

LIBRARY

Free Will Baptist Bible College

CO-LABORER

APRIL • MAY • JUNE • 1970



Q
A

How does family life affect a child's decision to become a missionary?

Ask George and Nellie Balisky, a farm couple who have ►►►



Kids

All Over The Place

by Kerry Louvering and Christine Ferrier

AND WE MEAN all over the place—Honduras, Thailand, Nigeria, Canada and Ethiopia. George and Nellie Balisky raised 10 children on their farm near Peace River, Alberta. All of them are active Christians, six are missionaries in other lands. Four of the six serve with SIM.

How did it happen? What can we learn from this family? We asked Ralph, the oldest, to tell us about his home and parents. Here is the story.

First, George Balisky, the father, is a very ordinary man. His schooling did not go beyond grade four, and even into his adult years his English was halting and broken. Born of devout parents in Kiev, Ukraine, George was brought up in the Orthodox church. The family emigrated to North Dakota in 1907 when George was still a lad.

A few years later George heard of

homestead land available in the Grande Prairie district of the Peace River in Canada. He traveled to the end of the railway, then walked 200 miles to file his claim. While settling the land, he was won to Christ through the witness of Mennonite farmers. Eager to share his faith, he applied to Moody Bible Institute, but was not accepted because of his limited education.

In 1924 he returned to North Dakota, married Nellie Zarek, and brought his 17-year-old bride back to Sexsmith. He showed her the property. "Where shall we build?" he asked. She chose a spot, and he put up their first home, a two-room log cabin.

George and Nellie didn't have much, but they had decided that they would serve Christ with everything they did have. They turned themselves over to God, and promised Him their home and family.

Six children and several additions to the log cabin later, George began to build "the big house," a landmark in the Sexsmith community.

"We were so proud of our parents and that house," recalls Ralph. "Times were hard then, but it was a lovely house. And my dad built it! He was a real hard worker."

A WARM-HEARTED FAMILY

In due time George and Nellie had seven husky sons and three attractive daughters. The Balisky place was nicknamed "Boys' Ranch" because of the young fellows who swarmed there. "We remember a happy home," recalls Ralph. "Mother loved to have us bring our friends home. And we always had a little good-bye prayer for every visitor, no matter who."

The boys held amateur rodeos at the farm, and the days after Christmas was an annual event in Sexsmith—a skating party at the Baliskys'.

Before the local church was built, the Balisky home was a regular place of worship. The "congregation" took turns visiting the neighborhood homes, and George and Nellie were always thrilled to hold services and have prayer meetings in the big house. George was often the preacher, talking quietly in his mother tongue to his Ukranian neighbors. There were enough Balisky kids to form their own choir.

George made it a point to do only the necessary chores on Sunday, although other farmers thought this was foolish, especially when it was a race against the weather. But George and Nellie believed Sunday was for God, and for worship.

A MISSIONS-MINDED FAMILY

"Every visiting missionary in the district stayed at our house," recalls Ralph. "Some of them stayed a long time, and we liked that. With ten kids and a pile of friends around the house, there was always an enormous stack of dishes to be washed. So Dad made a notice board right over the sink, and we put the photos of missionaries on it. There they were, looking at us. Mother would pray for them while she worked. This made a real impression on us."

Their missionary guests all made some contribution that was remembered. One missionary repaired their clocks, another painted a sign on the truck door, another cleaned the pig pen with the boys.

A GIVING FAMILY

George and Nellie were practical examples of committed Christians stewards. Each year they made a promise to missions. During the hard times they didn't know where the money would come from. But they refused to worry. They simply trusted God to help them meet their pledge.

The boys loved sports, and the house was just a stone's throw from the creek. Winter was hockey time. One year Paul wanted new skates. Harvest had been good and he had high hopes. But George and Nellie had to tell him that their missionary pledge came first. His old skates would have to last him another season. "At first I was disappointed" recalls Paul. "But I scored a lot of goals on those old missionary skates!"

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CO-LABORER

VOLUME X

NO. 2

Second Quarter, 1970

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Cleo W. Pursell, Editor Iva Mae Hunter, Circulation Manager Single subscription \$1.50 CO-LABORER, published quarterly, is a periodical of reference for all WNAC organizations, published by the Woman's Auxiliary Convention (auxiliary to the National Association of Free Will Baptists), 1134 Murfreesboro Road, or Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee. Subscriptions when ordered in groups of five or more are \$1.25 per year. All correspondence and changes of address should be sent to the above address. Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee 37202

WOMEN

in Action

Symposium

The Cumberland District Woman's Auxiliary workshop was held in October at the East Nashville, Tennessee, Church with Mary Ruth Wisehart presiding.

Laura Belle Suffridge brought the devotion and special music was rendered by the Bible College Sextet. Cofer's Chapel Auxiliary presented the playlet, "As Unto Christ." Bible College students were special guests.

A symposium on Auxiliary work was conducted. The panel was composed of Maude Coffey, Cleo Pursell, and Nancy Trimble.

Missions speakers were Lynette Miley, Africa; Beth Merkh, France, and Brenda Sanders, Hawaii.

Classes for local officers were conducted in the afternoon.

State Convention

The Tennessee Woman's Auxiliary Convention met at Columbia in November with a registration of 104. Information concerning several foreign mission fields was presented by Lynette Miley, Linda Wight, Myrtle Parrish, Myrtle Reed, Maurine Lee, Edna Harris, and Mrs. Ralph Staten.

Mrs. Gladys Sloan conducted a memorial service for Mrs. Mary Welch, pioneer Auxiliary worker. Rev. Howard Gage spoke at the morning worship hour, and Rev. Richard

Cordell spoke in behalf of home missions. Report of the Children's Home was given by Rev. Don Ellis, and a report of the WNAC by Cleo Pursell. Mrs. Dennis Christian conducted the installation service.

New District

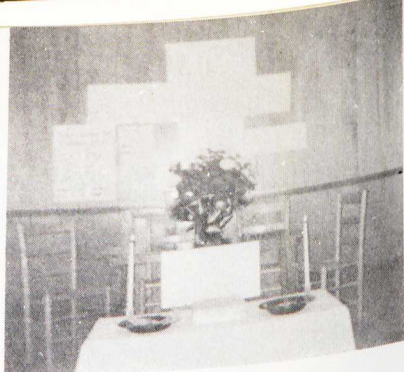
The first meeting of the Youngstown and Mansfield District Auxiliary was held in August at Youngstown, Ohio, with visitors from Cleveland and Akron.

Officers were elected and a study course on the Manual was conducted by Nora McCarty, state field worker and national stewardship-prayer chairman.

The Woman's Auxiliary of Olivet Free Will Baptist Church, Guthrie, Kentucky, recently purchased two pulpit chairs for the church. Shown presenting the chairs are, left to right, Mrs. Sally McGregor, president, and Mrs. Florence Parham, treasurer.



Interest center and posters used by members of the Woman's Auxiliary, Ahoskie, North Carolina, during their Emphasis Month observance.



Mrs. Iris Wallace, Woman's Auxiliary president of Calvary Church, Newport, Michigan, is shown presenting a gift of \$51.00 to Tommy Hughs, missionary appointee to Brazil. Members accumulated the gift by saving dimes and pennies for two months. Others pictured are, left to right, Mrs. Maxine Chalupka, Mrs. Helen Grey, Mrs. Hazel Robinson, and Mrs. Pauline Perkins.

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Capitol City Free Will Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas, promoted WNAC Emphasis Month by presenting a play. Left to right, Stella Dean, Freda Almond, Edith Burks, Jean Sory, Kathy Moore, Nancy Thomas, Irene Roberts, Nina Edmonds, Geraldene Sanders, Shirley Morgan. Not shown is Ruth Jones, pianist.



Members of the Woman's Auxiliary of Lancaster, South Carolina, are shown with missionaries Carlisle and Marie Hanna and children, Mark, Brenda, and Michael. The Auxiliary presented the Hannas with a gift of \$300.





The Woman's Auxiliary of the Faith Free Will Baptist church, Huntsville, Alabama make weekly visits to the local nursing home.

These visits provide opportunities for witnessing and for personal service such as writing letters, reading, or hand projects.

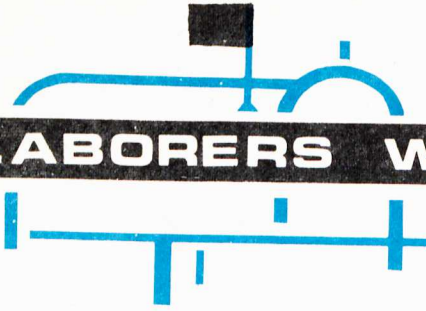


A cheery smile from Mrs. James Hartley is always welcomed by the ladies.



