

Grider, Thora April 56
Star Rt.
Greenfield, Mo.

The Free Will Baptist Gem

Vol. 26—No. 12

Poplar Bluff, Missouri

December, 1955

Angels from the Realms of Glory

J. Montgomery

H. Smart

Angels, From the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth;

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night;
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light;

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star;

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear;

Come and Worship, Come and Worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY NEW YEAR!



THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Organ of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists. Serving the church everywhere. Endorsed by National Association.

Published Monthly at Poplar Bluff, Missouri

Editor: Mrs. Eunice Edwards

Entered in the Post Office at Poplar Bluff, Missouri, under second class mailing permit.

TERMS

One dollar fifty cents (\$1.50) per year cash in advance. Paper will be discontinued when subscription expires.

STATE ASSOCIATION**—Officers—**

Moderator Rev. O. T. Allred
904 Fifth Street, Monett, Mo.

Clerk-Treas . . Mrs. Eunice Edwards
Desloge, Mo.

—Executive Board—

Harry Beatty Thayer
A. W. Brook Mountain Grove
Rolla Smith, Chm. Flat River
Paul Williams Joplin
Lester Jones Sec. Kirksville

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**—Officers—**

Exec. Sec. Rev. W. S. Mooneyham
3801 Richland Ave., Nashville,
Tenn.

Moderator Rev. Chas. Thigpen
242 Victor Ave., Highland Park,
Mich.

Clerk Rev. T. G. Hamilton
College Manager . . Dr. L. C. Johnson
3609 Richland Ave., Nashville,
Tenn.

W. A. Ex. Sec Mrs. H. Willis
3801 Richland Ave., Nashville,
Tenn.

—National Boards—

(Chm. †, Sec'y. §, or Prom. Sec'y.)
General † Rev. Chas. Thigpen
242 Victor Ave., Highland Park,
Mich.

Foreign Miss. Rev. Raymond Riggs
3801 Richland Ave., Nashville, Tenn.
Home Miss. Rev. Damon C. Dodd
3801 Richland Ave., Nashville, Tenn.
League § Rev. Clarence Bowen
3801 Richland Ave., Nashville, Tenn.
Superannuation § . . Rev. K. V. Shutes
3801 Richland Ave., Nashville 5,
Tenn.

Pub'catn-Liter. † . . . Rev. J. C. Griffin
1409 N. Pasteur St., New Bein, N. C.
College Trustees † . . Rev. J. L. Welch

1604 10th Ave. North, Nashville,
Tenn.

Sunday School † . . Rev. Wm. Mishler
3801 Richland Ave., Nashville, Tenn.

ADDRESSES OF MISSIONARIES

Rev. and Mrs. Thomas H. Willey
Miss Bessie Yeley
Miss Lucy Wischart
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Phenicie
Apartado 27
Pinar del Rio, Cuba

Miss Laura B. Barnard
Miss Volena Wilson
"Westfield"
The Nilgiris,
Kotagiri, South India

Rev. and Mrs. Daniel R. Cronk
Kishanganj,
Purnea District,
Bihar, North India

Rev. and Mrs. Carlisle Hanna
New Sisters
Sisters Bazaar
Landour, Mussoorie
U. P., India

Rev. and Mrs. Wesley Calvery
in care of Kesaki Wada
325 2 Chome
Nakameguro
Meguro-ku
Tokyo, Japan

12th Annual Worldwide Bible Reading

The American Bible Society is conducting its 12th annual world-wide Bible reading from Thanksgiving to Christmas, 1955. You are urged to make it a daily practice to read your Bible. Daily Bible readings are printed in all the Sunday school and league quarterlies, or you may ask your pastor for a list.

Below are the Bible reading suggested for this season, Thanksgiving to Christmas; also five ways how you can find help from Bible reading:

1. Set apart a definite time each day for serious reading of your Bible.
2. Read in company with someone else whenever you can.
3. Read thoughtfully, prayerfully and slowly. "Not snapshots but time exposures" should be the rule.
4. Seek a personal message, ready to respond to it. Your answer to God's message is vital. When He condemns, bow penitently. When He offers light, place your hope on it. When He guides, follow. When He commands, obey.

5. Reread verses which strike fire. Copy out a key verse which seems to speak directly to you. Carry it with

you and refer to it throughout the day.

December:

15.....	John 3:1-17
16.....	John 14:1-14
17.....	John 14:15-31
18 Sunday	Romans 8:14-39
19.....	Romans 12:1-21
20.....	1 John 4:1-21
21.....	Isaiah 9:2-7
22.....	Isaiah 11:1-9
23.....	Isaiah 53:1-12
24.....	John 1:1-18
25 Christmas	Matthew 2:1-11
26.....	Matthew 2:12-23
27.....	Matthew 3:1-17
28.....	Matthew 4:1-25
29.....	Matthew 8:1-34
30.....	Matthew 9:1-17
31.....	Matthew 9:18-38

For those who will continue reading the Bible the last six days of the year these passages are recommended:

26.....	Matthew 2:12-23
27.....	Matthew 3:1-17
28.....	Matthew 4:1-25
29.....	Matthew 8:1-34
30.....	Matthew 9:1-17
31.....	Matthew 9:18-38

THE LEGEND OF THE DOGWOOD TREE

Christ's cross was cut from a dogwood tree.

An ancient legend tells.
Against such sad and cruel fate
Each dogwood tree rebels.

The Master knew their bitter shame.

His heart with pity stirred,
And to the sorrowing dogwood trees

He spake this gracious word:

"No more need you fear such sad fate.

From henceforth you'll be small
And slender, with bent twisted limbs.

On you no blight shall fall.

"Your blossoms white shall form
a cross

To make men think of Me,
And they in all your crimson tips
Will bloody nail prints see.

"A crown of thorns will ever lie
Within your lively flowers.

Your task shall be to show my cross
Through springtime's shining hours."

Since then all dogwood trees rejoice.

They gladden forest ways,
And love to show our dear Lord's cross

As on their flowers we gaze.

—Mrs. Edgar F. Johnson.

Invite somebody to Sunday School this week.

AMERICA MUST FACE THE FOE

By Rev. Billy Graham

The Bible puts drunkenness in the same category with other vicious sins. Listen: "Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revellers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." (I Cor. 6:10).

I stand with the Bible on the question of drunkenness, and to be true to our convictions any true minister of the Gospel must make bold to declare what the Word of God says about this social evil. Any sin which can keep a man from inheriting the kingdom of God, I must denounce and decry, and the Bible says: "No drunkard. . . shall inherit the kingdom of God." The Bible says: "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying." (Romans 13:13).

At least ten thousand people die every year, and another 250,00 are wounded in accidents on our streets, and highways, involving people who are drunk or near-drunk. Our prisons are filled today with thousands of men and women who committed crimes against society while under the influence of strong drink.

Our daily papers carry sordid stories about people who commit unthinkable crimes while under the influence of strong drink. In Indiana, a man under the influence of strong drink came home and murdered his wife and three children with a shotgun. Most of the assaults on young girls which we have been reading about lately were committed by men whose minds were inflamed by drinking. Our crime rate, oddly enough, has increased in exact ratio to our mounting alcoholic consumption. No wonder the Bible says: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." (Prov. 20:1).

The record shows us that drunkenness and juvenile delinquency go hand in hand. I am not one to languish for the "good old days," but when I was in high school, I can remember none of my classmates drinking. They did many other things perhaps as bad or worse, but generally speaking, there was no drinking in the sixteen-year-old set. In Nassau County, New York, a scientifically conducted survey was conducted with 29,000 students and it was revealed that 90 per cent of them drink alcoholic beverages.

Official figures from the files of the Ada County, Idaho, revealed that 96 per cent of juvenile delinquent cases

in that county, coming before the court, involved liquor. In Dallas County, Texas, the grand jury had this to say about drunkenness and juvenile delinquency: "In numerous instances we have seen that juveniles and young people involved in crimes have a short time earlier been in beer joints, taverns and honky-tonks." At Laguna Beach, California, over 100 were arrested after two nights of wild drinking orgies, which were said to be so disgraceful as to make the gin parties of the roaring twenties look like a Sunday school picnic.

A recent survey reveals that in three out of five cases of juvenile delinquency, either the fathers or the mothers were excessive drinkers. These are unvarnished facts about drunkenness and juvenile delinquency. "Fool's Hill" has been wet down with alcohol and our youngsters are plunging down it into a dark and perilous future. May God help us. Surveys reveal that one million youngsters between the ages of ten and seventeen years of age come before the police each year; three-fifths of them are from homes cursed by drunkenness. The soul of one of those little mixed up delinquents is worth more than all the holdings of all the breweries and the distillers in the world.

Drunkenness not only dulls the mind and depresses the spirit; it inflames the baser passions and brings out the animal in man. The Bible mentions it in the same breath with "chambering and wantonness." It says, "Let us not walk in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness." (Romans 13:13).

A prominent law enforcement officer recently told me that in 90 per cent of highway and traffic accidents drinking is involved somewhere. Death indeed rides with the drunken driver. "Liquor strikes five times as many as tuberculosis and cancer combined," said Dr. Louis Evans. The Bible meant what it said when it declared: "Woe to the crown of pride to the drunkards of Eprmaim, whose glorious beauty is as a fading flower." (Isa. 28:1).

When a flower fades it has begun to die, and when a civilization begins to die, it increasingly demands the stimulation of alcoholic spirits. Before Rome fell, she was drunken. Before Babylon fell, she was inebriate. Before Greece fell, she was given to revelling and wantonness. Drunken orgies always precede the "hand-writing" of God's judgment.

