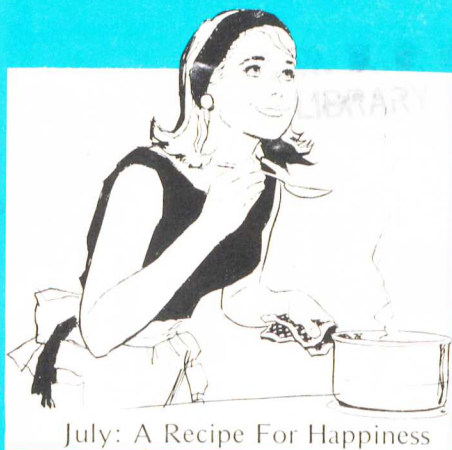
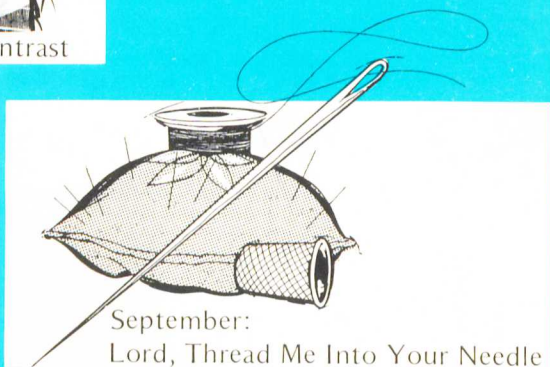




July: A Recipe For Happiness



August: Mexico, Land Of Contrast



September:
Lord, Thread Me Into Your Needle

Co-Laborer

July - August - September 1974



Special **NOTICE**

AUGUST IS WNAC EMPHASIS MONTH

A MISSIONARY ARM HAS MANY HANDS is the theme of this years program written by Bonnie Belcher Shellnut, a talented and clever author.

The program is *different* and the visual aids are exciting. Free Emphasis Month Kits will be sent to each Auxiliary on the Co-Laborer mailing list without charge. Please notify us if you fail to receive yours.

Help us reach our goal.

1974 GOAL — \$12,000

Co-Laborer

July - August - September 1974

Volume XIV Number 3
Third Quarter, 1974

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Cleo W. Pursell, Editor

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Iva M. Hunter, Circulation

Women in Action

INDIANA DISTRICT

President Imogene Patterson reports the Indiana District workshop was recently held with 33 women present. The program included devotions, sharing project and missionary information, and a salad luncheon at noon. Plans were made for an annual banquet with Mrs. Malcolm Fry and Mrs. Dorothy Jackson as speakers.

FLORIDA ON THE MOVE

Peggy Hutto, state president, reports one new auxiliary organized in the Central District, one new district organized in the state and possibly three new auxiliaries in the process of organizing.

PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA

The Woman's Auxiliary of St. Mark Free Will Baptist Church was organized in June, 1973 with 18 charter members. Officers elected were: Pat Milling, president; Mae Lacy, vice president; Maggie Pippin, secretary-treasurer; Velma Meadows, mission prayer chairman; Bessie Chapman, study chairman; and Mrs. Skinner, action chairman.

ILLINOIS RETREAT

The Illinois State Prayer Retreat was held in November at the Camp-

grounds in Benton with 48 women registering. State president, Ella Mae Hiltibidal presided. Eddie Hollis led the morning meditation. Group Scripture study on prayer was led by Reba Harris, Bernice Slayton, Mabel Kettelman and Barbara Harness. After a sharing and testimony time led by Reba Ritter, Geraldine Lewis brought *Thoughts for Living*. There was also time for private prayer and study as well as fun time under the direction of Kay Hinz.

AUXILIARY IN PARADE. The Woman's Auxiliary of Allen, Oklahoma, entered their school's annual homecoming parade in November. The car was decorated with a large globe and posters inscribed: **FREE WILL BAPTIST WOMAN'S AUXILIARY—SUPPORTING HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS.**

Auxiliary members dressed in costumes of different countries rode on the car. They were from left, Mary Lamb, Lorene Prentice, Jane Gray and Kay Prentice. Pastor Ernest Harrison, Sr. drove the car.



WISE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

New officers of the Wise County, Virginia, Woman's Auxiliary Convention are: president, Chris Thompson; vice president, Faye Sams; Secretary-treasurer, Peggy Gibson; corresponding secretary, Trula Gardner; mission study chairman, Gertie Whitehurst; mission action chairman, Petty Dean; mission prayer chairman, Loretta Proffitt; field workers, Mickey Gilliam and Annette Smith.



LYDDIE WATERS was honored by the Five Points Woman's Auxiliary, Pinetown, N.C. with a special This Is Your Life program on Mother's Day. Mrs. Waters, is 80 years of age and continues to serve and worship at each church service. Shown with Mrs. Waters is pastor Robert F. Burke who narrated the program.

OPEN DOORS

Shelia Williams, Quito, Ecuador, reports a busy schedule of teacher training in Child Evangelism Fellowship and many open doors. She also taught a week-long course in Colta with 16 Quechua Indian women. Now these women are active in teaching boys and girls in their mother tongue.

ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED. The Woman's Auxiliary of Arnold View Free Will Baptist Church, Marion, Illinois, observed their 12th anniversary recently. Members present from left, Rosemond Parton, Reba Ritter, Helen Parks, Mary Parks, Norma Bennett, Mrs. Fred Parks, Rosalie Parks, Janet Orr, Betty Harris, Edith Tanner, Fern Edwards, Wardena Furlow, Nell Mausey, Madge Fisher, and Dola Mausey.

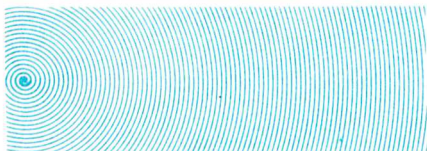


PRE-THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE was held in the home of Mary DePriest by members of the Woman's Auxiliary, Jonesboro, Arkansas.

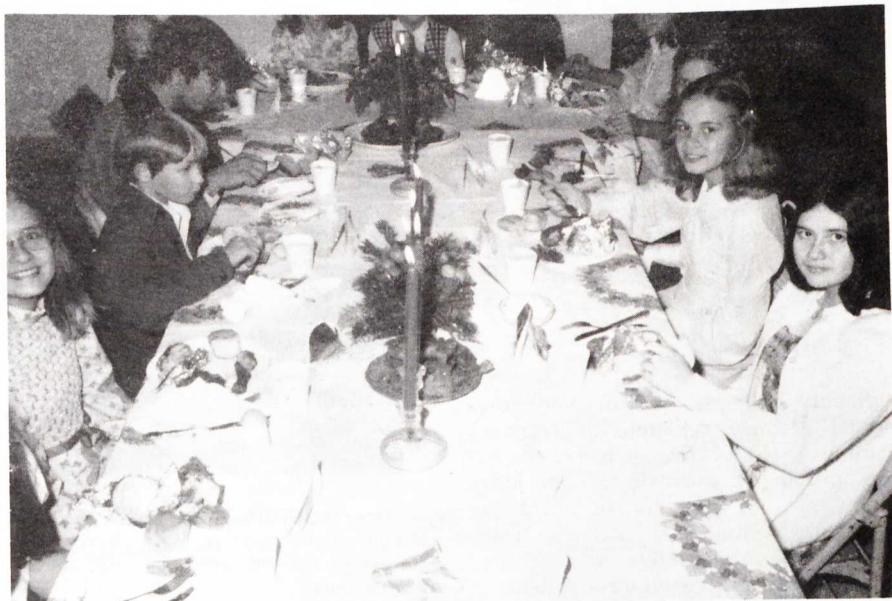
LOVE OFFERING

Mary Alice Bridgman, secretary of the Oklahoma Woman's State Auxiliary Convention writes: "Our women of Oklahoma voted to take a love offering in May for the WNAC General Fund in remembrance of our Mothers of Faith (May, as you know is Mother's Day month)."

A MONEY TREE for the Children's Home, Eldridge, Alabama, was a project of the St. Mark Woman's Auxiliary, Phenix City, Alabama.



TEENS HONORED. The Woman's Auxiliary, Arlington, Georgia, entertained the teens of their church with a Christmas banquet. The young people have been helping in the nursery during church and Auxiliary services.



