

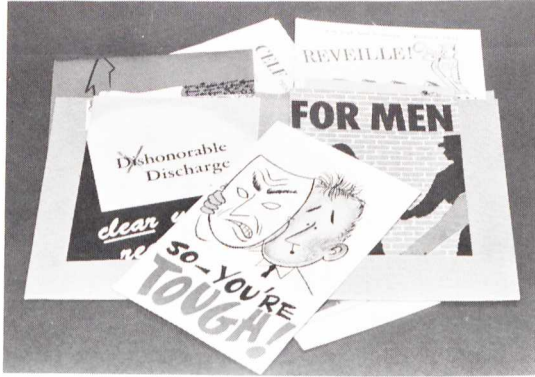
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Co-Laborer

April—May—June 1975

Serviceman's Pack



Its purpose is to encourage the serviceman in his walk with God.

Includes:

- * Copy of *Reveille*, clever pamphlet for Servicemen
- * Information about Free Will Baptist Chaplains
- * Various leaflets and pamphlets which show how to live an active Christian life in the Service.
- * Serviceman's change of address card

Each Pack 30¢ plus postage

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P.O. Box 1088
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Co-Laborer

April—May—June 1975

Volume XV Number 2



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Armed Forces

Cleo W. Pursell, Editor

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Women In Action

Children's Home Shower

Members of the Woman's Auxiliary of Calvary Church, Georgetown, South Carolina, held a shower in honor of the children of Turbeville, South Carolina. Contributions and gifts were evaluated at \$71.00

Oklahoma State Convention

"Because of Him" was the theme of the Oklahoma Auxiliary convention which convened October 22, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. President Floretta Rhodes presided.

Missionary Shirley Combs, Brazil, brought the key message. Other speakers included Helen Chaffin, Rosemarie Lafoon, Marguerite Hinesley, and WNAC executive secretary Cleo Pursell.

Oklahoma women contributed more than \$17,000 to missions and missionary objectives last year.



Sacrificial Giving

Mrs. Audrey Bigelow, president of the Greater Kansas City, Missouri District Woman's Auxiliary led the group in an unusual sacrificial missions offering for missionary Lynn Miley.

For four weeks the women sacrificed things they really enjoyed: new clothes, a visit to the beauty salon, a night out, cokes, desserts, long distance telephone calls, etc.

One woman had wanted a certain chandelier for a long time. Finally it went on sale but she was impressed to give the money to missions instead of buying it. (Not wanting a *discount* blessing, she gave the full price!)

Although the district only has six small auxiliaries the gifts totaled almost \$1,400. The women are still rejoicing because of abundant blessings received through sacrificial giving.

Tennessee State

The Tennessee Woman's Auxiliary met November 12, at Kingsport with president Marjorie Workman in charge. The program theme, "Outfitted for His Service," was carried out in a skit presented by members of the Union District. State missionaries to Crossville, were honored by a surprise clothing shower.

Missionaries to the Ivory Coast, Robert and Judy Bryan, were speakers for the morning worship hour and the fellowship dinner respectively. Registration was 135.

Missions project for this year is \$1,500 to purchase return tickets for the Robert Bryans.

Georgia State

Mrs. Eleanor Sheffield presided over the Georgia State Auxiliary, November 14, in Valdosta. State missionary Buddy Morris, Statesboro, spoke on the theme, "Walk in Truth." Nelda Williams and Eloise Wainwright brought devotions. Registration was 170.

A tri-state Spring retreat was planned. The state project for 1975 is \$6.00 per member for state missionaries.

Missouri State

"Happiness is . . . John 13:17" was the theme of the Missouri Auxiliary Convention which convened in August at Thayer. President Sandi Smith presided. Shower gifts were presented to the Lynn Mileys, missionaries to the Ivory Coast. Lynn spoke at the morning service and the banquet.

Mississippi State

The third Mississippi State Woman's Auxiliary Convention met November 8,

1974, in the First Church, Tupelo. Elizabeth Gibson presided. Missionary Margaret Merkh spoke on "Happiness is the Lord . . . in France." Mrs. Merkh also spoke at the evening banquet.

A missions service was conducted by Dan Merkh with Rev. J. L. Gore, state moderator directing.

Home Missions Project

Auxiliary treasurer, Estelle Tash, of the First Free Will Baptist, Anderson, Indiana, presented the Rev. Robert Wood with a check for \$300, representing a yearly pledge of \$25 a month support to the home missions project in Dalton, Georgia.



Active Group

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Arbor Grove Church, Hoxie, Arkansas, sponsors a monthly radio program for their church. They also tithe their monthly offerings to help WNAC's Provision Closet.



RETREATS

Carolina-Virginia. Presbyterian Point Camp, November 1-2, 1974. Speaker, Trula Cronk.

California. October 25-26 at Woodlake Navigators Camp. Theme: "Who Am I?" Registration was 108.

Michigan. October 11-13, at the Waldenwoods resort and conference center. Involved seminars for successful living and working, speakers for spiritual guidance, and social activities.

Mississippi. September 6-7, at Camp Morganwood Youth Camp. Registration was 51. Speakers included missionary Shirley Combs, Brazil.

South Carolina. Eighty-three women enjoyed a retreat September 27-28, at Garden City Chapel. Rev. Hal Norton and missionary to Ivory Coast, Sherwood Lee, were guest speakers.

Ohio. September 27, in Mansfield. The theme, "The Great Physician," was carried out through songs, skits, and speakers.

Emphasis Program

Members of the Mount Olive Woman's Auxiliary, Plymouth, N.C., presented the annual WNAC Emphasis Program before the church in August. "A Missionary Arm has Many Hands" was given by, left to right, Irene Rollins, Delores Knott, Myrtle Ange, Vera Ange, and Olivia Wynne.



Money Corsages

Members of the Woman's Auxiliary of Graysville, Alabama, present missionary Wanda Powell with a \$15 corsage made of money. Mrs. Powell spoke of missions work in Puerto Rico.



TUPPERWARE SHOWERS



Woman's Auxiliary, Purcell, Oklahoma



Woman's Auxiliary, Cleveland Ohio



Woman's Auxiliary, Decatur, Georgia.





Co-Laborers Write

I am so thankful for the new excitement that our ladies are experiencing here at Parsley Bottom. Our people are tops when it comes to loving the Lord and wanting to do . . . I'm so "sold out" on our *Co-Laborer* that I want our ladies to love it as I do. I need at least 12 more to give to some of our ladies that are not active.

*Jeanette Street
Levore, West Virginia*

Woman's Auxiliary fills a place in each of our lives that other areas of the church do not. We find that we are doing a job no one else can do because God has called us to do it.

We look forward to our meeting each month . . . We thoroughly enjoyed the program by Rita Wenning. Two of our ladies gave inspiring talks as to how God had dealt with their hearts just by presenting these topics to us. God bless you at the WNAC office, you are doing a terrific job.

*Carolyn Thompson
Bethany Church
Hazelhurst, Georgia*

Thank you so very much for the work you are doing. We enjoy your materials. We pray God's blessing on each of you.

*Mrs. Gene Outland
Durham, North Carolina*

Please increase our *Co-Laborer* order to 30 . . . Our Auxiliary has doubled in size recently for which we praise God. Also continue our Program Packet for the coming year. It is certainly helpful.

*Jessie Hufford
Farmington, Missouri*

Increase our order for *Co-Laborer* Magazine to 25. Also send program packets each quarter . . . Woman's Auxiliary is a blessing to us here on Baldwin Avenue. We have been working for the Lord for over 25 years and it gets sweeter all the time. Our aim is that more women would realize the value of being a part of the Auxiliary and working to promote the up-building of missions.

