

Bless
the Lord,
O my Soul,

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Co-Laborer

October—November—December 1975



Dr. Malcolm Fry, General Director, Church Training Service, presents Mrs. Cleo Pursell, WNAC Executive-Secretary with the first copy of **ACTIONETTES**. This youth auxiliary yearbook of programs is the result of a joint effort of the Church Training Service and the Woman's Auxiliary.

WNAC ACTIONETTES YEARBOOK

"Pattern for Missions" is the theme for the first WNAC **ACTIONETTES** Yearbook of Programs. The twelve study and activity programs are designed for young women, ages 13-18. It is hoped that they will be challenged through missions study, missions prayer, and exciting missions action, to search for ways to be of service in God's Kingdom.

Each \$1.75

ACTIONETTES LEADER'S PACKET

Additional ideas and special features to help make the yearbook programs more exciting—a necessity for any leader! Also included are a suggested constitution and project ideas for a youth missions group.

Each \$2.50

May be ordered from WNAC, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

Co-Laborer

October—November—December
1975

Volume XV Number 4



Bless the Lord, O my
soul: and all that is
within me, bless
his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my
soul, and forget
not all his benefits:

Psalm 103:1,2

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Women In Action
- 5 Co-Laborer's Write
- 7 This 'n That
- 8 October Program
- 11 November Program
- 14 Pre-Thanksgiving Prayer
Program
- 18 December Program
- 21 State Home Missions
Prayer Program
- 24 Prayer Groups
- 28 Woman's Auxiliary
On Campus
- 29 Who's Who In This
Issue
- 30 Mommy, What Is
Missions?
- 32 Tomorrow, Dear
Lord

Cleo W. Pursell, Editor

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Evelyn Jones, Circulation

Women In Action

California State

"Why Me, Lord?" was the theme for the California State Woman's Auxiliary Convention held at the Tulare Free Will Baptist Church, April 5. Registration was 250. Sarah Mayhew, missionary to the Ivory Coast, West Africa, was the speaker.

Officers were elected as follows: President—June Rolan, vice president—Donna Wade, secretary—Sandra Jones, treasurer—Nora Hampton, field worker—Betty Watson, Members-at-large—Reba Kirk, Gladys Bradshaw and Phyllis Shipman.

Georgia State Retreat

"His Way of Love, Joy and Peace," was the theme of the Georgia State Woman's Auxiliary Retreat, April 11-12, at Camp Mount Bethel, Ashburn, Georgia.

The speaker was Florine Coscia, missionary to Brazil. Bible study and testimony-sharing was an enjoyable part of the program.

Virginia State

"Display Your Banner" was the theme of the Virginia Woman's Auxiliary Convention, May 3, when convened with the Hyde Park Church, Norfolk. Registration was 86.

Devotions were brought by Margaret Merkh, Missionary to France. Cleo Pursell, executive secretary,

WNAC, brought the convention message. Book reviews were given by Betty Hill and Sharon Berry.

Margaret Bryan succeeded Gertrude Whitehurst as president. Mrs. Whitehurst had served for six years.

North Carolina State

The North Carolina State Auxiliary met at the Ben Avenue Church, Kannapolis, May 6. The theme was "Joy Preceded By Struggle." President Joanne King presided. Missionaries Florine and Louis Coscia were the speakers. Devotions were brought by Joanne Pope. The state exceeded all the goals set for the previous year.

The annual Michigan State Auxiliary provision closet shower was held at the First Church in Hazel Park. Approximately 126 attended with over \$2,000 worth of provisions donated. Geraldine Waid, former missionary to Japan, was the speaker. Missionary interns pictured were special guests. Lucille Steward is field worker.



South Carolina State

The South Carolina State Woman's Auxiliary Convention met March 15, 1975 at the Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church in Turbeville, South Carolina. Registration was 199. The theme was "Lord, Thread Me Through Your Needle." Missionary Vada Lee spoke on the topic, "Frustrations Missionaries Face." The Inman Auxiliary received the attendance award with the most members present.

Officers elected were Mary Reid, president; Mae Sheehan, vice president; Faye Hanna, secretary; Ailene Stone, treasurer; Jessie Stone, field worker. Members at large, Avis Poston, Gayle Hughes, and Norma Harrington.

West Virginia State

The West Virginia State Auxiliary met May 10 at the Lick Branch Church in Charleston. Registration was 21. The theme was "A Chosen Vessel." Brenda Spruill, WNAC field worker spoke. Officers were elected as follows: Eve Mullins, president; Emma Chase, vice president; Tina Evans, secretary; Ruby Albert, treasurer; Joyce Calhoun, historian; Ann Richardson and Sandy Kessinger, field workers.

Arkansas State Retreat

"Showers of Blessings" was the theme of the Arkansas State Retreat, April 25-26, at Camp Beaver Fork, Conway, Arkansas. Registration was 213. Program participants included the state officers and Brenda Spruill, WNAC field worker.



Members of the Woman's Auxiliary, Hatfield, Arkansas, present the play, "The World's Greatest Transplant."

Valentine Supper

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Hatfield, Arkansas Church presented a Valentine supper and program on February 14, to recapture the year 1974 in which the auxiliary was organized.

The theme of the program, "What is Woman's Auxiliary?" was used by president Jeanette Moore to explain the purpose of the auxiliary to visitors. A skit, "World's Greatest Heart Transplant," written by Marilyn Wilson, was a highlight.

Billie McCoy, missionary to Puerto Rico, unwraps gifts presented her by the Bethany Auxiliary, Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Illinois State

Approximately 100 persons heard Laura Belle Barnard, former missionary to India speak when the Illinois State Auxiliary convened at the Bethel Church, South Roxana, Illinois, May 8.

The women raised \$3,000 to be applied to the purchase of a car for the Dennis Teagues. Their 1975-76 project is to raise money to help purchase land for the missions church in Kankakee. Mrs. Mary McCann was elected president.

Pre-Easter Prayer

The Bethany Woman's Auxiliary, Tulsa, Oklahoma, began their Pre-Easter Season of Prayer activities with a Puerto Rican supper prepared by missionary Billy McCoy. A time of singing, devotions by Mrs. McCoy, and a special prayer time, preceded a missions offering taken for Joe Hass in France. Mrs. McCoy was given a surprise personal shower.

Members of the Mt. Zion Woman's Auxiliary, Vero Beach, Florida, left to right, Lucille Porter, Susan Bowles, Lillian Dickerson, Viola Kazarian. Second row, Beverly Stickle, Betsy Lucky, Jeannie Cook, Bernice Lutz. Not pictured, Dene Kemble and Nancy Griffin.



Michigan State Convention

The fourth annual Michigan State Auxiliary Convention was held June 7, at Woodhaven Free Will Baptist Church. Dorothy Cox, WNAC member at large spoke on the theme "In Times Like These."

Indiana District Banquet

The second annual Woman's District Auxiliary Banquet was held with the Indianapolis Church. Seventy people heard Ray and Sophie de la Haye speak. This couple has been representatives for radio station ELWA in North America since 1968. Mrs. de la Haye is a freelance writer and author of "*Tread Upon the Lion*."

A Challenging Program

The Mt. Zion Woman's Auxiliary, Vero Beach, Florida, had a special guest speaker for their February program, "Moved With Compassion." She was Mrs. Bernice Lutz, who is the area Child Evangelism Fellowship Director. The members were all challenged to tell others of God's compassion.

October Christmas Party. Members of the Cofer's Chapel Woman's Auxiliary, Nashville, Tennessee, met in the home of their missions action chairman, Ruth Henley, and wrapped personal gifts for missionary wives.





Co-Laborers Write

The ladies of our auxiliary fully enjoy *Co-Laborer*. Though we have a small membership we have faith that our auxiliary will continue to grow and will be a blessing to all who join us in our Lord's work. Enclosed are the names of a few ladies who are not receiving *Heartbeat* . . .

*Beverly Weighall
Buhl, Idaho*

Members of the Randall Memorial Woman's Auxiliary have been distributing some of our old and extra *Co-Laborers* at the Shelby County Hospital where some of our ladies help fix hair every week. This is one of our action groups.

*Brenda Patrick
Memphis, Tennessee*

We had 18 at our first auxiliary meeting at Victory Free Will Baptist Church. Connie Craft came and discussed the program and showed us slides of Brazil. Many of our women are new in Free Will Baptist ranks and do not know our missionaries and the needs. They are all anxious to learn.

*Maurine Lee
Goldsboro, North Carolina*

We have a lot of young women in our auxiliary who take part and we are thankful for them. Also for the writers of the programs in *Co-Laborer*. We enjoy each lesson.

*Mrs. J. C. Langford
Unadilla, Georgia*

Our auxiliary is growing very rapidly so would you please send us six more *Co-Laborers* . . . Our church is growing each month in numbers also and the Holy Spirit is very much in evidence. Our pastor, Reverend Larry Cox is the best.

