



Co-Laborer

April-May-June 1977



SERVICEMEN'S SUNDAY—May 29, 1977

We encourage our churches to plan special recognition on this Sunday for those in the armed forces from our churches, and to pray for our chaplains who are preaching Christ to men and women far from home.

Dear Mrs. Pursell,

"I want to thank you for the emphasis being placed on the Servicemen's Sunday on May 29, by the Auxiliary. I know our young men (and women) in uniform appreciate the gesture. As a military family, we thank you for your support and prayers."

Chaplain and Mrs. Gerald Mangham
United States Army
Aschaffenberg, Germany



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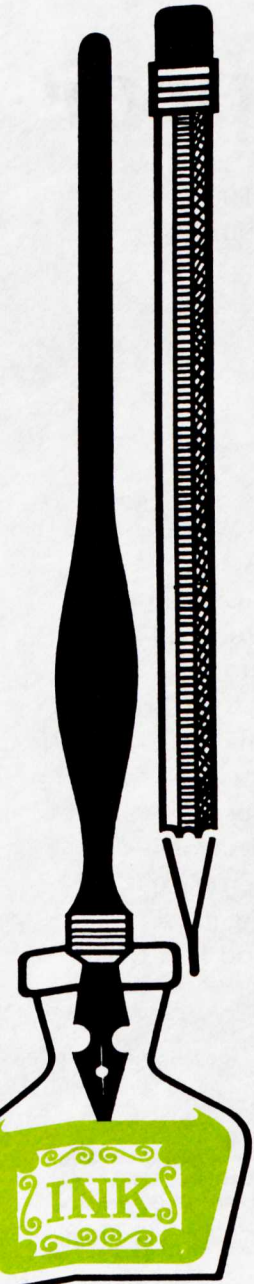
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Cleo W. Pursell, Editor

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Evelyn Jones, Circulation



Co-Laborers Write

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Satilla Church recently sponsored a linen shower for the Missionary Provision Closet. This was one of many, many projects of the group. We sponsor a special activity each quarter.

We thank God for women who write gospel material that we can use to better prepare us for a more meaningful Christian life.

*Ocala Fussell
Hazelhurst, Georgia*

The New Life Auxiliary of the Free Will Baptist Church, Monett, Missouri, was organized in September of 1975. It was organized by Judy Smith for the purpose of involving ladies of the church who couldn't attend the night Auxiliary. Though the membership was small it has doubled, not only in members but in blessings as well.

The day Auxiliary has had various projects with all proceeds going to missions. Through these projects the Auxiliary has grown closer together and closer to God.

*Sandra Parrish
Jane Williams
Monett, Missouri*

As secretary of the Philadelphia Woman's Auxiliary, we would like to express our deep appreciation for the wonderful job you are doing with the *Co-Laborer* and Program Help Packets. The Lord is really blessing us in our Auxiliary. We are growing spiritually and in number. Please increase our order to 20.

*Dorris Lloyd
Folkston, Georgia*

Our Auxiliary has grown in maturity and love. Thank you very much for such a wonderful book as the *Co-Laborer*. Our Auxiliary has received many blessings from it.

Janet Fortner
Beech Grove, Indiana

We appreciate you and the staff. We know that much prayer and study goes into our programs in *Co-Laborer* that we enjoy so very much. They always enrich my life and are such a blessing to our Auxiliary.

We had a Prayer Calendar Project for Alabama Home Missions and raised \$70.00, for which we praise the Lord. Our President, Mrs. James Walden (our pastor's wife), is doing a tremendous job. Thank you for helping us through *Co-Laborer* find our place in the Great Commission.

Betty Sargent
Jasper, Alabama

The Woman's Auxiliary here at Faith Free Will Baptist Church has been spiritually and materially blessed. We have bought linens for the missionary provision closet . . . Pray for our state missionary, Judy Smith, in Japan, and for us as we continue to promote and support our missionaries, both home and foreign . . . The programs this quarter have been a real blessing and the creative writing superb.

Ruth Wheeler Guidry
San Antonio, Texas

The *Co-Laborer* programs are really a blessing to everyone, not just the women but also the men.

Brother Eddie Payne gave a devotion for us and I wish that all women could have heard the beautiful words about women and their support from God's Word. It really made me thankful that I am a woman—a woman of God!

Nancy Ray
Pensacola, Florida

In the past three years I have read your *Co-Laborer* and have received many blessings from hearing about the women in the Free Will Baptist denomination. I especially like reading about the different Auxiliaries that are being formed and the pictures that are included. It's like seeing old friends and finding out what's happening.

For the past two years I have attended Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College and have met so many new friends. I have spoken at a number of Auxiliary meetings and would like to thank them now for all their love that they have shared with me. I would especially like to thank the *Actionettes* of the Owassa (Oklahoma) Church, who sent me home last Christmas. They are a tremendous group of girls. I really can't begin to say how much everyone of the Auxiliaries that I have spoken at means to me. All the women bring back so many happy memories to me—Mrs. Carner, my dorm mother who helped me when I was homesick . . . Nadine Monroe who always was so sweet to me . . . Mrs. Wilson . . . I could go on forever.

Isis Martinez
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Women In Action

Nursing Home Gifts

The Woman's Auxiliary, Southgate, Michigan, worked throughout the year making lap robes and bedroom slippers to take to nursing home patients at Christmas. The Actionettes accompanied them and led in

Christmas caroling. Members (l to r) are: Dorothy Rigsby, Sandy Franks, Joan Patterson, Beverly Witchelhouse, Betty Williams, Shelia Crum. Second row, Mary Wells, Barbara Daniels, Lillie Lunsford, Rose Blevins, Freda Worley, Daisy Bates, and President Virginia Davis.



Illinois District

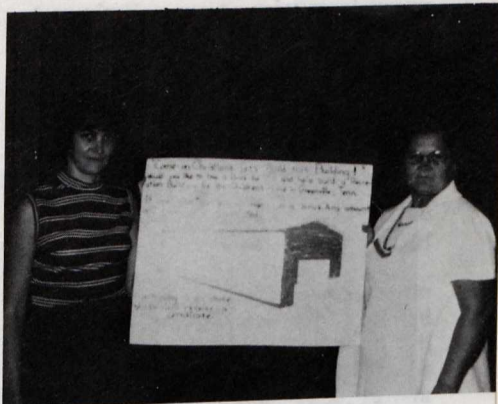
The Illinois District Auxiliary's project for the year is raising \$150.00 for a typewriter for the Clint Morgans, missionary appointees to Ivory Coast. The group sponsored a prayer and study retreat in August with Brenda Spruill speaking.

Halloween Carnival

The women of the White Hall Church, Waycross, Georgia, held a Halloween carnival and plan to use the proceeds to purchase needed items for the church.

Turned Clock Back

Mrs. Anna Davis of the Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, South Carolina, reports their Auxiliary "turned the clock back 200 years" when they presented the enjoyable program, "God's Servants—Then and Now."



Children's Home

The Woman's Auxiliary, Farmington, Missouri, collected \$100.00 selling "bricks" to help build the recreational building for Free Will Baptist Home for Children, Greeneville, Tennessee. Shown (l to r), Joyce Lix, president, and Jessie Barron, missions action chairman.

