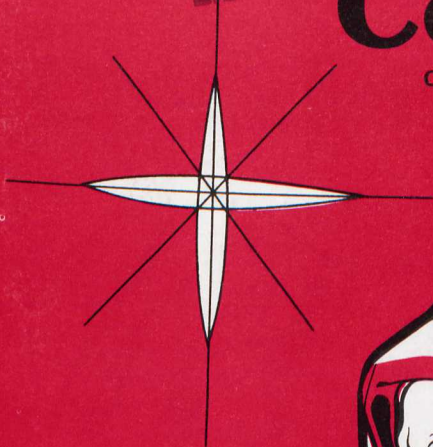
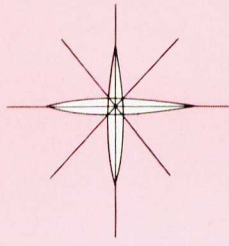


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Co-Laborer

OCTOBER—NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 1972





*"And the angel said unto her,
Fear not Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.
And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb,
and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.
He shall be great, and shall be called
the Son of the Highest. . . " (Luke 1:30-32).*

Mary lived in obscurity in a little out-of-the-way place called Nazareth. But God knew where to find her. He could have chosen a King's daughter or one of great wealth. Instead He chose Mary in spite of her lowliness and poverty. *Why was Mary chosen?* What qualities did she possess? How was she different?

Perhaps she was not noticeably different; but her communion with God must have been special. God cannot speak to a heart that is not open to receive his word; to hear his voice.

Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, attests to Mary's faith, for she said

"Ye believed that God would do what he said.

That is why he has given you this wonderful blessing" (Luke 1:45 Living Bible). Though Mary was overwhelmed by the responsibility placed upon her, still by the power of the Spirit she dedicated herself to His will and purpose.

She said, ". . . be it unto me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38). The Roman Catholics have deified Mary and worship her. Protestants, as a rule, have been reluctant to praise Mary lest they be accused of leaning toward Mariolatry. We worship Mary's SON, our SAVIOUR. But Mary has a glory all her own—her faithfulness to her task. That is her coronation. She needs no other.



Co-LABORER

Volume XII Number 4

Fourth Quarter 1972

IN THIS ISSUE

Women in Action	2
Our Writers	4
Prayer and Praise	5
Co-Laborers Write	6
Prayer Groups	8
<i>Gladys Sloan</i>	
October Program	11
<i>Roy Thomas</i>	
November Program	14
<i>Sandra Lambert</i>	
Being Thankful	17
<i>Beulah Nash</i>	
December Program	18
<i>Carol Robirds</i>	
Pre-Thanksgiving Prayer Programs	21
<i>Sarah Fulton</i>	
State Missions Prayer Programs	25
<i>Anne Worthington</i>	
An Unusual Year	29
<i>Lorene Francen</i>	
Ideas For Your Programs	32

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Women In Action

Central Texas District

The Central Texas Auxiliary Convention convened in March at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Houston.

The Rev. David Hellard, Conroe, was the speaker. President Lela Clary, Iola, presided.

New Auxiliary Active

The Calvary Free Will Baptist Church of Claremore, Oklahoma, recently organized a Woman's Auxiliary. The Lord is richly blessing this group. Their activities include a night meeting for the regular program from *Co-Laborer*, a day prayer fellowship and a monthly visit to a nursing home.

GEORGIA WORKSHOP

The Midway District Woman's Auxiliary Workshop met in April with the Arlington Church. The theme, *Watch Thou in All Things*, was effectively carried out through films and messages depicting many evils influencing homes and families today through television,

movies, social drinking, pornography and drugs.

Speakers included Mr. Henry C. Dungan, Laura Hollingshead, Doris Grant, and Sheriff Ed Middleton.

New State Convention

The Mississippi State Woman's Auxiliary Convention was organized May 6, 1972 at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Columbus, by the pastor, The Rev. Randy Cox.

The Rev. Luther Gibson gave the morning devotions and Mrs. Milton Worthington rendered special music. Cleo Pursell, WNAC executive secretary, spoke at the 11:00 o'clock hour and Clara Picirilli, WNAC president, brought devotions and installed the following officers: President—Dianne Worthington, vice president—Elizabeth Gibson, secretary—Anne Worthington, treasurer—Eloise Crossley, field worker—Eva House. Members at large: Mary Jo Cox, Jan Pierce, and Dr. Ruby Griffin. A total of 56 were present.

A special vote of thanks goes to Eva House for her untiring labor in making the organization possible.



MISSISSIPPI STATE OFFICERS.



Members of the Woman's Auxiliary, Houston, Texas, presented a skit at the Central Texas District Convention.

Ohio Auxiliaries Organized

Nora McCarty, field worker, writes that three newly organized Auxiliaries have joined the state work in Ohio. They are Canton, First Church Columbus, and Waynesburg.

The Northern Ohio District Convention held a missions retreat in May at Youngstown. Mrs. McCarty conducted a study course in "Involved or Uninvolved," which was the theme of the retreat. Missionaries Paul Robinson and Jim Sturgill and representatives from the National Home Missions department and Children's Home spoke.



AN ESSENTIAL ACTIVITY of the Central Texas District Convention.



Members of the Woman's Auxiliary, Claremore, Oklahoma, include (from left to right), Linda Braughton, Esther Roof, Karen Sanders, Elizabeth Miller, Ida Belle Long, Skeeter Mooney, Georgia Sanders, Elizabeth Ary and Lottie Ornsbey.



Woman's Auxiliaries of Arlington and Blakely, Georgia, combined to give a linen shower for the missionary provision closet.



Wise County District Auxiliary Convention, Norton, Virginia.



Members of the Cavanaugh Woman's Auxiliary, Fort Smith, Arkansas, presenting a Thanksgiving skit. From left to right, Linda Gilbert, Betty Newell, Patsy Parker, Jo Ann Butler, Freda Almond, and Barbara Cheshier.



State Line District Auxiliary officers, Dothan, Alabama. Installed by Mrs. Van Clements.

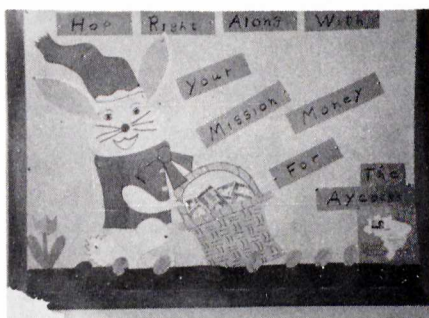
State Retreat

The Georgia State Auxiliary Retreat was held in April at Mount Bethel with 39 women attending. They report the food and fellowship were wonderful and those attending were spiritually enriched as they spent time "Beside the Still Waters."

California Convention

The theme of the California Woman's Auxiliary Convention was *Compelled by the Spirit—To Speak, To Serve, To Share (Galatians 5:25)*. The meeting was in April in the Village Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. President Mary Kelton presided.

Devotions were brought by Helen Hames and Vida Fry. The keynote speaker was the Rev. Johnnie Hale, Redding. The state project includes furnishings for the girls' dorm at CCC and support for the Redding mission.



MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH. Mrs. Jerry Heath, Cove City, N.C., shares a creative idea. Each month a special Auxiliary bulletin is displayed featuring a missionary of the month. Pictured is the April poster boosting the Aycocks' account.

Prayer & Praise

Pray for Jim and Vickie Sturgill who have begun Portuguese language study in Brazil.

Praise God for our missionary appointees. Pray for Jerry and Janice Banks, Dock and Norma Jean Caton and Patsy Van Hook who are all in missionary internship. Appointees Larry and Priscilla Inscoe and David and Shirley Turner are on deputation raising financial support to go to the field.

Pray for all the missionary kids who are away in school and separated from their parents. Several MK's are in the States attending college this year.

Pray for Dr. LaVerne and Lorene Miley and Sandra Payne as they carry on the medical work in Doropo, Ivory Coast. More medical personnel are badly needed to relieve the work load and improve the services they can render.

Pray for Dan Cronk's health.

Pray for all missionaries home on furlough and for their ministries. Often when someone comes home, the remaining missionaries must assume a double load of work and responsibility.

Praise the Lord for the way He has supplied the financial and personnel needs of the foreign missions department.

Pray for the David McDaniels who have been approved as missionaries to Billings, Montana. They hope to be on the field by early 1973.

Pray for the Reynold Flippos, missionary appointees to the Southwest—possibly Albuquerque or Clovis, New Mexico. Pray also for chaplain Nedo Eaddy.

Praise God for a large increase in giving to the national home missions department. The 1973 budget is \$276,000.

Pray for the effort to establish a new work in Emporia, Kansas. This is a joint project of the national and the Kansas state home mission boards.

