

FREE WILL BAPTIST

NOVEMBER, 1971
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NUMBER 11

Gem

LET US GIVE
Thanks



Personal from the Editor



DO YOU remember Joseph of Old Testament fame? Thomas Mann, the great German novelist, devoted sixteen years of his life to rewriting the story of Joseph. What occupies twenty pages in the Bible became under his hands two thousand pages, full of rich detail garnered from history, comparative religions, anthropology and psychology.

In Joseph we have a preview of the Christ, that other great Jewish hero who was "despised and rejected of men," but who rose in the last act of the drama to a life-affirming act of forgiveness. Jesus was beaten and abused by those whom He tried to help. Yet on the cross He could utter the words, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Here was a greater than Joseph.

Every man has to cope with his environment; he cannot escape it. But he has three choices open to him: To live *level* with his environment, to live *below* the level of his environment, or to live *above* the environmental level. One fascination of the story of Joseph is that he chose the third way. He was not an "organization man," adapting himself to his surroundings. He was too noble to sink below the level of society, though beset with many temptations. He was impelled, rather, to rise above the standards and expectations of his environs. With the help of his religious faith he grasped the opportunity within every difficulty.

What lessons can we learn from Joseph?

Joseph was *trustworthy*. In his early years in a strange land, Joseph lived in the house of Potiphar, his Egyptian master. The master saw that he was a goodly person and well favored, that the Lord prospered all that was in his hands; therefore, "he made him overseer over his house and

all that he had put into his hand. Thus Joseph had the voice of authority in the house of Potiphar. God could depend on him. When he was unjustly imprisoned, the jailor could use him. The fact that he was in the right gave Joseph power to find his place and to make good in it.

Joseph had *integrity*. Potiphar threw him into prison but Joseph knew he was pure. The power of God made it possible for Joseph to overcome the temptation. He made an inquiry which demands a negative answer when he asked, "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" The master's wife falsely accused Joseph and he was placed into prison. But in prison "the Lord was with him and that which he did, the Lord made it to prosper." The Lord will place His power on a righteous life.

Joseph had *devotion to God*. He followed God even in a strange land. The Lord blessed and prospered him because of his righteousness, and Joseph's life made an impression upon others. When he interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh, by the power of God, it was seen that the "Spirit of God" was in him and that he was discreet and wise.

Joseph had *concern for his loved ones*. The brothers who had hated him and who had so cruelly sold him into slavery came to him for help in the time of famine. He tested them, but he provided them liberally with corn. We need to learn and to practice expressions of love—in smiles, words, tone of voice, and sometimes, in tears to our parents, our mates, our children, our brothers and sisters, and to others around us who need to know we love them. Love means little if it is not expressed.

Dr. Clarence Macartney calls Joseph "the most Christ-like man in the Old Testament." He was like Christ in the treatment he received from those who should have been his friends. His patience and forgiveness were Christ-like. His purity, honesty, and fearlessness were Christ-like. He was "tempted in all points" almost as was the Christ, and in God's good time, he was blessed and honored.

We need to wait for God's good time. It came to Joseph and it will come to us. Our concern should be that we are ready when the call comes.

Because Jesus came, man is no longer a creature of his environment; he has a new environment; he is "a man in Christ." He has a new direction in life.

The example of Joseph assures us of a God who will direct our paths if we will but honor Him.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5, 6)

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

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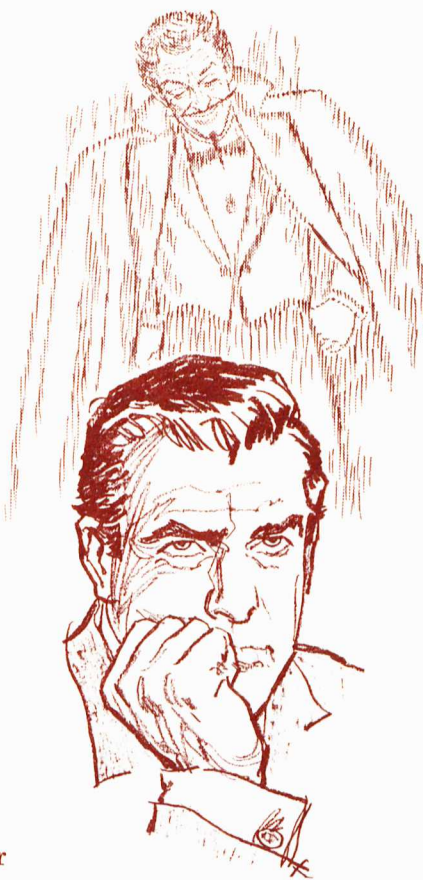
Did The Devil

Really

Make

Me

Do It?



by Wayne Waggoner

THE SIGN—The Devil Made Me Do It—is being put on “tee shirts” across the country. Actually the motive behind this is to hide the fact of Satan. However, this is not true. Satan is always trying to hide his work. Nevertheless, as God received the glory out of the crucifixion, He will get the glory out of any persecuting the Devil causes to the body of Christ. God has always allowed the Devil to do certain things to the body of Christ to strengthen it (James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:7; 1 Peter 4:12, 13).

