

# Contact

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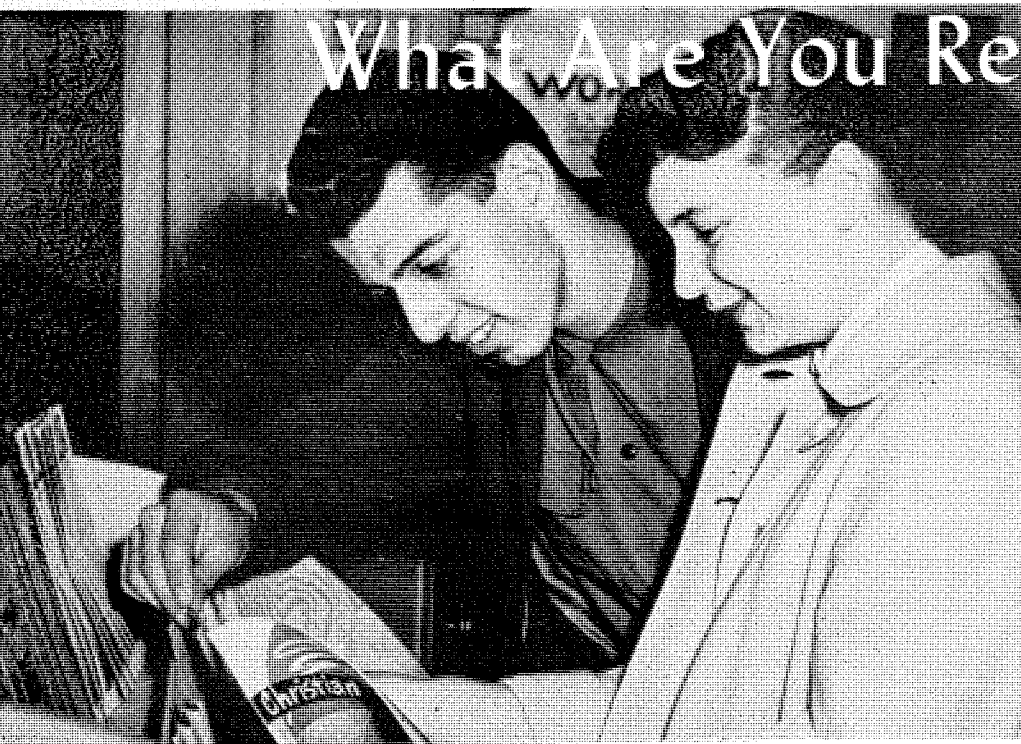
OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

September, 1956

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# What Are You Reading?



**Wesley Hartzell**

City Editor, *Chicago American*

use the adjective to describe a book filled with filth. Their works are no more true to life than Grimm's fairy tales. And the discriminating Christian reader will have to watch that he doesn't waste his money or time reading them.

History, or biography, also comes under the category of realism—that is, if the biographies are not mere eulogies. Too many authors pass off as "biography" a flowery compendium of their heroes' virtues. Any man — even great men — have weaknesses, and their biographers would serve their subjects better if they chartered the shortcomings as well as strength of their great men. Their subjects' luster will be but the brighter for having overcome the difficulties to attain the heights.

I have found a good many Christians with books of sermons in their libraries—invariably the gifts of friends or relatives.

The best place to absorb a sermon, of course, is in church. Books of sermons are for ministers to study and emulate. Or else they're for sending to shut-ins and savages who can't get to hear the preacher.

Completely without profit to the Christian is the average short story found in the secular weekly, monthly, or women's magazines. Let me hasten to add, however, that these publications may, at times, carry good non-fiction articles, some of them rather frequently.

Lastly, and I mean this particularly for parents, read the comic books your children read. You may get a shock. I have asked parents frequently if they've read any comic books lately, and they look at me as though they thought I was crazy. I'm not! Comic books are influencing your children and you ought to make sure they're the right kind of comic books.

To sum up then. The Christian's reading diet should contain:

1. The Bible.
2. The newspapers, the Christian magazines and the secular magazines.
3. Books that give a true picture of man and his world. Either biography, history or novels.
4. The books your children read.

If you're dining adequately on this kind of literary fare you won't have much time—or need—for the television set or the movie house.

One of the times when a newspaperman feels the most flattered is when he is on a bus or streetcar or train. Then he sees practically 99 per cent of the passengers (particularly if it's a going-to-work crowd or a going-home crowd) reading a newspaper. A few will be reading a magazine, fewer yet a book—even a paper-backed trash novel.

Even without formal survey of the gang on the 5:05 (the train I happen to take out of Chicago to my suburban home) I can almost certainly predict that the reading going on all over the rails is all these passengers will engage in during their entire day.

The sad fact is that this probably applies to Christians as well as non-Christians.

We'll accept and emphasize that in the reading habits of every Christian, the Bible should come first. So my thoughts in this piece deal with the "other reading" that Christians should do.

And among this other reading the daily papers should play a large part, perhaps even the largest part. There are reasons: For one thing, the newspapers never let us forget for an instant what the human race is really like. This keeps us humble. As we read of human frailties, troubles and even the crimes we can say with John Wesley as he looked at the drunkard in the gutter: "There but for the Grace of God am I."

But there is more to the good newspaper than crime, of course. It tells us, if you please, of the neighbors for whom we are to bear a love almost as strong as our love for God.

I have little patience with those Christians who would withdraw completely from the

world and refuse even to know what their neighbors are doing. Christ didn't withdraw from the world. He sought out the people who could tell him about it.

What I have said about newspapers, of course, applies with equal force to magazines, some of which contain articles that are among the best literature being written today.

Among the magazines there should be a good sampling of Christian magazines. This is particularly essential since the secular weeklies seldom print all that the Christian would like to know about the world of religion and particularly the Protestant evangelical faiths.

And, of course, our reading should contain something from books. And I don't mean particularly that class of books generally called "Christian books." I mean any book that brings a true picture of the world, of man, or of God.

Some of the novels that have made the greatest impact on my life, that got me away from the idea that man's salvation lay in himself and his world, were not "Christian books"—at least they didn't mention the name of Christ or have anybody in their pages who got saved or gave a testimony.

I think immediately of Hardy's *Jude, the Obscure* or Hugo's *Les Miserables*. Those, and others like them, have the stuff of reality, and they show dramatically and clearly why it is that man must have help from outside himself. They helped prepare my own heart to accept Christ when He first knocked at my door.

Not every book that parades itself as "realistic" really is, of course. Some authors

## Bill the Bartender

Columbia Broadcasting System

New York City

### DEAR BILL:

The other night you came into my living room, stood behind a bar on my new television receiver, and asked a question. Your question is a personal one. It made me think. I feel that I should take the time to answer you.

Let me assure you that I have given the matter some careful thought. The conclusions which I express are not the product of haphazard guesswork, but rather the result of thoughtful consideration.

"What'll you have?" you asked.

Well, Bill, I'll tell you; I'd rather have lower taxes and more efficient government than your beer or any other beer. Out of every pay check I get, a substantial amount goes to remedy the tragic consequences of alcoholism and the evil it produces.

I don't drink, but my money has to take care of that thief who drank one bottle of beer too many and thought he could get away with robbing a filling station. He was a pretty nice guy otherwise, but after he had one too many he just couldn't say no to the temptation of easy money.

### *Liquor Charged with Half of Crime*

Law enforcement agents tell me that alcohol lies behind at least 50 per cent of the crime in our country. Crime costs me money even though I'm a law-abiding citizen. My taxes must maintain courts and officers, jails, correctional institutions and hospitals.

So logically, Bill, I'll have to choose between your favorite beer or lower taxes. I'll have the latter.

Of course you'll insist that higher taxes levied on your product relieve me of a good portion of the burden. But I don't think you carry your fair share of the load. Back in 1943 the legislators of Massachusetts checked up on this matter. They found that the receipts from beverage alcohol totaled a little better than thirteen million dollars. But for that same year the bill presented to the taxpayers of that state for caring for mental patients whose condition was wholly or partly caused by alcoholism, and for apprehending and prosecuting drunken criminals, was sixty-one million dollars, almost five times as much as the revenue.

### *Leaders Should Have Clear Heads*

So, you see, Bill, as a father of three children who is trying to make ends meet in this day of high prices, I'd be foolish to choose something which is draining away my savings and keeping me from better providing for my kids.

And speaking of kids, this world we have made for them is a mighty sorry mess. The unsettled conditions and the continual threat of war make it pretty tough on our youngsters. We are enjoying a few brief moments of respite from war right now, and I'd like to keep it that way so my son won't have to pay the price on the beach at Salerno or the rocky slopes of an Iwo Jima.

It seems to me that those who are guiding our destiny and making decisions which will mean my kid's freedom or enslavement, ought to have the clearest heads possible. If they spend much of their time guzzling beer, they won't be capable of choosing the right course. So, Bill, on that score it looks like I'll have to pass up the beer you say is so fine.

*(Continued on page 14)*



A Practical, Christian  
Answer to the Question,  
"What'll You Have?"

Reprinted from *Home Life Magazine*

## New 'Pray for Peace' Cancellation Being Used

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ERA)—Fifty of the nation's largest postoffices began using stamp cancellation dies carrying the slogan "Pray for Peace" August 1.

Postmaster Arthur E. Summerfield has ordered similar dies for other first and second class postoffices throughout the country. They will be put into use as soon as delivered by the manufacturer.

Use of the cancellation dies were authorized by Congress last June.

## Chinese Evangelicals Continue Under Pressure

PEKING, China — (MNS) — August 8 marked the first anniversary of the arrest and subsequent imprisonment of Pastor and Mrs. Wang Ming Tao of the Christian Church in Peking. The charge against them was "opposition to the revolution" and their accusers were leaders of the government-sponsored church of China.