Man's heart without God is a vacuum—an empty void. Man, in his desire to be self-sufficient, tries to fill that vacuum with things other than God. He substitutes pleasure, lust, drunkenness, revellings, and wantonness. But they will no more fill the need of man, fill the void in his heart, than a square peg will fit into a round hole.

Ask Mel Trotter who was so entrenched in drunkenness that he sold the shoes off his dead baby's feet to buy another drink, but at long last made Christ Lord and Master of his life, and became one of the greatest mission workers America has ever known.

Ask Jerry McCauley who, tired and disappointed in Satan's bill of fare, stepped into the old Bowery Mission, yielded himself to Christ and became the greatest soul winner of his day.

Ask any of the thousands of men who were saved from drunkenness by the power of Jesus Christ, and they will smile (if they don't shout) and say, "In Christ we are more than conquerors."

Christ will never ask you to give up something unless he gives you something better in exchange. He asked Peter to give up his nets, but he gave him the "keys to heaven." He asked the little lad to give up his loaves and fishes, but he gave him a square meal. He asked the disciples to deny themselves, but he gave them life eternal.

I am preaching regeneration and transformation. The acceptance of Christ as personal Saviour will change the desire of man's heart and fill it with something that satisfies. Many have tried to fill the heart's vacuum with something that can never satisfy. The Bible has the answer: "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."
—The "Herald"

"Ah, friends, dear friends, as years go on and heads get gray, how fast the guests do go!

Touch hands, touch hands, with those who stay. Strong hands to weak, old hands to young, around the Christmas board touch hands.

The false forget, the foe forgive, for every guest will go and every fire burn low and cabin empty stand.

Forget, forgive, for who may say that Christmas day may ever come to host or guest again. Touch hands!"
—Author Unknown

CLOSED DOORS—When God shuts a door He opens a window.

LANDMARKS

Deuteronomy 19:14, "Thou shalt not remove thy neighbor's landmark." What is a landmark? One definition—a distinguishing fact. Our old established doctrines, or distinguishing facts are our landmarks.

First, we believe, a church of God is an organized body of believers in Christ, who regularly assemble to worship God and keep the ordinances of the Gospel according to the Scriptures, and none but the regenerate are its members. The Church of God, or members of the body of Christ, is the whole body of Christians throughout the whole world. Let us not remove the old landmarks of our denomination.

Each Free Will Baptist Church is a democracy within its self. The local church is an independent body, so far as it relates to its own government, the transaction of its business, the choice of its officers, and the discipline of its members. Personal offences and trials are to be settled according to Matthew 18:15-17.

Each church joining with other Free Will Baptist churches forming a Quarterly Meeting or an Association, that we may reach out into the world, reaching more people with the Gospel of Good News. Let's not remove the old landmark of Evangelism, home and foreign missions, preaching, Sunday Schools and young people meetings, and prayer meetings. Let's not remove the old landmark of assembling together to hear God's Word preached and singing of praises to Him.

Let's not do away with our landmarks of our Doctrines. Let's keep the doctrines our church was founded upon. We believe our church was founded in the year of 1780 A. D. by holy men directed by God. That it has been and is now directed and preserved by men directed by God.

We believe that the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, were written by holy men of old, directed and moved upon by the Holy Spirit. That they are a sufficient and infallible guide in religious faith and practice; a true guide to live and die by, revealing the truth of God's will to man. 2 Timothy, 3:16, "All scriptures is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Peter 1:21, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy

men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

We believe in one God, consisting of the Holy Trinity; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—three in one, a mystery, but life is a mystery. A God who is Spirit, self-existent, eternal, immutable, unchangeable, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, independent, good, wise, holy, just and merciful, the Creator, Preserver, Governor of the universe, the Judge of all men the proper object of divine worship.

We believe that Jesus Christ and the Father are one. That He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, lived and done good to all, crucified, buried, but rose again, to life everlasting, the third day, ascended up into heaven and is now at the right hand of God the Father; interceding for us as our Saviour and Redeemer. That He is the propitiation for our sins, and through Him only, by faith and obedience unto His will, we may be saved. "The only name given under heaven"; that we might be saved. He is now our Advocate, or lawyer, before God the Father. Jesus taught and practiced love toward all men and that love is a mark of a true Christian.

We believe the Holy Spirit is a person, the third person in the Godhead. He guides, convicts, commands, punishes, makes known God's will. We believe that He inspires, sanctifies and gives life.

We believe in the blood of Christ; that it took the blood of Christ to make an atonement for our sins. Without Christ shedding His blood no man could be saved. We believe that Christ not only died for our sins, but He arose for our justification, and is now serving as Mediator between God the Father and man.

We believe in repentance; confessing and turning from sin. We believe in faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and that the power to believe is given by God. We believe that we are saved by grace, which is the unmerited gift of God.

We believe in regeneration, justification and sanctification; being born again, born of the Spirit, pardoned and justified, and cleansed from all sin; and if we will try, that we will constantly grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Concerning the perseverance of the saints we believe there are strong grounds to hope that the truly regenerated will persevere unto the end, and be eternally saved, through the power of divine grace; but their future obedience and final salvation are

neither determined nor certain, since through infirmity and manifold temptation they are in danger of falling; and they ought therefore to watch and pray, lest they make shipwreck of their faith and be eternally lost. II Chronicles 15:2, "The Lord is with you while ye be with him—but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you."

We believe that we should keep one day holy unto the Lord, when no labor should be done; and God should be glorified. We believe in Christian baptism, and that it is done by immersion, and that a soul should repent and confess his faith in Christ, as his personal Saviour, before he can be baptized. We believe in the Lord's supper, and that only saints, converted people, should take thereof. We believe that the washing of the saint's feet is a sacred ordinance, and it is the duty of all saints to observe. This is one of the old landmarks, we as Free Will Baptists, are dropping from our services. I do not think we ought to neglect it, but we are. I do not know whether it is through pride or negligence. Let's restore it. There are other landmarks we have, but I believe these few are the main ones. Let's observe and preserve them.

—Warren Moffitt

Honor Roll OF CHURCH FAMILY SUBSCRIPTION PLAN

CHURCH	Pastor
Fellowship	Rev. Rolla Smith
Amity	Rev. Wm. Reeves
Black Oak	Rev. Wm. Reeves
Cedar Ridge	Rev. Wm. Reeves
New Lebanon	Rev. Leo Curtis
Leadington	Mrs. Eunice Edwards
Copper Mines	Rev. Glen Rehkop
Myrtle	
Kirksville	Rev. Lester Jones
Wellston	Rev. Harry Asher
Berkeley	Rev. Harvey Hill
New Prospect	Rev. Wm. Reeves

(Rev. Geo. W. Scott has resigned his pastorate at Myrtle, due to ill health. I do not have the name of the present pastor.)

THE CLOCK OF LIFE ...

The clock of life is wound but once and no man has the power to tell just when the hands will stop, at late or early hour. Now is the only time you own! Work, pray, give with a will, place not faith in tomorrow for the clock may then be still.

What you can't remember might as well be forgotten.

Report of State Association Work

O. T. Alfred

I am sure everyone who is interested in our denominational work read with gladness of heart the Oct. issue of the *Gem*; we have missed its regular visit to our homes each month, bringing reports and articles of interest among Free Will Baptists, especially in the state of Missouri.

We appreciate the work of Sis. Edwards, the Editor, in this first issue printed under the new set-up. I am sure the paper will increase in value to us as more churches and ministers give reports and words of encouragement to others in the columns of the *Gem*. We also urge more and more people to send in their subscriptions, thus enabling the message to reach more people.

It will be of interest to know, since the State Association authorized the liquidation of the *Gem* office and equipment, and as we have been acting as agent to sell the same under the direction of the State Executive Board, that the building and almost the entire equipment has been sold. At the time of this writing, only a few articles in the office and the paper stock remain to be sold. We are receiving \$4,000.00 for the building and by the time the rest of the equipment is sold, it will bring this amount up to a higher figure. We tried for two months to sell the equipment altogether, but was not able to do so, so we began breaking it up and selling as best we could. May I say here, we feel the present set up is our last chance to have a denominational paper in our State. We can make this a success if we will, then we may be all saying in the language of Hebrews 6:3, "And this will we do, if God permit."

Not only the support of the *Gem*, but our Youth Camp program and our State Co-operative Plan of giving needs our whole hearted support.

We are, at the time of this writing, in a revival meeting at our Independence Church near Stockton, Mo., where Sis. Opal Jeffries is pastor.

We were recently in a revival with our Mt. Zion Church in Northwest Missouri, with Bro. Charles Black as our evangelist.

The Lord willing, we will begin a revival at Blue Eye, November 14, with Bro. Curtis Wilson.

May we all join hearts and hands for a united effort in the work of the Lord.

A STRANGE FAMILY

The father had never missed church or Sunday school in twenty-three years. The mother had a perfect record for eleven years. A son has not missed for twelve years. A daughter has been at the evening service every Sunday for eight years.

What's the matter with this family, anyway? Don't they ever have company on Sunday to keep them away from church?

Don't they ever get tired one Sunday morning?

Don't they belong to any lodges, where they get their religion, instead of at their Father's house, or to any clubs, or to anything?

Don't they ever have headaches, or colds, or nervous spells, or tired feelings, or sudden calls out of the city, or weekend parties, or business trips, or picnics, or any other trouble?

Don't they have a radio, so that they can get some good sermons from out-of-town preachers?

Don't they ever get a lot more good out of reading a sermon out of a book?

Don't they ever get disgusted with what their minister preaches so they can have an excuse to miss a few Sundays?

What's the matter with this family anyway, and why are they so happy and cheerful? We leave it to you to answer.

