

CO-LABORER

OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER 1969

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Free Will Baptist Bible College

*My Congressman
Washington, D.C.*



WOMAN POWER — AMERICAN STYLE

STUDY COURSE TIPS



By Violet Cox, WNAC Study Course Chairman

Our new Study Course list contains some of the best books ever recommended to our WNAC members.

I would like to recommend for this quarter an ideal book for a missions study course, *In A Barley Field* by J. Vernon McGee. Dr. McGee has had wide experience as a pastor author, conference speaker and radio teacher. He gives a little different emphasis to missions. He stresses the need for a kinsmen-redeemer, and that is what we have in the *Book of Ruth*. Love is the force that drives us to witness to the ends of the earth, yet the word "love" is never mentioned in the book of Ruth. "To many people, the business of missions has come to mean a cold business transaction, devoid of any personal element. God did not buy man in the slave market of sin as a chattel is bought and sold. Redemption is not the story of a sharp trader who made a profitable investment in the marts of trade. No, a thousand times no! Redemption is the love story of a kinsman who did not count the cost nor figure up the profit and loss but for joy paid an exorbitant price for one that he loved. The *Book of Ruth* declares that redemption is not a business transaction but a love affair."

You will find that this is not only a unique missions book, but also a won-

derful Bible study. I recommend it as a standard study course. Now here are some suggestions for this study course on missions:

A.) Have a group of your ladies or perhaps a group of your teenagers act out the story of Ruth and Boaz. This could be practiced after the first three nights of your study course, and then presented on the last night. The long flowing costumes would be very simple to make.

B.) Assign this activity on the very first night. Have each lady to write a short theme on "Why I Would Like For God To Call My Children to be Missionaries." This is a real soul searcher, and will be sure to add meaning to your study course. Read several of these on the last night. It isn't necessary to mention names.

C.) Write to a missionary on an air mail form letter after the close of each night's study. Try to choose a different country for each night so that at the end of the study you will have communicated with missionaries from the four corners of the earth. You may purchase *In A Barley Field* from the WNAC office in Nashville for 95¢ per copy.

WNAC's new study course chairman is Mrs. Mary Dooley, 5416 Ballentine Pike, Springfield, Ohio 45502.

IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
Stateside	2
Co-Laborers Write	9
Highlights: Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, 1969	11
Circle Programs	12
Ideas for Your Program	15
October Program	16
November Program	19
December Program	22
Pre-Thanksgiving Season of Prayer Programs	25
Pre-Christmas Season of Prayer Programs	29



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STATESIDE

THE STORY OF WOMEN IN ACTION



Honored Member

Mrs. Maud (Mimi) Hunt, a regular member and faithful attendant of the New Home Woman's Auxiliary, Tulsa, Oklahoma, celebrated her 90th birthday on March 16, 1969.

Her "preacher son" delivered the morning message at the church, and Mrs. Hunt gave her testimony. Open House was held at her home, and about 150 friends and relatives from five states called on her. Two huge birthday cakes were baked especially for her.

Mrs. Hunt moved to Indian Territory (in what is now Oklahoma) in 1902 with her husband and children in a covered wagon. She remembers seeing Indians ride up and down streets of her city shooting off pistols, and on various occasions saw such well-known Oklahoma persons as Judge Parker, the "hanging judge," and the Dalton boys. She first came to the city of Tulsa in 1903 and says that there were plank sidewalks at that time.

Mrs. Hunt is not one to slow down as she grows older. She is constantly busy, mostly with needlework and cooking. (She has been most patient in

recent months helping her pastor's wife, Mrs. Jean Chism, with her knitting.) She attends all the regular services of New Home Church. Although a little hard of hearing, her eyesight is still good, and she reads avidly, mostly the Bible and poetry. Two summers ago she took plane trips to California and Washington, D.C., to visit relatives.

Mrs. Maude (Mimi) Hunt



New Auxiliary

The Gartmanview Church, Commanche, Texas, organized a Woman's Auxiliary in January. Officers installed are, left to right, Murnell Johnson, vice president; Frankie Hicks, president; Gene Jones, secretary; Pearl Tumbleson, program chairman. 2nd row: Jack McGuire and Frances Plumlee, personal service chairmen. Other officers not pictured are: Lorene Isham, missions chairman; Dorothy Lester, study chairman; Owassa Taylor, historian; Bernice Easley, treasurer; and Vera Cathey, corresponding secretary.

Members of the Auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church, of Winter Haven, Florida, are shown with aprons and sheets recently contributed to the Missionary Provision Closet in Nashville. Left to right: Winifred Harris, Betty Thompson, Edna Henderson, Willie Hudson, Gladys Woodruff, Lucille Collins, Mamie Page and Agnes Prince. Absent were Evelyn York, Pat Brooks, Mattie Harrelson, Mattie Newsom, Lillie Simmons, Mary Brooks and Garnell Vancil.



The Fairmount Park Woman's Auxiliary, Norfolk, Virginia hosted a manual study course in February. Other participating auxiliary groups were Hyde Park, Collinswood, and Bethany. Total attendance was 57. Mrs. Gertrude Whitehurst was the teacher.



Season of Prayer

The New Home Auxiliary, Tulsa, Oklahoma, had an almost full course salad dinner in connection with their observance of the pre-Easter season of prayer. Mrs. Clarence Johnson, program-prayer chairman, was in charge.

The group had prayer, and then with dinner in progress two ladies at a time went into the sanctuary of the church to pray for requests given to them by Mrs. Johnson.

Following the dinner and season of prayer, Mrs. Virginia Higdon, member of the Central Woman's Auxiliary, Tulsa, brought an inspiring message.

Rev. and Mrs. Roy Thomas are shown with members of the Woman's Auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Denver, Colorado, at a banquet honoring the pastor and his wife. A surprise "This is Your Life" program was presented. Approximately 80 people were present.

California State Convention

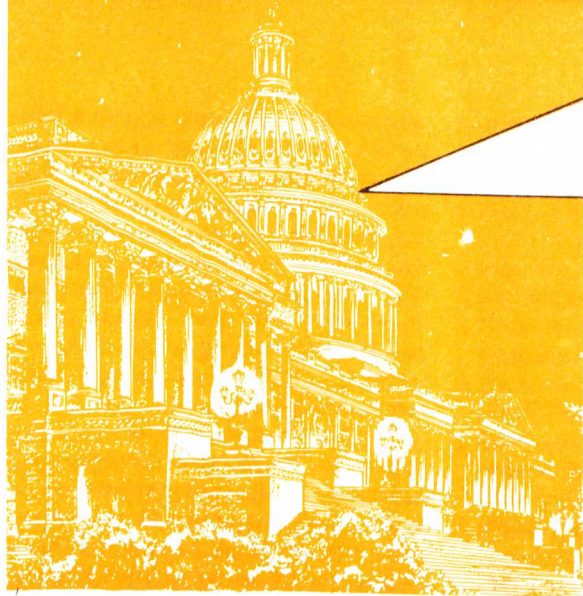
"What in the World is Going On?" was the theme for the California State Auxiliary Convention held in Fresno in April.

Messages and devotions were brought by Mrs. Carol Robirds, missionary to Brazil, Mrs. Marie Roberts, and Mrs. Vida Fry. Business items included a report of the Student Loan Fund by Mrs. Winnie McClain. Officers were installed by Mrs. Donna Wade.



Valentine Banquet

Sponsored by the Woman's Auxiliary of the Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church, Madison Heights, Michigan, a youth banquet raised \$171.93 for the Maurice Cousineaus. Each nominee collected votes at 1¢ per vote. Seated left to right are: High teens queen, Donna Davis and intermediate queen, Terry Stewart. Second row: Carolyn Miller, David Clouse; high teens king, Harold Anderson (proxy for Troy Jackson), intermediate king, Larry Smith, and Chryl Griggs. Third row: Susan Miller, James Griggs, Becky Clouse and David Nall.



WOMAN POWER— AMERICAN STYLE

By WRAY CROCKETT

I sit up in bed. The clock says 2:25 a.m. My, what a dream! It seems I can still hear their screams! The youth of a nation, millions of them, being swept downstream by a flood of filth and violence!

"What does this mean?" I ask myself. "My children are so young, and all sound asleep." Then comes the question, "But what of the mother who does not know where her son or daughter is tonight? Do you not care for these?" It was then I cried, "Oh, Lord, what can I do?"

I toss in sleeplessness. Disturbing incidents come to my mind:

Young man leaps to his death from our city's tallest building!

My nine-year-old son sent to corner grocery, is stopped by teenager who asks for his money.