Following their arrest Wang Ming Tao and his wife were sentenced to 15 years hard labor. It has now been reported that she died in solitary confinement. Of the 18 Christian college students arrested with them, and of the pastor's assistant who attempted to continue their work, nothing is known.

Meanwhile, the same type of opposition directed against the Wang Ming Tao congregations is being aimed at the Little Flock group. Led by a man named Ni T'o Sheng, the Little Flock is the largest indigenous church group in China.

## Congress Provides Funds For Philippine Catholics

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(MNS)—Of interest to missionary-minded evangelicals is a bill, passed just before Congress adjourned on July 27, which will give the Roman Catholic Church some eight million dollars for their work in the Philippines.

This bill provides for payment by the United States to certain religious organizations having a work in the Philippine Islands and having a counterpart in the United States, based on Philippine war claims. Formerly such payments had been authorized only to U. S. organizations.

Surveys had shown that the bill will provide for payment of approximately \$8,000,000 to the Roman Catholic Church, and only about \$34,000 to other religious organizations.

## African Missionaries Concerned Over Prophetess

PHILADELPHIA, Penn.—(E/P)—Missionaries in Northern Rhodesia are faced with the growing popularity of a new cult sponsored by one Lenshina Mulenga, or as she has been dubbed by missionaries, "Alice." She is a 32-year-old native woman who claims to have a direct connection with God. Thousands of Africans are flocking to the tiny village of Kasomo to see and hear her.

Alice claims to have died, but God kept her from entering heaven and told her to return to her people. She teaches her people to give up witchcraft and repent of their sins. Alice says that God told her there were two books: one for the whites and one for the blacks, and the black book was the right one.

God is supposed to speak to her during a strange whistling. Missionaries watching her activities said she just steps behind a tree and blows a small instrument. The natives—ordered to bow their heads—are greatly impressed. In twelve months, 60,000 have listened to and been baptized by Alice. And once changed to her loyalty, most natives refuse to change back to Christianity.

## Brewers Now Pushing 'Teen-Beer' for Juveniles

WASHINGTON, D. C.—"Near beer" is nothing new, but peddling it to kids through carry-out stores as a "teen-agers special" marks a new low for liquor merchandising.

Brewers are admittedly looking forward to the crop of "war and post-war babies" who will be potential customers soon after 1960. To set up the new market, brewers have given a new twist to an old product—they're pushing a "teen brew" that looks like beer, foams like beer, tastes like beer and smells like beer.

The sad part is that the new brew is "legal" under present laws. It just skirts the law by containing one-half of one per cent alcohol or less, thus avoiding state and federal regulations and taxes. The cans bear the statement "Non-taxable as Fermented Liquor Under Federal Law."

It met with such instant success that the vice-president of a brewing company said in a newspaper story, "We may start an educational campaign to sell it to children . . ." Evidently the campaign has started. Parents have reported seeing "near beer" advertised over television with the suggestion that tots drink the brew as they watch TV, just like dad and mom. One mother said she had seen cereal beer on sale in a chain store placed on a low table attractively arranged within reach of children.

## Priest Blames Calamities On Protestant Pastor

VILLAGRAN, Mexico—(MNS)—In this small town in Tamaulipas state a Baptist pastor has been blamed for the calamities that have recently befallen the people of that area.

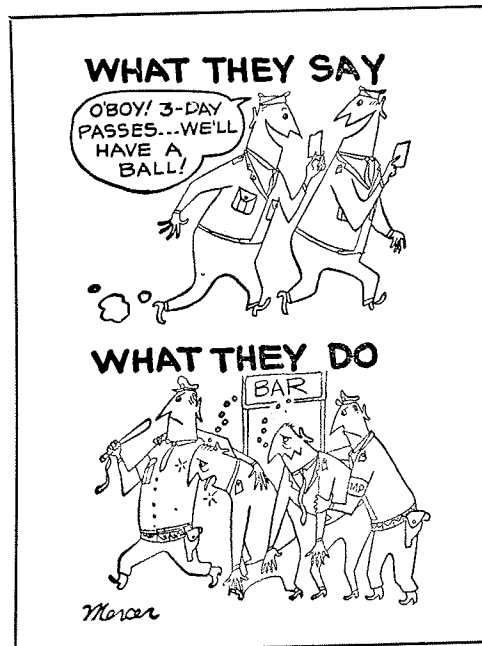
Being an area in which cotton is grown in abundance, business suffered when the market was flooded with a supply of U. S. surplus cotton. Then a cyclone struck. The local priest preached some special sermons in which he told the people that the Protestant pastor was responsible.

On July 22, three days after the cyclone, a mob of 400 people besieged the home of Rev. Manuel Ocana, screaming "Death to the Protestants." The pastor was given four hours to leave town. He and his family had to abandon their home and flee for safety.

## Young People Respond at South American Conference

CARACAS, Venezuela — (MNS) — The opening meeting of the Pan-American Congress on Youth Evangelism August 5 was attended by 7,500 people. The congress is sponsored by Youth for Christ International.

Rev. Asdrubal Rios of Maracaibo, Venezuela, spoke on opening night and 58 people responded to the invitation to accept Christ. Highlight of the second day was the message of Mrs. Marjorie Saint, widow of Nate Saint, one of the five young missionaries martyred last January in Ecuador. She showed a film of the first meeting with the Aucas and told the 1,200 who heard her at a day session, "We went to Ecuador for one sole purpose, to tell lost men and women of Christ." She added that contact is still being sought with the Aucas.



Following her stirring message, more than 300 young people responded to an invitation to dedicate their lives to Christ. Ted W. Engstrom, executive director of YFC, said after the meeting, "Without question this has been the greatest meeting I have ever been in. God moved in power."

## Evangelical Churches To Observe "NAE Week"

WHEATON, Ill.—"NAE Week" will be observed in evangelical churches throughout America October 21-28. The theme, "Spiritual Unity in Action," will emphasize the work of the National Association of Evangelicals in promoting the evangelical cause.

The work of the NAE with the American Institute of Planners in assuring evangelical churches the right to secure building sites in new or redeveloped communities is just one of the many reasons why Bible-believing churches should back the NAE in every way possible.

The National Association of Evangelicals provides the voice for 10 million Christians in many denominations and churches. Through its agencies such as the National Sunday School Association, Evangelical Foreign Missions Association, Commission on Chaplains, and the Washington Office of Affairs, many services have been rendered to Free Will Baptists.

Free Will Baptist churches planning to observe "NAE Week" should write to their regional office or the headquarters office at 108 N. Main St., Wheaton, Ill., for free material, including bulletin covers or inserts, descriptive folders, offering envelopes and a pastor's handbook of information.

# Korean Troops Respond to Gospel

One of the most unusual chapters in the evangelism of Korea has just been penned!

This is not a story of mass evangelism as we know it with large stadium meetings, auditoriums or even canvas cathedrals with all the posters and bill boards necessary to promote such meetings, but rather an account of a Four Star General who desired his troops to hear about God!

Dr. Bob Pierce, president of World Vision, first suggested to General Paik that World Vision undertake the task of preaching the Gospel to the ROK troops. He introduced to the general, Kermit Johnson, a former West Point graduate, veteran of the Korean War and currently doing Korean evangelistic work for World Vision. "I want every man in my army to know about God," said General Paik.

It was agreed that World Vision's program of Military evangelism would start April 4th. On April 3rd Kermit Johnson became ill and was operated on the following day. Doug Cozart, World Vision Director of Evangelistic Follow-Up, then left for the front with interpreter, Lee Suk Koo, who is office manager for World Vision's follow-up courses. General Paik met him and again said, "Mr. Cozart, I want every man in my army to know about God." This was to be done in regimental or battalion formation.

From the First ROK Army headquarters Chaplain Yoon Sang Bun was secured to act as the second interpreter. Cozart explained that he was going to preach on sins and repentance through Jesus Christ. The meetings were started with the Third Corps on the Northeast sector of the front.

Three meetings a day were held on April 6, 7, and 8. On April 9th Cozart started going to divisions for the first large mass meetings. Four services were held that day and 3760 heard the gospel.

Between April 4th and April 18th approximately 34,361 troops heard Cozart which covered the Third Corps except those maintaining battle positions.

A one hour message was given by Cozart to the troops who always sat on the ground or on their helmets.

"My message was simple," said Doug. "I told them that in the beginning was God . . . the story of the creation and the Trinity . . . the inspiration of the scriptures . . . Satan's fall . . . man and his fall . . . judgment . . . the story of the cross and redemption. I told them how all have sinned but their sins could be removed with Christ's help.

"When I called for all who wanted to stand to pray and indicate their desire to

make a decision for Christ, instantly individuals began jumping up all over the assembled troops. Some times in clusters, groups, sometimes 100%, almost 27,000 stood. I tried to make it hard for them to reach a decision . . . only God knows what is in each heart, but the gratifying thing is that 4000 of them have signed up for the follow up Bible study course financed by World Vision."

In the words of Chaplain Yoon Sang Bun of the First ROK Army: "I was surprised. I never expected to have such a great result. Korean officers are so proud, but even they stood on their feet confessing belief, also many senior officers. So I give great praise to the Lord. Also, the commanding officers understood better what we chaplains were trying to do and want to help us. The ones who criticized understand better what real Christianity is."

Then as the young 28-year-old chaplain wrinkled his brow in thought, he said, "I think Dr. Pierce, Billy Graham and Doug Cozart have done more for evangelism in Korea than any other persons!"

Recovered from his operation, Kermit Johnson was able to accompany Doug Cozart to the front for the second World Vision mass evangelism program among the ROK army troops.

