

Mr. Thomas Conkey  
Route 1  
Wheelersburg, Ohio

# Contact

of the  
National Association  
of Free Will Baptists

AUGUST, 1954

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

## Dedication

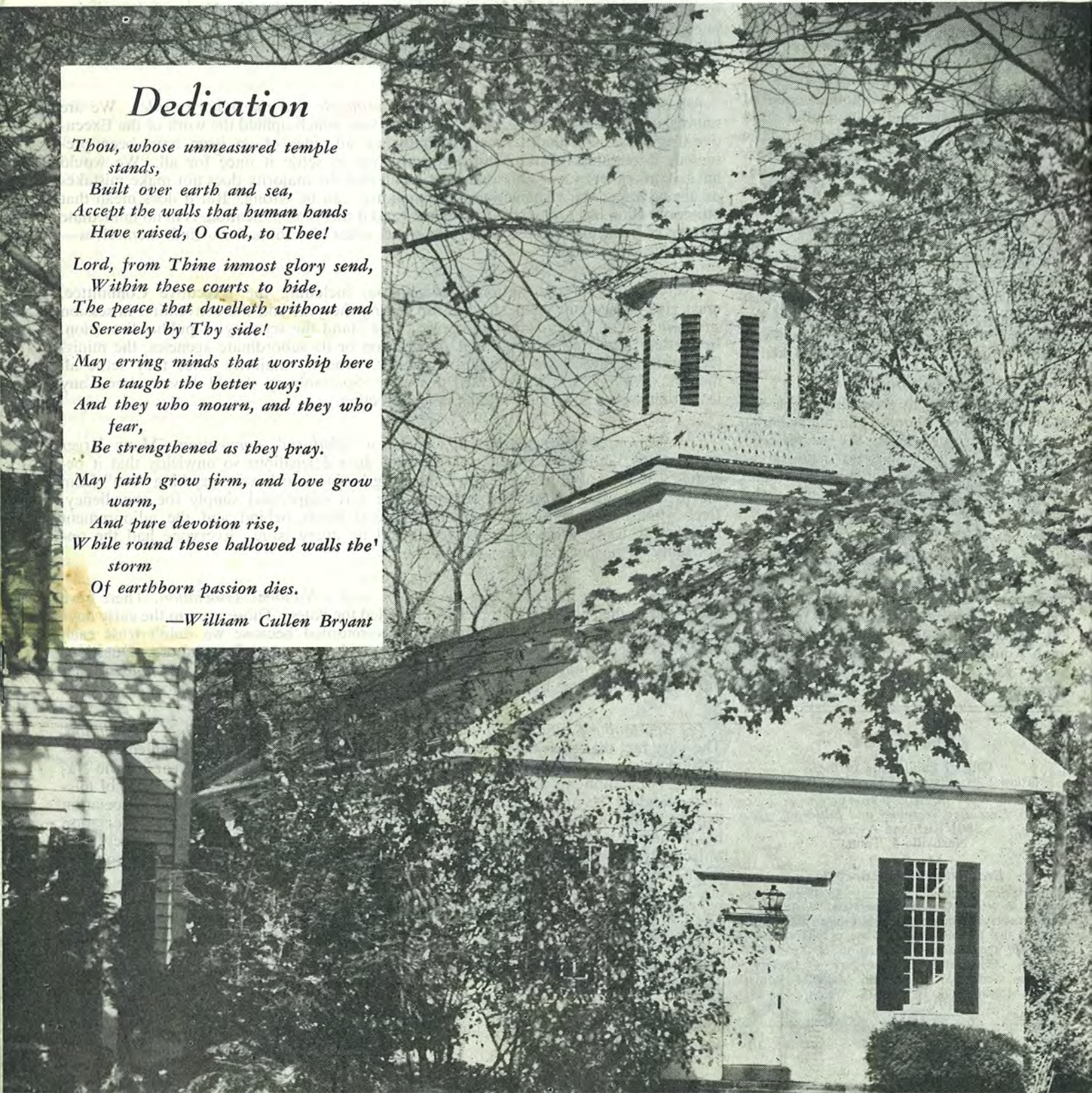
*Thou, whose unmeasured temple  
stands,  
Built over earth and sea,  
Accept the walls that human hands  
Have raised, O God, to Thee!*

*Lord, from Thine inmost glory send,  
Within these courts to hide,  
The peace that dwelleth without end  
Serenely by Thy side!*

*May erring minds that worship here  
Be taught the better way;  
And they who mourn, and they who  
fear,  
Be strengthened as they pray.*

*May faith grow firm, and love grow  
warm,  
And pure devotion rise,  
While round these hallowed walls the  
storm  
Of earthborn passion dies.*

—William Cullen Bryant





# What Happened at Spartanburg?

## Subscribes for Servicemen

"The Core Creek Young Woman's Auxiliary voted at the last meeting to send CONTACT to the men from our church who are in service. Several have been discharged, so we have only one subscription to send now. As others enter the service, however, we will subscribe for them."—Arlyn White, Cove City, N. C.

## History Complimented

"I have just received another issue of CONTACT and, as usual, will read it from cover to cover. I am really enjoying 'The Free Will Baptist Story' and the sermons of the month. I'm hoping that in the immediate future we can purchase Mr. Dodd's book. I want copies for my home and for friends. It is certainly wonderful to know our denominational history.

"Another part of CONTACT which I especially enjoy is 'Glancing Around the States.' In fact, there just isn't any part of the paper that could be left out. I am enclosing a subscription for my mother."—Mrs. Bud Stilwell, Holdenville, Okla.

## Supports Cooperatively

"We are happy to send this check for \$201.96 from our church (Fairmount Park) for the Cooperative Plan. We are giving 5 per cent of our income for state super-annuation and 10 per cent for state home missions, besides the 10 per cent to the Cooperative Plan."—James E. Jones, Norfolk, Va.

## Sends Subscriptions

"Enclosed find six subscriptions. I think CONTACT is a wonderful paper. Especially did I like the sermon of the month for June, 'Sidetracked.' Reading and heeding this sermon would bring a great spiritual awakening."—Rev. W. W. Postlewaite, Freewater, Oregon.

## Contact

Official Publication of the  
National Association of Free Will Baptists

W. S. MOONEYHAM  
Executive Secretary and Editor  
3801 Richland Avenue  
Nashville 5, Tenn.

Member of  
Evangelical Press Association

Subscription Price .....\$1.00 per year  
Entered as second class matter at Nashville, Tennessee

CONTACT is published monthly under the direction of the Executive Committee of the General Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Committee members are Charles A. Thigpen, George W. Waggoner, Mark M. Lewis, Henry Melvin, J. B. Bloss, J. L. Welch, John H. West.

Any convention which sees as much far-reaching action passed as was seen in Spartanburg last month, is bound to be the subject of many conversations weeks after the final "Amen." This session of the National Association probably passed more important legislation than any previous one. It was not all passed unanimously. Being a Baptist convention where the rights of individual thought, speech, and action are guarded, it was not expected to be unanimous.

But as we look beyond the official record in the minutes and analyze what took place at Spartanburg, there are many encouraging signs. In talking with many who attended the convention, we have heard it expressed that at least five significant things were noted which give evidence of healthy growth of the National Association. These five "straws in the wind," which indicate the direction which the National Association faces and the aims toward which it is moving, we want to share with you. They will help answer the question beyond the written reports of "What happened at Spartanburg?"

(1) *Spartanburg reaffirmed the Baptist principle that the majority rules.* We are not discussing here the right or wrong of the vote which upheld the work of the Executive Committee, but the fact remains that when all sides of an issue have been presented, it remains for the voting constituency to settle it once for all. We would have it no other way. This does not mean that the majority does not make mistakes or always takes the right action. The majority can be wrong. But it does mean that our convention has not reached the place (and if this is an indication, is in no immediate danger of reaching the place) where some other denominations find themselves—being ruled from the top.

Every agency of the National Association, including the Executive Committee, must give an account of its stewardship during the year and the convention in session sits in judgment. Every action and policy must stand the scrutiny of public discussion. In matters involving the National Association or its subordinate agencies, the ministers and delegates have the final authority. And by majority voice they settle all matters. We have always operated this way. Spartanburg should have calmed any fears that we were leaning in any other direction.

(2) *Spartanburg proved that ours is not a "platform" convention.* Many larger conventions, and some not as large, find their delegations so unwieldy that it becomes a matter of convenience in expediting business to have everything "run" from the platform. But at Spartanburg, no voice was suppressed simply for expediency. Even when the convention schedule was several hours behind and the adjournment time had to be set aside, all sides were heard on every issue. Everyone had the opportunity to be heard, if he so desired.

(3) *Spartanburg revealed that we are, in truth, a National Association.* There have been times when the Mississippi River divided the votes. Those were in the early days when suspicion plagued us and progress was retarded because we didn't trust each other. Sectional lines were indeterminable in the voting at Spartanburg. Questions were settled by individual conscience rather than bloc voting. It was evident that the Mississippi River had been spanned for good.

(4) *Spartanburg attested to the growing confidence in the National Association.* The very fact that such major action as was passed could even be presented for discussion gives proof of a strong faith in the organization. In the infant years of the National Association we would not have dared pass too many measures for fear of misunderstanding the motives and purposes back of them. Then the National Association existed primarily for a fellowship organization. Now confidence in the association has so grown that we can dare discuss doctrines, principles, and policies sanely and objectively. These major questions bring their problems, but they are readily solvable when we have faith in our ultimate purpose.

(5) *Finally, Spartanburg verified that Christians can disagree and still be Christians.* Issues and principles were discussed without personalities becoming involved. The convention closed in harmony and fellowship. At the final "Amen" the ranks had been closed and a strong, united front was turned to the world that Free Will Baptists are working to win for Christ.

Because of these and many more, Spartanburg has already gone down in the record as an historic convention.

# The Urgency of the Burning Heart

C. F. Bowen

*Editor's Note.* This is a condensation of the keynote sermon preached at the opening session of the annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists July 13, at Spartanburg, S. C. Mr. Bowen is secretary of the National League Board and on the faculty at the Bible College.

*"And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave it to them.*

*"And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.*

*"And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the the scriptures?" (Luks 24:30-32).*

"Fight neither with small nor great," save only against your besetting sin; and when you do that, you make war against all the evil that is in your life. When that besetting sin is conquered, then you are on the road to victory.

Christianity has many besetting sins against which we must at all times war and be constant vigilant. The Apostle Paul urges us to "put on the whole armor of God, that we may be able to withstand in the evil day," and to "lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us."

One of the besetting sins of Christianity in our times—the sin that persistently gnaws at the very vitals of the cause of Christ; the sin that viciously lashes like vehement billows against the sea-walls of Christianity; the sin that crushes with its octopus-like tenacles the spiritual heart-throb of the church; the sin that reduces a militant Christianity, once surging with a buoyancy and a vibrancy that must have thrilled the very heart of God, to a cold ecclesiasticism, having "a form of godliness but denying the power thereof";—is the sin of indifference to the millions of earth who hourly die and swing out into a Christless eternity. This is the sin of the cold heart! If ever Christianity—if ever Free Will Baptists—needed to feel the urgency of the burning heart, surely we must feel it in this day.

