

# Contact

of the  
National Association  
of Free Will Baptists

MARCH, 1954

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



**THE CHURCH**

**POINTS THE WAY...**

*Crusade for Christ*

**FREE WILL BAPTIST**

**MARCH 1 - APRIL 30**

Mrs. Eunice Edwards  
Box 636  
Desloge, Missouri

X



# Personally...

"The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity in any church," J. Hudson Taylor once wrote. And Taylor, one of the greatest missionaries of all times, should know.

He insists "if we want to see mighty wonders of divine power and grace wrought in the place of weakness, failure, and disappointment, let the whole church answer God's standing challenge, 'Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not!'" As we approach the "Crusade for Christ" months we need to try as never before the prayer power in our churches.

Let's turn our prayer meetings into something more than an hour of testimony and conversation and make them seasons of concentrated prayer when the church claims the prayer promise, "Call unto me . . ." Pastors by the hundreds who yearn for revival need to take the lead in their churches and join the ministry of the Prayer Fellowship.

It is said when General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, would read of the mighty revivals in the Acts of the Apostles he would fall on his face beside his chair and pray with tears streaming down his cheeks, "Do it again, Lord; do it again!" Read the story on page 6 of the revival recently experienced in Mt. Vernon, Ill., and pray as General Booth—"Do it again, Lord!"

Revivals cannot be worked up, they must be prayed down. So we echo Joel, the prophet: "Call a solemn assembly: gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children . . . let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord."

Let us pray.

### Offering for Bibles

"Enclosed you will find a money order for \$3.00 from the young people's class of Hamilton Free Will Baptist church for the American Bible Society."—Mrs. Raymond Conter, Cove, Ohio.

### Endorses Article

"I have just finished reading the article, 'Preaching and Practicing,' by Rev. Charles A. Thigpen and can endorse every word of it."—Rev. Melvin Mouser, Hanna, Okla.

### Suggestion Offered

"The report on the meeting of the Advisory Council of the American Bible Society was interesting reading and the 'Letter to an Unsaved Church Member' is certainly a timely article. May I make one suggestion? If more and larger Sunday schools of the denomination do not send in their attendance averages, discontinue printing the few which are sent in. Even though it may be a true picture of our Sunday schools, I'd rather think that it isn't."—Rev. J. Reford Wilson, Pocahontas, Ark.

### Wants Extra Copies

"I have just received my February issue of **Contact**. I have enjoyed every issue, but this one climaxes all. I like it so well that I am enclosing a dollar for sample copies to be distributed in my church."—Rev. J. C. Griffin, New Bern, N. C.

## Contact

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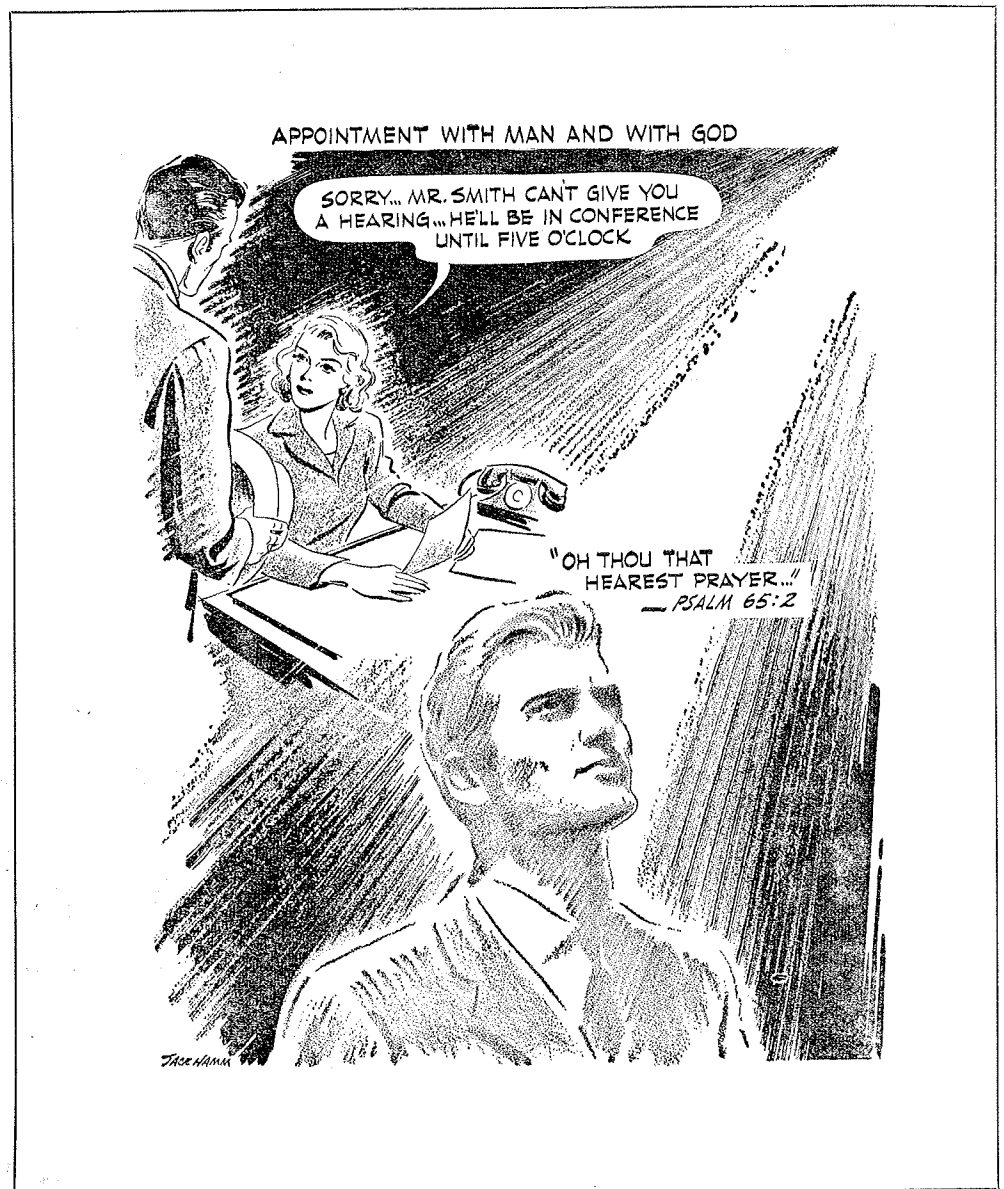
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# Five Women Out of Place

*Text:* "And Judah begat Phares and Zara of Tamar . . . and Salmon begat Boaz of Rahab; and Boaz begat Obed of Ruth . . . and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias . . . and Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ" (Matthew 1:3, 5, 6, 16).

Usually a long list of ancestors doesn't make for good reading, but when the list contains as many striking characters as does this one it deserves more than just a hasty glance. One unusual thing here is that in tracing the ancestry of Jesus, Matthew names people in his genealogy that are not listed either in Luke's record (Luke 3:33, 34) or in Genesis 10.

Both the records in Genesis and Luke give the names of only men because women were never mentioned in Jewish genealogies. But Matthew defies tradition and places the names of five women in his record. Why? We must deduce that the gospel writer had a definite purpose in mind for, from all appearances, these women are out of place.

Perhaps Matthew was trying to teach us several things by this breach of Jewish custom. These five women out of place tell us at least six things:

## **1. The Necessity of the Virgin Birth**

Since both Matthew and Luke are tracing the lineage of Jesus through his father, why does the Holy Spirit impress Matthew to include these five women in the genealogy? It must surely have been to give subtle evidence that Jesus Christ must be virgin-born, and a brief look at the history of these women will make this clear.

If Christ were natural-born, as are we, it would be logical to assume that he must have come from the purest strain of human stock. That is, if Jesus was only man at his best and merely the example of what we all could be, as some modern theologians would have us believe, then we may assume that his ancestry would had to be of the highest type.

But what about it? Tamar is the first mentioned—through her came the promised seed and yet the children born of Tamar were not the oldest children of Judah. In fact, Tamar was not the first wife of Judah. To be truthful, she was not his wife at all.

Tamar had been the wife of Judah's oldest son. God killed this son because of his

**REV. CHARLES SAPP, Pastor**  
**Free Will Baptist Church,**  
**Bryan, Texas**

wickedness. She was then given to Judah's next oldest son, but because he was as wicked as his brother, God killed him also. Tamar was next sent to her father's house with the promise of Judah's next oldest boy when he became of age, but when Shelah came of age Judah failed to keep his promise.

In the meantime, Judah's wife died and he left home, going with his sheepshearers to Timnath. While there he saw a harlot and committed sin with her, giving a pledge in promise of a lamb as payment. Judah went home and forgot all about it, but sin once committed, cannot be hidden.

Three months later his daughter-in-law was reported to be with child out of wedlock. Judah had condemned Tamar to be burned at the stake when she sent him the bracelet, ring and staff given her a pledge with this message, "By the man, whose these are, am I with child." Needless to say, he revoked the sentence.

The story of the next woman is well known. She is Rahab, the harlot of Jericho, who in every instance is referred to as a harlot with the exception of one—Matthew's account of Christ's genealogy.

The next person to be mentioned is Ruth, who is an exceptional person when considered in the light of her predecessors. This woman of faith will forever be remembered for her statement, "Thy people shall be my people and thy God, my God."

The next woman takes her place in the grand-finale as a person of intrigue who stopped at nothing in order to gain her ambition. Here is a ghastly story of a woman setting in motion the forces causing the murder of her husband in order to become the wife of David, king of Israel. To this marriage was born Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived; third king of Israel, ancestor of Jesus Christ.

All of the story is not bad, however, for Mary, mother of Jesus, is mentioned next. Mary was a quiet, meditative, devoted, wise mother, most honored of women, queen of mothers, sharing the cares common to motherhood. We admire her, love her, but we do not pray to her. Perhaps it is the Roman Catholic deification of Mary that

tends to keep the rest of the Christian world from giving her proper honor.

We suspect that Mary herself, in heaven, proud forever to have been the mother of the Saviour, is also abashed, ashamed and humiliated that she is the object of such idolatrous worship.

So it is easy to see how definitely Christ must be the virgin-born Son of God. If one drop of sinful blood flows through the veins of him, he would not be the Son of God. Jesus forevermore had a supernatural birth. Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit and brought forth a son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger. Because of his virgin birth, sinless life and guiltless death he was able to shoulder the sins of men.

