

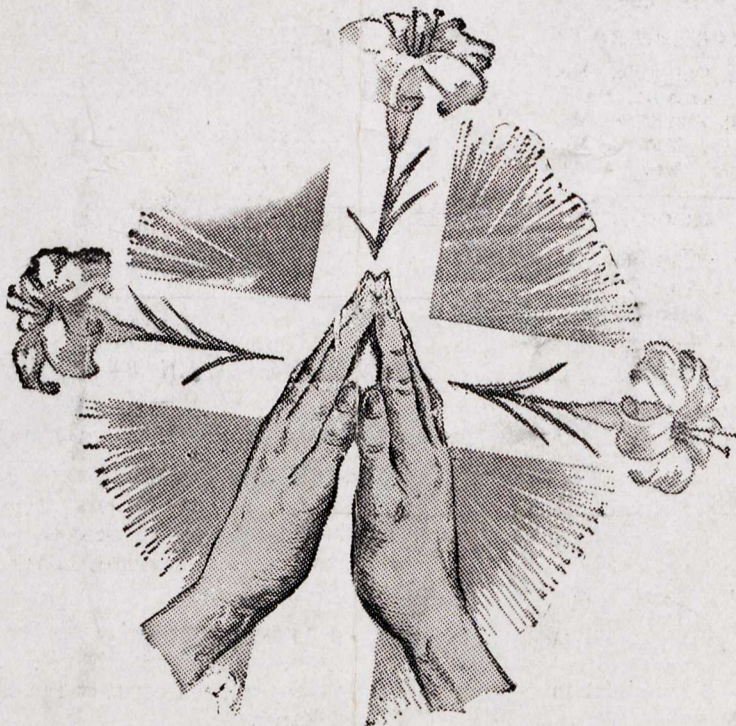
The Free Will Baptist Gem

ORGAN OF THE MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Monett, Missouri, April, 1944

Volume 16, Number 4

Multitudinous are the words of prayer which will reach heavenward this Easter. Each of us will say a prayer apart—for the safety of a loved one in battle—for the return of a son, or brother, or husband now in an enemy's prison camp—for the healing of a wounded dear one. Yet together, we shall say one prayer for lasting peace following the United Nations' complete victory. and we shall find our greatest faith—particularly those of us whom the war has already bereft—in recalling His Resurrection, for whom this day is reborn each year!



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Your servant in Chirst.

Rev. J. A. Card.



GOSPEL SERMONS



A Heathen Name for a Christian Anniversary

Rev. C. B. Dees, Monett, Mo.

The 9th day of April this year will be known as Easter Sunday, and recognized all over the world where there are Christians.

Origin of the Name

It is rather strange that the name "Easter" ever became attached to this Christian Anniversary. It is one of the things that has been grafted on the Christian system from the heathen observance of days and seasons. Before the Gospel was preached in northern Europe and the British Isles the people inhabiting those regions worshiped various deities. One of these was a goddess by the name of Eostre or Ostria, known as the goddess of light and spring. The idea of eating eggs, and associating rabbits with the day, as well as new clothes, is not of Christian origin, but is carried over from the usages connected with the celebration of this ancient heathen goddess. The name "Easter" occurs once in the Bible but it is an Anachronism, that is, a thing represented as occurring out of its proper chronological order. In Acts 12:4 where it says that after easter, Herod was planning to execute Peter whom he had in prison at the time. When the Bible was translated into English, the celebration of Easter was an established fact, and the translators instead of translating the original word in the Greek of Acts, put in this word, evidently with the idea that it would be better understood than to say passover, which is the right rendering of the Greek word, and is so translated in the Revised Version.

Why the Occasion is Celebrated

There is no mention of the celebration of the day called Easter in the New Testament or in the writings of the Apostolic Fathers, the successors of the Apostles. As recorded in the Encyclopedia Britan-

ica, "There is no trace of the celebration of Easter as a Christian festival in the New Testament or in writing of the Apostolic Fathers. The sanctity of special times and places was an idea quite alien to the early Christian mind.

This is not to say there is no value to the Christian in the special remembrance of the resurrection of Christ at this season of the year, but it is deplorable to observe it as the world, and alas, too many "church members" think of the day in terms of new clothes, egg rollings, and similar things that have no relation to the sacred implications of the day.

If on no other day of the year, every pastor will do well to preach a sermon on the resurrection. It is all too much a neglected theme from the average pulpit, too many do not understand the fundamentals and the reality of the resurrection, get your Bible out study and you will see there is just as much reality in the resurrection as there is in the cross.

Why the Date Changes

It is a puzzle to some why the date changes every year, why it is not celebrated the same day every year like the anniversary of Christ. This is because it is regulated by the Jewish calendar instead of the calendar we use today. It is a known fact that Jesus was resurrected on the day after the Jewish Sabbath following the observance of the Jewish Passover. The Jewish months went by the moon, and as the moon makes its circuit in twenty nine and a half days, their months alternated with twenty nine days in one month, thirty days in the next month, making three hundred and fifty four days in an ordinary year. But as this made the year shorter than the real year, it was the custom to add another month every third year to bring up to

date the season. It will be seen that when a month was put on the end of the year that will throw the first month of the following year much later than the previous year. This is adjusted to our calendar by taking the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurs after the twenty-first of March. As the Jewish month began with the new moon, and the Passover was on the fourteenth, it would be when the moon was full. This would make the date of the resurrection come, as stated, the first Sunday after that full moon.

The True Way of Observance

Devout Christians will do well to let the

fashion parade have nothing to do with their celebration of this very sacred anniversary of the resurrection of our blessed Lord and Saviour. The silliness of wearing spring clothes on a cold spring morning because it is Easter is absurd, but many people have never seemed to consider the day called Easter from any other angle than new hats, new clothes, egg hunts and etc.

The new Spirit is what God is looking at, and if a person has never received the New Birth, it is absurd for him to observe the day with outward ceremonies.

What Easter Means to Us

Elder B. F. Brown, Cassville, Mo.

Now if we be dead with Christ we believe that we shall also live with Him (Rom. 6:8)

It is not our intention to write a long complicated article on Easter but a short simple one. We will just call attention to some of the truth concerning Easter and its observance just "to stir you up by putting you in remembrance" of things we ought always to remember that we may make our "calling and election sure" and be ready to rise to meet Him in the air when He calls the saints.

The word Easter is found only once in the Bible (Acts 12:4), and there it means the Passover. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Christ and reminds us that we can be "they that are Christ's at His coming" (1 Cor. 15:23). The Passover commemorates the deliverance of the Children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. Egypt was Israel's grave but they were raised from it by the power of God.

Easter and east come from the same root word and means a "rising". East is toward the sun rises every morning to give light and heat to the world. Easter means that Christians look to the risen Lord for light and life and comfort in this life and a glorious resurrected life with Him at His coming.

The first Easter morn found an empty tomb—the Lord had risen. There is coming a final Easter time when there will be

empty tombs all over the world—all the saints that had fallen asleep in Christ will be risen in their glorified bodies and all the living saints will be changed, all prepared to meet the Lord in the air—how it thrills us to think of that glorious time!

Easter means a rising or coming forth to life, and all nature proclaims this fact. All through the winter months trees and plants and all vegetation was apparently dead, but at this Easter-tide all nature is showing signs of life and the earth will soon be dressed in robes of green—myriads of plants live again.

The Sadducees said, "There is no resurrection of the dead". And men have said to me, "People die like hogs—when a man dies that is the last of him, he is just dead and gone forever". It is strange, isn't it, that man who was created in the image of God should have no resurrection from the dead? Well, there is just one thing wrong with such argument, it just isn't so; for all nature teaches us that we shall live again after death. Job asked (Job 14:14), "If a man die shall he live again?" Then he said, "All the days of my appointed time will I wait till my change come." Death to Job and to us who love God is only a change—we move from the old house into the new (Cor. 5:1).

The Resurrection is one of the greatest facts in history; but if we would make

sure of the resurrection from the dead we must "be dead with Christ" and "we (must) beleive that we shall also live with Him." If we are willing and obedient children of God we are assured that we shall have part in the first resurrection which is unto life; for Jesus said unto His disciples (John 14:19), "Because I live ye shall live also." Don't you think He included us too?

Some wise(?) people tell us that the Hebrews borrowed their idea of a life after death from the Egyptians. Wherever they got the idea the Lord said it was so, and we can trust His word always. After

Jesus said unto Martha (John 11:1). "Thy brother shall live again", He said also unto her, "I am the resurrection and the life: he that beleiveth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live."

Even the arrangement of our church buildings, suggests the meaning of Easter. We look from the nave toward the chancel or sanctuary, the place of the altar, we look as it were toward the east whence for us, if we look with willing, obedient faith in Him, "shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings" (Mal. 4:2).

Proofs of the Resurrection

Rev. Winford Davis, Monett, Missouri

"....He shewed Himself alive after His passion by many infallable proofs...."
Acts 1:3.

There are many proofs, in the realms of both the natural and the spiritual, which establish the fact of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. Space will not permit the consideration here of but a small portion of them.

Silence on the Part of the Roman Government

There is such a thing as silence speaking louder than words. Yea even in thunder tones. Such was true as we notice the silence of the Romans after the Christ arose from the dead. They hushed. They said nor did no more. As much as to say if a man can't be kept down after he is killed then why try any farther. History records that a Roman Centurion went to Pilates wife, after Jesus arose from the dead, with these words: "That man Jesus is alive again in the world and neither Roman nor Jew can stop His truth." How true were the words of this soldier. Rome, the world empire of that day, sealed the sepulchre and set a watch; but their strong armed guards fell as dead men at the appearance of resurrection power. The silence of that greatest of all political powers from that day untill now is an outstanding proof of the fact that Jesus lives.

He Was Seen of Men

Jesus appeared to His disciples, showed them His hands and His feet, and the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. One of them doubted, which is a characteristic of so many today; but when Jesus had him reach forth his hand and place it in the wound of His precious side Thomas was made to cry out, "my Lord and my God". Jno. 20:28 These men recorded their post resurrection experiences with Jesus and then dared to back up their recordings with sufferings even to cold martyrdom. Each one of the twelve died a martyrs death except John, and he suffered worse than martyrdom at the hand of cruel persecutors then finally died a natural death. There is but one explanation for relentless sufferings of these great men of faith and this explanation is expressed clearly in Jno. 20:25 in these words "we have seen the Lord". Oh if we but had a greater vision of this Christ today we would rejoice to suffer for Him where as it is many times we find ourselves shrinking from it. Yes, we have the testimony of men, men of integrity, honest men, men who attest their testimony by their labors of love, and by their sufferings. Their recordings have stood the anvil blows of the atheists through the centuries, and their testimony rings clear, if not clearer, to-day than ever before.

The Proof of Psychology

It is not at all in keeping with the laws

of psychology for one to abruptly change from a state of hatred toward a person to a state of love and devotion toward the same person. From a psychological standpoint one must have a period of time, and usually a lengthy period of time, to make such a change. The spiritual nature and mind of man is so constructed that he ordinarily does not make such a change abruptly or immediately. He must be persuaded and influenced. Outside pressure must be brought to bear upon him, etc. Yet in the case of Saul of Tarsus, who became Paul the apostle, we have just such an abrupt change of mind and heart from a state of bitter hatred to that of the most ardent devotion and love toward the Christ. There is but one explanation; the power of the LIVING Christ. The laws of psychology were completely outlawed by the glorious ecstasy and power of the living Christ. Not only was this true in the life of Paul; but we have seen it exemplified in the lives of others many times even in our day. Yes, consideration of the laws of psychology when found confronted with the power of the Spirit is an outstanding proof that Jesus LIVES.

