

**FREE WILL BAPTIST**

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**Gem**





# Personal from the Editor



"A habit," someone has said, "is that thing which makes the man of today obey the boy of yesterday." "A habit," wrote Samuel Johnson, "begins as a cob-web and ends as a chain. It is too weak to be felt until it is too strong to be broken." So the literature of the world is full of sayings about the fearful power of habit. Freedom from habit has been called the greatest freedom in the world.

In spite of all these sayings, however, we ought to remember that habit in itself is a gift of God. I don't believe that anyone yet has discovered just what habit is, not scientifically anyway. But no matter how it works, it is a part of the human personality which God made and, therefore, comes from Him. Imagine what life would be like without habit. Imagine what would happen to your mind before very long if you had to concentrate on every one of the hundreds of acts you perform daily simply out of habit. What if you had to think about every button on your clothing? And what if tying your shoes were a problem which required concentration each time? What if you had to think of how to form each sound you spoke? What if you had to think how to walk

and how to balance? Habit is truly one of the wonders of God's creation.

But, like many of the other good things of God, habit was ruined by sin way back in the beginning. So now we have bad habits as well as good. Perhaps even more bad ones than good. Else why would most of the remarks about habit imply that habit is a bad thing? Through all the centuries of human history, one of man's greatest problems has been that of controlling his habits. Two things are necessary to break bad habits. They are both the *desire* and the *power* for breaking them.

Unfortunately, we do not really want to get rid of our bad habits. We may think we do and may complain about them to other people. We may even admit very frankly that they are bad. But secretly we love them. If we did not we would not hold on to them for a minute. Psychologists used to give us some silly talk about habits being pathways we wear in our nerve system. That was just a good excuse for habit and an easy way of explaining why it was so hard to break. But almost everyone admits now that a habit is something you really want to do deep down inside, although you may have forgotten long

ago just why. Something has to shock us into a realization of the real character of our habits before we will have any desire to get rid of them. That is not a very pleasant experience; so all too many people avoid it.

In Luke 11:14-26 there is an account of Jesus driving a devil out of a person. Some of the people present became very angry at this demonstration and rose up in opposition. Could it have possibly been that they felt themselves in the same class as the devils driven out? Since they have not believed Jesus or accepted Him, they were on the same side of the fence as the devils who opposed Him.

There really is not a lot of mystery even today as to the source of our sinful habits. "He that committeth sin," Jesus said, "is of the devil." Our sins put us on the same side with the devil, too. It is much easier to call habits "nerve paths" or maybe even the product of the unconscious mind. But to admit that the devil has gotten lodged in our hearts with a power that's too strong for us to break; to admit that our bad habits aren't just pet mannerisms but sinful, devilish, damaging—that's a picture the average person isn't willing to face.

Too often instead of "hearing" the Word of God, we try to explain it away. We can find so many good explanations for keeping bad habits, ridiculous as those explanations may be to our fellowmen. Like those who suggested that Jesus was casting out devils by the power of devils, our excuses do not make sense at all. It was the quickest explanation they could think of in the face of Christ's great power—a power which they were determined not to

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## THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

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## CHURCHES PEOPLE and EVENTS

Brother Louis Stephen of Myrtle, Missouri 65778 announces that he is now available for full pastoral duties. If your church is in need of a pastor you may write or phone at (417) 938-2372.

The South Fremont Free Will Baptist Church, Springfield, is praising God for the things he is doing there. Sunday, January 23, they held their first meeting in their new building on South Fremont. The 95 in Sunday School was a record attendance with over 100 present for the morning worship service. Many came to the altar and five decisions were made for Christ. Brother Herschel Jordan has been elected Bus Minister and January 23 was also the first Sunday for the bus to run. Twenty-two people came by bus. Great things are expected as they work for Christ.

God's hand of blessing continues to be revealed at the Trinity Church as the Holy Spirit uses the convicting power of the Word to bring men, women and young people to the altar and a saving faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. The E.T.T.A. course "Teaching Techniques" was just recently concluded for those working in the Sunday School and C.T.S. February 12 was a time of good fellowship and fun at the Church's annual Valentine Banquet. Pastor Spurgeon was the guest speaker at the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship Mid-Winter Western Missouri Conference, February 25-26-27, Sheltering Heights Bible Camp, Springfield.

The Salem Church observed Heritage Sunday, January 23. Those attending dressed in the fashions their grandparents wore to church. A basket dinner served by the ladies of the church was followed by a special message by Rev. Elmer Turnbough pastor at Viburnum Church calling everyone to remember their heritage.

The Monett Church is also among those being especially blessed by God in 1971. The church witnessed 112 decisions for Christ, made \$16,000.00 in property improvements which were paid for during the year, increased contributions to the Missouri Cooperative Program and Bible College giving, and a new Sanctuary with a seating capacity of 500 now being constructed. The church requests remembrance in our prayers that God may continue to use them in his service.

Rev. Ernie Hale is now pastor of the Myrtle Church. He comes to the church from Pocahontas, Arkansas. Sickness has especially hindered the work there and the church requests the prayers of Missouri Free Will Baptists that God will continue to bear them up and bless as they continue to serve Him in that community.

The Twin Oaks Church reports growth in their work both in the Sunday School and the C.T.S. program with continued evidence of God's being in their midst. Rev. Truman Huffman is the pastor at Twin Oaks. The church expresses a sincere appreciation for this man God has sent to lead them in his service.

The DeSoto Church reports good attendance in spite of sickness and the bad weather. The Sunday services witnessed five conversions. Rev. Miller and the church there continue to be blessed by God in his work.

