

CO-LABORER

OCTOBER

• NOVEMBER

• DECEMBER 1967

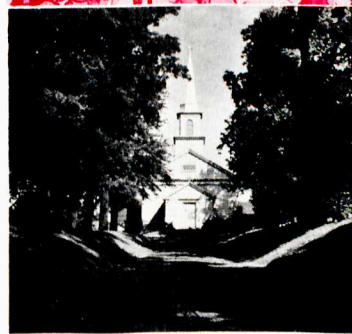
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Free Will Baptist Bible College



THE CHIEF WORD in Home Missions is People . . . Not masses, but individuals, each with his or her own special needs and problems, and God given potentialities.

America's people will be reached for Christ only as Christians with warm hearts become aware of and respond to human needs around them. I must bring the one next to me and you . . .



CO-LABORER

VOLUME VII NUMBER IV

FOURTH QUARTER 1967

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Cleo W. Pursell, Editor

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*"I had never realized what a thrill it is
to share Christ"*

next door

by Sally Hage

SOME WISE man (or perhaps woman) has said, "Our disappointments are God's appointments." I know now that is true—from personal experience.

In June 1958, my husband, a Medical Service Corps Officer in the U.S. Army, learned that his orders to attend school in Texas had been cancelled. We had already sold our home in Maryland, and now we wondered where we were to move and how we could get settled again.

Finally my husband was assigned to the surgeon general's office in Washington, D.C., and we rented an apartment in Alexandria, Va. I kept wondering what plans the Lord had for us. I knew no one very well in Alexandria, and behind us in Maryland we had left friends and a small church in which I had been active.

I found myself very lonely, and the burden was laid on my heart to pray that we might find new friends, strong in the Lord, near our apartment. Little did I dream that the Lord would give not only new friends that were His children, but

also a life for me with a new purpose, a real goal—to launch out "next door" on His behalf.

These new friends were officers' wives in Virginia who met every Tuesday morning for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship in our wonderful Saviour. I began meeting with them and my life as a child of God seemed to grow into a new maturity.

I had never before realized what it meant to share so intimately this Christ whom I loved. But the boldness of the colonel's wife who led the Bible study challenged each of us to follow Christ wholeheartedly "next door."

I began to see the tragedy of being unprepared to be used for Him right where we are. Through this leader, the Lord encouraged me to let go of my fears and let God use me.

In a few months we saw the hand of the Lord working in the lives of the colonel's wife living to the left of us, the major's wife to the right of us, the major's wife across the street, and then an 18-year-old girl two doors down the way.

The evident working of the Lord in this teen-ager's life was almost more than I could comprehend. She went with us to the Word of Life Bible Conference in the Adirondacks a few weeks later and received Jesus as her personal Saviour. The Lord gave us the richest experiences of our lives together, as we, with four other Officers' Christian Union families, spent a week at the conference. We were being strengthened for the new assignment ahead.

We were in Virginia only one year when my husband was told he could go to the school in San Antonio where he had been assigned the year before. I can see so plainly now how the Lord had planned it this way for us: we needed what the Lord had to give us through the OCU wives before heading off to San Antonio.

Upon our arrival in Texas in September 1959, Satan began attacking my zeal for "next door." Your husband is a student now in hospital administration—it's a tough nine months' course; he'll be teaching Sunday School at the chapel and you don't need to start your very first Bible study in your home now—you'll be able to witness without that."

I had to ask the Lord to show me definitely if He really wanted me to start a Bible study I told the Lord that if just one person said to me that she was interested in studying the Word of God, that would be my signal to start out!

After our first OCU evening Bible study in San Antonio, I inquired if there were a Bible study for the OCU wives, and was told no. I mentioned that I wanted to start one. Two days later, that *one* I had asked the Lord for, came knocking on my door. She was the wife of a marine corps captain and had recently made a decision to follow Christ at an OCU group in El Paso. We started meeting together every Tuesday morning, studying our Bible, praying and encouraging one another.

Then the Lord also sent us my neighbor on the right, a young mother of two teen-age girls. She has now received Christ as Saviour and Lord of her life. Together we are praying for the husbands and children of both families.

After my husband's graduation we left for our next assignment at the Ninth Hospital Center in Landstuhl, Germany. Here, we are asking the Lord to send us neighbors on our left and across the street.

We challenge *you* to launch out, take God at His Word, open your door, first the door of *your* own heart, and then the door of your home. Be willing to start that first Bible study, if He tells you to, and watch the Lord send in your neighbor *next door*.

A poem which helped me in understanding this ministry goes:

I said, Yes, Lord, I'll go where You
call me

And I'll do what You want me to
do;

But how could I know as I prayed
there,

That He'd ask me to stay here with
you?

He could have called me to China
Or to Africa's faraway shore

I would gladly sail o'er the ocean;
Then He whispered, "I need you
next door."

It's the far away task that seems
brightest

And the grass seems more green
o'er the way,

But how can He use me afar off—
if I fail those I meet every day?

It's so easy to look past your neighbor
border

Who has needs only Christ can
supply;

Oh, forgive us that we have been
passing

Our neighbor "next door"—right by.

FRANCES SLOCUM

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Circle Programs

OR FOR SECOND AUXILIARY MEETING

by Dorothy Cox

OCTOBER / NEEDED: SPIRITUAL LABORERS

Solo: "No Man Careth for My Soul"

Scripture: Matthew 9:36-38

WE DON'T HEAR the word laborer much today. People would rather have white-collar jobs which have more dignity. But there is a real need today in every part of the Lord's work for those who will roll up their sleeves and really get involved in laboring in the Lord's harvest fields.

"Captain Allen Gardiner, on the inhospitable coast of South America, where he slowly perished with hunger, in the hope of attracting the notice of some passing vessel, wrote on the cliff in large letters "DELAY NOT; WE ARE STARVING." Years after, the words were seen; but it was too late, the bleached bones of the brave hero of the cross were strewn on the beach. Help had been delayed, and he had perished. The like cry of a dying world for the Bread of Life, ringing in the ears of the people of God, who have enough and to spare, will surely not be much longer unheeded. A few have responded al-

ready, but what are these among so many? Oh, that we would each one arise and do our utmost daily, expecting to see mighty results now!" (*J. C. Fullerton*)

ALL ARE CALLED

We are prone to think of preachers or missionaries being called of God for special service and we cite Jonah as an example of the result of disobedience to God's call. But God has called every Christian to labor, according to his individual ability, to fulfill His purpose in the world. Mark 13:34 tells us that the Lord assigns each person his work; He has given each one his work to do (*Phillips*); each with his particular tasks (*Amplified N.T.*). We need to realize the importance of our individual life in God's plan; to find His plan for our life and to spend the rest of our time here in performing our assigned task. How many Christians today are leading miserable lives because they, like Jonah, are not where God wants them? I personally

believe that any Christian who is not in the will of God can find no peace or happiness until he goes to his "Nineveh" and gets busy at the task assigned him of God.

SOURCE OF LABORERS

The laborers are to come from our local churches. Jesus said that we should pray that the Lord would force out and thrust forth laborers into His harvest (Matthew 9:38 Amp. N.T.). Who can labor in the Lord's harvest except those who know Him personally? We who know Him from personal experience must be witnesses for the Lord. Jesus COMMANDED his disciples "GO YE!"

KINDS OF LABOR

Two kinds of labor are mentioned by Jesus in John 4:36,37—*sowing and reaping*. It is not the prerogative of the laborer to choose the manner or place of service, or to determine the results, but to labor in the place our Lord has called using all the abilities we possess in our service for Him. Whatever our job is—sowing, with little visible results, or reaping where others have labored, or a combination of the two; let us give ourselves in these last days, and all that we possess into the Lord's hands for His use that we may have a bountiful harvest and not be ashamed at His coming (I John 2:28).

NOVEMBER / BE YE THANKFUL

Scripture: Colossians 3:15, Philippians 4:6

Song: "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

A GREAT HEART is a loving and sacrificial heart. A will motivated by gratitude is one of the most dynamic things in the world. So here are some suggestions:

REMEMBER AND BE THANKFUL

Remember the good things God has given you (James 1:17).

Grave on thy heart each past "red-letter day"!

Forget not all the sunshine of the way

By which the Lord hath led thee;
answered prayers,

IF WE FAIL TO LABOR

**Their Blood Will I Require of Thee
Upon That Day**

"Their blood will I require of thee upon that day."

What solemn, searching words are these for God to say

To us who stand before Him, justified, washed clean.

My shuddering soul dare not conjecture what they mean.

Will shadows seem to stand beside us at His throne

The shadows of the lost who should have been His own,

The ones to whom we did not speak? We were ashamed,

Afraid or unconcerned and never once we named

The precious name of Christ to them.

And so, a gem

Will be forever missing from His diadem; These pitiful lost ones will never see His face,

And we, O Lord, but for Thy matchless grace

Should bear the mark of Cain through all eternity!

Write on my soul, "Their blood will I require of Thee!"

... Martha Snell Nicholson

And joys unasked, strange blessings lifted cares,

Grand promise-echoes! Thus thy life shall be

One record of His love and faithfulness to thee.

