

Eld. Kenneth Turner 1-34  
Route 2, Box 58.

# THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

ORGAN OF THE MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST  
AND OF THE CO-OPERATIVE GENERAL ASSOCIATION—FOR FREE WILL BAPTIST EVERYWHERE

Vol. 5. No. 5.

Purdy, Missouri, May, 1933.

75 cents per year.

## Who Is Responsible For Beer

By Mr. and Mrs. Ira E. Vandivort

Dear Readers of the Gem:

This is our first attempt to write a letter, and we hope our good editor will print it.

We might suggest that the hundreds of "church members" and "preachers" who voted for the return of beer might be responsible, and any man or woman who cast a vote for John N. Garner, Franklin D. Roosevelt, or anyone else who is holding out for the return of the hellish stuff are as much responsible as the fellow who makes it or the one who boot-legs it.

Why set up a howl now? We are getting just what they voted for, why blame the brewers for something that we are thrusting upon them? God pity a preacher who voted wet and will then get into his pulpit and belittle the man who drinks it, manufactures it, or sells it. God pity the man who voted for those who would repeal our dry laws, and will then appear before a Sunday school class as a teacher, a superintendent, or a deacon, and would raise his voice against the ones who make or sell it.

Possibly the suggestion of our First Lady might help to solve the problem, when she said that our young girls of today would have to learn to drink discreetly, so they may find out how much they can carry under their belts in society without being totally drunken. Indeed we must pray for them, for anyone who makes an unholy statement of that kind, needs the prayers of Christian people, and any one who is guilty of helping to put people like that in power in our land, needs praying for.

And now they have moved the saloon into our hotels and restaurants which will give them at least a more respectable appear-

ance, and will make them more inviting to women, and to our boys and girls. Will not a combination be more dangerous to our country than the old fashioned saloon? Would we like to turn our fine hotels into immoral resorts? This, in our opinion, will be far worse than the old-fashioned saloon.

May we pray for the foolish people who stood in line all night, that they might get their first drink of the "hellish" stuff, here in Kansas City?

We ask the dear ones who read this to remember us in your prayers.

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Prov. 20:1).

May God bless all you who read these lines.

2410 Troost, Kansas City, Mo.

## EXAMPLE

By Mrs. Lina Claxton

Hartville, Mo., Feb. 24, 1933.

Dear Gem Family:

I have just been thinking this morning about the word "Example." In writing from time to time, as I have been doing now for thirteen years or more, I want to write with just one object in view, and that is to help someone who, like myself, desires to do good in the world. I believe we should all examine ourselves constantly, to discover the foundation of our faith and see if indeed we are children of God. We may be excused for mistakes relating to other matters, but this is too serious to be mistaken about. I want to make my testimony as short this morning as I can, and give way to one who is more able to do good than I am.

James a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, tells us in James 5:10, "Take my brethren the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an ex-

ample." "Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" (1 Tim. 4:12). "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as you have us for an example, for many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ" (Phil. 3:17). Read the rest of the chapter. "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow in his footsteps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (1 Peter 2:21). "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world, if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 Jno. 2:15). St. Luke says (11:35), "Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness."

It has been told to me that some preachers, S. S. superintendents, fathers, mothers, grandfathers, grandmothers, church members, are playing cards, some dancing, going to shows, going everywhere the old devil wants them to go, but the true child of God does not go to these places, because the footsteps of Jesus do not lead to evil. If there are any such in the Gem family, I plead with you, do not bring a reproach upon our denomination, do not set such examples before your little girls and boys; by so doing, you may be the cause of them forgetting God. And remember that David said in Psalm 9:17, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all nations that forget God." So let us pray for each other, that we may shun the very appearance of evil, and set such examples before the world that the world may know that there is a reality in the re-

ligion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Oh, dear Jesus, we don't want to be a stumbling block in the way of any poor sinner!

Pray for me, dear brothers and sisters, that we may grow stronger each day. God bless all who may read this is my prayer.

### Feet Washing an Ordinance

By Elder Walter E. George

*"Peter saith unto Him, Thou shalt never wash my feet" (John 13:8).*

To the Gem Family:

Here I come again. I will first say that I am still on the Lord's side: He is not on my side, but I am on His side.

I am some stronger than I was, but my condition is no better. I am requesting the Lord's people to pray a special prayer for me, that I might get well and go into the fields for God. Read Jas. 5:16. If I had gone to the evangelistic fields I, no doubt, would have been strong.

Now back to the text. Next month is our month to take the Lord's Supper and to wash the saints' feet: I want to write a few lines about it. Brethren of the Free Will Baptist, did you know we are losing ground? This may not sound good, but it is the truth and one reason is that so many members of the Free Will Baptist churches have said the same thing that Peter said, or about the same; and some whole churches wont wash feet, I mean Free Will Baptist churches. Now Jesus said to Peter, "If I wash thee not, thou hast so part with me" (John 13:8). I am sure that lots of folks who claim to be Christians will have no part with the Lord, because they wont wash feet.

You may watch the revival meetings and see the number who claim to be converted and see how they drop off in number as the daily walk comes and God's word is preached. For example: A meeting is held and 25 converted. About 15 of them will join the church and about 12 will be baptized, about 10 will take the Lord's Supper, and about 5 will wash the saints' feet. Now in general that is about the way it runs, and I say that the thing is wrong somewhere, for God does a perfect work. So the wrong is sin, I will

say, "for he that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). And I know that part or most of the sin is in the preachers, and the rest is in the people. Did you know that we have lots of preachers in number, but when it comes to qualify, we haven't near so many that God is pleased with? Read 1 Tim. 3:1-8

Now Jesus said, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:20). That means feet washing too, and if we fail to teach them that and to observe to do that, we need not ask Jesus to be with us. Always, for He has not promised to be with us unless we teach and practice all things. "If ye know these things: happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:17).

You know that feet washing is a test of fellowship. This may be new to you. If it is, pray and study God's word before you condemn me. Note that Jesus is our example in everything and He tested the fellowship of Peter in the washing of his feet. Any one that will take the stand against feet washing, and will not do it, he or she has no part with Jesus. Here is another thing; if two members fall out with each other, you know if the pastor with the deacons, would take the wash pan and a towel to them and make them wash one another's feet or get out of the church, we would not have so much trouble, and that would be a Bible ground to discipline, without having to run all over the country trying to get it fixed up, and never get it done from the heart. Feet washing is to teach humility, but some will say, "I can have that without washing feet." Jesus said He had given an example, we should do as He has done. So if you can show your humility to the brethren and to the world without washing the saints' feet, you are not following Jesus, for Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). You know I find that so many folks want to have their own way about things and would stand up and argue with Christ, if He were here on earth. Some will say, when you hem them up, that they believe in feet washing, but they will not do it. "Faith without

works is dead" (James 2:18). You may believe in feet washing, but unless you do it, your faith is dead, no good. I am not calling any names, but I know a preacher who was preaching at a Free Will Baptist church and it came to the day for the Lord's Supper and feet washing. They did not believe in it, and would not do it, but the preacher preached it and finally got one man and one woman, with the preacher and his wife, making four to wash feet. They washed feet, but the preacher didn't get to go back any more; and that preacher did what the Lord said for him to do. The trouble was, that some other preachers had let the church backslide from feet washing because they didn't want to observe it. I have said, and still say, I would not conduct a service and stop when I got to feet washing; and if the churches don't want it preached, they had better not call me, for it is God's word, and that is what we have to go by, and not what people see, hear, or think. Let us do today the things that we would like to be doing when Jesus comes. Feet washing is a Gospel ordinance. Paul said in 1 Cor. 11:1-2, "Be ye followers of me even as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things and keep the ordinances as I delivered them to you." "And if any hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come" (1 Cor. 11:34). Here is another thing and I will close. Feet washing is not to wash the dirt off, nor to cleanse them like some think. I have been in feet washing when I was ashamed of the dirty feet, and I am sure that Christ was too. Children of God ought to clean up on the outside as well as on the inside, and we would not be scorned at by the world so much. Some will argue that because they wore sandals and their feet were dirty, and on long trips they would wash feet. There is no Bible for that. In Old Bible times they washed their own feet and the first record in the Bible is where two angels came down to Sodom and Lot got water for them to wash their feet, I would not by any means say that the angel's feet were dirty,

*Continued on page fourteen*

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Eld. B. F. Brown, *Editor*.

