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Co-Laborer

APRIL — MAY — JUNE 1973



“Though I Walk Through The Valley”

A South Vietnamese soldier met a friend from another company on one of the battlefronts in South Viet Nam. Thu, who had recently become a Christian, immediately started telling his friend the thrilling story of how it all happened:

Several months before, as Thu was trying to escape from a hail of bullets, he ran into a seemingly deserted hut by the side of the road. To his great surprise, there on the wall in front of him hung a text with these words: “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me.”

Thu remembered how a friend had tried to explain the Gospel to him, but he had refused to listen. Now, in his hour of peril, he realized how foolish he was to continue in his rebellious attitude towards Jesus Christ.

He prayed, “O God, I want to know Jesus Christ, that He has saved my soul.” Just then, he heard a voice calling him, and turning, he saw an elderly woman sitting by a small table. Concerned for her safety, he urged her to take shelter from the flying bullets. Then, promising to return to talk to her, he dashed out the door.

When the firing ceased, Thu went back to the hut. It was empty, but the text had been taken down and was lying on the table. On a piece of paper beside the text were these words: "For the soldier who read this text, I hope you will believe on Jesus Christ."

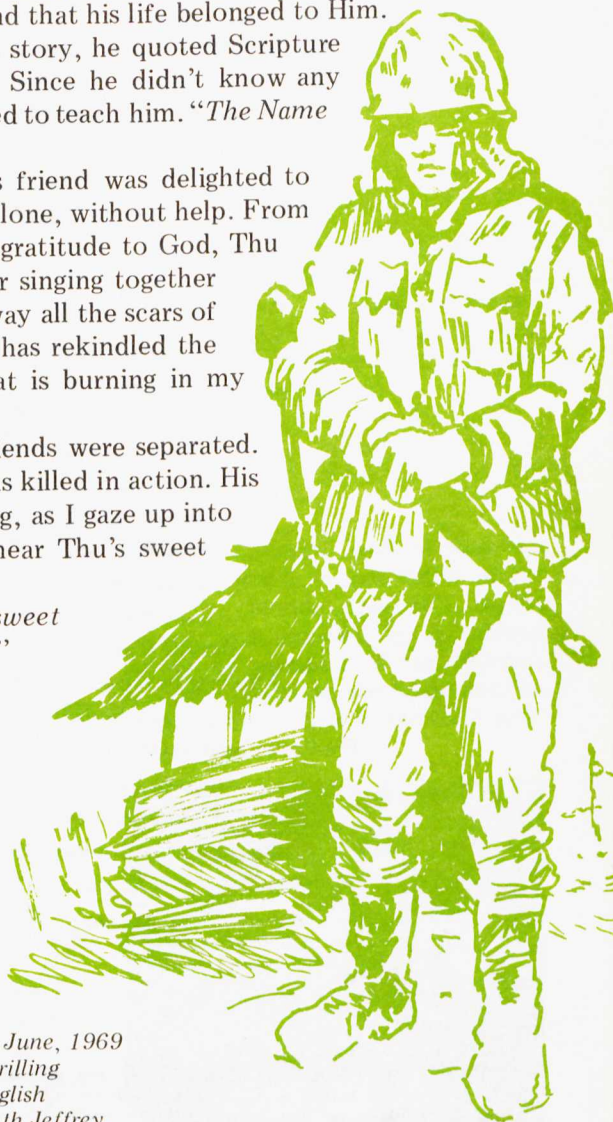
Thu never saw the woman again. He wanted to tell her that he had believed on Jesus Christ and that his life belonged to Him.

After Thu had told his story, he quoted Scripture texts he had memorized. Since he didn't know any hymns, his friend proceeded to teach him. "*The Name of Jesus is So Sweet.*"

The next morning, his friend was delighted to hear Thu sing the hymn alone, without help. From a heart overflowing with gratitude to God, Thu said, "What a blessing our singing together has been. It has wiped away all the scars of sorrow and sadness, and has rekindled the fire of Heavenly love that is burning in my soul."

Two days later, the friends were separated. Shortly after this, Thu was killed in action. His friend says, "Each evening, as I gaze up into the heavens, I seem to hear Thu's sweet voice singing:

*"The name of Jesus is so sweet
I love its music to repeat."*



This true story appeared in the June, 1969 issue of RANG DONG. This thrilling account was translated into English by veteran missionary, Mrs. Ruth Jeffrey. Used by permission BLI Crusader.

Co-Laborer

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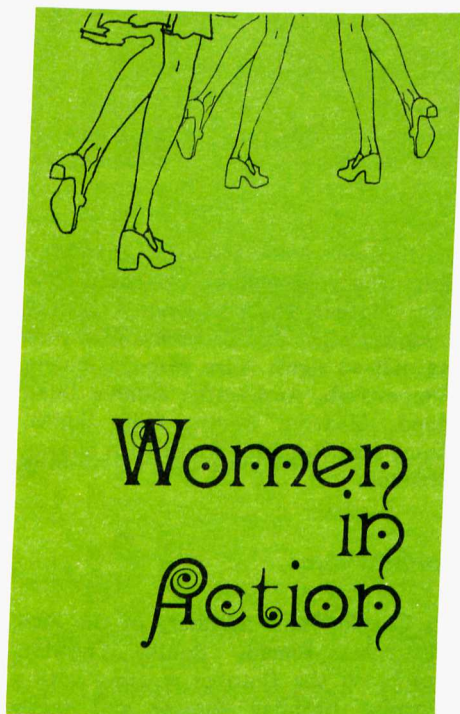
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Cleo W. Pursell, Editor

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Iva M. Hunter, Circulation



State Conventions

The first session of the *Mississippi* Auxiliary Convention met November 10, 1972, at Pascagoula, with Elizabeth Gibson presiding.

Eva House, field worker, reported a growth in number of auxiliaries from seven to twenty-one within the past two years.

Brenda Spruill, WNAC field worker, spoke at the five o'clock banquet with 55 in attendance.

President Marguerite Kern presided at the *Oklahoma* Auxiliary Convention held October 17, at the Capitol Hill Church, Oklahoma City. The theme was "I Have Made Thee a Watchman." Missionary Larry Powell was the speaker.

Five districts and four locals which

have no district conventions were represented at the *Georgia* Convention. The meeting convened November 16, 1972, at Martin Youth Camp, Colquitt, with president Martha Everson in charge. Registration was 173. Total giving through the convention this year averaged \$13.69 per member.

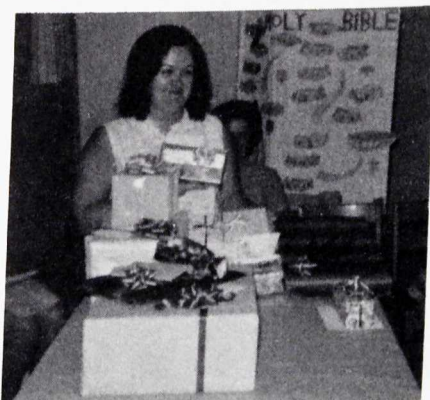
Missionary Vada Lee, Ivory Coast, was the keynote speaker.

New Auxiliary

The Woman's Auxiliary of Faith Free Will Baptist Church, Manchester, Tennessee, was organized September, 1972 with 13 charter members. Brenda Spruill was guest speaker. Reverend Danny Dwyer is pastor.

Shower

Becky Christian, wife of Reverend James Christian, former pastor of the Titusville, Florida Free Will Baptist Church, was honored at a farewell shower by members of the Woman's Auxiliary. Becky served as district historian and president of the local Auxiliary.



Members of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Village Chapel Church, Ceres, California, held a retreat in May at the Modesto Reservoir. Twelve women attended the evening meal and devotions and six spent the night and enjoyed fellowship and prayer on Saturday. "We hope to have another one next year..." wrote Reba Kirk, secretary.



District Convention

The Western Piedmont Association met September, 1972 for their regular meeting and study on the Woman's Auxiliary Manual. The meeting was held at the Goshen Free Will Baptist Church, Belmont, North Carolina. Brenda Spruill was guest speaker.



Present Skit

The Center Point Woman's Auxiliary, Birmingham, Alabama, presented the skit, "*Roberts Rules of Order*," During a Sunday night church service. Members are, left to right. Alice Hood, Rumelle Kimborough, Ann Little, Jimmie Dean Hood, Madelyn Smith, Billie Smith, Annie Mae Robbins. Kneeling is Sharon Brannon.

Birthday Party

The Woman's Auxiliary of the First Church, Inman, South Carolina, combined the October meeting with a surprise birthday shower and tacky party, for the pastor's wife, Mrs. Earl Hendrix.