Two sixth-grade girls intercepted by teacher, circulating lewd scrapbook.

Young son returns from mailbox, asking, "Mom, why do they put such

things on magazines for little kids to see?"

Young secretary stabbed in church office in our city! While downtown movie shows: "Queen of BLOOD!—BLOOD Bath! New High in BLOOD-chilling Horror!"

In the news the same day—another town: "Man sought in abduction of two children. Eight year-old left in pool of BLOOD!"

I shudder! It seems to be a day for murder! I ask myself, "At the rate crime is avalanching, what kind of world will we have in which to rear our children within, say, five or 10 years from now?"

"Yes, I agree in a sense with those who say morality cannot be legislated," I reason. "Immorality IS a condition of the heart. But, while legislation may not make a bad man good, it can certainly make him think twice before he pawns his vileness off on somebody else, especially a minor.

"Take, for instance, pornography

and the Supreme Court's decision concerning it. This thing is out of control! Why doesn't somebody do something? A forest fire out of control looks pretty hopeless, too, but we don't sit hopelessly by and let it take over. We fight it! With all available men and equipment, we fight it until it is extinguished! Are not our children MORE important?"

Next day I call a friend. "Forget it," she said in essence. "You can't fight City Hall, you know." I wonder.

I call another friend. "I'd sure like to do something, but I don't know where to begin," she confessed.

I write to a well-known teen director and author in New York City. "Why not try it from where you stand?" he advised. "Nothing ventured—nothing gained." It reminded me of the question put to Moses in the desert of Sinai: "What is that in your hand?" Not that I'm a Moses or anything, but I have a pen in my hand, and I have another dream—this one in my heart. It is the dream of an American mother. Or is it a vision?

Do you hear what I hear? It is the plaintive heart-cry of the mothers of America. No, not just the mothers—grandmothers, and every warm-hearted woman in our country. Louder, louder, it rises, until it sounds like the roar of a hundred Niagaras! Coming from every village and mountain trail! The women of America have had enough!

We have had enough of what we believe to be misinterpretations of our Constitution by our Supreme Court Judges, who are appointed for a lifetime—not elected to office as other important officials. And to the tune of approximately \$40,000 to \$60,000 yearly, each, in American tax dollars! These are they who keep reading new

meaning into our laws. I keep asking myself, "What will they dictate next, and where will this thing lead?" It is already contributing to our downfall and possibly to our destruction. (In which case even Lenin could have been right when he predicted the conquest of America—not from outside force, but from crumbling within—that we would fall "like an over-ripe pear" into communist hands!)

We have had enough of what we believe to be planned subversion of American youth. Take, for instance, a much publicized proposed sex education program. Many parents who have studied to full scope of this program are in agreement that it offers little more than sick sexology and the "New Sexuality," without morality! Small wonder, too, since some of its founders and board members are not only avowed atheists but are or have been connected with communist-controlled organizations. By their own statements they have unmasked the disguise that they are interested in teaching children the facts of life; by their own admission they condone sexual perversity and promiscuity and seek to replace traditional sex standards!

We have had enough of our own complacency and the seeming lack of concern of the part of our leaders to such goings-on.

We, the women of America, are weary of being advised to "work on these things at the community level," when dealers in smut and sadism have the Highest Tribunal in the land on their team!

Suppose, for instance, a mother does confront a trash peddler and pleads with him to remove pornography from his stands? Since he was unscrupulous enough to display the

stuff to begin with, he needs only to state, "Lady, there's no law against it."

But the dream. Let's not stop here. Do you see what I see? An American mother steps out of a throng unnumbered and stands before the nine men on the Bench!

"Sirs," she begins, "with all due respect to your office, we, the mothers of America, would like the floor, in behalf of our children." The silence is appalling!

"We feel that the Supreme Court of the United States has done more in recent months to numb the American spirit and shatter the American Dream than any other one group. We feel that you have betrayed us and our children!

"Bible-reading and prayer have long been silenced in our classrooms, where future leaders are in the making. No matter that the Bible was America's first textbook, on which foundation our country was built and its great leaders formed.

"One woman and nine men (or was it eight?) bear this responsibility, as heavy as it is!

"By the same token, Gentlemen, in the matter of individual rights, why is the teaching of evolution not ruled unconstitutional? Many parents accept the Genesis account of the Creation, but that does not assure them the right that their child will not be taught evolution as a fact—not the theory that it is, unproved and unprovable.

"Sirs, may we ask you—if you had known in advance that the three astronauts in their recent lunar travels had included in their flight plans the well-timed and moving prayer, and daring declaration of the Creation with 'In the beginning God . . .!'—would you have ruled this too as unconstitution-

al?"

The dream goes on, as another mother steps forward. "Sirs, my son is a policeman. He is called out on a kidnapping charge. A little girl is missing and a suspect is picked. My son, under your interpretation of the Constitution, is required to inform the suspect that he does not have to talk. He doesn't talk. The parents are frantic to know if their child is still alive! You say the suspect must be protected. What about the child? What about the parents? Sirs, I ask you, who has more rights—the criminal suspect or the innocent child and law-abiding parents?"

A stooped and sorrowful little mother then steps out of the sea of faces and takes her place before the Supreme Court Judges. "Sirs, I lost my son in Vietnam. Our President says we must give our sons to fight communism over there. You say we must not only allow the Communist Party to operate in our country but must permit them to work in our defense plants making the very materials with which our boys must fight! Why? Sirs, will you please tell us why we spend approximately \$400,000 a day to kill one communist in Vietnam and then offer sanctuary to another communist under our own roof?"

The little mother continues, "And, Gentlemen, I understand under your more recent ruling, communists have been employed to teach in American schools. That really is getting in on the ground floor! Tell me, Sirs, please tell me, did my son die in vain?"

The dream does not end there. Our new President finds the procession continued in the flow of letters, telegrams, petitions, telephone calls and even postal cards, from every corner in America! To mention a few:

"Mr. President, while committees study other committees to determine the causes of crime, the High Court of our land extends license to violence and pornography under the banner of democracy. We believe in democracy too, but we would not allow wild animals to be turned loose in the midst of our children. Yet, here it is, everywhere stalking, an even greater menace—the prodigy of every evil imagination, written, spoken and filmed, to prey on young minds! And right at the time when they are eagerly seeking to establish sexual and other behaviour guidelines for a lifetime!"

"We are wondering, Mr. President, if, instead of appointing Supreme Court Judges for a lifetime of service, you would consider having them elected to office, or at least appointed for a reasonable term?"

"Mr. President, we respectfully request that recent decisions reached by our present Supreme Court Judges—Bible-reading and prayer out of the schools, communists in defense plants and schools, licensed pornography, law enforcement obstructions, etc.—be reviewed by these newly elected judges."

"We'd like to tell you, too, Mr. President, we think the 'Beautify America' program is a wonderful idea. My, how we enjoy beautiful surroundings! But, couldn't we go a step further? Oh, for a clean-up job in America that will enhance our everyday lives and the lives of our children! Mr. President, we appeal to you for 'teeth' in our laws to check this poison of perversion, this disease of depravity, so rampant in our nation!"

Our President reads another letter, then another and another, to these same issues. Then there's a telegram and petition after petition. And, oh, how I pray that the dream will not end

yet!

Finally, our President speaks: "It is enough," he says. "See that this gets top priority. And label it **"WOMAN POWER!"**"

A shout is heard in the land! And in due course an endless cavalcade proceeds from the heart and soul of America to converge on the "pigsties" across our beloved country. The battle call is: "Release your desensitizing grip on the bodies, minds and souls of the dearest on earth to us, our children!"

"Only a dream," you say. But wait! You can help turn this dream into a real live performance. The stage is already set. Awaiting only the leading characters. Before the curtain rises a call goes out for Leaders. Organizers. Supporters with financial backing if necessary. **NEEDED AT ONCE:** "Well-springs" to release this powerful undercurrent of love and concern for our youth. A purifying stream that will flush this nightmare of sewage from the sidewalks of America, where faltering young feet must travel!

If one God-denying woman can shake a nation to its foundation, cannot a myriad of God-fearing women turn the world upside down for right? (Did I hear someone say, "What about us men?" I hope so, for we need your help. We realize, of course, that we are not alone in this—that good men everywhere are ready and willing to meet such a challenge!)

If "wholeness" and respectability is to be restored to the American Scene indeed, if we are to survive as a nation, then we must **SOON** realize this dream of "rightness"—this vision of Hope! "So help us, God!"

"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord shall raise up a standard against him" (Isaiah 59:19). ■

CO-LABORERS WRITE...



from Arkansas

The women of our church and auxiliary appreciate the work you and your staff are doing. We enjoy the material we can get to help us in our auxiliary.