Rev. Dale Underwood has assumed the managership of the new Missouri Free Will Baptist Book Store located at 303 W. Commercial in Lebanon. The Post Office Box is still 645. The complete cooperation of the churches in ordering their Sunday School literature through the Book Store was most heartening to the Executive Board, the Sunday School and C.T.S. Board, and all others working directly with the project. It proves once again that Missouri Free Will Baptists do work together and can accomplish those things they work toward. May we encourage our churches, as far as is practical, to order their Daily Vacation Bible School materials from the Book Store. A wide selection of materials are available. The Zip for Lebanon is 65536.



**Sign Erected In Honor Of Deacon**

The family of Shelby Smith erected a new Church sign for the Grant Avenue Free Will Baptist Church in memory and honor of their father. Shelby Smith, who died in 1969, had been a deacon since 1948. He had served as a deacon at the Grant Avenue Church since 1961. Mr. Smith served faithfully in his church and surely is due the "good degree" mentioned by Paul to Timothy (1 Timothy 3:13). Pictured with the sign are Billy, Ann, Mrs. Smith, Carol and Jimmy following the recent dedication service.



Victory Church is formulating plans for a building project which started off with an enthusiastic first offering for the Building Fund of \$1,454.60 given January 30.

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Rev. Richard E. Brown has accepted the pastorate of the Parkview Church, Desloge. Rev. and Mrs. Brown will move from Elk Hart, Indiana to begin work at Parkview the first Sunday of March. Rev. Ben Dees of the Leadington Church has been supply pastor since October, 1971.

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*Notice:* The work day and Appreciation Banquet for Brother and Sister Reeves has been changed from Saturday, April 1 to Saturday, April 8. Come to both if possible, but especially make plans to be a part of those honoring Brother and Sister Reeves for the years of service through our Youth Camp. Please bring a vegetable and a dessert and please notify Brother Glenn Murray, Rt. 3, Cabool, Mo. 65689, of the approximate number from your church. There is no limit on the number, it is just that knowing near the number will greatly aid in the planning.

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The Pleasant Grove Church hosted the Mission Association C.T.S. Youth Rally Saturday Night, February 19. The Tic-Tac-Toe competition was quite keen with the Pleasant Home team, after having put down all competitors in their bracket, being beaten by Willow Springs who went home as winners. A great deal of work by team members, sponsors, and parents was obvious in the competition. A musical program was given by some of the Pleasant Grove young ladies. Mission Association plans to represent Missouri at the National this year.

## MISSIONS MAILBOX

### praise

A letter received from Howard Gage tells of the conversion of two Africans at the Laoudi-Ba mission station. The Gages, with their limited knowledge of French, and some of the Christians were able to lead these souls into the Lord's Kingdom.

General Director J. Reford Wilson and Board Chairman Dr. Joe Ange returned safely from Central and South America. They brought glowing reports of the Lord's blessings in Panama, Brazil and Uruguay.

### pray

The Winter Olympics are over, but the ministry of the Good News Team will continue until June. One Japanese boy was converted through their witness, and others are showing interest.

January receipts fell short of the monthly amount needed to meet the 1972 budget. Pray for an enlarged vision for our people that our foreign missions thrust can go forward for God's glory.

The Paynes have been delayed in departing for the Ivory Coast. They now plan to sail about the end of February.

February 19-21 are the dates Brazilian evangelist Wadislau Gomez will be in Nashville. He will preach at the Bible College and two local churches and will meet with the area pastors. Pray for his effective ministry here in the States.

Frank and Marie Cousineau request prayer for the village of Nassian, Ivory Coast. Two men

there are causing trouble, and the Christians are experiencing trials because of their faith.

Pray that God would call forth doctors and nurses to help Dr. Miley at the Doropo clinic. In a recent letter Dr. Miley reported over 14,000 patient visits from August 16, 1971, to December 31, 1971. This compares to just over 21,000 patient visits for the entire year of 1969.

Pray for the missionaries who are moving to new areas (Aycocks) and those preparing for furlough soon (Haases, McLains, Deeds, Franks, Cronks, Sparks and Ellisons). Also pray for the Lord's direction for those who are contemplating a move.

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Dear Friends in Missouri:

In behalf of your home missionaries and staff I want to thank you for the \$14,479.85 which you gave to Home Missions last year. Our total receipts for the year were \$226,445.45, exceeding our quota by \$4,995.45. You helped us do this and we are thankful.

Of course, the money is just a means to an end. It enables missionaries to go to new places, preaching the gospel and building churches so that souls can be saved.

I would like to urge you to do two things. First, pray that God will send laborers so that we can enter at least some of the ten states and 28 capital cities without a Free Will Baptist church this year. Secondly, begin now to give regularly to Home Missions so that you can reach your quota of \$17,000 for 1972.

In His service,  
Roy Thomas  
Deputational Missionary

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A Missionary Conference was held in the Free Will Baptist Churches of the Northeast Missouri Association January 27-30 with six churches participating. Services were held nightly and



Sunday morning, closing with a Sunday Fellowship Dinner and Rally in the Kirksville First Church in the afternoon.

Rev. Fred Hersey, missionary to Japan; Rev. Lonnie Palmer, missionary to the Ivory Coast and Rev. Jerry Pinkerton, missionary appointee to the Ivory Coast, Africa, ministered with inspiration, instruction and blessing.

The churches and interested people gave a missionary offering in the amount of \$1096.00.

The weather was snowy and quite cold, so crowds were understandably smaller than conferences heretofore, but it is the feeling of those responsible that it was a success in every way.