Those in costume are, left to right, front row: Dianne Ayers, Catherine West, Agnes Burch, Brenda Easler, Fran Davis, Margaret Fowler, Ginger Bagwell, Eloise West. Back row, Betty Mills, Alta Burrell, Louise Bell, Pat Whiteside, Joyce West, Louise Smith, Gwen Hendrix, Fannie Mahaffey, Myrtle Chandler, Macie Roberts, Gayle Hughes.





*OFFICERS OF THE
AUXILIARIES at
Hyde Park, Norfolk,
Virginia.
Betty Hill serves
as general director.*

Study Course

An area wide study course was sponsored by the auxiliaries of the Hyde

Park Church, Norfolk, Virginia, in September. Brenda Spruill taught the course and approximately 50 women attended.

Installation

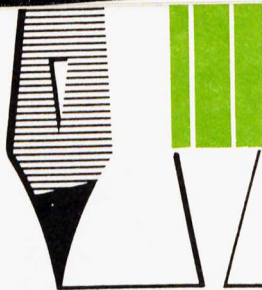
Mrs. Juanell Potter installed officers of the Westside Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary, Midland, Texas. They are, front row, left to right, Juanell Potter, Gerry Harmon, Effie Mizzles, Dale Sparkman, Barbara Mizzles. Back row, Nadine Hood, president; Olivia Padgett, Dora Johnson, Marie Monday, Frances Taylor.



Missionary Closet Shower

Woman's Auxiliary members of the Randall Memorial Church, Memphis, Tennessee, held a shower for the missionary provision closet following their monthly program on "Hawaii." Gifts contributed were evaluated at \$67.50. Members are (left to right), Brenda Patrick, Neva Raney, Wanda Harrelson, Maxine Stone, Sherry Raney, Nancy Cole, Barbara Nicholson, Linda Wright, Gennette McNeese, Barbara Wright. Sammie Pratt served as photographer.





Co-Laborers Write

From Georgia

The Midway Free Will Baptist Church Auxiliary, really enjoys the programs and articles in the *Co-Laborer*. May God bless each member of your staff for the wonderful work you are doing.

*Mrs. Darrell Gay
Moultrie, Georgia*

From Idaho

We started our Woman's Auxiliary .

We had ten ladies present and they all joined. Everyone is very enthusiastic about having a good working Auxiliary.

Bill and I feel this will help to promote missions further in the church. We feel it will help the church in other fields also. The church is growing slowly, but surely.

*Bentrena Johnson
Jerome, Idaho*

From Kansas

We are inclosing a check for \$39.50 for the missionary provision closet to be used where needed most. Our Auxiliary is small in number but the Lord is blessing greatly . . . The fellowship is great and we enjoy the *Co-Laborer* very much.

*Melba Langley
Ulysses, Kansas*

From Missouri

Our Auxiliary is very missions minded. We were fortunate to have Mrs. Hanna with us in November and we sponsored a personal shower for her.

We really enjoy our *Co-Laborer*.

*Dee Stacy
St. Louis, Missouri*

From North Carolina

The program written by Roy Thomas, "A Thorn in the Flesh," was just wonderful. We all seem to have something that tries to get in our way for the Lord. We can always overcome these obstacles by letting God take hold of our lives. Our Auxiliary at Palmetto Chapel really enjoys our *Co-Laborer* from cover to cover.

*Mrs. Peggy Chandler
Vanceboro, N.C.*

Thank you so much for the helpful information that you have shared with us during our studies of the *Co-Laborer*. There are so many good materials and we do enjoy them . . . Please send me a copy of each of the program help packets for the past year. I heard the reading, "I Just Couldn't Say, Take My Life and Let It Be," and it really spoke to me.

*Mrs. Gene Outland
New Bern, N.C.*

From Oklahoma

The program in *Co-Laborer*, "A Thorn in the Flesh," was a real challenge to each one of us. We are growing and the interest in our Auxiliary is also.

Mary Aquirre
Healdton, Oklahoma

From Tennessee

My praise and gratitude for the *Co-Laborer*, and all the other work that the Lord is enabling you and your staff to do through the WNAC channels increase with each issue of the magazine.

May God continue to bless you

richly along with all those who labor there with you in this ministry.

Agnes B. Frazier
Ashland City, Tennessee

From West Virginia

Please send me the Woman's Auxiliary Program Packet . . . I am thrilled for these new ideas and helps for the lessons, and I thank God for each one that has a part in putting together the contents of the *Co-Laborer*. It is a wonderful and informative book for each local Auxiliary.

Mrs. J. E. Elkins
McArthur, West Virginia



OUR WRITERS

MABEL WILLEY, veteran Latin-American missionary, conducts eight Bible classes a week with women in Panama, the *crossroads of the world*. See the April program for her thrilling account of the work there. She is the mother of two children: Barbara and Thomas, Jr.

JO ANN RIGGS, wife of Rev. Eustace Riggs, Guin, Alabama, is the author of the May program, "*Queen for a Day*." Mrs. Riggs is a talented writer and speaker and also serves as program chairman of her local Auxiliary. She is the mother of three sons: Michael, Mark, and Tim.

BONNIE SHELLNUT is president of the Woman's Auxiliary, Hazel Park First Free Will Baptist Church. She holds the B.S. and M.A. degrees in public speaking from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. This busy mother of three children wrote the June program, "*Problems: A Matter of Perspective*."

AGNES B. FRAZIER, Ashland City, Tennessee, is author of the Pre-Easter Prayer Programs, "*In Everything by Prayer*." A pioneer in Woman's Auxiliary work, Mrs. Frazier has served as national executive secretary and Tennessee state treasurer. She has been a major contributor to the literature department of WNAC.

PRAYER GROUPS



APRIL

"M.K.'s"

Our M. K.'s are growing up. Had you realized this?

Lynn Miley has graduated from the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville. He is full time faculty member at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Oklahoma.

Joey Haas has studied for two years at the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, and is now a pre-med student at MTSU.

Lynette Miley is a Technician at Park View Hospital, and taking nurses training in Nashville.

Larry Miley is a student at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Oklahoma.

We have three M. K.'s attending Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville at the present time. They are—Rebecca Calvery, Brenda Hanna, and Randy Cronk.

What about the children with their parents still on the mission field? Some are being taught the Calvert Course by their parents. It is necessary for others to go hundreds of miles from their parents to attend school. They cannot walk out to the street, catch a bus in the morning and come back home in the evening. In India the Hanna children go 1,000 miles from their parents to obtain an education. The M. K.'s in Africa attend school at Bouake which is from 250 to 400 miles from parents. The school at Bouake is owned and operated



Gladys Sloan (Mrs. H. B.), has been active in Woman's Auxiliary work for many years. She has served as president and as executive secretary of the WNAC. Mrs. Sloan recently retired as bookkeeper of the National Foreign Missions Board after 22 years service.

by Conservative Baptists. Due to increased enrollment overcrowded conditions have been created. This condition makes it necessary for Free Will Baptists to build a mini-dormitory for high school age boys. The cost of the building is estimated to be \$20,000. Plans have been made to begin construction in January 1973 by builder Missionary Howard Gage. It will probably take about six months to complete the building.

Howard and Joan Filkins of Greentop, Missouri, have been approved by the board as house parents for the dormitory at Bouake. Pray the Lord's blessings upon them.

Our M. K.'s attending the Bouake school are Mike, Maurice (Junior) and Mark Cousineau, Sheryl Mayhew and Merry Mayhew, Marion, Stephen and Stanley Palmer.

Pray for the children who are now home on furlough but will be at the dormitory for the next school year which will include Gene Richards, Paul and James Sparks.

Pray that funds will come in for this project.

Pray for Mr. and Mrs. Gage as they are in Africa these few months.

Pray for our missionaries' children who are in the States furthering their education.

Pray for missionaries who are teaching their children at home.

Pray for all of our M. K.'s wherever they might be. (100 of them) Surprised?

Pray for parents and children as they are separated by many miles.

MAY

Foreign Missions Finance Department

It is a joy and comfort to know that the women of our denomination are

continually praying for our missions activities. This is a vital ministry. The Finance Department of Foreign Missions has the responsibility of receipting and disbursing all the funds given to all foreign missions work. It is a task that involves thousands of details. These details must be cared for accurately. Each missionary family has an account to which people give monthly. We must keep these accounts posted accurately. We ask this month that you pray for the Lord to give us strength and guidance in taking care of these details. We are beginning to use data processing. Ask the Lord to give direction as we develop this over the coming months.

Each month we disburse large sums of money for ministries on each field. Pray that the Lord will give guidance as we process these transfers through foreign banks.

Last and most important we want you to praise the Lord for the continued increase in foreign missions support year after year. Let us praise Him often.

Pray for Mr. Critcher our Director of Finance.

Pray for those learning to operate the data processing machines.

Pray for our Missions Directors, both Home and Foreign.

