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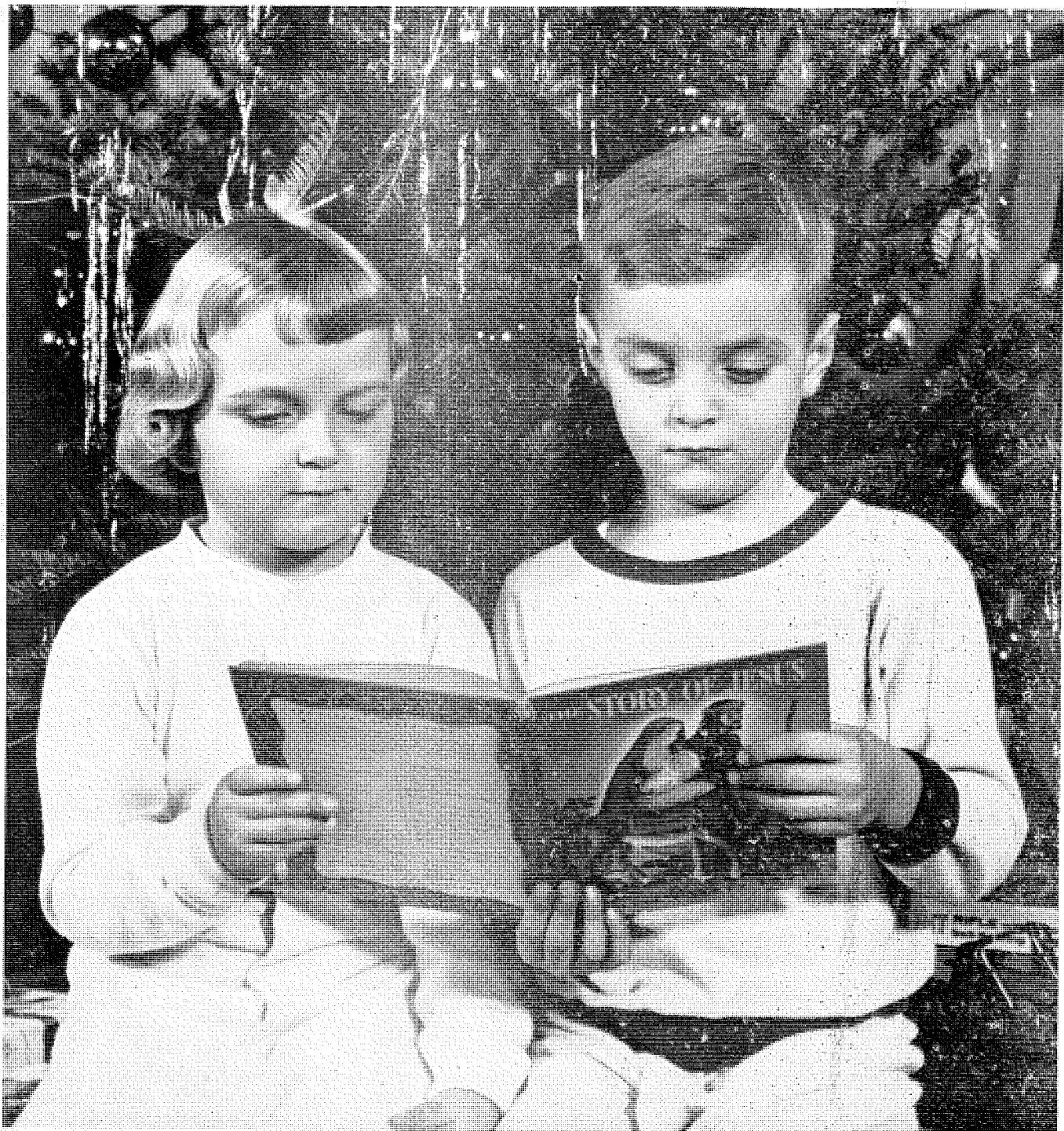
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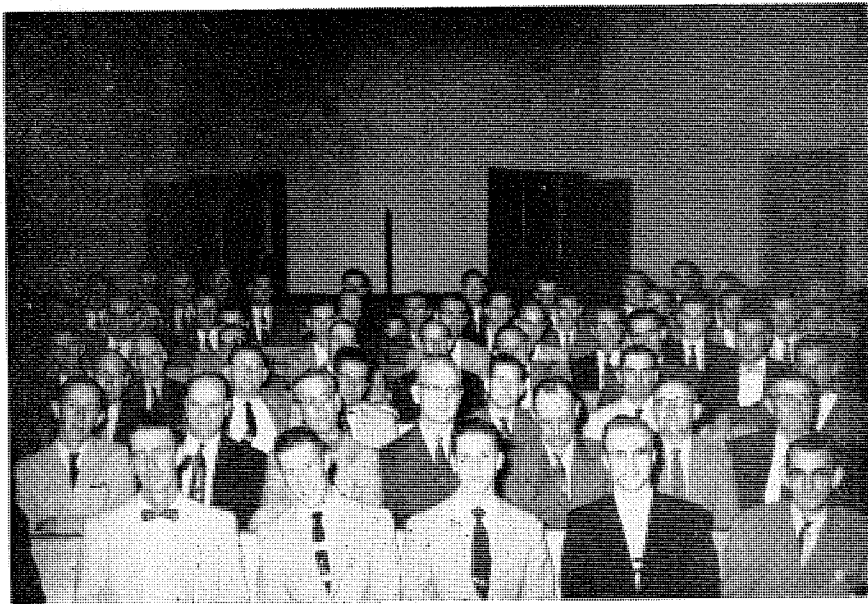
OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Our Witness at Home
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December, 1956



LAMBERT



This is a part of the group of men which attended the Cumberland district convention of the Master's Men held November 12 at Trinity church, Nashville, Tenn.

For several years many of our churches have had organized groups for their men. Some had borrowed the name and ideas from other churches and denominations who had perfected laymen's organizations.

These groups were known as the Brotherhood, Men's Fellowship, Men's club and other names previously adopted by other organizations. These pioneers in the field are to be commended for the accomplishments made. However, there was a definite need that these organizations be made uniform and their interests channeled into a definite program.

In his annual report to the National Association of Free Will Baptists at Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1955, the Rev. W. S. Mooneyham, executive secretary, recommended that a special committee be elected to investigate the possibilities of setting up a uniform laymen's organization within the Free Will Baptist church.

The convention was quick to adopt the secretary's suggestion, knowing that such an organization had been an imperative for many years. The special committee was elected and charged to report to the 1956 convention.

During the 1956 national convention at Huntington, W. Va., the committee, composed of Robert Hill, Luther Gibson, and O. T. Dixon, presented a proposed constitution and by-laws for local chapters and district conventions. The constitution stipulated that these organizations be called "The Master's Men."

The response at the convention was most gratifying. More than 200 churches from 20 different states, were registered at the Master's Men booth displayed in the lobby of the convention hall. Scores of requests for literature to help organize a laymen's group in the local church, were made to the committee. Since the convention in July,

1956, a number of letters has come into the office asking material.

In order to meet these needs, the committee has published a *Handbook for Master's Men*. This 22-page booklet contains steps in organizing, facts about the Master's Men, constitution and by-laws for local chapters and district conventions, suggested program, qualifications and duties of officers and committees, and other pertinent information. Every member of your organization should have one of these handbooks. They sell for 20c each. Six for \$1.00, and may be ordered from The Master's Men, 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee.

Two-color charters, suitable for framing, have been prepared by the committee. They are issued for a period of one year and are to be placed in your meeting room. Every organization is urged to apply for its charter after its initial meeting. A chartered group will be benefited in numerous ways.

If your chapter has its charter from the national office, each member will receive an official membership-identification card and a free subscription to the new quarterly magazine, *Attack*, to be published beginning January 1, 1957.

This pocket-size periodical contains articles written by Free Will Baptist laymen. In the first issue, a doctor, a businessman, and a post-office clerk have contributed inspiring stories. Devotional thoughts, pictures, news, suggested programs and projects for your local chapter are included. It will stimulate you to greater Christian living and add new life and purpose to your Master's Men organization.

The programs correlate with our denominational calendar, and each month a special project is offered for the benefit of your local church. Apply for your charter now! Don't miss a single issue of this new maga-

MEN

for the

MASTER

Robert C. Hill

zine, prepared especially for Free Will Baptist laymen.

Charters will be granted to all chapters who will send in the name of their sponsoring church, and president and secretary's name and address, and the number of active members in your organization. One dollar for each active member should accompany the application, to cover the cost of printing and handling of materials. An application for charter can be found elsewhere in this issue of CONTACT. We are praying for at least 100 chapters to apply for their charters during this month.

This is just the beginning of one of the greatest auxiliaries the Free Will Baptist church has ever known. The committee has outlined a long-range progressive program for the future of the Master's Men.

Plans for state and nation-wide conventions of Free Will Baptist laymen are in the making. These conventions would bring farmers, merchants, professional men, educators, and laborers together and provide a means of Christian fellowship as well as a deepening of the spiritual lives of Free Will Baptist men.

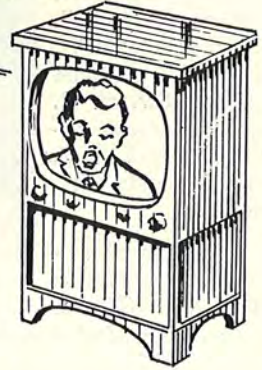
A gold lapel pin, is in the plans for the future. These pins will serve not only as identification marks of members of the Master's Men, but will be ideal in opening spiritual conversations with outsiders.

Laymen revivals, sponsored and conducted by the men of the local church, is another project to be forthcoming in the future. These meetings have proven to be very successful and the results almost unbelievable in other groups.

It is our desire that every Free Will Baptist layman in every local church be actively engaged in the church and denominational program as he carries out the will of our Lord. We believe the Master's Men organization will serve that desired purpose in training and inspiring him to be a worker "together with God."



The Church and Television



There is much to be feared from the results of television by the average American family. As we sit ourselves down and watch the many programs that invade our living rooms, we cannot help but see the many vices of a systematic presentation of dramatized sin.

The alarming aspect is not in the presentation only, but in the sponsors also. It is quite evident that sponsors as well as program producers have slanted the presentation of indulgence so as to make it acceptable.