*Nannie Lee Gleaves
Fort Worth, Texas*

Thank all of you for the marvelous work you have done this year in putting out such good literature. It has thrilled our hearts and made us better dedicated Christians.

*Joyce Taylor
Brunswick, Georgia*

Our Auxiliary is growing each month. We really enjoy the lessons and other information in the *Co-Laborer*.

*Tammie Taylor
Donalsonville, Georgia*

I am glad to report more involvement by the women here at the Downey Avenue Woman's Auxiliary. We are having a foreign missions study, a home missions study, and special prayers for both.

We plan to serve the Lord in our community by *action*. We are making lap quilts for patients in convalescent homes.

*Vicky Fischer
Bellflower, California*

The Oak Grove Woman's Auxiliary was organized in January, 1975. We organized with 14 charter members. We thank the Lord for the interest shown. Remember us in your prayers.

*Phillis Williams
Warren, Arkansas*

We thank God for providing women a place in the *Great Commission*. Auxiliary work is so rewarding—from cleaning and baking to presenting a program before the body of our church! *Co-Laborer* has been blessed with a spirit-filled staff and we pray this will continue. We cherish our *Co-Laborer* issues and save them for future use. Please increase our order by five and we pray that we may increase this number again before this year is over.

*Jane White
Antioch Church
Tacopola, Mississippi*

The ladies of Cardinal Village really look forward to our *Co-Laborers*. We enjoy the programs very much and receive a blessing from them.

*Mrs. Roy Neely
Jacksonville, North Carolina*

FROM THE FIELD

We want to thank all the women in Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary for your prayers and moral support and your ever willingness to assist missions in whatever way you can.

Thank all of you for our towels, tupperware, sheets, and many other things provided through the Provision Closet. It was an unexpected surprise when Brenda directed us to the closet and said "help yourselves to whatever you need."

The always helpful Woman's Auxiliary has offered to help us when we have been in Nashville, Michigan, California and everywhere we go.

We will remember sister Pursell assuring us that the Woman's National Auxiliary is there to help us, so we can go for Christ. Thank you again.

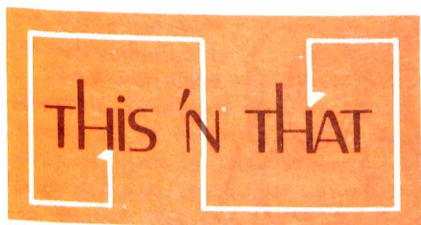
*Jerry and Janice Webb
Missionaries, France*

Daily we are reminded how good the women across our denomination are. Practically everything we have came from the Provision Closet. Thanks for making this possible.

*Bob and Geneva Poole
Missionaries, Brazil*

We continue to appreciate all your efforts in the office on our behalf and the other missionaries. Daily we enjoy the benefits from the Provision Closet. We will always praise our Lord for so many sisters at home who show their love and concern for us by the gifts to the closet, our account, their letters and cards.

*Wanda and Larry Powell
Missionaries, Puerto Rico*



Coupons

Rita Wenning writes that since they announced their need of 80,000 Betty Crocker coupons to purchase a 16mm movie projector, their post office box has been jammed with packages of coupons. She expresses their appreciation for your contributions. Your generosity has been encouraging as well as helping their ministry.

Sheila in Ecuador

Sheila Williams is no longer working with Child Evangelism but has returned to Quito, Ecuador, independent. She is sponsored by the Woodhaven Free Will Baptist Church. Her new address is Casilla 2870, Quito, Ecuador, S. A. If you wish to make a contribution to her account mail it to Ecuador Mission Account, 26191 Allen Road, Woodhaven, Michigan 48183.

Operation Partnership

Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, coordinator, reports an excellent response from various woman's auxiliaries across the land.

Operation Partnership is a campaign to retire the indebtedness on the National Office Building by the 1976 convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Thank you women!

Emphasis Month Kits

WNAC's new Emphasis Kit has been mailed to those on the *Co-Laborer* mailing list. If you fail to receive yours, please let us know. It was written by Anne Worthington, WNAC's recording secretary. The theme is "Bloom Where You Are Planted." Our offering goal is \$10,500 for 1975-76.

Actionettes

"Pattern for Missions" is the theme of WNAC's new yearbook of programs for youth auxiliaries. (See ad on cover.) A leader's packet containing exciting ideas and special features is also available.

Co-Laborer Magazine

Thank you for the continuing increase in *Co-Laborer* magazine subscriptions! Our circulation is now near 14,500. Also our stock of Program Help Packets had to be increased.

Share—A—Song

As a part of WNAC's involvement in the United States Bicentennial observance, we ask women across the country to submit songs not later than March 1, 1976. Original words may be sung to familiar tunes, or both words and music may be original.

The songs may express such themes as thanksgiving for God's guidance for our nation and for spiritual blessings as well as for material wealth.

The best entries will be included in the Share-a-Song booklet which will be distributed during the 1976 convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

October Program
by Emma Hickman

Eternal Echoes



*"She was as good
a mother as she
knew how to
be."*

Purpose: To remind women that they
are needed in the Master's vineyard.

Scripture: Matthew 15:28

Song: "Send the Light"

See Program Help Packet

AS WE muse along the line of women and the many things woven in to make up her life, various things come to mind: Happy carefree childhood, when her world revolved around the family where she came as a babe to live. School days with problems to be solved, many times requiring the help of grown-ups. Making the *great decision* in life of the true, beautiful and *Heavenly Way*. Very prominent on the list, and very important, is learning to cope with pain and grief; making it a stepping stone to a closer walk with the Lord.

A vivid example is that of a family where grief struck a terrible blow. The grim report came that the mother was taken, leaving three small ones behind. The minister who conducted the funeral commented on the good life this mother had lived. One phrase, above all else he said, still lingers strongly in the memories of those who heard him—"She was as good a mother as she knew how to be." Truly only a few words, but what a world of meaning. God grant as much can be

said of us when we have taken our departure.

HONOR TO WHOM

HONOR IS DUE

Acts 9:36-42

Did you ever have the feeling that life is passing you by? You really desire to do something to express your love for others who have done so much for you. You seriously wonder where and how to start. Well, it is very possible that Tabitha may have felt much the same way. After all, as women we have much in common in any place or period of time.

Tabitha or Dorcas, whichever you desire to call her, is one and the same. Chances are she may have been burdened down and feeling a bit blue the day she discovered she had a talent. If used, it could bring much joy to her heart and comfort to others.

While at the well with her pitcher to get water, a daily chore of the women, she could so easily have seen a child, thinly clad, in great need of a coat. When suddenly, all her gloom lifted, she remembered a piece of material she had tucked away. Surely it would be large enough to make this child a beautiful coat.

Hurrying down the home path with a purpose rushes Tabitha to put her nimble fingers to work. Undaunted,

she sews away with a will to do and a loving heart.

The future days were to find many garments fashioned by her talented hands, all to be freely and tenderly given to those in need, to warm both body and soul. No money was received or desired. Yet the joy in giving to those in need brought a peace, joy and happiness she had never experienced before. A life with a purpose had been hers from the very moment she lost sight of self and reached out to serve those less fortunate than herself.

No wonder the Lord sent her back to those who loved her so. What a picture it must have been! Friends smiling through tears, amazed, rushing to embrace her. Tabitha, alive again!

This was a reward for unselfish service. What would you say of her echoes coming back from eternity's shore? (Pause for response.) Does not this challenge us to search diligently to find a place to serve in the need of body and heart, of those near and far away? Let us go as Tabitha's representative today to fields of service.

SEEK AND FIND

1 Samuel 1:27, 28

We turn to another Bible character, a very lovely one, Hannah. She must have been a very desirable woman in every realm of her life. All young Jewish brides had a great desire to have a son, and lived in hope that he might be "The Deliverer" of the Jews, the "Promised of God."

Hannah was, indeed, very sad. The years were passing by and she had no child. The one thing which set her apart from many was her prayer life. Prayer is an anchor on which to lean for all ages, peoples, times and places.

She was very wise! Hannah wanted a child. She knew in what direction to go in search of the answer to her hearts desire, to the Father above she pleads!

No empty words, Hannah's prayer was in deep earnest and God answered it. Hannah's prayer should be an example and a challenge to us to come and pour out our hearts before Him who hears, and will never turn us away. Let us take note-Hannah was a good wife. Hers was no selfish motive. Later she proved her sincerity by keeping her promise to give her son to the service of God.

Nowhere in the life of Samuel do we find that he turned away from the call of God. Yes, Hannah did her work well and the Lord added His blessings.

Are we wholeheartedly praying for the Lord to use our children, or had we rather He call others to difficult places of service?