Mrs. Gloria Floyd, pastor's wife, enjoys talking with a young man who has a great sense of humor despite his handicap.





CO-LABORERS WRITE

from Alabama

Our Auxiliary is progressing. Please send me one dozen more *Co-Laborers*. We are proud of our Auxiliary and we want to thank you very much for helping us through the *Co-Laborer*. We enjoy it a lot and get a blessing from it.

The Lord is blessing us at Hickory Grove Church. We have a new piano and also in the very near future we plan to have a new church, by the Lord's help.

*Mrs. J.T. Helms
Abbeville, Alabama*

from Arizona

Our State Woman's Auxiliary is but a baby, but we have great hopes for the future and seem to be off to a good start.

*Mrs. Mae Fry
Tucson, Arizona*

from California

Our Auxiliary sent a box of new clothing to the orphanage in Greeneville, Tennessee and has another of good used clothing ready to send. One of our members, Mrs. Mossie Thomas, made a lovely quilt.

The church has agreed to designate the first Sunday, "missions Sunday," and an offering will be taken. The articles and programs in *Co-Laborer*

are so interesting and enlightening. May the Lord continue to bless those who are responsible for them.

*Fannie Smithen
Torrance, California*

from Florida

We are looking for a real good year in our Auxiliary this year. We just praise the Lord for what He accomplished in our Auxiliary this past year. We would like to increase our *Co-Laborer* subscription from 15 to 20.

We want you to know that we appreciate the many hours you labor for the Lord in our Auxiliary work and to encourage you in your labors there.

*Martha Morris
Lake Butler, Florida*

from Georgia

You will find a check enclosed for \$23.00 Emphasis Month offering from the Marietta Church. We presented the skit, "As Unto Christ," in our morning worship service Sunday. You could have heard a pin drop.

We are praying for our Auxiliary to increase in number to be able to do more for the cause of Christ.

*Mrs. Pike McLain
Lyons, Georgia*

from Illinois

A young man from our church (Hazel Dell), whom God called into the ministry is now enrolled in our Bible College. It was decided at our last Auxiliary meeting that we would give him a love offering each month.

We recently sponsored a special service in our church when Mr. and Mrs. Cash and six of the girls from the Children's Home at Greeneville, Tennessee came and spoke to our people. An offering was taken for them.

*Earlene Gallaway
Sesser, Illinois*

from Kentucky

Enclosed you will find a steam iron, some aprons, and pot holders for the missionary provision closet. The pot holders were made and given by five elderly ladies living in a nursing home. The ladies enjoyed working on them and were happy to have a part in helping missionaries. They also enjoy the services and visits by the Auxiliary. This is part of our ministry.

*Mrs. C.D. Hensley
Louisville, Kentucky*

from Mississippi

The programs in *Co-Laborer* are wonderful and very challenging. They have meant so much to me in the last few years. The ladies of our church used the play, "The Lord Will Work It Out," for our Emphasis month program which was a blessing to the whole church. We presented it on Wednesday night at our prayer service. Our offering was \$27.45 for which we thank God. May this be used to help someone come to know Christ.

*Margaret Price
Columbus, Mississippi*

from North Carolina

We enjoy the *Co-Laborer* very much and we use it each month for our programs. We support the WNAC by sending 10% of our offerings each month. May God bless each one of you in your work in publishing our Auxiliary books and materials which make our meetings more enjoyable.

*Mrs. Paul M. Wall
Ahoskie, North Carolina*

from Oklahoma

We enjoyed the programs in the *Co-Laborer* last quarter and always enjoy reading and hearing other Auxiliary ideas. This quarters' issue is very good. God bless you in your work for the Woman's Auxiliary and the Lord.

*Charlene Hensley
Tecumseh, Oklahoma*

from South Carolina

The Lord has certainly blessed our Auxiliary in every endeavor and we credit it to much prayer, hard work and good literature made available to us through the WNAC, and especially the *Co-Laborer*.

We have about 18 active members and everyone is dependable and ready when called on to do her part. Of course (as president) I'd like to say I believe they are the best group in the state and can turn out more work. That's how every Auxiliary ought to be isn't it? We are the Woman's Auxiliary of the High Point Free Will Baptist Church.

*Mrs. Roy S. Carter
Lancaster, South Carolina*

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Pray for Missions Call-A-Thon Sunday,
April 19

Praise the Lord for the missionary
conferences being held in various
states.

Pray for the Calverys as they make
preparation to come to the states
from Japan in June.

Pray for the national workers who will
take over the work of the Calverys
while they are on furlough.

Praise the Lord for the way He has
provided for the Robirdses to re-
turn to Brazil.

Pray for the meeting of the Board of
Foreign Missions, May 18-22.

Pray that sufficient funds may enable
the Herbert Waids to return to
Japan in June.

Pray for the Archie Mayhews as they
make preparations to return to the
Ivory Coast.

Pray for Dr. and Mrs. Miley as they
make plans to return to the states
for furlough from Ivory Coast.

Pray for the Merkh's as they plan to
return to the states for furlough,
and for the ones who will take over
the work in France while they are
away.

Praise God for the new people at-
tending the services in St. Paul,
Minnesota, as a result of contacts
made by members and a newspaper
ad.

Pray for the Good News Club begun
by the Robert Francis in St. Paul
to reach the many children in the
area near the Church.

Praise God for the conversions witnes-
sed in the work in Puerto Rico.

Pray for the people of the church in
Puerto Rico. They have rented a

house and are having services there.
Nineteen were present for the first
service held in this building.

Praise the Lord for His blessings on the
church in Waipahu, Hawaii. Luther
Sanders writes, "Recently a young
couple, who lost their infant
daughter, started to attend our
services and the wife, a Catholic,
accepted Christ as her Saviour. The
husband, who was a backslidden
Baptist, came back to the Lord. Jim
decided that he wanted to do some-
thing for the Lord so he bought a
beautiful new Kimball electronic
organ and had it delivered to the
church shortly before Thanks-
giving... Jim smoked about three
packages of cigarettes per day and
he decided to quit smoking and use
his cigarette money to pay for the
organ..."

Praise God for 13 people in Sunday
school and 10 at church at the
Cedar Rapids, Iowa mission.

Pray for this new work that their
needs will be supplied and that a
strong church can be established.
Pray for the pastor, Reverend J.W.
Ussery.

Pray that pastors and laymen will re-
spond to the need for home mission
and church extension workers. The
National Home Missions Board
needs at least ten men to do this
work.

Pray for safety of travel for all our
missionaries to and from mis-
sionaries services.

Praise the Lord for the funds that
come in monthly for our mis-
sionary accounts and operational
funds.

Study Course Tips



by Mary Dooley, WNAC Study Course
Chairman

A RECOMMENDATION for a study course this quarter, possibly to further emphasize our pre-season of prayer is *Praying Together* by Rosalind Rinker. In this book the author gives a down-to-earth, realistic analysis of our traditional prayer meetings. She seeks to reveal to the reader the prayer status of church goers today and reminds us of the needs and hungers for a prayer experience which is alive and not boring. Also, it is her desire to inspire the reader to the degree that new prayer groups would be started—groups where people are truly conversing with God.

The theme of this book is that Christians should pray together. Honest prayer results in a bond between those involved. Conventional prayers which sound so “right” tend only to widen the gap between us.

We need to understand that when we put our needs into words we have started in the right direction. Then we hope as we exercise faith. Having the love and support from our prayer friends adds the added strength we need to claim the victory.

STUDY HINTS

To begin the study course have someone find examples of prayers answered in the Old Testament. Another could report on prayer in the New Testament. These prayers could be analyzed to compare and/or contrast them. For the last meeting some could dramatize the outstanding characters of prayer such as MOSE'S prayer for Israel (Exodus 32:11-13), JOSHUA'S prayer after the defeat at Ai (Joshua 7:7-9), SAMUEL'S prayer for help (Judges 16:28), HANNAH'S prayer for a son (I Samuel 1:10, 11), and SOLOMON'S prayer for wisdom (I King 2:6-9).

Have a soul searching for one request that reveals your most “honest” need. Converse with God one at a time as you hold hands for the benediction of your last service.

This inspiring book should motivate us to reach out to others as we pray “Our Father which art in Heaven . . .”

Please Note

Unfortunately the information about procuring free tapes on prayer from the *Inspirational Tape Library* (page 126) is inaccurate. To become eligible to borrow tapes one must become a member of the *Tape Library*, pay a membership fee of \$5.00 plus 75¢ for postage and handling.

However, WNAC has purchased an excellent tape by Rosalind Rinker entitled *Praying Together*, which may be borrowed by Auxiliaries paying a \$1.00 postage and handling charge. The length of the tape is 32 minutes, is on a five inch reel, and will play on both monaural and stereo recorders.

