

Co-Laborer

January-February-March 1978

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*WNAC Executive Committee
and State Presidents/Field Workers
National Convention, 1977*



Co-Laborer

January—February—March 1978

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IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Co-Laborers Write
- 3 Memo From Cleo
- 4 Women In Action
- 8 Who's Who In This Issue
- 9 January Program
- 12 February Program
- 15 March Program
- 18 Pre-Easter Season Of Prayer Program
- 22 Prayer Group Programs
- 25 Retreats
- 26 From The Field
- 28 Convention Scope
- 32 A Woman God Has Used

Cleo W. Pursell, Editor

Evelyn Jones, Circulation

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Co-Laborers Write

We do appreciate the good work you do. We enjoy the *Co-Laborer* programs. They are a blessing to our group.

*Mrs. J. W. Clower
Arlington, Georgia*

Our Auxiliary's July project was collecting plastic bottles for Dr. Miley's hospital. We hope they will be of help to him in his work there in the Ivory Coast. May God richly bless you all in your work.

*Mrs. Lorene White
Pocahontas, Arkansas*

We the Sardis Woman's Auxiliary would like to increase our *Co-Laborer* magazines from 5 to 12. We are growing in number and the Lord has truly been blessing us.

*Agnes Carpenter
Eufaula, Alabama*

We thank God for the writers of *Co-Laborer* and pray that He will continue to provide both the knowledge and wisdom to inspire us women through each of the months to come.

*Hazel Delaney
Ashford, Alabama*

Our Woman's Auxiliary is doing real good. Twelve of us are planning to go to the Western Woman's Retreat in Denver, Colorado, September 15, 16. We praise the Lord for what He is doing in Billings.

*Marie Cousineau
Billings, Montana*

Thank you for your outstanding service in supplying the different auxiliaries in our denomination and across the country with materials and information.

*Marlene Mikell
Miami, Florida*

Thank you for being so helpful by phone to our newly organized auxiliary. Seems we may be a little slow in doing everything we should, but the women are becoming discontented with "no progress" which is an answer to prayer.

We have started missionary sharing time on Wednesday nights which has been profitable We are beginning prayer chain groups in the auxiliary also. We feel this will help us learn to pray and draw us closer together. Again, thank you.

*Wilmatine Yandell
Visalia, California*

We are proud of our Auxiliary. We organized May 3, 1977. We now have ten members. We thank God for a place of service

in Woman's Auxiliary and the blessings we have received working together. We collected 427 medicine bottles for Dr. Miley's clinic and also rolled a bundle of bandages. We collected personal hygiene items to be sent to our missionaries in Mexico. Our ladies really enjoy the lessons in *Co-Laborer*.

*Eddie Lawhorn
New Castle, Delaware*

Our Auxiliary at Blackland Chapel isn't too big in number, 15 members, but we have a good working group of women. I'm thankful for the *Co-Laborer* and its good programs. I enjoy reading the whole book from front to back. Thanks to those Christian women for sharing their talents with others.

*Mrs. Delmer Deason
Oil Trough, Arkansas*

We enjoy the books and our lessons and have learned much about our missionaries as we labor together for His glory.

*Mona Chrisman
Novinger, Missouri*

We are very proud of our Auxiliary. We have a group of ladies that really love the Lord and enjoy Woman's Auxiliary very much. We enjoy the materials that are in *Co-Laborer*. We have learned things that we didn't know and also it has stepped on our toes and strengthened our Christian lives. We just started our Auxiliary four or five

months ago and can truly say that we have enjoyed every minute of it.

*Geraldine Malloy
Forest Pines Church
Cheraw, South Carolina*

The Faith Free Will Baptist Church has just recently organized a Woman's Auxiliary with 13 members. We are confident that with the Lord's help the number will increase as the church continues to grow.

I am requesting 16 issues of *Co-Laborer* per quarter for now . . . I want to thank you and the other writers for the inspiring material and helpful programs they write. May God continue to richly bless each of you.

*Phyllis McCoy
Jonesboro, Arkansas*

We would like to let you know how much we enjoy the *Co-Laborer*. It is excellent material. We appreciate the fine work you do.

*Mrs. Leroy B. Lowery
Deep Creek W.A.
Midville, Georgia*

Inclosed is our WNAC Emphasis offering from our program Sunday night. We all really enjoyed it . . . Thanks for all the program material and the writers. We enjoy the programs each month. Keep up the good work.

*Mrs. Charlie Woods
Semirah Springs Auxiliary
Uriah, Alabama*

MEMO from CLEO

Cleo Pursell, Executive Secretary



WNAC Emphasis Month

Are you having trouble finding time for your WNAC Emphasis program? The members of the LaVergne, Tennessee, Auxiliary did it this way. Permission was granted by the pastor and Sunday school superintendent to conduct the brief program during the Sunday school assembly. As people came in to the auditorium one woman gasped, "Are we having a sewing class this morning?" (The platform was centered with a table and portable sewing machine and a bolt of cloth. Patterns were taped to the wall and chairs were arranged in a semi-circle.)

Soon the program was underway and the offering was taken. There was keen interest in the program and the offering was more than \$52.00! One man whose wife was absent that morning because of illness asked for a copy of the program to take to her . . . and she was not a member of the Auxiliary.

If you have not had your Emphasis program yet, remember that you may have it anytime during the year convenient to your church's program.

Retreats

If you enjoy reading about the Auxiliary retreats in this issue, watch for late reports in the second quarter issue of *Co-Laborer*. If your state report has not been sent in, please let us hear from you.

Provision Closet

Our most needed item is sheets! Fitted sheets and sets of sheets (twin, double, and queen). Also we can use some twin bedspreads and double mattress pads (we have plenty of twin size).

Please evaluate the total cost of your gifts to the Missionary Provision Closet. Just jot it down on a slip of paper and inclose in the box (or leave the price tags on items). This will save your WNAC staff hours of time. Thank you!

Women In Action

State Conventions

Illinois. The Illinois Auxiliary Convention was held in June at South Roxana. Clint and Lynette Morgan were there to accept the \$3,000 gift from the group. Clint spoke at the worship service and Lynette spoke at the banquet. Mary McCann was elected president.

Ohio. "Free Indeed" was the theme of the 35th annual Woman's Auxiliary meeting at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Springfield. President Joann Sizemore presided. Speakers included Bill and Peggy Adkisson, home missionaries to Newark, Ohio; Jerry and Carol Pinkerton, missionaries to Ivory Coast. Their missions project this year was \$2,392.52 for missionaries Joe Hass and Arnold Shrewsbury.