A QUEEN IS CROWNED

Esther 4:16

Have you ever thought about the clear description the Bible gives us of many characters we find therein? Some we are instantly drawn to while from others we may turn away.

Esther, the one we think of at this time, was a beautiful girl and destined to become one of the most honored queens of her day, or most likely of any day. When a queen was being sought for the king, among the number we find Esther, the Jewish maiden.

In preparation each could have an expensive robe and costly jewels in which to adorn themselves to come before the king. Esther proved to be a

most unusual girl. She had no desire for priceless jewels to enhance her beauty. Simplicity was the keynote of her desire, no pretence, no vain show. Her training had created within her innermost heart the beauty of a loving spirit. Plain and simple was her chosen robe, with no trace of jewels to be seen. Esther sought no special favor for herself. She stood there of her own sweet self, no more, no less. Hers was the greatest beauty of all, the beauty of a virtuous woman, no need for more. No kings ransom can compare with the purity of heart. Many have the mistaken view that the dress makes the person.

Are you surprised at the king's choice? He must have been a wise king to desire soul beauty instead of external adornment.

Esther proved herself when later she came before the king risking her own life to save her people. What did her uncle tell her? "Perhaps you have

come to the kingdom for such a time as this." In other words, "Perhaps God has sent you for this very purpose to intercede for the Jewish people." No, Esther did not go in her own strength, but in the strength of the Lord.

We, too, may be here at this time in this place in order to win someone not yet won to the Lord. In this day of much talk of women's rights, let us think for a moment. God made man and woman each for a special place in life. If we as women seek wholeheartedly to serve God in our own realm to guide the home, we have found the key to success. Sad to say, many are expressing themselves in such a way as to deny the respect due the women of today.

Let us dispel gloom, boredom and frets along our way, find our talents, not wait a more convenient day. Today is the day of opportunity. Listen! It is coming loud and clear. Echoes from Eternity's shore—GO YE!

A CABLE FROM HEAVEN

A merchantman, who was a Christian, was asked to help by a contribution to a certain work of a church. He gladly wrote a check for \$100 and gave it to the visitor.

At that moment a cable was brought in. The merchant read it and looked troubled.

"This cable," said he, "tells me that one of my ships has been wrecked and the cargo lost. That makes a difference in my business. I'll have to write you another check."

The visitor understood and handed back the check, and the merchant wrote out another and gave it to him. When he read it, he was utterly amazed. It was for \$300.

"Haven't you made a mistake?" the church worker asked.

"No," said the merchant, "I haven't made a mistake." Then, as his eyes filled with tears, he said: "That cable was a message from my Father in heaven. It read, 'Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth.'"

Church Chimes

November Program
by Rhettta Butler

How Does Your Dedication Measure Up?

Purpose: *To instill in our hearts a desire not to let unnecessary worldly activities come between us and our dedication to the Lord.*

Song: "Nothing Between"

Scripture: Romans 8:38-39

See Program Help Packet

EVERY Christian woman at one time or another has felt a desire to do more for the Lord. Remember the promptings of the Holy Spirit when you were saved? Whether as a child, a teenager, or an adult, you probably felt that nothing would ever deter you from your total service to the Lord. These same feelings of dedication and triumph fill our souls when we rededicate our lives.

But how often these flames of total service die down. "Little things" cause our flame of love to be smothered and if we are not careful, to completely go out. We must be on our guard to keep the love of God burning in our souls.

Just how deep is our dedication right now? Can we measure it? Let's lay out the works that go into a dedicated Christian's life: Daily prayer and Bible readings, Sunday school, morning worship, Church Training Service, evening worship, prayer meeting,

study time for Sunday school and CTS, Woman's Auxiliary, tithing, witnessing, visiting, teaching, using our talents, and anything else that the Lord might demand of us. If we fail to complete our *dedication ruler* then we are not measuring up to all the Lord expects of us.

STUDY, PRAYER, PREACHING

God has created each one of us for only one purpose and that is to bring glory to Him and His name. We accomplish this by the complete dedication of our lives to Him. It is not reached over night; it is a slow but steady process. As babes in our Christian lives, we crawl along studying and hearing the Word of God. Slowly through this studying, preaching, and praying, we eventually learn to walk. By further preaching, prayer, and fellowship with Christian friends we learn to venture out and tell others about God and His great love. Paul said: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

We not only need but require the teaching we get in our Sunday school and Church Training Services. How else would we be able to ground ourselves in our faith? These weekly study classes enable us to learn first hand how we are to conduct our lives. They also give us an opportunity to converse with fellow Christians on subjects so vital to our spiritual lives. We must not forget however, that our participation in these classes depends largely on just how much preparation we have put into our lessons during the week. The best example of this, especially for women, is in comparison

to our daily meal preparation. Our bodies not only need, but they also demand, certain foods daily. And we spend much time in seeing that these meals are carefully planned and prepared to the nourishment of our bodies. So should we spend time in planning and preparing for our Sunday school, Church Training, and Woman's Auxiliary lessons. In this careful preparation we will find the Bible readings, prayers, and meditations which are the spiritual foods necessary for our souls. In Hebrews we find our challenge for attending church services and gaining knowledge of our faith (Hebrews 10:25-27).

Our mid-week prayer meetings must never be forgotten. They tie our days together and make the rest of the week a little more bearable. The Wednesday night service should be like a time of gathering around the church-family altar. We can gain many blessings when we join our hearts and souls together in a unified prayer service.

And how much spiritually will our lives grow without the humbling of the soul during the preaching services? Has sin slipped in unnoticed during the week? Did we fail in any way to follow the nudgings of the Holy Spirit? If the Holy Spirit prompts us during the message, if the Holy Spirit pricks our hearts and convicts us of anything, we should take it to the altar (1 John 1:9-10).

If we have lost in any way that original dedication, we need to examine our souls and eliminate the cause. It will take humility to do this, for isn't humility the key to the true depth of our dedication?

CHRIST'S GREAT HUMILITY

Has there ever been a greater showing of humility than Christ's? The

depth of His love and dedication to humanity will never be understood in this life. Had He refused to be born in a stable; had He refused to wear the awful crown of thorns; had He refused to take even that last step under the weight of the heavy cross; had He refused His Father in any way—*where would we be today?* This is an answer we need not trouble our finite minds over. Because Christ fulfilled all the conditions laid down by His Father. His love overflowed for us—does our love overflow for Him? Do we bear our trials and tribulations meekly and without murmur, having faith in Christ to bring us out victoriously? "Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage, be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee, withersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9).

So many times we do refuse the Lord. Our worldly activities have a way of looking so much more appealing to us than Christian service. A sports event, shopping spree, TV special, and countless other *excuses* creep into our lives and manage to take over. A good guideline to follow would be to measure these things in the light of Christian work. If we can truthfully say we are not omitting something for the Lord then we are safe in going ahead with our secular activities.

Has anyone ever worried about doing too much for Christ? Oh, that we could be so dedicated! But Adam's sin and our own base nature leave little chance of this. For we can be sure that as soon as we conquer one aspect of our natural selves, another will crop up to replace it. It takes a constant practice of the virtue of humility to overcome this natural self and put our dedication to Christ in its true perspective. For it is in this humbling of

ourselves that we gain strength to carry on for Christ.

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS?

James tells us in his epistle that "faith, if it hath not works is dead, being alone" (James 2:17). It's sort of like Tuesday following Monday—if we have truly put our heart and soul into our Bible studies and prayed earnestly, our desire to spread our Christianity will follow. We do not work to get saved. We do not work to keep saved. We work because we are saved and thereby bring glory to God. Our salvation includes and requires us to make a dedication of our body to Him; that is, to present our bodies as living and holy sacrifices acceptable to Him. It is the will of God that in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, we show ourselves as examples of those who believe.

In the great commission (Matthew 28:19-20) we are instructed to spread His Word over all the earth. To most of us the scope of our "earth" will many times be limited to the community in which we live. But by our tithes and contributions we can help missionaries even in foreign countries.

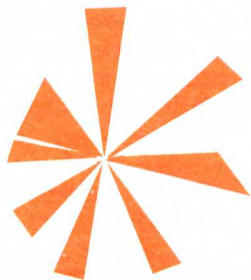
In our own community we have the young and the aged that need help. We can witness to them daily just by our Christian example. We can also find the time at least once a week to visit not only the sick in body but the sick in soul as well. The Lord guides us as we go about our daily lives living for Him. When the opportunity presents itself to witness to others we should call upon the Holy Spirit to help us as we tell others of the Lord. Our spiritual life is strengthened each time we witness to a non-Christian. How often do we take time to strengthen our

faith in this way? The more we give of the joy of the Lord, the more we will have for ourselves. We should learn to share our most precious possession—our Godly love (1 John 4:8-11).