The Most Concrete of All Proofs— The Witness of the Spirit Within

Through the world's strongest political power has compelled to silently acknowledge defeat in its grappling with the God man. Through religious bigotry on the part of the Jews was compelled to suffer equal defeat. Though His life is proven as we see it demonstrated in others as we go along. Though the resurrection is revived every spring as we see the vegetables and plant kingdom come forth from its dormant stage to take on new life. Though even the insignificant butterfly bespeaks this matchless truth as it comes forth from the cocoon to wing its way in resplendent beauty. Though we have a million and more God given facts which evidence the truth of the resurrection, and though it is recorded in the very inspired Word of God, yet, the greatest proof of them all is the fact that He lives in your heart and mine. Nothing in the form of writings either sacred or secular, nor does any other evidence, build a faith in the living Christ as does the personal experience we have with him.

Quoting from 2nd Cor. 5, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." 5th verse, "He that hath wrought us, or created us, for this selfsame thing (or habitation) is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the spirit." How does the Christian know so much? It is by, and because of, the spirit which dwells within. Certainly for the Christian evidences do not have to be sighted to prove to him that Jesus lives; but for the unbelieving world they must needs be shown many things. They are so prone to say it is a thing incredible that God should raise the dead. Oh, that we might know Him and the power of His resurrection. Phil. 3:10. We have a striking thought on this verse of scripture as we find it translated into the Eskimo language. Of course translators meet up with some knotty problems as they strive to translate the scriptures into the various languages. We are told that the Eskimo language has no equivalent to our word power. So in translating Phil. 3:10 they use the word dynamite instead. Now to read it that way, "That we may know him and the DYNAMITE of his resurrection." Truly the resurrection of Jesus Christ was nothing short of a dynamic experience. Matthew says there was a great earthquake, and that the angel, whose countenance was like lightning, came from God out of heaven and rolled back

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the stone, and that for fear of him the keepers did shake and became as dead men. Yes, it was an invincible expression of the dynamic power of God in the resurrection of His Son. And so is our experience with Him dynamic. The Christian's experience is real. It is a coming to life from the dead. How marvelous that this redeemer will condescend to come into our tabernacle of clay and live, and that He will reassure us day by day. In the days of the Levitical priesthood when the high priest would go into the holiest of holies to make atonement for the sins of himself and for the people the congregation would stand outside and tremble for fear their high priest would fall dead as he went into the very presence of the shikinah glory. But he had little bells on his garments and so long as they could hear the ringing of the little bells they knew their high priest was still alive. So it is with us. Our high priest has gone into the holiest of holies in the heavens and is seated at the right hand of the

father making intercession for us, and every time we recognize the tingling of the Holy Spirit in our hearts it is just another assurance that our high priest still lives.

It is not enough to preach Jesus and him crucified. We must preach him alive again. Paul says, "NOW IS Christ risen from the dead." 1 Cor. 15:20. The principle message in the days of the early church was that of the resurrection. Paul was considered "a setter forth of strange gods because he preached unto them Jesus and the resurrection." Acts 17:18. The resurrection is the crowning work of our great redemptive plan. In the language of the harvester it would be the cap sheaf. In the language of the astronomer it would be the zenith. In the language of the musician it would be the fine. In the language of the child of God it is our joy and hope and our highly anticipated coronation experience.

Yours for the cause of a living saviour
and Lord.
Winford Davis

Personal Crucifixion and Resurrection

Rev. J. R. Davidson, Business Manager, Free Will Baptist Bible College
3609 Richland Avenue, Nashville (5), Tennessee

Galatians 2:20

As we approach Easter of 1944 with our world so engulfed in turmoil, hatred, vengeance, strife, blood-shed and battling for existence; a time when every condition seems to challenge us to a personal application as to what sacrificial part we should play in this conflict it seem to move my mind to an application which goes beyond production lines of the material into an application of the greatest principles for the greatest possible contribution one can make in such a needy world. One may feel sure of his qualifications for making his contribution when he is able to join, unreservedly, the apostle Paul in his testimony rendered in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

In consideration of these applications may we turn our minds to meditation on the two most outstanding events of history, namely; the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Not that he merely fitting into the order of all men died, but in that He died that we might live, willingly taking our sins upon Himself. He set His face steadfastly toward Jerusalem (the cross) and unswervingly said, "No man taketh my life from me, but I lay it down of myself." This could He do because of His omniscience, that is to say He could see beyond the cross into His awaiting glory. Hebrews 12:2, "Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." The cross was thus looked upon as His transition into His original glory through His resurrection. Hence our personal crucifixion should be viewed as the bearer into eternal glory.

Personal Crucifixion

The apostle Paul expressed this principle in the text. "I am crucified with Christ," said he. He expresses a voluntary offering of himself upon a cross of self denial and sufferings for the name of his crucified Christ, and I would that we think just now of our position in sharing Christ's sufferings. "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also suffer for his sake" (Phil. 1:29). Reverend Robert G. Lee of Memphis, Tennessee raises the following questions: "Who can save a life from burning and remain himself unsinged? Who can save a life from drowning and keep his own clothes dry? Who can do remedial work—Redemptive labor—without agony? Know ye not that redemptive labor costs exhaustion? Know ye not that that poor soldier of the cross is he who, though well uniformed, has never had his skin broken by the enemy's sword or bullet? Paul is proclaimed as a good soldier of Jesus Christ in these significant words, "I am crucified with Christ." Could such an acclamation be justified by virtue of the fact that we are good emulators of the apostle?

Crucifixion is often the price of consecration. Permit me to here quote a paragraph from Doctor Lee's message on "Re-enacting Calvary." "Being crucified to the world is not having a spasm of rectitude and then a long fainting spell; not having a shallow stream of piety that runs on sabbath days a fresher course; not lurking in the tent, not getting the fighting spirit when the battle is over. There is no cross bearing in being a Christian of the nominal sort. In sufferings everything must be claimed for Him, everything sealed with the King's seal, every talent used for His exclusive glory. But we cannot follow in His steps in the fellowship of His sufferings if we choose ease, prefer the protected areas of life, seek safety far beyond the battle lines, consult selfishness rather than sacrifice—forgetting that God does not look upon us, nor over us, for man-bestowed medals, man-given degrees, or man-signed diplomas, but for scars. Be it ours to say with Bunyan, 'My marks and scars I carry with me to show I fought

His battles well.' Could we truthfully make the application to our lives by the use of the words of the apostle Paul recorded in Galatians 6:17, "For I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.'"

Personal Resurrection

Paul expresses the fact that he looks beyond his cross of crucifixion into the glory of the resurrection-life in the text announced as the basis for our message. "Nevertheless I live," said he. That is to say that I can no more know the resurrection life without the preceeding crucifixion than could my Lord and Saviour. Evidently it was while Paul was passing through the most crucial experiences of personal crucifixion that his personal resurrection-life was most real to him. He placed the most emphatic emphasis upon the fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Said he, "If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and, your faith is vain." Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God. "If Christ be not risen your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also who are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ we are of all men most miserable. BUT NOW IS CHRIST RISEN FROM THE DEAD, AND BECOME THE FIRST-FRUITS OF THEM THAT SLEPT." The resurrection stands alone in the history of events among men, for without it the crucifixion is emptied of all its significance. The

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resurrection is something absolutely unique. There had never been such an event before, and there has never been such an one since. If it did not occur we may well doubt the miraculous element in the Bible, but if it did occur all argument against the other miracles fail. In logic there is what is known as an *a fortiori* (a-for-shi-o-ri) argument, that is, arguing from the greater to the less. An instance may be seen in Romans 8:32. "He that spared not his own Son but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things." The less is included in the greater. Just so, if the resurrection of Christ is a veritable fact it carries proof of all else connected with Christianity. Christianity rests upon the great basic truth of the bodily resurrection of Christ, which if taken away leaves the whole structure without foundation, hence its importance can not be overemphasized. How do we know that the Old Testament is inspired of God? By the resurrection of Christ from the dead. How do we know that the New Testament is divinely inspired? By the resurrection of Christ from the dead. How do

we know that the miracles in the records accorded to Christ are true? By the resurrection of Christ from the dead. How do we know that the miracle of salvation from sin may become effective in the heart of a penitent sinner? By the resurrection of Christ from the dead. How do I know that new life is my portion in the Lord? By the resurrection of Christ from the dead. How do I know that the final installment of my salvation shall be completed, to wit the redemption of my body, at the coming again of our Saviour? By the resurrection of Christ from the dead. In view of His resurrection beyond the crucifixion Jesus offers the following comforting words: "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: BECAUSE I LIVE, YE SHALL LIVE ALSO. AT THAT DAY YE SHALL KNOW THAT I AM IN THE FATHER, AND YE IN ME, AND I IN YOU," John 14:18-20. Through the reality of our crucifixion and His resurrection life in us may we be revealing mediums of His saving efficacy for others.

The Resurrection

Rev. K. V. Shutes, Cordova, Alabama

THIS is surely the greatest subject of the Bible. The doctrine of God, the Holy Spirit, Christ, the Church, Repentance, Regeneration are all important, but if there be no Resurrection, all the rest of the doctrines would be in vain. They would all be buried in Joseph's new tomb and we might as well believe in Mohammed, Confucius, Zoroaster or some of the other founders and leaders of religious movements. This is the hinge upon which Christianity swings, because, "If Christ be not raised, we are yet in our sins, and our preaching is vain," says Paul. This shows to me that it is the most important subject.

Let us think first of the promises of Jesus Himself of His resurrection and ours:

In John 6:20, "And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which

seeth the Son and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day." Jesus here assures us if we will believe on Him, He will raise us up at the last day.

If He can perform such a beautiful picture in the Spring, would you say He can resurrect plants, vegetables, trees, etc. but cannot bring back your dust in that Day?

Listen at Him comfort Mary and Martha. John 11:25, "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." He was and is the only one who could say this. You remember He said in John 10:18, "I have power to lay it down of myself. I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."

2 Cor. 4:14, "Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise us up also by Jesus, and shall present us with you."

But, you remember some doubted and some do now.

Luke 20:27, "Then came to him certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any resurrection." This was one of the crowds who always found fault and made excuses. They told Him here of seven brothers marrying the same woman; she died without having borne children; they want to know whose she will be in the resurrection. In Luke 20:35, "They neither marry, nor are given in marriage." Verse 36, "Neither can they die any more, for they are equal unto angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection."

Acts 17:18, "Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him (Paul). And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection."

1 Cor. 15:12, "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you there is no resurrection of the dead?" Some of the Corinthians were as some of our modern preachers and laymen, they didn't believe in the resurrection.

2 Tim. 2:18, Philetus and Hymenaeus said the resurrection had past already.

Christ told of His own resurrection. Matt. 16:21, "From that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples, how that he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the Elders and Chief Priests and Scribes, and be killed and be raised again the third day." If He had not been our omniscient Saviour, He would not have known these things.

Matt. 26:32, "But after I am raised again I will go before you into Galilee." He kept His word and met them there. Here is where Simon jumped out of the boat and swam ashore and Jesus had breakfast ready. Here is where He said, "Simon son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?"

Mark 9:9. They are not to tell what

they had seen until after the resurrection. John 2:19, "Jesus answered and said unto them, destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." Notice He said, "I will raise it up." If some talks with confidence, we call him a boast or brag. If he talks like doubting Thomas, we shake our heads and say, "Poor fellow, he won't make it."

This was announced by the angels. We remember when He was born, angels sang. So now angels told of this event. Matt. 28:6, "He is not here; for he is risen, as he said. Come see the place where the Lord lay." Mark 16:6 and Luke 24:6 tell us of these same angels. This is the central truth of the Gospels and Acts.