TEN TO SEVEN!

Ten to seven are pretty high odds in any language but in this case we are not referring to gambling odds. This is an entirely different matter and one which concerns the present

and future welfare of a whole nation of people. The terms above mean that Americans spend ten dollars for liquor every time they spend seven for education and research in this country. All the schools, colleges, training institutes and other media of education plus all the research laboratories and work done on cancer, atoms, heart disease, polio and other such effort called for an outlay of seven billion dollars in the last few years while our liquor bill was ten billions for the same period.

These figures are offered, not by Sam Morris and Company, but by Dr. Andrew C. Ivy, University of Illinois physiologist and Chairman of the National Committee for the Prevention of Alcoholism. He added these other interesting figures. Three hundred million dollars are spent annually by the liquor business to promote drinking. From 1933 to 1953 America spent a total of 131 billion dollars for liquor.

Figures like these present a ringing indictment of those who brought liquor back to the main streets of America. They bring a ringing indictment against those who tolerate it now without ever raising a voice against it. Unless we read the signs wrong they point a finger in the same direction for our country that Amos 6:6-7 pointed for the Northern Kingdom of Israel so many years ago. We pray for a mighty uprising against this fiend, a mighty rebellion against its terrible toll of American spiritual life, bodies, lives and dollars.

—Rev. Ollie Latch

Having achieved security, according to our standards, most of us quit trying and consequently dry up.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGES

CHURCH	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Mt. Pisgah									55	49		
Copper Mines								106	93	101		
1st Flat River								145	148			
Fellowship	176	160	158	182	166	172	164	164	178	187	186	
Leadington								99	109	106	106	
Desloge	104	88	84	101	89	78	92	85	98	104	97	
Farmington									36			
Fourth							41	47	52	53		
Southside					187	196				229		
Monett										116		
Jones Chapel								40				

From the Editor's Desk

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Luke 2:1-20

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the city of David, the world was in darkness. Naturally and spiritually, the world was wrapped in utter, complete, darkness. Worship had degenerated to ceremony and lip-service. With the birth of Christ, all of this was forced to give way. It would be easier to keep an icicle frozen before a bonfire, as for darkness to remain where Christ is. He is love. He is Light.

With the birth of Christ, the days of heathenism were numbered. The spiritual darkness of the centuries were rolled away as the mists before the sun. The door of salvation was opened to all who would believe and accept. The way to peace with God was thrown wide open to all the men of all the world. Salvation was no longer for the privileged few, but all could be saved.

Micah prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem: "But thou, Bethelhem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." (5:2) Herod only helped in the fulfillment of that prophecy when he commanded that: "all the world shall be taxed." Vs. 1. "And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethelhem." (V's 3, 4)

"And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." (V. 7) How strangely prophetic are the actions of those present at His birth! This was the kind of reception He was to receive from most men. There is still no room for Jesus in the hearts and homes of men the world over. Anything and everything crowding out the Christ. Other things are given first place. Some one has said, "There is a place for everything." What place does Jesus have in your life?

It was divinely fitting that the angels should announce His birth. Men would not notice His birth, nor give Him room, but His Father heralded His birth with an angelic choir singing, "Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace, good will toward men." (V. 14) All heaven was moved with the birth of this Child. Heaven is still moved over even one sinner that repents and believes in Him. All earth will be moved when He comes again, but He will not come to a manger!

Matthew gives us the account of the rich, the learned, as they came to the manger at Bethlehem guided by a star. Luke tells us of the poor, the unlearned, as they came to the manger guided by faith. The shepherds said, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." The shepherds believed and saw. Too many of us want to see and then believe.

Their faith prompted their testimony. "And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child." Those who come to know Jesus by a personal contact of faith have a testimony to give to others. Without this personal faith, testimony becomes a tinkling cymbal.

Men speak of what is in their hearts. "...for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." The shepherds heard the great news, they believed and went forth with a great testimony.

As we again celebrate the birth of our Saviour, and as our minds once more are turned back to the time and place of that great event, let us remember the purpose for which He was born. It we will remember that He came to be our Saviour, we will love Him more and will give unto Him a more devoted service the whole year through.

The Christmas Story

Genesis 3:15
Micah 5:2
Isaiah 9:6
Matthew 1:18-21
Matthew 2:1-11
Luke 1:26-35, 38; 46-55
Luke 2:1-20
Luke 2:1-20
John 3:16
I John 4:9

"The boy of to-day is the man of to-morrow,
I'm sure you will agree,
But what kind of a man will this boy be,
If he follows you and me?"

Harvey E. Hill Accepts Berkeley Church

Rev. Harvey E. Hill, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church at Elizabethton, Tennessee for nearly three years, accepted the call to the First Free Will Baptist Church at Berkeley City, Missouri. Rev. Hill announced his resignation to the congregation the first Sunday in September, and brought the last message to the Elizabethton Church on September 30, 1955. The church keenly feels the loss of Bro. Hill and his fine family, and we trust that God will send him our way again.

I would like to list some improvements that resulted from his labor while pastor at the Elizabethton Church. Church attendance increased from an average of 160 to an average of well over 200 for each quarter. A church brotherhood, woman's auxiliary, young people organization entitled Christian Crusaders and regular monthly meetings of all classes was started. Many church property improvements were made while Rev. Hill was with us. These were: a church office installed, having the building repaired, having the class rooms painted, along with many other small improvements too numerous to mention being made. The greatest improvement came when the old parsonage was sold and a new house and corner lot adjoining the church property was purchased for our parsonage. While Rev. Hill served as pastor, all old debts of the church were retired and the new property and parsonage paid for. Thus, Rev. Hill leaves the church entirely debt free.

The entire church wishes Rev. Hill much success in his new calling, and we feel as if God will send him to this church in the future.

—John I. Morgan
Box 227
Elizabethton, Tennessee

Have you thought about giving a Gem subscription as a Christmas gift? It will continue to be a reminder of your generosity throughout the year.

Do you have any suggestions to offer to make our Gem paper a better servant of our work? Our sincere thanks to you who have been kind enough to write or tell us of the blessing the Gem is to you. We are striving to make the Gem a means of real blessing to all our people.

Even though we fail we are no worse off than if we hadn't tried.

My Son, Give Me

Rev. R. Wilfong
1005 E. Ida
Tampa 3, Fla.

A young man came running to Jesus one day with a question on his lips and in his heart, and in dealing with this boy "Jesus beholding him loved him." To me, there is an indication here of a special love in the heart of our Lord Jesus for young people. We know that His love is a world-wide love and that it takes in every creature, but this instance of the Saviour's love is something different, something other than the general feeling and compassion that He had for those around Him. From this I like to go on to think that there is something special and different in the Lord's love for every young person. He has a special concern for kids.

Now if all this be true, there is a challenge here for the young people to return that love with something. Remember that the Word says to everyone, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind;" how can our love and dedication to Him be anything else than the best that He asks of everyone?

As this special challenge to youth finds a theme in "My Son, give me," look with me at some of the things He would like to have from us and really has a right to expect in our lives.

He says, "My Son, give me thine heart." Our heart is the thing we love with, isn't it? If I have a sweet heart, I tell her that I love her with all of my heart. Then the heart becomes the seat of the affections. This life of a Christian is really a life of love, then our lives are to be marked by the love of our hearts, and that's the reason the Lord asks for our hearts. We are to give Him all of our affections so that we love Him with all our heart, with all our soul, all our mind, and with all our strength. The thing that He wants first and last is our hearts.

Here's something else. Proverbs 23:15-17 "My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine. Yea, my reins shall rejoice when thy lips speak right things. Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long." Look at what it says now, "If thine heart be wise" God says, "my heart shall rejoice." I remember another scripture that tells us this, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." Then turn to Job 28:

12-28 and find a problem and a solution that runs something like this, "But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? God understandeth the way thereof, and He knoweth the place thereof. . . . And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." Then back of that wisdom and back of that understanding, somewhere behind the fear of the Lord and the departing from evil are our hearts. Behind the happiness of the man that findeth wisdom is the heart of that person who has learned to love the Lord.

Take your Bible and concordance, and search the passages that have to do with our hearts. You can see just how important our hearts are to the Lord. Here is just a sample of some of the words: Matt. 12:34 "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Matt. 15:19 "Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts." Acts 11:23 Barnabas exhorted the Christian in Antioch, "that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord." Which makes me think, what is the purpose of our hearts? What is the purpose of my heart? What is the purpose of your heart? Is it that we would cleave unto the Lord. That we would love Him with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our minds, and with all our strength? Our hearts are important to Him. Isn't He saying to us over and over, "My Son, give me thine heart."

In the epistle to the Ephesians, Paul prays, "that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith." When we are saved by faith, the Lord Jesus comes into our hearts, so apparently He stays there by faith. Then we Christian young people may truly say that Christ lives in our hearts. But something follows that, because the Christian life for us becomes simply the result of the Church in our hearts coming out in our lives. And that is really what God wants and why He is saying to us, "My Son, give me thine heart."

All of this makes our Christian life a life of service, so that He can say to us, "My Son, give me thy strength." Youth is the time of strength. Youth is marked by power, by vigor, by enthusiasm. The wise man of Proverbs said, "The glory of young men is their strength." Now look, with a mission to win the world to the Saviour, the Lord of the Christian Church needs strong, going Christians. He needs strong, doing Christians. Most important, He needs them today. He needed them yesterday that is true, and He may need them to-

morrow, but **Today** is the day of salvation. Yesterday is gone and will never return, tomorrow may never get here, so if the mission of the church is to be completed it must be completed today. Remember that the Lord has no hands but our hands, no feet but our feet, no lips but our lips, to take the gospel to every creature. That is the reason the Word says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind; that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect, will of God."