## Disciples Misunderstood

It is believed by many that the two disciples on the road to Emmaus were man and wife. As they walked along it appears that they were arguing—"throwing words at one another"—about the events surrounding Christ's resurrection. As they thus reasoned together and walked along the road, Christ, whom they did not at first recognize, joined them and took up the conversation with them.

This very enlightening conversation between Jesus and the two disciples reveals to us how the rank and file of his disciples misunderstood Jesus' real purpose in coming

to earth. They were still looking for a nation redeemer who would overthrow all oppression to God's people. Perhaps, as verse 21 suggests, that is why the eyes of the two disciples were "holden." They had eyes to see but could not see.

Presently, upon reaching their home, the two disciples invited Jesus to join them for the evening meal. At the head of the table Jesus was recognized by the disciples. Perhaps they saw the nailprints in his hands as he broke bread. Or was it because no one did the honors at the table in quite the way Jesus did? When they recognized him, he vanished out of their sight . . . It has ever been thus: when we try to keep him to ourselves we lose him. And these two disciples had to go back and join the others before they could ever see him again!

## Burning Hearts Needed

Now notice verse 32. How their hearts burned within them as they recognized Christ's presence. How strangely moved

they were. How constrained they were to tell others of what they had found. And this they did! Though tired, they arose immediately and returned to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples. They did not even wait until dawn when traveling would have been much easier. They had to go then and now, for their hearts were aflame! So it will be with us when we have felt the spiritual heart-burn which comes with the vital touch of Christ's presence in our lives.

The need for burning hearts is seen on every hand. In the first place we see such a need because of sin itself. Sin is a presence; it is everywhere. Sin destroys everything pure and good that comes within its reach. Sin has power. Notice what it did to the animals of earth. Look at the difference in the nature of animals in the Garden of Eden and those which roam the wooded hills today. Sin did that. And sin did worse than that to you and me. Sin carries a penalty, and that penalty is death. "The wages of sin is death." When we have burning hearts we tell men of sin and warn them of its consequences.

*(Continued on next page)*

## HERALD OF HOPE



# The Burning Heart

(Continued from preceding page)

## Stem the Tide

In the second place we see the need for burning hearts in this: Out of revival that will come from burning hearts will come a strengthening of our stand on separation of Church and State. Since the rule of Constantine and the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D., state religion has been a threat to Christianity. We need a revival of the burning heart to stem the tide of Catholic infiltration into our civil and religious liberties.

Again, we see the need for the burning heart in the fact that nothing will check the alarming sweep of insidious modernism and liberalism like revival that will come through hearts aflame with evangelistic fervor. This religious fervor, tempered with the true, fundamental teachings of the whole Word of God, will restore the Christ of the Cross into sermons coming from pulpits in tens of thousands of churches of all faiths.

Finally, we need the burning heart because the sin of the cold heart results in a lack of vision of a damned and doomed world. We walk about a lost world but absolutely do not believe it strongly enough. We are satisfied with our soft life—we had rather have Cadillacs than Christ. And we don't want to weep over our "Jerusalem" as Jesus did over his in the long ago.

## Conditions Cited

There are prerequisites for the burning heart. One cannot simply have the heart that is warm by just wanting it. There are certain conditions to be met. In the story of Hezekiah found in Isaiah 38:1-6, we find that he possessed three qualities that brought him the thing he desired most in life.

The first of these was the desire to pray. He "turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the Lord." Notice he turned his face to the wall! Have you ever faced a blank wall in your Christian progress? Did you do as Hezekiah did? He faced his problem squarely. And God said: "I have heard thy prayer." We must pray for the burning heart and we must pray in the complete will of God.

The second thing we see about Hezekiah is that his was a dedicated life. "Remember now, O Lord, I beseech thee, now I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. . . ."

## A Passion for Souls

Dedication means (1) being willing to receive what God gives, (2) being willing to lack what God withholds, (3) being willing to relinquish what God takes, and (4) being willing to become what God wants us to be. If you would have the burning heart you must go the way of dedication as did Hezekiah.

The third thing about this ancient king

# California Organizes Eleven New Churches

CALWA, Calif.—Eleven new Free Will Baptist churches—just one short of their goal—were organized last year in California, according to reports made at the state association meeting here June 16-18. The state mission board had set a goal of twelve new organizations during the year.

Rev. Winston Lawless, Selma, was elected moderator of the convention to succeed Rev. Ralph Hampton, Concord. Rev. Dean Moore, Richmond, was named assistant moderator. Mrs. Patty McLain is clerk of the association and Mrs. Johnnie Jenkins is assistant clerk.

Delegates elected Rev. Joe Mooneyham, Tulare, to serve as state director of missions. Messages during the convention were brought by Rev. Wade Jernigan, Kerman; Rev. Bob Maxwell, Santa Paula; Rev. O. H. Doss, Modesto, and Rev. Guy Hutsell, Manteca.

was that he had a burdened heart. "I have seen thy tears," God said. "He that goeth forth with weeping, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bearing his sheaves with him." What a glorious promise to those who would seek the burning heart and win the lost to Christ! We have a passion for making money, for keeping up with the times, how about a burdened heart for the lost? How about a passion for souls?

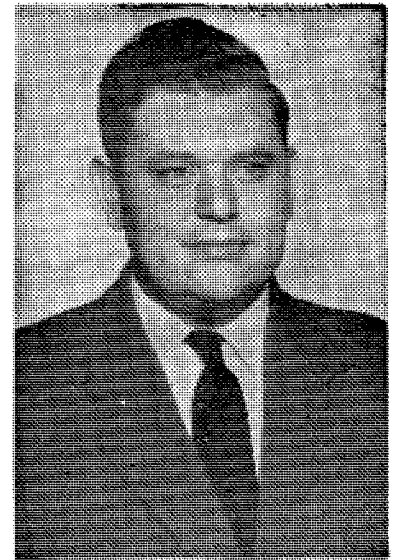
Remember Simon Peter's tears? After his tears came power and victory. A lying Peter by the fire became a daring Peter *on fire* when the Spirit transformed him. You must have fire in your heart before you can have fire in your sermons.

## Effects Named

Is it worth it? What are the results or effects of the burning heart?

You will have eyes that will see the need in others. You will have ears that will hear their cries. Your heart will be filled with the love that responds to the perfect will of God. Your hands will gladly reach down and help the helpless. You will enjoy a deepened sense of personal piety. You will love your church more and your loyalty to it will be excelled only by your love for it. You will find a great blessing in personally witnessing to the lost.

Attendance at churches will increase with the revival of the burning hearts. Bibles will be more diligently read and more dearly loved and more sincerely believed. Christians will get busier than they have ever been before. Family altars will be erected in a hundred thousand homes almost over night. And where there are family altars we have altered families. And best of all: sinners will be converted and God will be glorified and Christ's death on Calvary's cross will not have been in vain. Let's have revival NOW!



REV. H. E. WILLIS

# Kentucky Association Elects Willis Moderator

ESTILL, Ky.—The Kentucky state association met June 18-20 at the Martin's Branch Church here in the fifteenth annual session. Rev. H. E. Willis, pastor of Southside Church, Paintsville, was elected moderator. Other officers include Rev. Ted Green, pastor of Morehead Church, assistant moderator; Mr. G. E. Ratliff, Ashland, clerk, and Rev. W. S. Boggs, pastor of Louisa Church, associate clerk.

The state association is composed of five quarterly conferences. These are Pike county, Floyd county, Johnson county, Boyd county, and Lawrence county. In addition, the association has fellowship with the Letcher county conference. There are other associations and churches in the state with which the state organization has contact, including the Mt. Zion association, but they are not members of the state association.

There are approximately 125 churches in the state.

Ministers who brought messages during the state convention were Scott Castle, W. S. Boggs, Carl Senters, and Ted Green.

Rev. F. S. Vanhoose resigned as treasurer of the state orphanage and was replaced by Rev. Willie Moore. The trustees of the orphanage include Clarence Bailey, Pikeville; Albert Dingus, Jenkins; Carl Senters, Betsy Layne; W. S. Boggs, Louisa; G. E. Ratliff, Ashland, and Homer E. Willis, Paintsville. Rev. Seldon Bullard is superintendent.

The state Mission Board is composed of Walter L. Hooper, Scott Castle, Albert Dingus, Ted Green, Clarence Bailey, Willie Moore, and Burns Stumbo.

The 1955 session of the association will be held June 17 with the church at Prestonsburg, Ky.



# The Prayer Fellowship

C. F. Bowen, Director

*How amazing is God's love for us! How frequently have we seen him answer our prayers as we have joined our hearts and minds in concerted petitions to him! There are many things for which to pray during the month of August. Let us "get together" with God on them.*

Sun., Aug. 8—(Exodus 1:8-22)—Pray not only for your pastor today, but for our pastors everywhere.

Mon., Aug. 9—(Exodus 2:1-10)—Let us praise God for the fruits of a wonderful National Association in Spartanburg last month.

Tues., Aug. 10—(Exodus 2:11-25)—Pray for the Billy Graham revival campaign soon to begin in Nashville, Tenn.

Wed., Aug. 11—(Exodus 3:1-10)—Pray for Rev. Delbert Akin, promotional secretary for the state of Oklahoma.

Thurs., Aug. 12—(Exodus 3:11-22)—Thank God for a great response to our church bulletin service. Pray for more churches to use them.

Fri., Aug. 13—(Exodus 4:1-17)—Pray for Rev. and Mrs. G. C. Lee, Jr., as they go to Nebraska, as our home missionaries.

Sat., Aug. 14—(Exodus 4:18-31)—Pray for Rev. Burkette Raper, promotional secretary for North Carolina.

Sun., Aug. 15—(Heb. 11:23-29)—Pray for your pastor.

Mon., Aug. 16—(Exodus 5:1-9)—Pray for our Bible College in Nashville and for the Mt. Allen College in North Carolina as they make plans to open the fall semester of school.

Tues., Aug. 17—(Exodus 6:1-13)—Pray for Rev. and Mrs. Robert Wilfong as they go to Ybor City, Florida, as our home missionaries.

Wed., Aug. 18—(Exodus 7:1-13)—Pray for the National Sunday School Board as it sets up office in our headquarters building within the next few days.

Thurs., Aug. 19—(Exodus 7:14-25)—Pray for Rev. William Mishler as he plans to take over the promotional work of the National Sunday School Board.

Fri., Aug. 20—(Exodus 8:1-15)—Pray for all the new churches that have been organized since last month's CONTACT.

Sat., Aug. 21—(Exodus 8:25-32)—Pray

for Rev. O. T. Allred, promotional secretary for Missouri.