The editor

CIRCLE

PROGRAMS

APRIL

Spiritual
Green
Thumbs

Song: "Scattering Precious Seed"

Scripture: Luke 8:4-21

Prayer Requests from *Heartbeat* and
Mission-Grams

SOME WOMEN have "green thumbs" and practically anything will grow for them; others cannot grow *anything*. However, spiritual growth is possible for all who will meet the conditions laid down in God's Word.

The Sower

A great crowd of people had gathered around Jesus. On this occasion He used a parable. By a careful study of this parable we can learn some very good rules and warnings about hearing the Word.

The heart of man is as soil to the seed of God's Word. It is capable of receiving the Word and bringing it to full fruition. It is our concern that the seed be planted, for unless there is a planting there can be no gathering of fruit. The success of the seeding depends very much upon the nature of the soil and its disposition to receive or reject the seed.

Unfruitful Lives

Those by the wayside are those who hear but soon fall because they let Satan come and take away the Word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. The careless hearers are in danger. The devil does all he can to keep us from hearing the Word, or if we hear it, to soon forget it.

In the parable, the seed that fell by the wayside was trodden down. Those who willingly close their ears against the Word do in effect trample it under their feet.

Those on the rock hear the Word and rejoice in it, but have no depth or durability, and are too easily overcome by temptation. They make a good beginning but are not able to carry through.

The ones which fell among thorns are they who hear and go forth, only to be choked with the cares of riches and worldly pleasure. We must not become entangled with the cares of this life or be deceived in the pursuit of riches.

The Fruitful Life

The seed must find lodging in the heart, but that is not enough. It must be brought to perfection, fully ripe. The good ground which brings forth good fruit is the honest heart, willing

to receive instruction. It is a heart free from sin's entanglements, firmly fixed on God and duty.

We must be careful how we hear, that we do not hear carelessly, and that we bring the Word to full fruitage. The fruit is the increase of the crop. In our hearts the increase is in the fruit of the Spirit. And what is the fruit of the Spirit? (Read Galatians 5:22, 23.)

So, as we get out into the warm spring sunshine and plant our gardens for the summer, may the thought of the sower and his seeds, and the cultivation of a garden, a lawn or a weedpatch, be translated into spiritual terms in our own lives. Are we making our lives gardens in which lovely flowers of kindness and understanding and devotion and graciousness are being cultivated? Are we training and encouraging these lovely qualities in our children?

MAY

The
Fruit
of
Affliction

Song: "Moment by Moment"

Scripture: Genesis 50:15-26

Prayer requests from missionary letters

WE SOMETIMES say that certain people have "two strikes" against them. By this we mean they start out their lives under the cloud of some difficulty. It may be the character of their parents, their environment, their appearance, or a disability that came upon them while they were still young.

Mercy Goodfaith

One such person was Mercy Goodfaith. She was an orphan, and at

the age of ten was unhappy, sickly, ill-tempered, ugly, and hunchbacked. No one seemed to love her, and no one wanted her until one day a woman came to the orphanage looking for a child no one else would take.

Thirty-five years later reports were circulated that one county-appointed home for orphans stood out above all others. A case-worker reported that the children were clean and happy. The matron of this home frequently sang with the children while one of the older girls assisted by playing on a small pump organ. They all seemed to have a deep affection for the house-mother and constantly flocked about her. She in turn gave each one the utmost in love and gracious attention. This great and helpful woman was none other than the outwardly ugly hunchback named Mercy Goodfaith. Her affliction had not made her bitter, but had led her into a life of service and devotion to others.

Joseph

The patriarch Joseph also experienced a great deal of misfortune in his lifetime, first at the hand of his brothers and then in his early days in Egypt. He did not deserve the things he suffered. Yet he never became spiteful, never lost his faith, but was able to give a glowing testimony of his submission to the ways of God.

The trials were necessary in order that the Lord's loving purpose for the sons of Jacob might be fulfilled.

Your misfortunes need not be tragedies. They can be stepping-stones to a life of sweet fellowship with God and service to others. It is your response to affliction that makes the difference!

JUNE

An
Urgent
Task

Song: "O Zion Haste"

Scripture: Matthew 9:35-38; 2 Corinthians 6:1, 2

Prayer Requests from *Co-Laborer*

JAMES HUDSON TAYLOR, who established one of the biggest missionary enterprises in China, was not a robust man but he was a tireless worker. It is said that he learned to sleep wherever and whenever he could. He worked night and day, resting only when his exhausted body compelled him to do so. Once he wrote home, "Oh, what work! No light, no Jesus, no hope full of bliss. My heart yearns for them. Can it be that Christian men and women still stay comfortably at home and leave these souls to perish?"

"Would that God would make hell so real to us that we cannot rest; heaven so real that we must have men there; Christ so real that our supreme motive and aim shall be to make the Man of Sorrows the Man of Joy by the conversion to Him of many concerning whom He prayed, 'Father, I will that they also whom Thou hast given me, be with me where I am.'"

This man of God felt within himself a great urgency to reach as many people for Christ as possible while he had life and strength.

The Minutemen

A familiar story to Americans is that of the minutemen. During the fight for independence, a group of citizens armed themselves and pledged that they would be ready to fight at a minute's notice. Their love for freedom prompted this urgency. How much we might accomplish for Christ

if we had the love for lost souls expressed by John Hudson Taylor and a love for Christ's kingdom similar to that expressed by these minutemen for their homeland!

A Sense of Urgency

The lost condition of the world should give us a sense of urgency. It is Christ, and Christ alone, who can save the masses from eternal doom. Men have turned to science as a means of solving the world's problems only to find that their study leads them back to Christ's divine plan. Educators have stressed development of intellectual capacities as a solution and have also been led by their studies back to Christ, the Great Teacher. What in the world of science or education can be separate from God? God made man and the universe, and He must therefore have made the laws that govern both. Thus, education and science are not answers in themselves. And although they ultimately lead back to God, the path is long and filled with pitfalls. How much simpler it is to just tell the world of the saving grace of Christ; just to "go" and "teach." All we need is activating concern and we will find a way.

The problem lies in developing the necessary concern. It is much easier to say, "Yes, I know we as a church ought to give more to missions, and we shall one of these days when we get our building fund paid." "I know I ought to put more money in the missionary offering and I shall when my living expenses are lower." "I know I ought to take a more personal interest in missions, and I shall when I have more time." And so it goes. The time never comes and the work is never done.

Ideas

for your Programs

APRIL/A Lobi Woman Wins Souls

You may want to make a poster showing an outline map of Ivory Coast and the location of the Free Will Baptist hospital and clinic at Doropo.

Paste beside the map pictures of missionaries ministering there: Dr. LaVerne and Lorene Miley, Sandra and Eddie Payne, Sherwood and Vada Lee. (These may be cut from missionary maps or back issues of *Heart-beat*.) A perfect pattern of the Ivory Coast is found on the back cover of the mission digest series *Ivory Coast Today*.

The missions chairman may draw smaller outline maps of Ivory Coast, writing on each a prayer request, and distributing to the members of the Auxiliary. Pray especially for additional staff personnel as well as for physical strength for those ministering at the clinic.

About the author: The writer of this program, Rev. Howard Gage, is a former Oklahoma pastor. He and his wife Willie, were appointed construction missionaries to the Ivory Coast in 1966. He built the hospital as well as several missionary residences before returning to the states in 1968. He now serves as deputional missionary for the Board of Foreign Missions.

MAY/Far Above Rubies

Print the letters MOTHER down the left side of a poster and attach the poster to the wall above the table used as an interest center.

Ask members to suggest characteristics of a Christian mother for each letter of MOTHER. Group suggestions are preferred to those listed below. Print answers on the poster as they are given.

- M— merciful, meek, ministering
- O— obedient, observing
- T— temperate, tender, teacher
- H— happy, helpful, hospitable
- E— energetic, earnest, encouraging
- R— righteous, resourceful, respected

JUNE/Chains That Bind

A new poster showing Free Will Baptist missionaries in Mexico and the church in Monterrey (built by funds supplied by WNAC) is available. Order from WNAC, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. Send 15¢ plus postage.

If you are having a luncheon in connection with the program, serve typical Mexican dishes such as chili, tamales, tacos, and enchiladas. Corn may be made Spanish by adding diced pimiento. Red and green peppers should be included on the relish tray. Fruit may be served as a salad or dessert.

Prayer Reminders: Prayer requests may be written on paper chains. Pray for the Arthur Billows and David Cochranes as they witness to Catholics and seek to train youth in the Institute of Gold. Pray especially for physical strength and health.

April Program

A Lobi Woman Wins Souls

by Howard Gage

Purpose: To inspire women to become involved as witnesses for Christ wherever they are.