Pray for those responsible for planning itinerates for the missionaries.

Pray for the missionaries and appointees as they go from place to place conducting services raising funds for their account.

Pray for Free Will Baptists who do not have a vision of the need of helping to spread the Gospel to every nation.

Pray the "Lord of Harvest" that all financial needs may be met.

Pray that many may receive Christ as Saviour as a result of our laboring together.

New Work in Montana

Montana has a population of 685,000 people and ranks fourth in area of our 50 states. There has never been an attempt by Free Will Baptists to begin a church in Montana.

David and Sharon McDaniel will begin our work in Montana in 1973. They are both from the First Free Will Baptist Church, Denver, Colorado, and so have a background for living in the Rocky Mountain region and also have experience in a pioneer work in a new state. David received training at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College and Free Will Baptist Bible College. He took his missionary internship at Faith Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, North Carolina, Reverend Frank Davenport, pastor.

Free Will Baptists will begin the work in Montana at Billings, the largest city in the state. Billings, the trading center of a large agricultural district, is called "The Midland Empire." It lies on the banks of the Yellowstone River in south central Montana. It has a population of 80,000 people. Eighty-two per cent of the 72 churches in Billings do not preach the Gospel. It is the prayer of the National

Home Missions Department that a strong Free Will Baptist church will be established in Billings by the McDaniels and through the efforts of others whom God shall call that a number of Free Will Baptist churches can be started in the cities of Montana in the next few years. The McDaniels will need our prayers. They will be 600 miles from the nearest Free Will Baptist church when they get to Billings.

With the establishment of the church in Montana, there will still be nine of our 50 states that Free Will Baptists have yet to enter with the gospel.

Pray for David and Sharon McDaniel as they begin this new work in Montana.

Pray for the nine states which do not have Free Will Baptist Churches affiliated with the National work.

Pray for Mr. Willis general director of the National Home Missions work.

Pray for Mr. Thomas who is associate director of the Home Missions Department.

Pray for Mr. Ledlow the director of field personnel for the Home Missions Department.

Pray for Randy Ruth who is the new pastor of the St. Paul work.

Pray for the State Associations which will be meeting in the near future.

April Program
Mabel Willey



The Crossroads of the World

Purpose: To better acquaint ourselves with the mission field of Panama

See Ideas for Your Program

*Songs: "Till Every Tribe Shall Hear,"
"Bring Them, Oh Lord, To Thee"*

Scripture: John 12:32-36

THE YOUNG REPUBLIC of Panama geographically links Central and South America. It is bound on the north by the Caribbean Sea; on the south by the Pacific; on the east by the Republic of Colombia; on the west by the Republic of Costa Rica.

Panama is an independent and democratic republic. This isthmus country joined the concert of free nations when it separated from Colombia on November 3, 1903. But as far back as November 28, 1821, Panama, without the assistance of any other country, had proclaimed her independence from the Spanish Crown. Echoing the dream of

Simon Bolivar (who had hoped to unite all the free states of Spanish America), Panama voluntarily became part of the Great Colombia.

All of Panama's history has been strongly influenced by her geographic position. At its narrowest point, Panama is only fifty miles wide. From the days of the Conquistadores and pioneers, the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Panama served as starting and arrival points for commercial trade between Spain and her colonies. Portobelo on the Atlantic and Old Panama on the Pacific were the major cities. "Panama Viejo," before it was sacked by the Pirate Henry Morgan in 1671, was a proud and flourishing city of 10,000 souls. It had been founded by 1519 by Pedro Arias de Avila—94 years before Peter Minuit and friends embarked upon the little settlement on Manhattan Island. As for Portobelo it was an active and bustling port. In its customs house, whose ruins are silent reminders of past splendor, solid bars of gold and silver were stored to be shipped as a tribute to the Crown. Portobelo was also the site of many fairs in which Spanish goods were distributed among the earlier traders. Merchants, missionaries, soldiers and sailors—all converged on Portobelo to start their mule trek across the Isthmus on the Camino Real. At the Pacific end of the "Royal Trail," they would scatter to the four corners of the world.

Centuries later, the California Gold Rush again proved that Panama was the best route between the two coasts almost eight thousand miles shorter than the arduous trip 'round the Horn. Panama, then, has an ancient tradition of hospitality. It has welcomed and often assisted countless travelers and adventurers who have used the Isthmus as a "crossroads." Since the opening of the Canal, Panama City has become increasingly cosmopolitan, the hub of Central

American activity. Some have even compared it to Hong Kong with a fascination all its own. "Corazon del Universo" or Heart of the Universe is just one term frequently applied to Panama.

The distinctive technique of the building of the Canal is a feat of modern engineering as yet uneclipsed. This is the region where the Atlantic and Pacific oceans come closest together. From the earliest times, the advantages of joining them had been apparent. World trade moved across Panama first on muleback, later by rail, then through the Canal, finally built by the Americans. The Canal was completed in 1914. The distance between New York and San Francisco had been shortened by 7,873 miles. The Canal Zone is about 10 miles wide and extends about fifty miles from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Its entire area is 553 square miles and some 42,000 people live there (this figure includes the security personnel of the United States Armed Forces). While the Zone divides the Republic into two almost equal portions, it is really a sort of government reservation concerned solely with the waterway and its operation.

This is the source of controversy in Panama today. The Republic wants complete control over the Canal. They do not want another government living within its boundary. It is a real problem and we can only pray for an early solution.

There are five ethnic groups living in Panama. The Indian tribes have a vast population. Thank God for the ministry of the Gospel among most of these tribes. The Chocos with whom my husband worked for a short time have responded in a marvellous way to the Gospel and today there are fine Indian pastors among the Chocos and the Gospel message is being extended. One missionary says, "We feel somehow that

God must be excited too as He sees this spiritual movement among the Choco people."

Panama has been a very difficult field, perhaps due to the fact that it is such a cosmopolitan country but the Spirit of God knows no barriers, and wherever there is a knowledge of loss there is a need of a Saviour. Our only desire is to see a strong National Church—a Church that will truly be a missionary church to go out and reach all of these who live within its borders.

Reaching the Youth

If there is one group in which we find large numbers in Panama it is the youth and the children. You have only to climb three or four flights of stairs in these huge apartment complexes to find large families,—the mother, the father and eight to twelve sons and daughters living in two or three rooms. I do not believe that they would know what to do with space.

In our christian homes the young people and children are obedient and very courteous. There is a politeness about them that would put many of us to shame. They do not have many of the better things (as we call them) of life, but they do have a deep respect for those who are their elders, and a charm that far outshines fine clothing and fancy hair-dos.

Intermingled among our young people are many stories—many amazing examples of the grace and love of God in lives so young.

Two of our young men have felt the call of God to preach and teach. They were going to attend a near-by Bible Institute of like-faith this year, but due to the few students enrolled, the Institute was not able to open. What could we do? We decided to teach them

ourselves. A larger number come in for an extension course once a week. There is a great deal of interest in both departments. A girl from the Baptist Church joined the boys for their daily studies.

One of the young men is the Olympic Javelin thrower for Panama. God's provision for him is that the government is giving him his meals. It is the joy of our hearts to see the spiritual growth in these students as they become absorbed in the Word. Tauro, especially, is out witnessing to his companions and hopes to work in a near-by town during the summer vacations, that begin the latter part of December. It is not easy to take off hours during the week to teach so few—but how much time did Jesus spend with one, or two, and then with just the twelve? For years the Lord walked the hills of Galilee teaching these few disciples great spiritual truths, knowing that under the power of the Holy Spirit they would impart them to others, then others to others. What greater example of teaching could we find?

Then there is Betty, who as a very young girl was sold into white slavery. Her very young years had been spent in being as attractive and beautiful as possible to please the actors and professional men she served. Then came the day that Betty walked out on the balcony of the seventh floor in the building in which she was living—she was going to commit suicide. She had discovered she was pregnant. Who was the father, she did not know. She could not jump, seven times she tried and each time the faces of our people at the church came before her. An aunt had recently carried her to the church and she had felt the concern and love of the people. A few months later in answer to an invitation in the church she went forward. After a bitter struggle with the devil she found forgiveness and peace in

Jesus Christ. What the Lord has done for her since has been a miracle. She still has a long way to go, but she knows from what she has been redeemed and says so often, "I never want to go back."

There are many other Tauros and Bettys. We want our Church to be a Lighthouse to which they can come and find safety from the many, many storms of their lives.

Reaching the Women

As is known to all of you, there is a great movement throughout the world of Home Bible studies. This same movement has been very evident in the Canal Zone for a number of years, and the Holy Spirit has greatly worked in the lives of many women. Some of these women have become leaders, and have gone out to start new groups to teach more women about the Word of God.

I visited some of these classes, and looked around to find Panamanian women, but there were very few. This was not the fault of anyone in particular. The language is a great barrier.