*Mrs. Oris Doggett
Monticello, Arkansas*

I was just glancing through the April, May and June issue of the *Co-Laborer* and I became so engrossed in some of the articles that I just read the entire magazine before I stopped. I suddenly feel a surge of enthusiasm to hurry and get to doing greater things for the Lord's work through our women and I want it to begin with me! It seems that in each article written, one can easily see a challenge and a need, and that need can only be met through us, "God's Co-Laborers."

All of our women in the auxiliary thoroughly enjoy the articles and programs each month. God bless you as we each take our place in the work for Christ.

*Mrs. Loyd W. Bowen
Booneville, Arkansas*

from California

Our auxiliary thoroughly enjoys and receives a real blessing from each article in the *Co-Laborer*.

*Marilyn Wallace
Fresno, California*

from Georgia

A small group of Martin District Auxiliary members met at New Salem Church last night, March 24th, and saw the films "Visiting the Sick and Sorrowful" and "Visiting the Un-saved." We all enjoyed them very much. Our hearts are blessed. We are sending a free will offering.

*Mrs. W. E. Lane
Iron City, Georgia*

from Illinois

I want to send you an idea I am using for our Mission Emphasis in February. I'm making each member a valentine with red construction paper and white paper doilies. On the front I'm using a picture of one of our missionary families and the words "Remember the nine o'clock prayer fellowship time." On the inside I have a typewritten copy of the recipe for Scripture Cake.

For added dessert, red jello in heart molds trimmed with whipped cream.

*Ellamae Hiltabidal
Centralia, Illinois*

from Michigan

The women of our church have made aprons and hot dish pads for the Missionary Provision Closet. Our auxiliary is small in number but each has put forth a special effort in this

project.

We enjoy *Co-Laborer* very much and have been pleased with the programs, especially our March program since our church is located in a predominately Catholic neighborhood. May God continue to bless the WNAC.

*Iris L. Wallace
Newport, Michigan*

from Missouri

Just want to tell you that we enjoy *Co-Laborer* so much, especially the March lesson by Rev. Leslie Carney. We feel that God has given him some special knowledge on how to lead Catholics to Christ. That lesson was a real inspiration to all of us. Everything in *Co-Laborer* is very worthwhile and we are thankful for every member of the staff and pray God's richest blessings upon all.

*Pearl E. Denton
Farmington, Missouri*

from Ohio

We have a very small auxiliary here but I believe the Lord is going to bless our efforts and multiply our number. Please remember us in your prayers. God can do the impossible.

*Lena Golding
Ashland, Ohio*

from Oklahoma

We have a very good auxiliary with an average of 12 in attendance. We are planning a sweetheart banquet and will invite our husbands as guests. We especially enjoy the *Co-Laborer* magazine. We have contributed to many

missionaries and feel that through our work as women, our work as a church for the support of missions has grown.

Praise the Lord for our writers and those who labor that we might grow as Christians and win others to Christ.

*Dora Lane
Chickasha, Oklahoma*

from South Carolina

Thank you and God bless each of you for the great work you are doing in the name of our Lord and Saviour.

*Edna Griffin
Spartanburg, South Carolina*

It blesses my heart as I read in *Co-Laborer* each quarter about the work our women in Free Will Baptist auxiliaries are doing for the Lord.

We at Horse Branch Church enjoy our work, and we have a wonderful group of women who are always willing to serve.

Through the information that you supply us in *Co-Laborer*, we are better able to help supply our missionaries' needs.

*Mary Ann Coker
Turbeville, South Carolina*

Just wanted to tell you how very much we of our auxiliary enjoyed the May program. It was very timely in our area and so many of our ladies commented on their appreciation for it.

Thank you again for the good job you and your staff are performing. We thank the Lord for you.

*Norma Baxley
Florence, South Carolina*

HIGHLIGHTS:

WOMAN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY CONVENTION, 1969

"Fruitful Unto Every Good Work," was the theme of the 34th annual convention of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, held July 14-15, in Kiel Auditorium, Saint Louis, Missouri.

Missionaries appearing on the program included Carol Robirds, Marvis Eagleton, Brazil; Mabel Willey, Florida; Eddie Payne, Ivory Coast; Larry Powell, Virgin Islands, and Billie McCoy, Puerto Rico. Other speakers were Jerry Ballard, director of communications for the Board of Foreign Missions, and Mrs. Gladys Sloan who conducted a memorial service for Miss Bessie Yeley and Rev. Thomas H. Willey, Sr.

Mrs. Jill Renich, Michigan, speaker for WNAC's Fellowship Dinner. She heads an organization known as Winning Women.



Mrs. Betty Hill, third from left, heads registration for the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, July 14, St. Louis, Missouri.



Mrs. Cleo Pursell, executive secretary, explains annual budget to finance committee member Mrs. I. L. Stanley.



WNAC president, Mrs. Georgia Hill introduces convention speaker Mrs. Mabel Willey.



CIRCLE PROGRAMS

by M. K. W. Heicher

OR FOR SECOND AUXILIARY MEETING

OCTOBER/ What's the Use?

Song:

Scripture: Philippians 4:10-13

Robert Browning once wrote: "God's in his heaven, All's right with the world." An American soldier, familiar with suffering and dying men, hunger and disease, displaced persons, needy refugees, made Browning read this way: "God's in his heaven, All's riot with the world."

The mood of many on our college campuses is, "What's the use?" What's the use of living a clean, moral life in a world that will deny you the joys of a home and family in a world safe from radiation or atomic war?

Richard Rasmusson gives four answers to the question, "What's the use?"

1. Every generation has faced peril and uncertainty . . . No generation has ever had complete security or lived without fear and danger. Uncertainty, peril, hazard, gamble, have always characterized man's life on the planet.

It is faith that we need. It is courage that we need, born of faith. Why not doubt your fears, disbelieve your cynicism? This is the victory that overcomes the world, even your faith.

2. The second thing to remember is that the perils and uncertainties of our time can have creative uses.

On one side of the Cross, like many irrational aspects of human existence, is sheer, stark, naked tragedy. On the other side it speaks of getting good out of evil, gain out of hardship, light out

of darkness. Hardship, adversity, uncertainty, can have high uses. The times that try men's souls are also the times that make men's souls. This is not the time to lose your religion; it is the time above all to use your religion.

3. The third thing is to get your perspective right. We see the 16th century as the century of Luther and Calvin destroying religious tyranny and achieving liberties we glory in to this day. The 18th century saw the achievement of American independence, the writing of our Constitution, the westward march of our great nation. Yet it was characterized by some as an evil and rotten age.

Is it possible that our turbulent age, this time of blood and tears, is so close upon us and we so immediately immersed in it, that we are unaware of the germinative and creative forces making for a wider economic justice for all, and richer equality for all?

NOVEMBER/ Counting Our Blessings

Song: "Count Your Blessings"

Scripture: Psalm 145:7

We celebrate the goodness of God by counting our blessings. Not as materialists count them: so many shares of stock, cars, deposits in banks. Not as the rich man in Jesus' parable (Luke 12:16-21), who could say, "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years . . ." And not as an egoist counts them. (The man in the

parable used the first personal pronoun too profusely.) No, counting blessings in the manner that an egoist counts them is not celebrating the goodness of God.

Personal Blessings

Let us name some of the blessings which belong to you personally. Think of your capacity for beauty: you can see it, appreciate it, create it. Capacity for truth: you can discover it, appreciate it, apply it. Goodness: you can see it, admire it, attain it to some degree. Capacity to love and be loved.

A man might count all such blessings belonging to his essential nature, and in doing so fall short of celebrating the goodness of God. Of course, all come from God, but this fact might be ignored.

Make a list of the "unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ" which a Christian enjoys: release from guilt and fear, deliverance from sin, forgiveness, capacity to forgive, peace which passes understanding, serenity of spirit, comfort of heart, courage of spirit.

Include the infinite capacities for knowledge, beauty, goodness, love. Count your blessings! Blessings are numerous!

Blessings are Gifts

We should remember that blessings are *given*. We are dependent upon God for the sun and the shower. We are dependent upon others for our material inheritance.

The things which belong to our egotism are there by little or no virtue of our own. How many of us might well discover that our virtues are moral momentums from our parents! And

basically they are from God. Remember your blessings! Blessings are given!

Blessings a Judgment

Blessings are a judgment. You judge yourself by where you set the period when you count your blessings. As you count your blessings, do you find yourself to be a materialist? egoist? a child of God?