Sun., Aug. 22—(Exodus 11:4-10)—Pray for your pastor as he preaches today.

Mon., Aug. 23—(Exodus 12:3-14)—Pray for the summer camps in session this month.

Tues., Aug. 24—(Exodus 12:21-30)—Pray for Rev. and Mrs. Sylvester Crawford, our home missionaries to Oregon.

Wed., Aug. 25—(Exodus 12:31-51)—Pray for our missionaries in India.

Thurs., Aug. 26—(Exodus 13:17-22)—Pray that the Lord may lead in the problem of where Rev. and Mrs. Wesley Calvery shall go as our foreign missionaries. The door to Japan is opening to them.

Fri., Aug. 27—(Exodus 14:10-14)—Pray for Rev. E. C. Morris, promotional secretary for Georgia.

Sat., Aug. 28—(Exodus 14:19-31)—Pray for the Billy Graham revival campaign now in progress in Nashville, Tennessee.

Sun., Aug. 29—(Exodus 16:1-21)—Pray again for your pastor.

Mon., Aug. 30—(Exodus 16:22-31)—Pray for Rev. D. W. Poole, promotional secretary of Florida.

Tues., Aug. 31—(Exodus 18:13-27)—Pray for the work of our orphanages.

Wed., Sept. 1—(Exodus 20:1-11)—Pray for our missionary work in Cuba.

Thurs., Sept. 2—(Exodus 20:12-26)—Pray for Rev. and Mrs. H. J. Stevens, our missionaries to Africa, now home on furlough.

Fri., Sept. 3—(Exodus 23:20-33)—Pray for the thousands whose lives will be endangered on the highways this long Labor Day week end.

Sat., Sept. 4—(Exodus 24:1-18)—Pray for the many revivals in our churches this month.

Sun., Sept. 5—(Exodus 29:43-46)—Pray for your Sunday school teachers.

Mon., Sept. 6—(Exodus 31:12-18)—Pray for the many students on the way to our Bible College in Nashville.

Tues., Sept. 7—(Exodus 32:1-35)—Pray for the opening of our Bible College and the Mt. Allen College this week.



Arkansas League Officers (See identification below)

## Wilson Is President Of Arkansas Leaguers

CONWAY, Ark.—More than 30 dedications and two conversions were witnesses at the annual meeting of the Arkansas state league convention held here June 25-26 at the state assembly grounds. Registration at the convention totalled 229 from 22 churches and eight associations.

The leaguers raised nearly enough in cash and pledge to pay off the mortgage on the camp and laid plans to secure funds to build dormitories.

Newly elected officers (shown above, left to right) are Earl Smith, Pocahontas, director; Clifford Sawrie, Conway, treasurer; Henry Brown, Russellville, corresponding secretary; Mrs. G. A. Ferguson, Greenbrier, secretary; Rev. Rupert Pixley, Ft. Smith, vice-president, and Rev. J. Reford Wilson, Pocahontas, president.

## Oklahoma League Convention Registers 492 at Tecumseh

TECUMSEH, Okla.—The Oklahoma state league convention met at the First Oklahoma association camp grounds near here in June. Total registration for the three-day convention was 482.

Rev. Dale Mungus, pastor of Airport Church in Tulsa, was re-elected president. Both the program and attendance banners were presented to the delegation from the Progressive association for the largest attendance and best program.

Rebecca Lee, Gaines Creek association, won first place in the Intermediate Sword drill, and Roberta Garrett, Canadian association, placed second. The convention voted to have a Sword drill with junior participants at the 1955 session, which will be held at the Progressive association assembly grounds at Wetumka.

# Convention Adopts Cooperative Plan

## Annual Budget Of \$346,509 Is Given Approval

After debating a cooperative plan of support for denominational agencies for three years, the National Association of Free Will Baptists this year passed by majority vote the program which had been recommended.

Delegates attending the annual convention which met July 13-15 at Spartanburg, S. C., set July 1, 1955, as the date for the new program to actually begin operation. It was passed without heavy opposition, although the plan had come in for much discussion during the year and at the convention.

The Cooperative Plan had been recommended by the Executive Committee and was passed by the General Board Convention. Delegates concurred with this action by a good majority.

### Calendar Budget Approved

Along with the Cooperative Plan, the convention approved a change to a calendar year budget to begin January 1, 1956. Under the Cooperative Plan, the convention each year will approve a denominational budget composed of the combined budgets of the various departments. Churches will be encouraged to support the entire budget, which will include the needs of all departments. It was pointed out, however, that designated funds to a particular agency will be used only for that which the giver requests.

An information and organizational campaign will be put in operation this year to lay the groundwork for a smooth transition to the Cooperative Plan next year. A part of this campaign will be to encourage and assist, where asked, the setting up of state promotional offices, either full or part-time. Now only Georgia, Florida, Missouri, North Carolina and Oklahoma have promotional secretaries.

Registration at the convention totalled 257 ministers, 100 delegates, and 457 visitors, giving a total registration of 814. Actual attendance was close to 1,000. Registration showed 18 fewer ministers and 19 more delegates than last year, according to the clerk.

### Budget Totals \$346,509

A denominational budget totalling \$346,509 was approved by the delegates. This budget for 1954-55 is nearly \$100,000 above the budget of \$257,700 approved last year. The Bible College at Nashville will get the biggest slice of the budget in the amount of \$181,000.

Next in line comes the Foreign Missions department with \$83,998, while the Home Missions department is asking for \$37,500.

The other agencies and their budgets are: Executive department, \$27,431; Sunday

School Board, \$7,500; Superannuation Board, \$5,080, and Free Will Baptist League Board, \$4,000.

### Tulsa in 1955

Delegates voted by a slight margin to accept an invitation from the churches and Chamber of Commerce of Tulsa, Okla., to hold the 1955 session in that city. The Tulsa invitation won by a few votes over an invitation extended by the State convention of North Carolina. Other invitations were considered from Amarillo, Texas, and Bristol, Virginia.

Rev. Charles A. Thigpen, Detroit, Mich., was elected moderator from a list of several nominees. He succeeds Rev. E. E. Morris, Oklahoma City, who held the office for

### Missionaries Commissioned

Another full-time promotional secretary will be added to the headquarters staff on September 1. The convention approved the report of the Sunday School Board which called for the new secretary. Stepping into the position will be Rev. William Mishler, Detroit, Mich.

The Home Mission Board reported a record-shattering year with receipts up some 300 per cent over the previous year. Total receipts for home missions were \$25,489.62, according to Rev. Damon C. Dodd, promotional secretary. "This is per capita giving of 8.3 cents per member," he said. "Last year gifts to home missions amounted to only 2.7 cents per capita."



New officers of the National Association of Free Will Baptists elected last month at the annual convention at Spartanburg, S. C., are shown above. Left to right are Rev. George Waggoner, Mt. Vernon, Ill., clerk; Rev. Walter Carter, East Rockingham, N. C., assistant moderator; Rev. Charles Thigpen, Detroit, Mich., moderator; Rev. W. S. Mooneyham, Nashville, Tenn., executive secretary, and Rev. T. G. Hamilton, Glennville, Ga., assistant clerk.

three years. The new moderator is a graduate of Bob Jones University and Winona Lake School of Theology. He served on the faculty at the Free Will Baptist Bible College for several years and last year went to Detroit to become pastor of the Highland Park church.

Named as assistant moderator was Rev. Walter Carter, East Rockingham, N. C. Mr. Carter is pastor of Aleo Free Will Baptist church. All other convention officers were renamed. These included Rev. W. S. Mooneyham, Nashville, executive secretary; Rev. George Waggoner, Mt. Vernon, Ill., clerk, and Rev. Thomas G. Hamilton, Glennville, Ga., assistant clerk.

In an impressive service on Wednesday night, coming in the middle of the convention, the Home Mission Board commissioned three missionary teams to serve in the homeland. These teams are young couples who are graduates of the Free Will Baptist Bible College. They have been assigned to work in Florida, Nebraska and Oregon.

### Gains Reported

A missionary offering amount to \$365 was received during the service and was divided equally between home and foreign missions.

Rev. Raymond Riggs, promotional secretary for the Board of Foreign Missions,

reported receipts of \$69,516 during the year, which was nearly \$6,000 above receipts for the previous year. "In twelve years, gifts to foreign missions have increased from \$6,000 to nearly \$70,000," he said, "or a gain of nearly 1,200 per cent."

He also reported that eleven candidates have officially applied to the board for foreign service and that a number of prospective candidates are engaged in further training before making application.

Sharing the service with the Home Mission Board on Wednesday evening, Mr. Riggs introduced three returned missionaries—Rev. and Mrs. Harold Stevens, Africa, and Miss Bessie Yeley, Cuba—and Miss Wanda Edwards, who is expected to go to India this year as a missionary nurse.

### Supply House Approved

After lengthy discussion, a motion was passed providing that the bulk of the Executive department budget be supplied, as in previous years, by the various agencies of the National Association. An amendment was included in the action, however, which placed a ceiling of 4 per cent or \$3,000 as a maximum amount which any department would be asked to contribute this year. The motion also provided that no more funds be appropriated from the various agencies to the Executive department after this year.

To provide funds for operation of the Executive department, delegates approved a recommendation by the Executive Committee that the department establish a church supply house at the denominational headquarters. The supply house will begin to stock, as rapidly as possible, all materials necessary for the operation of a church, except literature, it was said. All profit from the supply house will be turned into denominational channels.

### Polity Committee Elected

Following through with a recommendation from the executive secretary, the convention elected a polity committee to study questions of organization and policy and to report in 1955. In presenting the recommendation, the secretary said, "There is a great need for uniformity among us on the national, state, district and local levels in church government and policy. There are many important questions which need studying and clarifying. Among these are questions of district and state organizations, licensing and ordaining of ministers, a policy about divorces in the ministry, and others which our constituency could suggest.

"While the National Association would not presume to set itself up as a dictatorial body, it should adopt an official policy on these things which could serve as a guide for action on the local level."

Elected to the committee were the Reverends D. C. Dodd, C. F. Bowen, Ben Barbus, J. L. Welch, and William Mishler, all of Nashville.

### Planning Commission Created

A Planning Commission, whose job will be to survey denominational needs against

the denominational capacity and formulate plans and goals for the next five, ten, and fifteen-year periods, was also created. The general officers of the convention, plus the chairmen of the five major boards, will serve on the commission which was created for three years.

The convention instructed the executive secretary to begin a debt retirement campaign in January, 1955, to completely pay for the headquarters property. The goal of the campaign will be \$15,000, which will leave the denomination debt-free. It is hoped to have a note-burning ceremony at the convention in Tulsa next year, the secretary said.

