

F. W. D. R. C.
LIBRARY

Co-Laborer

April-May-June 1976



When I was young, romantic, and quite naive,
I often dreamed of what glory Motherhood would be.

With lovesick eyes and empty heads,
My husband and I started to have kids.

First came a girl, and then another.
What dummies we were to give them a brother.
Confused by a fourth, it is called the "Other."

Now a family of six is quite a brood.
In fact, Planned Parenthood had us sued.

I do believe that Planned Parenthood is correct.
But it's too late to get rid of this pain in the neck.

Don't get me wrong. I do love this throng.
But after I've made six beds, I think to myself—
WHO NEEDS KIDS?

Who needs kids who scowl, scream, and fight?
Who needs kids who won't go to bed at night?

Who needs piles of diapers and dirty dishes?
Who needs scattered toys, crumpled newspapers, and unfed goldfishes?

Who needs girls with phones growing out of their ears,
rollers becoming implanted in their heads,
and broken hearts with gushing tears?

Who needs boys who wear the same pair of sox
until they're too stiff to wash but not to box?
They borrow your hot comb and hair spray,
And can never make it till Dad's next payday.

Who needs girls who have boyfriends
who have more hair than I do?
Who needs teens who take the car just when I want to?

Who needs PTA, Brownies, Cub Scouts,
Boy and Girl Scouts, Church Youth Groups, and Little League?
All of which need a volunteer leader like me?

Who needs this ugly, toothless, freckle-faced, ratty haired,
Dirty soxed, wet diapered, beautiful bunch of kids who kiss me on
Mother's Day and tell me I'm beautiful even though I'm not;

Who say "I love you, Mommy" after some discipline,
and "God Bless Mom" in their prayers?

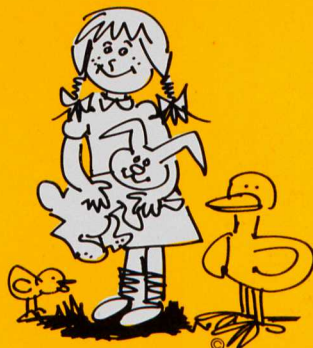
I do. Don't you?

Bonnie Shellnut is treasurer
of Michigan State Auxiliary
Convention.

So, who NEEDS kids?

By I. A. Mother
(Bonnie Shellnut)

*Confessions of an
overworked, underpaid,
overweight, mentally
underdeveloped,
tired, pooped, and
generally drug-out
mother.*



Co-Laborer

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Volume XVI Number 2

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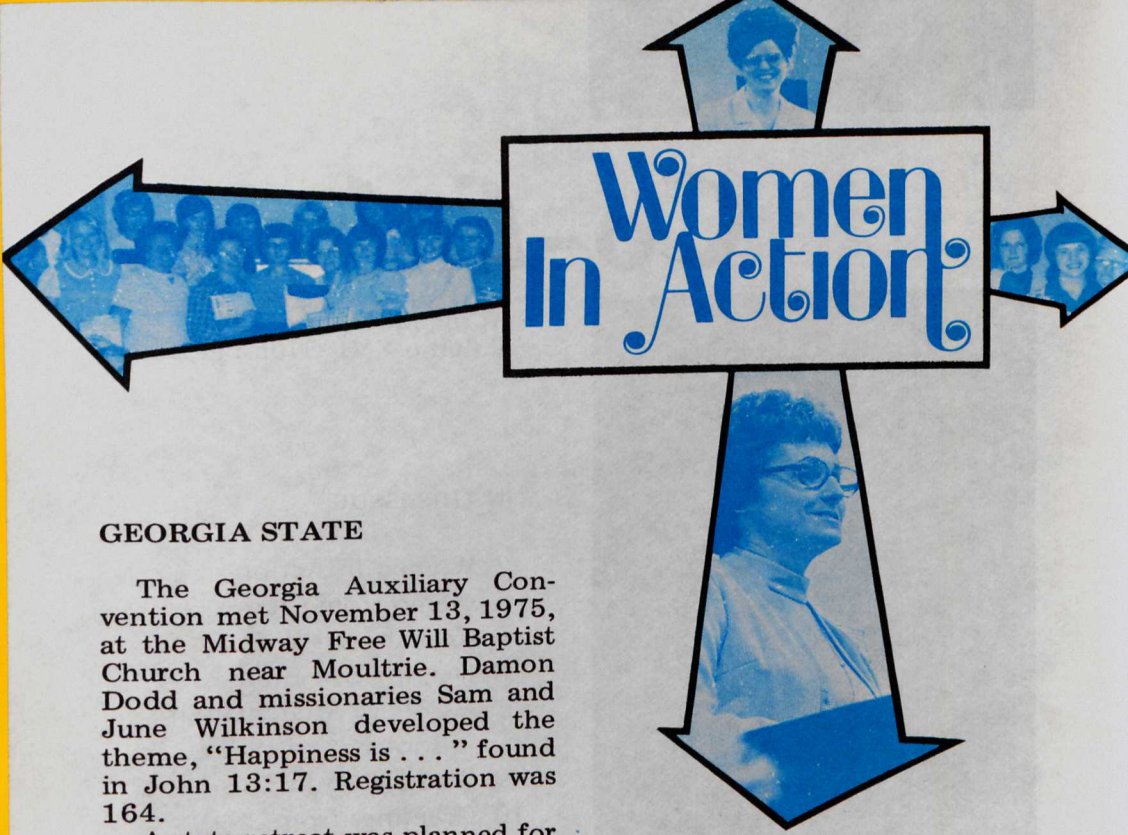
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Cleo W. Pursell, Editor

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Evelyn Jones, Circulation



Women In Action

GEORGIA STATE

The Georgia Auxiliary Convention met November 13, 1975, at the Midway Free Will Baptist Church near Moultrie. Damon Dodd and missionaries Sam and June Wilkinson developed the theme, "Happiness is . . ." found in John 13:17. Registration was 164.

A state retreat was planned for Spring, 1976. The new state project is a continuation of the support of state missionaries. Six dollars per member was suggested as the goal (Membership is 519).

Officers elected were: Barbara Roberts, president; Doris Grant, vice president; Caroline Hightower, secretary; Ida Tabb, treasurer; Edith Shiver, historian; Martha Everson, field worker. Members at large are Eva Middleton, Opal Hatcher, and Geraldine Waid.

GEORGIA DISTRICTS

Eighty women registered at New Enterprise Church near Iron

City, October 4, for the annual Midway District Woman's Auxiliary Convention. Florine Coscia, missionary to Brazil, was the featured speaker using the theme "Shine as Lights." Glowing reports of the past years work were given.

Evera Moye was elected president and Martha Everson, field worker.

The theme of the South Georgia District Convention was "Go Ye." Speakers included Laura Belle Barnard and June Wilkinson. Carolyn Saverance was elected president and DeWees Evans, field secretary.

MISSISSIPPI STATE

"Heavenly Prescriptions" was the theme of the Mississippi State Auxiliary Convention. They convened November 7, at Waynesboro, in the Corinth Free Will Baptist Church.

Speakers were Allan and Larue Crowson, missionary appointees to Ivory Coast, Africa. Mrs. Crowson also spoke at the evening banquet.

TENNESSEE STATE

"Growing Up Into Him," was the theme for the Tennessee Woman's Auxiliary Convention, November 11. They met in the

Central Free Will Baptist Church, Johnson City with a registration of 150.

Speakers included home missionary Beatrice Presley, Memphis, and Don Sexton, missionary to St. Sebastien, France.

Marjorie Workman was re-elected president. Other officers are, Arlene Farley, vice president; Sharon Riley, secretary; Beatrice Presley, treasurer; and Mary Ruth Wisheart, field worker. Members at large include Linda Cantrell, Linda Wright, and Beulah Teague.

The convention approved a state project of raising \$1,400 for the Welch Library, Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Missionary Billie Sexton was

Auxiliary members of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Amory, Mississippi, find joy in supplying needs for the missionary provision closet.

Missouri State Officers left to right, Barbara Harwell, Blanch Wisheart, Frances Bowman, Jean Francis, Helen McAllister, Sandy Smith, and Lucille Beatty.



the speaker for the fellowship dinner Tuesday evening at the Camara Inn.