But there are other observations to be made from the history of these women.

## **2. It Is Easy to Judge Others**

Judah was ready to burn Tamar at the stake for the sin in which he had participated. There is no questioning the inspiration of the Bible for it reveals in the accounts of these women that we do not easily forget the sins of others. Rahab, counted as one of the faithful, was the mother of Boaz, the grandmother of Obed, the great-grandmother of Jesse who was the father of David, ancestor of Christ, yet every Bible writer but one identifies her by her sin.

How human it is to condemn the other fellow for things we do. How often when we are sinned against do we refuse to forgive and forget even after apologies are made and restitution pursued. Perhaps we need to be reminded that Jesus said, "Thou shalt not judge, for with what measure ye mete out, it shall be measured to you again."

Again the Master taught that our heavenly Father would forgive our sins as we forgave those who sinned against us.

## **3. Sin Is Universal**

Sin cannot be hidden, even in genealogies. You do not have to look far to observe sin. Tamar, Rahab, Bathsheba—all women of the streets. Three out of these five mothers were considered chiefest of sinners. Look around. See the evidence of sin written in human faces. Visit the hospital. Go to the convalescent home and look in upon some old mother "rocking alone in an old rocking chair," administered to by strange hands. Sin caused it all.

*(Continued on page 6)*

# When Should I Resign?

To please a veteran pastor, just ask him: "How long have you been with your church?" Among ministers the length of a pastorate is the accepted measure of a man's worth. Yet all pastorates end. Nobody to date has stayed forever. Like death and taxes, the farewell sermon is inevitable.

Most ministers are afraid of resigning from the church which they serve. Part of this is the aversion to change which often increases with the years. As we grow older we hesitate to face new adjustments. With some it is a financial matter. They suspect that a new church may mean a smaller salary, or that they may find themselves out in the cold altogether without visible means of support.

Some sensitive souls interpret a resignation as a confession of failure. Others are reluctant to face the fact that the years have crept upon them and that they are older than they like to admit. Some just do not know what to do with themselves when there are no longer calls to be made and sermons to be prepared. Rare is the man who can face his own resignation in a jubilant or even optimistic mood.

## **Leaving Can Be Fun**

Much of this gloom is unnecessary. The least that can be said is that as soon as a man resigns, invitations to dinner come flooding in on him. Quite literally, most ministers depart with a good taste in their mouths. Tensions relax. Relationships which may have been organizational and formal become more personal. Leaving a church can be a lot of fun.

Going more deeply, a man's departure need not imply any sense of failure. To say that your job is done may mean that you have really accomplished something. Men come and go in all walks of life—including the ministry.

When I began my ministry, over forty years ago, we were often scolded for not staying long enough with our churches. As churches have become more stable and pastorates have lengthened, that complaint is less often heard—and then chiefly from the people who have to find someone to take the place of the departing brother.

## **Don't Wait for Nudge**

There will always be men with restless feet and with a lively imagination as to the succulence of the grass on the other side of the fence; but today, for every minister who moves too soon, there are three or four who stay too long.

## **A Sensible Answer to the Question Every Pastor Eventually Faces**

**JOHN R. SCOTFORD**

If possible, a minister should keep the initiative in regard to his own departure. He should not wait for a nudge from his congregation. Ministers should not only write their own resignations, but they should also decide **when** they should be written. A wise pastor keeps ahead of his flock, even in such matters as a change of leadership.

In deciding whether to stay or to go, a minister must pretty much keep his own counsel. Ministerial friends and neighbors may help him to think through his problem, but his own church members are likely to be a total loss. To ask their advice is folly. They will usually urge a minister to stay because they imagine that to do otherwise would be an unfriendly act on their part.

## **Don't Reconsider**

Some will hesitate to tell a minister to leave for fear that his particular followers will resent their doing so. If a minister desires to hear a lot of flattering but insincere words, let him ask the first dozen members whom he encounters whether or not he should leave. And there is always somebody around who will say: "If you go, we might as well close the church!"

A wise pastor will not even suggest the possibility that he might depart until his mind is made up—and then he will not reconsider his decision. The people on the outside, the members who rarely come to church, those who have relatively little to do with the minister, instinctively dislike the idea of a change of pastors. Often the part of the congregation which is normally invisible will suddenly appear in a church meeting and support a motion to ask their dear pastor to reconsider his resignation. If the minister has any sense, he will neither encourage such a movement nor heed its voice. Having decided to go, he will insist on going.

Two considerations should lead a minister to seek another field of usefulness.

## **Has Your Pep Popped?**

The first is a feeling in his heart that he is "through." He has finished one chapter, and has no clear revelation as to what the next one should be. His pep may have popped and his enthusiasm evaporated. He is tired. If this is just a mood, a man may be able to go off somewhere, get some new

ideas, and achieve a new start. But a frame of mind which may be normal in June can be disastrous in September.

A man needs to balance two questions against each other: "What have I done in this church?" and "What more can I do?" When the answer to number one completely outweighs the answer to number two, he should start looking for another job.

The second condition is active opposition. This is something different from the friction which is a normal accompaniment to the work of the church. If people get peeved one at a time, and possibly depart by twos and threes, this is no cause for alarm. It is when the people who are peeved stay around and do not depart that a minister needs to do some hard thinking.

## **Don't Buck the Tide**

Curiously, if there is real opposition, the greater the success which a minister achieves the more it is resented. If the church seems to be dropping apart, the opposition will just let it drop, but if it seems to be doing well, look out for trouble!

We doubt if any minister has ever succeeded in throwing a real opposition out of his church. He may get a majority vote of the congregation on his own behalf, and he may even grant letters of dismissal to some of the trouble-makers, but that will not end the trouble.

The reason is this. The people who vote to sustain the pastor are moved by mixed motives. Some do it out of friendship, some out of force of habit, some because they dislike the opposition. But among those who claim to be for him there are always those who are really against him. No matter how many victories he wins, he is always defeated. In the end he is out.

Astonishing are the foolish things which frightened ministers will do. One man seemed to think that he could keep his church by proving that the vote to oust him was illegal. What happened was that the congregation called another meeting and did the same thing over again in a more legal way.

## **Don't Fight for Job**

Another man made a great stew because he was cast out by a margin of one vote. And yet if he had been kept by a margin of one vote, both he and the church would have been much worse off. The more a pastor who is on the way out kicks against the

*(Continued on page 6)*



# The Prayer Fellowship

Rev. C. F. Bowen, Director  
Pastor, East Nashville Church

Have you been seeing your prayers answered right before your very eyes? We here at headquarters constantly praise God each day at nine o'clock for many wonderful answers to prayer.

Let's follow through with our prayers and Bible reading again this month. There are many things to pray for, and here are only a few of them. Be sure to read Rev. George Waggoner's Bible readings each day as you pray.

Mon., March 1—(Ex. 19:1-6)—Pray today for the "Crusade for Christ" being launched today by the Home Mission Board of our National Association.

Tues., March 2—(Lev. 27:26-34)—Pray for the new work begun in our Free Will Baptist churches in Oregon. Pray for those who will carry on the work there.

Wed., March 3—(Deut. 8:11-18)—Pray for the new work begun in Nebraska and for those who will go there for the Home Mission Board.

Thurs., March 4—(Psalm 24:1-10)—Pray for the Free Will Baptists in Maine that the Lord may lead them again into our fold.

Fri., March 5—(Psalm 50:1-12)—Continue to pray for the vital "Crusade for Christ" sponsored by our National Home Mission Board.

Sat., March 6—(Prov. 3:5-10)—Pray for your pastor as he prepares for tomorrow's services. Remember also your Sunday school teacher.

Sun., March 7—(Prov. 11:24-31)—Pray that this may be truly the Lord's Day all over America.

Mon., March 8—(Hag. 2:1-9)—Pray for the Bible College's financial drive to pay off the debt on the Richland Apartments.

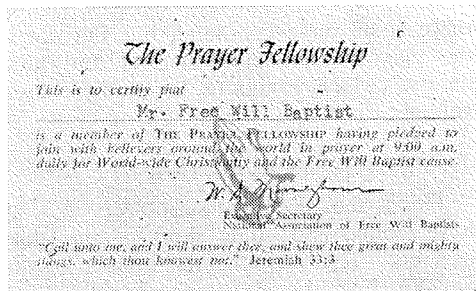
Tues., March 9—(Mal. 3:8-12)—Pray earnestly for the work of the Foreign Mission Board of our National Association.

Wed., March 10—(Matt. 6:19-24)—Pray for leadership in the planning of our Co-operative Program of Support.

Thurs., March 11—(Matt. 6:25-34)—Pray today for Rev. Raymond Riggs, our foreign missions promoter, and Rev. E. C. Morris, promotional director of Georgia as they leave by plane today for a survey of our mission fields in India. Remember also Miss Volena Wilson, one of our missionaries, who has a birthday today.

Fri., March 12—(Matt 10:7-15)—Pray for the families of Revs. Riggs and Morris who are left behind and no doubt feel rather lonely this morning.

Sat., March 13—(Matt. 25:14-30)—Pray



EDITOR'S NOTE: Several hundred have already enrolled in The Prayer Fellowship and are joining the headquarters staff in daily prayer for the things listed below and others. If you will be a daily prayer warrior and join with us in this crusade, send your name and address to The Prayer Fellowship at national headquarters. A membership card (shown above) will be sent to you free. The membership goal is 5,000.

for the members of your church who, because of sickness or other reasons, will not be able to attend church tomorrow.

Sun., March 14—(Mark 4:18-20)—Pray for your pastor who will preach better today if you do.

Mon., March 15—(Luke 6:34-38)—Today is the "Ides of March." Pray that our country will experience a great revival which will doubtless result in less tax money to be taken from our people and used in war. It's Christ or chaos.

Tues., March 16—(Luke 11:37-42)—Pray again for the "Crusade for Christ" program.

Wed., March 17—(Luke 12:13-23)—Pray for those who plan to have active parts in our annual Bible Conference at the Bible College in Nashville.

Thurs., March 18—(Luke 12:24-34)—Pray for the "Lights for Cuba" project sponsored by the National League Board. We are on the last \$1,000.

Fri., March 19—(Luke 18:18-30)—Pray for the National Sunday School Board and its work.

Sat., March 20—(Luke 19:11-26)—Pray for the league officers in your church as they plan for a good service tomorrow night.

Sun., March 21—(Luke 21:1-4)—Pray again today for your pastor who needs your support and prayers far more than your destructive criticisms.