Tupperware Showers

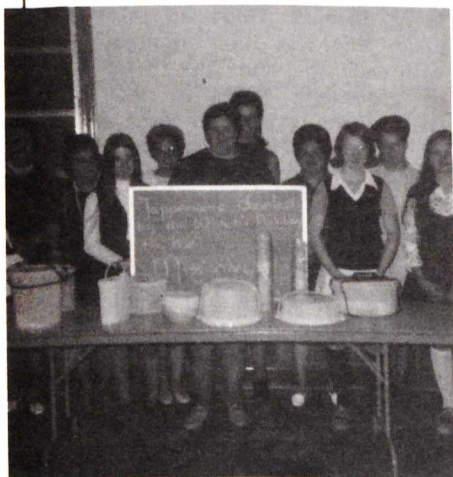
FOR THE MISSIONARY PROVISION CLOSET



PANAMA, OKLAHOMA, WOMAN'S AUXILIARY



CENTER POINT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY,
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



PORTLAND, TENNESSEE, WOMAN'S
AUXILIARY



FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, WOMAN'S
AUXILIARY



Prayer Groups

Gladys Sloan

JULY

**"AND EVERY MAN HEARD ...
IN HIS OWN LANGUAGE"**

*Lonnie and Anita Sparks,
Guest Authors*

A LITTLE LADY sits under a small brush arbor which covers her outside kitchen. She holds a book which on closer inspection you see is one that is normally used by children when learning to read. A young man is helping her identify the letters words. You ask, "Why didn't she learn to read as a child?" Well, you see, her language has only recently been reduced to writing. Before that, the language was only spoken.

Several years ago we answered the call of God to go to the Ivory Coast to preach the Gospel to her people. Some responded, just as she did. My wife and I made regular trips into the villages, where there were groups, to teach them the Word of God. It

proved to be a far more difficult task than we had ever thought, as they had no background at all in the knowledge of either the Old or New Testament. Names such as Adam, Noah, Moses and David known even by unbelievers in this country, were almost totally unknown to them. We would diligently teach them, or try to teach them the fundamentals of the Scripture, only to discover much to our dismay that the following week as we questioned them, very little had been retained. We thought it would be good if they could read and study the Word, but this was out of the question. It isn't that they wouldn't be able to learn to read. Even if they could read they would have nothing to read, as no literature existed in their language. In fact, their language, as has been noted, was spoken, not written. We felt something should be done about this, but it would mean that some of our outreach would have to be curtailed.

Everyone likes to hear of new villages being opened up to the Gospel, and continued evangelism would result in many more groups being formed. However, this would mean that less time could be spent with each one, adding to the problems of grounding them in the Word. History and experience bear out the fact that the church will be weak as long as the individual christian cannot read the Word for himself. A continuing witness, made possible by a strong nucleus of believers, regardless of their number, who have the Word in their own language is more important than a large number who will be vulnerable to the enemy because they do not have the Sword of the Spirit at their disposal.

You may ask, "Are they all illiterate?" Some children are privileged to go to school and learn French, but many have not had this opportunity. Also, we were to learn in subsequent years, as we tried to teach through the

medium of the French language, that many of those that had only been to Primary school, as is the case with most of them, had a limited vocabulary. Although they could sound out most French words, they understood very little of what they read from the Bible. One school teacher, who had completed about ten years of school, admitted that when he read a book such as Billy Graham's *Secret of Happiness*, he needed a dictionary. We came to realize that the Word of God in Kulango could be valuable even to those who had been to school. From our own experience, we prefer to study the Bible in our own language because it speaks more clearly to our heart. We felt that this must be the case with them, also. People can worship with greater ease understanding in their own language and cultural setting.

Some may be puzzled as they try to understand what is involved in writing a language. In some ways, it isn't all that difficult. By that I mean that anyone who can write their own language, can arrive at using their own alphabet to write sounds in an unwritten language as they would write similar sounds in their own language. The main problem occurs when you need to write a sound that does not exist in your language. Also you may need to make a difference in the language between sound variations which don't make a difference in your own language, but which make a difference in the meaning in another language. This requires training. We had not had this training as such, but the fact that we had studied other languages helped especially an African language called Twi. Although the language was completely different from Kulango, the language we needed to write, yet it being an African language meant that we were given an insight as to the structure of such languages.

(Continued in August column)

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for our missionaries who have dedicated their time and talents to the translation of the Word in various languages.
2. Pray for our missionaries who are studying other languages.
3. Pray for the converts that they may readily understand the Scriptures.
4. Pray for Lonnie Sparks and family and the Dock Catons who are in language school learning the Spanish language. Pray that they may have open and clear minds to learn this language quickly in preparation for opening a new Free Will Baptist work in Spain.
5. Jerry and Janice Banks request prayer as they go to Japan to enter language school. Pray for their two small children during this time also.

AUGUST

"AND EVERY MAN HEARD . . . IN HIS OWN LANGUAGE"

(continued from July)

NOW YOU MAY WONDER what translation into a language such as this is really like. Briefly, one of the first things which can be pointed out is that languages of this nature are actually languages, and that they are adequate for the needs of its speakers to express themselves fully. These languages are not just a bunch of garbled sounds, but real languages with structure. The person who writes one of these languages has to discover its structure, which we can refer to as its grammar. Once this is done, translation can begin.

At first, it is best to have someone with whom you have common language, such as French or English, to facilitate communication. After a period of time you will learn the language well enough that this will no longer be necessary. In fact, it is

usually better to use someone who does not know a European language. If they keep a Bible in French in front of them, you will often end up with Kulango words lined up in sentences as the French line up their words, rather than like the Kulango speaker lines up his words in a sentence. If this happens, you do not really have a translation. We had to be constantly on guard or the translation would not have been understandable to the average speaker of the language.

The question was continually: Is this really Kulango, or is this really the way it is said? We had to be on the lookout for metaphors and other manners of speaking which might not translate understandably into the language word for word. For example in Luke 24:32, the expression, "*Did not our heart burn within us...*" had a completely different meaning in Kulango when translated word for word. In order to convey the real meaning, it had to be said, "*Were not our insides cool?...* " The word for "sure" was not easy to find. In this language they say: "It is white in the yam." Hours were spent trying to differentiate between "if I go" and "when I go."

We thought we had found the word for *lily* only to find that the word we had used meant a *pipe*. Possibly the one who gave us this name (the lily does resemble a pipe) did it to keep from admitting that he did not know the name of the flower. In trying to find this, one day we were leaving a distant village where there is a group of christians, when we saw an old man down by the stream where he could find lilies. I took one and ran to catch him as he was walking toward the village. He was so startled that I don't think we got its name from him. You may ask, "Why the difficulty in finding someone who knows a word when you have the flower in hand?" I would ask: "Do you know the name of every bush, tree and flower?"

We found some wild grapes, but not everyone knew the name for them. The word for snow did not exist because they do not have snow there, even though they have hail. We used the French word with a footnote to explain what snow was like. To express whiteness, for ideas such as white as snow, they can refer to the inside of a yam, which is very white, or white as clay. This expression, however does not appear in the New Testament.

As we look back, we feel that writing the language involved a lot more work than the actual translation. Improving the spelling, or correcting the spelling of a word in the middle or toward the end of the translation of the new Testament can cause a lot of work. Sometimes you may fail to find the word in one passage and correct it, say until it has been typeset. This can try ones patience.

Is it worth all the work involved? One day I came upon the home of a christian family in Goumère as they were sitting around the table. The head of the home was reading from the New Testament prior to giving thanks and eating. This would have been impossible for this family had the Word not been available in their language. You see, no one there had ever been to school, but because he had learned to read his own language, he was able to read the Word to those in his home. This is what it is all about. Scenes like this make you forget the hours it took to make it possible. As Anita did the typesetting, she thrilled over and over again at the thought of what it would mean to the Kulango people. Our hearts overflow with thankfulness to the Lord that He gave us the privilege of making the Word available in another language.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for the Archie Mayhew family as they return to the states and as

their girls get situated in school in the states.

2. Pray for the Herbert and Geraldine Waid as they get settled in the states for a year of furlough. Pray for their children and their adjustment during this time.
3. Pray for the Ken Eagleton family as they return to Brazil after a year's furlough in the states.
4. Jimmy and Janie Aldridge need prayer as they return for language refresher course in Switzerland before returning to the Ivory Coast.
5. The Dan Merkh family desires your prayers as they do deputational work in the states. Pray for Don Sexton as he carries on the work load at Nantes while Missionary Dan Merkh is on furlough plus his own preaching point at Lorient.
6. Pray for the Sherwood Lees who are helping Dr. Miley at Doropo during the summer months before further study in the states this fall.

SEPTEMBER

WITNESSING

"... that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:47, 48).