OKLAHOMA STATE

The Oklahoma Woman's Auxiliary convened October 21, in the First Free Will Baptist Church, Norman. Registration was 228.

The keynote speaker was Aileen Calvery, missionary to Japan. WNAC executive secretary, Cleo Pursell, gave the WNAC report. Willie Gage, former missionary to the Ivory Coast, Africa brought devotions.

State projects adopted were \$1.00 per member for "Evangelism in Spain," Dock Catons' account; \$2.00 per member to purchase 100 folding chairs for Hillsdale Bible College; \$1.00 per member for "Enid Missions,"

Mrs. Bertha Singleton, was honored on her 75 birthday by members of the Bay Branch Woman's Auxiliary, Timmons ville, S. C. Thirty-seven people were present for the surprise birthday party. She is an active member of the church and attends regularly.



Buddy Drake account. (Oklahoma Auxiliary has 940 members.) They also agreed to help with the expenses of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention which will convene in Tulsa, in July.

Officers elected were: Lila Faye Morgan, president; Floretta Rhoades, vice president; Mary Alice Bridgman, secretary; Karen Anderson, treasurer; Betty Romine, assistant secretary; Carol Carner, field worker. Members at large are Onita Brandon, Leota Wilson, and Naomi Rice.

Members of the Pardue Memorial Woman's Auxiliary, Clarksville, Tennessee are (left to right), Sara Poston, president; Sue Cutshall, action chairman; Faye Head, prayer chairman; Frankie Poole, vice president; Kitty Poole, secretary-treasurer. Standing, Mary Bunney, Shirley Bellar, Jean McDaniel, Mary Weakley, and Pam Foley. Not pictured is Frances Walker, study chairman.



MEMO from CLEO



Cleo Pursell, Executive Secretary

Mission Accomplished

The Sion Valley Woman's Auxiliary, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, has successfully completed their project to obtain a projector for their church. More than 101,000 Betty Crocker coupons have been sent in which far exceeds their goal.

Sharon Trefry writes, "99.75% of our success is attributable to the various Auxiliaries who have sent us coupons."

The estimated cost of the projector was \$712.

Missionary Provision Closet

Thanks to your generous response we now have plenty of Tupperware pitchers and tumblers. We are in need of *colored* pillowcases! (We have plenty of white ones.) Other needs are:

colored sheets (queen, double, twin sizes)	terry cloth dishtowels
quilts and blankets	blenders (have plenty of hand mixers)
	mattress covers (cotton or polyester)

Servicemen's Sunday

May 30, 1976.

Do read Chaplain Walter Golding's article on ministering to young people in the military service. He has some excellent ideas.

Attractive patriotic church bulletins for your special day may be ordered from WNAC for \$2.75 per hundred plus 40¢ postage and handling charge.

Mail Situation

If you fail to receive your *Co-Laborers*, *Program Helps*, or other literature within a reasonable time *please notify us*. Although mail delivery is often slow, we mail in ample time for materials to reach you before you need them. Occasionally mail gets lost.

Standing orders such as *Co-Laborer* and *Program Help Packets* which are mailed to the Auxiliary secretary or to some other individual, often go astray.

Frequently the individual moves without notifying WNAC. Consequently the materials are destroyed by the post office or returned to us. In either event, the Auxiliary may fail to get their materials in time for their program.

The solution: If your church has a mail box or a P. O. Box please let us send all mail there in care of the Auxiliary. Then if your secretary moves or you change secretaries, your mail will arrive on time.



Co-Laborers Write

so much, including the Program Help Packet.

*Myrtle Green
Gastonia, N.C.*

I am so grateful for your Memo in *Co-Laborer*, especially about the "Forgotten Woman."

Yesterday eight women from the Auxiliary held a pre-Thanks-giving service in our home. Barbara Dunbar, president presided. My little Catholic neighbor attended, who is a genuine seeker; she was impressed.

*Betty Chapman
Norfolk, Virginia*

Thank God . . . for women who are still writing pure gospel programs for *Co-Laborer*. After reading "How Does Your Dedication Measure Up?" I found mine was measured and found wanting. Still God has blessed our Auxiliary at Faith Free Will Baptist Church.

Our church began three years ago as a mission with only six faithful ladies. We are in the process of building a new church and our Auxiliary has increased to 20. Thank God for our women who love one another dearly and enjoy your material

We do appreciate the items we picked up at the missionary provision closet. Using them is a pleasure, also a reminder of the love and faithfulness of those who make up Woman's Auxiliary.

We have a small Auxiliary here. We need your prayers that we will grow in number and be determined to do our best for the Lord knowing that He can use even a cup of cold water given in His name.

*Mary Hale
West Helena, Arkansas*

It was with mixed emotions that I came home for surgery after four years in Brazil. You ladies helped send us, kept us there, and welcomed us home with a love that only Christian sisters can show. Thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement. We especially appreciate the lovely things you provided by way of the provision closet. Thank you again for all you have done.

*Nancy Hughes
Elkton, Kentucky*

Our Auxiliary is still fairly new but already I feel we have accomplished a lot and the Lord has surely blessed. All the ladies seem to enjoy the fellowship and work together and we truly enjoy our *Co-Laborer* magazine.

*Imogene Adams
West Dayton W.A.
Brookville, Ohio*

This letter is to express our gratitude for a job well done by the WNAC staff. Our Auxiliary thoroughly enjoys receiving the new *Co-Laborer* books each quarter and also the program help packet. We know it takes a lot of hard work and we really appreciate your efforts.

*Carolyn Dwyer
Amory, Mississippi*

God is blessing in our Auxiliary here . . . We now have 20 members. Enjoy your programs very much. Pray for our church. Thank God for our new pastor and his family—Richard Cordell!

*Wilma Palmer
Guin, Alabama*

We are thankful God chose us to serve Him here in France. We are praying and studying to learn French so we can share Christ. With each day comes many new words, experiences, but God is still in control and He is able to get glory if we allow Him to.

Thank you for your prayers and all your help to all missionaries (but especially for your help to us).

*The Jerry Webbs
Albertsville, France*

The *Co-Laborer* magazines help so much to put into proper perspective our daily problems and to realize where and how we are failing to serve the Master in our daily lives.

*Betty Pettitt
Wabash, Indiana*

We are planning some exciting programs for the coming months. Please send the Program Help Packet, also some skits and plays . . . We are enjoying the *Co-Laborer* more each quarter. Thank the people responsible for making it an enjoyable magazine.

*Anna Lee Griffie
Kingsport, Tennessee*

Our Auxiliary is growing and we are so richly blessed in our meetings. Please increase our *Co-Laborers* from 30 to 40.

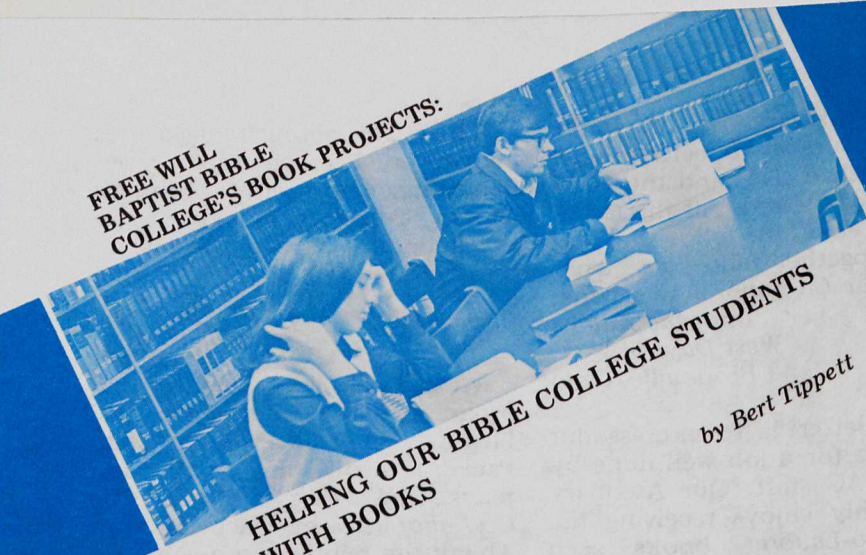
*Edna E. Morgan
Cheraw, S.C.*

Our Auxiliary members surely enjoy the programs in *Co-Laborer* each month. Also all the information about our missionaries and all the pictures.