Missouri. Helen McAllister of Farmington was elected president at the Missouri State Woman's Auxiliary Convention held June 7, 1977 at the Grant Avenue Church in Springfield. "Be

Thou An Example" was the convention theme. Several women participated in a panel discussion. Missionary Jerry Pinkerton spoke at the worship hour and Carol Pinkerton spoke at the banquet. Missions projects for the year total \$6,000—\$2,000 each for "Pinkertons on Wheels," "Francis' to the Field," and the State Home Mission Perpetual Loan Fund.

Kansas. The Kansas Auxiliary Convention was held in June at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Hutchinson. New officers include Hildred Summers, president; Jewell Roark, vice president; Donna Dunn, secretary; Wilma Ankrom, treasurer; Ozella Smith, field worker.

Arkansas. The State Woman's Auxiliary met at Camp Beaver Fork, near Conway, on August 16. Mrs. Bonita Hill presided. The theme was "Love's Commitment," and the speaker was Bessie Richards, missionary to Ivory Coast. Willie Jean Deeds, missionary to Brazil, spoke at the banquet.

Florida. The Florida State Woman's Auxiliary Convention met June 4, 1977, in Scotts-moor, with 68 present. Speakers included Thelma Bass, Sandra Payne, missionary to Ivory Coast, West Africa, Nesta Savage, and Mrs. Norlin Jones. Peggy Hutto was elected president.

Susan Dickens Honored

Susan Dickens, missionary to Ivory Coast, was given a paper products shower in April by the Hindman Park Woman's Auxiliary, Little Rock, Arkansas. She received everything from paper towels and napkins to tissue and aluminum foil.



Provision Closet Shower

The Woman's Auxiliary of Goshen Free Will Baptist Church, Belmont, N.C., are shown with items sent to the missionary provision closet. Rev. Benny Turner is pastor.



Members Honored

The Woman's Auxiliary of Morganton, N.C., met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roby Buchanan in August to honor the women of their church who are past 65 years of age. Twenty two members and guests were present. Left to right, Cordelia Boone, Frances Branch, Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan, and Marie Suddereth.





Breaking of the Bread

Love loaf banks were used by the women of the First Church, Miami, Florida, to collect \$121.20 for foreign missions. Each Auxiliary member and her family collected money for about six weeks. On Tuesday night before Easter there was a dinner to "break the bread."

Mrs. President

The title, *Mrs. President*, seems to fit Katie Pinson very well. She is certainly a woman in action!

Mrs. Pinson is not only president of her District Auxiliary Convention but president of the New Mexico State Auxiliary Convention as well. She also is a member of the nominating committee of the National Auxiliary Convention.

Last January Katie was installed as president of Church Women United of Carlsbad. She has been active in the CWU since 1962. She was elected president in 1972 and served a three year term. Katie is also serving her second term as president of the Carlsbad Business and Professional Women's Club.

The widow of the late Rev. L. C. Pinson, Mrs. Pinson organized the first Woman's Auxiliary in New Mexico in 1954 at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Hobbs, New Mexico. She organized the first District Auxiliary Conven-



tion in 1956, and assisted in organizing the first State Woman's Auxiliary Convention in 1969.

This remarkable woman also conducted the first Free Will Baptist League, the first GTA, the first vacation Bible school, and the first youth encampment in New Mexico.

We salute you *Mrs. President!*



President Emeritus

Anna Collins, long-time member of Central Free Will Baptist Church, Royal Oak, Michigan, was surprised in June by the ladies of her church.

Mrs. Collins has served in various capacities of the Woman's Auxiliary down through the years and has been a faithful attender, supporter and promoter of Auxiliary work at the local, district, and state levels in Michigan.

The June program featured several former Auxiliary members who have served with Mrs. Collins in the past, but, have since moved away or are hindered from attending for various reasons. Present members also gave testimony to the fact that Mrs. Collins still shines as an example of faithfulness, self-

denial in service and in Christian witness. She was presented with the picture shown here, inscribed, naming her the Auxiliary's first "President Emeritus."

Another surprise and highlight of the evening was the special music. Rosemary Fairchild, in charge of the program, opened the curtains revealing 13 members of Mrs. Collins' family, lined up across the platform, ready to sing two songs in her honor. Her husband, Holbert was there, her three sons, Jimmy, Billy and Gayle, her grandchildren and all their spouses.

The songs were taped and pictures taken, not knowing at the time that a period of shock and sadness lay just ahead for Mrs. Collins. A few days after the program, Mr. Collins suffered a heart attack and moved out of his earthly tabernacle to be with the Lord.

Barbara Daniels writes: "As we honored Mrs. Collins with a mere program and picture, God was preparing for Mr. Collins' grand homecoming and coronation day in His presence. Even now, as our church family unites our prayers to sustain this faithful family during these difficult days, we are made more clearly aware that our daily life and breath is in His hands. Joyce Kilmer, in her poem "Trees" said; "Poems are made by fools like me—But only God can make a tree." We might paraphrase it this way:

*Programs are planned by mortals
such as would,
But only God, in wisdom, plans
for our ultimate good.*



Bass



Cameron

Who's Who in this Issue

Berry



Laffoon



Phyllis Bass, Jacksonville, Florida, was second place winner in the WNAC 1976-77 creative writing contest with the January program, "Who's Hiding Behind that Apron?" This busy pastor's wife teaches a Sunday school class, a CTS class, directs the women's choir and is pianist for her church. She is active in her local auxiliary and formerly worked with an *Actionettes* group.

Martha Berry, Crossett, Arkansas, is married to a Christian layman and is the mother of three Christian teens. She is prayer chairman for her local Auxiliary and secretary for the Saline District Auxiliary. She is a Sunday school teacher and is serving as director of youth church activities. Her program, "Are You a Thief?" was the third place winner in this year's creative writing contest.

Elizabeth Dean Cameron, and her husband, Gene, are the parents of a 15 year-old son. She is a housewife and vice president of the West Greene Woman's Auxiliary of Moshier, Tennessee. She also teaches a CTS class and is an assistant Sunday school teacher. Her program, "Happy is that People," was given honorable mention in this year's creative writing contest.

Rose Marie Laffoon, Seminole, Oklahoma, is the author of the Pre-Easter Prayer Program. She has been a frequent winner in WNAC's writing contests. Rose Marie is married to a highway patrolman and has three children. The eldest son is a minister of the Gospel.



Who's Hiding Behind That Apron?

Aim: To help us realize that the Lord made each one of us special so that we can fulfill the unique task He has for us.