Acts 2:23-24 "Him being delivered by the determinate counsel and fore knowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain." V. 24 "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it."

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Acts 3:15 "And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses." Acts 4:33 "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all."

This Message was Greatly Emphasized By Paul In His Epistles.

Rom. 4:25 "Who was delivered for our offences and was raised again for our justification." 1 Cor. 15:4 "And that he was buried and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

1 Thes. 4:14 "For if we believe that Jesus died and, rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

1 Pet. 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father

of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

I have tried in this article to let the word speak. I could comment on each verse, so could you, but He said, "Preach The Word" again "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but the word of our God shall stand forever."

Not long ago I heard a preacher in a meeting. He told one story after another. Nothing seemed to move. I was talking with him. He said I don't discredit the word, but I just don't quote much of it. I thought of the verses I have just given, and thought if he would use "The Word" there might be more fruit.

Rev. K. V. Shutes

Born of the Holy Ghost

W. R. Spurlock, Bonnie, Illinois

Jesus answered, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the SPIRIT, he CANNOT enter into the kingdom of God.

My theme at this time is the "Spiritual Birth," and as I see it, the most important subject that confronts man. It is something that MUST be done in US by the power of the Holy Ghost, for "Except a man be born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God." That being true, we are not surprised that our Lord said with all the emphasis of the Godhead to Nicodemus, "YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN." You may read it this way, if you wish, "Ye must be born ANEW," or this way, "Ye must be born from ABOVE." Which ever way you prefer it, it means a new creature, the *human spirit* made new and put in harmony with God. This doctrine never originated in any denomination, they may preach it and will, if they are loyal to Christ. Many great men and women have preached it, but they did not invent it. This doctrine is a decree from heaven. Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, was very much concerned about his eternal welfare, and why not? Eternity is just at our

finger tips, I know it is an old story, but it is the only story, for it is the way back to God and heaven. Nicodemus "came to Jesus". He certainly went to the right person. So many people fail by going to the wrong place. Be not deceived about this all important matter. This man came to Jesus with the wrong conception of real salvation, and needed to be corrected in his Theology. He thought he was so well born the first time that he did not need the second birth, and reasoned it was impossible any way. Though he was a man of refinement, strickly moral and one of Israel's best teachers, yet he was blind to things of God. The great teacher, finding Nicodemus so dull of comprehension, and disposed to consider everything from a natural or fleshly stand-point, Jesus just takes his idea and adds His own to it, or ingrafts it on it, and then draws the contrast. Nicodemus saith unto Him, "how can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb and be born?" The Lord must now compass this mans idea of the physical or natural birth, and then add to it the remaining or spiritual birth. He then states

the two births, the natural and spiritual in their chronological order, "Except a man be born of water (the fleshly birth of which you speak) and of the SPIRIT (the birth of which I speak) he CANNOT ENTER into the kingdom of God." Then Jesus explains more fully: "That which is born of the flesh (natural or water birth) is flesh, and that which is born of the SPIRIT is spirit." Christ then clinches that all-important truth by saying, "Marvel not that I said unto thee (in the beginning of our talk) YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN." Just as distinctly John in his Gospel (John 1:13) affirms that this birth is "not of blood," that is, it is not an inheritance. Our parents are powerless to transmit grace to us, through the natural birth. "Nor of the will of the flesh," surely no one believes that it is in man's power to regenerate himself. "Nor of the will of man," not only can no individual bring this heavenly birth about by any mental or physical energy of his own, but neither can any collection of individuals. It is a divine work done within us, and it takes the Holy Spirit to effect this marvelous transaction. Now please don't fall out with me because I bring this old-fashioned truth and try to press it home upon your heart. Don't think for one minute this world has outgrown the need of this. Jesus loved Nicodemus too much to spare him. He did not compromise or lower the standard, even for the master of Israel. There are some who think we are out of date when we preach the New Birth, harmless perhaps, but to be pitied. Please save your pity, this is what keeps heaven aglow and the redeemed will sing about this around the Throne.

SYMBOLS OF SALVATION

The Holy Scriptures uses many SYMBOLS or parables to illustrate the DIFFERENT ASPECTS of the kingdom of God and our salvation. The reason is plain, because there is NO ONE SYMBOL that could illustrate ALL the great truths of this marvelous work. So inspiration has clothed this spiritual truth in earthly dress. Let us keep in mind, in comparing the physical and spiritual there is DIS-SIMILARITIES, and these SYMBOLS are not to be taken

BUTLER-DUNN THEOLOGY

Order a copy of Butler-Dunn Theology from The Free Will Baptist Gem. These books are a Free Will Baptist production and were used in the School of the Bible. Since that School has discontinued, the entire supply was sent to the Gem Office. Every minister and Christian student should have one of these books in his library.

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to illustrate the spiritual in every respect. Each symbol illustrates some point of truth, but no one of them illustrates all the phases thereof. We will now consider some of the symbols used in the New Testament which illustrates IN SOME POINT the act or transaction that makes one a child of God, and a joint heir with Christ.

Adoption

This symbol illustrates one truth that is not covered by other symbols. It expresses the LEGAL SIDE to this salvation in Christ. We become LEGAL HEIRS by a decision of the court of heaven.

Grafted

This illustrates another truth not covered by other symbols. A child that is BORN or ADOPTED physically can, after a certain age, live independently of parents or foster parents. It is not so with the GRAFTED BRANCH.

Citizenship

Some symbol must be used to cover personal choice, THE FREE WILL ACT. This is fully covered in the symbol of "citizenship." To become a citizen of another country or kingdom, a person must choose for himself.

Washing

Salvation is a concrete experience which has a distinct beginning. In point of fact there is DIFFERENT ELEMENTS in the experience of salvation from sin. The sin-

ner is CONDEMNED, and must be justified; he is DEAD and must be made ALIVE; and he is also morally POLUTED (filthy), and must be washed. The experience of salvation includes every needed process and ELEMENT, and they all work together as one, all springing from the same source. Therefore, every regenerated person is washed.

Quickened

There are many Scripture Verses that picture the unsaved as dead and the saved as quickened or raised from the dead.

Birth

We shall now examine the most common used symbol for this is our subject. The symbol (Spiritual Birth) expresses relationship, for it is stated time and again that we enter into relationship with God through a 'spiritual birth.' As has already been said, in comparing the spiritual and physical birth there is DIS-SIMILARITIES, not only in this symbol, but all other symbols. Let us now look at some of the dis-similarities between the physical and the spiritual birth.

(1). "We are BORN PHYSICALLY without any choice in the matter." We were not consulted. This we know was not true in our spiritual birth. Man can choose to come to Christ and be "Born Again," or he can wilfully reject and die in his sins and be lost forever.

(2). "We all was UNCONSCIOUS of the fact, at the time we was born physically." Spiritually the rule is, that we remember that blessed moment.

(3). "We did not BELONG to any one else BEFORE we were born physically." In the spiritual sense we did.

(4). "In the physical birth, there is NO CONDITION for the child to meet in order to be born into the human family." In the spiritual sense, we must repent and believe.

(5). "When the infant is born it can assume NO RESPONSIBILITY." Even the taking of its food is not an act of intelligence on its part, but rather instinctive.

(6). The new-born babe is not held responsible for its conduct." This we well know, is not the case in the spiritual birth.

We must constantly trust in Christ and obey from the heart, that form of doctrine delivered once for all, to the saints and walk in the light. Romans 8:14. "For as many as are LED by the (Holy) Spirit, they are the sons of God."

In studying the New Testament SYMBOLS, it is easy to see the fatal error in trying to make them a perfect pattern in every respect. In fact, to make them correspond in EVERY DETAIL, will involve one in difficulties from which there is no deliverance. It would also contradict the Holy Scriptures. Reason teaches us, if to be "In Christ" means we are 'quickened' or "resurrected" to life, and 'born anew,' and grafted into the true Vine; then to be "out of Him", is to loose all this and to be in the SAME STATE OF DEATH as they were before excepting Him. Therefore (Repentance and faith) must be met. These to come and get back, the same conditions possessions IS NOT PROMISED beyond the CONTINUATION of faith, therefore, when one ceases to trust as a habit, then he ceases to possess that which FAITH secured unto him. Let me repeat, when one intirely ceases to trust the shed blood, he returns to his former state of spiritual death, severed from the Vine. If he is reclaimed, which frequently happens, but not always, it is a spiritual quickening or resurrection, a new birth, a grafting in the vine. We will now turn our attention to what we regard as a "Hybrid Theology," being taught in certain quarters that, "a branch broken from the true vine (Christ) will never be grafted in again." I am convinced beyond a doubt, if one should look up the family tree of this mavrick teaching, they would find its ancestry to be Calvinism. However, we can be sure of one thing, it is not a child of Free Will Baptist Theology or Arminianism. Paul says a branch can be grafted in again. Rom. 11:20, 26, "Well off, (Note — not all the Jews collectively for the apostles was Jews) and thou (Gentiles) standest by FAITH." Not all the Gentiles collectively, but those who trust in Christ. Verse 11, "And they (Jews) also, if they abide not in unbelief, SHALL BE GRAFTED IN: for God is able to GRAFT THEM IN AGAIN."

Cannot Practice Sin

In 1 John 3:9, "Whosoever is (present tense) born of God doth not commit sin (as a habit); for His seed (Word of God) remaineth in him: and he cannot sin (as a practice), because he is (now) born of God."

In verses (7 and 8) in this same chapter, we read, "He that DOETH righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil." The words, "doeth righteousness," in verse seven is, the CONTINUOUS PROCESS. Not that he once doeth, but who permanently practiseth righteousness is righteous. In verse eight, "He that committeth sin." The opposite of doeth righteousness in previous verse, and both are in the continuous present tense, not referring to single subordinate acts, but to a predominate practice. In Verse nine, "His seed remaineth in him." This seed is called by Jesus, "THE WORD," in the parable of the sower. I believe it to be the Divine Word of truth, "remaineth" as a permanent though not irremovable element in him. The truly regenerate cannot practice sin, or sin as a habit. A truthful man cannot practice lying. He might, for lack of understanding, misrepresent it, but his intention was to tell the truth. He does not practice lying, he cannot for he is truthful.

Conclusion

We learn from these scriptures, there is no way of obtaining entrance into the kingdom of God except by a Spiritual birth. You cannot grow into it, nor reform into it, but you MUST be born into it. We have tried to show the dissimilarities of the physical and Spiritual birth and they are many, but there is some similarities of which we have not the space in this chapter to dwell upon. Just as there is one way to Christ.

of getting into this material world of ours, viz. by birth, so there is but one way of finding the entrance into the kingdom of grace. We MUST be born into it. A physical birth for the physical world, a spiritual birth for the spiritual world. We have tried to show that to try and make these symbols of figures to correspond in every detail, will involve one in serious difficulties. We have also found that one who is born of the Spirit doth not sin as a habit, he cannot because he loves righteousness. He hates sin, and he desires to walk with God, because he is constantly trusting the Lord. This is, as I understand it, the most vital doctrine and we should never fail to hold it up to this poor sin sick world.

We do not desire to refute the teaching of any man, truth and only truth is our goal. What I have said in this brief message, may not altogether be excepted, I do not ask for that, but that you give it prayerful consideration.

Closing Remarks

After the haters of Christ had done their worst, and the smug elders, whose hypocrisy Jesus had condemned, the Roman soldiers, gambled at the foot of the cross, and the curious crowds, stupidly unconscious of the eternal value of things, all, "said He is dead," and the mob for the first time let him alone, then Nicodemus (which at the first came to Jesus by night) came to assist Joseph of Arimathea at the Cross. "Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, (we are told Nicodemus bought) and laid it as the manner of the Jews is to bury." We have no doubt that Nicodemus found the desire of his heart, the night he came to Jesus, and so can any one, who will go to Christ.