Missouri State  
Home Mission Giving:  
Jan. 5 - Feb. 5, 1972

First Ch. Fredericktown,	
Senior Dept. ....	25.00
First Ch. Mtn. Grove .....	76.94
Faith E. Lovelace .....	5.00
Hannon Church .....	41.33
Willow Springs Church .....	11.00
New Rock Springs Church .....	61.00
Victory Church .....	50.16
Cuba Church .....	6.00
South Side Church .....	15.00
Belton Church .....	5.00
New Home Church .....	20.00
First Ch. St. Joseph .....	26.88
Copper Mines Church .....	7.00
Beacon Ch. Jr. Hi Girls .....	9.10
Salem Church .....	10.00
Berkeley Church .....	10.00
Rock Chapel Church .....	60.00
First Church Monett .....	51.00
First Church Joplin .....	32.94
Myrtle Church .....	9.13
Mine LaMotte Church .....	10.00
Low Ground Church .....	5.00
Woman's Aux. Belvoir, N.C. ....	2.00
Alton Church .....	10.00
Leadington Church .....	78.16
St. Francois Co. Qtly. Mtg. ....	50.00
First Church DeSoto .....	15.00
Fellowship Church .....	112.00
Fourth Church .....	43.80
First Church O'Fallon .....	5.00
Hazel Creek Church .....	5.00
Cooperative Receipts—January	1111.39
Total .....	\$1979.83

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

## News from Capitol City Free Will Baptist Church

An exciting event for the near future (Feb. 28-Mar. 3) is an Evangelism Campaign with Bro. Trymon Messer of Salina, Kansas.

Bro. Messer is lay-man pastor of the fastest growing F.W.B. Church in Kansas. They are working toward a goal of 400 by March.

We are asking the Lord for, and expecting to see, at least 12 souls saved during this 5-day meeting. We are trusting in Psalm 126:6 for this campaign.

## GOOD NEWS CLUB

Our Good News Club is now authorized by the Child Evangelism Fellowship, and we are hoping to expand with one or two more clubs in different neighborhoods. We will be starting one on the East end in one of our member's homes within the next week or two, the Lord willing.

Our Tuesday Club is still doing well, with an average of about 10 present every week. The Lord is blessing as we present a series of programs entitled, "God's Word and Me". We are learning the books of the Bible, and how we got the Bible. We also had two children saved this week in our Tuesday Club. Please continue to pray that we may be able to reach more children for the Lord.

## SUPPORT FOR OUR MISSION

Last month we referred to the fact that our Mission began shouldering some of it's expenses. We are thankful that we could, but we still have many needs and we urge you who have been so faithful in the past to continue to share with us in this ministry. Remember that gifts for the support of this work should be mailed to Rev. Lawrence Thompson, 3416 No. Bellefontaine, Kansas City, Mo. 64117, earmarked for Jefferson City. If you want your money to help cancel out the building indebtedness, earmark it for "Building Loan—Jeff. City". Thank you again for your faithfulness.

Jerry Pinkerton is a Missourian who is making plans and attempting to raise the necessary money to represent us on the Foreign Mission field. Henry Van Kluyve, Director of Deputation of the Foreign Mission Board reports that the Pinkertons lack approximately \$600 per month support to be ready to leave for language study. If the necessary support could be raised in the next three months it would assure their departure by about June or July. Deputational ministry is very expensive as sending the people across the country from conference to conference among the churches requires a great deal of money. It also consumes a great deal of time. It is hoped that much of this time and money can be saved by Missourians through their churches supporting the Pinkertons on a regular monthly basis. If your church would be willing to support Foreign Missions and the Pinkertons, or for that matter should any individual wish to assume a regular monthly support would you please fill out the following form and mail it to Henry Van Kluyve, Director of Deputation; Board of Foreign Missions; P. O. Box 1088; Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

Dear Jerry and Carol:

Trusting the Lord to honor our venture of faith, we hereby promise, under God, to provide \$25.00 per month for your ministry in Ivory Coast, Africa. We will pray regularly for your work.

Signed

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Church

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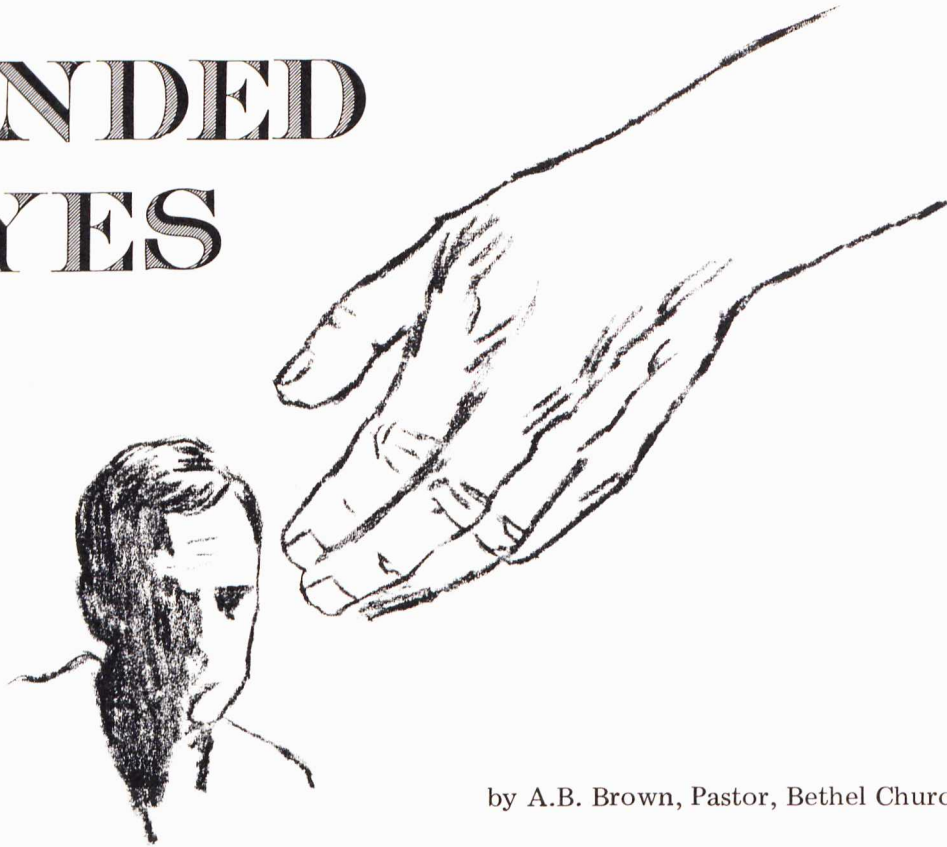
Address