Kermit enthusiastically reported: "The period from June 11 through June 21 was the most significant and joyous time I have had in the Orient. I have never experienced such buoyancy, joy and personal blessing. It was a wide open harvest!"

In this period 15 meetings were held with 15 units with a total attendance of 8500 men and 1389 seekers. Kermit continues, "The second day I spoke at the 21st Division headquarters. Here about half the division staff officers made decisions.

"General Song, assistant division commander listened and later that day and the next I had talks with him. After discussing combat areas and experiences we discussed Christianity as related to Communism, then to his men and finally to himself. I told him I wanted him to be absolutely frank and blunt with me in expressing his mind and heart to me. I received an emphatic, military 'I will.'

"Then he made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and we prayed together. Three days later the division chaplain told me the General had immediately called him saying that he had believed on Jesus Christ and would be in chapel service every Sunday. He said he came from a family background of Buddhism.

"It was a thrill to see many officers stand before their men admitting their need of Jesus Christ!"

## Second Honor Roll

### "Every Church Family" Plan

Salem church, Missouri  
Hurryville church, Farmington, Mo.  
Grace church, Blount, W. Va.  
Pleasant Valley church, Butler, Okla.  
Martinstown church, Worthington, Mo.  
First church, Sapulpa, Okla.

More and more churches are waking up to this easy and inexpensive way of keeping the members informed on all the affairs of both the denomination and the church around the world. The pastors who use the "Family Plan" are high in their praise of it. They say that when the paper comes to the members, it's just like a pastoral visit.

We are now six churches toward our second honor roll of 50 churches. Will yours be added this month?

### Rules for Honor Roll

1. Send names and addresses of all families in the church. *Do not send any money.*
2. Your list will be checked against our circulation. Refunds on any subscriptions in effect will be credited to the church account.
3. The church will receive a bill quarterly and a form on which to list new families or drop any who have died or changed membership.
4. The plan remains in effect until the church requests that it be discontinued.

# God Gave Me a Second Chance

ROGER C. REEDS

I quit school at the ripe old age of 13.

I didn't have to, of course. I wanted to.

I was just beginning my four years at high school, an experience most young people look forward to as the best in life. To me it was the worst. A terrible inferiority complex put two strikes against me. I was an avid sports fan, but too bashful to try out for any of the teams.

Each day at school was worse than the one before, but only because I made it so. On the first day, I went to the school cafeteria for lunch. Everyone was scrambling for a table on one side of the room. Not wanting to attract undue attention to myself, I walked over and took a seat at some unoccupied tables on the other side of the room and waited for the waitress to come take my order. She never came.

## *Became an Uproar*

The lunch room became an uproar with laughter. An employee saw my perplexity and came to inform me that I was sitting in a section reserved for the faculty and that I had to serve myself rather than be served. No words can describe my humiliation.

I began to play hooky. This was easy since both of my parents worked. After seven weeks of spasmodic attendance, I quit. I had my parents' permission, of course. Perhaps they didn't realize the value of education since they had both been denied it. I didn't know what I would do with my life. I had no goal.

In the summer I loitered, but with the coming of fall I decided to begin making my own way. I set out, still equipped with my inferiority complex, to get a job. After circling the block several times, I finally mustered enough courage to go into a printing shop and ask for work. To my surprise and pleasure I was hired.

## *Lied about Age*

I was a messenger boy in the shipping department. The shipping clerk was a Scrooge-type of character who made me quake many times with his booming voice. Of course I had to lie about my age to get the job, and noticing that I wasn't yet shaving, the boss asked me to bring a birth certificate. I lied again and told him it was lost and I

was applying for a new one. He finally quit asking me and I kept my job.

In fact, I stayed with it until I was 16. By then I was an office boy and my salary had climbed from \$12 to \$22 a week. I decided to transfer to a factory and learn a trade, but after working at it a few weeks I found I didn't like it so I took the road of least resistance and quit.

By now I was old enough to join my father at the factory where he had worked for 25 years. Too, I had acquired somewhat of an ambition. I wanted to be like dad, work in a factory, marry a good woman like mom, and bring home a regular paycheck. It wasn't long until my income doubled and soon tripled. But I was beginning to see the mistake I had made in leaving school.

## *Work Became Drudgery*

What had been my ambition now became my doom and I thought it was too late to do anything about it. It looked like I was to work in a factory all the days of my life because of my mistake in quitting school.

Mom had tried to talk me out of quitting. She had wanted me to go on—to make something out of myself. I couldn't erase those thoughts that I might have become a doctor or a lawyer, and each day at the factory became a drudgery. I had already learned how to drink and gamble.

One Sunday morning something happened that was to change my whole life. I met God. Up to that time, God had been left out of my life. Ours was not a church-attending family. I knew little of the Bible and nothing of the doctrines of the church. But on that Sunday I went forward at the invitation of the minister and received Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour.

## *Came to God*

There was nothing remarkable about it. I received no vision. I simply believed. I didn't at the time fully understand what it was all about, but I knew I had sinned. I had messed up my life and now I was coming for God to straighten it out. He did. That night I joined the same Free Will Baptist church where I had been introduced to God.

Things were different at the factory the next day. The four brick walls that I had come to loathe were still there, but they looked brighter. What had been a daily drudgery was more pleasant. Not long after my conversion I was offered a different job at the factory. The foreman had decided that I would make a good crane operator and I

began the break-in period which lasted six weeks.

This job gave me quite a bit of leisure time and I decided to read the Bible through. I began with Genesis and read right on through the Pentateuch. The more I read, the more engrossed I became. It was the greatest Book I had ever read.

## *Called To Preach*

Somewhere along the way in this reading I got the idea that God wanted me to preach. The idea seemed a little foolish at the time for I still had not conquered my inferiority feelings. The more I read and the more I prayed, the more convinced I became that this was God's will for my life.

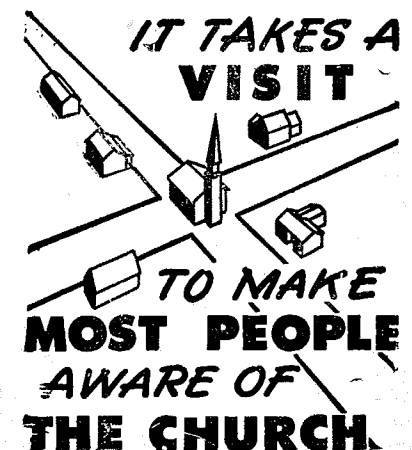
I discussed it with my pastor and then finally made a public announcement at church that God had called me to preach. There were doubters and they cannot be blamed. They knew my timidity.

I sold all my possessions, including a battered 1935 Ford of which I was very fond, and headed for Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. A Bible college combines the curricula of the seminary and liberal arts college into a four-year course. At 20, I was picking up where I left off at 13. After my first year, I returned to my home state and secured my high school diploma via a state-sponsored equivalency test for such people as me who make the mistake of quitting school. I am now the proud possessor of a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Bible.

## *Now a Pastor*

It is a golden opportunity that has been given me by God. He gave me a second chance in life and education. I shall ever be grateful to Him and intend to serve Him the rest of my life. I am married now, somewhat wiser, have two lovely children, and the joy of being a pastor. It is my hope to see my children through the years as they receive their diplomas from grade school, then high school, and finally from one of our Free Will Baptist institutions of higher learning.

If you have been on the verge of making the same foolish mistake I made, don't make it! Stick it out. The results will be rewarding.



The author is pastor at Davis, N. C.

## Where Are You?

Dr. William Russell Owen is credited with the following statement about all the present-day church members. If you read it closely, you will probably find where several of your neighbors fit. It will require a more careful and honest reading, however, to find your own category. After checking off your neighbors, go back and check your own.

- 5% do not exist
- 10% cannot be found
- 20% never pray
- 25% never attend church services
- 30% never read the Bible
- 40% never give to any church cause
- 50% never go to church on Sunday night
- 60% never give to missions
- 75% never accept any responsible position in the church
- 85% never go to prayer meeting
- 90% never practice family worship
- 95% never win a soul to Christ

# REVEREND or JACK?

DON MALLOWH

There is a current trend among men to call each other by first names. Business and professional men meet together and forgetting formality and titles, greet one another as boys. In civic clubs, informal gatherings, and church meetings, one may find joviality, backslapping, and first-name salutations. Such actions break down barriers, tend toward closer friendship, and are a welcome relief from a forced stiffness or reserve in many walks of life.

A first-name relationship in laymen's organizations is something to be commended. Such an intimacy appeals to men and draws them closer to one another. Some with a natural reserve may be hesitant about using given names, or even nicknames, at first but will later follow others and enjoy doing so.

### What To Call Pastor?

In such a relationship, one question usually rises: What shall we call the pastor? Does the same rule or practice apply to him? He is a man like others. A forced reserve is often thrust upon him because of his position. No one enjoys more than he a time when formalities are forgotten. He, too, has a first name.

The probability is that, if his personal wishes were known, he would enjoy the same relationship. Particularly would that be true when he is man among the men of his church. It has probably been a long time since someone has called him by his first name, and it might be a welcome sound to him.

### Not Use Given Name

In spite of the personal wishes of the pastor, it is not wise to use his given name at any time in addressing him. Such a temptation often comes when his first name is easy to say and the last one more difficult. On no occasion should one yield to such a temptation.

It is because of the position he holds that the pastor should not be greeted by his first name. He not only holds the place of leadership in the church, but in the community as well.

Some congregations have practiced using their pastor's first name and he has not objected. While it might not be objectionable to those within the church, it certainly causes outsiders to wonder at the apparent lack of respect the people have for their pastor. For the good of the cause and so that all may hold in high esteem the leader of the flock of God, any or all members of the congregation should address the pastor other than by his given name.