Praise God for the property and lovely church building purchased for the work in Guadalajara, Mexico. Pray for the Jerry Barrons as they move to Monterrey. He has been appointed director of all the Mexico work.

Pray for the deficit missionary accounts of Bob Duncan, Johnnie Hale, Jim Nason and Mack Owens.

Pray for the complete recovery of Lorna Merrill, who was critically injured in a bus accident near Knoxville, Tennessee, several months ago. Lorna was a summer missionary appointee to Brazil and was on her way to a speaking engagement to raise her support when the accident occurred. God is able to work a miracle!



Co-Laborers Write

From Arkansas

I hope everyone enjoys *Co-Laborer* magazine like I do. It's such a blessing to study and read the articles written about our fellow workers.

*Mrs. Sandy Watson
Crossett, Arkansas*

From California

I would like to write my first thank you to the *Co-Laborer* magazine. I read each issue from cover to cover.

We have 15 members in our Auxiliary and are always on the lookout for prospective new members. All of us feel that our missionaries are very important and an essential part of our church work as a whole.

Our pastor, Rev. Edward Johns and his wife, Alma, are such a blessing to all of us. They are really God-sent and we are working and visiting every week.

*Sue Barnhart
Corcoran, California*

From Florida

I enjoyed very much the October program in *Co-Laborer*, *The Missionary Wife*. It should certainly make us all see the personal and definite prayer needs of our missionary wives.

*Mary Lou Seawell
Jacksonville, Florida*

From Georgia

We are planning a shower for the provision closet . . . *The Co-Laborer* gets better each issue. I read it from cover to cover as quick as I receive it. It's a blessing to me.

*Mrs. E.C. Davidson
Glennville, Georgia*

From Missouri

Locally, our Auxiliary is the best ever! Our president, Sandy Smith, is so excited about *everything*. I just got home from our regular Tuesday 8:00 a.m. prayer group meeting.

Auxiliary year is half over and I think it's getting better each month . . . We have begun thinking and planning toward team witnessing in the homes of our unsaved friends.

*Brenda Evans
Farmington, Missouri*

From North Carolina

I am missions study chairman of Five Points Church, Pinetown, N.C. . . . The *Co-Laborer* programs are really a blessing to our women. We appreciate the work you ladies are doing. May God continue to bless each writer and officer of the WNAC.

*Virginia Johnston
Greeneville, N.C.*

From Oklahoma

Our Woman's Auxiliary has so enjoyed our *Co-Laborer* programs for this quarter. The studies of the Holy Spirit were a real blessing.

We would like to know your most pressing needs for the provision closet . . .

Connie D. Cariker
Tulsa, Oklahoma

We are having great Auxiliary meetings . . . enjoying the *Co-Laborer* and the new manuals so very much, and can hardly wait until next quarter for the new programs. Our Auxiliary is growing and the women have a mind to work.

Ruth Morris
Sulphur, Oklahoma

From Ohio

We are a new church and recently organized our Auxiliary. We truly have been blessed through the programs in the *Co-Laborer* . . . they draw us all closer to the Lord and to each other.

Christine Frisbee
Akron, Ohio

From Texas

We have re-organized our Auxiliary and have more interest than we have seen since we have been here.

I want to commend June Critcher on the program, *Disciplined By the Spirit*. To me this was one of the richest programs I have studied.

Norma Teague
Henderson, Texas

We have the best functioning Auxiliary we have ever had. The *Co-Laborer* is outstanding this quarter. All of our

ladies enjoyed the first program and are looking forward to the other programs.

Ava Hellard
Conroe, Texas

From Virginia

I want to thank the writers of the programs in the first quarter issue of the *Co-Laborer*. They were a blessing to each one of us in the Woman's Auxiliary at Cardwell Town Free Will Baptist Church.

Each program was such a joy to the heart but the climax came in the March program, *Witnessing Power*, when each lady told about their salvation experience.

Mrs. Edgar H. Barrett
Saltville, Virginia

From Virgin Islands

Our Auxiliary is growing in enthusiasm and number. We are enjoying the articles, news items, et cetera in the *Co-Laborer*. We will be observing our pre-Easter Week of Prayer next week with a special program at our Wednesday night prayer service. We are striving for our goal of \$100 for Tom and Nancy Hughes. We hope to go over as we have done in the past.

We appreciate our women at home and the way they have supported us in prayers, gifts and letters of encouragement. Thanks to all who make it possible for us to be here on St. Croix.

Wanda Powell
St. Croix

From West Virginia

I am so thankful for our *Co-Laborer* and each writer. God bless the office staff. You are doing a good work.

Estelle Elkins
McArthur, West Virginia

From Brazil

The second quarter *Co-Laborer* arrived this week and I am finding the programs and articles very interesting and helpful. Surely our women across the nation are being inspired by this publication. I am hoping to translate the prayer at the end of Mrs. Picirilli's program in order to share it with our

women. It is a wonderful meditation and help in the homes of our believers and friends is needed so very much . . . Yes, I will be needing to visit the provision closet also. It is so nice to know that our women want to help in this way.

Willie Jean Deeds
Jaboticabal, Sao Paulo



Our Writers

Roy Thomas is the author of the October program, *A Thorn in the Flesh*. Long active in home missions work he organized and pastored the First Free Will Baptist Church, Denver, Colorado. He also held pastorates in New Mexico and Tennessee and is presently serving the National Home Missions Board as deputational missionary.

Sandra Lambert is missions action chairman in the Littleton, New Hampshire, Woman's Auxiliary. She is a minister's wife, the mother of three children, and a former houseparent in the Tennessee Children's Home. She wrote the November program, *Harvest Time*.

Carol Robirds prepared the December program, *Brazil—Land of Opportunity*. She and her husband, Don, served as missionaries in Brazil from June, 1964 until December, 1971. They now reside in Nashville where Don is employed as director of communications by the Foreign Missions department. They have four children.

Anne Worthington, wife of Melvin Worthington pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Amory, Mississippi, prepared the programs for the State Missions season of prayer. She is the mother of two children and is secretary of the newly organized Mississippi State Auxiliary Convention.

Sarah Fulton Wheaton, Illinois, wrote the pre-Thanksgiving season of prayer programs. She is the mother of two children and has served as missions study chairman of the Butterfield Woman's Auxiliary. At present she is co-chairman of social activities of the Auxiliary.

PRAYER GROUPS

Gladys Sloan



October

Matthew 28:19-20.

Our Lord has promised to be with "the going ones" until the end of the age. Therefore, the Great Commission is binding upon the servant of Christ until the end of the age.

This is a precious promise to those who will be faithful in the spreading of the gospel. This promise should increase the faith of His children.

Many of our young couples have answered the call and are obeying His command to go into all the world. They need the prayers of the faithful.

Matthew 7:7—"Ask and it shall be given you," Pray; pray often, pray and pray again.

1. Don and Billie Sexton in French language study in Albertville, France.
2. Jim and Vickie Sturgill in Portuguese language study, Campinas, Brazil.
3. Candidates in missionary internship

in Detroit, Michigan (Doc Catons, Jerry Banks and Patsy Van Hook).

4. Special project of raising money for publishing the Kulango New Testament.
5. National Pastors—
Rafael Joshue—Cuba
Peter Nateson—South India
Ubertil de los Santos—Uruguay
Jean Baptiste—Ivory Coast
Yamada Son—Hokkaido, Japan
6. Bible Institute students in Panama.
7. Pray for the Home Mission board as they meet next month.

November GIVE THANKS

November is the month in which a day has been set aside to give thanks.

EXHORTATION TO GIVE THANKS—

Psalms 50:14—"offer unto God thanksgiving."

Ephesians 5:20—"Giving thanks always for all things unto God."

Psalms 92:1—"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord."

Philippians 4:6—"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Mr. Ledlow of the National Home Missions office, tells us that November is also National Home Missions month. Pray that the emphasis placed on Home Missions in this month will bring a good response from our Free Will Baptist people throughout our denomination.

November 19th is Home Missions Sunday. Pray that this Sunday will be a very special day to our Free Will Baptist folk and that they will respond, willingly, with a real good offering. Pray for the moving of God's Spirit in our mission churches.

Pray for Rev. & Mrs. David McDaniel as they finish their internship and start on itinerary to raise their support to begin a work in Billings, Montana.

Pray for the Jerry Barrons as they make their move from Guadalajara, to Monterrey, Mexico. Rev. Barron has been appointed director of all the Mexico work.

Pray that the Home Missions budget of \$225,000 for 1972, and the new budget of \$276,000.

Pray for the Home Missionaries whose accounts are in the red. Pray that these accounts will be brought out of the red during this month of Home Mission emphasis. Pray for all our missionaries and write to them during this month.

