

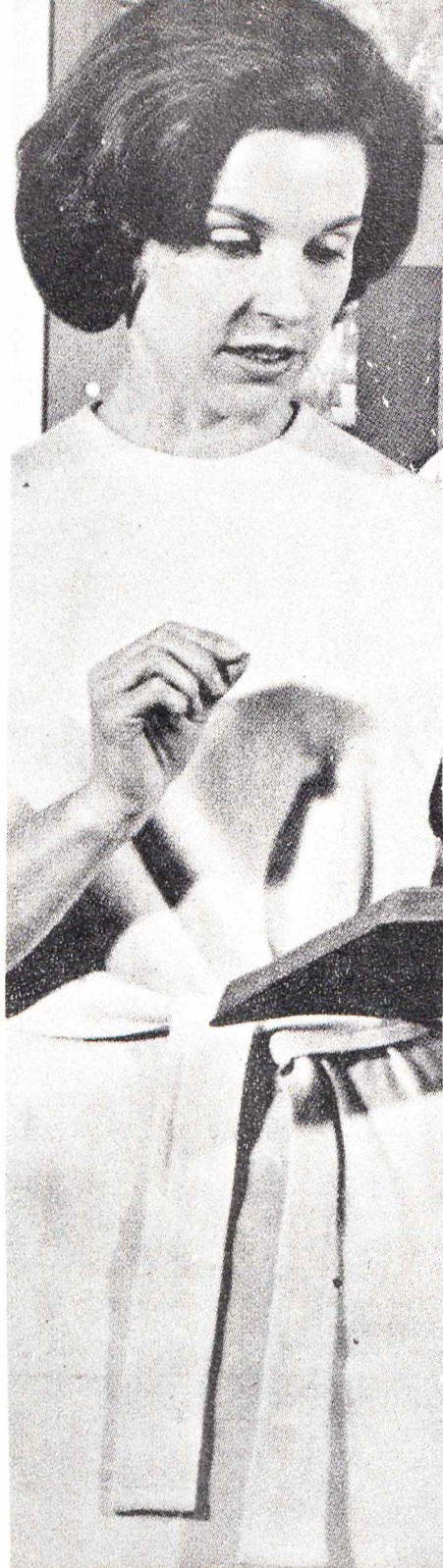
# **CO-LABORER**

APRIL, MAY, JUNE, 1969

**PRE-EASTER SEASON OF PRAYER  
AND  
OFFERING FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS**

**MARCH 31 — APRIL 4**





## **emphasis**

on

Woman's Auxiliary

**in your church**

**in August or any month more convenient**

designed to create new interest in missions  
among the women of your church

*Plan now*

# CO-LABORER

VOLUME IX NO. 2 SECOND QUARTER 1969

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# STATESIDE

THE STORY OF WOMEN IN ACTION

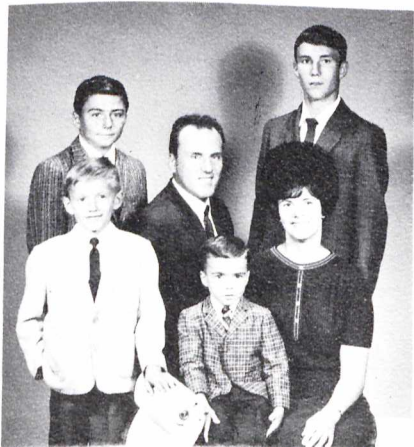


## Oklahoma Auxiliary Convenes at Oklahoma City

The state Woman's Auxiliary convened in Oklahoma City last October, and in messages by two missionary wives challenged the auxiliary women to greater service.

Mrs. Marie Cousineau, wife of missionary appointee to Ivory Coast, Maurice Cousineau, brought the 11:00 o'clock message and Mrs. Sandra Payne, wife of missionary to Ivory Coast, Eddie Payne, spoke during the afternoon service. Lila F. Morgan, in an opening devotional, set the tone of the theme, "Rise up, ye women... hear my voice." (Isaiah 32:9). A special feature was *News and Fashions*.

*The Maurice Cousineau family were guests at the special program-homecoming service of the Woman's Auxiliary of First Free Will Baptist Church, Church Hill, Tennessee, September 22.*



## District Auxiliary Meets in Central Texas

Approximately 50 delegates, ministers and visitors attended the district Woman's Auxiliary Convention at Bryan, Texas last September, according to Mrs. E. M. Lewis.

Highlights included a message by Rev. Don Lombard, a skit, "The Two Sisters," and reports from the WNAC meeting at the National Association Convention in Oklahoma City and from the Texas state convention.

The theme was, "Faithful unto every good work."

*Miss Imogene Smith, program prayer chairman, displays items for the Nashville missionary provision closet given by members of the newly formed auxiliary of Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church near Richton, Mississippi.*



## Georgia Holds State Convention

The Georgia Woman's Auxiliary Convention focused its attention on America's spiritual plight in its annual meeting November 12. *Turning America Back to His Way* was the theme of the session attended by 109 registrants. Rev. J. E. Blanton brought the morning message.

The state project for next fiscal year calls for a fund-raising campaign toward purchase of property for a church in the Atlanta area. A goal of \$3.00 per member was set. The group is also encouraging member auxiliaries to give regularly toward the Sam Wilkinsons' account. Georgia has 46 auxiliaries and 549 members.

Mrs. G.N. Fowler, treasurer, reported a total of \$5,898 in gifts for the fiscal year of 1967-68. Mrs. Doris Grant is president.



*Mrs. Zula Wolfenbarger, president of Forest Grove Woman's Auxiliary, Knoxville, Tennessee, and Mrs. Harold Pitts, pastor's wife, are shown with tupperware recently contributed to the missionary provision closet in Nashville.*

*Members of the auxiliary of the Free Will Baptist Church of Baldwin Park, California prepared bandage rolls for the LaVerne Mileys, medical missionaries, in Ivory Coast. Left to right are: Mrs. Ruth Linker, program chairman; Mrs. Jennie Garrett, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Joan McCullough, missions chairman; Mrs. Vera Leach, personal service chairman; Mrs. Catherine Oliver, president; Mrs. Vickie Wilson, and Kelly Marie Wilson held by Mrs. Linda McCullough, vice-president.*





*Spartanburg's First Free Will Baptist Church auxiliary members are: (left to right) 1st row: Ethel McCoy, Doris Robertson, study course chairman, Anne Crowe, treasurer, Margaret Waldrop, personal service chairman, Laura Moore, program chairman, Betty Seay, secretary, Nancy Crowe, vice-president, Judy Good, president, and Brenda Norris, pastor's wife; 2nd row: Ruby Roberts, Maty Lancaster, Sue Bryan, Brenda Bowers, Carolyn Walker, Hazel Clubbs, Jackie Hutcherson, and Evelyn Eplee. Absent when photo was made were Joe Ann Jones, corresponding secretary, and Mae West, missions chairman.*

## South Carolina Groups Buys Freezer for Parsonage

The woman's auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Spartanburg, S.C., recently purchased a refrigerator-freezer for the church parsonage.

The group raised funds for the project by selling Bible bookmarks, key chains, and other small items. They also support local, state, and national needs.

## Missouri District Meeting Features Skit

"Shield of Faith," a one-act play, highlighted the Cave Springs district auxiliary convention at the Myrtle Free Will Baptist Church during the fall.

The convention, reported Mrs. Tom Carlson, voted to raise funds for the Arthur Billows family in Mexico to attend one session of the state youth camp this summer. Theme for the the district meeting was "The whole armour of God."

## Ohio Auxiliary Retreat Features Missions

An international dinner highlighted the Ohio Missionary Retreat sponsored by the Woman's Auxiliary Convention in November. Between 80 and 100 attended the retreat that included messages by Rev. E.B. Ledlow, Rev. Les Carnie, and Louis Coscia, missionary to Brazil.

The international dinner included southern fried chicken, mexicorn, french green beans, German potato salad, tossed salad, Italian bread, Brazilian coffee, Hawaiian punch and Dutch apple pie.

"Missions is our business" was the theme.

## Junior Woman's Auxiliaries Formed

The Hazel Park and Central Free Will Baptist churches of Michigan recently organized auxiliaries for junior girls called Missionettes. They meet regularly for fellowship and planning of missionary projects.

# A Substitute for

# V B S?

*The effectiveness of your Vacation Bible School depends on the thoroughness of the planning and the fervency of the praying which you do from now until the dates of the school.*

**by Frances Manning**

DAVID WAS THE FIRST child to arrive in the primary department the Sunday following Vacation Bible School. This was his first Sunday to attend our Sunday school and with him were his mother, father and younger sister. It was also the first time any of them had attended.