Song: "Take My Life and Let It Be"

Scripture: Psalm 139

THE HUMAN body is undoubtedly the most amazing and fascinating product of God's magnificent creation. It is astounding that the billions of cells, 206 bones, and more than 600 muscles, are put into place and function as they do! We cannot possibly have any other choice than to agree with the psalmist David—we are truly *fearfully and wonderfully made*. And, to top it all off, we are made in the image of God!

Who? . . . You!

You are special.

If we would think of ourselves as the fearful and wonderful creation that we are, we would not have the emotional sickness, the jealousy, the depression, and the complaining that plagues our society today.

We have no reason to say or think that we are worthless and have no ability. Such thinking implies that the Lord did not do a good job—and that is not true! The Lord put those cells, bones, and muscles all together to form a creature in His own image. The Lord gave us the honor of being one of His creatures, so why do we insist on complaining about how we are made and the abilities we have? He knows everything about us, and He made us just the way He wanted us. It makes no difference where we live or what position we hold—There is not one of us who is insignificant! "Know ye that the

Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture" (Psalm 100:3). "... I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him" (Isaiah 43:7).

Apron? . . . What's Your Excuse?

"I have it so hard."

Instead of rejoicing about all that the Lord has done for us, we often sound like the children of Israel as they wept by the rivers of Babylon. "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" (Psalm 137:4.) Strange lands, strange people and hard circumstances should not hinder us from rejoicing and doing the work of the Lord. Wherever we are and whatever happens to us; the Lord knows all about it. The Lord knows our downsitings and our uprisings and no matter where we are, the Lord is with us. The darkness cannot hide us from Him, for darkness and light are both alike to Him. (Psalm 139:11-12.)

What peace and assurance can fill our lives when we take our burdens to the Master of the universe. Too often we fail to follow the instructions of Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not to thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." We never hesitate to run to the hardware store or repair shop to buy something to fix a broken item in our home, yet, when we have a need, we refuse to let the

one who made us take care of us. We would rather sit and complain instead of getting out and doing something with the abilities the Lord gave us.

Let us be careful not to let a complaining spirit rob us of the joy of serving the Lord and using the bodies He gave us to do the work that He has for us to do.

"If I were like her"

Sometimes we try to use the excuse that God just did not make us as good as "so and so." Being different or handicapped is no excuse for discouragement. Neither is it an excuse for us to fail to perform the task God has for us to do. If we always think of what we *cannot* do, we will be defeated before we ever get started! We need to think of what we *can* do! The Lord made us the way we are, and we are *all* fearfully and wonderfully made. The Lord made us just the way He wanted us.

We should do as Paul did—glorify our infirmities, and consider them as a time to draw closer to the Lord. Our Lord is touched with the feeling of our infirmities and is always there to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:15-16).

Handicapped persons have made great contributions to literature, music, and art. Tom Dempsey was born without a right hand and part of his right foot, but he became a place-kicker in professional football. Helen Keller conquered not one but three physical handicaps. She became blind, deaf, and mute before she was two years old. She learned to read, to write, and

to speak. She devoted her life to helping the blind and the deaf. When Cunningham was eight years old, his legs were scarred to the bone in a schoolhouse fire, but he became a great track star. After Ludwig Van Beethoven became deaf, he composed his best known music. Winston Churchill overcame stuttering to become one of the world's most eloquent speakers. The list could go on and on.

We cannot be exactly like someone else; we are all different. The Lord made each one of us special so that we can fulfill the unique task He has for us. We are all different, and yet, we are all fearfully and wonderfully made!

Hiding? Get Busy!

We *all* have important work to do.

There are too many women with great potential "hiding behind an apron." There is nothing wrong with being a housewife and wearing an apron. We certainly need more women who will discover that working in the home is a great ministry. However, we should not use housework as an excuse when others need our help. We need to understand that we are important, and we have important work to do. Time is short, and we must be about the Lord's work.

Women are needed in their homes, in their churches, and in their communities. There is no time for complaining and self-pity. If we do not perform our

task, it will not get done. We need to do things for others, and not expect others to do things for us. Others should know that we are available when needed.

Everything we do will be an exciting and rewarding experience if we continue to remind ourselves that the Lord made each of us just the way He wanted us, and we are an important part of His plan.

Watch your kids grow—make them the best they can be.

Keep your house clean—it is a good testimony to your neighbors.

Make cooking a delight—invite the new visitor to eat lunch with you. If you leave it up to the pastor, people will think that no one cares but the preacher.

Use sewing to serve—make clothes for the needy and curtains for the church.

Hobbies can help—teach crafts in Bible school, Sunday school, or to teens. Make something to brighten someone's day.

Open your mouth—tell someone that you appreciate them. Welcome visitors and neighbors.

The list can go on and on. You do not have to have a college degree, or win a beauty contest or have your name in the World Book of Records. Just realize that *you are fearfully and wonderfully made*. Quit hiding behind that apron, and do something special for someone today. Be ready always to give your services. Let the world know that you appreciate all that the Lord has done for you! "Serve the Lord with gladness" (Psalm 100:2).



Aim: *To realize God's prior claim on all our abilities and possessions, which makes us His stewards.*

Song: "Take My Life and Let It Be"; "Something for Thee"

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10

WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY defines a thief as one who takes what rightly belongs to another.

Are you a thief? "Why no," you would say, "that's absurd. I'm a Christian and God's Word says a Christian is not to steal! I have never robbed a bank, stolen a car, nor shiplifted. I know I am human and humans do err, but to steal, never!"

You may not steal from man but what about God? "Steal from God? That's absurd too! Even if I wanted to steal, it surely wouldn't be from God. He would be the last one I would steal from."

We may not want to steal from God but often we do. How? First of all we must remember that there is nothing we have that does not rightly belong to God. "What? know ye not

that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).

All that we have belongs to God but in His mercy He only expects a portion of our money, talents, and time. Withholding in any of these areas condemns us as a thief.

Money

Tithes and offerings are the two ways in which we give our money to God. What is a tithe? What is an offering? A tithe is the *first* tenth of our income. In these days of inflation you may think it is impossible to tithe but when we purpose in our hearts not to be guilty of robbing God, we'll give God that first tenth and then spend the rest as we see fit.

There is a saying "If you make a hundred, you can live on a hundred." Also the Bible proves that regardless of our tight budget, God has a promise for those who have faith enough to give that first tenth to the Lord and trust Him to meet their other obligations. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the widows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10).

Just as there is a penalty in man's law for robbery, there is also punishment for those who withhold what rightfully belongs to God. "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation (Malachi 3:8-9).

Talents

You may say, "I know that I am not guilty of robbing God of my talents because I don't have any."

But the Bible says you are wrong. So many people spend their entire Christian lives doing nothing for the cause of Christ because they think they have no talents. The Bible clearly teaches us that we all have talents. Some have one, some three, and others have five (Matthew 25:14, 15).