But as you yield to the Lord your strength, remember that the Psalmist said, "The Lord will give strength unto his people;" and "the Lord is the strength of my life." That tells me that as our strength is poured out to Him and to His will, He replenishes the supply of fuel, fills the tank again, that we may be able to keep on keeping on.

God says, "My Son, give me thy youth." Youth signifies freshness and purity. Remember, "in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth." Now use that freshness of your life for the glory of the Lord Jesus before it becomes stained. The best part of our lives is not good enough for the Saviour who came that we might have life and that we might have it more abundantly, then how can we present to Him anything else than the very best part of our lives, that those lives might live for Him.

THE PAY FOR PROFANITY

Several young fellows were conversing with each other at a party, and one of them insisted upon using a great deal of profanity, or as we often say, "cuss words." Another of the young men was a Christian, and after a while he mildly asked the profane youth, "Who pays you to swear?" He promptly replied, "Why nobody." "Well," said the Christian youth; "you surely do work cheap—to sacrifice the character of a gentleman, to offend your friends, to disgrace the good name of your family, and risk the wrath of God. You surely do work cheap." The profane boy didn't know the answer to that one. Here is a good definition of profanity you may wish to use sometime: "Profanity is the effort of a feeble mind to express itself forcibly."

—From Fellowship Church Bulletin

Worldwide Evangelization Crusade

I wonder if I could convey to you some of the adjustments necessary to any new missionary coming to the field? The first six months is a glorious haze of a hallelujah farewell service—another missionary going forth to the heathen (one can almost feel if not see the halo) —then the thrill of the ocean trip and seeing strange lands in route to the place of appointment.

Next comes the warm welcome of fellow missionaries, overburdened with the work because there are not enough laborers. The natives, too, stage such a welcome (at least here they do) that the newcomer is left breathless and feeling like someone of royal lineage;

After a few weeks of getting acquainted with quinine and the tropical sun as well as being introduced to all sorts of new and strange food, the new missionary is sent to his first appointment. Here there is the struggle with the language—telling the house boy to wash his brother instead of clean the house—and many other such like! Then, the first message in the strange language.

By this time some of the glory has faded and withered with the heat and battle. Discouragement has begun to show his ugly head. A new discovery is made about now. The already overburdened missionaries have now another burden—"you"! The little that can be done because of the language hindrance usually turns out all wrong and you end up trying to get things straight again. You discover your attempts to be friendly to the natives are taken by them to be a sign of weakness, and they take advantage of you. This takes a good year or more to sink into your naturally generous and open nature. Then bit by bit you realize you are being called "a child" and even the children treat you with no respect. With a sudden jolt you know something is not right. There is heart searching before the Lord and weeping as failure is acknowledged to senior missionaries.

The devil taunts you with "You are a failure" driving you almost to distraction. Then you fight against the reaction of disgust and hardness creeping into your heart toward the very people you have come to win to the Lord. By now the struggle with the language is over and it is your second tongue. The Lord graciously reveals Himself to you, pointing to

the precious blood that awaits for all sin, failure and lack.

The spiritual battle against the forces of darkness, the physical struggle against a strange climate, and fatigue, the nervous tensions of new type of work (for which one is often untrained), the multitude of weights pulling in every direction all take their toll.

So, dear friends do not cease to pray for us, your missionaries.

—By a Missionary

Cuban Needs

Many, we are sure, are interested in knowing about our most outstanding need in Cuba—the building of churches. While we were home one of the things that impressed us was the great number of seats unoccupied in our churches. Many beautiful buildings, lovely people, fine capable preachers but empty pews. This is not our problem here. We have been meeting in rented halls. Your money, (Because it is your money that keeps up going) has been invested in reaching souls, going into places where the Gospel has never been preached, and the training of Bible knowing and preaching group of young men and women. We do not have a single building that properly represents us as the Free Will Baptist Church. At the same time we have 130 groups of people who deserve churches. The native Christians, in many of these places, have with their meager offerings raised funds and bought lots hoping always to build a church. Material costs more here than in the States. Nails cost twice what you pay. Lots are as expensive as in the States.

What is the picture? You will see if you come and visit from church to church with me as Brother Charles Tillman of Norfolk did. Empty benches? No. Rented halls are not large enough, every space is taken, people are standing outside looking in windows and doors. Some of them have come long distances.

One missionary confessed to me that he was not reaching the people. I did not tell him why but I knew. When they came to Pinar del Rio the first thing this group did before they had a convert was to build a lovely ample church costing \$14,000.00. American money. Now the people go by and say "That is the church of the American."

We have 15 towns where churches should be built. We had given to us, (don't think we do not appreciate it) \$3,000.00 to begin to build 15 churches. I want you to see the pic-

ture as it is. The church of the American, and the churches our Cuban Christians will build and pack with people with your help.

In the province of Havana the first church has reached the stage of having the walls up, the windows and doors are being made by one of our Christians, a carpenter. The work is being done by our Cuban Free Will Baptists. Over a thousand Cuban dollars have gone into it. It is Free Will Baptist property and is an effort to stop paying mission money for rent and have something we can call our own. One thousand dollars of the three thousand was given to put a roof on this building and finish it. The Free Will Baptist church of Jibacoa will be finished first, but more Cuban money has gone into it than American money. Since coming home from our vacation, I have visited four churches. If each of them could have \$2,400.00 you would see four lovely churches in one year. The last church I visited was just outside the city of Havana, the fastest growing place in that city of a million and a half inhabitants. I called the people together and there are eight brick masons in the congregation, two fine carpenters. Lots in that place will cost from 2 to 3 thousand dollars. They told me if we can get a lot all the labor and much of the material will be donated. With the help we have here we could build the church in two weeks. The mission is paying \$55.00 a month for rent in this place. If we can get just the place started and a roof on a place for the preacher to live, that \$55.00 will build the church. Pinar del Rio, Vinales, and San Juan are the other towns where we plan to get lots and begin but we can only advance as you see our need and help.

Thomas Willey

HOME MISSIONARY ON TOUR

Rev. Bob Wilfong, former Missourian serving now as Pastor of a new church in Tampa, Florida, is in the State at this writing making a tour in behalf of the Home Mission program. He is a former resident of Esther and a member of Fellowship Church. It is a real joy to have Bob with us again. We wish his family could have come too.

GOD'S THOUGHTS—The Mountains are God's thoughts piled up. The ocean is God's thoughts spread out. The flowers are God's thoughts in bloom. The dew drops are God's thoughts in pearls.

Missionary Conference A Success

The annual Missionary Conference sponsored by the National Home and Foreign Mission Departments of the National Association of Free Will Baptist met at the Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. The Conference featured preaching of the Word, a play written by Miss Naomi Brant, speech instructor and presented by the speech department students entitled, "Thy Will Be Done", and climaxing the Conference was the Commissioning service held at the close.

Seven candidates were commissioner, namely: Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Willey, Jr., Rev. and Mrs. Fred Hersey, Miss Esther Reuhle, and Rev. and Mrs. Dan Cronk. Rev. and Mrs. Cronk have served in India for the past seven years, but inasmuch as services such as this one was not conducted for them before, they were included in this service. After the service, each candidate was asked to give a word of testimony and the following is the highlight of each: Miss Heuhle, "I have so little to give, but I want to give it all to Jesus." Mrs. Hersey, "I want my life to count for Jesus."; Mr. Hersey, "He that doeth the will of God abideth forever."; Tommy Willey, "Are we not all commissioned to be missionaries? We want to thank you for the privilege of letting us go." Mrs. Willey, "Our Lord said, Who will go? He has given me health, I can go—I must go."; Mrs. Cronk, "It is my privilege to return to India, and as they all say down in the South, "You all come too."; Mr. Cronk, "First, welcome brother missionaries, Lord, your hand is what I want on me."

Rev. Cronk then led the congregation in singing, "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross."

CALVARY'S WRITE FROM JAPAN

"The meetings in our garage are still progressing fine, but winter will soon be upon us. Our home is too small for the meetings and most of those who come are young people and do not have homes of their own that we can use, but I'm sure the Lord will work it out. One of the ladies who comes to the meetings offered to let us use her yard if we want to build a church building. I feel that we are far from having a church here yet, but it made us feel good that she was interested enough to offer the land. In Japan you cannot buy land, you just buy the privilege to use the land."

SOUTH INDIA CHURCH COST \$2000.00

The new Free Will Baptist Church building in Kotagiri, South India, cost \$2000.00—so writes Miss Barnard. The estimate came to a bit over that amount but the contractor bought useable materials of the old building and it brought the cost down to under Rs. 10,000 which would be nearly \$2,000.00. Congratulations South India! We are proud of the church there.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS FROM STEVENS IN AFRICA

"As you pray for us here remember the unrest of the country concerning the white man and the black man relationship and pray especially that we as Christians may be able to see our oneness in Christ. The anti-white feeling seems to be entering the Churches."

DID YOU KNOW—many Christians presume they are pleasing God by doing "some sort" of good work. Is the matter so simple? What about the main task? What about, "You go—preach the Gospel to every creature"? World evangelization is a consuming, impassioned, total-war crusade! It must be accomplished quickly at any cost! But does this vision grip the church? Hardly. Indeed it is almost "everywhere spoken against." Arguments are multiplied to show that sacrifice and urgency in this task is needless. Every pretext is invoked—God's sovereignty, dispensational difficulties, leaving the task to the Jewish remnant, selfishness and complacency. With such sophistry, Satan rocks the cradle of a sleeping church!

