

The Free Will Baptist Gem

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Poplar Bluff, Missouri

January, 1957

NEW YEAR

When brighter suns and skies
Proclaim the opening year,
What various sounds of joy arise!
What prospects bright appears!

Earth and her thousand voices give
Their thousand notes of praise;
And all that by His mercy live,
To God their offering raise.

Thus, like the morning, calm and clear,
That saw the Saviour rise,
The spring of heaven's eternal year
Shall dawn on earth and skies.

No winter there, no shades of night
Obscure those mansions blest.
Where, in thy happy fields of light,
The weary are at rest.



THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

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The Largest Room in the world is
the room for improvement.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGES

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Fredricktown	152	162	158	165	158	163	157	150	168	165	
Mt. Pisgah	39	38	41		39	50	47		44	48	50
Coppermines	92	99	96	107	97	93	89	92	98	100	
First, Flat River		141	167	175	174						
Fellowship	185	185	207	196	208	191	191	187	213	212	214
Leadington	94	94	95	110	98	93	94	96			
Desloge	96	96	93	108	96	106	109	113	113	111	107
Farmington	46	52					54	53	56	51	66
Fourth	63	70	67	59	62	68	47	54	53	60	59
Southside			230	234	212	198		196	236	217	211
Monett	102	130	118		131	102	198	103			
Old Bethel	24	24	33	31	29	35	32	29	29	25	
Third Church	127	138	126	154	129	131	104	129	128	121	123
Berkeley	156	186	196	185	175	175		152	168		
Richwoods	75	66	77	96	90	92	89	93	85	78	80
Neosho						51	45	43			
Mountain Grove						209					
Joplin							46	56	66	55	56
Mill Creek							46	47	48		
Kirksville	99	95	100	98	114	100	108	104	116		

Please send us your average, too.

God of the Hills and the Valleys

Rev. Ben Scott

In the book of I Kings, chapter 20, we read the account of the Syrian army going out to battle the army of Israel. Quite un-expectedly to the king of Syria his army was conquered and most of his men were slain. Those who were not slain were sorely pursued by Israel's soldiers.

Ben-hadad, the king of Syria, missed being slaughtered with his army by escaping with some horsemen on a horse. Having escaped alive, he began to plan another battle with Israel. In discussing the reason for failure in his previous attempt, Ben-hadad and his servants offered this excuse: "Their Gods are Gods of the hills; therefore they were stronger than we". I Kings 20:23.

Our God is not One to retreat from a challenge. He offers Himself freely to all in every trying experience of life, saying "Try Me, Prove Me!" Because His power had been challenged another meeting in battle was arranged between the Syrians and Israel. In I Kings 20:27 we read, "And the children of Israel were numbered, and were all present, and went against them: and the children of Israel pitched them like two little flocks of kids; but the Syrians filled the country." This meeting was in the plain, or valley. It was not in the hills. But whether in the hills or in the valleys, an army with God in the camp is better than the most powerful army in the world without God.

God never fails when put to the test. Nor was He to fail this time. I Kings 20:29-30 states, "And it was so, that in the seventh day the battle was joined: and the children of Israel slew of the Syrians an hundred thousand footmen in one day. But the rest fled to Apek, into the city; and there a wall fell upon twenty and seven thousand of the men that were left." No longer could the king's servants say, "Their God is only a God of the hills!"

As we find ourselves now facing the new year we are made to wonder just what lies before us. As one of old has said, "Ye have not passed this way before." Un-doubtedly there will be some mountain-top experiences for the faithful; but there are also some valley experiences ahead. May I suggest for your consideration just a few of the valleys through which some of us may pass in the year ahead.

1. The Valley of Temptation

Surely it was a "Mountain-top" ex-

perience for our Lord when, at His baptism in Jordan, the Heavens were opened. It must have been a source of blessing and strength for Him to have the witness of the Spirit and to hear the Father say, "This is My beloved Son." It would have been wonderful to have stayed there but there was a "Wilderness" to be conquered.

Satan never tempted Christ while He was receiving this wonderful experience in Jordan. But he came to Jesus in the wilderness. Not many church members backslide during times of unusual revival showers. It's not hard to be a Christian when surrounded by fellow Christians. But Satan meets you in the valley. It is there that many fall victim to his temptations and surrender to him. Not so with our Lord! He met the tempter like a good soldier. He returned blow for blow. He went through the valley of temptation and came out victor! So can we if we draw from the storehouse of God's power. I Cor. 10:13 declares, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make away to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

2. The Valley of Discouragement

This is a valley through which we all must surely pass sooner or later. There are times when it seems everything is going perfectly. During these times it's not hard to stay in the race. But there are also times of discouragement; times when it seems everything goes wrong. This valley is not uncommon to God's people. Who is there who has not at some time or other become discouraged? In Numbers 21:4 we read of Israel, "And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea, to compass the land of Eden, and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way."

Discouragement is a favorite tool of Satan. Through discouragement the powerful Elijah became a hide-away weakling. He became a victim of self-pity, saying, "I'm the only one left and they seek my life." There is one, tho, who is Lord even of the valley of discouragement. Read Isa. 42:1-3 "Behold My servant, Whom I uphold; Mine elect, in Whom My soul delighteth; I have put My Spirit upon Him: He shall not fail nor be discouraged." Surely the same Spirit is ours today. Through the power of that Spirit we can walk through the valley of discouragement and still keep our faith in God. The real test of a Christian is how he acts in the val-

ley. It was in the valley David killed Goliath; It was in the valley Gideon's army was tested, leaving him only 300 men. It's in the valley that many lose sight of Christ and "wash out."

3. The Valley of Death

This is a valley from which we shrink. However, death is more than a dream; it is an actual reality, an ordeal which is coming to all. It is very likely that someone who reads this message will pass through the valley of death in 1957. Are you prepared for this journey? Even in the very hour of death it is possible that Satan may tempt us. Having never gone through this valley we are still in wonder as to what it is like. None of our friends have come back from this journey to tell us about it. We are not left without promise and consolation, tho. The Bible, God's Holy Word, give to us some definite promises concerning death. The Psalmist declared in Psalms 23:4 "Yea, tho I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me."

Isa. 41:10 offers us these words: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness." In verse 13 we read: "For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not, I will keep thee."

What more can we ask? God took care of His servant, Moses. He sent a convoy of angels for Lazarus. He rolled back the Heavens for Stephen. Will He forsake one of His in the valley of death? Never!

In conclusion may I offer the words of a familiar song as an appropriate prayer.

"When my way groweth drear,
precious Lord linger near;
When my life is almost gone;
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold
my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead
me home."

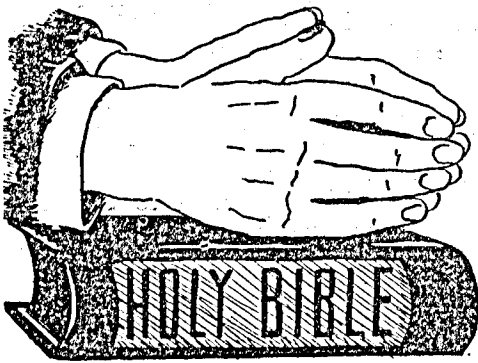
Remember, friend; Our God is also God of the valleys!

HOW TO BE A LEADER

I have three precious things which I hold fast and prize. The first is gentleness, the second is frugality, and the third is humility, which keeps me from putting myself before others. Be gentle, and you can be bold; be frugal, and you can be liberal; avoid putting yourself before others, and you can become a leader among men.

—Madame Chiang Kai-shek

The Family Altar



Pray for the following requests and read these or other Scriptures at your family altar.

Pray that you may be a real soul-winner in 1957.

John 4:35-38; Matt. 4:18-22.

Pray for your church and pastor.
Acts 12:1-19; Matt. 18:19-20.

Pray for your neighbors, friends, and relatives who are unsaved.
Ezek. 33:7-16; Rom. 9:1-3.

Pray for our State Home Mission team, Rev. and Mrs. Lester Jones.
Acts 3:1-11; Acts 8:1-8.

Pray for all our foreign missionaries.
Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 13:1-4.

Pray for our Youth Camp and our youth.
Deut. 6:1-15; 1 Tim. 4:12-16.

Pray for your State Association and its different phases of work.
Exodus 18:13-26; Heb. 13: 7-21.

Building with the Bible In the Home

By Mrs. Billy Graham

**"As for me and my house
we will serve the Lord."**

Joshua 24:15

Just as a home is something far more than a house, so children are infinitely more than the biological products of marriage; they are immortal souls committed into the care and keeping of parents, and what those parents do with this sobering responsibility and opportunity has its bearing not only on these precious little lives as they grow and mature but also on their destiny for eternity.