Humiliation --- A Blessing

Mrs. Martha Dalton, Cassville, Mo.

How many times have you been humiliated beyond measure? Do you pity yourself if and when you suffer humiliation? If you do you are still a babe in Christ. Bear

it patiently and you will eventually reach such heights of Christian grace that you will say "Thank you, Lord, for this that has kept me low at your feet."

This would sound queer to those without spiritual understanding: When we are low we are high. When we are high (in our thoughts) we are low (in understanding). When we exalt ourselves, we are abased. When we humble ourselves, God will exalt us. The first shall be last and the last first. Thank God for the thorns that take the glory from the flesh and remind us of our continual need of the Master's help!

Speaking of this reminds me of my most recent humiliation, which I had all to myself, but since there may be a chance of helping someone, I shall make it known. It always embarrasses me to be under the impression I am right about a certain thing, then suddenly have it thrust upon me that I am mistaken.

This concerns the fact that I, like many others, no doubt, often used the expression, "The Invisible Church." This had its own particular meaning to me—It was meant to include that part of the family of God who have not found a home in the organized part of Christ's body.

Just lately, I've been informed that the Church is not invisible, which gave me food for thought. While meditating along this line, I remembered a number of scriptures that indicate that we are children of

light and therefore could not be invisible as a body. "Ye are the light of the world." "A city set upon a hill cannot be hid." "They that have won many souls shall shine as the stars." Etc.

Many a flower blooms unseen to human eyes, but they are there in the event you chance to pass, which again reminds us of the beauty of a starlit sky. Have you lain, on a summer night, gazing at the individual stars? At first you notice the more brilliant ones, then as you continue watching, others appear which at first you did not see. How lonely these bright beautiful stars would seem, if they alone, completed the picture!

The same goes for Christians. There are those whose light is so dependable we take them somewhat for granted. They are always there. How incomplete would be the church without the twinkle of the lesser lights!

Sometimes a remote evidence, something not noticed by everyone, contributes to the bringing of a soul to Christ, so if you cannot be the brightest star, keep oil in your lamp. Someone may be looking past the dazzling brilliancy to the soft and restful glow of your certain dependability. No matter how insignificant you feel, *your* light is needed.

Make It Manifest

Rev. A. H. Deweese, Haddam, Kansas

Our text is taken from Colossians 4:4. Paul is here writing while in bonds at Rome. We understand by the Word that all scripture is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. Now, we will take the lesson.

Paul was undergoing great trials and afflictions. Nothing less than his devotion to his Lord had prompted him to choose thus to suffer. Here we find Paul praying; he could not do more, and he would not be found doing less. He was not praying for a chance to recant and thus escape persecution, but praying for an open door of utterance to speak the mystery of Christ

as it was so miraculously revealed to him, (Acts 9) while on the road to Damascus.

Thanks be to God as yet we are not persecuted unto bonds as Paul was in his day. Rather, we are at freedom to speak our mind for Christ. However we would do well to be much in prayer for the same door of utterance to make manifest the Christ. Perhaps we are sometimes farther from the Lord than Paul was made to be by his persecution, and need the more to pray. As we look for this door of utterance to open, may we consider the various ways to make manifest the Christ.

Actions as well as words testify for Christ. Perhaps we are more careless of

our actions because Satan has blinded our eyes and loosed our tongues. It is true when our eyes have been anointed with the eyesalve of salvation the tongue and eyes are at harmony. Note too, if the eyes have not been bathed in the eyesalve of salvation the tongue may speak many perverse things. The perfect man will therefore bridle his tongue and thus harness himself for service for the Lord.

Let us Christians, as we walk in the light, turn the light on our everyday life, desiring to harmonize it with the life of our Saviour. He was faithful to the end; His example was perfect. Why? Because it was complete. He finished His work. Many have named the name of Christ who are now to be found among the world without Christ and without hope. They did not endure unto the end. Their life is barren, and the world seems to hold nothing for them.

Many of these were influenced greatly by father or mother, son or daughter, brother or sister; and the very one they were influenced by failed them. Oh, Christian friend, don't let this be said of you. Keep your eyes on Jesus, for some soul is watching you.

We can afford to brave a few difficulties, such as feelings, bad roads, and such like, to be able to influence a soul to accompany us to that Eternal Home ever to be with the Lord.

As a pastor we are constrained to believe most people consider it too light a thing to testify in every little way for Christ. Too many of our rank are fair weather Christians. Because we are not under commandment, we feel we have the right to stay away from service when for the weather or other reasons we stay at home, where it is more comfortable or convenient.

I remember well the exhortation coming from a father in the faith who was on my ordination council. It was, "Above all things to remain steadfast in the faith. Never to recant or fall away, and thus bring reproach to the cause of Christ and our fellow ministers." This I have kept in mind; I pray I may continue faithfully.

Christ's mission was to seek and to save

the lost. Christian men and women who have a portion of this trust left them will do well to follow the steps of Christ, and manifest God's great love unto all mankind. To do this, we must be ever zealous and alert never to shrink from duty. Our motto should ever be "Making Manifest the Christ."

We must consider whom we are trying to influence for Christ—their likes and dislikes; and above all, note their devotion to this world, and the gods whom they serve. Thus we may see the way of approach. They serve the world faithfully, and if we are ever to win them to Christ we must be faithful indeed, ever serving. This great cord of influence can be no stronger than the weakest place. We must not fail them, once they are attracted to the better way of life. We must at least be as devoted to our Lord as they were to the gods of this world, or we will not be able to attract them, to say nothing of holding their attention.

Remember what they brave to be at the various places of pleasure. Remember what they give of time and finances to the world. Would it be wise of us as Christians to be less devoted to our blessed Christ if we are to win them?

My prayer is that we might become stirred, and see how and why we have failed; and say, "By God's grace I expect to do better by making my life a manifest life."

NOTICE

All clerks of every state and district association in the denomination are asked to send at least one copy of their 1943 minutes to the National Statistician, Rev. Clarence Bowen, Box '21, Wake Forest, North Carolina as soon as possible. Your prompt action in this matter will be most graciously appreciated.

The National Statistician
Rev. Clarence Bowen



Our Boys in the Service



The Greatest Victory of All Time

An aged caretaker of Winchester Cathedral, in southern England, loved to tell the story of how the news of Wellington's victory over Napoleon reached England. In those days there were no modern means of communication. News of the history-making battle came by a sailing vessel to the south coast of England and then, by semaphore, was signaled overland to London.

Eagerly the Empire waited for news from the battlefield. Atop the cathedral the semaphore began slowly to spell out the message, letter by letter, "WELLINGTON DEFEATED"—and then a dense fog settled over the city. The signals could no longer be seen, and thus the sad, heart-sickening news of the incomplete message went to London, spreading gloom and utter despair—"Wellington defeated."

In due time the fog lifted, and again the cathedral semaphore became visible, spelling out the complete message: "WELLINGTON DEFEATED THE ENEMY." The news spread like prairie fire over the land, lifting the people from gloom to gladness and praise.

Nineteen centuries ago, on a rough, barren hill outside the gates of Jerusalem, a battle of more far-reaching importance was fought and won. Jesus Christ entered into combat with sin and death. He gave Himself willingly in a shameful death upon Calvary's cross. It was for the sins of others—for you and me—that the sinless One died that He might bring us to God.

To His disciples, at the time, it may have seemed a colossal defeat as His limp body was placed in the tomb of Joseph. To them Calvary meant but one thing: JESUS DEFEATED. Listen to the disciples' dismal dirge during those three days of Christ's

entombment: "We trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel, and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done" (Luke 24:21).

But suddenly the fog lifted, and the glorious radiance of the first Lord's Day morning flooded Joseph's garden, announcing the joyful, gloom-dispelling news: JESUS DEFEATED DEATH. Those three words enshrine the real meaning of Easter. Friend, sing them over again this Eastertide—JESUS DEFEATED DEATH.

Thank God, Jesus Christ arose in His body out from among the dead, and now, in a glorious resurrection body, lives forever. The resurrection of Christ was a physical resurrection of His body. The New Testament continually insists that it was a body which was placed in the tomb, and so it was a body which came forth from the tomb. A spirit is never buried, because it never dies. So it is sheer nonsense to talk about believing in a spiritual resurrection of Christ.

In the same body in which He died for our sins He also rose from the dead, thus utterly defeating and conquering once for all man's greatest enemy—DEATH. Because of that complete victory over death, He declares that all that are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth. Because of that victory He promises to those who believe upon Him that He is "the resurrection and the life... Because I live, ye shall live also."

Because of His conquest of death, the Christian can assuredly and joyfully say with Saint Paul: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?... But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." This is the real meaning of Easter. Let

Continued on Page 20

EDITORIAL

TREATISE

By the time you receive this issue of the Gem our supply of Treatise of the Faith and Practise of the Free Will Baptist will all be gone, I am sorry that we do not have more, for every Free Will Baptist ought to have one of these little books and study it thoroughly, it would make better Christians out of you, it is rather sickening to hear somebody stand and argue about what MY church stands for or what MY church beleives when they have never studied at all about the history of that church, and know very little about it only as they have formed their own opinion, however I started to tell you about the Treatise, please do not order any treatise after April 10th, for by that time they will all be gone, and it cost money to send your money back to you.

ATTENTION

For the benefit of the leaguers and mission workers of the Indian Creek Association. I take this means of announcing that the next rally will be at the Macedonia Church, April, 30th, yours truly has been elected to preach the introductory sermon. Let us plan to give our ardent support to this worthy cause.

T. H. NEWSOM

In the January issue of the Gem we printed the picture of Rev. and Mrs. T. H. Newsom and we only had a few extra copies of that issue, and there has been several request for that number from the friends of Rev. and Mrs. Newsom, and for the benefit of these friends we will reprint this picture in the May issue.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The largest number of subs received from any one individual this month was fifteen,

they came from Mrs. Nettie Wright 2210 Mary St., Houston, Texas.

Every Free Will Baptist ought to read the Gem, it keeps you informed of what is being done by others, lets you know that you are not the only one that is doing something for the CHRIST. Our Brother and Sisters of other faiths enjoy the Gem coming to their home and I trust that they are strengthened by its visit there. As I said every Free Will Baptist ought to take the GEM, but there is about 265,000 that is not taking it now, if one of these live near you get them to Subscribe.

EASTER ISSUE

We have endeavored to make this an Easter issue of the Gem, we have solicited some special articles for this issue in keeping with this season, I would that it were possible to drive into the intermost part of every heart the sacredness of the resurrection anniversary of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST.

I do hope that this year the people that claim to be Christians will be very considerate of Christ, the condition the world is in, the number of fine young men that is trudging the bloody mud of foreign battlefields, the great host of lost souls that are all around us, and the vast amount of God's work that is yet undone due to the neglect of His people, it certainly ought to make us very reverend toward Him this RESURRECTION ANNIVERSARY.

MAY ISSUE

The 30th of May is Memorial Day and we would like to make the May issue of the Gem a memorial issue, I would like to receive some articles along that line.

Please send your articles early enough to reach our office by April 15th so we can make proper plans for their appearance in the Gem.

GLEANINGS

By the Editor

SIGNS OF "THE END"

Present events point to the fulfillment of prophecies which indicate that the "end of the age" is at hand when God's wrath will be poured out upon the wicked.