### Sometimes Cumbersome

Now that we have eliminated the use of the pastor's first name, how should we address him? For the most part, in our churches he is called Brother Jones. We are so accustomed to that terminology that, for most of us, it comes easy. However, some men find it to be cumbersome, particularly on a fishing trip or some such occasion.

In public places, away from the church, some hesitate to use the term "brother" and find "mister" a bit on the formal side. Then there is the unsaved man who may come to the church and find it difficult to say "Brother Jones." Because of that, he just avoids the pastor, as he doesn't know what to call him.

### A Happy Compromise

Some years ago the writer participated in athletics. It was cumbersome for the members of the team to call the coach "Mr. Jackson," and his position's sake he didn't want us to call him "Joe."

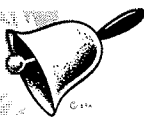
He struck a happy compromise when he suggested that we call him "Coach." That bridged the desire for something easy to say and still respected his position. Were I to meet that gentleman on the street after these years, I would greet him by saying, "Hello, Coach."

### Why Not 'Pastor'?

There is a term quite generally used in some areas that, in a similar way, is a happy solution to the problem of what to call the pastor. Why not just call him "Pastor." It is easy to say and it immediately tells any hearer his relationship to you. It speaks of your esteem for him and yet can be a distinctive name you would use for no other individual. In one word it speaks of respect and yet of an intimacy that only his flock can have with him.

It may take a little trying to become accustomed to a new term, but with a little usage it can solve nicely what has sometimes been a problem.—From *Team*

## Bellringers



● Edouard Mingot, Protestant pastor of Commugny, Switzerland, has founded a "Confraternity of Knights of the Road" to campaign against reckless driving.

● In Ayr, Scotland, churchgoers have organized a "prayer-by-telephone" system. Pastor William Whalley contacts members by telephone or bicycle whenever he hears a sick person is in danger, and no matter what the hour, the members begin to pray.

● Clark M. Olmstead, municipal judge in Kalamazoo, Mich., startled 35 traffic law violators who appeared before him—after making them bow their heads he led them in prayer, thanking God that their violations had not caused death to themselves or others.

● In West Germany, a group of Lutheran preachers in Wurttemberg have protested the government's proposal that they, along with coal miners, be exempt from military draft. They feel that ministers should be drafted along with church members who, presumably, need their services even more during military service.

● In Australia, Melbourne newsboys have joined a fight against immoral literature. They have refused to handle 21 magazines—mostly issued by American publishers—on a list which they, themselves, compiled as being "too filthy to handle."

## MOVING?

If you are moving, you can be sure of not missing a copy of your paper if you will notify us promptly of your new address. When notifying of a change in address, please include old as well as new address.



# Profitable for Doctrine

The First in a Series of Four Messages on Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible

## Has God Spoken?

In its opening words, the Bible, without further explanation or apology, confronts us with a God who is absolute. This all-powerful God is said to have designed and brought into being all celestial objects, including the world and the living things within it. There is no hint throughout the whole range of the 66 books which follow that this divine supremacy can be successfully challenged.

A question is at once prompted, "If God is so essentially different and greater than ourselves, how can we know anything worthwhile about Him and how can we be sure that He is interested at all in the destinies of the men whom He has made?" Let it be said here, that if we are to really know anything about God, it will probably be because God has chosen to tell it to us. A god that can be known through the capacity of a finite mind would hardly be worth discovering.

God has graciously chosen to make a self-disclosure or "revelation" of Himself. The important fact to notice is that it is God who first acts. We ought to be rather sure that we cannot know God unless God has been pleased to reveal Himself to us.

### God Revealed in Universe

How, then, has God revealed Himself to us? By the universe which He has made. How did this world come into being? The fact that it is here with all of its beauties no one would deny. But how did it come into existence?

This question has been with man in every generation. It forces itself upon us. We may try to pass over it, say that it is unanswerable, or that it isn't really important, but the question is with us just the same.

The universe itself provides the answer. The world came into being because God

Billy A. Melvin

made it. It is the work of an infinite, all-wise, and all-powerful God. Common sense teaches us that back of every effect there has to be a cause. Back of the universe is God! There is rational order to this universe. The more the universe is studied, the more clearly this is revealed.

Consider the immensity of this universe, in which it is 98 million miles from the earth to the sun and in which light travels at the speed of 186,000 miles a second, and yet, it is a harmonious universe in its inner character. There is an orderly sequence and an orderly connection of part and part and an orderly adjustment of means to end in which the lower are embraced in the higher.

### Only Two Answers

Contemplating this, let us remember what Napoleon said to certain scientists whom he took with him on his expedition to Egypt in 1798. One warm summer night these men were gathered together on the deck of the ship. The stars were brilliant. The men were discussing whether or not the planets were inhabited.

Some said no. Others said yes. Then they began to talk about the origin of the universe. All took different positions, but seemed in agreement that natural laws and phenomena were quite sufficient to account for the origin of the world without a Divine creator. Napoleon, who had been standing near them, said, "Gentlemen, who made the natural laws and phenomena?"

Indeed, who did make the world? Who made the stars? Who made the ordered universe which can be seen by the telescope and the microscope? Who placed the

categories of time and space in which all relations must be conceived by man? Who did these things? There are only two answers. One is God, and the other is chance. It would be a greater miracle to believe that chance did all these things than to believe that God did.

### All Things Beautiful

But whereas to some men the testimony of nature to God comes by a reasoned consideration of the implications of nature's existence, to others it comes through the beauties of nature.

To me nature speaks clearest of God in its beauties. Once while I was attending the Union association at Harris Memorial Free Will Baptist church at Greeneville, Tennessee, it was my privilege one afternoon to drive alone to the top of a high mountain where I had been told there was a beautiful view.

Parking my car, I walked a short distance to a clearing and there stretched out before me was a breath-taking view. The great valley far below was filled with God's handiwork. Dotted the valley here and there were tiny, chalk-white houses looking very much like doll houses.

In the distance was the steeple of a church. The fields, plowed first in one direction and then in another, looked like a great patch-work quilt. Nearby the varied flowers displayed their many colors and down the sides of the steep mountains giant trees displayed their strength. As I beheld this scene—the beauty of it and the vastness of it—I was keenly aware of God who was the creator of it all.

### Imagination or Revelation?

Now, was that a foolish fancy? Was it some play of the imagination, or was God graciously revealing Himself to me through the beauties and wonders of the world which He had made? We do not need to hesitate in giving an answer, for God in the

The first in a series by Billy A. Melvin, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.



Bible has put His approval upon the revelation of Himself in nature. We read in Romans 1:20 "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

In this verse the Bible approves the arguments of those who argue that the existence of the world demands the existence of a divine Maker of the world. The Bible likewise approves those moments of knowledge when we see God in the beauty and majesty of His world. The Psalmist says, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handiwork."

Granting then that God has revealed Himself through the universe which He has made, why do so few men listen to this revelation? The fact is that few men come to a true belief in a personal God by a consideration of nature. Why is this so? If God has revealed Himself in nature, then why do men not see this revelation?

### *Blind Men Fail To See*

If men do not see something, there are two possible answers. One is that there is nothing to see and the other is that the men are blind. The latter is the explanation which the Bible gives for the failure of men to know God through the universe which He has made. The Bible says in Romans 1:21 "their foolish heart was darkened," hence they did not see.

The fault was not in nature. Therefore, men were "without excuse," says Paul, when they did not see what nature revealed. This is a hard, but true saying. As long as we stand in our own right and have not our eyes mysteriously opened, we are blind and lost in sin. Only as we wear the spectacles of the Holy Spirit can we see God in nature.

But God has not only spoken through the universe which He has made. He has spoken also through His voice within. He has planted His law in our hearts. Man has a sense of ought or of duty. This implies the existence of a lawgiver, for without an absolute lawgiver there could be no sense of duty or of ought. This may be called conscience; it exists in every individual, and it can be awakened even after it has been in a dormant state for many years. C. E. Macartney has illustrated this truth by the following experience of Rousseau.

### *Stole a Ribbon*

When in Italy, Rousseau took a position as secretary to an Italian lady. After her death, he fancied a pink and silver ribbon which one of the ladies had worn, and stole it. It was discovered in his possession and when asked to give an account of it he declared that Marion, one of the maids, had given it to him.

The maid, tearfully protested her in-

nocence, and the look, Rousseau says, which she turned upon him would have melted the heart of a demon. The investigator dismissed them saying, "Conscience by its sufferings will revenge the innocent." It was a prophecy terribly fulfilled. Rousseau tells us that the thought that he had unjustly accused the girl and perhaps driven her to a life of shame, cut his soul with an edge that forty years had not been able to dull.

Often in his sleep he would start up as he fancied he saw the pleading eye and the tear-stained face of the maid he had wronged. In his most successful periods, the ghost would leave him for a season, but only to return when fortunes were low, for he discovered that remorse sleeps with prosperity, but wakes up in the storms of adversity.

### *Conscience Is of God*

Conscience, remorse and repentance can be accounted for only by the moral structure of the universe, by a moral law in man's life which is dependent on the existence of a just and a righteous God.

Now, the Bible sets its stamp of approval upon the revelation of God through conscience, just as we have seen that it sets its stamp of approval upon the revelation of God in nature. The Apostle Paul says in Romans 2:14-15, "For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these having not the law, are a law unto themselves: which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another."

Here Paul teaches us that the "law written in the heart" is the voice of God. He does not teach, however, that men have obeyed that law as it ought to have been obeyed. Rather he teaches that men everywhere have disobeyed and are therefore under the condemnation of the law. But this is no fault of the law. The moral law is within and if men do not heed it they are without excuse.