The foundation upon which we, their parents must build is two fold: the Christian home and the Word of God. In Psalm 11:3, David warns us: "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Knowing this, Satan has done, and is continu-

ing to do, all in his power to destroy these foundations.

The Christian home can be destroyed through neglect, indifference or distraction. It takes will power, firm resolve, careful planning and faithful determined ingenious persistence to establish and maintain a Christian home—personal devotions, family prayers, faithful spiritual instructions of our children, wise discipline, plenty of wholesome activity and fun—wit and wisdom. In short, it takes more than any human can manage in their own strength and in their own wisdom. It is only as we walk with Christ and rely wholly upon Him that we can make our homes truly Christian. And after we have done everything humanly possible, it is still nothing but the grace of Almighty God that hallows that which we have attempted to do, that touches the hearts of our children so that they turn to Him in repentance and faith and love. It has been well said, "Man builds, but God Hallows." We must take care of the possible and trust Him for the impossible.

"And the Lord said unto him, I have heard thy prayers and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me; and I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there forever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually." 1 Kings 9:3.

Life itself is so certain. Our children need to be given something to guide them through life, something that will never let them down. The only source of infallible knowledge that we have is the Bible; and they must be taught from babyhood that while their parents may be wrong, their ministers may even be wrong, yet the Word of God is never wrong.

If we can send them forth into the world knowing that this is in truth God's Holy Word, they will be armed for the onslaught of doubt, insecurity and evil of every description. They will have with them the one sure thing in an unsure world.

Moses died, and Joshua took over the gargantuan task of leading the children of Israel into the Promised Land, what did God give to him? The promise of His presence with him and the Book of the Law. "This book of the law shall not depart out of my mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day or night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Joshua 1:8. We dare not send our children forth to face life with any less.

The foundation must precede the superstructure. We dare not wait as some say, until our children are old enough to decide for themselves in matters of religion. We teach them how to behave properly and yet the most vital part of all, their spiritual development, would we leave until too late?

As the Duchess of Hamilton said last spring in an address on the Christian home, delivered to the leaders of the Women's Guild in Scotland in Edinburg: "We cannot make our children into good Christians by training them how to behave. We have to teach them what to believe."

We must pray every step of the way. We need literally to raise our family on our knees with a consciousness of Christ ever beside us. If they can have the background of a godly, happy home and this unspeakable faith that the Bible is indeed the Word of God, they will have a foundation that the forces of hell cannot shake.

A MANY BRANCHED TREE

Christian people often become discouraged with the lack of apparent success. But such would not be the case. The fruitage of faithful seed-sowing can never be estimated.

A woman dropped a little book, or tract, in the way of Richard Baxter. He read it and it led him to Christ. As only a portion of his ministry he wrote, "A Call to the Unconverted," which brought, among others, Phillip Doddridge to the Saviour. Doddridge in turn wrote, "The Rise and Progress of Religion," which led many into the Kingdom of God, among them the great Wilberforce. Wilberforce wrote, "A Practical View of Christianity," which was the means of saving a multitude, among them Leigh Richmond. Richmond wrote, "The Dairyman's Daughter," which has been instrumental in the conversion of thousands.

The dropping of that tract was a very small thing but what a many-branched tree has sprung from it! Immediate and tangible results rejoice the hearts of Christians as they labor for their Master; but there is no less occasion for joy in service for Christ when the harvest is deferred. True men who labor for their Lord are not denied a harvest, and the extent of it is eternal in its reach.

—Free Methodist

Excepting salvation, advice is the cheapest thing existing, but generally very costly.

Why Stand Ye Here Idle?

Rev. Ollie Latch
Matt. 20:6

Two things combine to make this a pertinent question. One, the householder had a harvest that needed workmen, and two, the workmen had need of the security which would be afforded them by employment. Therefore, there was no reasonable answer to the question. If we take their answer as having basis in fact, this would lead to another question, "Why have you not sought employment?"

Certainly, in the field of spiritual things, this question is pertinent. Certainly, there is a reason why the question should be asked, but just as certainly there is no adequate answer. When you stop to consider this thing in the light of the spiritual applications, then the question strikes home. Why indeed, should there be so many so-called Christians so idle today?

I—Consider The Time Involved

We stand today at a dangerous cross roads in world conditions. We have been hoping that peace might dawn on the earth, but in Geneva our Russian friends served notice that there can be world peace at their price, and their's alone. We have been passing through a great spiritual awakening, and religious interest is high. Unless this religious interest is captured and directed into proper channels, it will likely turn to revolt against religion within a few years. This has been the story of the past.

If we are ever going to work for the Lord in his vineyard, we must do it now.

Time is short. Day by day the dragging hours come to mean much to us. Time is short because its opportunities flash by. Someone has said that opportunity knocks but it does not pick locks. Time is short because your days are numbered. Today you are able to work; tomorrow time will have left its indefinable mark upon your brow, upon your ability. Time is short because it is allotted and like all allotted things, it runs out. Ah, how swift flies the shuttle of time. Today that shuttle weaves out of the fabric of our thoughts and deeds the mantle we shall wear through eternity. Why, in view of all this, do so many stand idle? The question cannot be answered with any degree of forgiveness.

II—Consider The Work To Be Done

The question should be considered in view of the work that is to be done. God has a great moral vineyard here,

a field in the world of human hearts. In this vast field is much fallow ground. By this, the Bible means ground that has been broken, prepared for seeding and then left. This is the situation with regard to the religious interest of many people today. Their hearts have become interested in God, the ground has been broken, and the seed bed prepared, but nothing has been done to seed in down. Unless something is done, weeds will grow where the good seed should spring up. Now the question of idleness becomes pressing when we remember that weeds spring up and grow faster than good seed, and with this in mind, we stand dumb before him who questions, "Why stand ye idle all the day?"

To turn from one Bible expression regarding the sowing and to another regarding the reaping, you are still face to face with this unanswerable question. This new phase of God's work is referred to as the harvest. Jesus said to his disciples, "Lift up your eyes unto the harvest, so white and falling. Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that he will send more laborers." Look around you, Christian friend. Look around you, all you people. What do you see in the highways and hedges? What do you see on the broad field of the world?

If you are not blind, you see a multitude of people going to waste. Talents falling into nothing; abilities crushed and ruined; souls falling into the hands of the evil one; men going to hell every day. They are your friends, your loved ones, your neighbors, the people for whom Christ died. Carest thou not that these perish? Go into my vineyard and work, the Master cries. Why stand ye idle all the day? How can you give a reasonable answer to that question?

Add to this the ringing command to work. There it is. Who can deny it? Who can avoid it? Who can shun it? None, absolutely none. "Go into my vineyard and work, and whatsoever is right I will pay you." "We are his workmanship in Christ Jesus, created unto good works." The fallow ground, the falling harvest, the ringing command. All these confront you. Why stand ye idle all the day?

III—Scarcity of Laborers

The question becomes even more pressing when we consider its call in view of the scarcity of workers in the vineyard of God. In spite of the great amount of work to be done, the laborers are few. As an example, try to remember how many people ever actually took an interest in you. If you are not extremely fortunate, you can

count them on your fingers on one hand. There are really few people who actually have a deep and abiding interest in soul winning. There are few who really will accept a seed sowing call. There are few who will bear the burdens. Most of us are just loafers.

When one lays down a burden, someone else must carry double. The work of the kingdom must and can go on. But when one worker quits, the load becomes more heavy on others. When one worker shirks, the rest must bear their load and his. Remember this the next time you are confronted with the temptation to stop or shirk. While you stop, someone else must carry on. When you stop, you stop in full view of millions of hungry hands reaching out to you for the bread of life. When you stop, those hungry hands will reach for bread and get a stone. Millions stand, pleading, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." Others cry out, "Send the light—we perish in darkness." In view of this, how can you make reasonable answer to the question, "Why stand ye idle all the day?"

Conclusion

You have considered this question from the standpoint of the times, the work that needs doing, and the scarce laborers. There is yet one more thing to consider here. What about the generous rewards offered for your labor? The Master says, "Whoever is right, I will pay you." It is not a slave driver who calls you to service, but a generous Saviour. And he makes a blanket offer to pay any price that is right—to give any reward that is righteous. Now friends, you just can't beat that offer. You just can't do better than that. Many plead that they don't have time to serve—they work too hard already. But did you ever stop to think what a rich reward you are wasting when you stand idle in the Master's service? Whoever is right, he assures you. Can you trust him? Do you think he would cheat you? Whoever is right I will give.

Today we are calling for the workers. Will you come out of spiritual idleness and assume your proper share of the kingdom work. The Master asks an omnious question, and you must face it squarely. How will you answer this question at the judgment. "Why stood ye idle all the day?"

I saw two men about 55 years of age. One was earning \$6.00 per hour, the other 30 cents. I decided the latter had only made a thirty-cents-an-hour investment in life. What kind of investment are you making?