Your talent, or talents, may be preaching, teaching, singing, or visiting. You may be a prayer warrior, deacon's wife, Sunday school superintendent, CTS director, or simply a pew filler. It is not who we are that counts because God is going to do the work through us. He also is the giver of abilities.

Regardless of what your talent is, develop it to the best of your ability. That is all God asks! God will never ask us to do anything unreasonable.

If we use our talents for God's glory, we are told in His Word of the results. "His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faith-

ful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:23).

But if we rob God of glory by not using our talents, there are serious consequences. "And cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:30).

Stewardship

When God saved you, did you wonder why God didn't just lift you up so you could be with Him forever in Glory? There is a good reason why He left you here. We are God's stewards. "And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, occupy till I come" (Luke 19:13). We are to work for our Master until Jesus returns.

Every steward has been given a very strong command (Matthew 28:19, 20). We are not asked to work *if* we don't have anything better to do, or *if* we feel like it, but He said "Go."

In reality we are all working—either for God or for Satan. When we are not working for the Lord, then we can be counted among Satan's workers.

We must be faithful to God's work every day of every month of every year. It is a requirement. "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2).

How can you be a good steward? Let us look in God's Word for the answer. (Exodus 4:1-17.) Moses could not understand why

God wanted an ordinary shepherd to go to the Pharaoh of Egypt and demand that he let God's people go. So Moses, being human, as we all are, made excuses. "I can't speak as a spokesman should." God answered, "Who made your mouth?" Moses asked: "What am I to use?" God answered: "What's in your hand?" We can learn from Moses that if God asks us to do a job for Him, He will give us the *message* and the *equipment*. Are you guilty of robbing God in the matter of stewardship of life?

Time

Almost all of us could be classified as guilty of stealing time—God's time.

You may say, "I attend Sunday school, worship, church training service, prayer meeting, and auxiliary. Surely I give enough time." But, do we? One month equals 30 days. Thirty days equal 721 hours. A tenth of a month would be around 73 hours which belong to God. If we attended all of the above listed services for a month, this would only amount to 19 hours a month that we give God. This leaves 54 hours unaccounted for. How much time do you spend in prayer per month? How much time do you spend visiting per month? Does it amount to 54 hours? "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

The Scriptures tell us the reason why God wants us to use our time wisely. "Watch therefore,

for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh" (Matthew 25:13). In this same chapter we also learn that God has a reward for those who do use their time wisely and He has some terrible consequences for those who do not.

The Scriptures speak of five wise virgins and five foolish virgins. The five wise virgins represent those who use their time wisely. "...the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut" (Matthew 25:10).

The five foolish virgins represent those who waste their time and never give God His rightful share of their time. "Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not" (Matthew 25:11, 12). Do you rob God of *His* time?

We as Christians today need to carefully examine our lives and find whether or not we are guilty of robbery—*spiritual* robbery.

Robbing God of what rightfully belongs to Him is a serious crime and the results are disastrous for those who are guilty and will not repent. "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:35, 36).

What you spend is lost.

What you save is kept.

But what is given away is gain!

March Program
Elizabeth Cameron

HAPPY IS THAT PEOPLE

Aim: *To help show us the paths that lead to happiness through Christ Jesus.*

Song: "O Happy Day"

Scripture: Psalm 144:15

HAVE YOU ever stopped to think what is the most sought after thing in this world of ours? If so, you have probably come to realize it is that fleeting thing called *Happiness*.

If we will take the time to look around us we will find there are few people who seem to be happy with their lives. But the saddest part of all is that we see so few Christians who seem to lead happy lives.

Perhaps the reason for this is we seek to find happiness from what the world can give us, such as acquiring a fine new home, pretty clothes, or a nice new car. Or maybe, it is in obtaining a successful position at our place of work or somewhere in our

community. Then, after we have gained these things, we begin to wonder why we do not have the happiness we thought they would bring.

God has promised great joy and happiness to His people, but as with all things worth having, there is a price that has to be paid.

Happy Are They Who Are Saved

"Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee; O people saved by the Lord . . ." (Deuteronomy 33:29).

The down-payment on this happiness which we seek has already been paid. Jesus paid it nearly 2000 years ago when He gave His life on the cross of Calvary. He became a sin offering before God for the remission of the sins of the whole world (Hebrews 10:4-12). He gave us *peace* without which there could be no true happiness (John 14:27; Romans 5:1).

We are instructed to "be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6, 7).

Not only this, but we have Jesus as our High Priest, who "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." So "let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:15, 16). Knowing that "God

shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Happy Are They Who Serve

"So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, *Know ye what I have done unto you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things happy are ye if ye do them*" (John 13:12-17).

Jesus here was trying to show us a far greater truth than that of washing our brother's feet, and that is if we are to be happy in this world, we must serve one another.

If we take the time to look around us, we will come to see that some of the happiest people we know are those who reach out to help others. If we will think back on our own lives we will come to realize some of our happiest moments were when we sacrificed of our time or possessions to help someone in need.

Not only will these things bring happiness to us in this life, but great also will be our reward in Heaven. Then shall the King say unto us, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the King-

dom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34).

Happy Are They Who Fear the Lord

"They that fear the Lord shall be glad . . ." (Psalm 119:74).

Most of us never associate fear with happiness. There are many fears in our lives that are very destructive. But the fear spoken of here is a holy fear. Perhaps if we as Christians possessed more of this fear, there would be many more dedicated and happier Christians. We also might see many more souls won to Christ through our ministry.

Somewhere along the way we seem to have lost this fear that in the past caused our Christian forefathers to live a more holy and consecrated life.

The Bible says much about the advantages to be gained from this fear of the Lord: "The fear of the Lord longeth days" (Proverbs 10:27). "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). "In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence . . . and a fountain of life" (Proverbs 14:26, 27). "They that fear the Lord shall be glad . . ." (Psalm 119:74). "Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised" (Proverbs 31:30).

There seems to be a spiritual famine in our churches. Perhaps it's about time that we as Christians regain some of this fear of the Lord that is so essential to

our spiritual well-being and happiness.

Happy Are They Who Have Faith

"Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned . . . for whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Romans 14:22, 23).

There are many books written today about the power of positive thinking. Many of our greatest athletes and business men attribute a large part of their success to adhering to this theory.

A lot of people probably think this is a relatively new theory we have found to aid us in our quest for happiness and success. But any Bible scholar knows that Jesus was a great teacher of this theory. Many times throughout His ministry, He taught men and women about this power of positive thinking.