### *Supernatural Way As Well*

Thus we have seen, that God is revealed by the universe which He has made and by the moral law within.

But God has revealed Himself in an altogether different way. He has not only revealed Himself in a natural way, but in a supernatural way as well. Now this does not mean that God's supernatural revelation is "set over against" or contrary to His natural revelation. Rather, when we say "supernatural" we mean that which is "above nature." In other words, God has revealed Himself in two very different ways. In natural revelation, God speaks and acts by the use of means. In supernatural revelation, God speaks and acts directly without the use of means.

But why is this supernatural revelation

needed? It is needed because natural revelation is not sufficient. As we have already seen, God's revelation of Himself through nature has been hidden because of sin. The wonders and beauties of the universe do reveal the glory of God, but men are blind and do not see them.

### *Conscience Silenced by Sin*

This is likewise true of the revelation of Himself through His voice within. How easily the conscience may be conditioned. Have you never recoiled with horror from doing some act of sin, only to discover later that you had, by degrees, slipped into that sin treating it as a matter of course. Thus the voice of conscience is conditioned and silenced by a life of sin. Beyond doubt, God's revelation of Himself through conscience has been hidden from men's eyes by sin.

Due to the fact, therefore, that God's natural revelation of Himself has been hidden by sin, there is need of a supernatural revelation. But does this supernatural revelation tell us only of those things revealed in nature? No, a thousand times no! Suppose that the supernatural revelation of God revealed to us only His majesty and power, His justice and our disobedience. We would be of all men most miserable!

### *He Tells of His Grace*

No, thank God, He has told us other things. In His supernatural revelation, He tells us again the things which we should have learned through nature, but beyond and above that, He tells us things of which nature does not give the slightest hint. Namely, He tells us of His grace. He tells us how we as sinners transgressed His law to deserve nothing but His wrath, but because of His love and mercy we may be made His children because of the sacrifice of His Son.

Where are we to find this supernatural revelation? Let me say frankly that I believe that it is to be found in the pages of one book—the Bible. There have been, I know, men in our day who have claimed that they have had some supernatural revelation from God and have claimed that their voice was God's voice, but these are but false prophets. The supernatural revelation of God is recorded in one book—the Bible.

At this point, we must face a serious question. If this supernatural revelation of God is to be found in one book, the Bible, do we have a true record of that revelation? Does the Bible present accurately this supernatural revelation? Is the Bible to be trusted? This involves the all-important question of inspiration and will be the subject of the next article.

**NEXT MONTH**

*Is the Bible Trustworthy?*

# Women at Work



Women's Auxiliary

LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

Lucy Wischart, missionary to Cuba who attended the national auxiliary convention while on furlough, was presented a portable typewriter as a gift from the women. In a letter of appreciation to the WNAC office, she said, "I cannot tell you how much this was needed and how much it has already helped me. You have all been a special help to your missionaries" . . . *District meeting of women of Antioch association held July 27 at Jerusalem, Ark. Theme was "Consecration" and Rev. Dale Munkus, Russellville, was morning speaker. Young people of the host church presented a playlet. Mrs. Roy McCuin presided over the day's activities . . . Auxiliary of Northside church, Phoenix, Ariz., has elected the following officers: Mrs. J. D. Stepp, president; Mrs. V. L. Jones, vice-president; Mrs. J. J. Brown, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Henry Hill, youth chairman; Mrs. Periman, program chairman, and Mrs. Chester Warren, personal service chairman.*

*The new Woman's Auxiliary secretary's record book is now ready and may be ordered from the WNAC office, 3801 Richland Ave., Nashville 5, Tenn. Has new cover design and is bound with plastic spiral. Price is \$1.50 . . . Women of First Church, Tucson, Ariz., organized Auxiliary July 26 and elected the following officers: Mrs. Lou Spears, president; Mrs. Viola Lucas, vice-president; Mrs. Almeda Medart, secretary; Mrs. Jessie Witt, treasurer; Mrs. Gladys Elliston, study course chairman; Mrs. Vola Witt, youth chairman; Mrs. Betty Cole, personal service chairman; Mrs. Wanda Carr and Patsy Medart, program-prayer committee. First project was a VBS held August 13-24.*

*New Hope district convention met July 7 at Pleasant Grove church, Greenbrier, Ark., with four auxiliaries represented. Speaker was Rev. Alton Loveless. Rev. Lawnie Coffman led installation service for the following officers: Mrs. Alene Coffman, president; Mrs. Betty Sawrie, vice-president and program chairman; Mrs. Kathleen Thacker, secretary; Mrs. Stella West, assistant secretary; Mrs. Montine Nichols, treasurer; Mrs. Ethel Wilson, field secretary; Mrs. Iva Turner, program-prayer chairman; Mrs. Erie Dempsey, personal service chairman; Mrs. Zonie Clay, study course chairman, and Mrs. Tina Mae McDonald, youth chairman . . . Florida state auxiliary convention sponsored a week at the state camp July 22-26. Classes were held daily in stewardship, methods, missions, and soul-winning. Mrs. Ruby Pelt was camp secretary . . . Mrs. L. C. Pinson, Carlsbad, was named president of the New Mexico district convention August 2. Mrs. Pinson was vice-president and field secretary and succeeds Mrs. John B. Elliston who moved to Arizona. Mrs. Pinson organized*

## WNAC Will Raise \$2,000 As Home Mission Project

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—After the successful completion of a foreign mission project last year when \$1,000 was raised to provide visual aid equipment for the missionaries in North India, the WNAC this year adopted a home mission project.

The goal of the project is \$2,000 which will be given to the national Home Mission Board to use in purchasing a large tent for organizational work in the United States.

As in former projects, state goals have been suggested and a list of those is given below:

Alabama .....	\$ 90.00
Arkansas .....	40.00
California .....	90.00
Florida .....	50.00
Georgia .....	120.00
Illinois .....	60.00
Kentucky .....	40.00
Michigan .....	120.00
Mississippi .....	50.00
Missouri .....	200.00
North Carolina .....	350.00
Ohio .....	40.00
Oklahoma .....	200.00
South Carolina .....	160.00
Tennessee .....	200.00
Texas .....	110.00
Virginia .....	40.00
West Virginia .....	40.00

*the first Woman's Auxiliary and GTA in New Mexico in February, 1956 at the Hobbs church.*

New GTA officers at Bristow, Okla., are Betty Halliburton, president; Vera Branscum, vice-president; Earl Wayne Meadows, secretary; Joy Conaway, assistant secretary and Joyce Mounce, treasurer . . . *Mrs. Hattie Pack was elected president of the auxiliary at Cofer's Chapel in Nashville, Tenn., at the annual meeting July 31. Other officers are Miss Grace Woodside, recording secretary; Mrs. Elsie Major, assistant; Mrs. Oscar Melvin, treasurer; Mrs. Hill Roberts, assistant; Mrs. Sears Counter, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Lora Winters, assistant. Chairmen are Miss Bertha Midgett, youth; Mrs. J. L. Welch, study course; Miss Catherine Keef, program-prayer, and Mrs. Willie Owen, personal service . . . Trinity Temple auxiliary, Tulsa, Okla., sponsored VBS in June with enrollment of 103 and ten decisions for Christ.*

## Declamation Contest Pleases Chairman

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—"The response to the YPA and GTA declamation contests this year was overwhelming," Mrs. Luther Sanders, youth chairman, said in a recent letter.

"I wish to congratulate every youth chairman on the field—local, district, and state—who helped to make the contest at the national convention such a success," she wrote.

There were eight contestants for the YPA and GTA contest. The subject for each of the declamations was "Missions." The YPA contestants were Peggy Seay, Ala.; Gayla Faye Letchworth, N. C.; Betty Jean Robinson, S. C.; Peggy Eubanks, Ga.; Annette Cox, Mo.; Juanita Deuell, Va.; Bonnie Pierce, Miss., and Iva Jean Reed, Tenn.

The GTA contestants were Ruth Hutton, Ala.; Kenneth Ray Smith, N. C.; Barbara Allen, S. C.; Brenda Houston, Ga.; Robert Bryon, Va.; Joyce Mounce, Okla., and Jacqueline Dalton, Mich. The Missouri and North Carolina contestants were winners in the YPA division and the Virginia and South Carolina contestants took the honors in the GTA division.

An essay contest on "The Worth of a Family Altar," was conducted for the first time this year. The YPA winner was Carolyn Lee, N. C., and the GTA winner was Larry Denham, S. C.

"The interest among the youth of our churches is growing and certainly presents a challenge to the Woman's Auxiliary," Mrs. Sanders wrote. "I pray that God will help us to rise and meet the challenge. If your state was not represented in the contests this year, begin now to make plans to have a contestant at the 1957 session in Birmingham."

Never TOO BUSY TO PRAY



Away with work that hinders prayer,  
'Twere best to lay it down;  
For prayerless work, however good,  
Will fail to win the crown.

# The Strength of Unity

EDWARD S. SUNDAY, *Stigler, Okla.*

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1). This Psalm has opened and closed many Christian assemblies, but it has not yet found its way to the inmost heart of the Christian Church.

In 1638, it was sung at the termination of the famous assembly held in Glasgow, Scotland, of which Alexander Henderson was moderator. That meeting was the tide mark of the second reformation. The bright morning was soon obscured by clouds and storms, but it opened a day which is still advancing.

What is this Psalm? It is a very heavenly one. It sings about brothers and sisters. The writer is surely talking about God's sons and daughters, for they are "brothers and sisters"—united in an harmonious relationship. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

The words of the Psalmist seem to tell us how much he admires, but cannot express in words, the sincere and deep feeling of unity which exists among God's children.