How did they happen to come that particular Sunday? A friend in the neighborhood had invited David to attend VBS with him at our church the previous week. His experiences at the church during that week were so enjoyable that on Sunday David urged his parents to allow him to go to Sunday school also. He knew his younger sister would also enjoy it, so he began coaxing them to allow her to go with him. Result: an entire family attended church and Sunday school together, not only on this one Sunday, but have been doing so regularly ever since.

The reason: a friend invited David

to VBS. But even more than this, because early last year our church recognized its responsibility to its community and to Christ, and cared enough to plan and conduct a Vacation Bible School.

Each year churches hesitate in their plans for a Vacation Bible School, wondering if it is really worth all the effort. The problems are real and the excuses for "not having one this year" crop up with predictable regularity. There is the perennial question of how the VBS is going to be staffed with so many women working and so many families going on vacation in the summer months. But churches with a will to find a way have found many ways — by shifting their VBS to evenings, by enlisting capable high school students and men who work at night (or day), or by cooperating with another church in the community in some cases. There are ways to overcome the problems for the churches

which really want to. If we could remember all the little "Davids" and their families that can be reached this summer through VBS the Vacation Bible School will become a valuable part of our church's program.

The values of VBS in the lives of the boys and girls it reaches are innumerable. In the ten days which pupils usually attend VBS they receive more hours (25-30 hours) of intensive and concentrated Bible study and Christian teaching than the average Sunday school pupil receives in a half year of attending Sunday school. They study hymns, take field trips, study Bible history and geography and many other subjects usually overlooked in our already crowded Sunday school hour. Because of these longer periods of time, when pupils and teachers can study and work together, a more balanced program is provided for learning how to sing, how to pray, how to worship, how to study God's Word, how to put into practice in their daily lives the spiritual truths learned. The nature of VBS programs gives teacher and pupil more opportunities to become better acquainted than would ever be possible in the Sunday morning class.

When we consider these facts we can see why it is that more boys and girls are reached—and won—to Christ through VBS than through any other single program (or means) of the church. However, there are other often overlooked plus factors.

VBS helps redeem a portion of children's leisure vacation time by turning what would normally be hours of idleness into hours of constructive teaching and activities. Leisure time activities can be introduced into our teaching which will engage our pupils

in interesting and worthwhile activities for the entire summer.

Because of the various activities included in each day's Bible school and the many opportunities VBS affords for pupil participation, it is one of the church's greatest sources for developing leadership. This is the natural result of these opportunities for self-expression. And what a striking need most of our churches today have for trained leaders.

Perhaps one of VBS's greatest contributions to the lives of our pupils is the opportunity they have to become "friends" with their pastor in a way seldom possible during his busy Sunday schedule. In VBS he is able to play, study and become better acquainted with the children of his church. And since VBS attracts children of all nationalities, races, religions and social groups, it helps break down many prejudices which may exist in a neighborhood and thus opens the door to many homes previously unreached by the gospel.

Children are not the only ones who thus benefit from a Vacation Bible School. Every member of the church can profit. Since VBS has such an outreach into the community, it also presents the church with a uniquely effective opportunity of introducing not only VBS but the entire church program to the community. Through this community outreach it is often a means of many new contacts and prospects for the church and Sunday school. Kenneth O. Gangel, who is chairman of the department of Christian education at Calvary Bible College in Kansas City, Missouri said, "Churches which are growing in number, progressing in spiritual depth and exhibiting evangelistic zeal are

churches which place a proper emphasis on Vacation Bible School. One small midwestern church contacted over 90 new families through its 1962 school."

VBS has also proved to be an excellent source for discovering and developing new teachers and leaders, thus aiding the development of leadership for other agencies of the church long after the Bible school has ended.

We cannot forget that VBS is also a means of creating interest in year-round attendance and participation in weekday activities at church. Thus, it might possibly be the foundation of a weekday church school program in the church. The community scope of VBS helps to enlarge the public's acceptance and appreciation of the ministry of the church and can do much to solicit community interest in the Christian training of children in the community through the program of the church. And not one of the least of the services Vacation Bible School can render is the closeness of fellowship and cooperation which it creates among the pastor, parents and the teachers as they work toward a common goal—winning and teaching boys and girls for Christ.

Evangelical churches cannot afford to bypass VBS this year. Some churches, however, and some members of most churches must be "sold" on Vacation Bible School.

Beginning early in the spring the Sunday bulletin can include a statement each week about "Your Church and VBS." This is a good place to attract the attention of the average church member to some of the previously mentioned values of conducting a Bible school. Promotion in

the bulletin will bring VBS to the attention of the entire congregation—not just a few.

Very possibly one of the members of the church came to Christ through Vacation Bible School. His or her testimony at one of the services of the church is sure to build enthusiastic support.

Churches—and there are surprisingly many—which have never conducted a Vacation Bible School can invite a pastor or an educational director from a church with a successful VBS to present the challenge and opportunities in such a program. A Christian education teacher or a representative of one of the evangelical publishing houses would also be able to stimulate down-to-earth thinking about how to begin a VBS.

What can offer equal to a half year's Sunday school study of the Bible, in-depth investigation in a wide range of subjects from church music to missionary biography, the opportunity of working closely as pastor, teacher and pupil, community-wide impact and most valuable of all—the salvation of countless boys and girls—all in two weeks?

If we did not have Vacation Bible School in our churches we would more than likely plan and develop methods and structure a program very much like our present-day VBS. It is versatile, capable of yearly effectiveness and a strategic means of summer outreach for the churches of America.

A substitute for VBS? There isn't one.

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# PRAYER for WORLD MISSIONS

by Virginia Van Kluyve  
Missions Chairman WNAC

## APRIL

The entrance of thy words giveth light, it giveth understanding unto the simple. Psalm 119:130. All may seem dark ahead and we may be unable to see the way. We may desperately need a solution to a problem. Suddenly light shines from the Word and new understanding floods our soul.

*Brazil* — The Robirds arrived in San Francisco, California, November 30 to begin a year's furlough. Sam Wilkinson and his family have moved from Jaboticabal to Campinas to work in the literature program in the absence of Don Robirds. Bobby Aycock is now pastoring the church in Jaboticabal as well as directing the Bible Institute.

Earnie Deeds and family arrived in Brazil after a year of furlough. They have assumed teaching responsibilities at the Bible Institute. John Craft has had a set-back in his language studies due to hepatitis. He has recovered from his illness, but will have to wait until the next semester begins before he can resume his full language study program.

All of the Free Will Baptist churches in Brazil met together in Araras in November for their third fellowship meeting. Nearly 300 people attended the meeting which featured preaching, singing, Bible Tic-Tac-Toe and lunch.

Dave Franks and his family have started their new term of service in Pirassununga where missionary Louis Coscia and his wife had been working.

The missionaries request your prayers that Brazilians will give their lives to preach and teach. A great need right now is for national pastors. Please pray also for Pastor Sebastian, the only national pastor, that the Lord will strengthen his ministry in the Campinas church. Missionaries having birthdays this month are: *Brazil* — Rev. Bobby Aycock, April 1; Mrs. Marvis Eagleton, April 27; Kemper Combs, April 20; Andrew Eagleton, April 14. *India* — Randall Cronk, April 3; Mrs. Marie Hanna, April 9. *Panama* — Estenio Garcia, April 4. *France* — Barbara Haas, April 11; Trudy Haas, April 5. *USA, Missouri* — Bethany Vandivort, April 4.

## MAY

He first findeth his own brother Simon... and he brought him to Jesus. John 1:41, 42a. Perhaps we think there is little we can do for the Lord. However, we can bring others to Jesus. We can dedicate our lives to introducing others to Him.

*Ecuador* — Pat Tyson writes the following: "Every day will I bless Thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever." Ecuador, that tiny country in western South American that straddles the equator, is a beautiful land! White-capped waves from a blue Pacific roll onto beaches where they nearly meet with groves of banana trees laden with their weighty fruit:

this is the coast. Fluffy clouds part in the sky to reveal the majestic Chimborazo rising some 20,000 feet into the air as it shadows over golden barley fields awaiting the harvest: this is the mountains. Monkeys chatter and parrots perch overhead while orchids bloom in profusion, all under a canopy of green foliage: this is the jungle.

"Plutarco, a young man who came to the hospital where we were working, had a severe bone infection of the leg. While in the hospital he listened to the message of salvation by means of gospel records in his own language. Through the witness of the medical team and the chaplain he accepted Christ. He was hospitalized several times and therefore spent much time in the hospital. The greatest results were seen among those who had long hospital stays.