*Mae Miller
Marion, N.C.*

Thanks so much for all you are doing for *world missions*. Thanks also for the support we receive. We certainly appreciate and enjoy the *Co-Laborer* as it is put out from time to time. The Lord's richest blessings to your staff and all involved in the work of WNAC.

*Dock and Norma Jean Caton
Missionaries to Spain*



FREE WILL
BAPTIST BIBLE
COLLEGE'S BOOK PROJECTS:

HELPING OUR BIBLE COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH BOOKS

by Bert Tippet

On a college campus, the library is to the mind what the cafeteria is to the body. We all recognize that it is essential to feed students. As a college grows, its food services must keep pace. But, when it comes to a college's basic purpose, the library is just as essential as the dining hall. Without books, a college cannot carry on the work of education and might as well shut down.

It is in this area that Free Will Baptist Bible College is facing an immediate need. When the college recently added a program of teacher training to its curriculum, it also took on the responsibility of buying thousands of new books needed by students preparing to teach. We are looking forward to the day when every teacher trained at Free Will Baptist Bible College will be certified. But committees who examine the college's program of teacher training, before approving it, will scrutinize the library to be certain that it is equipped to prepare good teachers.

In the November/December issue of the FWBBC *Bulletin*, we reported that Librarian Judy Shrewsbury estimates that 10,000 more books are needed to bring the library up to par. These books, she says, will average \$8 to \$10

each—a total cost of nearly \$100,000!

When I learned of this need, I called Mrs. Cleo Pursell, Executive Secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary Convention, and described it to her. She felt that the auxiliaries across the denomination were in a position to help and would be responsive to this need.

That same day I called Mrs. Marjorie Workman, President of the Tennessee Woman's Auxiliary, and Mrs. Luther Gibson, President of the Mississippi Woman's Auxiliary. Since both were soon to hold their state meetings, I felt that they would have to be told of this need quickly. Both ladies agreed to propose a Book Project to their Auxiliaries. Tennessee and Mississippi women adopted these proposals, their combined projects totaling nearly \$3,000 in funds for books.

We wanted to keep the projects concrete and let the women know exactly how their money was being used, so we prepared Book Project cards. Each card named a book needed by the library and its price. Cards totaling the amount of each state's project were sent and distributed to women across the state. Each woman took a card or cards and worked to raise the money needed to buy the book(s). When she reached her total,

she was asked to either send the money and cards to Free Will Baptist Bible College or to channel it through her state's Auxiliary. In appreciation, the college has listed the donor of each book and her auxiliary inside the front cover. These books are being added to the library holdings and will soon be used by hundreds of Bible College students.

But there are still many thousands of books we must buy. We need more books on Bible subjects, on sermon preparation, on missions, as well as on many general subjects. And as Free Will Baptist Bible College grows, the need for more books will grow.

If you or your Auxiliary can help, please write Free Will Baptist Bible

College and offer your assistance. Give the amount of the project you feel your auxiliary can handle. Project cards totaling that amount will be sent for you to distribute.

If the women of our denomination learned that Free Will Baptist Bible College could not afford to feed its students, they would be the first to help. I believe that they will also be the first to recognize how essential it is to keep the library fully equipped. We cannot afford to give our young people cut-rate training. God would not be pleased with cut-rate Christian workers. Adopt a Book Project for Free Will Baptist Bible College and help the college train tomorrow's Christian leaders.

WHO'S WHO IN THIS ISSUE



SUE WINCHESTER's program, "Cultivate or Depreciate," was an entry in WNAC's creative writing contest. Sue is the mother of two children and an active member of the South Side Woman's Auxiliary, St. Louis, Missouri, and in her district.

MILDRED M. DANIEL is a member of the Central Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary, Royal Oak, Michigan. She has held various offices in local, district and state Auxiliary work. She was awarded first place in last years writing contest for her play, "How's Your Prayer Life?" She conducts a Bible study class for woman which is called the "Proverbs 31 Club," and is sponsor of a *Missionettes* group. She wrote the program "More Precious Than Rubies."

GLENDA FULCHER and her husband, Bill, are missionaries serving presently in Panama. Formerly they established churches in Santa Teresa and Rivera, Uruguay. Glenda is the mother of five children and an active worker in Woman's Auxiliary work. Her program "Opportunities in Panama," is very informative.

ROSE MARIE C. LAFOON, Seminole, Oklahoma, is the author of the Pre-Easter Prayer Programs. She has been a frequent winner in WNAC's writing contests. Rose Marie is married to a Highway Patrolman and has three children. The eldest son is a minister of the gospel.

Greetings from GUADALAJARA

Jerry and Julie Barron and children, Myron, Tony and Tim, express their appreciation to members of the Woman's Auxiliary for their faithful support of their work. The Barrons are missionaries working under the National Home Missions Board. Jerry is director of the work in Mexico. They share some praise and prayer items.

Praise items:

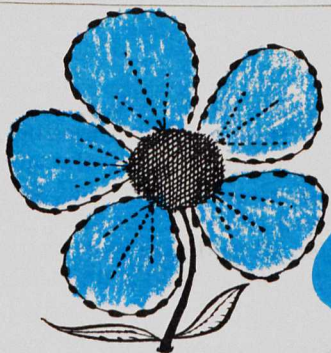
1. Fifty-five young people were present in VBS in the month of August and several came forward to pray on the last day.
2. For the Sunday school seminar to train our people to become teachers. We had six persons present.
3. For a wonderful baptismal service in September in which 11 new believers followed the Lord in baptism.
4. Praise Him for two young Mexican people who are now in their second year at the Rio Grande Bible Institute in Texas preparing for full time service in Mexico. We also have three others from our church in Guadalajara who are planning on entering the Institute next year.

Prayer items:

1. A continuation of the sweet spirit that we have in our church.
2. For our young people who are preparing for service and also the young couple. Pray for more missionaries to be called to the needy country of Mexico.
3. For the Mexican people in Guadalajara, especially in our town for they are very fanatic Catholics.
4. For the physical health of Jerry and Julie Barron and their children.

Vacation Bible School in the Guadalajara Free Will Baptist Church





April Program
by Sue Winchester

Cultivate or Depreciate



Purpose: *To help us make use of our lives instead of wasting them.*

Songs: "Take My Life and Let It Be," "I Want to be a Worker"

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30;
Matthew 13:1-9

See Program Help Packet

ONE DOES NOT have to be a farmer to know that a rich, fertile soil is necessary for a successful harvest. Unless soil is properly cultivated, fertilized, and refined, how can anyone expect a prosperous outcome? With inflation such a key issue in our world today, farming and garden planting seem to be a help in overcoming part of this problem. However, if we plant and then neglect our duties toward our crop or garden, we can't help but see good ground depreciate.

Our lives and the talents we possess are like fertile soil and unless we nurture them, we are going to lose our value in His service.

Rid Your Life Of Weeds

Often we consult a type of guidebook on growing plants or

vegetables which give helpful hints on their development. We, as Christians, have the greatest of all books, the Bible. By studying it, we will begin to improve our lives by *plucking out* the weeds that stifle effective service.

One such weed is labeled *I can't*. Study the Word and believe its promises. Cling to Philippians 4:13 for confidence and stamp out many harmful weeds. The *weeds* of sin—complacency, disobedience, and inactivity, can hinder growth. Take your hands off your life and let God fill it before the weeds become thorns. When the latter occurs, the Devil can make havoc of your life. Satan has so many tools to use on the Christian and discouragement is a major device.

Use Your Natural Resources

People often complain about being inadequate, lacking in talent. To overcome this feeling we must use our natural abilities for God. We are so busy wondering what *gigantic* offering of service we can render that we often overlook the natural

talents God has endowed us with.

First of all, are we using our *voices*? What a difference a good choir and special singing makes in a church service. (II Samuel 22:50.) Voices are also needed for *witnessing* (Acts 1:8). *Teaching* is also needed (Matthew 28:19-20). Sunday school teachers and Church Training Service leaders are always in demand. How many times has an Auxiliary president had to beg someone to take a part on the program? What about leading a testimony service or a prayer service? Don't let "spiritual laryngitis" or fear, rob you of fruit in the Master's vineyard.

