

**FREE WILL BAPTIST**

# Gem

FEBRUARY, 1972  
VOLUME 42  
NUMBER 2





# Personal from the Editor



by our parents and Sunday School teachers, providing us the refreshing Word of God. We have continued to grow until we are now full-grown Christians in the Lord's vineyard. We look good, leafed out, and should be bearing fruit. To all outward appearances everything is progressing in the right order.

But looks are deceiving. Some will be cut down because they don't bear fruit. The tree Jesus talked about was not condemned because it was bent, deformed, or even diseased. To all appearances it was a perfectly healthy tree. The trouble was that it didn't have any fruit on it, only leaves.

A lot of human lives in our modern society are just like that. To all outward appearances, there is nothing wrong with them. There is no deformity of character or personality. These people are decent, honest, likeable, good citizens, good neighbors. They don't cause much trouble; they don't start riots; they carefully avoid all the social vices. Anyone of them might be compared to a lovely tree standing in the vineyard, well-formed and full of foliage. But there is no fruit on the tree, only leaves.

The Lord is not satisfied with that kind of tree. And He is not satisfied with a person's "good" life if it is not productive. It is not enough for anyone to point out the evil deeds of other people. It is not enough for us to shake our heads and say, "People are going to the dogs, our children are becoming delinquents." And it is not enough for

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**W**HEN WE drive by a used-car lot and observe all the shiny cars, we can't really tell which is the best buy. From the outside they may look similar; every one of them may have a good paint job. Inside, the story may be different; the upholstery may be torn, the trim scratched; there may not even be an engine under the hood. So the casual observer cannot tell from a distance the difference between a slick fine-running automobile and a real "lemon."

Take a look at two peach trees in bloom. Outwardly both appear to be healthy trees. But when it's time for the fruit to form on the branches, only one of the trees has peaches, the other is barren.

A woman enters a department store to buy some material. She finds a piece of cloth which she likes, but it is \$4.75 a yard. So she shops in another store. There she finds a similar piece of material which looks and feels as good as the first. This piece of cloth sells for \$2.95 per yard. She buys it. But upon washing it the first time, the material shrinks.

Merely looking and feeling the cloth didn't reveal its true quality.

Two men may look nearly the same to you and to me. They have fine reputations in the community. They are civic leaders, good fellows and well-liked by everyone. One pleases God and the other does not. Why?

We can find the same situation in the church. Two members attend regularly, give generous amounts to the church. One is pleasing to the Lord, but the other is not.

In his illustration of the same idea the Lord uses the example of the Fig tree. Things are not always what they seem to be. The Lord demands that a person not only look like a Christian, but that he really be one—a Christian who produces fruit.

The Lord of the vineyard came saying, "For the last three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any." God demands the productive life of all His people. We were planted in the Lord's orchard as children. Growing up like tender young saplings we were watered and nourished

## THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

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# CHURCHES PEOPLE and EVENTS

Rev. Glen Rehkop was evangelist for a series of revival services at the Salem Church. Hearts were challenged and two found Jesus as Lord in the services. The youth choirs of the Gladden Church of Success and the Viburnum Church provided special music for two nights of the services. Guest speaker Jim Turnbough was guest speaker for the Youth Sunday services at the Salem Church, Sunday, January 16.

## THE CHURCH AT WAYNESVILLE

First Church of Waynesville reports good news in blessings and hearts reached for Christ. Twenty-nine decisions have been made for Christ in the last quarter of 1971. That is victory! The resignation of Pastor Maness, effective January 20, 1972, leaves the church with mixed feelings: reluctance at the loss of one who has served so faithfully, and expectancy as Brother Vergel goes on to serve the Lord in new service.

## REV. MELVIN BINGHAM DIES

News has been received of the home going of a brother. Dr. L. C. Johnson and Rev. Bert Rogers officiated in Memorial Services at Trinity Temple Free Will Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, November 17, 1971. Rev. Melvin Bingham, seventy years at death, began his ministry when 16 years old. He served the Lord as a minister fifty-four years and in that time founded two churches, Fellowship, Flat River; and Trinity Temple, Tulsa. He had served as pastor

for varying number of years for four other congregations in Oklahoma. He was active in the founding of the National Association in 1936, served on the Trustee Board of Free Will Baptist Bible College for 20 years, and helped organize various state, district and local Free Will Baptist works. "Known unto God are all his works." We humbly submit to God's loving care.



On November 21, 1971 at the close of a Youth Night Service the First Free Will Baptist Church of Berkeley gave the pastor Rev. Clarence Burton a surprise birthday party.

The gifts included a suit, shirts, ties and other items of clothing.

The pastor states: It gives you a warm feeling to experience something such as this. The church has been good to my family and I. It truly is a joy working with such a fine group of people.



## PASTOR TOURS HOLY LAND AND GREECE

Rev. O. D. Matthews, pastor of the Copper Mines Church, Fredericktown, made a recent tour to the Holy Land and Greece. The tour left the John F. Kennedy Airport in New York on Novem-

ber 2 and arrived in Tel-Aviv, November 3, with a bus trip on to Jerusalem.

Visiting Mt. Olives, Pontius Pilate's Judgment Hall, the Pool of Bethesda, the Tower of David, the Upper Room, Golgotha, the Garden Tomb, and the Dome of the Rock made a busy and very interesting first day. Seeing these places where the Bible took place and where Jesus walked made the historical record of the Bible begin to take on a clearer and deeper meaning. The morning of November 5 was spent touring the place of the Ascension, the site where Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer, Gethsemane, Bethlehem, the Church of the Nativity, and the cave where Jesus was born, while the afternoon included a bus trip south to Bethany, visiting the home and tomb of Lazarus, then to Jericho and the Dead Sea.