Over one-half the world still lies unreached! Unchurched people are increasing faster than we are evangelizing them. Are they lost? God's Word declares they are. Who is to blame? Dare we point elsewhere until we have done our utmost? What each Christian can do he must do, or be condemned. Don't live a lie! Make your life square with what you believe. At an inquest a man testified that he swung his lamp at a railroad crossing as a driver sped toward the fast train and was killed. He was exonerated. He later confided to a friend that he had no light in his lamp. What about you? In the prevailing darkness and indifference regarding world evangelization, are you swinging the lamp of an empty profession?

Christ is not valued at all, unless He is valued above all.

DID YOU SAY YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE IN PLEDGING?

During the last few years in my itinerant work on the field for our Foreign Mission Department, it has been an interesting experience. There are many churches that we go into where we are received with open arms and people seem anxious to respond to the cause of foreign missions. There have been other times however when it was not so easy especially when we come down to the point of asking people to make a pledge for this great cause.

Did you ever buy a car on time as I generally do, with a small down payment and 18 to 24 months to pay the unpaid balance? If you have, that was a pledge. Did you ever run a grocery bill for a short period of time telling your grocerman that you would pay soon? That was a pledge, wasn't it? Did you ever buy a refrigerator, a kitchen range or a home on time and pay your obligation out on monthly installments? That was a pledge, was it not? Do you remember, you who have been united in bonds of Holy Matrimony, when you clasped each others hand and the minister said, "Do you take this woman whose right hand you hold, to be your lawfully wedded wife until death do you part" and you said, "I do"? That was a life time pledge. Then too, the youth of our day who earlier contemplate marriage are awaiting the hour when they can say I do and make their life time pledge. Is that not true? It's a funny thing—we are quite willing and ready to make pledges for our-selves but not for God.

Most of us do not have much money to give in a cash offering for missions, but why not pledge according to the way God has prospered us. Some can give \$100.00, some \$500.00; some can give \$50.00, \$25.00 or \$10.00 and these pledges can be paid weekly, semi-monthly or monthly and the whole amount can be paid as the Lord provides and directs.

It seems that the funds for our foreign mission department have fallen off considerably in the last few weeks. This is October the 22nd and yet we have not received enough funds to meet the expenses of this month. This to be sure, is a dangerous situation. We hereby make an appeal to every one who reads these lines to do something special for our Foreign Mission Department. Many candidates are almost ready to go to the field but we cannot send them without the necessary funds.

(Continued on Page 16)

Woman's Auxiliary

FELLOWSHIP LADIES MEET

Flat River, Mo.

Dear Gem Readers:

The Fellowship Free Will Baptist Auxiliary met October 27, at the home of Mrs. Bernice Dodd.

Sixteen ladies and six children were present for the monthly all-day service.

The theme of the program was "The Harvest is Ripe." The program opened with hymn, "Bringing in the Sheaves." A season of prayers followed. Scripture St. John 4:31-38. Business period by Sis. Agnes Smith. Introduction—Sis. Della Getz. Prayer.

Four topics on soul winning were given. Several choruses were sung. A short story, "Uncle John Breaks a Colt" was given by Mrs. Wanda Ragsdale.

A closing prayer was followed by a delicious meal, prepared by the ladies.

The afternoon was spent in visiting a shut-in.

The Lord blessed everyone. Pray for us that we may live humbly and ever be submissive to His will, that His work might come first in our lives.

—Kathaleen LaBrot, Cor.

* * * *

Dear Friends Everywhere:

Our ladies auxiliary met in the home of Mrs. Wallace Dodd October 27 for our all-day service.

At the noon hour there was a good lunch served and a wonderful fellowship enjoyed by all. Afterward, we visited a shut-in and had a good service. God blessed us in all the services throughout the day. Pray for us that we will always be humble in His service.

—Mrs. Hilderbrand, Cor.

NEW AUXILIARY IN ARIZONA

Dear Mrs. Edwards:

Here I am in Arizona again for the winter, and the Lord is blessing us here.

Last night I helped to organize a women's auxiliary. Until we get our literature, I do not know who to send our dues to, and notify them of our organization.

The church has ordered Contact for the entire membership. We have a new pastor. He has encouraged the church into a systematic support of the association. We have organized a league. I am teaching two classes, one in Romans, the other in Stewardship.

I am praising the Lord for the opportunity.

Please send me the names and addresses of the officers I need to contact.

Thank you.

Mrs. Emma Moore

311 East Carol, Sunnyslope
Phoenix, Arizona

AUXILIARY HAS WEEK OF PRAYER

Copper Mines Auxiliary
Sister Edwards:

Enclosed find check in the amount of \$7.17, the special offering received at our Auxiliary meeting for Home Missions.

We had wonderful services at each of our cottage prayer meetings this week and they were truly a blessing to all that attended.

—Norma Hovis, Sec.

FIRST CHURCH REPORTS

Dear Gem Readers:

Isn't it wonderful to feel the nearness of God, and to be the recipient of His love and guidance? Let me tell you how the Holy Spirit has blessed in the First Church of Flat River, Mo. during the past month.

The Woman's Auxiliary Workshop of this district met at this church on November 10 for the regular business meeting. There was a fine representation and each speaker did a wonderful job for the Lord. I'm sure that all there could say that this day of fellowship was a blessing.

The Rue Class met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Gammon on November 14 for a regular class meeting with thirty-three present. I'm still thanking God for that Good class meeting, with so many beautiful songs, prayers and testimonies to be recorded in the ledger of life. Rev. and Mrs. Albert Lee McFarland, who are members of this class are leaving soon for Florida. He will work days and attend school at night to prepare himself for the work he has been called to do. The class presented Brother and Sister McFarland with a beautiful quilt representing our love for them. We will miss them very much.

The Women's Mission entertained the elderly people of our church with a pre-Thanksgiving dinner on November 16. There were twenty-four

present to enjoy the traditional food of this holiday season. However the food most enjoyed was the spiritual food from the Holy Bible as it was read by Rev. H. C. Beasley in the devotional following the dinner.

Prayerfully Yours,
—Mrs. Marion Wilson Cor.

AUXILIARY WORKSHOP PROVES A BLESSING

The Southeast Missouri Woman's Auxiliary Workshop was held November 10, 1955, at the First Church in Flat River, Mo. There were seven pastors present and representatives from eleven auxiliaries. A pre-arranged program was carried out that was both informative and inspirational. Topics were given by Mrs. Leslie White, Mrs. Effie Mathews, Mrs. John Rogers and Mrs. Eunice Edwards. Rev. Willard Day conducted a question and answer period to close the program.

The next Workshop will be in February at the Copper Mines Church.

AIRPORT FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

6903 East Xyler Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma

The Airport Free Will Baptist Ladies Auxiliary has been organized now for a period of 15 months. During this time the Auxiliary has grown from the original 7 charter members to its present enrollment of 22 members, with an average attendance of 12 present weekly. The recently-elected officers for the ensuing year were:

Adline Baker—Pres.
June Duck—Vice Pres.
Bonnie Murray—Sec. & Treas.
Bessie Prock—Study Course Ch.
Dorothy Maxwell—Program Ch.
Ann Turk—Personal Serv. Ch.
Nora Mae Dobson—Youth Ch.

We are currently engaged in a "clean-up-paint-up" project for the Sunday School Classrooms. Also, we are selling Bible-text napkins, salad cutters, and Christmas cards as means of getting money to purchase literature and supplies for our Auxiliary. Since our Church has only been organized a little over two years, we are quite proud of the progress which the Lord has seen fit to prosper our little group.

Yours in His Love,
—Bonnie B. Murray, Sec.

Holiday Soul Winning

By Mrs. Everett Holland
Personal Service Chairman
of W. N. A. C.
Houston, Texas

The work of the Personal Service Chairman and her committee is unlimited. Here are a few suggestions that will help you in your work.

1. The Need of Service.

The Chairman must first see the need of service. These scriptures will help open your hearts to the needs. "Therefore said he unto them. The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." Luke 10:2. "Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." John 4:35.

Our manual tells us that the personal service chairman may do much to win souls to Christ by careful and prayerful planning and leading. Too often sinners are driven farther from the Lord because of poor tact. Let us use kindness in our efforts to win the lost. Kindness goes a long way in any thing we do, and especially in soul winning. Use the holidays for launching forth special soul winning efforts.

2. "The Spirit of True Benevolence During Holidays."

Christ told his disciples to take care of the poor, the sick and the outcasts. There are all of these in your community, your duty is to minister to their needs. Use the holidays to emphasize these needs and do something special for them. "He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed: for he giveth of his bread to the poor." Pro. 22:9 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7. "He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack; but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse." Pro. 28:27. A Christian is usually known by his kind deeds and surely these holidays would be a good opportunity to do good.

3. Cottage Prayer Meetings.

Try to secure places where there are sinners, homes of the sick and shutins. After this has been done, plan your programs so they will be interesting. The theme of your program may hinge around the coming holidays. Take advantage of all of them. Never hold too late. In sick

homes make programs short and interesting as not to worry those who are ill. Here are a few Do's and Don'ts in visiting the sick.

- DO—be pleasant.
- DO—read the Bible.
- DO—Pray with them.
- DON'T—speak of unpleasant things.
- DON'T—stay too long.
- DON'T—Speak too loudly.

These scripture are good to read to the sick: Deut. 33:27, Ps. 23, Is. 41:10, and I Cor. 10:13.

4. DO'S and DON'TS about orphanages.

- DO—write director for information.
- DO—place directors requests before Auxiliary.
- DO—make plans for securing needed items.
- DO—Send Promptly.
- DON'T—send old unuseable items.
- DON'T—forget them.
- DON'T—forget to keep in touch the year around.