"He has now returned to his home with a windup record player and records and will be able to let others hear the message by sharing the records with them.

"Please remember the following requests in prayer: Pray for Plutarco and his growth as a new Christian. Pray that the Lord will raise up Ecuadorian leadership for Free Will Baptist work in Ecuador, and pray for Ella Rae and me as we continue our deputational ministry." Missionaries having birthdays this month are: *Japan* — Sammy Wilkinson, May 13.

*Uruguay* — Rev. Bill Fulcher, May 6; Mrs. Amy Robinson, May 13. *Brazil* — Kenneth Eagleton, Jr. May 26. *Ivory Coast* — Rev. Archie Mayhew, May 10; Larry Mayhew, May 15; Kathleen Palmer, May 24; Lonnie Stephen Palmer, May 26. *USA, Missouri* — Crystal Skiles, May 13; Phillip Vandivort, May 31.

## JUNE

USA — Reverend and Mrs. Robert A. Francis are on itinerary to raise their support to begin a new work in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Reverend and Mrs. Fred McCoy are on itinerary to raise support to go to Puerto Rico to begin a new work. We do not have a Free Will Baptist work on this island.

Reverend and Mrs. James Nason have begun a new work in Bangor, Maine. Pray for them as they endeavor to establish a Free Will Baptist church in this area. There is a real need for more workers in the New England area. Please pray that the Lord will send forth more laborers.

Pray for the following missionary families and their ministry and for the church in Anchorage, Alaska. The Lloyd Plunketts — Seattle, Washington  
The Les Carneys — Trenton, New Jersey. The Johnnie Postlewaites — Vancouver, Washington.

Captain Gerald Mangham, our Free Will Baptist chaplain in Viet Nam, needs our prayers as he faces the challenge of reaching servicemen for Christ. More chaplains and chaplains' assistants are needed. Our men and women in the military service need spiritual help as any other man or woman needs help. Please remember to pray for them. Missionaries having birthdays this month are: *Brazil* — Mrs. Willie Jean Deeds, June 2; David Aycock, June 24; Mrs. June Wilkinson, June 29. *Japan* — Philip Hersey, June 27; Rebecca Calvery, June 3. *India* — Mrs. Trula Cronk, June 7; Brenda Hanna, June 28. *Uruguay* — Mrs. Paul Robinson, June 20. *Ivory Coast* — Laura Payne, June 21. *USA, Miami* — Mrs. Mabel Willev, June 13. +

# CO-LABORERS WRITE...



from Alabama

This has been a very interesting and enlightening week of prayer about our National Home Missions Board. Our hearts have been challenged to do a better service toward missions in this great country of ours.

We have received many blessings from our *Co-Laborer* literature and pray God will continue to strengthen and keep each of you in the palm of His loving hand.

*Mrs. Mildred Purser  
Red Bay, Alabama*

First of all, I would like to commend the entire staff for our *Co-Laborer* magazine. I especially like the new one for the coming quarter. As I read it I jotted some things down that I feel our Auxiliary would benefit by using during the new year. . . . We feel grateful to have the state president working with us in our auxiliary. She is truly a wonderful person. Her life is certainly that which would be much admired by all who know her. . . .

*Mrs. Van Clements, Jr.  
Dothan, Alabama*

from Arkansas

Our auxiliary really enjoys the wonderful programs in *Co-Laborer*. We especially enjoyed the one about Japan in last month's program. I am missions chairman in our local auxiliary. . . . Send me all you can on our missionaries both foreign and home, also some of the prayer cards.

*Delores Garrett  
Jacksonville, Arkansas*

I am president of our auxiliary, and at our last meeting we discussed sending something for the provision closet. We are wondering what is needed most at the present time. . . . I enjoy the *Co-Laborer* very much. I enjoy reading the reports about our missionaries, the good programs, and what the other auxiliaries are doing.

*Mrs. Oris Doggett  
Monticello, Arkansas*

from Florida

The Woman's Auxiliary of Beulah Free Will Baptist Church was organized and held its first meeting November 14, 1968. There were 12 charter members present. . . . Mrs. Dunman, a charter member of our church, has recently become ill and was unable to attend our meeting. She was voted a charter member of the auxiliary.

Our church has been organized for about 5½ years. God has richly blessed our church and to Him we owe the praise. We are in a building program and moved into our new building September 1, 1968. Our auxiliary is a member of the West Florida District Association. We are looking forward to receiving God's richest blessing through the women of our church working for God.

*Mrs. Charles H. Cofield  
Pensacola, Florida*

The ladies of the Orlando Free Will Baptist Church organized a Woman's Auxiliary (November 12, 1968). They would like to receive the nec-

essary literature and material they need to carry on the auxiliary in the right way and in the right spirit . . . .

*Roy C. Sanders  
Orlando, Florida*

#### **from Kentucky**

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Sandy City Free Will Baptist Church is sending Tupperware to the Missionary Provision Closet. Members of the group ordered 132 pieces through a tupperware representative. The order was \$54.21.

We hope that this Tupperware will aid some of our missionaries as they live and work for our Lord.

*Linda Christy  
Catlettsburg, Kentucky*

#### **from Missouri**

We are certainly enjoying our *Co-Laborer*. We had our Emphasis Program on Sunday night and it was a blessing to all of us.

*Mrs. Luther Gibson  
Mountain Grove, Missouri*

We continue to enjoy our *Co-Laborer* so very much. I usually read mine through as soon as I receive it.

*Mrs. Tom Carlson  
Myrtle, Missouri*

#### **from North Carolina**

Thank you so very much for a wonderful magazine – the *Co-Laborer*. It has so many informative writings in it. We get so much out of the monthly programs and the circle suggestions.

In the last quarter we found the directions for rolling bandages for the Mileys. We appealed to everyone to

bring their old sheets to the church and help roll bandages. We had great fellowship. This is a good project for churches that don't have a special one.

Keep up the good work and may God continue to give you good writers for our magazine.

*Mrs. S. J. Smyer  
New Bern, N. C.*

#### **from Ohio**

Our auxiliary in Toledo certainly appreciates the *Co-Laborer* magazine. It seems to be better with each issue, with so many helpful ideas and inspiring articles. We are also happy to report that our District here in north-western Ohio is making real progress. Thanks for your help and interest.

*Mrs. Charles Taylor  
Perrysburg, Ohio*

#### **from Oklahoma**

We do enjoy the programs in *Co-Laborer* and feel that it accounts in part for the steady interest in missions which our auxiliary has made.

*Mrs. Bill Barber  
Poteau, Oklahoma*

#### **from South Carolina**

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how much our auxiliary enjoys the *Co-Laborer*. We have a wonderful program-prayer chairman that does such a good job in bringing us the program each month . . . We especially enjoyed Mr. Wilson's article on "Except They Be Sent." The message really touched our hearts. May God bless you in the work there that you are doing for us here.

*Mrs. Waleah Carr  
Charleston Heights, S. C.*

# CIRCLE PROGRAMS

OR FOR SECOND AUXILIARY MEETING

by Inez Thompson

## APRIL / Three Gardens (Easter)

*Song:* "Beautiful Garden of Prayer";  
"In the Garden"

*Scripture:* Genesis 2:8; John 18:1;  
John 19:41

**T**HREE GARDENS are specifically mentioned in the Bible which were scenes of three great crises. They provide an interesting study for this time of year.

### The Garden of Eden

We are told that, "The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed." The word *garden* as used here comes from a word meaning *paradise* or *park*, that is, grounds made beautiful with trees, shrubs, and flowers. The word *Eden* means *delight*. Being such a paradise, it might be compared to that paradise of which Jesus spoke to the thief on the cross that day He committed His spirit into His Father's hands.

It was here the first man, Adam, was placed. But in spite of all the beautiful, natural surroundings, sin entered, Adam failed God, and death began to reign over the human race.

The companion God had created for Adam was skillfully led by Satan to question God's word. Such questioning is the opposite of faith. The very moment she began to doubt or mistrust God, Eve fell. The act of

taking forbidden fruit was evidence of that fall. She apparently used the same approach upon her husband when she gave some of the prohibited fruit to him.

Eve's punishment is recorded. "I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee" (Genesis 3:16). But a merciful God did not leave the race without the promise of a Redeemer who would face another test in another garden yet to be.