November 7 and 8 were spent visiting the northern part of Israel where many Biblical events had their setting. Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Jordan River, Jacob's Well, Samaria, Capernaum, Valley of Megiddo, and the Valley of Jezreel. A boat trip across the Sea of Galilee from Tiberias to the ancient city of Capernaum was a high spot of those two days.

The flight to Athens and the tour of both the ancient and modern city including the Parthenon, The House of Parliament, and Mar's Hill made a full day of November 9. On November 10 the tour continued to the ancient city of Corinth where Paul spoke so brilliantly and upheld the "Faith." The time in Corinth also included the Temple of Apollo, many Roman ruins and the Museum of Corinth.

This tour was under the direction of Rev. Harry Douma, pastor of the Pilot Knob Southern Baptist Church. "The entire tour," Brother Matthews recalls, "was spiritually uplifting and factually enlightening, as we saw the places of Bible history and the places where Jesus walked. We felt in our hearts a certain joy that comes from a better knowledge that leads to a closer acquaintance with Jesus."



## MISSIONS MAILBOX

National Home Missions giving from Missouri for the month of November, 1971, was \$1,470.45. This makes a total given to National Home Missions in 1971 of \$12,892.01 and leaves us \$4,107.99 short of our quota.

### praise

Eddie and Sandra Payne plan to return to the Ivory Coast soon to resume their ministry which was interrupted about a year ago due to Sandra's health. The scheduled sailing date is February 13.

Pastor Dorairaj in South India sends news of a new church building dedicated on December 5. Without a resident missionary for several years, our Christian brethren there remain strong and active in the work of the Lord.

The new church building/youth center was finished in Sapporo, Japan during December. A Christmas Eve candlelight service was the first held in the church.

When Don Robirds returned to the U. S. to become Director of Communications, the F.W.B. church in Ribeirao Preto, Brazil became full responsibility of Pastor Dirceu Biason. We recently received word that eight university students were converted through Dirceu's ministry. Pray that the Lord will continue to bless his work.

### pray

The Good News Team arrived safely in Japan and are busy with preparations for activities during the Olympic games. They will

distribute literature and give personal witness to the thousands who attend the games. Pray for their good health and adjustment to the food, people and way of life in their new environment.

Pray for Dr. LaVerne Miley and our medical work in Doropo, Ivory Coast. In a recent letter Dr. Miley wrote, "It seems we never get caught up. I have almost given up hopes of trying." More doctors and nurses are badly needed in this area.

Brazilian evangelist Wadislau Gomez and his family are in the United States and will speak several times in the Free Will Baptist churches in the Nashville area in mid-February. Rev. Gomez has held revival-type campaigns for many of our missionaries in Brazil and Uruguay and has served as youth camp evangelist. Pray for his effective witness here.

The Ivory Coast field council meeting was recently concluded, and the meeting for the Brazil field council is scheduled for January 24-28. Pray for these meetings, as important decisions and plans are made for further evangelistic efforts.

General Director J. Reford Wilson and Board Chairman Dr. Joe Ange left Miami January 17 for a tour of our works in Panama, Brazil and Uruguay.

### Missouri Missions. News from the Capitol City Church.

#### BRO. FRANK WRITES:

Well, 1971 is history now and nothing can be added to or taken away from that year.

I'm sure each of you have experienced desires like the one that seemed to flood my heart all day Saturday, Jan. 1st. A real burden regarding fleeting opportunities. Somehow I could not help but see many tasks that were left undone, and far, far too many people who allowed the year to close while rejecting Christ, all of which alarms me and burdens of my heart.

For the most part, I believe

looking back is futile business; however, there are some benefits to be derived from a backward glance.

Benefit 1: I believe we can profit from failures. We should note the cause of these failures and vow to be wiser in our approach in the future, asking God to aid us so that we never again suffer from such pitfalls.

Benefit 2: I believe we can profit from successes . . . . Now I do not mean that we should sit around and gloat about them or spend out days merely talking about the good old days, but instead, we should draw from them, profiting by the successful endeavor and also allowing it to be a means of encouragement for future attempts.

Benefit 3: I believe the presence of God with us in both success and failure (and I do not mean that God has failed, but that we have failed) should encourage our hearts knowing that ours is a God who never leaves nor forsakes us. (This is especially vital when working on the mission field.)

There are many, many more benefits that could be added here, however, I believe that even more profitable is the projected look to the future.

The Word tells us that without a vision the people will perish. God has brightened our hopes for the future. Before us is a brand new year like a fresh new snow or a brand new ledger sheet—no tracks, no entries, good or bad. Let us commit ourselves to God and the task before us and let us advance forward, claiming victory through Christ.

January marks the one year period for our mission work here in Jeff. City, and according to the program of our Missouri State Home Mission Board, our Church accepted some of the financial responsibilities of the work here.

The Mission is now paying a part of my salary—\$25.00 per week, and also the utilities of the parsonage. This is a tremendous load for our young work, but I am confident that with God's help our group will rally to the cause.



Our mission board continues to bear the large part of our salary—\$100.00 per week, plus our housing allowance, so don't neglect support for the Jefferson City account. Also, bear in mind that our building fund loan is still a great need. (Any funds sent for this account must be earmarked "Jefferson City Building Loan.")