*Beulah Brooks
Marion, North Carolina*

Send us any new literature concerning helping the missionaries—who they are, projects for us, anything to help us to be a better part of the WNAC . . . Please continue to send the Program Packet. The ideas are invaluable. I am amazed at where the ideas come from—so simple and yet so catchy. Thank you!

*Louise Horner
E. Wenatchee, Washington*

We thank you for the *Co-Laborer* and also thank the National Association of Free Will Baptists for this church in St. Croix where I found Jesus Christ as my Savior . . . and now almost my entire family are Christians!

Sharon C. Trefry
Christiansted, Virgin Islands

We have about 15 women on our roll but have several more who do not pay dues to the auxiliary but are very active in its work. Our church has just finished building a new sanctuary . . . Our auxiliary has purchased a new piano and we are buying new hymn books for the church.

Helen Kirk
McAlester, Oklahoma

Our retreat in September was very good from a *practical* point of view. Our "clinic" diagnosed a few of our Auxiliaries' illnesses and prescribed remedies. I believe every woman there could have gleaned at least a few ideas she could use in her own auxiliary. And Joy Jones was with us also—she was great.

Brenda Evans
Kansas City, Missouri

The members of the First Free Will Baptist Church truly enjoy the *Co-Laborer*. The programs are getting better each book we receive.

Rosemary Tillman
Wichita, Kansas

Our organizational meeting exceeded my expectations in attendance. Would you please send me four more *Co-Laborers*. I would also like to have a *Program Packet* as they are so helpful.

Gloria Floyd
Patrick, South Carolina

We are happy to report that our Jones Chapel Woman's Auxiliary is picking up considerably. We thank God for this.

Eulene Hooper
Booneville, Mississippi

Thank you for the wonderful programs that we have been studying in our auxiliary books. Keep up the wonderful work.

Freda Powell
Cottondale, Florida

We find the Program Packet makes our meetings more interesting.

Birdie Massey
Mountain Hope, West Virginia

We have just re-organized our auxiliary and need your prayers for a spirit filled auxiliary doing the Lord's work. We appreciate the wonderful lessons and articles in the *Co-Laborer*.

Betty M. Anderson
Porterville, California

The Provision Closet that the Woman's Auxiliaries provide for their missionaries is truly a great asset to us. It not only aids us in our household needs, but it also gives us the assurance that people are behind us and praying for us and all our needs.

I was fortunate to be able to belong to and take part in a Woman's Auxiliary before coming out to New Mexico. The Auxiliary is a great outreach for the ladies of the church. They not only serve their church and focus themselves towards missions but they also show others Christian love by working in their neighborhood and community.

Thank you and the ladies of our denomination for the lovely things provided in the Provision Closet.

Linda and Edd Green
Clovis, New Mexico



Gideon's Army

*Gideon's Army needs
some Deborahs!*

"Operation Partnership," a campaign designed to pay off the indebtedness on the National Office Building has been launched.

The goal is to raise \$150,000 by July, 1976, when the National Association meets in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Dr. J. D. O'Donnell is the campaign coordinator of Gideon's Army.

The Woman's Auxiliary has been asked to help in this campaign. Your executive secretary has contacted 50 key women and asked them to enlist 10 Auxiliaries or individuals who will pledge \$5.00 monthly for 10 months or a total of \$50.00.

When you are contacted by these women please give the matter prayerful consideration. Your gifts will benefit each of the departments now housed in the national Office Building. It will relieve them of the monthly obligation of paying off this indebtedness in the form of a note over the next ten years.

The Lord Did It!

Volena Wilson, former missionary to India, narrowly escaped serious injury in December. Her car hit an icy patch on the street and plunged down a 35 foot embankment. She prayed, "Lord, please, please stop the car." The car stopped about two or three feet from the bottom. There wasn't a scratch on

the car and Volena was not injured.

The man who drove the wrecker car said, "I want to know just one thing. How did you get that car stopped?" "I prayed and the Lord did it," Volena responded. "Isn't that just like our Lord!"

Thank You Ladies

"We never have had so much help since we came out and food is so expensive there too," wrote Marie Hanna from India.

She expressed appreciation for the lovely food parcels sent by Woman's Auxiliaries. It took six to eleven months for some of the parcels to arrive.

The Hannas plan to return to the states in June or July so please do not send any more packages as there will be no one there to receive them.

Medical Assistance

Medical Assistance Program (MAP) has supplied the hospital in the Ivory Coast with thousands of dollars worth of drugs, vitamins, hospital supplies and equipment at minimal costs.

The medical mission work of all voluntary agencies has been severely handicapped by the Internal Revenue Code legislation of 1969. Medicines which have been donated by corporations in the past are now being curtailed since they are no longer allowed tax deductions for such donations.

You can help! Send to MAP, Box 50, Wheaton, Illinois 60187 and request quantities of a sample letter to be sent to your congressmen. The letter encourages passage of bills HR2808 and HR5491 which would help make this deduction possible. Give out these letters and urge people to mail them.

Send one letter to the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and the other to your own Congressman.

Robirds



Kimbrel



Who's Who in This Issue



Wisheart



Wampler



Hays

Don Robirds served as missionary to Brazil for more than six years. He is now Director of Communications for Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions, Nashville, and editor of *Heartbeat*.

Shirley Kimbrel is missions study chairman in the Women's Auxiliary of the Bellview Church, Colquitt, Georgia. She is the mother of two children, Bruce and Leigh Ann.

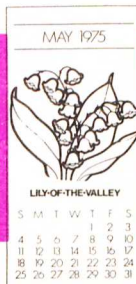
Mary Ruth Wisheart is professor of English and Literature at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville. She also serves as field worker for both Tennessee Woman's Auxiliary and the Cumberland District.

Louise Wampler is a member of the Mt. Calvary Woman's Auxiliary, Perryman, Maryland. Her husband is a deacon and she has two children, Becky and Steve. Mrs. Wampler's article was awarded second place in WNAC's 1974 Creative Writing Contest.

Carolyn Hays' article won third place in WNAC's Creative Writing Contest. She is the mother of two daughters, ages 17 and 11. She is treasurer of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Woodlawn Church, Russellville, Arkansas, and has served as field worker of the Antioch District.

PRAYER GROUPS

by Earline Arthur



APRIL

More Than Just
A Phone Call

Every working day of the year, the telephones in the foreign missions department ring busily. But there's a special day when those ringing phones mean more than normal inquiries. Another unique thing is that these calls don't come on an ordinary working day. This special day is an annual event—Call-a-thon Sunday.

This year Call-a-thon is set for Sunday, April 20. The home office staff will be on hand to receive reports of Call-a-thon offerings from churches throughout the country as they participate in this special thrust for foreign missions.

But what is Call-a-thon, and how did it all begin?

As I understand it, this special thrust came about as the result of a brainstorm by General Director J. Reford Wilson. Apparently inspired by a number of nationally televised telethons designed to raise money for various charitable organizations such as March of Dimes and the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, Mr. Wilson caught a vision of our churches united nationwide in a similar effort to enlist support for special pressing foreign missions needs.

But a number of our churches

already had a special missions emphasis time and regularly supported all phases of foreign missions operations. What novel approach might be used to further challenge their involvement?

There did seem to be one group with a great potential, that was normally not involved on a regular basis in foreign missions support. That group? Our Sunday schools—one of the most successful of all church programs.

And so the effort began to inform our churches and challenge our Sunday schools to give their offering to foreign missions on this special Sunday. To add a touch of excitement and so that a projected amount could be recorded immediately, our pastors or Sunday school superintendents were asked to call the foreign missions office between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. in their time zone on the designated Sunday.

Since its inception, Call-a-thon funds have been used for a variety of needs. In the beginning, the monies were applied toward deficit accounts. Since then a number of special projects have bene-

Earline Arthur, pastor's wife, Twin Mountain, N H., formerly served as a secretary and editorial assistant in the Foreign Missions Department, Nashville.



fited from this thrust.

