

FREE WILL BAPTIST

Gem

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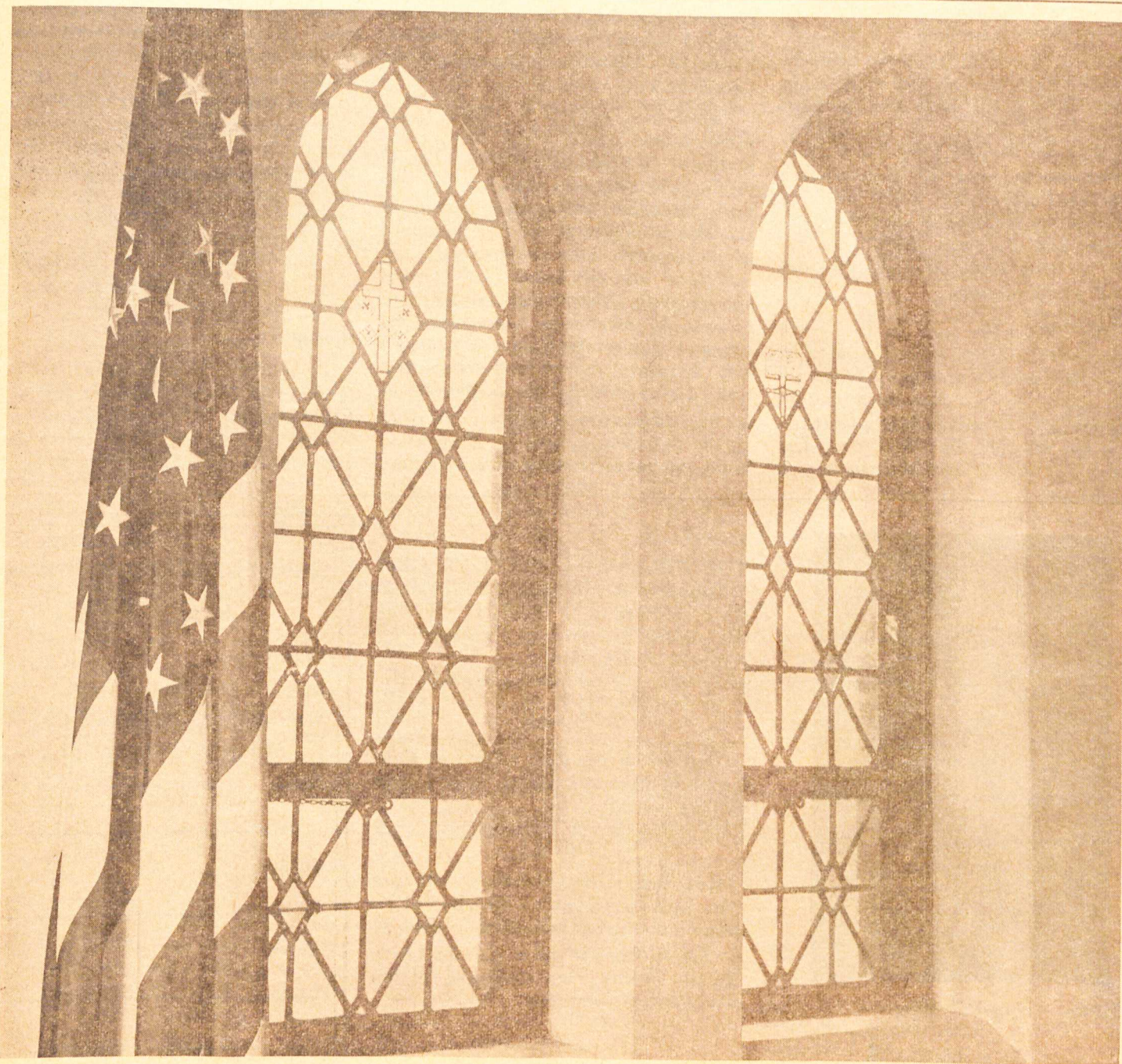
Gleanings From The Field

Auxiliary News

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Poplar Bluff, Missouri

September, 1961



FREE WILL BAPTISTS AND THE CONTROVERSY OF CONGREGATIONAL OR CONNECTIONAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT

by James Earl Raper

Presently raging in our denomination is a controversy concerning our form of Church Government. Free Will Baptists had never heard of this new form of Connectional Church Government until recently. Our historic form of church government has always been Congregational. The current wave of dispute stems from a case in North Carolina.

Although many other things have entered the case, the big question seems to be "Who is the boss and the final authority, the Church or the Conference (Yearly Meeting)?" The National Association says the local church is its own governing body, while a group in North Carolina says the Conference has the final say. Thus we come to what is the key and the root of the whole matter.

Background

This controversy is not something new. The seeds were planted several years ago. We are just beginning to hear about it. People in North Carolina have known this all the time. The trouble is, no one would believe you

when you told them about it, but now it is not questioned; it is a proven fact.

North Carolina has its own State Treatise. The President of the N. C. State Convention said at the National Association in Norfolk that to his knowledge there was no record that N. C. had ever voted to adopt the National Treatise. The following paragraph is taken from the N. C. Treatise, pages 52-53, under "Independence of Churches":

"Each local church is a distinct and independent organization, with full authority to manage its own internal affairs, elect its officers, receive, dismiss, discipline, and exclude members. But this principle of the independence of each church is not held as a law of isolation; on the contrary, churches conveniently situated associate and co-operate in all things which tend to advance the common cause. Councils are, therefore, called in the organization of a church and the settlement of serious difficulties. On the same principles, the church meet by delegation in the annual conference or association.

The annual conference or association being the highest tribunal, shall have final disciplinary authority over the local church."

The final sentence in the paragraph is the one used as a basis of authority to override and invade the sacred rights and privacy of a local church over the protest of a vast majority of the members. While there is seemingly a contradiction between the first and last sentences in the paragraph, no efforts to clear it up have been successful. A church operating under the authority given it in the first sentence is subject to the approval of the Conference by its authority in the last sentence. It seems that some men have made it their business to see that the churches are controlled by the conference instead of the conference being controlled by the churches.

Recent Trends

I have been a member of two conferences in North Carolina: the Cape Fear, and the Western. While in the Western Conference two cases have arisen that I shall discuss briefly.



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Dear Editor:

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1. In December, 1958, in Kenly, N. C., Rev. Norman Adams was asked by a majority of his deacons to resign. Rather than resign to the deacons he said he would take it up with the church on Sunday, at which time he was handed a paper to read at church asking for his resignation. Rev. Mr. Adams states that these men and some of the Conference officials had up to this time met four times to devise a means of getting rid of him. On Sunday he read the majority report of the deacons asking for his resignation, and a minority deacons' report that the church keep him as pastor. The church voted to accept the minority report and retain Mr. Adams as pastor. Their first scheme backfired, and back to the Conference officials they went. A document of complaints were drawn up and read to Mr. Adams, after which the Conference officials demanded the following:

(1) The church have another business meeting to determine the pastorate of Mr. Adams.

(2) Western Conference Moderator (Rev. M. L. Johnson) to preside.

Mr. Adams rejected the terms of their meeting to take over his church, and announced a business meeting he would conduct himself, which he had every right to do. The Executive Committee responded as follows: "... If you do not take steps to comply with our directive on next Sunday, ... we will consider your refusal to do so as an act of insubordination and your ministerial credentials ... will be terminated. Any meeting and vote that you may conduct next Sunday ... will not satisfy the directive of the Executive Committee." The Executive Committee ignored a petition signed by 53 people protesting their interference, and came into the church through a petition signed by 15 people.

Mr. Adams gave in to their request and Moderator Johnson held a meeting on February 1, 1959. Mr. Adams had borrowed my tape recorder and recorded the entire business meeting. I was present at this meeting in which Johnson called for a motion asking for Adams' resignation. If Johnson was neutral why didn't he ask for a motion to retain Adams as pastor? Johnson protested me getting my recorder, and I had to force my way past him to get it out of the church to keep him from getting it, after he had previously agreed to the meeting being recorded. Don't you know better than to think

I would have left a \$300.00 recorder at the end of his finger?

The aim of this whole affair seemed to have one purpose: To get rid of Rev. Norman Adams. This brings us to the next case that hasn't been settled yet.