Mon., March 22—(Acts 4:32-37)—Pray for the work of the National Superannuation Board and Rev. J. O. Fort, secretary-treasurer.

Tues., March 23—(Acts 5:1-11)—Pray for our college students, especially the seniors, who are finishing their school work this year.

## Support Needed for Home Mission Teams

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—"Additional blessings always bring new responsibilities," and this is particularly true in connection with the naming of missionary teams to work in the homeland, the National Home Mission Board says.

The cost of maintaining these missionary families on the field will be \$200 per month. This means that the minimum cost for the three teams which have already been approved will be \$7,200 per year. The amount will increase proportionately as other teams are sent.

In order to meet this added expense the Home Mission Board has issued an appeal for eighty churches, Leagues, Sunday school classes or individuals over the denomination to pledge \$5 a month to help support a missionary team. This will amount to \$400 a month, and when coupled with present income and that coming from the fields in which the missionaries will serve, will meet current needs.

Two churches and two individuals have already initiated the project, Rev. Damon C. Dodd, promotional secretary for home missions, has announced. These four are Bethlehem church, Ashland City, Tenn.; West Nashville church, Tenn.; Rev. H. E. Staires, Tulsa, Okla., and Rev. Willard C. Day, Mountain Grove, Mo. Each of these has pledged \$5 a month.

As pledges are received in the home mission office, the staff will fill out a record card and send the contributor a supply of self-addressed envelopes in which to send the monthly offering. CONTACT will list each month those who pledge. Inquiries should be addressed to the Board of Home Missions at the headquarters address.

Wed., March 24—(1 Cor. 4:1-4)—Pray for the many great revivals that are being held this month and next.

Thurs., March 25—(1 Cor. 6:15-20)—Pray again for the "Crusade for Christ" as it reaches toward the close of its first month.

Fri., March 26—(1 Cor. 16:1-3)—Pray for the many of our people who are en route to our annual Bible conference. Pray for a safe journey.

Sat., March 27—(2 Cor. 9:6-15)—Pray for 5,000 subscribers to CONTACT, our national paper, by the time the National Association meets in July. It can be done if we trust God enough!

Sun., March 28—(Phil. 4:13-20)—Pray for your pastor today. Pray also for the annual Bible Conference which begins at our Bible College today in Nashville.

Mon., March 29—(1 Tim. 6:6-16)—Pray for the Bible Conference in Nashville.

Tues., March 30—(1 Tim. 6:17-21)—Pray for the Bible Conference in Nashville.

Wed., March 31—(1 Pet. 4:8-11)—Pray for the Bible Conference in Nashville.

## Old-Fashioned Revival Experienced In Illinois

MT. VERNON, Ill.—A spirited religious revival which started at the Free Will Baptist church here right after Christmas was still going strong the middle of February.

When the meeting began with evangelist Oren Kersh in the pulpit, the congregation planned the revival for only a matter of days. After a few weeks it did stop—for one week.

Then the congregation went to a regular service and the revival spirit spread like wildfire again, with the minister, Rev. Paul Sulcer, and Rev. Howard Flota of the congregation preaching. The revival apparently came to an end Sunday night, February 7, when the Free Will Baptist congregation attended inter-church fellowship services at the First Baptist church at which Rev. Sulcer brought the message.

Sunday night they baptized 47 persons who had been converted during their revival. Then Monday night the congregation got together at their church for a fellowship meeting with the new converts.

Testimonials began, the spirit spread and the revival broke out once again. The result—seven conversions with five of the converts joining the church. The revival was continuing that week with Tommy Skinner, a 16-year-old member of the church, doing the preaching.

"We don't know how long it will last," said a member of the congregation. As long as people were being converted they were in no hurry to close it.

## Home Mission Board Sells Church Supplies

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The national Home Mission Board is now able to provide churches with audio-visual equipment, Rev. Damon C. Dodd, promotional secretary, has announced.

The board has recently been awarded a franchise to sell such equipment by both the Ampro and Viewlex Corporations. Ampro motion picture projectors and Ampro, Webcor or Ekotape recorders are a few of the items they will handle, Mr. Dodd said.

Other equipment they can supply include Viewlex and SVE combination slide and filmstrip projectors and a complete line of Radiant screens. Recording tape and other supplies for both recorders and projectors will be available.

Equipment handled by the board will be offered at a discount to all Free Will Baptist churches and their pastors, Mr. Dodd said. Inquiries should be addressed to the Home Mission Board at the headquarters address.

## Five Women

(Continued from page 3)

Visit the death cell. See a man fearful of every sound, thinking it will be the foot-falls of the prison warden coming to take him to the gas chamber—alone, condemned, and not ready to die. He will say sin caused it all.

But most of us will say, "Oh, yes, I know there is sin on every hand, but I'm not in the class with thieves, harlots and murderers," which brings us to another observation.

### 4. *There Is Sin in the Best of Us*

This is the verdict of scripture, "... all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." This included the mother of our Saviour. Even though there were no outward expressions of sin recorded against her, she had to trust the Son she brought into the world for salvation. Her salvation came on the same basis that salvation comes to any other sinner. To Mary and the rest of us God's Word is plain at this point, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

### 5. *There is Good in the Worst of Us*

Will Rogers once said, "I have never known a man that did not have something good about him," and Sam Walter Foss expressed this universal truth in a poem:

"Let me live in a house by the side of the road,  
Where the race of men go by—  
The men who are good and the men who are bad,  
As good and as bad as I.  
I would not sit in the scorners' seat,  
Or hurl the cynic's ban—  
Let me live in a house by the side of the road  
And be a friend to man."

Yes, in the worst of us there is good and in the best of us, bad. It took real courage for the Harlot Rahab to take the spies and hide them. Many today do not have the quality of trust she possessed. There are many sinners who can boast, "I have never sinned as she," but year after year they still refuse Jesus as Saviour.

Of these Jesus said, "The publicans and harlots go into the kingdom of God before you."

### 6. *All Must Be Born Again*

These women teach us that, regardless of moral standing, all must be born again. If reformation were enough, none of us would need to be born again, but it is not reformation God wants. He demands transformation. A little chorus used by beginners expresses it well—

"One door, and only one  
And yet its sides are two.  
I'm on the inside,  
On which side are you?"

Jesus said, "I am the door. By me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." Will you enter, friend?

## Bulletins Coming!

We are receiving many new bulletins this month and thus are able to give our readers many more interesting news items from all over the denomination which have been gleaned from these church publications. If **CONTACT** is not on your church mailing list, will you please arrange to have it taken care of. We would like to have scores of bulletins coming in weekly from many states. With them we can give you a better paper.

## When Should I Resign?

(Continued from page 4)

pricks, the more trouble he gets himself and his church into.

I have lived a long time and have heard about a lot of great moral victories, but it is my candid opinion that there is no job really worth fighting for. No man anywhere, and least of all a minister, can do good work in the face of violent opposition.

If there is real opposition in a church, the quicker the minister gets out, the better. If he is suffering from injustice, the injustice will merely grow greater the longer he stays. If he is being given a raw deal, the deal will simply get rawer. And the more his woes are noised about the harder it will be for him to get another job, and for the church to get another minister. All wars get worse, and this is particularly true of holy wars.

### Keep Flock United

For the sake of his own future and that of his church, and for the sake of the souls of his church members, the minister who is in trouble should heed the immortal lines in Macbeth: "Stand not upon the order of thy going, but go at once."

The pastor of a congregation should endeavor to keep his flock united at all costs. If they start to turn against their shepherd, he should do his best to see that all heads remain parallel—and especially those of the goats! If he can do this, and laugh, he need not fear the future.

A gracious departure, whatever may have happened backstage, is always a victory for the minister. If he keeps sweet, he will have the respect of the people. And in a year or two they will start tacking up a halo over his head.—**Protestant Church Administration and Equipment.**

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
PUBLIC WORSHIP



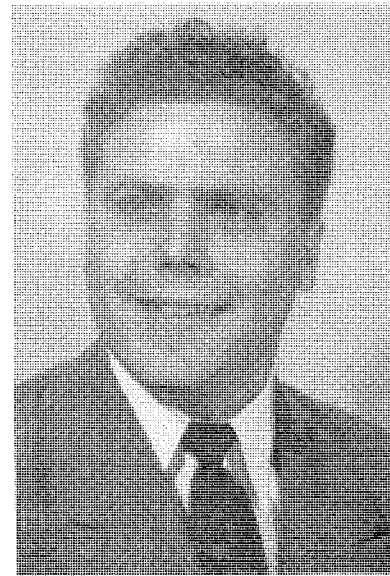
# Bible Conference Speakers Named



REV. D. C. DODD  
Nashville, Tenn.



REV. RALPH STATEN  
Wewoka, Okla.



REV. JOSEPH ANGE  
Durham, N. C.

## College Has Openings For Extension Schools

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Three faculty members at the Free Will Baptist Bible college will be available for extension schools this summer, Dr. L. C. Johnson, president, has announced.

The three who will conduct schools in various localities are the Reverends C. F. Bowen, Leroy Forlines and J. P. Barrow. The Bible college still has some open dates for schools, the president said, and would like to schedule several others during the summer months.

The extension courses cover two semester hours in a ten-night period and classes are available in Free Will Baptist Doctrine, The Church and Its Auxiliaries, Missions, and Evangelism. The cost of a school for each pupil is only four dollars a semester hour.

All credits earned in extension schools may be applied toward any certificate or degree awarded by the Bible college, Dr. Johnson added. Material explaining the courses and the preparation necessary to sponsor a school is available by writing to the Bible college.

## Offerings and Closing Service Will Clear Debt, President Hopes

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—A program of unusual significance has been scheduled for the ninth annual spring Bible conference to be held March 28-April 1, Dr. L. C. Johnson has announced. The Free Will Baptist college sponsors the Bible conference and the services are always held on the campus.

Climaxing the conference this year will be a special service Thursday morning, April 1, when contributions made toward liquidating the \$38,000 debt on the institution will be recognized and tabulated.

"We have enough faith to believe that the response from all over the denomination will be great enough to completely erase this debt," Dr. Johnson said, "so we are planning to close this great service with a prayer of dedication for all of our property, which we believe will then be debt-free."