He even taught us how to move mountains with it (Mark 11:23). But before one can have that faith which will move mountains, we must have faith in ourselves. And before we who are Christians can have this faith, we must know that we are living a life that is pleasing to God.

Paul states it this way: "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men" (Acts 24:16). This pretty much sums up, in one verse, how Paul lived his entire Christian

life. Of all Christians down through the ages, Paul was one of the most joyful and happy Christians. He was a man who had faith in himself and in the Christ which he preached. He walked "by faith and not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). And so must we also, if we are to find happiness as Christians.

Happy Are They Who Endure

"Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure" (James 5:10, 11).

Paul said "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12). But he also tells us that "all things work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28).

Gold is thought of as one of the most precious of all metals. But before it can be used for something of worth or beauty, it must be refined through the fire and heat.

The same is true of Christians. Before God can fully use our lives to glorify Him, our faith must be refined through trials and afflictions of this life. (1 Peter 1:5-8). Then we can say with Paul, ". . . I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

"Happy is that people, whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 144:15b).



Reflecting The Crucified Christ

PRE-EASTER
SEASON OF PRAYER
for
FOREIGN MISSIONS
MARCH 20-24, 1978

Rose Marie Cloud Laffoon

Scripture Theme: "Be Still and Know and I am God" (Psalm 46:10)

"Remember His Marvelous Works that He hath Done" (Psalm 105:5)

Theme Song: "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?"

Aim: That this prayer season will be a time of quiet meditation to reflect on the true meaning of Easter.

Easter is a time of remembrance. A time Christians set aside to remember just what Christ did for them personally. As salvation is personal, so should Easter be personal for each Christian. If as followers of Christ we take our Christianity seriously, then Easter is one of the best times of the year to remember what Christ has done for each of us. Let us call to mind some events that transpired prior to, and including, our Savior's resurrection.

Remember The Last Supper

Hymns: "According to Thy Gracious Word"; "Bread of Heaven, On Thee

We Feed"; "The Basin and the Towel" (If these songs are not familiar, select others but read the words of these songs as poems)

Scripture: Matthew 17:22-23; John 13:1-17

In these Scriptures we find Christ trying to prepare the apostles for His coming death. This was to be the last Passover feast which Christ would share with the apostles. While they were eating, Jesus instituted a new covenant for them as well as for us. We call it *Communion* and it is one of the loveliest of all the ordinances. (Read Matthew 26:26-29).

Then He washed the apostles feet. And, because Jesus said we ought to, we wash each other's feet. So many blessings are lost when we refuse to do what our Lord told us to do. Jesus said "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:17). And James adds (4:17), "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." Jesus said, "If I then, your Lord and Master, have

washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet" (John 13:14).

Ought, defined is "to be compelled by obligation or duty." In today's language Jesus would say, "I compel you to do this because it is your obligation or duty to serve one another." Jesus said to Peter, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me" (John 13:8b).

Don't be too proud to get on bended knees and wash your sisters' feet. Pride often steals blessings. A preacher once said, "The Bible said it, I believe it, and that settles it."

Suggestion: Distribute prayer requests for foreign missionaries. Have a quiet period of meditation and prayer as the pianist or organist plays softly, then do as Jesus and the apostles did as described in Matthew 26:30 "And after they had sung a hymn they went out"

Remember Gethsemane

Hymns: "Tis Midnight"; "Neath the Old Olive Trees"

Scripture: Luke 22:39-46; Matthew 26:42-46 (You may use these Scriptures as a responsive reading. See page 455 under "Gethsemane" in the Free Will Baptist Hymn Book).

In the Scripture just read we find Jesus choosing three of His disciples, Peter, James, and John, to go with Him to watch and pray. But then He separated Himself a stone's throw from them and knelt down and prayed. He had warned them to pray that they enter not into temptation. The temptation in question was the grave sin of moral cowardice into which the disciples soon fell. Had they prayed instead

of yielding to the overpowering sense of weariness and sleeping, they would never have forsaken their Lord in his hour of trial.

Three times the Master agonized in prayer and returned to find those nearest him asleep. His final prayer to the Father was "If this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."

This cup was the symbol of Christ's sacrificial death which was rapidly approaching (Matthew 20:20; John 18:11). He knew how great the agony would be when His soul became an offering for sin, yet He freely laid down His life for us all (John 10:17-18; Isaiah 53:10).

We are grateful for the Christ of the cross. May we never forget His sacrifice and may we commit ourselves to Him with greater love, greater sincerity, and greater zeal.

Suggestion: Have an altar of prayer for foreign missions and missionaries. Remember requests from your own group. Sing "Did You Think to Pray?" or "Whisper a Prayer" before you "go out."

Remember the Betrayal

Hymns: "Can He Depend on You?"; "Is Your All on the Altar?"

Scripture: Luke 22:1-6; Matthew 26:44-56; Matthew 26:15, 16, 21, 25; John 13:21, 25-27; Luke 22:47, 48; Zechariah 11:12, 13; Matthew 27:35.

In these verses and especially in Matthew 26:50 we see Jesus still reaching out to Judas with friendship while he is actually in the act of betraying Christ. Halley states: "It was about midnight. The Roman garrison, consisting of about five or six hundred

men, led by the chief captain, were guided by Judas to the place of Jesus' retreat."

Judas' part was to deliver Jesus to them in the absence of the multitudes. They did not dare arrest Him openly lest they be stoned by the people. Therefore, Judas led them to one of Christ's secret retreats after the city had gone to sleep. Thirty pieces of silver, about \$16.00, was the price of a slave (Exodus 21:32). Judas may have thought that Jesus would use His miraculous power to deliver Himself; or it could have been that he was trying to force Jesus into proclaiming Himself. However, in God's eyes his deed was dastardly for Jesus said, "It would be better for him if he had never been born." This whole performance was amazingly foretold in Zechariah 11:12-13.

Halley states further: "They streamed out of the East Gate down the Kedron road, with lanterns, torches, and weapons, for the garden where Jesus was. As they approached, Jesus, by His unseen power, caused them to fall to the ground. This was to make them understand that they could not take Him against His will. To make Jesus' identification certain, Judas pointed Him out by kissing Him."

Betrayal by one of His own was heartbreaking to Jesus. Let us be sure that we do not betray Him anew by betraying one another. We must uphold one another in prayer.

Distribute prayer requests for foreign missionaries and close the service with prayer.

Remember the Trial and Crucifixion

Hymns: "In the Hour of Trial";

"Wounded for Me"; "Up Calvary's Mountain"

Special Music: "Three Nails"

Scripture: Matthew 26:57-68; 27:1, 2; Isaiah 53:1-12; Matthew 27:45-66
You may want to assign the Scriptures in advance instead of reading them all yourself.

