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Co-Laborer

January-February-March 1977

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YOUTH AUXILIARY YEARBOOK OF PROGRAMS

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Volume 2**

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Co-Laborer

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Volume XVII Number 1



"God Bless America"
in native sign language
by Oklahoma Indian maiden
at Woman's Auxiliary
Convention, Tulsa.

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Cleo W. Pursell, Editor

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Evelyn Jones, Circulation

WOMEN IN ACTION

Women In Action

WOMEN IN ACTION

Mt. Calvary Free Will Baptist

Florida

61. Marty Adkison gave the morning devotion and Neta Savage presented the missions emphasis. Shirley Combs, missionary to Brazil, brought the morning message.

The South Florida District joined the State Auxiliary Convention. The plan of work for 1976-77 is: WNAC-\$250, Sunny Hills-\$300, and Salem Bible College-money (no designated amount), books, and any other way they can help.

Maryland

The Maryland Woman's Auxiliary Convention met June 25 at

the Mt. Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, Aberdeen, with President Lottie Horton presiding. Registration was 48.

Registration was 48.
Devotions were brought by June Green and Louise Wampler. Cleo Pursell, WNAC executive secretary was the afternoon speaker. Officers were elected as follows: Dorothy Steele, President; Lottie Horton, field worker, Pat Mullins, secretary-treasurer; June Green, vice-president, and Josephine Adams, assistant field worker.

OFFICERS of the Kentucky Auxiliary Convention are (l to r), Nellie Griffith, member at large; Jean Castle, member at large; Edith Dobbins, assistant field worker; Walta Preston, president; Emogene Burton, vice-president; Naomi Looney, treasurer; Loretta Branham, secretary; and Dorothy Cox (top), field worker. Not present, Helen Butler, member at large.



Kentucky

The Kentucky State Auxiliary Convention met in the Bonanza Free Will Baptist Church, June 18, Bonanza, Kentucky. The theme was "Behold I Have Set Before Thee an Open Door"

(Revelation 3:8). Registration was 51.

Speakers were Sharon and Ledgel Ferguson, missionary appointees to the Ivory Coast. Support of the Fergusons was adopted as the state project for the year.

Reverend Robert Burke, pastor of the Five Points Free Will Baptist Church, Pinetown, N.C., is shown with two first time attendants at Vacation Bible School—Earnest Davis and Mrs. Dean Harris who is 83 years young. She is also active in the Woman's Auxiliary.



QUEEN FOR THE YEAR—Kitty Booth was named queen for the year by members of the Rosedale Woman's Auxiliary, Irwin, Ohio. In a project to raise money for carpeting their new church, Kitty raised \$420 of a total of \$1,756.





SENIOR CITIZEN'S DAY-Members of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Washington, N.C. were honored by the Woman's Auxiliary. A delicious lunch was served after which a time of testimony and remembering the "good old days" was enjoyed. The group was then entertained by some of the older adults. A bus ride around the countryside concluded the happy event.

NEWPORT, ARKANSAS AUXILIARY-Pictured are some of the members of the Woman's Auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church. The group is beginning its second year and is doing a splendid work in missions action. They have recently helped three needy families, hosted a shower for the missionary provision closet and sent one hundred dollars to the Free Will Baptist Bible College for the library fund. Rev. Phil Ange is the pastor.



PROMINENT-Playing a prominent part in the Calvary Free Will Baptist Church's mass wedding event were, from left, Mrs. Earl Sutton and Mrs. and Mrs. Carl Walker. Earl Sutton is pastor of the Georgetown, S.C. church.

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, Georgetown, S.C., sponsored the innovative and thoroughly delightful event last August. Fourteen brides and grooms repeated their wedding vows in a renewal of the nuptial promises made at varying stages of their lives during the last 40 years.

Rev. Sutton officiated at the ceremony, taking time out to make the exchange renewal of promises with his wife.

The wedding and church atmosphere was achieved in the social hall of the church by flowers, tall candelabra, and music.

As the speaker, the pastor touched upon some important areas of marital togetherness, titling these remarks under "Something Old" or "Marital Illness" and "Something New," or "Marital Medicine."



WOMEN IN ACTION*WOMEN IN ACTION*WOMEN IN ACTION*WOMEN IN ACTION



MISSIONARY PROVISION CLOSET SHOWERS

South Heights Woman's Auxiliary, Searcy, Arkansas.

Satilla Woman's Auxiliary, Hazelhurst, Georgia.



First Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary, Jasper, Alabama.



***WOMEN IN ACTION**

Co-Laborers Write

The Lord has been so good to our Auxiliary. Our lessons are so wonderful and the women are so good to take part each time.

*Christine Frisbee
Akron, Ohio*

We are sending Tupperware to the Missionary Provision Closet for our dear missionaries. We appreciate what each of them are doing and what you are doing in Nashville to keep us informed of their needs.

*Mrs. Robert Allen
Scottsmoor, Florida*

We would like information on the missionaries from Alabama . . . We would like to help in their work to spread the Gospel . . . Thank God for the writers of the programs in *Co-Laborer*. We learn and grow a little closer to God each Auxiliary meeting that we have.

*Johnnie Owens
Dothan, Alabama*

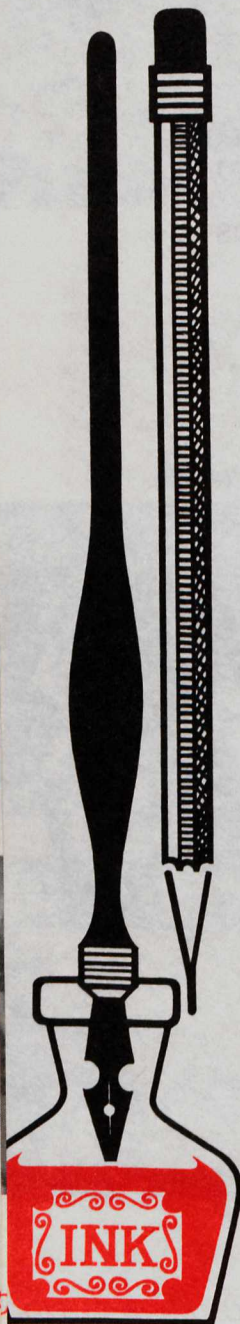
Still rejoicing about our meetings in Tulsa. Such a blessing. You and your staff are doing a remarkable job!