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Pastor



# BLINDED EYES



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

*Ed Note: This last half of Brother Brown's presentation will be better understood if you will take the time to read the beginning in last month's GEM again before reading this last half. We are sorry that space demanded the material be printed in two parts.*

Moses was very much aware of this, that Jesus Christ was to become a historical figure, when he was commissioned by God to return to Egypt with his message of deliverance. In Exodus three he asked God for some identification that he might give to Israel so that they would believe that God had actually sent him. God did not tell Moses just to say that "I AM" hath sent me and therefore you should believe. He also identified Himself historically as the same God which their fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had served. They could believe and obey this God because He had objective historical reality to them. Likewise Moses wanted something to verify that God had also sent him. Again, God did not say "Just tell them I send you" but gave him visible objective signs to confirm his divine call and to establish their belief. Likewise Jesus used various means to establish His credentials as the Son of God and the Saviour of the World. John said, "And many other *signs* truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book but these are written *that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*" (Jn. 20:30-31).

In John 10:37 Jesus plainly declared that they ought to believe because of the objective visible works of the Father which He was doing. It is also interesting to note that John the Baptist, a man in the all important role of Christ's forerunner, was given an objective visible sign that he might believe. He was not to take a blind leap but according to John 1:31-34 he had been told in advance that the one upon whom the Holy Spirit descended and rested; this one was the Christ.

This leads to the question of the relationship between reason and faith. What part does reason play in faith? Does one believe because it is reasonable to believe? Or does God simply say, "Believe because I said it?" Is Gordon Clark correct when he writes in *Religion, Reason and Revelation*: "If we have rationally demonstrated a proposition, it is impossible for us to believe it on the bare authority. We now have the proof, and this leaves no room for faith." It seems that God demands both. He says, "Believe because I said it," and "believe because I have demonstrated it as being in accord with reality." Reason must accord with faith. It is as Clark says, "True faith and the true reason cannot contradict one another. Natural knowledge and the truths of faith both come from God, they must be consistent." Thus Christ said, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again." (John 14:3). The Christian believes that his Lord is coming again because He said it. Reason is important in that His return is logical and agrees with the character and works of God in that He has always kept His



promises.

However, the real issue is that of how far can reason take the unbeliever? Will Man's unaided reason (natural theology—lead him to a saving knowledge of God? History affords an excellent answer to this question. No civilization has ever been found which had any real knowledge or understanding of the true God (God of Christianity) apart from special revelation. The Bible is clear at this point. Paul says, "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." (Rom. 3:11). The natural reason might see the evidences of the Christian apologist. He could possibly accept the empty tomb, the miracles of Christ, fulfilled prophecy, and special revelation but yet misinterpret or reject their implications. Once again, the bare facts are available to both the believer and the unbeliever alike. But faith in these facts and their implications comes *only* by the aid of the Spirit.

Liberalism has no real doctrine of Christian evidences. To them faith is that leap *without* any factuality. It does not need the supernatural or relevance to concrete facts. Ramm is certainly correct when he says in *Protestant Christian Evidences*, "... in the measure that religion is isolated from fact, it by the same measure is removed from reality." Therefore if it can be demonstrated that the Christian religion is *factual* one has taken a step in establishing it as *actual*. The Christian apologist must set forth the historical reality of the Christian religion in that it accords with reality and special revelation.

He rejects natural theology and begins with a supernatural theology. He realizes that he is dealing with a man who was corrupted by the fall and, although capable of comprehending truth, he is not capable of comprehending Christian Truth. Even if one did comprehend that the Christ of the cross and empty tomb was God he would still need special revelation to explain its implications. Or, to say it differently, the terms of salvation cannot be known by natural theology. They can be known only by special revelation and believed for salvation only by the work of the Holy Spirit.

When the Christian begins with a supernatural theology he has already presupposed the existence of God. And, of course, this God is the God of Christian theism. If one begins with reason alone to establish the existence of God the God he discovers has very little meaning apart from special revelation. It is as Clark said in *Religion, Reason, Revelation*, "If it is valid to conclude the existence of a cause from observation of its effects, it is nevertheless a violation of reason to ascribe to that cause any properties beyond those necessary to account for the effect. Thus, the Christian begins with the presupposition of the existence of the God of the Bible. Jesus approached the Samaritan woman in John chapter four with these presuppositions. Paul boldly sets forth to the Athenians the "Unknown God." Paul simply says, "Him declare I unto you."

(Acts 17:23).

