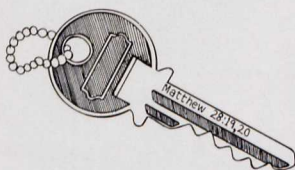


Co-Laborer

October-November-December 1976



THE KEY TO MISSIONS



A WNAC ACTIONETTES BOOKLET
MONTHLY AUXILIARY MEMBER OF PROGRAMS

ACTIONETTES YEARBOOK

"Key to Missions" is the theme of the second Actionettes yearbook of programs. These 12 programs are designed for young women, ages 13-18.

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WNAC Actionettes

WOMAN'S NATIONAL
AUXILIARY CONVENTION
BAY 1988
Nashville, Tennessee 37202



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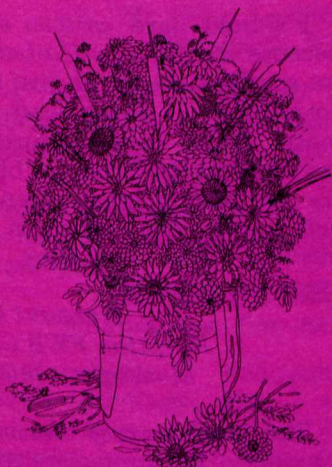
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Volume XVI Number 4

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Co-Laborers Write
- 4 Women in Action
- 9 Memo from Cleo
- 10 October Program
- 13 November Program
- 16 Pre-Thanksgiving Season
of Prayer
- 20 December Program
- 22 Birthday Party for Jesus
- 24 A Gift
- 25 Martha Chose the Better
Part
- 27 State Mission Season of
Prayer
- 29 Prayer Groups
- 32 Who's Who in this Issue?



Cleo W. Pursell, Editor

Evelyn Jones, Circulation
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Co-Laborers Write

Our ACTIONETTES started meeting in August of 1975. We have around 15 members enrolled. Our girls are so excited that they meet twice a month. We appreciate the literature you have printed for them. Please send us 15 ACTIONETTES Yearbooks and one ACTIONETTES Leader's Packet.

*Mrs. Judy Evans
Louisa, Kentucky*

The Lord has brought our Auxiliary a long way in the last two years. The *Co-Laborer* has made a spiritual difference and caused our Auxiliary to keep growing in number and Christian growth... Please increase our order to 35.

*Kiska Siffers
Cleveland, Ohio*

So many of the wonderful articles in *Co-Laborer* have been too good to toss aside so I have saved them to re-read or share with someone. I'm proud of our Woman's Auxiliary. We have around 18 faithful members. When we first started some of the women wouldn't come because they thought it was a

social. We kept encouraging them to just come once. When they came and saw and heard the wonderful lessons in *Co-Laborer* they came back. We owe a special thanks to the workers and writers of *Co-Laborer* for a wonderful work.

*Rosemary Blackburn
West Frankfort, Illinois*

I should have written sooner because the 35 new *Co-Laborers* we received this week just didn't go around... please send us 10 more! We've been organized 15 months and the Lord has blessed. We are having great attendance and four or five visitors at every meeting who say they really enjoy our meetings.

*Margaret Carter
Keefeton FWB Church
Muskogee, Oklahoma*

The Lord is truly blessing our Auxiliary. We appreciate the fine work all of you are doing.

*Judy Tyner
Kannapolis, N.C.*

We are very thankful for our Auxiliary. Our lessons are always very spiritual. We are working on some ideas to see if we can get more ladies to come to our meetings... Last year we gave over \$800 to the church and foreign missions.

*Shirley Howard
Ulysses, Kansas*

I certainly appreciate the valuable program help packets and the part they play in adding to the interest of our Auxiliary programs!

*Mrs. Dayton Pratt
Memphis, Tennessee*

Please accept our small offering (\$34.00) for the WNAC Emphasis program. We pray that this will help you to further your work . . . We have enjoyed the lessons in *Co-Laborer* for some-time but the last quarterly will be hard to beat.

*Edith Waters
Mt. Olive Auxiliary
Plymouth, N.C.*

Our Auxiliary consists of 52 members. About half of these joined last year. We do really enjoy the programs in *Co-Laborer*. Please send us the program help packet and also some skits and plays.

*Mrs. Alfred Cutshall
Limestone, Tennessee*

As secretary of Fellowship Woman's Auxiliary, may I express our appreciation for the outstanding lessons in our *Co-Laborer*. Each quarter seems to be better than the one before. Please continue to present to us programs that will encourage and challenge us as never before to do more to win the lost to Jesus.

*Penny Barefoot
Micro, N.C.*

I just don't know what we would do without you dear ladies. I mean by way of the things you supply us with through the provision closet,

when we arrive home for furlough and also when we return to the field.

You are a real witness here in France because when some French person asks me where I got so and so, I tell them about your work there in the States and then they realize that you have real Christian love.

Thank you for your support to us by gifts and your prayers . . . We are happy to be settled in Nantes. The Lord is blessing our work . . . We appreciate receiving the *Co-Laborer* magazine and the good work Mrs. Pursell and staff are doing.

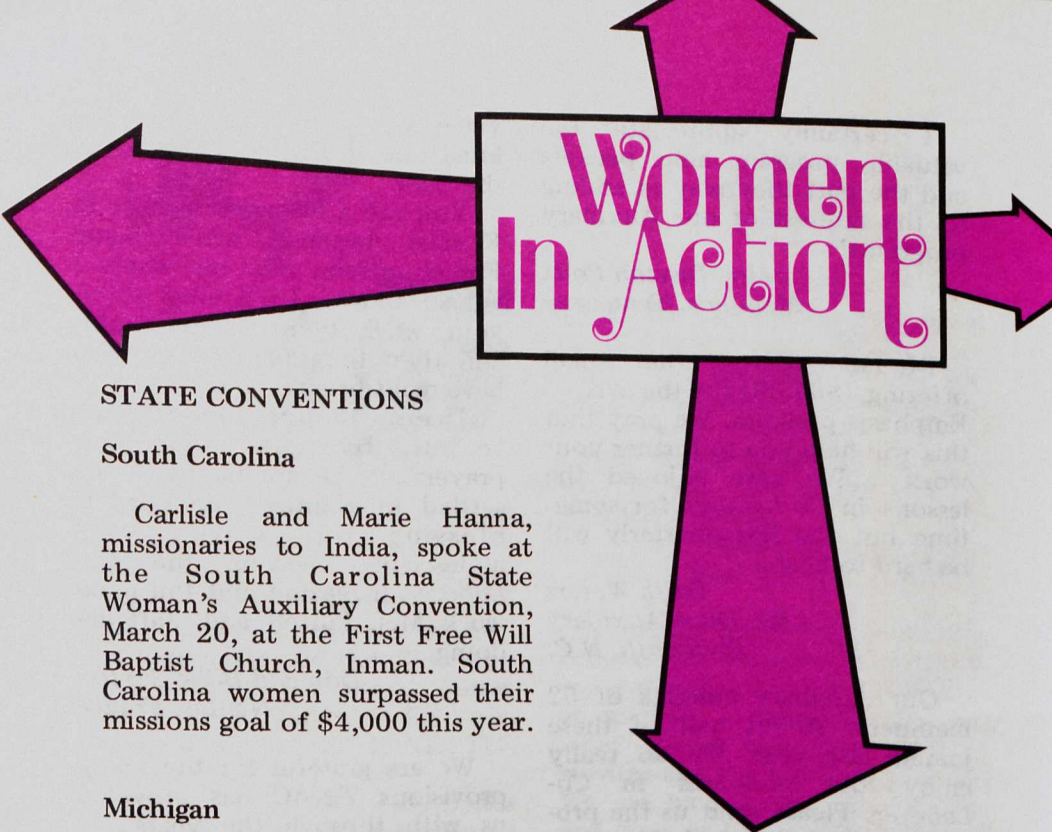
*Don and Billie Sexton
Nantes, France*

We are grateful for the many provisions WNAC has provided us with through the years . . . This term God has given me a ministry with women I have not had before. There are many opportunities and we thank God for them.