From the Editor's Desk

God's Open Door

"Behold, I have set before thee an open door." Rev. 3:1-12.

The people of the world are looking for doors—the business man for doors of financial opportunities, the pleasure seeker for doors of pleasure gratification, the politician for doors of political advancement, etc., but the greatest doors are the doors God will open. During this New Year opportunities will come and go. God will close some doors and will open others.

The Door of the Old Year

One door has closed—the door of the old year. Locked behind this door are our deeds and acts, whether of the flesh or spirit, good or bad, that cannot be changed. We will only be in contact with them by that marvellous faculty of ours—memory.

Those deeds and acts will have a vital bearing on things to come in our lives and their influences will help shape our future. Yesterday influences today; today helps to shape tomorrow. We must not, however, if these committed deeds and acts be considered failure, let them become a chain to bind us and mar our futures. It is possible to become morbid and discouraged because of the past and thus our future progress become hindered. We should be like Paul who states his attitude toward his past in Philippians 3:13-14, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." them, I count not myself to have apprehended though Paul may have had unpleasant experiences of the past, God had set before him an open door for the future.

The Door of the New Year

During the New Year God will set before us open doors. The greatest door of all ages will still be open—the door of salvation. Christ said: "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." (John 10:10) What a marvellous opportunity for the unsaved! They can be forgiven of their past and can have a fresh start in life. It took the life of God's only begotten Son to open this door. Then, too, let the unsaved remember that to enter this door of

salvation they have the door of their heart to open. Christ stands at our door. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. (Rev. 3:20)

There is the open door of service for the Christian during the New Year. In a sense every Christian can like Apostle Paul say "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries. (1 Cor. 16:9) There will be the open door of service by presenting our tithes and offerings to the Lord, the door of effectual fervent praying, the door of earnest witnessing to the unsaved, the door of loyal, consistent church attendance on the Sabbath day and on prayer meeting night, and many other doors too numerous to mention. But there will be many adversaries. Every person that aspires to be a David will meet his Goliath—the Goliath of indifference, of self-ease, and of opposition from the world. But let us meet the challenge of the time. The story is told of a young doctor who met the challenge of consecrated service. This young specialist volunteered to go to India for a year and donate one year of his life to performing operations on blind children. It was a noble thing to do, rare in this day and age "of get all you can while the getting is good."

When his year was up, the young doctor had seen so much appalling misery and need, and had witnessed the joyous relief that he was giving to people who otherwise would never see, that he dedicated his entire life to bringing sight to blind children in India. Although his clients were too poor to pay, and he was getting only a nominal salary for his services, this doctor felt he could better invest his life in India than to return to America and enter the \$25,000 a year income group. In a difficult situation, he saw a challenge for service and sacrifice.

The Door for Free Will Baptists

As Free Will Baptists we have some open doors. There is the door of our Free Will Baptist College at Nashville. God has blessed to the extent that He is saying "lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes." To enter that door let us get behind the Expansion Program and give of our means.

There is the door of our Youth Encampment. Our most priceless possession is our youth. At our past youth services at our Youth Camp many of

our Youth entered the door of salvation and many the door of consecration to the service of the Lord. Let us keep the door open for them.

There are many other doors but space will not permit me to mention them all. We shall mention the open door of missions. Missouri has made a big step forward in Home Missions by the appointing of a mission team. Effectual doors are opening for Rev. and Mrs. Lester Jones, our mission team, and they will continue to enter with our support.

There is the National Home Mission program. We have worthy teams and individuals located in needy fields. Let us meet our quota of \$25,000 for this part of the program.

Then there is the open door of foreign missions. The need of the world is great. We are glad the Free Will Baptist denomination has entered this door in the past and trust it will enter every door open to it this New Year. We now have missionaries in Cuba, India, Japan and Africa. You can enter these doors even though you can not go in person. You can enter by praying and by your giving. Our state quota was set at \$9,900.00 and up to December 1, we had paid \$6,502.45, leaving a balance of \$3,397.55. Let us do without luxuries, if necessary, to pay that balance. What a privilege to obey God's commission: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature".

Conclusion

The Church to-day finds itself much in the same position as the Israelites found themselves at the Red Sea. They were surrounded by adversities and were told to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. The Church today is surrounded by scandal and corruption. Morality is at a low ebb and there is worldliness on every hand. But for the Church, even though the world looks dark, I see by the Word of the Lord another open door for the Church—the door of heaven. John said, "After this I looked and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter." (Rev. 4:1)

Today Christ says to each one: "I have set before thee an open door." What shall be our response?

It is not what you see, but what you look at, that makes or breaks you. If you want to see God work, get out of his way. The Cross of Christ is small but plenty large for you to hide behind.



BERKELY CRUSADERS VISIT BIBLE COLLEGE

Sixteen of our members were privileged to make a trip to Nashville, Tennessee during the Thanksgiving holidays.

We arrived at the home of Rev. William Hill on Thanksgiving morning. Afternoon we were invited guests of the East Nashville Free Will Baptist Y. P. A. The young people entertained with a delicious turkey dinner followed with a wonderful evening of games and singing.

Friday morning we attended chapel at the Bible College and heard Dr. L. C. Johnson, president of the College, address the student body, after which we enjoyed a nice visit with Miss Glenda Barks, a member of Berkeley Church, who is a student at the Bible College.

We enjoyed a visit through the headquarters building, and visited with Mrs. Edwards and others executives of the College.

Friday afternoon we took a tour through the Tennessee State Capital and the Museum, and other places of interest.

Friday evening we were guest of the Y.P.A. of the Trinity Free Will Baptist Church. They entertained us with a delicious evening meal followed by an evening of good Christian fellowship. Rev. Bob Hill, former pastor of Berkeley, is pastor at Trinity.

We drove back to St. Louis Friday night as a group of our Crusaders were to sing in the choir at the Billy Graham Crusade, held in St. Louis on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon.

We are so grateful to Mrs. DeWitt and Bro. Harvey for making this nice trip possible for us. Also our thanks goes to Mr. Hesselmeyer, Mr. DeWitt for furnishing transportation for us on this trip.

We would like to tell Rev. Halbrook how we enjoy the new section "Youth and Our Church", in the Gem.

We hope it will encourage Youth from other churches to report their activities. Pray for our youth.

—Crusaders for Christ

WORSHIPPING AT LEAGUE

A white robed stranger walked up to the door
And knocked twice both loud and clear.

He listened real close for a moment or two,
But no sound from within did he hear.

He then turned around with a sorrowful look
And started to walk away.
Then stopping he called to one passing by
To hear what he might have to say.

"Where are the people who live in this house?"
He asked with a determined will.
"They have gone to worship," the neighbor replied,
"In the church on top of the hill."

"In service so early?" the stranger replied.
"Surely it must be a game."
"No," said the neighbor, "it's worship allright,
League they call it by name."

A broad sweet smile swept over his face
That made his countenance glow.
And he said, "If the people are gathered inside of God's house
Surely I, too, there must go."

By Leo Center, Member of the Adult League of Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church.

WHEN THEIR SHIPS WENT OUT

A rich man was down at the river front waiting the departure of an ocean liner. He was joined by an acquaintance, who said to him, "You seem to be much pleased about some thing." "Yes", said the man, "I do feel unusually good to-day. Do you see that vessel at anchor on the North River? Well, I have on that vessel ten thousand dollars worth of equipment for a hospital in China, and I just came down to see the vessel safely off."

"Well, that is interesting, and I

am glad you made that gift," said the friend. "But you know I also have a gift on that ship. My only daughter is on that vessel, going to China to give her life as a missionary."

The wealthy man looked touchingly into the eyes of his dear friend and exclaimed, "My dear brother, I feel as though I have given nothing as I think of what this sacrifice means to you."

—God's Revivalist.

MATCH WIFE AND HUSBAND

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Eve |Abraham |
| 2. Deborah |Isaac |
| 3. Jael |Aquila |
| 4. Mary |Heber |
| 5. Elizabeth |Lapidoth |
| 6. Rebekah |Joseph |
| 7. Rachel |Jacob |
| 8. Priscilla |Zacharias |
| 9. Zipporah |Adam |
| 10. Sarah |Moses |

In the blanks in the second column, write the number of the correct wife from the first column.

Answers to "Match Wife and Husband" on page 16.

SOME PARENTS SAY

"We will not influence our children in making choices and decisions in matter of religion." Why Not?

The ads will! The press will!

The radio will! The Movies will!

The neighbors will! Their business will!

Their Politicians will!

We use our influence over flowers, vegetables, cattle, shall we ignore our children?

—The Trumpeter.

HAVE YOU MET THEM?

Mr. Meant-to has a comrade,

And his name is Didn't-do.

Have you ever chanced to meet them?

Do they ever call on you?

These two fellows live together.