Are we using our *hands* for God's glory? (Ecclesiastes 9:10a.) Although you may not be equipped to be a speaker perhaps you can put your thoughts on paper. Perhaps you can write an article or poem for your church paper. You may be able to write something creative for the Woman's Auxiliary writing contest. You never know what effect these things may have on the souls of others and it is definitely worth a try. What about sending a letter or card of cheer to one in the hospital or to a shut-in? A missionary could use words of encouragement. Have you written to one lately?

Your *feet* can direct you to a lost sinner, a suffering and depressed hospital patient, a friend who needs to know you care, or to a nursing home inmate who spends many sad and lonely hours needing your love and concern.

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15b.) Use all that you have and are and *blossom* in God's vineyard.

Sunshine And Rain

Crops and gardens need sunshine to grow. Although we are affected by the energy crisis, sunlight doesn't cost a penny. Why must we hide the beautiful glory of His light that He sheds in all our lives? Perhaps we can't be a spiritual giant, but we can all be a beacon to those around us (Matthew 5:16; II Corinthians 4:6).

Just living a happy, contented life is spreading sunshine. A kind word, smile, or handshake can bring cheer to a troubled soul. When you least expect it, someone is watching your life, so let the light of His love, radiate to those you meet daily. Just as God sends sun to plants or vegetables, let your light shine.

"Into each life some rain must fall." This old adage is very true, and just as rain nourishes soil, frequently our lives are enriched by trials. You may wonder how adverse circumstances can nurture us. The valley experiences only make us stronger (II Corinthians 12:9).

It's so easy when trials come our way to ask, "Why me, Lord?" With each passing trial that God sprinkles our way comes the promise of deliverance (Psalms 50:15). Dry ground is difficult to produce anything in, so let your dry life be filled with

living water—the Holy Spirit (John 4:14).

Toil With Faith

Early farming was back-breaking labor with no modern machinery. Each day's work was from sun to sun and no matter how long and hard the farmer labored, he sometimes met with failure. But he did not give up.

Perseverance and faith brought pioneers through many ordeals and we too can overcome the same way. Run the race with patience and faith. Put your hand to the plow, plant precious seeds and God will give the increase. (Psalms 126:6.)

The Working Woman's Harvest

The working woman sometimes faces the dilemma of how she can work and serve Christ at the same time. Christian working women have unlimited opportunities for witness. They are *out where the people are*.

Think what a difference it would make if every Christian woman would go forth on Monday morning carrying the Christian way of life into the daily places of her life.

Housewives work too and theirs is no ordinary job. Their children may be their mission field. We all have neighbors and loved ones that can be made ready for *harvest* too.

Being faithful, obedient, and surrendered to Christ are like fertilizers to our lives. *Faithfulness* isn't just an "ought-to"

matter, it is required of all stewards. (I Corinthians 4:2).

What good would it do to plant something and then leave it unattended? It surely wouldn't grow on its own and be ready for harvest. How can we expect to stand idly by, doing nothing with our lives and expect them to grow? Present your body a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2), and "Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18).

Reaping What We Sow

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7).

We must *till* the soil and scatter seeds *daily*. "They that sow in tears *shall reap* in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall *doubtless* come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psalms 126:5, 6).

The harvest will be in proportion to the sowing. He that sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly. He that sows bountifully shall also reap a bountiful harvest.

The latter part of Matthew 25 has a tragic ending. The slothful servant who hid his talent was doomed. Are we guilty of burying even *one* talent?

Let's be sowers and see results. Just to have Him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," will be worth every endeavor we make as "laborers together with God."

Pre-Easter
Season of Prayer Program
for Foreign Missions

April 12-16
1976



What Is Easter?

by Rose Marie C. Laffoon

EASTER is many things to many people, thus different people celebrate it in numerous ways. To most small children it is colored eggs and the Easter Bunny. To the fashion minded it is a few frock and the famed Easter bonnet that seems to be inching its way back into the fashion world. To many women it is the Easter Parade down Fifth Avenue. Too frequently such trivialities replace the true and very real meaning of Easter.

The aim in this lesson is to find the answer to the question

"What does Easter mean to *you*, personally?"

THE HISTORY OF EASTER

Hymns: "Christ Arose," "He Lives"

Scripture: Acts 12:4; Matthew 28:1, 6, 7

It is very surprising that the word Easter is found only once in the Scriptures. The word Christmas is not in the Bible at all.

Should you ask several unsaved acquaintances "What does Easter mean to you?" each person would probably give you a different answer. One might say "It's a time in the spring when everyone is getting a new outfit." Then they may or may not add, "To wear to church."

A little girl might draw up her fists beneath her tiny chin and squeal, "Easter is the Easter bunny with an Easter basket for me." Then as an afterthought she might add, "Oh yes, and it's the new pink dress, white shoes and socks with the hat and gloves mommy bought for me for Sunday school."

A tired mother may retort, "Easter is work! Coloring Easter eggs, making cupcakes that look like Easter baskets plus sewing four new outfits."

A man could answer, "Easter means money. My wife always goes overboard this time of year."

However, to the born-again believer, Easter holds a much deeper meaning.

Webster's New World Dictionary defines Easter as follows: "...spring, Easter: original name of pagan vernal festival almost coincident in date with the paschal festival of the church. An annual Christian festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus held on the first Sunday after the date of the first full moon that occurs on or after March 21."

The World Book Encyclopedia states: "Easter is a Christian festival that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is one of the most important holy days of the Christian religion. In most countries, Easter comes in early spring, at a time when green grass and warm sunshine begin to push aside the ice and snow of winter. Its name may have come from Easter, a Teutonic goddess of spring, or from the Teutonic festival of spring called Eastre."

Nature worshippers, blinded by Lucifer's cunningness to the true and living God, worshipped Eastre, their "dawn goddess" and the reappearing of warm mild days, as well as the fresh young tender plants.

Martin Luther once said: "Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time."

Prayer for Foreign Missionaries

WHAT EASTER MEANS TO CHRISTIANS

Hymns: "I Gave My Life for

Thee," "The Old Rugged Cross"
Scripture: Genesis 3:14-15

There is nothing wrong with Easter eggs and fresh, new clothes, just as there is nothing wrong with a Christmas tree and presents at Christmas time if they are given their rightful place—secondary to the real meaning of these two important events.

Unlike the book of Job where we get a small glimpse into the heavenly realm, we cannot know exactly what transpired in heaven prior to the time when Christ was conceived in the womb of Mary as the Holy Spirit overshadowed her. We can only speculate. God's perfect plan always included Jesus as it has from the beginning (Genesis 3:14-15).

The cross is the evidence of Christ's love for you. By His resurrection from the dead Christ was "declared to be the Son of God with power" (Romans 1:4). His resurrection also has life-changing implications for the believer. 1. *Certifies forgiveness of sin* (1 Corinthians 15:17). 2. *Guarantees justification by faith* (Romans 4:25 to 5:1). 3. *Enables transformation of life* (Romans 6:4-8). Man because of his sinful nature cannot please God, but being in the likeness of His resurrection provides a new nature which seeks those things which are above. 6. *Guarantees our resurrection* (Romans 8:11). 7. *We shall appear with Him in glory* (Colossians 3:4). *Have a circle of prayer with thanksgiving*

for the glorious hope of the resurrection.

EASTER IS FAITH

Hymns: "My Faith Looks up to Thee," "Faith is the Victory"

Scripture: Matthew 9:20-22, 29; Luke 8:25a

There are 246 references of *faith* in the Bible. There are many precious promises which should inspire our faith. Here are a few: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). "Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7). "Lo, I am with you alway even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:20). Yet we live so far beneath our privileges. We are afraid to step out by faith. We *ask not*, therefore we receive not.

When Christ and His disciples were crossing the sea of Galilee in a small ship a violent storm arose. The disciples were frightened and cried out "Master, master, we perish" (Luke 8:22-25). Jesus rebuked the wind and the raging water and there was a calm. Then He said unto them "Where is your faith?"

The storms that descend on us will not always be literal storms of thunder, lightning, wind, and rain. There will be disappointment, failure, illness, worry, and other problems. Such stormy trials test our faith. When times of crisis come, will we be swept away on a wave of fear? Or will we let faith triumph?