*Evelyn Hersey
Japan*

We have been averaging around 20 in our Auxiliary and at least six or seven are unsaved women! Recently we had four baptized, and two were women who had learned about the church through visiting the Auxiliary last year . . . The women are still using the translated version of our monthly programs and how the Holy Spirit has opened hearts . . .

*Barbara Haas
Rennes, France*



Women In Action

STATE CONVENTIONS

South Carolina

Carlisle and Marie Hanna, missionaries to India, spoke at the South Carolina State Woman's Auxiliary Convention, March 20, at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Inman. South Carolina women surpassed their missions goal of \$4,000 this year.

Michigan

The Michigan State Auxiliary Convention met at the Free Will Baptist Church in Pontiac, May 22, using the theme "Freedom Is . . ." Nancy Hughes, missionary to Brazil was the speaker. Pastor Jim Nason brought devotions. More than \$2,400 in merchandise was given to the missionary provision closet. New projects are the expense of the national in 1977 and a monthly calendar for all phases of work. Registration was 80.

Arizona

The Arizona Auxiliary met in Phoenix at the Northside Free Will Baptist Church, April 10. The speaker was Shirley Hucul,

wife of the Phoenix Roadrunner Hockey Team Coach Sandy Hucul. Johnny Jenkins, state secretary said that Mrs. Hucul, a native of Canada, is a very vibrant Christian and that her testimony was a challenge to all who attended.

California

The theme, "Let Freedom Ring," permeated the day's activities as 190 people gathered for the California State Woman's Auxiliary Convention in the Visalia First Free Will Baptist Church, April 3. President June Rolan presided.

A patriotic musical program was presented by the California

Christian College Dormettes. Sandra Jones brought devotions and Cleo Pursell, WNAC executive secretary, spoke during the worship hour and also at the luncheon. Mrs. Pursell was surprised with many lovely gifts from women across the state.

Ohio

Joann Sizemore presided over the Ohio State Woman's Auxiliary meeting June 24, at the Free Will Baptist Church in Amherst. Devotions were brought by Janet Shrewsbury and Doris Raper. Joe Haas, missionary to France spoke at the worship hour and Barbara Haas spoke at the Auxiliary banquet. Arnold Shrewsbury, home missionary to Canton, Ohio, spoke at the evening service.

Missouri

The Missouri State Woman's Auxiliary met June 8, in the Trinity Church, Bridgeton. The theme, "Let Freedom Ring," was carried out in a Bicentennial Special directed by Kathy Lay. A skit, "Freedom Through Christ," was directed by Lucille Beatty. Speakers were Carlisle and Marie Hanna, missionaries to India, who spoke at the worship hour and the Auxiliary banquet respectively.

North Carolina

Joanne King, president of the North Carolina State Auxiliary

Convention, presided over a successful meeting May 4, in Grifton, North Carolina. Registration was 300. Missionary Bobby Aycock spoke on the theme, "A Changing World and a Changeless Christ."

State Home Missions Board members were surprised when vice president, Peggy Outland, presented them with a check from the women for \$1,489. Other missions goals for Free Will Baptist Bible College and Foreign Missions were exceeded. A total of \$19,324 was given to missions and other Christian areas this year.

Spring Banquet

"Showers of Blessings" was the theme of the annual Spring Banquet of the Indiana District Woman's Auxiliary, held at the Olt Student Center, Anderson College. The host church was the First Free Will Baptist, Anderson.

Pastor Eddie Vincent presided over the program. A trio consisting of Diana Graves, Eddie Vincent, and Bobby Whitaker provided music.

Eighty persons were present to hear the guest speaker, William Hill, campus pastor of Taylor University.



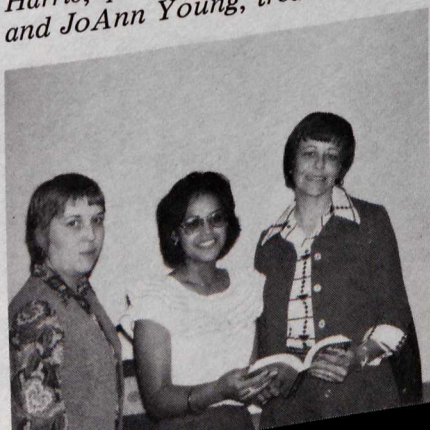


ACTIONETTES Rock For Missions

The ACTIONETTES of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Columbia, Tennessee, participated in a 24 hour rock-a-thon for the Bill Fulcher's account. They are Katrina Ricketts, Sharron White, Sandra Watson, Terry Jones, Linda Perry, Pam Whitley, Lisa Bowers, and Kay Bloss. They raised \$410. Their sponsors are Ruth Ricketts and Doris Watson.

Puerto Rico Study

A special auxiliary service conducted by the Edmond, Oklahoma, Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary resulted in an interesting study of Puerto Rico. Isis Martiniz, a convert of the Puerto Rico Church showed slides and discussed ways to help missionaries. Shown are Dorothy Harris, president, Miss Martiniz, and JoAnn Young, treasurer.



Valentine Progressive Supper

Loving memories of a Valentine Progressive Supper sponsored by the Pine Level Woman's Auxiliary of Alma, Georgia, will be cherished by all widows, widowers, and 65 and older couples, of the Pine Level Church. The supper began at the home of Rev. Bob Hancock and progressed to other homes and the church's educational building for a Valentine menu and special entertainment. All ladies of the church assisted the auxiliary members in honoring the church's special valentines. Crowned King and Queen of the event were Mr. Britt Brigman and Mrs. Ocie Cauley.

Elderly Member Honored

Mrs. Cora Owens (seated), who resides in a nursing home, was honored on her 86th birthday by fellow members of the Woman's Auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Thomaston, Georgia.





Prayer Fellowship

Members of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Philadelphia Free Will Baptist Church, Mt. Clemens, Michigan, met in the

home of Mary Lou Sperry for prayer, fellowship, coffee and cake. Left to right, Sylvia Mosley, Nancy Trimble, Irene Taylor, Louise Percy, Gusta Walker, Jewell Neal, and Edna Goolsby.

Linneus, Maine Auxiliary

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Free Will Baptist Church in Linneus, Maine, has begun it's second year of organization. Zalene Breeden, pastor's wife, writes: "In addition to the monthly meeting, our women meet each Tuesday morning for prayer. We have a precious time of fellowship together in the Lord. We have seen many

answers to prayer. Our church here in the Northland has grown. Many have come to know the Lord as their Savior." The women recently made special quilts for the missionary provision closet and hosted a Tupperware party for the same.

Officers are Vickey Edwards, president; Florence Nason, vice president; Lana McGuire, secretary-treasurer; Susan Brewer, program chairman; Zalene Breeden, missions chairman.





Installation

Nadine Hood, pastor's wife, installed the new officers of the Thayer, Missouri, Woman's Auxiliary. From left to right, Nettie Bennett, song leader; Laverne Hays, corresponding secretary; Barbara Cox, treasurer; Euna Crawford, secretary; Ruby Johnson, vice president; Lorene Pohnert, president. Back row, Carolee Barton, missions prayer chairman, and Fern Hickenbotham, missions action chairman.



Easter Bonnet Parade

Members of the Ten Mile Woman's Auxiliary of Madison Heights, Michigan, made their own Easter bonnets for the April Auxiliary meeting and paraded them. Their Auxiliary is growing. Shown, front row, Ann Badder. Left to right, Lois Mungle, Jewel McLaughlin, Mirial Gainer, Wanda Edwards, and Martha Wishman. Not shown are Geneva Miller, Josie Ison, Rose Bar and Lona Deel.

Tupperware Shower

Officers of the Macedonia Woman's Auxiliary, Colquitt, Georgia, are shown with Tupperware valued at \$105 which was given by the Auxiliary

members to the missionary provision closet in Nashville. Pictured are Frankie Phillips, mission action chairman, Mildred Bowen, president; Gloria Henley, secretary-treasurer; Gloria Clyatt, and Louise Lovering.