Unless you have the unique opportunity that I had to work on several Call-a-thon Sundays, you can't know the blessing it is to take calls from churches—large and small—from the Northeast to southern California. Some offerings are quite small—less than ten dollars—and others amount to several hundred dollars. But the thrill comes from seeing our people in a united effort to meet a special need.

Encourage your pastor and Sunday school officials to promote Call-a-thon in your church.

Prayer Requests

Pray for a good response on Call-a-thon Sunday.

Pray for the summer missionaries who will be serving on different fields this summer.

Continue praying for the Africans who have received copies of the Koulango New Testament, that they will understand and accept the Word.

Pray for the Frank Cousineaus as they complete the building in Billings, Montana, and make plans to begin a day care program.

Pray for The Joe Englands as they work to complete their auditorium above the present basement facilities in Crossville, Tennessee. Pray for the Leland Hortons as they sell church bonds to finance the purchase of church property in Des Moines, Iowa.



MAY

**The Search
for Knowledge**

function as people, to relate to the people and circumstances that surround us. We grow from learning, like a plant pushing its roots downward in search of water and its leaves upward in search of sun. With few exceptions, we are what we know.

The smallest infant learns quickly to communicate his needs. A hungry tummy, a wet diaper, a desire to be cuddled—all these can bring on a cry of distress from a newborn. And as soon as the need is satisfied, peace is restored.

A toddler learns bits and pieces of words and is soon able to express well what he wants or needs. My little boy has just reached this stage, and it's sometimes difficult to distinguish the words from the "jabber." But there exists between a mother and child a peculiar type of communication. That, too, is a special degree of learning.

And so it continues throughout our lives. God gives us each a unique ability and endows each person with the necessary skills to accomplish His will for our lives. He gives us a diverse range of interests to enable us to pursue varied life professions. And He expects us to develop our minds to their greatest potential. Proverbs 2:6 tells us, "For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."

During this month when graduations occur, let us each renew ourselves to our search for knowledge and understanding. Not only should we take advantage of each opportunity to expand our intellectual abilities, but to develop more fully our spiritual understanding. To deepen our spiritual perception and relationship to God is the ultimate knowledge and wisdom. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God . . ." (Matthew 6:33).

Prayer Requests

Pray for the young women and men who will graduate from high school,

From our very birth, each experience of life is a learning process. We learn to

college or other learning institutions and for God's guidance in their lives.

A number of foreign missions appointees will be completing Missionary Internship this month. Pray for their further steps in preparation for service overseas.

Pray for the annual meetings of the Foreign and Home Mission Boards which will be held this month.

Pray for Sam and June Wilkinson who will be coming to the States for furlough.

Pray for a doctor to work with Dr. Miley at the hospital and clinic in Doropo, Ivory Coast.

Pray for the Harley Bennetts as they do deputation work to raise their support to go to Pocatello, Idaho.

Pray for the Bobby Beavers as they begin a new work in Grand Prairie, Texas as Joint Project workers.

Pray for the Larry Russells that God will provide needed land and a building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



JUNE

Solitude

Have you ever wanted to just get away from it all—your family, your friends, your daily responsibilities? Within each of us there lies dormant the need to be completely alone, to escape into a private world where we can sort out ourselves and come to know who we really are. And there comes a time in each of our lives that this need comes to the surface.

It is good to be alone at times. We need our family, our church activities, our jobs and work. But in the hurry-up world we live in today, our lives move so fast we barely have time to realize what is happening, much less to evaluate its effect on us and to decide what is

best for us. As a pastor's wife, I am involved in many church-related activities each week. And I know many of you are, too. After several weeks of nearly daily church attendance, along with other varied responsibilities including a very active toddler, I feel like I'm spinning wildly on a merry-go-round.

I turn to God's Word and find that Matthew 6:6 teaches us to quietly enter a closet and pray to our Father in secret. So in these times of stress, I break away for an hour or two to visit alone with God. I can pour out my soul to Him, then relax and feel His healing balm soothing and renewing my tired spirit. As children of God, we can seek His face and the glory of His countenance brightens our lives.

I have heard Christ referred to as a "solitary" man. And what man ever knew himself or his life's purpose better? Perhaps this, too, was a part of his living example for us.

Prayer Requests

Pray for the Mayhews as they return for another term of service in Ivory Coast.

Sherwood and Vada Lee return to the Ivory Coast this summer, where Sherwood and Sandra Payne will carry on the work at the medical clinic while Dr. Miley is home on furlough.

Pray for safe travel and physical renewal for the following families who are to come home on furlough this summer: Carlisle Hanna, Tom Willey, Jr., Molly Barker, Dr. LaVerne Miley, Wesley Calvery, and Don Sexton.

Pray for the Fred McCoys as they are doing itinerant work during their furlough that needed support will be raised.

Pray for the Gary Watsons as they begin our second work on the island of Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands.

Pray for the Robert Woods and the new work begun in Dalton, Georgia.

April Program
Don Robirds



Relighting Lamps In Europe

Purpose: *To show that Europe, where the gospel once burned brightly, is one of the neediest mission fields in the world. "No place is as dark as where the light has gone out."*

Song: "Send the Light"

Scriptures: *John 1:4-5; Matthew 5:14*

See Program Help Packet

WINDING MY WAY down through that opening in the ground into the darkness below, I had no idea what I was to encounter within the hour. The winding pathway had been well prepared and lighted for tourists such as I. The guide reminded us how the caverns (Carlsbad Caverns, Carlsbad, New Mexico) were discovered. He gave various data concerning the caverns themselves and told us we would wind up more than a mile below the earth's surface.

Pausing, the guide made a safety announcement. Then came that moment I had never dreamed of—that reality which I could never have suspected. The lights were suddenly turned off. *Darkness! Darkness such as I had never known before. The total absence of light!* I have never experienced it since. But I now know that this utter darkness is in reality comparable to the darkness in a soul without Jesus Christ.

Yes, this darkness marks the emptiness of men. It measures the sinfulness of nations and it manifests the lack of light available through Jesus Christ and His message of hope.

The Light Europe Had

Europe once held this light. The Christian Church and its movement was first initiated in Jerusalem during the first century. The Apostle Paul had carried the gospel to southern Europe by the middle of the century. His second and third missionary journeys

took him to Greece (known then as Macedonia). He went into Italy on his last journey. But the gospel had already spread into Italy because Christian brethren met Paul on his arrival. Very possibly Paul preached the gospel in Spain as well (Romans 15:24, 28).

European Christianity blazed the trail of faith as the message echoed forth and eventually reached America's shores. It was from the heart of Europe that reformation fires burned in the sixteenth century to pave the way for spiritual revival and the rise of Protestantism.

But today those fires are out in Europe or at best they are only smoldering in a few nooks and crannies. Their lamps are out! The light has turned to darkness. And where the light has gone out, the darkness appears even darker than ever.

Over the past two or three centuries Europe has lain, almost the forgotten land. Perhaps the reason lay in the fact that she once had known the truth. Possibly we have tended to think that her civilization marked her as "Christian" as well. Being largely classified as "Catholic" also has made the road difficult at times.

The Catholic Church

Certainly the rise of the State church, when Constantine ended persecution in the fourth century, played a real part in the darkening effect on Europe. Thousands joined the church without genuine conversion. Dignity was given the church. While outwardly the church flourished and prospered, inwardly it became spiritually weak, decayed and corrupt.

This corrupted church is what we know in our day as the Roman Catholic church. It's corrupted beliefs are many: infallible Pope, use of graven images, exaltation of Peter and Mary, legends, relics, saints, holy days, etc. And the church's dominance of the thinking

process has kept the people in basic ignorance. They came to believe they could be saved through the ritual of the church, and in doing good works. The church became the final authority rather than the Word of God.