How successful have we been in winning souls to Christ in the past year? How diligent have we been in witnessing to those we come in contact with each day? How often do we pray for the National Home Mission Department? Have we contributed of our means to the Church Extension program?

These and many other questions we should ask ourselves about the instructions of God. The answer will come when the annual reports are

read. Are we going to hang our heads in shame?

There are many ways in which the Gospel can be preached. One, is through personal witnessing. Another, is through groups working together. A greater outreach can be made. New churches can be established. This takes personnel and money and prayers.

The Home Mission family consists of 152 people (44 families). The support of these families is the responsibility of Free Will Baptists. Are we doing our part?

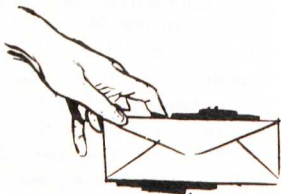
There are five new families going out to new works very soon. These are: The Jason Salyers to Shelby, N.C.; The Gary Watsons to Hawaii; The Karel Smiths to Albuquerque, New Mexico; The Ron Woods to Yuma, Arizona, The Edd Greens to Clovis, New Mexico. Just as soon as their support has been raised and internship completed they will be leaving for their respective areas of work.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for these new appointees.
2. Pray for Jesse Dunn in Boise, Idaho, that they may soon raise \$15,000 for church property.
3. Pray for the John Hollises health. He has been in the hospital.
4. Pray for those on itinerate that they may soon be able to go to the field. They are Leland Horton to Des Moines, Iowa; Jerry Pressley to Memphis, Tennessee; J. L. Gore to Jackson, Mississippi.
6. Pray for the new program set up by the Home Mission Department whereby small groups may borrow money to buy and build their first unit. This program has been called the CELF (Church Extension Loan Fund) program. You may write to the Home Mission Department for further details.
7. Pray for Free Will Baptist Chaplains, Gerald Mangham, Larence Cusick, Nedo Eaddy, Walter Golding and Alvin Lee Baker.

Co-Laborers

Write



Our Auxiliary here has certainly been blessed this past year. We love our Lord and thank Him for being so gracious and wonderful. We love to serve and give. This coming year we hope to do even more to help others. I'm especially grateful to you people in Nashville that "run the show" so well for all the co-laborers throughout America. May the Lord bless you for your efforts and work.

Please keep us in touch on any news and projects that may come up. We are an interested group and like to be in with the *goings on*. We are all looking forward to another great year in Woman's Auxiliary.

*Marlene Mikell
Miami, Florida*

Our Auxiliary is small but we enjoy the meetings and the fellowship around the timely lessons in *Co-Laborer*. We learn so much about our missionaries and many things that we need to know to help us live closer to the Lord.

*Mona Chrisman
Martinstown Church
Novinger, Missouri*

God is blessing in our women's work for which we are grate-

ful Our women had a Christmas project again this year. They donated childrens handkerchiefs and candy and we wrapped up "wordless books" and tracts inside the little package. Then two Sunday afternoons our young folks went to the large hospital here and sang to three groups. The handicapped group really were touched.

Each month a Christian lady in our church brings two of her unsaved friends to Sunday morning church, Tuesday prayer meeting and usually to Woman's Auxiliary. Pray for these ladies.

*Barbara Haas
Rennes, France*

Today we had the beautiful lesson "Show and Tell the Good News." You do a great job publishing the *Co-Laborer*. The lessons are terrific.

We also appreciate the WNAC *Communicator*. From information read in the last issue we are sending ten dollars for the Filkins "Snack Fund." We are writing the Children's Home in Greeneville, Tennessee and plan to support them. After our meeting today we made 54 Valentine tray favors for the nursing home here.

*Mrs. Junior Dixon
Haskell, Oklahoma*

I didn't realize just how effective and compelling the *Co-Laborer* was until my husband and I moved to a church that did not have a Woman's Auxiliary. We are now serving a church that does have a circle and it seems as though I get a different blessing each time I read and study for the monthly program.

... We pledged to witness to at least one person during this next month and show and tell them the plan of salvation the Christ has to offer them.

*Jackie Reed
Colquitt, Georgia*

We organized our Auxiliary in December with nine members enrolled and we are anticipating two or three more ladies joining Enthusiasm is high and plans are being made whereby we can be of service to this community and we feel that as our Mission grows in number, more and more will join to help in this endeavor. Pray . . . that through God's leadership by the Holy Spirit our ladies will touch the hearts and lives of the people in this city.

*Shirley McAllister
Enterprise, Alabama*

Thank you for the wonderful program material you are providing to make our Auxiliary meetings so interesting. They keep us aware of our missionaries work and problems. Some of the lessons really hit on our problems on the *home front*. We can't wait to see the pictures of different Auxiliaries and their work. They give us ideas of projects.

*Mrs. Jack Rollins
Birmingham, Alabama*

It seems to me the program, "Alone I Serve," was written just for me. It has been such a help and eye-opener for me. "As for me and my house, we'll serve the Lord," even if it is only half my household.

*Sybil Cooper
Pamplico, S.C.*

We would like to join the 9 a.m. prayer fellowship hour and would like to have 25 cards We realize how very important our prayer life is to our spiritual growth and would like to help others to become aware of the accomplishments through daily intercessory prayer.

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

I have received many blessings since joining our Woman's Auxiliary. My life has become spiritually stronger and my prayer is to become a better witness for the Lord.

*Peggy Harris
Piney Grove Church
Bristol, Georgia*

I certainly enjoy the helps that are suggested with each lesson. Our Auxiliary has grown over the past two years and each meeting is eagerly awaited by the ladies. We always feel the Presence of the Lord at our meetings and want to thank those who prepare the lessons and interesting reading materials each quarter.

*Inita Tusing
Charleston, Arkansas*



A Recipe for Happiness

peace to a troubled heart and mind. However, God, in His infinite power and wisdom, *can* give rest and contentment to a weary soul. Let's take a look at some of the essential ingredients of a recipe that can guarantee lasting happiness through Christ.

SPOON IN LOTS OF THE SPIRIT

Purpose: *To discover that real joy comes through Christian growth.*

Use ideas from the *Program Packet*

Songs: "I Am Happy in the Service of the King," "Happiness Is," "Rejoice in the Lord Alway"

Scripture: *Philippians 4:4; John 13:17*

THERE IS a constant search for real happiness. People seem so insecure today, even some professing Christians. They are searching through various mediums from drugs to spiritualism to find happiness and just aren't finding true joy.

Man, with all his scientific wisdom, cannot concoct a formula that can give

Christ, along with His Spirit to guide us, is our only hope in the world today. He's the only *answer* to the problems that beset us. The Spirit gives us assurance (Romans 8:14-17), as well as the comfort, guidance, and reproof mentioned in John 16. Wherever our field may be, the Spirit can also give us power to be witnesses (Acts 1:8). When Jesus comes into our hearts we have joy, and in turn, we should be willing to give of this joy to others. We are always willing to share good news concerning other things, why not give out the best news of all—the Gospel? What God has done for you is also an effective witness. God's ever-abiding love and the comfort of His Spirit can put a smile on our faces and a spring in our step, so don't be stingy about *spooning* this ingredient in.

A PINCH OF PRAYER

The Bible commands us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "*Pray without ceasing.*" Luke 18:1 also exhorts us to pray. We should be in a constant attitude of prayer. Christ was the best example that we have of how to pray. As we know, prayer is simply talking to our Lord. We need to daily commune with Him and bring our various petitions, whether they be great or small. Matthew 7:7-8 are verses to challenge us to ask anything in His Name. We have the assurance that God does hear and answer prayer (Isaiah 65:24). Matthew 11:28-29 tells how God entreats the weary to come to Him. If we would only "*cast our cares*" upon Him and let Him handle any problems we face, our lives would be a little brighter and a lot simpler in living. When other friends fail you, you will have a greater Friend who will always stay beside you even in your darkest hour. If you don't believe in miracles, just pray in earnest over something and God will make a believer out of you. All things are possible with God, and by using a *pinch of prayer*, you can see God perform great things in your life as well as others.

STIR IN STUDY

"*Search the scriptures,*" states John 5:39a. A command to study is found in 2 Timothy 2:15, yet how many of us take time to do so? Study should be considered a privilege, especially that of God's Word.

Christian literature is available, too, yet we don't bother to read it either. God can *stir* our hearts through the printed page, if we only let Him. Budget your time to include Bible study, lest you fall into the snares of

Satan. We miss countless blessings when we omit this part of our recipe, so let's not neglect this phase of Christian living.