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We will be glad to change your address for the Gem, if you notify us. Please give the old address with the new.

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We are always glad to receive articles, letters, reports, etc. from our readers for publication in the Gem, along any line that will help the cause.

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## THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

The Bible contains 3,566,480 letters, 810,697 words, 31,175 verses, 1,189 chapters, and 66 books. The longest chapter is the 119th Psalm; the shortest and middle chapter the 117th Psalm. The middle verse is the 8th of the 118th Psalm. The longest name is in the 8th chapter of Isaiah. The word "and" occurs 46,627 times. The word Lord 8,000 times. The 37th chapter of Isaiah and the 19th chapter of the 2nd book of Kings are alike. The longest verse is the 9th of the 8th chapter of Esther; the shortest verse is the 35th of the 11th chapter of John. In the 21st verse of the 7th chapter of Ezra is the alphabet. The finest piece of reading is the 26th chapter of Acts. The name of God is not mentioned in the book of Esther. The Bible contains knowledge, wisdom, holiness and love.

**YES, THE BIBLE** is a Book of Knowledge. The 3,566,480 letters make up the 810,697 words, which, arranged in sentences, make up the 31,175 verses. How many verses do you know? How many of the 1,189 chapters have you committed to memory? How many of the 66 books can you name in their order?

We say that words are signs of ideas; so back of each word is a thought; and back of each word in the Bible is the thought of God. God had His thoughts for man's good written in the Bible, that we might by reading it, find out how to escape the ways of death and enter into life as children of God. For every problem of life, there is something in the Bible to help us to solve it.

Every professional man must study the things pertaining to his profession—the lawyer must study law; the physician must study medicine; the astronomer must study astronomy; the scientist must study science; the child of God must study God's Book, the Bible—each one must apply himself to the gaining of needed knowledge, to be accounted worthy of his profession or calling.

Many professed Christians read much from books, magazines and papers about the things that are temporal, and the doings of men, but have little time or desire for the Bible. What excuse shall people who delight to read or hear of men's fancies and inventions more than for God's Holy Word, make when they stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ at the last day?

The Christian who reads other matter a great deal, and the Bible but little, follows Jesus afar off.

But the Christian who honestly reads his Bible a great deal, and other matter but little, is a live Christian, who walks with God, and is a light in this old world.

—The Editor.

Purdy, Missouri, April 20, 1933.

Dear Mission Workers:

Here I am again with another report, not exactly a Mission report, but one as good.

In our last letter to the Gem, we were in a glorious revival here in Purdy, and we have kept right on with the help of the Lord and the co-operation of the good people here in town. We never worked with a more precious people than these.

Every Sunday morning, we visited the other churches, and then at night, the other churches came to the meeting and lent a helping hand.

One dear woman, Sister Beeler, stood with me in all the prayer meetings and personal work. She only missed one meeting during the four weeks. We have made our home with the editor and wife and visited out in many homes.

The M. E. pastor was with us for two services and was very nice to work with. On account of other church work he couldn't be here any longer.

We have had forty-four (44) converted and reclaimed together. God has wonderfully poured out of His Spirit in the services. The Gospel team from Monett was a wonderful help during the meeting, also Brothers Johnnie Swaffar and Winford Davis. Bro. Swaffar led our singing part of the time.

We also had a splendid lady to play for us, Sister McKee, an M. E. lady that has rooms with Bro. and Sister Brown. We surely appreciated all these good workers. God bless them. Bro. and Sister Brown were our faithful standbys all the way through.

We will be visiting the other churches now in the interest of the Mission work. Pray for us.

Yours for Jesus,  
Lizzie McAdams.

ject: "The Closed Door"—in which ten young ladies represented the ten virgins of Matt. 25. It was a good service.

### ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI (First Free Will Baptist Church)

Dear Gem Readers and Friends:

I am writing to let you know that we are getting along fine.

The league had their business meeting this month and elected officers for six months as follows: President ..... Arthur Frances Vice President ..... Albert Hughes Secretary ..... Sister Opal Hughes Treasurer, Sister Blanche Frances Pianoist, ..... Sister Ilean Maxfield Reporter ..... Francis McCauley

Our young people are getting along pretty well at this writing, they are studying Isaiah, and it is a great book.

Our Sunday school is coming along fine. Attendance is increasing every Sunday and interest is good. At the first of the year buttons were promised to every one that attended every Sunday for three months, and there were several who came the three months without missing one Sunday.

A few weeks ago Bro. James Miller and wife, Bro. Willard Lackey and wife and Sister Tommie Franklin made a visit to St. Louis and stayed a few hours. We enjoyed their visit and hope they will come again when they can stay longer.

Our church is getting along fine. Meetings are good and are having a fine time. We are holding a revival meeting this week, but rain and bad weather has hindered the people from coming out, and from all indications, we are going to have a bad day for Easter Sunday. But we hope all things will work out all right.

Francis McCauley.

### TAKE HEED

By Mrs. E. G. Tharp

*"Take heed therefore how ye hear; for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall taken even that which he seemeth to have"* (Luke 8:18).

In the marginal reference we find this reference: "Or thinketh that he hath." Our Savior sounded a warning that has come down from the distant past; and we of

today are just as responsible for how we hear as were they of our Savior's audience; "Take heed how ye hear." Can't you almost hear the gracious words of our blessed Master as He explained the parable of the Sower to His anxious disciples? What a wonderful privilege, to sit and hear the greatest teacher that has ever been on earth! He told His disciples, "The seed is the word of God." So let us take heed, that our hearts are prepared for the reception of the word of God: not be as the wayside seeding, where the seed were trodden down and the fowls of the air devoured it; or like that which fell upon a rock, or the seed which fell among the thorns, but let us have our hearts prepared as good ground; and bear fruit, for we are to bear fruit. And it must be good fruit, too. The trouble with the seed that fell among the thorns was, the fruit failed to mature. Our Savior said: "And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection" (Luke 8:14). I am wondering how many of us have received the Word among the thorns.

Dear souls, let us take heed, how we hear. Have that honest and good heart, which is the good ground, "Having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience" (Luke 8:16). Then our candle will give light and others will be guided into truth. We may have our names on the church book, and seem to be religious, but dear souls, we are known by our fruit which we bear, for figs are not gathered from thistles, nor grapes from bramble bushes. Perhaps you have in mind some one, whom you used to think was a good Christian, that has let the enemy of his soul cause him to fail to bring forth fruit to perfection. So let's take heed how we hear—take heed of what we hear and be sure of what we have.

Paul tell us in Heb. 2:1, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." So beloved, take heed, don't let the devil get the victory.

All who know the worth of prayer pray for me.

**Note by the Editor**—The meeting reported above was a real success and of untold value to the people of Purdy. The attendance was good, the interest was good, and the results were good—it was great to have forty-four saved and renewed, but many Christians got warmed up and thawed out, so they began to testify for the Lord.

The last service of the meeting was held Thursday night—Sub-

Stella, Missouri, April 5, 1933.

Dear Readers of the Gem:

As I have been sitting here thinking and meditating on God's Word, I was just wondering if all of God's children will join with me to help keep this great menace beer out of our country. We all know it takes much prayer and faith to keep sin out of our lives. If beer comes into our little towns, we are letting the devil get an upper hand of the Christian people. It is just like I told some of the good faithful Christians one night at prayer meeting: That we children of God were going to have to pray much to keep beer out, but we can do it, if we only ask God in faith believing.

I am strictly opposed to anything the devil is for.

We are planning to start a revival meeting at Jones Chapel April 24th, and we all at Jones Chapel ask an interest in your prayers, that God will save souls.

Your brother in Christ,

Eld. Charley Edmondson.

### Report of Revival meeting

On March 19th, I went to my church at Carterville, Mo. for the regular services, accompanied by Bro. Weston of Monett, Mo., and upon our arrival we found the Christian people had a revival meeting started. Bro. Weston preached at the evening service, then I made an altar call which was responded to by two people who were gloriously saved. I had to drive home on Monday, but went back for service Monday night.

The Lord was wonderfully working with the Christians and perfect unity existed throughout the meeting.

The unsaved were seemingly anxious for the bread of life.

The meeting continued for two weeks and three nights and the Lord gave us thirty-three (33) souls, saved and renewed. Nine of these were baptized and nine united with the church. We expect to have another baptizing next Sunday, as others intend to join the church.