MEMO from CLEO

Cleo Pursell, Executive Secretary



Free Indeed!

Throughout this bicentennial year we have been made to think more and more about the freedoms which are ours. We are grateful for those brave men and women who laid their lives on the line, not only in 1776, but in all subsequent wars, that we might live in this land of liberty. But there is another kind of freedom, an even *greater* freedom, that we are most thankful for—the freedom from sin and guilt; from worry and anxiety; and the freedom to serve as “laborers together with God” and with one another. In Christ Jesus we can all be free. “If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36).

As we closed WNAC’s fiscal year, May 31, 1976, we were thrilled at what God has accomplished through Free Will Baptist women. This was another record-breaking year. Total receipts were \$140,220, plus \$8,953 received through Memorial Student Loan Fund. Grand total received was \$149,173. Missionary Provision Closet gifts were valued at \$13,345.

Creative Writing Contest

We had 79 entries in this year’s creative writing contest and approximately 60 songs were

received in the Bicentennial Share-a-Song endeavor. It has been an exciting year as much excellent talent has been discovered. Those who did not receive an award in the contest stated that they had been blessed by just trying to develop their God-given talents. The judges had a difficult time trying to make their decisions as there were so many good entries.

Youth Auxiliaries

We have almost sold out of the first ACTIONETTES yearbook, “Pattern for Missions.” However we do have ample copies of ACTIONETTES Volume 2, together with a Leader’s Packet. Our young women are enthusiastic about this literature for young women ages 13-18. It can be adapted for use in other age groups also.

Provision Closet Needs

We especially need cotton or polyester mattress covers (twin size) and colored pillow cases. Can use *Queen* size sheets.

Women In Action

I am sorry that we were unable to print all the interesting reports sent us this quarter because of lack of space. If yours was omitted please look for it in the next issue.



October Program
by Vernie H. Hersey

Our Words A Tree of Life

the Bible makes it clear that there can be health and life in our words. There is a good and beautiful use for the tongue.

WISE WORDS

The virtuous woman in Proverbs 31:26 excels all other women, even the heroines of the Bible. One of her virtues is that "she openeth her mouth with wisdom."

Lips of knowledge are referred to in Proverbs 20:15 as "precious jewels." "There is gold and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel." In ancient times people thought that a ruby had the power to drive away sadness from their hearts or to cure their sorrows. They carried one as a charm, believing that it would keep them from danger. Of course this was only superstition.

But the "precious jewel"—lips of knowledge and wisdom—speaking wise words can do all the things attributed to the ruby.

From whom or from where do we receive wisdom? How can we develop the habit of speaking wisely? The Christian woman looks to God for wisdom. "The Lord giveth wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding" (2:6).

Purpose: To show that there is a good and beautiful use of the tongue, and that our words can be as a tree of life to those who hear.

Song: "Make Me A Blessing."

Scripture: Proverbs 15:4. (All scripture references in this program are from Proverbs.)

See Program Help Packet

IN ONE of Aesop's fables, he is sent by his master to purchase the best dish the market could supply. Aesop bought only tongues and served them with different sauces for every course. Afterwards his master ordered him to purchase the worst things he could find. Aesop again bought tongues.

Our tongues can be good or bad, depending on how we use them. Solomon, in the book of Proverbs, states it this way, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (18:21). Often we are made aware of the deadliness of our words and we need to guard against this. However,

WHOLESOME WORDS

"A wholesome tongue is a tree of life" (15:4). The wholesome tongue speaks moral, just and righteous words. Wholesome words promote well-being and tend to improve the mind and character of the hearer.

She is always discreet. She has the quality of being careful about what she does or says. When she uses unwholesome words she is compared in Proverbs 11:22 to "a jewel of gold in a swine's snout."

The wholesome tongue of a Christian woman is truly a tree of life and her mouth of righteousness is a well of life and feeds many. (15:4; 10:11; 10:21)

TRUTHFUL WORDS

A truthful mouth is a sure mark of a godly woman. "He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness" (12:17).

"The lip of truth will be established forever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment" (12:19). "They that deal truly are God's delight" (12:22). Knowing this, the Christian woman never deviates from what is considered by God to be right, good, proper and exact.

Her absolute trust in God eliminates false and slanderous words from her conversation.

SOFT WORDS

"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (15:1). Soft words are gentle and low, not hard or

harsh, sour or sharp. They give comfort and encouragement to the hearer. Peacemaking miracles are the result of soft words. In situations where hurtful words are said in haste, the Christian woman's soft answer is as water to fire. Just as water puts out fire—soft words turn away anger. Beware of hasty words! They are seldom soft words and Solomon said, "Seest thou a man hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him" (29:20).

Could it be that a low soft voice is a crowning charm of a woman? A woman hath joy by the answer of her mouth according to Proverbs (15:23). But how can she have the right answer?—the soft word? She must learn that "the answer of the tongue is from the Lord" (16:1).

WINSOME WORDS

"The sweetness of the lips increaseth learning" (16:21). Winsome is another way of saying "sweetness of the lips." Indicated in the text is that winsome words increase learning in both speaker and listener.

Winsome speech includes pleasant and kind words for winsome means attractive in a sweet, engaging way; charming; pleasant; and delightful. "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones" (16:24). They produce a pleasing and agreeable effect upon the mind of the hearer.

The virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 is credited with having "in her mouth the law of kind-

ness" (26). Kindness implies the possession of sympathy, gentleness, tenderheartedness, and generosity.

Winsome words are not to be confused with flattering words which "worketh ruin" (26:28). Flattery differs in that the words may be sweet and agreeable but are insincere and often untrue.

The satisfaction one gets from cultivating winsome, kind, and pleasant speech is to see the effects produced on others.

FITLY SPOKEN WORDS

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (25:11). "A word spoken in due season, how good is it!" (15:23).

Fitly spoken words are timely, opportune words spoken at just the right moment. A word of encouragement, comfort, warning, cheer, and even a gentle rebuke is described as being beautiful. They are pictured as "apples of gold in pictures of silver."

Words fitly spoken are words that come from our mouths so smoothly and courteously that they never produce any effect but that of beauty and peace. Grace should always mark the words of the Christian woman.

Just as there is a time for the fitly spoken word, there is also a time for the unspoken word. "In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin, but he that refraineth his lips is wise" (10:19).

A woman of understanding will know when to refrain from speaking. Beware of secret words

told as gossip! Secret words usually mean trouble. Tale-bearers and whisperers separate friends and their words are as wounds (16:28; 18:8). "He that keepeth his mouth, keepeth his life" (13:3).

GOOD WORDS

"Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop; but a good word maketh it glad" (12:25).

Joseph S. Exell tells of a well-known minister who used to be fond of relating how he was cheered once by a woman's earnest words. He was feeling dejected and as if all his strength was gone, when, passing through a street, he met the woman, a stranger to him. She stopped him and said, "God bless you!" He answered, "Thank you. What is your name?" "Never mind my name," she responded, "but if you only knew how you have made me feel hundreds of times, and what a happy home you have given me! God bless you!" Then she was lost in the crowd, but she had encouraged a man whose books were in every library, and whose messages had helped many people.

The Christian woman has already heard the "good words of salvation." She will be faithful in sharing the "good news" that gives peace, joy and everlasting life to those who hear and believe. She will open her mouth and speak of her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, pointing others to Him. Then truly her tongue becomes a "tree of life" and a "well of life" (15:4; 10:11).

Pattern with a Purpose

Aim: That we may better understand and meet the varied needs of all people.

Song: "Work for the Night is Coming"

Scripture: Proverbs 6:6, 30:25

See Program Help Packet

THERE ARE usually four types of people in our churches. Those who think the pastor should do all the work in building a church. Those who set the world on fire for a while and then become a smoldering coal which finally dies out. Those who come to church but never become involved in any phase of the work. Those who start out as a little trickling brook, and slowly and steadily become a mighty river like the Jordan. Thank God for these!