How have they become so happy? It seems to me by getting selfishness under their feet, being emptied of all self, and filled with God's presence. Therefore, the power of this union is God. Our Lord says, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

What is the effect of this power upon the church of God? It creates oneness. But the objector may say, "I believe the many different creeds are all of God and, therefore, necessary for the betterment of the church." He might add that Jesus does not say there is only one branch, but many branches. He might continue by pointing out that men are finite and honestly differ in their judgments.

I have heard this in the course of my ministry. After considerable thought and analysis, I present to you the following conclusions.

When Jesus said, "Ye are the branches," He specifies that each individual member of the Christian Church is a separate and distinct branch abiding in the Vine. Each member has a separate and distinct work in the Church which is a blessing to the entire body. Each branch bears its own fruit. "For as we have many members in one body, and

all members have not the same office" (Romans 12:4).

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." According to the grace given us, gifts differ, whether it is prophecy, the ministry, teaching, or exhortation, according to the proportion of faith (Romans 12:5-8).

The work of the Holy Spirit, wrought in the moral nature of man, does not depend upon the natural judgment of man. The Bible speaks of His office work thusly; "For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you" (Matthew 10:20). That work of the Holy Spirit is not only a past event. The branch that abides in the Vine has life activity and draws sustenance from an everlasting source. "The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." (Romans 8:16). As such, we are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.

Man without inspiration would not worship God. A man may be intellectually bright and well-informed, but still be ignorant of the mysteries of salvation. "But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God" (1 Corinthians 2:10).

Then we conclude that the spiritual oneness among God's people is the work of the Holy Spirit. "We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren" (1 John 3:14). Paul said it was by one Spirit that we are all baptized into one body. "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you: but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

This is the secret of spiritual strength. There is too much governing of our lives, our churches, and our assemblies by human nature instead of by the Spirit of God. This leads to disunity. The Spirit of Christ never leads anyone into disobedience of the moral law.

To be spiritually minded is to be under the control of the Holy Spirit. This is when all souls will concur in spiritual thoughts, desires and delights. Thus David could rejoice and say, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

Choosing  
the  
better  
part...



MRS. EUNICE EDWARDS

I have a plant that was given to me. Legend named it "crown of thorns" because it is supposed to be the plant from which Christ's "crown" was plaited.

I had had this plant about two years when one fall the strangest thing happened. It has long, tendril-like shoots covered with thorns and in the summer it has small, green leaves on it. But that fall, without my knowing it was supposed to, the plant bloomed.

The blossoms were the most beautiful I had ever seen. Each blossom had four tiny petals of a rich pink with a center that looked like a drop of pure gold. I was fascinated by its delicacy and color. Such a fragile, lovely blossom on such a harsh stalk! It nearly took my breath away to look at it. How utterly exquisite!

I have decided the plant was correctly named, for when Christ shed his precious blood on Calvary's tree, he caused that ugly thing to blossom. And what a beautiful, exquisite blossom it remains for all people of all ages to look upon.

My heart fairly sings with the unspeakable joy of salvation today. Only He can make our crosses to blossom!

\* \* \*

A MAN AND HIS wife were sitting in the front porch swing.

A taxi pulled up in front of the house. An old lady struggled out, carrying a large suitcase. She reached through the front window and paid the driver. He grunted, then drove away.

She turned to go into the house. There were seven steps, somewhat steep, leading up to the porch. There wasn't a hand rail. She took one step and tried to pull the suitcase up with her.

It was too much. She couldn't do it.

She got down on her knees and crawled up to the next step, reached back for the suitcase and pulled it up to her level. It was a slow drag. When she reached the top step, she sat down and wiped the sweat from her face.

Her son and daughter-in-law kept on swinging.

## More and More Churches Support Cooperative Plan

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—a record high of over \$4,000 was given in August to denominational agencies through the Cooperative Plan of Support. More and more churches are voting to send at least 10 per cent of their offering to the denominational work through this channel.

The August high gives encouragement to denominational leaders who are working for a monthly income of \$5,000 by January 1, when the new budget year goes into effect.

August receipts were as follows:

### RECEIPTS

<b>ALABAMA</b>			
First church, Opelika .....	\$ 46.56		
State Association .....	37.69		
First church, Dothan .....	36.72		
State Line Sunday School Convention .....	30.00	\$ 150.97	
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>			
Churches of California .....		298.61	
<b>FLORIDA</b>			
Northeast Florida Union Meeting .....	4.00		
State Association .....	227.65		
Central church, Tampa .....	24.00	255.65	
<b>ILLINOIS</b>			
Eakin Grove church, Benton ...	9.62		
Waltonville church, Waltonville .....	26.25		
Oak Grove church, Sheller ...	12.20		
Bakerville church, Mt. Vernon ..	23.86		
Webb's Prairie church, Ewing .....	7.44	79.37	
<b>KENTUCKY</b>			
Southside church, Paintsville ..		84.30	
<b>MISSOURI</b>			
State Association .....		1,043.16	
<b>NEBRASKA</b>			
First church, Shelton .....		10.56	
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>			
Goshen church, Belmont .....	78.00		
Swannanoa church, Swannanoa ..	91.33	169.33	
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>			
State Association .....		248.74	
<b>TENNESSEE</b>			
Palmer Memorial church, Nashville .....	69.07		
East Nashville church, Nashville .....	120.00	189.07	
<b>TEXAS</b>			
Northwest Brazos Association ..	40.37		
State Association .....	393.27	433.64	
<b>VIRGINIA</b>			
Fairmount Park church, Norfolk .....		310.15	\$3,273.55
<b>DESIGNATED RECEIPTS</b>			
Alabama .....	15.30		
Arkansas .....	706.41		
Florida .....	124.57		
Illinois .....	9.84	856.12	
Total Receipts .....		\$4,129.67	

### DISBURSEMENTS

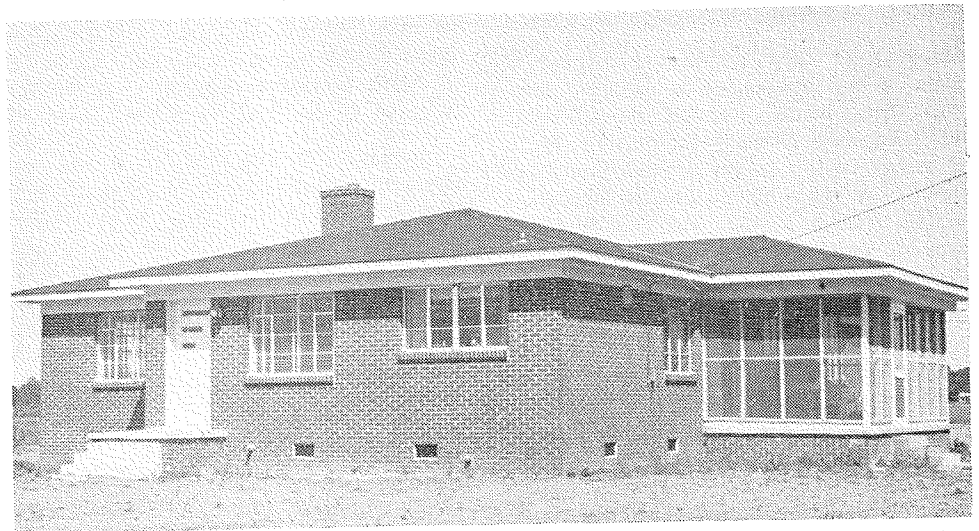
Executive Department .....	\$1,537.38		
Foreign Missions .....	1,063.55		
Bible College .....	647.19		
Home Missions .....	515.93		
Superannuation Board .....	160.58		
Sunday School Department .....	106.82		
League Board .....	65.47		
Radio-TV Board .....	32.75		
Total Disbursements .....	\$4,129.67		

# CHURCH OF THE MONTH



The modern church plant shown above is the outgrowth of a one-room log building which was constructed over 100 years ago when the Elm Grove church was organized between 1830 and 1840. The original building served as a public school, singing school, Sunday school, and worship center. A number of buildings have served the congregation since that time, and the present plant was started in 1945 under the leadership of Rev. J. C. Moyer. The congregation moved into it in 1952. The cost was approximately \$90,000. Located three miles east of Ayden, N. C., the rural church has always been progressive and the record shows that they had an organized League as early as 1926 and a Ladies Aid in 1922.

Rev. James C. Lynn has been pastor for the past three years. During his term the church has gone from half-time to full-time and built a parsonage (shown below).



A lovely brick pastor's home was constructed by the Elm Grove congregation in 1954 when the church went full-time. The parsonage is located just across the road from the church (shown above). It was built at a cost of \$18,000.

### "Don't Hate Anybody"

That's what Rev. O. L. Williams, pastor of St. Luke's (Negro) Free Will Baptist church, Lakeland, Fla., told his congregation who had met to pray for the Ku Klux Klan while the hooded Klansmen burned a cross not five miles away. Don't miss this inspiring story by Bob Wilfong, complete with pictures, next month.

### MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 9-10

BIBLE COLLEGE CAMPUS

NASHVILLE

# GLANCING AROUND THE STATES

SAMMY WILKINSON, *News Editor*

## New Church Planned At Camden, Arkansas

CAMDEN, Ark.—Plans are underway to organize a new Free Will Baptist church here, according to Rev. Oris Doggett. There is no Free Will Baptist church in the city at the present. Those who have friends or relatives with a Free Will Baptist preference who live around Camden are asked to send their names and addresses to Mr. Doggett at 1716 Francis Street, Camden.

## New Mexico Association Holds Quarterly Session

HOBBS, N. Mex.—David Joslin of Albuquerque was licensed to preach at the quarterly meeting of the First New Mexico association held here August 2-3. The young minister will be the association's first student at the Free Will Baptist Bible College this fall.