This domination of the religious thought by the state-connected church has kept evangelical Christianity from having the liberty to evangelize, etc. Protestants number only 800,000 in all of France which has a total population of 52.3 million. And yet, it is estimated that only 21 percent of the 46 million Catholics actually practice their faith. On the other hand, fewer than five percent of German Protestants worship regularly.

Whatever the reason for our neglect in the past, although it has been called by some a "post-Christian society," today we are once again looking at Europe as a needy mission field. Yes, indeed, it is a continent of darkness, needing the Light. Her lamps need to be relighted.

The New Challenge

Several mission organizations have accepted the challenge to enter these regions of darkness. New sparks of light are now beginning to be seen in various parts of Europe. Italy has a growing Christian community in spite of the strong opposition of Catholic forces in days gone by. The church in Czechoslovakia is flourishing even though continued efforts are made to stop it. Underground evangelism is being fruitful within Russia, Yugoslavia, Turkey and Poland.

According to a recent report in *Christianity Today*, the past three years have brought with them "a growing movement of spiritual renewal and growth among the churches in Romania." Reports indicate some church services continue for three to four hours with buildings packed. Large numbers

of young people are attending these meetings.

Baptist and Pentecostal lay leaders in Romania disclosed that spiritual revival is surging everywhere, touching even the Orthodox Church. Thousands of persons were baptized last year and large numbers this year as well. Until recently churches had been forbidden to baptize young people and persons not members of church families.

While relaxing of control appears on the one hand, restrictions of liberties are evident on the other. Along with this, a campaign for atheism over God, the Bible and the church, has been launched in the universities. Still, the church continues to grow!

Free Will Baptists in France

France has become a tremendous challenge to Free Will Baptists as God has opened great doors of evangelism to missionaries in the past four years. Two churches are flourishing and many new preaching points have sprung up in northwestern France, an area where little or no prior evangelical work had been done. Cities of 300,000 to 500,000 population have had no gospel witness—until now.

Opportunities to preach have opened faster than the supply of personnel to do so. New missionaries have been appointed and others have been approved for internship training. Still, needs are pressing.

Germany is once again being touched with sparks from the gospel flames. East Germany is especially noted as a country with a rising evangelical community. The American Bible Society recently indicated more Bibles and Scripture portions are being distributed in East Germany than in any other Communist-bloc state.

Prospective missionary candidates have expressed desire to begin work in West Germany. A Christian businessman

in Germany wrote recently that he is witnessing and seeking to win souls but he needs official permission to represent the mission society there in order to continue his witness. This is another spark to rekindle the fire in the country that gave birth to the Reformation led by Martin Luther.

The New Effort in Spain

Spain has been increasingly open to gospel witness. In 1967, non-Catholics in Spain were granted religious freedom. This had not existed since 1939. In 1974, Spain's evangelicals staged the first Iberian Congress on Evangelization for some 1,000 participants representing the country's 500 congregations and 35,000 evangelical believers—a first for Spain. Free Will Baptist missionaries Lonnie and Anita Sparks along with Dock and Norma Caton have accepted the challenge and are now in Spain studying the Spanish language. Others have indicated their intentions to enter this land in the near future.

Several evangelical groups have been working in Europe for a number of years, and some for decades. But an increasing number of mission societies and missionaries are looking toward Europe and the darkness that prevails. The greater European Mission, O.M.S. International, Christian Literature Crusades, Christian and Missionary Alliance, The Evangelical Alliance Mission and many other groups are becoming more and more involved in various countries throughout the European continent. And God is blessing their efforts to relight the lamps.

The Free Will Baptist Board of Foreign Missions is busy screening candidates and praying to the Lord of the Harvest in hopes that more and more missionaries might be employed to rekindle the fires and restore the light which has been out for so long.



The Christian Home - The Greatest Witness

Purpose: To show the importance of the home as a witness to the Light of Christ.

Song: "Let the Lower Lights be Burning"

Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

See Program Help Packet

SEEING THE multitudes, and with great love and compassion, our Lord withdrew and went out upon a mountain. Later, His disciples came to Him and He began to preach unto them. In this great sermon He said, "*Ye are the Light of the World.*" Light is beautiful because it is *something*. Darkness is *nothing*. Let us think of the Christian home as being a light because it has something to give to the world of darkness.

The Beginning
Of the Home



Marriage marks the beginning of the home which is the oldest institution.

It was divinely instituted by God during the creation (Genesis 1:26-28). It was also confirmed by Christ (Matthew 19:5-6).

After a couple is united in Holy Matrimony, they have the responsibility of building a home, and if they want to build the kind that will stand the storms of life, they will have to build upon the Solid Rock, Christ Jesus, who is the Light of the World. We thank God for homes which have chosen to build upon this foundation, and may they always shine in order to make Christ visible to a world lost in the darkness of sin.

The Building
Material of the Home



This Light, the Christian Home, is a priceless treasure because of the endurance of its building material found only in the Word of God.

Love is a very beautiful piece of material found within this Light. It is the most important piece because of its outreach. For example, we know where



Radiant Light

there is love there is faith. It is the greatest gift of life. The best description is found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. The Christian family is an example of this love and they know that it is the one business in which it pays to be a spendthrift.

Joy is another piece of material found in this Light. It is a feeling of happiness. The Christian family gets joy out of serving the Lord. David said, *"Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore"* (Psalm 16:11).

Contentment is found in this Light. Paul said, *"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee"* (Hebrews 13:5). The Christian family sees the need of keeping their faith and trust in the Lord. They take Him at His promise as they calmly accept things as they are.

Hope is also found in this beautiful Light. In this world of darkness, it would be easy for us to give up if it were not for that Blessed Hope which we have in Christ. Hope gives strength and courage and as someone has said, *"It scatters roses along the thorny pathway of life."*

All of the material which is found in this Light is joined together with much prayer and gratitude. The worth of a praying home is beyond measure! Many can recall the joyous experiences of childhood when they would gather around the piano with father and mother to sing songs of praise such as

"Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sweet Hour of Prayer

That calls me from a world of care."

Then the Word of God was read and fervent prayer offered in behalf of their children.

There is no substitute for the family altar. The home remains the primary institution in shaping young lives.

Let us notice some things about this *radiant* light. First of all, this light can be seen. Jesus said, *"A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid"* (Matthew 5:14). As we think of our Christian home as being the Light of the world, let us remember that what goes on inside reflects on the outside. This Light is something that the world needs to see. We cannot keep it hid because its rays will prove to the world that Christ is real and in Him there is refuge.

The brighter our Light is, the further it will be seen. Christian witnesses such as preachers, missionaries, and teachers are rays from this light. Mother, if you have dedicated your precious children to the Lord, be prepared, because it is very possible for God to see the need for this ray to shine from your home to Africa one day. Yes, the Christian home cannot help but be seen by the world as it continually shines with the beauty of Christ.

This Light brings *cheer*. Have you ever been alone in the dark? Surely you must have and what a dreadful feeling this was. Just the absence of light was enough without the dangers which it brought. Then suddenly, the light was flashed on! What a cheerful feeling came over you just to be out of the darkness into the light.

It seems that a person in pain is able to bear it during the day, but as the darkness comes and the night moves on, the pain becomes unbearable. This is the way it is with the world. In darkness, it is suffering from the pains of sin. The longer the darkness prevails, the worse the pain is felt until finally it will not be able to stand any longer. This great Light of cheer should be flashed on those in darkness so they too may be able to share the joy, peace and happiness which it brings.

This Light cannot be soiled. The world in darkness is full of evil. Our homes are suffering from the problems

of sin and everyday we meet with the awful temptations of the world. We have to make sure our Light shines with power to overcome. The problems of rebellion, drugs, sinful movies, pornography, and other worldly amusements are very common in our homes today. Television is a problem too. The Christian home cannot help but be exposed to some of this filth. May this Light be perfected in our homes to the extent that if a beam of it should happen to shine through the worst filth, it will not stick under any circumstances or situation.