... F. R. Havergal

Not only are we to remember the good things God has given us, but we are reminded of Moses exhortation to the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 8:2 to remember ALL the WAY the Lord had led them. Many times when we thank God for His blessings, we think

only of the things which are joyful and pleasant in our lives, but I Thessalonians 5:18 says to give thanks in EVERYTHING, for this is God's will in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Nay, all by Thee is ordered, chosen, planned;

Each drop that fills my daily cup thy hand

Prescribes, for ills none else can understand:

All, all is known to Thee.

... A. L. Newton

By faith we can believe that "ALL THINGS work together for good to them that love the Lord, who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). It has been said that we do not profit from much of the blessing God intends for us because we fail to reflect upon His working in our lives and to reap the benefits of our experiences as the Lord deals with us. At the time of great sorrow or testing our hearts may be too heavy and our eyes too blinded with tears (as Mary was when she did not recognize Jesus after the resurrection) to recognize God's loving purpose in these events. And we may do no more than ask the Lord to help us through this time of trouble. But later, when our minds and hearts are more at rest, we need to remember these experiences and seek to find God's hand and purpose for us in them all. The more we remember God's past mercies, the more thankful we shall be, and we will be able to say with Joseph even of the bitterest trials, "the Lord meant it unto good" (Genesis: 50:20.)

THINK AND BE THANKFUL

We should THINK and BE THANKFUL in our present experiences. So many times we are thankful for what God has done and we look forward to times of great blessing, but we do not recognize the many blessings for which we should be thankful TODAY. The Bible tells us that we do not have to be satisfied with past blessings and that God's compassions do not fail; they are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22,

23). Great is His Faithfulness! Can we not be thankful for this?

The more deeply we think, the more thankful we will become. As we think of existing world conditions, we must remember that God is working in our universe and His purpose is still being accomplished in spite of all the opposition of Satan (Isaiah 43:13b). Think of God working and you will be thankful.

Think about your fellowman—your friends, those who help you and those who depend on you. Think of those at home and abroad who are faithful in the Lord's service and be thankful that there are still those who count it a privilege to serve the Lord and to glorify His name.

Listed below are some of the things for which we should be thankful: For the gift of Christ (2 Corinthians 9:15), for the goodness and mercy of God (Psalm 107:1), for the reception and effectual working of the word of God in others (1 Thessalonians 2:13), for the deliverance through Christ from indwelling sin (Romans 7:23-25), for the triumph of the gospel (2 Corinthians 2:14), for all things that are given for our enjoyment (1 Timothy 6:17).

EXPRESS YOUR THANKFULNESS

(Proverbs 3:27)

If we really appreciate the goodness of God and our fellowman, we will seek to express our thankfulness in prayer and communion with God; and we will seek ways to show our appreciation to other people whom God uses to bless our lives. We will also seek to share our blessings with others who need our love and concern both here and throughout the whole world. For example, we show our appreciation for salvation when we witness to someone else about God's love for them; we show our appreciation for living in a country where we can hear the gospel by giving ourselves, our children, our prayers and our offerings to send the message to those who have never heard.

In Deuteronomy 16:16,17, God commanded the men of Israel to appear before the Lord three times each year to

observe the feasts appointed by Him that they might remember the great things the Lord had done for them, and they were to bring an offering in proportion to their blessings. If we try to keep all our blessings to ourselves and refuse to distribute them to others, when we offer the Lord the sacrifice of thanksgiving (Psalm 116:17) it will not be a sweet

savor (2 Corinthians 2:15) but like the Dead Sea which is stagnant because it takes in continually but does not give out and is just what its name implies.

If we fail to be thankful and express our thanks, the Lord may allow affliction to come in our lives so that we may give Him the thanksgiving and glory that is due Him for all His blessings.

DECEMBER / THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS

Scripture: Luke 2:10

Song: "O Zion, Haste"

THE FOUR-LETTER WORD "News" points to the four corners of the compass—North, East, West, South—and the good news announced by the angel was to all people wherever dispersed around the globe. The tidings heralded by the angel, telling of the birth of a Saviour was good news indeed. The news was that God loved us and sent His Son: (Ephesians 1:4-8, Living Letters).

HEREIN IS LOVE

The story is told of a wealthy couple who lived in a castle in Europe many years ago. They had everything that money could buy but the woman longed for a child. One day the rich couple came to the humble cottage of a hard-working couple with five children, money was scarce in this home but a spirit of love, joy and peace filled their home. The wealthy couple proposed that one of the five children come and live with them to share and possess all they had. The Mother and Father were to make the decision as to which one should go. That evening as they talked about the one they should choose, they went upstairs where the children were sleeping and as they came to each in turn, they realized that even though God had given them five wonderful children they were all so precious that not one could be sent to live at the castle.

But the Bible says that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begot-

ten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). This couple did not feel that they could give up one to go from their cottage to the palace, but our Father gave His only son who "stripped Himself (of all privileges and rightful dignity) so as to assume the guise of a servant, in that He became like men and was born a human being" (Philippians 2:7 Amp. N.T.). He left His throne in heaven and came to live and to die here on earth that we might share His inheritance in glory for eternity. May we be reminded anew at this Christmas Season of the great love of our Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and may we with grateful hearts adore and worship Him.

WHO WILL BEAR THE GOOD NEWS THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON?

The angel said the good tidings were to ALL PEOPLE, but today, almost two thousand years later, countless millions have never heard that God loved us and sent His Son. God no longer sends His angels to proclaim the good news of the gospel, but has commanded us who know Him to be witnesses of these things (Luke 24:48). The angels were faithful in proclaiming the message with which God entrusted them. How many have heard because you were faithful in your witness for the Lord? *How many have not yet heard because you failed to deliver the message entrusted to you?*



MISSIONS WORLDWIDE

MEXICO:

Pray for the ministry of the Institute of Gold.

Pray for the growth and development of several new missions and preaching points.

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

Pray for new preaching points in New Brunswick.

Pray for the health and protection of the Adkisson family during the winter months and for their need of a better automobile.

Pray for new families to be won to the Lord and added to the churches this winter.

U.S.A. CHURCH EXTENSION

Pray for the Dale Skiles family as they work in a new mission at St. Joseph, Missouri.

Pray for the Levy Corey family as they work in a new mission in Meridian, Mississippi.

BRAZIL

God has answered prayer for land for the church in Ribeirao Preto. Bobby Poole writes, "We received a copy of *Heartbeat* one night with the prayer requests about land and the next day the paper had two lots for sale. I was first to see the agent about them. The owner did not know where they were located because he had never been to this part of the city. After he came over and saw where the land was located, he realized his price was low, but he would not go back on his word. We paid half down and borrowed the balance."

The Walter Ellisons are home on early furlough to receive medical treatment for their son, John. Pray for a quick recovery.

INDIA

The Carlisle Hannas have the full responsibility of Free Will Baptist work in India. Pray for their physical and spiritual needs.

Pastor D. Dorairaj is president of the Tomilnad association of Free Will Baptist churches in South India.

As of this writing, no reply has been received on visas for the Sherwood Lees and the Joe Haases. Pray.

IVORY COAST

The Jimmy Aldridges are occupying the Laudi Ba station until the Lonnie Palmers return. The Palmers left the states in August for Switzerland for a three month refresher course in French. Jimmy writes of a village with seven witch doctors. He requests prayer for their power to be broken.

FRANCE

The Dan Merkhhs have moved to the area of Nantes. Pray for hearts to be open to their witnessing.

JAPAN

There are many opportunities for evangelism in Japan. Pray for effective use of literature and radio. Pray for the new converts to remain zealous in their witnessing.

The Fred Herseys returned in August. Pray for their opening a new work.

OKINAWA

The Mike Kaneshiros and their four children will be going to Okinawa under the auspices of the Child Evangelism Fellowship when their deputation work is finished. Mike has been the State Director of the Fellowship in Waipahu, Hawaii, for about three years. He is a former school teacher and principal of a day school. He and his wife have been members of the Free Will Baptist Church in Waipahu for three years. Pray for them as they continue their deputation ministry.

MIAMI, FLORIDA

Pray for Benito Rodriguez, pastor of the Miami church, and others who help with the work among Cuban refugees. There is still a desperate need for clothing, linens, and many other items. Send your gifts to CERF, in care of Benito Rodriguez, 3695 S.W. 25 Terrace, Miami, Florida 33133.

ECUADOR

Pray for Senor Tomas Chimborazos' spiritual growth. He was saved on a hospital bed in Quito. A gospel message heard the night before surgery brought conviction as Ella Rae Jones pointed him to the Lord.

PANAMA

The Bill Phipps are attending missionary internship in Detroit. The Estenio Garcias are on deputation and will return to Panama as soon as funds permit. Other pastors who have come from Cuba have applied for a ministry in Panama.

Tom and Emma Ruth Willey continue their ministry in Panama City. They maintain contact with Free Will Baptist mission points in other areas of the country.

MISSIONARY ACCOUNTS

The monthly financial reports in *Heartbeat* can serve as a guide for designating gifts. Special requests have been made for deficit accounts. It is hoped that the operational fund will accumulate a reserve to meet emergencies when they arise.

Free Will Baptist women are commended for their consistent prayers and gifts for this worldwide ministry by Rev. J. Reford Wilson, General Director of Foreign Missions.

VIET NAM

Two former inmates of the Free Will Baptist Home for Children, Tennessee, are serving in Viet Nam. Remember them in prayer. Billy Taylor (en route, no address available), and Pfc. James IcIntosh, U.S. 53447553, Combat Tracker Team #3, A.P.O. San Francisco 96278. James is a Christian young man who has a wonderful witness for the Lord.