A proposed constitutional amendment to increase the representation to the convention drew considerable opposition. Speakers opposing the plan said they favored increased representation, but disagreed with the plan offered. The constitutional change, which was passed after debate, provides for ten delegates from each state association, plus five delegates from district associations or yearly meetings within the states, plus



Shown above is one of the ten outdoor posters which delegates attending the national convention saw as they drove along the highways toward Spartanburg, S. C. The posters which delegates attending the church steeple in fire orange Day-glo. They were prepared under the direction of the Executive department of the National Association and erected by the South Carolina state arrangements committee.

three delegates from each local association, union meeting, or quarterly meeting within the states.

### Representation Increased

All representation is to be through the state convention, except in those cases where there is no state organization. Then, district or local associations shall send their delegates directly from their body to the national convention. Observers pointed out that this plan will increase the number of lay delegates to about 1,000.

The following board members were elected (one star before a name indicates elected at this session; two stars indicate re-election):

### GENERAL BOARD

A. J. Lambert, Brilliant, Ala.  
 J. E. Frazier, Ashland City, Tenn.  
 \*H. C. Beasley, Breckenridge, Mich.  
 John Henson, Hurricane, W. Va.  
 C. J. Ketteman, Ewing, Ill.  
 Russell Milam, Minford, Ohio  
 F. S. VanHoose, Painsville, Ky.  
 Wayne Smith, Swannanoa, N. C.  
 E. J. Kilgore, Coeburn, Va.  
 E. C. Morris, Tifton, Ga.  
 W. G. Prude, Tupelo, Miss.  
 \*Louis Holliday, Manning, S. C.  
 Ernest Owen, Chipley, Fla.  
 \*\*George W. Scott, Myrtle, Mo.  
 \*Dale Munkus, Tulsa, Okla.  
 \*Wade Jernigan, Kerman, Calif.  
 \*Robert King, Monticello, Ark.

### FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

Mark M. Lewis .....1955  
 Reford Wilson .....1956  
 Rolla Smith .....1957  
 J. W. Alford .....1958  
 \*\*Raymond Riggs .....1959

### HOME MISSION BOARD

Homer E. Willis .....1955  
 J. B. Bloss .....1956  
 Harry E. Staires .....1957  
 R. H. Jackson .....1958  
 \*\*Willard C. Day .....1959

### LEAGUE BOARD

Van Paschall .....1955  
 C. F. Bowen .....1956  
 R. B. Crawford .....1957  
 W. Burkette Raper .....1958  
 \*\*Henry Melvin .....1959

### SUPERANNUATION BOARD

Lloyd Jeffreys .....1955  
 C. A. Huckaby .....1956  
 D. W. Hansley .....1957  
 J. O. Fort .....1958  
 \*Roy Rikard .....1959

### PUBLICATIONS BOARD

L. E. Duncan .....1955  
 \*Seldon Bullard .....1956  
 Rufus Hyman .....1957  
 J. C. Griffin .....1958  
 \*I. J. Blackweider .....1959

### SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

Charles Sapp .....1955  
 LaVerne Miley .....1956  
 Earl Smith .....1957  
 John West .....1958  
 O. T. Dixon .....1959

### COLLEGE TRUSTEES

Melvin Bingham, James F. Miller, J. R. Davidson .....1956  
 Luther Gibson, Floyd B. Cherry, J. L. Welch .....1958  
 \*\*K. V. Shutes, \*Paul Ketteman, \*\*Ralph Lightsey .....1960

### RADIO-TV BOARD

I. L. Stanley .....1955  
 J. D. O'Donnell .....1956  
 John Oliver .....1957  
 Harry Beatty .....1958  
 \*\*Ralph Staten .....1959

### HEADQUARTERS TRUSTEES

J. B. Reding .....1955  
 Lester Jones .....1956  
 Garner Caldwell .....1957  
 J. J. Poole .....1958  
 \*H. D. Bailey .....1959

### STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

\*\*D. C. Dodd, \*\*F. B. Cherry, \*\*R. B. Crawford, \*Eddie Corn, \*Robert Hill

## Religion in the Colonies

*Editor's Note.* Many have written expressing their appreciation for this series of historical articles of the Free Will Baptist movement. This is Part Five of the series, which is slated to run for several months. Plans are underway to issue the articles in book form at the end of the series. Because of the wonderful heritage of the Arminian movement as represented by Free Will Baptists, and because of God's blessings upon it, the editors are proud to present this fifth installment of "The Free Will Baptist Story."

**Damon C. Dodd**

**Promotional Secretary**

**Home Mission Board**

In order to properly expedite the settlement of the colonies in North America, the King of England, granted to certain men or parties of men colonial charters. The areas settled under these charters were known as colonies. There were six of these colonies which will claim our attention in this phase of our Free Will Baptist story, viz.; Jamestown, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Virginia and North Carolina.

Each of these will be discussed in relation to the political and religious happenings as they effect the founding and establishing of Free Will Baptist churches. Please bear in mind that the term "General Baptist" as used until we come to a study of North Carolina refers to those Arminian groups which gave rise to our denomination.

The Jamestown colony was the first permanent England colony in the new world and was established in 1607. This colony never knew religious toleration for the established church would not brook nonconformity in any fashion. Many laws were designed to repress dissenters and to foster the established church. No one dared think in terms other than one church; a church which dominated every phase of political, social, and religious life with a dangerous jealousy. No record of a Baptist group or any other dissenting group has ever been found in the history of the Jamestown colony.

### **Puritan Persecution**

The Massachusetts colony (1620) has a different history. The Puritans were the dominant element here and they sought to perpetuate Puritanism in its most austere form. They sought to do so by preventing the intrusion of any other religion. For a hundred years they used every foul and fiendish means imaginable to keep out other groups.

They imposed fines, used the whipping post and stocks, imprisoned men, and burned at the stake at the slightest provocation. So severe were their persecutions that King Charles II sent a rebuke from England in which he branded such action as "a severity the more to be wondered at, whereas liberty of conscience was made a principal motive for your transportation thither."

One of these instances of persecution in Massachusetts colony was the banishment of Roger Williams in 1636 for refusing to preach as ordered by the Colonial authorities. He went to what is now Rhode Island where he soon made peace with the native Indians and settled himself. He says in his memoirs, "Having made covenant of peaceful neighborhood with all the . . . natives round about us, and having in a sense of God's merciful providence to me in my distress, called the place Providence, I desired that it might be a shelter for persons distressed for conscience." Here was established the first civil government in the world which, having power to refuse, yet granted full liberty of conscience in matters of religion.

### **Baptist Church Organized**

In March, 1639, Roger Williams organized the first Baptist church in America. This church was neither wholly General nor wholly Particular. It had no regular meeting place, assembling in private homes or outdoors. Among the members were several General Baptists from England and others of the same persuasion came later. Soon Arminians became a majority in the church and remained so for a good while. However, the group split over the question of laying on of hands. Williams himself believed that it was a necessary adjunct to immediately follow baptism and as a prerequisite to admission to the Lord's Sup-

per. Many early Baptists believed that the first principles of Christ were six, to be found in Hebrews 6:1, 2. They were:

1. Repentance from dead works
2. Faith towards God
3. The doctrine of Baptism
4. The laying on of hands
5. Resurrection of the dead
6. Eternal judgment

Those who held these views became known as Six Principle Baptists and for many years the General Baptists seem to have generally accepted these principles. In 1652 the Providence Church split and one group followed Thomas Olney in rejecting the laying on of hands. The second group under Williams prospered and increased in numbers and strength. Their church continues to this day as a regular Baptist Church in Providence, Rhode Island.

### **Free Will Connection**

A second Baptist Church was organized in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1641 or 1642 by John Clarke. This was a Particular Baptist Church. Clarke died in 1676 and was succeeded as pastor by Obadiah Holmes, who in 1651 had been cruelly whipped for preaching the Gospel in Lynn, Massachusetts. Then in 1725 John Comer became pastor. He soon became unsettled about the doctrine of laying on of hands and for a while associated with the General (Free-Will) Baptists.

In a diary which he kept he mentions the fact that *Paul Palmer had written to him in 1729 that two years before he had established a General (Free-will) Baptist Church in North Carolina. He also tells of the "Yearly Association" of the General Baptists which met in 1729 at Newport at which 32 delegates, among which were 8 ministers and 3 deacons, representing 13 district bodies in Rhode Island, Long Island, Connecticut, and New York were present.*

### **Refuge in Pennsylvania**

In 1681 a character of colonization was granted by Charles II to William Penn. This charter, like all others granted by King Charles, guaranteed full religious liberties to all who came to the colony. Even though Penn made Pennsylvania a refuge for Quakers he also invited any and all religions



to partake of the freedom of his colony. About the same time New Jersey came under the control of the Quakers and she was also thrown open to seekers for religious freedom. As a result the dissenters of every faith flocked to these two colonies. In 3 years the population had reached 7,200. Many Baptist churches were organized in these colonies.

In 1703 a Baptist church from Pembroke, Wales, came, pastor and all, to Welsh Tract, on the Delaware river in northern Pennsylvania. This church introduced singing, imposition of hands and church covenant among the Baptist churches and was of the Arminian belief.

### **Intolerance in Virginia**

Virginia, along with Massachusetts, was probably the most severe of all the colonies in respect to intolerance. As Massachusetts was the stronghold of Puritanism, so Virginia was the citadel of the established church. By an act of law, the Church of England was made the state church in Virginia. This summary has been written of religious conditions in Virginia<sup>1</sup> during the following years:

"... by the laws of the colony, any person daring to teach the people doctrines or practices other than those prescribed by the Church of England were to be imprisoned until they should be reclaimed, or if they could not be reclaimed, sent to England for punishment, that every person in the colony, male and female, was obliged when called upon to go to the minister and give a true statement of his or her faith; to attend the Episcopal service every Sabbath; and to be present and answer publicly, whenever the minister should catechize; that no minister not conformed to the Church of England should, under severest penalty, be allowed to teach or preach, publicly or privately; that every colonist should pay his assessed proportion of the taxes for the support of the Episcopal Church; that no catechism should be taught other than that contained in the book of common Prayer; that any person not conforming to the church, absence from the services of which was to be the proof, was to pay a fine of \$100 a month, and if not reclaimed within twelve months, was to be imprisoned until he did conform, and give the church security that he would maintain his conformity; and everyone was compelled by fines to have his children baptized. Informers were encouraged by the payment of them of half the fines imposed upon the offenders."

### **Religious Liberty Fostered**

In the face of these facts, let us look now at the bright spot on the otherwise cloudy scene. Rhode Island remained a haven of religious freedom in spite of the threats and intimidations from the other colonies. The northeast colonies threatened to cut off Rhode Island from all social and business intercourse, but this did not materialize.

Although the Quaker views were strongly disapproved of by Roger Williams openly in public debate, still they were given a refuge in Rhode Island. Here they came, fleeing from persecution in Massachusetts and were entertained in the houses of the

<sup>1</sup> R.B.C. Howell, *Early Baptists in Virginia*, p. 47.

citizens of Rhode Island as long as they wanted to stay. The only reason that more seekers for religious liberty did not come to this haven was that the territory was too limited to attract immigrants.