This Light reveals the *way*. The eyes of the world are blind because of darkness. This Light needs to shine in order for their eyes to be opened. Then as they are opened, this light will reveal Christ in all His glory, love and compassion. God, who made the light and caused it to shine, placed it in our homes to give a way so that it will guide others to the Savior.

Home is important. The kind of standards which are set forth in the home affect everything. The success of our great nation depends upon our homes. There's an old saying, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the nation." No wonder our nation is in such a terrible state of confusion! Our leaders come from homes that are in darkness where the author of Peace is unknown. But, speaking of the Christian home as bearers of the Light, we have the answer. The *greatest witness* has something which the world needs more than anything else. The Light of Eternal Hope!



What About Your Light, Mother?

We don't think of home unless we think of mother because she is so

important in setting the standards of home. No one will ever be able to measure the influence of a Christian mother. She demonstrates the love of Christ which is never forgotten in the lives of her children.

Her soul hungers after the Word of God and she knows within this precious book are the instructions for building a radiant Christian home.

Her faithfulness in service for her Lord is observed by her children. It has been said that the greatest sacrifices for the church have been made by Christian mothers.

By all means mother, always give Christ first place in your life. Never use your children for an excuse in not doing what Christ wants you to do for Him. If you do, He might see fit to remove the excuse.

A Christian mother earnestly prays without ceasing. Someone has said, "The swiftest thing in the universe is a mother's prayer. From London to Edinburgh in a flash! From Edinburgh to Montreal in a flash! From New York to San Francisco in a flash! From San Francisco to Vancouver in a flash! Oh, what a wonderful arrow of light, tipped with fire, aflame with love, winged with faith and vibrating with spiritual force."

Mother, how far is the Light shining from the windows of your home? Remember the brighter it shines, the less darkness there will be in the world. As Christian mothers, we need to be careful as to how we live because we are the world's greatest influence. If we aren't watchful, before we know it, the devil will deceive us, and we may find ourselves and our children gradually yielding to temptation. When this happens, we hinder this Light from shining through the windows of home because we find ourselves shamefully pulling the shades.

Let us pray that our spiritual influence may shine that we may represent the most important institution, The Christian Home, as the *greatest witness for Christ*.



The Strongest Force in the World

Purpose: *To help us practice love constantly in an impersonal and loveless society.*

Scripture: *1 Corinthians 13*

Songs: *"Love This World Through Me,"
"Breathe On Me."*

See Program Help Packet

AMONG THE fairy tales there is a charming story about a mermaid who came to love a human prince. She was told that she could walk on land with feet and legs like human beings, but with every step she took, she would seem to be walking on knives. She would also lose her beautiful singing voice and her identity as a mermaid. If the prince loved her, she would become a human being; if he did not, she would pass into nothingness. Because she loved, she was willing to feel that cutting pain every time she took a step. She was willing to lose her identity as a mermaid and her beautiful voice. Love demanded the sacrifice. Love is indeed a powerful force.

The Song of Solomon says, "*Love is as strong as death . . . Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it*" (Song of Solomon 8:6, 7). Love can empower the weak to do strong deeds and turn the violence of

man into tenderness. Love can transform an angry, resentful, bitter person into a gentle, loving, kind person. It can transform a wasted life into a useful one. Hate is the opposite of love, for hate is a poisonous, destructive force. Love is a healing, building power.

Limits of Love

Love is a word we sprinkle in our conversation quite liberally. The quality of love, however, may not be sprinkled in our living as freely as in our talk. Love is used to describe everything from the fascination teenagers have for one of the opposite sex to a person's desire for money or food. Here, however, the word *love* is used to mean the quality so frequently mentioned in the Bible which causes a person to act unselfishly toward others.

As the badge of Christian discipleship, love is extended to all. Christians are especially commanded, however, to love one another (John 13:35; 1 Peter 2:17). All Christians are members of the body of Christ. God loved each one enough that He gave His Son for him. The Christian must love each one with the same quality of love. Christian love extends to all members of the body of Christ, but the Christian is also commanded to show love toward those without. Christ taught that it was not

enough to love those who return our love. We must love those who hate us. This love is indeed God-like and God-given love (Matthew 5:48). God's love toward us was manifested in its highest while we were yet enemies and haters of God. Christ's teaching reversed the tradition that a man should love his neighbor and hate his enemy (Matthew 5:43, 44).

When man loves, he acts contrary to the sinful nature in giving up his own selfish ends for the benefit of the object loved. A mother's love for a child causes her to do the most despicable tasks for him. What feeling of responsibility or duty could cause a mother to rise in the early morning hours or late at night and tenderly care for the needs of a child? Love makes parents capable of struggling through sleepless nights and tiring days to perform all the tasks necessary for bringing the child to maturity. Love prompts the father to forego those things he wants for himself to provide the child with an education or other things that will make a better life.

Love can transform a life (Proverbs 10:12). The quality of love makes it possible for us to see the good qualities of a person which we thought never existed. Someone has said, "Love is not blind. It simply sees things others cannot see." Just as love made it possible for the mother to bear the diapers and the runny noses, so love makes it possible for us to bear with one another's faults.

The song says, "Love makes the world go 'round.'" Indeed it does make life more livable and beautiful. Proverbs 15:17 suggests the importance of love in life. All the wealth of the world cannot compensate for love. Neither the highest fame nor the greatest achievements can satisfy man as can the love of one small, insignificant human being.

Ingredients of Love

Some words seem to defy definition. Perhaps you have already noted that love is one such word. Yet when someone says, "I love you," we think

we know exactly what the person means. Love expresses itself in many ways. Words and looks are not sufficient. Genuine love must have an outlet, not only in words, but in deeds as well. Although we may not be able to define love exactly, we can say something about the elements which are involved in love. We can explain how love manifests itself. We can see the effects of love. We can identify the ingredients which make up love. The basis for selecting these ingredients is 1 Corinthians 13.

LONGSUFFERING "Charity suffereth long" (1 Corinthians 13:4).

In Colossians 3 Paul wrote about putting on certain characteristics. One of these is longsuffering. The word itself suggests something unpleasant. Something is involved which causes annoyance. Perhaps it is a trait in another which irritates us. We want to respond to it in anger, to speak harshly or unkindly. Love makes it possible for us to accept that trait and respond to it without annoyance, without striking out at the person. Longsuffering means being willing to bear the weaknesses of another. Perhaps the person has a temper that he has not yet brought completely under the control of the Holy Spirit. So we match his anger with our own? No, love makes it possible to bear with that anger, not answering it in kind, but returning a gentle answer.

Sometimes even a fellow Christian may appear to "have it in" for us. Longsuffering applies to this situation also. Does she start gossip about us? Does she thwart our efforts to do good? Does she deliberately provoke our worst? Learn to forbear in love. Remember, as Matthew Henry says in his commentary, "There is so much in each of us that must be foreborne by others that it behooves us to forbear."

FORGIVENESS "Forgiving one another" (Ephesians 4:32).

Grievances held in the heart are

poisonous things. How many friendships or family relationships are interrupted and embittered because someone continues to hold a grudge in his heart? The Bible instructs us to be forgiving. Real love enables us to go the seven times seventy forgiveness route. The brother may offend over and over, but there is no limit to the times we are to extend forgiveness.

The spirit of our forgiveness should be that of the forgiveness of God. When God forgives sin, He says that sin will not be brought up against us again. The NDEA provides a forgiveness clause when a student borrows money. When the student has taught for a year, so much of his loan is forgiven. That means he will never have to repay that money. Even if he leaves teaching after that, he will not have to pay it. When we forgive a brother, we should have the same attitude. That offenses will not be brought up against him anymore. It has been forgiven. To the person who says, "Yes, I forgive, but I cannot forget," Amy Carmichael has a word. She said, "As though the God who twice a day washes all the sands on all the shores of all the world could not wash such memories from my mind."