Our Auxiliary is growing. Increase our *Co-Laborer* subscriptions from 25 to 30 copies. We enjoy very much the lessons in *Co-Laborer*.

*Phyllis A. Fite
Memorial Church
Fresno, California*

Our Auxiliary has been started for about seven months now. We have doubled our attendance in the last few months. Our church attendance has increased a great deal too. We just praise the Lord for this. Our ladies are really enjoying the *Co-Laborers*. Please increase our order from 12 to 18.

*Lois Godley
Farmville, N.C.*



I attended the National Convention in Tulsa. Your skit was so very good. All did a tremendous job and I am very proud to be on your team.

*Dorothy C. Campbell
Joplin, Missouri*

Thanks to each one who has a part in enriching the lives of others through the *Co-Laborer* programs.

*Lea Kellum
Monticello, Arkansas*

"Through Christ We're Marching On," proved to be a blessing to our Auxiliary and our church. We presented the Emphasis Month program on Wednesday night, August 11, and received \$61.00. We pray that this offering will help further our national work, so we can in turn be blessed.

*Eula Mae Edwards
Washington, N.C.*

In behalf of the members of the Semirah Spring Woman's Auxiliary I would like to say that we have really enjoyed the lessons in our *Co-Laborer*. They have been a great help and inspiration to us.

We had our WNAC Emphasis program on Sunday, August 22. It was a blessing to us and everyone that was present. We just thank the Lord for Christian people like you.

*Ruth Brown
Uriah, Alabama*

The women of our Auxiliary

get such a blessing from the *Co-Laborers* it seems that at every meeting we can't find a stopping place . . . Hoping to see you in "77" at Cobo Hall.

*Iva Myes
Flint, Michigan*

The Woman's Auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Star City held its charter membership meeting on May 16, 1976. Twenty-four members joined. We have raised approximately \$2,613 to contribute to the building fund of our new church.

Officers are: Gayle Trussell, president; Katherine Robinson, vice president; and Margaret Tucker, secretary-treasurer.

*Regina Barrett
Star City, Arkansas*

Our church has been growing along with our Auxiliary. We will need five more *Co-Laborers* added to our order.

*Jackie Chismar
Greeley, Colorado*

We at Calvary Church are very thankful for being a part of our Auxiliary and we are thankful for the wonderful women that do such a good job writing the lessons in *Co-Laborer*.

*Mrs. A. C. Messer
Black Mountain, N.C.*

We have very interesting programs and some new ladies coming to our Auxiliary meetings each month.

*Maurene Stevens
Pleasant Acres Church
New Bern, N.C.*

MEMO from CLEO

Cleo Pursell, Executive Secretary



"Roamin' Roads"

Another book by a Free Will Baptist woman that you will thoroughly enjoy—Heddy (Betty) Chapman's autobiography *"Roamin' Roads."* She is the author of several other books—*Scotch Love*, *Out of Many Waters*, and *Grins, Groans, and Amazing Grace*. *Roamin' Roads* sells for \$4.95 and may be ordered from WNAC.

College Book Project

Judy Shewsbury, librarian at Free Will Baptist Bible College expresses appreciation to members of WNAC for their generous response to the library project. She writes, "we continue to hear from local auxiliaries in addition to what comes through your office. We surely do appreciate all you have done"

Prayer Requests

Glady's Sloan, a long-time and faithful worker for WNAC and the Department of Foreign Missions suffered a heart attack and stroke around the middle of August. She is improving but needs our prayers. Send cards and letters of encouragement to her at Chestnut Villa, Route 3, Columbia, Tennessee 38401.

Sheila Williams, who has had a successful child evangelism ministry in Ecuador, had to return home because of tuberculosis in the sub-lingual gland. Pray for a speedy recovery. You may write her at Long Branch, West Virginia 25867.

Communion and Tupperware

Judy Bryan, missionary to Ivory Coast, writes that they keep everything in Tupperware from fishing tackle to food. But they have found a new use! During the annual church fellowship at Goumère they had communion and feet washing. She was asked to prepare something for the "wine." All she had was *Koolaid*. Everyone was asked to bring their own cup. She hurriedly fixed the *Koolaid* in her Tupperware pitcher and gave it to the African in charge. As they gathered for the afternoon service in the church the communion table was all prepared and covered. Judy wrote: "I couldn't help but smile when they uncovered the table and there was my Tupperware pitcher! And you know it was one of the best communion services I had been in! The Lord really blessed in spite of all the make-shifts. Thanks WNAC for all that you have done for us."

A Thrilling Experience

Alice Smith, who recently was commissioned for service in the Ivory Coast, said that it was a thrilling experience to visit the missionary provision closet and get needed household items for her home in Ivory Coast. " . . . So many beautiful towels, sheets, Tupperware, etc.—which ones would I take? How exciting it is to shop and not have to spend money!" she wrote. Alice left Charleston, West Virginia in September for Albertville, France for language study.

Provision Closet Needs

Bedspreads (all sizes). Ribcord spreads are a favorite it seems. We still need mattress covers (all sizes). Please do not send plastic ones.

Prayer Groups

by Pat Thomas

JANUARY
1977—A year
of opportunity

This month begins a new year of opportunities for Free Will Baptist women. There will be tremendous opportunities in witnessing in the local church program, working in women's auxiliaries, Bible clubs, prayer groups, and also private Bible study and prayer.

Determine now that you are going to set aside some time each day for private Bible study and devotional time. If time is not set aside for this, it is so easy to be busy the entire day, push devotional time into the background, and come to the end of the day having had no time to talk to God in prayer or for Him to talk to you through His word.