A DASH OF FELLOWSHIP

As children of God, we have need to fellowship one with another. By attending church regularly and participating in its various functions, you can begin to meet this need of your life. Your Christian brother or sister can often share joys, sorrows, advice, or criticism in ways that may be difficult for others. As Christians, we have a common bond, *the blood of Jesus Christ* (1 John 1:7).

Having this assurance, we should fellowship with other Christians, and have a burden for the lost of the world. Compassion is something we all need more of, especially in these perilous times. Happiness and strength can be gleaned from fellowship, so take advantages of these precious times. They are very necessary in our recipe, for like bread without yeast, they would definitely be missed.

SIFT IN LOVE

Just as important as fellowship, is the basic need we have of loving and being loved by others. If we are to receive love, we must give and live this love toward others. This kind of love is found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. If we belong to Christ, we should strive to have the same kind of love He has for us and the world. Would we be willing to go as far as proving our love as in the scripture, "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends*"? Human love is fragile and limited, but God's love is divine and endless. God's love is also dependable, unconditional, eternal, persistent, pure, and impartial. Does

the kind of love we have for others measure up to this standard?

The greatest picture of God's love is not only in John 3:16, but also in 1 John 4:9-10. How marvelous to love such a wonderful, loving God! Being partakers of His love and being able to radiate this to others, has to give us joy. Love plays a vital role in our lives, so let's not be skimpy, *sift* it in abundance.

MIX IN KNOWING HIS WILL

"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doth the will of God abideth forever" (1 John 2:17).

Knowing and understanding God's will for our lives is difficult for some Christians. Many are missing great personal satisfaction in their Christian lives by leaving out this portion of the happiness recipe. We are here on earth for a purpose, that of glorifying God. Two questions automatically enter our minds, What? and Where? The Spirit of God along with His Word lead to the answer to each. Listen as they speak to you. *"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left"* (Isaiah 30:21).

Throughout His Word, God spoke to men and women in various ways, some of which are quite phenomenal to us. God may not appear to us in some miraculous vision, but the Spirit will guide and teach us His will. *"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye"* (Psalm 32:8).

We all can't be missionaries, preachers, or teachers, but consecrated lay people are greatly needed to further His kingdom, too. Obedience in being all we can possible be in Christ and going wherever God leads brings about results. Pray as in Psalms 143:10a,

"Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God"

Once we realize God's will for our lives and live in it daily, we can see clearly how much of a necessity it is to our recipe.

GENEROUSLY ADD GIVING

The recipe needs a generous amount of *giving* to be complete. We have in essence covered part of this already. Christ gave His *all* for us and we should be willing to give unto Him of what we have, especially our lives.

Giving is living! Giving of our monies, time, talents, and our lives give our souls great satisfaction (Read Luke 6:38).

As far as talents are concerned, I'm afraid many are *burying* theirs. If you are guilty of this, you just may be wasting God's precious gifts that could be effectively used in His service. Use any skills that you may have to glorify God and see how much richer your life will be. Many scriptures could be used concerning complete surrender, but Romans 12:1-2 seems to say it best. How sad it is when we forget this, and ours is a life without purpose and meaning!

We must also give attention to missions in our giving. Matthew 28:18-20 are verses with a command and promise. Giving Christ unto others is evidence of our love for Christ. *"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise"* (Proverbs 11:30). Winning souls is your way of *"laying up treasures in heaven"* (Matthew 6:33), where our happiness will be measureless.

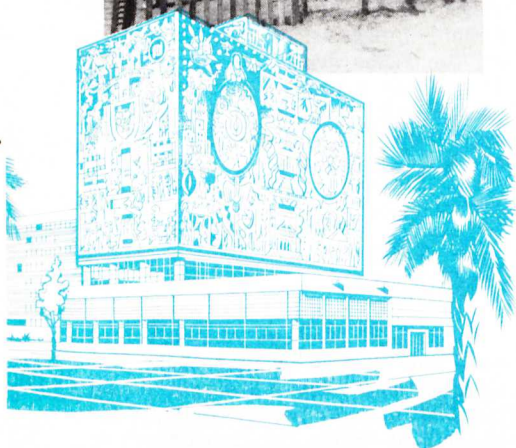
Now that we have all the necessary ingredients of our recipe, there is just one thing left to do. We must now blend them together and pour them into our lives daily. By doing this, we'll grow in Christ, be eternally happy, and find that life is truly worth the living.

August Program

by Julie Barron

MEXICO

Land of Contrast



Purpose: To increase our knowledge and concern for the mission field of Mexico.

Use ideas from the Program Help Packet

Song: "Rescue the Perishing"

Scripture: Psalm 126:6

MEXICO is located just south of the United States. It is the country of some 52 million people. Ninety-eight percent of the people are Roman Catholic. There is a reported one percent Protestant influence in Mexico, but this includes groups like Jehovah's Witness and Mormons. You can readily see that the real born again people in Mexico only make up a small percentage of one per cent of the population of the country.

FREE WILL BAPTIST WORK

Free Will Baptist work was started in Mexico about 15 years ago in the city of Monterrey. A city with the population of about one and one half million. The first church in Monterrey was built by monies received from the National Woman's Auxiliary. We have a second church in Monterrey called the Tolteca Church. A lay preacher is



pastoring the church. This church has also started two missions in nearby neighborhoods. Going south from Monterrey, we have a church in El Canelito. This is a small village in which our Free Will Baptist Church is the only church of any kind. Then six hundred miles south of the border you come to the second largest city of Mexico, Guadalajara, with a population of two million people. At present, Jerry and I are pastoring the church here. We are hoping to finish the new church building within three months.

On east of Guadalajara you come to the capital of Mexico, Mexico City, with a population of about 9 million people. We have one church in this area. The pastor of this church is working hard for our Lord in such a large place.

On the east coast of Mexico in the state of Veracruz we have one of our newest works. It was started by Felix Zuniga and his wife Luz about a year and a half ago and is now our largest church averaging in the seventies and eighties in Sunday School, and over one hundred for Sunday night services. This new church has also branched out and started a mission in a nearby village. Last month Brother Felix baptized twenty five new converts in the new mission. There is another church also in the state of Veracruz which is doing well.

In Altamira, Tamaulipas we have another church that is also averaging in the seventies and eighties.

Our last work is in Sabinas Hidalgo, about one hour south of Laredo, on the Texas border. The pastor of this church underwent open-heart surgery a year ago and is now back pastoring.

BIBLE INSTITUTE

The Free Will Baptist Bible Institute of Mexico is starting a new

extension program. We will be using each pastor and offering two years of graduate Bible studies. This will not only help our young people, but will be an opportunity for everyone in the church to study and prepare for better Christian service. Dave Cochrane will be heading this extension program.

PASTOR'S CONFERENCE

In the month of January, the Mexican Association had their first pastors conference. There were about twenty-five pastors and students present for the five days of study and preaching. Gordon Johnson was the main speaker, teaching three hours each morning. He is one of the directors of the Rio Grande Bible Institute and Seminary on the Texas-Mexico border. We had revival-type preaching by our pastors each night. God really blessed our national pastors and we are all looking forward to next years conference.

CONCLUSION

We, as the Mexican Association of Free Will Baptists want to take this opportunity to say *thank you* to you the National Woman's Auxiliary for caring and sharing in God's work in Mexico.

Mexico, the land of contrast. You who have had the chance to visit Mexico know what I mean when I say the "land of contrast." The very rich, the very poor, the very intelligent, the very ignorant, the very religious (in the worlds eyes) and the very un-religious. Then those who have had a change in their lives and heart.

Please pray for us and the work in Mexico. What a wonderful opportunity to serve our great God in this country of such need.

Alma Cochrane
President
WNAC
Mexico



THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARIES of Mexico are organized into a National Convention and Alma Cochrane is the president. She is the wife of Dave Cochrane, who teaches music and Bible Synthesis in the Bible Institute in Guadalajara.

Alma is serving her second term as president and is deeply burdened for the lost. Her greatest desire is that more women would come to know Christ as Savior.

At the present time there are nine Auxiliaries in action in Mexico. Just as the WNAC of the United States emphasizes missions, so does the WNAC of Mexico. The women of Mexico gave 3,000 pesos (\$240) to the building fund of the church in Mexico City and 2,000 peso (\$160) to the building fund in El Higo. Mrs. Cochrane gives her personal testimony as follows:

My testimonio:

Greetings from Mexico in the name of Christ. Trusting that true peace might reign in each heart.

It is indeed a great opportunity for me as a Mexican woman, the fruit of this missionary field and the work that I'm carrying out, to be able to give my personal testimony.