Maybe some of your auxiliaries would like to "adopt" a boy or girl and be responsible for their clothing for one year.

5. Our Superannuates:

It would cheer our aged ministers to know they had not been forgotten. They have given their lives in the service of God, now, let's don't forget them now that they are no longer active.

Remind your ladies of their duty in sending greetings, gifts, and etc. Secure a list of their birthdays. Send greetings—Think of them at Christmas by sending gifts. If in doubt as to what to send, remember they can always use cash. Their names and addresses are in the back of your state minutes.

"IT COSTS TOO MUCH"

A decrepit old man sat on the curb of a street in Mexico idly watching the traffic. A missionary on his way to an appointment happened to pass that way when he noticed the man sitting there. He was so struck by the apparent loneliness of the ill-kept person that he stopped and gave a friendly greeting.

"Good morning, old man," said he. "How are you this fine day?" The old man answered, "I'm not so well. I've lived too long and got nothing out of life."

This was a golden opportunity for the missionary to press the claims of the gospel. "Are you a child of God?" he asked. "Do you know Jesus as your Lord and Saviour?"

The old man looked quizzically at

the missionary. "I don't know what you mean?"

The missionary made a different approach this time. "Do you go to church anywhere?" he asked.

"O, no sir," said he. "It costs too much."

"Costs too much! What do you mean?"

Pointing up the street to an ornate church building, resplendent with stained-glass windows, beautiful columns, and lovely surroundings, he replied, "I don't have enough money to get in, and that's the only church I know."

The missionary didn't understand. Bidding the old man wait where he was, he strode rapidly up the street, paused a moment before the cathedral, then slowly mounted the steps and went into the vestibule. And there just inside the doors was the explanation:

PEWS FOR RENT—12 PESOS PER ANNUM

The missionary retraced his steps thoughtfully. Twelve pesos was more money than this poor fellow and thousands of others of his countrymen would see in a lifetime. Upon returning to the old man, the missionary said, "I understand what you mean and I'm truly sorry. Now let me tell you where you can come and learn about Jesus, and it won't cost you anything."

The next Sunday the old man was there with four of his grandchildren. Within the month the parents of the grandchildren were attending the services. In due time they all accepted Christ.

Free Will Baptists are now sharing the gospel with such people as these in Mexico through the Home Missionaries sent there by the Home Mission Board. Thank God for the privilege of showing them that there is a place to which they can come and learn how to live where "it won't cost too much."

—Damon C. Dodd

YOUR CHURCH

The church is not a refrigerator for preserving perishable piety. It is a dynamo for charging human wills with power. The objective of the church is not to tell men how to dodge difficulties, but to furnish strength and courage to meet them. The business of the church is not to furnish hammocks for the lazy, it is rather to offer well-fitting yokes for drawing life's loads. The man who does not attend any church practically votes to do away with all churches.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI LEAGUE CONVENTION AT FARMINGTON

The Southeast Missouri League Convention was held at the Farmington Church Saturday night, October 15, 1955, with 204 Leaguers present.

Rev. Harry Asher is the president and was in charge of the convention.

Our league song, "Onward Christian Leaguers" was sung by the congregation. Prayer was led by Rev. Harvey Hill. Topic: "Harnessing the Enthusiasm of Our Youth" was given by Rev. Willard Day.

Glenda Barks was elected Treasurer of the convention.

Farmington and Wellston Leagues were received as members of the convention.

An offering of \$119.51 was sent to our Youth Camp from the convention.

The next convention is to convene with the Fellowship Church in Flat River.

Benediction was given by Rev. Willard Day.

—Mildred Killian, Cor.

MINISTERS CONFERENCE MEETS

The Southeast Missouri Minister's Conference met in its semi-annual fellowship meeting with the Southside Free Will Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., November 19, 1955.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Rev. Glen Rehkop with devotions conducted by Rev. Dean Burpo. Prayer was offered by Rev. Melvin Howell.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved and an invitation was offered for new members. A letter of recommendation from Union Association of Tennessee was read in behalf of Rev. Harvey Hill, Rev. Hill, Rev. Melvin Howell, and Rev. Woodrow Messex were accepted as new members. Motion sustained that the next Annual meeting on third Saturday in May meet with the Copper Mines Church. Financial report read and approved.

Rev. James Franklin led the ministers in a prayer and testimony hour. Rev. Rolla Smith and Rev. Woodrow Messex offered prayer.

The eleven o'clock message was delivered by Rev. John Long, who read John 1:1-3 and announced for his theme, "The Word of God." After a good message, prayer of benediction was offered by Rev. Cecil Sheppard.

After the noon fellowship hour, services were resumed at 1:00 o'clock with Rev. Wayne Parsons in charge of devotions, Rev. Burpo led the sing-

ing and prayer was offered by Rev. Wm. Turnbough. Rev. Parsons read from Acts 8 and gave comments.

Rev. Smith led the ministers in an "Open Forum." It proved to be both interesting and instructive.

Rev. Turnbough delivered the message of the afternoon, reading from 2 Kings 4, with verse 10 as the text. An interesting message was delivered. Benediction by Rev. Woodrow Messex.

REVIVAL AT COPPER MINES

We closed a two week meeting Friday night, October 28, Rev. Woodrow Matthews was our Evangelist. We had a good meeting although there was but one soul saved. Help us to pray for these still unsaved as we labor together to reach them.

—Leeman Killian, Cor.

BILL HILL ELECTED PRESIDENT

Rev. Wm. Hill, a former Missourian, presently a student at the Free Will Baptist Bible College at Nashville, Tennessee, was elected president of the Student Body. Rev. Hill is a junior. He is also serving the East Nashville Church as pastor. Congratulations are in order and offered.

FORMER MISSOURIAN WRITES

Dear Sister Edwards:

I do hope this writing finds you getting along fine in the Lords work. We are enjoying the Lord's blessings here at Davis but are swamped with work. I have two half-time churches and a mission. It takes up every night in the week in services and three services on Sunday. The Lord has blessed since we have been here and the work is growing. I feel confident the Lord led us this way.

I understand the Gem is back in print. We did have a subscription but since the Gem has come back into print we haven't received a copy. If our subscription has expired please let me know and I will be happy to renew it. I want the Gem coming into my home as long as it is in operation. My new address is listed below and maybe the change of address is the reason I'm not receiving the Gem.

As to how long we will be here I do not know. If the Lord wants us to go to the mission field I want to go. I love Him enough to go anywhere He leads. I am burdened for the mission field but I am for the Free Will Baptist cause at home. We have a great need here too. I know God has a job for me to do and by His grace I'm going to do it. I'm in His will

now and I want to remain in His will. I would appreciate your prayers.

For now I must close. May the Lord bless you is our prayer.

In Christ and His service.

Roger C. Reeds,
Box 87

Davis, North Carolina

Editor's Note:

Rev. and Mrs. Reeds are the proud parents of a boy, Timothy Lynn, born Nov. 24, 1955. Congratulations.

SIX SAVED: DEACON ORDAINED

Dear Gem Readers:

We have recently closed a two weeks revival meeting at our church with our pastor, Rev. Leslie Logsdon serving as Evangelist. The Lord blessed us with six precious souls accepting Christ as their personal Saviour, for which we are eternally grateful.

On November 26, a group of people met at our church with the Ordaining Council of the St. Francois Quarterly Meeting to ordain Clarence Sohn as a deacon for our church.

Rev. John Long, pastor of the Desloge Church brought the message. It was a very inspiring message on "Witnessing for Christ."

Brother Frank David read the Scripture and Rev. Bill Turnbough of the Fourth Church gave the charge. Then the laying on of hands by the presbytery and Rev. Leslie Logsdon led the ordaining prayer. A fellowship handshake followed. Dismissal prayer by brother David. Refreshments were served and every one enjoyed the wonderful service and the fellowship with each other.

Every one left for their homes feeling that it had been good to be in the house of God that evening.

Pray for us always.

Mrs. Sophia Ackerson, Cor.

THIRD CHURCH ENJOYING RICH BLESSINGS

We have been having such wonderful services here at the Third Church that we wanted to share a portion of our blessings with all of you.

Rev. John Rogers has been elected as our pastor and is now doing full-time work here in the city. He and his family have moved into the parsonage at 2612 Minnesota, St. Louis, Missouri. Anyone wishing to correspond with him can get in touch with him at this address.

All of our services are filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Our Sunday School attendance is growing steadily. Our attendance record of 66 has been set in league. It has been said that a church is only as

strong as its prayer meetings. Praise the Lord, we're going over the top for Jesus! We average 60 and 70 in our weekly prayer meetings. As you can see, the Lord is certainly leading and blessing us here at the Third Church in every phase of our work. Pray for us that we will always keep on fire for the Lord.

At the present time, we are in the midst of a building program. We are seriously pressed for room, so do pray for us that the Lord will have His way and that we may soon have a beautiful building here at 1330 Geyer Ave. in St. Louis for the work of the Lord to be carried on.

Remember us in your prayers, and we will remember all of you in our prayers.

—Arlene Smith, Cor.

REGULAR FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING HELD AT HICKORY GROVE

Our Fifth Sunday Meeting convened with the Hickory Grove Church near Archie, Missouri on October 30, with a good representation from our Central-Western Missouri Association.

Two churches reported revivals in progress, Verdella Church near Liberal, Mo., and the Independence Church near Stockton, Mo. The Rev's. James T. Davis and O. T. Allred served as evangelists for these revivals respectively.

The Independence Church was not represented, but there was a goodly number from the Kansas City Church, also from Greenfield, Wagoner, Hannon, and Verdella Churches.