I would like to give one area where Satan really tries Sunday School teachers, superintendents, ministers, and other Christian workers. This is an area where most persons who are *actively* in the Lord’s work are frequently attacked. Many of these persons might not be aware of who it is that is causing them to want to quit. Basically, it is the Devil’s business to keep himself enshrouded by way of disguise. Therefore, instead of a “direct attack” one of the ways of doing this is by way of suggestions throughout life. Here perhaps would be some of the suggestions the Devil might use: “I’m not getting anywhere in this work. Other brethren are getting good results, but I seem to be spinning my wheels. Maybe I should quit this and try something else.”

The way to counter this attack is by scripture. If Jesus used this Method, we can do no better.

Therefore God says: “Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. For as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58). Keeping all this in mind let us consider this: obedience to God’s call and the results which follow are two separate things. If results are outwardly disappointing, Satan works to shift the Christian’s focus to those results. Painful feelings quickly set in. To get rid of those feelings, the Christian begins to question whether or not God has really called him to this task. If the pain is great enough, he will likely quit. It is all a trick of the Devil who has the power to shift one’s focus by means of this subtle suggestion.

Perhaps the best way to approach this is to try to answer these suggestions. This verse can be separated into three areas:

Be steadfast, unmovable. I’m no Rock of Gibraltar, I like a change now and then. Yet, I’d hate to leave a job when the Lord wanted me to stay. But what’s the use of plugging away with no results? I remember when I was first saved and Satan hit me with doubts. He got me to question the fact of my salvation, thereby creating doubt feelings. The pain of doubt blinded me to the fact that God loved me. Maybe I’m letting discouragement feelings blind me to the fact of God’s call.

Always abounding in work. Can anyone really do this if he feels he is not getting anywhere? Yet Satan could be authoring that question by shifting my eyes to the results of my work on to what other Christians are doing. Okay, I’ll deal with Satan. That should get rid of discouragement feelings and then I’ll be able to see God’s call clearly. When I do that, I know praise will replace my discouragement.

Not in vain—in the Lord. Say, if what I am doing is really “In the Lord” the results don’t have to be seen! Lots of things in Christ are unseen right now. Satan has been blinding me to that too. Sure, I know God often accepts a person’s motive and intention in place of results. It is getting clear now. God wants faithfulness, not results. I’m not called to results. Wow! Can Satan fool a person. Praise the Lord, I can get rich doing what he wants, results or not. I’m going to do my job just to please the Lord. Already I feel my discouragement being replaced with joy. What man can’t “abound in work” when his heart is high with joy.

When we deal with Satan we have to deal with him in first person. May we always be faithful to the place where God puts in His service. Much of this material is not mine personally, but is something which I have collected over the years of my ministry. Hopefully, it will be a challenge not to yield to discouragement, but to let this be a real challenge to us to go on for Christ. (1 Peter 1:16, 18)

Ed Note: Wayne Waggoner has been pastor of the South Side Church. Thank you Brother Waggoner for taking time to write this message of challenge and encouragement.

CHURCHES PEOPLE and EVENTS

Good Christian fellowship was enjoyed by about 30 teenagers and sponsors from the Monett Church Saturday night, October 16. They rode the church bus to Joe Davis's home, went on a hay ride, then returned to the house for a weiner roast. Prayer was given and everyone ate and ate. Devotion was given by Pastor McAllister followed by singing and a dismissal prayer.

The Missouri State Sunday School and C.T.S. Board met Saturday, October 9, 1971 to make plans for the coming year in Sunday School and C.T.S. The Board proposes a Sunday School Superintendent of the Year recognition at the State meeting. Superintendents are to be selected by the Quarterly Meetings for this honor. Details will be printed later in the *GEM* and letters will be mailed out for full explanation. A Sunday School Attendance Campaign on the state level is planned for March, 1972. Final plans were made for the State C.T.S. Competition. This will be held with the Lebanon Church on the first Saturday of June, 1972 following National rules. The Board sincerely hopes your church will plan ahead to be a part of these activities.

The Oskaloosa Church where Brother Bob Dickey is pastor, reports the Lord continues to be with them. Though some have moved from the church they have been able to still maintain their Sunday School average and attendance.

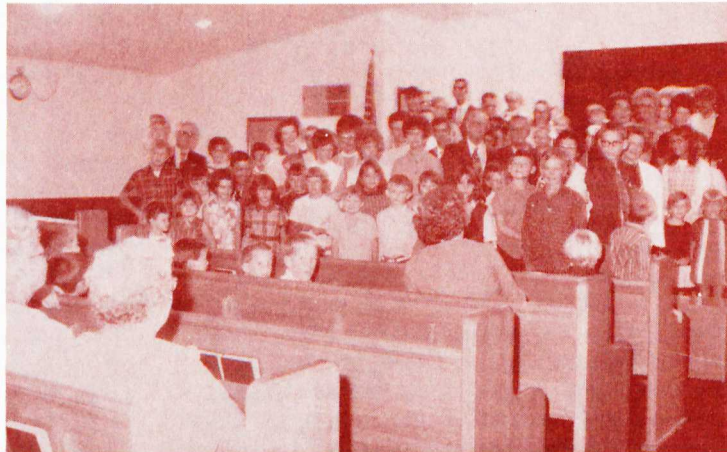
Brother Jack Morris is the new Sunday School Superintendent at the DeSoto Church. They report a growing attendance. The added effort of the Sunday School campaign "In With People" has been a blessing to the Sunday School and Church.