Mississippi State

The Mississippi Auxiliary Convention convened November 12, 1976, at the Martin Hill Church, Booneville. The theme was "United We Stand, Divided We Fall" (Luke 11:17).

Devotions were brought by Cheryl Nicholas and Barbara Haas, missionary from Rennes, France. William E. Atkinson spoke at a joint worship service on "The Christian Liberty." Mrs. Haas also spoke at the Auxiliary banquet. There were 76 present.

WOMEN IN ACTION*WOMEN IN ACTION



Home Missions Program

Missionary Linda Callaway spoke at the pre-Thanksgiving prayer service for National Home Missions, sponsored by the Woman's Auxiliary of Garner, North Carolina. Linda is shown with Auxiliary and *Actionette* members.

New District

Nora McCarty, Ohio state field worker, organized a district Auxiliary convention in September which is composed of women from Clyde and Maumee Auxiliaries. Becky Hensley was elected president of the new district which was to be named at their next meeting.

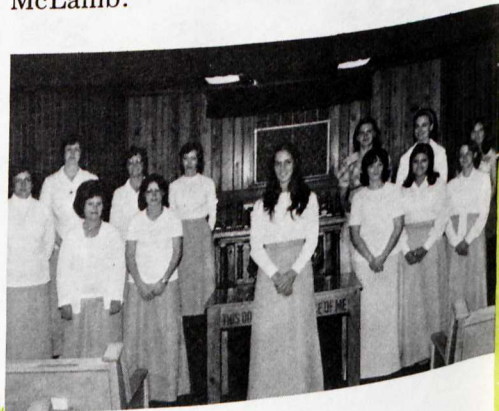
Auxiliary Emphasis

The Thayer, Missouri, Woman's Auxiliary observed

WNAC Emphasis Month by presenting the program, "Through Christ We're Marching On." Those participating were Nadine Hood, Lorene Pohnert, Carolee Barton, Jettie Bowers, Fern Hickenbotham, Cathy Harper, Nettie Bennett, and Barbara Cox. Pastor Glen Hood gave a reading and Carolyn Smith and Loren Barton presented the play, "How is Your Prayer Life?" A special offering was received for WNAC.

Installation

Members and officers of the Ft. Benning, Georgia, Woman's Auxiliary who participated in a recent installation service are (l to r): June Allen, corresponding secretary; Matta Lou Pearson, treasurer; Jeanie Pearson, missions action chairman; Mary Treat, president; Norma Shields, Hermalind Sandifer, missions chairman; and Myra Mills. Back row, Lynn Thoren, program prayer chairman; Barbara Yancy, vice president; Pat Martin, Janice Gibson, Mary Adjer, and Betty McLamb.



WOMEN IN ACTION*WOMEN IN ACTION

Tennessee State

"Rebuilding the Foundations of the Home," was the theme of the 31st annual session of the Tennessee Woman's Auxiliary, November 16, 1976, at Pardue Memorial Church, Clarksville. Registration was 118. Milton Worthington conducted a morning seminar and missionary Bobby Poole brought the morning message.

The goal of \$1,400 for the Welch Library was reached and a new goal set, \$1,500 for the church loan fund in Nantes, France. Missionary Geneva Poole, Brazil, spoke at the Auxiliary banquet at the Holiday Inn.

Georgia State

Full and running-over best describes our feelings about the Georgia Woman's Auxiliary Convention that met November 18, 1976 in Athens with 242 people attending.

Real and manifold were the blessings our hearts received through the development of our theme: "Free Indeed!" (John 8:36.)

Example and consistency in daily Christian living through God's marvelous Grace was stressed by our missionary speaker, Barbara Haas, as well as the devotional speakers, Joy McKinney and Patricia Johnson.

Extension and evangelism were emphasized through personal reports from our Georgia State Mission Churches: Athens, Decatur, Dublin, Statesboro and Swainsboro as they were introduced by Opal Hatcher.

Inspiration and enjoyment came through the music presented by Eleanor Sheffield, Shirley Kimbrel, Barbara Haas and the Mt. Olive Trio composed of Joyce Wilder, Leila Dent and Frances Mullins.

Notice was taken and thanks given for the over \$16,000 given through some 50 auxiliaries in our state this past year—the most of which went to missions and evangelism.

Determination—with God's help—to do as well as and even try to exceed the work of our pioneer Free Will Baptists women here in Georgia as Edith Shiver, Ida Tabb, Evera Moye, and Wynell Clower challenged our hearts with a brief history of the Georgia State Woman's Auxiliary Convention.

Enthusiasm and gratitude showed as seven new local auxiliaries were reported in our state this past year. They are: Wilson's Chapel, Georgia Union District; Ozias, Little River District; Corinth, Martin District; Berean, Calvary, and White Plains, Midway District; and Swainsboro, South Georgia District.

Excitement and anticipation marked the report of the Resolutions Committee. Three recommendations were adopted: (1) The publishing of the complete history of the Georgia Woman's Auxiliary Convention. (2) The planning of another Woman's Auxiliary Retreat at Camp Mt. Bethel next spring. (3) "Pennies for Crowsons' Toyota" (our 1976-77 state project).

Dreams of an even greater convention next year as we envision many more women over our state becoming involved in this unique area of service that God has provided for Georgia Free Will Baptist women!

Martha Everson, Field Worker

MEMO from CLEO

Cleo Pursell, Executive Secretary



Medicine Bottles

When sending plastic medicine bottles to the clinic in Ivory Coast, please put the smaller bottles inside the larger ones if you send both sizes. It will save space and time. Mrs. Miley, and others, spent hours doing this as they helped prepare their barrels for shipping. Please don't send *glass* bottles as they frequently get broken in transit.

Correction

It was the *Actionettes* of the Loyal Chapel Church, Columbia Tennessee, who participated in a 24 hour rock-a-thon for the Bill Fulcher account (not the First Church). Their efforts netted \$410 for the Fulchers.

Reminder

Remember to send to WNAC, brief biographies of women who are, or have been, prominent in the work of the Woman's Auxiliary. Include a black and white picture (any size) for publication in *Co-Laborer*.

Provision Closet Needs

Thank you for the mattress covers! We still need bedspreads (all sizes), jello molds, layettes, and stainless steel flatwear.

National Convention

Plan now to attend the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, July 18-19, 1977, in Detroit, Michigan. The headquarters hotel will be the *Detroit Cadillac*, which is a 15 minute walk from Cobo Hall, the convention site.



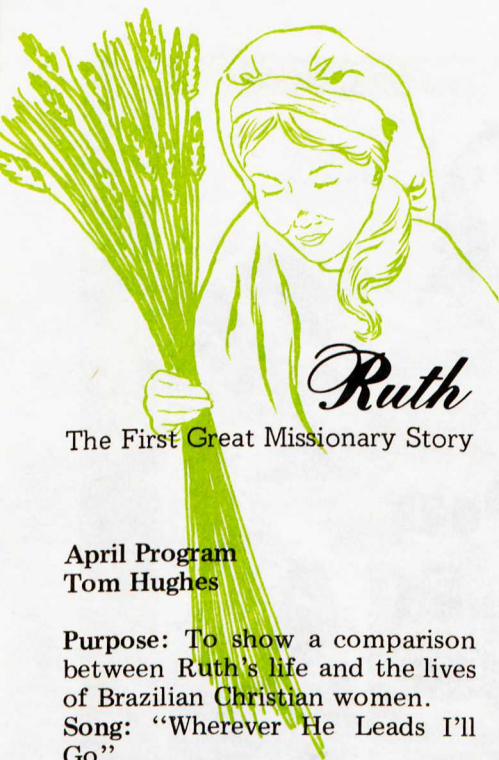
Who's Who in this Issue

Tom Hughes is the author of the April program. He and his wife, Nancy, are serving their second term as missionaries in Brazil. They are the parents of two children, Tommy, Jr., and Lori.