PATTERN

In Proverbs 6:6 we read, "Go to the ant O sluggard, consider her ways and be wise." How much we, as Christians, can learn from watching ants. Have you ever just sat down and watched a hill of ants? They are very industrious creatures. Did you ever notice one "taking a break" from

his job? They continue on and on in one long line without stopping or looking back. They will struggle very hard and patiently with a large crumb, until finally they reach their goal. Such patience. Surely this is why the writer said, "Consider her ways."

There is another lesson to be learned here. The lesson of looking forward to the goal. Luke 9:62 reads, "No man, having put his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." It is good sometimes for us to remember the condition our lives were in when Jesus reached down and saved us, but it is wrong for us to dwell upon these things.

PROVISION

Again in Proverbs 30:25 we read, "The ants are a people not strong, yet they provide their food in the summer."

There is a story told in Aesops Fables about some ants and a grasshopper. It seems that the ants were drying some grain one winter day, that they had collected and stored during the summer. A starving grasshopper came by and when he saw the ants drying their grain, he begged for some food. The ants asked why he did not store up food during the summer as they had done. The grasshopper replied, "I spent all my time in leisure and singing. I didn't have time for work." "Well," said the ants, "if you were foolish enough to sing all summer, you can dance yourself to bed hungry in the winter."

We see so much of this today. Folks who take no thought for tomorrow, but live only for today. I do not mean we should become greedy or miserly, but we should be willing to work in order to provide for a rainy day. But of even more importance, what are we doing to win the lost souls around us to Christ? So often we are like the grasshoppers. Hopping around here and there only thinking of ourselves, with no thought of those who will spend an eternity in a literal burning hell forever separated from Christ. Maybe we really are busy working in the church, working on the job, providing for our family. But are the jobs we are doing really important?

Jeremiah 8:20 reads, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended and we are not saved." Friends, the harvest is quickly coming to a close, millions are not saved, millions have not made provision. God has made the provision. He was willing to give the most precious thing He had in order to make this provision for us. He allowed His Son to die. Shouldn't we be grateful enough for this unselfish gift that we would share it with others?

Sure, some have been told about Christ and rejected Him, but there are hundreds and hundreds who have never once heard. They may be residents in your own community. Doesn't that grip your heart?

PERSISTENCE

A small child noticed an ant hill and ran up and stepped on it.

She thought she would completely "stamp it out." The ants had no protection. Only those beneath the ground were saved. Do you think this stopped the ants? No indeed!

Immediately the ones who had escaped would go right back to work, rebuilding what had been torn down. There is a similarity here as to the way Satan deals with Christians. He is continually trying to "stamp us out." Are we as persistent as the ant? We do have a protection from Satan if we have been washed in the blood of Jesus. But quite often we throw up our hands in despair, and we quit!

Are you a quitter? Have the burdens or heartaches become more than you can bear? Are you an easy prey for Satan? Well, the Apostle Paul urges us in I Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." Now if that insignificant little ant can't be changed from his course of action, why should we?

In Ezekiel 33:8, 9 it says "When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." Our job as Christians is to be persistent in

this business of working for Christ. Let's not throw up our hands in despair and yield to our enemy Satan. Rather let us follow the instructions we find in Luke 14:23, "Go out into the highways and byways and hedges and compel them to come in that my house may be filled."

PURPOSE

In studying about ants, we find there are many species. Those most ordinarily seen are worker ants. The fertilized queen ant is capable of laying eggs continuously for up to 15 years. She excavates a chamber, rears her brood, and feeds them from her own mouth. This is her primary purpose. These offspring are the workers, and care for the queen and following generations.

This could be compared to our pastors. He lays the foundation for Christian growth. He sows the seed, waters the soil, and finally reaps the harvest by winning souls to Christ. And finally from his own mouth, he feeds us on the Word of God, thereby helping us to mature in Christ. His primary purpose is winning souls and keeping them. Doesn't it seem reasonable then that we, as Christ's disciples, should become workers in His kingdom, caring for our pastor, bearing part of the load? If God has given to us a man to lead us, aren't we responsible to God to follow him?

There is one thing that is required of every person who has claimed forgiveness through the blood of Christ. That one thing is faithfulness. I Corinthians 4:2

states "Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful." Faithful can be defined as dependable, reliable, trustworthy, loyal or responsible. The word *required* means to demand, absolutely necessary, or compulsory. So in essence we could read the verse as follows, "Moreover it is compulsory of Christians that a man be found responsible." How do you measure up? Are you faithful? If you were to meet God face to face before the sun ever rose again, what would He say to you? "Well done my good and faithful servant," or "Depart from me, I never knew you."

CONCLUSION

In some species of ants the queen cannot establish the colony herself and is adopted by workers of her own or another species. Only by being adopted by the other ants is she able to function properly. In Galatians 4:3-5 we read these words, "Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

Before Christ came and died for us we were under the bondage of sin. But He came that we may receive the adoption of sons. Is there any other alternative for us than that we function properly for Him?



Pre-Thanksgiving Season of Prayer
November 15-19, 1976
by Jo Ann Hurst

BE THANKFUL UNTO HIM,
AND BLESS HIS NAME
(Psalm 100:4b)

To the Program leader: *See Program Help Packet for program suggestions.*

The Thanksgiving season is a wonderful time in America. Other nations have harvest feasts and festivals, but these often have the atmosphere of carnivals where residents and visitors, strangers and friends all mingle in celebration. In America Thanksgiving time is different. It is a time of "home-gathering" to most people—a time for the family to have fellowship, but without the exchange of presents as at Christmas. The focal point of the day is traditionally the Thanksgiving Dinner. This custom was first introduced in America by the Pilgrims who were so grateful for their lives and food supplies that they felt impelled to join together in expressing humble appreciation to God, whom they recognized as the Giver of their prosperity. The dinner climaxed the activities of the first Thanksgiving Day, and although Americans today often fail to keep the tradition of a Thanksgiving prayer, they don't forget the Thanksgiving dinner. Merchants have long capitalized on the custom of preparing rich and varied foods for this day, and they never spare the advertising dollar to promote appealing displays of their wares. In this program we are borrowing some of their advertising slogans to point out that we, as children of God, have spiritual supplies that far exceed the claims of the merchants' products. Let's compare.

SPECIALLY SELECTED

Hymn: *"My Name's Written There," or "I'm a Child of the King"*

Scripture: *John 15:16*

Only A-1 merchandise wears the label of "Specially Selected." It means that someone with authority has looked over all the various brands or types of products and has carefully chosen the one brand or kind that will bear his company's name when the customers come to shop.

Christians are "specially selected" by the Lord. Jesus assures us in the Scriptures that we have been chosen by Him and are ordained by Him to bring forth good works to glorify the Lord (John 15:16).

This "selection" does not mean that God has ordained that only certain people can be His children. It means that anyone who surrenders his will to the Lord and accepts His salvation is "chosen" by God to be His child and a representative of His kingdom.

As our Auxiliary watchword reminds us, we are "laborers together with God" and when we keep in mind that we are "specially selected," we have greater confidence in our efforts and full assurance of God's approval as we work in obedience to His will.

TENDERLY FED

Hymn: *"God Leads His Dear Children Along," or "Follow On"*

Scripture: *1 Peter 2:1-2*

Sometimes there appears an advertisement for Thanksgiving turkeys which

claims the birds have been “tenderly fed.” Almost everyone would like to purchase a turkey that has been kindly raised by careful feeding and free from abuse. That is why many housewives go to the extra bother and expense of driving to the country to place their orders for turkeys rather than buying frozen ones at the handy market. The quality of the turkey is well worth the extra effort and expense.