### The Garden of Gethsemane

The Garden of Gethsemane was a small plot of ground just outside Jerusalem, over the Brook Cedron, and near the foot of the Mount of Olives. Today, visitors report, Gethsemane is not an especially attractive place from a physical viewpoint. There are just a few gnarled and twisted old olive trees within an area about 50 paces square, surrounded by a low wall made of loose stones. Perhaps the Saviour did not choose to go there because of its beauty but because He needed a secluded, quiet spot where He could pray. It was here our Lord met His supreme test, and by His agonizing prayers drove back the forces of evil, drank the cup which His Father had given Him, and gained victory over sin and the flesh.

## The Garden of Joseph

Of the garden of Joseph, John wrote: "Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb wherein was never man yet laid." In spite of the skull-like hill of the crucifixion scene, this garden must have had some natural growth that relieved the utter barrenness that we usually associate with the place of that great tragedy. And yet the very fact that it was a burial place calls to mind the gloomy thoughts that we usually think in connection with death. We would not want to turn our flower gardens into cemeteries. When we walk through them we wish to think happy thoughts in accord with the beauty and fragrance of our gardens. Why did Joseph want to spoil his garden with a sepulcher and make it a garden of death?

Joseph was a devout believer in God. He had either seen or heard of Christ's raising others from the dead. Death, therefore, must have had no unpleasant associations for him. The grave was just a temporary abode for a body that would be resurrected. How happy he must have been when his garden of death — the scene of the crucifixion and burial of Christ — truly became the garden of life on the morning of the resurrection.

As we reflect on the meaning of these three gardens of the Bible, let us thank God that the blight of sin which brought so much evil to the world in the Garden of Eden was conquered in the Garden of Gethsemane. And that life which was lost in the first garden was gloriously restored in the third. "O death, where is thy sting! O grave, where is thy victory? ●

## MAY / Five Barley Loaves (Mother's Day)

*Song:* Select appropriate Mother's Day songs

*Scripture:* John 6:1-13

"There is a lad here who has five barley loaves," reported Andrew. It is safe to assume the lad's lunch was packed by his mother. Today let us consider those barley loaves as the symbols of other good things that a mother might give to her child.

The barley loaves were received from his mother; they were given to Jesus Who blessed them and gave them to the disciples. They were then distributed to the multitude.

How wonderful for the mother to give that which the Lord could use to satisfy the hunger of a multitude! Blessed by the Master, the loaves and bread became symbols of the love and compassion of God to a hungering world.

Think of what may be done through a mother's gift to her child. Recall Lincoln's words: "All that I am or hope to, be I owe to my angel mother." Using the figure of the barley loaves let us discuss some things which a good mother might give to her child.

### Respect for life

Along with this will come the keeping of the Golden Rule, unselfishness such as the lad showed in giving up his lunch, a sympathetic nature, kindness, and the ability to put oneself in the place of another in need. There are many opportunities in the ordinary daily schedule of the home to bestow this gift upon the children.

## Appreciation of values

When William Lyon Phelps was about to leave a home where he had been a boarder through the summer, a girl in the family thanked him for showing them the sunsets. Though these people had lived there many years they had never really been aware of the beauty about them. The appreciation of beauty is a wonderful gift to give a child. Where can a child acquire a real appreciation of work, books, music, literature and wealth, if not from his parents?

## A sense of law and order

This would include a sense of truth also. It can be woven into the fabric of home life so that it does not become harsh discipline, but as something which makes home a happy place in which to live.

Henry Brandt, in his book *Build A Happy Home with Discipline*, wrote: "Child discipline can be a pleasant task. There is a genuine joy in guiding a child toward becoming a mature, happy adult. You are a partner with God in making disciples of your children. It is your great privilege to lead your children to become followers of your example and of the Lord Jesus Christ."

## Knowledge of God

A child once asked his father: "Do you believe in God, Dad? I've never really known." One can easily guess that in this home there was no Bible reading, no family altar, no religious conversation and no church interest or loyalty. And yet the greatest need of the child was to know God. There is

deep hunger in the soul of the child.

"How that lad must have rushed home with his amazing story! That Teacher had fed everybody — hundreds and hundreds of people *with his lunch*. There were even basketfuls left over. Did he bring her any of those leftover pieces? Probably he never thought of it. But what treasure he brought her heart! Her loaves, her everyday loaves, passed through his hands and fed thousands of people. Who could ever have imagined anything so wonderful?

The Son of God still repeats that miracle with everyday things given to His use — words . . . commonplace tasks . . . small talents . . . fragments of time. There are lads all about us needing five loaves — of education, training, love — which they may take to the Son of God for his blessing, and then give to needy multitudes. Are we giving them the five loaves they need?"

There is no more rewarding feeling than to see one's child, now grown to manhood, facing life adequately, gallantly, in a Christian spirit, knowing you had a hand in equipping him for the tasks he faces.

## JUNE / Importance of Little Things

*Song:* "Help Somebody Today"

*Scripture:* Mark 9:41

Most of us do not handle the large affairs of the world in distant places. Rather, we deal with small matters in shops, stores, offices, schools, or in our homes. We are involved in significant commonplaces from dawn to dark.

Our Lord was very conscious of the significant commonplaces of life.

Much of His thinking centered in them because much of life revolved around them. Toiling in the carpenter shop in Nazareth He understood how deeply life is involved in "the daily grind" of common everyday tasks, and that life's essential meaning must be found in the ordinary.

### Importance of Little Things

Our lives become meaningful only when we begin to recognize the importance of those little things that make the big difference. The *cup of cold water* offered in kindness to a thirsty traveler seems like an unimportant matter, but in the thinking of Jesus it is of immense significance. The mustard seed . . . The leaven . . . the widow's mite — little things keep endlessly adding up to big things. Small duties accepted gratefully and performed with faithfulness invite larger responsibilities.

### Little Things Neglected

Little things neglected can make a big difference. Small duties carelessly done and little words not spoken make a vast difference. Only the Lord knows how many homes are falling apart for lack of small words spoken and little deeds not done. Psychologists tell us that children fall into delinquency not because parents are bad, but because children feel a lack of love at home.

Many people who today are "not far from the kingdom of heaven" will miss heaven. The rich young ruler who came to Jesus inquiring what he must do to inherit eternal life received the reply from the Lord, "*One thing thou lackest . . .*" (Mark 10:21). He was not far from the kingdom of

God . . . yet went away sadly rather than do the one thing he lacked.

How many of us are "not far from the Kingdom of God"? We are separated by the significant commonplace things we do not recognize or by the things we so often ignore. We just miss it by a shade. We are *nearly* considerate of others, only mildly inconsiderate. We are *not* quite loyal to our Lord, mostly in small things. We *almost* pay our tithes. We are *fairly* regular at church. Perhaps someday we will learn that it is the little things that make the big difference, and leave us far from the Kingdom of God. A poet said, "A little more, and how much it is . . . a little less, and what worlds away."

### God in Little Things

God has promised to meet his children where 'two or three are gathered together in His name.' At home, in business conferences, in school, at work, wherever we meet for the sake of truth or love, He is there. Our seeking God pursues us in our going out and coming in, in apartment laundries or lobbies, on production lines or in business affairs. When we fail or in those moments when irritations and hurts make us aware of our bumbling egos, He honors us with his presence.

God finds us when we are willing to concede our insignificance and His greatness. God finds us when we lose sight of ourselves for the sake of His Kingdom.

*"Others may do a greater work,  
But you have your part to do;  
And no one in all God's heritage  
Can do it so well as you."* ●

# Mother's Day in Africa

by W. Harold Fuller



**T**HE GUANT WOMAN before me held a scrawny bit of humanity not yet old enough for the dark pigmentation to color its skin. Her husband, garbed in the loose cloth of a pagan farmer, stood beside her beaming.

"She's had twenty pregnancies," the mission nurse told me. "But this is her first baby to live."

Then I noticed, in spite of the happiness of the event, the drawn lines around her mouth and the deep hurt in her eyes. And for a moment I understood what motherhood means to many a woman in Africa.

In developed parts of the continent women have status and certain privileges, although rarely equality with men. But unfortunately there are other millions for whom life is a tiresome burden.

Among these, motherhood may come to a child wife at the age of 14, and for the rest of her child-bearing days her role is to provide her husband with as many children as possible.

There's a grim reason for that.

"Women just have to get as many children as possible during the reproductive period, for who knows what the future has in store?" writes an African expert, Dr. Tunji Otegbeye.

In lands where the infant death rate ranges from 30 to 80% per hundred, and where child mortality is fifty percent or over, childbirth is bound to take place in a mixed atmosphere of joy and sorrow, hope and fear.