KINDNESS "Charity . . . is kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4)

Kindness is another term which is hard to define. It requires gentleness and an understanding spirit. Kindness anticipates the needs of another and seeks to fill them. Kindness, like love itself, does not have a trumpet blown before it or display itself. It is simply seeking to avoid hurting another and at the same time seeking to make life a more joyful experience for another.

Ephesians 4:31 suggests some opposites of kindness. Bitterness suggests nourishing resentment against another. Wrath and anger eventually turn into hate and erupt into violence. Clamour and evil speaking suggest a tongue too quick to carry tales, constantly stirring up strife by loose talk. Malice covers

any mischief intentionally done to another. All of these things have no place in the life ruled by kindness. In the place of these we are told to put on kindness (Colossians 3:12).

SELF-EFFACING "Seeketh not her own" (1 Corinthians 13:5).

Love must sacrifice its own desires and interests for the sake of the object loved. Jesus demonstrates this best. In Philippians 2:5-8 we are told some of the things Jesus did when He identified Himself with men. For Him it was a matter of self-denial. Love demands that we identify ourselves with the object loved so that what brings him happiness brings us happiness also. What brings him pain brings us pain. We rejoice when he is honored and revel in his success.

The person who loves puts away envy and jealousy. Paul admonished the Galatians to put an end to the desire for "vain glory." This desire causes even Christians to seek their own fame, popularity, or glory at the expense of others. It arouses envy and jealousy. The Christian should prefer others before himself. That is, his desire is for the ones he loves. He rejoices to see them honored and applauded.

Love is characterized by meekness and self-denial. It is not proud, nor does it display itself. It is willing to kneel at the feet and become a servant to another.

PRACTICE OF LOVE

We must realize that genuine Christian love is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The ingredients of love are contrary to the selfish nature of man. They are the result of the indwelling and control of the Holy Spirit. As someone has said about the mind of Christ "It is ours by endowment. Now we must make it ours by development." Love is a growing, developing quality. It is not something we can work up in the energy of the flesh. We cannot grit our teeth and force ourselves to love. Just as the apple tree

produces apples naturally, so the Spirit-controlled life will naturally produce love. As we allow the Spirit to teach and guide us, the fruit matures. One way of ripening the fruit of the Spirit in our lives is by applying the qualities in our living. The qualities making up the fruit are not things we show off or bring out for special display at certain times. They must be constantly with us until they become part of our nature—the new nature. Love is no different from the others. It must become part of us. Although the word may name an abstract quality, love manifests itself in concrete ways. The principle of brotherly love is not an impossible, idealized standard. It is practical and demands practice in daily living. But do not become discouraged if love does not mature over night. It takes cultivation!

James compared faith without works (as though it were possible to separate the two) to a person who professes to love, but will not give food or clothing to a brother in need. If we have plenty and see a brother in need, and will not *share*, we cannot say we love. Expressing love is as simple as sharing food, shelter, or clothing. It is as simple as sharing a few minutes of our time with that elderly brother or sister or the shut-in. It is as simple as an expression of sympathy to one in sorrow. It is bearing another's burdens, entering into them as they were our own, helping him carry his load of trouble or sorrow.

Love, at the same time it is simple, is *demanding*. Loving takes time. It takes time to cook that extra food or to make that visit. Dorcas spent extra time making garments. Paul suggests that we must watch what we do with our time, using it to provide for ourselves and others (Ephesians 4:28). If we are capable of earning, then we have the opportunity of sharing with those in need, not simply by paying taxes, but on a more personal basis. Love demands that we *deny* our own desires, our own feelings, and perhaps this is the hardest thing

that love demands. Christ said if a man is to follow Him, he must deny himself. This denial is the first step on the path of love. When someone speaks angrily to us, love returns a gentle answer. When someone disagrees with us, love enables us to see the thing from his point of view. When a sister in Christ stumbles, love makes it possible for us to approach that one in the spirit of Christ (Ephesians 6:1). Instead of gossiping about her or criticizing, we are able to convince her of our love and spiritual concern.

Jesus said it was not enough to love those who love us. Our love must also extend to those who dislike us, even hate us. A young man arrested recently and charged with dreadful crimes blurted out that he hated the whole world. If only someone had bothered to reach that young man with love, lives could have been saved. The boy might have been transformed. But no one bothered, and that hate expressed itself against society. The government may provide housing, medical care, poverty programs; but it cannot provide love. The Christian knows the secret of love, and surely that secret is what makes him the salt of the earth.

Even though those outside the Christian circle may need our love and actually want it, they may not welcome it with open arms. Love demands patience, and often we may long to slip from under the burden and let them go. But love pays rich dividends. The human heart understands love expressed. If genuine love is extended with long-suffering, it will eventually win out.

A poet said of one,
"He drew a circle that shut me out.
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But love and I had a wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him

in!"

The Christian must be willing to draw the larger circle, which will take in the rebel, the hater, the enemy. Only in that way can we bring them to know the love of Christ.

*As we enjoyed the tender fellowship
and warmth of the New Year's Eve service,
little did we know it was
the beginning of a year of the
greatest trials of our life.*

In Times Like These

By Louise Wampler

OUR NIECE, Yvonne, was like a second daughter, and had recently had surgery. She had improved enough to be back in school, looking forward to graduation in June.

One bright, sunny afternoon she stopped by our home with our daughter, Becky, and some other friends. They were in the back yard laughing with the carefree happiness of youth, when suddenly she screamed with pain and fell to the ground. My husband, Gene, and I gently helped her inside to bed.

Our private nightmare was taking shape. With stark terror in her eyes from pain and worry, she begged, "Please call dad to get me home."

Then came the days filled with screaming ambulance, probing doctors, endless X-rays, and final diagnosis—CANCER!

In the meantime our beautiful 15 year old daughter, Becky, had run into trouble. One morning early I was awakened with sounds of moans of pain. "Oh, please dear God, why am I so sick." As I reached her side she was pressing her head in agony.

Our family had recently been checked at the National Institute of Health for suspected thyroid disorder, so our doctor suggested we take her for examination. A few days later we were told she had a tumor of the adrenal gland and must have surgery immediately. With a smile on my face and

tears in my heart, I entered her room. She greeted me with radiance, "Hi, mom. Don't worry, I've turned it all over to God and no matter what happens it will be alright." I silently prayed, "Thank You Father for strength to smile when my heart is breaking. Thank you for the blessed privilege of leading this most precious little girl to You at a tender age."

Then came the day that Gene, our son Steve, and I, bowed on our knees and turned it over to our heavenly Father and entered a hospital waiting room to wait for seven agonizing hours. The white-coated doctor stepped in front of us and said, "Everything went well. Surgery is over and we removed a tumor the size of a grapefruit, but in the process of testing Becky, we found a nodule in the thyroid gland and she must have further surgery."

As her recovery was steadily better from the first surgery, the doctor stopped me in the hall one day and looking at me sadly said, "I'm sorry, Mrs. Wampler, but your husband also has an adrenal tumor and must have surgery."

"Thank You Father, that I made peace with You many years ago and now when I need You so desperately, I find Your promise to be with me all that I need."

At the time of Becky's second surgery Gene too was hospitalized, along

with Yvonne, who had grown steadily worse. Once again we bowed on our knees and asked God for strength as Becky was wheeled to surgery. And once again the presence of the Lord was so real I felt I could reach out and touch Him, as we waited six more long and lonely hours in a hospital waiting room.