Polly Roberson, Leeds, Alabama, is field worker for the Cahaba River District Auxiliary. She is a Sunday school teacher at the Belview Church and teaches kindergarten at Moody Christian Academy at the Fairview Church. This pastor's wife and mother of a teen-age daughter, won honorable mention in WNAC's writing contest last year with her program, "God's Special Family."

Nelda Boozer, Amory, Mississippi, wrote the June program. She is a pioneer in Auxiliary work and presently serves as local missions prayer chairman, teaches a Sunday school class, and is a teachers' aide in the local school system. Nelda is a widow and the mother of three children. They attend the First Church in Amory.

Barbara Otwell, Santa Paula, California, is missions study chairman of her local Auxiliary and president of the West Coast District Auxiliary Convention. She is the mother of a son and prepared the pre-Easter season of prayer programs.



The First Great Missionary Story

April Program
Tom Hughes

Purpose: To show a comparison between Ruth's life and the lives of Brazilian Christian women.

Song: "Wherever He Leads I'll Go"

Scripture: Ruth 1:16-18
See Program Help Packet

The story of Ruth is the first great missionary story of the Bible. Most people know that Ruth was a convert from heathenism, but they seldom stop to think of the implications. The author never really understood the import of his decision until living in Brazil. When one realizes that Ruth was involved in a cross-cultural situation, this gives real understanding and feeling to her experience.

Have you ever wondered why God included the book of Ruth in the Bible? Undoubtedly, there are many reasons why He did. The book gives some historical background for the lineage of

David. It also shows God's interest in Gentiles, by including them in the ancestry of Jesus (Rahab was another Gentile who, because of her faith, was chosen by God to be one of Jesus' ancestors). Perhaps the chief reason God included this story in His Book is because Ruth's life gives such a beautiful picture of the Christian life. Each chapter is actually a phase of the Christian life.

Chapter one could be entitled "Regeneration." This is the first phase of the Christian life. It is birth into the family of God. Before that birth Ruth was an "alien from the commonwealth of Israel . . . having no hope, and without God." She was a heathen.

Naomi—Missionary

The narrative begins with the missionary family going to the mission field. Yes, missionary, because this family was sent by the sovereignty of God, through the circumstances of a famine, to Moab with the message of the true God. The Lord used the circumstances of sorrow to give a living demonstration of this message. Naomi's husband died and later, after her two sons had married Moabitish maidens, they in turn died. Even though Naomi's heart was broken, she was able to comfort her grieving daughters-in-law because she had a hope in the midst of her sorrow. She would see her sons again.

In January of 1975 this author had the privilege of speaking to a

group of young Brazilians in an English school. At the end of the session there was a time of question and answers. One teenage girl asked what the differences were between the author's religion and hers. He replied that while there were many differences, the greatest involved the views of salvation. He pointed out that Catholicism teaches a system of salvation that is based on good works, baptism, prayers and the mass. "In contrast to that," he stated, "we believe the Bible teaching that we are saved by grace alone, which is based in the perfect sacrifice of Jesus on the cross."

Immediately another teenager asked, "Does that explain why the family of a crente (evangelical Christian) who dies, soon gets over their sorrow and our people grieve for the rest of their lives because of the death of a loved one?"

"Exactly," he replied. "God is responsible for our salvation, so we have no fears."

Naomi's assurance that she would see her sons in heaven produced a profound effect on her daughters-in-law, just as her godly life had since she arrived in Moab. Soon afterwards when Naomi announced that she was planning to return to her own country, Ruth and Orpah declared that they would join Naomi in her way of life and trust in God by going to Israel with her.

Counting the Cost

Naomi loved those Moabitish

maidens and they were as daughters to her, but she knew that life would not be easy for them in her country. In wisdom and love she warned them of the hardships that such a decision would bring.

The Brazilian Free Will Baptists have not had to physically leave their families when they decided to follow Jesus, but that step has cost many of them their families. There was a widow with six children in the church in Araras who had been ostracized by her family when she became a Christian. They would have nothing to do with her and would not help her in the least financially, even though she and her family lived in poverty and often would have gone hungry had it not been for the church people.

"Not only will you be leaving your families," Naomi continued, "but you will be leaving any hope of ever having a family. As you know our countries have often been enemies in the past and there is an unwritten custom in our land that none of the men will marry a Moabite. We do have a law that when a man dies childless his brother must marry the widow, but I have no more sons and no hope of having any more to provide husbands for you. Girls, you won't have husbands or families if you follow me."

(Later, Ruth did marry, but Boaz did not have to marry her; this obligation only rested on a brother-in-law. In fact, the only grounds on which Boaz had been able to marry her was that she

was the widow of a Hebrew who had been kin to him. Had she been a previously unmarried Moabitess, he could not have married her.)

Most American girls don't have to decide between Christ and marriage but Brazilian Free Will Baptist girls realize that to live for Christ might preclude the possibility of marriage. In the church in Araras are two sisters in their thirties. They are unmarried because in the Free Will Baptist churches in Brazil, there have been more girls to accept Christ than fellows and, therefore, there are not enough Christian husbands for all the girls who have been saved. Thus, being faithful to Christ, and not compromising to be unequally yoked in marriage with an unbeliever, has cost these sisters the hope of marriage and a family.

After Naomi had thus outlined the cost involved for her daughters-in-law to follow her, the three lifted up their voices in weeping. With her heart breaking, Orpah kissed Naomi goodbye and returned to her people. Through her tears Naomi spoke to Ruth, "Go with your sister-in-law. Go back to your people where you can have a family and live a normal life."

With a determination that is rarely seen today, Ruth replied, "Don't keep insisting because I've made my decision. I'm going with you, and where you stay, I'll stay. Your people will become my people and because your God has meant so much to you, He will be my God."

Reaping—Resting—Rewarded

In chapter two we see the second phase of the Christian life, that of "Reaping." Just as Naomi had forewarned, life was not easy for Ruth; it was hard work. This is a phase of the Christian life that many Christians want to ignore. God wants no lazy sons or daughters and so He has work for each of us to do.

Another phase is found in chapter three. It is "Resting." It is safe to say that by now Boaz had come to love Ruth and she him. Naomi encouraged Ruth to present her case as a childless Hebrew widow to Boaz, so that he might have the opportunity to marry her. When she did this, she learned that there was a closer kinsman than Boaz, who might claim her in marriage if he so desired. This presented a great problem about which she could do nothing. She had to "rest" her problem in Boaz's hands. Often there are problems in the Christian life about which one can do nothing, except pray. When a Christian does have such a problem he needs to read the thought of Ruth 3:18 to himself in these words: "Be still, my soul, until thou knowest how the matter will fall: for God will not be in rest, until He hath worked out the problem."