Our need for pews is urgent. Can you help? Please contact us if you know where any are available.

Missouri State  
Home Mission Giving  
December 5, 1971 - January 5, 1972

First Ch. Mtn. Grove .....	20.91
New Rock Springs Church .....	31.60
Mona Chisman .....	1.00
Vernon Long .....	25.00
Coppermines Church .....	7.00
Rock Chapel Church .....	40.00
Berkeley Church .....	10.00
Hurryville Church .....	30.00
Salem Church .....	10.00
Olivet Church .....	90.00
Belton Church .....	7.00
Harmony Church .....	15.72
Myrtle Church .....	14.77
Beacon Church .....	57.26
Hannon Church .....	47.41
Willow Springs Church .....	11.00
Stella Mowry .....	2.00
Faith Lovelace .....	5.00
Monett Church .....	25.00
Thayer Church .....	40.50
First Ch. DeSoto .....	30.00
Waynesville Church .....	2.00
Victory Church .....	105.90
First Ch. Joplin .....	34.81
Leadinton Church .....	109.01
Mine LaMotte Church .....	10.00
Fourth Church .....	31.00
First Ch. West Plains .....	20.00
Low Ground Church .....	5.00
Parkview Church .....	30.00
Union Light Church .....	24.00
Women's Aux. Belvoir, N.C. ....	2.00
Larry Wallace .....	15.00
Fellowship Church .....	79.00
Farmington Church .....	42.00
First Ch. Flat River .....	111.00
Cooperative Receipts - Dec. ....	923.00
Total .....	\$2,064.89

Designated gifts for Jefferson City  
Building Fund Loan -  
First Ch. Waynesville ..... 61.00

Total giving for month ..... \$2,125.89

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

## F.W.B.B.C.

## NEWS

### BIBLE COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE LAUNCHES "THREE-YEAR PLAN"

Jack Paramore, Director of Development for Free Will Baptist Bible College, has launched a "Three-Year Plan" of support for the school's building program. He proposes to raise \$750,000 by 1975, using these funds to construct a new activities building on the campus, add a wing to the Welch Library, and acquire new property for future expansion.

The "Three-Year Plan" is a program encouraging churches and individuals to make commitments to the school spanning 1972-1975, rather than making pledges for just one year. "The main thought behind the Three-Year Plan," Paramore says, "is what it will mean in promotional savings, both in money and man-hours."

The new plan is being launched at a time when the Bible College Development Campaign is enjoying wide support among Free Will Baptists. The drive has already passed the \$1,000,000-mark in gifts and commitments.

Paramore and Assistant Director Al Hamm will be contacting churches and individuals concerning their support for the program.

### FWBBC BIBLE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD MARCH 12-16

Free Will Baptist Bible College's 29th annual Bible Conference will be held on campus March 12-16, 1972. Speakers for the meeting will be Stanley Outlaw, Chester

Phillips, Fred Warner and Willard Wilcox. All are highly competent men of God and able preachers.

Visitors to the Bible College and the conference will be welcomed.

### BIBLE COLLEGE GENERAL FUND GIFTS SET NEW RECORD

Gifts to Free Will Baptist Bible College's general fund set a new record for a month in December, 1971, totaling \$25,827. This brings total giving to the school for the current fiscal year (June, 1971-May, 1972) to more than \$127,000.

With barely half the year gone, two states—Indiana and Virginia—have already surpassed their gift quotas. Other states nearing this goal are Georgia (93%), Kentucky (84%), Arkansas (77%), Florida (73%), and North Carolina (72%).

### COLLEGE ANNOUNCES CHOIR TOUR/DRAMA TOUR PLANS

The Bible College will sponsor its annual Choir Tour and Drama Tour March 16-26, visiting churches in Missouri, Illinois, Oklahoma, and South Carolina.

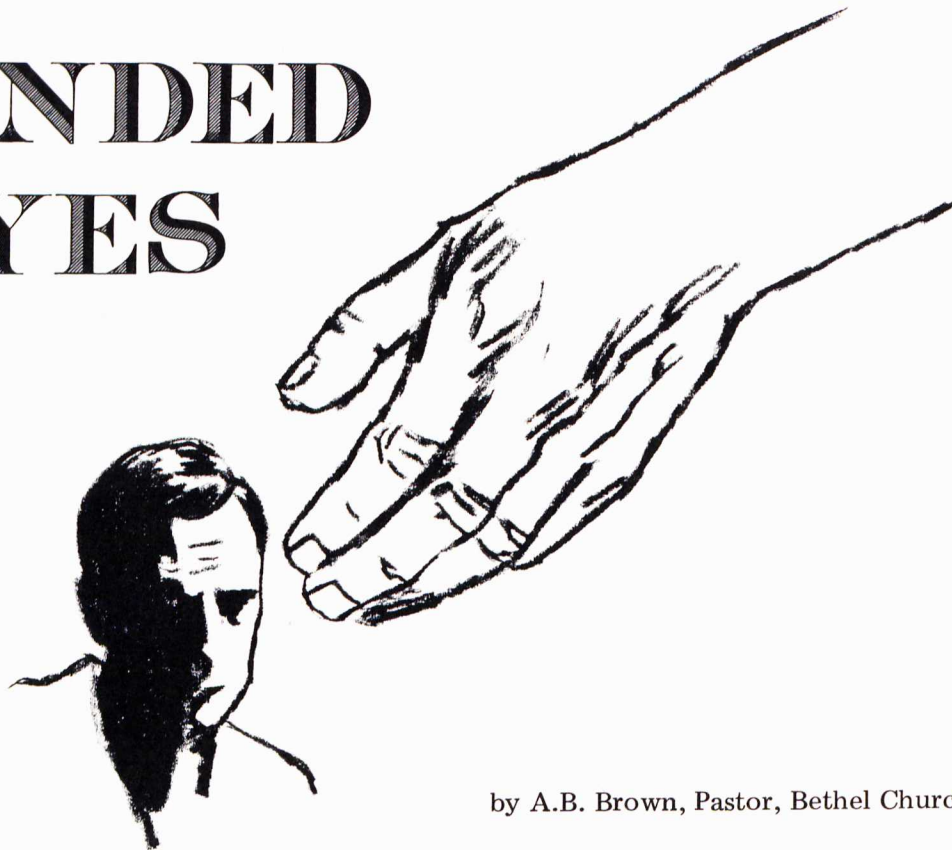
Paul Kettelman, Director of Public Relations, reports that the College Choir will spend much of its 19th annual tour in Missouri. Other services will be held in Illinois and Oklahoma. Choir Director, David Randlett, has prepared a program of hymns, anthems, and gospel songs that will be a blessing to those who hear them.