I began to search for such Bible classes in the City of Panama and found that there were none except in the churches. The unchurched was not being reached with the Word. One had been started with a luncheon in one of the large Hotels—the study had to be interpreted and the luncheon so expensive that very few women went, and it folded-up.

A group of concerned women met together for prayer and to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to know what could be done to interest the women of the City of Panama in the study of the Word. We found so much hunger—especially among the Catholic women. The reply was always, "We know so little about the Bible."

We started with the professional women meeting during their lunch hour—some would bring their sandwiches and the hostess would serve refreshments. Then in the same afternoon a group of women from the National Telephone and Light Company gather together in the office of a large Insurance Company, downtown, to study the Word. This is just the beginning.

To see the hunger these women have for the Word is more than thrilling. Often I hear the expression, "I wouldn't miss a class for anything." To some it is a new world. It is becoming acquainted with the Lord Jesus Christ as a person. One who is becoming real to them—not just a Christ on the Cross. One who can feel with them in their everyday pressures. One who will help them carry their burdens,—the One alone who can give Life and Life Everlasting. He is the only Mediator and the only Way. One husband put it this way, after his wife had been in the class for some weeks, "I do not understand all about this study, but I do know that I have a different wife and my children have a different mother."

In our churches our women are showing real growth and maturity in the christian life. Just a few weeks ago one of our mothers started a chain of prayer among her own children and a few other young people. All through the night the children would get up for their hour of prayer. The next day they had to be at school. What a difference it would make if our churches were filled with such mothers!

Another woman in our church in Panama has been greatly used of the Lord in her work in the American Embassy residence. The Ambassador's wife has had her share of sorrows and sicknesses. Catalina was able to read the Word to her and point her to Christ who is able to sustain and fill our lives with

His peace. The Ambassador's wife told me that she had been her right arm, she did not know what she would do without her.

God has a very special place in the work for women. You remember that Paul placed one of his most important Epistles, the one to Romans, in the hands of a woman, Phoebe, to be delivered to the Church in Rome. She travelled from Corinth to Rome,—a distance of several hundred miles to take the letter. Paul says of her, "She has been a helper of many, and of myself also." May the Holy Spirit call out many women in Panama to be the "carrier" of His message to their homes and to their nation.

The Answer to the Need

This land at the present is knowing unusual economical success. Banks are pouring in from Europe, and South America, as well as from Canada and the United States. Rents and living conditions are unbelievably expensive. High rise apartments are towering on the horizon, and long before they are finished they are sold or rented. Everywhere you look there is the air of prosperity. Yet in the midst of it all there are the hovels of poverty—large families in cramped quarters. Hunger and sickness are not strangers to thousands of people.

I am only writing of those who live in the city of Panama. There are the many interior towns, lovely towns,—then the vast mountain areas that house the Indian tribes, and the out-of-the-way places where there are no roads making it easy to reach the people. Your missionary goes in by plane.

How to reach them? He said, "*And I, if I be lifted up will draw all men unto Me.*" This is the answer!

May Program

Jo Ann Riggs

Purpose: *To challenge us to fulfill God's purpose for our lives.*

See Ideas for Your Program

Songs: "A Charge to Keep; "Faith of our Mothers"

Scripture: *Esther 4:14b*

THE STORY is a familiar one. The Jews had been taken captive because of their sins and were dispersed throughout the world.

The seventy years' captivity foretold by the prophets had come and gone. God had moved upon the heart of King Cyrus to decree that the Israelites could go back to Palestine to rebuild their destroyed cities and walls which had lain in ruins since the people of the land had been taken away. A Jewish remnant had returned; but the mass of the nation preferred to remain in the land of their captivity, where they were living in prosperity. It was much easier to stay where they were than to go back to their homeland and get down to the labor of rebuilding.

Things were not so bad. According to the historian Josephus, Ahasuerus, (known in history as Artaxerxes)—the king of all the habitable earth—had declared that he had not done anything that was cruel to his subjects but showed himself kind and gentle.

Providential Protection

The name of God is not once referred to in the book of Esther. "All scripture is given by inspiration of



Queen for a Day

God." Why didn't the Lord see fit to have His name mentioned in this book which is recognized to be divinely inspired? Perhaps the answer is found in Luke 9:26: "Whosoever shall be ashamed of me and my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed." Could it be that these people who were settled down in the world were many times ashamed to let it be known that they were Jews, God's chosen people? However, no other portion of scripture more evidently reveals His Providential protection, despite the fact that His name is not recorded. He remained quietly behind the scene, working for His people, though they were not in the place of His choosing nor performing the work which was in His perfect will for them.

Popularity and Promotion (Esther 2:5-9)

In this comfortable, affluent society, Esther comes to the forefront. God had blessed her with great beauty and a personality which immediately won her favor with those she met. These graces caused her to be chosen as one of the outstanding beauties of the kingdom from whom the king would select his

next wife. After a year of preparation in the palace beauty parlor, Esther was taken before the king. He loved her above all the other women and made her queen instead of Vashti. What a success story! A captive, orphan girl promoted to the throne as first lady of the empire.

Let's analyze the situation though. Was this great honor according to God's perfect will? He had commanded in Deuteronomy 7:3 that no daughter of Israel should be given to a heathen for his wife. God doesn't make exceptions to His Word, even when it concerns a king. A worldly-minded people often take lightly the precepts of the Lord. Don't many professed Christians go against God's command in 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 to form unequal yokes in marriage with sinners? What greater yoke, fellowship, communion, concord, or agreement can one have than in marriage.

Pitiful Principles

Esther not only failed to totally practice the precepts of her God, but she kept private her profession of faith as well. She had been married to Ahasuerus four years (Esther 2:16; 3:7, 12), and he still did not know his wife was a Jewess. We should not judge her too harshly, however, unless we are bold enough in our witness for the Lord until our relatives, neighbors, and fellow-workers know we are Christians.

It is true that Mordecai, Esther's cousin who adopted her, had told her that she should not reveal her kindred (2:10). We can only speculate what Mordecai's reason for such a demand was. This could not have been a God-honoring request. No doubt, he had Esther's welfare and advancement in mind. Perhaps he was prompted by the same type of motivation which causes

many parents today to encourage their children toward an education or goal which will further their possibilities materialistically with little regard to the spiritual aspect of life.

Her People Persecuted

Prosperity rarely draws God's children closer to Him. How often He who is spurned in His merciful dealing has had to drive His children to their knees by allowing persecution to come upon them.

In Esther, God saw the potential which only persecution could perfect. Wicked Haman, the proud plotter, had petitioned the king for the death of a nation of people—Esther's people—because one Jew refused to worship him and thus did injury to his pride. This one Jew was Mordecai.

Esther heard of the mourning of Mordecai and the Jews, and she inquired about the cause of this grief. Mordecai sent word to inform her what had been decreed and told her to go unto Ahasuerus to make supplication before him for her people. Esther was terrified. The laws of the Medes and Persians were unchangeable. If one went into the king's chamber without being sent for, the law stated the intruder would be killed unless the golden sceptre was extended to him by the king. She had not been sent for in thirty days (Esther 4:12-14).

Prayerful Petition

The crisis had come in Esther's life. The situation was desperate. She must look to the controlling power of the universe for deliverance. Word was sent to her cousin to have all the Jews in Shushan fast for her. She and her maidens would also fast for three days. She would go in to the king; if she perished, she would just perish!

The three days' fasting and praying by the Jews wrought the salvation of an entire race. Oh that more of God's children would accept the challenge He has given in the Word to fast and pray! It does get results. We are suffering so severely from spiritual malnutrition that we cannot muster the strength needed to deny our appetites the delicacies of the physical table to seek the face of God by prayer and supplication, with fasting, for deliverance for our people. How predominant *self* is though. We are not willing to crucify self, and therefore we limit the mighty working of the Holy One of Israel (Psalm 78:41).

How marvelous the results might be if we, as mothers, would travail over our families. We need somehow to catch the burden of Jeremiah, who prayed, "*Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a foundation of tears, that I might weep day and night for . . . my people!*" If we would agonize over lost souls as we do in passing through the valley of the shadow of death to become physical mothers, we would see children born into God's family also. "*For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children* (Isaiah 66:8).

Passionate Plea

(Esther 5:1-3; 7:1-6; 8:3-6)

Although Ahasuerus was unable to revoke the law he had passed, the passionate plea of the queen moved him to devise a means of deliverance. God break our hearts for our doomed kindred as he broke Esther's for the Jews. How can we endure to see the destruction of our relatives? The King of the universe had placed all of us under the penalty of death, because we had broken the law. Yet He was moved by compassion, and through His own divine interference He prepared a way for our escape (Romans 6:23).