A certain woman was in the process of moving. The telephone company told her she could save \$5.00 on her bill if she would cut the telephone wire and move the telephone herself. For four days she had the phone in her home but couldn't use it because it wasn't hooked up. She said: "I felt in such turmoil with moving and all that when I looked at the useless phone I would get an uneasy feeling. Just before the man from the telephone company came to install my phone it dawned on me what was wrong. I had a phone in my home and the phone company had all their equipment in working order, yet there I was disconnected from the outside world. I thought how like that phone my life was. God is in heaven. His equipment is in working order and yet I had disconnected myself from God."

Prayer for Foreign Missionaries

EASTER IS HOPE

Hymns: "I Know Whom I Have Believed," "We Have an Anchor"

Scripture: (*The leader may want to assign Scriptures in advance instead of reading them all herself.*) Matthew 27:62-66, 28:11-15; Romans 5:2-6.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). The world would have you believe all hope is gone. Satan has whispered, "You have heard that old story about Christ's virgin

birth, His death, His rising from the grave and His second coming all your life and He hasn't come back yet." A lot of people live in hope that they won't die and go to everlasting punishment; still they do nothing to prevent it.

When they crucified Jesus on the cross, they thought they had killed the hope of salvation. But in their ignorant, merciless act they gave the world the only true hope it would ever have—the shed blood of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. (Matthew 27:62-66; 28:11-15. Then we have the promise of Romans 15:13. Paul relates our hope in Romans 5:2-6.

The wise mother hen will protect her nest of eggs savagely. Yet, when it comes time for the eggs to hatch she won't help that baby chick at all. Should an unwise person get that cracked egg away from the mother and help it to hatch by cracking away at the egg, the chicken will be a weakling all its life, if indeed it lives.

Our heavenly Father doesn't push Himself on anyone. He gently leads us to Him by His Holy Spirit. His convicting power condemns us until we are converted. Sometimes we fight conversion as a baby chicken fights the egg that imprisons him. The Lord, like the mother hen, watches, then when the battle is over and sin is overcome, He welcomes His own into eternal life with open arms. He then gives strength to overcome temptations.

Pray for the women of the church

whose husbands are unsaved.

EASTER IS LOVE

Hymns: "Love is the Theme," "Love Divine"

Scripture: John 13:34-35, 1 Corinthians 13 (substitute the word *love* for *charity*).

There is no stronger word on earth than the word *love* and yet there is no other word that is so abused. People commit a multitude of crimes under the guise of *love*. "Make love, not war," became a common phrase in this decade. There is nothing wrong with wholesome, clean love. The word is totally misinterpreted in these days.

Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Do we really love Him enough to keep His commandments? Yet, He loved us so much that He gave His life on Calvary to redeem us. Ask yourself this question: "How much do I really love Jesus?"

We all know God is love even though some have said that "God is dead." Others have responded by producing bumper stickers that say: "God is *not* dead, I talked to Him this morning."

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Far Above Rubies

By Mildred M. Daniel

Purpose: To help women develop strong Christian characters.

Songs: "I am Thine, O Lord," "His Way with Thee"

Scripture: Proverbs 31:10-31

See Program Help Packet

A New Creation

Centering my thoughts and affections "on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2) reminds me daily of His amazing grace bestowed so freely. It increases my hearts desire to remain in close fellowship—a *oneness*—with Him and with His people. The channel of prayer *must* be kept open. His Word *must* become a part of my entire life pattern. I *must* be readily available, sincerely desiring to be a "vessel . . . fit for the Master's use" (II Timothy 2:21). Paul says in Ephesians 2:22 that we are "built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

It behooves me, as one of His, to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith I am called. Though very decidedly a *new creation* in Christ Jesus, I must recognize and deal with the fact that my old nature is yet present with me. Looking honestly at the contrasting "old" and "new" natures, I am forced to admit that much—in fact, *most* of what God's Word demands of me as one of His, is the very *opposite* of what I would—by nature—do, or think, or feel. In fact, someone has said that from a natural point of view, the Beatitudes bless the wrong people! For instance, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do

ONCE DANIEL WEBSTER was confronted by a questioner in a group of people, and asked, "What is the greatest thought that has ever crossed your mind? His rapid reply was "My own personal accountability to Almighty God!"

One who has experienced the saving grace of God and has been brought spiritually from *nothing* to *everything*, is also confronted with this deep and inescapable thought. Beginning at the moment of salvation and increasing in momentum as we "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18), is our appreciation of His great mercy and grace, contrasted to our own frailty and unworthiness.

Not only has He "so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son . . ." (John 3:16), thus making our salvation possible, but He also showers on us the multiplied riches of His grace, in the past, in the present and for the future. Read Ephesians 1:1-14 and 2:5-7 to discover what these riches are.

good to them that hate you, and pray for them who despitefully use you and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). This type of reaction does not come *naturally* to most women (or men either).

Therefore, "by nature," I find myself in the same quandry in which the apostle Paul found himself in Romans 7:15-19, concluding with "Oh wretched man that I am. Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (vs. 24). How Satan can rejoice over the Christian woman, downhearted, depressed and defeated by her weak, depraved human nature were it not for the next verse in that passage; "I thank God *through* Jesus Christ, our Lord . . ." He then, through His indwelling Holy Spirit, is ever present with us, helping our infirmities . . . (Romans 8:26).

One Body

In reading Ephesians—the book of the Church—we can begin to comprehend the reason the inspired apostle Paul, in this book and other writings, placed such stress on striving for a "*oneness*" in the true body of believers. As this principle narrows down to *my* local church—and to *me* as a member—I am faced with my own personal responsibility to do my part to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). Though this "body" is composed of many diverse personalities, it is still "one body," and it is to be "fitly joined together . . ." (Ephesians

4:4-16). There is no room for friction and division in our church family. "Getting even," or "speaking your mind," is just not worth the price that must be paid in broken fellowship. It is like "winning the battle but losing the war." Therefore, grudges cannot be nursed; little hurts and personality conflicts must not be allowed to fester; our weaker brother or sister must be helped to grow, not criticized and shunned; no "big I, little you" spirit can be tolerated by the true child of God in her personal or church life.

Prepared For Service

There are many avenues of service open and available in the local church for the Christian woman who has a healthy attitude and outlook. She needs first, a vital daily relationship with her Savior. Next, she must have a good, wholesome acceptance of herself and her circumstances. True "liberation" is only experienced in Him and in His working in us. Finally, she must desire from her heart to be what He wants her to be, as a woman, a wife, a mother, and in her church work and relationships. Allowing God to develop these qualities in a woman is what sets her price *far above rubies*.

Recognizing our inability to "do it on our own" and recognizing and accepting His power to "do it through us," becomes my "Waterloo" as a believer with a sincere desire to grow and to be

used in His service. Only then is any woman able to be an effective teacher, or nursery worker, or organist, or secretary, or friend to the friendless, or perform myriad other services she can render in the local church, as God has given her the gift, ability and opportunity to exercise each.

Our Priorities

However, we must also be on guard against another danger as we launch out into the Lord's work. The *quality* of our daily walk or life pattern must be given top priority in any Christian's life. Often, in our eagerness to serve God in our new found life, we can get bogged down with a multiplicity of positions and responsibilities. Later we discover to our dismay that we have a "quantity of works, but that quality and lasting results seem to be suffering increasingly, thereby neglecting the proper and vital inner preparation for any real service. Taking time for daily communication with the Lord in prayer, plus the cleansing provided by "the washing of water by the Word" (Ephesians 5:26), is the formula for maintaining our spiritual strength and cleanliness. As we would not consider sending a child off to school on a winter morning without a warm, nourishing breakfast and suitable clothing, so we can not afford to begin a day or a particular task for Him while "hungry and half-dressed" spiritually.

Prepared For Battle

Recognize it or not the *battle* is on! It began at the moment of conversion and Satan waits for the moment to attack! Paul summarized his admonition to the saints at Ephesus by saying "Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might" (Ephesians 6:10). The reason this spiritual strength was and is so vital is that we "may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. The *well-dressed* Christian woman will strive to have on the *whole* armor of God, beginning with the helmet of salvation. She also needs to have her loins girded with truth, fasten securely the breast plate of righteousness, slipping on her feet the Gospel of peace; taking in one hand the shield of faith and in the other the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:14-17).