Bro. John Swaffar was to be with us, but was hindered on account of another meeting.

Pray for me,

Elder Cecil Campbell.

Sonora, Arkansas, April 13, 1933.

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

As I have been a Gem reader for some time and have not written anything to it yet, I feel led to write a few lines.

I acknowledged to call to the ministry the night of February 2, 1933. I have three appointments at three different churches and have preached sixteen sermons since then. I have held no revival as yet, but I hope to when opportunity permits and God is willing.

I love working for the Master in this way, although it has called for a good many sacrifices on my part. I go about 35 miles to two of my churches and spend two Sundays at my home church (Pilgrim Rest), the third Sunday to hear our pastor, Bro. Geo. Been, preach, and the fourth Sunday is my own appointment at the home church. So far I feel that I have received and enjoyed many blessings for my efforts in God's cause.

My wife and I have organized a new Junior Bible Class at one of my churches (White Oak), near Savoy, at the Sunday school. Bro. J. W. Allred, this was done thru your advice and influence, and we thank you for same, for we love the Junior Bible class work; every Sunday school should have one.

Hope these few words will be of interest to some of our Gem readers, be they Christians or sinners.

Pray for me, that I may ever be doing and saying just what God wishes me to.

Your brother in Christ,

David N. McCoy.

Granby, Missouri, April 13, 1933.

Dear Gem Readers:

As I haven't written for some time, I thought I would send in a word or two to let you know that I am still working at the trade. I am at present in a meeting with brother Noel at Picher, Oklahoma, which we will report later.

I got to attend a part of the meeting of the Executive Board, which met at our Macedonia church, near Purdy, Mo. There I met a number of people we had not seen for some time, and also met some whom we had never seen before. We were present for one night service and heard the wonderful sermon by Elders Marvin Dalton and another Brother

from Oklahoma whose name I can not recall at present.

I am looking forward to our State Association this fall, when once more we can meet those from all parts of the state. Truly it is just like seeing home folks to see them all together as one body.

Elder Kenneth Turner.

Granby, Missouri, April 13, 1933.

Dear Gem Family:

We came home from North Mo., where we enjoyed working in meetings with the people there, and arrived at Macedonia church Elder S. H. Marcum, March 28th, and arrived at Macedonia church in time for the Executive Board meeting.

There we enjoyed the services, both the preaching and business meetings, also we enjoyed meeting all the people who were there. There were some people there whom we met in Texas last summer, and others whom we had known for some time, and some that I had never met before, also some of the Oklahoma brethren, and a number of Missouri folks were there; so we certainly did have some good services, and discussions on the subjects of denominational interest.

When the board meeting was over, I came by home, filled my appointment at Jones Chapel, and then Bro. Kenneth and I came to Oklahoma to begin a meeting at our South Picher Free Will Baptist, which is still going.

Yours for Jesus,

Elder Noel Turner.

### About the Board Meeting

I want to say a word about our board meeting, held at our Macedonia church. I can't tell how much I enjoyed it.

We enjoyed so much having all the ministers present with us from the different places, and the good preaching and singing, etc., and above all the sweet spirit of fellowship. I look back to the meeting as a glorious time and as one more step toward bigger and better things.

May the Lord give us many more such outstanding times together, and enable us to accomplish the things for which we are striving is my prayer.

Your brother in Christ,

Winford Davis.

**DON'T FORGET JULY**

Dear Gem Family:

I was visiting one of Bro Winford Davis' churches Saturday night and over Sunday. At their church conference he appointed a committee to gather up the budget for this year, during the month of July.

I thought this would be fine if all our pastors would appoint a committee, and work with them, in raising the ten (10) cents per member. And, oh, how much it will mean when we come to our different associations, and to the State Association! We would have money enough to take care of all our obligations and not be embarrassed. July is the time.

Pastors, let's try one time to raise the budget in full.

God bless each one.

Yours for Jesus,

Lizzie McAdams.

Rogers, Ark., April 15, 1933

(Star Route % R. A. Cox)

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

Since last July I have been receiving and reading the Gem. I think it one of the most inspiring papers I have ever read. I do so much enjoy the testimonies from so many of God's children who love to hold up the "Blood Stained Banner of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Last June, I'm glad to say, I accepted the loving protection that God is offering to whosoever will accept it; and I must add right here that a dear, dear lady, who knew just what kind of milk a new born babe in Christ needed, had the Gem sent to me. May God bless her and may His Light keep shining through her and reflecting upon the world, as a beacon toward Heaven.

I love the way of the Lord and can truthfully say, The way grows brighter each day.

I have, as many others have, met with difficulties and temptations, but thanks be to God! I have not yielded, but have turned them into stepping stones to Higher Ground.

May the Lord wonderfully bless all who do His will, and may His blessings rest upon our own little Sunday school and prayer services here at Page Mine.

As one who knows the worth of prayer, I feel that I need the prayers of all you praying readers.

Your sister in Christ,

Mrs. Belle Townsend.

**What Must I Do to Be Saved?**

By Gene Chance

First I want to tell you that I am a new convert, eight months old spiritually, and I feel that others are facing the same problem that I faced eight months ago: **What must I do to be saved?** I shamefully say that I had never read the Bible very much; I had heard people say that if you would confess Christ and be baptized, you would be saved, but I couldn't see where it would help to tell the preacher that I was sorry for the way I had lived, for he was not the One to forgive me of my sins. And again I have heard people say that a sinner's prayer was not answered. But I could not believe that if any one was as sorry for his sins as I was, and wanted to be a Christian, that the Lord would not forgive if I would ask Him.

And along came Satan. Seeing that I was getting the light on what to do, he said to me: "If you go to the altar, what will your friends say? Wouldn't they laugh and say that you couldn't live the Christian life? You had better wait and get somewhere where you are not known; you couldn't stop your drinking and other pleasures, besides you are too young to give up your fun; wait until you get older," and a number of other excuses came into my mind. But thanks be to God, there was a stronger Spirit telling me not to wait, not to be ashamed.

Some folks will say, "Why didn't you ask the Lord to forgive then it would have been the same as waiting until you got to the church." Well, here is the reason: I wanted the Lord to know I was not ashamed to ask Him to forgive me before other people, and I wanted also, if the Lord did forgive me, to tell other people about it. The Lord did forgive me and I told other people about it; and I am still telling them, and if it be the Lord's will I will continue telling them about our Savior Jesus Christ, who bled, suffered and died on the cross for our sins,

"that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Now I felt that I was a fit subject to be baptized. Then I mentioned a sinner's prayer not being answered. Yes, we find that in the Bible—it says "God heareth not sinners." But who was speaking? It was the Pharisees.

In St. John 9:1 we find that this blind man was having a hard time with the Pharisees, that Jesus had restored his sight. "And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes" (verse 14). "Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them" (v. 16). Notice that they were speaking of miracles. "Then again called they the man that was blind and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner" (verse 24). "He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see" (verse 25).

The reason I am giving these Scriptures is to prove that they were trying to prove that Jesus was a sinner, because He had opened the blind man's eyes on the sabbath. Now any one that has read the Bible knows that the Pharisees were always finding fault with Jesus. "Now we know that God heareth not sinners" (verse 31). The Pharisees were speaking again and were the ones that accused Jesus of being a sinner. The blind man himself said in verse 25, "Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not." If they didn't know whether Jesus was a sinner or not, how could they know whether God would hear and answer a sinner's prayer? Now I don't believe that God would answer a sinner's prayer if he was praying for anything except his own soul. Praying for his own soul and praying for a miracle are different. Now we have read what the blind man and the Pharisees said about sinners praying, we will read what Jesus said in Matt. 7:7-11—"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that



seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask for bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?"

"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For, the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth in him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek; for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him" (Rom. 10:10-12).

Dear sinners, don't misunderstand; if you are sorry for the way you are living and are convicted of your sins, know that you are lost and are willing to give up your sinful ways, believe with all your heart that the Lord will do what He says He will do, and hear that knock at your heart's door, then the Lord is ready to save you.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with me" (Rev. 3:20).

"While it is said, Today; if ye hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation" (Hebrews 3:15).

Dear sinners, how many times have you heard that knock or feeling, telling you that you ought to give your life to Christ? Putting off salvation, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?