2. The Edgemont F. W. B. Church is the one now suffering at the hands of Conference authority (usurped). It has all followed a similar pattern of the Kenly case mentioned above except that Mr. Creech, pastor of Edgemont Church, succeeded in keeping Conference officials out of his church until the Court (Judge) gave the property to the minority, and the majority had to leave the church and they are now meeting under a tent. The case is to be tried by jury later on. Edgemont is the first one to stop the onslaught of this movement. Therefore they are a test case. Any other church that would have bucked the ecclesiastical bosses first would have been fighting this battle instead of Edgemont.

Why Connectional Church Government

This is where Connectional Government comes in. In Congregational Government the majority rules, and Creech had the vast majority with him. Then they came up with this new government to give the Conference authority over the church. In North Carolina this is a battle with a purpose, which is a means to an end to accomplish this purpose.

Creech was an out-spoken critic on some policies and practices in N. C. and it appears that some men felt called to silence "the voice of one crying in the wilderness." It is my opinion that this entire controversy grew out of the efforts of these men to remove and silence the "Queen Bee" of opposition, but the thing backfired, growing in to what you have now heard it is. If they had let Ronald Creech alone, I don't believe this would have happened. None of us ever thought it would go this far.

Although Connectional Church Government has been described as the Conference (Quarterly Meeting) examining and ordaining preachers only, the examples cited above show much more. The intent of it looks like an effort to control churches and preachers, forcing them to bow to Conference demands and fitting the religious mold.

The same moderator involved in both of these church cases told me that "any minority could bring in an Executive Committee." In such cases who-

(Continued on page 7)

48th MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION IS NOW HISTORY

"Good preaching, capacity crowds, prevailing harmony;" these words describe the 48th session of the Missouri State Association that met with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Farmington, Missouri, August 22-24. The State Sunday School and League Convention that preceded the State Association was also well attended and featured some good preaching. On Tuesday of the State Sunday School and League Convention many Missionaries attended the various workshops that were held throughout the day.

On Tuesday night, Rev. R. B. Spurgeon, pastor of the Third Church of St. Louis, got the State Association off on the right foot with a well prepared and well delivered message. A few items of business were transacted Wednesday morning and then the State Association gave way to the State Auxiliary Convention. Rev. Rolla Smith, General Director of Foreign Missions, delivered the 11:00 o'clock message. Resolutions passed upon by the Women of our State can be found on the Woman's Auxiliary pages of this issue of the Gem.

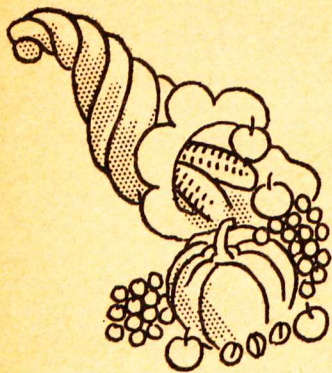
Rev. Joe Ange, pastor of the Central Church of Detroit, Michigan preached to a capacity crowd on Wednesday night. This great preacher delivered a great message.

Most of the business had to be completed on Thursday and all the delegates responded under the able direction of our beloved State Moderator, Rev. O. T. Allred. He was ably assisted by Rev. O. T. Dixon. The body honored these men for their service by re-electing them for another year. The various items of business that were transacted will be found in this issue of the Gem and in the next several issues. Watch for next month's issue which will contain pictures of the various activities of the Convention. (There was not enough time to process these pictures for this issue.)

Please read these reports carefully. You will also find in the next several issues of the Gem the full minutes that were recorded during the Association. Thus you will have a first-hand report before the minutes arrive from the printers.

This Association saw Mr. John Bough's term expire as a member of the Executive Board of the Association. Mr. Bough asked that he be replaced

(Continued on page 7)



GLEANINGS

FROM THE FIELD

**North East Mo.
Fifth Sunday Meeting**
Kirksville, Mo.—

The North East Mo. Fifth Sunday Meeting convened with the Mendota Mission, July 30, 1961 with Sunday School at 10:00 o'clock. The worship services began by children singing. Rev. Vernon Mason and family of Kansas City sang, "Follow Me" and "The Lord Is My Shepherd." Prayer by Bro. Perkins. Rev. Stella Gates took the stand and read a poem titled, "The Best Things in Life." She read for Scripture lesson, Acts 2:36-47. She spoke on a "Book of Wisdom in an Age of Confusion." We were dismissed in prayer by Sis. Mildred Gilliam. A basket dinner was served at the noon hour. The afternoon session began by congregational singing led by Rev. Mason with his daughter at the piano. Prayer by Bro. Don Lodgston. After another song the president, Sis. Myrtle Jones, read for Scripture lesson, Luke 10:38-42. She also read a short poem. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Letters from New Harmony, Kirksville, Hazel Creek and Low Ground were read for information. The next meeting will be with the Hazel Creek Church with Rev. Alta Mikel to bring the eleven o'clock message with Rev. Stella Gates alternate. The program was as follows: Quartet, "I See Jesus," by the Vernon Mason Family; solo, "Victory in Jesus," by Alice Tonda; choruses were sung by the children's choir; reading, "The Master Will Visit Our Town Today," by Sis. Stella Gates; two children from Mendota sang, "Thank You Lord" and "Climb Up Sunshine Mountain." A dramatic reading, "Shining Lights," was given by Sis. Myrtle Jones and a musical number and song, "I Need No Mansion Here," was given by the Chrisman Family. Play, Aunt Fannie's Miracle, by Mendota. The Mason Family came back and gave us three more

numbers, "The Lord Is My Shepherd," "I Saw A Man" and "He Gives Peace and Satisfaction." The congregation sang, "God Be With You." Bro. Cleo Clay dismissed us in prayer.

—Sec. -Treas., Leona Thompson

NSSA Announces Permanent Lesson Cycle

Chicago, Ill.—

At its June, 1961, meeting, the NSSA Curriculum Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Directors that the new cycle of lessons which will begin in 1965 should be on a seven-year basis and be permanent in nature.

The work of the Committee is the culmination of a number of years of careful research concerning the strong points and weaknesses of previous cycles. This research included not only previous NSSA cycles, but uniform lesson cycles as far back as 1872 when they were first inaugurated.

During the seven years of the proposed cycle, lessons will cover every part of the Bible. This series will be well balanced. Sixteen quarters (two of which will feature topical studies) will be spent in the New Testament and twelve quarters will be devoted to Old Testament studies.

A valuable feature which has proved its worth during the 1959-64 cycle, will be continued. Non-narrative passages will be added to the printed text when the lessons are in the Old Testament. Most of this non-narrative material comes from the New Testament. This gives even greater New Testament coverage **without** sacrificing Old Testament treatment.

The new cycle also features a fine balance of historical studies, biography, and book studies.

Eight quarters of the cycle are devoted to the Gospels, with some lessons on this portion of the Bible in every year except one. Yet there are not more than two quarters in the Gospels

in a row at any time. The emphasis in the treatment of the Gospels will be on different aspects of Christ's life and ministry.

There is a balance in treatment of Old Testament passages to bring variety during each year. Yet the various shifts from one Testament to the other are made at logical times and do not bring a feeling of confusion to the student.

An interesting feature of the new cycle is its treatment of non-narrative sections of the Word. These are woven into the historical portions in such a logical way as to make the history meaningful.

For example, along with studies of the life of David, taken from First and Second Samuel, appropriate passages are studied in the Psalms, many of which, of course, were written by David. Studies on the life of Solomon will feature selections from Solomon's writings in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

The study of the prophets will also be woven into the histories of Israel and Judah. The prophets who lived and prophesied before the captivity, during the captivity, or during the restoration period will be considered at the appropriate time. The messages of the prophets will be more understandable, if they are interpreted in the light of the prevailing conditions at the time the prophets gave their messages.

This same principle is followed in the studies of the First-Century Church. Those who wrote the General Epistles were leaders during the early days of the Church. Therefore these epistles will be studied in conjunction with the first portion of the Book of Acts. It is logical too, to study the epistles of Paul in conjunction with a study of his life. Hebrews, which to some degree stands by itself, is studied as a separate unit.

The topical studies feature those which have proved popular in the

past. For example, "The Bible and the Christian Life," to be studied in the third quarter, 1965; and "Marks of a Christian," to be studied in the third quarter, 1969, were well received in previous cycles.

Beginning with Genesis in the first quarters in 1965, these studies move toward a climax, with a series of lessons on the Book of Revelation in the last quarter of the seventh year on the subject, "Christ, the Triumphant Lord."