This is not to imply that the God of the Bible is only to be received and not thought of. Neither is it to say that His special revelation to be received without thought. Reason is not to be left out. If the entire Christian system (which apologetics seeks to validate) is in accord with reality then one should have absolutely no objections to subjecting the system to the tests of truth. Hence, is it consistent or does it contradict itself? Is the system coherent? Does it agree with non-religious facts? Or, does it agree with historical facts and their religious interpretations? Was there an empty tomb which gives power to the Christian faith and experience? If there can be no verification of the Christian system then one is driven back once again to the mystical leap. He really has nothing to do but proclaim the Word and ask the unbeliever to leap. There is no room for discussion.

This does not deprecate the Word at all. But it is to say that there is an adequate basis for faith. It is to say that the God who has acted in human history is the God which demands belief and worship on the part of man. It is to say that the God of prophecy, of miracles and the resurrection is the same God of the Christian religion.

The Christian should be glad to bring his system before the bar of truth because, as Schaeffer maintains so well, it is the *only* system which really explains reality. The *only* reasonable explanation of the universe is the Christian explanation. The Biblical fact of a personal infinite God who created a personal man who was involved in a space-time fall is the only consistent explanation of reality. Therefore he should not be timid in setting forth his presuppositions. The unbeliever does not hesitate to propagate his faith and presuppositions of a closed system, etc. Even though they are inconsistent and he himself cannot live with them.

The universe and its form, the manishness of man, the presence of evil, etc. All need an explanation. A rejection of the Christian explanation could only lead to pessimism. Wilbur Smith in his Christian Apologetics, *Therefore Stand*, has a very good chapter dealing with this which he entitled, "The Pessimism of our Modern Skeptics." He treats such persons as Voltaire, Madame Curie, Bertrand Russell, and H.G. Wells and illustrates very well the result of rejecting God's explanation of His creation.

Not only does the Christian system answer the questions of reality philosophically but the Christian has objective grounds for which the Christian faith is held to be true.

Christian evidences is a subdivision of Christian apologetics and is not indifferent to philosophical positions. It recognizes the impossibility of proving the resurrection to a man owning a materialistic metaphysics, or to prove miracles to a logical empiricist. Errant assumptions must be revealed as such. However, the unbeliever is to be made aware that the Christian is established in his faith not only intellectually but factually and experientially on



objective grounds. His faith is verified on the grounds of miracles which happened in space-time history. There was the miraculous deliverance of Israel from Egypt. Rahab heard of these objective acts of God in history and believed. Fulfilled prophecy is another objective attestation to the truthfulness of the Christian system. Someone has said, "If miracles prove the immediate presence of the supernatural, prophecies prove the extended and constant presence of God in human history. The believer can also point to the indestructible inspired Book, the Holy Bible, as an objective witness.

However, the central point of all evidences revolves around the supernatural person of Christ and the empty tomb. Jesus Christ was a historical figure. This is also true of the resurrection of Christ. This event is also in the realm of history. More is known about the death and burial of Christ than of any single character in all of ancient history. That the tomb was empty on that Sunday morning is recognized by friend and foe of Christianity. It is as Wilbur Smith states in *Therefore Stand*, "No matter how radical a critic he may be; however anti-supernatural in all his personal convictions, he never dares to say that the body was still resting in the tomb, however he might explain the fact that the tomb must have been empty." Thus, the Christian points to the empty tomb, not to some dream in the clouds but to an actual historical objective resurrection. No other spot on earth does so much to verify the Christian faith as does the empty tomb of our Lord. The evidence of the empty tomb stares the unbeliever in the fact to be accepted and believed with all its implications or to be rejected in the face of historical reality.

One other evidence will be mentioned and that is the experiential fact of Christianity. It does what it says it will do. History is filled with testimonies of its transforming power and the glorious religious experience it supplies those believing. It grants the heart peace from the irritations of a guilty conscience which is found in the forgiveness and

justification made possible by the death and resurrection of Christ. Hope for the future (even after death) is given in His victory over death. Thus, the factual religious experience of man in history is an attestation to the reality of the Christian truth.

The Apologist recognizes that philosophical and historical proofs are not the Gospel. But he recognizes that a man will not accept the Gospel if he has certain mistaken notions and biased opinions concerning its validity. It is his task, in conjunction with the enlightening of the Holy Spirit to destroy these prejudices against the Gospel or the Christian system of truth. He recognizes that God makes a rational appeal to man to believe and it is his responsibility to demonstrate that faith is not absurd. He also recognizes that the believer might perceive the bare fact of the resurrection but to understand and believe all its implications is impossible without his understanding being opened and faith imparted by God.

The Christian Apologist also is aware of the vicious attacks of radical criticism against the Bible and Christianity. He is to realize that they are defenseless unless *he* defends them. He is also to be aware that opponents of Christianity know the worth of arguing their case. This is the basic theory behind all propaganda which certain sects and ideologies have used so successfully. The old cliché "nobody is ever converted by an argument" is unknown by these groups. Human opinion is influenced by successful argumentation. The Christian system is the only *real* truth and can therefore be and should be boldly set forth and defended by the believer with the awareness that God works to some extent through natural means to bring men to Himself. That is, He works through man's senses, his intellect, his emotions and his will to bring him to a true faith. God does not come crashing in suddenly from outside the universe to save an individual. Certainly He saves but the Apologist is to be aware that God could use him and his argumentation (assuming the necessity of the Gospel) to convince the unbeliever of the truthfulness of the Gospel.

*Borrowed from "The Sower" of the Fellowship Church, Flat River.*

#### COMMENTS

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them." Matt. 9:36. Our Lord's compassion moved Him to do something for people. No man has genuine sympathy or love for men if he refuses to serve those

men. And no man loves his Lord if he refuses to serve his Lord. John 14:15: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." In other words, "show me that you love Me."