The building project of the Willow Springs Church is progressing in a good fashion. God continues to bless in their services with young people making commitments to Christ and following Him in baptism. Brother Frank Giunta will be with Willow Springs Church in November in revival services.

Rev. Joe Williams has accepted the call to be pastor of the Pleasant Home Church. This active rural congregation are looking forward to "good times" under his leadership.

The Mission Association C.T.S. Youth Rally met with the Willow Springs Church for their regular monthly meeting. Tic-Tac-Toe competition was the major part of the program. Pleasant Home came out with first place. Congratulations!

The Church Training Service announces a new source of help



Monett Church on "Twin Sunday"

SUCCESSFUL REVIVAL IN MONETT

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Monett, Missouri has just concluded a great revival effort that not only reached the lost for Christ, but also was able to bring a spirit of revival to the church. Attendance averaged over 175 per night in the revival services conducted by Rev. Lawrence Thompson of Kansas City; there were 10 decisions at the altar, including some who were over 60 years of age, and one young man just recently returned from Vietnam where he suffered injury; the people responded to "Twin" Sunday

by reaching 253 in Sunday School, which was a record attendance for the Church; and closed out the month of September with an average of 211 in Sunday School. The Bus Ministry directed by Mr. Tom Gantt, has proved to be a real attendance booster, with 20 bus people making decisions for Christ in Church services during the past 7 weeks. The Lord has greatly blessed the First Church of Monett with great revival during the past several months. Attendance has almost doubled during the last year, and records are being broken almost continuously. Cy Carpenter is Sunday School Superintendent and Jim McAllister is Pastor.

for local CTS leaders. Writers of leader's guides for Adventures, Heralds, Crusaders, and Adult groups will be glad to help answer your questions about programming. The following writers of leader's materials and coordinators of programming have assisted in preparation of first quarter 1972 literature.

- Adventurers - Mae Fry
- Heralds - Peggy Paramore
- Crusaders - Martha Crowson
- Ken Riggs
- Adults - Milton Crowson

If you have a need or wish to offer suggestions, please feel free to write. Write either to Samuel Johnson, General Director; Malcolm Fry, Director of Curriculum & Research; or to one of the departmental coordinators. All mail should be addressed to CTS, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

The Reverend Joe T. Hurst will assume the responsibilities as editor of Adult Sunday School curriculum materials as of October 11, 1971. Reverend Hurst is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College and has done graduate work in history and education in Washington state.

Reverend Hurst brings with him nearly fifteen years of pastoral experience. He has served churches in Oklahoma, Tennessee, Washington and Virginia.

Mr. Delbert Wood, a layman from Virginia, will assume a newly created position as pressroom foreman. Mr. Wood has for the past seven years served in the Department of the Treasury for the United States Government. He has been the foreman in the reproduction bureau.

Mr. Wood has been an active deacon in the Bloss Memorial Free Will Baptist Church in Arlington, Virginia. Both men are veterans of the armed forces.

We welcome these two new employees to the expanding team of servants in the Sunday School Department.

Borrowed from the Salem Church *Mid-Week Reminder*. Thank you Pastor Courtney.

THE GATE IS CLOSING

Joshua 2:5, "And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: Whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them."

The incidents spoken of in the news of current events are just numerals on God's great clock. Even now the hands of that clock are pointing near the midnight hour. The hour hand is nearing the time of the closing of the gate.

In Revelation Jesus presented Himself to the churches as "... the man who holds the keys. The one who can close the door and no man can open it." I believe it is very near the time when the Saviour will turn the great key in the door of grace.

Notice the tragic note in our scripture. "When it was dark men went out." We are living in an age of darkness. Men are going out away from God through that darkness. John saw it in his day. "And the light shineth in darkness: and the darkness comprehended it not." Jno. 1:5 In every field men are going out. From government to the church, men are going out. In the darkness of sin and listlessness men are going farther and farther from God. Where are they going?

"Where they went, I wot not..." It is hard to understand why men will go away when we consider where they are going. They are fleeing from the True Shepherd and Bishop of their souls to the destroyer of souls. They are fleeing from the safety of the fold to the dangers of the world. Jesus, upon observing some of His followers forsaking Him for

the pleasures of the world asked His disciples, "Will ye also go away?" To this the disciples replied, "To whom could we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." To these disciples who knew the Lord it would be foolish to go from the Fountain of Living Water and dig a cistern that would not hold water. To go from the giver of life to the destroyer of life. To go from the tender healer to the ravishing devourer, yet they are going, fleeing, going out into the dangers that await. We know not why they go, but we know they are going. Since we know they are going, "Pursue after them, quickly..."