1. The spirit of regimentation (Rev. 13:16).
2. The spirit of dictatorship (Rev. 16:13, 14).
3. A suggested world Federation of nations (Rev. 13:7).
4. A talk of "Peace and Security" (1 Thes. 5:3).
5. Men branded in the flesh (Rev. 13:17).
6. "Internationalism" which is the spirit of Antichrist, is actually "popularized" (Rev. 13:7).
7. God is left out of the peace plans. A "Godless peace" will set the stage for a greater war (1 Thes. 5:3; Rev. 16:17).
8. Rationing coupons look toward the mark of the beast (Rev. 13:17). An international O.P.A. will eventually produce the MARK OF THE BEAST.
9. Government being substituted for God (Rev. 13:8).
10. Nations are being "unequally yoked" with the GODLESS (2 Cor. 6:14; Psalms 2:1, 4).

When the RIGHTEOUS are in authority, the people REJOICE. But when the WICKED beareth rule the people mourn (Prov. 29:2).

The only remedy for the terrible condition of the world today is to dethrone the godless and place the authority in the hands of the RIGHTEOUS. Until we do, there will be HELL ON EARTH, because hell is a place where the godless have full sway.

Bible News Flasher.

MARK OF THE BEAST

The new and foolproof method of identification has been adopted by numerous war plants in the Chicago area.

"Developed by the Sun-Kraft, Inc., 215 West Superior St. the new method involves an invisible chemical ink that cannot be

washed off. Each employee has his hand marked with a secret symbol in this ink. This symbol becomes visible when the employee thrust his hand through a black curtain, exposing it to ultraviolet rays. The symbol appears with an intense fluorescent glow.

The Chicago Sun. Oct 22.

WHO WILL WIN THE WAR?

By Chaplin Harold L. Proppe

Churchill?

Hitler?

Roosevelt?

Il duce?

Stalin?

Tojo?

NO! It is not Churchill, Hitler, Roosevelt, Il Duce, Stalin, Tojo who will win this war. Add up the first letters of their names and you get "Christ." He, and He alone, will win. He alone can bring peace to this war torn world

Moody Monthly

FORTY-TWO TO ONE

A recent Babson report states that the american dollar is spent as follows:

- 24 cents for living expenses
- 21 cent for luxuries
- 12 cents for waste
- 11 cents for miscellaneous
- 10 cents for investments
- 9 cents for crime
- 2 cents for education
- 1 cent for the church.

In other words the people of the United States spend forty-two times as much for luxuries, waste, and crime as they do for the church in the land called "CHRISTIAN." The report we copy leaves ten cents unaccounted for. Perhaps it goes for tobacco and beer.

BREVITY

The O.P.A. recently got out a pamphlet, using 2500 words to announce the reduction in the price of cabbage seed — *St. Louis Globe Democrat*. The account of creation is told in Genesis in 400 words; the ten commandments contain 297 words; and John 3:16 — the Bible in a nutshell — has only 25 words!

Christian Victory

Continued from Page 17

us with faith and joy receive its glad message.

— By George C. Westberg
in Evangelical Christian

Tract-of-the-Month Club Folder No. 121

Courtesy Good News Publishing Company,
Chicago (6), Illinois

Copies of this tract may be secured from
Tract-of-the-Month Club, 322 West Wash-
ington, Chicago (6), Illinois. 100 for 35c;
500 for \$1.60; 1000 for \$3.00. Add 10%
for postage on orders less than \$2.50.



Missionary Department



Rev. Winford Davis, Chair.-Treas. National Board, Monett Mo.

Los Cedros de Lebino

“The Cedars of Lebanon” — the name of our Cuban School of Missions

Greetings in His dear name:

The long cherished desire of our hearts, a Bible Seminary for the preparation of native pastors and evangelists, is now a definitely realized project, in operation with a student body of six young men, and one young lady, and we are anticipating the registration of two more young men and another girl.

God has given us the principal of the school, a very spiritual man, a man unusually fitted to the work of training young people for Christian service, Brother Rafael Joshue. He comes to us from the West India's Mission with a very fine recommendation, he is uniting with us becoming a member of our denomination and a Free Will Baptist minister regularly recognized in the Asociacion de los Bautistas Libres de Cuba.

The name of our school has been accepted as Los Cedros de Lebino — “The Cedars of Lebanon.” The opening day for classes was January 4, 1944, a time of real rejoicing for all of us.

The plan under which we are working is to provide these young people, our future native missionaries, with their necessities, food books, pencils, a simple uniform. We are compelled to furnish them with sheets and blankets as they have no money. Our dear folk in Glenville, Georgia, out of the

liberality of their hearts, sent us blankets without which these Free Will Baptist young people of Cuba would have suffered intensely during this cold winter. You say cold in Cuba? Yes and plenty, a damp penetrating cold similar to that of Florida. Their part in exchange for food and training is to work four hours each day on the farm, caring for the stock, clearing off the farm, cultivating the orange trees, building necessary houses and barns, and planting. Again we wish to tell you that since September when we bought the farm, continued improvement has been made. The farm consists of about eighteen acres six miles from the heart of the capital of the Province of Pinar Del Rio, the center of our missionary activity, transportation is very good by




The Student Body

buss. 10c buss fare to within one half mile of the farm. On the farm there are 550 orange trees of valincia and native orange, two hundred palm trees, royal palm, about fifty coconut trees. The palm trees are very valuable as they furnish food to fatten hogs, and the roofs for our houses and the material to seal some of the houses as well as the brooms for sweeping around the houses. There are about a hundred mango trees of the improved variety and a number of other fruits such as guava and auvuacates. The actual cost of the farm to clear it and take possession was \$800.00. I cannot off hand give you the actual value of the property after five months, but I am sure you will be interested in knowing that one of the first and great needs when beginning was a yoke of oxen our dear people in Kinston, North Carolina was used in a very speical way to make possible the oxen, and to us on the field the money for the oxen came as a miracle in answer to prayer. One Saturday we were feeling keenly that need and expressing our desires over and over, Oh, for a team of oxen, so I said to Pedro Olivia our pastor from Vinales, Pedro look up a team of oxen at once, on ariving home in company with our teacher and another teacher I found a letter and on opening it imagine our joy when we read the words enclosing a check \$100.00 for a yoke of oxen and \$10.00 for a mattress. Monday Oliva came in all excited saying I can get a fine team of oxen for \$90.00 if we have the money. God had again answered to our need, later we bought two milk cows and thus we have been adding little by little. Then the next great need was water, we must have a well, so we employed a well digger a fine Cuban fellow, he dug the well and by the time he struck an abundance of water he had discovered the greater water, the water of salvation, the man was converted he and his whole family and just the other day he came walking five miles and lined his wife and family up saying I want to publicly acknowledge Christ and offer myself and family for church membership. On the farm each Sunday we have quite a large congregation meeting. Last week for a special meeting

150 people assembled to hear the Gospel this happened to be on Monday the middle of the day. We now are greatly concerned in getting a chapel built in the school proper as soon as possible the chapel will do also for our main class room.


One friend which has been with us for three weeks has said over and over I have never seen a more profitable investment of American dollars in any Christian project. My boys both students and pastors are as dear to me as if they were my own children. They are true and loyal to us as a people, no sacrifice is too hard or great to carry on the cause of our Lord and Christ in their estimation, they are keen and intelligent, they already have a polish and in their pulpit presentation would put many ministers of great experience in the States to shame.

I am enclosing a picture of the student body to accompany this article in our papers and desire as you look upon the faces of these young people that you pray for them and the school and for your humble servant and missionary. Thomas H. Willey



INCOME	
National Foreign Mission Treasury	
For the Month of February	
<hr/>	
Illinoiis	\$315.00
Missouri	276.33
North Carolina	225.00
Oklahoma	156.18
Tennessee	131.50
Michigan	41.30
South Carolina	40.00
Texas	31.07
Alabama	22.40
Nat'l. Woman's Auxilliary Con.	117.78
<hr/>	
Total	\$1,356.56

Rev. Winford Davis, Treas., Monett, Mo.



Subscribe to "The Gem"
\$1.00 per year

Missionary Activities in Cuba

Greetings to you who stand with us in faith and prayer with your gifts making it possible to evangelize in the province of Pinar Del Rio, Cuba.

Our days are very full and happy in the service for our King, that explains the reason for our delay with this letter to you.

You will rejoice to know that the Bible School has now been in session for two months. We have seven fine students, and among them has prevailed a joyful spirit of co-operation and blessing. The plan under which we are working is to provide them with necessary food and shelter, while they in turn work from three to four hours daily, study and attend classes the remainder of the day. Those who have had some preparation go out to preach over the week end. There are several young men who had hoped to be with us this first year, but due to poverty in the homes could not leave the families, but our pastor is giving these boys classes and using them as assistant pastors.

We have named the Bible School "Los Cedros de Libano" which means "The Cedars of Lebanon." If you will look up the references in the Word you will see the significance. The testimony of one of our boys who has studied several years in other Bible schools is that he has learned more in these two months than all the time he has spent in other schools. We need to give thanks to our Father for bringing to us so capable a Bible teacher as Senor Joshue. He has been of unexplainable value. He and his wife are untiring in their efforts for the work.

I want you to share with us some notes of praise and rejoicing. We have just recently opened up a new field in which there are at least ten thousand people who have never heard the Gospel as we know it. If you will remember I have written before of the part of the Island form which a group of men walked a great distance to see us, begging for a missionary. Up to a few weeks ago we could not meet the need but God put it into the heart of one

of our pastors to volunteer for this field, but the thing that pleases us so much is that before the pastor arrived, these young men who were not able to enter school this year started to meet the need by riding across the plains thirty miles to preach to these people. I have just completed an eight day tour of that field, riding over seventy miles horse back through some of the most backward country in Cuba, but some of the hungriest for the Gospel that I have ever seen.

The first meeting was on the plantation of the American Tobacco Co., in a home where the people crowded to hear the Gospel. At the close of the message we gave the people an opportunity to express their desire to follow Christ, fully one hundred and fifty people raised their hands and cried out, "We want to follow Him." Two nights in Remartes and we went on to Las Martines where we found a few people who had been converted just by reading a portion of the Word. We met in the home of a man who had been soundly converted by reading the Word alone without any outside help, never had a missionary to explain the Gospel to him, yet this man had led a number of others into the knowledge of the saving grace of our Lord. The people in the busiest time of the day dropped their work to attend the the day dropped their work to attend the service, Late that afternoon we went on for an evening service to the place where over a year ago God so marvelously answered prayer in sending rain to save the crops. That night a great crowd stood through the service as they had no benches. We are trusting God for a chapel in this place.

In Martines I was held as a prisoner for one day. Every new place in which we enter I am suspected as a spy. Finally I was cleared with much apology when they contacted the military post here in Pinar, where we are well known. God works all things out for His glory. If I had not been detained there I would not have met an official of the American Tobacco Co., who gave us a site on which to build our chapel

and also a piece of ground on which we can build a house for our worker. I met him as I was escorted to the hotel for lunch. Praise God for Romans 8:28.

On this same trip we met with a number of incidences which have shocked and saddened our hearts. I found Pedro Rojo, our pastor in this section, sad as he related to me the story of a fine young man who had just a few days before our arrival seized a razor and cut his throat, while bathing in his own blood he cried to God for mercy, promising Him that he would attend the services and follow the Gospel if He would only let him have another chance, but it was too late he died unable to keep his promise, a victim of hopelessness. There has been a wave of suicides, especially among the young people. A woman ran in front of our mission station in La Palma in flames, Maximina ran out to her and followed as the man carried her wrapped in sacks to her home. Our Bible woman begged entrance of the doctor and finally

when he knew there was no hope, he let her enter, and there on her death-bed this young woman found Christ and peace, before she went out into eternity. On further down the Island I entered another home where a young woman had burned herself beyond recognition. How our hearts are burdened for the millions yet who have no hope and to-morrow might seek relief in the same manner. God help us to be awake to our great responsibility!