After the Sunday School session, the president, Mr. Joe Cockrill, took charge. The song service was led by Rev. Conrad Williford, with Mrs. Lorene Williford at the piano. Mrs. Hyatt sang as a solo, "Sunrise".

Mrs. Lowell Martin of Greenfield, Mo., was the morning speaker, using II Sam. 24:24 as the text. Her subject was "Sacrifices That Cost Nothing." The message was heart searching and inspiring.

At noon, a bountiful dinner was spread and everyone enjoyed the visiting and fellowship together. These meetings bring us all closer together.

During the afternoon session, the song service was led by J. E. Williams with Mrs. Jean Williams at the piano. The devotional scripture was read by Rev. Roena Thomas followed by prayer led by John Bought. The program also included a welcome address by Eddie Jones. Two quartet numbers from the Kansas City Church, choruses by the Hickory Grove children, a trio composed of

Mrs. Jack Cook and two daughters, and a quartet number by the Hickory Grove Church were enjoyed by all.

Topics were given by Bros. Thomas and Dee York. Mrs. Betty Solem played "When They Ring Those Golden Bells for Me" on the marimba and Rev. Lowell Martin gave a reading, "I Once Was Young."

The offering of the day amounted to \$45.56, which was divided to the speaker of the day and the Youth Camp Cabin Fund. Steps are being taken in our association to build a cabin for our boys at the Youth Camp near Niangua, Mo. Pledges and cash amounting to \$115.00 was given for this purpose in a few moments there.

The next meeting will be at the Independence Church at Stockton in January, 1956. The speaker is to be Rev. Otto Mackey, pastor of the Verdella Church, with Mrs. Lorene Williford as the alternate.

—Association Secretary

MOUNT PISGAH CHURCH REPORTS

We had an average Sunday School attendance for the month of October of 49. Our pastor is Rev. Ezra Butts and Bro. Atherson preached in the afternoon. A fellowship dinner was enjoyed by all present after the morning worship service.

Speakers for the afternoon service were Bros. Ray Hutsell, Leonard Means, Floyd Roberts, Lee Maxwell, and Howard Burr. Each of these messages was a real blessing to everyone. This service was closed by a testimony meeting.

League is held on Sunday nights, and prayer and Bible study is held on Thursday nights.

—J. A. Orom, Deacon

REVIVAL AT FIRST CHURCH IN KIRKSVILLE

"This is written, that ye might believe," that there is a Free Will Baptist Church in Kirksville, and that the Lord continues to bless in a marvelous way.

The Rev. Rolla Smith of Flat River has been with us for a two-weeks meeting which was truly a revival. Two souls were saved in our Sunday night service, Bro. Rolla coming on Monday, October 17 and closing the meeting on Friday night, October 28. Five precious souls were saved, for which we give God the glory. The inspiring messages Bro. Smith brought each evening strengthened the Christians and encouraged the lost.

Sunday, October 30, there was a

baptismal service in which there were ten (10) added to the church, making our membership seventy-one.

We have a fine group of young people and an active Y. P. A.

We thank the Lord for sending Bro. Lester Jones and his good wife here to work with us, and for us, and pray that we may be able to keep them here.

We thank God for every new church that is established and pray for the work everywhere.

—Elfie Dare

Greetings in the name of our precious Saviour. We were so glad to receive the Gem again last month. Enclosed you will find a renewal subscription for J. K. Stephens, Stockton, Missouri.

We have just closed our revival at the Independence Church. Rev. O. T. Allred was our very able evangelist. The church was greatly blessed and two precious souls found the Lord as their Saviour. There are so many others there that need the Lord.

A revival is beginning here at the Monett Church November 9, with Rev. Damon C. Dodd as the evangelist. Please help us pray that many will come to know the Lord and that the church will rise to a new height in their service for the Lord.

May God bless you there in your work for our Master. Do remember to pray for us that we might serve the Lord wherever He would see fit to use us.

—Opal E. Jeffreys

* * * *

Editors Note: Rev Geo. W. Scott has moved to Mountain Grove, Mo. Rev. Scott is convalescing from a heart attack. He will appreciate your prayers.

ANY STRINGS ATTACHED?

The pastor of a struggling church was talking with his wife concerning the church's financial difficulties, and the poverty of the members. His wife sighed.

"It will take us years to get the other five hundred dollars of the church building debt paid off," she said. "Most of them can't afford anything but their ordinary givings."

"But they are blessed in their givings," he replied. "Remember how Matt Hastings told me as soon as he increased his contributions from ten to fifteen cents a Sunday, his cows gave more milk?"

Nancy laughed. "Do I? When Mrs. Callow heard of it, she gave an extra dollar to the Women's Auxiliary, and her hens stopped laying that same week. She wanted the dollar back!"

—Evangelical Christian

"Meetin' Time"

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Mountain Grove, Mo.

Othel T. Dixon, Minister

The Truth Shall Make You Free

Taking things for granted is perhaps one of our greatest national faults. Freedom of worship is one of them. Regular Christian fellowship on the Lords Day will do more than fit us for heaven, it will help us keep on living this side of the Iron Curtain!

* * *

Time and Tide

Time and tide are not the only things that "wait for no man." Opportunity does more than knock. It, too, moves on beyond our door. For many families, Saturday is the beginning of a lost week-end. But for the sincere Christian the week-end is the highlight of the week, because he meets God in his church.

* * *

Let It Snow

A very nice circulating heater was presented to the church for the parsonage last week. The heater will be permanent property for the parsonage, and will prove to be a great blessing for many years. The gift was presented by the Sanders and McCarty Heating and Plumbing Company.

* * *

Which Church

There was a church in our town
Which thought 'twas wondrous wise:

It tried to pay expenses
By selling cakes and pies
But after years of trying
That plan to raise the cash
The folks got tired of buying
And the whole thing went to smash.

There was a church in our town
And it was wondrous wise:

It always paid expenses
By simply paying tithes.
For when they found the tithe did pay
It seemed so very plain,
Forthwith 'twould have no other way,
No, never once again.

* * *

Just A Thought

It is not enough to be busy; so are the ants. The question is: What are we busy about?

* * *

Be Happy You Can Attend Church

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." (Ps. 122:1) "Serve the Lord

with gladness: Come before his presence with singing." (Ps. 100:2)

* * *

I Don't Have Time

"I don't have time" is one of the most fatal excuses known to man. With forty-hour weeks we are better organized for loafing today than at any time in our history. We DO have time—still 24 hours a day. But DO we as Christians use it wisely? Each Sunday will tell.

* * *

The World In Our Hands

Greek mythology portrays Atlas bearing the world on his shoulders. Christ bore it upon His heart. Today, by our Christian witness, we hold the world in our hands. An overflowing heart during the week and an overflowing church on the Christian Sabbath will prove to Him that we have not failed.

* * *

The Hammer Jesus Swung

If I could hold within my hand
The hammer Jesus swung,
Not all the gold in all the land,
Nor jewels countless as the sand,
All in the balance flung,
Could weigh the value of that thing
Round which His fingers once did cling.

Yea, but His hammer still is shown
By honest hands that toil,

And round His table men sit down;
And all are equals, with a crown
Nor gold nor pearls can soil;

The shop at Nazareth was bare—
But brotherhood was builded there.

—Charles M. Sheldon

* * *

While The Doors Are Still Open

Salvation for ourselves. Devotion toward God. Service to mankind. These are the spiritual open doors to opportunity. Let us enter them again this Sunday and every Sunday while we may.

* * *

The Set Of The Sails

Winds may reverse, storms not a few, but the set of the sails will determine the course, motivate the vessel and assure the reaching of the final destination. Make church attendance your week-end haven. Let nothing divert you.

* * *

Woman's Auxiliary

Twenty-two members of the Woman's Auxiliary met in the sanctuary of the church last Tuesday night for their regular monthly devotional and business meeting. Also, the Go Tell Auxiliary meets this same hour and all the youth of the church are requested to become active GTA mem-

bers. The GTA is under the direction of the Auxiliary.

* * *

Don't Send Them—Bring Them!

Today's Sunday School scholar is tomorrow's church member! Church school is a family affair! Why not give your neighbor's children an invitation to come with us to our Sunday School each Sunday. Our six-point record system has already proven to be a great blessing, and we want to thank the teachers for such a splendid job of taking care of their respective classes. Our enrollment is just about complete—we should be able to complete the entire enrollment this Sunday. A new junior boys class has been organized in the basement. They call themselves "Junior Fishermen."

* * *

Just A Thought

We make a living from what we get—we make a life from what we give!

WHO IS EDUCATED

A professor in Chicago is reported to have given the following test to his pupils. He told them they were not really educated unless they could say yes to all these questions.

Has your education given you sympathy with all good causes and made you espouse them?

Has it made you public-spirited?
Has it made you a brother to the weak?

Have you learned how to make friends and to keep them?

Do you know what it is to be a friend yourself?

Can you look an honest man or a pure woman straight in the eye?

Do you see anything to love in a little child?

Will a lonely dog follow you down the street?

Can you be high-minded and happy in the meaner drudgeries of life?

Do you think washing dishes and hoeing corn just as compatible with high thinking as piano playing or golf?

Are you good for anything to yourself? Can you be happy alone?

Can you look out on the world and see anything but dollars and cents?

Can you look into a mud puddle by the wayside and see anything in the puddle but mud?

Can you look into the sky at night and see beyond the stars?

Can your soul claim relationship with the Creator?

—Leaves of Gold.

POEMS

BOY

For the time when a boy is in danger
Of going a little bit wild
Is when he's too young to be married
Too old to be known as child.
A bird of the wild grass thicket
Just out of the parent tree flown.
Too large to keep in the old nest,
Too small to have one of its own.
When desolate, 'mid his companions,
His soul is a stake to be won,
'Tis then that the devil stands ready
To get a good place to catch on.