The next time I waited in this same familiar room an eternity of seven hours, Becky shared it with me as her dad had his turn. *"Help us O God, not to be bitter or question why. Thank You for Your love and care."*

One day at twelve noon Becky called from the hospital and said, "Mom, she's gone home." At the age of 18, Yvonne's heavenly home was finished and our Father came for her. She had witnessed about the love of God to people in this hospital, both small and great, that had never heard the good news of the Gospel.

She had been in a coma for 24 hours, but on the day she left this life, she suddenly opened her eyes wide as though amazed by some beautiful sight. A smile brightened her little thin face, and she was gone.

At the end of this year that had begun so peacefully, we again bowed on our knees. This time as I prayed, words that Jesus spoke had new meaning.

"... 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).

"We know that all things work together for good to them that love God..." (Romans 8:28a).

"... for in the time of trouble he shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock" (Psalm 27:5).

In times like these, thank God for my Savior.

Since writing this article Mrs. Wampler has been hospitalized with massive blood clots in the lungs but is improving.

Ideas for Servicemen's Day May 25, 1975

Although our servicemen have returned from Vietnam, there is another battle raging. This battle is not fought with rifles and hand grenades. It is a battle against principalities and powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Numerous Free Will Baptist sons now serve in the Armed Forces. They need our prayers and the reassurance that the church "back home" has not forgotten them. Others need to be introduced to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The last Sunday in May has been designated Servicemen's Sunday. We encourage our churches to plan special recognition on this Sunday to those in the armed forces. Pray also for the chaplains who minister to men and women away from home.

Here are a few suggestions to help you plan your special day.



- * Display a poster featuring men and women of your congregation who are serving in the Armed Forces. This could include a map of the world with a ribbon going from the pictures to the locations.
- * On a separate poster you may want to show the pictures of all Free Will Baptist Chaplains. See the July-August 1974 issue of Mission Grams for pictures and information. (You may write the Home Missions Department for a copy.)
- * Arrange a display of hats worn by those in the armed services—Army, Navy, Marines, Green Berets.
- * Several patriotic church choir selections, or congregational songs, can help make the day more meaningful.
- * If you have a young man or woman who will be leaving soon for military service, have special prayer for this person. Present each a “Serviceman’s Pack” (available from WNAC).
- * Use attractive patriotic church bulletins for your special day. These may be ordered from WNAC for \$2.75 per hundred (plus postage).
- * Recognize the families of those who are in the Armed Forces. You may want to present a corsage to each mother or wife.
- * Tape your service and send copies to those in the Armed Forces. It will encourage them to know the church cares about them.



SERVICEMAN’S PACK

Includes:

- * Copy of *Reveille*, clever pamphlet for Servicemen.
- * Information about Free Will Baptist Chaplains
- * Various leaflets and pamphlets which show how to live an active Christian life in the Service.
- * Serviceman’s change of address card

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I AM A GOSSIP! They say the first step an alcoholic has to take in order to be helped is to admit that he is an alcoholic. Well, I am a gossip. Until a few months ago I did not even realize it. God had to teach me a very painful lesson before I could see. It is no wonder that James says the tongue is the most unruly member of the body.

I am also a born again Christian. But before there can be a rebirth, or new birth, there has to be a dying out to sin, and self. This is where so many of us fail God. We refuse to die or stay dead to sin.

My friend and I have had many discussions on this subject. At times we could feel so close to God, really feel His

love for us and know that we were truly his children. Other times there was a coldness, nothing seemed to bless us. We could not seem to get through in prayer. We would usually end our conversation by saying, I guess I've just not studied the word of God as I should, or maybe I haven't prayed in the right manner. Actually, we just failed to stay dead.

Paul said he died daily, but Paul never was a house wife and mother. Maybe he could make it on once a day.

When we are dead to sin we are like the seed planted, as it lies dormant in the earth. Gossip and sin does not touch us so it can not take root in our hearts and flourish..

Confession of a Gossip

by Carolyn Hays

We women are cunning-we wrap our gossip in a cloak of concern. Then we pick out somebody who might know a little bit more about this juicy item, and we hand this person the bait. If she has not died to sin and is a gossip, she will add fat to the fire. "Where no wood is there the fire goeth out: So where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth." (Proverbs 26:20)

Have you ever left a neighbor's house with a bad taste in your mouth? It wasn't because of something you had eaten, it was because of someone you had chewed up and spit out. "Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel." (Proverbs 20:17).

Oh, how I wish I had been dead to self the morning a neighbor offered me bait. The very first thought which came to my mind was the Holy Spirit checking me. It said plainly, "*Keep your mouth shut.*" But old Satan began his respiration tactics. He is really good at artificial respiration. I took the bait, and told her more than she could have ever hoped to hear. What I said was the truth, but who ever said the truth never hurts anyone was wrong. It often hurts more than an out and out lie. As this thing I told made the rounds, it caused my beloved sisters in Christ to stumble. When it had done the damage the devil wanted it to do, it made a full circle and came back to whip me. I could hardly recognize the words as mine. But I had started the ball rolling. At first I was trying to call it Christian suffering. Oh, was I been persecuted. (1 Peter 4:15.) They had made up things on me and misunderstood what I had said. My husband came home and found me crying. I was really disgusted with myself. I told him if I did not learn to control my tongue, I was just going to have to cut it out of my mouth. He looked at me in alarm, he really thought I was suicidal. It is better to go through this life without arms, legs, eyes, or ears than for the body to be whole and miss

heaven (Matthew 5:29-30). The next thought I had was if I did not have a tongue, I could say nothing good about Jesus. If you knew that tomorrow you could not talk, what would you choose to say as your last words about Jesus? How magnificent He is.

It was many painful agonizing weeks before the truth hit me. I am a gossip unless I stay dead to sin. I cannot have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16) unless I have died unto self.

I went to the grocery store one morning. I met a friend who has a daughter my oldest daughter's age. She began to talk about what some of the other girls had said and done. I told her my daughter had not said anything to me about the matter. She replied, that her daughter had not talked either, that she had heard this from the grapevine. Do you know why they say they heard certain things by the way of the grapevine? A grapevine is crooked. So is the gossip they are telling.

I didn't even hear a word she said. (Proverbs 11:13.) You see, I was dead, momentarily, all I could see was that it was gossip. It had nothing to do with me. I walked away from her and met another lady I knew who had a daughter the same age as my second child. I had no sooner said, "hello, how are you? How is Susie doing in school?" When up she pops with a bit of information I had no desire to hear. All I could do was pretend to listen politely until I could break away tactfully. I wanted to hurry home before I met anymore gossips, lest I might come alive again. I have even had one neighbor come through my back door chewing one of my neighbors on the other side of me to bits. Dead people don't talk.

All I can do for those poor people is pray that they will learn as I did that they too are a gossip, and hope that Christ doesn't have to teach them the painful way to die as he did me. Christ had to die for me before he could produce much fruit. Unless we like the seed, die, we can never bear fruit.

"Mommy,

by Gail Linam



Come See!"

"What's that, Mommy?" my inquisitive two-year-old suddenly began asking over and over again. Each day was its own teacher as she eagerly explored her ever-broadening world. With pure delight she looked and listened and discovered for herself. Our yard was her classroom and every new encounter stimulated more questions and wonder.

"Mommy, come see!" she would exclaim. Perhaps it was an anthill or a blue jay's feather or an acorn which had fallen to the ground. To my toddler, nothing was commonplace. She was anxious to know about everything.

It wasn't long before I was exasperated with this boundless curiosity. "What's that, Mommy?" or "Mommy, come see!" invariably interrupted some uncompleted task. My household chores multiplied as I bent to my daughter's endless questions about the outside world.

"When will she ever quit wondering?" I asked of myself. "I'm nothing more than a walking dictionary."

I glanced out the window to see her sitting in the middle of my flower bed, running her fingers through the dirt with one hand and holding my last rose bud to her nose with the other. She was obviously enthralled and was asking the same questions all over again. "What's that, Mommy? Please come see."