Pray for the Foreign Missions Board as they meet in December.

December

STATE HOME MISSIONS;

An urgent need.

Mr. Cordell, Pastor of Woodbine Free Will Baptist Church, in Nashville, Tennessee, reminds us that if America continues her journey away from God, the Bible and the church, Africa, South America and the other countries we have sent missionaries to will have to send missionaries back to America. By then, we could be as hardened to the Gospel as Europe is now.

What is the answer? It is found in the text of Acts 1:8—"ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

"Home missions," as we have learned to call it, covers a prominent area in this verse. Our Lord knew there could be no really strong "foreign" effort unless the home base was equally strong and growing.

Our State Home Mission work is an effort to carry out the Great Commission here at home where an increasing need makes our task an urgent one. WE CAN HELP!

Pray for new workers to go into the cities and states where there are few, if any, Bible-believing churches and no Free Will Baptists.

Pray for those who are now laboring in Home Mission projects.

Pray for the increase in financial resources to meet the growing need of missions here at home.

Pray that local churches will become involved in the support of their own State or area Home Mission effort immediately.



October Program

Roy Thomas

Purpose: To help us understand why Christians have to suffer.

See Ideas for Your Program

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:6-10

Song: "Have Faith in God"

IN THIS PASSAGE the apostle Paul shares with us some of the most intimate parts of his life. One of these is his "*thorn in the flesh*." This is common ground for all of us for each has a weakness of one kind or another that is a constant barb with which we must learn to live.

Paul said that his thorn in the flesh had a twofold cause. On the one hand it was the "messenger of Satan to buffet him" while on the other hand God wanted it to remain that he might learn the sufficiency of God's grace.

What was this thorn? No one knows because Paul didn't say. By his not saying we can only guess what it might have been, but perhaps we can identify ourselves with his "thorn in the flesh" better than if he had described it clearly.

Bodily Affliction

Perhaps Paul's thorn was a bodily affliction. Many think that Paul's eyes were very weak. He was blinded for three days as a result of the light that shone from heaven as he journeyed the Damascus Road. He said that the Galatians would have plucked out their own eyes and given them to him. He

A THORN IN THE FLESH

said, "ye see how large a letter I have written with mine own hand," indicating that he had written the Galatians himself and so wrote it large, so he could tell what he had written. He failed to recognize the high priest in Jerusalem and called him a "*whited wall*." An affliction such as that can be a real thorn in the flesh. The cutting remarks that well meaning people thoughtlessly make that almost tear one's heart out!

But his thorn in the flesh could have been some other ailment. Some think that Paul was afflicted with some disease such as a fever or epilepsy. Luke, the physician, traveled with him much of his life and perhaps he did have some disease. There are ailments which people have today that restrict their activity, that they just simply must learn to live with. Someone may say, "there is nothing I can do, I am sick." But Paul would say, "I have this affliction. I've asked God to heal me and it is not His will. So, I am going to serve Him in spite of my affliction."

His ailment could still have been other things. Some think it was his appearance. Paul spoke a lot about not looking at the outward appearance and others said of him that his bodily presence was weak (2 Corinthians 10:10). Perhaps he had a birthmark, or crooked teeth, or a rash on his face, or maybe he was skinny, or perhaps he was fat. All of these are things that drive many people to their knees in tears to say, "Lord, why am I thus?" Paul said that God's grace is sufficient for one to live a fruitful life with any of these.

His ailment could have been a speech impediment because people said that his speech was contemptible (2 Corinthians 10:10), or maybe he was always blurting out the wrong thing and then reliving that moment a thousand times

saying, "Why did I say that? Why can't I keep my mouth shut?"

The Past

Paul's thorn in the flesh could have been his *past*. He constantly reminds us that he was "the least of the apostles because he persecuted the church of God (1 Corinthians 15:9). The Devil will use a Christian's past to make his present miserable and defeat his future. "You can't do anything," he says, "It's too late for you. The things you have done have already defeated you."

Paul could have possessed an inferiority complex. In almost every book he defends his apostleship. Probably there were some who questioned it. But it could be that Paul felt that he just didn't measure up to the others. An inferiority complex can crowd one into a corner and back him into a shell of loneliness and uselessness or it can put him on the defensive, always trying to prove himself to the world. Either extreme leaves one friendless and useless.

People

Paul's thorn in the flesh could have been some person. It is doubtful that Paul was ever married, but some think he was. Many say, "If it were not for my companion, I could really serve God. He is my thorn in the flesh." Eunice is a good example of such a person. Acts 16:1 indicates that her husband was a sinner. Yet, 2 Timothy 3:15 shows that she taught her son, Timothy, the scriptures, led him to Christ and raised him to be a preacher. Or, the loneliness of no companion could have been his problem.

For some, their thorn in the flesh is their children. "How can I preach when

my own children live as they do?" they say. Others say, "I am ashamed to invite anyone to church, go on visitation, witness to others because of the way my own children live."

Paul had little to say about relatives. In Romans 9:3 he mentioned his kinsmen according to the flesh, and his sister's son is mentioned in Acts 23:16. He spent a good portion of his Christian life in his home town, Tarsus, and never mentioned one thing that happened. Could it be that Paul had members of his own family who were unsaved and opposed his way of life? Relatives can be a real thorn in the flesh. They may come to visit you at church time and force you to be unfaithful to God or rude to them. They insist on your children coming to see them, then they teach them to dance, put shorts on your daughter and use profane language before them.

We know that Paul had difficulty with some of his co-workers. In 2 Timothy 1:15 he mentions two by name. In 2 Timothy 4:14 he mentions another. Many pastors know the burden of a cantankerous member that can't be satisfied no matter what he does. Many laymen say, "This would a good place to work if it were not for _____." He makes life miserable."

Persecution

Paul's thorn in the flesh might have been the constant persecution he faced. Outside the church the Jews were always after him. Inside the church someone was constantly saying, "You are not an apostle." He didn't really fit anywhere. Many people face a similar problem.

Although Paul said little about his

own personal temptations, we can be sure he had them. Perhaps he had a weakness, something from his old life that haunted him, constantly trying to tear at his relationship to Christ. All are tempted and things laid on the altar are a real thorn in the flesh to many.

Our Thorn

No one knows what Paul's thorn was, we can only speculate. But each of us know about our thorn in the flesh. May we learn the lesson Paul learned, that God's grace is sufficient and that Christ's strength is made perfect in weakness.

This thorn brought humility to Paul. He said that it was given lest he should be exalted above measure. Humility is essential to salvation and service, and our thorn in the flesh can bring humility to our lives.

As a result of this thorn, Paul prayed. He tells us that he besought the Lord three times that it would be removed. Doubtless he sought Him a thousand times more for grace to live with it. Those things in life which drive us to our knees are worthwhile.

Paul was a stronger Christian as a result of the thorn. Trials and tests serve the same purpose in our lives.

Christ was exalted because of the thorn. This passage tells us that it is our weakness that exalts Christ. When one is saved, God does not close all the bars and liquor stores, but he strengthens the person so that he can resist these temptations.

All of us have a thorn in the flesh just as Paul. May we not despair, but may we avail ourselves of the grace of God and serve Him in spite of the thorn and discover as Paul, "*Christ's strength is made perfect in weakness.*"

November Program

Sandra Lambert

Harvest Time

Purpose: *To create a greater awareness of our responsibility in missions.*

See Ideas for Your Programs

Song: "The Call for Reapers"

Scripture: *Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2; Luke 10:1, 2*

WHEN GOD created the earth and all that is therein, He didn't just throw it together for a *blob* and hope that it would turn out all right. He had a purpose, a plan and a pattern.

As surely as winter follows summer and night follows day, we can expect that when we sow seeds we will reap a harvest. We work in our gardens or fields and await the harvest. The same is true in our spiritual lives. There will be a

harvest of what we sow whether it be good or bad.

Sowing to the Flesh

Adonibezek of Bezek was a cruel ruler. He cut off the thumbs and great toes of 70 kings. When Judah and Simeon came into Canaan to possess it, Adonibezek fled. They pursued after him, caught him and cut off his thumbs and his great toes. Though a Gentile, yet he realized he was reaping what he had sown. He said, "as I have done, so God hath requited me."

Eglon the king of Moab went out and smote Israel and possessed the land near where Jericho had stood. He made the Israelites serve him and pay tribute to him. Israel cried for a deliverer and God raised up Ehud, a left-handed judge. Ehud went to King Eglon with a present from the children of Israel and then

requested to be alone with the king. Ehud then took a dagger from under his clothing on his right side and thrust it into Eglon's belly. Eglon was so fat Ehud couldn't draw the dagger out. As a minister of divine justice, Ehud put Eglon to death, executing the judgments of God upon him. The king got *fat* off the people of God and he died in his fat, thus reaping as he had sown.