APPOINTEES

Norman and Bessie Richards will enroll in language school at Albertville, France, this fall in preparation for a ministry in the Ivory Coast.

John and Connie Craft will leave soon for language study at Campinas, Brazil. Pray for ability to grasp the language without difficulty.



Christmas Cards For Missions

Missionaries can use your *discarded* Christmas cards. Miss Volena Wilson suggests that postage can be saved by sending only the picture portion of the cards to India. Since only a few people in India can read the scripture verses printed in English, the missionaries will print verses in Tamil. Send the cards as *Printed Matter* or *Used Christmas Cards* and the missionaries will not have to pay customs charges. Send to the following native pastors:

Pastor D. Dorairaj
Westfield
Kotagiri, Niliris, South India

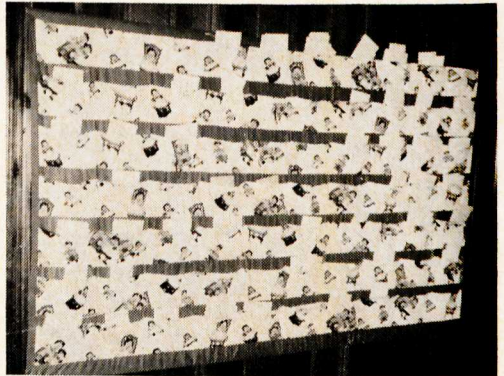
Pastor R. John Raju
Gopalapuram
Aruvankadu P.O.

Pastor S. Benjamin
6/3 Sirumugai Rd.
Coimbatore District South India

Postage For Missions

Mrs. Geneva Miller of the Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church, Madison Heights, Michigan, thought about the money members of her church spent each year mailing Christmas cards to one another. She devised a plan whereby this money can be channeled for missions . . . a *Christmas Card exchange rack!*

A colorful Christmas card rack was made by Mrs. Elsie E. Anderson and placed in the church foyer to be used by the members as a card exchange. Postage saved went to missions. Mrs. Anderson writes: "The rack makes it convenient to place the cards and to keep little hands from doing their messy work . . . We are sure that if our small group can receive between thirty and forty-five dollars, other groups can have even better results."



Is Your Auxiliary struggling?

by Louise Richmond

For a few months our Auxiliary seemed to be slowly going down hill. Somehow we just did not have the interest and enthusiasm we needed to carry out our purpose. At our January meeting there were only a few members present, as our president challenged us with a question. "Is our Auxiliary worth struggling for to keep it on its feet?" We settled the question in our hearts. *The Auxiliary's purpose of promoting and teaching missions in the church is just as important for a few women as it is a large number.* We were determined to do our best for the Lord. The first thing that really seemed to pay off was emphasizing our 9:00 a.m. *Prayer Fellowship*. We began to see more answers to our prayers and problems which gave us the encouragement we needed to carry on. We decided to start visiting at a

nearby Rest Home for elderly people. Before we had a chance to contact the Rest Home, they called us. What a coincidence. *No, not a coincidence; but an answer to prayer* showing us God's will. We just want them to know that someone does care about them. As one of our benevolent projects we visit with them, write letters for them, and sometimes take fruit and cookies to them.

Our Pre-Easter Week of Prayer gave us a lift and helped bring our group back to life. Through the services that week we gained some members and wonderful blessings. Our thanks to the writers of the programs.

More and more we are trying to put the suggestions listed in the Manual and the *Co-Laborer* into practice. *The ideas work if we will . . . our auxiliary is growing and prospering.*

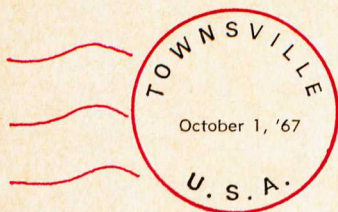


Mrs. Trudell Maxey, personal service chairman of the Auxiliary shares fruit and cookies with the inmates. The members of the Auxiliary also write letters and perform other small tasks for those who need their services. Left to right, Mrs. Corless (age 97) and Mrs. Finn, both patients in the Gardena, California Rest Home.



Mrs. Louise Richmond pictured with another patient in the Home, Dr. Mason. "We just want them to know someone does care for them," she said.

Mrs. Richmond is the wife of Rev. Gerald Richmond, former pastor of the Gardena Church.



OUR READERS WRITE US

FROM ALABAMA

Our ladies really enjoy the programs in *Co-Laborer*. Our members have increased this year for which we are so thankful.

This year we have decided to contribute to the college expansion program each month. We have also sent our superannuation money in each month.

Each writer is doing a wonderful job in getting such an informative magazine to us.

*Mrs. Joyce Armstrong
Florence, Alabama*

I want to thank you for our detailed *Woman's Manual*. This is my first year to work in an auxiliary and I have to refer to it quite often.

Our auxiliary wants to collect some items for the Provision Closet, but don't know what items are needed most. If you would send us a list we would appreciate it.

*Mrs. Linda Blanks
Huntsville, Alabama*

FROM ARKANSAS

Our women have been delighted with the recent issues of the *Co-Laborer* and I have heard many fine remarks concerning the good articles therein. I realize that much work goes into making all this good material available, and I do commend you and your staff on your efforts. May the Lord continue to bless and use you to challenge each of us.

*Doris Raper
Pine Bluff, Arkansas*

FROM CALIFORNIA

Praise for the *Co-Laborer*. It is truly inspirational and a wealth of information.

*Fannie Smithen
Gardena, California*

FROM CANADA

Thank you . . . for all the many provisions from the linen closet! May He bless in every phase of the women's work.

*Jackie Owens
Yarmouth, N.S. Canada*

FROM GEORGIA

I attended our WNAC in Jacksonville Monday and Tuesday and enjoyed it so very much.

*Mrs. G. C. Brewton
Bristol, Georgia*

The *Co-Laborer* continues to be such a blessing to our women. It is so interesting and challenging. Each program stirs hearts and gives us a greater vision of the work to be done.

*Sylvia Dodd
Homerville, Georgia*

FROM INDIANA

We think you and your staff are doing a marvelous job of promoting missions among our people and we feel that Free Will Baptists should be very proud and thankful for the WNAC.

*Mrs. Donavon Jackson
Chesterfield, Indiana*

FROM MISSOURI

We continue to enjoy the *Co-Laborer*. The July program "Caribbean Conquest" was a real challenge to us. Praise God for such dedicated young people as Mr. and Mrs. Powell.

*Mrs. Don Jones
Cape Girardeau, Missouri*

I've thoroughly enjoyed my *Co-Laborer* quarterly. Each issue seems to be better than the last.

*Mrs. Nancy Hodges
Springfield, Missouri*

FROM NEW JERSEY

We want to extend our appreciation to the WNAC for the recent gift made to our account. We certainly praise God for the prayers and support our people across the denomination have given to us.

The work here in Trenton is progressing well. We have seen two souls saved just recently. There are others that the Holy Spirit is dealing with. Please pray for those who are under conviction that we shall have the joy of seeing them come to Christ soon.

Please continue to pray for us as we recognize the value of fervent praying on the part of dedicated Christians. We believe our labors here have been successful in large part due to our friends praying for us. Thank you again so much for your gift.

*Leslie C. Carney
Trenton, New Jersey*

FROM OKLAHOMA

Our auxiliary . . . read the (July) circle program and got such a blessing from it . . . We left for home with a good feeling that we could live better for Christ. I can earnestly say I want to be like Paul. "To me to live is Christ."

*Jo Ann Jones
Duncan, Oklahoma*

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

I have one of your *Co-Laborer* books and think it is one of the best books for Ladies Auxiliaries . . . I would like to subscribe for the *Co-Laborer* and also I would like to have a copy of your Woman's Auxiliary Manual.

*Lorene Childers
Georgetown, S. C.*

FROM TENNESSEE

Though we may not have been prompt in expressing our thanks to you for your prayers, financial aid, and the gifts from the Missionary provision closet you have been faithful and God will bless each of you accordingly for He has promised to do it. We hope that you will accept this note of thanks and apology. We do appreciate your concern for us, and the work in Jackson very much.

We have had eight decisions for the Lord in the past two months. God is blessing us in many ways. One of those who accepted Christ is a soldier's wife. Her husband was wounded recently in Vietnam. Please join us in prayer for him. He too has accepted Christ, about the same time his wife made the decision here, he was saved also in Vietnam. He has expressed a desire to join our church as soon as possible.

We now have forty-one enrolled in Sunday School. Our average attendance is about twenty-five.

*The Norlin Joneses
Jackson, Tennessee*

FROM WASHINGTON

We do appreciate the good work you have done and are doing through the auxiliary, and we pray that God will continue to bless your efforts.

*Joan Warren
E. Wenatchee, Washington*

FROM WEST VIRGINIA

We enjoy the *Co-Laborer* very much, every issue seems to get better.

*Elizabeth Hamerick
Clay, West Virginia*



LEFT VIEW of speakers table and executive committee members as they listen to Anita Sparks at the WNAC Dinner in Jacksonville, Florida.

Missionary Lonnie Sparks shares the platform with members of the executive committee, below.



WOMEN *in* ACTION!



WNAC president, Georgia Hill shares a pleasant moment with Anita Sparks.