All but one of the speakers for the four-day conference are shown above. Included in that group are Rev. D. C. Dodd, promotional secretary of the National Home Mission Board; Rev. Ralph Staten, Oklahoma pastor, and Rev. Joseph Ange, pastor of Edgemont church, Durham, N. C. A picture was not available of Rev. Burkette Raper, promotional secretary for the state convention of North Carolina, who is also a featured speaker.

The conference will open at 3:30 Sunday afternoon, March 28, with afternoon vespers. The speakers will share the services the rest of the week. Monday morning the speakers will be Dodd, Staten and Raper, with Ange bringing the night message.

## Extension School Held For Illinois Churches

INA, Ill.—The second extension school to be conducted by the extension department of the Free Will Baptist Bible college was held here January 18-28. The school was sponsored by the Franklin county quarterly meeting.

Rev. Leroy Forlines, head of the department at the Bible college, conducted the classes in Free Will Baptist Doctrine and the Church and Its Auxiliaries. Sessions were held five nights a week in the Ina public school building.

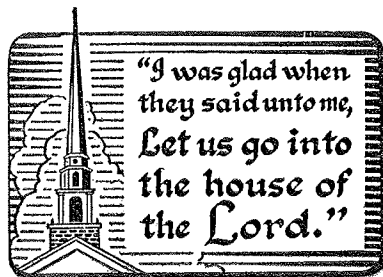
Rev. George Waggoner, who was in charge of local promotion, said it was the first such institute held in this area. The sponsoring organization is composed of 22 churches.

The first extension school conducted by the Bible college was held a few weeks ago at Eldridge, Ala.

There will be no afternoon services to allow for meetings of the various national association boards.

Ange, Raper and Staten will speak Tuesday morning, with Dodd scheduled for Tuesday night. The Wednesday morning service will be under the direction of Dodd, Ange and Raper, with Staten speaking that night.

Preceding the special 11 a. m. service on Thursday at which the Board of Trustees will be presented and the contributions recognized, Dodd and Ange will speak. The conference will close at noon Thursday.



# Cuban Missionaries Meet Family Problems, Build Christian Homes

REV. T. H. WILLEY

Here in Cuba, due to the extremely high charges made by lawyers, notaries and priests, many of the poorer classes live together illegally without benefit of the clergy. This very often presents our number one problem as we demand that the convert meet the requirements of the civil law before we accept him as a candidate for baptism. If it were possible to perform a religious marriage there would be no problem, but before any marriage is valid the civil ceremony must be performed.

We have many cases where the father and mother have raised a family without benefit of civil law, thus the names of the children have not been legalized and when they in turn must meet this fact, they face a problem.

One of the impressive rites of our church in Cuba is the Christian wedding. I am called to officiate in many of these ceremonies. Marriages are not hastily entered into in Cuba. One reason is the extremely low economical status of the country. This demands that young couples defer, sometimes for years, entering into marriage and beginning a home.

We are faced with the common problem of converts, whom, when living in sin, have abandoned a common-law wife with a family of little children, taking another woman and raising another family. Thus his sins find him out in a very real way when he is converted and we are faced with a tremendous social problem.

Last week I was called on to officiate at a wedding in the province of Havana in the home of one of our local preachers—Paul Sanchez. He is a sugar cane grower and a successful farmer, and he has been conscripted to many important positions, due to his honesty, such as head of the sugar colonies of the town near which he lives. Paul, as is the case with many of our successful farmers, built a church on his farm and supports a missionary.

The picture I am enclosing is the marriage of his third son. It has been my honor to officiate. The picture is taken in the church which Paul built. Notice the picture of the open Bible so very aptly placed. The boy in the picture is a devout Christian—a diesel-motor engineer, drawing a good salary which he faithfully tithes.

Besides the regular wedding ceremony it is customary for someone to bring an hour-long sermon preached for the benefit of the newlyweds on the importance of the testimony of a Christian home and some helpful suggestions on this all-important step of new human relations.

Thus our Christian homes are established, and we trust that through them our church of tomorrow shall be even stronger and this beautiful Latin country shall know the influence of the Gospel in its national life.



CUBAN CHRISTIAN WEDDING

## Nine Services Net \$1,671 for Missions

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Nine services in East Tennessee and Kentucky brought \$1,671.87 for foreign missions in cash and pledges, according to Rev. Raymond Riggs, promotional secretary. Actual cash gifts amounted to \$446.77, but pledges to be paid by July 1 brought the total to the larger figure.

Services in East Tennessee the week end of January 24 brought in about \$700 of the amount. East Sparta church gave \$25.87 and pledged \$175; Bethel church gave \$65.91 and pledged \$110, while the Cookeville church made an offering of \$52.87 and pledged \$265.

The following week in Kentucky offerings and pledges were made as follows: England Hill church, cash \$10.72, pledges \$95; Louisa church, cash \$30, pledges \$50; Betsy Layne church, cash \$100, pledges \$405; Boldman church, cash \$15; Dunham church, cash \$72.50, pledges \$125; Southside church, Paintsville, cash \$72.

Rev. W. S. Mooneyham, executive secretary of the national association, made several contacts in Kentucky during the same week in behalf of the denominational co-operative plan of support. The week-end services at Paintsville were shared by Riggs, Mooneyham and Rev. D. C. Dodd, promotional secretary for the Home Mission Board, in a denominational rally. All the offerings from this church during the week end were given to home and foreign missions and the Bible college.

## Plans Underway for League Conference

Rev. Bob Hill, pastor of New Hope church, Cheatham county, Tennessee, has been named general chairman of the Sixth Nationwide League Conference.

Mr. Hill was selected by the executive committee of the Cumberland League Convention which will sponsor the conference to be held in the Memorial Auditorium at the Bible college in Nashville, June 15-17.

Committees necessary to the operation of the conference, usually the best attended gathering of any group in the denomination, were also appointed by the executive committee. These committees are: registration, Joyce Barrus, chairman; information and exhibits, Julia Hill, chairman; hospitality, Walter Crocker, chairman; finance, Rev. Bob Wilfong, chairman; and publicity, Rev. Lonnie Davoult, chairman. These committee members, totaling twenty-five in all, met with Rev. C. F. Bowen, secretary of the National League Board, February 15 at the Bible college for instructions in their duties.

The conference program, designed by Mr. Bowen with the approval of the members of the National League Board, is slated to use more than 200 participants including instructors, group leaders, and singers. There is no business session on the conference program. It is completely inspirational and instructive. More than 1,000 are expected for this event. The conference keynote is "Learn from Me."

Information on the conference, including data on rooms and meals, will be available in leaflet form by the first of April, Mr. Bowen has declared.

## Rev. R. B. Spencer Passes Away at 67

Ayden, N. C.—Reverend R. B. Spencer, editor of *The Free Will Baptist* from 1936 to 1953, died at his home here January 25 at the age of 67. Mr. Spencer was active in the literature program of the denomination, serving as Sunday school writer and in various other editorial capacities with the Free Will Baptist Press.

He was a native of Pamlico county, North Carolina, and was a member of the Little Creek Free Will Baptist church in Greene county. He was educated at Whitsett Institute and the University of North Carolina. Before being ordained to the ministry in 1932, Mr. Spencer taught school for a number of years.

Funeral services were held January 27 at the Ayden church with Rev. R. N. Hinant, Rev. Bruce Barrow and Rev. Charles Craddock officiating.



## Twenty-Six Churches Report S.S. Averages

Twenty-six churches in seven states have reported their Sunday school averages for January to CONTACT. This is four more than the previous highest number reporting. Reports will be listed from any church sending in their average by the tenth of the month. Write the average together with the name of the church on a card and address it to CONTACT, 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee.

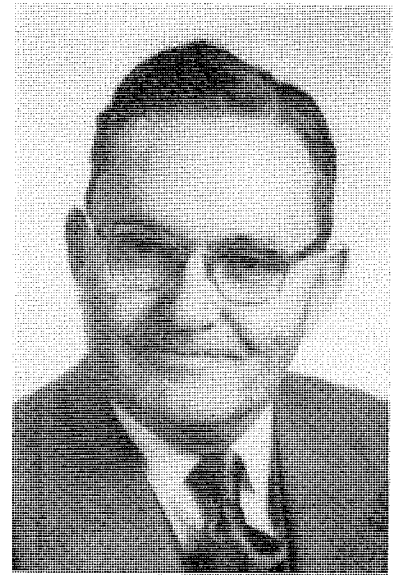
League averages will also be listed if they are reported. Averages for January were:

Arkansas	S.S.	League
Phillips Chapel, Springdale .....	170	
Pocahontas .....	168	70
Mt. Harmony, Saffell .....	55	31
<b>Florida</b>		
First Church, Panama City .....	25	
<b>Mississippi</b>		
First Church, Columbus .....	107	
<b>Missouri</b>		
Mountain Grove .....	176	
Third Church, St. Louis .....	90	43
<b>North Carolina</b>		
Hickory Chapel, Ahsokie .....	117	
Warden's Grove, Lowland .....	107	
<b>Oklahoma</b>		
Capitol Hill Church, Oklahoma City .....	195	
Ada First .....	180	53
Lawnwood, Tulsa .....	157	
Lewis Avenue, Tulsa .....	136	
Norman .....	117	
Oilton .....	116	
Bristow .....	95	
Tecumseh .....	87	
Henryetta .....	78	
Hanna .....	76	
Greenbrier .....	60	
Duncan .....	59	
Okmulgee .....	29	
<b>Tennessee</b>		
Elizabethton First .....	206	
Loyal Chapel, Columbia .....	184	
Midway .....	121	
Dodson Branch, Cookeville .....	52	

## Will Visit Mission Fields in India



REV. RAYMOND RIGGS



REV. E. C. MORRIS

Rev. Raymond Riggs and Rev. E. C. Morris will leave New York by plane March 11 to spend about two months touring the Free Will Baptist mission fields in India. Mr. Riggs is promotional secretary for the Board of Foreign Missions and Mr. Morris is promotional secretary for the Georgia state association. This trip will mark the first visit of a denominational representative, outside of appointed missionaries, to the field which Free Will Baptists have had in India since 1935.

While in that country, Mr. Riggs and Mr. Morris will spend some time at both the headquarter stations in South India, which is manned by Miss Laura Belle Barnard and Miss Volena Wilson, and the North India station. Missionaries in North India are Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Cronk and Rev. and Mrs. Carlisle Hanna. None of the expenses of the trip will be paid from the foreign mission fund. Mr. Riggs' expenses will be paid from the regular allocation to the Indian church and the Georgia state association is underwriting the expenses of Mr. Morris.