You may think you are having too good a time to give up some of your friends, or some other lust, but where are they leading you to? "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Let me tell you as a follower of both roads, There has been more real joy in my life since I gave my life to Christ than there was in all my past life. There is real joy in living for the Lord, "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8).

It is not God's will that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. So we have

our choice; Christ invites us all into His fold, and promises us everlasting life; and if we go to the other place, we are going where we are not invited, and to everlasting punishment.

Dear souls, I realize that I can not write as others can. This being my first attempt, I ask you to bear with me. I hope these words may lodge in some soul's heart and cause them to turn to God.

Christian people, please pray for me, that I may hold out faithful and ever be found doing the will of my precious Savior.

### THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF CHRIST

By Mrs. May H. Clutter, Wichita, Ks.

"And for this cause He is the mediator of a new covenant, that a death having taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant, they that were called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must of necessity be the death of him that made it. For a testament is of force where there hath been a death: for it doth never avail while he that made it liveth" (Hebrews 9:15-17).

How wonderful is the love of the Heavenly Father in the pains He has taken to teach man his relation to God, his fellowmen, and the world. He took infinite pains in creating man, and in redeeming him; and He has taken infinite pains in instructing him. He has given him a revelation which is like a fountain at which he may quench his thirst; a table at which he may feast and live, and sit in blessed fellowship; a marriage relation in which he is united to Christ to bring forth fruit unto God; a lake of redemption in which he may wash and be clean; a citizenship in a kingdom of peace and joy and righteousness in which he must acknowledge the King and submit to His laws. This revelation is also represented as covenants, as testaments or wills as is shown in the text quoted from Hebrews.

#### Testament or Will

The will has always been recognized among all peoples as an instrument to provide a means by which a person could transmit to his heirs the title of the property which he has accumulated during

a lifetime. All free people have this right, and we cannot deny the Heavenly Father the right to do the same. Wills are made because of the generous impulses of the will-makers, and it cannot be different with God.

There are certain qualifications which the will-maker must have. He must be of proper age; of sound mind; must have witnesses to his will; and must have something to give. Also, according to law and custom he may make any number of wills during his lifetime, but only the last one made is in force after his death. He may make his last will many years before his death, willing to his son a farm, to his daughter a house in town and an equal amount of money to each. He may will some of his wealth to missions and benevolences. But as long as he is alive he may do as he pleases with his possessions, giving gifts to his children and others.

Should the father fear the children might dispose of their property and squander the money he might place conditions in the will which would prevent them doing so. They would then abide by those conditions or lose their estate. There would be no redress for them.

#### God's First Will

In wills the names of those who are to inherit are named. In Ex. 19:3 we have a clear illustration of who are named in God's first will. Israel is addressed, and none other, as the inheritors. Deut. 5:1-3 makes this fact still clearer. It was a covenant made with those who were present at Sinai on that day, and was to be in force until abrogated by another and better. The promise was there, but Israel could not receive its fulfillment, for the reason that when the Maker of the will had died, it was found that the first had been abrogated by a later one.

#### God's Second Will

In His great love for mankind God sent His Son into the world to reveal His will which should set aside the old one. The will was made, Christ died on the cross and after His resurrection and ascension to the Father, His will was opened and probated.

But before Jesus died He had the right to do as He wished with what He had to give. To the

*Continued on page ten*

## FREE WILL BAPTIST LEAGUE

### MOUNTAIN GROVE, MISSOURI

I have just finished reading the many good letters in the last issue of the Gem, and it made me want to write a few lines to our dear paper.

Sunday evening, April 9th, our league and singing class of Mt'n Grove visited with the Oak Grove church No. 2, and rendered our program to them. We were received with a hearty welcome by the church and community. They haven't any league there, but we went with the purpose in view to introduce to them the league work and show them how it is carried on.

I believe that every Free Will Baptist church should have a league, for it gives young folks something to do. It causes us to study the Bible more than we would otherwise. What we young folks need to do more of is to study our Bibles, for it reveals God to us as no other book can. 'Tis sad to say, but there are many young folks of today that know nothing about the goodness of God, nor of His Son Jesus Christ, who gave His life on the cross for the redemption of our souls.

I think if there ever was a time that Christian people should be at their post of duty, fighting against sin, it is now.

I am so encouraged to go on in the Christian race after reading the good articles in the April Gem, written by the young Christians, and others. So come on young folks, let's put on the whole armor of God and fight sin in every form, and let's also remember to write to the Gem, for I know it will encourage the older people to know that we are determined to help support the good paper in every way that we can, and to "remove not the ancient land mark which thy fathers have set." Let's not become so discouraged as to think that we make a failure every time we try to do our duty, for we can not always tell; we must leave the results with the Lord. It may be as bread cast upon the waters, that will be gathered up many days hence. Let's be as steadfast and sincere as the four Hebrew children, Daniel, Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego were when

they were brought into the king's palace to eat of the king's meat and drink of his wine. They refused to eat his meat and drink his wine, but instead they ate pulse and drank water. And as for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. (Daniel 1:17).

I desire an interest in the prayers of all Gem readers.

Miss Bessie Scott.

Plattsburg, Mo., April 5th.

Dear League Workers:

I have received some reports from leagues over the state, and am sending them for publication in the Gem, so you can read for yourselves how the league work is gradually spreading over our State of Missouri:

The New Harmony league, near Greentop, Missouri has been organized since the State Association and has a membership of fifteen. Leona Thompson is Secretary.

A Free Will Baptist league has been organized at the Pleasant Hill church, near Hartville, Mo., February 26, 1933, by Sister Lizzie McAdams. Enrollment 27. President, Miss Lola Burney, Vice Pres., Miss Fern Findley, Secretary, Miss Ruth A. Jones, Treasurer, Miss Dorothy Hickman.

The league at Carterville, Mo. has been reorganized with new officers as follows:

President, Helen Stretch, 318 S. Rone St., Webb City, Mo. Vice Pres., Bertha Walker, Webb City, Missouri. Sec.-Treas., Lorane Harper, Carterville, Mo.

Junior Sponsor, Velma Ellis Group Cap. No. 1, Alta Johnson, Group Cap. No. 2, Loyd Johnson, Senior enrollment ..... 36 Junior enrollment, ..... 20.

The Stahl Free Will Baptist league met Monday night, Febr. 27th, and elected new officers:

President, Mrs. Rowena Hughes, Vice Pres., Noris Robinson, Sec.-Treas., Miss Velma Gates, Junior Sponsor, Mrs. Ora Stokes,

Eight new members were voted in, making a membership of 20.

Report of S. E. Mo. League Ass'n, for the quarter ending Dec. 31, '32

The Southeast Mo. F. W. B. L.

Association met with Flat River church in its third Annual Session, and the eleventh quarterly business session.

Opened by Bro. Charley Lund, president. Singing by congregation, "Calling for Workers." Scripture reading by Anna Reed. Prayer by Ben La Brot. Address by Damon Dodd. Response by Eva Gross.

Enrollment as follows:

Flat River .....	69
Mine La Motte .....	10
Desloge .....	18
Fredericktown .....	10
Leadington .....	40
Visitors .....	153

Total number present ..... 300

Minutes of last session read and approved.

Reading of Constitution and By-Laws.

Motion carried to receive the Mission church, 1405 S. St. Louis, into our association.

An offering of \$1.35 was taken.

Motion carried that our next convention be held at Mine La Motte church, May 2, 1933.

Number with harps by two boys of Mine La Motte league.

Talk on Importance of League Work by Oda Halbrook. He gave a splendid talk and we feel that good seed has been sown in good ground from his splendid talk.

Song by Fredericktown league, Song by Desloge league.

Drill in Parliamentary Usages by Leadington league, which was well carried out.

Song, "Help Somebody Today," by Flat River league.

Song by Bro. Vester Hand and others of Mine La Motte league.

Dismissed by Bro. Wm. Reeves.

### League Membership

Flat River .....	97
Desloge .....	73
Leadington .....	58
Wortham .....	32
Fredericktown .....	52
Mine La Motte .....	67
St. Louis, 1301 Park Ave. ....	42
St. Louis, 1405 S. St. Mission	34

Total membership of Ass'n .... 455

Average attendance per week 359, or 87%.

Flat River has won three Blue ribbons.