To recapitulate, the salient features of the new cycle are these: (1) there is coverage of practically the entire Bible; (2) there is a well-balanced coverage of Old and New Testament passages; (3) there is a logical, interesting interweaving of non-narrative passages with historical passages; (4) there are occasional topical studies for those who enjoy this type of study; (5) there is an emphasis upon book studies which lends itself to expository treatment; (6) there is a fine balance of historical, biographical, book, and topical studies; and (7) there is a logical progression in treatment of the Bible, beginning with Genesis and ending with the exaltation of Christ in the Book of Revelation.

Central Western

Fifth Sunday Meeting

Harrisonville, Mo.—

The Fifth Sunday Meeting of Central Western Missouri Association convened with the Hickory Grove F. W. B. Church near Harrisonville, Mo. The speaker for morning services was Mrs. Lowell Martin. Following a bountiful dinner served on the church grounds with good fellowship through the noon recess, services reconvened in the afternoon. A short program was presented as follows, congregational singing, devotions by Rev. Ussery, Daniel 3:15-17, prayer by Rev. Coatney. Several special numbers were given. During the business session it was voted to return to the old plan of meeting as a general mission rally. New officers were elected for the coming year.

Charlie Hover—President.

Dee York—Vice President.

Theo Bough—Sec. -Treas.

The next session will meet with the Hannon F. W. B. Church on the fifth Sunday in October. Rev. Ussery of Belton, Missouri was chosen as speaker with Rev. Otto Mackey of Monett, Missouri as alternate.

—Sec., Theo Bough

Report of the Nominating Committee

Moderator: Rev. O. T. Allred.

Assistant Moderator: Rev. O. T. Dixon.

Clerk-Treasurer: Rev. Roger C. Reeds.

Statistician: Miss Leona Thompson.

Superannuation Board: Rev. Elmer Turnbough and Rev. James Barker.

Youth Camp Board: Rev. Harvey E. Hill.

Sunday School Board: Mr. Hubert Harral, Mr. Jim Lauthern and Rev. James Earl Raper.

Rev. O. T. Dixon's appointment to the General Board of the National Association was reaffirmed. He also serves on the Executive Board of the National Association.

(In compliance with the body's action in setting up two new Boards namely the General Board and a Home Mission's Board the following men were nominated and elected.)

Home Mission's Board:

Rev. Clarence Burton	1 Year
Rev. W. H. Bostic	2 Years
Rev. Tommy Day	3 Years
Rev. James McAllister	4 Years
Rev. Lester Jones	5 Years

The General Board:

Cave Springs Association—Rev. Davey Combs	1 Year
Central Western Association—Rev. Glen Rehkop	1 Year
Indian Creek Association—Rev. Jim McCully	1 Year
Laclede County Association—Rev. Glen Jones	1 Year
Liberty Association—Rev. David Jones	1 Year
Mission Association—Rev. Grover Terry	2 Years
Niangua Association—Mr. Paul Bliss	2 Years
North East Mo. Association—Mr. H. E. Mikel	2 Years
North West Mo. Association—Mr. Milford House	2 Years
South East Mo. Association—Rev. W. T. Turnbough ..	2 Years

Editor's Note: In the future each Association is asked to send in the person's name that they would like to have serve on this General Board. In most cases this request will be honored. Those whose term expire next year will be elected for a two year term after that. This was done so that only five men's terms would expire each year. These men hold responsible positions. Pray for them.

Nominating Committee:

Rev. O. T. Dixon
Rev. Harvey Hill
Rev. James McAllister
Miss Samye Davis
Mrs. Alta Mikel

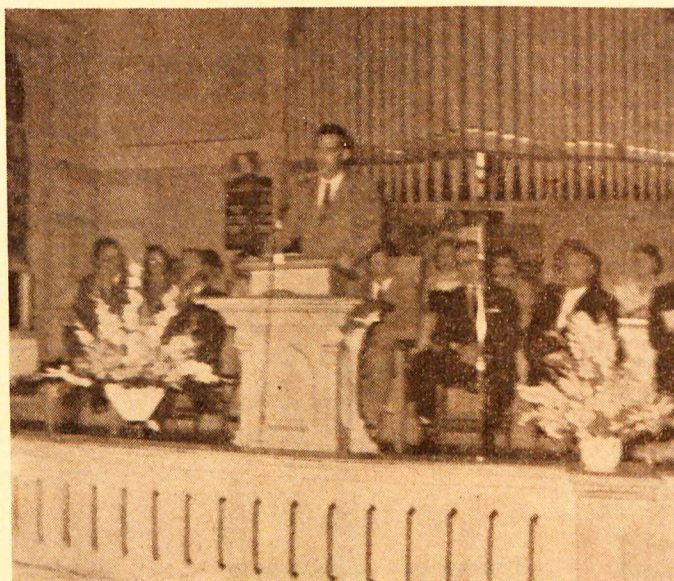
SERMON OF THE MONTH

God's Men With God's Message

by

Rev. R. B. Spurgeon

Pastor—Third Free Will Baptist
Church, St. Louis



On the left is the man who preached the Key-note Message at the State Convention. Below is the Message he delivered. Read it carefully.

(Author's Note: Much of the material in this message is quotations and opinions expressed by other men of God. In most cases where this is so I have given credit to the author. If I have missed some in this regard it is with regret and apology.)

"Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the day of battle in the day of the Lord." Ezekiel 13:5

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." Ezekiel 22:30

First of all I should like to draw to your attention the circumstances which caused God to speak these words to Ezekiel.

In 721 B. C., because of the sins of the northern kingdom of Israel, God had allowed Sargon II of Assyria to sweep down across Israel, destroy her cities, and carry away her people in captivity. In 606 B. C., Nebuchadnezzar, on his way from battle in Egypt, swept through the city of Jerusalem taking many captives; among them was Daniel. In 597 B. C., the King of Judah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar. It is at this time when Nebuchadnezzar puts down the rebellion that Ezekiel is taken captive.

Ezekiel's prophecies date from 592 B. C. to 570 B. C. (First vision to last

vision). Therefore when God spoke the words of our text the situation was indeed grave. Judah and Israel were both overrun, their people taken captive, and their cities in ruins.

In chapter 22 of Ezekiel, God tells them the why of their captivity and the reason for their suffering. In verse 2, God tells them Jerusalem had been a city of murder (bloody city); in verse 7, God says they had oppressed the stranger, the widow, and the fatherless; in verse 8, God says they had despised holy things; in verses 10 and 11, God charges them with fornication and adultery; in verse 13, they are accused of having been dishonest in business; in verse 24, God tells them they had not been cleansed from their sins; and in verses 25-28, God says even their prophets had conspired to devour souls, profane holy things and had been liars.

But in verse 30 is the most pathetic accusation of all! God says He looked for a man to be concerned and disturbed about all of those conditions, and to intercede for the land and HE FOUND NONE!!

How tragic! How pathetic! When God looks for a man to carry His message and finds none.

However, before we condemn this people let us pause briefly and draw some parallel truths between Israel and Judah and our own beloved nation and church of today.

Recently at a U. S. Prayer Break-

fast group, Senator Strom Thurmond made this statement "Our nation—indeed the world—today stands in our gravest time of peril, from the standpoint of human survival on earth. Nuclear, thermonuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and the swift means to deliver these weapons of mass destruction to virtually any point on earth carry grave signs that perhaps the Biblically-prophesied Battle of Armageddon may not be too far away. Many who once scoffed at this prophecy... are now concerned for fear of its validity.

"For our nation to come through these dangerous times with survival preservation of our liberties, we need not only to remain strong economically and militarily, but—above all—we must be strong spiritually and ever seek the guidance of Almighty God. We must be sure—as Mr. Lincoln so aptly put it years ago—not only that God is on our side, but more importantly, that we are on God's side, individually and as a nation.

"Our nation, though richly blessed by God, is certainly not immune from His judgment. Therefore, every American must give consideration, prayer, and effort toward individual spiritual regeneration so there can be no question as to our nation's being on God's side. We, who are in positions of leadership, must be humble and seek God's guidance in determining the course of our nation. For, it is written in Proverbs:

Righteousness exalteth a nation. . . ."
President Lincoln closed his message to Congress in December, 1862 with these words, "We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last, best hope of earth."

According to a crime report released a few days ago by the F. B. I. for the year 1960 serious crime increased 14% over 1959. For the decade of 1950 to 1960 crime increased 98% while the population increased 18%. During 1960 there was a serious crime committed every 15 seconds, there was a murder every 58 minutes, a forcible rape every 34 minutes, and over 200,000 unwed mothers. The crime rate has been rising four times faster than the population for the past five years.