The arguments for such presentations are summed up in a statement made to this writer by the manager of a local television station. "People want to be assured that liquor, tobacco, etc., is not bad and seem to justify themselves for indulgence. The common complaint of decent programming is that it is 'strait-laced' and the clamor is for progressive programming."

Reduced Rate Offered

This manager is a consecrated Christian and through his valiant efforts has set a precedent in the area reached by his station. He has succeeded in reserving Sundays exclusively to religious programming at a reduced rate. As a result, every television station in the area was contacted and in every case agreed to make time available to churches on the same basis.

The amazing reaction was: *Churches did not want air time at any rate with the exception of three groups.* Two of these were healing campaigns and the other was the Church of Christ. The results of these three programs proved to be the exact opposite of the former general consensus of these television stations.

The "Radio-Television Poll" of the same area showed these three religious pro-

The writer is chairman of the Radio-Television Board and pastor at Tulare, Calif.

Jerry Dudley

grams had a greater audience than most of the national network programs. The Church of Christ has amassed an estimated total of 850,000 viewers. They have enrolled over 6,000 families in Bible correspondence courses.

Reached 800,000 Viewers

The Free Will Baptist church of Tulare, California presented a weekly half-hour program on a local television station and at one time was listed as having 800,000 viewers. This program was carried on for seven and one-half (7½) months and the results were seen in almost every Free Will Baptist church in the range of the station.

The Lutheran program, "This Is the Life," draws at least 1,000 letters every day. Their budget calls for \$2,500,000 annually on their radio and television endeavor. While it is certain that we cannot equal this effort, it indicates that the field is one that offers a challenge to every one of us.

An executive chairman of the Federal Council of Churches recently stated: "When a local preacher appears on television, he will preach to more people than the aggregate of all the people who attend the church he serves for the entire year." This modernistic organization has sought to eliminate the privilege of purchasing radio and television time for evangelical movements.

Cost Within Reach

While there are some 400 television stations in the United States requesting good religious material, only five denominations

are attempting to supply them with film and time—Catholics, Lutherans, Seventh-day Adventists, Methodists, and Southern Baptists. The cost of producing a good program is within the reach of our people and many stations have expressed a willingness to use such programming at a greatly reduced rate and some at no cost whatever.

This great change in the philosophy of television stations has come about through their being shown that people do want and will listen to good religious programs. People who no church or missionary program will ever reach will let the gospel of Christ into their homes via the medium of television and radio. Are we willing to meet the challenge for Christ?

A small sporadic effort is being made by some of our individual churches to utilize this field of reaching the unchurched masses and could be made effective with a good balanced program of united effort.

Board Ready To Work

At the present time, only a few disc and tape recording are available through the Radio-Television Board of the National Association. This restricted offer is limited by the lack of funds. No equipment is owned by the board for producing programs, but equipment is available from individuals and other organizations and if the demand of our people can be determined, such programs will be made available.

If your church or association can sponsor such a program on a local radio or television station, would you desire a pre-tested package consisting of scripts and formats? Many churches might be interested in sponsoring a local program but do not have the talent necessary to produce a well-rounded program. If this be the case with you, will you please contact Rev. Ralph Staten, P. O. Box 48, North Belmont, North Carolina.

This program of missionary challenge is a new approach. Let us rise to meet the challenge and reach forth to all the world through the radio-TV ministry.

TENNESSEE—

CHURCH HILL, Tenn.—Rev. Horace Teague, Knoxville, was named moderator of the Tennessee state convention to succeed Rev. C. F. Bowen, who had served several years. Other officers elected were Rev. Robert King, Cedar Hill, assistant moderator; Mrs. J. E. Frazier, Ashland City, clerk; Rev. E. B. McDonald, Nashville, assistant clerk, and J. E. Frazier, Ashland City, treasurer.



TEAGUE

The 19th annual session of the convention was held here October 24-25. Rev. C. A. Christian was host pastor.

Reports to the convention showed an increase in membership and contributions to denominational enterprises. A resolution was passed which called for the public reading of the church covenant once each quarter and to each applicant for church membership.

The Gospeliers quartet from the Free Will Baptist Bible College furnished the music for the convention and Randy Cox, member of the quartet, preached the convention sermon. A good response was given for the college improvement program after it was presented by Rev. James F. Miller, field representative for the school, with several \$100 pledges being made by the delegates.

The next session of the convention will be held at the Sylvan Park church, Nashville.

State Conventions Show Progress As They Meet in Annual Sessions

OKLAHOMA—

SULPHUR, Okla.—A \$40,000 budget, with \$19,000 slated for the national Co-operative Plan, was adopted at the 48th annual session of the Oklahoma state convention held here October 23-25.

A proposal by the state executive committee calling for the sale of the children's home at Ringling was passed by a vote of 149 to 40. The home had been in operation for about 12 years but had incurred a heavy indebtedness the past year. The executive committee was authorized to make the sale and to place the proceeds in a special account.

A question between two factions of the Grand River association was settled when delegates voted to seat the delegates from the 15 churches which accepted the Treatise of Faith and Practice.

In other action, delegates authorized two minister's institutes during the year—one at Tulsa and one at Oklahoma City — and charged a special committee to organize a Master's Men convention for the laymen on Monday night preceding the opening of the 1957 convention.

Speakers for the sessions were John H. West, Homer Young, E. E. Morris, and W. S. Mooneyham.

Officers which were elected included Rev. Harry E. Staires, Tulsa, moderator; Rev. E. S. Sunday, Stigler, assistant moderator; Rev. Weldon Wood, Oklahoma City, clerk; Rev. Robert Duncan, Norman, assistant clerk, and Rev. E. M. Kennedy, Oklahoma City, executive secretary. The 1957 session will be held at the Lewis Avenue church, Tulsa.

ALABAMA—

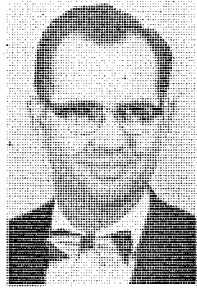
CORDOVA, Ala.—The executive committee of the Alabama state convention reported that over \$700 had been raised on their budget to entertain the national convention at Birmingham in 1957 and that the prospects were good for raising the additional \$1,300 of the budget.

This seemed to be one of the highlights of the state convention which met here November 8-10.

Speakers for the session included Rev. W. E. Jones, Dr. L. C. Johnson, Rev. J. M. Pace, Rev. Raymond Riggs, and Rev. H. J. Kelly.

In the business session the delegates adopted a budget which called for 55 per cent of undesignated funds to go to the national Co-operative Plan and 45 per cent to remain in the state. Funds which are kept in the state would be allocated to the children's home, superannuation, state missions, and the state promotional office.

New officers are Rev. A. J. Lambert, Fayette, moderator; Rev. Jack Rollins, Birmingham, assistant moderator; Rev. Chester O'Donnell, Ashville, clerk, and Rev. Charles B. Craddock, Dothan, executive secretary. Site for the 1957 session will be decided by the executive committee.



CRADDOCK



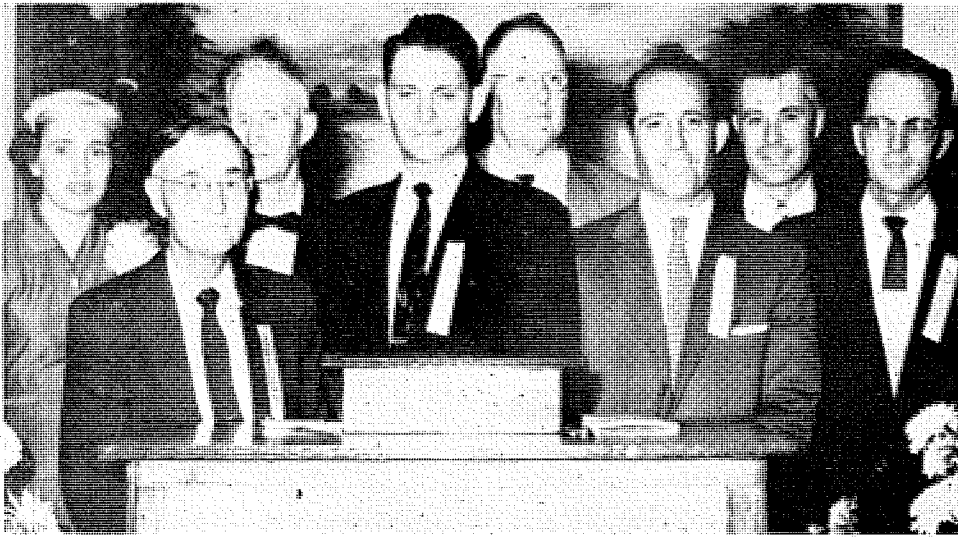
LAMBERT



OKLAHOMA OFFICERS Named as new officers for 1957 for the Oklahoma state convention are (left to right): Rev. Robert Duncan, Norman, assistant clerk; Rev. E. S. Sunday, Stigler, assistant moderator; Rev. Weldon Wood, Oklahoma City, clerk; Rev. Harry E. Staires, Tulsa, moderator, and Rev. Ernest M. Kennedy, Oklahoma City, executive secretary.

SOUTH CAROLINA—

JOHNSONVILLE, S. C. — Representatives from three departments of the national association brought the messages at the South Carolina state convention held November 15-16 at Little Bethel and Little Star churches near here.



ARKANSAS OFFICERS *Serving the Arkansas state convention for the coming year are the following officers (left to right): Mrs. Clifford Sawrie, Conway, auxiliary president; Rev. W. S. Isbell, Russellville, corresponding secretary; Rev. George Been, Springdale, statistician; Rev. Rupert Pixley, Ft. Smith, moderator; M. B. Williams, Strawberry, promotional secretary; Rev. Tommy Brashear, Russellville, assistant moderator; Rev. Clarence Campbell, Conway, assistant clerk, and Rev. Lewis Barker, New Edinburg, clerk-treasurer.*

They were Rev. James F. Miller, Rev. K. V. Shutes, and Rev. Raymond Riggs.

Rev. W. L. Jernigan, pastor of Bethany church near Timmonsville, was re-elected president. Other officers include Rev. A. F. Lawter, Lockhart, first vice-president; Rev. J. A. Hucks, Conway, second vice-president; Rev. Rufus Coffey, Darlington, clerk; Rev. Henry L. Player, Darlington, corresponding secretary, and J. Lynch, Coward, treasurer.

