, with Bro. Wm. Buster, of Thebes, Illinois, as our evangelist.

We feel very fortunate in being able to have him, with us, for he is really a man of God.

We are happy to report that there were seven souls saved and we had wonderful services each night. Four of the number were baptized Sunday afternoon.

Pray for our church, the Sunday School, the League, and our Auxillary.

Mrs. Edna Coulter

The measure of a man's character is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out. —Selected..