This was a command, not a request. It was urgent. This shows the concern of the Keeper of the gate. He doesn't want to close it while men are out, yet when the time comes, it must be closed. It was Jesus who said, "Go into the highways and hedges and compell them to come in that my house might be filled." It was the keeper of the gate who said, "Go after them quickly..." It is the concept of the average church member when they look at the sinner, if we don't get them in this service, we'll get them in the next. If they are not saved in this revival, we'll get them in the next. But will there be a NEXT? There may not be another revival, service, day, hour, or even minute. The one thing that God does not promise is tomorrow. After the gate has been closed, it can never be opened. "Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. (Matt. 25:11-13)

Will you let the gate swing shut while loved ones are out? Pursue them TODAY!

MISSIONS MAILBOX

praise

Since the National Association, three families have been processed and are now on their fields of service in cooperation with state and/or district boards:

Reverend and Mrs. Don Eillis

Sterling Park, Virginia

Reverend and Mrs. Kenneth Stephens

Hutchinson, Kansas

Reverend and Mrs. Clyde Gillintine

Mesquite, Texas

Reverend and Mrs. Sunny Wenning have begun their work in the Virgin Islands.

Reverend and Mrs. Jesse Dunn are now holding services in Boise, Idaho.

pray

November—Please pray much for our emphasis in November, especially for:

1. The budget to be met. We need \$50,000 in Thanksgiving offerings.
2. The many special services in the churches of the denomination.
3. The *week of prayer* efforts of the WNAC.
4. Response from the November letter.
5. The board meeting—November 8-10.
6. The Evangelism Conference—November 10-12.
7. Missionary Conference—Bible

College—November 14-16.

8. The office staff

9. The salvation of many souls during the Home Missions Month.

10. For new workers to go into this ministry.

Needs—Support for: These missionaries now on the field—

Reverend and Mrs. Mack Owens
Vermont

Reverend and Mrs. Larry Powell
Virgin Islands

Reverend and Mrs. Sunny Wenning

Virgin Islands

Reverend and Mrs. Johnnie Hale
California

These two families have completed their work with the Board but have deficit accounts:

Reverend and Mrs. Jim Nason
Maine

Reverend and Mrs. Rogers
McCarty

Nova Scotia

the calverys write

Dear Christian Friends,

After spending a year in the good old USA, the Calvery family is returning to Japan. Of course, Kari-chan is going along too in his suitcase. I hope he will not mind the ride on the big airplane.

One year here has passed quickly. There have been many miles on the road (and in the air), many homes and churches visited, and many hours of fellowship in different places. But this exciting year has now become history and we look forward to the year that is ahead—getting settled back in Sapporo, building the Youth Center and getting ready for the special Olympic evangelistic thrust.

Thank you for your kind hospitality toward us and for your response to our financial needs.

Most of all, thank you for being with us in prayer.

As we leave our native land again for our fourth term of service in Japan, we leave with mixed emotion. We see a great need for workers in the United States (especially in the area of Christian youth leadership) but we feel that God's place for us is Japan. As Jesus taught us, "the field is the world." We must witness to all men everywhere.

John Yasuda will remain in the United States until the end of the year. He has made his own record album of four songs—"Yesterday," "Pass It On," "The Bible," and "Come Unto Me." Those desiring the record should send \$2.00 to John Yasuda, %Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, P.O. Box 343, Moore, Oklahoma 73060. The proceeds will go toward the Youth Center in Japan. Also the Calvery family record is still available at \$5.00 each and can be ordered from John Yasuda.

Until our permanent address in Japan is settled, please address all of our mail to P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

Thanks for a good year in the United States and the Lord willing, we will see you again in four years.

May God Bless You,

Wesley Calvery and family

the pinkertons write

Dear Friends in Christ:

Greetings in Christ from the Pinkerton family. We are glad to be back in our home state of Missouri. It hardly seems that it has been a little over eight years since we left Missouri to go to Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville.

The Lord always prepared the way and provided our needs. So we know that we can trust Him to do the same for the future.

It all began at the First Free Will Baptist Church at Kirksville and at the youth camp in Niangua. Bro. Lester Jones was our pastor during those days and how we thank God for this man who was vitally concerned about the young people under his care. Many have gone out from this youth group to serve God in various places. I attended youth camp and it was here that God called me to preach His Word. A few years later we moved to Nashville to attend Bible College. Here God's call came to us concerning serving Him on the mission field. After pastoring for three years in Manchester, Tennessee we moved to Columbia, South Carolina to attend Columbia Bible

College. Last August, at the missionary retreat in Nashville, we were appointed as missionaries to Ivory Coast, Africa.

During this next year we will be trying to raise the necessary support that will enable us to go to Africa. Mainly, we are looking to Free Will Baptists in Missouri for this support. We are available for services throughout this year (September to September). Contacts should be made through the National Office in Nashville or by writing me at the above address. We will be looking forward to hearing from many of you during this year and we ask that you remember us in prayer.

Yours in Christ,
Jerry Pinkerton



*Jerry Jr. 9, Howard 13, and Timmy 8
Jerry and Carol*

Please take note!!! First quarter, 1972, Sunday School Literature will be available from the Missouri Free Will Baptist Bookstore at its new Lebanon location. The Executive Board of the Missouri State Association encourages all Missouri churches to send your orders to Post Office Box 645, Lebanon, Missouri 65536. Use the order blanks you have from your last order and send as usual, except to the Missouri address.