We take our blessings seriously when we accept them as stewards. All blessings are given; use them only for the self and we become parasitical. If we accept them in trusteeship and share them with others; we become channels of the grace of God. We take our blessings seriously as we transmute these blessings of earth into treasure laid up in heaven.

We celebrate the goodness of God by counting our blessings, by remembering that our blessings come from the hand of God, by taking our blessings seriously. And we celebrate by giving thanks in all the various ways we have of thanking God. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name."

"For all blessings known and for all not known, for those that come down upon us like the dew which watereth the earth in silent watches of the night, We give thee thanks.

As continuous as thy love toward us, so may our gratitude never cease. Let each one's praise augment the praise of his neighbor until the whole wide earth resounds with songs of thanksgiving and joy. In praise of Christ our Savior and Lord, Amen."

DECEMBER/ God's Gifts Bring Joy

Song: "O Come, all ye Faithful"

Scripture: Luke 2:10

Was there ever a day that we needed some word of joy more than ours? What is this joy? Apparently there is something very distinctive about it. It is in the parables of Jesus repeatedly. It is also in the events of the New Testament. It is clearly stated that when the 70 went out at Jesus' command to preach, they "returned with joy."

And most amazing of all are the words in Hebrews, speaking of Jesus "who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross."

What is joy? We use at least three words that seem alike but are vastly different. Sometimes we speak of pleasure. Or, we speak of happiness. But the joy of the Christian faith is deeper than either of these. It comes not in escaping from realities or being protected from the shocks of life. Joy is looking at life full face and finding the countenance of God in it.

There are gifts that come to us in Jesus Christ which bring joy into life.

The Gift of Knowing

Because of Him we know what we did not know. Whenever we speak of Christ as the son of God we thereby confess that it is through Him that we know about God. Doesn't the very word give us a picture? Suppose a man appears one day to you and says, "I am the son of one who wants you to know him. I want to tell you about him, his will and his ways, his love and his compassion. Moreover I am like my father. If you see me, you will see

what he is like"

You want to know what God is and what He wills and what He wants for us. Then we have a way of knowing. When Christ comes we know what we did not know, namely, the nature and love of God.

The Gift of Becoming

But as many who received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God" (John 1:12). We have many powers at our hand and we are discovering many more. We have power to hurl satellites into the sky, the power to destroy a city with the dropping of a single bomb. We often have power to heal our bodies. But there is no other power that can be discovered that can help us become the sons of God. That was given only in Jesus Christ. It is given to all who receive Him.

The Gift of Belonging

Finally, we belong where formerly we had been alone. There are so many things that separate us from one another in our world. But Christ does bring us together and gives us a sense of our belonging.

Is it surprising that this was the news of a great joy? Think of all that came to us in Christ! We know what we did not know. We become what we had not been. We hope where we had lost heart, and we belong where we had been alone. Small wonder that we can hardly think of Him without breaking into song. "Joy to the world, the Lord has come!"

ADAPTED

Ideas for your programs

FOR YOUR USE

OCTOBER/ Hem, Him, and Her

Poster suggestion: Draw or cut from magazines pictures of women's fashion from the 1800's showing the varying lengths of hemlines. Print the following caption beneath: A HEM-LINE BECOMES A LIFELINE. Give time and date of your auxiliary meeting.

A set of nine stand-up paper dolls in full color and dress depicting women's fashions from 1888-1963 may be ordered from WNAC, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202, for 80¢. These would make an attractive decoration for the auxiliary room for this month's program.

NOVEMBER/ Faith Expresses Gratitude

If we compare the comforts of life that we enjoy with the living condition of the Pilgrim Fathers, how much greater should be our gratitude to God for His living kindness and tender mercy.

The first Thanksgiving proclamation was made by Governor William Bradford of the Massachusetts Bay colony three years after the Pilgrims settled at Plymouth Rock. It establishes the first Thanksgiving as November 29, 1623. The text of the proclamation follows:

"TO ALL YE PILGRIMS:

Inasmuch as the Great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience; now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meetinghouse, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November ye twenty-three, and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Plymouth Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings."

William Bradford

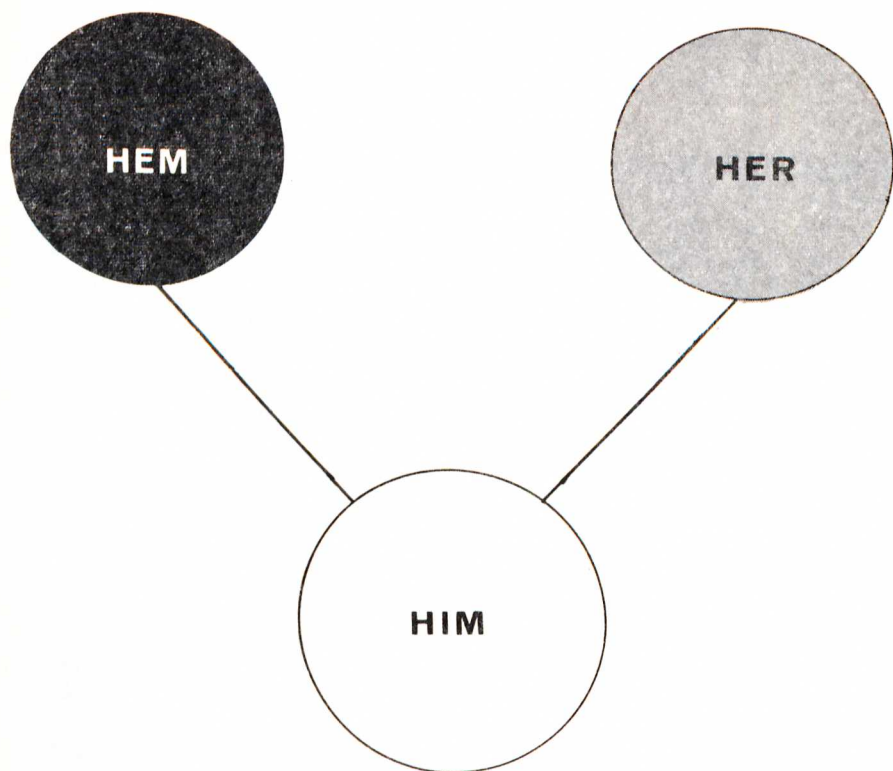
"Ye Governor of Ye Colony"

DECEMBER/ God's Answer—A Baby!

Use seasonal decorations for an interest center—the Creche scene (infant Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and the Magi), candles, flowers, or evergreens.

For a note of humor preceding your program you may want to ask each woman to bring a baby picture of herself. Display these and ask members to guess who they are.

Two special features may be ordered from WNAC. "A Christmas Meditation" (15¢), and "A Seasonal IQ Test" (5¢ each). Please inclose postage.



October Program

By Mary Grace Bryant

Song: "My Saviour's Love"

Meditation: Matthew 9:20-22, Mark 5:24-34, Luke 8:43-48

WOMEN HAVE ALWAYS been interested in hemlines. Even

Eve, in spite of the enormous sense of guilt under which she worked, must have considered the length of that fig leaf skirt!

On that day when Miriam led the women of all Israel and that song echoed: "Sound the loud timbrel o'er Egypt's dark sea! Jehovah has triumph'd,—his people are free," she might well have been conscious of the

cumbersome lengths of her robe as it swept the hot desert sand.

Deborah in her judgments, Jael in her flashing courage, the young virgin Mary in her reticent modesty—all of these, womanlike, no doubt were concerned from day to day with the care and cleanliness of their clothing, and with the occasional adjustment of waistline and hemline.

Yet to one woman of whom the Gospels speak, there was a hemline of much more importance than any of these others—of much more importance than every again a hemline will be. For to her a hemline became a lifeline, as she touched the hem of Jesus' garment and said, "If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole." And she strove to touch it; and she did touch it; and she was indeed made whole, set free of her private plague of an issue of blood. However, the virtue that went out to the woman came, of course, not from the garment's hem but rather from Him, the Christ, who had so freely laid aside the very robes of heaven in order to don this simple homespun.

Jesus has been summoned to the house of Jairus, whose daughter lies even now at the point of death. As the cortege moves through the streets, curious crowds jostle at every corner. No doubt the whole town knows of the sick child and of the father's frantic efforts on her behalf. These people are anxious to see for themselves the man upon whom Jairus pins such high hopes. But among the group at this particular corner is one who shares Jairus' confidence in the Christ. Buoyed by a quickening faith, and quite probably repeating over and over in her heart that one urgent phrase, "If I may touch his garment—if I may but

touch," she presses forward. An out stretched arm, the brush of eager fingers, and the contact is made; healing is immediate, and the woman stands, overawed and quiet, content now to let the crowd surge close to her. But, not so! Christ halts the procession and questions the touch. With every eye upon her, the woman confesses her healing and receives commendation for her faith. To our knowledge, she does not move again across the Gospel stage; this is our closing glimpse of her—happy and whole, and altogether well-rewarded.