The news of the grace Ahasuerus had

shown to the Jews had to be spread abroad throughout all the provinces. Otherwise, how would the people have known of the rescue provided? The multitudes of the world are still living in fear of death, because we have not taken the message of redemption. The king of King's commandment should cause us to hasten and be pressed on to the uttermost part of the earth.

Power and Promotion

What a beloved queen-mother Esther became to her people. Her naturalborn qualities were greatly magnified when she became surrendered to the Lord. She used her power for pleasing to promote the cause of God's chosen race.

The Feast of Purim was established to celebrate the great victory and has been perpetuated until our time. Esther is still held in reverence by her nationality. The Jewish women's organization is called "Hadassah"—meaning "Esther." Because Esther came to the end of herself and cast her life and destiny upon the Lord, she was greatly used by Him for the salvation of many.

We are all a plan in the mind of God. We have not just happened upon this planet at this time. Who knows the purpose of God for you in this day. We may not become prominent as Esther did, but we can be the "queen" of our own domains. Most important of all, we can give ourselves to the task of bringing salvation to those whom our lives touch. All of us know souls who are held as prey by the mighty enemy, Satan. We are charged to give the message of liberation. God has given a wonderful promise to us in Isaiah 49:24, 25. May we claim this promise and give ourselves to fasting, praying, and witnessing for the glory of God and for the salvation of our children and other souls!



PROBLEMS: A Matter Of Perspective

June Program

Bonnie Shellnut

Purpose: *To help us gain victory over our problems and to help others with theirs.*

See Ideas for Your Programs

Songs: "Have Faith in God"

Scripture: *Romans 8:28, 29, 35-39; Philippians 4:13; 1 John 5:4, 5*

THE DEVIL HAS a unique way of using questions to keep Christians from living victorious lives. Here for example are some perplexing questions

with which we are often faced. As we study this program, we need to ask God to direct us in reaching the right conclusion.

1. Can I help others when I have so many problems of my own? 2. Can I help others who are experiencing problems I've never faced? 3. Can I help others when I have so little time and/or talent to offer? 4. How can I help people when they think my actions are hypocritical and are offended or unappreciative of any offer to help? 5. How can I have victory over my own problems?

Problems: A Matter of Perspective

Why is it that when our Auxiliary

decides on a big missions project some ladies look at it and dread the work involved and pronounce its certain failure while others look to the challenge and ultimate success? The answer is PERSPECTIVE!

Perspective (how we look at life) makes all the difference in the world! Paul and Silas had great perspective, consequently, they lived victorious, fulfilling lives. When they were sent to jail they were happy for another opportunity to suffer and to witness for Christ. When they were persecuted they counted it a privilege.

Granted, we often face problems which seem insurmountable, but God can give us victory if we have faith in Him (1 John 5:4, 5). And it is certainly not easy to endure (much less rejoice in) pain, sickness, death, financial setbacks, etc. But our perspective will make the difference between defeat and victory when we are faced with such problems. Some might be bitter and even question God's judgment by asking: *Why did this have to happen to me when I was living right? What have I done that God should punish me? Doesn't God know how important my work is and that this will really set me behind?*

When faced with a problem, we need to reread Romans 8:28, "... *all things work together for good* ..." God has used thousands of Christians to witness from hospital beds because they faced their circumstances with a Godly perspective. God has saved many persons from certain death by slowing them down. How many of us go so much and so fast that we really fail to see the people around us? How often do we abuse our bodies by not eating or resting properly? In the Twenty-third Psalm we find this line: "*He maketh me to lie down* ..." We live in such a hepped-up, fast-moving time that God often has to force us on our backs

before we will look up to acknowledge Him. Even a financial setback might be the thing we need to get our lives straightened out and get us to depend on God completely.

God will be able to use us in whatever circumstance we face if we will keep the right attitude. If we are in God's will, the problems can become challenges, opportunities for witnessing, and stepping stones to a more victorious life in Christ!

Problems: A Matter of Prevention

We have all heard the old adage that an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. This is true of the Christian life. God can help us prevent certain problems and their complications if we are prepared. We can prepare ourselves by using the prescription written in God's Word. In Charles L. Allen's book, *God's Psychiatry*, we find four specific illustrations of God's prescription. (1) We need to learn how to think of God as our loving, watchful Good Shepherd by reading and believing the twenty-third Psalm. (2) We must follow God's rules for living as he stated them in the Ten Commandments. (3) We must talk to God in prayer such as Christ instructed in the Lord's Prayer. (4) We must learn to live as Christ advised in the Beatitudes.

A person involved in God's revealed will of praying, studying God's Word, witnessing, attending church, tithing, doing good works, can't help but have daily joy and victory. God has the prescription which will keep problems from dragging us under to certain spiritual and even physical death. We cannot rely on sedatives and psychiatrists to rid us of anxieties and fears. Moreover, pain pills will not heal hurts

caused by persecution. We can't run away from disharmony, or put more hours in a day, or get the doctor to assure us of long healthy lives. We can't fret over our lack of ability or let tempers and sour attitudes get the best of us. Negative thinking and faltering faith can render us useless.

Most doctors recognize that many illnesses are aggravated by our mental attitude. In other words, they are psychosomatic rather than organic in basic origin. Doctors also agree that even those illnesses which are organic in origin are more easily overcome by people who have a good mental outlook.

We live in a pill-taking society, and most of us probably take far more medication than we would really need if we could locate the real problem and work on a Godly solution. We need to work at using God's prescription for problem prevention!

Problems: A Matter of Psychology

Psychology is not really a new field, for we find that the Bible records sound psychological advice for the Christian. Psychology is simply a pattern of thinking, and the Bible states that we should keep our minds straight by thinking on "... whatsoever things are true, ... honest, ... pure, ... lovely, of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise ..." (Philippians 4:8). Isaiah noted, "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee:*" (Isaiah 26:3).

A Christian can see that the thought processes are very important, consequently, a mind filled with Godly attitudes will have little room for depression, negativism, malicious gossip, etc. We can keep on an even keel by letting God take over our thoughts and

desires. "*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth*" (Colossians 3:2). "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). The Christian who allows himself to be controlled by earthly desires will find himself involved in many difficulties.

We often allow problems to become complex and unendurable because we fail to let the Lord take them. He is the best psychiatrist. Remember his compassionate invitation. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matthew 11:28). God knows that we are too weak to carry the load of living in this sinful world alone, so has sent us the Comforter who will abide with us to guide and teach us (John 14:16-27).

Problems Will Pass Away

Even amidst problems we can have peace and joy. "*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid*" (John 14:27). "*These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full*" (John 15:11). These words of Christ bring a certain unshakable calmness to us in these troubled times. But we can rejoice "*with joy unspeakable and full of glory*" (1 Peter 1:7, 8), knowing that all our problems will pass away when we reach our heavenly home.

God has prepared a place for his children where there will be no more hunger or thirst (Revelation 7:16), where there will be a rest from our

labors (Revelation 14:13), where he can wipe away our tears and erase death, sorrow, and pain (Revelation 21:4). And it's so wonderful to know that Christ promised to come back himself to take us there (John 14:1-6).

Problems: A Matter of Practical Application

In the introduction, we were asked to think about certain dilemmas we may face. In looking for Godly solutions, it is important to remember that the Devil will keep us in all the dilemmas he can if we allow our egos and complexes to get in our way. He doesn't want us to be happy or to do good works, and he provides us with logical excuses. But we know that faith without works is dead. The questions raised in this program may apply to helping ourselves, the aged, lonely, depressed, delinquents, handicapped, sick, unsaved, etc. What can we do?

We can certainly help others even when we have problems because we must know that we'll never be completely free of worldly cares while on this earth, and helping others is one of the best ways for us to forget or minimize our problems. And, we can be a sympathetic witness when we continue to do good works despite our trials and tribulations.

We can help those who are experiencing problems which are unfamiliar to us because we are Christians. Because we have known sin and its consequences, we can understand the problem involved. We have had our hearts melted in order to receive the love of God. As Christians we should have more insight than anyone, consequently we can sympathize, mourn, be strong, listen, offer services that non-Christians cannot do with sincerity and faith.

The time and talent question is relative. Most of us could organize our time better, and most of us could do more if we tried. If we'd just take an honest look at what is needed and what we have to offer, we'd accomplish a lot more. We don't have to be trained professionals such as counsellors, social workers, ministers, nurses, etc. to do some good. God uses us as we are, or helps us obtain the ability needed.

If we don't know what is needed to help certain people, we could ask the pastor, his wife or the person involved. We can also get practical suggestions from professionals. Then we can see where we can fill the gap. We can match our available time and potential ability with at least one or more of the needs. Ask yourself, can I make a call to or for the person, can I send a card or letter, make a visit, do an errand, make or buy a gift, pray, invite him or her over, take them someplace, read for them, babysit, help with the housework, contact someone for them, pick them up for church? If we look at the circumstances, and tell God that we are willing to do at least a small part, God will help us to accomplish great things.