The school's second Drama Tour, sponsored by the Office of Development, will hold their services in churches across South Carolina. Two plays, under the direction of Joseph Jones of the Speech Department, will clearly present the gospel, from both the Old Testament and the New.

People in those areas where the tours will be held are urged to watch for local publicity announcing the time and place for services.



# BLINDED EYES



by A.B. Brown, Pastor, Bethel Church, Festus

He had changed; once a nice family man, he had degenerated into what his neighbors called a lunatic. Once he was a well-liked and respected business man who served on the town council, but now he seemed to have lost all control of himself. In fact, his neighbors now avoided him. His children lived in constant fear because at times he seemed to actually change into a mad-man. His closest friends had even tied him up when he lost control of himself but he had always broken free as if he were propelled by some strange "demon" forces. Lately he had reached the point where he had actually deserted home, family, and friends and spent his time in the cemetery and caves of the near by hills. At night the screams of his tormented voice made the darkness hideous with the cries of a seemingly trapped animal searching desperately for an escape. During the daylight hours those who dared venture into the area told of seeing him lacerate his own flesh with stones as if he despised his own body or maybe sought to free himself from this inhuman existence.

Then, finally, He came. The carpenter's son of Nazareth who travelled about doing nothing but good. The One who restored the withered hands; the One who had changed endless darkness into the

golden day for blinded eyes; the One who had made paralyzed legs to walk for the first time; the giver of eternal life had come to rescue this poor insane demon-possessed being. Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God was now on the scene. What a beautiful picture, what a transformation, from a raving maniac into a calm, collected individual. "...clothed and in his right mind." (Lk. 5:15). Here was a man changed by the "touch of the Master" from an insane lunatic into a normal individual able to return home and to assume his responsibilities in the home and community.

Certainly everyone would be grateful to this Jesus who had accomplished what no one else could. Surely He would receive the highest acclaim of the town fathers. However, they reacted as the natural man blinded by sin has always reacted to God. They asked Him to leave.

The New Testament reveals the truth that Christ was constantly attacked and finally viciously and unjustly murdered by a mob incited and urged on by the "religious" leaders of His own people. Peter in recounting this incident to the Jews (Acts 4:11) tells them that they had set Christ (the stone) at naught.

Rejected is seemingly a good description of



blinded sinful man's reaction to Christ and the Christian religion. Christ, Himself told His followers that if they remained faithful to Him that they would be reproached and rejected. He warned His earliest disciples that, "If they called the Master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of His household?" (Matt. 10:25). The martyrs of the first three hundred years of the church are certainly good testimony to this truth. The unbelievable systematic destruction of Christians within the last twenty-five years by the demonic minds of Communism certainly gives a clear testimony to man's resistance to Christ and His religion.

The question is, "why?" Why do men reject the Person and religion which offers the only possible solution to the hopeless and helpless situation in which they find themselves? Jesus faced just such a situation in John chapter eight. He had just offered the Scribes and Pharisees, who were certainly bound by sin, freedom. He plainly said to them, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (Jn. 8:36). However they rejected the *truth* and Jesus gives an explanation of their rejection. He says, "Why do ye not understand my speech? Even because ye *cannot* hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do . . . He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye *are not of God*." The word translated "cannot" comes from the Greek word *dunamai* and means "can" or "able." Thus Christ and His message are rejected because those whose father is the devil *are not able* to understand.

This accords very well with 2 Cor. 4:3-4, "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." The unbeliever is thus not able to understand because satan has blinded his mind to the truth. Therefore Paul could say, "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Cor. 2:14).

The Gospel is hidden and man does not receive it because of a space-time fall. Man and God are no longer in harmony. Brilliant as he might be, the fall has distorted man's perception of total reality. Not only this but he is prejudiced against God. This does not mean that he is incapable of perceiving the "bare facts" in the same sense that the Christian does. In other words, the non-believer perceives the bare fact that over there stands an oak tree in the same way the believer does. The same laws of mathematics, physics, etc., apply equally to both the non-believer and the believer. They both realize that if they should fall from that oak tree that they are going to fall earthward and stop suddenly when the body makes contact with the earth. The bare fact of gravity is accepted and applies equally to both. However, the point of cleavage comes when

one goes "behind" the law of gravity or the kernal which produced the oak. It is when one asks the question of who flipped the switch which determines that a body falls earthward that the point of separation comes. Or, one might ask where the first kernal came from? Can a man only go back as far as the kernal or the law of gravity? Or is he able to go past them or "behind" them as the Christian theologian does and explain them on the basis of his God who controls all who is, "Before all things and by him all things consist." (Col. 1:17).