What lessons accrue to us from this story of "Hem, Him, and Her"? Let us consider these lessons, with regard to the attitude of the one who touched that hem.

ATTITUDE OF HOPEFULNESS

This woman's attitude had been fired in the crucible of 12 long years' despair and slow deterioration. For 12 years she had made every possible effort toward her healing. We read that she "had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse." Yet here she was, hopefully trying again. Notice: her attitude of hopefulness was one arrived at in spite of circumstances, not because of them. It was an attitude not achieved overnight, but rather one molded into increasing strength by every possibility she explored. If you feel nothing ever goes right with you, then catch the glow of this woman's diligent attitude as she tried, always, one more time. The story is told of "Gentleman Jim" Corbett's advice to a group of aspiring young prizefighters. Said Corbett:

"When your arms feel like lead weights, and your knees want to buckle under you—fight one more round. When your head swims and one eye is cut and bleeding—fight one more round. When your muscles hurt so badly that you no longer even care about winning—fight one more round. For he who fights one more round can never be defeated."

ATTITUDE OF DILIGENCE

An attitude such as this woman had is not very common, you'll admit! And therefore, just because it is not the attitude of the majority, some will try to deter you from it.

The woman's passage through that packed group of watchers was not easily made. There were, no doubt, unkind elbows and rude, shoving hands. A street corner crowd is neither especially polite nor especially patient! Some would have deterred the woman because making room for her might mean losing their own vantage point. Others would have barred her way simply because they didn't know her and therefore didn't care about her—or perhaps because they misunderstood the motive underlying her persistence.

Had you been there in that jostling throng, would you have thought, "She only wants to call attention to herself!"—or, perhaps, "How terribly thoughtless of that woman to interfere, with Jairus' little girl needing help so badly!" Would you have thought that of the woman? This sufferer of 12 years believed one touch would be worth many misunderstandings. And so she maintained her attitude of diligence in trying to reach Jesus. She refused to be deterred!

RESULTS OF RIGHT ATTITUDE

The woman's right attitude resulted in the desired blessing. Healing was hers. The right attitude will always bring blessed results.

Two children, ages three and six, await eagerly the sound of the car in the driveway as their mother comes home each Wednesday from early morning prayer service, for they know she will bring with her any doughnuts left from the coffee time that follows the service.

One day they were "playing prayer service," and abruptly they burst into the kitchen, all excited. "We're home from prayer service," said the older. And the other added, with arms aflutter and with an imaginary paper sack waved triumphantly aloft, "I've got the doughnuts!"

If the mind of a three-year-old can learn to associate good things with a prayer service, why cannot we adults make that same association, on a spiritual level? As we in our need to God, if we are faithful in our expecting, He will surely be faithful in His fulfilling!

ATTITUDE COMMENDED BY CHRIST

Lastly, Christ recognized and commended the woman's attitude. He deliberately searched her out from her position of anonymity in order to do so. God is ever searching ever hoping to find in your life the attitudes commensurate with your Christian calling. May we all set ourselves to the attaining of them!

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Inspirational Programs for Women,
Standard Publishers*

**FAITH EXPRESSES
GRATITUDE**

November Program

*Song: "Come, Ye Thankful People
Come"*

Scripture: Psalm 107:21,22

I F YOU were to keep a record
book of the things you say, would



it reveal more complaint than gratitude? We pride ourselves in this wonderful country of ours that we have the freedom to complain. Do we abuse that freedom? Let us take inventory now and ask God to show us wherein we have been ungrateful. Let us ask Him to cause our hearts to overflow in praise.

TEMPORAL BLESSINGS

An English preacher took a hungry man into a large dining hall where there were plates on the tables for 1460 persons. There were foods of all kinds in profusion. The man wanted to sit down in one of these places but his host stopped him. "We shall have to set still another plate," he said, "For these others are the ghosts of what you have already had. They are 365 breakfasts, the 365 dinners, the 365 teas, and the 365 suppers you had last year. That made 1460 meals in all."

"You don't mean to say I had all that?" asked the astounded man.

"Yes," replied the host, "and many basketfuls of odds and ends besides."

Are we grateful that our tables are never empty? Some of us may not be able to afford butter, so we use oleo. We can't often afford big steaks, so it is hamburger in one form or another. So what? You've never had to go away from the table hungry, have you? Are you not provided with food enough to keep your body in good, healthy condition? Do you daily thank God for this? When you go shopping for the food, do you complain to the clerk about what you can't find or are you thankful that there is so much to choose from?

There was an Irish woman who was

always complaining about how many small potatoes there were in her patch. One year she had a fine crop of beautiful large ones. Her pastor was anxious to know how this chronic complainer was reacting to her good fortune so when he met her, he said, "Mrs. O'Leary, I hear that you have had a wonderful potato crop this year. How fine for you!" To which Mrs. O'Leary replied, "Well, I don't know. Now I don't have any small ones to feed the pigs." Aren't most of us like Sister O'Leary?

Yes, God gives daily the food we need, and most of us eat plenty of it, and gain weight. Hardly is there a gathering when the conversation does not get around to dieting. What a complaint to make!—that we are well and have a good healthy appetite!

Food, health, home, loved ones, clothes, the beauties of nature, and a thousand other things, we should recount in our inventory.

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

What would it mean to you never to have known Christ? What does it mean to you that, because of Him our sins are forgiven and you have peace in your heart? What does it mean to you that you never need to fear death since you may walk through that valley with Christ, and since you can say with Paul, "For living to me means simply Christ, and if I die I shall merely gain more of Him?"

How grateful are you for the Bible that connects us with the power of Heaven and gives us a pattern for life on this earth? Have you thanked God for prayer? Does it mean anything to you that He has asked you to talk to Him, and that He has promised to be

your burden bearer?

Let us take inventory and then ask God for grace to translate our spoken "Thank You's" into lived-out gratitude each day.

THANKSGIVING

One person spent Thanksgiving in a most interesting way. Before November came, she sat down and made a list of all the people she could think of who had blessed her life. Then each day of November she wrote a thank-you note to one of these. In her note she told them that she thanked God for what they had meant to her. The list of those she remembered in this way was an interesting one. It included the Sunday school teacher who had started her off in the Primary department, a neighbor who had been wonderfully kind to her children, the lady who helped her clean the house each week, the pastor who had helped her to find Christ, the doctor who helped bring her babies into the world, her husband who had been such a real companion, her brothers and sisters who so loyally stood by her and shared through the years. Well, that is the way the list went. It was a wonderful experience. Some folks she had not heard from for years. Their gratitude to being remembered was amazing.

Then there is a matter of Christian hospitality. During the year, do you remember someone who is lonely? Is there that extra place set at your table? Not necessarily Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets. It is more personal than that. The Christian challenge of thanksgiving is that we share our hearth and home with those from whom we may not expect a return. So often our family circles are so tightly

shut that we resent intrusion. I wonder sometimes if we do not shut out the Lord Himself, for did He not say, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren . . . ye did it unto me?" Does your thanksgiving show in relation to the stranger in your midst?

Chinese people are exceedingly grateful for any favor that is done them. One Chinese lady had nothing with which to pay the Mission Hospital for what had been done for her sick child. However, her gratitude was shown in what she said to the Bible woman. To understand it, we must remember that like all other Buddhists she was a believer in the transmigration of the soul.

"I have been praying," she said, "that when I die I may become your donkey and carry you about from city to city in your work."