USING OR EXCUSING OUR TALENTS

The Lord has blessed each one of us with one or more talents. Often they are neglected and overlooked. Our dedication ruler would never be complete without a developing of our talents. We may not feel we are *accomplished soloists*, but the Lord will bless us for doing the best with what He has given us. He certainly does not like our excuses, because often our excuses are a form of pride in disguise. As Paul said in Ephesians 4:11 "... he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." Regardless of what our talents are, we should use them in God's service to glorify Him. God demands the very best; though we may think we are failures, through Him all things are possible. When each of us has first sought our God in prayer as to what our talent may be, then we must put our best into the talent right then. As has been said, "Behind every successful man there is a woman"; it could well be said, "Behind every good talent there is prayer."

Just how deep is our dedication? Have we let the Lord work in our lives so that our dedication is so deep that it is without measure? Or, are unnecessary worldly activities taking up part of our time and causing a break in our dedication ruler. We are made for Him to bring glory to His name. Allow Him to remake your life—and the depth of your dedication will know no bounds.



Pre-Thanksgiving Prayer Program November 17-21, 1975

by Barbara Otwell

Songs: "Did You Think to Pray?"
"Whisper a Prayer"

Call to Prayer: "And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples" (Luke 11:1). Then Jesus taught his disciples what is commonly called "The Lord's Prayer." Let us repeat it together. (*The Lord's Prayer in unison.*)

Prayer Skit:

Characters: *Mrs. Too Busy, Mrs. Gos-*

sip, Mrs. Too Tired, and Mrs. Always Praying.

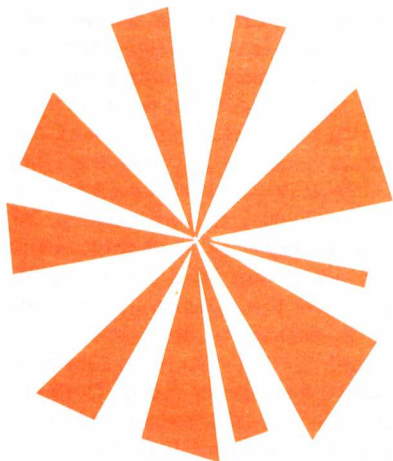
Mrs. Gossip: (*Talking on the telephone to Mrs. Too Tired.*) Mrs. Too Tired, you won't believe what Mrs. Always Praying wants me to do now!

Mrs. Too Tired: (*Yawning*) Oh, what did she want?

Mrs. Gossip: Well, I just called her to tell her some important gossip . . . er, I mean news, that I had just heard, and she had the nerve to tell me she was getting ready for her morning devotions and she didn't have time to listen!

Mrs. Too Tired: Oh, that's too bad, Mrs. Gossip.

POWER THROUGH PRAYER





Mrs. Gossip: Well, then she had the nerve to ask me to pray for one hour each day during our Pre-Thanksgiving season of prayer. Can you imagine, pray for a whole hour every day! Why I'd never get to visit with anyone on the phone!

Mrs. Too Tired: Oh, my, that is quite a lot to ask of someone. I hope she doesn't ask me. I'm just too tired to pray that long. Why even at night, I fall asleep before I finish my prayers. I don't know what's the matter with me. Well I'd better hang up and get my nap. I'm so tired. Good by.

Mrs. Gossip: (Hangs up telephone.) Poor old soul, she never feels good anymore—always tired. (Dials.)

Mrs. Too Busy: Hello.

Mrs. Gossip: Hi, Mrs. Too Busy, have you had your call from Mrs. Always Praying, asking you to pray an hour each day?

Mrs. Too Busy: Yes, as a matter of fact I did, but I set her straight!

Mrs. Gossip: (Excitedly) You did! What did you tell her?

Mrs. Too Busy: Well I told her I had enough jobs in the church to do and I didn't need another one! After all, I can't do everything!

Mrs. Gossip: Oh, you are so right Mrs. Too Busy. You do stay so very busy.

Mrs. Too Busy: I sure do, so I told her to call some of the ladies who do nothing and let them do the praying for themselves and me too. I'm much too busy doing the Lord's work to take an hour each day to pray.

Mrs. Always Praying: (While skit has been presented she has been bowed in prayer. She rises and speaks.) The Bible says—"Pray without ceasing . . . the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

End

WHAT IS PRAYER?

So many times we talk of prayer, but what is prayer? How does one have *power* through prayer?

Prayer is so simple,
It is like quietly
opening a door
And slipping into the very
presence of God.
There in the stillness
To listen for His voice—
Perhaps to petition,
Or only to listen.
It matters not.
Just to be there
In His presence
Is prayer.

—Author Unknown

Before we can have power in our prayers, our lives have to be completely dedicated to Christ.

In John 15:7 we are told that *if* we abide in Christ, and His Words abide in us, we can ask what we will, and it shall be done.

The promise, "Whatsoever ye ask in my name," may not be separated from the commandment, "Whatsoever ye do, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus."

We need not be anxious because of our inability to pray a beautifully worded prayer. In Romans 8:26-27 we are told that the Spirit takes our confused jumbled prayers, and makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Don't be afraid if you are not a good pray-er. Prayer is an exercise of faith, not of grammar.

Song: "Nothing Between"

Altar of prayer for ourselves, our church, the staff and directors of the National Home Missions Office.

PRAYER IS THANKING GOD



Song: "Count Your Blessings"

Call to Prayer: "...in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6).

Prayer is thanking God. When we pray, the very first thing we should do is to thank God. Many times we get so carried away with our wants and needs, we forget to thank God for anything. Too often we only thank God on Thanksgiving day. Every day should be a day of giving thanks to God. Many times we take our health, our financial blessings, and our spiritual blessings for granted and never thank God, who gives them to us.

Discussion: The Art of Giving Thanks (Read Luke 17:11-19).

1. All these men had the same illness and received the same gifts, but only one gave thanks. Do you think the proportion of thankful people is better today?

2. Do you think that ingratitude is often due to thoughtlessness? Is this just poor manners? Or is this sinful?

3. Should you ever thank someone when you don't really mean it? Should you tip a waitress even though you have received poor service?

4. How can we teach our children to be more thankful—and to express it more?

Chorus: "Thank You Lord."
Prayer for Home Missionaries.

PRAYER IS FORGIVING



Song: "Take Time to be Holy"

Call to Prayer: "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses" (Mark 11:25-26).

Many times we go to the Lord begging forgiveness over some sin we have committed. It may be a word said to hurt someone, losing our temper, not reading the Bible enough, or not praying as we should. Whatever the reason, if we come to God with humble hearts, He will forgive us our sins.

Sometimes it seems difficult for us to admit we need to be forgiven, but if we tune our hearts to God and really seek His will, His Holy Spirit will direct our lives and let us know when we need to ask forgiveness.

Human nature is weak and imperfect, apt to offend. Who can claim that he never wrongs his brother, that he never trespasses against the rights of others, that he never sins against God?

To forgive is difficult. But to ask forgiveness can be just as hard. With the help of Christ both can and must be done.

Discussion:

1. Does forgiving mean forgetting also?

2. Why is it so difficult for one to admit that he has offended?

3. What is the greatest danger in bearing a grudge or having an unforgiving heart?

4. Is it possible to forgive if the offender does not apologize? Does God forgive without repentance?

Solo: "If I Have Wounded any Soul Today"

Prayer for Home Missionaries

PRAYER IS ASKING



Song: "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

Call to Prayer: "All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22).

Prayer is asking. God expects us to ask for things. He tells us though, to ask for unselfish things, and not for our own wants. When we ask God for something, it should be something that will be beneficial to our Christian lives, or for our loved ones, or for others. How it must grieve God when we pray for our own selfish wants (James 4:3).

We should ask God to help us to stay strong for Satan is constantly tempting us to sin. He will keep us occupied until there is no time for prayer. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 14:38).

A Selfish Prayer

Lord, I thank you for all you've given me
A beautiful home and a healthy family.
I'm thankful you keep us safe and sound
Not like many unfortunates all the world
around,

Lord, I know they need missionaries in
those far away lands,

Oh, but not my children, they've already
made their plans.

Surely there is someone else, somewhere
Who could leave everything and your story
declare.

Now Lord, I think you for all you've
done for me

Keep your watchful hand on us, and keep
us free.

Never this country, let us have to defend
I thank you so much, Lord, I love you,
Amen.

Special Music: "Submission" or
"Teach Me to Pray, Lord"

Prayer for Home Missionaries



PRAYER IS COMMUNING WITH GOD

Songs: "Near to the Heart of God"

Call to Prayer: Luke 6:12 "And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God."