Trouble begins in pregnancy. At the time when their undernourished bodies need all the protein they can get, religious taboos may forbid mothers to eat meat and eggs and drink milk. Miscarriage and maternal death rates are high as a result of anemia.

Most illiterate women who do come to the day of delivery must still face the ordeal of prodding and probing by superstitious grannies and "medicine men." Complications may arise from earlier female circumcision. Many difficult cases are brought reluctantly to the mission station only as a last resort, sometimes after the woman has been in labor several days and fetish treatment has done irreparable damage.

## Mother Love

African mothers love their children. They bounce their babies on their knees and coo to them just like mothers anywhere in the world. But ignorance and tradition make many of them maltreat their offspring. Some babies are not weaned for two years, long after the mother's milk can nourish them. Forced feeding at meal time is, as one African author put it, an "excruciating ritual."

A child of illiterate parents may be punished by having pepper rubbed in its eyes; his open sores may be treated with cow dung. In one especially backward area a mother explained that the tick in her baby's ear probably came from the dog she was suckling

along with her child.

The result of such conditions is more misery for the mother as she watches her ailing child, convinced that evil spirits are draining away its life or that one of her husband's other wives has bewitched the child. Accusation, resentment, jealousy, and fear rack the home.

In all her misery of mind and body, the average pagan woman must suffer in abject loneliness. Just when she needs understanding help, her husband may charge her with putting an "evil eye," on the children. When, because of undernourishment and fatigue, she cannot bear children, she sees another woman take her place as favorite wife.

#### A Vassel

Her worth is measured in productivity. She is a vassal to be employed, enjoyed, used, abused, or discarded. Under such conditions the character-building influence of respected motherhood is missing. The spiritual qualities of marriage relations and home life are unknown.

This results from the male attitude toward women in lands where honor for the "weaker vessel" has not been learned from the Word of God. Muslim women are taught that their salvation depends on their husband's merits. Pagan women learn that they have no souls to be saved.

All this makes Christian work among women discouraging. Men come forward more quickly than women and — in contrast to Western lands — from the majority of church members at first. Only prayer and patience bring women out of the darkness, and too easily they slip back into the shadows of environment and

tradition. However, where the Gospel has become rooted in the hearts of women, a new strong force has arisen in the church and community.

#### Christian Mother

This report would be misleading if it gave the impression that all African women fitted the above description. I have been in spotless Christian homes which echo with the laughter of healthy children. In modern centers, I have met African women doctors, journalists, and lawyers, and have been entertained by gracious housewives with all the charm of the best hostesses back in my hometown.

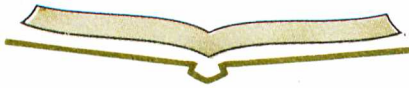
But what I have said is true of pitiable multitudes of women away from the centers of progress. Reports of these things are being written in Africa's newspapers today by thinking African men and women who realize the miserable plight of their sisters, and want to do something about it. These women need the prayers of Christians everywhere and the uplifting power of the gospel of Christ in their lives.

A fleeting glimpse of what it can mean to be a mother in Africa came to me that day as I looked into the face of a woman who held her first live baby after nineteen bitter experiences. A new light was creeping into her face. Her reproach had been taken away; the "evil spirits" who had been snatching her babies had been rebuked. And the nurse had said that Jesus-God actually loved her. Maybe it was true after all.

That to me was a triumphant "Mother's Day" in Africa.

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## STUDY COURSE TIPS



By Violet Cox

For this quarter, I suggest your using the book *Saved to Serve*, by Roy Howell, for your study course. It is an excellent book on stewardship. It's my opinion that stewardship needs to be stressed and taught whenever possible. This book not only instructs but *inspires* its readers to action. It encourages giving — not just the giving of money, but the giving of time, talents, and lives. This is a much better book for study than the average. At the end of each of the ten chapters there are several questions designed as "discussion starters." An excellent list of books for outside reading is included that deal with the subject of stewardship.

There are many excellent illustrations in this book that you will read with satisfaction and appreciation.

There are prayers in this book and there is poetry. Roy Howell's ideas are sure to leave a mark on you, your auxiliary, and your church. One thing that I particularly like about this book is the way it so easily correlates with the Bible. Many Biblical examples are cited.

*Saved to Serve* is a wonderful little book! It is worth far more than the \$1.95 that it costs. Order a copy for each of your auxiliary members today from WNAC, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee, 37202.

## APRIL / Today's Woman In Africa

Use an "interrupted announcement" to advertise your Auxiliary meeting in Sunday school. Two ladies present this. The first lady attempts to make an announcement. The second, who has been concealed, steps out, holds up animal posters, and interrupts. Animal pictures for the posters may be found in periodicals.

*First lady:* (holds up calendar with date for auxiliary meeting circled in red) The superintendent said I might announce our auxiliary meeting to be held (place and date), and . . .

*Second lady:* (holds poster with lions) . . . and we're not a-lyin' . . . We want you to come.

*First lady:* As I was saying, our program is about *Today's Woman in Africa* and . . .

*Second lady:* (poster with monkeys) No monkey business now. We expect you to be present.

*First lady:* You will learn many new things about our work there so . . .

*Second lady:* (poster with giraffe) Stretch your mind like a giraffe stretches its neck, and learn something.

*First lady:* This lesson was written by Lorene Miley, missionary to the Ivory Coast and she certainly knows what . . .

*Second lady:* (poster with hippos) Don't be dull as a hippopotamus. Come and learn something.

*First lady:* (disgustedly) I'm about ready to give up this announcement, but the place for our meeting is (names it), and . . .

*Second lady:* (poster with elephant) Like the elephant, don't forget.

*First lady:* (speaks faster) And the time is (gives time), so . . .

*Second lady:* (poster with deer) Be a dear, and come!

*Both ladies in unison:* . . . to our AUXILIARY MEETING!

### MAY / A House . . . Or a Home?

This month's program is planned to emphasize Christian Home Month and National Family Week. You may wish to assign the article "Mother's Day in Africa" as a special feature.

Poster suggestion: Use a border of pictures of kitchen utensils, appliances, furniture, or various kinds of houses, with this message, "A House . . . or a Home? Come to the Woman's Auxiliary meeting and see." Add place, time, and date.

The devotional setting may be a small loaf of bread, or a plate of biscuits at one side of a small table and a large white candle by an open Bible at the other side.

If refreshments are served have a centerpiece of brushes, spoons, and other kitchen gadgets arranged as flowers in a mixing bowl.

Family worship pledge cards (lovely pastel-tinted) 5 X 8 inches, with a commitment for husband and wife to sign, pledging to read the Bible, may be ordered from WNAC at 60¢ per dozen. Tracts, *The Importance of the Family Altar*, are available at 25 for 25¢. Please inclose 25¢ postage and handling charge on all small orders.

### JUNE / A Missionary Looks At Animism

#### Stations

1. Doropo
2. Bouna
3. Lauodi-Ba
4. Bondoukou
5. Goumere
6. Koun
7. Abidjan
8. Bouake (School)

#### Missionaries

Lorene and LaVerne Miley  
Sandra and Eddie Payne  
Bernice and Lonnie Palmer  
Anita and Lonnie Sparks  
Sarah and Archie Mayhew  
Joy and Bill Jones  
Janie and Jimmy Aldridge  
Bessie and Norman Richards

Draw a large map of Ivory Coast and write in the mission stations listed above. Check your current missionary directory to see where each missionary is laboring. Pray for the needs of each field.

Who am I, you ask?  
Call me Old Woman.  
If you looked into my eyes  
(don't, for I may have the Evil Eye)  
you would know my story.  
Toil, pain, labor, sorrow —  
these I have known.  
Now I wait for death —  
what else is there to wait for?  
I can no longer bear children.  
I wait for death with my companions:  
the shadows of yesterday,  
the spirits of today;  
the fears of tomorrow.  
But do not pity me; this is my lot.  
I am a woman.

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APRIL

## TODAY'S WOMAN IN AFRICA

by Lorene Miley

*Song:* "Jesus Calls Us"

*Meditations:* John 4:7-14 (Assign in Advance)

*Pray:* for World Missions

**T**HE WOMAN in Africa is not stereotyped. Her tribe, region, and circumstances are all involved in making her a distinct individual. Over a period of time, we see almost all types in our medical clinic.

Sometimes when we aren't too terribly busy, I pull up a stool by the doctor's consultation desk and just observe the women who come through. I notice their dress, speech, actions, manner of response. I watch how they deal with their children and their relationship with their husbands. I've come to this conclusion: Women are women the world over. Often I see in them certain things that remind me of a specific person I know in the States.