Christians, too, are “tenderly fed.” This, of course, does not refer to physical feeding, but spiritual. Christ not only “specially selects” us to do His work on earth, but He “tenderly feeds” us with His living Word. With great patience and tenderness He leads us in the paths where we are to walk. Christ not only chooses us, but He leads us in the way. (Select one or more stanza’s of the suggested hymn, “God Leads His Dear Children Along,” as an appropriate ending for this topic.)

PRESERVED IN FRESHNESS

Hymn: “*I Want to be a Worker for the Lord*”

Scripture: *Ecclesiastes 9:10a*

As we search the grocery advertisements we may see a slogan, “Preserved in Freshness” which can appropriately apply to Christian living. Every housewife who preserves food for the family realizes the importance that time plays in that process. If the foods are underripe the flavor is not grown and something will be lacking in the taste. But if the foods are overripe there may be a great amount of spoilage as well as loss of flavor. “Preserved in Freshness” is a necessity in food preparation and it is a necessity for Christian women who are intent upon giving their best service to the Lord.

First, one must know the desire to work and perform services for others if she is to accomplish any worthwhile deeds in the Christian way. One must have the right attitude toward the tasks that are begun because they often become tiresome, hard, or not as they first appeared. The right attitude must be preserved or all work could be in vain. Also, the enthusiasm or zeal for attempting new tasks must be preserved in freshness in order to avoid the opinion, “oh, let someone else do it.” The joy of accomplishment can be lost so easily if enthusiasm is not preserved. The Bible, which is our guide, rule book, directory, instruction manual, or whatever term may describe the greatest need in our lives, is “preserved in freshness” by the direct hand of the Lord. It is a special provision that He has made for His people and for all people who will read it and receive the spiritual food provided by it.

INSPECTED AND GRADED

Hymn: “*Whiter Than Snow*”

Scripture: *Romans 14:12*

The United States government has passed certain laws to protect its citizens

when they purchase food. This is particularly true of meats, and the regulations are very strict. That is why we find the words, "Inspected and Graded" stamped upon the meat or printed on the labels.

The words of this stamp cause us to think of that time yet in the future when each of us shall stand an "inspection" of our works. The Lord has made every provision for the happiness and success of His children. He has forgiven their sins, given them His Holy Word for instruction in righteous living, and sent them the Holy Spirit for their comforter, leader and guide. He has told them that they shall be blessed with happiness and all good things for living righteous lives. He has also warned them that they shall be chastised when they disobey.

Furthermore, God has assured the world that whosoever will believe in His Son as a personal Saviour shall have an everlasting life in His presence. He has also told them that each shall give account of his deeds. Ecclesiastes 12:14 states that "God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil."

In view of God's forewarning it is important that Christians work the works of righteousness daily against that day of judgment. Every work that we do or fail to do shall be rehearsed or "inspected" before us, and the faithful Judge shall declare the worth of it.

The next time we see the label "Inspected and Graded," let it be a reminder that our works are yet to be judged, and if we are wise, we will be careful and more diligent in our daily living.

SALUTING OUR CO-WORKERS

Hymn: *"When We All Get To Heaven"*

Scripture: *Colossians 1:3*

Sometimes a large grocery chain store, bank or other company will buy a full-page ad in the newspaper and use the space to picture their workers and to tell something about their services as an act of appreciation for them. We as Christians should take time to show appreciation for our co-workers also. Since Thanksgiving is a time when we are asked to remember our National Home Missionaries especially, this would be a good time for us to think of them.

(Use a few minutes at this time to allow members to tell something about any of the Home Missionaries whom they know personally. Also, incidents or experiences of Missionaries that have been printed in Mission Grams or perhaps related at a national convention may be told to the group.)

It is good to become better acquainted with our Missionaries by hearing personal incidents or experiences they have related. It makes us take a greater interest in the work they are doing. But we must never forget that the greatest thing we can do for our Missionary co-workers is to pray for them. (Refer to a chart displaying pictures of Home Missionaries or prayer cards and name specific Missionaries to be prayed for by individual members as a prayer continues from one to the other.)

Close with a prayer of Thanksgiving.

December Program
by Emma Hickman

Living Is Giving

Purpose: To remind us to check up on our payments to the Lord.

Scripture: Luke 2:1-4

Song: "Give of Your Best to the Master"; Christmas Carols
See Program Help Packet

I WONDER IF we were asked to estimate the times we have heard people say, "I wonder what I'll get for my birthday. I'm just waiting to see what I'll receive for Christmas. Did you bring me anything? I'm all enthused over a promised gift," and a host of other things too numerous to mention, we would most likely say, "Oh so many times, I really have no idea."

Could you and I honestly say we have seen more people more anxious to give than to get? I fear not! Yet the Bible tells us, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Do we really believe and practice this?

The woman who came to the Temple to worship gave all she had to the service of the Lord. It was such an unselfish thing that Jesus brought it to the attention of the wealthy and the poor and it was preserved for us today to

hear anew. The widows joy must have known no bounds as her heart was blest by the Lord for her gift of love.

Many times we as Christians reach out a helping hand to those near, and it is good to do so. Yet, we should not forget those in distant lands who suffer the pangs of hunger of soul and body. When we read our Bibles do we think of those who await patiently a Bible, a book, or a small piece of literature to tell them of Jesus' love and the way to eternal life? I read of a missionary being questioned by a convert, "Did my Bible come today?" Could you and I take the responsibility of sending through the written page a light to those in darkness? Let us ask ourselves, if giving is living, how much alive are we? Are we doing our best or do we need to be more sacrificial with the many blessings showered down upon us from above?

TWO WHO GAVE *II Timothy 1:2-7*

Come with me to Lystra in Asia Minor and let us visit for a while with Eunice and Lois, the mother and grandmother of Timothy. We find them very actively engaged in the duties of the home for there was much to do and no modern conveniences to relieve the situation. We are pleased they set such a beautiful example as Christian wife and mothers. It is left on the pages of history, undimmed through the years, for us to read and profit by. They took time apart from their busy lives to carefully teach

little Timothy how the Old Testament said to live.

Most important it is to patiently dedicate a portion of our time to teaching our children how Jesus wants them to live. God has entrusted them to our care. It is not only a duty but a privilege to lovingly guide them. We see so many mothers who prefer a job away from home, rather than taking their place as happy wife and mother. Many of what should be the happiest years are being tossed to the winds of time as Mother hastens to the Day Care Center, and then to a place of work. Can anyone estimate the homes destroyed and lives broken upon the sands of time because Mother failed in her duty?

Not always will the little feet need a helping hand or a call to Mother for comfort be heard. The happy laugh is all too soon swallowed up in the big wide world.

Will they go to become a blessing to the world, well taught by a loving mother who has devoted her time and talent but most of all her undivided love to her family and home? Happy the mother who feels no condemnation as her children wave goodbye. She can if she obeys the wise words of Proverbs, "She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness."

THE GREATEST GIFT GIVER

John 4:6-17

Can you readily think of a more pitiful, sad and pathetic sight than that of a fallen

woman. Many look with hatred and disgust upon her. After all, she was some mother's darling who set sail upon life's ocean, ill-advised. Did Christians look the other way as she passed, not caring that perhaps some interest in her might help her to find her way.

We wonder how this woman of Samaria felt deep down inside as down the dusty way, with sandal-shod feet, she came for water. Was she brazen and bold, caring not what others thought of her, or was there a sense of guilt deep down in her heart? We are left to decide that she had fallen by choice or because someone had failed her in a crucial moment of life. We may hold the key to the heart of someone in need today!

Perhaps this woman felt all worthwhile people hated her and none cared what her fate might be. However, Jesus felt it needful to go by way of Samaria, not like the usual Jew who went around because of hatred for the people of Samaria. None could have cared less than they!

What ever could have caused Jesus to go this way at this particular time? It was because this woman of low degree needed a Saviour. Jesus was fully aware of their feelings and also how amazed they were at his talking to a woman in public, and especially such as she. When the Nazarene came down the dusty road he helped her to find pardon and peace. A new day began. In the Samaria of our lives let us check today and see if there is someone we may assist in finding "the Living Water."