Many times when we pray, we utter a few words before falling asleep. This is definitely not communing with God. In our busy world, we rarely have time, or take time, to really talk to God and let Him talk to us. This time spent is so precious and the Lord can truly refresh your life. In Luke 18:1 we are warned to always pray and not to faint. In really communing with God we are blessed in a very special way. It pleases our heavenly Father that we take time to talk to Him. This is the time to earnestly pray for the lost world, especially those of our own household. Many times in the stillness of the night God can talk to us and we can learn of His will in our lives if we will really listen to Him. We are told to *watch and pray* and to *pray without ceasing*.

Solo: "The Lord's Prayer"

Altar of Prayer for missionary requests.

Offering for National Home Missions.

December Program
by Glenda Devine

Look To Jesus



Purpose: *To remind us to look to Jesus in these troubled times.*

Song: *"Leaning on Jesus"*

Scripture: *1 Peter 5:7*

Look around and be distressed,
Look within and be depressed,
Look above and be at rest

Author unknown

LOOK AROUND

On a superficial level this world looks pretty good. We have modern cities, beautiful scenery, lovely people, and plentiful pleasure. But the world is not what it seems on the surface. During the garbage men's strike in New York City, the problem of trash became a real menace. One man solved the problem easily. He packaged his garbage each day in a beautifully wrapped package and tied with a lovely ribbon. Then when he went to work, he left the doors unlocked in his car and left it on the front seat. Sure enough, every evening when he started home, the garbage was gone.

Someone had stolen it each day. He knew what human nature was really like. The real world is like the packages of garbage. Satan offers us a lovely package. But inside is corruption and decay.

Our world is a world of wickedness. Violence abounds. In the period from 1960 to 1973 murder jumped 116 percent. Forcible rape increased 199 percent and robbery increased 256 percent. Godlessness walks tall and free. In this nation, begun on religious principles there is no longer fear of God. Where there is no fear of God,

evil grows by leaps and bounds. Family life is being downgraded. Our children have more temptations than we did. Their temptations are not only greater than ours they are far more serious, even affecting an unborn generation.

Our very atmosphere is threatened. All the things we have taken for granted for years have suddenly become unstable and untrustworthy. Starvation in the world is common. Money is no longer stable and inflation is a worldwide problem. Governments are going bankrupt, spiritually as well as monetarily. Satan worship is coming into the open. Fear has become almost a tangible thing, a daily companion in our world. Fear of war, fear of famine, fear of depression, fear of other people, fear of sickness, fear that Satan will win our families, fear of death, fear, fear, everywhere on every-side. There is nothing in this world that we may safely trust. Each person reading this can call to mind many news events and troubling situations that have given them distress and heartache in only the last few weeks. It sometimes seems that evil is overcoming this world and our hearts are heavy. The more we turn our eyes to things of this world, the more we are distressed. (Read James 1:14-15).

LOOK WITHIN

We find ourselves inadequate to handle the trouble and evil in this world. We ourselves too often fail God completely. We find like Paul that "evil is ever present with me" (Romans 7:12b). We see the sorrow of the world and wonder what we can do about it. We look at our full tables, bulging closets, beautiful homes, two

cars, healthy children, good jobs, and lovely churches, and feel uneasy at the thoughts which come to mind. Why do we have these blessings when so many are without possessions? On examination we know we don't deserve them. We wonder what we would do if suddenly they were all gone. And we worry about one more thing. We look at our lives for God and find them lacking. We don't pray, study, witness, and just plain love people like we ought to. We know we are too much like the disciples were on that dreadful night when "all forsook him and fled" (Matthew 26:56). We know there is no way we can change this world so we are depressed.

LOOK ABOVE

Praise God, this lesson does not end here. We do not have to be dependent on our own strength. We can rest in Jesus and say with Paul, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed, we are perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not forsaken, cast down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).

The victory was won at Calvary, when Jesus said "It is finished" (John 19:30), and proved at the empty tomb when the angel said, "He is risen as he said," (Matthew 28:6). We are only waiting for the final coronation day Paul spoke of in Philippians 2:9-11. "Wherefore, God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

We are told in God's Word, which is our greatest comfort, that we can do all things through Christ . . . (Philippians 4:13). In the same chapter we read "Be anxious for nothing, but in *everything* by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

Jesus said in Matthew 6 to seek the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you. What things? He explained in the verses before. If God takes such good care of the birds and plants, don't you know He will take care of you. You are worth more to Him than your own children are to you. He knows our needs and will fulfill them if we give Him first place in our lives.

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). Now, when He said this He knew that these disciples were going to face the most terrible event in human history—His death. So His Peace did not depend on the circumstances.

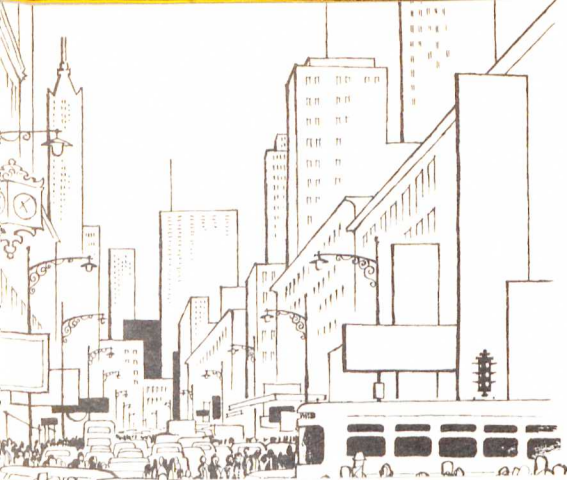
Someone has said that a Christian has no business being "under the circumstances." When Jesus said "Let not your heart be afraid," it was a command. Just as much as "love your neighbor" and "go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." It is a sin to worry. If Jesus said not to be afraid, that meant it is possible not to be afraid no matter what the circumstances. Didn't Paul write, "God will not allow you to be tempted above that which ye are able"? Someone may say, "But you

don't know what I have to live through. I can't help worrying. My problems are worse than anyone could possible know." That may be true but God knows. And He is never asleep or surprised or taken unaware. There is no situation that He did not foresee when He inspired Paul to add in that same verse "But will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13b). Problems are often chastisement from God. There maybe some lesson you need to learn from the problem. If the problem never goes away, maybe you have never learned the lesson God is trying to teach you. The lesson could very well be "Don't worry!" Worry is a temptation from Satan. You do not have to allow Satan to have the victory in your life. To worry is to disbelieve God. Remember, "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). *Resist Satan!* How? The same way your Savior did. Use the Scriptures. Instead of dwelling on a problem, dwell on your almighty God. All problems will some day pass. God will be forever your God, Memorize this scripture. Start your day with it. It will work! "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in Thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

Begin now. Keep your mind on Jesus and trust in Him. Look above and be at rest.

Why Worry?

Why worry when you can pray
Trust Jesus, He'll be your stay
Don't be a doubting Thomas
Rest fully on His promise
Why worry, worry, worry, worry,
When you can pray!



State Missions Emphasis
by Cleo Pursell

Priority for Missions: THE CITIES

Theme Song: "Send the Light"

Scripture: Acts 1:8

To the Leader: For many years WNAC observed a Pre-Christmas Week of Prayer for state missions. In recent years however, we have recommended that each state set a time convenient to their program of work for this emphasis.

We urge the state auxiliary officers to prepare and distribute program materials emphasizing their respective state missions projects and prayer requests.

Material is supplied in Co-Laborer each year for benefit of those who do not have their own materials, or who may need supplementary materials. They always appear in the fourth quarter issue of Co-Laborer but may be used any time during the year.

WHAT DOES Acts 1:8 say to you? To many it reads, "You shall be witnesses to me both in your community, and in all your state, and in adjoining states, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

A strong state missions work builds a good foundation for world missions. State missions has been called the "seed corn of all missions" and its two-fold task of witnessing and serving at home and of undergirding and strengthening world missions is urgent and unfinished.

SPIRIT DIRECTED
WITNESS IN THE CITIES
Acts 2:5-12

The Holy Spirit must have directed the early missionaries to concentrate on the large cities of their day.

Jesus had his disciples to begin their witnessing in the city of Jerusalem. The city was important to Jesus. During his brief public ministry He frequently visited it.

What did He see on those visits to Jerusalem? He saw that the Church (Temple) had become a place of merchandise and exchange of money—a literal "den of thieves." He saw Nicodemus, the intelligent young ruler with whom He talked about the necessity of being "born again." He saw the widow casting into the church treasury "all that she had." He saw the adulterous woman who was brought to Him by her accusers. He saw the hypocrisy of the self-righteous religious leaders and the real spiritual needs of the people on the other hand. *He wept over Jerusalem!*

There on a hillside looking down on the streets and houses teeming with the lost and unbelieving, Jesus wept. He was weeping for their sins, their hardness of heart, their denial of

Truth. Shall we not weep too? Today there are multitudes lost in the great cities of our world.