Defeated and wounded by Satan's darts, I just do not feel that I am worth much to my family, the Lord, or my church. But, as I gradually yield my *rights* and my *will* to His love and control, my *worth* increases! What sets a woman's *price* far above rubies? Simply, yet profoundly, "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:17-19).

A NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITY

IN ROMANS 13:1-5, God upholds the rule of law in human society; He authorizes punishment for lawbreakers; He sanctions the use of force to compel obedience to lawful authority; and that every citizen is responsible to support the rule of law.

The role of the armed forces is to restrain aggressor nations who try to plunder the territory of their neighbors. Someone must play the part of the policeman in international affairs so that we might enjoy our freedom.

America was the only major nation left unweakened after

World War II. Since that time, the United States had replaced Great Britain as policeman for the free world. Policing the world has become costly in material wealth and sacrifice of lives given for freedom.

Shortly after World War II, the Communist launched a program of worldwide subversion. The United States was the only nation in the world who could prevent the threat of atheistic Communism from sweeping around the world.

Officials in the United States became convinced that Communism must be contained or it would take over the entire world,



*by Walter E. Golding,
Chaplain, Captain, USAF
Loring AFB, Maine*

"We need to face the facts, it is evident that the military always will be with us. Jesus spoke of 'wars and rumors of wars' before the time of His coming."

therefore, United States policy makers began a policy of "containment."

One of the most respected military leaders of our time, former General Douglas Mac Arthur said, "Men since the beginning of time have sought peace . . . military alliances, balances of powers, leagues of nations; all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be by way of the crucible of war."

Someone has said that peace on this earth demands a change in the basic character of humanity, a change in human values, a change in you and me. This change only comes by turning our life over to Jesus Christ.

Policing the world is only providing a temporary solution. It does not bring lasting peace. We know that only when Jesus Christ comes the second time will permanent peace be enforced by the *Prince of Peace*.

We need to face the facts, it is evident that the military always will be with us. Jesus spoke of "wars and rumors of wars," before the time of His coming.

PREPARATION

Many men and women when they finish high school have an opportunity to serve God and

their country by enlisting in one of the branches of armed forces. For some this means a great transition in their lives and presents some of the greatest temptations they will ever encounter.

We ask ourselves, "Are they prepared for such a critical experience as they leave home, family and friend?"

The different branches of the military seek to provide the facilities and motivation for moral, mental and spiritual growth through many different programs. However, one's basic character is already formed from the influences such as the community, the home, the school and the church.

Here, then, are some basic ways which will guide parents and pastors seeking to guide young people in preparation for the unfamiliar, yet possibly one of the most valuable experiences, that of military service. Pastors and parents should prepare young people in three main areas of their character development: Their emotional maturity, Christian patriotism, and spiritual maturity.

The home is the basic institution which contributes significantly to a young person's emotional maturity. The young person is taught self-discipline along with a sense of respon-

sibility from his home training. Accepting responsibility involves the ability to make *right* decisions relating to friends, money, speech, drinking, and the proper respect for authority.

If the young person is not taught to respect his parents, teachers, pastor and others in authority, he will suffer much embarrassment in the military. A former Marine officer told of a situation involving a young man who had been locked up in the brig for some misconduct. His father became very indignant when his son was brought out to see him. His son began to break down with shame. The father mocked him and said to the Marine officer in charge, "I thought you made men not babies." The Marine officer immediately came to the boy's defense and told the father, "Don't expect us to accomplish in a few months what you failed to do in 17 years."

The parents will probably have the greatest influence on their children concerning respect and love for one's country by their attitude, speech and example.

The final and most important aspect of preparation needed by our young people is their commitment to Jesus Christ as *Lord* and *Savior*. Our young people need to be rooted and grounded in the Word of God realizing that the greatest enemy they will face on the battlefield will be Satan.

TEMPTATION

Satan has been tempting

people since the beginning of time. Even our Lord received temptation from Satan while he was in the wilderness, but Jesus commanded Satan "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Matthew 4:10). The Bible goes on to say, "Then the devil leaveth him."

There are many temptations which Satan uses to attack military people and one of the greatest is loneliness. After a person has traveled thousands of miles away from home, family, and friends, there comes a dull aching emptiness in his life.

There is only one way to overcome loneliness and that is to get busy for the Lord. There are many opportunities for Christian servicemen to witness for Christ, and to become involved in a local church or chapel program.

A young person's relationship to Jesus Christ will become heavily taxed to (and for most, beyond) the breaking point. Most men are simply not prepared spiritually for what they have to face. It takes a lot of nerve to live for Christ in the barracks among unregenerate men who curse, drink, take drugs, and talk sex every moment of their spare time.

An Army Chaplain said, "Concerning my counseling work here: aside from the spiritual problems, the biggest share of personal problems are centered around sexual and marital difficulties. Our churches must prepare young people well for mar-

riage and its heavy responsibilities."

AVOIDING FRUSTRATION

Christian servicemen must take their stand! The best way to live for God is to let everyone know where you stand immediately. By taking a firm stand, you will save many frustrations later on.

The Christian serviceman or woman is sent by the United States all over the world, many times they are required to serve at some remote station up to 12 or 14 months at a time. Whether they are on land, in the air, or at sea; no matter where they are sent, they should remember the words of Jesus, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). No battle will be too hard if the Christian serviceman will realize that, "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4b).

SUGGESTIONS TO PASTORS AND CHURCHES

1. Help the young person to have a conference with their pastor on living the Christian life in the military service.

2. Encourage them to become involved in a local Free Will Baptist Church or possibly the military chapel.

3. Assure them of your intentions of praying for them daily and writing to them regularly.

4. Encourage them to visit a

fundamental chaplain when processing into a new base.

5. Challenge them to read their Bible and to pray daily for God's guidance, to witness for Jesus, to tithe back to the local church, and to give support to chaplains, pastors, other Christians, and missionaries wherever they are stationed.

6. Send them weekly worship bulletins.

7. Send them the church newsletter.

8. Tape one of the weekly services on Sunday school lessons and send to a serviceman. Many men are not located near a Free Will Baptist church.

9. Place a picture of each man or woman in the military on the bulletin board.

10. Send them the Adult Sunday school quarterly.

11. Send them the Adult CTS Focus. (The writer has not seen an Adult Focus since August, 1968).

12. Send them a copy of the State or National Digest of Reports.

13. Send Free Will Baptist Chaplains a list of names of Free Will Baptist servicemen stationed on their base.

SERVICEMEN'S SUNDAY May 30, 1976

Servicemen's Sunday, May 30, gives every church an opportunity to especially remember the servicemen and women who are away from home.

June Program
by Glenda Fulcher

Opportunities in Panama

PANAMA is very much in the news today. Most everyone is probably aware of the negotiations for a new treaty between Panama and the United States in regard to the operation and control of the Panama Canal and the Canal Zone. At present there is not much progress being made and several groups within the country are becoming impatient. Recently there have been demonstrations, stoning of the U. S. Embassy, and public symbolic burning of the present treaty. Christians here are praying that very soon an agreement will be reached that will be acceptable to both sides and prevent the violence and strife which so many areas of the world have experienced during the recent years. Missionaries have always had complete freedom in their work here and the Gospel has been preached for many years in Panama. Perhaps we are being warned that our time here in Panama may be short, or at least being made aware that changes are coming and what we want to do for the Lord must be done now. In spite of the fact that missionaries have been in Panama for so many years, there are still many areas within the country without a Gospel witness.

There are four areas to which missionaries have ministered; the various indian tribes, the rural communities, the small cities, and the capital city. The population of Panama City is 373,000. Most of the evangelical work in this capital city has been among the West Indies population, and the poorer class people, coming from the apartment complexes. The middle

and upper class people have virtually not been reached by an evangelical mission. We as Free Will Baptists want to take advantage of the many opportunities we have now to preach the Gospel and win souls to the Lord. We thank God for what has been done in the past, but right now there is a tremendous opportunity here in the capital city. Free Will Baptists have 5 missions in rural areas. In addition there are two organized churches; one in a rural community of Agua Buena, some 18 miles outside Panama City, and the other is in the city itself. Let us consider how Free Will Baptists are reaching the different groups of people here and what the possibilities are for the future.