Probably the best thing to do is set your clock to get up at least 15 minutes before the rest of the family and spend that time alone with the Lord and your Bible. If you wait until the end of the day you are not only

tired physically, but the cares of the day weigh heavily on your mind until it is difficult to give God your full attention. However, in the mornings, before your mind has been filled with life's problems and difficulties, if you can fill your mind with God's word and let Him speak to your heart and fill it with His peace, you will be able to meet the demands of the day in a much better way.

Determine now that during 1977 you will spend that early morning time with the Lord, set your clock for at least 15 minutes before the rest of the family arises, have your devotional and prayer time, and you will be prepared in a much better way to face this year of opportunities in serving Christ.

Prayer Requests

Pray for Jim and Shirley Combs as they rebuild a work in Tubarao, Brazil. They were forced to leave Tubarao in 1974 when a flood destroyed the city. Pray for them during this time of getting the work started again.

Pray for Norlin and Trannie Jones as they leave the Home Mission church they organized in Jackson, Tennessee to enter a new field—Daytona Beach, Florida.

Pray for the Jim Sturgills as they arrive back in the states for their furlough after their first term of service on the field.

Pray for Rev and Mrs. Charles Harris as they are building a Free Will Baptist church in Lakewood, Colorado, the fifth fastest

growing city in the United States.

FEBRUARY

How to pray for missionaries

Many times in our praying for missionaries it is easy to say, "God bless all the missionaries." However, our praying will mean more to the Lord and also to the missionaries if we will pray more specifically for their needs, their requests, their children, and their mission churches.

The only way we can pray specifically is for us to be informed about the needs of the missionaries. If we know of their personal problems, their health problems, the burdens they are working under, the souls they are trying to reach, we can bring these petitions to the Lord in prayer, and the results of this kind of praying will be felt on the mission fields.

Subscribe to *Heartbeat* (the Foreign Missions publication) and *Mission Grams* (the Home Missions publication) for the women in your auxiliary. These publications are both free of charge and use the same mailing list. If your women are not receiving these publications, write these departments at P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202, and request that their names be added. Be sure and give complete names, addresses, and zip codes.

Another way of being informed of the needs of missionaries is to make use of their

newsletters. Write to the missionaries personally and request a copy of their newsletter each time it is published. The newsletters will give in a more detailed way the needs, burdens, and requests of the missionaries. Share the newsletters with the auxiliary and also with your church by placing a copy on the church bulletin board.

Many churches have a "missionary of the week" presentation where information is given out about the missionary, prayer requests are shared with the congregation, and special prayer is offered for them. This helps get the entire church involved in praying for missionaries. If Christian people are praying for the Home and Foreign missionaries they will feel more a part of the work on the various fields even though many miles may separate them. Be informed and this will help you to be concerned.

Prayer Requests

Pray for Rev. and Mrs. Carl Cooper as they are beginning a new work in the Appalachian Mountain area of Wheeling, West Virginia, that a strong Free Will Baptist work will be established there.

Pray for Dr. and Mrs. LaVerne Miley as they undertake their heavy work load at the clinic after being home on furlough.

Pray for Harley and Sharon Bennett who are working to establish a Free Will Baptist church in the Mormon stronghold of Pocatello, Idaho.

Pray for Judy Smith (Japan)

and Alice Smith (Ivory Coast) as they are in language school.

MARCH

The Missions Departments

In order to pray more effectively for missionaries it is necessary to understand how the missions departments are organized in the Free Will Baptist denomination. There are two missions departments—Home Missions and Foreign Missions. Home Missions has the responsibility of sending missionaries to evangelize and build churches on the continent of North America (including Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, Mexico) the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Foreign Missions has the responsibility of sending missionaries to the rest of the continents and islands of the world.

The *Home and Foreign Missions Boards* are made up of nine men each who are elected at the National Association. These men serve six year terms and set the policies of these departments. These men are usually pastors who are burdened to see the gospel spread around the world. Twice each year they take many hours from their churches and people, to come to Nashville for the regular board meetings. They serve faithfully without pay and carry a very heavy burden for the work of missions. They are to be commended for their sacrifice, interest, and efforts to help advance the cause of Christ through missions.

To help carry out the policies of these boards, an *office staff* is

employed for each department. These staffs work in the National offices located in Nashville, Tennessee. There they direct the work, handle and disburse all monies, work out itinerates for the missionaries, print publications, plan and conduct conferences, and oversee all missionary personnel.

Then, there are the VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE, the *missionaries*. These faithful workers are in the heat of the battle, fighting against loneliness, isolation, and discouragement, to try to win souls and build churches for God's glory.

However, mission work cannot be done without the work of a fourth and very important group, the *supporters* who remember the missions departments with their finance and prayers. It takes the cooperation of all four groups to get the gospel to those who need Christ around the world.

Prayer Requests

Pray for Paul and Amy Robinson as they do deputational work. Pray for Paul's health also.

Steve and Judy Lytle appreciate your prayers as they study the Spanish language in Costa Rica. They will be going on to Panama around the middle of this year.

Pray for Sunny and Rita Wenning and their work in Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, especially for the Christian school that many parents of the students will be won to the Lord.



Who's Who in this Issue

Sue Winchester is the writer of the January program, "God Calling . . . Are You There?" She is an active member of the South Side Woman's Auxiliary, St. Louis, Missouri and in her district convention. She is the mother of two children and a frequent contributor to *Co-Laborer*.

Anne Worthington, recording secretary of WNAC and active worker in Georgia state and district Auxiliary work wrote the February program, "Me? An Example?" Anne was awarded third place in the program category of WNAC's Creative Writing Contest this year. She is a pastor's wife and mother of two children.

Jean Williams is president of her local Auxiliary in Raytown, Missouri and also serves as district field worker. She was awarded honorable mention for the March program, "Needed: Spiritual Parents." She guides several home Bible studies in the area and teaches a Sunday school class.