It is in knowing intimately a person that we really come to understand her and know best how we can influence that person for Christ. I'd like to introduce you to that woman in Africa so that you may come to know her in a more intimate manner. Only then can you decide how you might best influence her to become your sister in Christ.



## A WIFE AND MOTHER

Actually, the order is reversed. For the bridal price is not usually paid until the young girl has become a mother. What we term illegitimate birth has no such stigma here. Pregnancy only makes a girl more desirable.

The woman in Africa exists to bear children, and the role of the male is to make it possible. In our years at the clinic, we've had numerous women come seeking help to be able to bear children or to have more children (and in many cases the youngest was still nursing), yet we've only had one who wanted something to prevent conception. She had nearly died from a caesarean section.

Children – from their conception to death – is the major subject of all female conversation.

We think of the wife in her role of companion and helpmeet. Our relationship with our husband is often as much a spiritual one as physical. We

see little of it here. In addition to her role in bearing children, she also aids in the heavy and continuous work of feeding the family, sowing and harvesting the crops, grinding, pounding and cooking the food, making pots and baskets. A never ending stream of work.

In this respect we share a kinship with the African woman. We, too, are wives and mothers. We bear children in the same manner and work hard to see that our family's needs are met. But here the similarity ends. Why?

We can never underestimate the magic of love. Love for a person or task changes the picture completely. Perhaps, just perhaps, there are women who enjoy scrubbing and waxing the kitchen floor for the sheer joy of having a clean floor. For others, the greatest thrill in all this labor is knowing that someone she loves is going to appreciate it.

Oh, our poor, tired, unloved African women! Old before the age of 30, bodies ravaged by disease and child bearing. What can we do to help you? If they would genuinely and personally experience the love of God, an overwhelming love spilling into every facet of their every day living. They would no longer just be slaves, but they would become exuberant wives and mothers with the magic of love casting a sacred aura over the most menial tasks.

## A SINGER AND DANCER

Our Lobi tribe is not noted for its singing ability, as you would readily note in our church services. But other tribes definitely are. The expression of aspirations and values – social, political, economic and religious – is

marked in African song. Too, they've learned that you can say publicly in song what you cannot say privately to a man's face.

A group of women workers on a plantation were displeased with some of the working conditions. They continued their work as the owner passed by, but they made their point, too. Using traditional melodic and rhythmic songs, they presented to the owner these grievances through song texts improvised on the spot.

Dancing, especially among the women, is an integral part of virtually every tribe in Africa. I'm not sure anything will ever change it. Education hasn't. Neither has progress or so-called civilization. And, to a certain extent, neither has the New Birth taken this rhythm out of their blood stream.

One night we had a most unusual service. The spirit of God was present in the open air meeting and voices lifted in praises to God. Suddenly we observed, as we had on other occasions, there were those on the verge of dancing. It is in this manner that the African woman is accustomed to express her inner thoughts, emotions and feelings toward outward circumstances. It still isn't quite clear to me to what extent we should deny them this or through what substitute channels to direct this inbred desire of expression.

## A PERIOD OF CHANGE

"You just have to see it to believe it," is the way one newly returned missionary describes the changes which had occurred in his adopted land during his furlough. It's amazing, simply astounding, the progress that is

being made in most independent African countries today. And the women, too, are being swept along in this tremendous change.

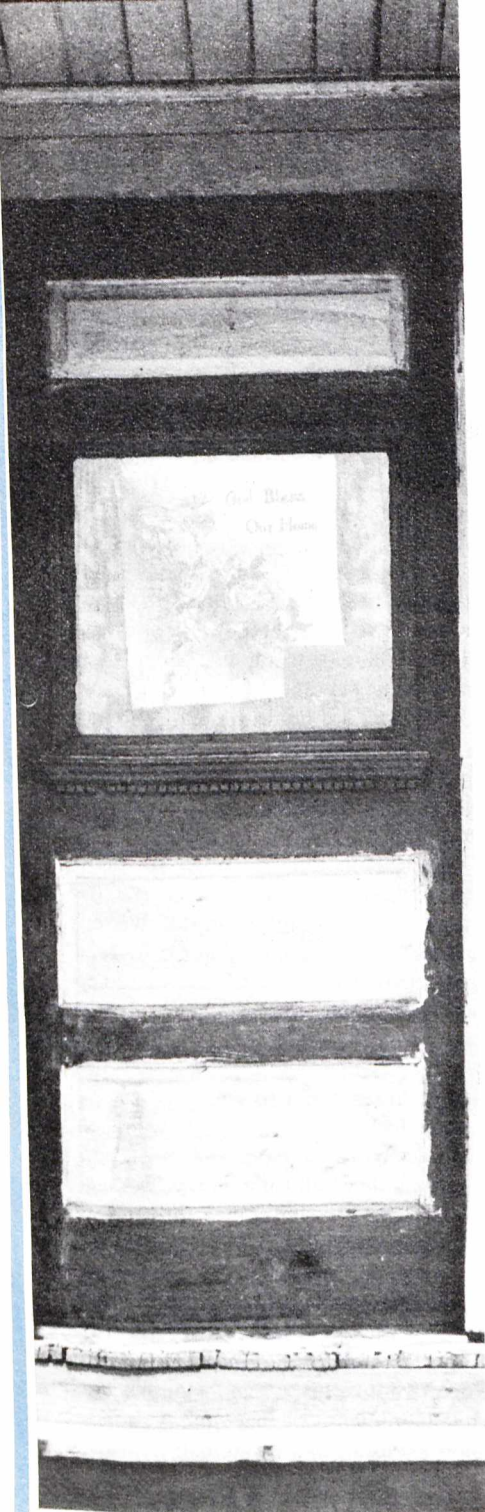
Nationalism has created a middle class composed of teachers, lawyers, doctors, clergy, traders and well-to-do farmers. In this society, the wife (and there is only *one*) is attractive, well-dressed and educated, a charming hostess and guest.

Since independence, assaults are being made on ignorance. More and more opportunities exist for an education. Schools are free except for books, classroom supplies and uniforms. When we first came to Doropo seven years ago, there were only two girls in the entire school. Today there must be nearly 25.

Assaults are being made on sickness with opportunities for girls to train as nurses and midwives. The government offers free training and a placement program.

We as missionaries hope to adapt the African woman to meet the demands of a complex world. We encourage her to go to school, to read and write. We teach her how to keep her body clean and what measures to take to prevent sickness in her family. We try, as impossible as it sometimes seems, to teach her to sew.

But most important of all, we teach her the Word of God, the most necessary guide of all for a happy, well-adjusted life. As she comes into a personal relationship with Christ, we seek to show her how she can relate this experience to her own culture. And underneath all these efforts is the basic, undergirding principle of love. For without this warm, genuine and vital ingredient, we become as sound-ing brass or a tinkling cymbal.



MAY

## A HOUSE . . . OR A HOME?

by Cleo Pursell

*Song:* "Break Thou the Bread of Life"

*Devotional:* The Home in Bethany  
(Luke 10:38-42)

*Pray:* for World Missions

**T**HE WOMEN of today have many demands on their time with few moments of idleness. Some of these demands may lead to a neglect of home. The homemaker is admonished in Scripture to "Look well to the ways of her household." Her example as a Christian is her most effective way of making her *house* a *home*—a citidel of faith and love.

*Camerique Photos*

Without family ties, neither the government nor the church could exist. The family is not only basic to the church but to our democratic way of life. As our homes go, so go the nation and the schools.

### EXAMPLE

When God started a nation He began with a *home* (Genesis 18:17-19). Abraham was not only the father of a nation but the father of a great spiritual family as well (Galatians 3:6-9). The Lord said of Abraham, "But I *know* him . . . that he will command his children." Abraham had no Bible to guide him but he did teach his children the way to approach God through sacrifice and faith. Isaac must have been trained in this respect (Genesis 22:5-7).

Abraham did not command his children as a tyrant, but by the power of a consistent life. Some parents today try to train children to be honest, upright citizens but fail to set the right example. A mother was brokenhearted when she overheard profanity from the lips of her small boy. She sent him to his room to await the arrival of the father who would administer the necessary punishment. When the father arrived and heard the story he started upstairs two steps at a time. "I'll teach Jimmy to curse," he said. As he reached the top step he tripped and fell and the air was blue for a moment with his remarks. The mother called, "I think you had better come back down Daddy — you have taught Jimmy enough for one day."