Thus it is a question of presuppositions. Christian theology works on the assumption that the Christian religion is true. Thus the Christian theologian maintains that he can explain the origin of the first kernal and who controls the "switches." It is the task of apologetics to validate this assumption.

Of course, the primary purpose of defense is to set forth Christianity in a manner which would convince the unbeliever of its truth and with the aid of the Holy Spirit lead him to a personal commitment to the Christ of Christianity. The question is the point of contact between the believer and the non-believer. Is there a common ground between them which forms a point of contact for conversation and argumentation? Is it correct to maintain that such a common ground denies the absolute sovereignty of God over His total creation?

As is stated above the fact that both can perceive the bare facts at least gives some ground for discussion and does not in any way deny God's sovereignty. It would seem that of necessity there is a common ground on which the two can meet. Otherwise there is no ground for any communication between the saved and the unsaved. No matter what the Christian says to the nonchristian it will be meaningless chatter. This leads ultimately to Barth's blind leap of faith. God does not expect a man to believe meaningless chatter. The Bible does not demand a man take a blind leap. Saint and sinner can speak of Jesus Christ. H. G. Wells in his *Outlines of History* gave several lines to Jesus of Nazareth although he despised Him and the Christian religion for which He stood. The point is, if an individual takes history seriously he must share with the believer that there was a Christ. This, of course, does not mean that they will share the same presuppositions about Him. But the fact of a historical Jesus gives at least a connecting point and also diminishes the idea of a blind leap of faith.

*(To be continued next month.)*

*Editor's Note: We cut an earlier article by Brother Brown to make it fit in the GEM. We chose to make the present selection a continued article so it could be printed more nearly in its complete form. Thank you Brother Brown for the material.*



## 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

Blessed are they that have not seen,  
and yet have believed." (John 20:29)

was not there to see Him led  
Away and so cruelly bereaved  
With thorns pressed on His bleeding  
head,

And yet, have believed.

I was not there before He died  
Nor saw Him on the cross so grieved  
Because of all the sin, world wide,

And yet, have believed.

could not look into His tomb  
To have my doubts and fears relieved  
When He arose dispelling gloom,  
And yet, have believed.

His nail scarred hands have I not seen  
Nor perfect life that He achieved.  
His wisdom I could never glean,  
And yet, have believed.

I'll never know how great his love  
Which gives salvation when received,  
Or could count all blessings from above,  
And yet, have believed.

I don't know why He loved me so  
When satan had me so deceived,  
How Christ's spirit makes hearts glow,  
And yet, have believed.

He's coming back His Word doth state;  
Not all his words have I perceived;  
Can't comprehend his wisdom great,  
And yet, have believed.

Of all God's great works and power  
My human mind has not conceived;  
When ends grace, I know not the hour,  
And yet, have believed.

I've never saw Him by my side,  
But, yet, Have I not disbelieved.  
That He is there to turn the tide  
When Satan says, "You've not believed."  
Please guide me Lord with staff and rod.  
Let me accept no other creed  
But only Thee my Lord and God.  
Through Thee I know I have believed.

—written by Noah Hammack of South  
Side Church, St. Louis

## Just One Day

Lord, let me live but one day at a time—  
One perfect cycle from the dawn to  
night

Of shining hours filled with thoughts  
sublime

And kindly deeds to make the world  
more bright.

Let no dim memories of yesterday

Parade like phantoms of the vanished  
years,

With broken hopes and dreams in sad  
array

To move me to self-pity's futile tears.  
And let no fear of what tomorrow holds  
Steal in with haunting dread upon its  
brow,

To cloud life's lovely scene as it unfolds  
And hide the opportunities of now.  
So when at last the sun sinks in the west  
And all the day's activities shall  
cease,

I may take with me to my well-earned  
rest

A sweet sense of accomplishment  
and peace

—by Maurine Hathaway

Many fine things can be done in a day if  
you don't always make that day  
tomorrow.

Even the smallest good deed performed  
is better by far than the grandest  
intention.

There is no need of great shame in  
admitting wrong, for admitting it  
means you are wiser today than you  
were yesterday.

Daily each of us has opportunities to  
add to other peoples' burdens or to  
subtract from those burdens by shar-  
ing them. What's your special-  
ity . . . addition or subtraction???

This is what I have found out about  
religion: It gives your courage to  
make the decisions you must make in  
a crisis, and then the confidence to  
leave the result to a Higher Power.  
Only by trust in God can a man  
carrying responsibility find repose.

—Dwight D. Eisenhower

## MISSOURI STATE SUNDAY SCHOOL ENLARGEMENT CAMPAIGN

The Missouri State Sunday  
School and C.T.S. Board urges  
you to become involved. Involved  
in the Enlargement Campaign for  
Missouri Sunday Schools. We be-  
lieve this can be an inspiration as  
well as a challenge for your Sun-  
day School. Although every  
month, in reality, should be a spe-  
cial emphasis month for enlarge-  
ment of the Sunday School, we  
hope you will share your blessings  
for the month of March. Your  
church has probably received cor-  
respondence regarding this activ-  
ity. If not, fill out the Official  
Entry Blank below and mail to:  
Jimmy Bundy, 103 W. Murta,  
Fredericktown, Mo. 63645.

## OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK FOR STATE OF MISSOURI SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTEST

Name of Church\_\_\_\_\_

Average attendance for October,  
November, and December\_\_\_\_\_

\$1.00 Registration Fee.

Division of Participation

- A) 200 above
- B) 150 to 199
- C) 100 to 149
- D) 50 to 99
- E) 49 under



## HOW TO OPERATE A CHURCH WITHOUT MONEY

We have found a way to operate our church without money; will you cooperate?

Each member will come to church dressed warm enough to eliminate the necessity of heating the building; in summer they will bring a fan with them. There will be no fuel bill.

Each member will bring a candle or flashlight to the night services. This will eliminate the light bulbs.

Each member will bring a dust pan and broom to clean his part of the building; if he desires his pew to be extra clean, he must bring a mop and a bucket of water. This will dispose of a paid janitor.

Each member desiring water to drink, will bring his own water bottle. This will save the water bill.

Each member desiring a church bulletin will bring his own supplies and print same in the church office. This will save the expense of office help.

Each member will take his turn playing the piano and directing the choir. This will eliminate the cost of a music director and pianist.

Each member will take his turn preaching, leading the services, visiting the sick, conducting funerals, performing marriages, calling

on prospects and guiding the administration of the church. This will save the expense of a pastor.

Thus we can be known as the "church that needs no money," we will have eliminated that "awful" part of the service, receiving the offering.

What a spectacle it will make as men, women, boys and girls, bundle up head to foot and head for church carrying water bottles, mops, brooms, candles, hammers, saws, and such.

Isn't it a great idea? Yes, the new day is dawning for the "church that needs no money." Would you really like it to be this way? If not, then give God the tenth that belongs to Him, and the church can function as a scriptural church should, with the tithes of its members.

Actually, our church needs no money. We are the ones who use the water, the lights, the heat, and music. We are the ones who want the church repaired and painted. We are the ones who use the services of the pastor when someone is sick or one of the family passes away. Honestly, I think that God's plan is still the BEST, don't you?

God's plan is the tithe.

*Ed. Note: Supplied by "one who collects interesting items." Thank you, Sister Collector.*

## MAN'S RELIGION

If a man's religion cramps his soul  
And takes away his song,  
Or puts his spirit in a cell—  
It's wrong—all wrong!

If a man's religion frees his soul,  
His spirit fills with light,  
And weaves a song into his life—  
It's right—all right!

—Author Unknown

## Youth Camp Report, December, 1971

Reeves (telephone calls) . . . . .	\$ 9.00
Cabool . . . . .	20.00
Coca-cola (returned sodas) . . . . .	49.50
Grant Avenue . . . . .	5.50
Hannon . . . . .	17.00
Mtn. Grove, First . . . . .	10.00
Missouri State Coop . . . . .	183.43
Thayer . . . . .	16.20
Hartville . . . . .	18.53
Olivet . . . . .	10.00
Rock Chapel . . . . .	20.00
Myrtle . . . . .	21.90
Verdella . . . . .	10.00
Waynesville, First . . . . .	2.00
Willow Spring . . . . .	10.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS . . . . .</b>	<b>\$403.56</b>

Frank Giunta, Treasurer  
Missouri State Youth Camp Board  
1317 Moreland  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGES, 1971

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Copper Mines	82	78	91	99	95	91	95	100	90	91		
DeSoto	71	73	79	91	85	84	91	100	106	125	114	
Farmington	120			143	117	119	112				122	
Fellowship												192
Fredericktown	138	126	136	151	147	139	115	130	139	145	137	152
Lebanon, First	163	147	150	162	139	177	127	144	189	189	152	150
Mine LaMotte	38	33	41	52	37	37	47	35	40	39	41	45
Parkview	109	92	121	127	104	96	98	103	99	105	95	93
Salem	41	37	53	48	46	40	34	39	40	44	43	
Trinity	158	162	211	196	170	159	132	146	181	215	186	190
Victory	121	113	137	106			97	105	111	117	105	97
West Plains	142	127		139	128	134	126	130	149	150	148	151
Willow Springs	95	89	90	103	96	97	100	99	98	97	96	104
South Fremont						53	53	53	58			
Springfield, First						199	184	207	213	196	202	



## AMERICAN HOMES ARE IN DESPERATE NEED!

According to the New York Times News Service, "the Census Bureau released striking statistical evidence recently that Mother knows best: people who marry young are twice as likely to be divorced as are somewhat older couples."

In a new analysis, "the bureau found that within 20 years of marriage, 28% of the men who married before the age of 22 had been divorced. This compared with only 13% among men who married when they were older.

The figures were nearly identical for women. Among those who married before their 20th birthday, 27% has been divorced, compared with 14% of those who married after . . . the STRIKING aspect of the new study, they say, is its showing of the MAGNITUDE OF THE PHENOMENON."

Here is fresh and vivid evidence of the tragic crisis through which the homes of our nation are struggling for their very existence. It is still true that, "as the homes of a nation go, so goes the nation."

Without the proper spiritual foundation of personal salvation, deep commitment to Christ, family prayer, witnessing, ministry to others and last but not least, BIBLE STUDY, the homes of our community cannot survive.