Approximately 300 persons attended the WNAC Dinner and heard Mrs. Sparks challenge her hearers to greater dedication of life and purpose.



WNAC

Anita Sparks, missionary to Ivory Coast, West Africa, is the mother of two sons, Paul and James.



WNAC OFFICERS INSTALLED

Mrs. Genevieve Waddell, Nashville, Tennessee, installed WNAC's new officers in an impressive ceremony during the annual convention held in Jacksonville, Florida. Officers are: president, Georgia Hill, Virginia; vice president, Betty Hill, N.C.; recording secretary, Wanda Rogers, California; assistant recording secretary, Zetta Rose, Oklahoma; missions chairman, Virginia Van Kluyve, Tennessee; executive secretary-treasurer, Cleo Pursell, Tennessee; study chairman, Violet Cox, Michigan; stewardship-prayer chairman, Clara Picirilli, Tennessee; personal service-evangelism chairman, Opal Hatcher, Georgia.

STANDARD STUDY COURSE

MRS. ETHEL WHALEY, former missionary to Alaska, taught a study course on the book, *GO YE, MEANS YOU*. She was also guest speaker at the worship hour on Sunday of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Church Hill, Rev. Dewey C. Bernard is the pastor. Representatives of Christian Bend, Phipp's Bend, Goshen Valley, Surgoinsville and Church Hill Free Will Baptist Churches were in attendance and will receive seals of award for the standard study course.

Mrs. Whaley now resides in Gastonia, North Carolina. Mr. and Mrs. Whaley and their two sons and adopted Eskimo daughter, are doing mission work at Bessimer City, near Gastonia.

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

THY WORD GIVETH LIGHT was the theme for the Cumberland District Woman's Auxiliary Convention held August ninth, in the Memorial Auditorium of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. Miss Mary Ruth Wischart, president, presided. Three new auxiliaries were received into the convention—Donelson, Harper Road, and Grace. Registration totaled one hundred and four. Monthly missions projects were adopted.

TEXAS AUXILIARY CONVENTION

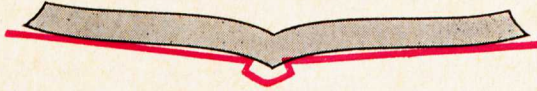
GO YE MEANS YOU was the theme of the Texas State Woman's Auxiliary Convention which met in Henderson, Texas, August first. Mrs. Asa Berry, San Antonio, was re-elected as president. Other officers are Mrs. Oneta Brandon, Odessa, vice president; Mrs. Jean Pennington, Odessa, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Charles Denman, Houston, assistant secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Jessie Ferguson, Henderson, study course chairman; Mrs. Alvin Halbrog, Bryan, stewardship-prayer chairman; Mrs. Barbara Zoellers, Midland, personal service-evangelism chairman; Mrs. Eloyce Aulds, Weatherford, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Ila North, Midland, field worker; Mrs. Lela Clary, Henderson, missions chairman. Mrs. Elizabeth Brandon, San Antonio, historian.

Executive secretary, Mrs. Cleo Pursell was guest speaker. The convention voted to divide their annual project equally between the Free Will Baptist Bible College Expansion program and Schooling for Palmer's Children. A gift of fifty dollars was voted from the treasury for the Bible College Expansion program and the group will send sheets to CERF and the African Hospital.



Mrs. Asa Berry, San Antonio, was re-elected president at the annual convention of the Texas State Woman's Auxiliary Convention.

STUDY COURSE TIPS



IF YOU ARE FOLLOWING THE 1967 suggested calendar of study, a study course on missions is recommended for November and December. Since November is designated *Home Missions Month* and WNAC's Pre-Thanksgiving Season of Prayer is also observed at this time, what could be more appropriate than a study on Home Missions!

We recommend **MISSIONS ON THE MOVE**, a survey of Free Will Baptist Home Missions and missionaries. Written by Violet Cox, formerly employed in the WNAC office, it has the full endorsement of the National Home Missions Department. Rev. H. E. Willis, General Director of the Home Mission and Church Extension Board writes: "For many years I have felt the need for a book telling the home mission story which could be placed in the hands of our people. As I review this book, I am delighted to see that a book has been prepared which will be a blessing to our own people and to all church people who are interested in home mission and church extension work."

"I recommend this book without reservation and believe each reader will find it interesting, inspiring, and enlightening. Every Free Will Baptist should prayerfully read this book and keep it in his library."

"The home mission program has been signally blessed of God this past decade. Missionaries have gone into twenty-one states including Alaska and Hawaii and into two foreign countries—Canada and Mexico. This story of their ministry of

love will, I feel, challenge many other young men and women to follow in their footsteps."

Order from WNAC, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. The price is \$1.00.

OTHER MATERIALS AVAILABLE for the Study Course Chairman are:

Study Group Chairman's Guide—.50.

Approved Study Course List—Free Catalog—Free

Woman's Auxiliary Manual—.75

Posters—\$2.00

A set of seven posters announcing study courses on missions, prayer, stewardship, youth, manual, evangelism, and Christian living. Folded and packed in a manila envelope, these posters are 17 x 22 inches.

Co-Laborer Offering leaflets—Free

WNAC Emphasis leaflets—Free

WNAC MINUTES

WNAC Minutes which usually are printed in the fourth quarter issue of *Co-Laborer*, will now be printed and distributed separately. This will allow ample space for regular and feature articles, in addition to the two seasons of prayer programs which usually appear in this issue.

Minutes will be mailed by bundle to auxiliaries on the *Co-Laborer* subscription list.

Our Programs For Fourth Quarter

INTRODUCING OUR WRITERS



J. H. HUNTER, LL.D., wrote the October program, "The Printed Page." He is former editor of *The Evangelical Christian* and lives in Willowdale, Ontario, Canada, and writes from his home there.



LEAH MAE POSTLE-WAITE, gives a modest resume of the 12 years she and her husband, Johnny, spent establishing churches in the Northwest, in the November program, "The Seven Churches of the Northwest." She and her family now reside in Portland, Oregon.



CLEO PURSELL, WNAC's executive secretary and editor of *Co-Laborer*, presents the challenge of "Metropolitan Missions" in the December program. She lives in Nashville, Tennessee.



JACQUELYN OWENS, wrote the Pre-Thanksgiving programs, "To All Men . . . by All Means through National Home Missions." She and her husband, Mack, are serving under the national Board of Home Missions and Church Extension in Yarmouth, N. S. Canada.



GLADYS FINDLEY, author of the Pre-Christmas Prayer programs, is Stewardship-Prayer chairman of the Tidewater District Auxiliary Convention. She lives in Norfolk, Virginia and is vice president of the woman's auxiliary of Bethany Free Will Baptist Church.

Dear Co-Laborer:

Operation Home Missions!

Each year in fourth quarter *Co-Laborer*, emphasis is given to the work of our National Home Missions and Church Extension Departments.

We salute General Director, Rev. H. E. Willis, members of the board, and the dedicated staff, whose objectives are not only to reach North America for Christ but to teach and establish those weak in the faith.

In the brief 13 years of its existence, the department has increased its activity to include a church loan fund program, a literature program, college-servicemen program, summer missionary and evangelism programs.

A host of self-sacrificing men and women have gone forth into Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, New England, Mexico, the Virgin Islands. Others are working on Indian reservations in Nevada and Arizona.

Woman's Auxiliary members can share in this vital ministry through participation in the Pre-Thanksgiving season of prayer and offering for National Home Missions. The Pre-Christmas season of prayer and offering is for State Home Missions. If your state mission board does not sponsor a project you may wish to designate your offering for some missionary working in another state. Please indicate this when you send your gifts to WNAC.

We know that multiplied financial resources alone will not bring success on the mission fields. This comes through spiritual power, which can be obtained only through communion with God. The prayer seasons of WNAC undergird God's servants and their laborers at home and abroad.

Not all can Go; not all can Give,
To speed the message on its way,
But young or old, or rich or poor,
Or strong or weak—we all can Pray.

Cleo Pursell

Cleo Pursell
Executive Secretary

THE MINISTRY OF THE PRINTED PAGE

by J. H. Hunter

Song: "Wonderful Words of Life"

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:8; Psalm
102:18; Job 19:23

Prayer: Requests in Heartbeat; Co-
Laborer

See *Sparks for your Programs*, page
34

WHAT IS THE most powerful invention God has committed to man?

I think it was the late John R. Mott who observed that it was the alphabet. What he said is true. For good or for evil, no more potent weapon has been placed in the hands of mankind than that of the printed page.

Long ago Solomon stated that man had sought out many inventions, but of all his inventions none has exercised such an effect upon the history of the world or contained such potentialities as the art of printing.

INFLUENCE

Much of the history of the world is wrapped up in the making of books and in the dissemination of the printed page. The present is being molded by them and the future, to a great extent, lies potentially unrevealed in the pages that are yet to be, but which are destined to influence the mind, the will and the heart of mankind.

Again and again it has been a book that has influenced someone to great deeds and mighty achievements, making them instruments of blessing or otherwise to mankind. The biographies of great men tell us again and again of the

tremendous part reading has played in their lives, and of inspiration and incentive caught from the printed page. The whole history of Christianity is replete with illustrations of the power of God made manifest through some inconspicuous piece of printed matter used to lead some soul from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to salvation in Christ, and which set in motion a chain of events that girdled the world with blessing.