Missouri State
Home Mission Giving
September 5 - October 5, 1971

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Olivet Church | 50.00 |
| New Home Church | 20.00 |
| Hannon Church | 43.15 |
| Belton Church | 16.00 |
| Thayer Church | 10.25 |
| St. Francois Co. Qtly. Mtg. | 25.00 |
| Copper Mines Church | 7.00 |
| Salem Church | 10.00 |
| First Church O'Fallon | 5.00 |
| Mrs. Fae Davis | 15.00 |
| South Side Church | 33.00 |
| Fourth Church | 47.00 |
| Berkeley Church | 10.00 |
| First Church Lebanon | 6.00 |
| First Church Waynesville | 2.50 |
| Mine LaMotte Church | 10.00 |
| Harmony Church | 17.97 |
| Myrtle Church | 16.50 |
| Victory Church | 165.82 |
| Hurryville Church | 30.00 |
| First Church Monett | 2.00 |
| Women's Aux. Belvoir, N.C. | 2.00 |
| Faith E. Lovelace | 5.00 |
| Mrs. Stella Mowry | 2.00 |
| First Church Joplin | 35.74 |
| National Home Missions | 11.00 |
| Beacon Church | 18.00 |
| Low Ground Church | 5.00 |
| Ministers Retreat 1971 | 70.75 |
| Mrs. Fae Davis | 5.00 |
| Calvary Church | 4.75 |
| Willow Springs Church | 17.00 |
| Union Light Church | 24.00 |
| Cuba Church | 9.35 |
| Grace Church | 9.00 |
| Fellowship Church | 117.00 |
| First Church DeSoto | 15.00 |
| Parkview Church | 31.00 |
| Beacon Jr. Hi. Girls Class | 5.50 |
| Leadinton Church | 168.61 |
| Mildred Wallace | 5.00 |
| Cooperative Receipts - Sept. | 654.23 |
| Total | \$1,757.12 |

Designated gift for Jefferson City
Building Fund Loan—
Farmington Church 67.00
Total giving for month . \$1,824.12

Secretary-Treasurer
Rev. Lawrence Thompson
3416 N. Bellefontaine
Kansas City, Mo. 64117

Foreign Mission giving from the state of Missouri totaled \$5,680.84 for the month of September.

LOST AT SEA



By A. B. Brown

HARDLY ANYONE would deny that many things considered as taboo just a few short years ago are now accepted as part of everyday life. For example, honesty, at one time, was the accepted norm. An individual was accepted as an honest person until proven different. However, the trends of today seem to be moving in the opposite direction.

American industry spends multiplied millions of dollars annually to protect itself from larceny. General Motors, the largest corporation in America, is forced to maintain its own police force which is commonly known as "plant protection." These men are stationed at all employee entrances in an attempt to reduce the company's enormous losses due to thievery. Few department stores would dare open their doors without the assistance of one or several "store detectives."

The citizen of today is accustomed to the little "white lie." It is considered as a legitimate tool to help one escape or avoid the undesirable. The "old fashioned" idea that one is bound to the truth in all circumstances is now past history. This is not just

the code of the criminal element of society. The extent to which this philosophy has permeated American life is reflected in the actions of the government in securing the release of the men of the Pueblo. The United States Government admitted to the world that it signed false statements in order to secure the release of the crew of the Pueblo.

Just a few years ago sex was considered as legitimate only within the bonds of matrimony. Today's "enlightened" generation boasts that it is no longer shackled by the "puritan" ideas of their parents. The extent of this abuse is obvious when one considers the fact that venereal diseases have reached epidemic proportions among American teenagers.

Thus—it seems that the foundation stones of American life are gradually crumbling. Crime is increasing at an alarming rate. Riots have threatened to bring some of the nation's larger cities to chaos and ruin. The American home, long the foundation of society, now ends up in the divorce courts in one out of every three marriages. Everything is in a state of change. Most people are aware that society is moving, but few seem to know where it is going or where it will end up. Thus—like a ship lost at sea, she drifts with the latest wind and current. It seems as if someone or something is tampering with the very soul of America.

Therefore, the obvious questions are: What has happened to her anchor? Why does she drift helplessly along? Is there nothing to which she can anchor in order to bring order and reason out of her present chaotic condition? The answer to the last two questions is an astounding yes! Yes, there is an anchor to which the individual and a nation can fix their lives which will hold firmly during the storms of life. The eternal, unchanging, infallible Word of God furnishes a reliable anchor which is "steadfast and sure."

Unless man has a "sure foundation" upon which to stand, he must base his life upon the ever-changing whims of the prevailing philosophy of the moment. There was a time when that "sure foundation" was the infallible Word of God. However, the theology of modernism and liberalism, which is in an even greater state of flux and confusion than society, has exerted a tremendous amount of influence in destroying society's faith in the Bible as the infallible Word of God. Therefore, society, for all practical purposes, has been cut loose from her moorings and now finds herself adrift not knowing where she is going with nothing to tell her where she *should* go.