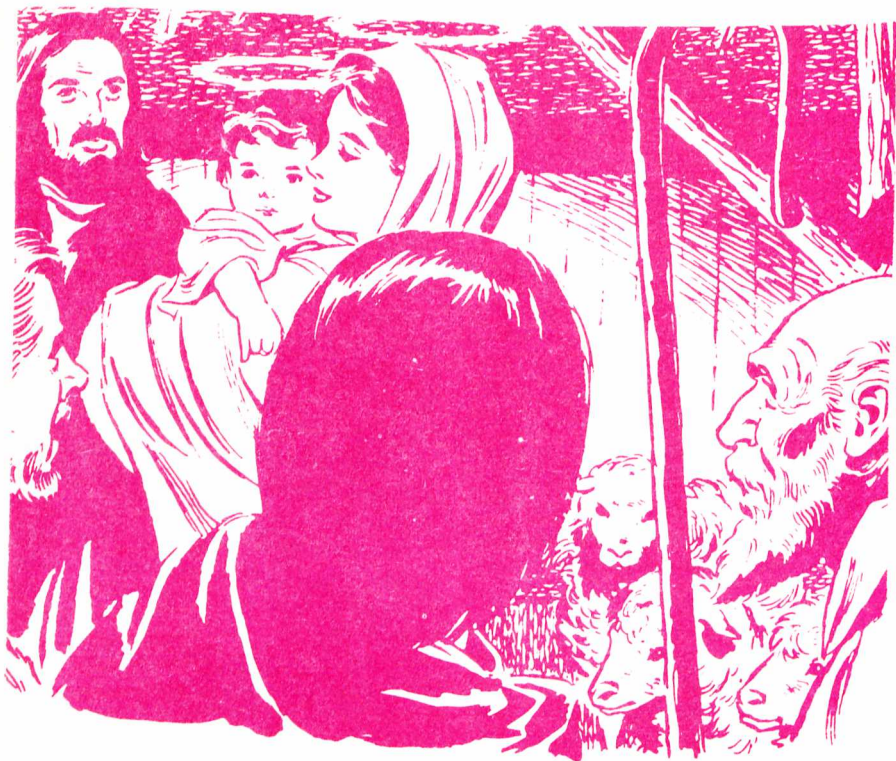
How does your thanksgiving translate itself into everyday life?

Then there is the very tangible way of showing our gratitude by our gifts to the kingdom work. We are willing to live thankfully only to the extent that our giving represents a real share of the good things God has given us. That is why we are told the Lord loves a cheerful giver. We give with joy when we have overwhelming gratitude to the Lord who died for us. How does your giving measure up?

Were thanks with every gift expressed,
Each day would be Thanksgiving;
Were gratitude its very best,
Each life would be "Thanks Living."

—Christian Senargiens

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Women's Christian Service Council,
Churches of God in North America*



GOD'S ANSWER - A BABY!

December Program

By A.D. Marshall

Song: "There's a Song in the Air"

Scripture: Isaiah 25:9; Luke 2:8-12

ONE OF THE TITLES of the Lord Jesus Christ that is most descriptive of Him is given by the prophet Haggai: "The Desire of the nations." From the time of the Edenic tragedy and Jehovah's subsequent promise of a Redeemer, Christ has been the *Desire* of the nations. Prophets have anticipated Him, Psalmists have

sung of His glories and works while Israel cherished this hope throughout the centuries. The promise of the "seed of the woman" became the desire of every Jewish maiden who would be blessed among women for having borne the Christ of God.

MOMENTOUS BIRTHS

One of the great patterns of God in the outworking of His eternal counsels in the provision of His will through babies, through men. *When God wants something done He thinks in terms of*

babies. We get so engrossed in the tempests of our time we fail to see the provision of God in the cradle. We see calamity and misfortune, war and rumor of war and nearly sink in despair. We see sin and sickness in their colossal stature today. Even doctors are aghast at the things we see that must surely come to pass in this realm. But God has the answer in a baby.

What were the greatest events of 1809? You say, "That is an easy one. The marching of Napoleon across Europe in hopes of world conquest. Trafalgar and Waterloo were most important." Yes, anyone would say that, for it would be uppermost in the minds of those in that generation. But I daresay that transcending those momentous events, though not recognized at that time, were the births of William Gladstone, Alfred Tennyson, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Chopin and Felix Mendelssohn. These men gave the world liberty, culture and enriched our lives in music. When God wants to bring liberty He gives a Lincoln; when He wants a continent opened up He gives us a Livingstone, Carey or a Morrison. When the "Fullness of time was come God sent forth His Son, made of a woman" to bring salvation to an erring, sinning Adamic race. That Son was the Christ-child even Jesus of Bethlehem's manger.

"We have waited for Him" says the Prophet Isaiah. What an eternity it must have seemed! And still no sign of the fulfilment of the promise! Isaiah still has to dip his pen in the inkwell of inspiration and proclaim anew that this "Desire of the nations" is coming. He shall be beyond all expectations for He shall be our God, the Lord, none other than Jehovah. Isaiah couldn't know that that promise would be

fulfilled in 700 years from his time; *but it happened.* The "Word" that was "In the beginning" and "was with God" was made flesh and dwelt among us. Oh! The wonder of it all! He was not made as the angels nor did He come to redeem angels, but dwelt among *us* and He saved us. We are rejoicing in His salvation. He took on Himself the likeness of sinful flesh though He knew no sin nor did He do any sin. He was holy, harmless and undefiled, and as the perfect Lamb of God He alone could take away the sin of the world. *Jesus Christ* is our Saviour and our salvation. What cause we have for rejoicing!

ROYAL TRIBUTE

Traditionally the names of the three wise men who came from the east were Gaspar, Belthazar and Melchoir. According to the lost Chronicles of Sufi-Abbas, these magi were kings in their own rights. Gaspar was King of Tarshish of the black race, Belthazar, King of Chaldea and hence olive-skinned, while Melchoir was King of Nubia and of the white race. As they travelled under the guidance of the Star, each clutched in his hand a gift they wished to bestow upon this new born king, for as a King each would give unto a King.

Conversion was always centered on the Babe they would see. Gaspar was sure that the Babe would be black for was his race not the oldest known? That the Child would be a King he could not doubt; therefore his gift was of gold. What more befitting gift could there be for a King?

Belthazar, however, could not be so persuaded. Surely their very guidance

by a star betokened to him that this Child *must* be more than a King. If the heavens, even to a Star, came into such obedience surely this must be God Who made the heavens and all that was therein. "No, no, my esteemed Gaspar, this *must* be God, not a mere King." With new enthusiasm Belthazar hurried his camel on to hasten the day when he could lay his gift of frankincense at the feet of the Babe and there do what his gift signified, *worship Him, the great God.*

Melchoir was the oldest of them all and the riches of the wisdom of the Orient were clearly creased on his noble features. He mused as he rode on, considering the hopes of Gaspar and the godly thoughts of the noble Belthazar. Deep in the heart of Melchoir was the desire for a Saviour. Every detail of their call on this strange journey seemed to impress him more and more. The time must be here for the revelation of a Saviour. It burned within his heart. It was his greatest need, and his heart was but a sufferer, tears would well up in his eyes as he realized that this Child was born to die. He clasped his gift more closely to him, a gift of myrrh.

The chronicles go on in this story. The great day arrives. The Star rests and the journey is complete. We see the Magi as they kneel before this Babe. Has there been a mistake? Is this the One for whom we have been looking so many weary days? Suddenly Mary, the mother of the Babe, starts to sing again the language of her heart that she knew when she greeted Elizabeth. "My soul doth magnify the Lord," she sang. Gaspar's face lighted up with holy joy as He heard it. "The Lord" is what she said and gladly he gave his gift of gold to the Sovereign

he had now found. But Mary sang on, "And my spirit hath rejoiced in God." Belthazar's face lighted up and he said, "I have found him, the God for whom my soul has hungered." He presented his gift of frankincense to Jesus, the God for whom his soul had hungered. But Mary was not yet through with her song. "My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God *my Saviour.*" Melchoir gasped, "My Saviour, my Saviour." And he offered willingly his vase of myrrh.

Gaspar found in Jesus his desire. Belthazar found in Jesus the God whom he so passionately desired. And Melchoir found in Jesus the very Saviour whom he had desired for a long time. This is only tradition as it concerns the thoughts of the Magi, but it is absolutely true that Jesus is our King, our God and our Salvation.

THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM

What does Jesus mean to you? The shepherds accepted Him, the wise men expected Him, Herod rejected Him, and the innkeeper neglected Him. Where do you fit in? By the embalmed remains of Lenin these words were written:

"He *was* the greatest leader of all peoples, of all countries, of all times. He *was* the Lord of the new humanity. He *was* the Saviour of the world."

Of necessity it was written in the past tense. But for Jesus it can be written in the present tense for He *is* our Salvation. May the Babe of Bethlehem come to your waiting heart and become your salvation at this Christmas time.

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End Times Messenger

Pre-Thanksgiving Season of Prayer

Enlarge thy tent . . . Lengthen thy cords . . . Strengthen thy stakes

A CHALLENGE FROM THE LORD

Program Chairman: Use available materials from the Home Missions Department to supplement your programs—home missions map and prayer cards of missionaries from the following fields: Alaska, Hawaii, Mexico, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Monday

A CHALLENGE

Song: "Open My Eyes"

Scripture: Isaiah 54:2,3

When the nation of Israel returned from Babylonian captivity, only a small remnant remained of the number which came out of Egypt. Many had died in exile because of the hardships suffered—others were scattered abroad.