I had never heard about the Gospel or Christ. I knew about Him as mentioned in magazines or the Easter celebrations, but that was all. I was invited to a special New Year's Eve service, and it was something wonderful to see several folk stand up and give thanks to the Lord for the salvation of their souls. I didn't understand all this, but as I continued to listen, I saw that they were thanking God for His Son Jesus Christ, whom He had

sent that all might be saved through Him.

I saw even men testifying with tears of appreciation and this seemed strange to me since I had never seen men cry nor did I understand why. I kept on going to the church in Monterrey and the more I went I began to like it and it seemed that each message was specially for me. I resisted opportunities to go to the altar and confess the sin in my heart. I envied the others who were always so content and happy and really wanted to be like them, but wondered how since I was not a Christian.

However, one day that need was so great from within, that someone began to talk to me about Christ and the change that He could make in my life. That day, March 15, 1968, at about 8:30 p.m. I accepted Christ.

I remember that I cried like never before and I felt as if a heavy load upon me had been taken away. I never had cried before and even said that it was for children, but when the new birth comes to operate within, it is like being born again.

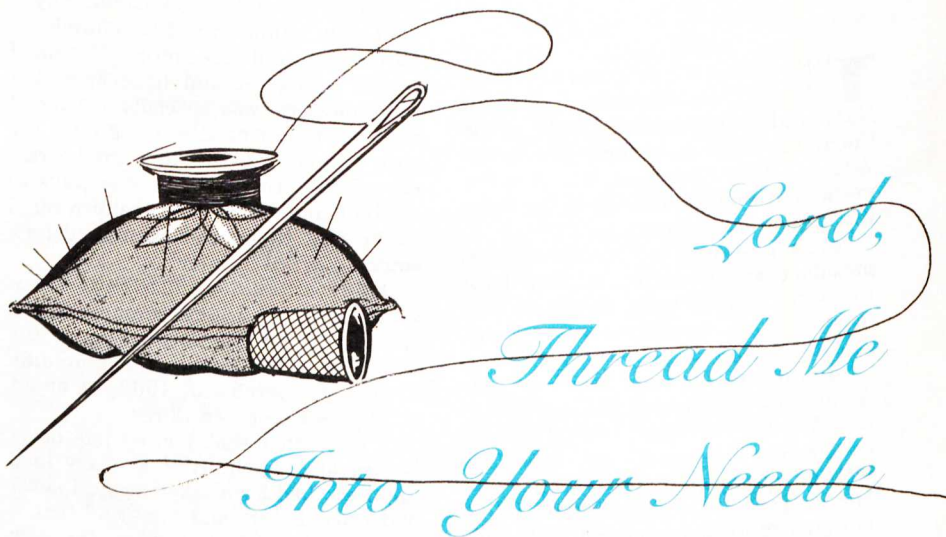
This is what happened to me. I cried for joy to know that I was a Christian and that Christ had pardoned my sins and I was happy to be a child of the King. Now I'm serving in His Vineyard with all my heart.

Alma and Dave Cochrane and daughters, Betty and Alda.



September Program

by Ruby Hutchinson



Purpose: *To make women more aware of their many and varied opportunities to serve God through personal involvement.*

Use ideas from the *Program Packet*

Songs: "Make Me a Channel of Blessing"; "Jesus, Use Me"

Scripture: *Hebrews 3:16*

Oh, Lord, thread me into your needle," prayed a new African convert. The missionary, surprised at the prayer asked, "What do you mean, thread me into your needle?" The man explained that the day before he had visited the mission school and watched

the girls sewing. He noticed that the thread always went where the needle was directed. So he prayed, "Lord, you are the needle, I am the thread, teach me to follow thee."

Every seamstress knows that where the needle goes, the thread must follow. The stitch may be a large basting stitch or a very minute finishing stitch, but the thread still must go where the needle leads. Perhaps the place that God has placed you to do His work is a large *basting place*, but if you follow the needle faithfully when the final *tapestry* of your life is finished you will hear Him say, "... thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Matthew 25:23).

CAN YOU BE A THREAD?

Let us ask ourselves, are we really willing to be threaded into God's needle? We say, "yes, Lord, I will follow you," but which is more important to us—visiting our sick neighbors, or getting that last little bit of ironing done today? Shall we make a good fruit salad for our family's dessert tonight and spend our afternoon working in the church visitation program, or shall we spend all afternoon trying that fancy new dessert and try to find time to go tomorrow?

Just because a woman is saved does not necessarily mean that she is a good thread. Salvation is free, but being a good thread cost something.

HOW TO BE A GOOD THREAD

I saw a sign in front of a church that read, *Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve*. I thought that was a very good saying because most of our service for God is done outside the doors of our church. You might ask, "what could I do? I only seem to know how to cook and clean house." What about that children's hospital that needs volunteers so desperately? Could you take one afternoon a week to be a bright thread for God? The lonely people in the nursing homes are so thankful just to know someone cares. Have you told them that God loves them? What about that home that is open for a Good News Bible Class and does not have a teacher? Could you help lead these little ones to Him?

Do you suppose your auxiliary could get a vacation Bible school started among the migrant workers in your area? Have you prayed for that home that is broken up by sin? Did you have time to find out why Sally was not in your Sunday school class yesterday? Have you prayed for your missionaries special needs or written to

encourage them? Did you really have to have that very expensive purse that just matched your beige shoes when you had promised yourself that you were going to give twenty dollars to your auxiliary's mission project?

Have you prayed for your pastor and his family? Is there any way you could help them to carry their burdens? Did any of your auxiliary know the reason Johnny could not come to church? He had no shoes because his father had been sick. I am sure there are many more opportunities for you to be a good thread. Just look around you.

A MIND TO WORK

One of the most important factors in Nehemiah's success in rebuilding the wall in Jerusalem was the attitude of the people. The people had a mind to work. (Nehemiah 4-6.) Love for God and a true zeal to be a good thread made them willing to do what nothing else could have accomplished. We are told in Ecclesiastes 9:10 "*Whatsoever thy hand finds to do, do it with thy might.*" Oh, that we might have the same dedication and enthusiasm in our work for God that they had in Nehemiah's day. It has been said, "there's no retirement for the christian." "*Be thou faithful until death and I will give thee a crown of life*" (Revelation 2:10).

If we want to be a thread for God we cannot afford to waste time. The psalmist tells us we spend our years as a tale that is told. Considering the shortness and uncertainty of life, may we thank God for each fresh opportunity of service and each week his guiding hand to make the most of these golden hours and minutes he gives us. May we not overlook the smallest stitch he would have us to make for Him.

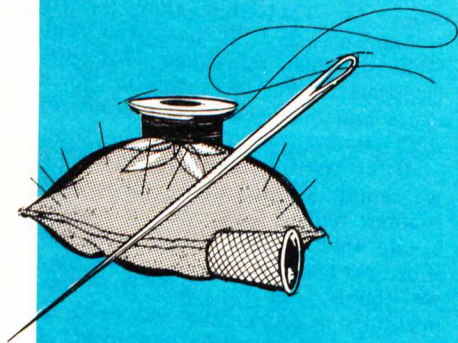
Who knows which stitch will be the golden thread that will lead someone

to Christ. Alone, the thread is useless, but when threaded into the needle it does do the work. The thread must then yield to the needle and let it choose the stitch. Are you a fully dedicated follower or just a believer? In sewing, the thread must be strong enough to take the stress and strain of everyday life. We must be a strong thread if we are to be of service to God.

Paul said, "*Be strong in the power of His might*" (Romans 6-10). The devil would keep us so busy with the things that concern this natural life that we would be a tangled thread and of no use at all in God's work. We should let our greatest concern be, "*Lord, what would you have for me to do today? What few stitches would you have me make for you today?*" If this is our attitude each day, when the thread of our life is ended we can say as apostle Paul did, "*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith*" (1 Timothy 4-7).

A PRAYER

Lord, I have tried to be a good thread. I have followed where you led. I have made the stitches that you bid me do. Sometimes they were the hidden, underneath stitches when I wanted to be doing the beautiful top stitching. But Lord, you always knew just what stitch was needed for the fabric of my life. You have always known when the dark threads were necessary or when I needed a bright one to lift me up. You have always given me a gold or silver thread when I thought they were all black and grey. Thank you Lord that I was able to be just one small thread in your great pattern of salvation. Help me to continue to follow your leading and be a great worker for your glory. Help me to truly be able to say, "Lord, thread me into your needle. You are the needle, I am the thread. Teach me to follow thee. In Jesus name, Amen."