In the house of Never-Win,

And I'm told this house is haunted
By the ghost of Might-have-been!

News From The Mission Field

MISSIONARY CONFERENCES A SUCCESS

By Raymond Riggs

Equivalent to a revival meeting is a Missionary Conference sponsored by any local church. Many of our Pastors are catching on to the idea, and in every case rich blessing are the result.

During the month of November such meetings have been held in the following churches:

Calvary Church, Durham, N. C. Pastor—Adam Scott.

Shady Grove Church, Morrisville, N. C. Pastor—Joe Haas.

Edgmont Church, Durham, N. C. Pastor Joe Ange.

First Church, Florence, S. C. Pastor—Ronald Creech.

First Church, Darlington, S. C. Pastor—Rufus Coffey.

Bay Branch Church, Timmonsville, S. C. Pastor—Billy Morris.

First Church, Savannah, Ga. Pastor—Louis Moulton.

In addition to these Missionary Conferences, one night itinerate services were conducted by our missionaries on furlough and Rev. and Mrs. Lonnie Sparks in the following churches:

Sherron Acres Church, Durham, N. C. Pastor—Carl Osborn.

White Oak Hill Church, Bailey, N. C. Pastor—Ralph Clegg.

Bethany Church, Timmonsville, S. C. Pastor—Walter Jernigan.

East Belmont Church, Belmont, N. C. Pastor—Owen Gainey.

First Church, Portsmouth, Va. Pastor—Eugene Waddell.

First Church, Jacksonville, Fla. Pastor—D. E. Bias.

Ebenezer Church, Glennville, Ga. Pastor—Tom Hamilton.

Georgia State Association, Ashburn, Ga.

Alabama State Association, Cordova, Ala.

Mt. Bethel Church, Jupiter, N. C. Pastor—J. B. Brigman.

First Church, Smithfield, N. C. Pastor—Chester Phillips.

Florida State Association.

Unity Church, Jacksonville, Fla. Pastor—W. A. Hansley.

Saltillo Church, Hazelhurst, Ga. Pastor—Ralph Lightsey.

Little Creek Church, Norfolk, Va. Pastor—Ivey J. Carter.

Fairmount Park Church, Norfolk, Va. Pastor—Fred Rivenbark.

Hyde Park Church, Norfolk, Va. Pastor—Hadley Overman.

First Church, Warwick, Va. Pastor—J. B. Chism.

Space would not permit to record the testimonies of blessings enjoyed in these meetings. For instance, the Edgemont Church reports two first time decisions and twenty two (22) rededications, and the church pledged \$10,077.00 for Foreign Missions.

Then too, upon receipt of the resignation of their Educational Director, Dan Merkh, who has made application to go to Africa, an additional three thousand dollars was pledged for his equipment.

The following letter from Ronald Creech indicates the Spirit that prevails with every true Missionary Conference. Why not plan one for your church this year?

Dear Bro. Riggs:

Well, Bro. our Missionary Conference was really good. It is amazing how God works. Turn your eyes on the regions beyond and God invariably works here.

In one of our services, one of our backslidden men came back to the Lord Jesus and has really been on the ball since. This decision was worth the whole Conference.

We had people on the last night from several churches and our pledges were over \$2,000 to missions. Of this amount \$1,599.65 was pledged by our own people. I had hoped for \$1,000. God always rebukes our small faith. Our folk wants another one next year.

Who will be home next year and what dates? Please let me know soon so if we will have, I can be the first to speak; and if we will not have, I can contact someone else."

FROM THE FIELD LEARNING FROM PLACE MATS

Arapahoe, N. C.

Dear Friends:

Enclosed find remittance for the 3 doz. place mats I received plus a small offering. These place mats are being used of the Lord. The primary teacher told me, "They are paying off." She said, "One pupil told me that he knew all but 3 of the mis-

sionaries." So may God continue His blessings upon this work. We want the children to learn to love this phase of our Lord's work. First to know Him, give themselves and then win others by helping also to send the gospel.

I am requesting that you send me fifteen more missionary place mats for a class of juniors.

Please pray for me. I need your prayers in a special way. I have problems that I need others to help me pray that God will solve.

Now may God bless you. Please let me hear from you soon, as it is Christmas rush time now, and I'll want to know if you receive this.

—Thank you

Your Sister in Christ,
Mattie Mae Beacham

MISSIONARY CONFERENCE, A CHALLENGE

Enclosed please find 2 checks from our church, one in the amount of \$28.38, which is our tithe for the month of November. The other in the amount of \$50.00, this is from our Missionary Conference that was held here last week. This conference has been a challenge to we Free Will Baptists here in Florence. May this be only the beginning of our launching out for Christ through giving to missions.

Mrs. A. W. Baxley, Treas.

MONTHLY OFFERINGS FOR SPARKS

Dear Bro. Riggs:

We had a special missionary service for Lonnie and Anita Sparks last week at our church, although Lonnie and Anita could not be with us personally. The Lord blessed us and with His help we were able to raise \$31.15 for their fund. You will find a money order for the amount enclosed.

It is our plan to have monthly fund for them and hope that it will help to take the Gospel to those who have never heard in Africa.

May God richly bless the department and our missionaries and use us all to bring a greater harvest of souls to Him.

In His Service,
Eustice A. Riggs

Note: If every pastor in our denomination would follow this splendid example concerning our missionaries we would be able to do much more.

Raymond Riggs

The reason we lack apostolic power is because we do not live apostolic lives.

FAITH OFFERINGS

Miami, Fla.

Dear Bro. Riggs:

The films proved to be a blessing to our Church. Our offering was \$230.00 and we took faith offerings for this coming year for over \$1,100.00. We had to deduct some expense from this offering leaving \$216.55.

Pray for our church and these faith offerings that this amount will come in.

—Mrs. Sterling Tucker

OFFERING FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

Plad, Mo.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed you will find a check for \$67.00 from The Free Will Baptist Church of Buffalo, Mo., for Foreign Missions.

Mrs. Blanche Highbarber

ALL CAN HAVE PART

Dear Bro. Riggs:

I was reading in your letter the great needs that our foreign mission board is facing. We can see the need is great. We realize that we all cannot be missionaries, but we as individuals can take part in sending God's Word to the heathen and to the ends of the earth.

Through our missionaries we help by giving part of our tithes and offerings. In the little mite I am sending I hope and pray that it may be that some souls that are in darkness might see light in Jesus Christ.

—W. H. Dixon

CHRISTMAS GIFT

Sulphur, Okla.

Dear Bro. Riggs:

You will find inclosed \$5.00 our gift for Christmas for foreign missions. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas. May God bless all is our prayers. Please pray for us and our children. We are thankful that they are willing to do God's will. It is hard in a way, but we wouldn't hinder it for anything. We are so thankful for our good friends that pray for us and them. Pray for Lewis that he and his wife will step out on God's promises and do His will.

Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Sparks

Note: This letter comes from the parents of Bro. Lonnie Sparks who left for Africa, December 22.

Life is a challenge, or it is not life. Have you failed? Look up, live beyond. Have you done your best? If you have, you have succeeded.

TWO NEW STATIONS IN JAPAN

From our missionaries, Wesley and Aileen Calvery

Our work now is divided into two sections. They are Abashiri City, where we live and Bihiro town, which is about forty minutes away by train. I have told you about these places before but now we have actually worked in both places. Abashiri (40,000) has a Catholic, Episcopal, and Holiness church. Bihiro (25,000) has no church at all. We plan to visit every house with the gospel in both of these towns. The meetings in Abashiri at present are held in our home. For these meetings we use Japanese style and sit on the floor. On Sunday morning from 7 A. M. to 11 A. M. we have Sunday School in Abashiri. We have about ninety children who come regularly to these meetings. Aileen and I do the teaching with the help of two Japanese Christians. On Sunday night we have our Adult Bible class with about fifteen in attendance. I do the teaching for this meeting. Now for Bihiro: We have rented a small building in the center of town which we use for our meeting place. We spend Saturday in Bihiro. Saturday afternoon we have childrens meetings with about thirty-five children and Saturday night we have our adult meeting with about thirty in attendance. The meetings in Bihiro were only started three weeks ago so we are expecting it to grow.

MISS ESTHER RUEHLE TO CUBA

The appointment of Miss Esther Ruehle, R. N. to our mission work in Cuba has just been made. She hopes to accompany Miss Lucy Wisehart to Cuba after January 1, 1957. For some time we have needed a nurse in Cuba and we praise the Lord for this appointment.

—From Prayer and Praise

FLORIDA

"We have started a Free Will Baptist Church here under the leadership of Rev. Elvie H. Johnson. We desire your prayers."

Mrs. G. M. Page, Rt. 2, Box 629 C, Winter Haven.

* * * * *

"We have a young church here with twenty three members".