The final phase of Ruth's life was "Rewarded." God rewarded her sacrifice and faithfulness with marriage, a son, a great grandson who would be king of Israel and a son, many generations removed, who would be the promised Messiah.

Pre-Easter Prayer Program
for Foreign Missions
April 4-8, 1977

by Barbara Otwell

LOVE
ANGER
HUMILITY
SOCIABILITY
COURAGE
PATIENCE
COMPASSION

7 Seven Characteristics Of Christ's Personality

To the leader: See Program Packet for helps in planning.

AS WE APPROACH the season of Easter, we think instinctively of the cross—of Jesus hanging there for our sins, and then coming forth triumphantly from the grave to give us eternal hope. But, just what kind of person was Jesus when He was here on earth?

Solo: "The Love of God"
Love (John 4:7-15)

One characteristic Jesus possessed was *love*. Jesus loved us enough to give His life for us. We need to remember this love when we are so quick to judge our friends; when someone comes to us in need and we turn them away; or when harsh words are spoken and we want to speak them right back. None of these show love but just the opposite.

It is easy to love those who are lovable, those who return our love, or those close to us. But what about loving people of

another country, culture, or race? What about loving someone who is hateful?

Missionaries probably get a better picture than anyone else of truly unlovable people. The first letters that a young missionary nurse sent to her family told of the filth, poverty, and disease of the natives with which she worked. It filled her with disgust. The lying and stealing kept her uneasy. She was tempted to give up and return home, but she stayed. After many months of service her letters changed. The degrading conditions were gradually changed by the power of love.

Sing: "God Will Take Care of You"

Anger (Mark 3:5)

Another characteristic Jesus possessed was *anger*. This may surprise you but Jesus was angry and took action against the money changers in the temple (Matthew 21:12). They were desecrating His house, the

Temple, and He was indignant. Righteous indignation is justifiable. Many times things will happen to cause anger to well up within us but we must be as Jesus and not let it lead to sin. Ephesians 4:26, 31 states: "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice"

Song: "Give of your Best to the Master"

Humility (Philippians 2:5-11)

The third characteristic of Jesus was humility. Jesus was a humble person. The people wanted to crown Him as their King but He showed His humility by washing the disciples feet. Do you really love your friends enough to wash their feet? Or do you stay home when your church has that particular ordinance? Our Lord even washed the feet of the one who would betray him—Judas.

Humility means lowliness, meekness, freedom from pride. It also may mean an act of humble courtesy. Although one of man's most noble virtues, humility seldom comes naturally. It must be learned, and the experience is often painful.

Humility is the first measure of a truly great person, yet humility alone does not make one great. A humble person recognizes the superiority of others, learns from them, then reaches out a helping hand to those who are behind him.

If these Scriptures were obeyed it would practically eliminate church quarrels! (1) "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another" (Romans 12:10). (2) "Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility" (1 Peter 5:5). (3) "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Philippians 2:3). (4) "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart" (Matthew 11:29).

Song: "Let the World See Jesus in Me"

Sociability (1 John 1:3-7)

Jesus was sociable or friendly. We see Him at a wedding. We see Him having dinner with Zacchaeus, the crooked tax collector. He spent many happy hours visiting in the home of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. He talked with the woman at the well. Jesus socialized with all classes and many were won to Him. Don't be a snobbish Christian. In order to win people to Jesus you have to become friends with them and win their confidence. You don't have to participate in their sinful ways but you must show your concern.

Paul said that he became all things to all men that he might win them. If someone comes to your church and sits alone in the back, and you do not welcome them to your church, then you

are guilty of being unfriendly. How would you feel if you went to a strange place and no one welcomed you? You wouldn't want to come back would you? This happens to many of the people who visit our churches. They never return because the people are unfriendly. The Bible says in order to win a friend, you must be friendly.

Song: "I Would be True"

Courage (Matthew 26:36-42; 59-66)

Another characteristic of Christ's personality was *courage*. Jesus had to stand before Pilate as the chief priests, elders, and members of the Jewish council accused Him of terrible things. They were all false, but Jesus had the courage to stand quietly and show the people an unusual quality of His personality. They couldn't understand why He didn't shout denials to them when they accused Him.

In the garden of Gethsemane He had to face being taken prisoner. He endured the ordeal with great courage. He didn't run away nor did He fear. He walked to meet the mob even though He knew Judas would betray Him. The ultimate in courage was shown when He went to the cross. He didn't fight or argue or plead for His life. He had prayed the night before that God's will would be done. Jesus had a goal—and He accomplished it at the cross. His purpose for coming into the world was to die—to die for the sins of the world.

We as Christians actually have so little to face where courage is needed compared to Jesus.

Song: "Is Your All on the Altar?"

Patience (Hebrews 6:12-15; 10:36)1

Another characteristic of Christs' was *patience*. When Jesus was tempted of Satan, He had the utmost patience and answered him with God's Word. How longsuffering He was with the sharp criticisms and fault-finding of the Scribes and Pharisees. How understanding of the weaknesses, doubts, and fears of His own disciples. How often Peter's impetuousness must have tried His patience.

Patience can and must be learned, for one is not born with this virtue. Note how impatient a newborn baby usually is. His needs are simple but he wants them taken care of right now! Impatience is a mark of immaturity.

Sometimes patience must be learned under adverse circumstances. Often through affliction or a severe or lingering illness do we learn best.

We should especially have patience with the lost of the world. How often we find their ways upsetting to us, and we are offended with them instead of praying for them and trying to win them. Our feelings get hurt and we just want to forget them. Jesus showed a totally different attitude toward the unlovely. He talked with them, healed them,

oved them. When they crowded in close to Him He never turned them away. His patience was unlimited. We as Christians need to cultivate this characteristic if we are to be soul winners.

People who are in need of patient understanding are: (1) The young, for they have much to learn. (2) The aged, for they may not be able to keep pace with modern ways. (3) The erring, for they may not be aware of their errors. (4) The sick, for their judgment may be impaired. (5) The poor, for their capacity and opportunity for earning may be limited. (6) The physically handicapped, for they cannot always help themselves. (7) The mentally retarded, for they are God's little ones. (8) The minority groups for their voices may be too weak to be heard. (9) The bereaved, for a part of them has departed. (10) The successful who have become arrogant, for they may have forgotten the struggle. (11) The sinner, for he knows not God's redeeming love. (12) Everyone, for all have areas of incompetence. (*Copied.*)

Song: "My Jesus, I Love Thee"
Compassion (Matthew 9:36; Luke 10:25-37)

The last characteristic in Jesus' personality that we will discuss is *compassion*. When Jesus looked upon the throngs of people who followed Him about, He "was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep

having no shepherd" (Matthew 9:36).

We see His concern for a rebellious generation when from a mountain top He looked out over Jerusalem and cried: "Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not. Behold your house is left unto you desolate (Matthew 23:37-38).

The greatest act of compassion was when He hung on the cross in pain and agony. He looked out at the people and said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

How compassionate are you? Do you really love and care about others? Compassion is a stronger word than pity. for in it is the idea that one not only feels sorry but he does something about it. Compassion is *feeling plus action*.