Are we not guilty of the sins of Judah and Israel?

Dare we close our eyes to facts and say this is not happening in our country? I believe here tonight God is searching in the ranks of Missouri Free Will Baptists for men and women to build a hedge to stand against this decay of morals. As evangelical Bible believing Christians let us meet this challenge.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the F. B. I., recently said this, "Today, the forces of materialism are directing their most concentrated power against the very wellsprings of our strength. The forward march of secularism is visible in many areas. It is apparent in much of what we read and much of what we see. The promotion of the sensual seems to be the purpose of whole shelves of books and magazines. On every hand, deliberate pandering to the lower instincts is apparent."

We are today threatened by twin menaces. Materialism has fathered both crime and communism. The criminal statistics for the year just past attest to the steady growth of the one evil. The progress of the other—and the intensity of the struggle in which we are engaged with it—does not yield to such forthright measure.

No man can know the destiny that is decreed for our nation but these are signs that free men can ignore only at the peril of their freedom. The greatness of our nation is spiritual in origin. The broad achievements which we enjoy today come from vision born of faith, sustained by unshakable resolution, and supported by increasing effort. . . .

These words are not the words of religious fanatics, but rather of political and governmental leaders who are

concerned with the future of our land.

Fellow Free Will Baptists, we have been drinking from a vast spiritual reservoir of strength which we inherited, but that reservoir is not limitless, it must be replenished by us if we are to leave a spiritual legacy for our children.

Tonight, here in this great audience of people God is searching for faithful men and women to stand in the gaps, gaps that are being caused by materialism, liberalism, pleasurism, complacency, self satisfaction, and mediocrity.

I do not believe hope is gone and God is dead, but God is looking for men to take His message to the ends of the earth.

What must be our message? What is that message? First—IT MUST BE GOD'S MESSAGE. In Hebrews 13:8 we read, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever." This must be our message because it is the only thing that will meet the need of mankind. Jesus Christ has been called the only universal figure of history. Whether the individual be Negro or white, European or American, savage or cultured, He meets their need. He fills the vacancy in the soul of the king in his palace as well as the empty spot in the heart of the paper boy on the corner. Oswald Chambers once said, "Jesus Christ is the representative of the whole human race in one person." The words of Christ have engraved themselves upon the hearts of countless millions across the world. His is a message filled with truth and vitalized by love until it has become deathless. It is the only light for a world in darkness, it is the only safe guide in a world society of confusion, it is the only hope in a world of hopelessness. Jesus Christ is the sinless Son of God. Many testify to this: Pilate said, "I find no fault in this just man," the thief on the cross said, "This man hath done nothing amiss," the centurion said, "Truly this man was the Son of God." The most telling testimony of all, however, was God Himself at the baptism of Christ and at the transfiguration when He said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

I. This must be our message because Christ has done for man what He could not do for himself. II Cor. 5:21, "For he hath made Him to be sin who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

II Cor. 8:9b, "... though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich." This has brought God near to

man; He is not a far off potentate who cannot be touched by our pains and sorrows. Jesus Christ has brought man and God into such a relationship that we can say with Paul, "I know in whom I have believed."

In the person of His Son, God stepped out of unreality into a blessed personal presence with us.

II. This must be our message because Jesus Christ is changeless. First He is changeless in His attitude of mercy and pardon. On the cross He prayed for those who had placed Him there saying, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." What encouragement for saint and sinner to approach the throne of God when He extends to them such encouragement. Secondly, He is unchanging in His attitude toward the hungry, sick, and diseased of the world. In His earthly ministry we read many times where He, "being moved with compassion" did many marvelous things. Tonight, He is still concerned with those who are unfortunate, and as His children we must be concerned and compassionate also.

III. This is also our message because Christ is timeless. Although He gave His message 2000 years ago it is still as up-to-date as tomorrow morning's headlines. He was eternally existent in the bosom of the Father when the universe was set in order, but still shall be the light of the New Jerusalem.

Yes, here is our message because it is God's message, but God has always used faithful men to carry it.

When God wanted to bring His children out of Egypt He sent Moses with a message from I AM; to speak to heathen kings. He sent Daniel with a message from the Ancient of Days. When God wanted to evangelize Africa, He sent Livingston with a burning heart, to India the message came by the bleeding feet of Carey, to Burma by the starving body of Judson.

He averted revolution in England by sending revival through Finney, Wesley, and Spurgeon. And to America His message has come in great force through such men as Moody, Sunday and Graham.

This message of Christ is what Luther, Hus, and Zwingli dared their lives for at the beginning of the reformation. But reformation is not enough, again the bold doctrines and truths have been modified until eventually truth has been covered up and in the superficial subsoil of compromise, self complacency, and mediocrity grows an

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THE MISSION FIELD

November Is National Home Missions Month

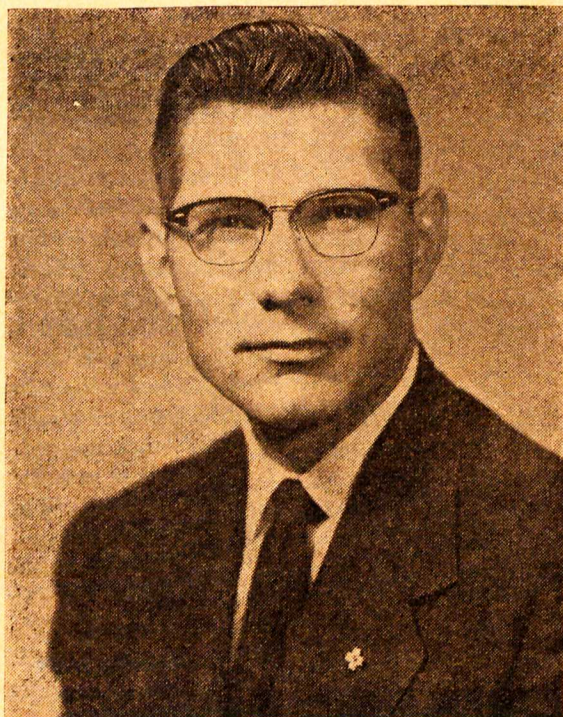
November has been designated as a time of special emphasis—**National Home Missions**. Your National Home Mission Board is working in several fields and is presently responsible for twenty-six missionaries. God is blessing this work and many are being saved in such places as Mexico, Hawaii, and Alaska as well as pioneer areas in many states, especially cities like Denver, Davenport, and Washington, D. C.

Such a work is worthy of our support. The Home Mission budget for 1961 is \$88,232.00 and we dare not do less than this. Make a generous offering for the cause of National Home Missions. Send your offering, with promise of prayer support to the Home Mission Department, 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee, or send it via your state treasurer—clearly earmarked **National Home Missions**.

In a war, a commander-in-chief will send his **BEST SOLDIERS** to the most dangerous and difficult areas of battle. For the sake of victory he considers them expendable. Yet how often Christian leaders have put the best of Christ's soldiers in the easier, better paying, established and more attractive positions. Thus the work of home missions has dragged and in certain spiritual battle areas, it has gone backward.

Today Free Will Baptists are rightly proud of the outstanding men and women who are serving on the National Home Mission fields. We feel they are some of the choice and best "soldiers." Remember them in prayer as you give your **"Thanksgiving Offering."**

November 19th is National Home Mission Sunday, as proclaimed by the National Association. Write the Nashville office for more details and supplies.



Rev. Kenneth Walker

I Have Given You An Example

(John 13:1-17)

"For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you," were the words Jesus spoke to His disciples after He had instituted the ordinance of Feet-washing.

Very shortly, on the same occasion, Jesus continued to say, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

We at the Bloss Memorial Free Will Baptist Church have learned the joy to be had in observing the ordinance of feet-washing. On Sunday night, August 13, we had a combined Communion and Feet-washing service. This was our first feet-washing together but not our first communion service. Our people come from a much varied background. Most of them have had no previous connection with the ordinance

(Continued on Page 9)

Thank God for Our National Home Mission Board

I think we as Free Will Baptists should thank God for our National Home Mission Board. I know that the members of the Riverview Free Will Baptist Church of Bettendorf, Iowa, join me in extending my deepest appreciation and thanks to God for the dedicated men, who work so faithfully on our Home Mission Board. Without their help, there would be no Riverview Free Will Baptist Church.