Birthday Party for Jesus

by Mrs. Jerry R. Griffith, Sr.

One day as the Christmas season was approaching, I was praying. I was so thankful that He had come. This time of the year makes me so much more conscious of the great love of God. There's so many in this life whom I'll never see, yet I would like for them to know and to see my Lord. In my mind's eye I could see the countless numbers crying for help at home and, especially in the regions beyond. I as one, could only go so far but, oh, how I wanted to go farther.

As I was praying I said, "Lord, what can I do?" Then He spoke to my heart and said, "Why not have a Birthday Party and invite everyone to come."

He presented the idea of a "Birthday Party for Jesus" to me and at our next meeting this is how I presented it to our Woman's Auxiliary. I began something like this:

Christmas is such a wonderful time of the year to me because of the joy

and happiness I experience when I give gifts to others, especially to the members of my own household. Greater still is the special awareness of His coming and because He came I have the joy of receiving the greatest gift of all, Eternal Life.

When I begin to do my Christmas shopping I always look for my husband's gift first. He's at the top of the list of those I love. I want to make sure that I have his; and then, I begin to look for gifts for others on my list and manage my money accordingly. I do not believe in the commercialism that has crept in. Yet we do need the true joy that comes when we give because of love and a desire to help others without expecting the same gifts in return.

But, it is not my husband's birthday. Whose birthday is it? The Lord's, of course! It's His birthday, yet we celebrate as though it is our very own.

So why don't we give a gift to the One who is really having a birthday and still experience the joy that comes when we give and receive for and from those we love here on earth! We love the Lord, don't we? Let's place Him as number one on the list.

Let's get started by November 1 before we begin our usual Christmas shopping. In other words, before our funds are too low to give anymore.

What amount? As for me, I like to think of an average amount spent for the one at the top of my shopping list; however, everyone of you pray and say, (and mean it) "Lord, how much?" and give as He directs.

Each Sunday the congregation is made up of different people from time to time and we ought to invite *everyone*. Beginning the first of November until the last Sunday before Christmas, let's have small envelopes in the offering plates. On these have written, "Birthday for Jesus." The minister can explain each Sunday or at each meeting the meaning of the envelopes and that they are in addition to the usual tithes and offerings. What a blessing when we give beyond what we normally give.

Each person may be invited, from the pulpit, to take an invitation. People can take the envelope home, pray about it and return it at the next meeting. Of course, there may be a visitor who may not plan to return soon, if ever. Anyone needing to make a quick decision may leave the envelope in the offering plate provided near the entrance.

Now beforehand, let's place a small Christmas tree in a place where it can be seen easily when people enter the church. Since the Lord needs no money for Himself as He owns the

whole world we need to have Scripture to back up our reason for inviting everyone to His birthday party.

Above the tree write the theme: "Birthday For Jesus." Underneath the theme, using a large poster, write or print "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" Matthew 25:35-40.

At the close of each service, the church treasurer can take out the envelopes and give them to the designated ones of the Woman's Auxiliary. The money then will be taken out of the envelopes. Then the envelopes can be hung on the tree with the Woman's Auxiliary colors. This will make a beautifully decorated tree. Let's pray the tree will be fully decorated!

When we meet at our next meeting in January I believe we will have more money to give to the uttermost part of the earth and still be able to share more with our local, state, and national auxiliaries. Now very little physical labor is required and we have stayed in the Bible teaching of raising money.

Let's get excited and show it! Let's have a big party! We can plan later as to whether we want to serve refreshments when we present one total amount for Him.

The author writes that their Woman's Auxiliary has used this method for at least six years and it has proven to be very successful.

Her husband is the pastor of the McArthur, Ohio, Free Will Baptist Church. They have a daughter, Brenda Henderson, who teaches in the Woodbine Academy, Nashville, Tennessee and a son, Jerry Jr., who has taught Spanish at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He is now working on his master's degree.



Kathey Barnes

A PACKAGE CAME in the mail from my friend whom I hadn't seen in four years! The closer to Christmas the more excited I became. I shook it, I peered into the paper for some clue of its hidden contents.

"Oh, I hope its something made with her hands!" "No, its store bought." As I shook my precious package my mind called back many memories across the miles and years.

I often refer to her as my "Bible toting friend." It was her Christian testimony that brought me back to Christ. Everywhere she went, she carried a Bible. God shone in her life, dress, mannerisms and family. She was my example of a true Christian.

Finally the day came (I had saved the package till the very last because it was so special to me). With trembling hands I tore open the wrappings; *I gasped at its beauty!* "Oh, it is, it is something made with her hands." "My favorite colors, oranges, browns, and golds!" "Why, its an afghan!" "No, its a rug." I pressed my long hoped for treasure to my breast. Where can I put it?

I ran to the kitchen; the colors would be so pretty under my kitchen sink. "No, the children will track dirt on it!" "It'll get ruined there!" I carried it to the sewing machine; "Why I'll really enjoy it there, especially this winter while I'm sewing, my feet will stay warm!" "No, my poodle sleeps there; he might stick his claws into it and tear it!" "I'll put it at the front door; no, the baby will be toting it all over the house."

In sheer desperation of what I was going to do with my prized possession, I sat down to think—I wanted to keep it forever because she made it. But where could I put it, that I could enjoy it and yet it would stay nice? As I puzzled for a solution, I began to see how ridiculous I must look! Why, I was running around with my rug tightly clutched in my arms, like a chicken in a barnyard with his prized bug.

The more I thought about it the more I realized how silly I was trying to keep my rug perfect. Shame washed over me as the words of Jesus' sermon on the mount echoed in my ears. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:19-21). Repentance rocked my soul as visions of myself flashed before me.

How excited I was those days before Christmas; I used to have the same joy over my salvation. At times I would hug myself in sheer ecstasy at the thought of Jesus' great love for me, that while yet a sinner He died for

me. I was so anxious in those early years to share my Lord with others. Why I felt each stripe was for me and for me He died on calvary's tree.

Was my life like my friend's; a beacon for lost souls? Could people see the Light of my Saviour in me? Have I tried to protect my love for Jesus by daily prayer, devotion and Bible reading? Or do I spend more time protecting my worldly possessions? Do I put on my Christian armor to protect myself from Satan?

Tears streamed from my face as I realized I was so content to seek my happiness in God's gifts rather than God. Oh, sweet Jesus forgive me! The joy of sweet repentance filled my soul. How could I ever forget that God himself is the best reward, and that the possession and enjoyment of His friendship more abundantly compensates for the absence of creature comforts, however dearly prized and ardently desired!

Suddenly, I knew where I would put my rug! I would put it beside my bed where each day would begin and end. There on my knees, I could thank God for all His gifts, but most especially, the gift of love that only God gives and through Him comes all blessings.

There with my rug under me I could begin to build my beacon for lost souls. Through Jesus Christ, I could open the gates of Heaven, and fellowship with my Lord on high.

Armed with daily prayer and the whole armour of God, I would be able to withstand the wiles of the devil.

As I spread my rug out beside my bed, my heart took flight as its inner chambers murmured, "Thank you, dear Jesus, for my gift, but most of all for reminding me that without you, I would have nothing."

Martha Chose the Better Part

by Lorene Miley

SOME TIME AGO we received word from one mission field in Ivory Coast that Martha had gone home to be with the Lord. A severe attack of dysentery sapped all the strength from her weakened frame, already old and wizened by African standards.

I wept silently as I remembered this my sister in Christ.

Our first contact with Martha was through the clinic. Chronically ill, she came regularly over the years. She was plagued with asthma, malnutrition and parasitic diseases.

Martha was already a grandmother when she was left widowed with two small children. The mother instinct was strong within her. She never considered it begging to ask necessities for her children. When they passed the age for beginning school and she was unable to provide them with the necessary textbooks, uniforms, notebooks and pencils, she came to us in desperation.

"My children need to learn to

read," she pled. "Please lend me the money to send them to school. I will work for you. My children will work for you. Or I will pay you back when the crops come in. They need to go to school."