Before returning to the United States the men will stop over for a visit to the Holy Land. They expect to arrive back home in the early part of May.

## New Arkansas Church Organized February 3

SEARCY, Ark.—A charter membership of at least 52 is assured the new Free Will Baptist church organized here Wednesday night, February 3. Thirty-four members joined the church the night of the organization and 18 others have pledged to join.

Rev. Lawnie Coffman, pastor of Mt. Bethel church of Rose Bud, led in the organizational work assisted by Rev. W. B. Maddox, local minister.

The congregation has already purchased a large home and three lots and are using the building for services. The house has been remodeled to provide an auditorium 18' by 42' and four classrooms. The purchase price of \$5,000 has practically been cleared with cash and pledges.

Attendance at the new church on February 7, first Sunday after the organization, was ninety. The first Sunday offerings amounted to \$125. Rev. Maddox is the present pastor and Rev. Coffman conducted a revival for the congregation the latter part of February.

## "Lights for Cuba" Needs Only \$1,000

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Less than \$1,000 was needed on February 15 to complete the "Lights for Cuba" drive, according to Rev. C. F. Bowen, secretary of the national league Board. Nearly \$200 was received last month, bringing the total to \$1,536.09.

Mr. Bowen hopes the entire amount of \$2,500 can be raised before the sixth nationwide League conference meets June 15. The money will be used to provide electric service for the mission station in Cuba.

Latest receipts to the fund are as follows:

Reedy Branch Church, N. C. ....	\$ 8.15
Odessa Church, Texas .....	6.10
Rose Bud Church, N. C. ....	3.33
Rev. W. A. Carter, Okla. ....	5.00
Texas District Convention .....	6.60
A. W. Hartley, Kansas .....	2.00
Goodsprings Church, Tenn. ....	15.09
Heads Church, Tenn. ....	5.00
Mt. Elon Church, S. C. ....	8.72
Haven Church, Florence, S. C. ....	10.00
Marble Hill Church, Mo. ....	5.00
South Carolina District Convention .....	5.00
Marlboro Church, N. C. ....	3.00
Pocahontas Church, Ark. ....	4.70
Oaklawn Church, Tenn. ....	5.26
West Wayne Church, Mich. ....	5.00
South Side Church, N. C. ....	8.13
Porterville Church, Calif. ....	10.00
Caroleen Church, N. C. ....	15.00
Missouri State Association .....	10.00
Bryan Church, Texas .....	13.01
Ruth's Chapel, N. C. ....	15.61
Kinston Church, N. C. ....	10.00
Hull Road Church, N. C. ....	7.15

## Superannuation Board Gives Financial Report

LAKE BUTLER, Fla.—Receipts to the national Superannuation Board for the first six months of the church year totalled \$1,071.49, according to the report of the treasurer, Rev. J. O. Fort. Nearly half of the money (\$438.62) came in as premiums and application fees.

The rest of the money was received from ten states. The Woman's National Auxiliary convention sent \$10. Offerings from the states included Alabama, \$41.82; Florida, \$47.88; Georgia, \$103.34; Kentucky, \$15; Missouri, \$38.65; Mississippi, \$32.03; North Carolina, \$286.69; South Carolina, \$31.65; Tennessee, \$1, and Michigan, \$25.00.

Disbursements for the same period amounted to \$1,615.12, the report revealed. Over half of the disbursements were paid out for premiums and applications. This amounted to \$877.32. Other disbursements were travel for board members, \$329.30; secretarial service, \$69; filing cabinet, \$72.50; Executive department, \$250; office expense, \$5, and promotional work, \$12.

There was a balance in the superannuation account on January 1 of \$3,951.39, the report showed.



# Woman's Auxiliary

"His Command — Our Task"

MRS. H. B. SLOAN, Executive Secretary

## Yearbooks for 1955 in Process of Preparation

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The mailing rush for 1954 yearbooks is just over and already material is being prepared for the 1955 program books, according to Mrs. C. F. Bowen, literature chairman of the WNAC. "Several programs and articles have already been received for next year," she said, "and it promises to be one of our finest program books."

Eight thousand of the 1954 program books were ordered, Mr. H. B. Sloan, executive secretary, said, and only about fifty of them are left. "We anticipate printing 10,000 yearbooks for 1955," she added.

Theme for 1955 will be "Declaring His Glory Now," with the watchword found in Psalm 96:3. The Auxiliary hymn will be "Jesus Saves." The yearbook will be missionary in emphasis, Mrs. Bowen revealed, with the following countries presented: India, Cuba, Africa, Japan, South America, Mexico, Europe and the homeland.

A stewardship and soul-winning program will also be given along with articles from each of the WNAC chairmen and the president. A new installation service will also be featured with a workshop article and program outlines for the three weeks of prayer during the year.

Writers for the 1955 yearbook will include Miss Lucy Wisehart, Cuba; Mrs. Wesley Calvery, Tennessee; Mrs. Dean Moore, California; Mrs. Doris Sheffield, Georgia; Mrs. Josephine Stevens, Africa; Mrs. Avis Sublette, Tennessee; Mrs. Alice Lupton, North Carolina.

Mrs. Eunice Edwards, Missouri; Mrs. Robert Crawford, North Carolina; Mrs. Luther Gibson, Mississippi; Mrs. Cleo Pursell, Oklahoma; Mrs. Homer Willis, Kentucky; Mrs. D. C. Dodd, Tennessee, and Reverends D. C. Dodd, Raymond Riggs and W. S. Mooneyham, secretaries of the various departments of the national association.

## Headquarters Furniture Campaign Brings \$100

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Last minute contributions before CONTACT went to press brought the total gifts received by the Woman's National Auxiliary convention for furnishing the reception and conference rooms in the headquarters building to over \$100.

Eight states have already responded with offerings, Mrs. H. B. Sloan, executive secretary, announced, with Georgia being the only state to exceed their suggested amount. Contributions from Georgia to date total \$52, twelve dollars over their quota.

Offerings from other states include Missouri, \$22.10; North Carolina, \$5; California, \$5; Oklahoma, \$8; Alabama, \$7; Texas, \$3, and Arkansas, \$2. The total received to date is \$104.10, Mrs. Sloan said.

All of the offerings will be used to buy furnishings for the two rooms shared by all the headquarters departments—the reception and conference rooms. It was estimated that furniture for the rooms will cost \$800. This total has been allocated in suggested amounts for the various states.

Suggested quotas are: Alabama, \$40; Arkansas, \$10; California, \$40; Florida, \$20; Georgia, \$40; Illinois, \$25; Kentucky, \$20; Michigan, \$40; Mississippi, \$20; Missouri, \$70; North Carolina, \$140; Ohio, \$10; Oklahoma, \$80; South Carolina, \$90; Tennessee, \$90; Texas, \$45; Virginia, \$10, and West Virginia, \$10. Offerings should be sent to the WNAC office at the headquarters address.

## New Auxiliary Reports, One Elects Officers

ROYAL OAK, Mich.—Detroit's newest church, Grace church in Royal Oak, has recently organized a Woman's Auxiliary. Assisting in the organization was Mrs. C. H. Collins and Mrs. William Daniel, both of the Highland Park church in Detroit.

Five charter members joined the group and elected Mrs. Lillian Riley president. The organization took place January 18.

\* \* \*

DUNCAN, Okla.—Mrs. Vivian Lewis has been elected president of the Woman's Auxiliary at the First Free Will Baptist church. Other officers elected to serve in the organization which is less than a year old were Mrs. E. B. Jones, vice-president; Mrs. Frances Williamson, youth chairman; Mrs. Violet Swaffer, benevolence, and Mrs. Violet Smith, study course chairman.

This auxiliary has recently purchased a new piano for their church.

## Auxiliary Guidebook Now Ready for Use

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—A "Guidebook for a Local Woman's Auxiliary" has just been released by the literature division of the Woman's National Auxiliary convention. The new booklet includes the latest material regarding the organization and operation of a local Auxiliary.

Prepared by Mrs. H. B. Sloan and Mrs. C. F. Bowen, the handbook contains a suggested constitution and by-laws for a local Auxiliary as well as rules for organization.

There is also a discussion of the duties of the officers of a Woman's Auxiliary and how a local Auxiliary relates to the district, state and national conventions. The booklet closes with a discussion of the points of the Standard of Excellence for Auxiliaries and an explanation of the Co-Laborer Offering Plan.

The booklets are fifteen cents and should be ordered from the Woman's National Auxiliary convention at the headquarters address.

## Program Is Announced For Second Workshop

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—"Know God's World" has been selected as the theme for the second quarter workshops to be conducted by district Woman's Auxiliary conventions.

The workshop program has been prepared by Mrs. Luther Gibson, East Tupelo, Miss., who is study course chairman of the WNAC. The first quarter's theme was "Know God's Word" and themes for the rest of the year are "Know God's Work" and "Know God's Workers."

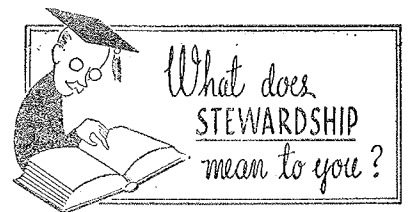
The program suggested by Mrs. Gibson is as follows:

- Scriptures: Genesis 1:1 and John 3:16
- 10:00 a.m.—Registration
- 10:20 a.m.—Hymn, "More Like the Master," and Prayer
- 10:30 a.m.—Greetings and Devotional
- 10:40 a.m.—Topic 1, "This World—God's Creation"
- 11:00 a.m.—Hymn, "This Is My Father's World"
- 11:10 a.m.—Topic 2, "This World—Present Condition"
- 11:25 a.m.—Missionary Message
- 12:00 a.m.—Lunch
- 1:00 p.m.—Devotional
- 1:15 p.m.—Topic 3, "This World—Open Doors to Missionary Activities"
- 1:30 p.m.—Hymn, "A Child of the King"
- 1:35 p.m.—Topic 4, "This World and the Place of Our Future Woman's Auxiliaries"
- 1:50 p.m.—What Have We Accomplished? Reports
- Vote of thanks to host church
- Have You a Question?
- 2:10 p.m.—"The Lord Will Work It Out," Missionary playlet by Mrs. L. E. Ballard
- 2:30 p.m.—Adjourn

## Go-Tell Auxiliary Is Organized in Alabama

CORDOVA, Ala.—The Woman's Auxiliary of the Free Will Baptist church here has recently organized a Go-Tell Auxiliary for juniors. Maxine Sides is leader of the new group, being assisted by Sharron Short.