When I accepted the pastorate of the church in May of this year, a Free Will Baptist church in Iowa was only a dream in the hearts of a few faithful worshippers, who had rented a building in Bettendorf, Iowa. Through the help of our Home Mission Board and the grace of God, this dream has become a reality.

In May of this year, Rev. Harvey Hill, a member of our National Home Mission Board, came to Bettendorf and conducted a two week's revival and organized our church. The church was organized with 20 charter members. Shortly after the church was organized, the National Home Mission Board voted to pay my salary for six months until the church could get more firmly established.

Since the organization of our church just three short months ago, we have had twelve additional members unite with our church, making a total of 32 members. We have also had 22 decisions for Christ. During the month of August, our Sunday School averaged 89, our League 42, our Y. P. A. 23 and our mid-week prayer meeting 40. Our average for September at this date is 98 in Sunday School and 70 in League.

All of the above was made possible because of God's love and mercy to us and because our National Home Mission Board has given us a helping hand.

I think that Free Will Baptists everywhere should join me in saying, "Thank God for our National Home Mission Board."

Rev. Dale Skiles, Pastor
Riverview F. W. B. Church
1210 Grant Street
Bettendorf, Iowa

"I HAVE GIVEN YOU AN EXAMPLE"

(Continued from Page 8)

of humility. Eighteen of our twenty-eight members were present for the service and some (7) were out of

HOME MISSION RECEIPTS MISSOURI

August, 1961

First F. W. B. Church, Berkeley, Mo.	\$ 10.00
Elmer L. Patton	20.00
Leadington F. W. B. Church ..	15.00
South Side F. W. B. Church ..	43.45
N. Rock Springs F. W. B. Church	14.69
Farmington F. W. B. Church ..	40.30
Finis E. Sorrell	1.00
Mo. State Association of Free Will Baptists	4.78
New Harmony S. S.	26.05
H. S. Vandivort	20.00
Mo. State Woman's Aux. Con.	12.50
North East Mo. District Woman's Auxiliary	10.00
L. R. Riggs	25.00
Twin Oak League	10.00
Indian Creek Association	40.05
Central Western Mo. Association of F. W. B.	80.12
Kirkville G.T.A.	2.50
W. I. James	10.00
Richwoods F. W. B. Church ..	15.63
Joplin F. W. B. Church	5.00
Mrs. Thora Moody	3.00
Arthur Williams	10.00
Mo. State Woman's Aux. Convention	2.50
Leadington F. W. B. Church ..	15.00
Mrs. Elmer Esterline	1.00
Myrtle F. W. B. Church	5.00
Total Receipts	\$442.57

town. We had several visitors that night.

The Communion service was held and God seemed to bless in a special way. Then we entered the designated rooms for the Feet-washing service.

My heart (pastor) was overjoyed to see every man member present participating! It was learned later that every woman member there also participated! We had a glorious time in the Lord as His babes were growing in the "grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ."

One of the ladies said, "I haven't been in a service like this since I was a little girl of 12 back home. This was just how we did it then."

A man participant stood up (we closed our service in an altar prayer), hugged the nearest fellow and said, "I love you all. I love you all!"

Well, Hallelujah! The proper teaching and the informing the people of

FOREIGN MISSION OFFERINGS MISSOURI

August, 1961

Wolf Creek Church	\$ 5.00
Anonymous	5.00
South Side F. W. B. Church ..	376.05
Farmington F. W. B. Church ..	210.72
Missouri State Association	22.83
New Harmony Sunday School ..	39.23
V. Geraldine Arnold	20.00
Mountain Valley Church	25.00
Cannelsville Sunday School	20.00
Oak Grove Sunday School	10.00
W. N. A. C.	244.24
Fredericktown F. W. B. Church	150.00
Grant Ave. F. W. B. League ..	10.00
Mountain Grove F. W. B. Church	3.00
Missouri State Woman's Aux.	8.00
Willow Springs Church	12.12
Mr. Lehman Riggs	50.00
Mr. Larry Lee Maxwell	10.00
Central Western Missouri Association	120.18
Indian Creek Association	40.05
Wolf Creek Church	5.00
Fellowship F. W. B. Church ..	135.00
Richwoods F. W. B. Church ..	15.63
Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Bandy	100.00
Berkeley F. W. B. Church	11.76
First F. W. B. Church, Mountain Grove	35.00
Low Ground Woman's Aux.	5.00
Mo. State Woman's Aux.	25.00
Liberty F. W. B. Church	25.00
Jackie Sue Wantland	10.00
Mrs. E. C. Wise	2.00
Missouri State Woman's Auxiliary Convention	7.90
Myrtle F. W. B. Church	9.70
First F. W. B. Church Ladies Auxiliary, Springfield	15.00
Kirkville F. W. B. Church	17.25
Cooperative Plan of Support ..	467.46
Total Receipts	\$2268.12

the whys and wherefores of this ordinance produced spiritual dividends. God be praised.

Christians are hungry for a deeper spiritual blessing. Pastors, let us not deter these blessings from our people. Of the participants, only 3 of the men and 4 of the women had ever observed the ordinance before. All said that they received a blessing.

Our church continues to grow both numerically and spiritually. Pray for our ministry here in our nation's capital, Washington, D. C.

The Walkers

Minutes of the 48th Session of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists

August 22

7:30 P. M.

Rev. Bud Hill, pastor of the Mera-mec Heights Church, led the congregation in singing, "Standing On the Promises." Rev. Joe Ange, pastor of the Central Church of Detroit, Michigan led the Association in prayer. The congregation then sang, "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart."

Rev. W. H. Bostic, pastor of the Thayer Church, led the devotional thought. He read from I Chronicles 27:28 and spoke of our responsibility in the service of the Lord.

Rev. Roger Reeds, clerk of the Association, called the 48th session of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists to order.

Rev. James Barker, pastor of the host church, extended greetings from the city of Farmington and the church.

Rev. Lester Jones, pastor of the Kirksville Church, gave the response.

Rev. O. T. Dixon, assistant moderator of the Convention, brought a word of greeting.

The moderator of the Convention, Rev. O. T. Allred, was introduced and delivered a brief message. He read Acts 10:3 and commented on these words of Cornelius.

Mrs. Doris Raper sang, "I'd Rather Have Jesus."

The congregation sang, "Praise Him, Praise Him."

Rev. R. B. Spurgeon, pastor of the Third Church in St. Louis, was introduced to bring the initial message of the convention. He read from Ezekiel 13:5 and 22:30. He pointed out the parallel of the time of Ezekiel with our current era. He cited the lack of men with backbone to stand in the gap for God. "We need men with a message," he said, "and that message is to be Jesus." This was a well prepared and well delivered message.

The congregation sang, "Have Thine Own Way."

We were dismissed in prayer by Rev. Dean Burpo, pastor of the Auls-bury Chapel Church.

August 23

9:00 A. M.

Rev. Clarence Burton, pastor of the Fredericktown Church, led the congregation in singing, "Tis So Sweet to Trust In Jesus."

Rev. Harvey Hill led the congregation in prayer.

Rev. Harry Asher led the devotional thought. He is the pastor of the Over-land Church. He read from a poem titled, "What Will It Profit?" and from Mark 8:36, 37. He called upon Rev. Glen Rehkop to lead in prayer.

The moderator assumed charge.

Rev. Harvey Hill was appointed as assistant clerk.

Letters were read from the following Associations: Cave Springs and Niangua.

It was motioned and seconded that the names of the ministers and deacons be omitted from the reading. Carried.

Rev. Hill proceeded with the reading of the letters from the following Associations: Mission, Liberty, North East, Central Western, South East, Indian Creek, and the North West Missouri and North East Kansas.

It was motioned that we receive the letters, seat the delegates, and consider the requests on the various letters. Seconded and carried.

The moderator gave the charge to the delegates.

A letter of greetings was read from Rev. and Mrs. Mark Vandivort.

Visitors of other areas were recognized.

Rev. E. M. Kennedy, Promotional Secretary of the Oklahoma State Convention, brought a word of greetings from Oklahoma.

The By-Laws of the convention were read.

The Committee on Committees was appointed. They are: Rev. Woodrow Matthews, Rev. W. H. Bostic, Rev. Chas. Black, Rev. Grover Terry, and Rev. Elmer Turnbough.

The Association then adjourned for the Woman's Auxiliary Program.

At the conclusion of the morning session of the Woman's Auxiliary Convention the moderator called for the reading of the report of the Committee on Committees. This report was adopted.

August 23

7:30 P. M.