Society and the church find themselves in very similar circumstances when it comes to the Bible as the infallible Word of God. The theologian's denial or rejection of an infallible Word does not relieve society in general for her spiritual and moral decline which has resulted in the present chaotic conditions. There has been in recent years a rebellion against such authority.

The concept of authority has become a con-

troversial subject. Oppressive authoritarianism by certain states and stultifying authoritarianism by segments of the church have contributed to a distaste for authority. Yet every thinking individual knows that a measure of authority is necessary for the existence of any society. In his book *Nature and Functions of Authority*, Yves Simon described the necessary balance as follows, "Liberty to determine one's own life is a precious heritage, but liberty carried to license evokes disgust. Every society is caught in the antinomy of authority and liberty."

The excessive use of authority is certainly not a thing of the past. But, on the other hand, neither is the abuse of liberty. This is certainly indicated by the recent riots on campuses and in the cities of this country. The Roman Catholic Church could be cited as a prime example of authoritarianism. She asserts herself as the infallible hand of God upon earth today and thereby imposes her creeds upon millions as their only possible hope of salvation.

Religious authority, from which our society has become alienated, rests with God. In its finality *all* authority rests with God. The same God who regulates moral principles or religion is the same God who regulates the laws of thermodynamics. Since He is sovereign nothing exists or operates beyond His control. However, even those who deny His authority in other realms admit that when it comes to religion God is *the* authority. Most books on religion agree that in religion God is the final authority. Then one is forced to ask himself: How does God reveal or express His authority? Man has the right to expect a special or more complete revelation of God to him. The Bible is accepted by most as the vehicle through which God makes Himself known to man.

It seems that as it relates to the Bible revelation (special) must be viewed from two aspects. First, revelation must be seen as it relates to those who wrote the Scriptures and then to the Scriptures themselves as a revelation of God to man.

The Scripture is authoritative because God is its Author. The Scripture possesses binding and ruling authority by reason of what it is, objectively and inherently. It is, however, by the inward work of the Spirit that we are convinced and accept its authority.

As the *believer* realizes that the Holy Spirit which produced the Bible is the *same* Holy Spirit which endwells him, he more readily understands and accepts that inner witness to the authority of the Word. Not only this but he must consider that the Spirit is He whom Christ gave such a prominent place in the lives of the Apostles. The writings of the Apostles carry much more authority since they were endwelled by the "Spirit of Truth" (Jn. 14:17) which would "guide them into all truth" (Jn. 16:13). Not only this but He was to show them "things to come" (Jn. 16:13d). Therefore, the Spirit is a witness to the character of the Apostles and thus a witness to the authority of the Bible.

However, it must be admitted that proper

authority exists independently of personal recognition and becomes the proper authority only as the individual recognizes it as such. Denial of proper authority does not dissolve the authority; it only renders it inoperative in the consciousness of those who deny it. This describes America and her relationship to Christ and His Word. She has refused the only authority in existence which holds the solution to her chaotic condition.

The design of the authority of the Bible is to present the authority of God which is summed up in Jesus. To recognize the authority of the Bible is to recognize that God is the supreme authority. Jesus clearly declared this in Matt. 28:18 when He said, "All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth." The Old Testament prophets introduced their messages with phrases like, "Thus saith the Lord" or "The word of the Lord came unto me saying" Jesus presents a remarkable contrast. Of Him it was said, "Never man spake like this man." (Jn. 7:46). He spoke with an unmistakably divine authority.

His deeds were in harmony with His claims to authority. He healed the sick, raised the dead, changed the water to wine, calmed the storm, cast out demons, walked upon the waters, forgave sin, and many other acts which established His complete authority in every realm.

Judas Iscariot rejected His authority and dies a disgraceful death. The Jewish nation rejected His authority and have been a despised and persecuted people since. The Roman Catholic Church has placed the Church and tradition above the authority of Christ and thereby have plunged into spiritual darkness. Communism, by its rejection of the authority of our Lord subjects three-fifths of the earth's population into slavery. Modernism and Liberalism are bankrupt spiritually and in utter confusion because of their rejection of the authority of Christ and His Word. Thus—the lives of the individual, church, nation, and civilization are inevitably linked to the supreme authority of the Nazarene who is revealed in an authoritative, inerrant book, the Bible. When this authority is rejected, one must look down life's highway with the sure knowledge that somewhere he will find himself in the grips of chaos and destruction, lost at sea.

Brother Brown, pastor of the Bethel Church, loaned me several papers he prepared as part of his class work while attending Covenant Theological Seminary to use in the GEM when space would permit. He gave me his permission to edit them. I apologize to Brother Brown that editing to fit in the space of the GEM made it necessary to omit the research and footnotes which served as documentation and proofs for this very fine paper. I trust it has been done in such a way as not to misconstrue his meaning. Thank you Brother Brown for your thoughtfulness.

MEDITATIONS . . .

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.
Psalm 19:14

A SHARING PLACE

Home is fulfillment of childhood dreams,
A soul-felt joy that sharing brings;
Home is belonging, and knowing love . . .
A priceless possession there's too little of:
Home is a symbol of status, of pride,
Of a family known community wide;
Home is security that children seek . . .
As grown ups do . . . a fortress retreat;
Home is the smile on a loved-one's face,
A cohabitation, a sharing place;
Home is a feeling, without words to say,
That grows ever stronger when one is away.