Paul, the apostle, preached the gospel in Antioch of Pisidia and saw "almost the whole city" (Acts 13:44) come together to hear the Word preached and many believed (v. 48). During a few short weeks in Thessalonica, he established a church of witnessing Christians before he was driven from the city by men who accused him of turning the world upside down. At Ephesus, a city given over to the worship of the goddess Diana, Paul saw many accept Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Paul preached the gospel in all the important cities of Palestine, Turkey, and Greece, and he was "ready" to preach the gospel in Rome.

GROWTH OF THE CITIES

Although in recent years many people have moved to the suburbs to avoid the congestion of the inner city, the people are concentrated in the cities. We are told that one third of American people are concentrated within fourteen huge metropolitan areas. We are fast approaching the time when groups of metropolitan areas will merge with neighboring metropolitan complexes to form a megalopolis (Meh-gah-lop'-uh-lis). This condition is already developing along a five hundred mile stretch between Boston and Washington; Chicago to Cleveland; Florida Gulf Coast; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast; and Southern California.

The boundaries of a megalopolis change and expand. Ignoring previous boundary lines of districts, villages, towns, cities, counties, and even states,

a megalopolis reflects a new kind of society.

Someone has said that yesteryear's covered wagons moving over westward trails have been replaced by station wagons driving bumper to bumper on freeways.

PROBLEMS OF THE CITIES

Big cities have big problems. Where large groups of people are, there are always needs (physical, material, spiritual).

Some of these are racial tensions, juvenile delinquency, vice, political corruption, barriers of language with foreign language groups, slums, poverty and ignorance which breed crime; and religious indifference.

The cities of the world are filled with people whose lives are fouled-up—who were not able to stand the pressures of the city. Pressures such as drugs, alcohol, weird religions, sexual promiscuity, pronography, and racism.

You may be thinking of moving out of the city to avoid its pollution and crime. But how will the cities be reached for Christ if the Christians all leave? The apostle Paul didn't enjoy the riots, imprisonments, ridicule, and strife which he encountered in the cities of Corinth and Ephesus. He could have moved out to a secluded spot, and prayed, meditated, and been free of all turmoil and taken it easy. But could He? He could never have been content living outside of God's will. He knew that the more he suffered for Christ, the more he would be comforted by the "*God of all comfort*" and would be able to "*comfort them which were in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith he himself was*

comforted of God" (2 Corinthians 1:4).

CHALLENGE OF THE CITIES

Winning a big city to Christ may seem impossible if we concentrate on its problems but the Holy Spirit is able to work in difficult and unexpected places.

Paul saw not so much the problems but the opportunities of the cities. Whether we live in the midst of urban areas or not, our lives are affected by current trends. The large cities dominate our national culture as well as the social and economic life. We cannot close our eyes and hope that problems will evaporate with the smog.

Christian missions is concerned with people, and people are crowding the cities. Therefore, we must go to the cities to minister to people in the name of Jesus. This means establishing new churches and missions. It means providing larger resources in personnel and facilities. It means developing and utilizing more effective approaches and techniques. It means that every Christian is responsible to God for what he can do himself in day-by-day witnessing.

Missions experts say that it is sometimes easier to get candidates for jungle villages than to get them to go to the big cities. Where are the men who are ready to preach at Rome—men and women whose hearts are burdened to reach the cities for Christ?

While education and training are important, we must remember that one does not have to be an apostle Paul, a Luther, or a Jonathan Edwards to reach Rome for Christ. There are

both the "Greek" and the "Barbarian," the "wise" and the "unwise" in every large city. There are all types of people to be reached and it takes all kinds of people to accomplish the task.

The church cannot possibly fulfill its obligation to the Great Commission as long as it neglects the world's great cities.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Eleven states of our country do not have one Free Will Baptist church affiliated with the National Association. They are: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nevada, Utah, Wisconsin, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Nebraska, and Delaware.

Numerous large cities (some capitols) are without a Free Will Baptist witness—New York City, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Diego, Long Beach, Omaha, to name a few.

Some state missions boards are sending out missionaries on their own. Others are working with the National Home Missions Board in joint projects.

The "Project 30" church extension worker plan, designed by the National Home Missions Board to assist church extension workers during those first critical months, has helped many to establish churches. This ministry emphasizes the support going to the worker. Thus being freed from financial strain, he can give himself more fully to the establishing of an indigenous church.

Special prayer for state home missions workers.

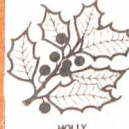
Offering for state missions.

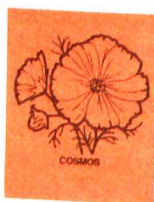
PRAYER GROUPS

by Earline Arthur

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OCTOBER Ceramic Christians

Last spring I enjoyed attending a brief series of ceramics classes. As we studied each phase of the process that produces a ceramics object, I was reminded of many similarities between those steps and the different aspects of our growth as Christians.

Ceramics begin as a special powder compound. This powder is mixed with water to form a type of liquid clay which our teacher called *slip*. Slip can easily be poured and will assume the shape of any mold into which it is placed. Our hearts must become as slip in order for us to experience true conversion. We must become as clay in the Potter's hands and be willing to conform to the shape of the mold He has for our lives.

When slip dries partially, it can be removed from its mold and will retain its shape. This stage, called *greenware*, is when clean-up must be performed. A small bladed tool is used to scrape away any molding lines, and a sponge dampened in water can remove any

small holes or imperfections. In our American slang, we often use "green" to refer to someone new or inexperienced. A "green" Christian must take steps to clean up his life—that is, to scrape away any sinful habits and wash off the effects of his past life.

Greenware is quite brittle and easily broken, but the pieces can usually be repaired by using slip. When we experience breakage in our Christian testimony, we must in a sense return to the slip stage and apply generous amounts of repentance and willingness to conform to Christ to mend our broken pieces.

When greenware is completely

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



cleaned, it is ready to be kiln fired to back out any remaining moisture and to produce a hard object. Sometimes our kiln firing as Christians is unpleasant, but it is necessary for us to withstand a degree of testing to purify and strengthen our lives. Just as pencil marks, loose brush bristles and other imperfections fire off greenware, so will qualities that weaken our Christian dedication be removed by our trials and testing for Christ's sake. Fired greenware (called *bisque*) changes color from gray to pure white. The end results to our lives will be equally as evident as this color change.

The steps from this point on depend entirely on the type of finished product you have in mind. Some pieces can be painted and completed. Others must undergo additional firings. Some are glazed and take on a bright, glassy finish; others remain rather dull. Christians are individuals, and once we undergo some basic changes, the Lord deals with us according to His desire for the end product of our lives. Some of us must experience more trials than others; some will shine brighter and receive more recognition, and some will break or crack and need repairs. But just as each ceramic item has a beauty and usefulness of its own, I am sure the Lord sees our unique qualities and uses us according to our given talents and abilities.

I would hope there would be one area in which these similarities do not exist. Any piece of ceramics is fairly easy to break. How fragile is YOUR Christianity?

Prayer Requests

Pray for Rev. and Mrs. Vergel

Maness as they begin services in Wilmington, Delaware. This will be the first Free Will Baptist church in the state of Delaware. The Maness family are joint project workers with the Maryland State Mission Board and the National Home Missions Board.

Pray for the Bobby Aycock family as they do deputational work in the states.

The Don Sextons will be returning to France in January. Pray for them as they prepare to go.

Ivan Lopez desires your prayers for himself and the camp ministries in Japoticabal, Brazil. Ivan took over the camp ministries after the Wilkinsons came to the states for furlough.



NOVEMBER Bread of Life

Hunger is a basic human need. Even a newborn infant has an innate means of expressing his need for nourishment. We have come to respect food as being life sustaining, and particularly bread (or wheat) which has become known as the "Staff of Life."

Dan Merkh, veteran missionary to France, shared an experience he had which demonstrated the great respect the French people have for bread.

I suppose the Merkh family lived in a typical French neighborhood where it was a daily custom for each family to purchase from the local bakery their supply of bread. At the end of each day Dan threw away any unused

bread, as a fresh loaf would be purchased the following morning. For a number of years he continued this practice, not realizing that his simple act of throwing away stale bread was offending his French neighbors.

The deep regard that a Frenchman has for the life sustaining quality of bread dictates that it never, never be thrown away. Stale bread is fed to animals or used in any way possible to feed living things. If your family does not have any animals, you give your stale bread to others to feed to their pets. But, you never just throw bread away, for that is like throwing away life itself.

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the *bread of life*: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." What better message to share with the French people and others around the world who have such a deep respect for life?

Prayer Requests

Please pray for Dave Cochrane, Jerry Barron, and the Mexican national workers as they make preparations to reopen the Bible Institute in Monterrey, N. L., Mexico.

Pray for Rev. Buddy Drake, new joint project worker, as he begins a new work in Enid, Oklahoma.