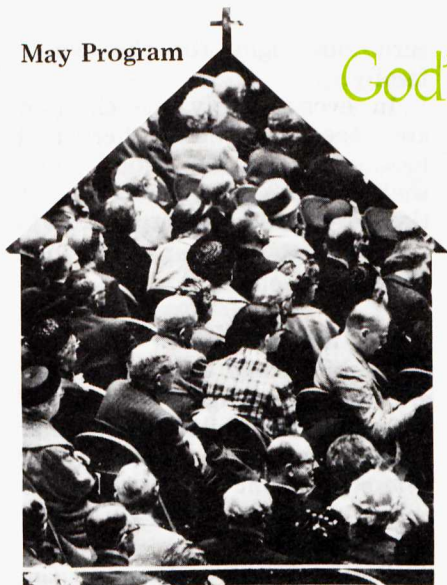
All of the characteristics we have discussed make for a very special person. Jesus was certainly a very special person while on this earth. He expects us to be as much like Him as we possibly can. If you do not possess all these characteristics, then you need to pray daily for God to help you to possess them.

Song: "There's Something About that Name"

Prayer: For foreign missions and missionaries.

Offering: Designated for National Foreign Missions.

May Program



God's Special Family, The Church

Polly Robertson

earthly father because of his concern for the church family. A good pastor loves his people, but as a Christian father, he sees that they are taught right and wrong.

When one of his children (or church people) strays from the way, he does not literally give them a physical spanking. He calls upon God's Holy Word to assist him. So, much like the human family, the church can feel the sting from the holy thrashing, but also the love and concern behind it all.

We must all realize the pastor's feelings. He is God's man! He must do as God bids, but even so must the church as a whole work with him to keep the family together. With a godly father, a family can be prosperous and happy. So, in the same light, a church working with a godly pastor can grow and prosper.

Mother

Looking farther into this family, we see mother. Naturally mother belongs with father. This of course is our pastor's wife. Since they have become one flesh (according to God's Word, Genesis 2:24), the pastor's wife should feel the deep dedication to this family as does her husband.

As mothers, we all have experiences that vary from joyful to

Purpose: That as a *spiritual family* we may unite our efforts to win the lost and to encourage one another in the work of God
Song: "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

Scripture: 1 John 3:1, 2; Ephesians 3:14, 15, Psalm 127
See Program Help Packet

Each church or body of believers, has many different officers or departments which are somewhat like our human family. In our homes we have different family members. These consist of father, mother, children, and precious grandchildren. Let us view our church family in this sense and see how much alike the human and spiritual can be.

Father

First of course is father. Our pastor may be compared to our

deeply painful. So it is with the pastor's wife. Sometimes it means crawling out of bed at two in the morning to bind up a broken heart. The joy of hearing a precious soul find victory in Jesus is well worth the lost sleep and time.

She must be concerned with the church family's problems. Caring about people is a big part of the pastor's wife's job (or position). She will be a blessing if she is unselfish, kind, and ever-looking to Jesus for guidance.

When the father (pastor), scolds a child (church member), from God's Word, the mother (pastor's wife), should never interfere. It can only cause harm to the whole family (the church).

Working together is the most important requirement a pastor and wife should meet. In doing so the church can prosper.

The Children

The children represent the members of the church. Let's peek in on the children and see what they are doing.

These are our deacons, preachers, teachers, choir, woman's auxiliary, and lay members of all types. Sometimes we see them acting in the same manner as children.

When the mother or father rebukes one of the children, it often causes the others to rebel also. This can cause complete chaos in the family. Often this will occur in the best of family circles. Very often the results are heartbreaking, but if the child is a committed Christian, things

turn out right for the whole family.

In every family the children are special. The father and mother always feel proud when their children are good. Such is the case in the church family.

Grandchildren

We are all aware that the grandchildren of a human family are the offspring of the father and mother's children. In other words, the children's children. These represent the souls won to the church by the team effort of the family.

The pastor, his wife, and the members of the church, should always seek and pray for the church to grow in spirit and number.

Grandparents often show how very proud they are of their grandchildren by giving them gifts. In the same manner we should give gifts to the new converts and young Christians of our church.

These gifts should be love, patience, dedication, and soul winning. These are gifts that can be kept forever and will be of unlimited value to them in future days.

The things the grandchildren learn from the other members of the family will determine the family growth.

Children grow healthy if they eat the right food. So it must be true in the church. The right amount and right kind of spiritual food must be administered in order for the children of God to grow wise and strong.

A weak father and mother too often produce weak children and grandchildren. In order to prevent weakness in our church, we must feed ourselves and the children on God's Holy Word and His promises, and let our lights shine for Jesus every day.

Spiritual Needs

The scripture teaches us, "All things work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28).

Notice the part that reads, "work together for good." Too often the church family loses sight of the purpose of the church. We get concerned with human desires and forget the spiritual needs of the family.

When we lose sight of the main goal of the church, it can mean what we are doing is bad and wrong. A gang of thieves can rob a bank and say "they are working together for good."

We must never forget that poor soul who is lost and needs us. Never should we become so involved with buildings, banqueting, and business that we ignore the visitors and lost people visiting our churches.

Conclusion

Often we hear the remark from parents who have several children, "This is it for us, *no more kids!*"

In the case of the church it should be, "Lord Jesus, send more babes to grow in your service!" There is no place to stop the growing birth rate in our

churches. God's command is simple and to the point, "*Go ye into all the world . . .*" (Mark 16:15).

In other scriptures Jesus said, "Whosoever shall do the will of My Father which is in heaven, the same is My brother, and sister, and mother" (Matthew 12:50).

Christ himself spoke of us as family and we should consider Him our beloved Savior and brother.

Christ taught that our bodies are the temples of God. When we speak of the church family, we are not indicating the building, but the body of each member which houses the Holy Spirit.

As a church family we must be bound together by a single bond of love to see the lost won to Christ.

Just as the earthly father, mother, children, and grandchildren strive together to protect and preserve their heritage, even so must we as pastors, wives, members, and new converts bind together for the preservation of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and our church.

Like the shepherd who went after that one lost sheep, we must also be concerned about rescuing the lost people. Sinners see our dedication when it's there.

A writer once wrote, "We are six feet tall when on our knees praying." Oh, how true!

The church family can make God feel proud and pleased when they work together for His will.

Remember, "The family that prays together stays together."



Who...Me?

I Am a Mother

There's an old proverb that says "... A man's work is from sun 'til sun, but a woman's work is never done." This is true, yet God never intends for us to leave Him out.

There is always house work to do, meals to prepare, the baby to feed, diapers to change, errands to run, sewing and mending. One can go on adding to a long list but God still means for us to have time for Him in our hectic schedule.

Just as the dishes are finished or the baby tucked in, we can slip away for a few minutes of meditation. It will not only give us a needed lift but it will give us added strength and a new zeal in Christ for our other daily chores.

When we tuck our children in bed, remember our prayers. We should never be too busy for our family altar. We can be the greatest influence in the lives of our children. It is a great thing in any mother's life to plant the seeds which later ripen unto harvest as they win their own children unto the Lord.

June Program
Nelda Boozer

Purpose: To prove that every woman regardless of her occupation has time for God's work.

Song: "Take Time to Be Holy"

Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20; Philippians 3:9, 1 Corinthians 3:9

See Program Help Packet

Christian women today are busy. They are involved in many activities both within and without the home. Yet, when faced with responsibilities in the Church or the Woman's Auxiliary, we frequently hear the excuse: "Who... Me? I can't possibly find time to do this or that."