TRUST IN THE
MASTER WEAVER

When gray threads mar life's pattern
And seem so out of line,
Trust the Master Weaver
Who planned the whole design;

For in life's choicest patterns
Some dark threads must appear
To make the rose threads fairer,
The gold more bright and clear.

The pattern may seem intricate
And hard to understand,
But trust the Master Weaver
And His steady, guiding Hand.

Author Unknown



Winchester
Shellnut



Barron
Hutchinson

Our Writers



SUE WINCHESTER's program, "Recipe for Happiness," was an entry in the 1973 creative writing contest. She and her husband Don are the parents of two children. She serves as president of the South Side Woman's Auxiliary, St. Louis, Missouri, and as district president. She also teaches an adult Sunday school class.

JULIE BARRON writes of "Mexico, the Land of Contrast," in the August program. She and her husband Jerry, director of Free Will Baptist mission work in Mexico, live in Guadalajara. She is the mother of three boys—Myron, Tony, and Timothy (Big Tim).

RUBY HUTCHINSON, Christiansburg, Ohio, won honorable mention in the 1973 creative writing contest with her unique program, "Lord, Thread Me into Your Needle." She belongs to the Troy Free Will Baptist Church, is a minister's wife and the mother of four children. She also teaches a CTS class and a Good News Club and is president of the Little Miami District Auxiliary.

BONNIE B. SHELLNUT, is the author of the WNAC Emphasis Month program this year. She served for two years as president of the Woman's Auxiliary, Hazel Park, Michigan. She holds the B.S. and M.A. degrees in public speaking from Wayne University, Detroit, Michigan. Shown is her husband Bennie and three children: Jeremy, Shawn, and Heather.

WNAC Annual Meeting

LIGHTS IN DARK PLACES is the theme for the WNAC annual meeting, July 15-16, 1974, in Wichita, Kansas. Watchword: "... shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:15).

The meeting will be held in the lovely new Century II convention center which is within walking distance of hotels, restaurants, and shopping centers.

Pre-convention activities begin Monday, July 15, at one p.m. in the Holiday Inn Plaza. All state presidents and field workers are asked to meet with the national executive committee for a time of inspiration, information and fellowship.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

The WNAC fellowship dinner will be held Monday, July 15, at 5 p.m., in the Broadview Hotel. Kath DeLoria, area representative of the Christian Business and Professional Women and Christian Women's Clubs will speak. She is also a social worker in a Kansas City, Missouri, hospital, working with the mentally retarded.

Mrs. DeLoria is well known as an inspirational speaker and is much in demand at women's retreats and church conventions.

CONVENTION

The Auxiliary Convention begins at 9 a.m. Tuesday. Speakers include

missionaries Janice Banks, Japan, and Dan Merkh, France. Special music will be provided by missionary Rita Wenning, Virgin Islands, and The Dormettes of California Christian College.

Mrs. DeLoria will conduct a seminar from 1:30 to 3:30 using the subject *Our Bodies His Temples* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

CONTEST AWARDS

Awards for the winners of the second WNAC Creative Writing Contest will be made in the morning session.

WILL YOUR AUXILIARY BE REPRESENTED?

July 15-16 is the date set for the WNAC Annual Meeting in Wichita, Kansas. Do you have plans for sending a representative from your local Auxiliary? It isn't too late to elect one.

Each local Auxiliary in good standing with its representing higher body (district or state) has the privilege of sending a delegate to this convention by paying a representation fee of \$3.00. She will pay the fee when she registers at the WNAC booth.

The Woman's Auxiliary Convention will be a time of inspiration, learning, and fellowship. Plan to have your Auxiliary represented in Wichita!

REMINDER TO STATE SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS

State secretaries and state treasurers should send in their annual reports and dues before the FIRST OF JULY if they wish them included in the report to the national convention.

Although WNAC's fiscal year ended May 31, this will not greatly affect state reports. Dues received before July 1st, will receive credit on the credential committee's report.

Send treasurers' reports and membership dues (75¢ per active member) to:

Mrs. Cleo Pursell

P.O. Box 1088

Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Send secretaries' reports to:

Mrs. Anne Worthington

1712 Dawson Road

Albany, Georgia 31705

WNAC FELLOWSHIP DINNER

All banquets have been reserved for a certain number of people. To avoid disappointment, you are urged to order tickets early. No tickets will be mailed out or reserved without payment. Refunds are available through July 1, 1974. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request for tickets.

The dinner is open to both men and women and tickets are \$5.00 each (includes tax and gratuity).

We encourage our Auxiliaries to help make it possible for all our missionaries home on furlough to attend the dinner. You may do so by purchasing one or more tickets for missionaries. While you are filling in the reservation form for yourself, just include the name of a missionary. WNAC will see that the missionary receives the ticket.

RESERVATION FORM

WNAC FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Clip and mail to WNAC, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Date _____

I would like to reserve _____ ticket(s) for the WNAC Fellowship Dinner, Monday, July 15, 1974 at 5 p.m. at the Broadview Hotel.

Enclosed is \$_____ (\$5.00 each). I wish to purchase tickets for the missionaries indicated below:

Name _____

Street Number _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Monday

- 8 a.m. WNAC Executive Committee Breakfast and Meeting
Holiday Inn Plaza
- 12 Noon WNAC Executive Committee Luncheon and Meeting
Holiday Inn Plaza
- 1 p.m. Meeting of State Presidents, Field Workers and Executive
Committee
Holiday Inn Plaza
- 5 p.m. WNAC Fellowship Dinner
Broadview Hotel
Kath DeLoria, Speaker

Tuesday

- 9 a.m. Woman's National Auxiliary Convention
Century II
Dan Merkh, Speaker

This 'n That

Medicine Bottles Needed

Lorene Miley writes that the clinic in Doropo, Ivory Coast, is badly in need of plastic medicine bottles.

They can use *any* size bottle up to 45cc or two or three ounce size. Cough Syrup, Merthiolate, worm medicine, and other medicines are re-bottled for patient distribution in these quantities.

Bottles may be sent to Nashville and they will be put in a returning missionary's baggage.

Jam and Jelly Mixes

Several missionaries have expressed a desire for the jam and jelly mixes available from Missionary Services, Inc. WNAC has supplied these using money sent to the missionary provision closet by various Auxiliaries. We

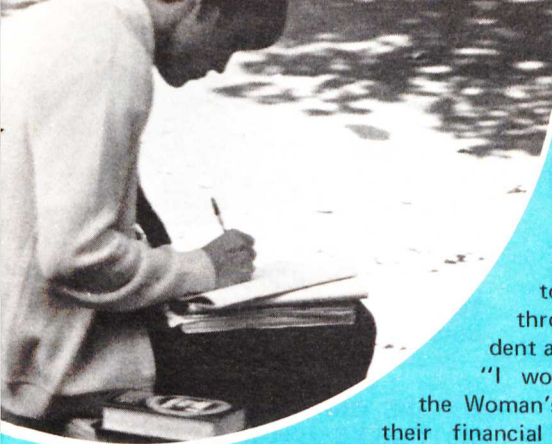
would now like to stock these in quantity to avoid delays in ordering.

Six flavors assorted, one dozen each (six dozen packs) are available for \$23.65. Flavors include Concord grape, strawberry, blackberry, boysenberry, black raspberry and apple. Each package accurately formulated for perfect results makes three large glasses of jelly or jam by just adding water and sugar and boiling for three minutes. Ideal for the mission field because of pack and light weight.

If your Auxiliary wants to purchase an assortment please send \$23.65 earmarked *Provision Closet—Jam and Jelly Mixes*.

No Tupperware Please

You have been more than generous with your gifts of tupperware for the missionary provision closet. We have all we need of *everything* at the present time. Please do not send any more TUPPERWARE until further notified as we have no space to stock it.



STUDENTS APPRECIATE WNAC LOAN FUND

"I thank God for our Woman's Auxiliary," writes Danny G. Thomas, Minister of Youth and Music at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Beaufort, North Carolina. "It is a tremendous benefit to our denomination, especially through its work in missions and student aid."

"I would like to thank the Woman's Auxiliary for their financial aid. I feel

that you were the means in which God helped me through that last semester. I'm sure all those who have received aid through the Woman's Auxiliary have praised God as I did when their approval for aid came. There are many students who might not have finished Bible College and thus not have gone into full-time Christian work had it not been for the Woman's Auxiliary."

Geri Hendon, who graduated in May from Free Will Baptist Bible College also is grateful for WNAC's student loan program. She writes: "This is somewhat inadequate but I want to express my thanks for how the WNAC has helped me to make it through these four years at Free Will Baptist Bible College. I couldn't have made it without your help. I hope my life will show my thanks as I try to apply what you've helped me to learn as I try to glorify the name of Jesus. Thank you."