We can't expect to be loved and appreciated for our good works. If we do expect it, then it is hypocritical. We do good works because we love God and people—even the “unlovables.” Some people will criticize anything, and they'll call us hypocrites no matter what we do. There have been many hard hearts, however, that have been softened by kind words and deeds spoken and done in Christian love. We can't let Satan get us on this one!

We can indeed have victory over our own problems if we follow God's prescription for living. If we use God's psychology with a strong foundation of faith, prayer, and Bible study, we cannot help finding victory!

I Believe In Miracles

Ginger Short



Shari Sue Short,
age five, and
Princess

My little daughter was five when this happened and I learned probably more faith from her than I have ever known. We should never underestimate the power of a child to teach us grown-ups what it means to really believe in prayer.

It was for her fifth birthday she had received a baby rabbit as a gift from my boss and somehow that little ball of soft fur had won a place in the hearts of the whole family before we knew it. He was such a dependent and loving pet; he soon became everyone's favorite toy and seemed to love all the attention and handling although I had doubts he would survive her birthday party let alone live to grow up. But he did and was a most unusual rabbit to be sure.

Even now its hard to talk of princess as a rabbit—we named him Princess because we thought anything so lovely had to be a girl—that isn't always the case though. Anyway, Princess knew no fear of anyone or anything—except our cat. Everyone took great care to protect Princess—not to sit on him, to be sure he was safe before going away, that he was always fed and so on. He even went to the grocery store when they were making pictures and had his turn in line with my little girl. He didn't mind at all. He loved people and attention. He got more than his share that day as you can imagine.

Time went on and he grew both in size and in importance to my little girl and the rest of the family. He loved television believe it or not especially the musicals or commercials. He would stretch out in front of our TV and watch it with us just as if he understood. We all loved him. Then the sad day came when just once someone left the door open and the cat came in. Probably because he had lost most of his importance as the family pet, he took advantage of the opportunity and pounced on the unsuspecting Princess. He didn't kill him—he only crippled him enough with one swift bite at the base of his neck to make him helpless. And that's how the children found him helpless—barely alive. They called me at work and I made the sad trip home knowing almost before I could get there it would be too late. But he was still alive and a tear stained blanket covered his little crushed body when my neighbor who also loved him sadly handed him to me and shook her head. "Its no use, he won't live through the day," she said. But my little girl said to please take him to the doctor and see if he could do something. So we put him in the car and went the few miles to the vet. He just kind of smiled when he saw us and shook his head. "There's nothing I can do but put him to sleep," he told us. "Even if he lived, he'd be paralyzed since the cat bit his spinal nerve and most likely he will soon die anyway."

I have to admit I am pretty weak when it comes to pets and I just didn't know what to say or do, I could only cry for the little puff of fur that had been so lively and loveable a part of our lives. But I couldn't let him be put to sleep, I just couldn't. I knew he was in great pain, you could see it in his big sad brown eyes, but he never made a sound and he couldn't move. Then I looked at my little girl and she must have had a lot more faith than I even had imagined. She just looked right at the vet and said "If you can't do any thing for him, we'll take him home and let God make him well. He will you know." The vet looked kind of sympathetically at me and said that was probably the only way, it would have to be a miracle. He suggested I go home and take a tranquilizer and rest awhile.

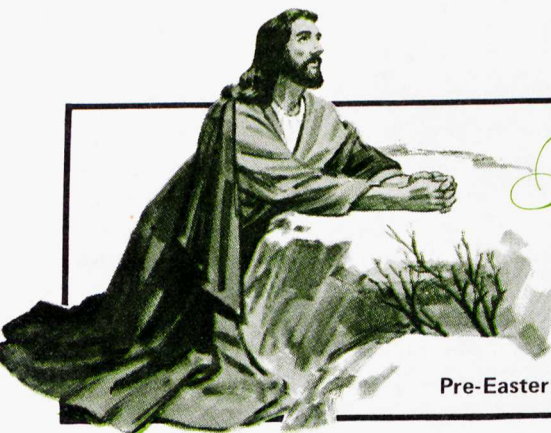
We went home, my little girl and the most precious thing in her life right then silently sitting beside me. When we got there my husband being a strong man said the only sensible thing was to put him to sleep and get the agony over with. But somehow I couldn't let that happen. Those soft brown eyes haunted me with their silent pleading to give him every chance even if it seemed hopeless. So we put him in a shoebox, propped his lifeless little body up with soft cloths and since it was Wednesday night went to church. No one could have been as sad as we were and we had never prayed harder for anything in our lives. Somehow I knew if my little daughter believed this miracle would happen, I had to believe it also. And she kept saying over and over, he would be well again because she knew God would make him well.

Days passed, not much change, but he still set in his shoebox propped up and soon others found out why we were so sad and concerned and they prayed also for this miracle. Then one day, he moved his head and ate just a tiny bite of lettuce, just the beginning, but new hope came with that small movement. We stayed close by him every possible minute and those sad brown eyes began to shine again, his tiny mouth moved to eat and still his body and long silky ears remained still. But we prayed for him every time we could and now even I began to believe in the miracle and I knew why I couldn't let him be put to sleep. We exercised his tiny paws ever so gently and showed him in every possible way how we loved him and wanted to see him well again.

I don't suppose I have to tell you that God surely used this small silent rabbit to teach me and others a *king sized lesson in faith*. Because not only did he recover, he soon was up hopping around running full speed through the house and amazing everyone who knew what he had come through.

I told our Auxiliary one night about our miracle and I could hardly keep the tears away long enough to finish. But I know that a God who can reach down to heal a little girl's beloved pet can and will heal the broken lives and bodies of a world if we have the faith of a little child. Never again will I doubt the miracle of the God my little girl placed so much faith in—I know He loves!

Ginger Short is a member of the Central Free Will Baptist Church, Kansas City, Missouri.



In Everything By Prayer

Agnes B. Frazier

Pre-Easter Season of Prayer for Foreign Missions

Scripture: Philippians 4:5-7 (read in unison)

In these three verses there are five important phrases around which we want to build this program. The theme phrase, "*in everything by prayer*" is the middle one of the five. These five phrases will serve as the five parts, or topics of our program.

"THE LORD IS AT HAND"

Organ or piano prelude—"Christ Arose" or similar Easter hymns

Prayer—Pastor

Hymn—"Christ Returneth"

Scripture (read responsively)—John 14:1-3; Revelation 22:12-14; 1 Thesalonians 4:16-18

Most of us are young enough to remember the old-fashioned train with a light that was made to flash all around everywhere to warn that a train was coming. These scriptures are given to warn us that Jesus is coming.

Nothing is set forth more clearly in all God's Word than the fact that Jesus Christ the Son of God will return to this earth. This is not only true regarding Old Testament scriptures, but is especially true of the entire New Testament.

The world of man has long tried every solution to its problems but Christ, or true Bible Christianity. It is still unwilling to admit that man is not the master of his own destiny, that man cannot improve his fallen nature, or that man cannot establish peace and righteousness upon the earth.

It is logical, reasonable, and scriptural to believe that the only hope for this world is the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, for the believers, this is called the "*blessed hope*."

Most of us are familiar with an instrument called a magnet. If you place a magnet over match sticks, they don't move, but put it over pins and other such metal and they begin to dance. So it is with God's Spirit in us. It attracts and draws us to Christ. And it is the Holy Spirit of God in us that calls us away to Christ when He returns for His church.

Some folks today—even preachers and teachers—scoff at these truths, but I'd rather believe Jesus than any man. Would not you, too? I can't believe any honest person would ever say that the Bible does not plainly teach that He will return again.

Actually, nearly every admonition to the church or to Christians, is based on the fact of Christ's return. So, it is because "*The Lord is at hand*" that we are told to "*Be careful for nothing; but*

in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to let our requests be made known to God."

Jesus is coming soon, I believe, and I am ready and I plan to stay paid up and prayed up and lived up so I can go up with all the others in the church whose lives are lived by His directions rather than by man's ideas.

Season of prayer (selected persons or volunteers). Pray that Christ will cause us to:

- *Love His appearing
- *Live in imminent expectancy
- *Look to the fields white unto harvest

"BE CAREFUL FOR NOTHING"

Hymn—"God Will Take Care of You"
Scripture (read in unison)—Matthew 6:25-33; 1 Peter 5:6-7

In our scripture title for this portion, "*Be careful for nothing*," Paul is by no means inviting us to carelessness or recklessness. We must understand the phrase as follows: Don't be anxious or troubled for nothing, or, don't worry about anything.