Pat Thomas, author of the Prayer Group materials for this quarter is employed as a secretary in the National Home Missions Department. She is the mother of two children and is an active member of the Woodbine Woman's Auxiliary, Nashville, Tennessee.

God Calling... Are You There?

January Program
Sue Winchester

Aim: To show how God may call if we are ready to listen and do His will.

Song: "Jesus Calls Us"

Scripture: Isaiah 42:6, II Thesalonians 1:11-12

See Program Help Packet



WHAT A marvelous invention, the telephone! It's a real convenience to those who may just want to chat with a friend or family member, set up an appointment or meeting, or make an emergency call in time of crisis. It is truly a tremendous method of communication. Despite the rising costs of operation, it's a necessity that some people take for granted. Let us pause and imagine God's "telephone."

It would have to be a complex instrument for God puts through millions of person-to-person calls a day to those consecrated and surrendered to His will. If you will leave an "open line," you can clearly hear as He calls through various ways. How tragic when God calls and gets a "busy signal."

Know the Caller

How often has someone called your home with the right number but asked for the wrong name? A call from a stranger can not only be irritating but even alarming. Is God a stranger to you? Is He the Savior and Master of your life? Are you in close *connection* with Him? If He called, would you say, "Lord, You've got the right number, but are You sure You've got the right name? Why, I *couldn't* be the one You want to teach a class, go on visitation, win a soul, or help in my church or Auxiliary."

When you really know Christ, you can't help but want to show your love for Him. He may "call" anytime, day or night, so keep an "open line," free of any worldly "interference." You never have to worry or fear because He is your greatest Friend.

The jingle says, "Find it fast in the Yellow Pages." Apply this to the Christian life by changing "yellow" to "inspired." The "directory" is God's Word. Let His Word speak to you and give you the answers you need concerning life's problems and help you to find His will for your life.

A Call to Bear Afflictions

We may, at times, be plagued with affliction even to the point that we let discouragement rob us of blessings. God has a purpose for everything He feels necessary to send our way. Our afflictions can either be

stumbling blocks or stepping stones to us and to those about us. How many times have you let an opportunity of service pass you by, making excuses that you just didn't feel well, or that you weren't strong enough to do anything for God? Paul stated that "my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (II Corinthians 12:9b). The importance of that verse is found in the first portion, "My grace is sufficient for thee." No matter what the affliction, we can have a glowing testimony. Don't let afflictions become "ear-plugs," but let them be a "hearing aid" and bear them with a smile.

A Call to Keep Trying

Another aggravating phone experience is a *wrong number*. In a sense, our Christian life may sometimes seem like a series of these. We are willing and zealous to do His will, but we don't always know where to start. We launch out in one direction, travel a while, then God gently touches our life and steers us on another course. We don't always understand this and often rebel, but eventually each of us finds our place in God's master plan with patience and perseverance.

Despite failures, discouragements, and mistakes, trust God to know what is best for you and follow His leading. Learn from past experiences and press on for

Him. He will give victory (II Corinthians 15:57), and your life will be richer for listening to Him.

A Call in the Midst of Problems

If you should find one person who doesn't have a problem of some kind, he is rare. In these perilous times of unemployment, energy crisis, crime, and sin on every hand, trials and problems seem inevitable. As with afflictions, God can give us the answers we need to bear them. Sometimes crises can hit to keep us humble or to test our faith. Not all problems can be said to be from God for Satan can bring these on us because our faith is weak and we're vulnerable enough to blame God for them. The song says, "if we never had a problem how would we know God could solve them?" When we face problems or trials we should reach out and cling to God's Hand. "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience" (James 1:3).

When a diamond is first dug up, it's black and ugly. That stone must be refined by fire and formed into a thing of beauty. We, as Christians, are just like that diamond. Before we're saved, our lives are black with sin. Once we receive Him, we must beware of the Devil's tools that try to keep us in sin. We dedicate our lives and Christ cleanses us and begins to "refine" us. Pride, rebellion, or other sin may creep into our

lives. This must be "chipped away." Soon, with His help, we become fit and beautiful vessels and begin to understand and solve problems that beset us. God can call us, despite any circumstances, unless we're too "bogged down" and the "connection" becomes severed.

A Call to Win the Lost

Some people not only suffer from a "hearing" problem, but from a loss of vision as well. "Where there is no vision, the people perish . . ." (Proverbs 29:18a). Winning the lost is a call for *all* ears. We're living in a time when people are in a desperate state and a touch from Christ could help them so much. Are you willing to walk to a neighbor's home to tell her about Christ? Are you a strong witness on your job, at school, or in your community? You don't have to go far to find a mission field, it could be your own family. Christ is your greatest possession, so don't be selfish, share Him. In this way you are sharing, caring, and answering a "person-to-person" call from God (Acts 1:8).

A Call to Love and Win

Do you have a gift for working with children? Compassion and a burden for their souls may be God's way of calling you to work in a bus ministry, children's

church, vacation Bible school, or Church Training Service. If you can look beyond the grimy little faces, matted hair, and smelly clothing of many children left to care for themselves because of living in problem homes, then God has a great work for you. If you've ever had your heart-strings plucked by the embrace of such a child, and you can win him to Christ, do you need God's call to be any more obvious? There's a special place in God's heart for children (Matthew 19:14), so please don't "hang-up," God must complete this call.

Station-To-Station Calls

God calls pastors, teachers, missionaries, and *you*. Whatever your profession or station in life, God knows your work "number" as well. Whether you are a secretary, teacher, or housewife, you have a mission field around you. A housewife has opportunities of service awaiting her each day.

Some working women feel that they don't have enough hours in the day to do the things that need to be done. This may be due to a lack of organization and planning. We always have time to do the things we *want* to do and sometimes leave out important details feeling that they can wait until another day. What usually happens when we become so rushed and don't redeem the time we have? There's a void that only God can fill because sooner or later we

have to stop and listen to Him. Don't push Him in the background until you have time for Him for soon His voice will seem like a whisper. Clear the "lines" and be prepared to hear His commands. Whatever the call, are you prepared to answer? Prayer and Bible study are necessities in your daily communication with God.