Rev. Clarence Burton led a capacity crowd in singing, "Love Lifted Me."

The moderator presided over the service.

Rev. Woodrow Matthews, chairman of the Business Committee, gave a partial report of this Committee. Since this involved a Constitutional change, it was motioned that this section of the Business Committee's report be laid

upon the table until Thursday, August 24th. Seconded and carried. (See report of the Business Committee, Item 1.)

An offering in behalf of the expenses of the Association was received which totaled, \$76.21.

Rev. Henry Long, pastor of the First Church of Springfield, brought the devotional thought. He read from Gen. 2:21. He pointed out our relationship with the spiritual mother as well as the physical mother emphasizing the fact that Christ became our spiritual mother on the cross.

The congregation sang, "I Am Thine Oh Lord."

Rev. Joe Ange, pastor of the Central Church of Detroit, Michigan, was introduced to bring the message of the evening.

He read from Col. 4:12, 1 Thess. 5:23, and Romans 12:1, 2.

He called our attention to the challenge of these trying days in which we live. His subject was, "What Will It Take In Free Will Baptist Ranks to Get the Job Done?" He listed seven things. First, he said there must be a belief in the total inspiration of the Bible. He listed as second, that there must be a total dedication unto God. Third, total separation from the world. Fourth, total consecration in our every-day living. Fifth, total investigation of our spiritual superstructure. Sixth, total determination to follow through with Christ. Seventh, total resignation to the will of God.

Several responded to the invitation that was extended.

The moderator made necessary announcements and prayed the benediction.

August 24

9:00 A. M.

The Convention began the day's activities by singing, "At Calvary" led by Rev. James Barker.

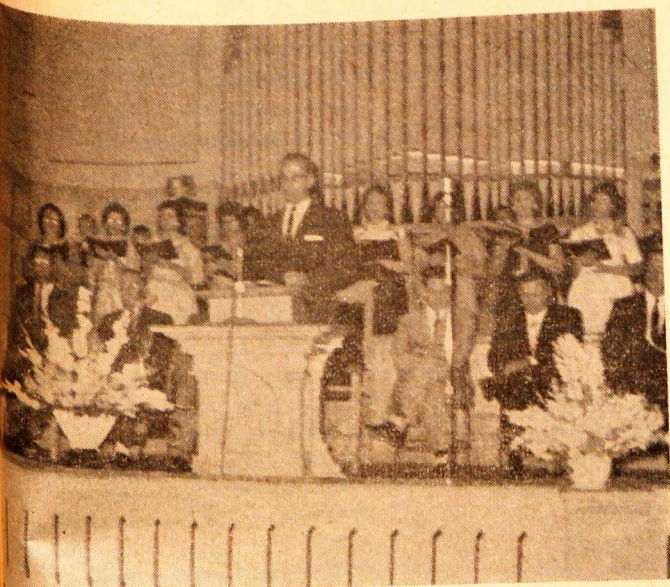
Rev. Elmer Turnbough, pastor of the Desloge Church, led the devotional thought for the morning. He read from James 1:22-25. He pointed out the fact that we ought to return to our churches determined to be doers of the Word that we have heard at this Convention. He then led us in prayer.

The minutes to the present were read and approved.

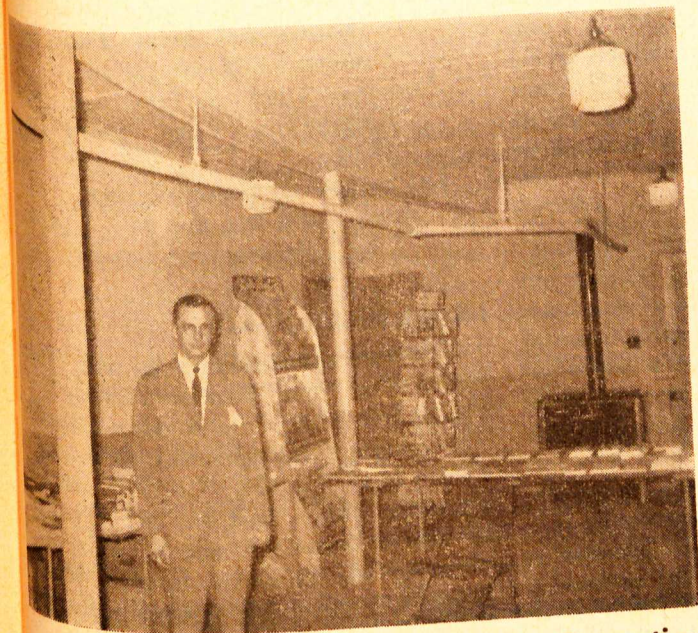
Miss Leona Thompson, State Statistician, gave her report. It was motioned and seconded to receive the report. Carried. (See reports.)

The report of the Executive Committee was given by Rev. W. T. Turn-

SCENES FROM THE CONVENTION



"Tis So Sweet to Trust In Jesus." Rev. Clarence Burton, pastor of the Fredericktown Church led a great deal of the singing. He also preached on Thursday night.



Rev. Roger Reeds stands beside the Convention Book Store. This marked a first for this historic meeting.

bought. The report was received by a standing vote of the body. Carried. (See reports.)

The Youth Camp Board's report was heard at this time. It was motioned to receive the report. Seconded and carried by a standing vote. (See reports.)

Visitors were recognized at this time. Rev. Bob Hill of Nashville brought greetings. Rev. Billy Melvin,

Executive Secretary of the National Association, extended his greetings to the Convention. Rev. and Mrs. Johnny Postlewaite, Missionaries to North West U. S. A., brought greetings.

The State Treasurer gave his report. It was motioned and seconded that the report be received by a standing vote. Seconded and carried. (See reports.)

A partial report of the nominating committee was read and accepted. The

officers nominated by the committee were elected. (See reports.)

Delegates to the National Association were elected by the Convention. They are: Bruce Presley, Jeff McCully, Mrs. Grover Terry, Mrs. Elva Turnbough, and Mrs. Myrtle Jones.

The State Superannuation Board made their report. It was received. (See reports.)

(Continued next month)



Rev. Joe Ange, pastor of the largest Free Will Baptist church in our denomination, spoke to a capacity crowd on Wednesday night. He also preached at the State Sunday School and League Convention and was in charge of several workshops.



Rev. James Earl Raper, pastor of the Fellowship Church, drives home a point. He preached Thursday morning.

Woman's Auxiliary

Special Notice:

The Treasurer's name and address for the coming year is:

Mrs. Roger C. Reeds
3116 Mt. Pleasant St.
St. Louis 11, Mo.

All Auxiliary monies are to be channeled through her.

STEWARDSHIP

by

Leona Thompson
State Auxiliary Assistant Secretary

Luke 12:42-44. "And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his Lord shall make ruler over his household to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath."

Christian Stewardship is a position of great honor. A steward is "one entrusted with the management of estates or affairs not his own." As Christian stewards we are expected to look after our Father's business here on earth, to be the executors of His will, His trustees. What we do we will have to do quickly for we are just here for a short time, for in Job 14:1-2 we find, "Man that is born of woman is of a few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down, he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not."

The chief requirement in stewardship is faithfulness, 1 Cor. 4:2. Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.

In order to be a good steward we must be stewards of the gospel. First of all we must study the Word of God daily for in II Timothy 2:15 it says, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." We must know the Gospel ourselves before we can be able to either teach others or to be able to help others find the way of salvation, and that is the principal aim of the Auxiliary, to win souls for Christ. If we really study and meditate upon God's Word we must be a good steward of prayer because study and prayer go hand in hand. Through prayer we draw from

the storehouse of God the necessities that we need to make God's kingdom thrive and grow in the world. Prayer is an act or a force that beareth fruit in our lives. We are challenged to pray without ceasing for in I Thess. 5:17 it says, "Pray without ceasing." If we obey this command and train ourselves to pray and to live in a state of prayer, God's voice will not be foreign when He speaks to us, and we will recognize it immediately.

We may not be able to go on the foreign fields as missionaries, ourselves, but through prayer for other missionaries we can be a big help. We can send other missionaries by being good stewards of our means and money.

Money is a great power for good or evil. To some, God has entrusted little, to some much. He expects all of us to use a portion of the money He has given us to spread the Gospel. Besides giving money to send missionaries to foreign mission fields, we can help by contributing to our Student Loan Fund, our Bible College which helps young people to get their Christian education which, in turn, may go as missionaries or be servants of God at home.