I could go on and on telling you what marvelous things God is doing for us and the precious conversions we have witnessed during this month, but time and space do not permit. But be assured of this your prayers and gifts are being realized and multiplied in the salvation and preparation of needy hearts. We count on your prayers and your letters are a great encouragement to us.

Thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory!
— Thomas H. Willey



GENERAL ARTICLES



Announcement

Rev. John B. Rollins, Monett, Missouri

This is to announce to our great "Gem Family" that the Voice of Wisdom has so decreed that I shall be leaving the Gem office permanently on May 1, 1944. I submitted my request for release to the Board of Trustees of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, and on March 16th the board granted the release to become effective May 1st.

For the past five years, the people of our denomination and of the city of Monett, especially the men of the U. S. Postal Service, have known and recognized "The Free Will Baptist Gem" and its former editor to be virtually one and the same. This relationship has been honorable, and I trust I have served worthily, under the circumstances, to merit such recognition. The time is here when there must be a

psychological metamorphosis occur within our constituency from a purely spontaneous receptivity during the month of April. Otherwise, the mail for *The Gem* which is still persistently, after these months since the new Editor came, addressed to the former editor, personally, will have to be sent on to Nashville, Tennessee for his personal perusal.

I sincerely regret to cease my services to the people whom I have learned to love and appreciate. Most ardently do I trust that I shall be led into greater opportunities for service to the people of our Church and its Christ, for in Nashville I shall prepare for an early enrollment in our Free Will Baptist Bible College.

I bid adieu to you of the Gem Family God's speed, and may the wisdom of heaven

attend each of you in every hour of decision which is a promise from above to those who will "come boldly to a throne of grace."

Humbly submitted

—John B. Rollins

A Word of Thanks

Allow me to thank every person who prayed for me or sent a card, letter, offer-

ing, or anything while I was sick. So many folk say our people won't do, but they always have for us. We never ask anybody for a dime, yet our people liked only a few dollars paying my entire expenses, hospital, doctor and all. If you have stayed in a hospital three weeks in these high days, you know then something about how good the people were. I am not well but have spoken the last four Sundays.

—K. V. Shutes

The Great
Commission
— Our Mission



Woman's Auxiliary Department

The Whole
World
For Christ



The Monett Auxiliary To Observe the Week of Prayer

The W. A. of Monett, Mo. are now working on the "Week of Prayer" program to be given the week preceding Easter, beginning April 3rd through April 7th.

The departments of work to be emphasized are each under the direction of their respective Chairmen.

Monday night's program will be Publication presented by Mrs. O. T. Allred with Rev. C. B. Dees principal speaker.

Mrs. Onedia Lompard will be responsible for the Program on Christian Education to be given on Tuesday night with Rev. John B. Rollins as speaker.

The program on Missions to be presented Wednesday night will be under the leadership of Mrs. Will Gates. Rev. W. K. Weston will be the speaker.

The Benevolence program under the direction of Mrs. C. L. Atwell will be given Thursday night with Rev. O. T. Allred to bring the message.

Friday night's program on Stewardship will be under the direction of Mrs. Melvin Dunklin with Rev. Claude Timmons as speaker.

The program will start promptly at 7:30 each evening with special singing, readings, piano solos and musical numbers each night.

The Illinois District Meeting of Woman's Auxiliary

The District Meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary of Illinois is to be held at Ina Free Will Baptist Church, beginning at 9:30 A.M., April 21st.

Devotional 1 Thes. 5

Opal McClerren.....

Welcome Greeting local president

Mrs. Ray Settle

Response district president

Emma Moore

Prayer Requests and seasons of volunteer prayers.

Business Session:

Reading minutes of Secretary

Treasurer's report

Reports of District Presidents

Election of Officers

11:00 Sermon by our National President,
Eunice Edwards

12:00 Basket Dinner

1:15 Congregational singing and prayer

Appointment of delegates to National Convention

Selection of next place of meeting
Offering for the Unified Program

Presentation of award to Auxiliary securing the greatest number of subscriptions to Free Will Baptist papers

Stewardship Program By Pleasant View Auxiliary

Song, "I Gave My Life For Thee"

"We As a Nation Have Forgot God"

Mrs. Olive Street

Song Mrs. Lavina Storment

"As Thy Servant was busy here and there"

Mrs Rachel Douthit

"Where Are the Reapers?" Mrs. Ola Sanders

"Christian Stewardship as I see it"

Mrs. Mattie Campbell

Song Mrs. Ola Sanders

"The Principal of Christian Stewardship"

Lavina Stormant

Song "Take Up Thy Cross"

Benediction

We urge each member to bring a guest

Missouri Auxiliary Field Worker Miss Thora Arrogast, Greenfield, Mo.

Dear Free Will Baptist Women of Mo.

As one half of our associational year has passed let us look back and see what we have accomplished for the Lord.

This is a day of great Military influence. When we stop and try to analyze the unbelievable progress of our war efforts we are convinced that only fast and efficient organization and co-operation of everyone concerned has brought it about.

We cannot help making spiritual comparisons when we consider the vast amount of work that must be done for our Lord. There are great possibilities for the people of God to-day if we employ the right methods and seek Divine wisdom and inspiration. We must be properly organized and equipped if we expect to do, in the most effective way, that which we automatically become obligated to do after we have been called into this "glorious liberty." Paul once said to Timothy "thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

Many times we retard the progress of that for which we pray by our failure, as individuals or churches, to unite our efforts with others in a common cause. We even find christians attempting to justify them-

selves, in their lack of zeal; in many ways. Some voice a lack of confidence in their own ability, some express lack of faith in other people, and some consider the whole effort of serving God futile. It all may be summed up in the word of Jesus on one occasion "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you." He doesn't expect the impossible of an individual, the hypocrit cannot stand in our way, and He has promised that "he that goeth forth with weeping bearing precious seed we shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

I am sure we are all grateful for the way God has blessed our denominational activities sponsored by the National Association. We have witnessed a more rapid growth than we had anticipated. This came about because some one had a vision and a mind to work. These things are entrusted to us, *you and I*, what will we do about it. "He has no hands but our hands and no feet but our feet."

The Woman's Auxiliary organization is a part of our church, and we must surely admit a God-given plan as under some one of its five departments of work falls any obligation which the Bible commands us, as a church, to do. It also links perfectly with the National program. Any plan which we may inaugurate, for the advancement of the Lord's work, would be worthless unless unctionized by the Holy Spirit, but we must have a systematic method and work under the leadership of God if we accomplish all that it is our privilege and duty to.

People let's don't sit and "muse while the fire burns." Let's assume our responsibilities and keep this great work moving. If you do not have an auxiliary in your church and you feel you want to organize, or hear the plan explained, I will be very happy to come and assist you in any way, as your field worker, if you will let me know. I urge you to adopt the Woman's Auxiliary plan. You need it and it needs you.

Yours in His service

Thora Arbogast

Inspirational Poems

Rev. T. H. Newsome, Springtown, Texas

The Master Painter's Hand (Easter Anthem)

Pictures of transcendent beauty,
Lie out-spread before our eyes;
Lofty hills and snow-clad mountains,
Heads uplifted to the skies;
Speak to us in Nature's language,
Which we all may understand,
That this surely is the product
Of the Master Painter's hand.

When the shades of eve are hovering,
O'er a care-worn weary land;
Silver moon unfolds her covering
Of soft light with gentle hand;
Twinkling stars bear testimony,
Voicing heaven's message grand;
That this surely is the product
Of the Master Painter's hand.

Presently the sun ariseth,
From his bed of nightly rest;
Casts aside the raven mantle,
Which has covered Nature's breast;
Marches forth in all his glory,
Shedding life-light o'er the land;
Testifying 'tis the product
Of the Master Painter's hand.

But the most impressive picture,
Which the world has ever seen;
Whether drawn by hand of nature,
Or produced upon the screen
Is the resurrection story,
Sketched according to God's plan;
On the films of fadeless glory,
By the Master Painter's hand.

Note: This poem was printed in the Gem four years ago, but I thought you might want it re-printed in the Easter issue, for perhaps few preserved it. Perhaps it is my master-piece. At least I count it among my best.

Church Letters - Field Reports

Financial Report for 1943

Highland Park F. W. B. Church
Highland Park, Mich.

Cash on hand	\$1,248.68
Savings Account	1,344.32
Tithes Reserve	101.34
Radio Reserve	91.32
Income Reserve	14.30
Total Cash	\$2,799.96

Total amt. money received, all sources of the church	\$13,547.63
Including the following sums:	
Radio Offering	\$1,595.23
Foreign Missions	229.40
Tithes Wolverine Ass'n.	795.19
Birthday Offerings	44.81

Expenses

Pastor's Salary	\$2,825.00
Caretakers Salary	775.50
Wolverine Association	795.19
Foreign Missions	229.40
Radio	1,530.00
Victory Tax	55.55
Interest paid on building	188.38
Principal Paid	4,185.35
Insurance	22.50
Coal, Lights, Gas, Misc.	2,763.67
Evangelists	451.00
Total	\$12,821.54
Balance on Church Bldg.	2,096.67

Rev. Raymond Riggs, Pastor

REPORT OF MISSOURI TREASURY

Rev. Winford Davis, Treasurer
Monett, Missouri

Foreign Mission Fund

M. H. White Plattsburg, Mo.	\$10.00
Aurora Church	3.54
Merls Chapel S. S.	7.66
North East Mo. Mission Band	25.00
Shibleys Point Church	1.00
Mt. Olive (Neola church)	6.77
True Blue Class (Neola) S. S.	1.00
Ottis Martin Greenfield, Mo.	8.50
Independance Church	17.00
Mrs. Goldia Elsea Novinger, Mo.	5.00
Niangua Church	11.65
Rock Chapel	10.09
Hickory Grove Church	4.40
Mine La Motte S. S.	2.25
New Harmony Mission	1.05
Golden Oak Church	2.75
Monett Church	5.00
Mrs. Margaret Turner Granby, Mo.	10.00
Aurora Church and S. S.	4.82
Auxiliary St. Louis Third Church	6.00
Wagoner Church	4.65
Amity Church	29.00
Sublette Church	3.00
Flat River Home Mission Circle	10.00
Macedonia Church and S. S.	2.89
Hope Well Church	1.00
Willey Circle of Flat River Aux.	15.00

Unified Program Fund

Myrtle Church	\$7.00
Mt. Olive (Neola) Church	3.17
Oak Grove Church of Cave Spring Ass'n	5.09
New Harmony Mission	4.56
Monett Church	11.23
Pleasant View Aux. of Ill.	1.00
St. Louis Third Church	70.00
Copper Mines Church	2.00
Merls Chapel	4.50
Willey Circle of Flat River Aux.	2.50

Jehoida Chest Fund

Hazel Creek Union Auxiliary	\$1.00
New Harmony Mission	3.00
Pleasant View Aux. of Ill.	4.44
Copper Mines Church	1.00
Carterville Auxiliary	1.00
Macedonia Church	1.00
Hickory Grove Aux.	1.00
Twin Oak Church	3.00

Home Missions

S. P. Easley Portales, New Mexico .. \$5.00

Benevolent Fund

Ottis Martin Greenfield, Mo. for	
Tenn. Orphanage	5.00
Carterville Aux. for Superannuation .	1.00
S. P. Easley Portales N. M. for	
Tenn. Orphanage	5.00

Educational Fund

Justin Gann Aurora, Mo.	\$1.25
S. P. Easley Portales N. M.	5.00

Budget Fund

Carterville Church	\$7.70
Martinstown Church	28.75

REPORT OF OKLA. TREASURY

For the Months of Jan. and Feb.

Rev. Bert Rogers, Treas.