Jacob deceived his father by dressing as his brother Esau and going into the tent to have the blessing pronounced upon him. But he paid later. When he desired to marry the woman he loved he was deceived. Jacob's father-in-law, Laban, had his eldest daughter veiled so Jacob couldn't see who she was until after he had spent the night with her. Jacob also reaped as he had sown.

Sowing to the Spirit

Jeremiah preached the words of the Lord and gained some friends because he showed that he cared for the people. The princes didn't like what he had to say and got permission from King Zedekiah to cast Jeremiah into a dungeon where there was no water, but mire.

Ebed-Melech an Ethiopian eunuch cared about Jeremiah and spoke to the king. He received permission to take Jeremiah out of the dungeon. Ebed-Melech took 30 men with him and went to the dungeon. He took old clothes and rags and let them down by cords to Jeremiah so he could put them under his arms as a cushion against the ropes as he was drawn up. Ebed-Melech wanted to get Jeremiah out of the pit but didn't want him hurt in the process. Jeremiah reaped as he had sown.

Rahab the harlot hid God's two spies and helped them to safely escape the city. In turn, Rahab was saved and her

family. Not only did she reap as she had sown but her harvest was truly great. Later she married Prince Salmon of Israel and bore him Boaz. Rahab became an ancestor in the lineage of our Lord.

Childless Hannah, wife of Elkanah, prayed the Lord for a baby boy. She vowed to give him back to the Lord that he might serve God. God granted this prayer. Oh, how her mother's heart must have been pained to leave her only son at the temple and return home emptyhanded. Hannah also reaped more than she had sown. God visited Hannah and she conceived and bare three sons and two daughters. Five babies to fill her mother's heart and arms.

The Harvest

Adonibezek, Eglon and Jacob reaped the bad they had sown. Jeremiah, Rahab and Hannah reaped the good they had sown.

As women of the Lord, let us seek to sow good seed that it may be fruitful and multiply. Let us seek to harvest souls for the Kingdom of God through our works right at home and all that we can do through missions. What will you reap? The choice is yours.

Lord of the harvest speak to me,
Open my eyes that I may see.
Give me a spiritual rake and hoe,
Fill me with love that I may sow.

Show me where there is a need,
Whisper to me, "plant the seed."
Don't let me fertilize too much,
Help me to have just the right touch.

Lead me to water when necessary,
Don't ever let me be mercenary.
Lord, let me Thy gardener be,
That I may harvest souls for Thee.

Being Thankful

Another thanksgiving season is here, and oh how the years seem to disappear.

We think back to times of long ago, when to our Grandmother's house we would go.

Just close your eyes and remember the smell, of turkey, cakes and pies cooked so well.

Then came the time when we had our own, and fixed our dinner in our dear home.

We are so thankful for memories past, but know in our heart that these don't last.

Do we think back to just these things, or do we remember joys only God can bring.

The night you held a child so dear, with fever so high and you felt such fear.

A still small voice came to you in the night, and said, "My child release this fright."

I am your Father and for you I died, on a cruel cross I was crucified.

Now what have you done for me, He said,

Have you helped your brother who is needing bread?

Have you helped the ones who are far away on all of our mission fields today?

Have you told your neighbor across the way, how serving the Lord will always pay?

Have you taught your children in times of sorrow that only thorough prayer they can face the morrow?

Oh dear friends at this Thanksgiving time, let's think of the Savior, Who is yours and mine.

Do we do the things that need to be done, or sit and wait for the setting sun?

Let's all work as hard as we can,

to help fulfill the Father's plan

when He says "Come up higher, you have done your best,

I was waiting for you to pass the test."

And we see those gates swing open wide,

and all of our loved ones waiting inside

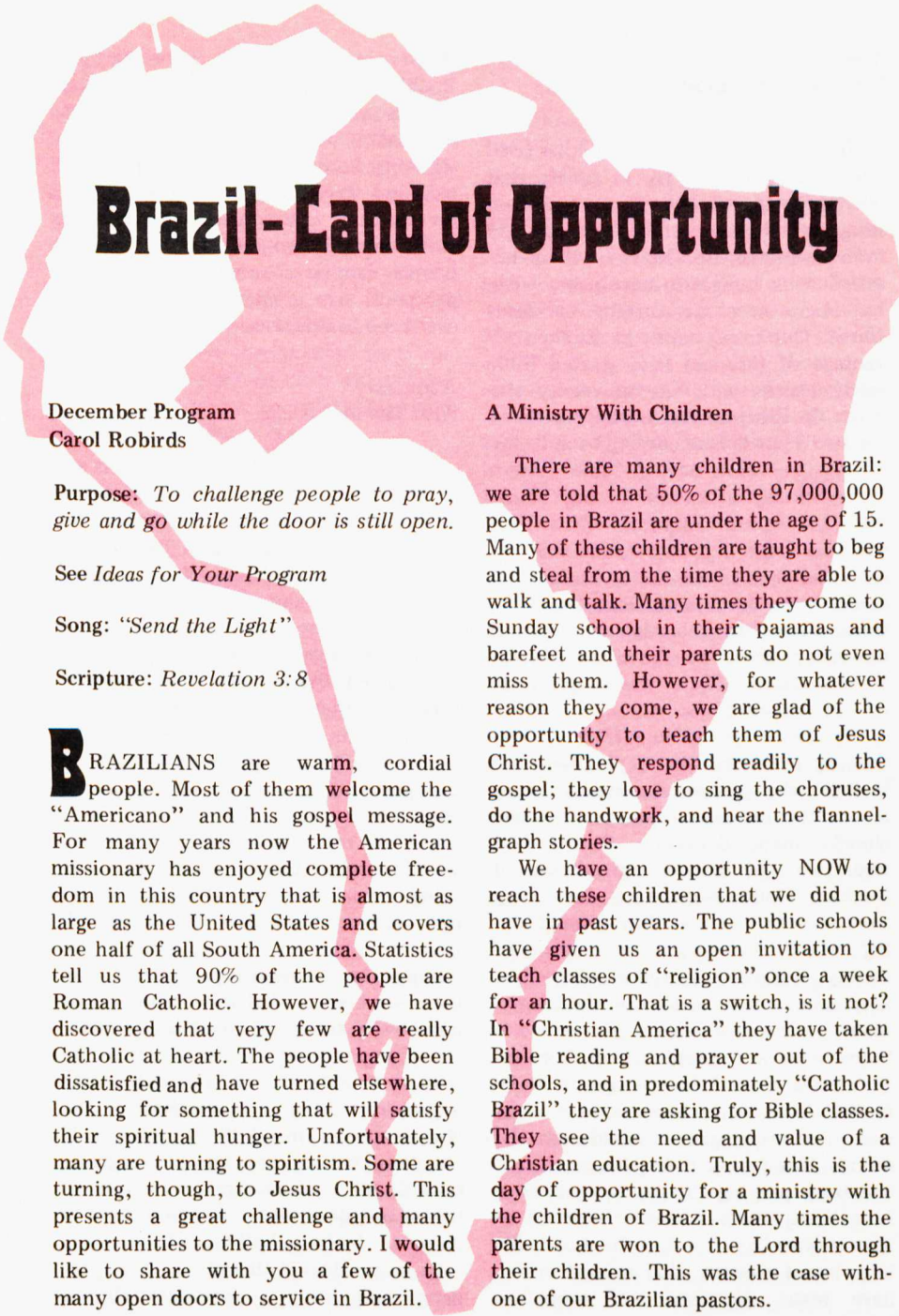
but oh, the best to touch His hand,

and to know we have reached the Promised Land.



..... Beulah Nash

The author is a member of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Huntington Park, California.



Brazil-Land of Opportunity

December Program
Carol Robirds

Purpose: *To challenge people to pray, give and go while the door is still open.*

See Ideas for Your Program

Song: "Send the Light"

Scripture: Revelation 3:8

BRAZILIANS are warm, cordial people. Most of them welcome the "Americano" and his gospel message. For many years now the American missionary has enjoyed complete freedom in this country that is almost as large as the United States and covers one half of all South America. Statistics tell us that 90% of the people are Roman Catholic. However, we have discovered that very few are really Catholic at heart. The people have been dissatisfied and have turned elsewhere, looking for something that will satisfy their spiritual hunger. Unfortunately, many are turning to spiritism. Some are turning, though, to Jesus Christ. This presents a great challenge and many opportunities to the missionary. I would like to share with you a few of the many open doors to service in Brazil.