Rev. Reedy Saverance, Manning, was named promotional secretary.

ARKANSAS—

FT. SMITH, Ark.—About 400 people attended the Arkansas state convention which was held here at the First church October 3-5. State leaders agreed it was one of the finest sessions since the convention was organized 59 years ago.

The treasurer's report showed that over \$10,000 had been raised for state and national causes while the statisticians reported a membership in the state of 13,838. These figures show a per capita giving to state and national causes of about 77 cents for the year.

The Home Mission Board reported that five new churches had been organized during the year bringing the total to 186 churches affiliated with the state convention.

The report of the budget committee, which called for a new budget of \$8,450, was unanimously adopted. Delegates also accepted the committee's recommendation that the state association operate on a calendar year budget beginning January 1, 1957. The 1956 budget, which should have been concluded September 30, was continued until December 31.

Of the new budget, \$6,100 (72 per cent) will go to the national Cooperative Plan and

\$2,350 (28 per cent) will remain in the state.

Speakers for the sessions were George Been, William Mishler, Raymond Riggs, Dale Munkus, and Cecil Garrison.

New officers for the coming year are Rev. Rupert Pixley, Ft. Smith, moderator; Rev. Tom Brashear, Russellville, assistant moderator; Rev. Lewis Barker, New Edinburg, clerk; Rev. Clarence Campbell, Conway, assistant clerk; M. B. Williams, Strawberry, promotional secretary, and Rev. W. S. Isbell, Russellville, assistant promotional secretary.

The next session of the convention will be held at the Phillips Chapel church, Springdale, in the Old Mt. Zion association. Rev.

Elro Driggers will bring the introductory message.

GEORGIA—

ASHBURN, Ga.—With a theme, "The Christian and His Means," which gave emphasis to Christian stewardship, the 20th annual session of the Georgia state convention met November 13-15 at the Camp Mt. Bethel near here. It was the first time the convention has met at the state campground.

Rev. Thomas G. Hamilton, moderator, presided over all the sessions assisted by Rev. J. B. Lovering. No officers were elected during the sessions since all officers serve a two-year term.

The state promotional secretary reported that \$24,180 had been raised the past year for state and national causes. Plans were made to raise a larger budget the coming year with 50 per cent of all undesignated funds going to the national Cooperative Plan. The secretary, Rev. E. C. Morris, said that he anticipates that they will raise \$15,000 for the state unified program.

The other half of this amount will go to state causes where it will be allocated as follows: Camp Mt. Bethel, 40%; superannuation, 24%; state missions, 20%; Alabama children's home, 6%; state educational fund, 6%, and woman's auxiliary, 4%.

In other business action, the delegates voted to begin a "Dollar Club" to give aid to new churches. It will be under the direction of the state mission board. They accepted an invitation to hold the 1957 session with the Little River association. The host church will be named later.

Sermons during the convention were brought by Louis Moulton, James F. Miller, Raymond Riggs, and Lonnie Sparks.



GIFT TO MISSIONARIES *A four-piece set of Samsonite luggage was presented to Rev. and Mrs. Lonnie Sparks (center), missionaries to Africa, at the Georgia state convention. The presentation for the state auxiliary convention was made by Mrs. B. W. Clenney (right), outgoing president. Assisting her was Mrs. E. C. Morris (left), wife of the state promotional secretary.*

Durham Church Gives Over \$13,000 in Missions Conference

DURHAM, N. C.—Thirty dedications for missionary service and over \$13,000 in missionary pledges were the climaxing results of the annual missionary conference held here the week of November 5 at the Edgemont church.

During the conference, the church lost its educational director and the Foreign Mission Board gained a new applicant as Rev. Daniel Merkh offered his resignation to volunteer for service in French West Africa.

The annual conference has been a high point in the Edgemont church year since it was started four years ago by the pastor, Rev. Joseph G. Ange. The missionary offerings have increased every year and set a record again this year as the pledges averaged about \$150 per member for the year. These missionary pledges are in addition to the regular church budget.

Speakers for the conference this year were Rev. Carl Taylor, director of New Tribes mission in Brazil; Miss Lucy Wisehart, missionary to Cuba; Miss Volena Wilson, missionary to India, and Rev. and Mrs. Lonnie Sparks, missionaries en route to French West Africa.

At the close of the conference on Sunday night, November 11, the pledges were totalled before the congregation which packed the auditorium. A thrill swept the group as the pastor announced the total of \$10,077.

The pastor then read the following letter from Mr. Merkh, educational director for the past two years:

"For the past few years I have been praying earnestly that the Lord would allow me to go to the foreign mission field. In January, 1953, I made application to . . . go to Cuba, but the Lord closed the doors suddenly. For the past few months I have been extremely burdened about the Lord's will for my life . . . Many events have taken place in the past few weeks that have proven beyond any doubt the Lord's leading.

"I have prayed earnestly concerning this matter . . . I have become certain that the Lord has called me to the mission field and I have applied to the Free Will Baptist Foreign Mission Board for service in the Bondoukou Circle, French West Africa. With this letter I herewith tender my resignation as educational director."

Then in a spontaneous demonstration of their faith and missionary vision the church pledged an additional \$3,000 for equipment for their newest missionary.



TEXAS OFFICERS Practically an entire new slate of officers was named to head the Texas state convention. From left to right, they are: Rev. M. L. Sutton, Ft. Worth, assistant moderator; Rev. Everett Hellard, Houston, executive secretary; Mrs. C. B. Thompson, Iola, clerk; Rev. Herbert Richards, Iola, parliamentarian; Rev. H. Z. Cox, Dallas, moderator, and Rev. C. J. Hearron, Ft. Worth, assistant clerk.

TEXAS—

DALLAS, Texas—A \$7,000 budget was adopted at the Texas state convention in annual session October 30-November 1 at the First church here. While the budget is considerably below the one adopted last year, it is more realistic and in keeping with the amounts which have been raised in previous years.

From the adopted budget, 70 per cent will go to national causes through the Co-operative Plan, 10 per cent will go to state missions, 15 per cent to the state executive office, and 5 per cent to state super-annuation.

Delegates to the convention heard Rev. W. S. Mooneyham and Rev. Raymond Riggs, secretaries from the national association, give messages. An added feature to the worship services were the religious films shown by Rev. M. L. Sutton.

The convention voted to extend an invitation to the national association to hold its 1959 session on the campus of Texas A and M College at Bryan, Texas.

Practically an entire new slate of officers were elected. They are Rev. H. Z. Cox, Dallas, moderator; Rev. M. L. Sutton, Ft. Worth, assistant moderator; Mrs. C. B. Thompson, Iola, clerk; Rev. C. J. Hearron, Ft. Worth, assistant clerk; Rev. Gaston Clarey, Henderson, statistician; Rev. Herbert Richards, Iola, parliamentarian, and Rev. Everett Hellard, Houston, executive secretary.

The 1957 session will be held at the West-side church, Midland.

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.
Trinity Temple Free Will Baptist church, Tulsa, Oklahoma
West Side church, Johnsonville, South Carolina
First church, Bryan, Texas
First church, Corning, Ark.
Central church, Tampa, Florida
Union church, West Frankfurt, Illinois
First church, Wenatchee, Washington
Jameson Memorial church, Henderson, Texas
First church, Lake Charles, La.

Fifteen churches are now listed on our second honor roll, making a total of 60 churches using the Family Plan. Only five churches have discontinued the plan after starting it.

The Family Plan is the simplest way of seeing that each member gets the denominational paper. Each month the paper goes directly to the mailbox of each member whose church uses the Family Plan and the subscription is paid for by his tithes and offerings given to the church.

We will send our new folder telling about the plan, "CONTACT in Every Home in Every Church," and complete forms for enrolling your families if you will write and request it.

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 for 25 cents for each subscription and a form for adding or dropping any names desired.
4. The plan remains in effect until the church requests that it be discontinued.

Materials Ready for World Day of Prayer

WHEATON, Ill.—For the 11th consecutive year the National Association of Evangelicals is providing worship material for the World Day of Prayer for churches desiring a service with a Bible-centered emphasis. The day of prayer is scheduled for March 8, 1957.

"If My People . . ." is the title of the booklet being offered which centers on the theme of revival. The introduction is a plea for revival by Rev. Armin Gesswein, chairman of the Spiritual Life Commission of NAE and widely known for his revival prayer conferences.

Arrangement of the program provides for emphasis on Bible passages related to revival and includes hymns and time for prayer.

Materials can be obtained by contacting the NAE headquarters office at 108 North Main Street, Wheaton, Ill. No charge is made for the material, but it is requested that a free will offering be received at the service. This offering will be used exclusively for the evangelical ads program of the NAE.

Violence Continues Against Evangelicals in Colombia

TOLIMA, Colombia—The agricultural region known as Campo Hermoso in Southern Colombia has been completely destroyed by the Colombian army. The attack occurred at midnight on October 17. Covered by some 25 airplanes, the troops entered from various directions, burning houses and destroying all plantations not serving for the army's immediate use. The Protestant chapel and school were destroyed. One town was bombed.

All but two of the villagers escaped and fled to the surrounding mountain areas. One woman, an evangelical, was brutally murdered by the soldiers. Another was taken captive. Among the refugees are an evangelical preacher and his family, a lay worker and family, and two evangelical school teachers.

Million Dollar Shrine To Be Built in Boston

BOSTON, Mass.—(E/P)—Last September 23 Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of the Boston diocese of the Roman Catholic Church broke ground for a \$1 million shrine to Mary, "Queen of the Universe." First unit of the shrine will be a white stone pylon resembling a huge drive-in movie theater screen. This will serve as backdrop for a 30-foot bronze statue of the Virgin Mary, the work of a Jewish sculptor.

An altar at one side of the pylon will be

surmounted by a 50-foot mosaic screen depicting the coronation of Mary as "Queen of the Universe." Superimposed on the pylon will be a rectangular "crown" of polished aluminum, symbolizing the queenship of Mary.

Mental Instability Blamed On College-Destroyed Faith

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—(E/P)—Dr. William S. Carlson, president of the State University of New York, addressing an annual Mental Health Forum here declared that present-day colleges are contributing to students' mental instability by providing an atmosphere in which traditional religious beliefs are questioned and stripped from students but none are put in their place.