In order to raise funds to purchase rugs for the church the Auxiliary is filling a gallon jar with dimes. More than \$40 has been raised already, a member reports, and the jar isn't near full.



## Sunday School Teacher Retires after 61 Years

BRYAN, Texas—Miss Lily is retiring.

It will be difficult for the beginners in her Sunday school class to give her up, but it will be more difficult for her to give up what she says is "the joy of my life."

"Miss Lily" is Mrs. J. L. Edge, who for 61 years has taught the Beginners Sunday school class at the Bryan Free Will Baptist church. In spite of her 82 years Mrs. Edge has surprising vitality and enthusiasm, but she is becoming deaf and so has decided to place her teaching mantle on the shoulders of some younger person.

In 1893, one year after she and Mr. Edge were married, they both became charter members of the Bryan Free Will Baptist church and she was elected first teacher of the Beginner class. Pastors have come and gone, but Mrs. Edge has remained with her Sunday school class all of the sixty-one years—missing only when sick or away.

Rev. Charles Sapp, pastor of the church since last September, says that recently his four-year-old son said at the Sunday dinner table, "Daddy, God burns bad people in hell forever and ever. Daddy, is that a long long time?" Curious that such a young child should know about such things, he asked him, "Michael, where did you find out about hell?" to which he replied, "From Miss Lily, my Sunday school teacher."

"Perhaps many would be critical of placing emphasis on hell at such an early age," Rev. Sapp says, "but only eternity will reveal the number of children Mrs. Edge has been responsible for saving from an everlasting hell because she taught the whole gospel, even in a Beginner Sunday school class."

## Conversions Highlight Mississippi Convention

FULTON, Miss.—Three decisions for Christ and the announcement by a young man of his call to the ministry highlighted the Mississippi state League convention held here last month.

These came at the close of the morning service when Rev. Lonnie Sparks, senior at the Free Will Baptist college, had brought the message on "Remember Thy Creator."

In the afternoon six leagues presented plays. The state League banner, awarded for the best record, was presented to East Tupelo church. Second place winner was Priceville, with third place going to Fulton.

Jolly Winders, convention president, presided over the all-day rally. Rev. Milton Crowson was host pastor.

MARCH, 1954

## GROUND-BREAKING IN FLORIDA



The first step toward construction of a sanctuary for the new church at Chipley, Florida, was the ground-breaking ceremonies conducted January 17. Watching Mr. M. M. Owens turn the first shovelful of dirt are (left to right) Rev. Rufus Hyman, first pastor of the church; Henry Hayes, Joe Revis, Ernest Owen, Cauley Owens and W. B. Usery, building committee, and Rev. W. B. Hughes, present pastor.

Since being organized a year ago the congregation has been meeting in a house that was purchased and remodeled. The church is being built in a good location just one block north of the Washington county hospital.

## Leaders Approve Cooperative Plan

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Denominational leaders meeting here February 3 to study the Cooperative Plan of Support agreed that the first step toward making the plan workable would be to strengthen state organizations.

After hearing the plan presented by Rev. W. S. Mooneyham, executive secretary of the national association, the Executive Committee unanimously voted to recommend it to the General Board, who will in turn present it to the national association in session.

The national Home Mission Board, meeting at the same time, had earlier expressed their approval of the plan.

Before setting the Cooperative Plan into operation, members of the committee decided to recommend a period of not less than eighteen months for an educational and promotional campaign. This means that the plan would not go into full-scale operation before January 1, 1956.

The report approved by the committee said, in part: "The most practical, sensible and economic way of getting underway the Cooperative Plan will be to work through the state organizations rather than directly from the national association. This will strengthen the work in every state.

"Therefore, it will be necessary to encourage and assist establishing promotional offices, either full or part time, in every state as rapidly as possible."

It will be to this end that the initial ef-

orts toward a Cooperative Plan will be directed. The committee authorized the immediate release of informative material, and a pamphlet explaining the proposed plan is now being prepared, the executive secretary said.

The idea back of the Cooperative Plan of Support is to allow churches to send their denominational contributions to one treasurer where they will be distributed to the various agencies of the national association according to percentages adopted by the national association

Some temporary percentages were adopted by the Executive Committee to provide for those churches which are already sending to the Cooperative Plan. All funds received by the executive department marked for cooperative distribution are allocated as follows: foreign missions 30%; Bible college, 30%; home missions, 10%; superannuation, 10%, and executive department, 20%.



Growth in membership from 41 to 156 in a year-and-a-half highlights the brief history of the Phillips Chapel Free Will Baptist Church at Springdale, Arkansas. Organized in September, 1952, the congregation completed the building shown above in December of that year. The building, which is 40' by 70', contains an auditorium, five classrooms and two rest rooms.

Under the leadership of the pastor, Rev. Tommy Day, the Sunday school attendance has climbed from 97 the first month after organization to 170 the first month of 1954. The Woman's Auxiliary has 29 members and the League is very active with an average attendance of 69.

## Home Mission Board Names Three Teams At Historic Session

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—In what may prove to be the most historic event in modern Free Will Baptist history, the national Board of Home Missions in session here February 1-3 voted to send home missionary teams into at least three fields this summer.

This action, along with a decision to send other teams as soon as possible to the Spanish-speaking people of Florida and western Texas, came as the climax to the three-day semi-annual meeting of the board. Rev. J. B. Bloss, chairman, presided over the sessions.

Immediately after designating the fields to be worked as Maine, Nebraska, and Oregon, the board approved preliminary applications for the latter fields and announced that applications would be received for the work in Maine.

Rev. and Mrs. G. C. Lee, Jr., of Calhoun City, Miss., have been tentatively approved for the Nebraska work. They will make efforts to revive the work which has languished for more than fifteen years. The base of operations will be at Kenesaw, the site of the one remaining Free Will Baptist organization in that state.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Lee are graduates of the Free Will Baptist Bible college and Mrs. Lee has served on the faculty of the institution.

The work in Oregon will consist of the pastoral care of the newly-organized church in Springfield as well as organizational work being planned for other towns in that state. Rev. and Mrs. Sylvester Crawford, Belmont, N. C., have been named for this field. He is a graduate of the three-year pastor's course at FWBBC and they plan to leave for the new field in June or July.

The work in Maine could not be considered as pioneer home mission work, but will consist of reclamation work among Free Will Baptist churches that were lost in the merger years and that want to affiliate again with the national Free Will Baptist movement. There are at least two such churches in northern Maine with which the team will work at first.

The workers who go to this field will also be engaged in Vacation Bible School work with Rev. John Ruth, who is pastor near Houlton.

In addition to designating the mission fields and applicants, the board agreed to name a national home missionary at their July meeting. Such a person would serve as national evangelist and home missions coordinator.

At the closing session, the board allocated funds with which to assist new organizations as follows: East Birmingham church, Ala., \$100; Roxana, Ill., \$200; Coweta, Okla., \$75, and Miami, Okla., \$200.

## Fifty Members Join New Oklahoma Church

CHICKASHA, Okla.—Fifty people made up the charter membership of the First Free Will Baptist church which was organized here Wednesday, February 10.

The organization is an outgrowth of a prayer meeting which was started under the leadership of Rev. E. E. Morris, pastor of Capitol Hill church, Oklahoma City. Twenty-six people attended the first service held Wednesday night before Christmas, 1953, in the home of Mr. Luther Hudson.

Almost immediately after perfecting the organization the church voted to buy a building and move it on their lot at 2406 South 26th St. for a place to worship. The building is 20' by 40' and will be converted into an educational unit later. They have also bought a parsonage and will move their pastor in as soon as possible.

Present plans call for construction to start in the near future on a brick-veneer auditorium to be located on the present site.

Chickasha is a city of 40,000 population and is located thirty miles south of Oklahoma City. It is the home of Oklahoma State College for Women and the church is within three blocks of the campus. The new church is in Dibble association.

## Golden State Exceeds Home Mission Quota

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—An itinerary in the interest of home missions conducted in California January 9-19 netted a total of \$500.89 and put the state nearly \$100 over their 1953-54 national home mission quota. Rev. Damon C. Dodd, promotional secretary of home missions, made the contacts.

The itinerary was prepared by the California director of home missions, Rev. J. L. Waltman, and included visits to fourteen churches. A state-wide rally was held in Kerman at the half-way mark of the schedule and was the first such meeting ever held in the state.

California has already given \$867.99 to national home missions, which is above their \$800 quota. Receipts by Mr. Dodd on his itinerary are as follows:

Salinas Church .....	\$ 20.00
Turlock Church .....	30.01
Modesto Church .....	100.00
Concord Church .....	21.50
Richmond Church .....	69.04
Chowchilla Church .....	17.51
Selma Church .....	30.10
Tulare Church .....	18.54
Porterville Church .....	15.00
Bakersfield Church .....	37.66
Arvin Church .....	18.40
Taft Church .....	19.00
Santa Paula Church .....	14.00
Bell Gardens Church .....	32.00
State Rally .....	22.13
Sale of Signs .....	36.00

## Mid-Week Services Ought To Be Real Prayer Meetings

There are empty unmanned posts on the mission fields today because our church prayer meetings are neglected. By various means of propaganda we have sought to encourage men to become foreign missionaries without much success. And even where there seems to be an excess of available personnel we find ourselves lacking the necessary funds to send them forth.

Curtailment of our enterprises on the various fields of the world has been taking place today for want of necessary funds. And the cause of it all is neglected prayer meetings.

### Prayer Meetings Abused

Most churches now-a-days have turned their mid-week service into a Bible study group. If they do have any time at all set aside for specific prayer requests, only a limited number may participate. There is a dearth of real, prevailing prayer that takes hold of God's promises claiming them until the answer is given. Requests for missionary work, if mentioned at all, are generally so indefinite that the folk in the church could not tell if their prayers were answered.

Most prayer requests lack genuine boldness in petitioning God for some specific things. The underlying cause of this is fear that the answer might not be the same as expected. Most folks include in their prayers the statement, "if it be Thy will," so that no matter what happens their prayers were answered after all.

### God's Will Not Known

If the truth were known, the real difficulty is that they do not know the will of God in regard to their request. Furthermore, they have deceived themselves into believing that God will always do what is best whether they pray or not. Specific answers to clear-cut prayers are to them an unheard of thing. Prayer to them is just another means of fellowship with God rather than a means of receiving direct answers to their petitions.