It was the Word of God shining in the darkness of Luther's soul that sparked the Reformation, kindling a flame that will never be extinguished "till the moon is old and the stars are cold, and the books of the Judgment Day unfold."

PROPAGANDA

The printed page is a double-edged weapon and may bring a curse as well as a blessing. A new weapon has been added to the armory of nations in recent years. It is that of propaganda by which the soul of a people can be destroyed, falsehood made to appear as truth, and the light that is within turned to darkness.

It is impossible to exaggerate the effect of a good book upon the life of the world. "A good book," said Milton, "is the precious lifeblood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life. . . As good almost to kill a man as to kill a good book. Who kills a man kills a reasonable creature—God's image, but he who destroys a good book kills reason itself . . . kills the image of God, as it were, in the eye."

It was not for nothing that Paul enjoined his young friend Timothy to give attention to reading. His own personal interest in the subject is seen in his pathetic request to "bring the books, but especially the parchments" to him in prison. The injunction of Paul needs to be given earnest heed today when men and women stand confused and bewildered at the multiplicity of books that surround them.

Today many of the printing presses of the world are pouring forth a stream of pernicious literature, debasing and corrupting in its influence—a fearful force in the hands of the evil one to lead multitudes astray into ways of spiritual darkness and eternal death. There is another and more blessed side to the story, of course. Great printing presses are constantly employed in the work of sending out into the world the Word of God and publishing material that will help to heal the sins and sorrows and "open sores" of the world.

POWER

Some years ago I heard Dr. Frank Laubach speak at a meeting of the Canadian Branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society. He is one who is making it possible for millions of people all over the world to become literate. Dr. Laubach said that had he one hundred million dollars to spend he would invest every cent in the dissemination of Christian literature so convinced was he of the power resident in the printed page to bring enlightenment to the nations that still sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

The words of Daniel Webster are as appropriate today—perhaps more so—as they were one hundred years ago: "If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses in this country I do not know what is to become of us as a nation. And the thought is one to cause solemn reflection on the part of every Christian and every patriot. If truth is not diffused, error will be. If God and His Word are not known and received, the devil and his works will gain the

ascendency. If the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of a corrupt and licentious literature will. If the power of the Gospel is not felt through the length and breadth of the land, anarchy and misrule, degradation and misery, corruption and darkness, will reign without mitigation or end."

The day that Daniel Webster foresaw is with us. Evil propaganda floods the world and a sleeping Church seems unaware of the enemy in our midst and at our doors. But to us has been entrusted a force more powerful than the H-bomb, a force that is mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds of the devil and of destroying his works.

That force is the ministry of the printed page. Let us see to it that we use it well.

THE PRINTED MISSIONARY

Christian literature is often referred to as the "printed missionary." Its practicality and potential are seen in that:

1. Printed properly, it can go almost anywhere without a foreign accent.
2. It repeats its message over and over again without a vacation or a furlough.
3. It is relatively inexpensive.
4. It presents its message at the reader's convenience.
5. By mail it can go to many places where a missionary could never enter.
6. In one hour it can be given to more people than the average church attendance on any Sunday morning.
7. It enables the reader to hear the same message over and over again.
8. It enables its reader to study any particular point of the message that captures his attention.
9. In the form of a book, it can give the hungry heart hours and even days of continual preaching and of continual feeding upon the truth.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF THE NORTHWEST

by Leah Mae Postlewaite

Song: "Jesus Calls Us"

Scripture: Mark 16:15

Prayer: For the Postlewaites deficit account; for encouragement

See *Program Sparks*, page 34

BOTH MY HUSBAND and I were raised in Free Will Baptist homes and we are so thankful we were taught the above verse as children. The area in which we lived had many dedicated Christians, ministers, and other fulltime Christian workers. Some how we felt that this was not the place for us to work for Him, but that our world of labor was a little farther away from home. In fact many miles, mountains, and deserts away —*the land of the great Northwest!*

Having visited the state of Oregon about a year before, we could not forget the need of more evangelical witness in the Northwest. "Therefore said he unto them, the harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2). Several families from the mid-western states had moved to this country and were trying to raise their families without a Free Will Baptist church to attend. Some of these people have become active in other evangelical churches, some have gone to the liberal groups, and others have been lost in sin, even gone out into eternity without Christ, maybe because our Free Will Baptist church was so slow in seeing this great harvest field.

WENATCHEE

After becoming settled in the Northwest, we soon learned of Free Will Baptist families in the Wenatchee, Washington area that were interested in beginning a church there. How we thank God for helping the people remain faithful to Him, until the needed help arrived. One dear old lady told us later how she had prayed and prayed for the Lord to send someone to help and how she thanked God on her knees after going to the door and seeing a Free Will Baptist preacher standing there. The Free Will Baptist families in the Wenatchee Valley prayed for help, God called us to go, and how we thank God that we went, and God has blessed the efforts put forth for Him. "I have planted, Apollo watered; but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6).

After five years of labor in the Wenatchee Valley, a Free Will Baptist church was firmly established. The Home Mission Board did their part, the people in the valley prayed, worked and witnessed, and you that are reading this did a great work by being faithful with your prayers and financial support. God's work can be accomplished if all his people will respond to whatever task, great or small, He asks us to do.

The church in Wenatchee is now self supporting and has a good group of dedicated people that have a mind to work for Christ. They have been blessed with qualified pastors to continue to lead them.

VANCOUVER

In Vancouver, Washington there is another Free Will Baptist church that is a direct answer to faithful Christian prayers. This group of people have gone through many hardships, but there has always been a small group that remained faithful to God. Now, God is rewarding them with many blessings, such as a fine pastor and family and talented leaders and teachers.

ROCKPORT, YAKIMA, TOPPENISH

There are other churches in Washington, most of them small, but all doing a good work for the Lord. Located in the Skagit Valley, north of Seattle, at Rockport is another church with a fine minister and family who have sacrificed much to build the house of worship, and witness to this small lumbering community.

In the Yakima Valley are two other churches that are small but are doing their best to witness to the lost of God's love to them. One church is in Yakima, and the other one is Toppenish, about 25 miles away.

SEATTLE

To the city of Seattle the Lord called a dedicated young couple to establish His work there. This church is a result of the efforts of the National Home Missions Board, Northwest Mission Board, a missionary couple, and the answer to many faithful Christians' prayers.

PORTLAND

The church that we are presently working with is in Portland, Oregon, just across the Columbia river from Vancouver, Washington. At the second service in the Portland church, a young man gave his heart to the Lord. His brother in a southern state had prayed for months that someone would lead him to Christ. A young couple, for whom parents in an eastern state had faithfully prayed, gave their hearts and lives to the Lord, and now are engaged in full time

Christian service. Others have accepted Christ. So the church in Portland is another direct answer to faithful Christians prayers.

Only eternity will reveal the number of souls that have been won to Christ in the Northwest. The work at times looked very discouraging, and even now the churches are very few and far between. It has taken over 12 years for the churches to number seven, and the Free Will Baptist people approximately 250, but we feel that this is only the beginning of great things that will be accomplished in the future. Out of these churches God has called several ministers and full time Christian workers. Some of these have attended Free Will Baptist Bible College. Others are preparing to go.

Semi-annual associational meetings, yearly youth camps, and Bible schools, are looked forward to with great anticipation by our seven churches in the Northwest. Fellowship among our people is very sweet, as our churches are not closer together than 25 miles, and some are 300 miles apart.

We praise God that He sent other laborers into this field, and we pray that even more will be led to the Northwest.

Now we are separated from our loved ones, most of our Free Will Baptist friends, and the national meetings by high mountains and lonely deserts, but we are looking forward to being brought close together in Heaven where we can praise Him through all eternity. "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end (Ephesians 3:20-21).

A PERSONAL THANK YOU

We would like to thank each of you auxiliary members who have prayed for us and our work, sent letters or cards, and have given of your finances to our account. Some of you have sent packages or love offerings to four family. For all these things we are forever grateful.

METROPOLITAN MISSIONS

by Cleo Pursell

Song: "Make Me a Channel of Blessing"; "America"

Scripture: Psalm 122; Luke 19:41

Pray for witnesses to the crowded cities

Special feature: Skit

See *Sparks for Your Programs*, page 34

MANY CHANGES HAVE taken place in our nation during the past century. We were once a rural nation, made up of farms, small communities and towns. Cities were few and far between. Only six centers in the whole country could be called cities (2,500 population). Today 70 percent of the people live in cities as compared to 40 percent in 1900. By the year 2000, some predict the United States urban population may reach 85 percent.

Percentages tell only part of the story of the change from a basically rural to an urban nation, and in recent years, from urban to metropolitan. These metropolitan areas have become *mission fields*. People from every nation of the world—the rich, the poor, the educated, the ignorant—are in the cities and present a tremendous challenge to the church.

WHAT IS A METROPOLITAN AREA?

According to the United States Census Bureau a standard metropolitan area is one inhabited by 50,000 persons or more. Population statistics include smaller towns and unincorporated communities surrounding such cities. The trend is for highways between cities to build up so you can hardly tell where one city ends and the next begins. These are called *strip cities*. One third of American people are concentrated within fourteen huge metropolitan areas, we are told.