Dr. Carlson stated: "The very atmosphere of the university tends to corrode the average student's traditional moral and religious beliefs," and that little was done about this new disturbing element in his life. "And, to the extent that colleges take no steps to fill the vacuum of belief which they create, they are contributing to the sum total of mental instability."

Dr. Carlson suggested that the schools had not intentionally created an atmosphere "unconducive to religious growth." Nevertheless, he observed: "If the university is culpable, it is on the ground of omission, rather than commission."

Survey Reveals Laymen Want Happy Pastors

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—(E/P)—Typical parishioners in Los Angeles want their ministers to be happy, dedicated, friendly, up-to-date, well-educated, sympathetic, and good preachers—in that order. These results bobbed up in a survey conducted by Religion Editor Omar Garrison of the *Mirror-News*.

"What a minister is, is more important than what he knows or what he says," Mr. Garrison concluded from the survey. He found that more than 90 per cent of those questioned believed ministers today better qualified than those 50 years ago.

"If a man isn't happy, he isn't going to have the heart and will to stand up under the strain of ministering to a congregation which almost always includes every human problem from measles to madness," one layman answered.

Most complaints against pastors were that they tended to remain too aloof. "I don't feel free to let myself go and have a good time when he's around," one critic said, "even though I don't think he would frown at a little innocent fun."

"MARTYRED MEN"

16 MM Sound
Motion Picture
in Color



Did five missionaries die in vain as they attempted to reach the pagan Auca Indians of the Ecuadorian Jungles?

If you have been troubled by that question, here is a motion picture document you must see. For in "Martyred Men," the wife

and father of one of those slain men tell their side of the story. From hearts aflame with the same compassion that sent Ed McCully and his four companions to the banks of the Curaray river, Marilou and T. E. McCully show you why the Auca incident is one of triumph rather than tragedy.

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Profitable for Doctrine

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

Authority and the Bible

What is Christianity and how shall we know it? Where is it to be found? On what grounds can we believe what it is? On whose authority can we receive its contents as truth?

These questions present the problem of authority in religion and necessitate for us the task of determining what is proper authority. There appears to be at least three claimants for this position—the Church, Reason, and the Scriptures. This being true, which of these shall we accept as the seat of authority and why?

Is it to be the Church? "The Roman Catholic principle of authority is the Church. Roman Catholicism maintains that it is the only church, and hence her voice alone is valid."¹ "Those who hold this view as to the seat of authority do not usually deny the authority of the Bible in so many words. What they do say—by implication if not in words—that the Bible is interpreted authoritatively by the 'living Church.'

"When a man becomes a minister or a member of a Church, it is his duty to support the program of that Church. He may think it is contrary to the Bible; but never mind, it is not his business in this particular matter to think; he must submit his judgment to the judgment of the councils of his Church; he must let them interpret the Bible for him and must make the message that he supports conform to their shifting votes."²

Formation of Canon

But what about the formation of the canon? Did not the Church determine the books to be regarded as canonical and thereby have authority above that of the Bible?

Roman Catholicism would answer in the affirmative. Only those books which the Church has decided to be divine in their origin, and no others, are to be received. "Protestants answer, however, by saying, so far as the Old Testament is concerned, that those books, and those only, which Christ and His Apostles recognized as the

Billy A. Melvin

written Word of God, are entitled to be regarded as canonical. This recognition was afforded in a two-fold manner: First, many of the books of the Old Testament are quoted as the Word of God, as being given by the Spirit; or the Spirit is said to have uttered what is therein recorded.

"Secondly, Christ and His Apostles refer to the sacred writings of the Jews—the volume which they regard as divine—as being what it claimed to be, the Word of God. When we refer to the Bible as of divine authority, we refer to it as a volume and recognize all the writings which it contains as given by the inspiration of the Spirit. In like manner when Christ or His Apostles quote the 'Scriptures,' or the 'law and the prophets,' and speak of the volume then so called, they give their sanction to the divine authority of all the books which that volume contained.

New Testament Compiled

"All, therefore, that is necessary to determine for Christians the canon of the Old Testament is to ascertain what books were included in the 'Scriptures' recognized by the Jews of that period. This is a point about which there can be no reasonable doubt. The Jewish canon of the Old Testament included all the books and no others, which Protestants now recognize as constituting the Old Testament Scriptures."³

And what is to be the principle on which the canon of the New Testament is determined? "Those books, and those only which can be proved to have been written by the Apostles, or to have received their sanction, are to be received as of divine authority."⁴

The books of the canon, then, are not to be received because the Church says these books are of divine authority. Rather, they are to be received because of the truth which they contain as verified by Christ and the Apostles. Therefore, "the Bible is not dependent for its authority upon the Church, although the Bible comes to us with the

commendation of the Church as its standard and rule of faith."⁵

Claim of Reason

The Bible is not dependent upon the Church because the truth to which it witnesses is not the creation of the Church! On the contrary, the truth of the Bible has brought the Church into being and keeps the Church in obedience to God.

Now, what of Reason, the second claimant to the position of authority? Is the ability to understand truth and make judgments to be our authority? Is Marcus Dods right in saying, "The only possible ultimate grounds for believing Scripture to be the Word of God is that there is that in the truth delivered which convinces me that God is its author. In the last resort you must depend solely on your conviction that here God speaks to you."⁶

It is admitted that through our capacity to reason we have an understanding of Scripture, and through reason we accept the Scripture as authority, but this is not a sufficient criterion whereby we can make Reason our authority above that of Scripture.

Must Bow to Scriptures

Reason must still bow to the Scriptures. The Bible is our authority in religion because of what it is—the Word of God—and does not need to be verified by Reason in order to be authoritative. In other words, "The authority of Scripture is an objective and permanent fact residing in the quality of inspiration. It is, however, 'the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts' that we become convinced of that authority."⁷

We have maintained thus far that both the Church and Reason must bow to the authority of the Scriptures. And why is this? Because within the Scriptures we have God's revelation to man, which is to be found nowhere else, and which is made possible by the fact of inspiration.

As the Westminster Confession of Faith states, "The authority of the Holy Scriptures, for which it ought to be believed and obeyed, dependeth not upon the testimony

¹Gerritt Hendrick Hospers, *The Reformed Principle of Authority*, Grand Rapids, 1924, p. 37.

²J. Gresham Machen, *The Christian Faith in the Modern World*, New York, 1936, p. 84.

The writer is pastor of the First Free Will Baptist church, Richmond, Va., and a graduate of Union Theological Seminary.

³Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology Vol. I*, New York, 1899, p. 152-153.

⁴Hodge, *op. cit.*, p. 153.

⁵H. Cunliffe-Jones, *The Authority of the Biblical Revelation*, London, 1945, p. 24.

⁶Marcus Dods, *The Bible Its Origin and Nature*, New York, p. 156-157.

⁷Machen, *op. cit.*, p. 44.

of any man or church, but wholly upon God, (who is truth itself), the author thereof, and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God."⁸ Our sole authority, then, in matters of religion, is the Bible—the Word of God.

A Living Book

Now our sole authority in matters of religion, according to its own testimony, is the living, powerful, and penetrating Word of God. "For the word of God is quick (living), and powerful and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

The Bible is a living book! Peter says, "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away; but the word of the Lord endureth forever" (1 Peter 1:24-25). There is adequate evidence of this fact all about us.

First, we note that the Bible has enjoyed a continued and unimpaired existence notwithstanding innumerable, persistent, and powerful assaults. If the Bible had not been instinct with a divine life, it would have been destroyed long before this. Such men as Julian, Celsus, Voltaire, Strauss, Renan, Wellhausen, Barth, and Brunner have blasted at the book, but the Bible lives on.

Statement Made Laughing Stock

It was Voltaire who declared that the Bible would pass into history and become a relic of curiosity one hundred years after him. Needless to say, he passed into history, and his statement made him the laughing-stock of the civilized world. Exactly one hundred years later his printing press, which produced his infidel works, was helping produce the imperishable book. I am reminded of a poem, the author of which is unknown.

"I paused one day beside the blacksmith's door,
And listened to the anvil ring the evening chime,
And looking in, I saw upon the floor,
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.
How many anvils have you had, said I,
To wear and batter out those hammers so?
Just one, he answered, with a twinkling eye,
The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.
And so I thought, the anvil of God's Word,
For ages skeptics blows have beat upon,
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The Anvil is unworn — the hammers, gone!"

Next, we note that the Bible is a living book because of its adaptation to all ages and peoples. This book is as true and living for us today as it was for the men of the

second century. It is as applicable to the native of Africa as it is to the businessman of America. Why is this true? It is true because men in every age and in every place have the same problem—the problem of sin. The Bible deals with this problem. It tells us what sin is and about the remedy for sin.

Power of Bible Is Fresh

And finally, we note that the Bible is a living book because of its inexhaustible interest. Where is the preacher who has not preached upon some text, feeling that he has utterly exhausted every nugget of truth therein, only to discover at a later time great areas of truth hitherto untouched? Who has exhausted the eternal truth of John 3:16?

Dr. Payne Smith has well said, "For nearly eighteen centuries men have thought and written upon that one book, and if for eighteen more centuries men so write, yet will there still remain much that calls for fresh examination and fuller inquiry; new knowledge to be won, old truths to be better and more fully understood. The books of men have their day, and then grow obsolete. God's Word is like Himself, 'the same yesterday, and today, and forever.' Time passes over it, but it ages not. Its power is as fresh as if God spake it but yesterday"⁹

Power Demonstrated Many Times

But besides being a living book, the Bible is a powerful book. The tremendous power of the Bible has been witnessed in every age. This power has been seen in the conviction and conversion of sinners. "Is not my word as a fire saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29). The man who preaches the Word of God has seen this power demonstrated many times. No man has with- in himself the power, gifted though he may be, to melt the hardened heart of any sinner. But, if he will preach the Word, that Word of God will convict and convert. How powerful is God's Word!

The power of the Bible is likewise seen in its ability to correct the faults and errors of Christians. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (II Timothy 3:16).

At conversion, every Christian sets out upon a growth in grace. The Holy Spirit is active in this growth and the chief means which He uses to bring us into the image and likeness of Christ is the Word of God. As we read the Bible, more and more light is shed across our pathway concerning the will of God; therefore, our lives are re- proved, corrected, guided, and strengthened by the Word of God. All Scripture is given with the end in view "that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (II Timothy 3:17).