They have perverted the clear, distinct Scripture teaching in regard to prayer. The Lord Jesus said, "Ask whatsoever ye will and it shall be done unto you."

### Specific Prayer Needed

It is time that our mid-week services became genuine prayer meetings. God not only requires that we believe that he will answer our prayers, but that we should be direct, specific and persistent in all our asking. Such praying cannot help but bring us into the place where it is proper and right for God to answer our request for that very thing.

The fact is, when God lays a desire on our hearts to pray for something it is usually a clear indication that he intends to

## Dodd Will Conduct Two-State Itinerary

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Both Oklahoma and Mississippi will be visited in behalf of national home missions during March, an announcement from that office at headquarters reveals. Rev. Damon C. Dodd, promotional secretary, will make at least twenty-five contacts in the two states during the month.

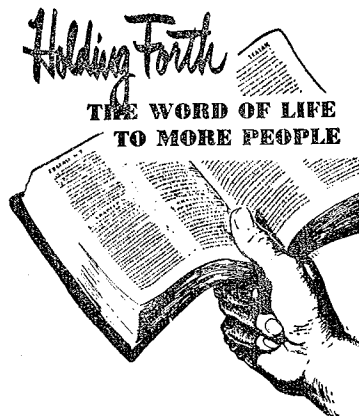
The first itinerary will take the secretary to Oklahoma for sixteen services. He will begin at the Healdton Church on Tuesday, March 2, and close with a service at the Lawnwood church, Tulsa, on Sunday night, March 14.

Other services are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, March 3, Sulphur First; Thursday, 4, Holdenville; Friday, 5, McAlester; Saturday, 6, Weleetka; Sunday morning, 7, Shawnee First; Sunday night, 7, Central Avenue Church, Okla. City; Monday, 8, Oilton; Tuesday, 9, Bristow; Wednesday, 10, Haskell; Thursday, 11, Pryor; Friday, 12, all-day rally at Wewoka; Saturday, 13, Bixby; Sunday morning, 14, New Home Church, Tulsa, and Sunday afternoon, Lewis Avenue Church, Tulsa.

The schedule in Mississippi will open Sunday, March 21, with the morning service at Columbus and the night service at Philadelphia.

On Monday night, March 22, Mr. Dodd will be at Lee's Chapel; Tuesday, 23, Pearce Chapel; Wednesday, 24, Amory; Thursday, 25, New Gauley; Friday, 26, Antioch; Sunday morning, 28, Priceville, and Sunday night, 28, Beech Springs.



give it. Many Christians never receive these things due to the fact that they have failed to pray as they should. Such is the case with our missionary endeavors today. God has men, and God has money; yet we have kept them from our mission work because we haven't prayed effectively together.

Put prayer back into the prayer meeting and there is no limit to what God will do in missions.

—From *The Missionary Dentist*

### Late Bulletin!

The state of Florida has voted to underwrite the salary of a home missionary team to work among the Cubans in Ybor City, according to Rev. Damon C. Dodd, promotional secretary of the Home Mission Board.

Ministers and delegates attending a conference on home missions and evangelism at Cottondale pledged the state's support for the project. Salary for the team would amount to \$2,400 a year. The Home Mission Board is now looking for a Spanish-speaking couple to take over the work, Mr. Dodd said.

Mr. Dodd and Rev. J. B. Bloss, chairman of the Home Mission Board, were principal speakers at the state-wide conference which met February 14-16.

## Material Ready for Stewardship Month Scheduled for April

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—In preparation for April as "Stewardship Emphasis Month" packets containing all materials available for promotion of the campaign in the local church will go into the mail about the middle of March.

Five hundred of the packets will be mailed to a selected list of church and state leaders, the Stewardship Commission has announced.

Included in each packet will be a copy of a new stewardship study course book, "All of Mine for Him," by Rev. Damon C. Dodd, four stewardship posters in two-color, four stewardship tracts, two stewardship declamations, a stewardship playlet and a stewardship pledge card.

In the packet will also be an order blank for ordering any of the materials for use in promoting "Stewardship Emphasis Month" in the local church. If purchased separately, the material in the packet would cost \$1.60. The Stewardship Commission is asking those who receive the packets to remit one dollar to defray printing and postage costs.

For those who do not receive a packet, the materials may be ordered from the Stewardship Commission at the headquarters address. Prices are: Study course book, "All of Mine for Him," \$1.00 each or \$10 a dozen.

Two-color posters .....	10c each
"God's Plan"	
"Let's Quit Tipping God"	
"Free the Pastor's Hands"	
"Who Is the Owner?"	
Stewardship tracts .....	40c a hundred
"I Can't Afford Not to Tithe"	
"Stewardship"	
"New Testament Giving"	
"Id Tithe"	
Stewardship playlet and declamations .....	10c each
Stewardship pledge cards .....	30c a hundred



# Glancing Around the States . . .

## **Highland Park Church Sponsors Mission Work**

DETROIT, Mich.—A mission Sunday school in a Detroit suburb is being sponsored by the Highland Park Church here. The first service was held Sunday, January 17, in Royal Oak with seventeen present. The group is meeting at 1609 Whitcomb. Mr. Barney Chaney is leading the work.

## **Tulsa Church Organizes Adult League Group**

TULSA, Okla.—An adult League was organized recently at the Lawnwood Church here. Ralph Roberts was elected president of the new group. Other officers are Jim Rushing, vice-president; Dorothy Roberts, secretary; Margaret Rushing, corresponding secretary, and Bill McLaughlin and Bell Boggs, group captains.

## **Arkansas League Rally Will Meet April 4**

POCAHONTAS, Ark.—The League rally of Social Band association will meet in a quarterly session April 4. Arbor Grove Church near here will be host.

## **Teacher Training Class Held at Huntington**

HUNTINGTON, W. Va.—Rev. Homer Willis, pastor at Paintsville, Ky., conducted a teacher-training class at the First Free Will Baptist Church here February 22-26. Rev. Carl Vallance is pastor of the church.

## **Oklahoma Church Sponsors Concert by Quartet**

DUNCAN, Okla.—The Senior League of the First Free Will Baptist Church here sponsored a concert by the Stamps Ozark quartet recently. The auditorium was filled for the service. This church has recently organized a Junior League under the direction of Mr. Herschel Lewis.

## **Dallas First Church Dedicates First Unit**

DALLAS, Texas—Dedication services for the first unit of a large church plant were held February 14 by the First Free Will Baptist Church. The unit dedicated is an educational building which will serve the congregation until the main structure can be erected. Rev. M. L. Sutton, Fort Worth pastor, preached the dedicatory sermon. Rev. H. Z. Cox is pastor.

## **Tecumseh Intermediates Elect New Officers**

TECUMSEH, Okla.—Patsy Childers was elected president of the Intermediate League

at the Free Will Baptist church here January 24. Other officers elected to serve with Miss Childers are Linda Rider, vice-president; Joann Fiddler, secretary-treasurer, and Joyce Childers and Kathy Armstrong, group captains. Mr. and Mrs. Omar Fiddler, Jr., are sponsors of the group.

## **Cumberland Leagues Set Up Convention**

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—A Cumberland League convention was formed February 6 when more than 200 leaguers from churches around Nashville met and adopted a constitution and by-laws. The meeting was held at New Hope Church with Rev. Bob Hill, pastor of the church, presiding. Rev. W. S. Mooneyham, national executive secretary, was the principal speaker. The next convention will meet at the Ashland City Church.

## **Mississippi Churches In Building Programs**

RICHTON, Miss.—Four of the five churches in this section of south Mississippi are in building programs. Two of the congregations are building new churches and two are adding educational rooms, according to Rev. J. T. Quick.

## **Texas District Names Sunday School Board**

HOBBS, N. Mex.—A Sunday school board for the Northwest Brazos association was appointed at the recent quarterly meeting here. On the board are Walker Baker, Amarillo; Rev. Ed Hobbs, Odessa, and Rev. H. H. Haston, Crowell. The next session of the association will be held at the Crowell Church with Rev. J. R. Wooten as moderator.

## **Albemarle Union Meeting Held at Malachi's Chapel**

COLUMBIA, N. C.—The union meeting and League convention of the Albemarle district of North Carolina met January 30 at Malachi's Chapel near here. Rev. C. H. Overman brought the union meeting sermon on "Vision, Our Greatest Necessity." The general theme was "Go Forward." A feature of the League convention was a religious film.

## **Sylvan Park Dedicates New Brick Structure**

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Dedication services for the new auditorium of the Sylvan Park Church were held February 28. Rev. J. L. Welch, Cofer's Chapel pastor, preached the dedicatory sermon at the all-day service. This church was featured in January CON-

TACT as "Church of the Month." Rev. E. A. Craft is pastor.

## **Union Association League Convention Meets**

NEWPORT, Tenn.—Nearly 200 attended the League convention of Union association held at the Gregg's Chapel Church here. Seven Leagues were represented with the Greeneville League giving the program. Jimmie Pierson is president of the convention.

## **Okmulgee Church Organizes Adult League**

OKMULGEE, Okla.—Twelve members joined the Adult League organized here January 24. Officers elected were Joe Zummer, president; Suzie Gassaway, vice-president; Betty Conway, secretary-treasurer; Gertie Reed, assistant secretary, and Ed Reed and Anna Howard, group captains.

## **Social Band Association Schedules Fellowship Service**

O'KEAN, Ark.—Little Brown Church near here will be host to the monthly fellowship meeting of the Social Band association March 8. Rev. Dewey Thompson and Rev. Billy Rogers will be the speakers. Rev. O. D. Winfrey is president of the organization. The February meeting was held at Arbor Grove Church with Rev. Glynn Campbell and Rev. Carl High as speakers.

## **GTA Is Organized By Shawnee Women**

SHAWNEE, Okla.—A Go-Tell Auxiliary was organized January 25 at the First Free Will Baptist Church here with twelve members. Mrs. Cleo Pursell is sponsor of the group with Edna Lou Vaughn and Louise Womack serving on the Young People's Committee. Officers of the GTA are Linda Lunsford, president; Jimmy Green, vice-president; Darlene Vaughn, secretary, and Frances Greeling, treasurer.

## **Preaching Point Votes To Become Church Mission**

TECUMSEH, Okla.—A preaching point in Liberty Hill community near here has voted to become a mission of the local Free Will Baptist Church. Services are being conducted every Sunday, Sunday night and Thursday night by Rev. Leroy Bowers. It is hoped a church will result from the mission.