We can also help through the benevolent work in our local Auxiliary. This not only includes our money but we must be good stewards of our time. We may not all have the same amount of money to spend in God's work but we all have the same amount of time, for there is twenty-four hours in the day for every one of us, and it is left up to us as stewards as to how we use it. It is used for selfish motives or it is used for the glory of God. I know in this busy hurried life some of us hardly have time to read our Bibles and pray. But let us resolve in our hearts that if we have to leave the dishes unwashed, the kitchen unswept, let us be sure and take time to pray and read God's Word and let Him speak to our hearts and make known to us His precious will for our lives. Let's give our talents, however small they may be to God, He can use them for His glory and to bless our own hearts and lives.

We need to ask ourselves this question, "Have I given everything—my life, my talents, my time, my all—to Him?" Remember, "We are not our own, we've been bought with a price."

I knelt to pray when day was done,
And prayed, "Oh Lord, bless every one,
Lift from each saddened heart the pain,
And let the sick be well again."
And then I awoke another day,
And carelessly went on my way,
The whole day long I did not try,
To wipe a tear from any eye,
I did not try to share the load
Of any brother on the road,
I did not even go to see,
The sick woman just next door to me.
Yet! Once again when day was done,
I prayed, "Oh! Lord bless every one."
But as I prayed into my ear,
There came a voice that whispered clear,
Pause, Hypocrite, before you pray,
Whom have you tried to bless today?
God's sweetest blessings always go,
To hands that serve Him here below.
And then I hid my face and cried,
"Forgive me, Lord, for I have lied.
Let me but live another day,
And I will live the way I pray."
—Author Unknown

FROM WEST PLAINS:

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the West Plains Free Will Baptist Church met September 12 for our regular meeting. The meeting was opened by the president, Mrs. Claudia Combs, reading Proverbs 15:28, and was led in prayer by Hattie Sims. A special song was given by Mr. and Mrs. Eugene James. We had a good lesson on the Student Loan Fund. Topic I was given by Geneva Henry. Topic II by Louise Lewis. Topic III by Addie Adkisson. Topic IV by Ella James. Topic V by Grace Stevens. The 1st poem, "A Cry for Light," by Beulah Gilliam and the 2nd poem, "I Do Not Ask the Lord," by Mrs. Blankenship. Each member voted to send one dollar to the Student Loan Fund and we changed the time of our Auxiliary meeting from the 2nd Tuesday night to the 1st Monday night in each month. We had 14 members present. Dismissed in prayer by Addie Adkisson.

Cor. -Sec.

Agee. Topics were read by: Lola Long, Loletta Woods and Dorothy Latimer. Blossom Agee gave an interesting discussion on Equipment for Fishers of Men; the Rod is the Bible; the Line is Prayer; the Hook is Faith; the Bait is Love; and, the Reel is Common Sense. Eleven members were present with two children and four men, present. Roll call by Myrtle Carbin. Collection taken up by one of the girls, that being, Treva Braye. Our Auxiliary sent \$15.00 to Foreign Missions. The meeting closed by singing, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" and all gathered around the altar for the benediction by our pastor, Henry Long. Our officers for the coming year are:

President Blossom Agee
 Vice President Lena Cheek
 Sec. -Treas. Myrtle Carbin
 Piano Player Blossom Agee
 Song Leader Lola Long
 Study Course Chairman .. Clarabel Lemons
 Cor. -Sec. Bertha Wolf
 Program Committee Loletta Woods, Marie Braye and Dorothy Latimer
 Welfare Committee Ruth Coday, Mattie Grange and Dollie Smith
 Tele. Chairman Jesse Crowder
 Cor. -Sec., Bertha Wolf

FROM KANSAS CITY:

First Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary met August 8, 1961 with seven present. Opened by singing, "Sweet Hour of Prayer." Prayer by Allene Painter. Sis. Alice Dickey, acting president, gave the introduction. Topic I, by Sis. Alice Dickey. Topic II, by Sis. Edna Carder. Topic III, by Sis. Fern Smith. Each lady participating in closing prayer. Sis. Fielding read letter from Nogales telling about another new church and asking us to pray for all their work and workers.

Cor. -Sec., Allene Painter

FROM KIRKSVILLE:

The North East Missouri Woman's Auxiliary Convention assembled in conference, July 21, 1961 at the Hazel Creek Church. The session began by congregational singing. Prayer by Sis. Velma Willman. The president read St. Luke 19:12-27 for Scripture lesson. Letters from Hazel Creek, New Harmony, Low Ground and Kirksville Auxiliaries were read for information, also a report from Hazel Creek Y. P. A. and G. T. A. was read and an oral report was given by Kirksville and New Harmony Y. P. A. and G. T. A. The treasurer's report was read and accept-

ed. The Business Committee report was read and accepted. The Nominating Committee report was read and accepted, making the new officers for the year:

President Myrtle Jones
 Vice President Mildred Gilliam
 Youth Chairman Maizie Senits
 Stewardship Prayer Alta Mikel
 Study Course Velma Wellman
 Personal Service Hilda Nichols
 Sec. -Treas. Leona Thompson

Decided to have District Workshop, September 28, at the Kirksville Church. The program was given as follows: Duet, "Jesus Is the Sweetest Name I Know," by New Harmony; an object lesson on bells was given by Sis. Hilda Nichols; song, "Jesus Took My Burden," by the Chrisman family; readings, "Little Potatoes" and "The Stylish Church," were given by Mrs. Sylvia Senits; solo, "Only Jesus," by Velma Willman; report at the National Aux. Convention was given by Sis. Myrtle Jones; readings, "The Man at Galilee," and "Simons Wife's Mother Lay Sick with a Fever," were given by Mrs. Sylvia Senits. The minutes were read and approved. After a congregational song, Sis. Alta Mikel dismissed us in prayer.

Sec. -Treas., Leona Thompson

FROM FREDERICKTOWN:

The ladies of the Copper Mines Aux. met at the church Tuesday evening, August 15th for their program study. The Auxiliary was opened by the president with prayer around the altar. Songs, "The Beautiful Garden of Prayer" and "My Mother's Bible," were sung. Scripture lesson from James, 5th chapter. There were 9 members and 1 visitor present. Sis. Lillian Hovis was elected Sec. -Treas., in place of Sis. Mildred Killian. She and her family have moved to Minn. They are missed by their absence. The lesson was, "The Prayer Life." Topics were given by Sis. Lillian Hovis, Sis. Edith Underwood and Sis. Christina Halbrook. Benediction was given by Sis. Esther Hovis.

Cor. -Sec., Dorothy Hovis

FROM ARCADIA:

The ladies from the Oskaloosa Aux. met July 20 with Mrs. Gladys Brooks for their program study with 7 present. The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. Brooks, with singing, "Send the Light," and prayer by Mrs. Thelma Dickey. Song, "Love

Lifted Me." Scripture by Mrs. Brooks, 1 Cor. 4:1-2. Officers elected for the year are as follows:

Mrs. Gladys Brooks President
 Mrs. Thelma Dickey Vice Pres.
 Frances Williams Secretary
 Mrs. Wilma Smith .. Youth Chairman
 Jennie Williams .. Program Chairman
 Mrs. Carrie Carpenter .. Benevolence

Lesson studied, "Stewards for Devotional Loyalty." Topics, "Loyal to Church," "Loyal to Denominational Programs" and "Missions and Stewardship." The Auxiliary pays one half time tuition for a student in Arizona Mexico Missions in Nogales, Arizona and sent clothing to the Children's Home in Greenville, Tennessee. Dismissed by circle prayer.

Sec., Frances Williams

FROM LEBANON:

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Lebanon, Missouri met July 11th at the church with eleven members present. Opening hymn, "When We All Get to Heaven." The devotions were given by Dorothy Mosier, reading St. Mark, 3rd chapter. Prayer was offered by Sue Cook. The lesson for the evening was on forgiveness, with each one taking part. It was voted to buy railing for the steps of the church. A gift was bought by the Auxiliary for a member, Mrs. Taylor, who was in the hospital with surgery on her eye. A pink and blue shower will be given at the next meeting for Dorothy Brawley, in the church dining room. There were three visitors, Debby Hays, Cindy Cook and Carol Simpson. Dismissed with prayer.