Rev. Huey B. Long, Tallahassee

* * * * *

"We have a Free Will Baptist Mission here. I am a member of the Columbia, North Carolina, Church."

Mrs. Watson, St. Petersburg

Success is giving God your best.

LOUISIANA

"We organized a church here October 5, 1956. Our Sunday School now averages 75, and since our work began we have had 37 souls saved, seven reclaimed, three answered the call to full time service, and nine baptized".

Rev. M. C. Fry, Lake Charles

NEW MEXICO

"We have a Free Will Baptist Association in New Mexico with the following churches: Albuquerque, Hobbs, Carlsbad, and Artesia."

Rev. L. C. Pinson, Carlsbad

OKLAHOMA

"You will find enclosed \$5.00, our gift to National Home Missions. We do want to see the work go forward for Christ. Our children, Lonnie and Anita, will sail tomorrow."

Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Sparks,

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT OF NATIONAL BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS

1956

Receipts

Balance from Oct.	\$1,908.29
Alabama	62.18
Arkansas	112.00
California	28.29
Florida	33.00
Georgia	76.70
Illinois	29.00
Kentucky	22.50
Michigan	73.45
Missouri	95.04
Mississippi	71.60
Nebraska	39.25
New Mexico	5.00
North Carolina	180.67
Ohio	50.00
Oklahoma	377.48
Oregon	10.00
South Carolina	97.21
Tennessee	300.37
Texas	58.35
Virginia	118.98
West Virginia	
Washington	74.80
Co-operative Plan	304.90
W. N. A. C.	60.75
Sale of Merchandise	277.76

Total Receipts 2,544.89

Disbursements

Salaries to Missionaries	\$1,040.00
National Ass'n.	184.43
Curley Printing Co. (Jan.) ..	265.40
Southern Printing (Apr.) ..	74.85
Nashville Stationary (Jan.) ..	36.93
Waggoner's Printing	17.55

(Continued on Page 10)

REPORT OF IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

It is with gratitude that I make this report of the progress of our Improvement Program. I have been in seven states in the interest of the Free Will Baptist Bible College, and without any exceptions I have found our Free Will Baptist people deeply interested in the work that is being done at the Bible College.

The people have responded with cash and pledges in an amount above \$15,000. Cash has been received from 24 states as you will see by this report.

I want to express my appreciation to every church, and every auxiliary of the church, to every pastor, and to every association, a leader for every gift that you have made to this most worthy cause. Whether the gift was large or small the gift was appreciated.

I am conscious that we still have a long way to go, but God is blessing and there is cause to believe that by April 1, 1957, we will have enough money in the treasury to justify the letting of a contract for our first building. It all depends upon your support and co-operation.

I am conscious that the holiday season is a difficult time to raise money for some special project for the church. I urge you as pastors and leaders of the churches to take this important matter up with your church and see what your church can do to help make a greater Bible College. Ask yourself the question, have I done all that God and my denomination has a right to expect of me, and if not, let us do something about it in the very near future.

Check the gifts from your state, but don't anybody satisfy himself by saying, my state has done as much as the average, your Bible College needs your best.

I have planned to make several contacts soon after Christmas, but I want to plan to come to help you. Write me at the College address and we will plan together when it will be best for me to come.

God is challenging Free Will Baptists to a world-wide ministry, and Free Will Baptist Bible College is serving a great purpose in helping us meet the challenge. Here at the College young men and women are finding the will and plan of the Lord for their lives. Young men are being called to be pastors and are being trained to be pastors. Others are being called to be evangelists. Young men and women are being called to be missionaries, and they are being trained for the service to which God

has called them right here in Free Will Baptist Bible College. There are fine consecrated young men and women here in the College who will return home to render a greater service as leaders in the church, as Sunday school superintendents, league directors, teachers, and other phases of Christian service. That is the reason why every Free Will Baptist should give liberally for a greater College.

Look for other reports later, they will be just what you make possible.

Yours for a greater Bible College,
James F. Miller

RECEIPTS ON IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO 12-18-56

Alabama	\$ 176.00
Arizona	25.00
Arkansas	48.00
California	109.42
Florida	155.50
Georgia	285.98
Illinois	192.50
Kansas	16.00
Kentucky	117.00
Michigan	215.00
Mississippi	482.10
Missouri	785.07
Nebraska	5.00
New Mexico	2.00
N. Carolina	1,414.93
Ohio	44.00
Oklahoma	64.50
Oregon	12.00
S. Carolina	377.48
Tennessee	1,571.64
Texas	179.50
Virginia	200.00
W. Virginia	29.75
Wisconsin	1.00
Total	\$ 6,509.37

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the naked power of His divine manhood. While still a young Man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the

mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying—and that was His coat. When He was dead He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone, and today He is the Centerpiece of the human race and the Leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

—Author Unknown

FINANCIAL REPORT

(Continued from Page 9)

Station Wagon	92.00
Insurance on Station Wagon	82.60
Expenses to Texas-Okla.	25.00
Postage (12,000) Newsletters)	129.93
Treasurers Bond (\$20,000)	50.00
Books	3.00
Foreign Mission Board	10.20
Salary for Prom. Sec. and Office Help	428.87
Withholding Tax, Mrs. Dodd	51.00
Annual Board Meeting, travel	82.72
Total Disbursements	2,596.48
Oct. Balance Forward	\$1,908.29
Receipts for Nov.	2,544.89
Total to account for	4,453.18
Nov. Disbursements	2,596.48
Balance on Hand	\$1,856.70
H. E. Willis Promotional Sec.-Treas.	

"HIS SHADOW"

On a poster advertising a well known washing powder was a little fellow looking at his shadow, which was thrown across the path in front of him.

"That's the only thing I can't wash out" was printed under the picture.

Where ever we go, we leave our influence. Our influence is just like that shadow. Nothing can wash it out. We should be careful to act as a Christian at all times, that our influence might be a good one.

—Selected from My Counselor

LETTER FROM REEVES FAMILY

Dear Gem Readers:

Greetings in Jesus' Name to each and every one.

As the Christmas season draws near it awakes in our hearts many thoughts of the past and present blessings of life and we again resolve to work harder for the Lord. In the hurry of everyday life and cares we are often too busy to stop and count our blessings bestowed upon us by God. But there is a certain feeling about Christmas season that seems to awaken us to the fact that had it not been for the birth of Christ our Savior, we could not rejoice as we do to-day. May we praise and thank God that we were so wonderfully redeemed by His Son coming into the world, and living, dying, and being resurrected for our sins.

Let us not, friends, in the Christmas rush, forget who gave us this day to celebrate. There are many shut-ins who would enjoy an hour or so spent reading the Bible with them, or some one, lonely and discouraged, you can speak a kindly word to, and this bring cheer in their lives. Many a young mother would appreciate a responsible Christian person caring for her small children while she goes to the store or to the Young Peoples' meeting at the church. There are so many ways we as Christians can prove to the sinners there is a reality in Christianity. The largest and most powerful sermons are not always preached from the pulpit, but through love shown to some lost one many hearts are won to Christ.

Pray for us when all goes well with you, and may your daily prayer be for the lost ones in this troubled world of ours.

—The Reeves Family

YOUTH CAMP

Dear Gem Readers:

We, the Youth Camp Board of our state, trust that each of you had a very Merry Christmas and we wish each of you a most wonderful New Year. May we say thank you to each of you as individuals, churches, auxiliaries, etc. for your many gifts to our camp this past year. However, most of you I am sure realize the necessities facing us in this new year 1957.

First, let me say we have a large indebtedness which must be retired as soon as possible. Will you please place the Youth Camp on your Budget and send to us a regular contribution. Why not join our Dollar A Month Club and help us in this way. As this new year begins our minds

and thoughts are already turning to our 1957 session. Much planning is necessary as well as financial help. Thus, your Youth Camp Board will be meeting on February 8th to formulate plans for this next session. You will be hearing more about this in the very near future. In the meantime pray for us and continue to send in funds so that we may make the necessary improvements and make this our greatest session.

May God bless you in your thoughtfulness.

Yours for Christ,
Rev. Harvey E. Hill

**MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION
EXPENSES**

Holsum Bread Co	\$ 123.64
Stockton Locker	162.01
Puett Store	3.90
M. F. A. Store	433.75
Colonial Bread Co.	26.60
Taste Mark Dairy Co.	37.92
Frying Chickens	85.00
Mrs. Freda Sells	40.00
Mrs. Stella Walton	20.00
Rev. Wm. Reeves	100.00
Rev. James McCully	50.00
Total	\$1082.82
State Asso. Treas.	\$1058.95
Paid from Youth Camp	
Treasury	\$ 23.87
Rev. Wm. Reeves, Treas.	