A very pressing need was for a vast area to be colonized which would offer all that Rhode Island offered by way of toleration, plus plenty of territory to attract the immigrants. In view of this fact a group of men sought a charter for the area embracing all the territory east of the Mississippi river and south of Virginia, Florida excepted. They were granted a charter in 1663 and opened up the colony to settlers, to be known as North Carolina. At this time there were nearly a thousand settlers in the section known as Albermarle, with a settlement in Perquamins. By 1676 there were 3,000, but 50 years later the population had reached 30,000.

### **North Carolina Settled**

In North Carolina a wide departure was made from prevailing religious conditions in the other colonies, where for the most part intolerance was the order of the day. From the very outset the lord proprietors made it known most emphatically that North Carolina was to be a haven for religious freedom. Under terms of the charter they had rights which amounted to almost monarchical powers, the only restriction being that they should always recognize the sovereignty of the King of England and not violate the rights of the subjects of England. The fee from the proprietors was to be 20 marks a year rental (about \$200) and 1/4 of all the metals mined in their colony.

In the charter for North Carolina the matter of religious freedom was set out in Article 18, which authorized the proprietors to grant liberty to those "who cannot, in their private opinions, conform to the public exercises of religion, according to the liturgy, forms, and ceremonies of the Church of England, or take and subscribe the oaths and articles, made and established in that behalf." This guarantee of religious freedom was used as the "selling point" for the North Carolina colony for many years.

### **Freedom Declared**

In August 1663, further declaration of religious freedom to be found in the North Carolina colony was made and set forth as follows:

"No person or persons to whom such liberty shall be given shall be in any way molested, punished, disquieted, or called in question, for any differences in opinion, or practice in matters of religious concernment, who do not actually disturb the civil peace of the province, county, or colony, that they make their abode in: but all and every such person or persons may, from time to time, and at all times, freely and quietly have and enjoy his and their judgments and consciences, in matters of religion, throughout all the said province or colony, they behaving themselves peaceably, and not using this liberty to licentiousness, nor to civil injury, or outward disturbance of others; any law, statute or clause contained or to be contained, usage or custom of our realm of England, to the contrary hereof, in any wise notwithstanding."

### **MISS A PAPER?**

*We have received a few complaints from subscribers who have failed to receive the paper. Sometimes we have found we were at fault and had failed to make an addressing stencil although the subscription had been entered. On other complaints we have found everything in order here and assume the paper was lost in the mail. At any rate, if you fail to receive your CONTACT by the 15th of each month, we want to hear from you. Only if we know about it can we check into it.*

## **College Plans Talked By Oklahoma Leaders**

WETUMKA, Okla.—Plans for establishing a Christian College in Oklahoma are being discussed this summer by state leaders and officials of the Progressive association. The discussion is the result of the purchase of a former Wetumka school building by the district association.

A final decision, however, will not be made until the state association meets sometime in October, according to Rev. Elvis Priest, pastor of the Holdenville Church. It would be impossible to do anything before next January or the fall of 1955, he said.

The property is now being used by the association for district meetings and a summer camp. Renovation of the interior of the building has already begun, but no additions or new buildings are planned for sometime. Wetumka is located in the east central part of the state.

### **Liberty of Conscience**

This attraction of Carolina was kept before the people of England by every known means. In 1666 a pamphlet advertising the Carolina colony carried the following:

"If therefore any industrious and ingenious persons shall be willing to partake of the felicities of this country, let them embrace the first opportunity, that they may obtain the greater advantages."

"The chief of the privileges are as follows: First, there shall be full liberty of conscience granted to all, so that no man is to be molested or called in question for matters of religious concern; but every one is to be obedient to the Civil government, worshipping God after their own way."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Hawks, *History of North Carolina*, Vol. II.

(Continued next month)





Gordon Hart, student at the Free Will Baptist College from Ayden, North Carolina, "fattened a pig" for foreign missions during the last school year. The plastic pig was kept in his room and "fed" a penny-a-meal. Occasionally an extra coin would go in, and just before school was out he brought the pig to the foreign missions office where Rev. Raymond Riggs relieved it of \$22.09. In making the gift, the student said, "If every Free Will Baptist would give a penny-a-meal, we would have \$5,000,000 a year to help preach the gospel throughout the world."

## "Chapels for Cuba" New League Project

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—After raising \$2,500 to install electric lights on the Free Will Baptist mission station in Cuba, the Free Will Baptist Leagues are adopting a new project called, "Chapels for Cuba."

The lights campaign was finished in July, Rev. C. F. Bowen, League Board secretary, announced, with nearly \$150 over the goal to be applied to the new project.

Rev. Raymond Riggs, promotional secretary for the Foreign Mission Board, presented the "Chapels for Cuba" idea to the leaguers during the nationwide League conference and received an enthusiastic response. The plan is to build several houses of worship within the area of Free Will Baptist missionary work in Cuba.

One of the chapels to be built will be located in Pinar del Rio, the district where the Free Will Baptist school is. This chapel will be the League project. The Leagues are asked to raise \$3,000, which will be supplemented by Cuban funds to complete the buildings.

Mr. Willey also wrote: "We have a number of established churches who want to build. They already have lots to build on. The project that seems to be most favorable is that the Cubans will raise a dollar for every American dollar. The congregations at Jibacea, Canesi, and San Juan are ready to begin at once."

Gifts to the project should be sent to the National League Board, 3801 Richland Ave., Nashville 5, Tenn., earmarked "Chapels for Cuba."

## Cuban Missionary Writes of Vacation Bible School

PINAR DEL RIO, Cuba—Mrs. Herbert Phenicie, who with her husband, joined the mission staff in Cuba about a year ago, writes about a Vacation Bible school which she conducted in a Cuban village. She writes:

"Last week I had the privilege of conducting a daily Vacation Bible school in Cabezas, where we go each Sunday for services. I stayed in the home of the student pastor, Anne Martinez. His family is very poor in material things, but are rich in faith and are a testimony to their neighbors.

"Although the classes were from 8:30 to 11:30, about half of the children arrived before 7. The children are so responsive, learn so quickly, and are very enthusiastic—it is a joy to teach them. At our closing program on Saturday night we had to move outside as the house wouldn't hold all the people. The parents were so appreciative and grateful for what the children had learned during the week.

"The week was a full one, with visitation every afternoon, returning just in time for dinner, then leaving again for a service. We held a service every night in a different place.

"Please pray for Anhel as he works day by day in these places. He is a fine boy and has a real passion for souls. Pray for his physical strength, as his body isn't too strong. Above all, pray that the Lord will give a rich harvest of souls in these days in all our fields where the Word is being proclaimed."

## Missionary Tells Of India Revival

KOTAGIRI, South India—Writing of a recent revival in Kotagiri, Miss Laura Belle Barnard, senior missionary in India, says:

"God has certainly been patient and persevering in dealing with us this year. Last week we had a Brother Daniel and his wife and son (all Indians) here in a town-wide revival meeting lasting eight days. We had long wanted them.

"We have not had such simple, direct, heart-searching and practical messages from anyone, Indian or European. I suppose it would be hard to find anywhere in the world a team more completely yielded to God in all things, first of all in personal holiness and then in the life of faith in its wider outreach. This gives a holy magnetism to their testimony and to their presentation of Bible truth offered in such a quiet, simple, altogether unspectacular way.

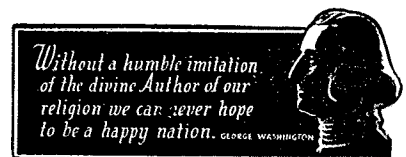
"No propositions were ever made in the meetings, no show of hands asked for, only the presentation of the Word and the personal witness of its faithfulness and power. But at the close of the meetings hungry souls, moved by the Spirit, sought the members of the team and brought their problems for analysis and application of the Word.

"Never in my experience has any movement so touched the private, personal inner-life of the Church in Kotagiri as I know this series of meetings to have done. My one disappointment is that so few of our own congregation attended. However, our own servants attended all meetings, with manifest blessing, as did Paul and Salomi. Particularly has Salomi been broken up.

"As for myself, I feel I am still such a child in the faith and in spiritual attainments. I have understood so little of the meaning of true, personal holiness. Long years I've said, "I have been crucified with Christ," and **resolved** to live the crucified life. But self and flesh do not die so willingly!

"How I wish I had been taught in my youth and childhood the real secret of holy living. I am sure my life and service would have been so different. I suppose the reason is that my elders and spiritual leaders themselves did not know it—and, worse, were satisfied not to know it.

"As I recall, the word 'holiness' was in distaste and was to be shunned. Is it not possible to save our youth today from the blight of a system of teaching lacking the message of personal victory in all of life's relationships? It is the burden of the Scripture. How have we missed it?"



## Attendance Reported By Eighteen Churches

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The summer "slump" in many Sunday schools is being felt in this department of CONTACT, also. Attendance reports for both June and July have been below the normal number. This month only eighteen reports were received.

We encourage every Sunday school and League to report their monthly average. We are working toward 100 regular attendance reports. Our previous high thus far is 34. All you need do to get your church included is send the monthly average on a post card not later than the 5th of each month to CONTACT, 3801 Richland Ave., Nashville, Tenn.

June reports were as follows:

	S. S.	League
<i>Arkansas</i>		
Phillips Chapel, Springdale	174	54
Mount Harmony, Saffell	63	30
<i>Illinois</i>		
Bear Point, Sesser	102	
<i>Mississippi</i>		
East Tupelo	204	104
<i>Missouri</i>		
South Side, St. Louis	170	
Desloge	100	
First Church, Kirksville	91	
<i>North Carolina</i>		
St. Mary's, New Bern	303	
Hickory Chapel, Ahoskie	131	33
<i>Oklahoma</i>		
Capitol Hill, Oklahoma City	195	
Lawnwood, Tulsa	173	
Central Avenue, Oklahoma City	133	
<i>Tennessee</i>		
Elizabethton	212	
Midway	139	
Bethlehem, Ashland City	110	
Head's, Cedar Hill	92	
<i>Texas</i>		
Pine Prairie, Huntsville	85	63
<i>Georgia</i>		
Midway, Moultrie	95	60