The world today, even to a great extent the Christians in the world, are being defeated in a war of nerves. Satan is the mastermind behind it all, and yet he uses so many different lines of approach that much of the time folks are unaware that he is the instigator of all their fears and troubles. As we come nearer and nearer to the coming again of Christ, this war of nerves will most certainly intensify. We as Christians must soon learn that hard lesson that there is nothing in this world that is worth fretting or worrying over. We

must learn too, that what time we are worrying, we are not trusting.

The wisest man who ever lived said in Proverbs 3:5-6 "*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*"

As we ponder and apply those four phrases, we will find that all things are working together for good to them who love the Lord, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Season of prayer—Pray that Christ will enable us to:

- * *Flee* from all fleshly desires
- * *Follow* after Him who is our righteousness
- * *Fight* the good fight of faith

Special requests from foreign missionaries

"IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER"

Hymn—"The Beautiful Garden of Prayer"

Scripture—John 15:7; 14:13-14 (Read in unison)

It would seem that on the basis of this amazing offer of our Lord Jesus Christ, there would be many Christians who would take Him at His Word, and put Him to the test.

Abiding is a method of living such that our life is constantly resting in Christ Himself. There is no turning away from Him to other things.

There is a certain quality of Christian living which our Lord says gives sure answers to prayer. It is that 'abiding' way of life. Those who desire to have

their prayers answered should see that they enter into that place of steady, continuous abiding in Christ: each day lived fully and continually in Him. "*If ye abide*" is His own condition to receive an answer. When you do not abide, He does not answer fully your prayers. When you do abide, be sure "*ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you.*"

There are many lessons which the Lord can teach us only by prayer and personal communication with Him. In addition, if we always have others do our praying for us, we miss the joy and blessing, the experience and training, the peace and satisfaction, as well as the answer that can only come by prayer. Remember it is: "*In Everything by prayer.*"

Season of prayer—Pray that the Lord will:

- * *Draw* us together in true unity
- * *Drive* us to our knees continually in prayer
- * *Deliver* us from lethargy and indifference in our prayer life
- Special foreign missions requests

"SUPPLICATION WITH THANKSGIVING"

Hymn—"I am Praying for You"

Scripture:—1 Samuel 12:23; 1 Timothy 2:1; Ephesians 6:18-19; 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (Read responsively).

The phrase, "*supplication with thanksgiving*" can also be rendered, "intercession with gratitude," or "petition with appreciation."

One of the greatest privileges and blessings that God has extended to the believer, is the open door of access to

Himself through His Son Jesus Christ.

Yet at the same time, He also opened to us the avenue of intercession one for another in the family of God, as well as commissioning us to pray for all men.

Two facts must stand out clearly; First, never was there a time when both Christians and the unsaved needed prayer and supplication made for them, as much as they need it today. Second, God still delights in hearing and answering sincere supplication made with thanksgiving one for another.

The words of Jesus ring in our ears . . . "*My Father worketh hitherto, and I work*" (John 15:17). Can we say these same words?

We know what the work of God is . . . redemption. Are we ready to co-operate with God in His works? God is working. Are we working? Are we doing the same thing God is doing? My Father worketh . . . and I work!"

Season of prayer—(Outline the prayer period, and requests for prayer should be received from the group)

PEACE OF GOD IN HEART AND MIND

Hymn—"Wonderful Peace"

Scripture—Isaiah 26:3; John 14:27; John 16:33; 20:21; Ephesians 2:17-18; Colossians 3:15

Troubled hearts and distraught minds, that is the order of the day. The Word of God tells us that one of the signs of the last days will be, *Men's hearts failing them*. And, today we read that one out of every ten persons in our nation has a mental disturbance of one sort or another.

Greater and greater sums of money

are being spent each year in research, to try both to discover the causes and cures for heart trouble and mental diseases.

It seems a shame that the world will not take Christ at His Word in simple faith. He has given freely the only sure cure and permanent cure for both heart trouble and mental illness. But then, we remember that men of the world will only believe what they can understand, and God has clearly stated that, "*the peace of God*" which shall, "*keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus,*" is that which "*passeth all understanding.*"

Only the restoration of peace with God, and the inward peace of God can ever satisfy man. Until he has these restored, his heart, mind, and soul will be tossed to and fro on a troubled sea of despair. When these are restored, he will have the peace of God in heart and in mind even in a world of tribulation.

When to be Alarmed

If you find yourself . . .
coveting any pleasure
more than your prayer times,
enjoying any book
more than your Bible,
reading the newspapers for relaxation
more than the Bible or some spiritual
book
reverencing any house
more than the House of God,
satisfied with any table
more than the Lord's Table,
loving any person
more than our Lord Jesus Christ,
seeking the fellowship of men
more than that of the Holy Spirit,
or delighted with any prospect
more than that of the return of Jesus
THEN TAKE ALARM

Author Unknown

Season of prayer—Special requests for foreign missions, missionaries, and the office staff. Let us pray that through grace we, along with our missionaries may see many:

* Receive the *peace with God* through faith

* Experience the *peace of God* through surrender

* Live the *peace among men* through the Word

Closing hymn (Selected by leader)

Offering for Foreign Missions

Benediction (Pastor or leader)

Suggestions to the Program Leader:

The program is so designed that one person may take charge of the entire service, or five persons may be selected to each have charge of one of the five parts.

Other hymns than those suggested may be used to emphasize the subject, and some may be effectively read instead of sung if desired.

Some may want to have prayer group leaders. A different leader could take charge of each prayer session. Since this is a day of prayer, try not to put a time limit to your season of prayer. This often hinders the freedom of the Spirit. At the same time, do not let the session drag.

This program is sent forth with but one supreme thought in mind, that of glorifying the dear Son of God, our Savior. We believe that one of the greatest ways in which we could glorify Him, would be to awake from our slumber of complacency, separate ourselves from the world, and present our all unto Him, and go forth in Spirit filled service for Him.

Happiness Is...

Attending a Woman's Auxiliary retreat!
consensus of more than 500 Free Will Baptist women
who found inspiration, information, fun and fellow-
ship at six regional retreats last year.

GEORGIA, ALABAMA, FLORIDA, SOUTH CAROLINA

Martha Everson, Georgia state president wrote: "The hearts of the women attending were warmer than the weather and it was *hot!* They took their theme, *"Filled to Overflow,"* literally.

The retreat was held September 15-16, at Camp Mount Bethel, Ashburn, Georgia, under the direction of Mae Sheehan, WNAC executive committee member. Speakers included Eunice Edwards, Edith Shriver, Mary Reid, Gladys Coker, Shirley Kennedy and Mrs. Sheehan. Registration was 105 with 29 auxiliaries represented.

OHIO, WEST VIRGINIA, KENTUCKY

Approximately 30 women enjoyed the Friday evening and Saturday sessions held September 15-16, in the Lick Branch Church, Charleston, West Virginia. Dorothy Cox, WNAC executive committee member was in charge and wrote: "The Holy Spirit was present in our services and I feel will bear fruit in time to come." The theme was *"Laborers Together with God."*

MISSISSIPPI, TENNESSEE, ALABAMA

"So Walk Ye in Him," was the theme of this retreat held September 22-23, at Tupelo, Mississippi camp grounds. Brenda Spruill, WNAC field worker was in charge of the program. Speakers included Mrs. Spruill, Sheryl Nichols, Jo Ann Riggs, Maurene Lee, Mae Fry, Elizabeth Gibson, and Cleo Pursell, WNAC executive secretary. An inspirational sunrise service was conducted by Joan Gardner and Mary Jo Cox. Mississippi state president Dianne Worthington conducted the singing and Eva House was in charge of those delicious meals.



Teachers at the Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, retreat, left to right, Lillian Conley, Maryetta Sebastian, Dorothy Cox, Mary Dooley and Nora McCarty.



Women attending the Michigan, Northern Ohio Retreat. The weather was cold but hearts were warm.

MICHIGAN, NORTHERN OHIO

A "heap big welcome" was given the 48 "squaws" attending the retreat at Camp Na-He-Lu, Ortonville, Michigan, September 29-30. Michigan state president Nancy Trimble presided over the meeting using the theme, *"I Can't Believe I Possess the Whole Thing!"* Speakers were Nora McCarty, Ohio state field worker; Brenda Spruill, WNAC field worker, Barbara Daniel, Laura Edna Kenemer, Anna Collins, Mrs. Wilson, and Barbara Dunbar.

VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA

Mrs. Betty Hill, vice president of WNAC conducted this retreat November 3-4, at a camp near Henderson, North Carolina. The theme, *"Burning Hearts for Jesus,"* actually became a reality to the 137 women who attended and enjoyed this time of *inspiration, singspiration, and funspiration!*

Ramona Sessoms was in charge of singing. Speakers included: Joanne King, former WNAC officer, Zalene Breeden, Gertie Whitehurst (Virginia state president), Jane Price (N.C. state president), Geneva Walker, Mary Roode, Gladys Woodard, and Florence Braswell.