Interest Center: Have on a table a bowl containing the items that resemble an African's sacrifice to a pagan god: One cupful of cold grits (or oatmeal) to resemble *eko*, with barbecue sauce poured over it to look like, but not taste as hot as, the African's palm oil with African pepper; two eggs (in the shell); a banana; a feather. Explain that it is similar to the sacrifices many Africans offer daily to pagan gods.

Song: "Bring Them In"

Prayer requests from missionaries.

Scripture: Mark 1:16-18

See Ideas for your Program

AMIDDLE AGED Lobi woman came to the Free Will Baptist Clinic at Doropo, Ivory Coast. She was



very ill physically. She could neither read nor write and was filled with fears, superstition and tradition.

Her illness required extensive medical treatment. As she came day after day she was told the Gospel story and prayers were offered in her behalf. After many days she was well in body but had not accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour. However, the Word was slowly penetrating her confused heart and mind.

There was great rejoicing when she finally came to service and with tears wept her way to Calvary.

Normally the spiritual growth of the African convert is very slow but not so with Abena. She immediately went to tell her people about her new experience. She was beaten by her husband. He refused to allow her to feed some orphaned children she was rearing for her deceased brother, yet she came back to service bringing her first convert. She came often for prayer and council. Almost without exception she brought a convert to every service. Some were children, some older. She won her older sister, Cofena. She won the moonshiner's wife.

Abena could not sing nor read the Bible, yet these handicaps did not dampen her desire to bring all her people to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many of the converts on the field are taught and observed for a year and if faithful, they are baptized and given a new name—a Biblical name. But the spiritual growth of Abena and Cofena was so outstanding that they were baptized sooner. They took the names of Mary and Martha.

Mary (Abena) came to ask for materials to use in her soulwinning campaign. She was furnished a small, spring-powered record player. On the

record was a message in sermon and song in the Lobi's native tongue.

From village to village she traveled making converts as she went. The missionaries were asked to come and help the new converts to better understand.

One day she came and reported an entire village was ready to pray. We later discovered the village she had won was 45 American miles away! She had a special interest in this village because some of her children lived there. Mothers, are your children saved?

Later, when this faithful soulwinner came bringing her wicked husband to be saved *our cups ran over!*

GROUP DISCUSSION

Leader: An effective salesman will have certain necessary characteristics. A successful executive will possess some fundamental qualities which others do not possess. The soulwinner will possess certain spiritual qualities.

Ask the following question, allowing adequate time for thoughtful answers from the group. Use the answers given here only to encourage thinking and summarize the group ideas.

1. Is soulwinning a God-given gift or is it an art which must be cultivated?

Both.

2. What important soulwinning qualifications did Abena possess?

Conversion

The master soulwinner said, "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7). An experiential knowledge

of Christ is imperative in soul-winning. No one whose knowledge is limited to what he has read in books can instruct others in how to come to Christ unless he himself has experienced true conversion.

Clean Life

The soulwinner's life must be above reproach. This does not mean that he must be perfect but that his life must be clean. Abena was a living example of the fruits of the Gospel. She soon won the confidence of her friends and relatives.

Concern

A heartfelt knowledge of Christ will create a longing to see others saved. The inner urge to bring others to Christ is essential to effective evangelism. Abena began to witness immediately to her people.

Courage

Suffering beatings and other ill treatment from her husband, Abena literally presented her body a *living sacrifice* unto God.

Communion

Abena cultivated her gift of soulwinning by coming frequently to the missionaries for council and prayer. Prayer is the most serious obligation of the soulwinner. So much depends on prayer that it becomes more than an individual privilege. It becomes a binding obligation. Prayer enables the witness to use the Bible effectively. Through prayer a person becomes acutely aware of the presence of God.

3. What special effort did Abena make to win her children to Christ?

She walked 45 miles to take the Word of God to the village where they lived.

Silent Prayer: (As the pianist or organist plays softly, ask each person to bow in prayer and take an inventory of her life. The leader may ask:

Do you possess all the spiritual qualities of a soulwinner? If not, what is lacking?

Have you had a definite experience of salvation? (Pause)

Is your life above reproach, or do such things as pettiness, gossip, worldliness, fear, or indifference hinder your influence? (Pause)

Are you really concerned about the lost in your community and in your family as well as those in the uttermost parts of the earth? (Pause)

Are you timid and fearful of witnessing? What about your prayer life? Is it consistent? (Pause)

Have we borne fruit of a new soul in this calendar year? Do we dare ask God to purge us that we might bear more fruit?

The soulwinner needs the ability that only the Holy Spirit can provide. He is the conductor of the power. It flows through him like electricity flows through a wire. The wire does not possess the electricity. The electricity merely flows through the wire. This power is possessed as long as the Holy Spirit is operative in the life.

May we yield our lives to the Holy Spirit, even as Abena did—a "living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God." And then we too can be used of Him in winning the lost.

Prayer of dedication.

May Program

An Ideal Woman...

FAR ABOVE RUBIES



Purpose: To study and emulate the traits of an ideal Biblical woman.

Worship Center: Spread an attractive apron over a table. Arrange a Bible and an open Bible story book on it.

See Ideas for your program.

Song: "Faith of our Mothers"

Prayer: For strength to see and meet the needs in our homes, churches, communities and world.

Special Feature: Mothers Never Change, page 25

Scripture: Proverbs 31:10-31



ANY CHRISTIAN mother is concerned about the type person her son or daughter may choose to marry. The mother of King Lemuel placed before the youthful monarch a picture of a faithful and kindly wife, mother, and mistress. She admonished him to seek her with all diligence because there are many imitations of the real gem. She is well worth any effort to secure—*her worth is far above rubies!*

There seems to be within her a spring of unfailing activity, and the completion of one task is immediately followed by the beginning of another. In her home she is astir before the dawn, and when her domestic duties are completed she gives her mind to the transaction of business without—to the best market in which to sell her goods, and to buy all she needs for the supply of her household.

We cannot conceive of this energetic spirit in a frail and sickly body—she must have been physically healthy and strong, and we may give her credit for having been observant of the laws of God in this respect as in higher matters, and be sure that she avoided whatever might weaken her body or deaden her intellect. This being the case, her constant activity

would be a pleasure and would in itself contribute to the maintenance of her bodily strength.

HER CAPABILITY

She was not only a great worker, but there was wisdom behind the work—a brain directing the hands. There are many people always busy, who yet accomplish but little, because their activity is not wisely directed—indeed, energetic action without wisdom to guide it, may be most disastrous in its effects. There is an abundance of power in the locomotive, but if it is set in motion and left free from wise control, it works ill instead of good. But this woman's intellectual capacity equalled her active energy. She was a good judge of the merchandise that she had to sell, and knew the value of the land that she had bought. She was methodical, and so able to arrange the employments of all the household so that no confusion should arise, and she could also show them with her own hands how to perform their work, for "she layeth Her hands to the spindle," and so follows up her precept by example. Her capacity also manifested itself in her *forethought*—in keeping her supply well ahead of her demand.

HER COMPASSION

She might have been all that we have thus far painted her, and yet not have made a happy home. If she had been nothing more she might have been feared, and in some measure respected, but she would not have been *loved*. Just as energy may be dangerous without wisdom to guide it, so much capable energy may be repellent without love to soften it. But her

uncommon endowments and attainments did not make her impatient with her inferiors, and she was not so absorbed in providing for those at home as to forget the poor outside. Her commands were given in a winning tone, and her corrections in a loving spirit. She was more apt to instruct than to reprove, and doubtless acted upon the principle that the "way to make people better is to make the best of them."

SOURCE OF CHARACTER

Although it is not absolutely stated, it is implied that godliness was the source of this lovely character—that it was the fear of the Lord which enabled her to keep so even a balance of virtues as to stand forth a perfect pattern to the women of every age and nation. The fear of God had given her a right conception of her duties towards all mankind, and especially of the sacred nature of her relationships as wife and mother.

HER REWARD

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." To be loved and appreciated by loved ones is cause enough indeed for rejoicing! But verse 30 gives us the key to the whole thing. "Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands: and let her own works praise her in the gates.