Get ready and harken to His voice as He may be calling *you* today.

Ready to listen when He doth
call,
Ready to submit my life, my
all.

Ready to say, "Here am I,"
And, if necessary, for your
cause to die.

But as long as I'm able to serve
you here,

Help me to be ready and bold,
without fear.

Ready to use any talents I
possess,
I know I'm limited, this I confess.

Ready to stay or go to win
Helpless souls groping in sin.

Ready to pray and my cross
to bear,

And over lost souls shed many
a tear.

Ready to face trials and suffer
strain,

Knowing your care will ease the
pain.

Ready to walk and serve alone,
Knowing someday soon You'll
take me home.

What glory it will be for one
and all,

Those who were ready and
answered Your call.

Me? An Example?



in word...in conversation...in charity...in spirit...in faith...in purity...in co

Aim: *To know that one's life is to exemplify Christ.*

Song: *"I Would Be Like Jesus"*

Scripture: *I Timothy 4:12*

See Program Help Packet

ACTS 1:8 is a verse in the Bible with which every Christian is familiar. Every Christian knows that he has a specific task to perform; that of being a witness. Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15 and Luke 24:47, 48 make this perfectly clear. For this purpose the Christian is appointed to bear witness or testify of Christ's life, instruction, death, and resurrection. When the word witness is used, it carries with it the idea of telling something that has been observed. This was certainly what Jesus had in mind when He commissioned the twelve disciples. Matthew 28:19 states that they were to teach all nations; Mark 16:15 exhorts them to preach; Romans 10:14 says, "How shall they hear without a preacher." As the early Christians fled from Jerusalem for their lives, to other parts of the world, they literally gossiped the gospel. It spread by word of mouth. It would seem that today Christians are failing in their task of being a verbal witness. Many excuses are used: too timid; no time; no talent; it's the preacher's job. The excuses go on and on. Yet the Christian fails to realize that he is a witness even if

he never opens his mouth.

Not only does witnessing involve telling, but it also involves being a witness. The very life is a visible witness, and many times speaks louder than any word that can be uttered. Christians are evidences of God's love and mercy; and should live so that others might be brought to see and love the Saviour. It has been said that the life of a Christian is the only Bible many folk will ever read.

On several occasions, in his letters to the churches, the Apostle Paul instructed his readers, his spiritual children, to be followers of him (I Corinthians 4:16, 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 4:9). He set himself up as the example and instructed them to imitate his example as he imitated Christ, the model.

First and Second Timothy are two letters written by Paul to Timothy, a young minister, for the purpose of counseling or instructing him. In I Timothy 4:12 he exhorted him to be an example of the believers. Timothy was a young man and because of his youth, there was a danger that the ministry might be regarded with contempt, since a lack of seriousness and indiscretion are usually associated with youth. Paul instructed him to conduct himself so gravely, so seriously, and in every way

appropriately, that the ministry be honored and not blamed. Then Paul went on to show him how he should be an example.

In Word

The phrase "in word" means in speech; the actual communication of the mouth. James 3 has much to say about the proper use of the tongue. All too often it is used to tear down and destroy. It is as a fire. It is used to slander and ridicule, murmur and complain. With it some bless God and curse men, and this should not be true in the life of a Christian. It should be used as a source of kindness, sympathy, and encouragement to others. It shouldn't be a cesspool of loose speaking, dirty jokes, filthy language and shady topics. The mouth will reveal what is in the heart. It is very important to see a strict guard upon the mouth if one is to be an example.

In Conversation

The word conversation is now applied almost exclusively to oral discourse, or talking; but was never used that way in the Scriptures. It means conduct or deportment in general, including, of course, speaking. The idea is that one should conduct himself Christ-like in all relations of life: as a member of a community or citizen of a state, in maintaining the laws, in submission to authority, in the choice of rulers; as a member of the local church

in the support and in faithfulness; in one's style of living; goals; ambitions; priorities; in everyday dealings with others; business transactions; modes of dress; entertainment. The rules of the gospel are to be applied to all conduct. If all Christians were under the influence of the gospel, there would be something in their dress, temper, speech, and aims, which would distinguish them from others. It is very important that Christians frame their lives by the rules of the gospel and, to this end, should study them, and know what they are.

In Charity

Jesus was asked (Matthew 22:36-40) which of the commandments of Moses was the greatest. He replied that the first and foremost one is to love God supremely with all of one's faculties and power. Secondly, one is to love his neighbor as himself. These two statements sum up the whole content of the Law.

I Corinthians 13 is the great love chapter of the Bible. It sets forth the pattern of true love. Love is very patient; very kind. Love knows no jealousy; makes no parade; gives itself no airs; is never rude, never selfish, never irritated, never resentful. Love is never glad when others go wrong; is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful. Love never fails.

It seems that in the Corinthian

church there were disputes concerning the spiritual gifts with which they had been endowed (I Corinthians 12), those with the more honorable, holding more prestige, valuing themselves more highly than those with the less honorable gifts. Paul stated that love was more valuable than all other gifts, and that it might be obtained by all; and whereas all the other gifts would be done away with someday, love will continue on through eternity.

In Spirit

This has to do with one's disposition; one's inward self. Galatians 5:19, 20 lists the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit. The word flesh here denotes corrupt human nature and verse nineteen lists those works which the corrupt human heart naturally produces. These works are not the fruit of a saved person. In fact, Paul makes it quite clear that a person whose life manifests such works cannot possibly be a Christian. A saved person will manifest, in his life, the fruit the indwelling Spirit produces. These fruit, verse twenty, do not flow from one's own nature but are the result of the Spirit's operations on the soul.