Bible readings per qr. 19,661

New members per qr. 91



Members dismissed per qr. 55  
Sick calls 2,066.  
Raymond La Brot, Sec.- Treas.

I still have a supply of the League Manuals, with the Constitution and By-Laws. They tell how to organize and conduct a Free Will Baptist league, and every league should have several copies. They are 10 cents each.

I would like to have every league organization to send me the name and address of their Sec'y-Treas. I want to get the name of every league organized within bounds of the Missouri State Association and the names of their officers.

If you league workers will help me to do this, we can have better co-operation at our state meeting this fall, and can be better organized in a State League organization.

Remember our League Motto:  
"The Kingdom of God First"  
(Matthew 6:33).

Yours for Jesus,  
Melba White, League Editor.

### SALVATION

*Continued from last issue*

You just keep quiet tonight, you can testify some other time or when you feel more like it." We obey Satan and miss a blessing, then we feel so bad that we think we never will do that again, but we go home and in a short time the devil says, "I wouldn't go to that altar today, there's no use, and you are busy now; you can call on God anywhere and it will do just as well," and he talks us out of our altar, not quickly, but gradually. When we fail to testify, we start getting cold: when we stop going to our secret altar, we begin losing our power; then then the devil says to us, "Just look at Bro. or Sister So and So, what they are doing; isn't that awful?" Then we start questioning about the other members of the church. Just think how very sneaking the old devil is, and what he has us to do. No wonder the Holy Spirit is grieved, for we are obeying Satan, and not God.

Now about the next thing the devil gets us to do is to be like hogs, you know hogs just feast on the acorns and never look up, nor think where they come from. Then we stop going to church, except when the pastor comes, if

we like him, and just on Sunday nights when we think there will be a big crowd, and maybe the preacher wont call on us to lead in prayer; "They love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil." We keep going this way until we have lost the joy of salvation; and we get back into the world and are surely lost while in this state. Then some preachers will come to during a big meeting and start in on us and speak of the past, and tell us the thing for us to do is to come back to the altar, or probably have two altars, one for sinners and one for the second work of grace; and tell us if we will come now and seek the Holy Ghost, and get Him, we will have something to keep us from going back into the world, and many other things they tell us.

May God help us to know when we get in a backslidden state the thing to do is to go where we laid the cross down and pick it up and confess our sins to God, then go to work for Him, and see how God will bless. Read Luke 15:20-21, "And he arose and came to his father, but when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight and am no more worthy to be called thy son." "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation" (Psalm 51:12).

Brethren, I know by experience, I went back into the world once. I know how hard the devil will try us, and he works on preachers harder than anyone else, I think, for he knows if he can trip a preacher he will have a whole body of people and maybe several churches. Good people, let us, while it is day, make sure of our peace with God, for the night is coming when no man can work.

May God bless Bro. and Sister Brown and all the Gem family. Come and see me and pray for me, that I may recover and return to the field to work for the Lord.

Eld. W. E. George,  
1520 W. Atlantic, Springfield, Mo.

### A SERMON

*Preached by Elder Elmer Turner,  
Mission Secretary of Arkansas Ass'n.*

Text, Gal. 5:5, 6—"For we through

*the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith . . . Faith which worketh by love."*

We talk of the depression of today and refer to it as the like the world has never witnessed before. Yet we forget history as it is recorded for our use and benefit, that we may profit by the experience of our forefathers.

History reveals the fact that the greatest calamity that has ever fallen to the lot of the Church of God up to the present time was that of the great dearth during Claudius Caesar's reign over the Roman Empire. We read of it in Acts 11:28, "And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar." If it had not been for the Mission workers during this catastrophe, the Christian influence would have been annihilated and the suffering throughout the world would have been unbearable. The saints of God, through the mission organization of the Church of God, were soon ready to compete with the destroying forces of satanic power during this great dearth. "Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea." Not that they were able to give their millions; NO! but little as it was, it pleased them to make a certain contribution for the poor saints at Jerusalem (Rom. 15:26). Here we see exemplified that Christian faith which worketh by love. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 8:2-5, "How that in a great trial of afflictions the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."

The faith of the saints is undergoing a great trial today in the same manner as it was tried during Claudius Caesar's day. Shall we allow the economic depression

*Continued on page twelve*

## FREE WILL BAPTIST LEAGUE

Pocahontas, Ark., April 17, 1933.

Dear Editor and League Workers:

After reading the reports of the various leagues through the good Gem, I have reached the conclusion that probably the various leagues would like to know how extensive this work is.

On Sunday, March 19, 1933, the people of the Free Will Baptist church of Sharum organized a Free Will Baptist league. The officers elected for the ensuing year were as follows:

President ..... Ralph Staten  
Vice Pres. .... Raymond Riggs  
Sec'y-Treas. .... Fred Ellis  
Chorister ..... Abraham Sutton  
Quiz Leader ..... Essie Ford  
Recording Sec. .... Audra Coleman  
Group Captains, Lena Riggs and Mrs. Mary Duty.

Our league has been making some progress since its organization and has a prosperous outlook. We have been watching the work of the various leagues with great interest. I am very glad of the increased and growing interest of the work that the leagues have accomplished in their efforts to put the Kingdom of God first in the hearts and lives of other young people.

The most powerful spiritual stimulus that ever quickens the followers of Christ is felt when they put forth the greatest effort to give to others the knowledge of the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. This service brings profound happiness to our hearts.

Let us, as young people, parents, and friends as well, unite in our efforts to give to the world a more efficient and highly trained leadership among our young people of the church, which is a source, not only of pure delight, but also of inspiring and sustaining hope for the future. How this should thrill our hearts and stir our desires and inflame our love and marshall our powers.

Our task now, as the task of God's people has ever been, is great, but the resources at our command are unlimited. God's arm is not bound, that He cannot help. As He rolled back seas of water, that paths of dry land might be provided for His people of old, so will He today, if we but trust Him, blast out of our paths

the debris that blocks our way. Will we trust Him and "go forward?"

The message to us is: "Be your highest, truest, and finest self by walking in fellowship with God and in obedience to His Word."

We are much encouraged by the response being made by other young people. We want them all and we want the undivided and enthusiastic support of the parents of such glorious and industrious people, for we believe it to be the example of our Lord and Master.

Yours for the kingdom first,

Ralph Staten, Pres.

### The Last Will and Testament

*Continued from page seven*

palsied man He said, "Son, be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven thee." To the sinful woman He said, "Thy faith hath saved thee, go in peace." To the thief on the cross, "Today thou shalt be with me in Paradise."

We cannot take these incidents as precedents for a claim to more than the will allows us as heirs. They were special gifts given by One who had the right to give them, and only to those who were named as recipients. After the death of the will-maker the heirs must conform to the conditions of the will or lose their share of the estate. The will of Christ was probated on the day of Pentecost and the heirs were named, together with the conditions of heirship. The witnesses were produced and the will was stamped and sealed by the presence of the Holy Spirit in the rushing, mighty wind, and tongues of flame. By the Holy Spirit the witnesses became the executors of the will, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." The inheritors are announced to be, not Israel alone, but all nations; all who through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and obedience to His will are adopted into the family of God. On the Day of Pentecost lost sinners, hearing the message of the will were brought to a belief that Jesus is the Son of God, and were told to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins and they should receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2: 38).

Jesus had all the necessary qual-

ifications of a will-maker. He was of sound mind, proper age, had twelve trained witnesses, and had rich gifts to give. The personal gifts He wills to all who will accept the conditions are remission of sins, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and adoption into the family of God. "To as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on His name: who are born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12, 13).

The unbeliever is told that he must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved (Acts 16:31). The believer is told to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38). Thus the sinner is led through the conditions of the will until he can lay claim to the promises it has made, the remission of sins, and the possession of the Holy Spirit. But the will goes even farther than that, and promises eternal life. This is the real estate of the Father, and is the strongest incentive to purity of heart and activity of life. These blessings, with strength and guidance and comfort, and all the blessings that flow through trusting hearts are in this will for believers.

And what of it all? Paul tells us in the eighth chapter of Romans, "The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit that we are children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with Him that we may be also glorified with Him." Being children we are heirs. The old will of God to the Jews is no longer binding, for through Christ all who will accept Him as Savior are adopted into the Family of God. Not upon flesh and blood does our salvation depend, but upon faith and obedience through which we are born into His family. Any one, Jew or Gentile, may become a child of God through Christ. In this new relationship to God the life is changed, and the things we once loved we now hate, for we can look upon the things of this world through the eyes of God. With Him in the heart a new world opens to our gaze; new affections; new sympathies; new hopes that human hearts never had until He came.