## North Carolina Youth Elect Terry President

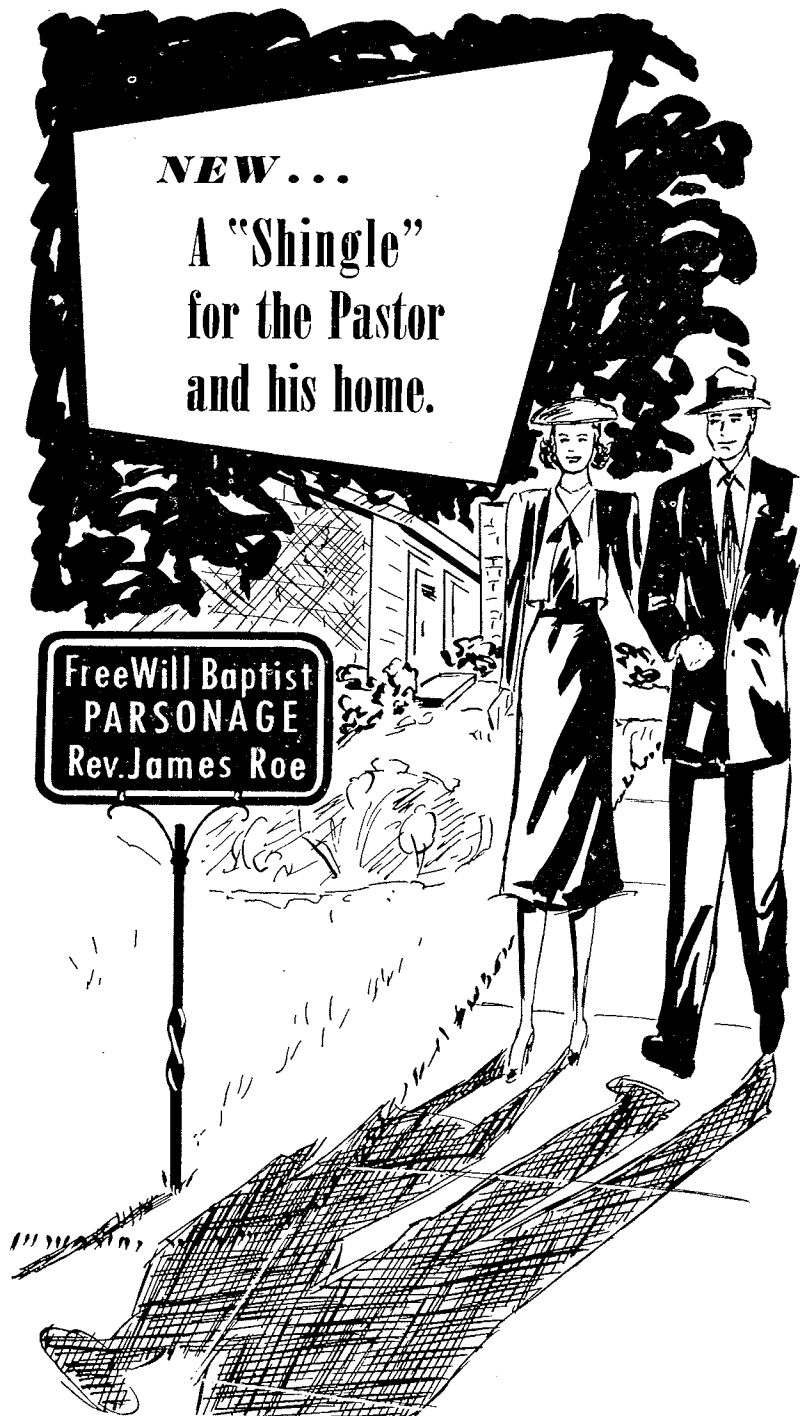
JACKSONVILLE, N. C.—Rev. T. O. Terry of Cove City, N. C., was re-elected president of the North Carolina Free Will Baptist League convention when sessions were held here July 2-3.

Other officers elected included Rev. W. Burkette Raper, Snow Hill, vice-president; Rev. C. H. Overman, Columbia, recording secretary; Mrs. Paul Braxton, Winterville, corresponding secretary; Rev. Adam Scott, Durham, treasurer; Rev. Henry Melvin, Winterville, Cragmont representative, and Mrs. Adam Scott, Durham, Bible quiz leader.

The convention is composed of some 300 leagues in North Carolina.

In business session the convention passed a motion to join with the state Sunday School convention for the youth camp to be held August 9-14 at Cragmont. Mrs. Melvin was appointed by the president to serve as co-director with Rev. L. E. Ballard, field secretary for the Sunday School convention.

AUGUST, 1954



No need now for anyone to drive up and down the street wondering, "Which house is the Free Will Baptist parsonage?" This well-designed parsonage marker adds a neat touch to any lawn and sets the pastor's home just a little bit apart.

Simple yet smart-looking, it is entirely in keeping with the pastor's position and residence.

It's made to last of heavy, 20-gauge rust proof prime steel, and is 10 x 18 inches in size. The marker is finished in black baked enamel, with white reflective glass-beaded lettering in both sides, emphasized by a narrow reflective glass-beaded border.

The words, "Free Will Baptist Parsonage" appear at the top with the pastor's name on detachable plates at bottom. The marker comes complete with removable name plates ready for local lettering, or with panels lettered at factory. Factory lettering will be in reflective glass bead to match the rest of the sign.

Marker with 2 unlettered name plates, complete with erection stand...\$7.95

Marked with 2 lettered name plates (give name desired) complete with erection stand...\$9.95

Shipment within 10 days

**ORDER TODAY FROM**  
FREE WILL BAPTIST HEADQUARTERS  
3801 Richland Ave.—Nashville 5, Tenn.



# Woman's Auxiliary

## "His Command — Our Task"

MRS. H. B. SLOAN, Executive Secretary

## Reports from the Field

MOULTRIE, Ga.—A Young People's Auxiliary was organized at the Midway church near here recently. Officers of the new group include Geraldine Faison, president; C. W. Anderson, vice-president; Betty Sloan, Secretary-treasurer; Sue Rice, program chairman, and Mrs. C. W. Anderson, Sr., sponsor. The Woman's Auxiliary at this church will sponsor a Vacation Bible School beginning August 16. Mrs. J. B. Rice is the president.

\* \* \*

HECTOR, Ark.—A Woman's Auxiliary was organized at the Free Will Baptist church here June 23 with six members joining the new organization. Mrs. Alma Coffman is president; Mrs. W. A. Crouch, vice-president; Mrs. Bell Langford, secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Clytie Coffman, personal service chairman.

\* \* \*

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Just a little over \$200 is needed to finish the headquarters furniture campaign, according to Mrs. H. B. Sloan, executive secretary of the WNAC. Several states have already completed their quotas and several more need only a few dollars, she said. "We are extremely grateful to those who have contributed to the campaign to furnish the reception and conference rooms at the denominational headquarters," Mrs. Sloan said. She explained that the executive department of the national association had already purchased the furniture and was being reimbursed by the WNAC as rapidly as funds come in.

States which still have a balance on their quotas are Alabama, \$26; Florida, \$2; Kentucky, \$17.50; Missouri, \$30.90; North Carolina, \$11; South Carolina, \$67; Tennessee, \$48; Texas, \$2, and West Virginia, \$5. The total yet to be raised is \$209.40.

\* \* \*

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The GTA girls of the Southside Church Auxiliary here gave a Mother-Daughter banquet last month. After the program, which was presented by GTA members, the girls gave each mother a plant. Norma Jean Kennedy and Geneva Hill are sponsors of the group.

\* \* \*

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.—New officers for the Auxiliary of the Central Avenue Church were elected at the annual business meeting July 8. There are 21 active mem-

bers in the group. Officers elected included Mrs. Mae Walker, president; Mrs. Melba Spears, first vice-president; Mrs. Erma Dodson, second; Mrs. Lucille Stark, third; Mrs. Letha Mae Trent, fourth; Mrs. Carey O'Donnell, fifth, and Mrs. Opal O'Donnell, secretary-treasurer.

\* \* \*

LEADINGTON, Mo.—The activities of the Woman's Auxiliary at the Free Will Baptist Church here includes special work projects and cottage prayer meetings, as well as the regular monthly meetings, according to Mrs. Anna Lincoln, reporter. Each Thursday is work day, Friday is cottage prayer meeting day, and the monthly business meeting and yearbook study is on third Monday. Recently the Auxiliary contributed \$125 to the church building fund as the result of special work projects.

Officers of the Auxiliary are Mrs. Elaine Spradlin, president; Mrs. Margie Kearns, enlistment chairman; Mrs. Pearl Harper, youth chairman; Mrs. Iva Treaster, mission study chairman; Mrs. Ruby Campbell, stewardship chairman; Mrs. Ruby Boren, benevolence chairman; Mrs. Christine Pinkley, secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Elma Francis, song leader.

\* \* \*

OKMULGEE, Okla.—New officers have been elected by the Woman's Auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church here. Mrs. John Elliston was named president-treasurer; Mrs. Ed Reed is vice-president and enlistment chairman; Mrs. Joe Zummer is youth chairman; Mrs. Kenneth Beveridge is program and stewardship chairman; Mrs. Robert Bohuslavicky is personal service chairman, and Mrs. Ed Harris is secretary and study course chairman.

The auxiliary has eleven active members.



Standing by the Woman's Auxiliary display table at the national convention at Spartanburg, S. C., last month are Mrs. C. F. Bowen and Mrs. H. B. Sloan. Mrs. Bowen is literature chairman of the WNAC and Mrs. Sloan is executive secretary-treasurer. Both are from Nashville.

## Auxiliary Convention Has Best Attendance

SPARTANBURG, S. C.—Over 500 people from 17 states were in attendance at the best-represented Woman's National Auxiliary Convention which met July 12-13 at Spartanburg, S. C.

Among the major items of business acted upon by delegates was the adoption of revised constitution for the convention. The revisions were recommended by the executive committee. They also approved the writing of a new manual.

Other action included accepting a recommendation by the executive committee making the promotional chairman and literature chairman officers in the convention. Heretofore they have been serving in the positions under the appointment of the executive secretary without official voice on the executive committee.

Delegates also authorized the writing of a study course book on prayer to be ready by July, 1955, and voted for the Auxiliary work during the year to be based on the co-ordinated calendar of activities to be set up by the executive department of the National Association.

The program, with the theme "Declaring His Glory Now," was very inspirational under the direction of such devotional leaders as Mrs. Adam Scott, Miss Geraldine Gay, Mrs. K. V. Shutes, and Mrs. Robert Wilfong. Special music during the convention was brought by Mrs. J. C. Moye and Rev. Everett Hellard. Mrs. Ruth Taylor served as convention pianist.

A missionary service conducted on the opening night by Rev. and Mrs. Harold Stevens was the highlight of the convention. Miss Barbara Staires, Tulsa, Oklahoma, was announced winner of the stewardship declamation contest.

### Don't make Lateness



### a Habit

### ... Get to Church Right On Time!

## Tennessee Association Will Meet August 11-13 In Eighty-first Session

ELIZABETHTON, Tenn.—The Union association of Free Will Baptists in Tennessee will meet in its 81st annual session at the First Free Will Baptist Church here August 11-13.

The annual meeting will develop the theme, "Our Outreach," from Mark 16:15, according to the program committee. Embraced in the three-day meeting will be not only the association's business, but the district league and ministers conferences, also.

The league conference will meet from 1:45 to 2:45 Thursday afternoon. The ministers' conference will be held Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and Friday morning. Each time the association business will be suspended for the meeting of the conferences. Rev. T. M. Pate, Knoxville, is president of the ministers' conference.