Children

In all of our churches and missions we are reaching a large number of children with the Gospel. Weekly we have approximately 100 children in Sunday School in Agua Buena, 25-30 in the Panama City church, 25 in San Juan, and 25 in La Cabima. Every other week there is a Sunday School in Cañitas with 30 children attending, and 25 in Jenené. From time to time a service is conducted on the Island of Cañas with approximately 20 children. Just recently I have started a Bible class for children in Betania, the area where we are living and plan on beginning another Free Will Baptist



church. There are 20 children attending this class. So one can see that many children are reached weekly.

In addition to the Sunday Schools, during the vacation months Daily Vacation Bible Schools are conducted in each of these areas. Through flannelgraph, flashcards, film strips, and Sunday School work books these children are taught the Bible. Many have accepted Christ as their Saviour, and they are grounded in the Faith, growing spiritually and accepting Christian standards in their daily life. It is so very important to reach the children. Catholicism tries to get her hold on them. Most children are baptized as babies, attend catechism classes while they are young, and then take first communion. These things hold such a prominent place in their lives, and yet they know nothing of Salvation by faith, nor the Word of God. Catholicism has not been so strong in the rural areas, but here in Betania it is very strong. So far the parents have been willing to let their children come to a class to study the Bible. This week after the class was over, one of the nine year old girls came up to me and asked, "Teacher, are you a Catholic?" I responded, "No, I am not a Catholic." She then asked, "Teacher, are you a Christian?" I replied, "Yes, honey, I am a Christian." She thought a while and then asked, "But Teacher, I don't understand. How can you be a Christian if you are not a Catholic?" Pray that these children may continue to hear God's Word. The Holy Spirit can then do His work in their hearts. "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Young People

Both the Agua Buena church and the Panama City church have active Young People's Auxiliaries. As mentioned before, many of these have been saved for several years, when the

work was first started. They are dedicated, active Christians. Many are teaching Sunday School classes, helping in Daily Vacation Bible Schools each year, and directing some of the missions. Several are directing the music and learning to play the piano. Three are presently studying in Bible Institutes to prepare for full-time work: Tauro Howard in Costa Rica, Santos Chirú and Bienvenido Pérez in Texas. Another young man is planning to study upon graduation from high school this year. Gabriel Pérez is now pastoring the church in Panama City. Valentina Estrada, who was saved as a child in Agua Buena, soon will become the wife of Pastor Gabriel. What a thrill it is to see these teenagers mature and assume their place in the work of God in our Free Will Baptist churches. New young people are being reached with the Gospel and learning what it means to live an abundant life in Christ. The Panama City church has been very effective lately in reaching some of the University students. At the present time the University of Panama is the seat of discontentment and demonstrations against the present Panama Canal Treaty. Communism has a strong hold among the professors and students. Thank God for these young people who have been saved and are coming out from among these groups. The young people living here in Betania, a well-to-do neighborhood, attending private schools, have yet to be reached with the Gospel.

Women

As in most places around the world, the women of Panama have responded more readily to the Gospel than the men. In all of our churches there are more women in attendance than men. Many of our faithful dedicated women's husbands are still unsaved. Several of these women are faced with very serious and even heartbreaking situa-

tions. Praise God for these women who have found Christ as their Saviour and place their trust in Him, knowing that "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." They have assumed the responsibility of seeing that their children come to know the Lord. Many are teachers in our Sunday Schools. Both the Panama City church and Agua Buena have active women's auxiliaries. From time to time they meet together for fellowship and special services. Very soon now I plan on starting a Bible study class for the women of Betania. These are educated, well-to-do women. And most of them are very Catholic, much more so than any group with which we have worked in the years past. The challenge is great, and I must admit I feel very incapable in the face of such an opportunity. Mrs. Willey reaches many women in the Canal Zone and Panama City, and through her speaking engagements, Bible studies, and counseling has many opportunities to point these women to the Saviour. We have found that these upper class Panamanian women have great spiritual needs, and they are searching for something to fill that void in their lives. We know that Christ is the answer. Pray that as we present Him, they will have open hearts to receive Him and let Him meet their every need.

Men

It has been harder to reach the men with the Gospel here in Panama than the children and women. But we thank God for several solid, dedicated men in each of our churches. Recently we have seen the men take a more responsible position of leadership in the work. Ricardo Maldonado is the President of the Panama Association of Free Will Baptists. In both Panama City and Agua Buena we have men who are deacons, and treasurers, and other officials in the churches. In Agua Buena Eusebie Asprilla is serving as

pastor of the church, and is doing a very good job leading the congregation, teaching, and bringing Bible messages. There is also a group of six men who meet every Thursday night for Bible study and prayer. Sometimes they meet in different homes. There have been recent conversions and baptisms of men in the Panama City church. In each of our areas we want to concentrate on winning more men. Here in the new work we are starting in Betania the challenge is tremendous. We find doctors, businessmen, men well educated and in good positions.

During the first years of our ministry here our main objective was evangelism. We used evangelistic campaigns, motion pictures, Bible clubs, and various ministries in order to reach the people with the Gospel and bring them to a decision to accept Christ. Most recently our main trust has been that of teaching, preparing the Christians themselves to do the evangelistic work and reach their own people. We have also been training them to carry on the entire ministry of an organized church. Our work for the past several years has been among the poorer class people. They have not had financial means, nor education. But the Lord has blessed and done a great work we feel in the lives of these people and we have a strong work here. And now we are starting from scratch, so to speak, in beginning a new work here in the city. As we look to another type people with which to work, our methods may vary a little, we may approach it from a different angle, but the message is the same, and the need is just as great in their lives. So we request the prayers of our Free Will Baptist Women in the auxiliaries around the States to be much in prayer for us and this new ministry. Our prayer and desire is that God will work in spite of our failures and weaknesses and build a strong Free Will Baptist Church in Panama for His glory.

PRAYER GROUPS

Earline Arthur

APRIL

**\$500 Cash
Club**

Don Robirds

We had been busy packing, gathering together needed materials for our next term on the field. We were quite nervous each time the end of the month rolled around. We anxiously looked for the monthly financial statement from the mission office. Would we have enough cash on hand to go back to the field? We knew we had enough monthly commitments, but there was some doubt concerning the accumulated cash needed. I still remember the feeling I had inside

when Mr. Van Kluyve informed me that we must wait at least another three months before our return to the field.

Thanks to *Project 5000* the necessary cash was provided for us to return three months behind schedule. But what if *Project 5000* had been needed for something else? Our delay would have undoubtedly continued. And today more and more missionaries are facing this dilemma. *Project 5000* cannot meet all of their needs.

The Foreign Missions Department launched an effort to enlist churches and individuals in a *\$500 Cash Club*, each giving \$500 a year above regular giving toward accumulated cash. The idea behind the effort is to accumulate an annual cash supply of approximately \$100,000 or enough to send approximately six couples to the field provided they have their monthly faith promise needs met.

Why does a missionary have the problem of raising his cash needs? The answer is simple: cost of travel, housing, and salary make it difficult to accumulate the necessary cash in a short time. The longer this period is extended, the more money is being spent in a non-missionary role.

A missionary having his monthly commitments secured within a ten-month period would be free to go to the field almost immediately if the cash were on hand. Thus, the following months would represent productive time either in the sense of preparation for the task

through language study or through actual evangelism in the foreign culture.

This all adds up to economy plus expedition. As stewards of God's Word and ambassadors for Christ, both time and money are extremely important in these last days. Christ is soon to return! We need to do the most possible in the shortest time.

The *\$500 Cash Club* is one way through which these vital needs can be met. Woman's Auxiliaries can do much in stimulating the interest in this special emphasis.

Prayer Requests

Pray for the Edward "Butch" Johns' as they begin a new work in San Diego, California.

Pray for the Dave Franks as they leave Brazil for a furlough in the states and for the Joe Haas family who will return from France in April.

April is Foreign Missions month. Please pray for Call-a-Thon Sunday, April 18.



MAY Media Madness

Stop to think about it—how long has it been since you made a decision to buy a particular product or shop in a certain store, that was not influenced by advertising? Our world is one of the media—television, radio, newspapers, magazines. Sometimes we forget just how much influence these factors have on all aspects of our lives. Manufacturers spend millions of

dollars daily to have the opportunity to manipulate our minds and influence our decisions. We must, therefore, be mindful of the type of reading and viewing matter we select.