—From the DEFENDER

## OBITUARY

**TERRY**—Sarah Ellen Marlow was born in Christian County, Mo., April 22, 1856.

She was married to M. F. Terry November 9, 1879. To this union seven children were born.

She is survived by her devoted husband; four sons: Horace, Fred and Granville Terry of Purdy, Mo. and Carl Terry of Boise, Idaho; three daughters: Mrs. James Mackey and Mrs. Fred Edwards of Purdy, Mo., and Mrs. James Bullington of Granby, Mo.; seventeen grandchildren and one great grandchild; also three sisters: Mrs. Mollie Sooter, Mrs. Laura Willis of Monett, Mo. and Mrs. Lula Sneed of Galena, Kansas.

She died at her home three miles east of Purdy, April 15, 1933, at the age of 76 years, 11 months and 22 days, after a long illness, which she bore with great patience.

She was converted at an early age and lived a consecrated life. No one sees the door that opens,

No one hears the voice which calls,  
Softly as the rosebud petals,

One by one our loved ones fall.

Funeral services were conducted by Elders Melvin Henson, Fred McPhail and Winford Davis, at the Arnhart church, and the body was laid to rest in the church cemetery to await the glorious resurrection. Blankenship Undertaking Company of Purdy in charge.

**Hillary**—Samuel C. Hillary, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Hillary, was born Feb. 10, 1844, and departed this life April 6, 1933, at his home in Purdy, Mo., at the age of 89 years, one month and 25 days. His illness was of short duration and at the time of his death two of his children and the faithful wife stood by him with every comfort that loving hands could give.

By two former marriages he leaves twelve children. The first union was with Mary Addy who preceded him in death, leaving one son, Newton J. Hillary of Imogene, Iowa, but on account of sickness he could not be present at the death of his father.

Later he was united in marriage to Jane Manning. To this union 11 children were born, of which four are dead: Bessie, Freddie, Sarah and Clara. Two cannot be located: Daniel and Samuel. The

living ones are George of Willow Springs, Mo., Willie L. of Garfield, Ark., Mrs. Katie Findley of Competition, Mo., Mrs. Myrtle Lamphie of Leon, Iowa, and Ethel Hillary of St. Louis, Mo. He also leaves 17 grandchildren and one great grandchild, besides a host of friends and other relatives.

The last wife, Cordellia Laney, whom he married April 20, 1924 will still reside at Purdy.

Grandfather was a devoted Christian and a member of the M. E. church. His influence will live on with the dear ones who knew him best. We would say to the dear companion and children, live to meet him and be as resigned as he was when you come to the crossing of the river, for he will be waiting on the other side.

Funeral services were conducted by Mrs. Lizzie McAdams at the M. E. church in Purdy.

**Boyer**—Mary Emeline Marlow, daughter of J. M. and R. C. Marlow, was born in Worth County, Missouri, July 15, 1854, and departed this life April 21, 1933, at the age of 78 years, nine months and six days.

She was united in marriage with B. F. Boyer April 1, 1877, he having preceded her in death six years. To this union was born seven children, who are Oral, Dean, Fred, Homer, Mrs. Ona Dummitt and Miss Flora. Oral and an infant son preceded her in death, leaving to mourn her passing five children, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren, three brothers and one sister, who are John Marlow of Purdy, Mo., Elijah of Vinita, Oklahoma, Joel of Graton, Calif., and Mrs. Barbara McGleason of Cassville, Mo., and a host of other relatives and friends.

She was converted at an early age, and later became a member of the Merls Chapel Free Will Baptist church.

Aunt Mary became an invalid by injuries received in a fall, about three years ago. She was cheerful and bore her suffering patiently. About two weeks ago she became ill of a complication of diseases, and despite all that loving hands could do, she passed to the Great Beyond.

Funeral service was conducted by Elder Winford Davis, at the Merls Chapel church, interment was made in Oak Ridge cemetery.

## A Path that Leads to Life and A Path that Leads to Death

Hartville, Mo., March 22nd.

Dear Editor and Wife and Gem Readers: As I read Jeremiah this morning, I found, "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls" (Jer. 6:16). My mind wanders back to almost sixty years ago when my father moved from the State of Illinois to Wright Co., Missouri. He bought a little home about three-quarters of a mile from the Coldwater school house, which was boxed out of oak lumber, and the house was used also for a church house. Some of the neighbors told my father that there would be preaching there and would be glad for him to come. When the day came, he said, "Get ready, we will go to church today, hurry up, let us be on time." So father led the way over the little path that started from our back door, over a rail fence, and up the hill we went, single file, all wondering what it would be like. And the more we went, the more we wanted to go; for, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Father, when it was dark, carried the lantern and went in front, the rest following him. He and his family are all gone to the glory land, only the writer is left here for a short time, but this path is fresh in my mind this morning.

Now, after several years had passed by, and I had got moved and had a little family of my own, my husband bought us a little home on Elk creek, at a distance of six miles, and at this time there was no school in this district, but in a short time they built a new school house, with the understanding that it should be used for church too. This school house was about three-quarters of a mile from our house and the brush about as thick as they could grow. So when we heard that the house was completed and school was to begin on a certain day, Jim came through the yard with his ax on his shoulder one day and said, "I am going to cut and blaze out a path up the hill for the children

*Continued on page fourteen*

**A Sermon***Continued from page nine*

to hinder the Church of God from carrying out its mission as set forth by Christ's "Go ye therefore and teach all nations?" Ah, my brethren! when we fell at the foot of the cross and through that faith in Christ which worketh by love we were relieved of our burden of sins, did we not take upon ourselves the loyal duty of following the royal Banner of Christ? His Word we did profess to be the truth. Therefore, through the faith which worketh by love, we arose as one resurrected from the dead, to walk in newness of life. We hear Him saying, "By their fruits ye shall know them." Can we say we have faith in Him when, by our works, we deny Him? Can we declare that we know of His saving grace and at the same time be abominable and disobedient, and unto every good work discreet? The prophet Ezekiel says, "Come, I pray you and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the Lord, for such cometh unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people: and they hear thy words, but they will not do them; for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after much covetousness."

We need more of that faith which worketh by love. We learn from Paul that the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned. Again we read that "pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless, and widows in their afflictions, and to keep himself unspotted from the world" (Jas. 1:27). "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" (Jas. 2:20). We have learned from nature that if a little twig of a tree fails to perform its function in its relation to the body of the tree it soon withers away and is cast off. According to the Scriptures, this will happen unto each and every Christian who fails to be obedient unto the commandments of Christ our Lord. Therefore having gifts differing according to the grace that is given unto us, should we not be faithful in the use thereof?

"Who then is that faithful and wise servant, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath." It is our duty as stewards to help support our Lordship or Gospel. Our Lord demands that we give as we are able according as the blessing of the Lord our God has given unto us. Paul said, "If there be first a willing mind our gifts will be accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." What lord is more righteous than our Lord? When then, should we make settlements with Him? Read 1 Cor. 16:1, 2; 1 Peter 4:8-11.

Brethren, it being an established fact that we are to support the church in the spread of the gospel and the care of the poor and the needy; should we not help the organized church in the function of its duties? The Free Will Baptist church is a part of this great body of Christ. We have a mission organization within this church, whose duty it is to carry on all home mission work. This mission organization was allowed by our associations, because it was set up by the apostles, as brought out in a previous article published in the Gem last May, and it has been a vital part of the Church of God since those days. The doors stand ajar for the spread of the Gospel; shall we go ahead with the work of the church? The success of the mission will depend upon our loyalty to the command of Christ our Lord.

Let each church pray for more light upon this phase of the work of God's kingdom, and may each preacher and deacon put their shoulder to the wheel and help to enlighten the Christians as to the duties they should perform in the kingdom of our God. Help us to encourage our people to make their offerings according to the scriptural plan. "Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, and see if I will not open to you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Branch, Arkansas.

**MINISTRATION OF ANGELS***By P. H. Coffman*

*"Are they not all ministering Spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"* (Hebrews 1:14).