SPECIAL FEATURE

It seems that cities were established with civilization, originally for protection from animals and against other people. We read of the "exceeding great city of Ninevah" (John 3:4); of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9); of Sodom, the wicked city where Lot lived (Genesis 18:33); and of Jerusalem, the site of the Temple worship. Also of Rome, where all roads led, seat of the empire into which Christ was born. Today, cities have their individual characteristics as the ancient cities had: Paris' Eiffel Tower, London's Bridge, and Venice's canals. How many cities can you identify in the following skit?

(*Woman approaches imaginary telephone saying.*) "They say I can call anywhere in the United States for \$1.00 after nine p.m. Well, I'm going to find out something I've always wanted to know." (*Looks in telephone directory, jots down several numbers and then dials.*)

1. "Hello, is this the Chamber of Commerce? Does the Statue of Liberty have a light in the torch? What? Oh, Thanks!" (*Dials each time before speaking; ad libs.*)

2. "Hello, I hate to ask this, but, uh, can you smell the stockyards?"

3. "Does the Golden Gate Bridge have any gold on it? Just the gold of the sunset? Thank you."

4. "Do you ever see any movie stars just walking around?"

5. "Is the Home Mission Board located there? *What* Home Mission Board? The *Free Will Baptist National Home Mission Board!*"

6. "Are you really the city nearest the center of the United States?"

7. "Can you buy a Ford right out of the factory?"

8. "Are you really a mile high?"

9. "Does it ever freeze down there? Do Seminole Indians come to town?"

10. "Can you see "Vulcan" from any point in the city?"

"Well, I'd sure like to know if the bridge is falling down, and if that leaning tower has fallen, but I guess, I've used up all my money!"

(For answers see CITIES, page 34.)

A DIFFICULT MISSION FIELD

Big cities have many problems. Where large groups of people are, there are always both physical and spiritual needs. During the last century immigrants from European countries settled largely in cities, and their descendants form a nucleus in many cities today. In recent years Negroes have migrated from the rural South to southern and northern cities. They and many foreign-speaking people have continued to move into the inner city vacated by those forming more prosperous suburbs. The resulting slums, with their overcrowding poverty and ignorance, breed every form of crime. Sickness, immorality, discouragement, and sin abound. Land on which to build is expensive, people are indifferent, there are Orientals, Negroes, Puerto Ricans, migrants, and Jewish people to deal with. It is the world of the subway and of international air travel; of packing houses, factories, seaports, universities, television studios, and churches of every creed.

A CHALLENGE

Winning a big city to Christ seems impossible if we concentrate on its problems but history is filled with examples of the power of the Holy Spirit working in difficult and unexpected places!

The apostle Paul's missionary work was highly successful. He evangelized strategic centers of government, culture, religion, and business. His plan was that

the gospel should move from key cities outward until the nation was evangelized. In Antioch of Pisidia, Paul saw "almost the whole city" gather together to hear the Word of God (Acts 12:44). He established a church in Thessalonica, and at Ephesus, a city given over to the worship of the goddess Diana, he saw many confess Christ as Lord and Savior. He planted churches in all the important cities of Palestine, Turkey, and Greece, but He was determined to preach the gospel at Rome also. His life ended in that world capitol.

Today, it seems easier to get candidates for jungle villages than for the asphalt jungles of our big cities. Rev. H. E. Willis, general director of the National Board of Home Missions and Church Extension, states, "We need workers, dedicated workers, Spirit filled workers, to go into all areas of North America proclaiming the gospel." The Home Mission Board has helped to establish churches in nine of our capitol cities in the past few years and in forty-five of the larger cities of America. The church cannot possibly fulfill her mission obligation to the Great Commission as long as she neglects the world's great cities.

Percy Crawford said, "If Jesus were here today, He would not weep over Jerusalem. He would weep over the lack of challenge, the lack of response on the part of Christian people, to whom the world was given for a parish."

The big city does not always appeal to the Christian worker. Jonah was a reluctant evangelist to "the great and wicked city" of Ninevah. Yet, when he finally obeyed God, Ninevah repented.

I said, let me walk in the fields,

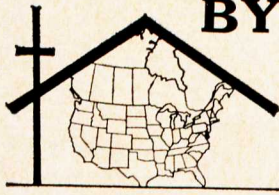
He said, "No, walk in the *town*."

I said, "There are no flowers there."

He said, "No flowers, but a crown."

"There is no city too great for the gospel to penetrate; there is no city too wicked for the gospel to convict; there is no city too far beyond God's love." *Let's take the gospel to Rome also!*

TO ALL MEN . . . BY ALL MEANS



THROUGH NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

by Jacquelyn Owens

PRE-THANKSGIVING PRAYER PROGRAMS

MONDAY

Song: "Give of Your Best to the Master"

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

Prayer: Pray for Larry and Wanda Powell as they adjust to their new work.

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, U.S.A.

The Virgin Islands, lying some 1,200 miles southeast of Miami, Florida in the Caribbean, is a field rich with opportunity to win men to Christ. This ministry marks the beginning of a new frontier for Free Will Baptist Home Missions. From 1960 to 1964 the population has increased about 25%. Approximately 80% of the people are Negro. The U.S. Virgin Islands are bi-lingual, English and Spanish. It is estimated that over 50% of the Virgin Islands residents speak Spanish.

The National Home Mission Board and director have prayed and considered establishing a ministry in the Virgin Islands for some time. During the Wednesday night missionary service of the 1965 National Association in Raleigh, North Carolina, Larry and Wanda Powell were especially impressed to dedicate their lives for missionary work. The Powells' were asked to prayerfully consider a ministry in the Virgin Islands. They were later approved for service by the National Home Mission Board in May of 1966. Larry resigned his pastorate in Lake Butler, Florida in August, 1966 to begin itinerant work. The Powells hope to begin their ministry in St. Croix sometime during 1967.

Rev. Powell says, "I have learned that only a few thousand of the some 40,000 souls of the Virgin Islands are being reached with the Gospel of Christ. The Lord has given us a real burden for these lost souls. We will rejoice when the day arrives that we may depart for this field "white unto harvest." We pray that Free Will Baptist will stand with us in prayer and support that we might establish a strong church and many preaching points in the Caribbean Islands."

Rev. Mark Vandivort and Rev. Larry Powell made a mission survey trip to the Virgin Islands, September 19 through September 26, 1966. This survey proved to be very informative and will help the Powells to make the necessary preparations before going to the field. A brochure of a day by day account of the survey trip has been published by the National Home Mission Board and will be sent free upon request.

TUESDAY

Song: "We've a Story to Tell"

Scripture: Acts 26:18

Prayer: "Pray that the Christians in our two churches in New Hampshire and our two churches in Maine will feel the need of sharing the Gospel in their own areas."

NEW ENGLAND, U.S.A.

The Free Will Baptist movement in New England was started by Elder Benjamin Randall in New Durham, New Hampshire in 1780. The northern Free Will Baptist movement spread throughout the eastern United States and Canada, and then on to the midwest and

southwest throughout ministry of Home Missionaries. In 1910 and 1911, most of the northern Free Will Baptists, including the missions program and educational institutions were merged with the Northern Baptists.

In 1959 we were able to establish a Free Will Baptist Church in Littleton, New Hampshire. The Littleton Free Will Baptist Church called Rev. Bill Evans from Springfield, Missouri in 1962 as their pastor. The church has had a steady growth in every way and in 1967 they called Rev. Eddie Riddick from Greenville, North Carolina as their pastor. There have been several families added to the church in the past year and they have about 60 in attendance.

The Community Free Will Baptist Church was established in Twin Mountain, N.H., by Rev. and Mrs. Mark Vandivort in 1960. This church has also had a continual growth over the past few years. The church at Twin Mountain called Rev. Bert Tippet in 1963 and in 1965 called Rev. Ronnie Dale as pastors. The church has been a real witness in the Twin Mountain area, being the only Protestant church within 10 miles. They are also averaging a good number in all of their services. The two churches in New Hampshire have been strong supporters of our denominational program. The Lord has blessed our churches in N.H., and Maine, and these churches have paid more back into the denominational program these past few years then it has cost to establish them.

It has been about four years since a Free Will Baptist Home Missionary has been working in New England. There are many towns and villages just like Littleton and Twin Mountain that do not have a Gospel preaching church. For example Berling, N. H. is about 45 miles from Littleton, a town of 15,000 and this needy town does not have one sound Gospel preaching church. There is a need now for new workers to let God speak to them about doing mission work in the New England States. Pray that God will call a new couple to the

New England States to start a new church. Remember the Littleton church as they negotiate for a church building in Littleton New Hampshire.

WEDNESDAY

Song: "Send the Light"

Scripture: Isaiah 6:9-12

Prayer: Pray for Bill and Peggy Adkisson and boys in Millville and also Herman and Jane Brooks in Woodstock, N. H.

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

Canadians throughout Canada are celebrating their 100th birthday of Confederation (1867-1967), also the World Fair at Montreal, Quebec will bring a record tourist trade to Canada in Expo, 1967.

The Free Will Baptists Church has a great heritage in Canada as well as in the New England States. The influence of Benjamin Randall's ministry reached far and wide, going east from N.H., into Maine, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. The first Free Will Baptist Church in New Brunswick was organized at Bear Island, York County in the early 1800's, and a Conference was organized on October 13, 1832 at Wakefield, Carleton County, with six churches, two ordained ministers and one licensed preacher. In 1905 and 1906 this body united with the Regular Baptists and formed the United Baptist Convention.