How true it is that favor is something withdrawn from us, and that beauty disappears with time. But the woman who fears the Lord is entitled

to all the rewards which come to her. After all her virtues are listed, the writer sums it up by saying that other women have been virtuous too, but this one fears the Lord. *Her worth is far above rubies!*

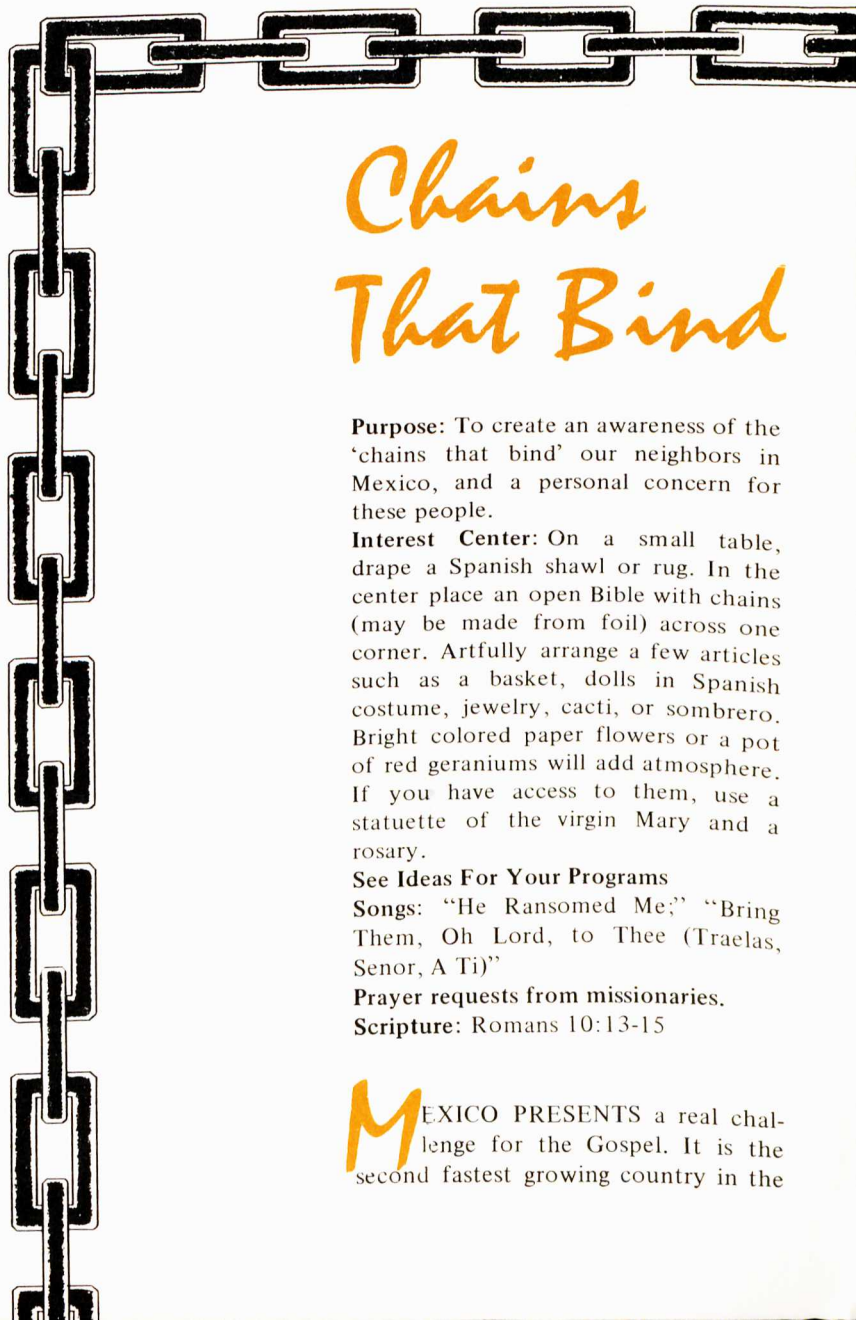
For Discussion

1. Is Solomon's description of a virtuous woman attainable today?
2. Is it wrong for a woman to spend time, effort, and money on her personal appearance?
3. Is the missionary giving of our own congregation as great as it should be?
4. Could the women of the congregation make any improvement in their benevolent giving?
5. How many women of our church give the equivalent of one afternoon a week to church work? One afternoon a month?
6. How is a woman to judge how much time to give to church work?
7. Is it possible for a woman to spend so much time doing church work that she neglects her home and children?
8. Can you personally improve your effectiveness as a Christian worker by giving more thought and energy to the women's work of the church? (Answer only to yourself.)

Meditation Period:

As soft background music is played, ask the group to spend time in silent prayer and self-examination, resolving before God to develop qualities of Christian parenthood with the strength of the Holy Spirit. Close with prayer.

Adapted



Chains That Bind

Purpose: To create an awareness of the 'chains that bind' our neighbors in Mexico, and a personal concern for these people.

Interest Center: On a small table, drape a Spanish shawl or rug. In the center place an open Bible with chains (may be made from foil) across one corner. Artfully arrange a few articles such as a basket, dolls in Spanish costume, jewelry, cacti, or sombrero. Bright colored paper flowers or a pot of red geraniums will add atmosphere. If you have access to them, use a statuette of the virgin Mary and a rosary.

See Ideas For Your Programs

Songs: "He Ransomed Me;" "Bring Them, Oh Lord, to Thee (Traelas, Senor, A Ti)"

Prayer requests from missionaries.

Scripture: Romans 10:13-15

MEXICO PRESENTS a real challenge for the Gospel. It is the second fastest growing country in the

world (Brazil being first). There are now 42 million people in Mexico, with a ratio of only one missionary or national worker to every 16,000 people. In this program we will learn something about what Free Will Baptists are doing to bring the Gospel light to these millions still bound by chains of sin, darkness and superstition.

IGNORANCE AND POVERTY

Mexico, while for many years an almost forgotten country, is now making great strides economically, promoting industry and building industrial factories. Among the nations of Latin America, Columbia formerly held the leadership in literature and Argentina was the leader in politics. Today, however (with the possible exception of Brazil) Mexico holds a strategic place of recognized leadership. Recognizing this leadership, United States businesses are establishing production centers in Mexico to feed the Latin America market.

One of the first universities in the Americas was found in Mexico in 1551. However, illiteracy still exists, especially in small, isolated towns and villages. The government is making an effort to counteract this, doing everything possible to educate the people.

Although Mexico is rapidly becoming predominantly Spanish-speaking, there are still 55 distinct Indian tribes, each retaining its own language. This adds to the difficulty of reaching these people with the Gospel.

Another factor contributing to the difficulty of reaching many villages is the fact that the topography of the

country tends to break up the country into isolated sections (two-thirds of Mexico is composed of mountains); therefore transportation in rural sections has been mostly by mule or on foot—a slow and painstaking way when trying to cover a large territory. However, more and more highways are being built and it is becoming increasingly possible to reach many formerly isolated villages by bus or jeep.

In Mexico, to an increasing degree, emphasis is being placed on a materialistic way of life. In her pursuit of industrialization, the goals of life seem to be centered in and based on *things*. Today materialism competes for the heart and interest of the people, and yet the level and necessities of life become more expensive and poverty more acute.

INFIDELITY

Mexico is a land which offers a rich heritage of tradition, history, and culture, and yet the social fabric of the way of Mexican life is composed of contrary values. Much is made of men being 'real he men,' and yet basically Mexican culture is woman-centered. This can be seen clearly in the position which 'woman' has in the texture of religious thought and life in Mexico. In the Mexican home much is made of love of land, home, family and husband and wife, yet separation, desertion and double standards are the common events of life. It is considered proper by society for the husband to have more than one family; just so long as he provides for the financial necessities of all. The basic pattern in the home is for the mother to exemplify security, love, care and

sacrifice and the father to be known as the provider, but his activities outside the home are not to be questioned.

SUPERSTITION

There are probably no people more superstitious or more devout than the Mexican people. From the time of the Spanish conquest when the Indians were converted en masse, until today, their religion has been mixed with the Aztecs. Although the educated young folks of today spurn many of the unbeliefs of the past generations, superstitions still abound, especially in rural districts. From birth until death, their lives are molded by these manifold beliefs in charms and omens.

Among the uneducated, the rites of birth are an inseparable mixture of practical, magical and religious elements. Many of these concern the mother and the child. One of the most common is that birth can be brought about prematurely because the expectant mother has visited a new-born baby. Her baby may be born with its tongue hanging out because the mother has been refused some food she requested. The father must sprinkle ashes around the resting place of the new baby so that the animal which shares the little one's spirit can be identified by the tracks it makes there in the night. Parents seek to protect their baby in other ways—no woman of the street is allowed to see him or he will surely die. Around his neck is a medal which guards him from sickness and evil spirits. It is not unusual to see a mother place her babe on the glass case which encloses a statue of some saint or virgin, entrusting her little one into its care and protection.

There are many other superstitions which bind the impoverished Mexican people throughout this life, from birth to death and even after death—unless he finds freedom in Jesus Christ.

FREE WILL BAPTISTS IN MEXICO

The first Free Will Baptist Church was organized in Monterrey in 1959 by Arthur and Jenell Billows. It was built largely by funds supplied by the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention.