⁸H. D. M. Spence and Joseph S. Exell, *The Pulpit Commentary Vol. 21*, Grand Rapids, 1950, p. 121.

Comforts the Mourner

But the power of the Bible is also seen in its ability to comfort the mourner. "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." (Romans 15:4). What comfort, peace and hope the Bible has brought to sorrowful hearts!

Here are parents in anguish of soul because news has just come that their little girl has a serious case of polio. But because of a vital faith in God, the hurt of that sorrow is healed. The Word of God in Romans 8:28 is claimed. "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."

Here is a family grieved over the passing of a loved one, but once again the power of God's Word to comfort is demonstrated. Their sorrow melts into hope as they read, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him" (1 Thess. 4:13-14). Is there another book in all the world that has the power to comfort like the Bible?

A Penetrating Book

Finally, we see that the Bible is a penetrating Book. "For the word of God is . . . sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

The penetration of God's Word is made clear by the figure employed. It is "sharper than any twoedged sword." It does not, as an ordinary sword, cut to the bone; but penetrating more deeply, it cuts through the bones and through the innermost marrow. So thoroughly and rigorously does the Word of God penetrate the moral nature of man.

Once the Word of God has penetrated it is "a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." It exercises a critical and separating power upon the thoughts and ideas, opinions and principles of the heart. It shows to men the true moral character of their thoughts and intents, their opinions and principles.

Reveals Man to Himself

The Word of God reveals man to himself. "The Bible," says Dr. Parker, "exposes the very innermost recesses of human nature; sets a light where no other hand ever placed a candle; lights up the pathways of our most secret life and thought; and we begin to feel that the book we must shut up when we are going to do evil is God's Book. This is the great hold, the sovereign mastery, which the Book of God has over the ages—that it knows us; that it gives articulation to our dumb reproaches; that it puts into the best words the things we reap against ourselves and cannot fully explain. If any man would

(Continued on page 13)



Women's Auxiliary

LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

Women at Work

Give a Birthday Present to Jesus

MRS. EUNICE EDWARDS

Mrs. Lester Jones writes, in her Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer program, "The baby Jesus was worthy of the angel's praise that first night and He is yet worthy of our praise and adoration. May we worship Him by giving Him a special offering at this season."

This seems entirely fitting to me. After all, it is *Jesus' birthday*. Why not give Him a gift?

May I make a suggestion for this gift? Give Him an hour of worship, of praise, in complete solitude. Be alone with Jesus for one hour and let Him give you His personal birthday greeting. He will.

May I make another suggestion for this love gift to Jesus? Give Him a family altar in your home. Begin now to practice family devotions. You could not find a more fitting time than Christmas, to begin your *family* altar. Jesus belonged to a family. If we have accepted Him as our Saviour, we belong to His family. So then, make your Christmas gift to Christ a *family* altar.

Also, it seems entirely fitting to me for this month to be designated as our State Missions month.

America is far from being Christian. There is a definite need for evangelization here. There are many, many people in America who do not know the real meaning of Christmas. To thousands of children and young people, Christmas is only a time of getting because the adults have set that example before them.

Every state in our denomination is in deep need for funds with which to establish churches in their areas.

The offering to be received at the close of our pre-Christmas week of prayer is designated for state missions, so be generous in your giving.

However, regardless of what you give, to whom, or for what purpose, be very sure to give Christ a birthday gift.

**Remember—December
Is
State Missions Month**

Posters Give New Impetus To Mission Tent Project

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Eleven thousand publicity posters for the home mission tent project went into the mail in November, according to the WNAC office, and as a result, new impetus was given to the project, which had been lagging.

The project is to purchase a large tent for use by the national Home Mission Board in organization work. The goal is \$2,000. The WNAC office urges local auxiliaries and district conventions to use the publicity posters in reaching their goals. Those who failed to get posters may have one by writing to the WNAC office.

Payment on the quotas through November 17 is as follows:

| | Goal | Paid |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Alabama | \$ 90.00 | |
| Arkansas | 40.00 | |
| California | 90.00 | |
| Florida | 50.00 | |
| Georgia | 120.00 | |
| Illinois | 60.00 | |
| Kentucky | 40.00 | \$ 10.00 |
| Michigan | 120.00 | |
| Mississippi | 50.00 | |
| Missouri | 200.00 | 58.80 |
| North Carolina | 350.00 | |
| Ohio | 40.00 | |
| Oklahoma | 200.00 | 20.00 |
| South Carolina | 160.00 | 146.10 |
| Tennessee | 200.00 | 20.00 |
| Texas | 110.00 | 5.00 |
| Virginia | 40.00 | |
| West Virginia | 40.00 | |
| TOTALS | \$2,000.00 | \$259.90 |

Co-Laborer Offering Plan

The purpose of this plan is to promote the missionary and educational program of our denomination in a united way. It is a plan whereby all Free Will Baptist women may regularly and systematically support all the mission work of our denomination, both home and foreign, and our own Free Will Baptist Bible College.

This plan of support is highly recommended because it enables all local auxiliaries to support the causes of our denominational program unitedly.

Two-thirds of all funds received is allocated monthly to the treasurers of the following National Association boards: Foreign Missions, 50%; Bible College, 30%, and Home Missions, 20%. One-third of each dollar is retained in the WNAC treasury for promotional work, including literature and office expense.

● "Go Home and Tell Thy Friends" by Dodd is an excellent home missions study course book and is reduced in price to 25¢. Why not place an order for it today? Order from the WNAC headquarters.

● "Fortified by Faith" is the theme selected for a day of prayer and fasting on December 7th to commemorate the birthday of the woman's work in our denomination. The all-day service is to be held at Cofer's Chapel, Nashville, and is being sponsored by the Cumberland district auxiliary convention.

● A workshop, conducted by the Missouri state auxiliary officers, was held at the Thayer church, November 8th, with departmental classes taught by the officers, a panel discussion conducted by Mrs. Genelle Scott, and a message at eleven o'clock by Rev. Ben Scott. Seven auxiliaries were represented.

● Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer was observed by Fredericktown, Mo., auxiliary, with an average attendance of 24.

● The Southeast Missouri district convention has purchased a Necchi sewing machine for the Cuban mission field. Miss Lucy Wisheart is to take the machine with her when she returns to the field in January.

● Average attendance at the Loyal Chapel, Columbia, Tenn., pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer services was 40, with six conversions, and an offering for national home missions of \$13.25.

● The literature catalog for the Woman's Auxiliary is ready! Send your requests to the WNAC office.

● The Georgia auxiliary convention was held at Camp Mt. Bethel, November 13, and the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. K. V. Shutes, Thomaston; Vice-President, Mrs. Irvin Hyman, Alma; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. O. B. Everson, Colquitt; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Paul Long, Pearson; Study Course Chairman, Mrs. Doris Sheffield, Newton; Youth Chairman, Mrs. Edith Shiver, Elmodel; Field Secretary, Mrs. J. B. Rice, Moultrie; Stewardship-Prayer Chairman, Mrs. Margie Hudson, Jakin; Personal Service Chairman, Mrs. E. C. Morris, Tifton; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Bruce Clenney, Colquitt.

● The Tidewater auxiliary convention met at Warwick, Va., and the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Billy Melvin; Vice-President, Mrs. J. B. Chism; Recording Secretary, Mrs. D. V. Pittman; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Hadley Overman; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Walter Croom; Treasurer, Mrs. Gertrude Whitehurst; Youth Chairman, Mrs. D. S. Talton; Study Chairman, Mrs. G. A. Forehead; Stewardship-Prayer Chairman, Mrs. William Dewell; Personal Service, Mrs. J. K. Bryan, Jr.; Field Secretary, Mrs. Wilton Dail; Pianist, Miss Juanita Dewell.

● Oklahoma auxiliary convention was well attended with a registered attendance of (Continued on next page)

197. Mary Jane Halliburton won the declamation contest. An offering for Lonnie and Anita Sparks, missionaries to Africa, amounted to \$300. New officers elected were: President, Mrs. Cleo Pursell; Vice-President, Fern Ray; Recording Secretary, Alice Wood; Assistant Secretary, Nancy Snow; Corresponding Secretary, Oleta Pate; Treasurer, Cherry Fipps. The chairman are Youth, Nona Mae Meadows; Study, Glenara Staires; Stewardship-Prayer, Cora Bruce; Personal Service, Marjory Carroll.

• District auxiliary convention of the First New Mexico association met at Carlsbad November 1, with three auxiliaries represented. One new auxiliary was received into the convention.

• The district convention of Eastern Kentucky was held at Morehead. They decided to assist a student at the Free Will Baptist Bible College and to give a shower for a home missionary couple.

• Arkansas auxiliary convention was held October 3 at the First church, Fort Smith. Miss Lucy Wisehart spoke at eleven o'clock and the afternoon was given over to simultaneous conferences for the various departments. Officers elected for the next two years were: President, Mrs. Clifford Sawrie; Vice-President, Mrs. C. E. Wilson; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Mae Spoon; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Lawnie Coffman; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. G. Henry; Treasurer, Mrs. George Broadway; Field Secretary, Mrs. R. G. Lane; Youth, Mrs. Earl Smith; Study, Mrs. Lenis Zinnamon; Stewardship-Prayer, Mrs. Roy McCuin; Personal Service, Mrs. Aubrey Lloyd.

• The South Carolina auxiliary convention met October 13 at High Hill church, near Scranton, with 20 auxiliaries represented. Speaker was Mrs. John Moehlman. Mrs. Rufus Coffey presided over the day's activities. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Reedy Saverance, president; Mrs. Carl Shook, vice-president; Mrs. F. M. Johnson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Ronald Creech, secretary; Mrs. Liston Williams, assistant secretary; Mrs. Vernie Stone, youth chairman; Mrs. Julius Vause, assistant; Mrs. L. C. DeFee, study course chairman; Mrs. Thomas Brown, personal service chairman; Mrs. Dewey Jones, treasurer; Mrs. Rufus Coffey, field worker.



The Prayer Fellowship

GEORGE W. WAGGONER, *Leader*

Probably the Christian's greatest failure is to fail to pray. Other shortcomings may seem greater, but a sincere prayer life will right all other defects. Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given you . . ." (Matthew 7:7).