OKLAHOMA, ARKANSAS

A full report of this retreat was given in the previous issue of *Co-Laborer*. Zetta Rose, WNAC recording secretary and Alene Coffman, WNAC member-at-



PREACHER'S WIVES LAMENT. Special feature at the Mississippi retreat.

When Foreign Missions General Director, J. Reford Wilson, attended the dedication of our newest church in South India, he received a royal welcome from the Woman's Union

Co-Laborers In India

Most Respected Dear Sir,

We the members of the sisters union of the Calvary Free Will Baptist Church have the greatest pleasure in welcoming you in our midst. We think that we are the most blessed people to have you as our first visitor from America in this new church for which we have been praying for the past five years. Now we are very thankful for the mission for giving us this beautiful church.

We started our union in 1968 with just a few members. Now by the grace of God we get together on the last Saturday of every month in this church, and we spend the whole day here in devotion. We have two meetings on that day.

Sometimes we call a speaker from outside. During that day we get our free lunch from the mission. Some of our sisters very boldly and very gladly take part in the open air preachings. We also visit the hospital in turns. One of the sisters felt the call of the Lord to witness for Him, so she is going out every day to witness for the Lord.

Dear sir, we are really very thankful to the mission for opening this living church in this heathen place. *We request the American sisters of the mission to pray much for our growing union.*

We are bound to thank our most respected and dear Reverend D.R. Cronk for taking all the responsibilities in building the beautiful church. He was one among the workers to give us this long anticipated church. We all will pray for his speedy recovery from his unexpected wound.

Once again we thank you sir for your kind visit to us and for the mission for giving us this church to worship our God.

We remain dear sir,
Sisters of the Mettupalayam Church

Dated: 21-4-1972

IDEAS

FOR YOUR PROGRAM

Your response to our program packets has been overwhelming! Thanks. We apologize for running out of materials last quarter but just didn't anticipate needing so many. We are fully stocked for 1973. The first quarter packet includes all the materials you will need to carry out the suggestions below.

Order from WNAC, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. Send .75¢ plus .20¢ postage for the quarterly packet, or \$3.00 plus .60¢ postage for a standing order for the year.

April/Crossroads of the World

Poster—An attractive map of Panama and sketches of San Blas Indians on Maroon-on-rose paper.

Mission Digest, Panama TODAY—Contains an attractive map, pictures and information concerning our missions work there.

Facts Sheet—Condensed, up-to-date information concerning the country and its people.

Songs—Words and music to the spirited chorus, "Bring Them, Oh Lord, to Thee," and words to "Till Every Tribe Shall Hear," (Sung to the tune of "Battle Hymn of the Republic.")

Prayer Reminders—Use the pattern in the packet to make a small flag of Panama for each member to take home. Write on the backs, the names of our missionaries now working there.

Pop-Ups—Distribute brief statements about Panama and its' people to members before the program begins. Ask them to "pop-up" and read them in quick succession.

May/Queen for a Day

Invitations—Make invitations to be

handed out well in advance of the Auxiliary meeting for this is a special program. Sample included in packet.

Poster—Attractive poster emphasizing your program inscribed, *ROYALLY! That's how we'll treat you at Woman's Auxiliary. Time, Date, Place.*

Announcement—A surprise announcement for Sunday before the Auxiliary meeting.

Interest Center—Purple and gold are colors of royalty. Cover a table with a white cloth and use an arrangement of lilacs, flags (irises), or violets. Add a white Bible opened to the book of Esther and a gold foil crown.

Bible Mother Quiz—Select three mothers and three young women to compete in the quiz.

Prayer Reminders—Use the pattern in the packet to draw a crown for each member. Write a specific prayer request on each and distribute at the Auxiliary meeting.

Crown the Queen—See packet for suggestions.

June/Troubles: A Matter of Perspective

Poster—Announce your program with the clever bulletin poster, "I've Got a Problem."

Interest Center—Use as a stand-up poster, **PROBLEMS: A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE.**

Skit—"And You Think You Got Troubles!" This brief presentation will add sparkle and a bit of humor to your program. Requires only two ladies.

Match Game—Bible Personages and Their Problems.

Problem Box—Young Women's Auxiliaries or groups may want to discuss their personal problems. Prepare a box with the words **PROBLEM BOX** on it. Ask the members to write out their problems, not signing their names, and put them in the box so they can be dealt with at the meeting.

Prayer Reminders—Draw on yellow paper, a funny or sad face, for each member. Write specific prayer requests on the backs.



Looking for a Project?

Missionary builder Howard Gage plans to have the much needed dormitory for the missionary children at Bouake, Ivory Coast, West Africa, completed by May. Many items are needed to furnish the dormitory. If you would like to furnish some of these items please send them to the national office rather than directly to the field.

20 bedspreads (twin size or smaller)
sheets—64" wide
pillow cases
towels, wash cloths (extra heavy)
dish towels, dish cloths
mattress pads
quilts, blankets, pillows

throw rugs
wall clock
pictures
carpets for two living rooms
vacuum cleaner, sewing machine (electric)

pressure cooker and pans (large size)
general set of pots and pans, baking

utensils (large enough to bake for 20-24)
dishes, silverware, plastic drinking glasses (for 20-24)
candy thermometer
electric mixer
clothes hangers (plastic coated or rust proof)
curtain rings (clip kind)
shower curtains and rings for eight showers
six to eight quart ice cream freezer with wooden tub
five 5 gallon water coolers
curtains for all rooms (cafe curtains for bedrooms and longer drapes for living rooms. Sizes will be given later).
piano
transformer (for about 3000 watts)

IT WOULD BE BETTER TO PURCHASE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN ABIJAN. PLEASE SEND MONEY:

washing machine (electric, wringer type)
dryer
stove (for bottled gas)
refrigerator

We TAKE FIVE letters from
our mailbag to show the
faithfulness of
WNAC supporters

Take Five

The Woman's Auxiliary of West Calvary Church, recently observed WNAC Emphasis Month. The Auxiliary of Tippetts Chapel Church, Clayton, presented a pageant and we were greatly challenged to do more in our auxiliary.

An offering of \$65.50 was taken.

We praise God for this! We receive Co-Laborer books, manuals, and other literature, and we ask questions about our missionaries and projects and we fail to consider the cost in supplying all this for us. In addition to salaries for the workers who devote their full time to the auxiliary work, there is rent, utilities and postage. It is only fair for our auxiliaries to help share once a year an offering for our WNAC, and I am sure the Lord will bless your auxiliary as He has ours, for observing this month with a special service and offering.

Mrs. Loretta Lilly
Smithfield, N.C.

Enclosed is our Emphasis Month check in the amount of \$33.63. The quarter coin folders were a lot of fun.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed our program.

We had our program on Wednesday evening. We divided our entire group by sex—women against the men. We had four men to represent their side and four women to represent their side. If these could not answer our questions, they could ask any person on their side to help them.

We asked questions concerning Free Will Baptist missions. No one was told about the test in advance—they were just told to bring in those quarters! We didn't believe it—but the

men only answered one question correctly. The women did not miss a question! Our men paid over \$15.00 and the women's side (out of the goodness of their hearts) matched it.

Joanne King
Miami, Florida

We would like to share with readers of Co-Laborer how our Auxiliary remembered WNAC Emphasis Month.

Our president, Miss Dorris Allinen, planned a very inspirational program held at the church on Wednesday night. Our pastor, Rev. Billy Jackson, prepared bulletins for us . . .

Mrs. Joe Kellum, acted as MC . . . The opening prayer, special singing, and receiving of offering were by Auxiliary members. The treasurer, Mrs. Lethan Riggs, gave a report covering our work for the past one and one-half years which showed a total funds received of \$814.95 and \$745.24 paid out. Mrs. J. D. Heath, district missions chairman of the Coastal Association, shared with us many interesting facts about our missionaries. The climax of the program was a history of the Woman's Auxiliary which Mrs. Annie Heath gave tracing the work of our women back to its birth in New England around the turn of the 19th century.

Agatha Hill
Cove City, N.C.

The play, "This Is How It Happened," was a success in Holmes Church! Sorry we were a little late with it and the WNAC offering.

Mrs. Lomax E. Robinette
Ariton, Alabama

The gift from the Shiloh church to WNAC Emphasis Month is to be commended. This is a new Auxiliary and as yet are not members of a district or the state.

Barbara Dunbar, state treasurer
Hazel Park, Michigan

Let me jot that down
Let's see when and where
is the next Woman's Auxiliary
Convention?



JULY 9—10, 1973
at the
COLISEUM IN MACON, GEORGIA