I Am a Teacher

Teaching school is one of the greatest occupations that a woman can enter. Jesus teaches us in His Word to have patience. This field of work demands it.

Some of the children never have the opportunity to go to church. The field is white unto harvest. We have to open the door of these children's hearts. In kindergartens or private schools we may be able to schedule daily devotions or if time is limited, we can read Bible stories. The least we can do is to present the simple plan of salvation. We might even be able to begin a small bus ministry with our car.

I Am a Nurse

The working woman who is in the field of nursing has a very challenging world.

The nurse can minister to the mother who brings life into this world. Also she can minister to many lost ones as they prepare to leave this world.

So many people seem to forget God or at least give Him a back seat in their life until serious illness hits their family. This can be an opportune time for the evangelical nurse to give needed spiritual help.

Nursing, as other jobs, is very tiring and nerve-racking. But whenever a nurse can be a witness for her Savior or say a prayer for a lost soul, or encourage another Christian, it will lighten her own load.

I Am a Check-out Clerk

No matter how you enjoy your work as a check-out clerk, your work gets very wearisome at times. You have a big responsibility yet you have to be pleasant, wear a smile and meet the public as if you were as fresh as a daisy.

The only way you can possibly be the check-out clerk that you should be is to seek the help of our Lord and Savior. As you take your break, or when you go to the lounge for a few minutes to freshen your appearance, take time to talk to God because your next customer may be a lost sinner. Be prepared—If it is impossible for you to witness, plant seeds for visitation and be sure to invite them to church. God will richly bless you.

I Am a Secretary

A secretary is usually a very efficient person. She has to be prompt, skilled, and accomplished. Sometimes a secretary is so self-sufficient and she becomes so important to herself that she fails to depend upon God. All the praise and compliments can build up into a thing we call pride.

She has a great opportunity to witness to people each day. She doesn't necessarily have to say a word, she witnesses with her life. Actions always speak louder than words.

I Am a Plant Worker

A plant worker meets all kinds

of people. Education doesn't necessarily make you a better employee and there's no special skill involved. It is one of the most monotonous jobs you can have, yet there is something about it one enjoys.

There is time even on the job to refresh your mind and feed your soul from God's Word. This kind of work provides opportunities to work for the cause of Christ. There is always the worker from across the tracks or slums who is eager and anxious to hear of our Savior who died for them also. Then there is the Christian employee who never had any earthly possessions until she began working in the plant. Since then she has gotten so high and mighty, she has put God out of her life. This person is harder to reach than a person who has never tasted the new life. Therefore we need to earnestly seek God's leadership as to how to witness to these people.

Conclusion

Whatever our jobs we can always *take time* for God. All of our time is His. When we get to our homes after working eight to ten hours, we may be too tired to go on visitation or make any phone calls, but we can fall on our knees. We need to pray not only for ourselves but for others. Being an intercessor is one of the greatest ministries we as women can perform.

There is something for everyone to do, a place for everyone to fill, and a service for everyone to render.

As you leave for work tomorrow morning, stop and think for a moment of the people you will be in contact with—some possibly for the last time.

WHO . . . ME?

"Go ye"

Who me?

But, Lord, how could I go?

Dost thou not know

I have so much to do

For me—and You?

And when my future is secure

You may be very sure

That I shall give quite readily,

But go—and now? No, Lord, not me.

"Pray ye"

Who . . . me?

To really yearn and pray

And every day?

But, Lord, those days are past

For modern life is fast

I haven't even time to go

Just once a week, although I know

That older folk pray faithfully,

But pray—and now? No, Lord, not me.

But say,

On that great day

When in eternity

The Blessed Trinity

Took counsel for a plan

To rescue fallen man,

And He who orders earth and sky

Said He would die,

Oh busy soul where would you be

If He

Had said

Who . . . me?

Joan Suisted

Prayer Groups

by Pat Thomas

APRIL

The task of reaching people for Jesus Christ across cultural and language barriers necessitates the use of many methods and materials. Therefore missionaries must be trained as specialists in many different fields of service.

Highly trained and capable missionary personnel are using *medicine* as a means of reaching people in many places. A hospital is maintained in Ivory Coast of West Africa with Dr. LaVerne Miley serving along with nurses and medical assistants. Missionary nurses are also used in Uruguay and other areas. The medical personnel in these areas give the gospel along with medical aid. God is using this as a means to further the spreading of the gospel.

The ministry of *literature* is being utilized in many areas. Through Scripture translation and literacy materials people are learning God's lessons for life for the first time ever. Not only the Scriptures, but also tracts, Bible lessons, training courses, and many other materials are being used in the spreading of the

gospel in the languages of many areas.

The *teaching ministry* is another area God is using in the spreading of His Word. Opportunities are opening up for missionary personnel to teach the gospel in public schools. In some areas missionaries are used to teach English classes, sewing, or cooking, and by these means have an opportunity to give out the gospel.

The ministry of *church planting* is used effectively in many areas. Sometimes this consists of preaching God's Word in villages such missionaries do in Ivory Coast West Africa, or it may involve preaching and winning souls in a modern industrial city in Brazil. Both efforts result in souls being saved and churches being established.

Special ministries such as the *missionary builder* (one who works to construct missionary houses, churches, or hospitals) or *house parents* (those who supervise dormitories in a special school for missionary children) are also used to further the spreading of the gospel. All of these ministries are vitally important to the success of foreign missionary endeavor and all need our prayers.

Prayer Requests

Pray for Bobby and Geneva Poole as they return to the field of Brazil for another term of service.

With language school completed at Albertville, France, pray for Alice Smith as she

begins her ministry in the Ivory Coast.

Pray for the Jerry Barron family as they labor in Guadalajara, Mexico. They have had ill health for several months now.

Pray for the day care ministry of the church in Billings, Montana, and for the pastor, Frank Cousineau.

MAY

The National Home Missions and Church Extension Department exists for the express purpose of promoting and correlating the work of reaching the unsaved and establishing the saved as the Home Front of the Mission Field. The *National Home Missionary* is one whose work involves another culture and many times another language, such as the establishing of churches in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Hawaii, Alaska, and Canada.

The *church extension pioneer* is one who is not associated with a state board, but goes out under the National Home Missions Board to pioneer a new church within the United States in areas where we have few churches, such as: Montana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Colorado, New Mexico, and Idaho.

It is the intent of the National Home Missions Board to send out Home Missionaries and pioneer church extension workers as fully equipped as possible with all the helps available to accomplish the task of winning souls, building, and

establishing a local congregation that is autonomous (self governing, self supporting, and self propagating.)

There is also a plan where the state and National boards work jointly to establish a new church within that state—the Joint Project. The missionary or the *Joint Project Worker*, is approved by the state board and ratified by the General Director of the National Home Missions Department. The money is raised within the state and deposited in an account with the National Home Missions Department. Thus, working together, the state and National boards are able to build new churches in cities in those states where we already have churches, such as Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Illinois, Alabama, Kansas, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Please remember to pray for the National Home Missionary, the Church Extension Pioneer, and the Joint Project Worker.