Two legal systems were used to condemn Jesus Christ, one being Jewish and the other Roman. It was under the Jewish law that the arrest proceedings were carried out. However, that arrest was unlawful in several ways. First, the judge was not impartial and in no way tried to protect the accused, Christ. There was supposed to be a quorum of 23 judges present. There is no evidence in the Scripture that all 23 were present at the Jewish trial of Jesus. The ones that were present were hostile. The Jewish law stated there had to be former accusations. There were not, and in a Jewish criminal trial all sessions were to be started and concluded during the day time and not at night. It has been said that night sessions were illegal. A guilty verdict could not be rendered on the same day as the trial. The whole trial was unlawful. The accused could not be convicted on his own evidence, but the court sought for replies and admission for Christ to condemn Himself.

There was no legal evidence presented against Jesus. Even Pilate said, "I find no fault in Him."

We see Isaiah's prophecies coming true in Matthew. Even though Christ's birth was predicted early, the passage on Christ as the Suffering Servant begins here. Chapter 53 contains a statement of Christ's suffering.

Jesus was weary and worn from the merciless beating, yet He took time to

think of others. He turned to the women and said "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me but for yourselves and your children" (Luke 23:28).

Jesus took this opportunity to warn the women about their captors who had condemned one they admitted was innocent. How then, would they deal in the future with those whom they found guilty?

They nailed our Savior to a rugged cross between two thieves. On the cross, He refused the sedative of vinegar mingled with gall. Then He took time to win a soul, saying clearly, "Today, shalt thou be with me in paradise." Later He "gave up the spirit" or expired.

Jesus Christ's death was different from that of any other man. No one could take His life from Him unless He was willing to permit it. This He did. Christ died that we might have everlasting life.

Suggestion: Ask the pianist or organist to play softly. Ask the group to sit with eyes closed for a moment while they visualize Christ on the cross—dying for each one of them personally. Then very quietly move to the altar for prayer.

Remember the Resurrection

Hymns: "Christ Arose"; "He Lives"

Scripture: John 20:1-22; Luke 25:5b-6

Why do we worship on Sunday instead of on Saturday, the Jewish sabbath? Because Jesus arose on the first day of the week, we worship on Sunday as a memorial to Him.

The writers of all four Gospels give their account of the first Christian

Easter. Neither time nor space allows us to go deep into it. Therefore, we scratch the surface and go on.

Easter is the most beautiful time of year. The blossoming flowers and green trees and plants seem to attest the fact that He is risen!

For nearly 2000 years the compassionate words of the risen Christ ring down the corridors of time, offering comfort, hope, joy, and peace to the believing soul.

Let us realize anew, in the midst of trials and testings, that an abiding faith in Jesus Christ is the only answer to the troubled heart, not only for the early Christians, but also for a twentieth century Christian. His words of authority and promise remove the doubts and anxieties which might have perplexed us regarding our future destiny.

We serve a risen Savior. Because He conquered death, we too shall rise. He who lived victoriously in the midst of life's afflictions, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is preparing a place for all who in faith do believe.

In John 20:21 Jesus said to his disciples, "... As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." Let us not forget that when we support missions in any way we have a partnership with missionaries. We can all pray.

Christ prayed for His disciples when He sent them forth as His representatives in the world. He prayed for those who would believe on Him through their ministry. The practice of earnest, intercessory prayer gives us the assurance that we may enter into God's missionary plan for world redemption as "laborers together with God" (1 Corinthians 3:9). Have you prayed for your missionaries today?

Altar of prayer

Offering for Foreign Missions

Prayer Group Programs

by Pat Thomas

JANUARY

One reason Free Will Baptist women should pray for missionaries is that they might not become discouraged as they labor in isolated places. Most full time Christian workers are not tempted by Satan to fall into gross sin, but they are tempted in more subtle ways. It is one of the Devil's tools to use discouragement, despondency, and depression to defeat the child of God.

When serving God in an isolated area, there is a lack of Christian fellowship with either fellow missionaries or Christian workers. When there is not this fellowship so one Christian can encourage another, sometimes loneliness can come down upon a person. This feeling of drowning in a swirling pool of loneliness can truly cause mental suffering and anguish. While it is true that the missionary must look to the Lord for comfort and strength during these times of loneliness, it is the duty of God's people at home to hold up the missionary in prayer that he will come through these periods of loneliness and depression victoriously.

Many times a missionary serv-

ing in an isolated area will see no other Free Will Baptist worker for months at a time, except those in his own congregation. What an encouragement for the missionary to just receive a letter from home, or a note from a woman's auxiliary assuring him that they are praying for him. A picture of your group or news about your church can bring a bright spot into the day of a lonely missionary.

As woman's auxiliary members we need to pray for the physical health of the missionaries. We certainly realize that a person can serve the Lord more effectively if he has vigorous health and is free from diseases. We need to pray daily that God will give all of our missionaries good health while they are serving on isolated fields that may not offer the best in medical facilities or nutritious foods.

We also need to pray that God will give the missionaries good mental health. Without good mental health, it is impossible for the missionary to maintain the right attitude toward his family members, his fellow workers, or to the unsaved he is attempting to win to Christ.

Prayer requests:

Pray for the Allan Crowsons and Alice Smith who are still making the cultural changes from France to the Ivory Coast where they will be ministering.

Pray for the Burt Hall family as they assume the leadership of the mission work in Wheeling, West Virginia, as they replace the Tom Street family who returned to the pastorate in Tennessee.

Being the only Free Will Baptist missionaries in India, Carlisle and Marie Hanna desire your prayers.

FEBRUARY

It is my joy and privilege to many times have the opportunity to show missionaries through the Provision Closet at the National Offices in Nashville, Tennessee. One cannot imagine what a blessing these provisions are to the missionaries! Let me give you a tour through the closet as I would one of the missionaries who has just returned home.

First, after I have greeted the missionary myself and given her a big "welcome home," I then take her to the Woman's Auxiliary office where she can meet Mrs. Pursell and her workers there. After greetings and more "welcome home" remarks there, we proceed down the hall, through the kitchen area, and into the warehouse that houses the Provision Closet.

The Closet is actually many shelves stretching from floor to ceiling filled with the many, many articles that have been donated by auxiliaries from all across our country. There are shelves on all four sides, with a doorway for entrance, truly making this large area a "closet."

I then obtain a pencil and itemized sheet that lists all the things available, along with the number of items allowed each missionary family.