Ephesians 4:32 gives another insight into the proper disposition of a saved person. Verse 31 discusses those vices which are characteristic of human nature. The instruction is to put them away because they are incompatible with the Spirit's in-

dwelling. It produces kindness. Christianity produces true courteousness, or politeness and good breeding. There is no religion in rudeness, stiffness, repulsiveness, roughness, or a crabby, sour disposition. One's politeness and courtesy are to be based on kindness, love, goodwill, and a desire for the happiness of all others. It produces a tender heart. This is a heart that manifests pity, compassion, understanding, and especially kindness to the faults of erring brethren. It produces a forgiving spirit; one that does not harbor hatred and revenge even if one has been wronged.

In Faith

At all times, and in all trials, one should show to believers by his example, how they ought to maintain unshaken confidence in God. The exhortation is given in James 1:2, 3 to count it all joy when one is confronted with trials. Trials are not to be regarded as a punishment, a curse, or a calamity, but a blessing from God, for trials produce patience. Trials try and test the faith, and they show whether he who is tried will continue to believe God or falter in his faith. Abraham, when asked to sacrifice Isaac, was a vivid example of this truth.

In Purity

In chasteness of life. This has to do primarily with one's con-

duct toward the opposite sex. There should be nothing that would give rise to scandal. All relationships should be above reproach. One's dress and appearance are important. Setting godly examples in these two areas cannot be stressed enough. They should not take on the appearance of the world or in anyway cause men to lust. I Timothy 2:9, 10 set forth the standards of dress for women professing godliness.

One's outward conduct is motivated by his heart. As one thinks in his heart, so is he. All too often Christians are as the Pharisees; outwardly appearing beautiful, but within full of all uncleanness; outwardly appearing righteous, but within full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Jesus instructed them to cleanse that which was within first, that the outside may be clean also.

Conclusion

Titus 2:12, 13 state the duties of every Christian. One should deny, or refuse to practice, ungodliness, and worldly lust, and should lead a holy life. "Ungodliness" means all failure to perform the proper duties of worship and honour towards God due Him. "Worldly lusts," refers to all improper desires pertaining to this life. They include the desire of wealth, pleasure, honour, and sensual indulgence. Rather, the words "soberly," "righteously," and "godly" describe the epitome of all that religion requires. "Soberly" des-

cribes one's duty to himself. A due restraint on one's passions and natural tendencies should be exercised. "Righteously," or justly, describes one's duty to his fellow-men in all the relations in life. One should treat others as he himself would like to be treated. "Godly" describes one's duty to God; in the faithful performance of one's duties to Him. These are the duties owed in this present life.

While in the faithful performance of these duties to one's self, to one's fellowmen, and to God, one is to patiently wait for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Paul's instruction to Timothy and Titus was that they ought so to live that they could refer to their own example, and exhort others to imitate that example. The same applies to everyone who calls himself a child of God; imitate me as I imitate Christ. Me, an example!

LORD, SHINE THROUGH ME

Lord, shine through me;
Let others see the light.
Just let me keep the window
clean
For Thy Glory bright.

Lord, let me know
That Thou dost set the mould;
Thou art the One Who doth
refine
And separate the gold.
Lord, keep me close;
It is the only way
In which I can be freed from
self-
Thou art the only stay.

Needed: Spiritual Parents



Aim: To help us to encourage and sustain new converts in their Christian life.

Song: "Make Me a Blessing"

Scripture: II Timothy 2:2 (Please read all Scripture as it is given in the lesson.)

See Program Help Packet

THERE IS a desperate need for Bible believing, mature Christians to follow up new converts. Have you ever considered the possibility of God using you as a spiritual parent? As we survey our churches, I'm sure these are some conclusions we must draw:

1. We see little difference between the needs of new Christians and those who have been saved several years.

2. We believe that bringing people to Christ is far more important than seeing those who are saved reach spiritual maturity.

3. We take for granted that new Christians know or will immediately discover how to

feed themselves from God's Word—how to pray—and how to witness.

4. We assume that Christian growth is automatic and inevitable.

5. We make no special effort in classes for new believers. They often find themselves studying lessons out of their depth.

These assumptions are without foundation. The new Christian has distinctive needs and problems. Just as a new-born baby must be fed and given TLC, (tender loving care) so must a new-born babe-in-Christ be strengthened with the milk of the Word (1 Peter 2:2). His first steps must be guided, he must be warned of pitfalls that would be

no problem for a mature Christian, and he should be constantly encouraged in his faith. In other words, he needs *Spiritual Parents* who will guide and nurture him until he himself is living a fruitful life, winning and teaching others.

Dangers That May Be Encountered

One of our primary concerns, as natural parents, is to protect our little ones from danger. Let us consider some of the dangers to our "little ones" in Christ.

1. *Doubt*—The first peril to crop up may well be doubt. As a little child needs almost constant assurance of his mother's presence and care, the new Christian needs the confidence of his acceptance by God through Christ. It is important for him to realize that when he sins, God will chasten, but to be assured that he is still loved by the Heavenly Father. (I John 5:10-13, Romans 10:9, 10.)

2. *Fear*—Often a new convert will lose the joy of his salvation and slip back into the old ways of living. Perhaps his was a wonderful conversion experience, then he slips and sins. Guilt makes him to feel that God has cast him aside. I John 1:8-10 was written to believers. We are to strive for perfection, but when we fall (and we *all* do) the new convert needs to know that God loves him and will forgive.

3. *Undernourishment*—This is a very common problem for a young convert. He must be led to the source of spiritual food—

God's Holy Word—and be taught to feed himself. The experience of conversion is very satisfying, and possibly he feels he'll never need another spiritual blessing, but of course this is not true. He needs a constant, fresh supply of God's teaching and promises, so that he can feed and grow. Visit him often, help him organize his Bible study and show him the necessity of daily feeding on spiritual things.

4. *Compromised Testimony*—Many young Christians, fearful of the reactions of friends and relatives, may try to hide their changed lives. Naturally, this leads to unfaithfulness to the Lord. One may be so eager to tell of his new-found faith that he forces his testimony on those unwilling to hear, so his witness is resented. Misunderstandings and persecutions will come, but we can help them avoid a few. I Peter 3:15 is excellent for this problem. The changed life of a new Christian will invite questions. This is his opportunity to witness of God's transforming power in his own life.