—Walter D. King

Home interprets Heaven. Home is Heaven for beginners.

—Charles Parkhurst

Home is where the heart is.

—Pliny

Where we love is home, Home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

Home is the place where, when you go there, they have to take you in. But I should like to call it, the place you, somehow, shouldn't have to deserve.

—Robert Frost

Men say: "The soul that is once saved will not die."

God says: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die."

(Ezekiel 18:4)

Mr. King, a fine Christian man, is not a Free Will Baptist. He is Acquisitions Librarian at Southwest Missouri State College Library. Writing poetry is an enjoyable hobby for him.

Borrowed from the *Trinity Church Newsletter*. Thank you Pastor Spurgeon.

"THE PERSONALITY OF YOUR CHURCH"

Churches are not identically alike. Some are outstanding for their friendliness and warmth. Some are centers of sound, good doctrinal preaching. Some excel in evangelism, while others are superior in their stewardship. While every church has a unique personality all its own, that personality can be affected by just a few people. A few people can run off about as many as the pastor and the rest of the membership can bring in. But, also, a small number can resurrect the church in so many ways: One good steward can encourage others to give generously; one friendly usher can make the visitors feel at home; one spiritual member who knows how to pray can help lift the load; one committed Christian can inspire others to be real servants of the church. The spirituality of the church is never more than the sum total of the spirituality of the respective members who comprise it.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGES, 1971

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|
| Copper Mines | 82 | 78 | 91 | 99 | 97 | 91 | 95 | | |
| DeSoto | 71 | 73 | 79 | 91 | 85 | 84 | 91 | 100 | 106 |
| Farmington | 120 | | | 143 | 117 | 119 | 112 | | |
| Fredericktown | | 126 | 136 | 151 | 147 | | | 130 | |
| Hannon | 65 | | 71 | 73 | 69 | | | | |
| Lebanon, First | 163 | 147 | 150 | 162 | 139 | 177 | 127 | 144 | 189 |
| Mine LaMotte | 38 | 33 | 41 | 52 | 37 | 37 | 47 | 35 | 40 |
| Monett | 169 | 173 | 188 | 183 | 161 | | | 181 | 211 |
| Mt. Pisgah | | | | | | 70 | 68 | 71 | |
| Oskaloosa | | 22 | | | | | 22 | 20 | 20 |
| Parkview | 109 | 92 | 121 | 127 | 104 | 96 | 98 | 103 | 99 |
| Salem | 41 | 37 | 53 | 48 | 46 | 40 | 34 | 39 | 40 |
| Trinity | 158 | | 211 | 196 | 170 | 159 | 132 | | 181 |
| Victory | 121 | 113 | 137 | 106 | | | 97 | 105 | 111 |
| West Plains | 142 | 127 | | 139 | 128 | 134 | 126 | 130 | 149 |
| Willow Springs | 95 | 89 | 90 | 103 | 96 | 97 | 100 | | 98 |

NOTES AND NEWS

In their September meeting, the Berkeley Church sent an offering to the Mark Vandivort family and honored Mr. and Mrs. Morris Tucker Mrs. Brenda Spruill, the National Field Worker, held meetings at Arnold, Springfield, and Thayer, Missouri in October to explain the new plan of work for the auxiliary Kirksville Church Auxiliary held a birthday party for missionary appointee Carol Pinkerton at their October meeting. Their Missions Action group is buying socks for the Alabama Children's Home. "Round Robin" letters were written to Mrs. Miley and Mrs. McLain. A report on *Never Say Can't*, the biography of "Pop" Willey, was given by the President, Joan Filkins.

T _____ in the Lord
(Prov. 3:5)
H _____ the word of the Lord
(Jeremiah 31:10)
A _____ and It shall be given you
(Luke 11:9)
N _____ is the accepted time
(2 Cor. 6:2)
K _____ my commandments
(John 14:15)
S _____ ye the Lord
(Isaiah 55:6)
G _____ is love
(1 John 4:8)
I _____ my Father's house are many mansions
(John 14:2)
V _____ the fatherless
(James 1:27)
I _____ your ears to the words of my mouth
(Psalm 78:1)
N _____ is the day of Salvation
(2 Cor. 6:2)
G _____ loveth a cheerful giver
(2 Cor. 9:7)



DON'T FORGET OUR PRE-THANKSGIVING WEEK OF PRAYER. The offering will go to National Home Missions. Let's really make this thanks GIVING!

If your Auxiliary needs some good study or devotion books, here are some that our reader's suggested: *Woman At The Well*, by Dale Evans Rogers, Revell Co. (also any of her other books); *Go Home And Tell*, by Bertha Smith, Missionary to the Orient for 42 years, Broadman Publishing Co.; *Never Say Can't*, by Jerry Ballard, Creation House; *A New Song*, by Pat Boone, Creation House; *Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory*, by Anita Bryant.

OH, REALLY?

"How's your wife?" a man asked his old friend whom he hadn't seen in a few years. "She's in heaven," replied the friend. "Oh, I'm sorry," the man answered. Then realizing that was not the best phrase to use, he said, "I mean, I'm glad well, what I really mean is, I'm surprised."