Reporter, Gladys Montgomery

FROM KIRKSVILLE:

The Hazel Creek Woman's Auxiliary met August 2, 1961 with Mrs. Cletus Nichols, with 8 members and 10 children present. The meeting opened with prayer by Dora Sponsler. Minnie Thompson read for Scripture lesson, James 5:13-18. Roll call was answered by verse of Scripture. An offering of \$2.95 was received. There was 309 Bible chapters read, 18 sick calls, 4 cards. The lesson was, "The Prayer Life." Topics were given by Ethel Thompson, Lola Filkins and Leona Thompson. Mrs. Dora Sponsler gave the Study Course lesson on prayer. We were dismissed by Mary Filkins. We sign a card each month to send to Rev. and Mrs. La Verne Miley.

Sec. -Treas., Leona Thompson

LETTERS *to the Editor*

11 Snow Street
Whitefield, New Hampshire
August 23, 1961

Dear Bro. Reeds and Gem Readers:

Two weeks ago marked our first anniversary in Twin Mountain, New Hampshire upon the re-opening of the church there. How the time has flown, and in looking back over the past year we have so much for which to praise the Lord!

To Missourians, "seeing is believing," and these two Missourians now believe everything that we have heard about the severity of the New England winters! We do praise the Lord for caring for us and supplying our every need during those long winter months; not only for us personally, but in answering prayer in that the church services continued in spite of the fact that several predicted that the work would fold up during the winter and the doors would close again.

As it is, we continue to see steady progress in the work. While we were visiting our friends and relatives in Missouri the early part of the summer, our church people completely redecorated the inside of the church. It was a real "Welcome home" transformation! Since then, the exterior of the church has been painted. It seems that this is the first stroke of the paint brush that the building has had since before World War II.

Our summer Vacation Bible School was a real blessing with 27 children enrolled, and all but one receiving certificates of graduation.

On Mother's Day we had our first baptismal service with 5 who were baptized and 4 additions to the church. A great many of our people had never seen baptism by immersion before.

At this writing, Rev. Homer Willis is visiting in our area. He, Pastor Owens, and Mark are now in Maine visiting the churches there.

Rev. Bobby Jackson will spend the month of September in New England, and will be in Twin Mountain the third week. We would request each of your prayers that during his services here, many would come to know the Lord as their personal Saviour in this spiritually cold North Country.

We thank the Lord for each of you who have shared, and are sharing in our ministry here, for you faithfulness in giving, but most of all in prayer. For each blessing and victory in the Lord, we always feel that our people back home praying helped it to come to pass.

Seems that we cannot close this letter without saying what a blessing our little six-month-old son, Andy, is to us. The neighborhood children come to play with him daily. Most of them are Catholic, and we feel such a burden to see them won to the Lord. We continue to pray for our first Catholic convert, knowing that when this happens, it will not be the last. Please pray with us.

In His Service,
Mark, Louise & Andy Vandivort

South Roxana, Ill.
August 21, 1961

Dear Bro. Reeds:

Will you please advise our people through the Gem that I have accepted the position of State Worker for Illinois. I expect to be on the field by August 29th. I am to be in Aurora, Illinois. Please ask that persons knowing anyone in the area to please send names and addresses to Rev. Lawrence Thompson, Sesser, Illinois, Rt. 1, for I don't know as yet what my address will be.

Yours In His Service,
Wm. Buster

Huntsville, Texas, Rt. 3
August 18, 1961

Dear Co-Workers:

Greetings in the name of our wonderful Saviour. Another month has come and gone and here is our report from the Huntsville Church on our "Prayer and Fast Band." We have 11 members this time with \$7.50. It comes around fast and I ask every pastor to join me in this move. Just try it once and see how much we can raise. I heard in the National Minutes that we had over 2,000 churches, to think if all of the churches would send as much as \$5.00 each, what could we have every month? Keep in mind this has nothing to do with our National plan.

It only adds to it. I hope to see more churches next month.

Yours for Jesus,
Lizzie McAdams

Special Notice:

Anyone having friends or relatives living in or near the areas of Aurora, Rockford or Peoria, Illinois, please send their names and addresses to the State Home Missions director, Rev. Lawrence Thompson, Route 1, Sesser, Illinois.

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

July, 1961

Received:

Fellowship Church	\$132.84
Monett Church	63.76
South Side Church	33.60
Kirkville Church	30.00
Desloge Church	201.20
Mtn. Valley Church	36.78
Liberty Sunday School	40.66
Farmington Church	55.90
Alton Church	6.00
Beacon Church	51.20
Fredericktown Church	260.47
Carterville Church	15.12
Bethel Church	78.07
Myrtle Church	13.47
Grant Ave. Church	27.16
Skyline Church	22.35
St. Louis Dist. Qtly. Mtg.	140.88
Merl's Chapel Church	22.46
Mill Creek Church	10.78
Hickory Grove Church	18.27
Mine La Motte Church	10.00
Faith and Hope Church	16.20
Copper Mines Church	27.86
Oskaloosa Church	78.57
Leadington Church	55.66
Hurryville Church	80.00

Total Received \$1529.26

Disbursed:

National Association of Free Will Baptists	\$917.55
Missouri State Home Mission Board	259.97
Free Will Baptist Gem	152.93
Missouri State General Fund ..	76.47
Missouri State Youth Camp ..	76.47
Missouri State Superannuation Board	45.87

Total Disbursed \$1529.26

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EVERY CHURCH FAMILY PLAN**OUR GOAL: 2,000 SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The Every Church Family Plan is the best plan ever used by Free Will Baptists to keep their membership informed. It is currently being used by the Gem and our national magazine Contact. The plan is simple. The church clerk makes out a list of the names and addresses of all the families in the church. (Be sure each home is represented on the list.) This is sent to the Gem editor and he adds the names to the mailing list of the Gem. As the Gems are sent out the editor bills the church for the amount of copies sent out to their members. Names may be added or dropped at any time. The plan remains in effect until the church requests that it be discontinued. It does not expire. By using this plan every family in every church that subscribes to the plan will be informed of denominational activities. This is the best plan for your church. Why not use it? Here is a list of the churches who are currently active in the Every Church Family Plan:

Fellowship	Rev. James Earl Raper
Amity	Rev. Robert Carlson
Black Oak	Rev. Wm. Reeves
New Lebanon	Rev. Ronald Clifford
Leadington	Rev. W. T. Turnbough
Copper Mines	Rev. Willard Darnell
Myrtle	Rev. Wayne Parsons
Kirksville	Rev. Lester Jones
Overland	Rev. Harry Asher
Berkeley	Rev. Harvey Hill
Joplin	Rev. Paul Williams
Farmington	Rev. James Barker
Verdella	Rev. Winfred Davis
Richwoods	Rev. Gaylord Huckaba
Old Bethel	Rev. Clarence Burcham
Mt. Zion	Rev. Ralph Cook
South Side	Rev. Roger Reeds
Thayer	Rev. W. H. Bostic
Carterville	Rev. Archie Buress
Fredericktown	Rev. C. H. Burton
Pleasant Grove	
Martinstown	Rev. Kermit Crooks
Hannon	Rev. C. M. Hatfield
First, Flat River	Rev. Dale Jones
Alton	Rev. C. A. Dodson
Third, St. Louis	Rev. R. B. Spurgeon
Salem	
First, Waynesville	Rev. Cliff Bowman

Springfield	Rev. Henry Long
Neosho	Rev. James McCully
Mine La Motte	Rev. Albert Halbrook
Union Light	Rev. Curt Johnson
Bethel	Rev. Davie Combs
Mt. Pisgah	Rev. Fred Wynn
Fourth, St. Louis	Rev. Max Courtney
Twin Oaks	Rev. Truman Huffman
Victory	Rev. Glen Rehkop
Mill Creek	Rev. O. D. Matthews
Beacon	Rev. Woodrow Matthews
First, Kansas City	Rev. Alice Dickey
New Hope	Rev. James McAllister
Merl's Chapel	Rev. O. T. Allred
Oskaloosa	Rev. O. J. Mackey
Jones Chapel	Rev. Chas. Black
Pleasant Ridge	Rev. M. K. Cline
New Harmony	Rev. Mildred Gilliam
Grant Ave	Rev. Grover Terry
Monett	Rev. Tommy Day
Aulsberry Chapel	Rev. Dean Burpo
Lebanon	Rev. Cleo Covington
Mountain Valley	Rev. Homer Smith
Liberty	Rev. David S. Jones, Jr.
Desloge	Rev. Elmer Turnbough
Meremac Heights	Rev. Bud Hill
Mendota Mission	Rev. Alta Mikel
Festus	Rev. Leslie Logsdon
Little Vine Church	