**YOUTH CAMP FINANCIAL
REPORT**

August 1, to December 1, 1956

Amount brought forward	\$1066.95
Cold Drink Stand	115.92
State Asso., Entertainment	1058.95
Dollar Month Club	104.00
Special Thanksgiving	
Offerings	85.25
General Offering	607.90

Total **\$3040.97**

Disbursements:

State Asso., Entertainment	\$1082.82
Payment on Bank Note	1000.00
Interest on Bank Note	125.00
L. L. Day Lumber	
Co. on Acc't.	400.00
Interest on Lumber Acc't.	57.00
General Expenses	348.56
Total	\$3013.38

SPIRIT-FILLED

The clean vessel God uses; the surrendered instrument God employs; the believing soul God honors. If your life is low and indifferent and unlike the life of Christ, and if your possession of God is partial and in-

terrupted in its consciousness, and if your service is weak and paralyzed and nerveless, it is because you are not filled with the Spirit of God.

—G. Campbell Morgan.

LEAVING OUT THE LIONS

A child begged to be told the story of Daniel one night at bed-time. "I'm afraid, dear" said her mother, "to tell you the story just now, in case you dream about lions." "Oh, no!" returned the little one, "I will dream about Daniel, and leave out the Lions."

How much more cheerful our lives would be if we, too, could leave out the lions.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

What My Absence Did:

1. It made some question the reality of religion.
2. It made some think that I was a pretender.
3. It made many think that I regarded my spiritual welfare and that of others as a matter of small concern.
4. It weakened the effect of the church service.
5. It made it harder for the preacher to preach.
6. It discouraged the brethren, and therefore robbed them of a blessing.
7. It caused others to stay away from church.
8. It made it harder for me to meet the temptations of the devil.
9. It gave the devil more power over lost souls.
10. It encouraged the habit of non-church going.

What My Presence Did:

1. It caused people to have confidence in me.
2. It made people know that I regarded my spiritual welfare and that of others as a matter of great importance.
3. It had a good effect on the services.
4. It made my friends feel more welcome.
5. It encouraged the brethren and helped the preacher in his work.
6. It caused others to come to the Christ and say, "I believe that, I believe that is enough to save a man."
7. It made my life stronger for another week.
8. It removed stumbling blocks from the sinner's path.

Woman's Auxiliary

FELLOWSHIP CHURCH WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Dear friends in Christ and auxiliary members everywhere.

May we come in and visit for just a short time? We are still going forward in the work of the Lord. God has been so very good to us this past year. We couldn't begin to count His many blessings.

Our auxiliary met in the home of Mrs. Wallace Dodd for our Christmas meeting with nineteen members and six children present. The theme of our program was "Putting Christ Back in Christmas". How could we have Christmas without Christ the Wonderful Son of God who came into the world to save lost mankind everywhere? How we should praise Him every moment He gives us.

We had a good program rendered with songs and readings and the exchanging of gifts. God was very real to each of us.

Let us all pray and look forward to a greater service in the coming year. May God richly bless every one and keep us humble in His service is my prayer.

Cor. Mrs. M. Hilderbrand

HAZEL CREEK WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Our auxiliary met December 5 at the home of Mrs. Emma Vanlaningham with eleven members and two visitors present. Since it was all day meeting the school children and their teacher from a near by school were invited for dinner.

The business meeting was opened by singing "Joy to the World". Prayer was offered by Emma Vanlaningham and Lizzie Filkins. Scripture reading was from I Cor. 13 and I John 7:3. Roll call was answered by a verse of Scripture. A report was given of four hundred and sixteen chapters read, thirty sick calls, and eighteen cards sent. An offering was taken and dues received. One new member was added.

The officers for the coming year are as follows: President, Emma Vanlaningham; Enlistment Chairman, Wanda Newcomer; Youth Chairman, Maizie Sevits; Study Course Chairman, Dora Sponsler; Program-Prayer Chairman, Janet Chrisman, Personal Service Chairman, Lola Filkins, and Secretary-Treasurer, Leona Thompson.

The lesson was "We Need Love for Such a Time as This". Topics were

given by Janet Chrisman, Lola Filkins, and Lizzie Filkins. Since this was our Christmas meeting each member gave some reading, poem or song pertaining to Christmas. Lizzie Filkins read the Christmas story from Luke 2. We had an exchange of gifts.

The next meeting will be with Mrs. Grant Zimmerman.

—Sec.-Treas. Leona Thompson

NEOSHO AUXILIARY

The Woman's Auxiliary of Free Will Baptist Church, Neosho, Mo. met at the Church Nov. 28, at 1:30 P.M.

The meeting was opened by singing "Heavenly Sunlight". Mrs. Eva Lucas read for our Scripture text, Deut. 6:4-9-25.

Our lesson subject was "Our Need of Family Altars For Such a Time as This". Our president, Mrs. Louise McCully took charge of the business. We sang for the closing hymn "Won't It Be Wonderful There". Benediction by Mrs. Dorothy Childress.

Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting. Those present were as follows: Mrs. Louise McCully, Mrs. Eva Lucas, Mrs. Ella Pogue, Mrs. Virginia Pogue, Mrs. Jean Stafford, Mrs. Sarah Davidson, Mrs. Dorothy Childress.

* * * *

Our Woman's Auxiliary met at the church, December 12, 1956. Our opening hymn was "Joy to the World". Our Scripture text was from I Cor. 13 and I John 7:13 was read by Mrs. Sarah Davidson. Our lesson subject was "We Need Love For A Time Such As This."

Business meeting was conducted by our President, Mrs. Louise McCully.

This was our annual Christmas Program and we had an exchange of our Secret Pal gifts.

Benediction by Mrs. Wilma Pague.

—Mrs. W. F. Childress, Cor.

THE NEW YEAR

Yes, we are starting on a New Year. The old one is past and forever gone. I wonder if most of us haven't messed it up somewhat. We made mistakes, blunders, failure, and were too negligent concerning the work of the Lord. But there is one way we can profit by our mistakes: acknowledge them, repent, ask forgiveness, and not make the same mistakes again. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17) So let's

be careful and not make the same mistakes for we don't want to be sinners. Our slate for the New Year 1957 is clean. Let us keep it as clean as we possibly can.

May we resolve to do more good this year than we did the past year. When we make vows for the better we must pay them. I know it is better to not make a vow than to make one and not pay it. But we won't get very far if we are not determined to go forward. The Apostle Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus".

Some sinners won't accept the Lord for fear they can't hold out. If they never start they sure will never reach heaven. So I think this would be a good time for sinners to accept the Lord as their personal Savior and start serving Him, and we Christians, to start working harder to win souls and keep themselves where He can use them, and if we will stay in the center of His will and keep our slate clean, He will have plenty for us to do.

This old world seems to be in an awful turmoil. Lots of prophecy are being fulfilled and the end of time drawing nearer every day. Pray for me that I will live so close to the Lord that I will love His appearing. It may be soon.

—Grace Royster

THE WORD OF GOD

To me the memorizing of Scripture has been an unfailing help in doubt, anxiety, sorrow and all the countless vicissitudes and problems of life.

I believe in it enough to have devoted many, many hours of stowing away passages where I can neither leave them behind me or be unable to get to them.

The Word of God is the Christian's best weapon, and must be with him always.

Facing death alone on a floating piece of ice on a frozen ocean, the comradeship it afforded me supplied all I needed. It stood by me like the truest of true friends that it is.

With my whole soul I commend to others the giving of some little time each day to secure the immense returns it offers and insures.

—Wilfred T. Grenfell

God holds the key of all unknown,
and I am glad.
If other hands should hold the key,
Or if He trusted it to me,
I should be sad.

What if tomorrow's cares were here
without its rest?
I'd rather He'd unlock the day,
And as the hours swing open, say,
"Thy will is best."

The very dimness of my sight
makes me secure;
For groping in my misty way,
I feel His hand, I hear Him say,
"My help is sure."

I cannot read His future plan, but
this I know;
I have the smiling of His face,
And all the refuge of His grace,
While here below.

Enough, This covers all my wants,
and so I rest.
For when I cannot He can see.
And in His care I safe Shall be,
Forever blest.
—David Roberts.

FAREWELL TO THE OLD YEAR

Farewell old year, we walk no more
together;
I catch the sweetness of thy latest
sigh,
And crowned with Yellow brake, and
withered heather,
I see thee stand beneath this cloudy
sky.

Here in the dim light of a gray De-
cember,
We part in smiles, and yet we met
in tears;
Watching the chilly dawn, I well re-
member,
I thought thee saddest born of all
the years.

I knew not then what precious gifts
were hidden
Under the mists that veiled thy path
from sight;
I knew not then that joy come un-
bidden,
To make thy closing hours divinely
bright.

Goodby kind year, we walk no more
together,
But here in quiet happiness we
part;
And from thy wreath of faded fern
and heather
I take some sprays and wear them
on my heart.