A Ministry With Children

There are many children in Brazil: we are told that 50% of the 97,000,000 people in Brazil are under the age of 15. Many of these children are taught to beg and steal from the time they are able to walk and talk. Many times they come to Sunday school in their pajamas and barefeet and their parents do not even miss them. However, for whatever reason they come, we are glad of the opportunity to teach them of Jesus Christ. They respond readily to the gospel; they love to sing the choruses, do the handwork, and hear the flannel-graph stories.

We have an opportunity NOW to reach these children that we did not have in past years. The public schools have given us an open invitation to teach classes of "religion" once a week for an hour. That is a switch, is it not? In "Christian America" they have taken Bible reading and prayer out of the schools, and in predominately "Catholic Brazil" they are asking for Bible classes. They see the need and value of a Christian education. Truly, this is the day of opportunity for a ministry with the children of Brazil. Many times the parents are won to the Lord through their children. This was the case with one of our Brazilian pastors.

A Ministry With University Students

It seems that this age group has tried about everything to try to satisfy that craving in their heart. They have tried drugs, rebellion, occult movements, and even satan-worship. None of these has satisfied his hunger to have peace within. Many now are turning to Jesus Christ. Our missionaries have taken advantage of this and have started Bible study classes with the university students. In Ribeirao Preto, where we lived for two years before coming back to the States, we were having Bible studies every Sunday afternoon in our home. We had good response from the students. One young man was so enthused that he wanted to know if he could bring his friend next time. We were invited to the high school and university there to show the Moody Science films. There was a good response to these films.

We had a leadership retreat or conference in Araras in September and invited the potential leaders from among the university students that had already made decisions. During that week we had around eight hours of teaching God's Word each day. They were so enthused that they were studying even in their spare time instead of resting or visiting. In the evening all of them went out to witness on the streets. Many of them, who were new converts themselves, won people to the Lord on the streets. One of the young men spoke in the Araras church on Sunday night and there was a woman saved after the service. The people in the Araras church had been praying for this woman for a long time. These students returned to their homes on fire for the Lord. We have heard recently that several others have made decisions and they are

growing in the Lord. Since we left Brazil, Dirceu, one of our Brazilian pastors and also a university student, has taken over our work with the students. So many doors have opened to him and the Lord is really blessing. We are hoping that one day our Bible Institute will re-open and these young people can be channeled into it. The prospects are greater than they have ever been in this area.

A Ministry With The Poor Class

Approximately 60% of Brazilians are of this class. The poor usually earn the minimum salary or less. This means that they take home about \$36.00 a month to take care of their large families, they usually have many children—from four to twenty-four. Living expenses are about the same in Brazil as they are in the United States. We wonder sometimes how they manage to live.

The poor are very receptive to the gospel, we have a good ministry with this group. Three of our five organized churches are made up of poor people. There are many problems, however, in working with these people. For one thing, many times their "decisions" are not sincere. They feel that they will benefit financially or physically by joining the "Americano church." Another problem is that they can never be completely independent of the missionary. Can you imagine how long it would take to be able to build a church or pay a pastor if all of the members of the church earned only \$36.00 a month. If everyone tithed they would be giving only \$3.60 a month a piece. How many tithing people would one have to have in order to build a building? Property is very expensive in Brazil; to buy property and build a moderate church

building costs at least \$14,000 now. There is not enough room in our rented halls to hold the number of people that it would take to be able to build a church building. It is an impossible situation. They will always be dependent on the missionary. Yet another problem is that the poor cannot reach their own people with the gospel. Middle class and rich people will not humble themselves by attending a rented hall where the majority are poor. There is a very strong class distinction. Nevertheless, many are being saved and we are ministering to them.

A Ministry With The Middle Class

We believe, now, that the middle class Brazilian holds the key to the evangelization of all Brazil. If we can reach this class with the gospel then they can reach their own people. The rich will listen to someone who is middle class; the poor will listen also. The middle class has enough resources, talents, and drive to eventually become an independent body. They will not always have to depend on the missionary. The middle class earns as much or more than the average missionary and so he is not trying to benefit financially from the "Americano," thus when he makes a decision it is usually a sincere one.

The Free Will Baptist church in the city of Araras is one example of this. It began, under the leadership of Bobby Aycock, with a small group of middle class people. Today it is one of our most promising churches. They have built their own building and have begun a mission in the same town with the poor class. Pray that God will give us more open doors with this group of people and that they will have a real vision to

reach their own people with the gospel.

A Ministry With The Rich Or Upper Class

When we moved to the city of Ribeirao Preto, it was with the purpose of reaching this class of people with the gospel. We found that they were being overlooked by most mission groups. Most people are afraid to try to work with this group because they feel inferior to them. We found, much to our surprise, that these people are very friendly and very receptive. We were invited one time to a birthday party in the home of a woman with whom we had made friends. There were a lot of people there who were very wealthy. One woman, who was a widow, asked us about our belief in God. We had a marvelous opportunity to witness to her. Several people gathered around to listen also. When we got ready to leave, this woman asked us if we would please come to her house once a week to teach her more about God and His Word. She found that the message of Christ satisfied that empty spot in her life. The rich, as well as the poor, need Jesus Christ and they both find that He satisfies their every longing.

Today is the day of salvation in Brazil! Tomorrow may be too late. The communists are constantly trying to get a foothold on Brazil. Right now the government is anti-communistic, but we never know when there might be another revolution. Pray that the doors might remain open and that Free Will Baptists will take advantage of the many opportunities afforded us in Brazil. If we have the vision, we can do great things for God in this great country. Jesus said, "... behold, I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it. . . ." (Revelation 3:8).



Our Thanksgiving Prayer Programs

Sarah Fulton

To Program Leader: You may want to use the following pantomime to show the effectiveness of prayer. Enlist the aid of two women and some children.

Divide the platform into halves. On the left, set up scenery to represent the living room of Mrs. Smith, an Auxiliary member. On the right, set up scenery to represent a missionary teaching a children's class.

Narrator: Mrs. Smith, who is a mem-

ber of the _____ Woman's Auxiliary, has just received a letter from a missionary with prayer requests for her children's Bible classes. Let us see what happens when she does *not* take time to pray.

(Mrs. Smith reads the letter. When she finishes reading she puts the letter down and goes about her work, dusting the furniture, talking on the telephone, etc. As she is doing so, the woman

missionary and children enter on the right side to begin their Bible class. The children are very unruly, never quieting down long enough for the teacher to get their attention.)

Narrator: (Pull the curtains or clear the platform.) Now let us see what happens when Mrs. Smith earnestly prays.

(As Mrs. Smith reads the letter the missionary and children enter. The children are still misbehaving but when Mrs. Smith kneels to pray, the children quieten down. The missionary pretends to give an invitation to accept Christ. The children bow their heads. Some of them raise their hands showing they want to receive Christ.)

Narrator: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16b). Samuel said, "God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you" (1 Samuel 12:23a).

Day 1

Prayer Is

Scripture: Isaiah 59. Note especially verse 16.

Prayer

Music: "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

Did you notice the words "And he (God) . . . wondered that there was no intercessor . . . ?" (Isaiah 59:16.) Sin was rampant on every hand in that day, but there was no one interceding to God for the sinful people. Thus God sent His Son Jesus to die for the sins of the people.

Sin is abound in our land today. Jesus has died for the sins of the people. He lives now in heaven and our duty is to spread the good news that Jesus has come to save people from their sins. We do this primarily by personal witness, by giving, by going and by praying. How important prayer is because through prayer we can be intercessors! God must look today and wonder that there are so few intercessors even though Jesus has completed the plan of salvation and He has sent the Holy Spirit to help us in our praying (Romans 8:26). Do you realize that through prayer we can move the Hand that moves the world? Abraham prayed and Lot was spared from Sodom. Hezekiah prayed and God allowed him to live a little longer. In our Bibles out of 667 prayers for specific things there are 454 traceable answers. God will answer if we will only pray.

What is prayer? It has been described as *the soul's sincere desire either uttered aloud or unexpressed*. It is simply the turning of the soul to God (Psalm 25:1). The word prayer really means "A wish directed towards" and when in prayer we direct our wishes to God.

What should our prayers contain? *(Draw praying hands on construction paper and cut out. Glue a piece of flannel to the back of the hands. Print the things that our prayers should contain—one on each hand. As they are mentioned and discussed place each one of the flannel board.)* (1) Praise—a child longs for his father's company often, not just at the times he needs something. We should seek God our Father often too. Jesus thanked God in John 11:41 at Lazarus' grave. Psalms give us many examples of praise. We think about giving thanks during this season of the year, but we need to give praise and thanks in every prayer we utter aloud or silently no matter what season

of the year. (Sing "*Praise Him.*") (2) *Worship of God*—God is holy and great and very worthy of our worship. Part of prayer should be spent in worshipping Him. (Sing "*Holy, Holy, Holy.*") (3) *Communion*—We talk and get to know friends. In prayer we talk and get to know God. (Sing "*What A Friend.*") (4) *Petition*—Asking is a very real part of prayer. Jesus commanded us to ask. (Assign the following verses to different ones before program begins and ask them to read them at this time: Matthew 7:7-8, Matthew 21:22, Mark 11:24, Luke 11:9, John 14:13.)