Foreign Mission Fund

Shawnee Church	\$16.00
Tulsa Church	10.00
Cedar Grove Church	16.74
Vance Chappel	12.10
Tulsa Church	10.00
New Home	20.00
Christian Grove	4.32
Total	\$89.16

Penny Bank Fund

Silver City Church	\$5.00
Vance Chappel	4.60
Drumright	2.14
Silver City	1.70
Vance Chappel	5.00
Total	\$18.44

Jehoida Chest Fund

Vance Chappel	\$2.00
Silver City	2.00
Vance Chappel	3.00
Total	\$7.00

Free Will Baptist Church

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Rev. Melvin Bingham, Pastor

Mrs. Evelyn Miller, Reporter

Dear Gem Readers:

We are happy to report the good Quarterly Conference of the 1st Mission Ass'n

which convened in our church the latter part of Feb. with a large delegation present twenty churches representing with letters.

On Wed. morning Sister Florence of Drumright, Okla. brought a most inspiring message, the afternoon session was given over to the Mission and Auxiliary which made some wonderful reports that shows that even tho gas is rationed and peoples hearts are heavy and their minds are war worn, yet God's work is still going on and His name being glorified.

Bro. Rex Weatherman and Bro. Huff brought the Introductory message and from then on we heard so many good speakers that it would be hard for us to decide just which was the best but it was a great blessing to the Tulsa church for our Brothers and Sistres in Christ to meet together and carry on God's work.

Just a few weeks ago we enjoyed Rev. J. R. Davidson chairman of Christian Education and Rev. Winford Davis chairman of Foreign Missions and Rev. B. F. Rogers also a National Officer visiting with us, Rev. Davidson and Rev. Davis both gave us a wonderful message and talks on their work in connection with the National Program, Rev. Rogers and Davis gave special message in song.

At this writing we are still looking forward to our Revival which Rev. Riggs of Detroit, Mich. will begin the last of April. If there ever was a time when Christian men and women should join in prayer and pray for the lost and pray for those who are trying to carry the gospel it is today, so we are closing by asking every one to remember our little church when you pray and listen to our broadcast each, Saturday night at 10:15

The Organization of Mission Church St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Gem Readers:

The following is a brief history of the organization of the Free Will Baptist Mission which was organized in full, Jan. 30, 1944 with 16 charter members.

After I finished my pastoral work at the

Richwoods Free Will Baptist Church of Richwoods, Mo. I felt led by the Spirit of God to open a new work here in St. Louis for I felt the need was great for another work here.

After talking with Rev. Mark Lewis, Pastor of the 3rd Free Will Baptist Church who I learned to depend on and a real servant of God I began to look for a building for which I thought would be best suited for the purpose.

Bro. Lewis and I kept watch day after day and prayed much that God would open up the way, and praise God one day after Bro. Lewis and I had been talking and planing Bro. Lewis located a building at 5418 Idaho Ave. and called me up. He and I went and investigated the building and found it to be satisfactory.

It will seat approximately 150 people and has a full size concrete basement in which we expect to build S. S. Class rooms.

The building was to rent for \$40.00 per month. The owner of the building and his wife lived upstairs and were good christian people so were pleased hat we wanted to open up a Mission there so gave us the first months rent free.

The finance was our next problem but we know God is an all powerful God so we brought our troubles to him.

In just a couple of days the Lord was blessing us with contributions. My brother Lester Hill gave us \$70.00 Bro. Lewis' church gave us \$25.00 and made us a loan of \$100.00 also Bro. Lewis knowing the need of more finance went to the Manager of Bemis Bro. Bag Co. and told him of our needs. The next day Mr. E. H. Howell the manager called me to his office and gave me a check for \$35.00.

We then went to work building the seats, rostrum, and the needed fixtures. I want to take time and space here to thank God for men like Bro. Carvie Warden, Herbert Parrot, Oscar Davis and Ollie Grimminger who worked every night including all day on two Saturdays in order to have everything in order for the opening of the Mission on Jan. 16th

I'm sure God will bless them for their efforts. Bro. Lewis' Church also donated

other fixtures and song books so we were ready for our first service on Sunday morning Jan. 16th we opened up our S. S. and organized with officers as follows—Supt. Lester Hill, Ass't Supt. Sister Bessie Hill, Sec. and Treas. Norma Jean Hill, we also organized three classes and elected teachers for each class.

There was an enrollment of 24 in S. S. the first Sunday. In five weeks our S. S. has reached 52. We have now set our goal for 75 in the next five weeks. On Sunday Jan. 30th we organized the Mission with 16 charter members with myself being elected as pastor.

On Jan. 29th we organized a young peoples group from which you will hear more of later. Last Sat. night our young people had their 2nd meeting with over 30 young people present.

We have also organized a string band and are planing on organizing a quartet soon.

The Mission is growing steadily and we want to thank God for His wonderful blessings. Pray for us that we may do the will of God at all times. —Rev. Harvy Hill

Newport, Texas

I have never written to this paper before, but certainly enjoy reading it, for it let us know how far the Free Will Baptist denomination goes and how God works in the hearts of his people. I thank God for the effort being put forth in a Free Will Baptist College, I know it will be a success God being the leader. WE need more christian men and women to go forth and do his will, let God be in their heart and direct them in church work. Its easy to say I just can't do this or that, but you know old Jonah made excuses and where did he find himself. Excusses won't meet the condition of a true regenerated soul. Christ didn't save us to just sit down, if every Christian just sat down how would we ever prove to the lost and dying world that we are happy in our christian life. Saul asked God, what will thou have me to do. You know I believe if we are really saved we are going to be on fire for Christ. We must prove we are happy in Christ, then

if they see his good works through us this will make them to become more concerned about their soul. We must let our faith in Christ reach out beyond our homes and churches and let the world see Jesus in us. This is the life I strive to live. My husband being a Minister of the Free Will Baptist in his second year, we covet the prayers of the christian people that we may always be ready to lend a helping hand to the lost and dying world and He may use us to His honor and glory so we may lead many lost souls to Christ. —Mrs. Ola Mae Winters

The Fifth Sunday Meeting Granby, Missouri

The fifth Sunday meeting was held at the Granby Free Will Baptist church, Jan. 30, 1944. Rev. Crane acting as moderator. Opening song no. 33, prayer by Bro. Barrett. Bro. Walgamott preached the introductory sermon.

Bro. Jim Mongtomery and Sister Osburn were appointed to arrange for the Ministers services in the afternoon.

Dinner was served at one thirty. The afternoon service started soon after dinner, by an opening song, no. 45 and prayer by Bro. Farmer. We had another song no. 176. Bro. Barrett brought the first message found in Acts 27:. The next message was brought by Bro. Farmer Psalms 9:17. Song by card class "Jewels." Next we had a message by Bro. Shope, John 15:1. Song by Ruth Spere and Nana Jean Newton "Empty Mansions." Song by Rosetta Whitiker, song by the congregation, "Amazing Grace." Next message was brought by Bro. Walgomott, found in Matthew, closing with a song.

The next Fifth Sunday meeting will be held at the West Pitcher church. Bro. Farmer will preach the introductory sermon. — Church Clerk

Longing For Home

I sometimes get weary, and long to go home
But all of my work here is not done
'Tho' many thorns spread o'er my pathway
I find he sweetly saves every day

Then when I am discouraged and blue
and it seems there's no other way thru
I remember his promises to be true
Then I leave it to Jesus, who knows what
to do

I traveled the broad road of sin
That always leads to a bitter end
When I heard the sweet voice of Jesus
Saying come unto me ye who who are
weary

There are times when my heart is troubled
with care

And I have no one, my burden to share
Then I hear Jesus say, let not your heart
be troubled

I will not leave you comfortless

He will lead us along in green pastures
He will feed us on the bread of life
And give us living water for our thirst
If we but trust in his Holy name

There are many trials we do not understand
As we travel on lifes weary road
But when we get together up there
We'll understand each trial, was the cross
we had to bear

So I want to keep on going, with his love
overflowing

Until I come to the portals of home
And I hear that sweet voice say, thou hast
been faithful

Enter into the joys of the Lord

Miss Ruby Pegram
Chesapeake, W.Va.

In Honor of Mother

M is for mercy and merit she gave
O stands for others for whom she lived
T for truth, trust, and thrift
H begins home, health, and hope her ego
E is for effort great or small
R for refuge she gave to one and all

For her mercy and merit is never chang-
ing
And for others she is always arranging
In thought, word or action something
That to others will comfort and joy bring.
Truth trust and thrift she lives each day

Home to her means more than just a place
to stay

Hope is the watchword of her world and
health

She is mindful of her boy and girl,
Her efforts are more than the world
knows

But God knows and in time will disclose
All the work here she has done

And reward her for her efforts everyone
A refuge she is in home and heart
To all that in her life has a part

For there is always room for more
In her heart than inside her door

Written by Mrs. Asberry Davis.
(Edt. note) This is the mother of Rev.
Winford Davis

Blue Bell Free Will Baptist Church Sapulpa, Oklahoma

Rev. D. B. Hellard, Pastor
Mrs. S. P. Yocham, Reporter

Dear Gem Readers:

It has been some time since we made a
report to the Gem but we enjoy reading the
reports from other churches. Just to know
that some people are still holding on to the
Lord in these trying times, gives us an up-
lift in spirit.

We are really proud to tell every one
about our little country church. We can't
boast of a large number in attendance, but
we have a very spiritual church. We have
20 or 25 men from our church and commu-
nity in the service. We could not fail to
meet together and keep the fire burning
for those who depend so much on us for
support in prayers.

Bro. Everett Hellard one of our young
ministers from our church, whose picture
and article was in the Gem a few months
back, is in the U. S. Navy stationed in San
Diego. He has been helping carry on prayer
meetings there in camp. Bro. Everett's fav-
orite chapters is 27th and 46th Psalms. He
has preached five or six times in camp
since he went into the service. He has been
gloriously blessed with four or five boys
from his groups giving their hearts to God.
He helped pray the boys through, on the
bunk next to his after the lights were out

in their barrack. The Lord is still blessing in a mighty way, pray for Bro. Everett in his work.

The young peoples League has been a great uplift to our church. The League has built Sunday School rooms redeccorated the inside of the church. Bought carpet and two chairs. We also bought flags which improve the looks of our little church a lot. We believe that nothing is too good for the church of God. We would like to report that our Sunday School has begin to grow. We thank the Lord for that. We are looking forward to a revival in a few weeks. Pray for us that the Lord will bless in a mighty way.

Mrs. S. P. Yocham

Free Will Baptist Church Houston, Texas

On March 5th, as was anticipated, the First Free Will Baptist Church of Houston, Texas enjoyed a wonderful day. We were blessed with having Sister Lizzie McAdams bringing the message in both the morning and evening services.

We had in the meeting Mrs. Florence West of 7406 11th Street in Houston, who presented the church with a lot to be used as a church site, with the privilege of selling the site and using the proceeds for a more centrally located site, if the Lord should lead in this action.

We have been praying for quite sometime for a site for the Lord's work, and this is a manifestation of how he answers prayer to the honor and glory due His Holy name. We do not think it will be very long before we are able to have a building to be dedicated to the work of our Master. Your prayers concerning this accomplishment is humbly and dilligently sought by our people here in the city. Continue steadfastly in prayer to this end.

May the Lord bless the work throughout the land that is being done by his followers.

England Hill Free Will Baptist Church Catlettsburg, Kentucky

Dear Gem Readers:

I have never written before to the paper.

We really do enjoy the Gem, also the good letters from other churches, to know there are a few of God's people here and there.

This little church was organized last Oct. 24th, 1943. With 27 charter members.