I went out to join her, but this time my impatient attitude had changed. What was this child seeing that I had not seen? The most lasting wonders of God's creation had been slipping past me. It took a little child to slow me down and introduce me to them all over again.

I sat down in the flower bed beside her. "Baby, that's God's rose," I said. "Isn't it a beautiful thing to see?"

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THE CHAPLAINS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

by Robert L. Shockey, Director National Home Missions

IN THE SIXTH CHAPTER of the second book of Kings is a very interesting account of one of God's greatest prophets, Elisha. When his terrified servant woke him to announce that they were surrounded by the enemy, Elisha calmed his great fear with a short but powerful prayer, "Lord, open his eyes that he may see." Instantly the servant caught a vision of the mighty hosts of God. For nearly 199 years the United States chaplaincy has been involved in a similar ministry to the United States servicemen taking the message of God's love, mercy, and grace, guidance and protection under the most trying circumstances reminding the men that God is near and will sustain them by His grace. Not only do the chaplains serve in the strain of combat, but also the trials of daily life. The men and women of the armed services have had the opportunity to catch the vision of God's wonderful presence through the ministry of faithful chaplains.

WHAT ABOUT THE CHAPLAINCY?

The chaplaincy of the armed forces is an opportunity the churches have of representing the ministry of Jesus Christ within the armed forces. Many different denominations are represented. Among them is our own Free Will Baptist denomination. There are many and varied opportunities that exist within the service for a man of God. We have statistics from our services that show that God uses our men as they function within the Armed forces. For instance, in one year, Air Force chaplains conducted 369,885 services to over 17,000,000 people. Within the armed forces we serve over 3,000,000 servicemen around the world. In one year Air Force chaplains recorded 24,162 baptisms and 1,738,827 hospital calls. This is just one branch of the armed forces and this can be multiplied by the other major branches. We need the chaplains within our armed forces to carry on the ministry of our Lord and Savior to the servicemen who fight for us day by day.

WHY SHOULD FREE WILL BAPTISTS HAVE CHAPLAINS IN THE SERVICE?

We need chaplains because our own Free Will Baptist men serve within our armed forces. This is an opportunity for Free Will Baptist preachers to minister to Free Will Baptists throughout the world and also have an opportunity to administer to people of other faiths and win them to Christ. Too long we have neglected this part of our ministry. This is one of the greatest mission fields

within our grasp today. The field is truly white unto harvest. With over three million servicemen serving around the world, we have three Free Will Baptist chaplains at present on active duty, one in Reserves, and two chaplains with the Civil Air Patrol. We need men of God to send to this mission field. The Bible tells us in Matthew 28:19, 20 that we are to carry the gospel message throughout the whole world. This includes the mission field of the armed forces.

Many of the chaplains within the service are not fundamental, Bible-believing, Bible-preaching, and Bible-practicing men. Therefore, our men, many times, are not fed spiritually while they are in the service. This is our opportunity to have godly men, who are filled with the power and spirit of God to preach and feed spiritually our Free Will Baptist men and others who are away from home.

God has opened this door of service to our denomination and it is our God-called duty to send men into the armed forces to carry the gospel message. Let us not neglect our duty as we have in past times, but let Free Will Baptists rise to the challenge that God has given to us and send our men out "into the world" of the armed forces to carry the gospel of Jesus Christ.

WHAT ARE THE CHAPLAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES?

First of all, the chaplain is responsible for preaching the gospel to the men under him or in his parish area on his base. Chaplains preach many times—four, five, or six times each Sunday. For instance, in the United States Air Force in one year there were 369,885 services that were conducted with an attendance of 17,844,186 people. So these men preach in well appointed chapels around the world. They provide the individual members of the armed forces with proper opportunities to express their attitudes in worship toward God. It also includes the area of personal counseling. The United States Air Force chaplains dealt with as many as 430,000 problem cases in one year in the area of religion, morality, family and marriage, finance, discipline, and other areas.

Chaplains also visit hospitals. In one branch of the armed forces in one year the chaplains of that branch made over 1,739,000 hospital calls. Another area of work for the chaplain is organization of his chapel services to include the Sunday school, prayer meeting, choir rehearsal, visitation programs and all the programs that you would have in an average local church.

There are many other duties included within the chaplaincy. One of these is the educational duties. The chaplains are personally responsible for religious education within the services themselves. In one branch of service last year over 150,000 people enrolled in Sunday schools. The chaplain finds himself faced with the same responsibilities that the average pastor faces in a local congregation.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A CHAPLAIN?

To become a chaplain in the armed forces of the United States an individual must complete 120 hours of undergraduate study in a college or

university ending in a Bachelor of Arts degree, a Bachelor of Science degree, or some other qualified degree. Secondly, he must complete at least 90 semester hours of graduate credit at an accredited seminary ending in a Bachelor of Divinity or Master of Divinity program. He must be under forty years of age, have the ecclesiastical endorsement of his denominational body, and he must pass a physical examination.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES OF A CHAPLAIN?

The opportunities of a chaplain include creating goodwill or being a good will ambassador for Jesus Christ around the world. Many times a man might be a minister and not be able to create good will in China, Japan, Korea, Spain, Italy, England, Germany, and other countries of the world. But through his travels as a chaplain in the armed forces, he is able to witness in many countries of the world. He is also able to help in community services or help communities in establishing home mission churches within the area of his particular base. There are many and unlimited opportunities for a man of God who wants to carry the gospel around the world for Christ.

OUR FREE WILL BAPTIST CHAPLAINS

Chaplain (Capt.) Larry Cusick
(Home) 5749 Adams St.
Tucson, Arizona 85708
(On assignment in Korea)

Chaplain (Capt.) Alvin Lee Baker
Civil Air Patrol
112 Countryside Lane
St. Joseph, Missouri 64503

Chaplain 1st. Lt. Walter Golding
112 Andrews Court
Loring Air Force Base
Limestone, Maine 04751

Virgil Glenn Bobo
2nd Lt., Civil Air Patrol
1620 Pinehurst Blvd.
Sheffield, Alabama 35660

Chaplain (Capt.) Nedo Eaddy
247-52-9593
6 Ordnance
APO San Francisco, California
96231

Chaplain (Major) Gerald Mangham
Army
3 Anderson Street
Ft. Stewart, Georgia 31313

WHAT CAN I DO?

First of all you can pray. Pray for our servicemen and our prisoners of war. These men are fighting so that we may have freedom. Then you can pray for our chaplains who are already in the service that God will use them and give them courage and wisdom as they stand for Christ. Pray for God to send forth Spirit filled laborers into this harvest field. Truly the field is white—pray, pray, pray. Pray for our Director and our Home Mission Board as they operate this program. Pray for our promotional efforts in informing our people about the chaplaincy program.

Secondly, you can support the chaplaincy by sending your financial help to our National Home Mission Department, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. We need your financial help. So do your part for your servicemen around the world.

Pray, put them on the mailing list, and help support financially our chaplaincy program, and may God richly bless you is our most sincere prayer.

here's the book you need...

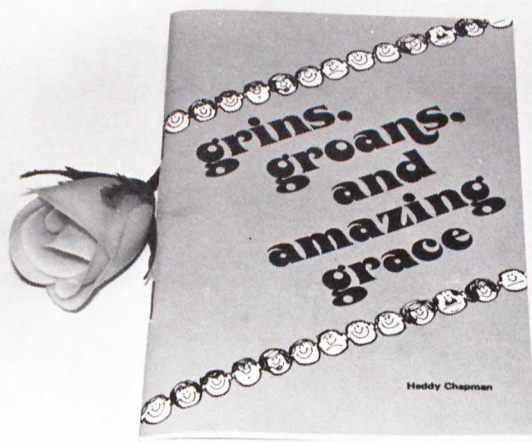
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