Prayer Time

SPECIAL HOME MISSIONS PRAYER REQUESTS

DAY 2

HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

Scripture: Song of Solomon 2:15; Psalm 19:12-14.

Prayer

Music: "Nothing Between"

Prayer is a sign of spiritual life. When an animal or a person dies they have no more needs. As alive and growing Christians we need to study God's Word and to pray. We need an appetite for prayer and Bible study. In order to have it we must keep sin out of our lives. Solomon said that it was the little foxes that spoiled the grape vines. Just so, it is the so-called little sins that harm our prayer

lives. What are some of those little sins? (*Cut little foxes, glue flannel on back, print each little sin on a fox and place on the flannel board as you discuss it.*)

(1) *Doubt*—James 1:6-8. When we pray we should believe that God will answer. We should never doubt. Do you have enough faith to thank God for His answer even when you petition Him? (2) *Self*—Isaiah 53:6. We all want our own way, but God has saved us from wanting our own way. Let's get all the self out of our lives (pride, jealousy, criticism) so our prayers will not be hindered. (3) *Lack of love*—Mark 11:25, Matthew 5:23. We must be right with our fellow man in order to be right with God. Jesus taught us to forgive even as God has forgiven us. Too, things must be right in our homes if our prayers are not to be hindered (1 Peter 3:7-10; 1 Timothy 2:8-15). (4) *Disobedience*—Matthew 9:36-39; 28:19-20. We are to pray and then go. (5) *Not praying with others*—Matthew 18:19-20. We should pray together even in twos and threes. (5) *Lack of praise*—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. (6) *Wrong motives*—James 4:3. (7) *Worldly habits and attitudes*—Matthew 6:33; Psalm 66:16-20; Psalm 51:1-13. (*Have prayer time asking God to cleanse hearts of all "little" sins which hinder prayers.*)

Prayer has been called the greatest ministry. Our personal witness is limited to our location but through prayer we can be effective and have a ministry around the world! Someday rewards will be given—prayer warriors may receive the greatest ones. It has been said that every convert is the result of the Holy Spirit's pleading in answer to the prayers of some believer or believers. Our WNAC Watchword is "*Laborers together with God.*" We can be laborers with our missionaries through our prayers for them.

SPECIAL HOME MISSIONS PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer Time

DAY 3

PRAYER IN ACTION

Scripture: John 4:1-42

Prayer

Song: "Did You Think To Pray?"

Many hours could be spent on the study of prayer, but the greatest hindrance to prayer is that we just do not take time to pray. Everyone always has so very much to do! But just as most babies fare better on a schedule, Christians fare better if they have a specific time set apart for prayer and Bible study. One must select the time best suited for her need. What works for your friend may not work for you. But let us set aside some time and do our utmost to observe that time as prayer and Bible study time recharging our "batteries" for the work of God. A. J. Gordon said, "You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, but you can never do more than pray until you have prayed." Jesus prayed many, many times when He lived on earth.

After prayer comes action. The lesson from the Scripture is full of action. Jesus was in action. He was traveling all over teaching people about God. Even when he paused to rest, He continued His ministry by teaching the Samaritan woman. The woman was in action doing her daily chore of going to the well to get water for her needs. After she met and talked with Christ she

knew He was the Messiah. She forgot her daily chore by leaving her waterpot, returning to the city and telling others about Christ and inviting them to come and meet Him. Many believed because of her testimony and later many more believed when they heard Jesus for themselves. Do you suppose that the woman prayed all the way back to the city that the people would listen to her and come to know Christ as she had? Perhaps she did. But she not only prayed! She put her prayers into action by inviting people to Christ. Let us pray that we and our missionaries will be effective for Christ, but let us put our prayers in action by witnessing and testifying for Him every chance we get in our neighborhoods, churches, etc. (Plan a special way for action for your women by planning child evangelism classes, Bible study groups, services in retirement homes, in nursing homes, in jails, tract distribution in community, etc.)

SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR HOME MISSIONS

Prayer Time

DAY 4

IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

Scripture: Luke 11:1-13.

Prayer

Song: "Teach Me to Pray"

The people of Israel had sinned in asking for a king, a sign of rebellion against God. However, Samuel promised them that he would continue to pray for them and would teach them God's

ways (1 Samuel 12:23). Samuel said it would be a sin for him to cease praying for the sinful people. How important it is for us to pray for those who do not know Christ?

Paul was a home and a foreign missionary. He realized the importance of prayer. Many times he asked the people to pray for him in his work (Ephesians 6:18-19. 2 Thessalonians 3:1). A lady said to a missionary, "Mrs. Waid, I am going to pray for you every time I get a drink of water." Mrs. Waid answered, "Oh, I pray that God will make you very thirsty so you will pray much." Many, many times in the New Testament we are commanded to pray. (Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 1 Timothy 2:1-8. James 5:16, Acts 6:4, Philippians 4:6, 1 Peter 4:7, Luke 18:1. Perhaps the ladies would enjoy a sword drill using these verses. Discuss each one briefly.)

Prayer is important. "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

SPECIAL HOME MISSIONS PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer Time

DAY 5

PRAYER—THE HOPE OF THE WORLD

Scripture: Psalm 20:7

Prayer

Song: "I Am Praying for You."

Most of us have seen the statement "Christ—the Hope of the World." Bernie

Smith in his book MEDITATIONS ON PRAYER entitles the last chapter "*Prayer—The Hope of the World.*" We will be effective in our personal witness if we pray. Our churches will be effective in their programs if we pray. Our home missionaries will be effective in their efforts if we pray. Through prayer we can bring showers of blessings down around the world!

Prayer

The weary ones had rest, the sad had joy

That day, and wondered "how?"
A housewife singing at her work, had prayed
"Lord, help them now."

Away in distant places they wondered "how"

Their simple words had power;
At home, the Christians, two or three, had met
To pray an hour.

Yes, we are always wondering, wondering "how,"

Because we do not see
Someone, unknown perhaps, and far away,
On bended knee.

—Author Unknown

SPECIAL HOME MISSIONS PRAYER REQUEST

Prayer Time

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR HOME MISSIONS—The Lizzie McAdams offering in honor of our first pioneer home missionary and WNAC's early field worker.

The Great Commission

State Home Missions
Prayer Programs

Anne Worthington

Matthew's Account—Telling

Matthew 28:16-20

JESUS HAD WALKED with His disciples for three and a half years, died and had risen. Now it was time for His ascension back to His Father. Just before His ascension He appeared for the last time to His disciples. This appearance was appointed and promised again and again before His death and after His resurrection.

Verse 16 reveals the appointed place. Jesus had told His disciples to go into Galilee and they had been obedient to His command. If we are to maintain communion with Christ we must be obedient to Him. Going to Galilee was a

long journey for one short sight of Jesus but it was worth it.

Verse 17 reveals the adored person. When the disciples saw Him two attitudes resulted. Some worshipped Him and others doubted. Those who worshipped Him gave Him divine honor. Some doubted but not any of the eleven. The faith of some who are sincere may be weak and wavering. These are those who questioned and proved all things and then held fast that which was true and that which they found to be so. Some doubted before they believed.

Verse 18 reveals the authorized power. Jesus gave them convincing proofs of His resurrection and made their faith to triumph over their doubts. He reminds them that all power in heaven and earth is given to Him. This precious truth is clearly set forth in Philippians 2:9 and Hebrews 12:2. We must embrace this precious truth reverently and cling to it firmly. Those

who have Him have life and those who have not Him have not life.

The announced program is revealed in verse 19, 20. The disciples are commanded to go and teach all nations. Their knowledge was not to be confined to themselves but communicated to others. They were instructed to make disciples of all nations and to tell the whole earth that Christ had died for sinners. This solemn duty is still ours today. Every disciple of Christ is bound to do all he can in person, prayer and purse to make others acquainted with Jesus. It is doubtful that a person really knows the Gospel himself if he does not desire to make it known to others. This is the great charter of His kingdom in the world. He is sending them out as His ambassadors having given them their credentials. The work described here is to set up the Christian religion in all places. They were to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit. This would serve as a public testimony of their faith. The necessity of public confession of faith in Christ is the plain practical lesson here.