Television probably is the greatest single influence of modern technology. Hardly a home exists that does not contain a TV set. Statistics tell us that children up to school age spend more time watching television than any other single activity. What a waste of those formative years! Mothers, by all means, don't use your TV as a babysitting service. Take the time to sit down and talk to your pre-schooler. Buy him/her good books, and read them aloud.

When the weather is nice, take a walk—and let your toddler set the pace. Stop when he stops, look at what he looks at, and answer his questions as simply as possible.

But you've got housework to do? Let it wait an hour or two! It is so much better to live with a little untidiness than to neglect your child's mental development to the point where he knows nothing but cartoons and violence from the "boob tube."

And it's not just our children's viewing that we must censor. I've been guilty of sitting glued to the set watching hours of soap operas. Break away and do something constructive with your time.

The evening hours are critical, too. Use the TV listings to determine what programs are suitable for your whole family to enjoy. Or better yet, turn off the set and spend the evening talking

or playing games with your youngsters.

Next month we'll continue our discussion about the other phases of the media.

Prayer Requests

Pray for the "Cash for Cajun Country" project of the National Youth Conference to buy land for the home missions church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Pray for the Eddie Paynes who are in the states for a much needed furlough. Also pray for the Sherwood Lees as they assume the heavy load of the clinic at Doropo.

Pray for cash needs of missionary appointees that they may leave for language schools this summer. They are the Crowsons, the Lytles, Alice Smith and Judy Smith. Each appointee must raise \$15,000 before departure from the states.



JUNE Media Madness Part II

Radio, magazines and newspapers don't have the single dominance that TV enjoys, but most all of us read or listen to the radio frequently.

The fact that you are reading this very article shows you are interested in good material. Subscribe to *Contact*, *Heartbeat* and *Mission Grams*—all good Free Will Baptist publications. I personally enjoy *Good Housekeeping* and *Reader's Digest* in the realm of secular journals. A

number of other good magazines could be recommended. And, of course, there's no better reading material anywhere than God's Word.

What about your newspaper? We owe it to ourselves to be well informed on current events, but don't believe everything you read. Make sure your source is reputable, and choose from a variety of offerings to obtain a well-rounded report.

I've never been called for jury duty, but I understand that in some cases prospective jurors' media habits are questioned to help gain insight into their objectivity.

Don't sell yourself short. Be aware, and be selective. We can take advantage of these medium for our growth and development but must be careful that we are not being used by those who control what is printed or programmed.

Prayer Requests

Pray for the new, small congregation the Harley Bennetts are working with in Pocatello, Idaho. Pray that a strong Free Will Baptist Church may be established in this city that is predominately Mormon.

Pray for the Buddy Drakes as they labor in Enid, Oklahoma that they will be able to find property for their new church.

Pray for those who graduated from Missionary Internship in May and began their deputational ministry. They are Mirial Gainer, Ron and Linda Callaway, Jim and Susan Moser, and Clint and Lynette Morgan.

Woman's Auxiliary Retreats



Hundreds of Free Will Baptist women have participated in Woman's Auxiliary retreats on the state, district, and even local levels this year. Did the members of your Woman's Auxiliary take part of these very meaningful activities?

CALIFORNIA

California Woman's Auxiliary held their third annual prayer retreat October 16-18. A hundred and thirty-two women, ranging in age from 16 to 81, came to Emerald Cove Camp, Bass Lake, California. The program consisted of a dramatic reading, a film, special music and missionary speakers LaRue Crowson and Florine Cosia.

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma State Woman's Auxiliary sponsored three area retreats this year with a total attendance of 312. The Southeast District met at Nacoma Lodge, McAlister, on May 2, 1975, with 51 present. Missionary Shirley Combs was the speaker. Northeast District met at the Waggoner Camp

Ground with a registration of 150. Ruth Bivens was the speaker. The inspiring theme was "I Will Lift up Mine Eyes to the Hills." An offering of \$432 was given to missionaries Robert and Judy Bryan. The Southwest District met at Texhoma Lodge with 111 present. Shirley Combs was the speaker.

TENNESSEE

Tennessee State Retreat was held at Central Youth Camp, Greeneville, Tennessee, September 26-27, with president Marjorie Workman in charge of the program.

It was truly a time of prayer and praise with numerous speakers developing the theme, "Believing-Ye Rejoice."

MISSISSIPPI

Approximately 50 women met at Camp Morganwood August 1-2 for a weekend of prayer and fellowship. Eva House, state field worker wrote: "An unaccountable serenity seemed to encircle the camp...even after the sun had gone down, a glow continued

to light the sky . . . I remembered the words of the Psalmist: 'The heavens declare the Glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.'"

June Wilkinson, missionary to Brazil, brought the inspirational messages.

ILLINOIS

The Illinois State Woman's Auxiliary retreat was held at the campgrounds near Benton, September 22-23. Joan Filkins was the speaker. Joan and her husband, Howard, are house parents to missionaries' children in the school in Bouake, Ivory Coast, West Africa. It also was a time of fellowship, prayer, singing, and fun.

MISSOURI

There was a "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" that prevailed at the Niangua Campground, September 15-16, when women from across the state met for their annual retreat. Ninety-four women attended the retreat, the largest number ever to attend. Cleo Pursell, WNAC executive secretary, was the guest speaker. "Women in the Modern World" was the theme. Many interesting topics were discussed by state women: "A Career Woman," "A Mother," "A Pastor's Wife," "A Grandmother," "Serving with a Handicapped Child."

OHIO

"The Ohio Auxiliary retreat which was held September 12-13, at Camp Bethany, can be described only in superlatives—programs, weather, fellowship, food, 58 in attendance,

blessings and more blessings, for our Lord was there," writes Joann Sizemore, state president.

The theme, "Christian Women Everyday," was ably developed by various women through lectures and group discussions. Florine Coscia, missionary to Brazil was the guest speaker. She was surprised by a gift from the group in the amount of \$350.

CAROLINA-VIRGINIA

The Carolina-Virginia Woman's Auxiliary Retreat was held November 7-8, at Spencewood Christian Camp. The theme was "Strengthened with His Might." Florine Coscia, missionary to Brazil was the featured speaker. Missionary Sue Aycock, Brazil, brought devotions. Other activities included book reviews, a puppet demonstration for children's church, other inspirational talks and fun time. There were 226 present.

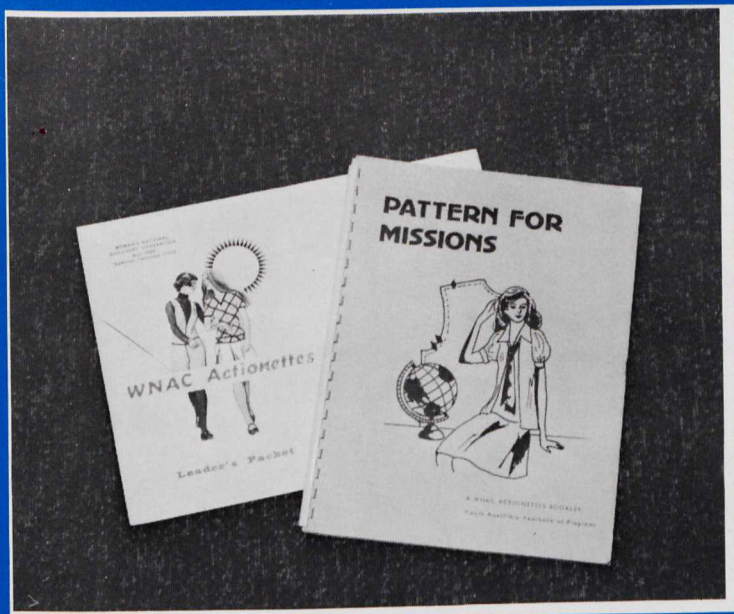
KANSAS

The Kansas State Auxiliary Retreat was held October 3-4, at a camp near Salina. Thirty-one women were present for their first retreat. The theme was "Quest for Queenliness."

Guest speakers were Helen McAllister, Farmington, Missouri, and Mary Ruth Wisheart, Nashville, Tennessee.

Other activities included a candlelight service, a sunrise service, special singing, and a quiz about missionaries' wives.

The women say this first retreat was "a dream come true," and are already looking forward to their retreat next year!



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