After explaining this itemized sheet to the missionary, I then go through the closet with her, shelf by shelf, showing her where the sheets and pillow cases are, the

towels and wash cloths, and quilts, bedspreads, and mattress covers. From there we look over the Tupperware selections and the sets of Melmac dishes. Then I open the steel cabinet that contains the flatware, irons, mixers, blenders, and pressure cookers. What a time of joy we have together looking at the many wonderful things the Free Will Baptist women across America have given to provide these items for our missionaries!

Many times I have seen missionaries shed tears of joy and gratitude as they begin to gather new sheets to replace their old worn, faded ones that have served for many years on the field. Many times missionaries have said, "Please tell our Free Will Baptist women what a blessing this is to my family, to be able to return home and have so many beautiful new things to replace my old worn out household items." These provisions, sent in from auxiliaries all across our denomination, arriving two or three boxes at a time, have proven over and over again to be a real answer to prayer for our missionaries.

Prayer requests:

Pray for many National Home Missionaries who are in building programs at this time: Rev. and Mrs. Bob Thomas in Greeley, Colorado; Rev. and Mrs. Larry Russell in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Rev. and Mrs. David Bigger in Ponca City, Oklahoma, and Rev. and Mrs. Larry Powell in McAllen, Texas.

Jim, Susan and Christopher Moser have recently arrived in

Brazil to begin their language study. Pray that God will give them clear minds as they begin this task of learning the language fluently.

Pray for the Jim Williams family as they make plans to arrive in Monterrey, N.L., Mexico to open the Institute of Gold to train the Mexican nationals.

MARCH

One group of "missionary personnel" that certainly needs our prayers is the group known as the "missionary kids." They truly are missionaries serving the Lord, many of them on isolated fields away from their friends and loved ones at home. Many times they are separated from parents for long periods of schooling, or from father who may be doing deputation work. Sometimes their schooling is interrupted because of furloughs to go home, or journeys back to the field of service.

After arriving on the field, many "missionary kids" have to pick up the language the hard way, because they have not attended language school as their parents have. All of a sudden they are plunged into a culture where another language is spoken, where they never hear their native language except by family members at home. This can be quite an "earth shaking" experience on a child, but most children adapt to these situations very quickly, and sometimes even are able to adjust better than mom and dad.

It has been the experience for many teenage children of home

missionaries to be the only teenagers in the entire congregation. They have no other young people in the church for fellowship, for a Sunday school class, or other young programs or activities. However, instead of letting this be a discouragement to them, many of them become teachers, piano players, ushers, and soul winners, and in this manner are a real blessing and help to their parents.

Many children of missionaries leave their parents on the field and return home to attend one of our Bible Colleges. Many of them prepare for full time Christian service, and some of them also return as missionaries, serving the Lord in an adopted land they learned to love. Please pray faithfully for these "missionary kids" as they serve, along with their parents, to take the gospel to every creature.

Prayer requests:

The following "missionary kids" are in the states in college: Debra and Rebecca Aycock, Samuel Hersey, Paul Sparks, Lyndon and LaDonna Deeds, Terry Eagleton, Kevin and Kimberly Wilkinson, Dave Filkins, and Don Hanna. Pray for them as they are away from their parents.

Pray for Becky Francis, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Bob Francis, missionaries to St. Paul, Minnesota. She is a freshman at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Pray for dorm parents Howard and Joan Filkins at Bouake, Ivory Coast and the tremendous responsibilities they have in working with the young men in their dorm.

Give Yourself a Treat

"Come Ye Yourselves Apart into a Desert Place, and Rest Awhile. . ."

The above theme from Mark 6:31 was appropriate for the New Mexico Woman's Auxiliary retreat held June 18, 1977.

President Katie Pinson writes that they had 22 women for their *first* prayer retreat and that God blessed in a special way.

Speakers included Wanda Gibbs, Doris Heard, Bessie Gartman, and Katie Pinson. Gladys Smith, wife of home missionary Karel Smith, gave a report of their work. She was honored with a personal shower and a love offering of more than \$62.00.

GEORGIA. "Patterns for Living," was the theme of the Georgia State Retreat when 90 women met to "select" spiritual patterns; then they placed, pinned, cut, marked, basted, adjusted, sewed, pressed, fit, finished, and then modeled the finished product. Pat Franks, missionary to Brazil was the special speaker.

Vera Clyatt expressed her feelings about it all. "Everything was good. The music was beautiful, the speaking excellent and the food delicious. Everybody was friendly and there was just a wonderful relaxed spiritual atmosphere . . . I was inspired to come home and help our auxiliary work together to fulfill the Great Commission.

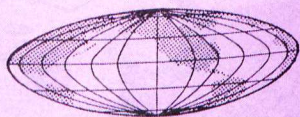
ARKANSAS. More than 225 women from across the land of opportunity attended the annual retreat of the Woman's Auxiliary May 20-21, 1977. It was a successful and enjoyable meeting.

The theme was "Speak to my Heart." The program included lots of singing along with talent time, a candlelight service and seminars. Sonja Campbell was the speaker.

TEXAS. Norma June Teague writes: "I do wish you could have been with us at Piney Woods Encampment (May 29-30) for our Texas Retreat. There were 68 in attendance and we had a wonderful time in the Lord."

TENNESSEE. The beautiful Smokey Shadows Conference Center of Pigeon Forge, was the setting for the annual Tennessee state retreat September 9-10. Various aspects of the theme, "The Living Word," were ably developed by speakers Brenda Patrick, JoAnn Lamb, Peggy Pierce, and June Critcher. One hundred and fifty six women enjoyed this time of instruction, fellowship, singing, and the delicious meals served at the Log Cabin Pancake House. There was free time for those who wanted to tour the famous Christus Gardens and shop a little in nearby Gatlinburg. President Marjorie Workman directed the meeting.

MICHIGAN. The Central Woman's Auxiliary, Detroit, enjoyed a one day prayer retreat, October 23. Eleven women met at the church and rode the bus to the Coach Stop restaurant for breakfast. Then they went to the Sveden House for their annual retreat. This was a time of study, sharing, prayer groups, and discussion, and was an inspiration for all who attended. Pansy Murray, missionary to France was guest speaker.



From the Field

This time our 17-year-old daughter went with me to the missionary provision closet. As we were choosing from the many items you have put there, she said, "Mom, can you really just get what you want like this?" And it is a bit unbelievable that a well-supplied place akin to a department store is there for our needs when we come back for a year's furlough in the states. It seems we ought to pay a large fee to check-out . . . We are indebted to the women who send these things for our use, and we know we can never pay. As they say in Brazil, "May God pay you!"