Men are not saved by doing things for Jesus. They are saved because of what Jesus does for them. But those who are saved WILL do something for their Lord. He said, "Come unto Me." But He also said, "Go ye into all the world." No man has in a real

sense accepted the invitation to COME to Him who deliberately disobeys His command to GO to people with the Gospel. A mother may claim to love her child; but if she neglects the child and exposes it to danger, her testimony of love for her child carries no weight with intelligent people. You may sing until the stars fall, "Oh, how I love Jesus"; but if you refuse to do His will, other people will know that you DO NOT love Him.



## YOUTH CAMP NEWS

### Youth Camp Receipts for January

Cabool .....	\$ 10.00
Grant Avenue .....	30.00
Hannon .....	17.00
Hazel Creek Union Church .....	30.00
Mtn. Grove, First .....	10.00
Mtn. Grove, First .....	10.00
Missouri Coop (Dec.) .....	182.00
Missouri Coop (Jan.) .....	219.15
Myrtle .....	9.13
New Home .....	17.46
New Home .....	19.53
New Rock Springs .....	10.00
New Rock Springs .....	8.25
Olivet .....	10.00
William Reeves (Personal long distance calls) .....	6.15
Rock Chapel .....	10.00
St. Louis Dist. Qtly. Meeting (for St. Louis Boys Cabin) ..	100.00
Thayer .....	10.00
Thayer .....	10.00
Verdella .....	10.00
Willow Springs .....	10.00
Total .....	\$738.67

Balance carried forward from December .....	\$1,473.20
Accounts receivable from January .....	738.67
	2,211.87
Less accounts payable .....	1,490.91
Balance .....	\$ 720.96

Rev. Frank Giunta, Treasurer  
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1317 Moreland  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

There are sometimes duplicate entries from the same church or group because the closing date for the books—the 5th of the month—allows two months contributions to have arrived. The books are closed on the 5th of the month to allow for creditors to forward bills and have them be paid during each month's business. Sometimes closing on the last day of the month causes a bill to be out of context in the financial scheme.

The spending may seem extra heavy for the month of January, but the newly improved chapel will tell the story. It is **QUITE** improved. Brother Reeves did a fine job.

Several applications were received for the position of caretaker. All were from very dedicated men making it a very difficult task to choose one to fill the vacancy. However, after prayer and careful consideration, we felt that Brother Askren was the man for the job. Please pray for this man and his family as they make preparation to move to our camp.

We are now in the process of enlarging and improving the caretaker's house. We will have more to say about that later.

**SPECIAL NOTICE** The work day for Youth Camp has been changed from April 1 to April 8. This was done to clear the conflict with Easter. In conjunction with the work day is planned an Appreciation Banquet for Brother and Sister Reeves. Come for both the work day and the dinner if possible. If you cannot come for the work day, however, do make a special effort to be there Saturday night, April 8, 1972 to show Brother and Sister Reeves how much we appreciate the many years of dedicated service they have given through our camp.

The Camp Board requests that you bring a vegetable and a dessert. The remainder of the meal will be furnished by the Camp Board. Brother Glenn Murray, Rt. 3, Cabool, Mo. 65689, would appreciate it very much if the various pastors would send approximate numbers from their churches. This will help in knowing the amounts of food to provide.

The Camp Board says, "Thank you," and pray God's rich blessings for those who have been faithful to pray and give for the success of the camp.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGES, 1971-1972

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Central													120
Copper Mines	82	78	91	99	95	91	95	100	90	91			
Desoto	71	73	79	91	85	84	91	100	106	125	114	105	100
Farmington	120			143	117	119	112				122		
Fellowship												192	205
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	137
Monett	169	173	188	183	161	163	166	181	211	211	188	201	
Mine LaMotte	38	33	41	52	37	37	47	35	40	39	41	45	35
Parkview	109	92	121	127	104	96	98	103	99	105	95	93	86
Salem	41	37	53	48	46	40	34	39	40	44	43	44	46
Thayer							131	133	132	133	136	139	
Trinity	158	162	211	196	170	159	132	146	181	215	186	190	169
Victory	121	113	137	106			97	105	111	117	105	97	110
West Plains	142	127		139	128	134	126	130	149	150	148	151	137
Willow Springs	95	89	90	103	96	97	100	99	98	97	96	104	88
South Fremont						53	53	53	58				
Springfield, First					199	184	207	213	196	202			
Myrtle											57	56	48



## 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

Song of April

Lightening flashes, quickly with-  
draws,  
Thunder claps in wild applause  
Music of rain comes from on high,  
God is crooning a lullaby.  
Oh, be still my soul!

Bright new day, unborn before  
Washed and cradled, loved, adored.  
A song of love the heavens sing,  
New hope, new life for everything.  
Oh, be still my soul!

—Mrs. Alice Bowen  
Parkview Church, Desloge

Faith is the substance of things  
hoped for, the evidence of things not  
seen.

—Hebrews 11:1

A little mind often sees the unbelied,  
without seeing the belief of larger  
ones..

—Oliver Windell Holmes

The principal part of faith is pa-  
tience.

—George MacDonald

There are no tricks in plain and  
simple faith.

—Shakespeare

Faith is the force of life.

—Leo Tolstoy

If God has called you, don't spend  
time looking over your shoulder to  
see who is following you.

Faith is doing God's will, one step at  
a time.

(continued from page 2)

admit.