SEPTEMBER EMPHASIS: STUDENT LOAN FUND

Gifts should be sent through district and state Auxiliary treasurers to WNAC, earmarked for one of the following funds:

Memorial Student Loan Fund,
Free Will Baptist Bible College
California Christian College Loan Fund
Hillsdale Bible College Loan Fund





Recommended Study Courses 1974-75

MISSIONS

THE BIBLICAL BASIS OF MISSIONS

Laura Belle Barnard

An interesting three chapter study of the Biblical basis of missions. Miss Barnard takes a look at missionary activity in the Old Testament and our mission today.

32 pages Each 50¢

ADONIRAM JUDSON, MISSIONARY TO BURMA

Faith Coxe Bailey

A fresh challenge for our present day missionaries will be felt as you study this biography of America's first foreign missionary.

128 pages Each 75¢

Teachers Guide, Adoniram Judson

Winnie McLain

Each 25¢



GROUP STUDIES

THE POWER OF POSITIVE PRAYING

John Bisagno

A unique, non-technical handbook explaining the why, how, and results of prayer.

91 pages Each 95¢

HEAVEN HELP THE HOME

Dr. Howard G. Hendricks

A brand new book by an author who believes the Bible, gives directions for a successful Christian home.

156 pages Each \$1.45

Teachers Guide Heaven Help the Home

Each 75¢

MAKING THE MATURE YEARS COUNT

Robert S. Peterson

Helpful for those who once led active lives but are now retired either because of health or because of age.

48 pages, Each 20¢

THE CHURCH AND THE SINGLE PERSON

Frances M. Bontrager

The author takes a look at the role of the single person and the church's responsibility to the single person.

32 pages, Each 50¢

THE CHRISTIAN WOMAN IN THE WORKING WORLD

Martha Nelson

Can a woman be a loyal follower of Christ, faithful church member, confident of her usefulness to her Master and still work? This important question is well answered in this excellent study.

138 pages, Each \$3.50





HOW TO START A NEIGHBORHOOD BIBLE STUDY

Marilyn Kunz and Catherine Schell

This little book is full of methods and resources for a successful home Bible study. It covers everything from "How to Begin" to "Further Study."

24 pages, Each 50¢

EXAMINE THE RECORD— GOSPEL OF MARK THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Marilyn Kunz and Catherine Schell

Studies in the Gospels of Mark and the Acts, to be used in Bible studies.

Each 95¢

THE NURSING HOME VISITOR

Frances A. Faunce

A handbook of insights and suggestions for those who visit the elderly.

186 pages, Each \$2.45

SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY TO THE RETARDED

Elmer Towns and Roberta Groff

This offers professional, practical help for the Christian education of a neglected but reachable group of people. Workable programs are spelled out.

144 pages, Each \$2.25

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY MANUAL

Clara Picirilli

Each 75¢

Teacher's Guide, WA Manual

Brenda Spruill

Each 25¢

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY ASSOCIATIONAL MANUAL

Clara Picirilli

Each 50¢

MISSION STUDY CHAIRMAN'S GUIDE

Cleo Pursell

Each 50¢

MISSION PRAYER CHAIRMAN'S GUIDE

Cleo Pursell

Each 50¢

MISSION ACTION CHAIRMAN'S GUIDE

Cleo Pursell

Each \$1.00



FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

SCOTCH LOVE

Heddy Chapman

An inspiring autobiography of a Free Will Baptist woman who has weathered the adversities of pain and suffering as a result of arthritis. It is a warm and tender story of marital love and faith in God.

Each \$3.75



“QUOTES”

“FROM WNAC”

“EMPHASIS”

“MONTH NOTES”

The Woman's Auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Chester, South Carolina, had their WNAC Emphasis Month program on Sunday evening. "The program was most enlightening and helped the other members to know just what our Auxiliary is doing," writes secretary Pauline Carter. "The Lord has really blessed this Auxiliary with eight new members... You can really feel the Spirit of the Lord in our meetings... inclosed you will find our offering for \$44.00."

Lucy Williams, Strawberry, Arkansas, writes that their emphasis program was conducted before preaching services on a Sunday night. "The program was enjoyed by all and it informed non-members about the work of our woman's Auxiliary. We had previously given the offering folders to the members and then we also gave the audience an opportunity to give. When the folders were all returned and the offering totaled, they had \$51.00—the best response we have ever had for the emphasis program!"

Annie Talton, Garner, N.C., said they used the Sunday school assembly time for their emphasis observance. They had a good program and the offering exceeded \$55.00.

Bubbling with enthusiasm, Carolyn Hays of the Woodlawn Auxiliary, Russellville, Arkansas, writes: "We had our Emphasis program in August. Our offering was \$43.18 and we gained two new members. Thank God for the new members!"

With great faith, the women of the Wooddale Woman's Auxiliary, Knoxville, Tennessee, set \$500 as their goal for the WNAC general fund... and they reached it according to Elsie Staten, pastor's wife.

Bobbie Beasley, president of the Birmingham, Alabama, Woman's Auxiliary reports a good program with an offering of \$55.00. Bethel Auxiliary, Festus, Missouri, a generous \$104.64. There were many others—too numerous to mention—who gave generously that WNAC might continue to provide local, district and state Auxiliary organizations with the services, literature, and other helps they need for another year.

We are now looking forward to the 1974 offerings. This has been called the "year of the squeeze." With spiraling costs in every area, WNAC is more dependent than ever upon our women to support our national office. We know you will not fail! Our goal for this years offerings is \$12,000.

Then the Lord said...

"Why Don't You Get Up and Pray for Her?"

by Helen Garnett Mark

I HAD BEEN ASKED to speak at a certain mission, and its superintendent arranged to drive me there. As I stepped into his car, he introduced me to a middle-aged woman sitting in the back seat.

Her only response to my greeting was a sullen grunt and a cold nod. After making several unsuccessful attempts at conversation, I gave up and fell into a puzzled silence. Shortly, the superintendent let her out at a neat little house and said good night, but she walked off into the darkness without a word.

"She seems so unhappy," I ventured. "Is she sick?"

"Yes," he replied, "but not physically. Her mind is very sick. She's my sister."

It seemed incredible that a man so bubbling over with Scottish wit and spiritual exuberance could claim such a relationship. He began to explain:

"She won't eat, she can't sleep. I've had her to the doctor for a thorough checkup, and he says there is nothing organically wrong. But she is so depressed that, frankly, I'm afraid of what she might do."



"Isn't she a Christian?" I asked. "What has happened to her?"

His reply came slowly. "At one time she was a happy Christian, but she married an ungodly man. They have a fine boy, sixteen years old. After all these years her husband has suddenly left her and gone off with another woman. Now she is without a home, a husband, or any means of support.

"I brought her and the boy to the city and found rooms for them at that little house. It isn't very comfortable, but it was the best we could do. If only she would cheer up and be herself! I'm sure the situation isn't hopeless."

"You're right," I said pensively. "The entry of Christ can change the darkest picture. But my heart aches for her."

"Keep my secret," the superintendent said as we parted. "I wish you'd join me in prayer."

That night I lay awake and the words of Psalm 139, verses three through five, kept running through my mind. Again and again my thoughts went back to the suffering woman I had met. She, too, was probably lying sleepless, but with a mind full of bitter thoughts rather than thoughts of Christ. Then it seemed as if the Lord said to me, "Why don't you get up and pray for her?"

While I prayed, the voice seemed to say, "Do something about it. Ask her for lunch tomorrow, and talk and pray with her."

I argued, "But I don't know the woman; perhaps I'd be guilty of prying. Tomorrow is a very full day for me, and anyway she probably won't come."

By morning, however, the decision was made to obey what seemed to be the voice of the Holy Spirit. I telephoned the superintendent about my plan, asking how I could contact his sister.

"There's a phone in her house," he

replied, "but I'm afraid she won't accept your invitation."

As I was about to call her, I was interrupted by a neighbor's visit, and it was eleven o'clock before I was able to place the call.

"I couldn't sleep last night for thinking about you," I said. "Your brother told me a little about your trouble. I spent part of the night in prayer for you. God loves you and really cares. I believe he wanted me to ask you over today. Will you have lunch with me?"

For a few moments there was no reply. Then she said slowly, "I think I will, but I don't know where you live."