It was a mutual affection. One day at sewing class Miriam, her young daughter, requested prayer for her mother who was sick. After class I visited with Martha. I noted a cookie that had been served at sewing class lying on her lap. Her starved daughter had deprived herself of this sweetmeat in order that her ailing mother might have this bit of enjoyment.

Martha didn't give a hoot for fashion. As assistant hairdresser to her sister, her palms were permanently blackened by the hair dye, yet not one stroke ever darkened her closely clipped bare head. She avoided all sorts of jewelry and even rejected the brightly colored head scarves.

Martha was a generous soul, always sharing with us fruit of her cornfields, peanut patch or papaya trees. She gave us far more than we gave her, for God not only looks at what we give, but what we have left.

I don't remember just when Martha became a believer. Her sister brought her to the Lord and when they were baptized they took the names Mary and Martha. Her growth was steady and sure. She rarely missed church. It's possible she arrived early at times, though I doubt it. Halfway through the service, she'd stroll right up to her habitual front seat in front of the pulpit. If someone were already sitting there, too bad, that's her seat! She'd nudge emphatically for him to scoot over and stand patiently until the act was completed.

Not by any stretch of the imagination could Martha be called a good

singer. But her voice rose above the others as she made a joyful noise unto the Lord. Unable to read, she learned the songs by heart and sung them in that fashion. Her favorite was:
If I die, I shall rise again.

I shall live again for I will rise from the dead.

O Saviour! When I rise from the dead I will live forever in God's house.

Martha is discovering the reality of this. I tried to envision her walking the streets of glory, having exchanged her frail, sick body for a glorified one. She who had never seen a train, plane or ocean liner has been borne to the bosom of the Father on majestic wings. She who ate nothing but a limited, restricted diet is now feasting on banquet fare. She who wore only rags, cast-offs, and hand-me-downs with not even a pair of sandals to call her own, is now clad in garments of righteousness. How could I possibly weep for her except in joy?

I attended a funeral just before we came home. The man's square hut was covered with cloths, among them a quilt his daughter had recently completed at sewing class. I looked at those square samples of cloth and wondered just how many homes were represented therein.

Martha herself made two or three of these quilts. Whether these were used in her funeral, I do not know. Whether or not, those swatches of color are symbolic of many of you women who gave and prayed and sent that Martha might choose the better part. She was doomed to burn eternally in a devil's hell, but today she is exploring the glories of paradise—because you sent someone with the message of eternal life through Jesus Christ, and she accepted it.

That's what it's all about.

PRAY IN ONE ACCORD

...for state missions

Scripture: Acts 1:14; 2 Chronicles 7:14

Theme Song: "Teach Us to Pray, Lord"

See Program Help Packet

To the Leader: We encourage each state auxiliary executive committee to prepare and distribute program materials emphasizing their respective state missions projects and prayer requests.

This program is supplied for benefit of those who do not have their own materials, or who may need supplementary materials.

Once a year the Woman's Auxiliary of each state is encouraged to observe a special season of prayer and contribute gifts for state missions. Some observe a week, some a day of prayer. All make it a time for studying the needs and missionary work in their respective states and for praying and making a special offering for state missions.

DOES PRAYER REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

You have often heard preachers make the statement: "God is still on His throne, and prayer changes things." Do you feel that the person who uses this familiar assertion frequently lacks originality? Although we may often tire of hearing old concepts expressed in the same old way, yet the expression *is* still true. God is still in control and prayer can still bring great changes.

As we begin our season of prayer

for state home missions and missionaries let us ask ourselves these questions:

Is prayer a reality in my life? How much difference does it make in my daily routine? Do I really enjoy daily fellowship with God, or is prayer a ritual I go through at church meetings? Does my concern go beyond my individual needs or the needs of those closest to me? Have I realized that *my* prayers can make a difference in God's Kingdom work? Am I willing to "Pray in One Accord" with other Christians that God will be honored, our home missionaries encouraged, and support raised, as a result of our efforts? (The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man (woman) availeth much" James 5:16b).

WHY STATE MISSIONS?

When the average Christian hears the Great Commission mentioned he usually thinks of foreign missions but 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."

As we try to apply this verse to our day, Jerusalem would represent our

cities; all Judea our respective states; Samaria our neighboring states and the uttermost part of the earth, the foreign fields. In each of these areas there are needs unmet, but there is one area that is entirely overlooked by many Free Will Baptists—state missions!

Why state missions? Because every state is a ripe and challenging field for evangelism, church extension, church development and a vital and vigorous Christian ministry to those in cities, towns, and rural areas. Because state missions is 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.

ORPHAN STATES

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

In some of these eastern states there were Free Will Baptist churches at one time which sprang from the Randall movement. Some of these churches still exist, but their doctrine has changed and their affiliation has changed to the degree that there is no common ground left between them and our denomination. The western states which have no Free Will Baptist churches have never had any.

Free Will Baptists have been in this country since 1727 and yet there are entire states where we have never preached a single sermon. In some of the very states where we started, the merger of 1910 took our churches and for 62 years there has not been a single

sound from Free Will Baptists there.

These states are like orphans. They are unable to help themselves and yet no one is concerned enough to help them. Some of our stronger states should get these "orphan" states on their heart and adopt them! We have a number of states that could adopt an "orphan" state by sending one of their preachers, perhaps a lay couple with him, raise the money within their state, pick out a metropolitan city (perhaps the capital) in that state and begin a Free Will Baptist church there. It would be an opportunity for a state to reproduce itself, its aims, and its ideals, in another state.

A review of Home Missions churches will show that the church thus started will soon give back to the denomination more money than it takes to begin it, not to mention the souls saved. Some of these will be loyal Free Will Baptist laymen. Others will be preachers and still others will be missionaries.

New York would be a good eastern state to adopt. It has over 18 million people and a number of large metropolitan areas. Wisconsin is a north central state with over four million people. Milwaukee, its largest city, has about 800,000. Utah, a western state is probably the most needy place in our country.

Perhaps one of the other states could best be adopted by your state. Will your state adopt an orphan?" (*Mission Grams*, 1972.)

Your state and my state,
All hearts pray together,
You for yours and I for mine,
And all for all together.

Prayer for state missionaries.
Offering for State Home Missions.

PRAYER GROUPS

OCTOBER
Do It
Yourself

There are some areas in which human beings must follow Paul's injunction to work out their own salvation (Philippians 2:12-13).

First, in our use of the Bible. There may be a billion copies of Scripture but unless you take hold of one of them and sit down to read its pages, as far as you are concerned it is a closed book. There is no merit in what someone else may read for you. No priest may do it for you. You must do it yourself. Someone has said, "A Bible and a volume of blank pages are on the same level if neither of them is read."

It is also true of worship—you must do it yourself. There is nothing about sitting in a church pew that lifts or blesses. It is when a person gives his attention to God, shares in the praying, listens carefully to Scripture, opens his heart to the beautiful music, absorbs the sermon, yields his spirit to God—only then does he worship.

It is true of your praying. God leaves a wide margin for us to answer our own prayers. One may believe that "more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of," but in large measure prayer is the giving of light and leading and courage to "do it yourself."

Of course there are times when the thing for which we pray is utterly beyond anything we can do, and we must leave it with God in faith believing; but we must not mistake the instances in which the prayer-herself is a tool in God's hands.

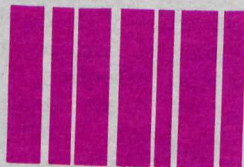
Lastly, it is true of our religious experience, as we try to make it real and effective. We want it the easy way: Turn a crank, pull a lever, push a button, take a pill—then sit back and wait. We go to the doctor and we cooperate if he gives us a treatment or even if he advises an operation—that is if he will do it for us. But to get a prescription filled, then remember to use the medicine as indicated; to respect his suggestions about diet and follow it faithfully; to take time and effort for the exercises or recreation or rest which he suggests; in other words, to do it ourselves—that is too much!