Andrew Murray says, "The Christian life is no longer the vain struggle to live right, but the resting in Christ and finding strength in Him as our life, to fight the fight and gain the victory of faith."

Pray this month for these and any other things you will:

- ▶ For foreign missionaries—especially the new openings in Africa and Japan.
- ▶ For the leaders of our denomination.
- ▶ For the Free Will Baptist Bible College in its drive to enlarge and expand.
- ▶ For revival among the ministry and in the local churches.
- ▶ For the Cooperative Plan of Support.
- ▶ For Mrs. Eunice Edwards and the work of the Woman's Auxiliary.
- ▶ For Rev. Homer Willis and the home mission work.
- ▶ For your local pastor and the Sunday school officers and teachers.
- ▶ For Rev. James F. Miller and his new work with the college.
- ▶ For the ministry of CONTACT.
- ▶ That all departments will be able to meet their financial quotas for this year and enlarge their programs.
- ▶ For a new world-wide vision of the lost and a burden to see people saved.

Choosing
the
better
part . . .



MRS. EUNICE EDWARDS

Can you think of anything more foolish than a farmer plowing the same ground day after day without ever planting seed? Don't you think it follows, then, that God has a definite purpose in permitting the plow of circumstance to make its deep furrow in our hearts?

"Doth the plowman plow all day to sow? . . . When he hath made plain the face thereof, doth he not cast abroad the fitches, and scatter the cummin, and cast in the principal wheat and the appointed barley and the rie in their place? . . . For the fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument, neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cummin; but the fitches are beaten out with a staff, and cummin with a rod. Bread corn is bruised; because he will not ever be threshing it, nor break it with the wheel of his cart, nor bruise it with his horsemen" (Isaiah 28:24-28).

The fitches were to be cast abroad, not planted in rows. There was a use for this plant, but it was not given the attention of the more important seed. The black seeds of the fitch plant were similar to our black pepper and were sprinkled on the flat cakes before baking. The same is true of the cummin. The seeds have a bitterish taste.

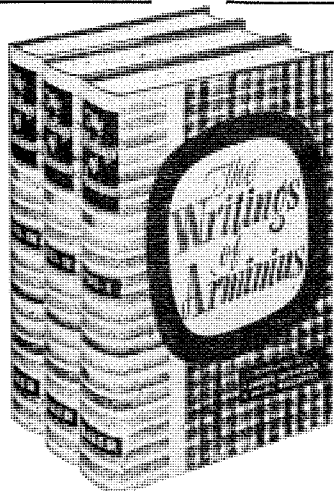
Exactly the opposite is true of the valuable wheat seed. The best quality wheat was bearded and, according to Isaiah, much care was exercised in its planting.

The husbandman used great care in preparing the ground for the seed. If he was careless and slovenly it could well mean his family would have no bread. Wheat was a staple grain and a necessary commodity.

The threshing was done according to pattern, too. The unimportant fitches and cummin could be easily beaten out with a rod, but the wheat and barley must be threshed with the cart wheel or threshing instrument.

The outside husk of the wheat was harder than the fitch and it was necessary to submit it to more force. Only a harsh instrument would crush the seed sufficiently to separate it from the husk. But when this was done, he did not continue threshing it. The grinding was reserved for another operation.

The finest flour makes the finest bread. So when the plows are making deep furrows and the threshing wheel is turning with relentless pressure in your life, be assured that God will not always be plowing and threshing. He only seeks to make you more useful, for bread corn must be bruised.



The Writings of Arminius

All of the theological works of James Arminius, the 16th century champion of "free will, free grace, free salvation," are presented in these three volumes. First published in 1853, this set has for many years been almost unknown and unobtainable.

\$17⁵⁰

**FREE WILL BAPTIST
HEADQUARTERS**

**3801 Richland Ave.
Nashville 5, Tenn.**

Cooperative Plan Goal of \$38,000 Almost Assured

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—There seems little doubt but that the goal of \$38,000 in undesignated funds for the Cooperative Plan for 1956 will be reached, the executive office reported at the close of November.

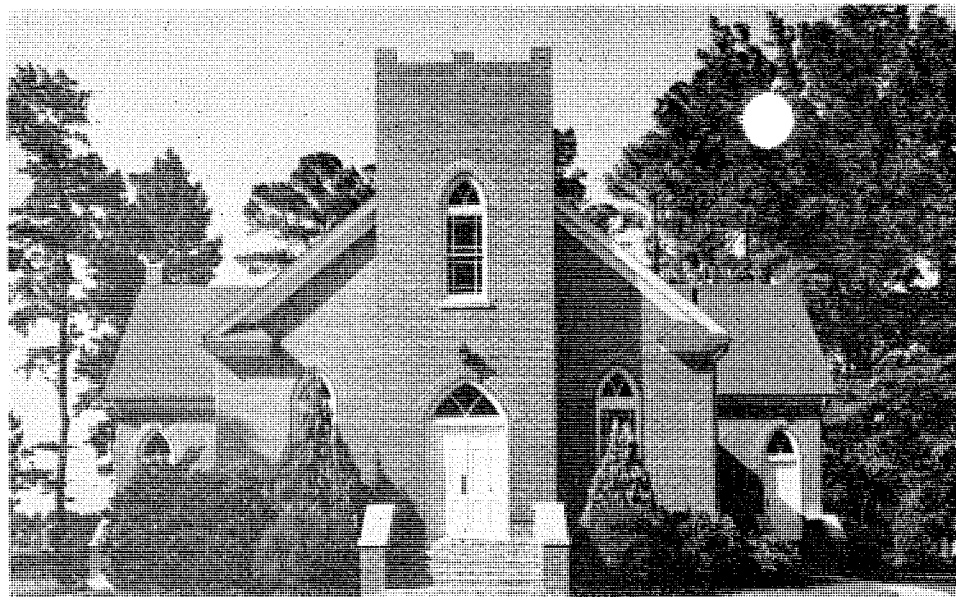
The month's undesignated receipts, which were a record \$3,667.50, brought the total for the year to \$34,889, just over \$3,000 short of the goal. The secretary urged the churches to get their offerings for December in early so they could be included in the 1956 report. The books will be closed on the year's work on December 31.

The goal for 1957 is \$58,000 in undesignated funds. The report for November is as follows:

RECEIPTS

| | | | |
|--|------------|--------|-------------------|
| ALABAMA | | | |
| State Association | \$ | 57.50 | |
| First church, Dothan | | 42.63 | \$ 100.13 |
| ARIZONA | | | |
| Northside church, Phoenix | | 52.84 | |
| Antioch church, Phoenix | | 43.00 | 95.84 |
| CALIFORNIA | | | |
| Churches of California | | | 342.32 |
| FLORIDA | | | |
| Central church, Tampa | | | 8.62 |
| ILLINOIS | | | |
| Oak Grove church, Sheller | | 9.80 | |
| Bakerville church, Mt. Vernon | | 25.55 | |
| Pleasant View church, Dix | | 11.51 | |
| Blue Point church, Rinard | | 36.26 | |
| Webb's Prairie church, Ewing | | 13.78 | |
| Waltonville church, Waltonville | | 31.61 | 128.51 |
| KENTUCKY | | | |
| Southside church, Paintsville | | | 36.51 |
| MISSOURI | | | |
| State Association | | | 1,110.56 |
| NORTH CAROLINA | | | |
| Goshen church, Belmont | | 68.00 | |
| Swannanoa church, Swannanoa | | 81.06 | 149.06 |
| OKLAHOMA | | | |
| State Association | | | 608.83 |
| TENNESSEE | | | |
| Olivet church, Clarksville | | 100.00 | |
| Palmer Mem. church, Nashville | | 43.27 | |
| Wooddale church, Knoxville | | 20.54 | |
| East Nashville church, Nashville | | 250.00 | |
| Head's church, Chapmansboro | | 106.11 | |
| W. Nashville church, Nashville | | 39.00 | |
| Trinity church, Nashville | | 100.00 | 658.92 |
| VIRGINIA | | | |
| Fairmount Pk. church, Norfolk | | | 428.20 |
| | | | <u>\$3,667.50</u> |
| DESIGNATED | | | |
| Arkansas | | 166.55 | |
| Virginia | | 137.01 | |
| Illinois | | 1.78 | 305.34 |
| Total receipts | | | <u>\$3,972.84</u> |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | | |
| Executive Department | \$1,687.99 | | |
| Foreign Mission Board | 879.49 | | |
| Bible College | 621.90 | | |
| Home Mission Board | 368.62 | | |
| Superannuation Board | 163.13 | | |
| Sunday School Department | 120.58 | | |
| League Board | 83.90 | | |
| Radio-TV Board | 47.23 | | |
| Total Disbursements | | | <u>\$3,972.84</u> |

CHURCH OF THE MONTH



Gum Swamp Free Will Baptist Church is perhaps the oldest Free Will Baptist church in existence in America today. Located in Pitt county, N. C., ten miles north of Greenville. It was organized between 1725 and 1750. It was one of the three original churches which survived the proselyting of the last half of the 18th century.

It is a member of the Central Conference of North Carolina which dates back more than 200 years. The present building was constructed between 1944-48. The church has half-time services. Rev. A. B. Chandler is pastor.

Man-Making

We are all blind until we see
That in the human plan
Nothing is worth the making if
It does not make the man.

Why build these cities glorious
If man unbuilt goes?
In vain we build the world, unless
The builder also grows.

—EDWIN MARKHAM

Application for Charter for Master's Men

(Please print all information)

The Master's Men of Free Will Baptist church

of (Town) (State)

hereby petition for a charter from the national office for the year 1957.

President's name and address

.....

Secretary's name and address

.....

(The charter, membership cards and magazines will be sent to the secretary.)

Pastor's name

Number of members in local chapter Send copies of the Master's Men Handbook at 20c each or six for \$1.00.

Send this application together with \$1.00 for each member of your local chapter (this annual contribution of \$1 per member will cover the cost of printing and distributing the materials, including the magazine) to:

THE MASTER'S MEN 3801 Richland Avenue Nashville 5, Tennessee

Our Witness at Home

H. E. WILLIS

At the present time the national Home Mission Board has on the field three teams.

Rev. and Mrs. George Lee and two children are in Shelton, Nebraska. Mr. Lee reports an active Sunday school, League, auxiliary, and Go-Tell auxiliary in his field of work. In addition to the Shelton church he also is pastor at Denman, Nebraska.