I arranged to meet her at the post office at 12:45, after my children had finished their lunch and gone back to school. With eager fingers the table was laid and the preparation made. Just as I was putting on my coat, the telephone rang. It was my friend the superintendent.

"I'm sorry," he said brokenly, "but my sister will not be able to come. I'll explain later when I see you at the prayer meeting."

The message was so final, yet so frustrating in its brevity, that I felt flat. Had I been self-deluded into thinking I was led by the Lord? If it were all a mistake, then how could one ever be sure of being led about anything?

That evening my friend told me what had happened. "You saved my sister's life today. After you called me at work about asking her for lunch, I couldn't put her out of my mind, so shortly after eleven o'clock I drove to her home, hoping to persuade her to visit you."

"I found her in a heap on the bed, convulsed with sobs. She was wearing her coat and hat. I could get nothing coherent out of her."

"Then I discovered a note on the table, addressed to me. It was to the effect that she was saying goodbye and

going to throw herself in the river. She asked me to take care of the boy, and thanked me for what I had tried to do. That was all."

"As I sat on the bed beside her, the sobs began to subside. She even managed a wistful smile. Then the story came out."

"She had just finished writing the note, placed it on the table, and was putting on her hat and coat when she suddenly caught sight of herself in the mirror. She took a long, hard look, then said aloud, 'If God cared anything about what happens to you, he could stop your doing this. If God loved you, he could find some way to let you know that he cares.'"

"At that moment the landlady called up the stairs to say that she was wanted on the phone. She didn't want to see or talk to anyone, but scarcely knew how to avoid it. Then she picked up the receiver and heard a stranger's voice saying, 'I want you to come and have lunch with me . . . God loves you and cares what happens.'"

"All the tension of the past weeks was suddenly broken. The floodgates were opened and she sobbed her way back to God."

That was the end of the brother's story, but only the beginning for his sister.

She was later given some beneficial treatment by a Christian psychiatrist. Her boy secured a job and attended night school. They made a new home together with Christ at the center.

The woman regained twenty pounds and her winning smile. Today her testimony is: "Thou knowest my thoughts afar off and art acquainted with all my ways. Thou hast beset me behind and before and laid thine hand upon me . . . marvelous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well."

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by Gertrude Cantrell

"And He called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? Give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward . . . If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the *true riches*?" "And if you have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?" (Luke 16:2, 11, 12).

I think one of the first and *hardest* lessons a person should learn, especially those in God's service, is to make the fullest use possible of what we have. When God asked Moses "What is that in thine hand?" Moses said, "a rod," and God said "Cast it on the ground." In other words *use it!* If that's all you have, use it willingly and wisely, and God will bless and multiply it!

I'm afraid the younger generation doesn't know the full meaning of what older people knew as "making do." Making new things out of old, substituting one thing for another, how to salvage the good from the bad. The old adages like "waste not, want not," "A

penny saved is a penny earned," and other similar sayings fall on deaf ears. Living in a land of plenty, its impossible for some to imagine what it means to really *be in need*. The poorest person we've likely come in contact with is still "living in luxury," compared to our forefathers.

On a farm one had to realize that nothing was ever past some use. If one

How Is Your Stewardship?

did not learn this important lesson on the limited income one had they suffered, not only they themselves, but their loved ones and those around them. Today's ecologists have nothing on the farmers wife of a few years ago (and I dare say even some now) on *recycling!* Clothes were repaired, remade, handed down and made over, scraps were made into quilts, aprons, or pot holders. When past all of these uses, they were torn in strips and braided or hooked into a rug. Left-over foods (if there were any) were used in soups, stews, and casseroles and all other leftovers fed the dogs, chickens, or pigs. Nothing was *wasted*.

Now I'm not advocating or even suggesting that we go back to that, but really, are we good stewards of what God gives us? If we made better use of what we have, wouldn't we have more to give those who through no neglect on their part, have nothing at all? Haven't we become so pleasure conscious that now instead of *one* of everything we want *several*? Each family wants two, maybe three, cars, two or three TV sets, radios in every room, closets full of clothes. We discard things, even furniture, not because they are worn but because they are the wrong color or style. We buy new cars just to get a later model. Instead of repairing something we

throw it away and get a new one. Instead of saying "God has been good to me, what can I do for others?" we tend to think "I've got mine, let them get theirs!"

Christ said "Let every man work with his hands that we may have to give to others (*to him that needeth*)" (Ephesians 4:28). "And he that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none: and he that hath meat, let him do likewise" (Luke 3:11).

We are not to labor only so we can accumulate more and more ourselves. Sometimes we're so busy accumulating "earthly" treasures, that we don't have time to think of "spiritual" treasures. And sometimes, I'm afraid, we surround ourselves with such comfort and beauty that we don't want to leave it to even go to Heaven. We're content right where we are and can't imagine that Heaven could be any better than what we have.

We are admonished "not to lay up treasures here on earth, for where your treasure is there will your heart be also." Did you notice the scripture said "your" treasure? Everybodys "treasure" is not the same thing. To some its a *shiny automobile*, to others a *fine home*, to others *fancy clothes*, to others a *good time*, to others *popularity*.

Just because one doesn't own a home or have a bank account doesn't mean they are not laying up treasures on earth! We're to be good stewards of whatever we have, possessions or talents.

College students, young missionaries and young ministers, are you "making do"? Especially those who are being helped and financed by others, do you realize you are an "investment" and how you "pay off" depends on you? Do you use finances given you to best further you spiritually, realizing the money given to you could have been to help *others* spread the Gospel? Do you make the most of what you have so that money can be better spent on

what you don't have? Do you keep your wardrobe in its best condition by proper laundering, mending and use? Are you wasteful foodwise? How about your transportation? Do you give it proper care, keep it in good condition and use it wisely so it will give the most trouble free service? Are you careful of all your possessions to get the most possible use out of them, or do you lose and misuse them?

Perhaps you say "well, I don't *ask* anyone for anything." Are you sure? There are more ways to "ask" for something than by words. If by looks or actions you seem to be in need, others are under command to come to your need. "But whoso hath this worlds goods and *seeth* his brother have need and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him how dwelleth the love of God in him?" So if you are in need by your own neglect you are taking God's money under false pretenses, money that could have gone for better use somewhere else in God's service to reach someone who has *never* heard about Christ. Have you begun to "count" or "expect" help from others that all your wishes will be met? Are you appreciative of the sacrifices others make for you? Remember that they could have kept the money and used it for extras or "wants" and "wishes" of their own.

We are admonished to owe no man anything but love, so unless we utilize our asserts to their fullest, we must realize we have a stewardship to account for. To our fellowman, for the investment they made in us, the trust they placed in us, and the love and concern they showed. But more important, let us not forget the accounting to God when He says "Give an account of thy stewardship, for thou mayest be no longer steward."

Mrs. Cantrell is a member of the Woman's Auxiliary of Bell Gardens, California.

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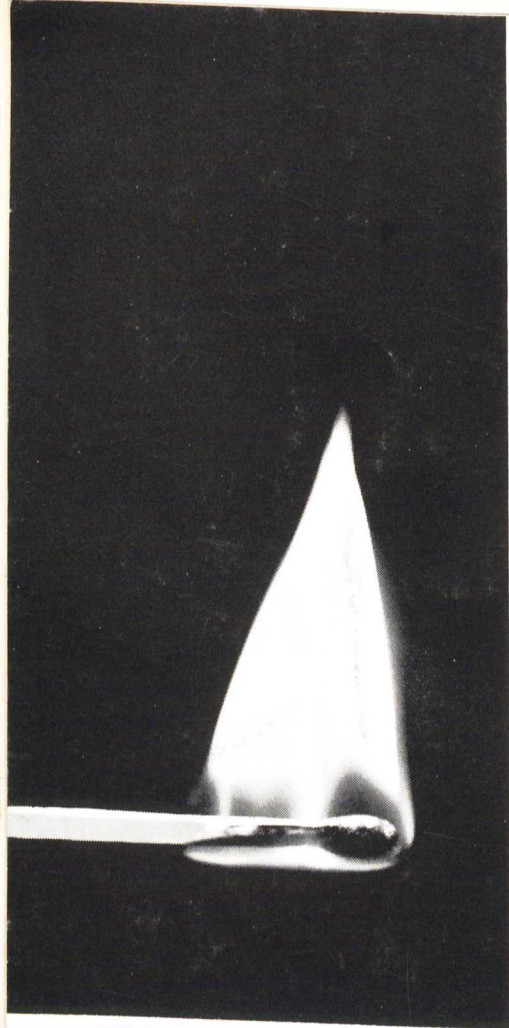
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