What Can We Do?

Dangers and pitfalls are sure to come to a new babe-in-Christ, but we can encourage and strengthen him to become a mature, effective witness for Christ. He needs to realize that by trials, testings and troubles, he is strengthened to meet the goal of eternal life. As an example, use the climbing of a stairway to Heaven. Each time

we overcome a trial in life, we find ourselves on a higher rise, and so are climbing, climbing. I Peter 5:8, 9 is excellent for explaining this truth. Watch, for Satan is cunning and crafty and a master of doubt. He may rob us of our assurance and peace. The new Christian must see that he has an Advocate with the Father, Christ our Saviour, and complete trust must be given to Him. Constant choices must be made—will he doubt and fall, or will he trust Christ, overcome temptation through Him, and rise to a new level of Christian experience? The question then is this, do we put our hand in His, or go off in our own sightless way? I believe we can help a new convert to realize that he must trust, and Philippians 4:13 will become a reality to him. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Our Responsibility

Being a parent is not a simple job. It a tremendous responsibility. But we love and guide and discipline our children, and see them grow into responsible and mature people, and we know it was worth all the care and sacrifice. The responsibility and cares of a spiritual parent are just as great. It isn't an easy task, and maybe that's why we find so few of them in our churches. Won't you ask God to help you be a spiritual parent? Discover for yourself the indescribable joy of seeing babes-in-Christ grow into mature Christian workers. Wake up to your responsibility. Be challenged by II Timothy 2:2; "And the things thou has heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

II Timothy 2:2



Convention 76

FREE INDEED



FREE INDEED was the theme of the 41st annual session of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, Tulsa, Oklahoma, July 12-13, 1976.



Another record was set when 964 persons were present for the WNAC Fellowship Dinner Monday evening . . .

A record number of 1,021 delegates, members, and visitors from 22 state conventions, 1 district, and 5 local auxiliaries which have no higher organization, and 12 missionaries from 6 countries, registered.





... they heard Dr. LaVerne Miley, missionary to the Ivory Coast, West Africa, speak on "Free—Yet Servants."

Marcelle Marchand, president of the Woman's Auxiliary, Rennes, France, presented Cleo Pursell, WNAC executive secretary, with a gift.



Geneva Poole, missionary to Brazil brought devotions on Tuesday morning.

Ten of the 15 winners in WNAC's creative writing contest. Front row (l to r), Willia Jean Lewis (proxy for Velda Tucker) Batesville, Arkansas; Mary Perry, Mt. Hope, West Virginia; Ann Ruble, Sophia, West Virginia; Vernie Hersey, Nashville, Tennessee; Anne Worthington, Albany, Georgia; Mary Owens, St. Clair, Missouri; Helen McAlister, Farmington, Missouri; Betty Reeves, Farmington, Missouri; Mary Williams, Raytown, Missouri; Kathey Barnes, Washington, N.C.



President Clara Picirilli and June Rolan, chairman of the resolutions committee.



Joe Haas, missionary to France delivered the keynote message at the Tulsa Assembly Center.



State presidents, field workers, and the WNAC executive committee met on Monday for a time of information and inspiration.

Bob Followill ably led the group in inspiring song services. Of special interest was the Bicentennial song booklet composed of original songs written by Free Will Baptist women.





The New Life Singers, Hillsdale College, opened WNAC's Bicentennial Celebration with a rousing musical presentation.

The women were challenged by a historical drama, "Free to Follow Him." It was written and directed by Mary R. Wisehart.



Linda Cantrell, Nashville, Tennessee. She participated in the drama.

June Critcher climaxed a perfect day with a stirring message. "Free To Be God's Woman."



ANYTHING

can happen at a

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Arkansas

A thick cloud of dust rose into the air along the trail near Beaver Fork Lake, Conway, Arkansas, April 30, 1976. No, it wasn't the Bicentennial wagon train passing through, according to reporter Velda Tucker, it was the late arrivals of auxiliary women trying to "make camp" by supper time. A record number attended the retreat—232 women and 25 Actionettes, making a total of 257.

President Genelle Scott reviewed the book *Beauty Care of the Tongue* and Bonita Hill and Mary Ann Chronister directed a pageant, *The Meaning of Service*. Talent time consisted of good singing, skits, and a puppet show. At 11:30 p.m., the women gathered outside for a candle-light service directed by Audie Sharp. Aileen Calvary gave a devotion.

The next day the group divided into seminars taught by Carolyn Ange, Theresa White, Marth Berry, Carolyn Hays, Alene Coffman, and Myra Hill. Mrs. Grace Sublett, developed the theme, "Fully Equipped for God's Vineyard" (Colossians 2:10), at the concluding service.

Illinois

The Illinois Woman's Auxiliary retreat was held at the Camp Grounds in Benton, September 20-21. Lorene Miley, missionary to Ivory Coast, was the guest speaker. Other activities were a book review by Lela Terry, a candle light devotional and observance of the Lord's Supper and Feet Washing, fun time, testimonies and good food.

Yes, *anything* can happen at a Women's Retreat!

Ohio

A record attendance of 53 women attended the state retreat at Camp Bethany near Mansfield September 10-11. Joann Sizemore, state president, presided over the meeting. The theme, "For Women Only," was ably developed through devotions by Betty Frisbee, Dorothy Naves, and Patty Johnson, and seminars conducted by Delois Loveless, Cleo Pursell, executive secretary, WNAC, and Peggy Guinta.

Nancy Hughes, missionary to Brazil, brought the evening message and gave a slide presentation. She was surprised by a lovely personal shower from the women. The Mingus Trio brought special music. Of course there was fun time, talent sharing, and a skit presented by the Liberty church women . . . and a *little sleep!*



Georgia State Auxiliary Retreat, Camp Mt. Bethel, Ashburn.



June Wilkinson, speaker at Georgia retreat.