Special speakers for the association will be Rev. W. S. Mooneyham, executive secretary of the National Association, and Dr. L. C. Johnson, president of the Free Will Baptist Bible College. Mr. Mooneyham will bring the keynote message Wednesday morning on the subject, "Are We Ready for the Outreach?" Dr. Johnson will speak Thursday morning on "The Place of Education in Denominational Outreach."

Other speakers include Rev. W. C. Clearman, Erwin; Rev. Herman Christian, Church Hill, and Rev. J. C. Howington, Elizabethton. Devotionals will be brought by Mr. Pate, Mrs. Fred Dover, Alice Woolsey, Mrs. Paul Woolsey, Rev. Jesse Curtis, and Rev. Marlin Vaughn.

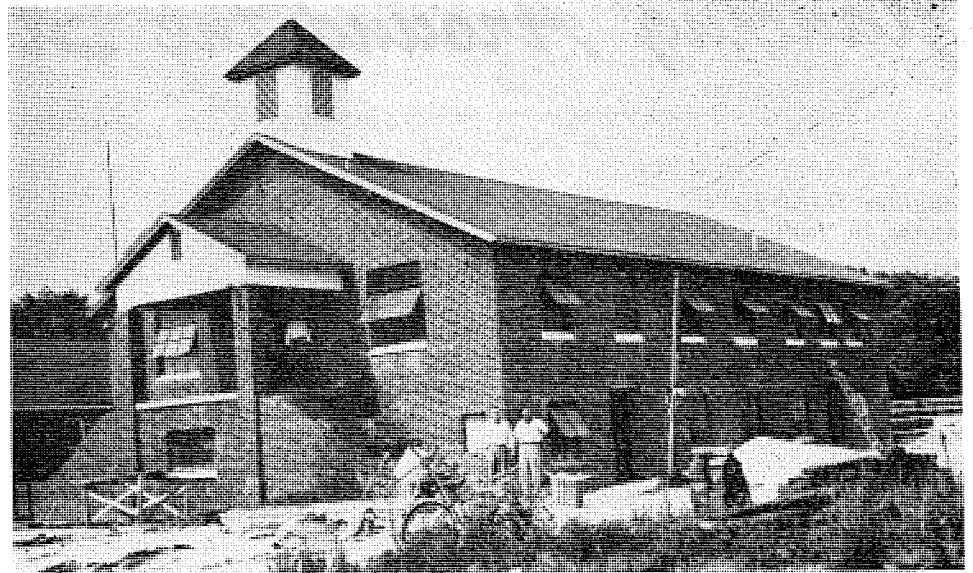
Associational officers are Rev. O. P. Stokes, Bristol, moderator, and Rev. George B. Dunbar, Chuckey, secretary.

## Twenty-eight Members Join Oregon Church

MILTON-FREEWATER, Ore.—A Free Will Baptist Church has been established in these twin towns on the Oregon-Washington line. The organization took place May 16 with 28 charter members. The church was organized during a revival conducted by Rev. Johnnie Postlewaite, pastor at McAlester, Okla. Thirty-eight professions were witnessed during the revival, with 15 of the converts receiving baptism.

These towns are located in the northeast corner of Oregon, six miles from the Washington line and only 11 miles from Walla Walla, Washington. They have a population of about 6,000.

The congregation voted to purchase a church building for \$6,000 which is located one-half block from Main Street and next door to the high school. Rev. William W. Postlewaite has been called as full-time pastor.



Sunday, August 15, will be a happy day for the congregation of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Fayette, Ala., for on that day they will occupy their new \$56,600 building. When first organized in June, 1950, the tiny congregation had no regular place of worship, but arranged to use the old Presbyterian Church as a temporary meeting place.

Rev. O. L. Fields of Vernon, Ala., was called as pastor in October, 1953. When the congregation was reorganized in December of that year they had \$315 paid down on the church property and nearly \$400 in the treasury. A building committee composed of Edd Faulkner, A. M. Wallace, Fred Ham and A. L. Blakney, was elected. Now the auditorium, which was started in the spring, is practically complete. The building and lot are valued at \$56,600 all built with voluntary contributions, both in money and labor.

The church itself is a two-story brick veneer structure with the auditorium on the upper level and ten Sunday school rooms to be on the ground level. The Sunday school rooms will not be completed in time for the opening service, but work will continue. The building is modern in every way.

## New Church Organized At Auburndale, Florida

AUBURNDALE, Fla.—After several months of preparation and work under the leadership of Rev. Elvie Johnston, a Free Will Baptist Church was organized here July 2. Participating in the organization were Rev. D. F. Pelt, state moderator; Mr. Wilson Eiland, state treasurer; Rev. D. W. Poole, promotional secretary, and Rev. Rufus Hyman, clerk.

After the devotional by Mr. Johnston, Mr. Pelt brought the organizational sermon from Matthew 5. Twelve members joined the new church, and several others had promised to take membership soon.

Mr. Poole led the consecration prayer and Mr. Hyman gave the charge. In the election of officers, Mr. Johnston was called as pastor and C. W. Lynn and Fred Davis were named as deacons. Mrs. Lynn was elected clerk and Mr. Davis was chosen treasurer.

Mr. Eiland, treasurer of the state association, presented the church with a check for \$100 following the organization.

## Memphis, Tennessee Gets New Church

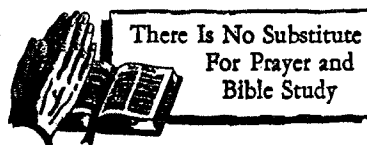
MEMPHIS, Tenn.—A Free Will Baptist Church was organized in this key Tennessee town June 24 at the close of a revival conducted by Rev. M. L. Hollis, Amory, Miss. Mr. Hollis led in the organization under the sponsorship of the national Home Mission Board.

Thirty-nine charter members came into the organization, with others being added in the few weeks following. The membership now totals 42. Four professions and a large number of rededications were witnessed during the revival. On the third Sunday after organization Sunday school attendance was 60.

Rev. John Mansfield is supplying the pulpit until the church calls a pastor. In the choosing of officers, Mrs. C. G. Jordan was elected clerk and C. C. Puckett was named treasurer.

A building committee composed of Mr. Puckett, Elmer Wood, and Mr. Jordan was also appointed. Deacons which were elected are Mr. Jordan, Mr. Puckett, Mr. Booker, Mr. Gray, and Mr. Shirley.

The congregation is meeting in a rented building at Spottswood and Semms streets until suitable property can be acquired. They have set up a League and Woman's Auxiliary.



# Glancing Around the States . . .

BEN BARRUS, News Editor

## **Daughter Born To Hannas in India**

MUSSOORIE, India—Rev. and Mrs. Carlisle Hanna, missionaries to India, announce the arrival of a 6 lb., 14 oz. daughter. Brenda Kay was born June 28 and the doctor described her as "a perfect baby."

## **Youth Camp At West City**

WEST CITY, Ill.—The Free Will Baptist Sunday School Alliance youth camp was held at the tabernacle grounds in West City, Illinois, July 20-29. Rev. and Mrs. Claude Hampleman served as deans of the camp. The guest speakers were Reverends Bob Hill and Claude Childers. The classes included the following subjects: Evangelism, Missions, Stewardship, Bible, and Free Will Baptist Doctrine.

## **Lonnie Sparks Is Wolf Pastor**

SEMINOLE, Okla.—The Rev. Lonnie Sparks has been called to pastor the Wolf Free Will Baptist Church. Mr. Sparks received the B.A. degree from Free Will Baptist Bible College this spring. The Wolf Church is located south of Seminole, Oklahoma.

## **Cottdale Scene Of Successful Camp**

COTTONDALE, Fla.—The youth encampment held at Cottdale, Florida, had fifty-four in attendance. All the unsaved made decisions for Christ. A number of young people accepted the challenge of full-time Christian service with several showing an interest in foreign mission work, and two others indicating their calling to the ministry, according to Rev. Rufus Hyman. On the final evening, a play—"Poor as Church Mice," was presented. Also, on the closing night, a much needed gas water heater was given to the camp by Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Bolin.

## **First Church in Kirksville Witnessing Rapid Growth**

KIRKSVILLE, Mo.—The First Free Will Baptist Church in Kirksville, Missouri, reports outstanding progress since its beginning on September 30, 1953. A new building was begun on November 3, and occupied on March 14. In June 1954, there were twenty-one decisions for Christ and thirteen added to the church. A Vacation Bible School was conducted in June with sixty-six enrolled. Rev. Lester Jones, pastor of the church, states that they have an active auxiliary, a fine league, and an average of ninety-one in Sunday school.

## **Social Band Meets At Walnut Ridge**

WALNUT RIDGE, Ark.—The fellowship meeting of the Social Band association met at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. The Rev. W. S. White acted as moderator. The Reverends Glynn Campbell and B. S. Forrester were the speakers. The next meeting will be held at the Elnora Church.

## **Calvary Has Bible School**

DURHAM, N. C.—Rev. Adam Scott reports that he had a successful Vacation Bible School at the Calvary Church. Twenty-seven children were registered with twenty-five receiving certificates.

## **McClain Elected Head Of Arizona Association**

CASA GRANDE, Ariz.—The newly organized Arizona association elected Rev. George McClain as moderator at their yearly meeting in Casa Grande June 12. Mrs. Becky Hickman was elected clerk for the association. The Reverends L. C. Pinson and George McClain delivered the morning and afternoon messages respectively.

## **Tennessee Schedules Youth Camp for August 22-28**

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The Tennessee state youth camp will be held at Camp Dogwood on August 22-28. The camp is located three miles southeast of Ashland City. The camp will take care of both boys and girls from age eight through nineteen. For additional information, write to Rev. Roger Reeds, 4100 Media, Nashville, Tenn. Mr. Reeds states that "we will operate on a first come—first serve basis."

## **Turlock Church Reports Success**

TURLOCK, California—The Free Will Baptist Church of Turlock, California, reports a successful year under the leadership of the pastor, Earl Jenson. Fifty-six persons have been added to the church. The Woman's Auxiliary has been reorganized. Also, \$8,500 has been spent redecorating the auditorium and educational building.

## **Pastor Resigns Hobbs Church**

HOBBS, New Mex.—Rev. L. C. Pinson has resigned from the First Free Will Baptist Church in Hobbs, New Mexico. Mr. Pinson will continue to serve the church until a new pastor is called.

## **Phillips Chapel DVBS Report**

SPRINGDALE, Ark.—The Phillips Chapel Free Will Baptist Church conducted a Vacation Bible School June 7-18 with a total enrollment of 141 pupils and 19 teachers and workers. There were nine decisions for Christ on the last day. The Rev. Tommy Day was director of the school.

## **Oklahoma Church Revamps Sunday School Department**

ARDMORE, Okla.—Rev. E. J. Wilson, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church at Ardmore, Oklahoma, announced that his Sunday school has adopted the departmental system and has begun the six point record system. The new organization will have seven departments, five assemblies and nineteen teachers and officers.