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

An observant little girl was riding through a busy shopping area with us a few days before Thanksgiving. Noticing the stores were all decorated for Christmas sales, she very thoughtfully said: "Isn't it strange, every one's ready for Christmas, but no one's ready for Thanksgiving."

"When He giveth quietness, who can make trouble" Job 34:29a

GEM
 FREE WILL BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL D
 BOX 1088
 NASHVILLE TN 37202

PROMOTIONAL
 SECRETARY'S CORNER



FRIDAY, September 3rd, I attended the closing day of Union Association held with Mt. Zion F.W.B. Church near Norwood, Missouri. I was privileged to preach the memorial sermon in behalf of those deceased in the past year. Some of their churches support both Home and Foreign Missions of our National Association. Friday evening while in this territory, I attended a revival in the Youkon Methodist Church. Reverend Horton, one of our Free Will Baptist evangelists, preached the gospel messages for this revival; five souls were saved in this service. Others were saved in preceding nights. Brethren, the fact of salvation is what the preaching of the good news is all about.

Saturday, September 4th, seventeen churches of Liberty Quarterly Meeting assembled with Calvary Church, Conway. They licensed two new ministers. I was given some time to explain the new allocation of Missouri cooperative funds.

Sunday morning, September 5th, Brother Beatty delivered the sermon in Marshfield Church. One young man was saved in this service. Pastor Crawford baptized six persons in the river near by Sunday evening. This church recently purchased lots adjacent to the

church; hopefully to expand and take care of their growing congregation. On my way home Sunday evening I stopped by Gray Summits and delivered the sermon there. Due to Labor Day the crowd was light. Later reports indicate the attendance is up.

In response to an invitation from Pastor Harwell and Lebanon First Church, I delivered both sermons there Sunday, September 12th. We enjoyed two good services. The attendance was excellent. Pastor Harwell is doing a good work there.

September 13th and 14th thirty ministers and one layman attended the ministers' retreat at Niangua camp ground. We enjoyed a fine ministers' retreat this year.

Sunday morning I delivered the sermon in Berkeley Church. Pastor Burton, Berkeley Church and the Sunday School continue to win souls for the Lord. This church stands at the top of the list in support of every phase of the work in the state of Missouri.

St. Louis District held special Youth Rally services in the Grace Church Friday evening, September 10th; the main feature was the film, "The Lost Generation." This film really applies to our twentieth century generation. About 350 people attended this service.

September Cooperative Receipts, 1971.

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Granby | \$ 29.38 |
| Mine LaMotte | 13.77 |
| Hannon | 78.30 |
| Hurryville | 72.82 |
| Columbia | 28.95 |
| Salem | 20.00 |
| West Plains, First | 105.00 |
| Olivett | 130.00 |
| Gate Way | 41.80 |
| Marshfield | 27.72 |
| Berkeley | 402.85 |
| Garfield | 23.25 |
| Belton | 65.00 |
| Pleasant Ridge | 19.45 |
| Cartersville | 29.51 |
| Waynesville | 101.16 |
| DeSoto | 122.00 |
| Black Oak | 30.00 |
| Copper Mines | 60.00 |
| Fourth | 218.82 |
| Bethel, Festus | 40.00 |
| Farmington | 197.97 |
| Monett | 224.18 |
| Merl's Chapel | 83.87 |
| Cabool | 49.85 |
| Victory | 231.46 |
| Verdella | 34.55 |
| Fellowship | 50.00 |
| Houston | 108.00 |
| Grace | 262.23 |
| Cedar Ridge | 78.73 |
| less designated 10% | 7.87 |
| Union Light | 40.74 |
| Belton | 78.00 |
| Hickory Grove | 26.43 |
| Pleasant Grove | 39.01 |
| Myrtle | 164.85 |
| Twin Oak | 100.00 |
| New Harmony | 23.15 |
| Parkview | 50.00 |
| South Side | 183.00 |
| TOTAL | \$3,685.80 |

| DISBURSEMENTS | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 17.75% Missouri Missions | 654.23 |
| 16.00% Promotional Dept. | 589.72 |
| 04.00% General Fund | 147.43 |
| 04.00% Book Store | 147.43 |
| 03.50% Youth Camp | 129.02 |
| 1.00% S.S. and C.T.S. | 36.86 |
| 00.25% Superannuation | 9.22 |
| 05.50% GEM | 202.72 |
| 52.00% 8 Missouri Depts | \$1,916.63 |
| 03.00% Hillsdale College | 110.57 |
| 00.50% Theological Com. | 18.43 |
| 00.50% Layman's Bd. | 18.43 |
| 01.50% R.E.A.P. | 55.29 |
| 03.00% C.T.S. | 110.57 |
| 07.00% Church Extension | 258.00 |
| 09.50% Executive Dept. | 350.15 |
| 10.00% F.W.B.C. | 368.58 |
| less designated 10% | 7.87 |
| 13.00% Foreign Missions | 479.15 |
| plus designated 10% | 7.87 |
| 45.00% 8 National Depts. | \$1,658.60 |
| 100.00% Disbursed | \$3,685.80 |