This Scripture shows that all heaven is engaged in the salvation of a lost world. It will surely be a great rejoicing time among all the angelic host when Christ brings back the lost world into perfect peace and harmony, into the fold of God. The angels rejoiced when this world was created. The Lord said to Job, "Where wast thou when I laid the foundation of the earth? when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:4-7).

Before the world was created the angels were created. Angels are not redeemed men, neither will the redeemed in the world to come ever become angels, for we read in Heb. 2:6, 7, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" We are made equal to the angels, for Christ said, "Neither can they die any more; for they are equal unto the angels, and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection" (Luke 20:36). Angels visited Abraham at his tent with warning of Sodom's overthrow (Gen. 18). They visited Lot in the city and urged him and his family to get out (Gen. 19). The angel of the Lord met Jacob when he feared meeting Esau (Gen. 32).

When Daniel was praying for understanding, an angel was caused to fly swiftly by and touch him. So close is the communication between heaven and earth that the angel came to the shepherds of Bethlehem, saying, "I bring you good tidings of great joy: for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Such tidings to earth could never be the mission of one angel, when all heaven longed to cry the news to a lost world: "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men'" (Luke 2:13-14).

The story of deliverance wrought by angels is too long to tell.

When we think of the angels

taking slow-moving Lot by the arm and setting him out of Sodom (Gen. 19), and finding Elijah under a tree in the desert (1 Kgs. 19), and also Elisha praying for the Lord to open a young man's eyes, that he might see the mount filled with the angelic host (2 Kgs. 6:17), and Daniel, Peter and Paul all confess the visitaion of angels during their ministerial work, but while these three great men are dead, the angels know their resting place, and will call them forth on the resurrection day. Denison, Texas.

### PREACHING "AT" PEOPLE

*From The Church Herald*

We preachers are addicted to some bad habits. Some of us have the very bad habit of preaching AT people when we should be preaching TO them. I suppose any preacher knows the difference in the meaning of the two little prepositions, to and at, so I shall not explain.

Preaching AT people is cowardly. No preacher has any right to get up behind the sacred desk, and make personal insinuations, and then call himself brave. He is about as brave as a boy who once hid behind a stone wall and threw green persimmons at me as I passed by. I did not have a fair chance at the boy. That stone wall stood right in my way. The boy could not call himself brave so long as the stone wall protected him. The pulpit is not the place to pour out condemnation on an individual. Pulpit utterances are supposed to be applicable to the people as a group, and not to an individual. Brave preacher who has a personal feeling against a member and hasn't therewith backbone enough to go to him face to face like a man and tell him his fault, but throws about himself the cloak of ministerial authority and berates him from the pulpit! The fellow thus abused is helpless. He cannot defend himself. He cannot explain matters, for no self-respecting man would openly resent the message from God's desk.

I heard a country school teacher once bemean a young man. The young man was guilty of some misdemeanor, and the teacher took advantage of this fact to tell him what he thought of him and

his family. He told the young man that he was mean and low-bred and ignorant, and never would amount to anything. The young man took it, for to resist it was against the authority of the school. The teacher said he (the teacher) was brave. I thought he was cowardly. I think the same thing about a preacher who gets up and gives an individual a public brow-beating when everybody knows what he means. Let him go to the offender privately as the Bible enjoins.

Preaching at people, like praying at people, is hypocritical. I have heard people pray at each other. I think God hears such prayers, but He never answers them. He records them, but not to the credit of him who prays them. To get on one's knees and say in the palm of one's hand, about a brother, that which one is afraid to say to the brother's face, is pure hypocrisy. Likewise to climb into the pulpit and pretend to say to the face of the crowd what is meant to be said to the face of the individual is hypocrisy.

Preaching at people never benefits him who preaches or him who is preached at. A member of the congregation may have done a wrong, but the old saying that "two wrongs do not make a right" is true in this case. There is an element in human nature that resents being thrust at in public and thus made to come before the conspicuous gaze of the crowd. Personal faults are never eliminated in this way.

Preaching at people is discourteous. It is beneath the dignity of the sacred office of a pastor. No preacher can put into practice the Golden Rule and preach at people. No preacher would enjoy a private admonition administered publicly, so let him do unto his brother as he would be done by.

Preaching at people is sure to bring trouble. I never yet have known the preacher who was addicted to this very bad habit and persisted in it who did not have trouble. He soon loses the respect of the people and they turn away from him. His usefulness is hindered and his troubles augmented.

**Don't preach AT people.**  
J. A. Morrison in Exchange.

*The Gem two years for one dollar.*

### Be Thou An Example

*By Elder Elda Crain*

I believe this is a subject that is worthy of our consideration. The more we study and think together on this fact the better we should understand the great need of being an example.

Christian friends, Jesus said we are the light of the world. The world is the unsaved people. They are in darkness and we Christians are the only light they have.

The apostle Paul said to Timothy, a young minister, "Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers." Ministers, there is a great responsibility resting upon us. Paul gave a charge to Timothy and not only to Timothy, but to the God-called preachers everywhere. He charged us to "preach the Word. Be instant in season, out of season, reprove, reuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine." If we fail to reprove and rebuke, I'm afraid we'll fail to do our duty. There are many things Christian folks do and need to be rebuked for so doing. I know by experience that it takes grace and courage to rebuke an individual or a church.

Let's ask ourselves this question, "What kind of an example am I?" If every Christian were like you, what kind of an example would we be?

There are many things we preachers need to cry out against; there are so many evils in the world today. The devil wants us Christians to be just as near like the world as possible, such as going to shows, base ball games on Sunday, card parties, swimming pools, working on Sunday, and oh, so many other things that will cripple our influence if we partake of them.

Now brothers and sisters, I am no crank on this subject, but I feel that I am doing my duty by writing a few words to you. "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

Others are watching our lives, so let's be a good example.

I have met young folks who are Christians that seem to be drifting or we might say, Not spiritual, that will say, "Sister Elda, its all

right for you to be particular as to where you go, because you are an example;" and I've made a decision that, if I'm an example, they are supposed to follow.

A church should follow its pastor as an example, and the pastor should be an example that his or her flock can follow and be led aright.

I pray that we will raise a true standard for the people.

### A Path That Leads to Life

*Continued from page eleven*

to go to school over." This path often reminded me of our heavenly Father, the path He has represented in the Bible, that leads from earth to Heaven. Rev Bro. Gosvenor organized a church, Mt. Olive No. 1, at this little school house I have been telling you about, and our family all traveled this little path, with the father to lead the way as did the grandfather of those children, and seven of our children's names were registered on the Free Will Baptist church book. Oh, glory! It pays to keep in the right path, where is the good way.

David said, "He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake." "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men." "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established." "Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths." "All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep His covenant and His testimonies." "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." "And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way."

I hope I am not talking to any one who think they can make paths to the dance, to the show, to the card table, or to any of those places of worldly amusement and still walk in the path that Jesus trod.

For the reason of which this poem speaks, we should be careful where we make our paths:

The bread that giveth strength, I want to give,

The water pure, that bids the thirsty live;  
I want to help the fainting day by day;  
I'm sure I shall not pass again this way.

I want to give the oil of joy for tears,  
The faith to conquer crowding doubts and fears,  
Beauty for ashes may I give away;  
I'm sure I shall not pass again this way.

I want to give good measure running over,  
And into hungry hearts I want to pour  
The answer soft that turneth wrath away;  
I'm sure I shall not pass again this way.

I want to give to others hope and faith,  
I want to do all the Master saith;  
I want to live aright from day to day;  
I'm sure I shall not pass again this way.

Pray that I may ever be found in the strait path.  
God bless you all, is my prayer.  
Mrs. Lina Claxton.

### Feet Washing an Ordinance

*Continued from page two*

would you? In New Testament times we are to wash one another's feet (John 13:14; 1 Tim. 5:10). 1520 W. Atlantic, Springfield, Mo.

P. S. Bro. D. S. Jones of Mansfield, Mo. and O. L. Allen of Mt'n Grove, Mo. came by my place and took me to the Macedonia church to the meeting of the Executive Board of the Co-operative General Association, where we had a real feast from God's table, where I met with several preachers I had never met before, and probably never would have met them, if it had not been for the brethren coming by after me. May God bless them for their love for me, and for their kindness. The Union Association has done much for me since I have been sick. God bless them for their charity.