Georgia

Eighty-eight women from 24 churches came to Camp Mt. Bethel, April 9-10, for the annual retreat sponsored by the Georgia Woman's Auxiliary Convention. The theme, *Bloom Where You are Planted*, was delightfully developed by emphasis on *breaking, planting, watering, feeding, budding, pruning* (ouch! that hurt), *dormant plants, growing, and blooming*. Program personalities included June Wilkinson, Geraldine Waid, Barbara Roberts, Ida Tabb, Mildred Bowen, Judy Pickett, Brenda Steedly and others.



Geraldine Waid, vesper service at *The Rock*.



ALABAMA PANEL. (Left to right) Barbara Fletcher, Geraldine Hall, Molly Barker, Odessa Ledlow, and Alice Hood, state president.

Alabama

"The Home" was the theme of the Alabama State Auxiliary Retreat, May 21-22, at Cooks Springs Baptist Camp near Birmingham. Barbara Fletcher presided over a well planned program which included guest speakers Molly Barker, missionary to Brazil and Cleo Pursell, WNAC executive secretary. There were stimulating group sessions for pastor's wives, deacon's wives, and older citizens; a panel discussion, prayer groups, special music, fun time, home crafts, home cooked desserts, and much more.

Texas

The Texas Woman's Auxiliary met April 23-24, at Piney Woods Camp for their annual state retreat with a record attendance. Mothers and their teenage daughters shared in worship, fellowship and fun among the tall Texas pines.

The theme was built around *faith*, and the group enjoyed a "Share Your Faith" time when buzz groups met

separately for discussion. Captains of each group reported their decisions to the entire group, giving many marvelous experiences and enlightening thoughts on faith.

After a free time in the afternoon, the women met at the lake shore in the beautiful sunshine and the chorus "Alleluia" resounded throughout the tall pines. They heard their speaker, Zetta Rose, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, bring the concluding thoughts on *Faith = Trust + Belief*.

Mississippi

Sixty-two women registered for a very inspirational state retreat at Camp Morganwood, August 27-29. Eva House, state field worker, reported that speaker Lorene Miley, missionary to Ivory Coast, brought the message from the *Song of Solomon*. Carolyn Franks brought devotions. Helpful seminars were conducted by Dr. Ruby Griffin, Mary Bullard, and others. Of course there was good singing, good food and fellowship.

JUST COUNT THE PITS

Gertrude Cantrell

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

Today this scripture was more clearly shown to me as I ate a handful of cherries. Being on one of my frequent calorie-counting diets, I suddenly remembered after I had eaten several, that I hadn’t counted them. But the solution came, and was so simple. “Why just count the pits.” I opened my hand and counted 10 cherry pits, and the above scripture popped into my mind. How simple to see evidence of things not seen. There were no cherries in my hand, but there was the evidence—the pits!

So it is with *Faith*. We can’t so openly display our faith to others, but we have the evidences (or should have)—the love of God, the love of others, the desire to help others, the answered prayers, the abiding assurance of the Holy Spirit, the abhorance of things evil—On and on we could count the *evidences*!

“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone” (James 2:17). “Shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works (James 21:8b). “... He that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?” (II John 4:21).



Nasty Nice

Gertrude Cantrell

The Pharisee prayed, "*I thank thee that I am not . . . as this publican.*"

When I was growing up there was a saying about people who were too particular, too demanding, too exact, too clean. They were referred to as being *nasty nice*.

How often are we guilty of praying the Pharisees prayer or of being *nasty nice* in our expectations of others? Never, you say? Are you sure our prayer life, communion, and discourse with God consists of more than just the formal, repetitive, Pharisaic phrases we use when we "say a prayer?" Our daily lives, attitudes, and judgments of others are also involved.

We are warned that we are forgiven as we forgive, judged as we judge. How many times a day do we compare ourselves with someone else? And how many times do we come out on the winning side? Probably a larger percent of the time for we are a very cautious, prideful people. We are care-

ful *not* to compare ourselves with anyone we are certain is *better* than ourselves.

This comparison could take many forms: In appearance (hair-do, clothing, style, neatness, and physical appearance). Living Conditions (type of home, furnishings, upkeep, cleanliness). Shortcomings (negligence, laziness, tardiness, too talkative or too sullen, too friendly or too snobbish, too bossy or too wishy-washy, never visit or visit too much, never inquire about our well being or absences, or too nosy and inquisitive about our affairs. In fact there are many bad points we see in others lives and it is to these we compare our *good* points (never our bad ones to their good points).

It is sad but true that these comparisons carry over into our church relationships and our Christian walk. We are prone to judge everyone by our good points, our standards, what we think should be done, and when and how and even to whom. If God had put some people as inspectors at Heaven's gates, even the saints and angels wouldn't be allowed in. Christians are judged by their singing or lack of it, their teaching or preaching or lack of it, their visiting or lack of it, their involvement in church affairs or lack of it. Whatever others do is sure to be on the low side with someone living and making the *Pharisaic* or *nasty nice* comparison. Wouldn't it be better to pray more after the manner of the publican and to esteem our very best as unworthy when measured against the holiness of God? "As ye would that others do unto you do ye unto them also."

Mrs. Cantrell was a first place winner in the 1975-76 Creative Writing Contest. She lives in Santa Fe Springs, California



DEADLINE... MARCH 1, 1977

For what? WNAC's Creative Writing Contest.

Who is Eligible? All Woman's Auxiliary members and Actionettes.

Categories: Programs suitable for publication in *Co-Laborer* magazine, skits, 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 writer's name and address in the upper left hand corner of the first page.

Awards: In each of the three categories the awards 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.

Send your entries to:

WNAC Writing Contest

P.O. Box 1088

Nashville, Tennessee 37202

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WNAC Executive Committee, Tulsa, Oklahoma, July, 1976. From left to right, Clara Picirilli, Cleo Pursell, Anne Worthington. Back row, left to right, Genelle Scott, Nancy Trimble, Brenda Evans, and June Rolan.