The Lord has been so good and through the leadership of the Holy Spirit there has been souls saved. Since that time there has been much work and praying going on. We are planing to build a church, as we have one rented at the present time., if the Lord is willing as this place is in need of a church and Sunday school. Pray for us that we may be able with God's help to answer that need. We enjoy the good fellowship with each other at the services.

Rev. Herbert French is the pastor, a wonderful man of God. We are praying that God will soon send a man this way for a revival in this community, there are many souls without God, pray for us, that we will let our light shine, as today is the day of Salvation. —Mrs. Henry Bluebaum

WANTED - MORE MINUTES

Associational and state minutes have arrived rather freely to the National Statistician's desk within the past few weeks. For this he is grateful, since they will aid in making a worthy report this year. However, more minutes should come from the following states: Mississippi, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia, Texas, and California. Some of these states have sent in no minutes at all. Please send one copy of your 1943 minutes (associational or state or both) to Clarence Bowen, Box 821, Wake Forest, North Carolina as soon as possible.

Clerks in other states should check their memories to see if they have sent their's in. Only about one-third of all minutes have come in. There is no need for a statisticial report if anything less than ninety per cent of all minutes come in. Up to this time, the total membership reported does not exceed much over 80,000. Thus you see, Mr. Clerk, that you must do your part now. Perhaps next year we can have a better system of getting these reports. For that I hope.

—Clarence Bowen

BIBLES FOR OUR BOYS

Through the gift from Annie Watkins of Decoto, California the Free Will Baptist Gem has had the privilege of sending New Testaments to the following men in the service of our country:

Kirmit C. Crawford, Ph M 3-C U. S. Navy Dispen., San Pedro, California.

Lindell Rogers, 359th Tech. Sch. Sq. S.P., Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

Pvt. Garon L. Crafton, 1066 Guard Hq., Army Air Base, Blithville, Arkansas.

Cpl. Fred A. Read, Hq. 111th Inf. 2nd Bn. New Bern, North Carolina.

Pfc. Alfred Logsdon, 108 Am. Co. A. A.P.O. 33, Fort Lewis, Washington.

Pvt. Robert Yates, C. Battery 244th Field Art., Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

Pfc. Hubert B. Smith, Anti Tank Co. 116th Inf., Fort Barrancas, Florida.

Pvt. Hulén W. Jones 38294199, Co. C. 382nd Inf. A. P. O. 96, Camp Adair, Oregon.

Cpl. Heard Cavenar 3709913, Btry. B. 304 C A B B Bn., Seattle, Washington.

Pvt. Robert Mills, D. 10-4-F. A. R. C. Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Forest Mathes, Sqd. 17 T. S. Naval Air Base, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Pvt. Berthal W. Gammon, 1031 T. S. S. Flight 91, Kerans, Utah.

Hollis Ashcraft, 339th M. P. Escort Guard, Camp McAlester, Oklahoma.

John G. Admire A. S., U. S. Coast Guard, Marathon, Florida.

Pvt. J. C. Armstrong, 323 Air Base Sqd. Muroc Field, California.

Pvt. Harley D. Davis, 76 Gen. Hospital, Vancouver, Washington.

Herbert L. Padgett H. A. 2-C, U. S. Navy Dispensary, Huma, Louisiana.

Braxton Chaffin A. S. Co. 617 Navy Training Station, San Deigo, California.

Cpl. Robert Colliver, 63 Bn. 13 Regt. Co. B., Camp Robinson, Arkansas.

Gordon England H. A. 2-C U. S. Naval Hospital, Newport, Rhode Island.

Pvt. Albert L. Grooms 37610269, Co. B. 266 Engrs. A.P.O. 454, Camp Blanding, Fla.

Bradford Chaffin, Bks. 51 N.A.T.T.C., Memphis, Tennessee.

EVANGELIZE OR MILITARIZE

Which is cheaper, evangelization or militarization? According to A. B. Simpson's estimate, counting one missionary for every ten thousand unevangelized people in the world, it would take only 100 thousand missionaries or one out of every 100 professed Christians in the United States alone and it would cost only 50 million dollars per year to support these missionaries on the field. Placing these figures beside those involved in the militarization of the world they are infinitesimal. To win this war, our government is said to expect to create a debt of 300 billions of dollars. That will be an average indebtedness of \$2,308 in round numbers for every man, woman, boy, and girl in the U. S. If the U. S. had given the \$50,000,000, the estimated amount for the evangelization of the world, it would cost us in the U. S. an average of a little less than 39 cents per person a year. Roger Babson says that the tithe of the income of professed Christians in the U. S. is 4 billion dollars a year. One tenth of the tithe of the Christian Church would be almost enough to finance a successful program of world evangelism. But suppose that Dr. Simpson's figures were low. If it required twice that much or 100 million per year, that would cost an average of less than 80 cents per person per year in the United States.

If the churches of England, France, and America had spent before the war one-tenth on endeavoring to convert Germany of what they had spent on endeavoring to conquer Germany, the great war could have been avoided, with all its terrible results. Again, if we would spend on schools and hospitals and Christian propaganda in Japan one-tenth of what we are spending on our army and navy to protect us against Japan, a war with Japan could be avoided. The truth is that we church people either do not believe what we pretend to believe or else we lack the courage to put our beliefs into action: The churches hold the only key to our international and national difficulties. We know this and the world knows it; yet we are trying to solve the problems

in the old way — with armies, navies, and unprincipled diplomacy. Why is it that we longer continue this inconsistency?

The strangest part of it is that the religious people still have to pay the bill even though unprincipled men declare war and enact legislation which makes war inevitable. It is said that 80 per cent of the \$11,481,109,000 collected in Federal taxes by the United States Government during the first two and one half years of the war came directly or indirectly from church people. Therefore we church people pay the bill, even though men who ridicule us collect the money from us and spend it.

In talking over the pacifist's cause a great military leader replied: "The trouble with you church people is that you are not willing to back up your theories with your life or even with your property. When one of us military men believe in war, we are willing to go to war and be shot at. This you church people are not willing to do. Therein lies your great weakness. Whenever you are willing to pay the price of putting your principles into effect, then we military men will be obliged to retire. Our strength is due to your cowardice."

—The Gospel Minister.

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OBITUARIES

CANON—Lloyd Myron Canon, son of William and Minta Canon, was born in Schuyler Co. Mo. Dec. 9th, 1897, and departed this life at his home near Tunas, Mo. March 9, 1944, being at the time of his death 46 years and 3 months old.

In 1925 he was united in marriage to Miss Mayme Farmer. To this union two children were born.

He professed faith in Christ a number of years ago and united with the Free Will Baptist Church at Hopewell where he remained a faithful member until the Lord called him away.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife and two children, Junior and Oreltha, at home; his mother, Minta Canon, of Branch; four brothers: Pearl of Kansas City, Mo. Clarence of Branch, Ira of New York state and Irwin of the U. S. Navy somewhere overseas; three sisters: Clara Bonner of Branch, Oreltha Whittenburg and Ruth Henson, both of Tulsa, Okla.; 21 nieces and nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Lloyd moved with his parents to Tunas locality when just a small boy and was widely known as a home and community builder. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Funeral services were conducted at Hopewell Sunday at 2 p. m. by Rev. Frank Linton, assisted by Rev. Charley Stidham. Interment followed there under direction of L. B. Jones.

SCOTT—Mrs. Nancy Thompson Scott 51 died March 24th, at the home of a son Mr. James R. Thompson, 1024 39th, St. Ashland, Kentucky, after an illness of several months.

Mrs. Scott, widow of John Scott of Ashland, was a native of Lawrence county, Ky. a daughter of the late Jack and Matilda Crank Elswick. She was a member of the Catlettsburg Free Will Baptist Church for the last twenty nine years and had resided in Ashland since 1937.

Surviving are six sons, Bert Thompson of Ashland, Ohio, Milt Thompson of Buchanan, Kentucky, Frank Thompson of Lexington, Kentucky, Mark Thompson of Catlettsburg, and Bob and James R. Thompson of Ashland two daughters, Mrs. Curtis Hicks of Columbus, Ohio and Mrs. C. Mills of Ashland; two stepsons, John Thompson of Buchanan and Granville Neal of Catlettsburg; a step daughter, Mrs. J. D. Turman of Catlettsburg; two half brothers, John Crank of Falmouth, Kentucky and Wade Crank of Huntington; and two half sisters, Mrs. Flora Hulett and Mrs. Ann Pool of Catlettsburg. Funeral services were conducted at the Sandy City Free Will Baptist Church with Rev. L. E. Collier, assisted by Rev. Hickman, officiating. Burial was in the Buchanan Chapel Cemetery, Boyd County.

Mrs. Mary A. Frazier was born Dec. 10, 1881 in Virginia and died March 12th, 1944 being 62 years, three months and two days old at the time of her death. She had resided in Ashland for the past thirty two years. She was a faithful member of the Sandy City Free Will Baptist Church uniting with the church July 11th, 1937.

Surviving are the husband C. W. Frazier whom she married in 1909. Six sons: Estill and William Ira of Ashland, George of Dayton, Ohio, Charles of Baltimore, Arbie of Martin, Ky. and Lieut. James E. Frazier of U. S. Army, Camp Bowie, Texas; four daughters; Mrs. Ova Frazier of Catlettsburg, Mrs. Isaac Jordan of Ashland and Mrs. Jack Kirkpatrick and Mrs. Roy Conley of Baltimore, Md; one brother, Ira Fisher of Halderman, Ky. and three sisters; Mrs. James Blevins and Mrs. Will Blevins of Morehead, Ky., and Mrs. Dennis Hall of Lee Wood, W. Va. Also twenty six grandchildren and four great grand-children and a host of relatives and friends to mourn her passing.

Impressive funeral service was conducted from the Sandy City Free Will Baptist Church with Rev. L. E. Collier assisted by Rev. Jay Duvall and Rev. John Hicks. Burial followed in the Williams cemetery.

In Memory

In memory of my dear Parents who passed away twelve years ago.

Dear Mother and Daddy I know you are at rest

Its so lonely with out you, still God knows best

And soon I shall join you, some glad happy day.

Where I know you'll be waiting, just over the way.

There will be no more sorrow, just one long happy day

Oh no you're not dead, you have just gone away.

I'll work and I'll pray, while I wait here below.

For I want to be waiting, and all ready to go,

When my Saviour shall say, come up higher my child

I'll bid this old world good bye with a smile.

Written by Mrs. Artie McClanahan

In Memory

In memory of my husband, Paul Dodson who passed away Feb. 9th, 1939.

Life has so many mysteries, so much we do not know

We can not understand just why, our friend from earth must go

Home is so lonesome since he is not here, Dark is his room and vacant his chair.

Darling sleep on, your trials are o'er
We loved you, but God loved you more
Paul loved the Saviour; what a soldier he had been.

But his steps are now more steady
As with the Saints he is marching
There he lives in a rose tinted garden,
Neath the shade of the ever-green tree.

And he can walk in the paradise valley
Where the beauty of Heaven he'll see.
Some day we'll go to meet him

Where there will be no more good bye's
We can think of nothing sweeter,

Than our meeting in the skies.
Our daddy has gone on to Heaven
Circles are broken down here,

Soon our prayers will be answered,
We will be together up there

Since you have left us dear daddy,
Days are so dreary and long

We promised you we'd be ready,
When God said children come home.

Daddy you've gone to that city
Where there is no sorrow or care

Surely you know we miss you,
Some day we'll meet you up there

With breaking hearts we said farewell,
And we love you yet more than tongue

can tell.
As the years go by, what-so-ever betide,

We'll tend your grave on the green hill side.

No matter where we wander, no matter what we do,

We'll cherish precious memories of days we've spent with you.

Emma Dodson Corley, children Leola and Carl

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