With their capitol city in ruins and their fields devastated, the prophet described Israel as "a woman once loved of her husband, blessed of her children, but now disowned and forsaken."

But amid such discouragement, God issued a challenge. "Get up Israel! Widen your tent—get taller poles and stronger stakes—because you are going to break forth on the right hand and on the left. Your seed shall be multiplied. The ruins of your beloved city will not only be rebuilt but extended on all sides!"

Churches today need such a challenge from the Lord. Not only in-

active, indifferent churches but frequently active churches need greater visions and the faith to launch bolder programs.

Pray that we may become more aware of opportunities to extend our Christian witness; for grace to attempt great things for God.

Pray for the Mack Owenses, missionaries in Canada. For Mrs. Owens' health; for effective gospel witness among the French.

Tuesday

OUR CHILDREN

Song: "Give of your Best"

Scripture: Isaiah 28:9-10; Proverbs 22:6

In our program this week let us think of the *tent* (the church) as having four corners. Our corner of the tent must be extended over the oncoming generation of children. The population explosion calls for an expansion of the tent.

When the Free Will Baptist National Association established its Home Missions Board in 1938, the U.S. population was less than 132 million. In November 1967, the "census clock" in Washington, D.C., ticked past the 200 million mark. Every 10 1/2 seconds a child is born in America. These babies have an average life expectancy of 70 years, compared to 45 years in 1905.

It has been predicted that by 1975

the United States population will exceed 225 million, with the largest group composed of young people from 14 to 19 years of age.

Although the world's population is growing much faster than the church population, this does not mean that our goal of bringing the gospel to every person is unrealistic, but that the challenge to the church is greater than ever before. Today's children must be reached and won for Christ. Tomorrow they will be the world's adults—and leaders.

The quickest way to reach unchurched persons is through the doorway of the home. One time a wealthy man and his wife said, "We are doing our best for our sons and daughter, but it is not our intention to leave them a financial fortune. We have spent much time with our children, enjoying every minute with them. We have given them partial financial support through school, and we have led each one of them to the Lord Jesus Christ. We have taught them the Word of God. They are prepared for life."

It is true that when a person knows Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour and is instructed in the ways of the Bible, he is prepared for life. These are the important things.

How can we expand our tent—lengthen our cords? Opportunities abound—to teach or assist in child evangelism classes, mission vacation Bible schools, or Sunday schools.

The hand that molds the lives of youth

Must draw its strength each hour
From resting in the hand of God
And moving in His power.

—Caroline D. Henderson

Pray for disturbed youth in our land,
in our community; for those who

teach children; for missionaries children away from home.

Pray for the Luther Sanderses in Hawaii; for their daughter Brenda, a student at Free Will Baptist Bible College; for funds for new furniture (pews, pulpit).

Wednesday

COMMUNITY MISSIONS

Song: "More like the Master"

Scripture: James 2:14-18

Another corner of the gospel tent should be stretched over our communities. There are many unsaved people within our reach, however most of the activity of the church centers around the Christian! We have isolated ourselves in our churches—become so involved in them—that we have little time, strength, or desire, to go outside the church to win a soul for Christ. Are we using our Christian *busyness* as an escapemechanism by which we evade our responsibility to go into the world and witness?

Racial tensions, disorganized home life, vice, political corruption, religious indifference, slums, poverty, all abound. The increased crime rate is staggering. Alcoholism is claiming millions. The number of drug addicts continues to rise at an alarming rate. Surely these conditions furnish a ripe mission field at home.

We not only have more people in our world today but *older* people. (They live longer.) Just because one is aged is no reason to believe that he is a Christian. Institutional homes and hospitals are filled with unsaved people. Many others are lonely and ne-

glected. We must minister to both physical and spiritual needs of the aged, sick, shut-in, and needy.

Is there a need for religious services among special groups in your community? Could your auxiliary members provide companionship for those who are lonely—reading to a small group, singing gospel songs with them, or perhaps teaching the Sunday School lesson or sharing the auxiliary program with them? The Lord challenges us to enlarge our tent and lengthen our cords of service in our communities.

Pray that the Lord will open your heart to doors of mission opportunity near you.

Pray for the Arthur Billows and David Cochranes in Mexico as they witness to Catholics and seek to train youth in the Institute of Gold.

Thursday

HOME MISSIONS

Song: “America the Beautiful” (Direct strong fan on spotlighted U.S. flag mounted free to wave through singing and scripture reading).

Scripture: Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8

In these scriptures Jesus told His disciples how His work was to be done. The gospel was to be preached first in Jerusalem. From there it was to be taken into Judea, the province in which Jerusalem was situated. The next place it was to go was Samaria, a region bordering on Judea. After being planted there, the gospel was to be carried into the uttermost part of the world. This was God’s method for getting the job done. He then directed His disciples to go, teach, and baptize. These instructions are just as practical

in our day as they were when they were given to the disciples.

A Changing America

No greater challenge faces the church today than that of a constantly changing America. Life in our country today has been compared to a three-ring circus—with three exciting acts being performed simultaneously. So much is happening it is almost impossible to see and comprehend it all at once. Familiar patterns of community life are changing so radically and so rapidly that many people feel lost, uncertain about which way to go. We are a nation on the move—one out of five families move every year. New Communities spring up almost overnight. Long accepted values and mores are questioned, not to mention the pressures of an atomic and space age. Changing conditions, however, constitute an expanding challenge. Thank God, there is opportunity for even greater service.

The National Home Missions Board has helped establish churches in several of our major cities within the past few years. Today home missionaries are doing full time work in Canada, Mexico, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Alaska and Hawaii. Although the Church continues to grow, the unchurched mass increases also, until today about 75 million in North America claim no religious faith whatsoever. What a challenge to the Church!

Winning people to Christ in a big city may seem impossible if we concentrate on its problems, but the Holy Spirit is able to work in difficult and unexpected places.

Jesus faced the problem of insufficient personnel for the task of wit-

nessing and commanded His disciples to pray the Lord of the harvest to "send forth laborers into His harvest field" (Matthew 9:38). The home missions department has need for dedicated, capable, Spirit-filled workers to go into all areas of North America proclaiming the gospel.

Pray for young men to answer the call to the home missions work.

Pray for Donald Farris, missionary in Alaska, for physical strength to withstand extreme weather conditions; for effective witness to the Eskimos.

Friday

UNTO THE UTMOST

Song: "Send the Light"

Scripture: Acts 8:4-39

Finally the fourth corner of the tent is to be stretched to reach the uttermost part of the earth—the work of the foreign missions department. God has given the Free Will Baptist denomination its place of service in His plan of redemption for a lost world. We praise Him for the miraculous growth experienced within the past several years. We now have missionaries serving in Brazil, Panama, Uruguay, Africa, France, India, and Japan. However, we need to *lengthen our ropes*—to widen our tent. Why are we waiting?

Strengthen the Stakes

Every camper knows that when one lengthens the ropes he must reinforce his tent pegs. A boy's pup-tent may

require only six-inch pegs, while a circus tent will require stakes as large as one's arm and several feet thick.

The gospel tent sags today in many places for lack of stronger stakes.

You may be asking, "What can I do? How can I strengthen the stakes?"

First, strengthen your spiritual life. "Those who enter on enlarged spheres need to be themselves enlarged spiritually." "Grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." Strengthen your prayer life, study the Word, enlarge your vision.

Finally, *expansion is costly*. You may need an entirely new concept of stewardship. We should follow the example of the Macedonian churches who gave joyfully, liberally, sacrificially, and best of all, they "first gave themselves to the Lord" (II Corinthians 8:5).

Some time ago with several missionary accounts operating in the red and with a total deficit of several thousand dollars, the board voted that no new missionary appointments were to be made until all deficit accounts were cleared and all accounts were sufficiently underwritten. We need to *strengthen the stakes!*

Pray for the Larry Powells in the Virgin Islands; for funds for a church building; that new converts will be strengthened.

Offering for National Home Missions

The Lizzie McAdams offering for National Home Missions should be sent through your district and state auxiliary treasurers to the WNAC.

Remember, it is imperative that this part of God's work be expanded, for our foreign missions program can only be as strong as the home base.



Pre-Christmas Season of Prayer for State Home Missions

EVANGELISM THROUGH CHURCH EXTENSION

By Ann Barker

Monday

Song: The Light of the World is Jesus

Scripture: I Timothy 2:2

The "Project 30" church extension worker plan has been in operation with the National Home Missions Board for about four years. The plan is designed to assist the church extension

worker during those first few months until a young church can assume the full support of its pastor. Several churches have been established on a self-supporting basis as a result of this ministry.