In 1961 the Mexican Association of Free Will Baptists convened for the first time with over 500 people attending. Today we have eight churches and approximately five preaching points.

Soon after Arthur and Jenell Billows began their ministry in Mexico, they began training their converts to reach their own people. This was the beginning of what is now a very efficient Bible training institution with a complete campus consisting of boys' and girls' dormitories, chapel library, kitchen, office, classrooms and farming area where the boys can help pay their way and learn basic principles of agriculture. During each school session, there are usually 40 to 50 Mexican students training for full-time Christian work. Assisting the Billows in their work at the institute are David and Alma Cochrane.

The unusual growth and establishment of the churches and missions in Mexico has been a result of the converted, trained Mexican worker going out to reach his own people and to loose the chains of sin and superstition that bind them.

Adapted



Wanda Fitzgerald (left) and Linda Wight prepare to leave with missionary Tom Willey for the bush village of Jenene in Panama.

What DO Summer Missionaries Do?

by Linda Wight

What could a college student who does not know the language nor the culture do to help our missionaries in Brazil for the summer?



That was my question when I just learned of the opportunity for summer missionary work in Brazil. With this question still in the back of my mind, I and Wanda Fitzgerald flew from Nashville, Tennessee to Campinas, Brazil, arriving on June 20.

Everything was thrilling and exciting. The cities were picturesque, varying from skyscrapers to red-tile roof houses to tree-clad *pracas* (parks) to *feiras* (street markets). The country was farmland with field after field of either sugar cane or orange trees. The people were of Portuguese, Italian, German, Japanese, American, Negro, or Indian descent and ranged from the fashionable rich to the field laborer to

the beggar whose feet were rotting off.

But exactly how were Wanda and I to help? This still puzzled me; however, I soon found the answer. Missionaries are busy people and many of their tasks are time-consuming. Often we were able to help them by typing, running a mimeograph machine, visualizing songs, stapling notebooks together, or addressing envelopes for newsletters. We also worked in two vacation Bible schools helping especially with the smaller children in coloring their workbooks and in making their handcrafts.

After vacation Bible school we attended youth camp. This was a blessing for we were able to become better acquainted with many of the young people we had met in the churches and to see many of them dedicate their lives to God.

After youth camp Wanda and I made a bus trip to Uruguay to visit our

missionaries there. This was a round trip of approximately 2400 miles. With our Portuguese-English dictionary and a few phrases written on a piece of paper, we began our journey. Our two bus changes were made without truble or delays. We could see the hand of the Lord guiding us and caring for us especially in bridging the gap created by our inability to communicate.

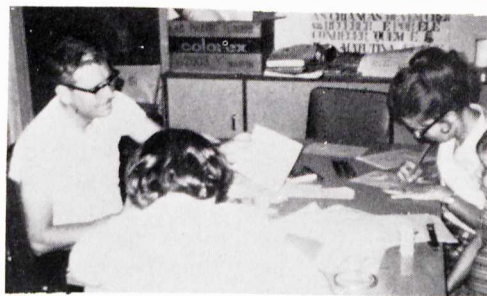
We left Brazil on August 9 and returned to the United States by way of Panama. The missionaries we had been with all summer lived in the cities, so Tom Willey took us with him to the bush village of Jenene, where he goes every other week for services.

We flew inland, in his small aircraft, for about forty minutes and landed in a small town. Then *we walked through mud for nearly five miles crossing three rivers to reach Jenene*. Once we stopped at a store and bought Pepsi Colas. It broke my heart to think that Pepsis were found every where, but the gospel has not reached most of these people. However, I was most

shocked when I went into the store and saw two *Batman* toys for sale. Children know who *Batman* is, but do they know who Jesus Christ is? The tragic answer too many times is no.

The summer was a wonderful blessing to me. The missionaries, most of whom we had never met, took us into their homes and treated us as a part of their families. They spent many hours talking to us about anything from God to the nationals, to their days in Bible College. The warmth and friendliness of the latin people also won my heart. The many attempts to converse and the friends made in spite of language barriers taught me that people are the same everywhere. They are people that "God so loved . . . that He gave His only begotten Son," that if they believe in Him they "should not perish, but have everlasting life."

About the author: Linda Wight is a senior at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville. She is from Bentonville, Arkansas, and is 21 years old. She plans to be a missionary.



Linda Wight (center) assists missionaries Dave and Pat Franks, Brazil, with time-consuming tasks of addressing envelopes and preparing vacation Bible school materials.

Summer missionaries soon discovered the rigors of missionary life. They had to walk for nearly five miles crossing three rivers to reach the bush village.

MOTHERS



NEVER CHANGE

by George Beverly Shea

NOT LONG AGO when an allergy forced me to take a month from my work as singer with the Billy Graham Crusades, it gave me the chance to visit my 84-year-old mother back in Syracuse, New York.

One night about 3 a.m. I woke up coughing. I tried to muffle the sound to keep from waking her, but in a minute or two I heard her fumbling for her slippers.

Mothers don't change; the same instinct which had her on her feet at a whimper from one of her eight babies was getting her out of bed now.

A few minutes later there was a rap

on my door and in she came with a cup of hot tea and a plate of her own oatmeal cookies. Except for the white hair framing her face, it might have been 50 years before.

Both of us were remembering an earlier illness when I was between 10 and 12 years old, a mysterious infection which kept me out of school nearly two years—and turned an already shy boy into a monument of self-consciousness.

Big for my age anyway, when I went back to school and was placed in a room with boys and girls two years younger than I was, I wanted to sink

through the floor.

The few times when I had to speak in public were agony.

The problem persisted even after I left home.

Once, in Chicago, I was trapped into giving a talk. Wistfully I thought of my father's warm, wise, seemingly effortless sermons back home. As a preacher, Dad always had been as fluent as I was tongue-tied.

And then inspiration came. What if Dad were to outline a talk for me! I wrote giving him the subject and begging him to suggest some good points.

Dad's reply didn't fill a third of the space on a penny postcard: "Son, God helped Baalam's donkey to talk so I'm sure He can do something for you. Love, Dad."

But although Dad would never do for me what I could do for myself, it was he and Mother who helped me at last to move beyond the shyness that would have robbed my life of any chance for service.

As Mother and I talked that night, the past seemed very close. And I found myself recalling other objects that her love and Dad's had endowed with special meaning for me.

The first was a piano. The Shea family had no need for an alarm clock; our day started with Mother singing at the piano.

In singing I found a release from the old problem of bashfulness. As I grew older, I poured out in song thoughts and feelings I had no other way to express.

The final vignette focused on a straight-back chair. It was the chair in which my father sat the night he delivered his final sermon at Willet Memorial Church in Syracuse.

At age 73, cancer had ravished his body and left him too weak to climb into the pulpit.

Though Dad's body was weakened, his spirit was never stronger. His sermon was one of great reassurance. In a sense, his words were much the same as those we found in a note beside his bed after he had gone.

"Life has been wonderful," he wrote, "the promises of God precious, the eternal hope glorious."

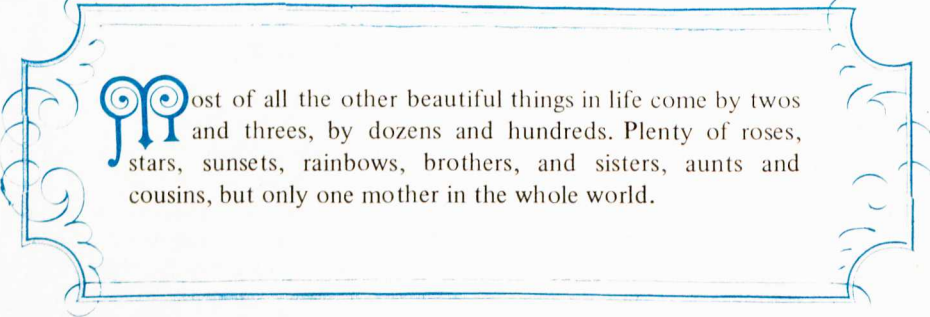
I placed the empty teacup on the nightstand.

"Can I give you something more?" she said.

She meant tea, but my thoughts were still on those other things. A piano, a straight-back chair—music, God and hope eternal.

"Thank you, Mother," I said. "You've given me everything I need."

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Psychology for Living
Narramore Christian Foundation



Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes, by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers, and sisters, aunts and cousins, but only one mother in the whole world.



We had only seven members and we enlisted seven.



Members of the Woman's Auxiliary of Conway, Arkansas, thus described their successful WNAC Emphasis program.

"For publicity we used the suggested hand invitations, posters, announcements in the church bulletin and also the pastor made announcements from the pulpit.

"As the ladies arrived they were each given a small favor to wear.

"The refreshment committee had a delightful time concocting a lovely lavender punch and cake icing by using red and blue food coloring with cherry kool-aid, pineapple juice and ginger ale. All table decorations were in Auxiliary colors."