## **One Ordained, Two Licensed at Bryan**

BRYAN, Texas—Bobby Davis, student of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee, and supply pastor of Bryan Free Will Baptist Church, was recently ordained. Bill Jones and John Moehlman, members of the Bryan Church, have received their license to preach.

## **Albany Church Host To S. S. Convention**

ALBANY, Ga.—The first session of the Georgia State Sunday School Convention met at the First Church in Albany. Rev. E. C. Morris, state promotional director, reported that the attendance was excellent with all but one school being represented. Officers elected were: H. L. Knighton, president; M. R. Cason, vice-president; and Miss Regena Woodard, secretary-treasurer. The next session will be held at Turners Chapel, near Butler, Georgia, on June 11, 1955.

## **Ada Church Reports Vacation Bible School**

ADA, Okla.—The First Free Will Baptist Church of Ada, Oklahoma enrolled 132 in Bible School June 1-11. They maintained an average attendance of 110.

## **Georgia Conducts "Old Camp Meeting"**

TIFTON, Ga.—The third annual session of the "old camp meeting" will be held August 15-20. Rev. T. O. Terry will be the featured speaker at this meeting which will be the last of five camp sessions.

# Glancing Around the States . . .

## Okmulgee Church Dedicates Ground

OKMULGEE, Okla.—A ground-breaking ceremony was scheduled for the First Free Will Baptist Church in Okmulgee on July 11. In the same ceremony was the dedication of new church lots. Mr. Joe Zummer, deacon, led the dedication prayer. An address of welcome was to be given by city councilman E. P. Edgerton.

## Barker Resigns

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Rev. James Barker has announced his resignation from the Third Free Will Baptist Church, St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. Barker stated that his future plans are indefinite.

## Oklahoma Youth Camp To Meet August 16-20

WETUMKA, Okla.—The youth encampment of the Progressive association of Oklahoma is scheduled for August 16-20. The camp will meet at Camp Wetumka on property recently purchased by the association. Rev. Ernest Harrison, pastor at Weleetka, will serve as general superintendent. A program of recreation, fellowship, and Christian study courses is being planned for the group. Study courses will include Bible Doctrine, Personal Soul-winning, Stewardship, and the Church and its Auxiliaries. Each evening will be highlighted by an evangelistic service.

## Georgia Church Sends Youth to Summer Camp

MOULTRIE, Ga.—The Midway Free Will Baptist Church sent fifteen of their young people to one of the sessions of the Georgia state camp this summer at Ashburn. Rev. Mance Cason is pastor.

## Greenbrier Has DVBS

ADAIR, Okla.—The Greenbrier Church in Adair, Oklahoma, has just completed a Vacation Bible School. Average attendance was thirty-three with ten teachers conducting the school work.

## Harvey Hill Moves To New Parsonage

ELIZABETHTON, Tenn.—Rev. Harvey E. Hill, pastor of Elizabethton Free Will Baptist Church, has moved into a new parsonage next to the church. Mr. Hill's new address is 702 First Street, Elizabethton, Tennessee.

## Progressive Association Convenes in Holdenville

HOLDENVILLE, Okla.—The first annual session of the Progressive association met July 29-30 at the Holdenville Church. Rev. Elvis Priest was the host pastor. The emphasis of the meeting was centered around evangelism, missions, and Christian

education. The theme, "The Uplifted Christ," was carried over into all the messages which included the work of the church and its auxiliaries. Rev. Bailey Thompson brought the introductory message. Other speakers included J. J. Postlewaite, Elvis Priest, Ralph Staten, Miss Doris Burkett, Dennis O'Donnell, Mrs. Leah Mae Postlewaite, Homer Young, and Ernest Harrison.

## Rally Held At Denton

DENTON, Texas—The Youth for Christ Rally was held at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Denton, Texas, on June 25. The following officers were elected: J. M. Palmer, president; Richard Smith, vice-president; Annita Hess, secretary-treasurer; Laquita Richardson, assistant secretary-treasurer. The next Rally will meet at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Weatherford.

## Tennessee Church Starts Building Fund

JOELTON, Tenn.—Nearly \$2,000 in cash and pledges was raised toward a \$6,000 building fund goal in a special service July 18 at the New Hope Free Will Baptist Church near here. The money will be used to redecorate the present building interior and brick veneer the outside. Rev. Robert Hill is pastor.

## Homecoming Held At Texas Church

BRYAN, Texas—Approximately 250 persons attended homecoming services at the Bright Light Free Will Baptist Church near here. The church celebrated its 68th anniversary. Organized in 1886 by Rev. P. H. Adams, it was the first Free Will Baptist Church in the central part of the state. The congregation completed a parsonage in 1947, and is now planning for a new church plant. Rev. Alvin Halbrook is pastor.

## Day Resigns Pastorate; Enters Evangelistic Work

MOUNTAIN GROVE, Mo.—Rev. Willard C. Day has resigned the pastorate of the Free Will Baptist Church here effective October 1. After 17 years of pastoring, he writes that he is entering full-time evangelistic work. His address until October 1 will be Box 421, Mountain Grove, Mo., and he may be reached there for revivals. Mr. Day is also a columnist for CONTACT, writing the evangelistic message each month.

## Georgia Church Has Dedication

TAYLOR MILLS, Ga.—Dedication services for the new Mt. Olive Free Will Baptist Church near here were held July 11. It was also homecoming day for the congregation. Rev. E. C. Morris, state promotional secretary, preached the dedicatory sermon. Rev. G. T. Halliman is pastor.

## Eighteen Churches Report Revivals

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Reports of revivals have been received this month from eighteen churches. Some of the revivals are scheduled for August, while others have already been conducted and results listed. CONTACT is anxious to print reports of revivals scheduled or already conducted, along with the results. Reports should be sent promptly and should include the information listed below:

CHURCH	EVANGELIST	PASTOR	DATE	DEC.	ADD.
Oxnard, California	Bob Maxwell	Arthur Billows	June 19-30	9	9
Little Bethel Church, Ideal Georgia	Harold Dunlap	G. T. Halliman	July 25-August 1		
Pine Prairie, Texas	Charles Sapp	H. Ray Berry	June 28-July 9	32	9
Central Avenue Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	F. A. McCage	Jack Dodson	June 27-July 2	3	
Shady Grove Church, Hickory Point, Tennessee	R. R. Riggs	Boyce Wallace	June 28-July 7	15	
Duncan Chapel, Cookeville, Tennessee	J. B. Fletcher	Willie B. Rodgers	June 27-July 10	7	6
First Mission, Youth Camp, Drumright, Okla.	Willard C. Day		June	36	
Antioch Church, Florida	Kermit Esther	Rufus Hyman	June 14-25		6
Santa Fe Church, Oklahoma	J. O. Hudson	Ward Fellabaum	May	1	2
Tucson, Arizona	L. C. Pinson	B. W. Hutchinson	June 9-21	8	1
Mt. Olive Church, Taylor Mills, Georgia	Harold Dunlap	G. T. Halliman	July 5-11	2	2
White Oak Church, Macon, Georgia	Emmett McDuffie	W. L. Purvis	July 18-25		
Pearce Chapel, Smithville, Mississippi	M. L. Hollis	M. L. Hollis	July	12	12
Elnora Church, Pocahontas, Arkansas	Carl High	Dewey Thompson	July 11		
Kirksville, Missouri	Joseph Ange	Lester Jones	August 2		
Edgemont Church, Durham, North Carolina	Rolla Smith	Joseph Ange	June 28-July 11		
Oaklawn Church, Pleasant View, Tennessee	J. B. Bloss	William Hill	July 1-10	5	10
North Birmingham, Ala- bama	T. H. Mize	Jack Rollins	July 18		

# Article Tells How Others See Us

The following article appeared in the July 15 issue of the *General Baptist Messenger*. We are reprinting it to give our readers an idea of how others see us.

"The national convention of Free Will Baptists will meet at Spartanburg, S. C., July 13. From what we can gather in the various papers of the denomination which reach our desk, this session of the convention bids fair to be one of the greatest in its history.

"Our Free Will Baptist brethren have had some difficult hurdles to surmount during the past few years. Their denominational life was shattered several years ago by the union of a large section of the northern Free Baptists with the American Baptist Convention. The aftermath of that union disrupted all work of a national body, and only after a long struggle has the national convention reached the place where it is taking a real hand in denominational leadership.

"We are happy to say that from outward appearances, the chief stumbling-blocks have been removed and the national convention is on its way. They have a number of fine leaders, young enough to have vision and old enough to have 'gumption'. It is clear that all their different sections are not falling over themselves to get into line, but that is not necessarily a bad sign. When the various sections do fall into line, it will mean that confidence in the national convention is strong and the various parts will move forward with the whole. Better slow acceptance which comes with faith than a hurried entry without proper confidence. That the leadership of the national convention has worked on this principle seems self-evident, and that they are winning is equally clear.

"This would be a strange group of Baptists if they met in Spartanburg and had no difficulties to solve. This is not said because anything it apparent, but because Baptists are a democratic people and, as such, they work out problems together, not from some dictated position at top level. Like the General Baptists, they have ideas, and what we have seen of them leads us to believe that, like General Baptists, they are not backward about expressing those ideas.

"Some people, looking on a Baptist meeting of this kind, might be prone to say, 'How they *don't* love each other.' But the saving feature is that, by and large, Baptists do love each other and keep on doing so after heated debate and a meeting of the minds."

# If He Had Not Come

A few years ago a striking Christmas card was published with the title, "If Christ had not come." The thought expressed on the card was based upon the words of Jesus in John 15:22, "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin; but now they have no cloak for their sin."

The illustrious card depicted a busy pastor who suddenly fell sleep while preparing for his regular Christmas service. In the few minutes he slept he had a disturbing dream that seemingly lasted for years. In his dream he seemed to live in a world into which Jesus had not come. He searched for something to prove to himself that Christ had come, but he couldn't find any wreaths of holly or bells hanging on the wall. He walked the streets looking for a church with a spire reaching toward heaven, but none could be found. He opened his Bible to read of the Saviour, but the volume ended with Malachi. Suddenly, he woke with a start and a great shout of praise because out in the distance he heard carolers singing of the blessed advent of the Son of God.

So often we think of the many modern

conveniences which we think it would be almost impossible to live without—television, radio, the streamlined automobile, electric lights, our telephones—but more often do try to live without the most important thing on earth, God's salvation through Christ Jesus.

Much is said about Henry Ford and his contribution to industry. Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell are praised and held in high esteem because of their achievements and contributions to society. But what of Christ? If he had not come, we would not have churches, Bible schools, or pardon for our sins.

Jesus was a man with many talents. Nicodemus said, "Thou art a teacher come from God." Some of the religious leaders said, "Never man spake like this man." He could have been the world's greatest physician or the greatest philosopher. He did all these things, but he majored in only one—the saving of sinners. "For the son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." The Bible is filled with many such beautiful verses. They are the sinner's hope. Prove Him now!—Willard C. Day.