A man once said that he was not going to teach his children one way or another "in matters of religion." He was going to give them the oppor-

tunity to choose for themselves. But by his indifference toward the things of God he trained them to be indifferent. He went to church when convenient — they observed him and did the same. He discredited the Word of God by seldom reading it — they followed his example. No, he did not *teach* them these things, but he gave them the attitudes, values, and beliefs by which they live and that's their religion.

How different where parents, as Abraham, train by precept and godly example. The little fellow who watched his mother every day slip into a quiet room and close the door, noticed afterwards there was always dented covers on one side of the bed and a look of peace in her eyes. He was being trained in a life of prayer.

The family which endured difficulties with a calm quiet trust in God without worry or fret — when the baby was desperately ill; when money was low and also the flour bin; when the mortgage was due and the crop failed — trained their family in a life of *faith*.

A deacon once said, "I am glad that on Sunday morning in our house nobody asks, 'Well, what are we going to do today?'" That question was settled long ago. Our family goes to church on Sunday."

### TIME TOGETHER

The average family today has too little time together. Typical is the story of a modern girl who said to a real estate agent seeking to sell her a home. "A *home*! Why do I need a home? I was born in a hospital, educated in a school, courted in an automobile and married in a church. I

live out of the delicatessen and paper bags, I spend my mornings on the golf course and my evenings at the movies, and when I die I will be buried by the undertaker. All I need is a garage."

Many homes have become simply little more than an eating place and a dormitory. However, in spite of these conditions the home is still an important factor in human affairs and the family needs more time together to strengthen its influence.

### FAMILY ALTARS

Daily worship in a family is a great unifying spiritual factor. The tension and hurry of modern life places a strain on family relationships. Days are crowded with activities, homes are crowded with people, radio and television programs are constantly blaring, placing a heavy strain upon minds and emotions. Both young and old need periods of quiet meditation in which God's Word is read and prayer is made. Family altars solve many problems, dissolve misunderstandings, and help relieve the friction which sometimes intrudes into the home.

The family altar very often largely determines the salvation of children (read 2 Timothy 3:15-17), and will be a steady force to youth as they leave the parental roof.

### HOUSE OR HOME?

We live in a land of beautiful, modern homes with many conveniences. Any good carpenter can build a house, but it takes Christ to make a home. The first prerequisite of a Christian home is trust in Christ

Jesus. A Christian home is built by those who have a definite experience of salvation with the Lord.

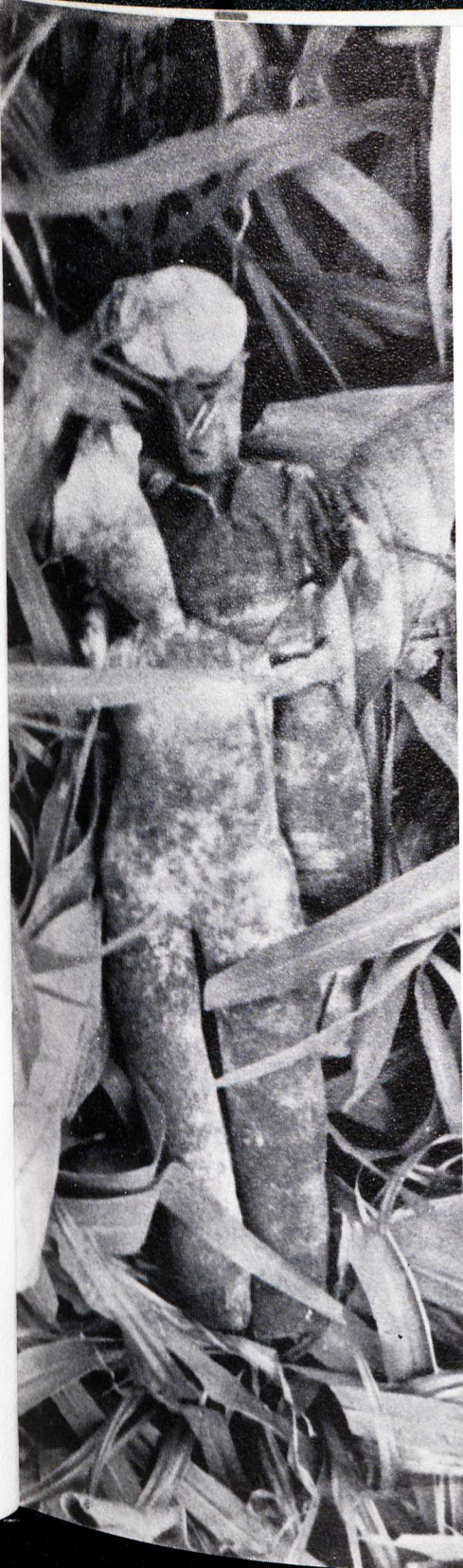
Then there must be faith—a daily dependence on Him for the necessities of life. There must be mutual love and understanding between each member of the family.

Church loyalty is also important. The Christian family supports the church not only with their finances but with their presence. We have all kinds of remedies for national and social ills, but a filled family pew in God's house on the Lord's day is the best cure for a family, a city, or a nation. The best antidote for communism, industrial unrest and broken homes is the faithful Christian family.

When buying a new house most folk examine the foundation. What use are fine walls without sound footings? Yet many homes are built upon the sand today. (Matthew 7:24-27).

The responsibility of being a home-maker is tremendous. Is your home built upon the solid Rock? Can it withstand the storms? Is it safe? Is your faith a vital, practical faith that is part of your everyday living?

A house is built of bricks and  
stones  
Of sills and posts and piers;  
But a home is built of loving  
deeds  
That stand a thousand years.  
The men of earth build houses—  
halls  
And chambers, roofs, and domes—  
But the women of the earth—God  
knows  
The women build the homes.



JUNE

## A MISSIONARY LOOKS AT ANIMISM

by Lonnie Sparks

*Song:* "O Zion Haste"

*Devotional:* Acts 17:22-31 (Assign in advance)

*Pray:* for World Missions

**A**LADY RISES early in the village of Lenagari and goes out to clean off a little path leading from the bush road to a small tree. This is a daily routine, and occasionally she makes an offering there.

In Kauame's uncle's courtyard a small branch is stuck in the ground; cowry shells are tied to the top twigs and broken glass embedded in the ground about it. Every Friday, a sacrifice is made here.

We are forbidden to fish in the

stream between our home and the village because the souls of ancestors inhabit the fish.

The ladies of a family pass by the fetish house, making a curtsy and saying, "Thank you, fetish, thank you, fetish." A baby was born last week and the fetish was responsible.

Someone has died of tuberculosis and we are told that God did it. So to these people God is responsible for death and the fetish for life. The Bible says, "In him is life."

Why do they offer a sacrifice to a small branch? Because they believe in the spirit world and are concerned that the spirits favor them. They may believe in a Creator God, but He is far removed from them and would not harm them. Therefore, they turn to the spirit or spirits which can bring evil upon them and try to appease them. This type of worship is commonly referred to as animism (an'e'miz'm).

Animism simply defined is "the belief that animals, trees, rocks, and other natural objects have souls."

## ANIMISM AND NATURISM

Naturism or nature worship should be considered in a study of animism. According to one authority, animism is an aspect of nature worship. Not all nature worship is animistic, however.

This respect for inanimate objects may seem foolish to the western mind, but one must realize how deeply rooted these fears are. The Bible speaks of the incongruity of the animists' actions. (Isaiah 44:13-19).

## ANIMISM AND CHRISTIANITY

It is hard to realize the intensity of the fear which grips the heart of the

animist. Even to those who believe that there is a chief god, he is not a god to be feared. He is not a god interested in the affairs of man. Hence there is no need to placate him. They will quickly say that they worship God, but their actions do not support it. They believe new life comes from the fetish but when one dies, God is the responsible one.

The animist who becomes a Moslem or a Roman Catholic often remains basically an animist. The outright animist buys charms and masks from the Moslem. The mask used by the secret society in Goumère, where we labor, was purchased from a Moslem. In our town one can usually find a Moslem selling charms and medicine, and some Moslem men wear a leather charm about their arm above the elbow.

One who works with animists must learn the way the animist thinks so he can help the new believer overcome fears and superstitions. He must be taught to ask the Holy Spirit to renew his mind that he "may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2).

When someone dies, the question is asked, "Who did it?" Five poles are tied together. Hair and finger and toe nails of the deceased are attached to these poles which are carried before the elders on the heads of two men, one following the other. The one preceding answers questions concerning the death as if he were the dead person himself. In the olden days, if a witch was responsible, he was killed.

When someone is accused of something, they drink a potion which may be poison. If they live, they are innocent, but if they die, they are guilty.