Man hasn't really advanced much  
since that day. We still make excuses for  
our sinful habits that sound much the  
same. "Why, we're using evil to avoid  
evil." One man said he avoided the  
temptation to adultery by getting a  
divorce and marrying the other woman.  
Some excuse their profanity because  
(they say) it is better than actually  
hitting someone and hurting them.  
Probably the most used excuse is: "It  
isn't as bad as . . .," and then we are off  
to describe some evil we've been avoid-  
ing by bad habit.

Anyone who does not learn from the  
Word to see the real horror of bad  
habits, is never going to make any  
headway against them. Christ on Cal-  
vary is the secret. At Calvary, amid the  
sufferings of Christ, the words of the  
old hymn will be true:

Ye who think of sin but lightly  
Nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly  
Here its guilt may estimate  
There is no denying our habits and there  
is no talking ourselves out of them.

It takes more than just a *desire*,  
however, to get rid of a habit. Jesus uses  
the illustration of a strong ruler keeping  
his palace intact against the attacks of  
enemy soldiers. He uses the story of a  
man who did some spring house-  
cleaning on an unwelcome tenant and  
got eight of them in return because he  
left his house empty. He illustrates the  
same point in both cases when he says  
that the only way to remove the unwel-  
come tenant for good is to fill the house  
with other tenants. To get rid of a bad  
habit you have to replace it with one  
that is good. And Jesus implies there is  
not any habit that is strong enough to  
dislodge the devil and his kind except the  
habit of faith in the Gospel of a Saviour  
slain for the sins of the world.

Too many people want Christ to get  
rid of the evil in their lives and think He  
can do it by a sort of "hocus-pocus,"  
leaving the heart empty for their own  
use. Jesus has to occupy the heart.  
There is no other way. He has to come  
into the house and live there all the time  
if the evil spirits of bad habits are not  
going to come back in greater force than  
ever before. Christianity is a lot more  
than just getting rid of sin. Anyone who  
measures his religion in terms of the  
number of things he does not do is

doomed to disaster very shortly. Letting  
Christ into your heart is not just think-  
ing a lot of pious thoughts either. It  
means letting Christ take your heart and  
life and use them in His service. That is  
what Jesus meant by the remark, "Bless-  
ed are they that hear the Word of God  
and keep it."

You can take the air out of a bottle  
by using a vacuum pump, but to keep it  
out you will have to keep the bottle  
closed tightly ever after, and it will not  
be good for much else. The easier and  
more lasting way of removing the air is  
just to fill the bottle with something  
else. That is also the more useful way.  
We can not get rid of evil unless we are  
doing good. "He that is not with me is  
against me, and he that gathereth not  
with me scattereth." That is the worri-  
some thing about a Christian life that is  
not being used for some definite pur-  
pose in the Kingdom of God, or about  
the man or woman whose only connec-  
tion with the church is only attendance.  
There is no neutrality. If you are not  
doing something to help the Lord's  
work, you are hindering it.

Then there are the people who say  
they have tried it and they are tired of  
working so hard. Somebody once took a  
poll in a woman's garment factory,  
where all the woman had worked exact-  
ly the same number of hours. Some  
were very tired; others bright-eyed and  
wide awake. The poll showed that most  
of the wide-awake ones had plans for  
the evening—they were anticipating a  
good time. The tired ones were those  
who had nothing to look forward to.  
"Blessed," Jesus said, "are they that  
hear the word of God and keep it." There  
is something to look forward to. There  
is the "joy and peace in believ-  
ing" and the glories of eternity at last.  
That is why the prophet wrote: "They  
that wait upon the Lord shall renew  
their strength; they shall mount up with  
wings as eagles; they shall run, and not  
be weary; and they shall walk and not  
faint." That is the kind of habit that  
need never be broken. That is the habit  
we must all develop, through Christ our  
Lord.

THOUGHT: "Keep your light  
shining. God will put it where it  
will be seen."



# Woman's Page

## SPRING RETREAT PLANNED

DON'T MISS IT! THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER ONE EXACTLY LIKE IT! WHAT??? . . . Why, the Spring Retreat, of course. Ladies you will all want to go for a great time of relaxation, fun, and fellowship.

The theme for the retreat this year is: "A Woman's Role In Missions." Joy Jones, veteran missionary from Africa, will be the guest speaker. You will be able to hear about the African woman, the adjustments of the American missionary wife, and possibly see some slides. You will have plenty of time to ask questions in the special "Question and Answer" session.

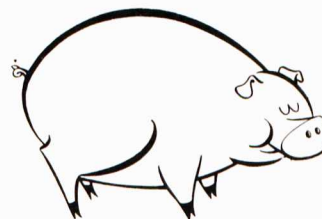
Be sure you bring along ANY talent you have and use it at "Talent Time." Another "Hobby Time" has been planned and will be led by Hazel Hutsell. There will be skits, singspirations, and promises of a "Get Acquainted Tea Party." PLAN TO ATTEND NOW . . . MAY 8-9, AT YOUTH CAMP, NIANGUA, MISSOURI.

"Women can never be as successful as men, they have no wives to advise them."



### THE BIBLE . . .

- \* I am God's wonderful library.
- \* I make known to all, Him Who is the Truth.
- \* To the weary pilgrim, I am a good strong staff.
- \* To the one who sits in black gloom I am glorious light.
- \* To those who stoop beneath heavy burdens, I am sweet rest.
- \* To him who has lost his way, I am a safe guide.
- \* To those hurt by sin, I am a healing balm.
- \* To those under satanic attack, I am a shield.
- \* To those distressed in life, I whisper a glad message of hope.
- \* To those in loneliness, I am a constant comfort.
- \* O, child of man, TO BEST DEFEND ME—JUST USE ME.