Jean Deeds

We enjoyed going through and getting the essentials needed for our move to a new field of service. Thank God for the work and vision of our women in helping in such a tremendous way. Pray for us as we labor together in building a strong Free Will Baptist church in the capital city of Florida.

The J. D. Norris Jr. family

Our family would like to express our sincere appreciation to the ladies who have contributed to the provision closet. We have just returned from our second term of service in Ivory Coast

and needed a new supply of household items. Thanks to the "Treasure Chest," we were able to have this need met immediately after our return.

Norman and Bessie Richards

Thanks for the ticket to the WNAC banquet at the National Association. I bought the tape of the speaker and several have already enjoyed it and I plan to send it on to Japan.

Thanks for keeping the provision closet for us. We are already enjoying the many nice things we received from there. I'm especially enjoying the blender . . . The district women here raised \$310.00 for us to use toward a washing machine and are sending the offering through your office for our account.

Olena McLain

We so appreciate receiving the Co-Laborer each quarter, because it helps us to keep up with the work of WNAC and also our other missionaries. The programs are a blessing to read, and we are thankful for the work that is being accomplished by our faithful women in our home country.

I also want to thank you for supplying the needed money for a king-size bedspread for us. Mrs. Willey was able to find a beautiful one for us in Florida, much nicer than any one we would have been able to find here in Panama . . . We have known missionaries from many other missions, and so far, our Free Will Baptist are the first, to our

knowledge, to have a missionary provision closet. We trust that in no way will our women feel that the hours of work they spend to keep the closet stocked are taken for granted.

We thank God for the office staff there at WNAC and the work you do for those of us who are on the field, your prayers and your faithfulness to the work of our Savior.

Priscilla Inscoe

We have been so thankful for all the help the Auxiliary has been to us. Funds for our station in Africa and that of the Bill Jones' was provided by the ladies. And in addition to the many gifts to our account, the closet has been such a great help. Thanks.

Paul plans to attend the Bible College . . . We were wondering if things from the missionary provision closet were available to him. He will need a pillow, bedspread, two pillow cases, six towels, four sheets, two double blankets for single beds, and an iron . . .

Lonnie and Anita Sparks and boys

Thanks for including my name in *Co-Laborer* during my illness. I received many cards and letters from Auxiliary women in several states. A shower given recently by Woodhaven Woman's Auxiliary certainly helped me with many purchases . . . I always look forward to *Co-Laborer*, especially when in Ecuador. Thanks.

Shelia Williams
27

CONVENTION SCOPE

WOMAN'S NATIONAL
AUXILIARY CONVENTION
Cobo Hall, Detroit, Michigan
July 18-19, 1977



Olena McLean, missionary to Japan, was one of several hundred women who attended the WNAC activities (1).



LOVE'S COMMITMENT, the convention theme, and "Such as I have, give I Thee" (Acts 3:6), the watchword, were emphasized in songs and messages (2).

2



Charles and Violet Cox brought special music. Charles was the music director and led in the convention song: "Take my Life and Let It Be" (3).

3



Three outstanding speakers stimulated and challenged the women: Elizabeth MacDonald, Detroit (4), Glenda Fulcher, Panama (5), and Larry Powell, McAllen, Texas (6).

4



6



5



7

Four of the 13 winners in WNAC's creative writing contest. There were 97 entries (7).

8

WNAC president Clara Picirilli, presided over the business session (8).



More than 600 persons attended the WNAC Fellowship Dinner and heard Elizabeth MacDonald, Michigan, speak (9).

9



10

The WNAC Display Booth is always of interest to the women (10 & 10A).



10a



Lucille Beatty, Arnold, Missouri listens intently to the speaker at the WNAC Fellowship Dinner (11).



WNAC staff (left to right): Genelle Scott, Clara Picirilli, Cleo Pursell, Anne Worthington, June Rolen, Nancy Trimble, Brenda Evans, and Mary Ruth Wisehart (12).



Headed for home is Mrs. Garner Caldwell, Joelton, Tennessee (13).



A Woman God Has Used

Lavenia Carolyn Basnight, born December 18, 1904, fulfills to the letter both the motto of the postman, and her own creed in daily practice, as she goes about her Father's business, through the "sweltering sun, rain, sleet, or snow."

Lavenia gets about on foot because she has neither driver's license, nor automobile. She carries the worship service bulletins to the home-bound, makes gifts and carries them to the patients in hospitals and nursing homes; raises myriads of flowers to help in decorating her own church, as well as other churches throughout her area.

These are but a few of the known efforts of this hometown missionary. The opinion shared by many in her church (the First Free Will Baptist), and community (Washington, North Carolina), is that only God knows Lavenia's total record of service to her Lord and all the people.

Lavenia's love and determination to give of her best was foretold by Christ, her Lord, in Mark 12:41-44. She became the widow of Charles Henry Basnight in April, 1939, with four small daughters to rear under extremely difficult circumstances. Today these children are living examples of Proverbs 22:6.

Mrs. Basnight is very active in the Woman's Auxiliary of her church and also helps in other auxiliaries.

Many thank God for this loving heart among them. They know that she has many treasures laid up in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21). There are many who have known so much more about the goodness of God's love through the bright light and life of Mrs. Lavenia Basnight. We salute this woman used of God.

1977-78

Clara Picirilli
301 Greenway Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

Genelle Scott
4505 Lynn Lane
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118

Anne Worthington
1712 Dawson Road
Albany, Georgia 31707

Brenda Evans
1122 E. 77 Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64131

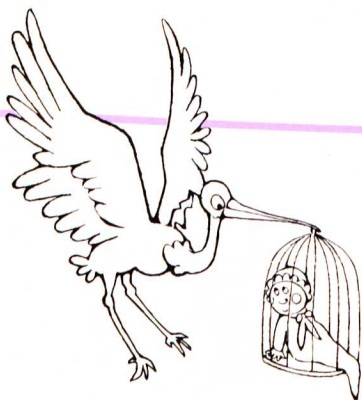
Nancy Trimble
37838 Hayes Rd.
Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48043

June Rolon
2913 E. Northdale
Fresno, California 93726

Cleo Pursell
P. O. Box 1088
Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Mary Ruth Wisheart
78 Brookwood Terrace Place
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

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**SOMETHING NEW
HAS BEEN ADDED**
*to WNAC's
creative writing
contest—POETRY!*

Other categories are: Programs (suitable for publication in *Co-Laborer*)
 Skits and Plays
 Articles

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

Length: Articles—one to three pages
 Programs—five to five and one-half pages
 Plays/Skits—one to three pages
 Poetry—one to two pages

All manuscripts must be typed 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 four categories the awards are:

First place—\$25.00
Second place—\$10.00
Third place—Books
Fourth place—Honorable mention

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