### PERFECT REST

*By Mrs. I. B. Leonard*

One night I dreamed my Savior came,  
And stood beside my bed,  
With kindly touch and radiant smile,  
In tender tones He said:  
"Fear not my child, I'm ever near  
To comfort and to bless,

The days be dark and nights be drear,  
All friends be gone and none to cheer  
Tho all forsake thee, still I'm near  
To give thee perfect rest."

The hours passed, the morning came  
From dreaming I awoke.  
I still could feel His presence near  
As in loving tones He spoke:  
"Fear not my child, I'm ever near,  
To comfort and to bless."  
The days are fair, the night is gone  
The sun so radiant still shines on  
Love's in my heart for every one,  
Because of perfect rest.

## POINTERS

*By the Editor*

Even a gold watch will get dirty.

Weeds will grow even in a king's garden. Sin will show itself even in a child of the King.

It is far better to be beaten out of fifty dollars than to beat the other fellow out of one.

The Sunday school which adds no members to the church may well ask the question, "What am I good for?"

What kind of a man is he who will tramp through the woods all day Sunday, with a heavy gun on his shoulder, hunting for some innocent thing to kill? Stop and think!

Dives and Lazarus were both beggars after all. The only difference was that Lazarus begged in Time, while Dives begs for Eternity. But that is a big difference, come to think about it.

"Who so stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard"—Pro. 21:13

Some people seem to look upon religion as a kind of "fire escape;" not often needed, maybe never, still, a good thing to have for an emergency. Alas! for a man who tries to live by such a religion as that, and woe unto him who has to die by it.

There is not one word in the Bible about "Reformation," in the sense in which that term is now generally used. Regeneration and Transformation are the Bible terms. Regeneration means life, while Reformation means death.

It is impossible to train up a child in the way he should go, unless you go that way yourself.



## The Church Walking With the World

By Matilda C. Edwards

The Church and the World walked far apart,

On the changing shores of time:  
The World was singing a giddy song,  
And the Church a hymn sublime.  
"Come, give your hand," said the merry World,

"And walk with me this way,"  
But the good Church hid her snowy hands,

And solemnly answered "Nay,  
I will not give you my hand at all,  
And I will not walk with you,  
Your way is the way that leads to death:

To my Lord I must be true."

"Nay, walk with me but a little space,"  
Said the World, with a kindly air,  
"The road I walk is a pleasant road,  
And the sun shines always there:  
Your path is thorny and rough and rude,

But mine is broad and plain;  
My way is paved with flowers and dews  
And yours with tears and pain;  
The sky to me is always blue,  
No want, no toll, I know;  
The sky above you is always dark,  
Your lot is a lot of woe;  
The way you walk is a narrow way,  
But mine is amply wide.  
There's room enough for you and me  
To travel side by side."

Half shyly the Church approached the World

And gave him her hand of snow;  
And the old World clasped it and walked along,

Saying in accents low:  
"Your dress is too simple to please my taste,

I will give you pearls to wear,  
Rich velvets and silks for your graceful form,

And diamonds to deck your hair."  
The Church looked down at her plain white robes,

And then at the dazzling World,  
And blushed as she saw his handsome lip,

With a smile contemptuous curled.  
"I will change my dress for a costlier one,"

Said the Church with a smile of grace.

Then her pure, white garments drifted away,

And the World gave in their place  
Beautiful satins and shining silks,  
Roses and gems and pearls,  
While over her forehead her bright hair fell,

Crimped in a thousand curls.

"Your house is too plain," said the proud old World;

"I'll build you one like mine:  
Carpets of Brussels and curtains of lace,

And furniture ever so fine."  
So he built her a costly and beautiful house,

Most splendid it was to behold.  
Her sons and her beautiful daughters dwelt there,

Gleaming in purple and gold;  
Rich fairs and shows in the halls were held,

And the World and his children were there:

Laughter and music and feasting were heard

In the place that was meant for prayer.

There were cushioned pews for the rich and gay,

To sit in their pomp and pride,  
While the poor, who were clad in shabby array,

But seldom came inside.

"You give too much to the poor," said the World,

"Far more than you ought to do;  
If they are in need of shelter and food,  
Why need it trouble you?

Go, take your money and buy rich robes,

Buy horses and carriages fine;  
Buy pearls and jewels and dainty food,

Buy the rarest and costliest wine;  
My children dote on all these things,  
And if you their love would win,"

You must do as they do, and walk in the ways

That they are walking in."

Then the Church held fast the strings of her purse,

And modestly lowered her head,  
And simpered, "You are right, sir,  
Henceforward, I will do as you've said,"

Then, the sons of the World and the sons of the Church

Walked closely, hand and heart,  
And only the Master, who knoweth all,  
Could tell the two apart,

Then the Church sat down at her ease and said:

"I am rich, and my goods are increased;

I have need of nothing, nor ought to do  
But to laugh and dance and feast."

The sly World heard, and he laughed in his sleeve,

And mockingly said, aside:

"The Church is fallen, the beautiful Church,

And her shame is her boast and pride."

The angel drew near to the mercy seat,  
And whispered in sighs her name;  
Then the loud anthems of rapture were hushed.

And heads were covered with shame.  
And a voice was heard at last by the Church,

From Him who sat on the throne;  
"I know thy works and how thou hast said:

'I am rich,' and hast not known  
That thou art naked, poor and blind,  
And wretched before my face,

Therefore, from my presence I cast thee out,

And blot thy name from its place."

## JUST A THOUGHT

Contributed by Mrs. Zula Lewis

Is anybody happier because you passed his way?

Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?

This day is almost over, and its toiling time is through.

Is there anyone to utter a kindly word of you?

Did you give a kindly greeting to the friend who came along?

Or a churlish sort of "Howdy," and then vanish in the throng?

Were you selfish, pure and simple, as you rushed along your way?

Or is some one mighty grateful for a deed you did today?

Can you say tonight in parting with the day that's slipping past,

That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?

Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said?

Does a man whose hopes were fading now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day or lose it, was it well or poorly spent?

Did you leave a trail of kindness or a scar of discontent?

As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God would say,

You have earned one more "tomorrow" by the work you did today?

## THAT BOOK YOU ARE WRITING

We are writing a book,

A chapter each day,

By deeds that we do,

By words that we say.

The world is reading what we write,  
Whether falsely or true;

Say! what is that book

According to you?

**FATHER***From a Clipping*

"Used to wonder why father  
 Never had much time to play.  
 Used to wonder why he'd rather  
 Work each minute of the day.  
 Used to wonder why he never  
 Loafed along the road and shirked.  
 Can't recall a time when ever  
 Father played while others worked.  
 Father didn't dress in fashion,  
 Sort of hated clothing new.  
 Style with him was not a passion,  
 He had other things in view.

"Boys are blind to much that's going  
 On about 'em every day.  
 And I had no way of knowing  
 What became of father's pay.  
 All I knew was when I needed  
 Shoes I got 'em on the spot.  
 Everything for which I pleaded  
 Some how father always got.  
 Wondered season after season  
 Why he never took a rest,  
 And that I might be the reason,  
 Then I never even guessed.

"Saw his cheeks were getting paler,  
 Didn't understand just why.  
 Saw his body growing frailer,  
 Then at last I saw him die.  
 Rest had come! his tasks were ended,  
 Calm was written on his brow.  
 Father's life was big and splendid,  
 And I understand it now."

**THE HANDSHAKE***By Mrs. I. B. Leonard*

Friends:

As we pass along life's way,  
 Let us clasp glad hands, I pray,  
 Though a word we neither say,  
 It will mean—God Bless You.

When from dear ones we must part,  
 With a sad and aching heart,  
 As silently the tear drops start,  
 It will say—God Bless You.

If in other lands we roam,  
 Far away from friends and home,  
 When in other homes we come,  
 Let us say—God Bless You.

Let's cheer each other on our way,  
 As we meet from day to day,  
 With this silent token pray,  
 For it means—God Bless You.

**DO YOU KNOW**

That the old time religion will live  
 as long as God lives?

That the world has no charm for a  
 person who has had a taste of God's  
 love?

That you can wait too long and lose  
 some of the best opportunities of life?

That the reason so many pennies  
 appear in the collection plate is be-  
 cause the people do not have any  
 smaller change?

That it behooves us to forgive those  
 who do us wrong, though they may  
 never ask our forgiveness?

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