Rev. and Mrs. Johnnie Postlewaite and two children are in Cashmere, Washington. Mr. Postlewaite is pastoring and doing survey work. He reports a Sunday school at Cashmere with an enrollment of 80. He also reports that the mission there has bought a tract of land (1½ acres) for which they paid cash in the amount of \$1,700.00.

Rev. and Mrs. James E. Timmons are at Pearsall, Texas. The Timmons have three children. He reports two active Sunday schools in Mexico, in addition to several preaching points. He has some native pastors working with him. Recently he baptized three converts.

Miss Bessie Yeley is now living at Eagle Pass, Texas and also working in Mexico. One of the native workers with her reports a Sunday school with 45 in attendance. A building, too, has been almost completed.

Rev. and Mrs. Robert Wilfong were recently released by the Board, at their request, for other missionary work. They have been working for two years in Florida.

Our needs financially are great at this time. I assumed the office as promotional secretary-treasurer on October 1 with a total indebtedness of \$2,748.59. The missionaries had not been paid their full salaries for some time. It was necessary for the Board to borrow \$3,000.00, in order to pay the indebtedness so we could continue to operate.

Much of the indebtedness was pressing, and some of it was for a long period of time. We propose to cut our overhead considerably in order to keep all the missionaries of the field.

We plan to send someone to Washington, D. C., in the near future. My services were given during the month of October and I purpose to operate without regular office help until we are "caught up again".

You can help us by sending your offerings regularly to the board. We must have regular support. You can also help by purchasing the different items we sell, such as roadside signs, books, revival signs, and

Mr. Willis is the new promotional secretary-treasurer for the Board of Home Missions.

many other articles. Also, we have several hundred dollars in accounts payable. It would be greatly appreciated if all who have accounts with this department could send in the payments at this time.

There will be some re-thinking of our program in the days ahead. We will do home mission and church extension work, but very little in the field of reclaiming Free Will Baptist work of other years. (Reports of a very active church at Baltimore, Maryland has come to our attention recently. Rev. Childress, from Virginia, is the pastor. This city has been a needful place for a Free Will Baptist church for years.)

Our missionaries now work under a three-year contract. All new missionaries will work under a one-year contract. We will still be thinking of the eight states which do not have Free Will Baptist churches as new workers go to the field.

The Lord has blessed this work for the past several years under the leadership of Rev. Damon C. Dodd and we feel great work is yet to be done. We see the day in the future when the national Home Mission Board will lead our denomination in the establishment of missionary rest homes, homes for aged Christian workers, hospitals, clinics in needy sections, Free Will Baptist fellowship meetings at the many colleges where our youth attend, and be in all the 48 states, Canada, and Alaska with Free Will Baptist churches. Also, we see the day when our home missionaries will be ministering to those of the Jewish race, other neglected groups in our nation, and services in institutions of various kinds.

I will be available for any type meetings in your church from November 1. All meetings I conduct at all times, will be for the Home Mission Board. Your prayers are sincerely requested for me and my family as we take this work.

Profitable for Doctrine

(Continued from page 9)

know the human heart, he must read the human heart in God's Book."¹⁰

For our final authority in religion, therefore, we do not look to the Church nor do we look to Reason, but with every fiber of our being we accept the living, powerful, and penetrating Word of God—the Bible—as our authority.

It stands today as firm as Gibraltar and as solid as the everlasting hills. No wonder we love to sing:

"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word."

¹⁰Spence and Excell, *op. cit.*, p. 122.

Home Mission Quotas and Directors Listed for 1957

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| ARKANSAS | \$ 1,350 |
| Lawnie Coffman | |
| ALABAMA | 1,200 |
| Charles Craddock | |
| ARIZONA | 150 |
| John Elliston | |
| CALIFORNIA | 1,500 |
| Ralph Hampton | |
| FLORIDA | 1,200 |
| C. A. Huckaby | |
| GEORGIA | 1,700 |
| E. C. Morris | |
| IDAHO | 150 |
| Virgil Florence | |
| ILLINOIS | 1,500 |
| Claude Childers | |
| KANSAS | 150 |
| Adrian Condit | |
| KENTUCKY | 1,000 |
| Walter Hooper | |
| LOUISIANA | 100 |
| J. E. White | |
| MAINE | 200 |
| John Ruth | |
| MICHIGAN | 3,000 |
| Glenn Thomas | |
| MISSOURI | 2,500 |
| Albert Halbrook | |
| MISSISSIPPI | 1,000 |
| M. L. Hollis | |
| NEBRASKA | 200 |
| G. C. Lee, Jr. | |
| NEW MEXICO | 100 |
| L. C. Pinson | |
| NORTH CAROLINA | 3,000 |
| Bruce Barrow | |
| OHIO | 1,000 |
| Olen Gould | |
| OKLAHOMA | 2,750 |
| E. M. Kennedy | |
| OREGON | 100 |
| William Postlewaite | |
| SOUTH CAROLINA | 1,350 |
| Fred Powers | |
| TENNESSEE | 2,500 |
| Robert Hill | |
| TEXAS | 1,500 |
| Everett Hellard | |
| VIRGINIA | 1,200 |
| Wilton Dail | |
| WEST VIRGINIA | 1,200 |
| John M. Henson | |
| TOTAL | \$35,000 |

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GLANCING AROUND THE STATES

SAMMY WILKINSON, *News Editor*

Sunday School Training Course Conducted in Florida

BLOUNTSTOWN, Fla.—Rev. William J. Mishler, promotional secretary of the national Sunday School Board, conducted a Sunday school training course here at the Christian Home church on October 22-26. Five of the churches of the Salem association were represented with an average attendance of 35.

California Ministers Organize Alliance

ONTARIO, Calif.—The ministers of the Los Angeles area met September 19 at the Bell Gardens church and organized the Free Will Baptist Ministerial Alliance of the Los Angeles area. The purpose of this group is to bring the churches of this area closer together, and to give new ideals to one another. The group meets each month on the third Friday night, at the different churches in this area.

The officers of the Alliance are Rev. F. A. McCage, president, and Rev. F. W. Boyle, secretary and treasurer.

Central Texas Association Elects Home Missions Secretary

BRYAN, Texas—Rev. Charles Sapp, pastor of the Bryan church, was elected promotional secretary for home mission in the Central Texas Association at the last session of the association, which met October 5-6 at the Bryan church. Work has begun to conduct evangelistic services in various towns in the area with the prospects of establishing churches.

Youth Are Busy in Kentucky Church

PAINTSVILLE, Ky.—The Young Christians Charity Circle of the Southside church here are very busy in the work of charity. They hold regular meetings and do their own planning of charity in their neighborhood. They make visits to the hospitals, take flowers to the sick, pray with them and help in any way possible.

This group of young girls has also organized a junior choir and do extensive visitation to enroll more boys and girls into Sunday school.

New Church Organized In California

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—A new Free

Will Baptist church was organized here recently with 34 charter members. Rev. E. E. Morris, member of the Executive Board of the Golden Gate association, conducted services preceding the organization and helped in the organization. Charter membership was left open until November 11. Rev. Leroy Richardson, who had helped in the mission work, was called as pastor. The church is now meeting at 47th Avenue and Burns Way.

Oklahoma Ministers Hold State Conference

TULSA, Okla.—The Oklahoma state ministers' conference met at the Lawnwood church here for its regular meeting. New officers elected were: Rev. Willard C. Day, president; Rev. Ernest Harrison, vice-presi-

dent; Rev. Homer Young, secretary and Rev. Delbert Akin, assistant secretary. The next meeting will be held at the First church of Tulsa on May 6-7.

Association Holds Meeting in Carlsbad

CARLSBAD, N. Mex.—The First New Mexico association held its second quarterly convention in Carlsbad on November 1-2. Rev. L. C. Pinson delivered the introductory message and Rev. V. A. Thompson and Rev. Delbert Davis brought the other two messages.

New officers elected were: Mrs. S. M. Aragon, clerk; Rev. L. C. Pinson, member of the executive board and Mrs. Clea Webb, member on the board of missions. The next meeting will be at the First church of Artesia on February 7-8.

Pastoral Changes

Bill Turnbough to Bear Point church, Sesser, Ill., from Fourth church, St. Louis, Mo.
Elmer Turnbough to Fourth church, St. Louis, Mo.

Revival Campaigns

| CHURCH | PASTOR | EVANGELIST | DATES | DEC. | ADD. |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------|------|------|
| Loyal Chapel church, Columbia, Tenn. | J. B. Bloss | R. E. Pixley | 11/11-20 | 20 | 12 |
| Rains Cross Roads, Princeton, N. C. | Herbert Waid | Ralph Osborne | 10/21-27 | 2 | |
| St. Mary's church, New Bern, N. C. | Cecil Campbell | Damon C. Dodd | 10/1-14 | 31 | 33 |
| Unity church, Jacksonville, Fla. | | T. G. Hamilton | 10/15-21 | | |
| Airport church, Tulsa, Okla. | Joe Slaten | Bill Ketchum | 11/4- | | |
| Elm Grove church, Ayden, N. C. | J. C. Lynn | L. C. Johnson | 11/4-11 | | |
| First church, Tulsa, Okla. | John H. West | E. A. O'Donnell | 11/18- | | |
| Edgemont church, Durham, N. C. | Joseph G. Ange | Bobby Jackson | 10/7-21 | 76 | |
| Davis church, N. C. | Roger Reeds | Damon C. Dodd | 11/5-15 | | |
| Northeast church, Shawnee, Okla. | Leroy Bowers | Homer Young | 11/5- | | |
| Glenwood church, Camden, Ark. | F. W. Scogin | F. W. Scogin | 10/21-28 | 5 | 6 |
| Irving, Texas | Roy O'Dell | Roy O'Dell | 10/21-28 | 2 | 4 |
| Fellowship church, Bryan, Texas | H. Ray Berry | Lonnie Sparks | 11/18-25 | | |
| Carlsbad, N. Mex. | L. C. Pinson | A. L. McAffery | 10/8-12 | | |
| Berkeley church, St. Louis, Mo. | Harvey Hill | O. T. Allred | 11/12-21 | | |
| Union Third Fork church, Missouri | W. R. Rush | O. T. Allred | 11/26- | | |

Personally . . .