### WHAT COLOR DO YOU SEE?

Hold the pig close to your mouth and blow on it. If the pig turns yellow, see your physician. If it turns brown, see your dentist. If it turns purple, see your psychiatrist. If it turns red, see your banker. If it turns green, see your lawyer and make a will. If it remains the same color, you are in good health, and there is no reason on earth why you should not attend your local auxiliary as well as the Spring Retreat.



If your Auxiliary helps with any of the child or youth work in the church, you might be interested in using visualized songs put out by Child Evangelism Fellowship. Most of these can be purchased at a Bible Book Store or can be ordered from your local CEF director or state CEF workers. Here are some new words used to the tune of Jesus Loves Me:

#### VERSE

I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus wants to hear me say  
That I love Him every day.

#### CHORUS

Yes, I love Jesus,  
Yes, I love Jesus,  
Yes, I love Jesus,  
Because He first loved me.

" . . . greater is He that is in you, than He that is in the world." 1 John 4:4b



## PROMOTIONAL SECRETARY'S CORNER



**I**N ROUTE to the annual Promotional Men's Seminar I visited the Benton Free Will Baptist Church, Sunday evening, January 2. I was privileged to deliver the evening sermon and enjoyed this service indeed. Pastor Gene Norris and their growing congregation recently built their new Chapel with Sunday School rooms annexed. Pastor Norris and I attended the Promotional Men's Seminar held at Hillmont Camp near Nashville, January 3 thru 6.

There were some thirty promotional personnel from the various states in attendance at this most informative, inspirational and profitable meeting. Each of the National departments gave full reports of operations for the year 1971. It is gratifying to observe the response from all across our denomination. Missouri's response in cooperative giving especially stands out.

Saturday, January 8, I attended the Madison County Quarterly Meeting held with the Cape Girardeau Church. Each of their churches were represented with delegates. Rev. O. D. Matthews delivered the 11:00 a.m. message. Time was given for the Missouri Cooperative Program. I stayed in Cape Girardeau for the Sunday service. Rev. Don Cox is the pastor. Please pray that the Lord will

give an engathering of souls there, to encourage both the Pastor and church.

The St. Louis District Quarterly Meeting assembled with the Gateway Church, Saturday, January 22. Thirteen churches were represented with delegates. Bethel's pastor, Rev. A. B. Brown, delivered the sermon. Two ministers were examined for license to preach the gospel. Time was given for the Missouri Cooperative Promotional Program. Pastor McFarland and the Gateway Church did a splendid job hosting the Quarterly Meeting.

Number One Free Will Baptist Church adopted the Cooperative program and with the fifty, plus, faithful regular contributors brought the cooperative receipts to an exceptionally good level for January—\$6,261.30. The total receipts at the end of six months are \$32,442.57 making us approximately 54% of the way to our projected yearly goal.

The St. Louis building is in the process of being sold since the Book Store is now moved to Lebanon. Brother Beatty's address is now Rev. Harry Beatty; 2244 Tenbrook, Arnold, Missouri 63010. All correspondence, including cooperative money, should be sent to this new address.

## COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS, January 1972

Lebanon, First	\$495.00
West Plains, First	115.00
Willow Springs	83.66
Number One (newly adopted)	25.00
Gray Summits	23.25
Twin Oaks	150.00
Hannon	68.66
Garfield	25.56
Neosho	34.00
Olivett	110.00
Marshfield	35.25
Hickory Grove	22.34
Desoto	110.00
New Rock Springs	43.00
Grace	384.67
Merl's Chapel	58.98
Mt. Grove, First	778.82
Mill Creek	140.06
Farmington	400.73
Gateway	27.00
Bethel, Eldorado Springs	24.85
Pleasant Ridge	15.00
Carterville	21.24
Belton	64.00
Verdella	84.76
Richwoods	136.20
Berkeley	348.46
Victory	217.53
Cuba	112.45
Happy Home	19.00
Cabool	72.99
Monett	250.05
Rock Chapel	24.96
Aulsbury Chapel	123.88
Thayer	57.42
St. Joseph	53.77
Leadington	85.02
Salem	20.00
Mtn. Valley	120.75
Copper Mines	60.00
Viburnum	69.63
Bethel, Festus	40.00
Pleasant Home	83.39
Flat River, First	446.00
Jones Chapel	30.00
Granby	10.90
Fourth Church, St. Louis	190.30
Fellowship, Flat River	50.00
South Side, St. Louis	230.61
Cedar Ridge	\$60.44
designated 10%	6.72
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,261.30</b>

<b>January Disbursements</b>	
17.75% Missouri Missions	\$1,111.39
16.00% Promotional Dept.	1,001.80
04.00% General Fund	250.45
04.00% Book Store	250.45
03.50% Youth Camp	219.15
01.00% S.S. & C.T.S.	62.61
00.25% Superannuation	15.65
05.50% GEM	344.37
52.00% 8 Missouri Depts.	\$3,255.87
03.00% Hillsdale College	187.84
00.50% Theological Comm.	31.31
00.50% Layman's Bd.	31.31
01.50% R.E.A.P.	93.91
03.00% C.T.S. Dept.	187.84
07.00% Church Extension	438.30
09.50% Executive Dept.	594.82
10.00% F.W.B.B.C.	\$626.13
less designated	6.72
13.00% Foreign Missions	\$813.93
plus designated	6.72
<b>45.00% 8 National Depts.</b>	<b>\$2,817.59</b>
<b>100.00% Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$6,261.30</b>