Verse 19 reveals that *Evangelism* is just one phase of the Great Commission. Verse 20 sets forth the second phase—*Edification*. After we have reached men with the gospel we are expected to teach and train them. All the moral duties and responsibilities set forth by Jesus must be taught by these disciples. They must teach them and in the knowledge of them must believers be trained. The duty of all Christians is set forth here. They must observe all things that Christ has commanded. In order to do this they must submit to the teaching of those that Christ sends.

Verse 20 also reveals the assuring Presence. Jesus promises to be with His disciples always. They were left alone but not deserted.

Mark's Account—Trusting Mark 16:14-20

Verse 14 reveals the appearance to the eleven while they were eating. Jesus upbraided them because of their unbelief and hardness of heart. These disciples had not believed the report of those who had seen Him, following the resurrection. This reveals the weakness that is evident sometimes in the faith of the best Christian. The very doubts of the eleven apostles are the confirmation of our faith in these latter days. We should feel no surprise when we find doubt arising in our hearts for our faith is not perfect and consequently we should not expect perfect faith in others. Saints have the responsibility of resisting, watching and praying in order to be delivered from the power of unbelief. The disciples were convicted of their unbelief concerning the resurrection.

Verse 15 reveals the admonition to the eleven. Jesus is addressing them for the last time and these are His parting words. He clearly marks out their work till He comes again, in words of wide and deep significance. These words remind us that all the world needs the Gospel. Men throughout the world are sinful, corrupt, alienated from God and without peace. The Gospel was to be offered freely to all. These words are the strongest argument in favor of missionary work. We must be unwearied in trying to reach the souls of all mankind. The disciples were commissioned to reach the world with the Gospel.

Verses 16-18 reveal the assurance to those who hear the Gospel. Those who hear the Word and believe will be saved and those who don't will be damned. The importance of faith is seen in that it is necessary to salvation. Without it men

can't be saved. God's judgment on the unbeliever is that he shall be damned.

Verses 17-18 continue with the assurance to those who believe. God promises to confirm their faith with mighty signs. The work would be difficult, and they would be in a battle. These miracles would serve as encouragements to them as they labored. I personally feel that these signs were fulfilled in the Acts of the Apostles. Though the age of physical miracles is past we may rest assured that the Church shall never want for Christ's special aid in its seasons of special need.

Verse 19 reveals the ascension, and verse 20 the activity of the *laborers*.

Luke's Account—Tarrying **Luke 24:44-53**

Verses 44-45 reveal the Saviour's work. He opened their understanding so they might understand the Scriptures. Jesus shows His disciples the full meaning of many passages which they had not hitherto been able to understand. He showed the true interpretation of many prophetic passages concerning the Messiah. All Christians need this work done in their understanding (1 Corinthians 2:14). Our minds can be literally blinded by pride, prejudice, and love for the world. Even though we read the Scriptures we have a veil over the eyes of our understanding. If we are to read the Bible with profit we must pray that the Lord will open the eyes of our understanding.

Verses 46-48 reveal the Saviour's witnesses. The precepts they were to preach are found here. They were to preach the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord. Repentance and remission of sins were to be preached in Christ's name to all nations. They were to begin in Jerusalem. They were to be

simple witnesses of the things they had seen and heard. True disciples of Christ bear a continual testimony in the midst of an evil world. The truth of the Gospel, the graciousness of the Master's heart, the excellence of the Master's rules and the enormous danger and wickedness of the ways of the world must be clearly and forcefully set forth by these witnesses. It will bring the displeasure of men and the world will hate us. Few will believe. Many will think it is offensive and extreme but the duty of the witness is to bear testimony whether he is believed or not. When we have borne our testimony faithfully we have done our duty although like Noah, Elijah and Jeremiah, we stand almost alone.

Verse 49 reveals the Saviour's meaning. They were reminded of the promise of the Father and were to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. He cautions them not to seek to do the work in their own strength but to wait for the promise of the Father. When the Spirit was poured out they would be furnished with all those gifts and graces which were necessary to their discharge of this great trust. The work that was done by the apostles would never have been done had they not been endued with power from on high.

Verses 50-52 reveal the Saviour's withdrawal, and the Saviour's worshippers. The disciples returned to Jerusalem and were continually worshipping and praising Him in the temple.

John's Account—Training **John 21:15-17**

This chapter sets forth the truth that edification is important in carrying out the great commission. Peter is questioned by the Lord concerning His love

for Him three times. Following each question Peter is instructed to *Feed my lambs . . . Feed my sheep . . . Feed my sheep.*

This is a vital part of the great commission. Far too often this precious truth is overlooked in fulfilling the commission. Several things are important in this section of John's writings. (1) The Saviour's question has already been noted. We may know much but the great question is do we love Christ? Without it there is no vitality to our Christianity. We are no better than wax figures, lifeless beasts or sounding brass. We must have some feeling toward Christ. We must love Him supremely. (2) The Servant's answer is noted. Peter's response three times was, "*You know I love Thee.*" His answer is the answer every true servant of Christ in every age can give. When there is true grace there will be a consciousness of love toward Christ. The secret of love for Christ is an inward sense of having received from Him pardon and forgiveness of sins. The more we realize what Christ has done for us the more we will love Him. The test of our love will be faithful obedience to the known will of God. (3) Peter is specifically charged to do the work of an apostle in spite of his recent fall. It was designed to teach Peter and the whole Church that usefulness to others is the grand test of love, and working for Christ the great proof of really loving Christ. The steady, patient, laborious effort to do good to Christ's sheep scattered throughout the sinful world is the true test of being a true-hearted disciple and it is the secret of true Christian greatness. Christ spoke specifically to Peter but it included all the apostles. He charged them all not only to be fishers of men by the conversion of sinners but feeders of the flock by the edification

of saints.

Luke's Account—Testimony Acts 1:8

The assurance of a spiritual power was promised the disciples. This precious promise was fulfilled in Acts 2 when the Spirit of God came in all His fulness. They were to tarry until He came. John 16 makes it absolutely clear as to the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the lives of saints, sinners and in society. They would be witnesses for Jesus when the Spirit came upon them. This would be an honorable and glorious work. They would preach the Gospel to all the world and their power would be sufficient for this work. In their own strength they would not be able to do the work but the Spirit would endure them and empower them for this tremendous task. Those whom God employs in His service He will qualify for it. The area that would be included in this work is described. Their influence would be great and extensive. They would be witnesses beginning in Jerusalem and finally to the uttermost part of the earth. The key is this important verse, as it relates to the great commission, is that they would be witnesses. The Spirit of God would not only give them power but would reproduce the fruits of the Spirit in their lives which would add authority to their testimony (Galatians 5:22). These apostles were testimonies through their: *Lives* (Philippians 1:27); *Lips* (Acts 2, 3, 4); *Loyalty* (Acts 4, 5); *Love* (John 13); *Labors* (Acts 8, 9, 13). We all can testify of saving grace through these areas.

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR YOUR
STATE HOME MISSIONARIES

OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS

A lay missionary
evaluates a year on the field

AN UNUSUAL YEAR

Lorene Francen

MY IT HAS been a busy year! Sometimes it has seemed like it would never end and suddenly it is gone. I know myself better than I did last year. I know God better too. He has supplied and been constant in a world that has seemed quite mobile.

Only a year ago Christmas the Fred McCoys came to our house on the campus at Free Will Baptist College in Nashville for a brief visit. They told of their new work in Puerto Rico. Soon after we received a letter from them telling of the work and asking us to join them and help.

Through the McCoys contacts at the private school their sons attend we found teaching jobs. The contracts were signed for a year at Wesleyan Academy and we began to make plans to move.

Although Charles, my husband, was finishing his Master's Degree and would be in school until mid-August, the director of the school where we would be working asked Mike (our son) and me to come as soon as possible to begin preparing the library for the opening of school. We left Nashville during the National convention. It was my first time to fly.

In the airport all four McCoys were waiting for us. I wish I could share with you some of the first, impressive sights and sounds of Puerto Rico. This lovely green island has an abundance of tropical fruits and flowers in so many flavors, fragrances and colors. The sky is

the bluest I have ever seen, and I used to live in Texas. The traffic is suicidal. People drive with their *horns*. It reminds me of the bumper car ride at Beach Bend, Kentucky. There is a tiny, almost transparent frog here called the *coqui*. It *sings* all night in its lovely musical *voice*. Lizards are everywhere, inside and out.

The days of new experiences rushed by in living color. The school is painted a bright blue and yellow. The flowers are even brighter than those on travel posters. The sea is a deep azure. The houses are a lovely mixture of color (the Latin is much more imaginative in painting his house than we are). The farmer's market could be in Africa. It was like stepping from a modern country into another age. So many new things and places and names and faces.