"It Was Really A SMASH!"

PHOTO CAPTION (top to bottom)

Mrs. Flora Millwood was in charge of the program using the theme, "Operation Bridesmaid." She taught a visual aid lesson on the Manual thereby acquainting the ladies more fully with the work of the Auxiliary.

New members are served refreshments from a beautifully decorated table. From left to right, Freda Stell, Ruth Milan, Chris Thrasher and Sandy M. Caskel.

Bee Pike pinning favors on three young ladies in the college-career group.

Mildred Loveless welcoming pastor Jack Millwood as he drops by to lend a helping hand.

President Shirley Lea leading the theme song, "Jesus Calls Us."

Monteen Nickles explaining the poster and offering envelopes to new members Betty Pike and Irene Reynolds.



Just Between Us Women

by June Critcher

A POSITIVE NOTE was sounded at the beginning of the retreat and it vibrated throughout the three-day encounter with God," voiced a Free Will Baptist housewife and mother who attended the recent Winning Women Retreat in Michigan. "The entire retreat was Christ-centered," she continued. "It emphasized one's relationship to Jesus Christ."

Thousands of women are leaving home for a couple of days throughout the year to attend retreats where Christ is lifted up. Eyes and hearts are focused on Him—not on business sessions, reports, not even on a denomination. Christ alone is given priority in every session.

A RETREAT: ITS PURPOSE

A retreat is a time of refueling for the Christian. It deepens the spiritual awareness of the individual participant. The individual gains new insight into God's Word. Women center their attention on problems of the home (problems they all have in common), and they learn how Jesus Christ and the Bible relate to their most pressing concerns.

There's the mother of four. She has no help with her housework, and this in itself is almost a full-time job. Errands seem to "hatch" new errands every week—and the list mounts faster than she can keep up with it. Four children, ranging from six years to 16, place pressing demands on Mother's time. Scout meeting, choir practice, band practice, art shows, and a jillion other activities keep her going almost constantly. She tries "bite sizes" in her study of the Scripture. Some nights she hardly has enough energy left to say, "Thank You, dear Lord" But added to family responsibilities are church activities, civic and social obligations. Does she ever need refueling?

What's a retreat? A time to refuel.

Getting unsaved women to come to church with us becomes increasingly more difficult. Many non-Christian friends even refuse to attend our once-a-year revival. A Christ-centered retreat may be just the answer to reaching our non-Christian friends. When Christ is exalted in all His beauty and splendor, the unsaved become aware that Christ alone is the answer to the hunger of their souls.

What's a retreat? A time to receive Christ.

The first thing to consider in planning a retreat is what specific needs your retreat can minister to. Is your main purpose to strengthen fellowship among a particular age group (young, middle, or older adults)? Is it to give instruction in witnessing? Is it to inspire Christians to a deeper experience with Christ? Or do you want to have a dual purpose?

In planning a retreat, always decide first what you want your retreat to accomplish. Only as you determine the objective(s) or desired result(s) can you gear the program to reach today's

modern woman. Your purpose will influence such things as theme, program, activities, speakers, etc. When you have determined your purpose you are ready to begin planning the retreat.

A RETREAT: ITS PREPARATION

Be sure to give prayer preparation more than a passing thought. A planned prayer program that begins weeks before the retreat will assure spiritual victories during the hours you are together in seclusion. If you can find two women interested in a week-end retreat, the three should pray fervently for God's direction in planning the retreat.

Retreats are generally limited to two days and nights, although a one-day retreat (not overnight) may best meet a specific need.

Retreat facilities can be a state park, a motel, a farm or country home, associational camp or assembly, a beach home, or any other facility which meets the physical and program needs.

The first stage of preparation is to form committees. Consider a steering committee first. The other necessary units will come from this committee. Consider the following as good possible committees: publicity, program, registration committees; transportation, food, recreation, and follow-up committees.

Committees do not make a retreat. But involving women in creative committee work can *help* to make a retreat. Some very meaningful experiences can be a part of people involved in committees, in planning, in preparing for the retreat itself. Encourage committee members to share



Free Will Baptists listen to Mrs. Jill Renich, founder of Winning Women, discuss the Fall, 1969, retreat program. (l to r) Mrs. June Critcher of Nashville, Tennessee; Dr. Ruby Griffin of Calhoun City, Mississippi; Mrs. Renich; Mrs. Georgia Hill of Winfield, Illinois; Mrs. Virginia Van Kluyve of Nashville; and Mrs. Zetta Rose of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

creative ideas. These ideas will give your program its shape. Stimulating retreats come from imaginative committee members.

Pearl King, Winning Women representative, gave some very practical suggestions in a mini-session during their recent retreat:

For your planning session, ask each woman to bring an alphabetized list of women (use any source). Compile these names on cards and alphabetize them in a card box. Think big! Put everyone's name on a 3 x 5 card, writing on the unlined side of the card. Leave the lined side for the records of the retreats. Put the last name first, woman's name, husband's name and middle initial, address, zip code, telephone number, woman's church, talent, age bracket (ex: 50-60). The age bracket will help you to arrange the persons in rooms together.

Decide on a date before reserving a place. Be sure nothing of major importance is scheduled for this weekend.

Don't meet in a place where you eat and meet at the same place (takes too much time clearing tables). Have a separate meeting place.

The price is very important. If you're working in an area with women

who have only \$10.00 to spend, be sure you keep this in mind. You can go into a church camp very inexpensively, but each person will have to bring her own food. (Call Council of Social Agencies about camp sites, etc.)

A RETREAT: ITS PROGRAM

A theme, Scripture, and a song should be used to direct efforts toward a central goal for the retreat. Ask the Holy Spirit to open wide your spiritual eyes in planning the program.

Following are some suggested retreat themes, Scriptures, and songs.

Theme: God's Way—My Way

Scripture: Matthew 16:24

Song: "I Want God's Way to Be My Way"

Theme: Commitment

Scripture: Romans 12:1-2

Song: "In Times Like These"

Theme: The Master Calls

Scripture: Exodus 4:1-9

Song: "Our Best"

Theme: Speak to My Heart

Scripture: I Samuel 3:9-18

Song: "Speak to My Heart"

You come to be fed spiritually, and those who want to sleep would sleep anyway, so pack the time full.

Never ask a speaker to come in without hearing her first, advises Mrs. King with Winning Women. Winning Women has a speaker's council, or bureau. Contact Eleanor Barzler, 15832 Ashton, Detroit, Michigan 48223 for possible speakers. Allow 45 minutes for each speaker, suggests Mrs. King, and tell her when you write to her.

No welcoming addresses. No acceptance addresses. No reports. Re-

member, you'll be there for only one reason: To glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

Plan special music that fits the theme of the retreat, and bring in the best talent you know of.

Commit the program to the Lord. Commit the entire week-end to Him. All the work involved in planning, all the creative ideas suggested will be completely meaningless unless God is at the controls.

Do you want to be involved in a rich spiritual experience? Do you long to know Christ more intimately? Do you want to have communion in a secluded mountain lodge or around the burning firewood? Do you long to hear God's nature, see His stars, and feel His presence in a very real sense around the campfire? If so, then talk enthusiastically to friends whom you believe will share your enthusiasm for a week-end retreat in your state.

The most thrilling experience of my life came the weekend I attended Winning Women Retreat in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The atmosphere was permeated with a warmth and vitality I have never sensed before. God moved. He spoke. He worked. His presence was felt in the singing. It was a heavenly experience. Because the speakers had had an experience with God they were able to communicate God's truth to us.

It was an indescribable joy to sit with 2000 other women and hear God speak. May I encourage you first of all to plan a retreat, on an area basis, in your state. Then plan to attend Winning Women Retreat next fall.

*Women Winning Inc.
36200 Freedom Road
Farmington, Michigan 48024*

(continued from page 1)

A PRAYING FAMILY

George and Nellie had family prayers in their home every day. "Sometimes we kids didn't think that was such a great thing," Ralph remembers. "And we didn't always like it when Dad said that everyone would pray, right around the circle. But we always felt better after a time of family prayer. It did something to us that I just can't explain."

We asked Ralph why he thought so many of the children had become missionaries. Had George and Nellie urged them to go abroad?

"No," said Ralph. "There was no real pressure by our parents to become a missionary. They insisted that we get our guidance from God. But it was no secret that they would be very happy if some of us became missionaries. They prayed that God would send some of us. They considered missionary service a very high calling."