## **West Fork District Has Quarterly Meeting**

FORT WORTH, Texas—Rev. Braxton Chaffin and Rev. Clarence Hearron spoke



# Glancing Around the States...

at the quarterly meeting of the West Fork association meeting at the First Church here recently. Their subjects were "Virtues of Righteousness and Judgment" and "The Old Paths." The next session will be the New Salem Church near Decatur.

## Florida Promotional Office Acquires Printing Press

DOTHAN, Ala.—The Florida promotional bulletin is now being printed on their own press, according to Rev. D. W. Poole, promotional secretary. "A press was needed and God supplied it," he said. They are not in the printing business, he said, but will supply their own churches with material at cost.

## Odessa Church Awarded League Rally Banners

ODESSA, Texas—Both the program and attendance banners were awarded to the Leagues of the Odessa Church at the League rally of the Northwest Brazos association last month. Rev. J. R. Wooten spoke to the leaguers on "Taking Advantages of Opportunities." Programs were presented by Leagues from Crowell, Amarillo First and Odessa. The winning play was "The Old Rugged Cross."

## New Mexico Church Redecorates Completely

HOBBS, N. Mex.—A complete redecorating job has just been finished by the Free

Will Baptist Church here. The auditorium was redecorated with all new furniture being added, rest rooms were installed, a baptistry provided and a kitchen completely equipped. Rev. L. V. Pinson is the pastor.

## Shawnee Church Begins Extension Department

SHAWNEE, Okla.—Jack Cantwell was elected superintendent of the newly established extension department of the First Free Will Baptist Sunday school here. The department will take Sunday school into the homes of the sick and shut-ins. Rev. Paul Pursell is pastor.

## Trinity Church Holds Dedication and Open House

FORT WORTH, Texas—A new educational building was dedicated in special services at the Trinity Church here February 21. Along with the educational building, praise to God was expressed for the remodeled auditorium. Open house for the entire church plant followed the service. Rev. M. L. Sutton is pastor.

## Revival in Miami Off to Good Start

MIAMI, Okla.—A revival begun here February 8 in the hopes of organizing a Free Will Baptist Church got off to a good start. On the second night 55 were in attendance. Rev. E. M. Kennedy, Tulsa, is the evangelist.

## An Item of Praise

It is usually customary to express thanks after we have received something, not before. But a few days ago in devotions at headquarters one of the staff challenged all of us to thank God for 5,000 subscribers to CONTACT before the national association. God has given us faith to believe it, so we are praising Him and thanking you now for 5,000 subscribers by July 13.

Since we already have around 2,300 subscribers it means that we only have to double our circulation. The quickest and simplest way to do that is for every present subscriber to send one other subscription. If you'll send yours this month we can praise God for 10,000 by July 13. Will you?

## Tennessee Goes over Home Mission Quota

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Pushed over the top on her 1953-54 quota for home missions by a \$200 contribution from East Nashville Church, Tennessee has already exceeded the suggested quota of \$1,500 by \$250.

Early victory in Tennessee in this department was aided materially by the preaching mission for home missions that was conducted in connection with the recent meeting here of the Home Mission Board. During the three-night campaign, more than \$545 came in from Cumberland association alone.

Setting the pace for church offerings during the preaching mission was Cofer's Chapel church which gave \$100. Olivet Church of Guthrie, Ky., gave \$46.62 and Bethlehem Church, Ashland City, made a \$30.68 offering. Trinity Church in Nashville gave \$31.10.

Churches in the twenty-dollar category included Head's Church, \$21.05; Friendship, \$25; Shady Grove, \$26.10; Loyal Chapel of Columbia, \$25.26; West Nashville, \$25; and East Nashville, \$20.10.

The other churches in Cumberland association gave as follows: Columbia First, \$7.65; New Hope, \$15; Good Springs, \$10.35; Ashland City, \$15; Mt. Zion, \$6.75; and Sylvan Park, Nashville, \$9.

An association-wide home mission rally was held Wednesday night, February 3, at the Bible College auditorium in Nashville. More than 300 persons from 22 churches attended this service at which Rev. C. F. Bowen, East Nashville pastor, was the speaker. An offering of \$127.65 was given.

All these gifts from Cumberland association has been augmented by sizable contributions from Union association. Elizabethon First Church recently signed pledge cards amounting to \$18 a month and the association itself sends \$50 a month. These gifts, along with personal offerings, have pushed the state total for national home missions to \$1,747.65.

## Seventeen Churches Report Revivals

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Seventeen churches have reported revival campaigns already conducted or scheduled as a part of the denomination-wide "Crusade for Christ" during March and April. In reporting revivals please give the name of the church, evangelist, pastor, dates, number of decisions for Christ and number of additions. The first four items of information will be sufficient for revivals scheduled for future dates. Below is a list of recent or forthcoming revivals:

Church	Evangelist	Pastor	Starting Date
Bristow, Okla.	J. R. Hall	N. R. Smith	
Lewis Ave. Church, Tulsa	Pixley Brothers	E. M. Kennedy	February 22
Fellowship Church, Flat River, Mo.	Joe Ange	Rolla Smith	March 18
Crusaders Church, Detroit	O. T. Dixon		February 17
Okmulgee, Okla.	Homer Willis	John Elliston	March 3
Greenville, N. C.	W. S. Mooneyham	R. B. Crawford	February 22
Calvin, Okla.	Meivin Mouser	Claude Chisum	February 1
Belmont, N. C.	Raymond Riggs	Wade Calvert	February 7
Pocahontas, Ark.	Damon Dodd	Reford Wilson	
East Nashville Church, Tenn.	William Hill	C. F. Bowen	March 21
Van Lear, Ky.	Homer Willis	Edgar Hewlett	February 15
Wooddale Church, Knoxville, Tenn.	Frank Thompson	W. H. Teague	March 8
Thomaston, Ga.	Damon Dodd	L. S. Anthony	February 21
Houston, Texas	C. F. Bowen	E. D. Hellard	March 7
Drumright, Okla.	John H. West	Harry Beatty	February 7
Mt. Zion Church, Walnut Ridge, Ark.	O. T. Dixon		March 1
Bryan, Texas	O. T. Dixon	Charles Sapp	March 7
Sylvan Park, Nashville, Tenn.	Raymond Riggs	E. A. Craft	March 1

# For Your Information

# The Offering Plate JOHN R. SCOTFORD

Over in Pocahtonas, Ark., Earl Smith, general director of the Leagues, quizzed his leaguers one night with this: "I am a Free Will Baptist, And I want to keep informed; So I had better send a dollar, For \_\_\_\_\_ in the morn." His pastor didn't say, but we can't help but believe everyone must have known the answer was CONTACT. . . . *Word has just reached us that Rev. Seldon Bullard is the new superintendent of the Kentucky Free Will Baptist orphanage at Louisa. He left a thriving church at Darlington, S. C., for the new work.*

"Crusade for Christ" revival kits are going into the mail this week here at headquarters. A selected list of 500 pastors are receiving them. Included in the kit are attractive two-color posters featuring the theme, "The Church Points the Way" with other material. Others may have them by writing the Home Mission Board. . . . *Already inquiries are coming in about entertaining the 1955 session of the national association. Most recent one is from Amarillo, Texas. . . . CONTACT received inquiry the other day from the president of a Lutheran woman's society in Ohio about the guest editorial on steeples and church bells. The American Bible Society had referred her to it, she liked it and wanted to use it.*

*Many compliments have been received regarding our religious cartoons and asking about the artist. He is Jack Hamm of Waco, Texas, who is using his talent to the glory of God. . . . The Fellowship Brotherhood of the Progressive association (Oklahoma's newest) sends \$50 for the headquarters fund. This is one of the most active groups of laymen in the denomination. . . . Our readers who have enjoyed articles by Rev. Damon C. Dodd will be glad to know that he begins a series on "A History of Free Will Baptists" in the April issue. You must not miss these! We're contemplating printing them in book form after their appearance in CONTACT.*

The Alumni association of FWBBC meets March 31 during the Bible conference for a banquet and business session. Grads of 1954 will be honored guests and the editor of CONTACT will speak. . . . *Initial planning is underway to begin a Free Will Baptist Bulletin Service to supply churches with Sunday bulletin folders. A sample bulletin is being prepared and a mail survey of pastors will be taken. What do you think about it? We can do it if the demand is great enough.*

We wish more ministers would preach about the offering plates. Much could be said, and we are certain that the people would listen. That plate is their most frequent contact with the Kingdom of God.

Historically the offering plates are among the most recent arrivals in the House of God. None have been dug up in ancient ruins, nor are they among the heirlooms of old churches. They are a relatively modern invention.

In the city the more fashionable churches were supported by pew rents until well into this century. A visitor to Boston's Old South Church on Copley Square in 1910 was shown to a free pew (in the balcony) and was given no chance to make an offering.

Worship of God and the giving of money at the same time is something relatively new.

Figuratively, the collection did not walk boldly in the front door of the Protestant church; rather did it slip in the back way. And it did not appear as a plate to be passed from hand to hand but rather as a bag on the end of a stick which the usher thrust into the pew gingerly and then pulled out quickly so as not to embarrass anyone.

At first "the hat was passed" for special causes, such as missions or temperance. It was long regarded as incidental income for incidental expenses. In my first parish the minister's salary was raised by pledges and

it was assumed that the "loose collection" would take care of the janitor and the heat, which it did (in Oklahoma).

The perusal of old church records shows that the offering was introduced gradually—one Sunday a month in the morning, then every Sunday in the morning but only one Sunday in the evening, and finally at every service. The farther from the city, where people have always had money in their pockets, the slower the acceptance of cash offerings as the regular thing in church.

The receptacles used reflected the attitude of the people toward regular giving. We have already mentioned the bag on the end of a stick. This had two advantages; it was noiseless, and no one could possibly see what was put in. This was followed by boxes on long sticks, and then by boxes on shorter sticks—closely resembling those used by lodges for voting on new members. The emphasis was still on secrecy. The processes of black-balling a would-be lodge member and short-changing the church were quite similar.

When the offering plate first appeared it was small and innocuous. The idea was to make a quarter look like a large contribution, and a dollar appear to be an endowment. Unfortunately, many such plates can still be found. In small groups I like to pass them around so that people can see how they flatter a half-dollar.

## SIDE-STEPPING THE QUESTION