This is the purpose God has for FELLOWSHIP CHURCH in this community, to help meet this need. We labour together for God and the Souls of men, We seek to teach them the Word of God. JOIN US EACH WEEK THAT WE MAY DO A BETTER JOB!

*Ed Note: Borrowed from "The Sower" of the Fellowship Church, Flat River. Thank you, Pastor Ken Doggett.*

continued from page 2

us ourselves to just not be bad.

We are not shade trees. We are to be fruit-bearing trees. We must yield a harvest of Christian fruits as indicated by Jesus and the Scriptures. The fruit we must bear is often summarized in one word: *Stewardship*. That means a total responsibility in the use of our time, our abilities, and the material gifts God has given us. How about it? Are you bearing the fruits which the Lord demands of His children? The Lord of the vineyard said, "Cut it down. Why should it go on using up the soil?" This parable should be one which says, "Caution—Danger Ahead!" to those who are half-hearted in their service, busy with nothing and accomplishing less. It can well say to us all, "STOP—step out of the bustling, frustrating schedule you are in—LOOK—examine yourself, what you are doing; what are the motives urging you on—LISTEN—listen carefully to what the Lord of the vineyard is saying.

The words of this parable, you see, have a very direct application to people like us—people who belong to the church of God. The fig tree Jesus spoke of was not a wild tree growing out in the wilderness. It was planted in the vineyard, in the cultivated soil of this cared-for garden. In Old Testament times God had His chosen ones—His garden of people. It is not boasting to claim that His favor has been lavished on us in a special way in our time.

Privilege always involves responsibility. That is what made the failure of ancient Israel so tragic. God had showered His blessings on the Israelites. He had nurtured and cultivated the soil in which He had planted them. But they had produced, for the most part, just leaves.

Our privileges are greater by far than theirs. The people of Israel had the prophets to teach them. We have the Son of God to teach us. They had a preview of the New Testament age; we are living in it. They had the promise of the Gospel; we have it as our possession . . . if we want it. They were blessed with prophecies of things to come; we are a thousand times more blessed, for we have the cross, the resurrection, and the church of the living Christ.

We Christians are the most privileged people on earth. We have Christ. If we live unproductive lives, if we are just as self-centered, just as money-mad and pleasure-mad as godless men, then God will punish. This truth is repeated time and time again in the Scriptures. The God of love is also a God of righteous anger when He needs to be for the good of humanity.

It sounds so good, and we hear it all the time: "God is a God of love, and surely He will not punish anyone." God is pictured as a gray-haired old grandfather who looks down from His throne in heaven and smiles at the immature attitudes and actions of people and says, "Someday they will grow up." But listen to the contrast of the words our Lord puts in the mouth of the orchard owner: "Cut it down. Why should it go on using up the soil?" It is clear to see that there is a cutting-off point, that those who do not conform to God's plan will be rejected.

Do we conform to God's plan? Do we follow the Lord Jesus Christ in faith? Do we now out of love for Him live productive lives? Are we good stewards?

Thank God, this is not the end of the story. In the parable Jesus told, the gardener pleads, "Leave it, sir, this one year while I dig around it and manure it. And if it bears next season, well and good; if not, you shall have it down." The gardener was pleading for the tree, asking for a second chance. We may be now living in the day of our second chance. There may be a parallel between this story and our lives. We may be living in a day of grace.

James said that faith without works is dead. There are people regularly attending church who are nothing but shade trees. They may be spiritually dead, or in the process of dying. God only knows.

And make no mistake about it—God does know. Right now, His Son, our Lord Christ, is cultivating, nourishing, pruning, and loving us toward production of His kind of fruit. He wants to make us alive in His service while there is still a chance. A great deal depends on you. Will you be used; will you bear fruit?



# Woman's Page

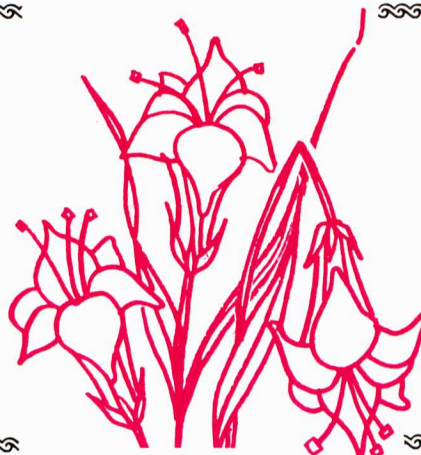
NEWS . . . . . The Festus Auxiliary presented a skit, "Thanksgiving" to their church. They received four new members into their Auxiliary in December, and visited a Nursing Home with gifts for the patients . . . The West Plains Auxiliary sent an offering to the Youth Camp, the Jefferson City Mission, and the Cronks in India . . . Need an idea for your Easter meeting? Why not have all the ladies in your Auxiliary make their own Easter Bonnets to wear to the meeting. You may be surprised at what talent your ladies have . . . Don't forget if you have NEWS send it to: Kathy Lay, 2301 Connecticut, Joplin, Mo. 64801.

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

Our State Treasurer reports that our project "Wheels for Mom Willey" looks like this:

Indian Creek Assoc. . . . .	5.00
St. Louis District . . . . .	35.70
Hannon Auxiliary . . . . .	50.00
Mission District . . . . .	64.03
Myrtle CTS . . . . .	25.00
Total . . . . .	\$179.73

Remember, our goal is \$2,000.00. Send your offerings to Miss Hazel Hutsell, 534 West North Street, Mountain Grove, Mo. 65711.