One authority says that "perhaps the most amazing thing is the fact that many accused people will so readily offer to drink the cup, having implicit faith in its validity. Of course, each man knows that even though seemingly innocent, he may die. But this does not destroy his faith in the ordeal, because he believes that though he has no knowledge of having perpetrated the crime, he might have done the deed in a dream, or he might be one of those unfortunate persons who is a witch without knowing it."

Even though one who is designated a witch is not put to death, it is often difficult for him to continue to live in the village because of disgrace.

The fetish priest usually tries to find out why a person is ill or has misfortune. Once a little boy told his mother that he had lost an article of clothing. The fetish priest told the boy's mother that it had been stolen. Later the boy confessed to his mother that he had actually torn it while playing and it had not been stolen.

According to Warneck the decisive marks of animism are these: lies, ignorance, estrangement from God, bondage, selfishness, immorality, and worldliness of disposition. He who preaches Christ to these must know that though their "sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18). The blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse them from all sin.

Many of those who desire that the Church be African no doubt want what is best for those involved. We cannot and should not try to take them out of their culture, but we must teach them all what God has to say about a Christian culture. So much of

their culture is anti-Christian. The evils of their way of life must be pointed out straightforwardly. However, one must be sure that the Bible supports the changes. Pagan opposition to Christians who offer change can be cruel. This is especially true of long funerals to which the animist is sensitive. Many customs dovetail into pagan worship and Christians are sometimes compelled to practice them. But the Gospel offers them deliverance from their fears; superstition and hopelessness. Their gods are helpless because, "The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not, eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths" (Psalms 135:15-17).

But our God lives and Christ ever lives to make intercession. We, too, believe there is a spiritual world. The devil and his hosts are there. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). Yet God Himself is a spirit and is able to deliver us.

Millions live in heathen darkness, sickness and hunger. They suffer here and will suffer in the other world unless you and I find our places in His plan.

If God calls you to go, do not refuse. To you who go, let me say, spend time in the Word, in prayer. This world's knowledge may help you, but an intimate knowledge of Him is indispensable. To the extent you know Him, to that extent you can make Him known to others.

*(Adapted)*



## MISSION TO THE MILITARY

**W**HO CARES? As young men in the Armed Forces experience their first long separation from home, strange new environments, new temptations, days and hours of waiting to face the very real possibility of disabling injury or sudden death, they frequently ask this question.

Of course God cares. Most parents, wives, relatives, and sweethearts care. Others may care enough to send an occasional letter or cake and candy at Christmas. But do we *really* care? Unfortunately, many times when a young man leaves his home, community, and church, we show little interest in him – “out of sight, out of mind.”

This is tragic. During this crucial time these men need encouragement, perhaps more than at any other time in life. We have a *mission to the military!*

The Christian serviceman is an ambassador for Christ – a representative of the church in a new field. Whether saved or not he is doing a job for his country and needs our spiritual support to remind him that we *care*.

### What Can We Do?

There needs to be better communication between the men in service and their home churches. We can send them church bulletins, newsletters, pastoral letters, tracts and other religious literature. Periodically, tapes of home church services and greeting

from church members could be sent. The serviceman can almost always find access to the chaplains' section tape recorder. But personal letters are most welcome. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "You can talk all you want about USO shows and the like as morale boosters . . . but there are two things that keep up the serviceman's morale more than any other — warm socks and letters from home."

The birthdays of service personnel should be remembered by cards and possibly gifts of homemade cookies or candy. Of course, such gifts are especially appreciated at Christmas time.

A mailing list of several hundred Free Will Baptist servicemen is maintained in the National Home Missions Office. These names are sent by interested relatives or pastors. Each month the servicemen are mailed a copy of the "Shield of Faith." Many booklets of various subjects to help encourage them to live a Christian life are included with monthly mailings.

Every few months a list is made of the servicemen who are serving on bases in the United States. Names and addresses of the men are divided according to state and this list of names is mailed to state promotional men who in turn forward the names to the pastors located near military bases. This helps the servicemen stay in contact with a local Free Will Baptist church. If the mailing list indicates that more than one Free Will Baptist serviceman is stationed on the same base, the men are notified from the Home Missions Office of the presence of other Free Will Baptists on their base.

The second suggestion is that people at home need to pray more for

the men in service. One young serviceman said: "Chaplain, the folks at my home church have been praying for me and writing to me even though I've strayed. I thank God for that because they've not only helped me to decide to become a Christian but also to serve God with my whole life. I'm surrendering myself to preach the gospel as soon as I finish my tour of duty!"

Perhaps we should pray as Clark Poling, one of the chaplains who lost his life when the *Dorchester* was sunk during World War II. He wrote home long before the ship went down — "I know I shall have your prayers, but please don't pray simply that God will keep me safe. War is a dangerous business. Pray that God will make me adequate."

### Missionaries to the Military

Evangelical chaplains that declare faithfully God's Word also need a place in our prayers. Can you imagine the vast mission field that is theirs? The many opportunities they have as military "pastor" to the nation's millions of soldiers to touch lives that are open to the claims of the gospel?

Especially remember to pray for the Free Will Baptist chaplains and men who are in seminary preparing for a ministry in the chaplaincy: Captain Gerald M. Mangham who is now in Viet Nam; Rev. Rashie Kennedy, Sr., Texas Civil Air Patrol; and Rev. Melvin Worthington, Mississippi National Guard; Rev. Walt E. Golding in training at Grace Seminary, Ashland, Ohio, as a Navy Chaplain Seminarian; and Rev. Larry Cusick attending a seminary in Indiana to further prepare himself for the chaplaincy. ●

## PEOPLE WHO CARE

by Opal Hatcher, Personal Service-Evangelism Chairman, WNAC



**T**HE PERSONAL service chairman's mission is dependent upon *people who care* as Auxiliary members, who live the Christian message in every area of life.

Christ, both by His teachings and by His example, set the pattern for Christians of all generations. He said His mission was one of service to others: "Whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:43-45).

Jesus specifically pointed out His mission to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, to make possible the recovery of sight to the blind, and to set at liberty them that are bruised (Luke 4:18). A summary statement of Jesus' ministry described it as a life spent in service — He "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38).

People in the twentieth century who need special witness and ministry are everywhere: the international student at the university or the woman, whom nobody knows, dying of cancer in the hospital — the lonely widow across town — the sick and shut-in in the community — the imprisoned — the serviceman on the base of the edge of town — the woman who cannot read or write — the people in nursing homes.

These persons and others of special need or circumstance will not be reached for the church unless they are given extra attention. Personal service-evangelism combines both witness and ministry in a specialized approach to the needs of persons. In working to meet the total needs of others in personal service, the Christian is spiritually rewarded; and a church extends its outreach.

Local personal service-evangelism chairmen should make sure that all Auxiliary members know how to lead a soul to Christ. Time spent instructing members on some *do's* and *don'ts* in dealing with mankind will be rewarding and worthwhile for the auxiliary.

The WNAC office has in stock two filmstrips, *How to Visit the Unsaved* and *How to Visit the Sick and Sorrowing* that will be valuable to use in your Auxiliary study. These filmstrips are yours to be used on a small freewill offering basis.

Our Free Will Baptist Chaplain, Gerald Mangham, suggests that each church send the servicemen of the church a *serviceman's packet* which might contain a steelbacked New Testament, a small book of prayers, (Upper Room Publishers have some excellent ones for servicemen) and perhaps a box of stationary. It might also include a card imprinted with the name of an individual of the church who might be contacted for any special need.

The Lord has done so much for us, let Him use your life for His glory. ●

# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR GIRLS

The first leadership training program for older teen girls will make its debut in July, 1969, at Hillmont. Participants will study, work, and play together in a unique learning and sharing experience. There will be learning experiences to develop personal poise and skill in the role of a Free Will Baptist woman in the local church and camp. Opportunities will be provided to make a personal investment in the development of our National Leadership Training Center. There will be exciting times of fun games, outdoor sports, and nature crafts.

Capacity of Hillmont permits the registration of only thirty-two girls for this exciting two-week program of leadership development. Selections will be made on the basis of high qualifications. When circumstances demand, the earliest postmark will also be considered. Any Free Will Baptist girl between the ages of fifteen and eighteen may request an application.

Those selected for this unique training opportunity will report on Sunday afternoon, July 20, 1969, between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. The program will conclude on Saturday, August 2, 1969. Total cost for the fourteen day program is \$85. Included in the tuition are all necessary cost, special materials, and insurance. No money should be sent when requesting an application. A deposit will be required with registration.



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