A TRUSTING FAMILY

Some indication of the openness and trust that George and Nellie inspired in their children came out as Ralph reminisced about his teen years. "They always let us use their car if we wanted to go somewhere for an evening," he says. "And when we came home, we usually went to their room and told them where we'd been and what we'd done, and whether we had enjoyed ourselves. They never asked us to do this—it was just natural, we wanted to do it. And that's a major thing in our family, we trust each other completely. Mother and Dad both had great faith in God, and great faith in us. They put us on our honor, and we knew this."

A BIBLE-TAUGHT FAMILY

A major influence in the Balisky family was the Peace River Bible Institute. George was a charter member. With others from the district he went out in the bush and cut logs to put up the first buildings. His heart was in PRBI, but he never insisted that any of his children attend. He and Nellie told them how helpful it would be, and impressed them with the need of being grounded in the Scriptures before taking up their professions.

Result? All ten of the children were graduated from Bible School, eight of them from PRBI. It was the natural thing to do," says Ralph. "During Bible School, as during high school, Dad and Mother helped us financially as best they could, but sometimes that wasn't much. The rest we got by ourselves. But we never failed to come home and help with the farm work. We always loved to come home.

A DISCIPLINED FAMILY

"Dad was our friend, and we loved him. But he wasn't a buddy—he was our *father*. And he was the head of the family. There was no court of appeal above Dad!

"Our parents were always fair to us and we weren't punished unless we deserved it. But we never got away with anything either.

"George and Nellie stuck together in matters of discipline. "One never interfered with the other." Ralph explains. "One time Dad was ready to strap me for something that Mother didn't think rated a strapping. She didn't say anything to Dad, but she went off and prayed. Dad stood over me with the strap, then, broken, he

suddenly dropped it and fell to his knees. That undid me. I never committed that offence again."

A DEDICATED FAMILY

Ralph was the first one to decide on missionary service. We asked him how his parents had reacted when they heard of his decision.

"When I told Dad I was going to Africa with SIM he was thrilled. And when it was time for me to go, he sold some steers and shoved the money in my hand and said, 'This is for your passage.'

"I didn't know until later, but my young sister, Ruth, told me that after I had gone she went upstairs and there was Dad in my room, crying his eyes out. It was the only time she had ever seen him cry. I was his first son, 21 years old, the natural heir to his property, and I had gone away. But just the same, he was pleased. This was what he had prayed for."

George and Nellie saw four of their children go to Africa with SIM. Ralph went to Nigeria, where he is manager of the Roni Boys' Home, with its 200-acre farm in the Islamic north. He was followed by Ruth, a nurse, and then Calvin, who is maintenance superintendent at Egbe, one of SIM's larger centers. Paul, a graduate of Wheaton College and Fuller Theological Seminary, went to Ethiopia two summers ago, and is teaching at Wando Bible School in the south.

Larry trained as a medical doctor and went to Thailand with Overseas Missionary Fellowship. Kathleen went to Honduras with the Central America Mission.

The four in Canada all gave careful thought to overseas service but found God's direction to be here. They all

help support the "overseas branch" of the family, and all are active in the local churches.

The youngest brothers, Terry and Bob, now run the farm, which has grown to 3500 acres, mainly grassland with a select herd of registered Herefords.

A UNITED FAMILY

The family is still very much a unit and the farm is still home base. George and Nellie have another house on the property, known as "missionary house," and usually there is a full-time member of their family living there.

Now retired, George and Nellie had opportunity recently to visit daughter Kathleen in Honduras. Kathleen recalls how delighted Dad was to get involved with missionary work personally. Although he couldn't understand a word, he would take gospel records in Spanish and play them in the market place.

George and Nellie are grateful to God for their family. And the family is grateful for such parents. We asked Ralph to summarize the factors that led the children into active service. He had to think about that for a while. Then he said, "Well, Mother and Dad gave us all to the Lord before we were born. They raised us to put God first. They set high ideals before us. And they loved us.

"They prayed that God would use us, and they trusted us to follow God's leading. And they lived the way they talked. I guess that's it."

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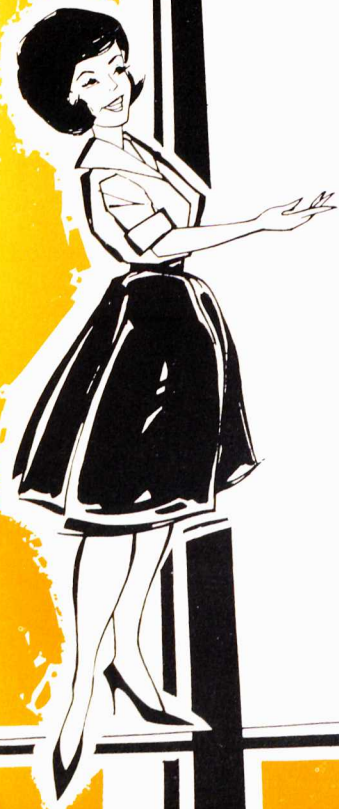
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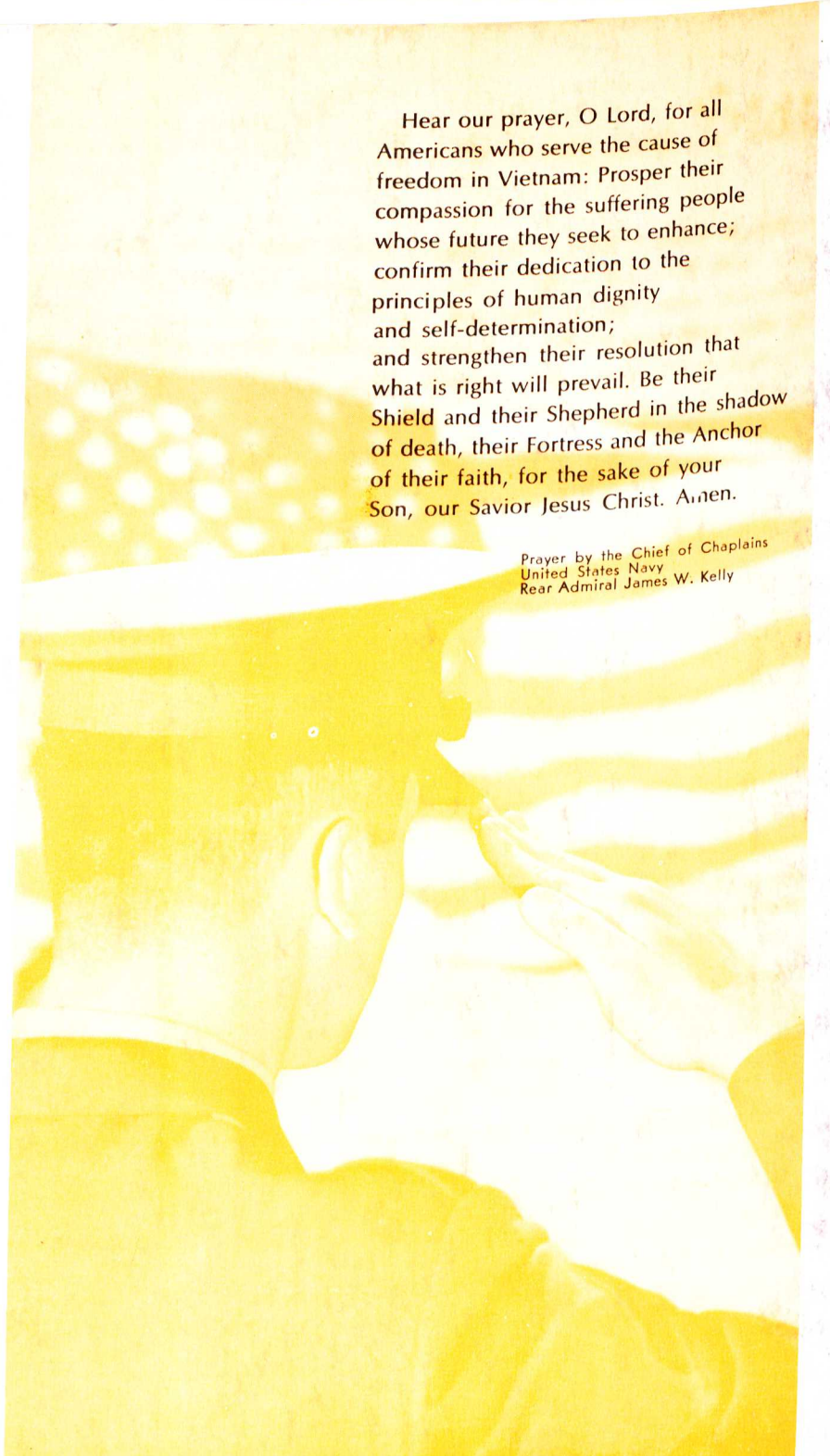
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and strengthen their resolution that
what is right will prevail. Be their
Shield and their Shepherd in the shadow
of death, their Fortress and the Anchor
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Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

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