## FROM A MISSIONARY WIFE

Recently a letter was received from Glenda Fulcher with a note to all GEM readers: "In November there was another deposit made to our account for furniture from the Missouri State Woman's Auxiliary. We are very grateful. I would appreciate it very much if you would pass along to the women our appreciation for their wonderful response to this project. This has been a great help to our account, and we are very grateful to each auxiliary and each individual who gave an offering to help make up the total amount.

"Things are going well here in Augua Buena, Panama. We had 77 in Sunday School yesterday at Agua Buena. Right now we are in the midst of Christmas program preparations. Keep on praying for us here. The Lord bless you real good."

## HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND?

In these *remarks* are hidden the names of 15 books of the Bible. It's a real lulu. Kept me looking so hard for facts I missed the revelation. I was in a jam especially since the names were not capitalized. The truth will come to numbers of our readers—to others it will be a real job. For all it will be a most fascinating search. Yes, there will be some easy to spot, others hard to judge. So we admit it usually results in loud lamentations when we can't find them. One lady says she brews coffee while she puzzles over it. One book is underlined to help you start.

LADIES . . . Don't get up grouchy in the morning . . . Let him sleep late . . . . .

## DISHPAN HANDS

Hands deep in suds, I often think,  
(Washing dishes at the sink)  
My service, Lord, it is not new;  
You had your Philip, your Andrew.  
Who helped You feed the crowd that day  
And after the folk had gone their way  
You stayed to gather the fragments up  
As I've stacked plates and washed this cup  
I didn't give out the living Word  
But I helped feed the ones who heard  
Suppose when I come home to you  
That I'll meet Philip and Andrew  
And we'll reminisce of the multitudes fed  
The earthly food and Living Bread?  
I'll be so rewarded, with serving days done  
To place dishpan hands in Your Nail Pierced One.

REMEMBER . . . . PRE-EASTER WEEK OF PRAYER OFFERING FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS



## PROMOTIONAL SECRETARY'S CORNER



**S**UNDAY morning, December 5, Fourth Church, Maplewood, honored their Senior Citizens in a special service. Brother Beatty was guest minister for this service. The preceeding week their church experienced a soul-saving revival with Evangelist Cliff Bowman preaching the gospel messages. Pastor Sasser is doing a good work in Fourth Church.

Sunday, December 12, we enjoyed two good services in our South Side Church. Rev. Rufus Coffey, our guest minister, delivered the messages.

In the absence of pastor A. B. Brown, due to his father's illness, I delivered the sermon in Bethel Church, Festus, Sunday morning,

December 19. The Sunday School and Church both are doing fine. The evening service was their annual Christmas program.

Mrs. Beatty and I spent Christmas holidays with our people in Thayer and West Plains. By invitation of Pastor Fields, I preached the Sunday morning sermon in the Thayer Church. New members have been added to the Thayer Church recently. Sunday evening I visited our West Plains Church. A guest ministerial student delivered the evening sermon.

Thanks to eighty-five churches participating in the cooperative giving, our monthly receipts averaged \$5,200 for the past five months. We are ahead of schedule as we enter 1972.

## COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS, December, 1971

Gray Summits	\$ 37.50
Hurryville	68.13
Willow Springs	90.13
Mine LaMotte	15.12
Mt. Pisgah	51.69
Mtn. Grove, First	263.37
Pleasant Ridge	20.25
New Rock Springs	60.15
Gateway	40.00
Marshfield	27.58
Neosho	45.00
Salem	20.00
Granby	31.29
Hickory Grove	20.92
Houston	93.00
Rock Chapel	44.22
Grant Avenue	189.21
Leadington	105.00
Berkeley	307.84
Garfield	20.50
Jones Chapel	20.00
Fourth	181.26
Hannon	80.83
Carterville	20.41
Black Oak	30.00
Columbia	30.18
Thayer	45.77
Union Grove	200.00
Olivet	120.00
Copper Mines	65.00
Belton	37.00
Monett	221.42
Bethel, Festus	40.00
Happy Home	12.80
Waynesville	220.58
Union Light	36.35
Grace	223.30
Victory	169.22
Fellowship	50.00
Hurryville	71.00
Pleasant Grove	19.92
Alton	10.00
Mine LaMotte	16.71
Parkview	50.00
Southside	163.00
Capitol City	128.30
Myrtle	161.36
Grant Avenue	224.02
Beacon	185.56
Trinity	130.00
Bethel, El Dorado (newly adopted)	33.93
New Harmony Sunday School	22.24
Fredericktown, First	567.00
A Friend	2.52
Cedar Ridge	53.40
plus designated	5.93
TOTAL	\$5,200.00

## DISBURSED, December, 1971

17.75% Missouri Missions	923.00
16.00% Promotional Dept.	832.00
04.00% General Fund	208.00
03.50% Youth Camp	182.00
05.50% GEM	286.00
01.00% Sunday School & C.T.S.	52.00
00.25% Superannuation	13.00
04.00% Book Store	208.00
52.00% 8 Missouri Depts.	\$2,704.00
03.00% Hillsdale College	156.00
13.00% Foreign Missions	676.00
plus designated	5.93
10.00% FWBBC	520.00
less designated	5.93
09.50% Executive Dept.	494.00
07.00% Home Missions	364.00
01.50% REAP	78.00
00.50% Layman's Bd.	26.00
00.50% Theological Com.	26.00
03.00% C.T.S.	156.00
45.00% 8 National Depts.	\$2,340.00
100.00% Total Disbursed	\$5,200.00