—Sarah Doudney.

Neither the Apostle Paul, Lincoln,
Carey or Moody had any more right
to be great than YOU have.

THERE IS A REASON

For every sorrow, every care,
For every pain that we must bear,
There is a reason.

For every falsehood that is said,
For every tear drop that is shed,
There is a reason.

For every burden, every trail,
For every weary, lonely mile,
There is a reason.

But if we trust God as we should,
All things work out for our good,
For He knows the reason.
—Contributed by Mrs. Winona Hill.

RECEIPE FOR REAL RELIGION

Get religion like United Brethern,
Experience it like a Baptist,
Stick to it like a Lutheran,
Conciliate it like a Congregationalist,
Be proud of it like an Episcopalian,
Simplify it like a Quaker,
Glorify it like a Jew,
Pray for it like a Presbyterian,
Practice it like a Christian Scientist,
Work at it like the Salvation Army,
Propagate it like a Roman Catholic,
And enjoy it like a Negro.
—Author Unknown.

QUIET MINDS

Here is one thing that Robert
Louis Stevenson wrote that has stood
out above all others. It is this: "Quiet
minds cannot be perplexed or fright-
ened, but go on in fortune or misfor-
tune at their own private pace, like a
clock during a thunderstorm."

Lincoln holding his course during
trying days of the Civil War; Wash-
ington at Valley Forge; Elbert and
Alice Hubbard calmly facing death
on the Lusitania; Nathan Hale's "I
only regret that I have but one life to
lose for my country;" Christ before
the mob—quiet minds all.

The man who can say, with Walt
Whitman, "Nothing external to me
can have any power over me"; the
man who knows that, as the stoic
philosopher Seneca said, "Most power-
ful is he who has himself in his
power"; that type of man has a quiet
mind. He moves forward "as tran-
quilly as a ship on a placid stream."
He plows ahead like a streamer, rain
or shine.

Is there a finer illustration of per-
fect poise than a clock during a storm?
—From Wilford Peterson.

WORRY

Prayer is an acknowledgment of
faith; worry is a denial of faith.
Prayer is putting my hand in God's,
trusting to his loving guidance; worry
is withdrawing my hand, and denying

His power to lead me. Prayer leads
through the door of faith into the
presence of God; worry leads through
the door of anxiety into the darkness
of loneliness and discouragement. If
prayer rules the life, victory results.
—Selected.

OLD TESTAMENT

Some people read the Old Testa-
ment merely as history, especially
the records of the lives of the kings
of Judah and Israel. They read them
as stories of long ago, whereas they
are stories right up to the minute
with warning and encouragement for
us here and now. Take, for example,
the story of King Amaziah. He did
that which was right in the sight of
the Lord, but not with a perfect
heart—he was not wholehearted and
herein is a searching study for every
Christian today. Another blunder of
his and a common one still is that
he solicited human help. He hired
100,000 men of Israel and had to
learn that help cometh from the
Lord; that "God hath power to help,
and to cast down." Also, he had to
reckon the price of obeying the Lord,
had to learn that the Lord can give
gain for loss for "The Lord is able
to give thee much more than this"
(2 Chronicles 25:9). These are but
a few examples to show that the life
of Amaziah who lived nearly 3,000
years ago is being re-lived. His prob-
lems are our problems. The Old
Testament is Old yet ever new. The
Bible is up-to-date.

WATCH THIS!

1. The church that gives is the church that lives.
2. The church that bestows is the church that grows.
3. The church that releases is the church that increases.
4. The church that spends is the church that wins.
5. The church that keeps is the church that weeps.
6. The church that holds is the church that molds.
7. The church that squeezes is the church that wheezes.
8. The church that grasps is the church that gasps.

TWO TESTAMENTS OF THE BIBLE

The New is in the Old contained;
The Old is in the New retained.
The New is in the Old concealed;
The Old is in the New revealed.
The New is in the Old enfolded;
The Old is in the New unfolded.
—Selected.

News From Our Churches

BERKELEY CITY CHURCH

Once again we want to report our church activities to our many friends over the state. We trust that each of you have had a very Merry Christmas. May God bless you as you enter the new year of 1957 and make this one of the most wonderful years in His service. As we here at Berkeley look back over 1956 we can bow our heads and thank God for His many wonderful blessings to us, and we also realize we have failed Him many times. We do ask your prayers that in the new year 1957 we may do more for our Lord than ever before. God blessed us in 1956 in many wonderful ways, giving us a large increase in every auxiliary of our church with many souls saved and with over 50 people uniting with our church. One thing we are happy to report in this issue of the Gem is recently our church purchased a new electric organ. We trust that this may prove a great asset to our music department. We also ask your prayers that God may continue to bless us in this new year as He has in this past year. If you know of anyone in our vicinity who is not attending church, please let us know and we will be happy to visit them.

May God bless each of you is my desire.

—Rev. Harvey E. Hill

HAZEL CREEK CHURCH

Our Sunday School average for November was sixty-one. We hope our Sunday School attendance will increase since we have started our contest. We did have an increase in Sunday School last Sunday.

Leona Thompson, Cor.

REV. O. T. ALLRED WRITES

Just a brief report of our work since our report in November. At that time we were engaged in a revival at the Berkeley City Church with Rev. Harvey Hill. We enjoyed a good revival there and a wonderful time of fellowship with Rev. Hill and his church. We closed on Wednesday night before Thanksgiving. There were seven conversions and renewals and three united with the church. After filling my appointment on the 4th Sunday at the Macedonia Church we went to the Union Third, in Northwest Missouri for a two weeks revival with the pastor, Rev. W. R. Rush. In this revival there were three conversions and four united with the church.

On Sunday morning, the 2nd Sunday in December, at our Macedonia Church there was one young man who united with the church. In the evening services a fine young girl came to the altar and accepted Christ as her personal Saviour.

The Lord willing, we will begin a revival January 11 with our new church in Greenfield where Rev. Otto Mackay is the pastor.

The Youth Camp Board plans to meet at the Camp on February 8 to lay plans for the 1957 session. If any one interested in the Youth Camp session has any suggestions to offer the Board will appreciate hearing from you, and will give due consideration to your suggestions.

May we unite our hearts and hands in the will of the Lord to make this year our best yet in the service of the Master.

Yours in His Service
Rev. O. T. Allred

ZIG-ZAGGING

One day a farmer drove into town and stopped at a small store, tied up his team and went into the store. His dog, which was very tired from following the wagon, went into the store with his master.

Someone in the store blamed the farmer for tiring his dog by permitting the dog to follow him. The farmer said: "That dog is not tired from following me. He is tired out by his zig-zagging. There was not an open gate, or hole in the fence that he did not run in and explore. It was his zig-zagging that tuckered him out."

God's people are admonished to set our affections on things above, not on things that will sap spiritual energy. We are to walk straight, by faith, and not to be zig-zagging in and out of the world.

TO YOUR KNEES, OH PEOPLE OF GOD

Evangelist J. M. Hames

If we could only get the ear of the American Church, we would cry out and say, "Stop your religious fuss and human activity and find your way to the Upper Room and there tarry until Pentecost is repeated." This would start a tidal wave that would be felt to the ends of the earth. Hell would put on mourning. Heaven would rejoice. Angels would encamp round about us. Crime waves would cease. Sinners would be saved, our cities

cleaned up. And the coming of the Lord would be hastened.

Who will pay the price for the old time power, and just such a nation-saving revival? To your knees, then, oh people of God!

LEBANON FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Our church services on Sunday morning, Dec. 9, was well attended. Rev. Lester Jones, evangelist for the State Home Mission, was present and delivered an interesting message.

Rev. Jones was on his way to West Plains to help organize a new Free Will Baptist Church. We wish to extend to him a hearty welcome to come back at any opportunity. We are praying that he will have success wherever he may go.

—Myrtle Cornelison, Cor.

N. A. E.

The Knights of Columbus in their recently held national convention voted unanimously to adopt as their priority effort for 1957 the appointment of a United States ambassador to the Vatican. This action means that those who maintain the principle of church and state will need to be alert to prevent such an appointment which would be contrary to the Bill of Rights.

The National Association of Evangelicals maintains an office in Washington, D. C., which serves as a listening post for evangelicals and actively represents its constituency in matters such as this before the government.

WANG MING TAO IN PEKING

It was a blow to Christians around the world when Wang Ming Tao, Red China's leading evangelical pastor, was imprisoned last spring. Rumor had it that he faced a 15 year sentence. His wife was reported to have died in prison.

Now it has been reliably reported that Pastor and Mrs. Wang Ming Tao have been seen in Peking. Wang Ming Tao was released on September 28. His wife was let go the following day.

(—Christian Life)

Shrouds have no pockets. Dead men no sense of smell. Better use your possessions for God and others today, before you wake up tomorrow in hell.