This is being written in my hotel room in New York.

I have just left a session of the Advisory Council of the American Bible Society which it has been my privilege to attend for four years.

My soul has been stirred today and I wanted to write these words while my bosom still throbbled with the burden which the Lord has placed there today. I hope He will put the same burden upon your heart.

First, let me give you just a sentence or two by way of background. The American Bible Society was founded 140 years ago for the purpose of translating, printing, distributing, and encouraging the use of the Bible. It is hard to imagine the scope of this work unless you had much more information than I am able to give you here.

The Society is the agency for more than 55 Protestant denominations and receives support from them. It is doing a job for us and them that is absolutely essential, and it is a job which none of us could do for ourselves.

We have been slow—too slow—in sharing in its support. Last year 163,000 Free Will Baptists gave the whole sum of \$658! I want to share with you some of the things which I have heard today that stirred my soul as I listened to tape recorded and on-the-spot reports from many parts of the world.

● **Both evangelicals and Roman Catholics are predicting that Brazil will become a Protestant country in less than a century. Brazil is the bright spot on the missionary map, but the Bible Society urgently needs \$50,000 more to provide 2 million copies of the Scriptures in Portuguese. The money is not available.**

● The Society circulates over 9 million copies of the Scriptures in America each year. Much of this is in Bible-scarce areas.

● **When printing was invented, the Bible had been translated into 33 languages. In 1804 when Bible Society work was founded, the number had increased to 71. By next year some portion of it will be in over 1,100 tongues, but there are still 1,000 languages and dialects which have no part of the Word of God!**

● "In the midst of privation both in Hungary and among the refugees, the cry came for the Scriptures—preferably whole Bibles," said Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of the United

Lutheran Church, who has been in close touch with the Hungarian situation since it began. He added: "Church attendance in Hungary is 25 to 28 per cent of the population compared with 1 to 3 per cent in the rest of Western Europe."

● **Said the Society: Our stock of Hungarian Bibles in Vienna was exhausted. More Bibles were shipped from Amsterdam and 290,000 volumes of whole Bibles, Testaments, and Gospels in Hungarian are now being printed to help answer the cry.**

● 420 volumes in Hungarian went to Camp Kilmer, N. J., for distribution to the refugees arriving in this country.

● **So far this year chaplains in the service have requested 67,648 Bibles. The Society has been able to supply only 25,392, leaving over 42,000 Bibles unsupplied to our men in the armed services because of the lack of funds! An additional \$70,000 is needed which could not be put in the budget.**

● An additional appropriation of \$30,000 is needed for India which could not be included in the budget. This need is urgent because most observers believe the days of American missionaries in India are numbered.

● **Last year the per capita spending of Americans looked like this: \$22.95 for cigarettes, \$10.80 for soft drinks, a fraction over one cent for Bibles!**

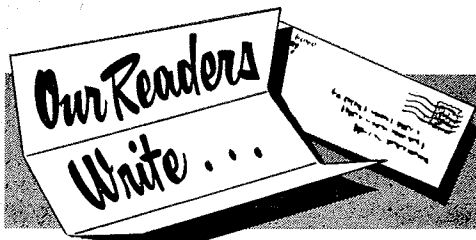
● It costs \$60 to produce the Bible in 20 volumes in Braille. They are sold to the blind at \$5.00. Talking-Book records for the blind who cannot read Braille are sold at 25 cents per record. A complete New Testament on 40 records may be purchased by the blind for \$10.00—a fraction of the cost.

The Bible Society story is thrilling. It would take a book to tell it all. The men who serve the Society are Christians dedicated to the great job of bringing the Bible to every man in his own tongue. I have been impressed with their deep devotion.

I am much distressed at our slowness to respond to the urgent needs of this extremely important organization. I sent 2,000 letters a few weeks ago urging our pastors to ask their churches to do something special for the American Bible Society during December.

Please do, my brethren. If you will think what it would be like to be a member of one of those 1,000 tribes who do not yet have any portion of the Bible—the blessed Book which tells about our blessed Lord—I believe you will.

Send your offering to Free Will Baptist Headquarters, 3801 Richland Ave., Nashville 5, Tenn., marked for the "American Bible Society." Do it now!



"Wash Tub" Offering

Dear Editor:

Our church is progressing very nicely since Rev. George McLain became our pastor last April. We have had 62 additions to the church in seven months. People are being saved in almost every service.

The second Sunday in October we had a "wash tub" offering for our building fund. Although we had our smallest attendance in several weeks, we had faith to believe we would fill the tub. We filled it, pressed it down, and it ran over again!

We received \$1,455 in the tub which was a free will offering. Our tithes were given in the evening service which were \$153, making a total of \$1,608 for the day.

Mrs. Georgia Hall, Church Clerk
Campbell, California

Wants Atlanta Addresses

Dear Editor:

We are living in Atlanta and thus far have been unable to find a Free Will Baptist church in this area. We had understood before coming here that there were some.

If there are none, I am sure there are other Free Will Baptists living in Atlanta or the area who would like to organize a church. Information from anyone having any knowledge concerning the above request would be greatly appreciated.

Lee R. Miller
370 Leland Terrace
Atlanta 17, Georgia

CONTACT

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Vol. 4 December, 1956 No. 2

What's Your Problem?



By LOUIS H. MOULTON, Savannah, Ga.

Q. I have heard many Free Will Baptists close their prayer with, "Lord, at last save us in heaven. Amen." Is it right for a person to say that he is saved before he dies?

A. I do not care for such a prayer. If a person is really saved he may definitely know it on the authority of the Bible. Jesus says in John 3:36: "He that believeth on the Son hath (present tense) everlasting life . . ." A person knows whether or not he has believed on the Son. In 1 John 5:11, 12: "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

For one who believes on the Son to doubt that he has life is to make God a liar. Verse 10 of this same chapter says, ". . . he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son." Paul says in 2 Tim. 1:12 ". . . for I know whom I have believed . . ." Job says in chapter 19, verse 25, of his book, "For I know that my redeemer liveth . . ." I John 3:2 says: "Beloved, *NOW* are we the sons of God and . . . we *KNOW* that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him . . ."

If a person has received Jesus, he has the right to call himself a child of God and may say with authority "I know I'm saved!" In fact he has no right to doubt that he is a child of God, as long as he lives a consistent, yielded and consecrated life.

Q. Where is the scripture that says there were three wise men who brought gifts to Jesus at the first Christmas?

A. There is no such scripture. We do not know how many wise men there were. There may have been a dozen or half a hundred or only two. Tradition has assumed the presence of three wise men since the gifts presented to the young child were three: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11.

Q. I have heard it said that it makes no difference which religion a man professes provided he's sincere and does the best he can. Is this statement true?

A. It most assuredly is not true. A man's best is a stench in the nostrils of Almighty God for ". . . all our righteousness are as filthy rags . . ." (Isaiah 64:6) and ". . . there is none righteous, no, not one" "for all have sinned . . ." (Romans 3:10, 23). Every religion is false except Christianity, the religion of Christ. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12).

Neither does it make a lie any less a lie to believe it sincerely. A person may be ever so sincere and still be sincerely wrong.

I have heard people say, "Oh, well, what's the difference. We're all trying to get to the same place. Methodists are going to heaven one way, Baptists another, Presbyterians still another, Episcopalians, Holiness, Lutherans and so on are trying their way." This is another untrue statement. There is only one way. Though we differ doctrinally, the Way remains the same. "Jesus saith . . . I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the father, but by me." (John 14:6). Also note John 10:1.

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

I Wisht I Noed

i wisht i noed whut to rite about. the techur said to rite a peece so he'd no about how mutch we noed whin he red it.

but how will he no how mutch i no ifn i caint think of nuthin to rite. i gess i culd rite about the preechun i heerd last nite. it was reely good. anyhow it wuz loud. that preechur said somethin i liked. he said thet ifn the Lord done call ye to preech why preech.

i culd write about his preechun ifn i culd think of whut he said. he shore said it loud. i no thet. but i caint remember whut it wuz he said. i culd rite about what decun jones said sundy mornin at church. cum to think of it tho he didnt say nuthin but cept he wuz agin tithin.

thets how i feel about it to. how kin a pore man tithe. seems like a feller ort to no a pore man caint feed his fambly and his cows and hev more'n a dollar to throw in on sundy. i wisht decun jones ud said more sos i could of hed somethin to rite about.

i wont never git my peece rote thisaway. whut in the worl will i rite about. i got to git started. techur said hed wate tin minuts and the tin minuts is neerly up. oh i no whut ill rite about. ill rite about whut we done in sundy skool class sundy. we red the lessun and when miz jane shes the teachur said now yew tell us whut yew red i said ther aint no use in thet becuz i red loud enuf fer everyone to heer and anyhow it said it so good thers no need of me sayin it agin.

miz jane said fer us to put it in our own words but who wuld want to do a thing like thet. anyhow when God says a thing its said good enuf. miz jane said its too bad decun jones culdnt take whut God said about tithin the way He said it. she kinda hit at that feller that preached to cause she said the Bible said yew wuz to study.

now whoever heerd of a pore man a tithin and the Lord acallin a man to preech and him ahavin to study up whut to say. the techur says times up and i declar i caint think of nuthin to rite about and hows he gonna no how mutch i now when i culdnt think of nuthin to rite about.

—Eunice Edwards

CONTACT

REV HENRY MELVIN
RFD 2 BOX 13-C
WINTERVILLE N C

Bellringers



• A church organ in Blackpool, England, that startled parishioners when it "broadcast" a BBC weather report during a service has been restored to normal. A piece of wire dropped down among the tubes caused the instrument to pick up radio signals.

• In Des Moines, Iowa, post office clerk Donald Dotson handed a woman some stamps to be used on a church mailing, apologized when she refused to accept an issue commemorating the 50th anniversary

of Devil's Tower National Monument in Wyoming and finally gave her stamps of another issue.

• Something new in church seating has been incorporated in the mammoth \$860,000 White Memorial Seventh-day Adventist church in Los Angeles. It has seats arranged in staggered sizes. If you don't fit, just move over until you do. Seats are built "to accommodate worshippers of any dimension."

• This want ad appeared in the St. Charles, Minn., *Press* recently: "Wanted: Men, women and children to sit in slightly used pews Sunday morning—Saratoga Congregational Church."