Prayer Requests

Norman and Bessie Richards will return to the states for furlough after completing their third term of service in the Ivory Coast.

Pray for General Director Rolla Smith as he travels to the Ivory Coast. Pray for strength and wisdom as he ministers to our missionaries.

Leland Horton and the mission church in Des Moines, Iowa, needs your prayers as they

seek to establish this work in this needy city.

Pray for the health of Butch and Alma Johns as they are working to establish a Free Will Baptist church in San Diego, California.

JUNE

The needs of the world are great. The population explosion has filled our world with about four billion souls. This is a staggering figure! Twenty five percent of all who have ever lived are alive today! As many people are living in our generation as in all preceding generations since our Lord gave the Great Commission! So, the job confronting the church today is as great as the job of Christians of nineteen centuries combined! "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). This is Christ's command and our commission. What a task!

The United States of America has risen from obscurity to the richest, most powerful nation in the world. She holds the key to world wide evangelization, for she alone has the message, men, and money in sufficient amounts to make world wide evangelization possible.

Our foreign missionary program depends on a strong home base of churches to support and finance it. If our country turns to heathenism, it will cripple the foreign missions program. The Bible believing, preaching, and practicing churches can turn the tide of heathenism and allow

America to continue to be the channel through which the gospel flows to the rest of the world.

Unless we have a renewed emphasis upon evangelizing America, and unless a rapid pace of church extension is set, our country and the rest of the world will be lost.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Free Will Baptists have the doctrine of Christ to share with the world. If we will dedicate ourselves to the task we can evangelize our country and the rest of the world will enjoy the results. May God help us to do what we can while there is still time!

Free Will Baptists can start churches which will preach the gospel, and preserve the land. These churches will help us spread the gospel to other lands, making our world a better place and more souls will be in heaven!

Prayer Requests

Carlisle and Marie Hanna covet your prayers as they labor in India. They are the only Free Will Baptist couple serving in India.

Pray for the summer missionaries who will be departing from the states for service on our fields for ten weeks this summer.

Larry and Janis Russell desire your prayers as they lead the congregation in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in a building program.

Pray for Karel and Gladys Smith who are seeking to establish a church in the large city of Albuquerque, New Mexico.



RETREAT

ARIZONA RETREAT

Northwest Retreat/a First

Four churches in Washington participated in a retreat for women at Bible Rock Camp near Cle Elum. The theme was "A Walk in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25). Participating churches included Seattle, Valley of Wenatchee, Victory of East Wenatchee, and Yakima.

Starlet Gartman from Yakima coordinated the meeting. Each church helped with a meal, and participated in the program. Joan Warren and Kay Winkle were the speakers. Dawn Swensen presented a puppet show on the fruits of the Spirit. There was also time for fun and a singspiration.

Fifteen women attended the retreat, which they hope was the first of an annual event.

Western Retreat/Another First

The first Western Women's Retreat was held November 19-20, in Estes Park, Colorado. Twenty-two women were present from Colorado, California, and Montana. June Rolan, WNAC executive committee member and president of California Auxiliary, directed the inspiring meeting and Nettie Lou Jernigan brought devotions. The women are already looking forward to their next retreat in September, 1977, at the same place.

Arizona

"Free in Jesus," was the theme of the Arizona Auxiliary Retreat, October 15-16, in the teen house at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Tucson. Mrs. Reecie Herder was guest speaker.

Kansas

The Salina Woman's Auxiliary held a retreat October 1-2, at Camp Soloman with guests from Westside and Hutchinson churches. Nadine Ledbetter and Trymon Messer were the speakers at the meeting which has been described as "Spirit filled," "great fellowship and food," and "hospitality out of this world."

South Carolina

Approximately 125 women attended the South Carolina State Auxiliary Retreat at the Chapel by the Sea, Garden City, S.C., September 17-18. Hal Norton brought a message which was followed by a communion service. The participants silently left the communion and went out on the beach where they enjoyed singing and fellowship around a big bon-fire. Geneva Poole, missionary to Brazil, spoke on Saturday.

REFLECTIONS

Missouri

Sandra Payne, missionary to Ivory Coast, challenged the members attending the Missouri State Auxiliary Retreat as she spoke of the spirit of longsuffering, joy and faith (Galatians 5:22-23). Devotions were brought by Rose Mertz and Karen Southwell.

A candlelight service included a skit by the Fellowship Auxiliary entitled, "My Country 'Tis of Thee." The South Side Auxiliary presented a puppet show entitled "Yankee Peddler."

Concluding a statewide project, Francis Bowman presented clothing valued at over \$2,000 to Hazel Hutsell, representing the Children's Home in Greeneville, Tennessee. Registration was 118.

Indiana/Still Another First

Indiana District Woman's Auxiliary held their first retreat October, 14-15, in the Peace Free Will Baptist Church, Beech Grove. Nancy Trimble, WNAC executive committee member, was the speaker using the subject, "What is Woman?" The meeting also included seminars on Woman's Auxiliary and Family Life. Approximately 50 attended.

California

One hundred fifty-seven women were told to "Stop *That* Praying!"—that begging and pleading kind of prayer. Instead, they were told to confidently and expectantly call upon God to do the impossible."

The annual state retreat was held at Emerald Cove Camp, October 14-16. Jeanette Hawkinson, a representative of the Prayer Ministry (Campus Crusade for Christ) was the guest speaker. A film and overhead projector presentation were used to show the sometimes empty and shallow prayer lives of many Christians. In the prayer sessions emphasis was placed upon the needs of California Christian College which resulted in significant financial contributions to the school and pledges of prayer support.

President June Rolan was surprised by a *money tree* of \$231.00 which was used for travel expense to Colorado where she conducted the first Free Will Baptist women's retreat in that state.

North Carolina

"The Unsearchable Riches of Christ" (Ephesians 3:8), was the theme for the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Retreat November 12-13. It was held at the Spencewood Christian Camp near Goldsboro. Eunice Edwards, former executive secretary, WNAC, taught a Bible study. Mrs. Edwards is a social worker at the Missouri State Mental Hospital. Four other women made mini-talks. Two hundred and twelve women registered for this challenging retreat.

The Forgotten Years

by Gertrude Cantrell



DEDICATED to the elderly, the housebound, and to disabled servicemen and their families, who are sometimes forgotten by an ungrateful society. Written in honor of, and in appreciation for, the services and the sacrifices they have made . . . Expressing how they must sometimes feel when their efforts are unnoticed, unappreciated, and most certainly unrewarded.

May our nation and our churches realize more fully the debt we owe these too often *forgotten people* for all the years of service given. May we put our priorities where they belong and begin to repay the obligation we have too long ignored. Repay, not only by love and respect, but by new laws to protect their rights and dignity. To provide

security, not only for acutal physical needs, but security from fear and uncertainties and the loss of pride and dignity by becoming a liability to family and loved ones, or dependent on charity for their livelihood. May we provide the assurance that they are indeed a wanted and vital part of our society—not a burden or an obsolete remnant of the past!

May their life time of labor earn for them the right to live out their days in honor and dignity, asking nothing of anyone except *love and respect and acceptance!*

I feel I am the *forgotten soul*
Rejected, deserted, and alone.
I play in life a minor role
My friends, my dreams my hopes
Have gone.