THE PEOPLE IN HUNGARY ARE HUNGRY

Anyone who has heart at all has been sympathetic with the people in Hungary and their pathetic plight. All of this has come about because the people there are hungry. They are hungry for food. The Russians have been taking much and giving little. The people there are tired of this type of oppression and are now struggling for release. They are hungry for freedom. They want a government that is by the people and for the people. They want this so very badly they are willing to pay extreme penalty of death to obtain freedom for the future generation.

They are hungry for the gospel. This is proved by release of Cardinal Minshenski. But the people are groping blindly because you and I know that the gospel cannot and will not be provided by the Catholic church. No one at the present knows the future of Hungary except our God. But let's pray to Him that Hungary might obtain its freedom and that the doors might be thrown open to missionaries who will carry the true message of Christ's redeeming love for these people. As we observe the Thanksgiving season let's compare our plight with that of the people of Hungary. There is really little to compare because we have fared so well and they so poor. As we pray for the needs of Hungary, let's include our thanks to God for His blessings on America and pray that God may continue to bless America—the land of the free.

—Roger C. Reeds

THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

This is an age of unions, federations, and alliances. The prophets, writing centuries ago under the special inspiration of the Holy Ghost, exactly described several of the federations of our time.

1. The Northern Confederacy: Gog and all his bands, or Russia and all her satellites.

2. The Western Confederacy: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or the Western Powers as referred to today, composed of the United States, England and France and their other allies.

3. The Eastern Confederacy: The Asian-African block of nations, composed of India, China, the Arabs and others in their area.

4. The Palestine Confederacy: The re-gathering of the Jews as taught by all the prophets.

5. The Heavenly Confederacy: The kingdoms of this world are to become

the kingdom of Christ when He returns as the Prince of the kings of the earth.

Watch these groupings of nations, for it is both enlightening and fascinating to see the exact fulfillment of prophecy of the stage is being set for the final clash of the world powers. It's later than we think.

Revival or Ruin

Dr. George L. Ford

Executive Director, National Association of Evangelicals.

The failure of the Russian propaganda offensive as evidenced in Hungary and Poland and the growing unrest in other satellites has increased rather than lessened the threat of imminent global war. Our own military leaders fear that a new desperation behind the iron curtain may result in sneak attacks at any moment, for red leaders now realize that their only hope for world conquest is by military force.

The Soviet is well prepared for such a move. General Alfred M. Gruenther speaking at a meeting which I attended just one week following his retirement as Supreme Commander in Europe pointed out that the free world is superior to the Soviet only in long range bombers and surface ships, and that advantage may not continue. Russia has the largest land army in the world with 175 divisions, more than 20,000 airplanes which are constantly being improved and over 400 submarines.

To understand the significance of the red submarine fleet, it should be recalled that at the beginning of World War II, Germany had less than 75 and the total submarine strength of the free world is now less than 80. The bombardment of American coastal cities with submarine based atomic weapons is militarily possible any day.

The seemingly insoluble dilemmas facing the world today clearly show that hope lies not in military strength or diplomatic maneuvering alone. The real answer is spiritual and the primary need is revival. We must seek the face of God. We must personally apply II Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, who are called by my name shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

But even the healing of our land which may stay the devastation of war is not the deepest motive for revival. More important is that we may

see the will of God done in our own lives and lost souls brought to Christ through the ministry of a revived church.

Realizing the imperativeness of revival, the National Association of Evangelicals in preparation for the World Day of Prayer, March 8, has chosen II Chronicles 7:14 as the theme text. Bible-centered worship material built around this verse and emphasizing the need of humility, intercession, worship and repentance on the part of God's people may be obtained by writing to the National Association of Evangelicals, 108 North Main Street, Wheaton, Illinois. Worship material booklets and advertising posters will be supplied in any quantity desired without cost, but a free will offering for the NAE's evangelical advertising program is requested where the material is used.

RED RUMBLINGS IN AFRICA

In two, three or four years from now, the Western world is likely to be surprised by a new and very vocal crop of young leaders in Africa—talking in Marxist phrases and shouting praise for the Soviet Union.

The reason is that today, and for the past several years, the Reds have been conducting a major propaganda and agitation effort directed toward secondary schools and colleges in Africa.

An observant educator who made a tour through Africa back in 1952 reported that even then there were six Red organizations with substantial membership in Egypt—organizations with names such as Democratic Movements for National Liberation, Popular Democracy, Egyptian Communist Party, and Red Star.

At Gordan College in the Sudan, the majority of the Student Union Executive Committee was Communist in 1952, because of the indifference of the non-communist students. And some of these Reds were "professional students," attending college for the sole purpose of disseminating Communist propaganda.

And this Red drive to subvert upcoming Africa has not let up. A church representative just back from a tour of missionaries and mission schools in Africa reported in Washington a few weeks ago that the amount of Communist propaganda directed at secondary schools in Africa is tremendous.

(—Freedom's Facts)

The memory stored with Scripture is a bank that will never fail. The prayer that helps others helps still more the one who does the praying.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Nov. 1, 1956—Nov. 30, 1956
FREE WILL BAPTIST MISSION
Pinar del Rio, Cuba

Cash on Hand, Nov. 1	\$ 8.77	
Cash in Bank,		
General, Nov. 1	42.37	
Cash in Bank,		
Building, Nov. 1	139.00	
Cash in Bank,		
Temples, Nov. 1	1,328.92	\$1,519.06
Receipts:		
Check from Mission		
Board, General	\$2,724.54	
Check from Mission		
Board, Temples	200.00	2,924.54
Gifts, Building	106.00	
Gifts	249.00	
Quotas, Students	8.32	363.49
		<u>4,807.09</u>
Expenses:		
Food, (School) Salaries ..	125.94	
Mr. and Mrs. Willey Sr. ..	159.54	
Mr. and Mrs. Willey Jr. ..	150.00	
Mr. and Mrs. Phenicie	150.00	
	<u>459.54</u>	
National Workers	1,352.50	1,812.04
Hospitalization	95.40	
Rent (9 churches)	257.50	
Maintenance of Equipment		
(Repairs)	137.45	
Maintenance of Equipment		
(Gas and Oil)	63.77	
General Maintenance	35.35	
Fuel	16.02	
Building, Tommy Willey's		
House	217.07	
Temples:		
Vinales	77.50	
Jaruco	150.00	227.70
Animal Food	80.35	
Passage	10.40	
Office Expense	15.90	
Ink for printing	2.20	
School Supplies	28.65	
Dues for Latin		
American Literature	6.00	
Taxes on Farm	9.02	
Miscellaneous	2.10	
Bank Charges	6.04	3,148.90
		<u>1,658.19</u>
Cash on Hand,		
Nov. 30, 1956	50.36	
Cash in Bank, Nov. 30, 1956		
(General)	61.61	
Cash in Bank, Nov. 30, 1956		
(Building)	245.00	
Cash in Bank, Nov. 30, 1956		
(Temples)	1,301.22	\$1,658.19

Thomas H. Willey
Director

Edith Phenicie
Bookkeeper

BAN REPEALED

The Norwegian parliament has repealed a 148 year old ban against the society of Jesus (Jesuits). A clause in the Norwegian constitution specifically prohibited the Roman order from operating in that Scandinavian country. The vote to repeal came after ten years of discussion.

(—Presbyterian Life)

ANSWERS TO MATCH WIFE AND HUSBAND

Eve—Adam; Deborah—Lapidoth; Jael—Heber; Mary—Joseph; Elizabeth—Zacharias; Rebekah—Isaac; Rachel—Jacob; Priscilla—Aquila; Zipporah—Moses; Sarah—Abraham.

LIFE IS A JOURNEY

...not a home; a road, not a city of habitation. And the enjoyments and blessings we have along the way are but little inns on the roadside, where we may be refreshed for a moment, that we may with new strength press on to the goal.

You will meet today ten men or women; perhaps twenty, or perhaps a hundred. Every one of them will have his or her day brightened or darkened by the tone and manner of your greeting. You can put a little more joy into the heart of everyone of them by a cheerful, confident salutation.

Every worthwhile accomplishment, big or little, has its stages of drudgery and triumph: a beginning, a struggle, and a victory.

A few friends with whom to counsel, a few good books to read and absorb, and with courage and faith we are well-equipped for the facing of life's difficulties and disappointments, as well as its pleasures and successes.

Lives are made of chapters. After one is written in cannot be revised, but we can write a new chapter with each new day. —Phillips Brooks

GOD'S PLAN

By William W. Brock

Foolish people! Why worship movie stars when you have a God to worship? Why work for the devil when God pays higher wages with eternity to collect them? Why do you spend millions on rocket ships trying to reach the moon? God gives you transportation free to Heaven through Salvation.

The man who sows seeds of kindness enjoys a perpetual harvest.