Pray for the outreach of the radio ministries on our foreign fields. Many have come to know the Lord through this ministry of service.

Our nationals in North and South India need your prayers daily. Pray for their dedication to God during these

months the Hannas are home for furlough.

The Sherwood Lees are back at Doropo. Pray for them and the Paynes as they carry on the load at the clinic while the Mileys are home on furlough. Pray especially for another doctor to help at the clinic.

Howard and Joan Filkins will resume their duties as houseparents at Bouake after a six month's furlough in the states.



DECEMBER 1975— International Year of Women

Today we hear a great deal about equal rights for the sexes, women's liberation and the feminist movement. This year was designated as the "International Year of Women," and in many areas special achievements of many women were recognized and honored.

I guess the women's movement actually began with Eve when she refused to submit to God's command concerning eating the forbidden fruit. Perhaps the serpent's deception teased her into believing she could attain a new height of recognition if she could introduce her husband to a new world of knowledge. And, let's face it, in many ways it's been downhill for us since.

Names like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott are common to the

cause of woman suffrage in the late 1800's. In this century Claire Booth Luce and, more recently, Gloria Steinem, Bella Abzug and others are closely linked to the cause of women's rights.

Although I appreciate my privilege to vote and other rights which have been fought for and won, there are other women after whom I would rather pattern my life. Let's look to some women in Bible history whom I would choose to honor this year.

Eve, as the very first woman created, would have to head up the list. She had her faults, among which curiosity was foremost, but none of us are perfect. She had the honor of becoming the first mother, a rare distinction indeed.

I would choose Hannah as an example for us to follow as mothers. Hannah desired a child and prayed that God would bless her to become a mother. She was faithful in her duties to Samuel and her other children. She unselfishly returned her firstborn son to the temple to be used in the Lord's service, just as she had promised God she would do. Could you do the same with your child? I think it would be very difficult for me.

And who but Mary, the woman chosen to bear the Savior, could we look to as our supreme model of womanhood? Would that we all could

accept God's will for our lives as Mary did, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

As 1975 draws to a close, may we each examine our lives and measure our growth by those Biblical standards set forth in God's Word. I wonder how "tall" we each grew this year. Let's go on to greater service as "laborers together with God."

Prayer Requests

Pray for Rev. Larry Messer who is a new joint project worker in Kansas City, Kansas.

The Gary Watson family have located in the town of Kaneohe, Hawaii, and request prayer that they will be able to find people to form a strong nucleus for the new church there.

Pray for Nancy Hughes' health. Pray that the Lord will strengthen her and heal her completely.

Language schools can sometimes be discouraging and frustrating. Pray for the Dennis Teagues, Lynn Mileys, Jerry Webbs and Dale Bishops in language schools preparing for their fields of service.

Praise the Lord for His bountiful blessings on His children. We praise Him for the safety of travel He has given to our missionaries and for the way He supplies each need according to His will.



Eleven members of the Free Will Baptist Bible College Woman's Auxiliary volunteered their services recently to clean up the Missionary Provision Closet. It was certainly a big help to the WNAC staff! Thanks girls!

Woman's Auxiliary is . . . (choose one of the following)

- a. A place for all the old women of the church to get together and gossip.
- B. An organization, run by the pastor's wife, that meets once a month to read their parts.
- C. Both A and B.
- D. None of the above.
- E. Woman's what?

The women of our campus are finally finding the correct answer (D) to the above question. Perhaps soon the general reaction of our student body to the Campus Woman's Auxiliary will no longer be raised eyebrows, snickers, and shoulder shrugs, but rather be one of honest appreciation for the new organization.

In essence, the auxiliary is purposed for all the women of the church. It is shameful for our college to produce Christian women workers for our local churches who have had no training in the auxiliary program. This is the major reason that our Free Will Baptist Bible College Woman's Auxiliary was organized; to serve as a training lab and in preparation for women who want a background in auxiliary work before the position is thrust upon them in their home church.

What purpose does the auxiliary serve, you ask. The answer is *not* a gossip center or a rote duty—monthly

Woman's Auxiliary on Campus

By Carol Kettelman

reading the parts in the quarterly. The organization is a functional one, an important one in the ministry of the church. Its purpose is to aid women in fulfilling their part in the Great Commission; therefore, its emphasis is missions; its watchword is "Laborers together with God." The auxiliary is not inefficient nor invaluable, but rather, the wealth of material, programs, and planning helps provided by the National Office of the Woman's Auxiliary can be used to greatly enrich the spiritual lives of its members, as well as develop in them characteristics of sharing, witnessing, and concern. Missions is approached from three separate standpoints; Missions Action, Missions Prayer, and Missions Study, to give it greater effectiveness and impact in the auxiliary program.

Though our campus officers and members alike are still quite shaky and awkward at their positions (President Susan Bair has a lot of trouble with parliamentary procedure), the auxiliary already indicates a will to work and a desire to see the results of their work as they *labor* together with God and *learn* so that their labors will prove more fruitful.

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The Torch/March, 1974

Carol is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Paul Kettelman and an active member of the campus auxiliary. She formerly served as vice president.



A black and white profile photograph of a woman with short, curly hair, wearing a patterned top.

Hickman

A black and white portrait of a woman with short, dark hair and glasses, wearing a light-colored top.

Butler

Who's Who in This Issue

A black and white portrait of a woman wearing a white nurse's cap and glasses, smiling.

Devine

A black and white portrait of a woman with short, dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark sweater.

Otwell

Emma Hickman is from Guyman, Oklahoma. Her program *"Eternal Echoes,"* was awarded first place in WNAC's recent writing contest. She is missions study chairman of her local auxiliary and is the mother of two sons and one daughter.

Rhetta Butler, Slocomb, Alabama, won second place in the program category with *"How Does Your Dedication Measure Up?"* She is a member of the Union Hill Free Will Baptist Church and serves as church clerk. She leads the adult CTS class and is active in her local Woman's Auxiliary. She is the mother of two daughters.

Glenda Devine, Sumter, S. C. won third place with the December program *"Look to Jesus."* She is program chairman of the Cherryvale Woman's Auxiliary, serves as church organist and teaches a Sunday school class. She is the mother of five children.

Barbara Otwell, Santa Paula, California, is the author of the Pre-Thanksgiving prayer program. She serves as missions prayer chairman of her local auxiliary and is vice president of the West Coast District Auxiliary Convention. She is the mother of a nine year old son.



Mommy, What Is Missions?

by Dorothy Pressnell

THE OTHER night my four year old bust into the kitchen where I was baking and questioned with serious eyes, "Mommy, what is missions?" Intent on the directions for mixing the cake, I answered absently, "Why, missions is telling someone about Jesus. Our collection every fourth Sunday is for missions."

"That's funny, mom," he answered, "we don't even have a missionary."

"Oh, yes, we do. We have home missionaries and foreign—"

"I mean we don't have any missionaries at our church."

I carefully put the cake in the oven and turned my attention to the uplifted face of my little boy, wondering just how to explain in four year old terms about the world of missions. "David, the Bible says we are all ambassadors of Christ. That means that those who are saved are missionaries, where ever they are."

"But mommy, Roy Thomas said we have the money, the men and the message but we're simply not getting the gospel out."

Roy Thomas! I hadn't thought he'd heard a word that was said the pre-

vious Sunday. At almost five, David is thirty-five pounds of squirming energy, questions and contradictions. The worship service is far too long for his liking and often raises questions that I'm never sure I answered just right.

There is a wilfulness in him that needs a firm hand but there is also a comprehension and wisdom in him that sometimes surprises and intrigues me. For instance, one Sunday he came home and announced that he had no intention of going to heaven. When questioned, he told me in an aggrieved tone that God must have made heaven just for grown ups because there wasn't any dirt to play in and he didn't want to live on streets of gold.

"Roy Thomas didn't mean just our church when he was preaching last Sunday," I started to explain when he interrupted positively. "Yes, he did. He must have meant *our* church for there wasn't any body else there to hear him."

Somewhat at a loss, I stumbled on with my explanation, "But David, we have missionaries in our church. Every time someone gets saved, it's a direct

result of somebody's mission work. Maybe teaching a little boy the ten commandments isn't as exciting as teaching a Bible class in Rennes, France, but God doesn't want everybody in Rennes, France, or Japan or Idaho. Some people he wants right here in Springfield, Ohio. When Wilma is teaching a Sunday school class at 401 N. Belmont, that makes *her* a missionary and *you* are her mission field. Missions is simply caring enough to share ourselves and the gospel with those who haven't heard about Jesus, whether it's across the street, across town or across the world . . . "

"You don't suppose everyone will have heard the gospel before I grow up, do you?" He questioned seriously.

"I couldn't help smiling as I kissed the top of his head, "I doubt it darling."