Religious experience is something more than what a preacher or teacher or friend can do for us. You must do it yourself. We must go to the trouble to read and meditate, we must take time to be alone with God; we must stir out of our comfort and join in Christian fellowship and worship. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling . . . for God is at work in you."

Prayer Requests

Pray for Bobby and Sue Aycock as they return to Brazil for their fourth term of service. Pray for Tom and Nancy Hughes as they begin their second term of service in Brazil. Remember to pray for Nancy's health.

Pray for Charles Harris, a new home missionary to Lakewood, Colorado, as he goes to establish a church in this fifth fastest growing city in the United States.



NOVEMBER Counting Our Blessings

We celebrate the goodness of God by counting our blessings. Not as materialists count them: so many shares of stock, cars, deposits in banks. Not as the rich man in Jesus' parable (Luke 12:16-21), who could say, "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years . . ." And not as an egotist counts them (the man in the parable used the first personal pronoun too frequently).

Let us name some of the

blessings which belong to you personally. Think of your capacity for beauty: you can see it, appreciate it, create it. Capacity for truth: you can discover it, appreciate it, apply it. Goodness: you can see it, admire it, attain it to some degree. The capacity to love and be loved.

Make a list of the "unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ" which a Christian enjoys: release from guilt and fear, deliverance from sin, forgiveness, the capacity to forgive, peace which passes understanding, serenity of spirit, comfort of heart, courage of spirit.

We celebrate the goodness of God by counting our blessings, by remembering that our blessings come from the hand of God, by taking our blessings seriously. And we celebrate by giving thanks in all the various ways we have of thanking God. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name."

Prayer Requests

Pray for Larry Powell as he changes mission fields. After 10 years in the Virgin Islands and in Puerto Rico, he will be moving to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas to build a church in the city of McAllen.

Pray for Bob Thomas as he leads his congregation in Greeley, Colorado in the construction of their new building. Pray also for Buddy Drake who is in a building program in Enid, Oklahoma.

Pray for those in missionary internship: Tom McCullough, Charlotte Tallent, Ledgel and

Sharon Ferguson, John and Pansy Murray and Jim and Karen Cowart.



DECEMBER God's Gifts Bring Joy

Was there ever a day that we needed some word of joy more than ours? What is this joy? Apparently there is something very distinctive about it. It is in the parables of Jesus repeatedly. It is also in the events of the New Testament. It is clearly stated that when the 70 went out at Jesus' command to preach, they "returned with joy." And most amazing of all are the words in Hebrews, speaking of Jesus "who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross."

What is joy? Sometimes we speak of pleasure. Or, we speak of happiness. But the joy of the Christian faith is deeper than either of these. It comes not in escaping from realities or being protected from the shocks of life. Joy is looking at life squarely and finding the face of God in it. There are gifts that come to us in Christ Jesus which bring joy into life:

The Gift of Knowing. Suppose a man appears one day to you and says, "I am the son of one who wants you to know him. I want to tell you about him, his will and his ways, his life and his compassion. Moreover I am like my father. If you see me, you will see what he is like."

The Gift of Becoming. We have many powers at our hand

and we are discovering many more. We have power to hurl satellites into the sky, the power to destroy a city with the dropping of a single bomb. But there is no power that can help us become the sons of God outside of Jesus Christ. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name (John 1:12).

The Gift of Belonging. There are so many things that separate us from one another in our world. But Christ does bring us together and gives us a sense of our belonging to the family of God.

Think of all that came to us in Christ! We know what we did not know. We became what we had not been. We hope where we had lost heart, and we belong where we had been alone. Small wonder that we can hardly think of Him without breaking into song. "Joy to the world, the Lord has come!"

Prayer Requests

Pray for Karel Smith, Albuquerque, New Mexico, that he will be able to establish a strong Church.

Pray for Robert and Judy Bryan as they study the Koulango language that they may be more effective in their work in the Ivory Coast.

Pray for Tim Pinkerton as he under goes corrective surgery on his face while the family is on furlough. Tim, injured in an automobile accident some time ago, will have to have four more operations.



Hersey



Hickman



McAllister



Hurst

Who's Who In This Issue

Vernie Hersey was first place winner in the Program category of WNAC's creative writing contest this year. She is vice president of the Donelson, Tennessee Woman's Auxiliary and works with her husband, Herman, in the Department of Retirement and Insurance, Nashville. They have one daughter.

Helen McAllister is the wife of Jim McAllister, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Farmington, Missouri. They are the parents of four children. Helen is state vice president and local missions study chairman and directs Junior Church. Her program was awarded second place in this year's writing contest.

Emma Hickman, of Bladenboro, North Carolina, is the author of the December program. One of her entries in the writing contest last year was awarded first place. At that time she was from Guyman, Oklahoma. Emma is active in Woman's Auxiliary work and is the mother of two sons and one daughter.

Jo Ann Hurst, wife of Joe Hurst, pastor of the LaVergne, Tennessee Free Will Baptist Church is the writer of the Pre-Thanksgiving Programs. She serves as both treasurer and study chairman of her local auxiliary. Jo Ann is employed by the Corps of Engineers, and is the mother of two children.

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ALL WOMAN'S AUXILIARY MEMBERS are eligible to enter WNAC's 1976-77 Creative Writing Contest.

The categories are Programs (suitable for publication in CO-LABORER magazine), Skits and plays, and Articles.

SUBJECTS: Missions, prayer, enlistment, service, stewardship, woman's life and problems, seasonal themes, devotional and inspirational materials.

LENGTH OF MANUSCRIPTS: Articles— three to four pages, Programs— five pages, Plays— one to three pages. All manuscripts should be typewritten and double-spaced with the writers name and address in the upper left hand corner of the first page.

AWARDS: In each of the three categories the prizes are:

First place - \$25.00

Second place - \$10.00

Third place - Study course books

Honorable mention - Will be decided upon by the staff

ENTRIES WILL BE JUDGED ON: Originality, content, interest and suitability for Woman's Auxiliary work. Send as many entries as you wish.

DEADLINE DATE: March 1, 1977

Send your entries to:

WNAC WRITING CONTEST

P. O. BOX 1088

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37202

WINNERS 1975-76 CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

PROGRAMS

First Place

"Our Words, A Tree of Life"
Vernie Hersey
Nashville, Tennessee

Second Place

"Pattern With a Purpose"
Helen McAllister
Farmington, Missouri

Third Place

"Bite Your Tongue"
Anne Worthington
Albany, Georgia

Honorable Mention

"God's Special Family,
the Church"
Polly Roberson
Leeds, Alabama

"Needed: Spiritual Parents"
Jean Williams
Raytown, Missouri

ARTICLES

First Place

Three short articles:
"The Forgotten Years"
"Just Count the Pits"
"Nasty Nice"
Gertrude Cantrell
Santa Fe Springs, California

Second Place

"Where, Oh Where, is Johnny?"
Betty Reeves
Farmington, Missouri

Third Place

"A Gift"
Kathey Barnes
Washington, North Carolina

Honorable Mention

"Shipwrecked in a Sea
of Criticism"
Loree Medley
Wichita Falls, Texas

"I Don't Want a Dishwasher"
Rosemary Blackburn
West Frankfort, Illinois

PLAYS/SKITS

First Place

"Little Bo Peep Examines the
Auxiliary"
Velda Tucker
Batesville, Arkansas

Second Place

"Behold the Bridegroom Cometh"
Ann Ruble, Sophia, West Virginia
Mary Perry, Mt. Hope, West Virginia

Third Place

"They Hear Thy Words"
Mildred Daniel
Troy, Michigan

Honorable Mention

"Deacon Greed and Pastor Love"
Norma White
Corcoran, California

"Do You Know the Facts of Life?"
Mary Ann Owens
St. Clair, Missouri

Hersey



McAllister



Worthington



Roberson



Williams



Cantrell



Reeves



Barnes



Medley



Blackburn



Tucker



Ruble



Perry



Daniel



White



Owens