In 1962 our family moved to Millville, N. B., to open a closed church and to begin a Free Will Baptist work in N.B., Canada. In July, 1963 a Free Will Baptist Church was organized with 14 members. We had an active ministry in four communities with church services, Sunday schools, Young People (CTS), Prayer meetings and vacation Bible schools. During June, 1964 Herman Brooks joined us in N.B., as a summer missionary. Mr. Brooks assumed full responsibility of our work in N.B., January 1, 1966 and in September, 1966, Rev. and Mrs. Bill Adkisson joined Mr. Brooks at Millville, N.B. Since the Adkissons arrived on the field, they have seen God work in a wonderful way. One

month after they had arrived in the parsonage dining room, they led their first soul to the Lord. The Adkisson's soon were able to open a new work in Woodstock, N.B., about 25 miles away. This work in Woodstock is now pastored by Herman Brooks. Bill and Peggy are now working in the churches in the Millville area. Peggy has been very active in Good News Clubs, and many have been saved. During Easter holidays they conducted a week of vacation Bible school with 53 enrolled and 46 average attendance. There were 10 to accept Christ ages 7-12 years old. On Friday they had their closing program with 88 in attendance. Bill and Peggy are very thankful for the older people who have been saved. One lady 73 years old was saved in Cloverdale and has been very active until she became very sick with cerebral hemorrhage. It is wonderful to know that she is ready to meet God where a few weeks ago she was still lost in her sins. Many others have been saved and are taking upon themselves the responsibility of supporting the church. The Bear Island Church is for sale for \$500. This building would have to be moved from Bear Island to Millville (about 20 miles) and this would be expensive.

It is wonderful to know how God is blessing, but it is costing someone something. It cost God His Son, the Adkissons their lives, time, talent, and money. It is costing someone time to pray and give that the Adkissons account will stay out of the *red*. We know how they feel when they receive their report slips each month and note how little has come into their account. Many times the report showing that their account is going deeper and deeper into the *red*. This of course hurts the missionaries spiritual life and adds an extra burden. There is of necessity many burdens in the work at hand without having the added financial burden of one's support. Ask yourself this question, "Are these souls worth it?" If your answer is yes, do something to make the burden a little lighter.

THURSDAY

Song: "Rescue the Perishing"

Scripture: Romans 1:13-16

Prayer: 1. Pray for Mack and Jackie as they continue their language studies. Also remember them as they minister in Forest Glen and Yarmouth each week. 2. Pray that the needed property will be provided for the Yarmouth group. Remember Jackie's health that it will continue to be good.

NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

Exciting scenery, a variety of racial backgrounds, living history, an expanding economy, a comfortable climate, this is Nova Scotia. The population of Nova Scotia is more than 737,000 with 71 per cent being of British descent and 12 per cent French descent. There are 4,625 miles of coastline, guarded by 356 light-houses and fog alarms, and 15,398 miles of highways. There are 314 trout and salmon streams and 516 trout lakes in Nova Scotia within an area of 21,425 miles.

The first Free Will Baptist Church organized in Nova Scotia took place March 22nd, 1821 by Rev. Asa McGray at Cape Sable Island, the most southern point in Canada. Many Free Will Baptist Churches were organized and a conference organized in 1834. The Free Will Baptists (known then as Free Baptists) united with the Regular Baptist in 1905 and 1906 making the United Baptist denomination. There are a few Free Baptist Churches in Nova Scotia near Yarmouth area and we are able to have some good Christian fellowship with them.

While we were doing mission work in N.B., a Free Baptist minister, Rev. Angus MacDougall from Deerfield, N.S., Yarmouth County, invited us to Nova Scotia to one of their conferences. After two or three visits to the Yarmouth area and seeing the need in this area, God layed it upon our hearts to start a Free Will Baptist work in this area. After eight months of itinerate we arrived in N.S., in September, 1966.

Because of a large French speaking population in the Yarmouth area, we were impressed even before coming to N.S. to take a course in the French language. After living in the area and enrolling in French, we spent much time trying to rent a hall in Yarmouth, but without success. At two points we had a hall rented and later were called and told that they changed their minds and wouldn't rent to us. This was a discouraging point in our ministry but as we wait on God He is working things out for us. One day while visiting with Tom Gordon, a Free Baptist Minister he asked if my husband would like to go out to a small community where they did not have regular services. After we had prayed, we were contacted by a lady in the community and arrangements were made to have services. The next Sunday a young teenage girl was saved. God made it clear that this was our open door. Since that time we have been active in this community of Forest Glen with a full church program. At the present time we are having about 35 in S.S. and 40 to 45 in worship; Young peoples CTS Wednesday night, 23 to 25; and about 15 in Prayer meeting. We started having services in the community hall, but now we are using a church building in the community. Many have been saved and many more unsaved folks attend regular.

In February, 1967 we moved into a French Catholic community and drive out to our services in Forest Glen, some 30 miles away. Although we do not spend all our time among the French Catholic people we do feel that this is the road to preparation. In Wedgeport, a community of 1,850 people there is no Protestant church at all, and we do not know of one Protestant family living in this community.

The need here now is another couple to help us with the work. The field is white, so pray with us that God will move upon some heart and point them toward N. S., Canada.

FRIDAY

Song: "O Zion, Haste"

Scripture: Isaiah 40:31

Prayer: Pray for Frank and Marie Cousineau and children that they might have God's direction in their service for Him.

QUEBEC, CANADA

It was while we were doing mission work in N. H. that we first learned of the need in the Province of Quebec through a missionary from Compton, Quebec, Rev. Wilson Ewin. After Mack visited the Ewin's while we lived in N. B., the need of more workers to this area was made plain. It was answer to prayer to hear that a French Catholic couple had been saved in Florida and was attending the Free Will Baptist Bible College. This couple was Frank and Marie Cousineau, from Hull, Quebec. While my husband visited the college during Bible Conference he was able to talk and fellowship with Frank and Marie. With a burdened heart he talked to the Cousineaus' about returning to Quebec as missionaries. The day came when we received word that Frank and Marie were moving back to Quebec to continue their education at *Institut Biblique Bethel (Bethel Bible School)* at Lennoxville, Quebec. Praise the Lord!

While we were in Montreal recently God was able to impress us with the real need in this area. The metropolitan area of Montreal comprises about 2,000,000 people and has long been known as the second-largest French speaking city in the world; second only to Paris. On the other hand almost one third of Montreal is English speaking.

The new day for Quebec is here; this is our day of opportunity! Evangelical missionaries (one worker to every 60,000) laboring in Quebec almost without exception reports that they are finding a better response than ever before. Our Home Mission Department has a film, "Soul of Quebec," and it has been helpful to inform our people what the missionary is faced with in witnessing to the French Canadians.

THE DEPTHS . . . OF THE WISDOM OF GOD



By Gladys Findley

THEME SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK: "Oh the depths of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:33)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Recognize afresh the "manifold wisdom of God" in the course of events which preceded the birth of Jesus.

PRAYER EMPHASIS FOR THE WEEK: For state home missions and for the missionaries as they labor in the various states.

OFFERING: For state home missions in honor of WNAC's first president, Alice Lupton.

Program 1

"THY PRAYER IS HEARD"

Song: "Have You Prayed It Through?"
Scripture: Malachi 4:5,6; Matthew 11:10-14

DURING the reign of Herod, king of Judaea, violence and bloodshed covered the land. Herod, cruel and merciless, extorted immense sums from the poor to squander on his palaces and new projects.

A crafty statesman, he rebuilt and beautified the Temple at Jerusalem to conciliate the Jews. So religious leaders,

men like Caiaphas and Annas, overlooked his tyrannic rule so long as their prestige and finances were secured.

It was during those dark, fearsome days that the new revelation of salvation began. The godly remnant "all them that looked for redemption," yearned for the Messiah's coming more intensely than ever before.

Among this remnant was a priest and his wife, Zacharias and Elisabeth, whose home was in the hills of Judaea. They lived godly lives "walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless."

They spoke often of the prophecies. The number of years foretold in Daniel had almost expired. Malachi had prophesied, "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple . . . saith the Lord of hosts" (Mal. 3:1).

If the advent of the Lord was so near then His messenger was at the very door! God had not forgotten His people! Joy flooded their souls!

However, this devout, aging couple carried within their hearts a heavy sorrow. They had no child—Elisabeth was barren. *Without this sorrow would they have been qualified to receive the first news of the soon coming Messiah?*

Sorrow opens the eyes to clearer insights and hearts to deeper understanding. Sorrow opens the arms in compassion to the needs of others. Then the sorrow is eased and as Elisabeth was soon to know, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Psalm 30:5).

Harvest time came and Zacharias went down to Jerusalem to perform his priestly duties in the Temple. In the outer court multitudes of people prayed.

Within, Zacharias stood alone in the Holy Place, amid the fragrant smoke that went up from the burning incense. Prayers poured from his heart! Intercession, intense prevailing prayer!

READ RESPONSIVELY: Luke 1:11-25

God in His own time and in His own way would make these things known.

CONCLUSION: God hears and answers the prayers of His faithful ones. "He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think . . ." (Ephesians 3:20). How is your prayer life? Have you prayed through a night of sorrow and found joy in the morning? As world conflicts increase, do you yearn for our Lord's return?

Program 2

"BLESSED ART THOU AMONG WOMEN."