"Then maybe I'll be a missionary and take the good news to somebody. Missionaries have to be very brave and they ride in boats and airplanes and sometimes they get killed. Wilma said so."

As he slammed the door in characteristic little boy fashion, I could hear his question echoing down the corridors of my mind, "Mommy, what is missions?" My thoughts went back to July 1962 and the first missionary speaker I had ever heard. I can still hear Sister Willey telling how the prayers of the people back home had protected her family during the terror filled days and nights of the rioting in Panama.

Our church supported missions; I believed in missions; but my prayers were somewhat vague concerning missionaries. I still don't have a speaking acquaintance with all our missionaries, but I believe God would have me to pray as systematically as I give to

missions. Had I not heard Sister Willey that morning, I might never have been challenged to pray for specific people in specific situations; I might still be the uncaring, complacent Christian I had been.

And vividly, along with that recollection, I remember the call for consecration that evening when Rev. Stan Mooneyham had asked parents to stand up if they were willing for their children to go to the mission fields. I had been a young girl then with tears running down my face as I surveyed that vast auditorium. How slowly some of them stood up with tears running down their faces and some of them never stood up at all.

Here, in my kitchen, I suddenly knew why it had taken them so long to stand up that night. Yesterday, David had wanted to be a fireman; the day before that, a policeman; today a missionary, tomorrow something else. I found my eyes were wet with tears and I couldn't explain the clash of emotions that shook me. I had read the story of Hanna through tear blinded eyes as she begged God for a child and I knew exactly how she felt. But reading a little farther, I found that she gave him back to God. It must not have been easy for her either to send him back to the temple to serve.

Missions is caring enough to share ourselves and the gospel with those who don't know Jesus, I had told David.

Maybe, missions for me would not only be sharing my money and my prayers, but if God willing, my son.

Mrs. Pressnell serves as vice president of the Woman's Auxiliary of the First Church, Springfield, Ohio. She has one son. She is assistant Sunday school secretary, works in vacation Bible school and Youth for Christ Church Camp.

Tomorrow, Dear Lord

GOOD MORNING, Lord. Is it five o'clock already? Time to get the day started. I remember that yesterday I promised to read and study your precious Word more today and I'll start—just as soon as I prepare breakfast for my husband and get him off to work. Good-by dear. Hope you have a nice day.

Now, where was I? Oh, yes. Now is the time to read my Bible. How about beginning a study of the book of Acts? It is such a thrill to learn about how the early churches were started and to follow apostle Paul's missionary adventures. Chapter one, "*The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach . . .*"

Can it possibly be seven o'clock? I have to go now Lord and get the girls ready for school. I'll read more—just as soon as they leave on the school bus. Girls, get up and please hurry or you'll be late. Missy, please eat your breakfast. Becky, don't you have your shoes on yet? There comes the bus. Rhonda, your piano books; don't forget your piano books.

Now for a cup of coffee and back to Acts. What's that? The baby is awake. Forgive me, Lord, but I guess Acts will have to wait until I feed the baby and do some house work. I'll

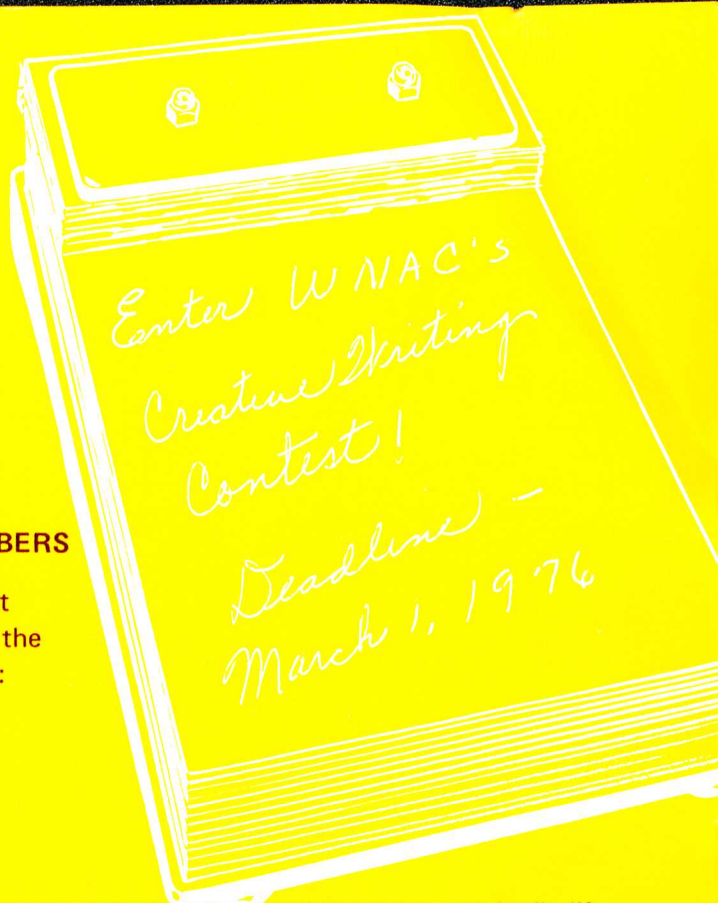
read some more—just as soon as I get baby Brent down for his afternoon nap. Good morning, Brent. Good morning, Chris. Are you awake, too? I have a surprise for you! Your dog had four little puppies last night! Yes, we can go see them right after you have had your breakfast.

Shh! Be quiet, Chris. Brent is finally asleep. Now you play quietly with some toys while Mommy reads God's Word. Where was I? Acts, chapter two, "*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come . . .*" What's that Chris? You want me to play with you. But honey, mommy has been trying all day to read. I know you're lonesome when your sisters are at school, but . . . o.k. Do we play hid 'n seek or do we play with your trucks. Dear Lord, I'll read some more later—just as soon as supper dishes are done and everyone is in bed.

It's bedtime, children. Let's talk to God before we go to sleep. Does anyone have a prayer request? Now as I check each bed and kiss five sleeping bundles of love, I want to thank you Heavenly Father for this day and for the privilege you have given me to care for my family. Everything is so peaceful and quiet that surely I can read now.

Acts, chapter three, "*Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer . . .*" The words seem to be going together. My eyes are so heavy and I just can't seem to keep awake. Thank you for understanding and Lord, I'll try to read more tomorrow.

Mrs. Mullins is a pastor's wife and the mother of five children. She is the president of the auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Stephens City, Virginia, active in the Northern Virginia District Convention, and secretary of the Maryland State Auxiliary.



**ALL WOMAN'S
AUXILIARY MEMBERS**

are eligible to submit
original materials in the
following categories:

**PROGRAMS
SKITS, PLAYS
ARTICLES**

SUBJECTS: Missions, prayer, enlistment, stewardship, service, and family life. Woman's life and problems, practical Christianity, devotional and inspirational materials including seasonal themes.

LENGTH OF MANUSCRIPT: Programs should be approximately 1800 words. Plays should not exceed five pages of typed, double-spaced material. Articles should not exceed 1100 words. All manuscript should be typewritten and double-spaced, with the author's name and address on the top of the first page.

AWARDS: In each of the three categories the prizes are: First place, \$25; second place, \$10; third place, study course books. Honorable mention awards will be decided upon by the staff.

DEADLINE DATE: March 1, 1976. Send your entry to WNAC Writing Contest, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202

ENTRIES WILL BE JUDGED ON: Originality, content, interest and suitability for Co-Laborer readers. Send as many entries as you wish.

WINNERS 1974-75 CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST



Butler



Devine



Reeves



Daniel



Davidson



Otwell



Powell



Pressnell



Mullins



Evans



Hurst

Programs

First Place

"Eternal Echoes"

Emma Hickman

Guyman, Oklahoma

Second Place

"How Does Your
Dedication Measure Up?"

Rhetta Butler

Slocomb, Alabama

Third Place

"Look to Jesus"

Glenda Devine

Sumter, S. C.

Honorable Mention

"Jewels in the Kingdom"

Betty Reeves

Farmington, Missouri

Articles

First Place

"Mommy, What is Missions?"

Dorothy Pressnell

Springfield, Ohio

Second Place

"Tomorrow, Dear Lord"

Patricia J. Mullins

Strasburg, Virginia

Honorable Mention

"Missions on Wheels"

Agnes Hurst

Midway, Tennessee

Third Place

"The Cocoon"

Brenda Evans

Kansas City, Missouri

Plays

First Place

"How's Your Prayer Life?"

Mildred Daniel

Troy, Michigan

Second Place

"How to Keep Your
Members from Coming
to Auxiliary"

Geraldine Davidson

Stark City, Missouri

Third Place

"Enthusiasm"

Barbara Otwell

Santa Paula, California

Honorable Mention

"How Rich I Am"

Wanda Powell

Puerto Rico