The salary plan of "Project 30" is as follows:

Salary to be paid by Home Mission Board:

Months 1-12: full salary

Months 13-18: 75% of salary

Months 19-24: 50% of salary

Months 25-30: 25% of salary

Salary we trust new church will assume:

Months 13-18: 25% of salary

Months 19-24: 50% of salary
Months 25-30: 75% of salary

The National Home Missions Department's church extension ministry emphasizes the support going to the worker. The worker thus being freed from financial strain can give himself more fully to the establishing of an indigenous church which hopefully will be able to support its own pastor within 30 months.

The desire of the National Home Missions Board is that every church in our beloved denomination would become involved in some way with church extension work. Some state missions boards have adopted the plan given above, and there are several cases where state or district boards have united in co-operation with the National Home Missions Board to accomplish church extension.

There have been instances where the church extension worker has desired to remain with the work after "Project 30" was completed. As a result, there is a constant rotation of families serving under the National Home Missions Board.

Not only is it the desire of National Home Missions to have all churches interested in church extension, but also, to establish a gospel witness through adequate Free Will Baptist works in every large city in America.

Reverend and Mrs. J. Mark Vandivort and family are laboring in Columbia, Missouri. Their ministry is jointly sponsored by National Home Missions and the Missouri State Missions Board.

Item of praise: The church in Columbia has purchased their church property.

Prayer Request: Pray that our workers may have fruitful ministries and that

adquate support will be obtained as new works are initiated.

Tuesday

Song: I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go

Scripture: Philippians 2:9-11

Reverend Norlin Jones and his family are Tennessee state home missionaries. They are being sponsored by "Project 30". The Tennessee State Association voted for the Tennessee State Missions Board to sponsor the Jackson project in cooperation with the National Home Missions Board. The board will help promote this ministry and guarantee the salary of Brother Jones until the termination of the "Project 30" contract. It is anticipated that the Tennessee churches will supply the needed funds for Brother Jones' account.

Reverend and Mrs. Jones are dedicated Christian workers and their lovely children are an asset to their testimony in the community. Reverend Jones has over 13 years of experience in the pastoral ministry, including mission church experience as pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Memphis, Tennessee. Pastor Jones saw the church grow from a dwelling house to a modern church building. Later, Brother Jones pastored the Randall Memorial Free Will Baptist Church in Memphis. In these pastorates he has gained some valuable experience in church associated real estate procedures.

It is a mark of progress for Free Will Baptists to establish a witness in Jackson, Tennessee, one of west Tennessee's key cities and the fifth largest city in the state. God has blessed in

helping Brother Jones and the mission church secure some excellent property in a newly developed section of the city in Jackson.

A million-dollar high school building is expected to be built across the street from the newly acquired Free Will Baptist property. The church address is 3007 Humboldt Highway. With continued prayer and financial support of Tennessee Free Will Baptists, as well as yours, this new mission will develop into a strong self-supporting honor and glory for God.

Prayer Request: Pray that the Jackson mission will develop into a strong self-supporting church. Also, we ask you to list and pray for your own state missionary projects.

Wednesday

Song: Deeper, Deeper

Scripture: Isaiah 54:3

The E. B. Ledlow family are "Project 30" missionaries to Decatur, Alabama. The project has been jointly sponsored by the Alabama State Missions Board and the National Board of Home Missions and Church Extension. The national board is helping to promote and guarantee the salary of Mr. Ledlow until the termination of the "Project 30" contract. It is anticipated that the Alabama churches will supply the needed funds for the Ledlow's account. The successful progress of the Decatur project will be an example of what can be accomplished with a capable God-called worker and the faithful prayers and financial support of Christian friends.

The strategic city of Decatur beckons a challenge to Free Will Baptists. In a generation when many of the Protestant churches of America's cities

have veered away from preaching and teaching the pure gospel message, there is an urgent need for the Free Will Baptist church in the metropolitan area.

Free Will Baptists can be proud of the Edward Ledlow family who have recently completed a successful church extension ministry in Montgomery, Alabama. Previous to his employment as a church extension worker, Rev. Ledlow served several years as a successful pastor, and he has experienced, competent training in the business field, which is always a vital help to a church extension worker. Brother Ledlow's capable and dedicated family have been an asset to his ministry.

Prayer Request: As you continue to remember your own state projects, pray for the Decatur project and the Ledlow family.

Thursday

Song: Wonderful Story of Love

Scripture: I Corinthians 5:14-19

Mississippi Free Will Baptists present their first home missions couple, Rev. and Mrs. Levy Corey and family. The Coreys are laboring in the beautiful city of Meridian, the second largest in Mississippi.

In February, 1963, Levy and Crystal moved to Townley, Alabama, to undertake their first full-time pastorate. During these years much valuable experience was gained through two successful building programs. Through many channels of service afforded Levy, God prepared His servant for the work He had planned for him in the future. After five years of fruitful ministry there, they responded to the challenge of church extension work.

Free Will Baptist work in Mississippi is located in the northeast and southeast corners of the state. Meridian is located about middle way and had no Free Will Baptist witness. A strong church in Meridian will serve to tie the work together, thus enabling a united effort to move west with the gospel story.

The Mississippi State Missions Board voted to sponsor the Meridian project as a joint ministry with the National Board of Home Missions and Church Extension. The national board will help promote this ministry and will guarantee the salary of Brother Corey until the termination of the contract. It is anticipated that the Mississippi churches will supply the needed funds for Brother Corey's account.

Prayer Request: Make a list of the major cities in your area without a Free Will Baptist church, and pray that God will raise up workers for those areas. Remember the Meridian project and the Corey family.

Friday

Song: Have Faith in God

Scripture: John 4:35

Atlanta, Georgia, a city of over 1,000,000 people, does not have a Free Will Baptist church. For the past two years the Free Will Baptists of Georgia have been thinking about this great need and challenge, and with this in mind the Georgia Missions Board launched a campaign called "Target City-Atlanta".

Laboring in the city of Atlanta is the J. E. Blanton family. Reverend Blanton and his family helped organize a Free Will Baptist church in Jesup, Georgia, and have labored faithfully

there for the past eight years. Feeling a burden for the Atlanta area, Brother Blanton resigned his church and began making plans to move to Atlanta.

There were 120 Free Will Baptist churches ministering to about 2,000,000 people in the southeastern and southwestern parts of the state and no Free Will Baptist churches ministering to 2,500,000 people in the northern part of the state.

The problem of church extension has always been a labor problem. Where can we find a man? Who will go for us? Whom can we send? Knowing God's leadership, Brother Blanton said, "I will go." Georgia Free Will Baptists are thrilled to have this new work in Atlanta.

The Apostle Paul stated in Colossians 4:2,3, "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ" The door to many of our cities the nation over could be opened and workers provided if we would pray and give as we should. Remember it was Jesus who said, "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." God is able to provide if we are concerned enough to pray. The literal translation of "send forth" is cast forth. God will call and cast them forth if we will lift up our eyes and look, lift up our hearts and pray, lift up our feet and go, and lift up our pocket-books and give.

Prayer Request: Pray that God will call labourers and ask Him what He would have your group to do regarding church extension in your state.

Mrs. Barker is bookkeeper for the National Home Missions Department.



As You Pray . . .

...remember your missionaries by name. Pray for their spiritual lives, witness, health, and material needs. The following weekly world prayer calendar will help you regularize your praying:

Monday: Spanish America—Cuba, Ecuador, Panama, Uruguay; Mexico, Virgin Islands.

Tuesday: Portuguese America — Brazil. South America's largest republic containing half of South America's population; Chaplain Gerald Mangham; Puerto Rico.

Wednesday: Europe — France. A strategic country in the heart of the "forgotten continent." Intense spiritual need.

Thursday: Africa — Ivory Coast. West Africa's most progressive country yet still engulfed in spiritual darkness. Great opportunity for harvest; Canada.

Friday: Asia — and Japan. India is the world's second most populated area. Japan is the Orient's economic capital. Masses of souls yet unreached; Hawaii; Alaska.

Saturday: Stateside staffs. Board members who are charged by the denomination with responsibility for administering the overseas and home ministries. Home office staffs who back up front line personnel with essential services.

Sunday: Supporting constituency at home. Your own spiritual needs. Revival of missionary concern in American Free Will Baptist congregations. Faithfulness of pastors to keep world evangelism uppermost in their ministries. Faithfulness of faith promise and prayer partners to keep commitments with the same dedication as the missionary staff. State and National Home Missionaries.

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