Song: "How Great Thou Art"

Scripture: Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22, 23

NAZARETH, a little out-of-the-way city of lower Galilee, was built on a rocky precipice on the side of a mountain overlooking a small secluded valley. It was shut in by encircling mountains and was of doubtful reputation.

Mary, of the lineage of David and betrothed to Joseph lived there in obscurity. But, God knew where to find her. He could have chosen a King's daughter or an heiress to great wealth; but, He chose Mary—humble devout, reflective Mary for a most special part in His redemptive plan.

Mary's intimate knowledge of the Scriptures would indicate that her parents were God-fearing folk and had diligently taught her in the things pertaining to the Lord. Therefore, she sought daily a place of solitude in which to meditate and commune with her God.

God is want to bestow His favors and to speak with His children during quiet times of retirement. Mary was alone when the angel of the Lord appeared, hailed her as one "highly favored," and "blessed" among women.

Troubled by these words, Mary searched her mind for their meaning. Calming her natural fears, she listened in growing astonishment. *She . . . bear a son?*

READ RESPONSIVELY: Luke 1:30-35

Mary began to comprehend! God had chosen her for honor notwithstanding her lowliness and poverty! She knew the sign of the virgin born son was a standing sign to Israel for all ages. It had been so since the dawn of creation.

What thoughts were Mary's? What uncertainties? She knew the law. (Deut. 22:23,24) The angel Gabriel reminded her that "With God nothing be impossible." (Luke 1:37) He told her that her aging, barren, cousin Elisabeth was to bear a son and was in her sixth month. What strength for Mary's faith!

God would take care of her! With humble devotion and obedient submission she said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" (verse 38).

Mary hastened to Elisabeth. Was it for comfort and encouragement? She was young and she was human. God knew her needs and provided for them.

CONCLUSION: God will always take care of those who put their trust in Him. (Proverbs 3:5,6) Have you surrendered your life to Him to be used according to His will? Are you trusting Him for strength and wisdom to overcome your problems? Do you have a quiet time with Him every day?

Program 3

MARY AND ELISABETH

Song: "To God Be The Glory"

Scripture: Psalm 138:4-8; Luke 1:41-45

MARY hastened to Elisabeth with the words "For with God nothing shall be impossible" ringing in her ears. She a virgin and Elisabeth barren for many years . . . each was to bear a son. The two mothers met; the mother of the way-preparer and the mother of Him for whom the way was to be prepared. God's ways are wonderful!

At her coming Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and made aware of the honor that was to be Mary's. She broke out in inspired song expressing for herself and her unborn son the reverence they felt for their Lord.

As Elisabeth ceased to speak, Mary's song of praise to "God my Saviour" burst forth from a heart filled with joy and thanksgiving. In deep humility and profound reverence, she cried out in song "Holy is His name."

She recognized that her joy was founded on the coming of the one who was to be the Saviour of all who would believe. She knew her son was to be the answer to the problems of all mankind.

Even in the midst of such deep and solemn joy, Mary was not selfish in her thanksgiving. She praised God and gave thanks for His goodness to herself, to others, and to Israel as a nation according to the promise (Genesis 28:14).

She looked forward to "all generations" and rejoiced because God's mercy "is on them that fear Him." She knew that others would rejoice for His mercy would endure forever.

READ RESPONSIVELY: Luke 1:46-55

Thus, Mary's thoughts were uttered once and were never heard again. She remained under Elisabeth's protection

for about three months and then returned to her home in Nazareth.

When her condition was made known to Joseph, her betrothed, he being a just and kind man thought "to put her away privily." God, the maker of the law and the holder of the reins, would not allow Mary to be the victim of shame or of misunderstanding. He sent Gabriel who appeared to Joseph in a dream and explained to him all things (Matthew 1:20). So, Mary and Joseph were married.

CONCLUSION: Great and glorious things are always to be expected from God. What He promises He will do: His blessings are those that last forever! How long has it been since you sang from the sheer joy of knowing Christ as your personal Saviour? Do you praise and thank God for His goodness to others; or are you selfish?

Program 4

"HIS NAME IS JOHN."

Song: "O For a Thousand Tongues"

Scripture: Isaiah 40:3-5; Matthew 3:3

ELISABETH gave birth to a son and rejoiced exceedingly. God had chosen them, she and Zacharias, to be the parents of the herald of the Messiah! The boy would grow up in the quiet hills, in the clean country air, away from the corruption of the cities. God had given them explicit instructions on how to raise the child.

On the eighth day relatives and friends crowded into the unpretentious home to congratulate the aged couple, to perform the ancient and sacred rites of the national covenant (Genesis 17:10,12), and to name the babe.

Zacharias being speechless, Elisabeth said the babe's name was John. The relatives insisted John was not a family

name; therefore, the boy should be named Zacharias after his father. They made signs to Zacharias who wrote on a table, "His name is John." Immediately Zacharias' tongue was loosed as the things spoken by Gabriel were fulfilled! (Luke 1:20.)

His first words on regaining his voice were not complaints at the inconvenience of not being able to speak. They were inspired words of greatful praise to God. Not only was Zacharias' tongue released but his soul was fully released from the fetters of unbelief.

The people marveled and fear fell on those present. "What manner of child shall this be!" He was to be the last and the greatest prophet. He was the clasp between the Old and the New Testaments.

The last prophecy concerning Christ before His birth was given by the mouth of Zacharias as he was filled with the Holy Spirit. His song burst from a heart of gladness. It expressed the Gospel as he had received it in his heart during the time he could not speak.

READ RESPONSIVELY: Luke 1:67-79

Even as they rejoiced at the birth of their son, Zacharias and Elisabeth were looking forward to the birth of the Lord Jesus, the 'horn of salvation.' Their son was the "forerunner"—the way-preparer for the Lord!

CONCLUSION: We as Christians are the "forerunner" of our Lord's second coming! We are, also, sent to do a special work—to "go ye" and proclaim the Gospel. Are you doing your part to prepare the way for His return?

Program 5

"FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN . . .
A SAVIOUR."

Song: "Joy To The World"

Scripture: Micah 5:2-5; Matthew 2:4-6

MARY and Joseph were married and continued to live in Nazareth where Joseph plied his trade as a carpenter. We hear from them no more until shortly before the birth of the child. God in His divine wisdom had drawn a veil over those months of waiting.

According to prophecy, the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem, the city of David. But, His chosen parents were about 100 miles away and Mary's time was drawing nearer!

God as the Almighty carries out His plans through the acts of men. So it was that a decree went out from Rome for each person to go to his ancestral city to be enrolled. Mary and Joseph, being of the lineage of David were to go to Bethlehem. Thus, Augustus Caesar the ruler of the pagan Roman Empire became an instrument for the fulfilling of prophecy in the all-guiding hand of God!

The long journey was very difficult for Mary. Jogging along on a donkey or walking was extremely hard for she was "great with child." On entering the city, the crowds were so great that the only resting place Joseph could find for Mary was a stable with straw for a bed.

Thanks be unto God the end thereof was glorious! Mary brought forth her first-born son, the only begotten Son of God Jesus, our Saviour, "which is Christ the Lord." We know that Jesus was born at the proper time, in the right place, and under the right circumstances for God arranged it so.

READ RESPONSIVELY: Luke 2:1-20

CONCLUSION: The first Christmas message was one of joy—"... good tidings of great joy . . . to all people." The message is the same today. May we as Christians be so inspired by the Christmas story that we will go out and tell others of the "good tidings" so they too may know the joy, peace, and happiness that only Christ the Lord can give!

By Betty J. Ross

SPARKS

for your programs

OCTOBER / THE PRINTED PAGE

Place a world globe in the center of a table. Print this thought, "OURS IS A READING WORLD, and place it at the base of the globe.

Have a selection of desirable books and reading materials, and a selection of undesirable materials. Remember that as the literacy rate of the world rises, the people of the world will read anything.

Have someone to discuss how people may be directed to reading the materials that are good rather than the undesirable ones.

NOVEMBER / SEVEN CHURCHES

Cut out an outline map of the states of Oregon and Washington from black poster board. At the proper time, lay map flat on table and place a lighted candle on the dark map to represent each Free Will Baptist Church or mission there. Turn out all the lights except those on the map for a moment, remembering that a few years ago there were no Free Will Baptist churches there. Meditate upon the fact that as the candles give illumination here, the churches established by Rev. and Mrs. Postlewaite and others, are much more "A light that shineth in a dark place" (2 Peter 1:19).

DECEMBER / METROPOLITAN MISSIONS

Place a large map of the United States on a table. Label one end of the table MORAL DECAY and the other end, SPIRITUAL GROWTH. Tilt the map toward the *moral decay* end. Cut out articles from newspapers and magazines with headlines indicating the results of sin such as murder, rape, robbery and divorce. Attach to the side of the map over *moral decay* and then attach articles on the other side of the map indicating spiritual progress (these will probably be fewer).

Cover children's ABC blocks with white paper and label them Christ, Faith, Salvation, Love, Christian Service, and others. Place these blocks under the base of the map as a foundation of the nation and to make the map stand straight, or even better make it tilt toward the *spiritual growth* end.

CITIES (Answers to quiz on page 24) 1.

N.Y. City, 2. Chicago, 3. San Francisco, 4. Hollywood, Los Angeles, 5. Nashville, 6. Kansas City, 7. Detroit, 8. Denver, 9. Miami, 10. Birmingham.

(Adapted)

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