Mrs. W. V. McPhail of Hobbs was named as promotional secretary-treasurer to succeed Rev. John B. Elliston, who has accepted a work in Arizona. The next quarterly meeting will be held November 1-2 at Carlsbad. The leagues will meet Saturday morning, November 3, to organize a district league rally.

## Board of Publications Opens Book Store

EAST TUPELO, Miss.—The Board of Publications and Literature has opened a book store here under the name of Christian Book Store. It is under the direction of L. E. Duncan, secretary of the board.

Mr. Duncan says, "We have a fine selection of Christian books. We would appreciate your sending us an order for any book or books you need and we will do our best to get it for you if we do not have it on hand."

## New Church Organized In Little Rock, Ark.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—The Capital City Free Will Baptist church was organized here July 2 as the result of a revival conducted by Rev. Homer Parker, state missionary. Twenty-five members joined and the charter was left open for additional ones. Serving on the organizational council were Rev. Lewis Barker, Rev. W. S. Isbell, Mr. Parker, and two deacons from the North Little Rock church, Marshall Smith and Chester Cotton.

Mr. Barker, on behalf of the state Home Mission Board, expressed great appreciation for the accomplishments of the missionary team, Mr. and Mrs. Parker. The organization required only thirty days to perfect, including all the initial preparatory work.

The missionary remained with the church during the month of July, and resigned as state missionary to assume the pastorate on a full-time basis August 1. Services are being held at 10th and Wolfe streets and the congregation is hoping to buy the property.

## Dixon Named Moderator Of Missouri District

SEYMOUR, Mo.—Rev. O. T. Dixon, Mountain Grove, was named moderator of the Mission association in its annual session here August 9-10. The association is composed of over 20 churches. A vote of thanks was extended to Rev. Homer Smith, who has served as moderator for a number of years.

Speakers during the sessions were G. W. Scott, Russell Spurgeon, Rev. Light, and Mr. Dixon. The 1957 session will be held August 8-9 at Mansfield.

## California Mission Organizes into Church

CAMARILLO, Calif.—A Free Will Baptist church was organized here in July as the result of a mission which was begun June 17. Rev. Fletcher Adcock is the pastor, and the church was organized at the close of a revival led by Rev. H. H. Easterwood. Services are being held at the American Legion building.

## Texas Summer Camp Enrolls Record Number

WOODLAKE, Texas—A registration of 179, with 139 of them staying the entire week, was reported at the annual Free Will Baptist encampment held August 13-18. Rev. C. F. Bowen, Nashville, Tenn., was the evangelist. There were 20 conversions and 15 rededications and calls to special service.

During the state League convention, which was held the last day of camp, Jimmy Lewis, Bryan, won the Intermediate Sword Drill and Paul Trant placed first in the junior drill. New convention officers are Mike Fears, Henderson, president; Marie Pannell, Henderson, vice-president; Jane Jones, Bryan, secretary, and Toni Withers, Bryan, treasurer.

## Pastoral Changes

Homer Young to Cushing, Okla., from Henryetta, Okla.

G. Cecil Bowen to Little Rock church, Salinas, Okla., from Lowery church, Kansas, Okla.

James Davis to Leadington, Mo., from Monett, Mo.

John Floyd, Jr., to Erwin, Tenn., from Philadelphia church, Detroit, Mich.

Luther Sanders resigned Cordova, Ala. Future plans not announced.

Walter Reynolds resigned Hickory Chapel church, Ahsoskie, N. C. Future plans not announced.

J. Reford Wilson resigned Pocahontas, Ark. Future plans not announced.

Paul Lee to Stacy, N. C., from Woodbine church, Nashville, Tenn.

Joyce Gore to Oaklawn church, Pleasant View, Tenn.

## Revival Campaigns

CHURCH	PASTOR	EVANGELIST	DATES	DEC. ADD.
Piney Grove church, Albertson, N. C.	Kenneth Carter	Walter Carter	10/14-	
Pleasant Hill church, Grimesland, N. C.	Sam Kennedy	Walter Carter	10/31-	
First church, Savannah, Ga.	Louis Moulton	Ronald Creech	10/1-7	
Lawnwood church, Tulsa, Okla.	H. E. Staires	Arthur Billows	8/5-	
Edgemont church, Durham, N. C.	Joe Ange	Jimmie Johnson	7/29-8/5	115
Third church, St. Louis, Mo.	John Rogers	Teddy Davis	8/20-25	
Wichita, Kansas	John Morgan	Lawnie Coffman	6/27-7/5	
Gum Ridge church, Parkdale, Ark.	J. T. Ply	Lawnie Coffman		14
Glennville, Ga.	George Ludwig	L. C. Johnson	10/14-21	
Trinity church, Ft. Worth, Texas	M. L. Sutton	W. V. McPhail	8/12-26	
New Hope church, Claremore, Okla.		G. C. Bowen and Otis Kendall		42
Goodsprings church, Pleasant View, Tenn.	Paul Inbody	Paul Inbody and Everett Hall	7/22-8/5	30 28
First church, Albany, Ga.	H. L. Knighton	Louis Moulton	8/20-26	

## An Open Letter

(Continued from page 3)

You're a good announcer and a persuasive speaker, Bill. I listened to your commercial attentively, and if I didn't know better, you might have convinced me. For instance, you spoke of inviting friends over for an evening and serving your beer with a snack. The idea, of course, was that such action would prove I was a gracious host with the welfare of my guests my main concern.

### More Than Pouring Glass

Well, frankly, Bill, I couldn't do that to any of my friends. There's a lot more to it than just pouring them a glass of beer. Look at it this way. I've talked to many people over the past ten or twelve years who had pretty well become slaves to drink. Most of them admitted that if they just hadn't taken that first glass they wouldn't be addicts today.

Sure, I know not everyone who takes just one drink becomes an alcoholic. But how am I going to tell which of my friends will and which won't? If a couple of years from now one of them should lose his job and his self-respect and his home because he was a sot, it would be on my conscience for the rest of my life. Now, Bill, maybe you don't have a conscience, but I do—and mine would never give me peace again if something like that happened.

Chronic alcoholism has increased alarmingly since prohibition. Every city and town has its junk pile of human wrecks battered and ruined by liquor. My town has more than enough already, Bill, and I certainly don't want to have any part in making any more of them.

### Not Contribute to Ruin

"What'll you have?" Why, Bill, I'll try to add to the happiness and success of my friends, not contribute to their ruin.

Bill, I noticed that the pictures you showed to appeal to the viewers always caught the actors with smiles on their faces. You'd like to make me believe that beer and a good time go together. In other words, to be popular and carefree, drink beer. That's a pretty good line. Everyone wants to be popular and get along well with others. A lot of our young people and high school kids fall for it.

They haven't been around as much as I have, Bill. I know better. I've seen a drunk wallowing in his own vomit too stupefied even to realize what was going on. He was all by himself, Bill. People went out of their way to avoid him. He wasn't the least bit popular.

### Watched Wife Cry

I've watched a wife cry because a drunken husband has squandered his pay check on drink and there wasn't anything left to buy groceries for the week. That's the other side of the picture, Bill.

I've sat on a bunk in a jail cell and heard the pathetic story of a fellow who "just had a few beers" before he ran down a child he

didn't see in front of his car. He wasn't carefree then, Bill.

One memorable scene sticks in my mind. I sat in a judge's chambers one afternoon and heard him issue a decree which would take three children from a mother who had become morally delinquent through drink. She wasn't very happy about it.

I wish you could have been there, Bill, and seen the look on her face. Maybe you would understand why I can't choose your beer, or anyone else's.

### Happy Lives Wrecked

Juvenile judges all over the country can tell you story after story about attractive, wholesome, happy high school girls who have wrecked their lives because their inhibitions and better judgment were clouded by a few drinks. That's another reason why I can't go along with you, my friend. I can't contribute to the delinquency of a minor, directly or indirectly. I'd never sleep again.

You see, Bill, I wouldn't want my little girl to wind up like some of the people I've seen who believed your line and decided that popularity was more important than virtue. My kids are sound and healthy. Their mother and I have given them a good heritage. One drink by either of us could have produced a laxity of morals for a few hours which might have resulted in a physical or mental handicap in our children from which never could recover.

### Set Right Pattern

As you probably have guessed, my wife and I love our kids a lot. You suggested that we should bring home a carton of your favorite beer from the grocery store, Bill. But we couldn't do that. Our children might get the idea that beer drinking was all right for them. I'm a little older than they are and have a little better sense and judgment. My kids could be seriously harmed by following my example if my example was unwholesome, since they are a lot less experienced. No soap, Bill. Instead of your beer, I'll try to set a pattern for my little ones that will help them go straight.

Have you ever been to a hospital, Bill? You ought to go some time. Sit down at the bedside of that widow with a broken pelvis and a blind right eye who was injured at the same time her husband was killed—when a drunken driver going eighty smashed into their car. Talk to her, Bill. Ask her, "What'll you have?" See what she tells you.

### Trying To Be Practical

Hope you don't think I'm being old-fashioned or bluenosed about this thing, Bill. You know, that's often the impression you folks get when those of us who hate alcohol express our opinions. You notice I haven't said a word about the spiritual or religious angles involved, although there is plenty that could be said. I'm trying to be practical. I'm examining the problem from a logical viewpoint.

When I went to school two plus two made



## The Prayer Fellowship

GEORGE W. WAGGONER, Leader

Please take a few minutes each day to talk with God. We'll never grow much spiritually until we take time to feed our souls. One of the necessary foods is prayer. It would be well to commit to memory some of the verses regarding prayer. A few of these may be found in 1 Chronicles 16:11, Matthew 7:7, Luke 18:1, John 16:24, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Psalm 91:15, and Isaiah 65:24. We'd also like to recommend that you study a book on prayer by Andrew Murray, *With Christ in the School of Prayer*.