I love child evangelism work and have been involved in it for a number of years. My first day in Puerto Rico was spent at the little missions vacation Bible school. The teacher used a visualized lesson I know well. She had the children eating out of her hand, but I could understand little of what she said. My college Spanish suddenly seemed woefully inadequate! In fact, it appeared I might have studied the wrong language. The rapid, musical language spoken around me was nothing my ear was used to hearing. The confusion increased, instead of diminishing.

An astonishing amount of work was waiting in the tiny one-room library—

and only five weeks remained before classes would begin. With Mike, and sometimes Freddie McCoy, as helpers we began the *dirty* joy of opening a closed library after some months of disuse.

We spent a few days in the McCoy's lovely home before we were able to move into the house we rented directly behind the church building. I read the ads in the local paper and began to buy second-hand furniture. We bought beds and a few odds and ends, borrowed four folding chairs and a camping table from the McCoy's and moved in.

We spent the next two months in various stages of camping out (or I should say *camping in*). Only one room in our house has windows so the lack of curtains was no problem. The house was secured with double locks and iron grillwork, so we were quite safe. The electricity was often off; we could do little towards making the new house our *home* in the evenings. Our electric burners went out causing my new pressure cooker to explode (we were not hurt), but it was necessary to cook everything in the oven for awhile (and that takes imagination).

Finally, in August, a tired husband and father joined us. He had his Master's Degree and was one day late for the opening of school.

Charles' last days in Nashville had been hard. It is hot there in August. He drove to the state university and back everyday, studied for his graduate examinations, and did all our shipping. So much went wrong. As he left Nashville that last day, for instance, the motor went out on our Volkswagon bus. With finals to take and a plane to catch he bought and put in a new motor, drove to Jacksonville, Florida to ship the bus and its contents and made his own flight with only minutes to

spare. When we picked him up at the airport in San Juan he had been two days and nights without sleep.

Almost immediately after arriving Charles began to teach an English language Sunday school class for teenagers. Later I began to *try* to teach a Spanish class for small children on Wednesday nights.

At work we found a class was provided for all teachers who wanted to learn Spanish. We qualified for the advanced class and began to study. Our lovely Christian teacher was from Cuba and spoke very little English. It helps someone who likes to talk as much as I do to be forced to use the language being studied.

From the first Sunday the little *family* of believers opened their hearts to us. The love they lavish upon the McCoy family spilled over on us too.

The year settled into its own pattern. Charles studied late and early to try and catch up in the two classes he felt utterly unprepared to teach (besides taking care of the five sections of the drafting he was hired for). We kept study hours almost as it we still lived in the boy's dorm at the college in Nashville. The alarm went off at five, we left for school at 6:40 to return between four and five. Weekends were, for me, what they are for those of you who must work outside your home (hectic).

Through both chance and design we became acquainted with some *continentals* (what we from the United States are called here). Fred McCoy had wanted for some time to begin a ministry in English but there had been no opportunity. From our friendships he began services on Sunday afternoons. There have been no conversions and the services are still very small, but it is a beginning. To reach many of the Americans here will be God's own

miracle.

By Christmas I really felt the need for rest. The constant heat, the heavy schedule and the debilitation of personal defeat were telling on me. The Lord sent us three families of visitors during the month of December and the ministry of my sister's in Christ was the ladder on which I was able to climb out of a spiritual slump.

At school I had a few opportunities to speak in the younger children's chapel. Many a hard week was spiced by the pleasure of speaking of Christ to the children. The consistent contact with children was the thing I missed most this year. Spring brought first one teacher's request that I deal with her students and then another until I had been privileged to see over 40 make decisions for Christ from the fourth to sixth grades alone. In late March and April I taught a series of lessons in the weekly chapel for this age group of children. There were more responses and some good opportunities for counseling and teaching. I enjoyed the classes very much, I hope the little Christians did too.

In March the McCoys and I started another English Sunday school class. There are lots of Americans in the area of the church building and only our small ministry among them. There was no more room in the little rented church building so the new class was started in our carport. Last Sunday there were 13 wiggling, giggling students. Charles has a consistent six in his. We had 63 in Sunday school last week and 49 yesterday. In the morning service a teenage boy gave his testimony. Fred had led him to the Lord at home on Thursday evening. At the close of the service his younger brother came to the altar. You should have seen the McCoys! They were so happy.

School is almost out now. Our contracts are soon to expire. It has been a year of learning, often painfully. It has been a year of opportunities, often more than we could meet. It has been a year to face limitations, and there are so many.

Being a layman here is not very different from being a layman anywhere. There are the things we have done here that we have always done in our local church. Looking back there are three things that stand out to me.

1. The time required in earning our living limited our participation in some things the professional missionary does, as your work prevents you from doing some of the things your pastor does. The *limitation* provided us with a rich supply of contacts we would not have had if we had not worked.

2. The lack of definite missionary identification put us in an awkward situation occasionally. Yet, just being a layman *like everyone else* has distinct advantages. The missionary is *supposed* to do what he does. He is *different* like your pastor is different to many around him.

3. The language poses a serious problem. If we had been under the mission board for instance, we would have spent a year studying in a language school before beginning to work here. Not being under the board we had no funds for a year in school. How can you share Christ when you cannot speak? Language study is hard for adults.

The time has gone. The children are planning end-of-school parties. It is almost time for examinations and final gradings. I wanted to share some of this unusual year with you. We have had more limitations in our work for Christ than ever before, but it has been a good year. I hope your year has been as rewarding.

IDEAS

FOR YOUR PROGRAM

The fourth quarter, 1972 Program Packet includes all the materials you will need to carry out the suggested ideas for each month's program.

October/A Thorn In The Flesh

Poster—Publicize your Auxiliary meeting with bulletin poster, *WHAT'S YOUR THORN IN THE FLESH?*

Interest Center—Prop a rough, wooden cross on its side on the table. Spotlight it so that the shadow falls on the wall about three feet away. A picture of Christ in Gethsemane may be put on the wall, in the shadow of the cross. Dim the room lighting if possible. A crown of thorns (or facsimile) would be effective.

Special Music—*"In the Hour of Trial," "The Cross is Not Greater,"* or *"Your Roses May Have Thorns."*

Reading—*"Are You Discouraged?"*

Closing Meditations—*"Trouble," "Your Calamity May Be a Blessing," "Thorns in the Flesh,"* and *"Gethsemane."* These thoughts will bring encouragement if read, accompanied with soft music, at the close of your program. Allow time for a sharing of burdens and problems. Close with an altar of prayer.

November/Harvest Time

Interest Center—On a table arrange a Bible and items of the current season—colored leaves, fruit and nuts. You may want to use a small plastic rake, hoe, and shovel, purchased from the toy store. Use a placard with the theme *HARVEST TIME*.

Create Atmosphere—*Help Wanted* signs may be displayed about the room

to challenge the members of the Auxiliary.

1. Help Wanted—Sowers
2. Help Wanted—Reapers
3. Help Wanted—Harvesters
4. Help Wanted—Working Hands

Poster—Advertise your meeting with bulletin poster: *THANKSGIVING TIME FOR THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY*. Time, Date, Place.

Special Music—Suggested songs are: *"I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go," "Speak My Lord,"* or *"Shall I Empty Handed Be?"*

Special Feature—As this program is short you may want to use the Thanksgiving emphasis, *The Five Kernels*. It correlates with the program theme.

Prayer Reminders—Cut praying hands from the printed sheets, (the packet provides 18). On the front is printed: *HELP WANTED—PRAYING HANDS*. On the reverse side write specific prayer requests.

December/Brazil— Land of Opportunity

For Atmosphere—Borrow Brazilian souvenirs if available—trays made with butterfly wings, objects made of wood, and other items. If these are not available, buy a bunch of bananas, a can of coffee, a coconut, or even bring a rubber tire.

Prayer Reminders—Cut from sheets the small outline maps of Brazil. Write prayer requests and names of missionaries working in Brazil on the backs. You will find these in the *Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Digest Brazil Today*.

Special Features—*If You Lived in Brazil*, and *Brazil's Pod of P's* (includes poster). These will enliven your program as well as involve more members.

Creative Writing Contest



WHEN—August 1, 1972 to March 1, 1973

FOR WHOM—Any member of a Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary or Group

WHY—To develop talents and to provide a reserve of materials for publication

AWARDS—First, second, and third place awards in each category: (1) Programs suitable for *Co-Laborer* (2) Plays and skits

RULES—Write the Editor
WNAC
P.O. Box 1088
Nashville, Tennessee 37202



A DUAL HOME MISSIONS EMPHASIS

Every Woman's Auxiliary should plan for a dual Home Missions emphasis.

**SEASON OF PRAYER AND OFFERING
FOR NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS**

November 13-17, 1972

**SEASON OF PRAYER AND OFFERING
FOR STATE HOME MISSIONS**

According to State Plan