The years . . . when life was filled
with fun
When sorrow and cares were
unknown,
Have passed away like the setting
Sun
Like birds in flight, those years
Have flown.

I wait in vain for a friendly
voice
For a sign that someone cares,
Just a smile would make my
heart rejoice
But alas I am met with vacant
stares.

Those once dear have turned
away,
Are strangers, aloof, and unkind.
Each have gone their separate
way
No thoughts of me e'er come to
mind.

I feel alone though in a crowd
A stranger amidst my own,
Sometimes I'd like to cry aloud
"Remember me? I'm all alone."

I now have needs where once I
served.
The dangers for you I braved,
You reap rewards though
undeserved
You walk on paths our hands
have paved.

Can you not spare a word of
praise,
A remembrance, a visit, or a call,
To brighten up our lonely days
That we be not forsaken of all?

Must I live out my final years
Forgotten, alone, and rejected

With broken heart and bitter
tears,
Unheeded, unloved and
neglected?
Must I be cast aside,
Like a worn and useless shoe,
Be robbed of all my pride
Is there *nothing* that I can do?

I've poured my life into this
land,
I labored on though weak and
worn
Is there now none to understand
Must I be left so forlorn?

Is there no room for me, no
place,
No service that I can render
Am I too slow for youths fast
pace
Am I now fit but to hinder?

I lent a hand what e'er the work
I eagerly served where needed.
No chore, though lowly, did I
e'er shirk
But now I remain unheeded.

God alone still stands by me.
My burdens in life He shares.
The only visitor I ever see
I visit Him oft . . . in my prayers.

I have a message I now must give.
A warning to those now young.
Play well the role in life you live
Ere soon your role will be
unsung.

Find now a place for the weak
and old,
A place with honor and dignity
For soon you'll be *out in the
cold*
And take your place along with
me!

*The Lord has called me
to the Mission Field...*

I Serve the Aged



by Billie McKinney

THE LORD has been good to my family and to me and I know I have a purpose to fulfill. I have been with the Nursing Home Association for twelve years. The Lord has called me to the Mission Field here at home. I serve the Aged. When I went to Bordeaux Tennessee Hospital, I wasn't looking for a job. I went with a relative to show her the way. The next day they called me. Now I have gone to a new Nursing Home, but I'm still an Activity Coordinator. I try to bring

comfort, prayer, entertainment, and happiness to their lives.

There's a myth going around that says "all old people are alike" but in reality *the old are generally more realistic than any other age group*. One thing I would like for you to consider is that every person is an individual. *All old people are not senile*, they are *not rigid* in thought, they all *don't talk too much*, and they are not all *old fashioned*. You probably know some that are not. One of my pet peeves is the person who says, "*This little old man . . .*" This little old man may be six feet tall, but for some reason he is referred to as this "*cute little old man . . .*" Give yourself the opportunity to know these people. Listen to what they have to say and what life has meant to them, and what their present and past interests are.

Old age does not change personalities. What you are right now is what you will be when you are eighty or so. If you don't like yourself now, you had better do something about it because you haven't much time. The young girl who didn't get along with her roommate in college will not get along with her roommate in the nursing home, and the gay blade who chased all the girls when he was young, is now the old man chasing the nurses and aids down the halls. The person who has been dependent on someone all her life will not be independent because she has gotten old.

What is a nursing home? We know it is different things to different people. To some it is a place to live, to others, it is a place to die. To some it is brick and mortar, to others it is love and care. Whatever you call it, we like to say that *a nursing home is people*.

Lately the nursing home profession has had to deal with a lot of bad

publicity. Some of it is true and some of it is not true. Nursing homes are going public. By this I mean that every nursing home has a responsibility to its community to make sure that it is a part of the community. But this is only half of the responsibility. The community should make sure that it is a part of the nursing home. Open house needs to be held everyday of the year and members of the community need to visit on a regular basis. The only way that good and bad publicity can ever be changed, is to make certain that good things are going on inside our nursing homes and that members of the community are coming inside to see first hand and to witness the quality of the life nursing home patients are living.

Many people will say, "I don't know anyone living in a nursing home, why should I go to visit?" Others say, "Uncle John is so bad off that he wouldn't know if I was there anyway." And way too many will say, "It is just depressing for me to go."

These excuses are not good enough. The latter stages of the aging process are not easily understood, but they are real. So much of the loneliness, boredom, and anxiety that is part of an older person's life could be reduced and even eliminated if only more people would take the time to visit and talk with them. *You* could be the reason they want to live. The nursing homes around you, *need* you. They need God's word brought to them. They need birthday parties. They need to know that they are still part of the community. At Sunny View Health Care Center, we are talking of providing a Day Care Center for the Senior Citizens so they can stay at home longer. They will have a place to lie down in the afternoon, their meal

and medication will be given and they can enjoy a schedule of activities.

For the older people who can no longer read the newspaper, WLPN has provided a radio program where the newspaper is read in the morning and evening, and magazines and books during the day. Anyone can have this service, in the nursing home or at home.

Before placing a loved one in a nursing home, ask to see the *Patients Rights* and the *Activities Calendar*. If they are good homes, they will have this information available and gladly show it to you.

I have a friend in Colorado who wrote the Beatitudes for nursing home patients. I would like to share them with you.

FRIENDS OF THE AGED

Blessed are they who understand that age doesn't make me less a man;
 Blessed are they who expect of me the very best that I can be;
 Blessed are they who seem to know, I have something left, that still can grow;
 Blessed are they who take the time to learn what I was in my prime;
 Blessed are they who know that I am still somebody until I die;
 Blessed are they who know my needs, and the things on which my ego feeds;
 Blessed are they who hear what I say and know that I still am seeking a way to be somebody and to have my day before this worlds pleasure has faded away.

Mrs. McKinney is a member of the Free Will Baptist Church of Goodlettsville, Tennessee and the Program Co-ordinator for Sunny View Health Care Center, Nashville,



A Woman God Has Used

Elsie Lawless Staten has been involved in the activities of her local church and its related endeavors from the beginning of her Christian life. She also taught school for many years. After her marriage to Reverend Ralph Staten in 1943, she became active in woman's Auxiliary work from the local to the national level.

Looking back on the 34 years of church service with her husband, Mrs. Staten feels that her work has been almost as full-time as his. (Only in the past two years have her vigorous activities been curtailed after suffering a severe stroke.) "Teaching Sunday school classes, directing CTS groups, and vacation Bible schools, working in the Woman's Auxiliary, planning programs and study courses, attending all services of the church, visiting the sick and hospitalized, both the churched and the unchurched, has been little short of full-time. I can truthfully say that I have enjoyed it, and it has been good for me, and I sincerely hope that I have been good for somebody," says Mrs. Staten.

The Statens have served in the pastorate in numerous Free Will Baptist Churches: Pocahontas, Arkansas, Red Bay, Alabama, Wewoka, Oklahoma, Belmont, N.C., Fairmont Park, Norfolk, Virginia, and Wooddale, Knoxville, Tennessee. They are the parents of three children—Randall Alan, Ruth Ann, and Janis Sue. One daughter is deceased.

Wherever Elsie Staten has served—in the class room, home, church, or Woman's Auxiliary—she exhibited unusual ability and leadership. Even more, her deep dedication and her sincere concern for people permeated her every action. Yes—she is a *woman used of God!*

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