—Selected

ROADSIDE MEETING

A little more tired at close of day,
A little less anxious to have our way;
A little less ready to scold and
blame;
A little more care for a brother's
name—
And so we are nearing the journey's
end,
Where time and eternity meet and
blend.
The book is closed and the prayers
are said,
And we are a part of the countless
dead.
Thrice happy then if some soul can
say
"I live because he has passed this
way."

—Selected

GREATER IS HE

Mrs. Christine Shaner

Greater is He than all Men's power,
Greater than great, within His hand
He holds each hour.
Our strength so weak, but still He
hears
Each humble plea
He knows, He hears, He answers,
For greater is He.

Storm clouds may gather
Our light of hope grow dim
Still we may ever have
Strongest faith in Him.
He who hath said,
"Come unto Me"
Will not forsake us,
For greater is He.

In the stillness of night,
When we feel so alone
We know His precious blood
Did for our sins atone.
Our prayers, the faintest whisper
"Oh Lord, Abide with me,"
He knows, He hears, He answers,
For greater is He.

Satan may tempt our hearts
Until we stand trembling with fear

We open the Bible and read
And feel God's Spirit near.
The evil one must then turn
And from us flee
No power on earth can harm us,
For greater is He.

The glorious coming of our Lord
Is drawing near,
Let joy and gladness ever
Take the place of fear.
Oh! happy day when we
Our Saviour's face shall see
There will be no more sorrow then,
For greater is He.

THE STORM OF LIFE

The storm is raging wild tonight
The waves are rolling high
And I'm a drift out in mid stream
No one but Jesus nigh.
The moon is hidden by the clouds
The stars refuse to shine,
I'm trying hard to ride the waves
In this frail barque of mine.
There are so many cruel winds
To toss us to and fro,
When we feel the need of earthly
help
We know not where to go.
There's the chily wind of doubt and
fear
That will make our hearts grow
cold
Unless we grasp those nail scarred
hands

As Thomas did of old.
Then comes the wind of gossip
When we're trying hard to land,
And place our feet on solid rock
Instead of sinking sand.
It blows and puffs with all its force
And ceases not to roar
Till it wrecks the life of some poor
soul
Like drift wood on the shore.
They are all so very cruel
The worst is hard to tell
But any one of them alone
Can send a soul to hell.
Unless we learn to trust in Him
Who died upon the cross
Treasure up the precious gold
And count the rest but dross
This world's the mighty ocean
Our life is the frail barque
Without Jesus as our pilot
We're drifting in the dark.
So to those of us who have found the
way
Let's lend a helping hand
And place our brother on the rock
Instead of sinking sand.

—Mrs Della Mott

BRING THEM TO
SUNDAY SCHOOL

A little girl with shining eyes—
Her little face aglow
Said, "Daddy, It is almost time
For Sunday School. Let's go:
They teach us there of Jesus' love
Those who on Him will call.
Of how He died for all."
"Oh, No!" said Daddy, "not today,
I've worked hard all week,
And I must have one day of rest,
I'm going to the creek,
For there I can relax and rest,
And fishing's fine, they say.
So run along; don't bother me,
We'll go to church some day."
Months and years have passed away
But Daddy hears that plea no more—
"Let's go to Sunday School."
Those childish days are o'er
And, now that Daddy's growing old,
When life is almost through
He finds some time for church
But what does daughter do?
She says: "Oh, Daddy, not today—
I stayed up almost all night
And I've just got to get some sleep
Besides, I look a fright."
Then Daddy lifts a trembling hand
To brush away the tears,
As again he hears the pleading voice
Distinctly through the years.
He sees a small girl's shining face
Upturned, with eyes aglow,
As she says, "It's time for Sunday
School.
Please, Daddy, won't you go?"

—Unknown

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one
any day,
I'd rather one should walk with me
than merely show the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more
willing than the ear;
Fine counsel is confusing, but ex-
ample's always clear;
And the best of all the preachers are
the men who live their creeds,
For to see the good in action is what
everybody needs.
I can soon learn how to do it if you'll
let me see it done.
I can watch your hand in action, but
your tongue too fast may run.
And the lectures you deliver may be
very wise and true;
But I'd rather get my lesson by ob-
serving what you do.
For I may misunderstand you and the
high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how
you act and you live.
—Author Unknown

REPORT OF DIGEST COMMITTEE
July-Nov. 1955
St. Francois County Quarterly
Meeting

State of religion	Good
Members received this year	34
Number baptized	19
Number dismissed	36
Number excluded	3
Number deceased	1
Resident members	1369
Non-resident members	140
Total membership	1509
Condition Prayer Meetings	Good
Condition of S. S.	Good
Average No. pupils	1346
Number of officers	115
Condition of leagues	Good
League membership	700
Amount for charity	\$30.00
Amount State Entertain	\$200.00
Amount for orphanage	\$13.21
Condition of Auxiliaries	Good
Auxiliary membership	193
Amount paid pastors	\$7,312.50
Amount for Evang. work	\$422.36
Amount for repairs	\$5,395.91
Amount for incidentals	\$3,804.36
Value of Church property	\$255,000.00
Amount for Foreign Mission	\$363.44
Amount for Home Missions	\$239.75
Amount for Education	\$80.70
Amount for publication	\$743.02
Amount Quarterly meeting	\$43.50
Amount Co-op Fund	\$1,368.39
Amount for Youth Camp	\$315.00
Amount W. Edwards Fund ..	\$90.00
Amount Festus Mission	\$492.20
Amount for missions	\$54.74
Amount for Headquarters ..	\$100.00
Total Money Spent	\$21,369.08

DID YOU SAY YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE IN PLEDGING?

(Continued from page 9)

Where To Send Foreign Mission Money:

1. State Mission Board or Treasurer-- If there is a Board of Missions functioning in your state, you could process your foreign mission funds through them or the State Treasurer who in turn would send all monies direct to the Foreign Mission Board.
2. State Director-- Each state could have a man appointed to serve as Director or Promoter of Foreign Missions in his state. If desired local mission funds may be sent to him and in turn forward same to the Foreign Mission Office.

3. Direct to the Foreign Mission Board--

Your foreign mission money can always be sent direct to the Foreign Mission Treasurer who will send receipt for same and give credit to the state from which it comes unless otherwise designated.

Designated Funds:

Every penny that you send for foreign missions, specially designated, is sent to the place designated and you will receive a receipt for same. Remember all offerings sent for foreign missions are tax deductible and receipts sent to donors are official.

In these days when the cry of the heathen is "come over to Macedonia and help us" and when so many souls are in the balance, we should make an all out effort to reach them with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amiah? wonder that the prophet Jeremiah said, "Oh, that mine eyes were the fountain of tears" and the Saint Apostle Paul said, "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost. If the Apostle Paul, Moses and others were willing to become accursed from Christ that others might be saved, surely we should rally to this important cause of our denomination at this time.

Please do not let it be said of us that it is necessary to send S.O.S. calls. This is a frank reminder and a red light of warning of our needs and we trust you will respond as the Holy Spirit directs each of you. Pledge your mission offering to your church, pay your pledge—and let us prove God with an honest heart.

Raymond Riggs
 Promotional Sec'y.-Treas.
 Free Will Baptist Foreign
 Mission Board

"I WENT TO CHURCH THIS MORNING"

The office of the Chief of Chaplains in Washington, D. C., has on file the following letter that a lieutenant wrote his mother:

"I went to church this morning. Church out here is a privilege so rare I shall never forget it. There were only about 35 present, but it wasn't the numbers. Our altar was a stand over which draped a cloth deep red . . . The platform was covered with a white cloth . . . We had a small organ about three feet high, a small hymnal and a service pamphlet which I am sending you in this letter. Behind the altar a canvas screen was set up.

"We were seated on the sand with no overhead shelter. I felt the pres-

ence of Almighty God like I never have before. I think partially because I felt so much in need of an assuring hand. I could not keep the tears from my eyes, and Mom, I could feel myself being cleansed of all impurities. In the Bible it speaks of washing away our sins. It was never so plain as today.

"If I can only stand by faith as He has by me, I shall never be afraid. You and Dad will never know what blessings you brought on us by bringing us up in the house of the Lord."

Christianity is a Battle not a Dream

Our special thanks to all of you who sent in articles for this issue. Please continue to send in your church activities. We will print all that we have space for.

Why not try the Church Family Subscription Plan? You will be glad you did. We are very happy to welcome Wellston, New Prospect, Berkeley Churches into our group.

THE GIFT

Soon in your hand will be placed a priceless gift. Look at it closely. There is no price mark stamped on it. It cannot be weighed, because no scale can balance its value. A king's ransom in comparison is as nothing, yet it is given to beggar and prince alike. The giver asks only that it be used wisely and well.

This jewel, rare and unique, is not displayed in any shop window. It cannot be purchased, cannot be sold. No other treasure holds the possibilities this gift offers—none can surpass its golden splendor.

Of all gifts this is the most precious. It has been offered many times before; today, from the depths of a boundless love it will be given again. It will be left to you to find the golden thread running through it. Only with great care will the jewel retain its luster. Carelessness, ingratitude, and selfishness will tarnish the brilliancy, break the unspoiled thread, mar the perfection.

Guard it closely, lest through weak fingers it slip from the hand. Look often at its faultless beauty. Accept it as it is offered from the heart of the giver. Consider it the most treasured of possessions, for of all gifts it is by far the greatest. It is the gift of the New Year!

—Loretta B. Buckley
 (Ideals—December 1954)