Keep these things in mind as you pray this month:

- ▶ Pray for the young people who will be entering Bible college for Christian training.
- ▶ Pray for all teachers in the Bible college and at Mt. Olive college and for the presidents, L. C. Johnson and Burkette Raper.
- ▶ Pray for the state conventions of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, and South Carolina, as they meet in the coming months.
- ▶ Pray for revival in your local church.
- ▶ Pray for our missionaries. Call each by name.
- ▶ Pray for the missionary conference October 9-10.
- ▶ Pray for the Cooperative Plan of Support as it continues to be adopted by churches and associations.
- ▶ Pray for your pastor and other officers of your church, together with all its auxiliaries.
- ▶ Pray for Mrs. Eunice Edwards in her new work as executive secretary of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention.
- ▶ Pray for all new officers and board members of the national association.
- ▶ Pray for Damon C. Dodd as he takes up new duties for the Lord.
- ▶ Thank God for answered prayer.

four. You always get that answer. When I add up the heartache and misery that beer, wine, and whiskey bring to the home and the community and the nation, I get just one answer to your question, Bill.

"What'll you have?" Give me happy homes, cheaper government, stronger children, the pleasure that lets me waken bright and cheerful the next morning instead of with a headache and a heart full of regrets.

The things I want and beer—any beer—just don't go together, Bill.

Sincerely,  
D. C. Crawford  
Dunnellton, Fla.

# Personally...

## Let's Quit These Appeals

Every now and then we get a form letter asking for financial help in building a Free Will Baptist church somewhere. We are sure that the same letter goes to scores of other preachers whose names and addresses appear in the national minutes. Since this practice is increasing in frequency, we feel it's time something was said about it.

Let it not be said that we are not in sympathy with these churches. We are. Probably no one appreciates and understands the problems of these worthy building programs any more than we do. Our own congregation—a little over a year old—is so engaged.

But we are not in sympathy with the idea of making these broad appeals for money. We are aware that very often the need is real and the cause just. We wish that years ago some far-sighted people would have established a denominational building fund for lending purposes. But they didn't, and until our denominational giving will make such a fund possible, any building program must remain strictly a local affair.

We've never checked the response to one of these form letters, but seriously doubt in the majority of the cases that it is enough to pay for the postage and stationery. The fact is, if a church is doing what it ought to to meet local needs and support denominational agencies, they have no surplus funds to send to a church they know nothing about. While this is not true in every case, we have observed that most of the churches which make this appeal for money are those who have done nothing over the years for our denominational program.

Most of the pastors who have talked with us about this feel that instead of sending out a letter, the church would be better off to put that money in the building fund and preach and

practice tithing and sacrificial giving. Then let all the churches support the home mission program enough that a building loan fund can be started.

## A Strange Plan to Some

We do so wish that more churches would get under the burden of our denominational paper. In nearly two years just a few over 50 churches have started using the Family Plan despite the fact that it is both sensible and inexpensive.

We have constantly worked to get the circulation over 5,000, which is still not even a respectable figure considering our membership, but have failed every time. It seems to hang at an average of about 4,500. This low circulation keeps us from doing many things and making many improvements that we would like to do. If you would give us a circulation of 10 to 15 thousand, we believe we could give you a church paper second to none.

We are convinced that the only way to put the circulation to this figure is through the Family Plan. We know that the idea of the church paying for subscriptions for its members is new to most Free Will Baptist churches, but it ought not to seem so strange. We have been providing the rest of the literature for them all the time. We give every pupil in the Sunday school a quarterly whether or not he is a member of the church or whether or not he reads it.

Some critic who opposes the church providing the paper for the members says, "But some of them wouldn't read it or appreciate it." He doesn't know this to be true, but even so, do we make this test apply to the other church literature? How many mutilated, discarded Sunday school quarterlies have you picked up off the church floor in the past month?

No, the real reason so few churches are using the Family Plan is indifference and neglect. But this kind of attitude doesn't build either churches or church papers. Why don't you do something about it this month?



## The Need for Chaplains

Dear Editor:

I would like to know if there are any Free Will Baptists around San Antonio. I have been unable to contact any thus far. We have some Northern and Southern Baptist chaplains and I have been talking with them.

I feel lost in not having a Free Will Baptist service to attend. When our group arrived at the base, we were asked for our religious preferences. If we spoke up when they asked for Baptists, they asked where we were from. If from the north, we were sent to a Northern Baptist service, and if from the south, to a Southern Baptist service.

When I objected, through the grace of God, to a captain in front of about 600 men, several others spoke up and identified themselves as being Free Will Baptists, Christian Baptists, or Primitive Baptists. We were assigned to interdenominational services, where we have no opportunity for religious instruction or prayer meetings, since these are conducted only as denominational services.

Our service last Sunday was conducted by a minister from a denomination which is

very formal and ritualistic in their worship. I felt greatly out of place. I managed to attend one Southern Baptist service and it was more like our own, but I cannot attend their prayer meetings as I am not a member. We who are not members of either of the larger Baptist groups are lost without prayer meetings or denominational services.

I certainly wish we had Free Will Baptist chaplains. It would mean a lot, for I believe even the members of the smaller Baptist groups would attend our services in preference to those now offered. Several went ahead and signed up for the other services, but I objected and so lost the opportunity. Nevertheless, I am a Free Will Baptist and proud of it. I have thought about becoming a chaplain and I am praying that God will lead. I have not yet made a definite decision, but I am still in the service of God whether a civilian or serviceman.

A/B Ralph L. Fry  
Lackland Air Force Base  
San Antonio, Texas

## "Rock and Roll" Echoes

Dear Editor:

Allow me to congratulate you on the changes in CONTACT. It is beginning to look like the magazine I have for so long been hoping to see in our denomination.

Your editorial on rock and roll is, pardon the expression, "on the ball." It is time a stand was taken against this trash.

Jerry P. Ballard  
The Havelock Progress  
Havelock, N. C.

Dear Editor:

... Thanks a million to the writer for "A 'Rock and Roll' God" in the August issue.

Marvin P. Dalton  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

## Convention Comment

Dear Editor:

... I am very pleased with the proposed denominational budget for next year, especially the percentage of distribution. I was happy to see improvement in our national work. God is blessing the efforts of our officers. I realize the need more and more for prayer instead of suspicion and doubt.

E. H. Overman, Pastor  
Hyde Park Church  
Norfolk, Virginia

## CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

## National Association of Free Will Baptists

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Vol. 3 September, 1956 No. 11

# What's Your Problem?



By LOUIS H. MOULTON, Savannah, Ga.

**Q. I have betrayed my wife by committing adultery and I am in deep distress about it. Can you help me?**

A. You need first of all to genuinely and sincerely repent of your sin. 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This promise is for you if you really are sincere in your confession and repentance. May I also remind you of the words of Jesus to the woman in John 8 who "... was taken in adultery, in the very act." The same admonition applies to you: "... go, and sin no more" (John 8:11).

**Q. Is it a sin for a woman to be sterilized when child-birth would be harmful to her health?**

A. Roman Catholicism would answer yes, definitely. You will find differences of opinion, I am sure, even among those of our own denomination. Speaking from personal experience, I would say no. My wife and I were blessed with two children. One is living, the other died shortly after birth. Both were Caesarean births and on both occasions the mother went down into the valley of the shadow of death. In fact she

was so low that the doctor told me to see an undertaker and make preparations for her funeral. She did not die, God raised her up to later become a parsonage wife. However, during the second Caesarean sectional operation, the doctor (after conferring with both my wife and myself) performed an additional operation which made it impossible for us to have other children. We do not think it was a sin.

**Q. Should a minister marry a divorcee whose husband is still living?**

A. Whether he be a minister or a layman, no person should marry a divorcee whose mate is still living. The teachings of Jesus are emphatically against divorce and the putting away of one's wife. Matthew, twice, recorded the words of Jesus on this subject where he included "... saving for the cause of fornication" (Matthew 5:32) and "... except it be for fornication ..." (Matthew 19:9). However, Mark's record does not include any such words: "... Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery" (Mark 10:11, 12). Again, "Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery" (Luke 16:18). See also 1 Cor. 7:10, 11.

Address your questions to Rev. Louis H. Moulton, c/o CONTACT, 3801 Richland Ave., Nashville 5, Tenn.



► Rev. Allen Moore, Big Canyon, Okla., is available for pastoral work. His last church was at Seminole, Okla.

► Reprints of the article, "The Death of Modesty," which appeared in the July issue, may be ordered from the author, Rev. H. F. Gilbert, 1651 Elwood Ave., Pomona, Calif. Limited quantities are free; larger quantities at cost, 2c each.

► Rev. Ernest Strickland, Route 1, Box 533, Candler, N. C., is available for pastoral or evangelistic work. Has recently resigned Beavercreek church at Candler after three years.

► Rev. Homer Willis, P.O. Box 994, Greensboro, N. C., needs copies of the minutes of the National Association for the following years: 1935, '37, '38, '39, '42, '45, and '49. He has extra copies for 1944, '46, '47, and '51 through '55.

REV HENRY MELVIN  
RFD 2 BOX 13-C  
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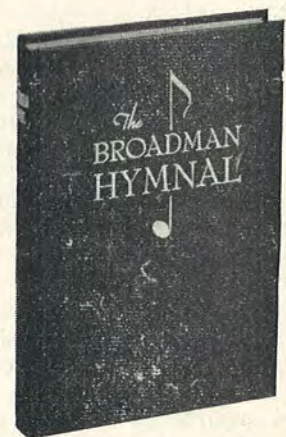
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