

F.W.B.C. Library

Co-Laborer

October, November, December 1978



Co-Laborer

October, November, December 1978

Volume XVIII Number 4

In This Issue

- 1 Co-Laborers Write
- 3 Memo from Cleo
- 4 Women in Action
- 7 Who's Who in this Issue
- 8 October Program
- 11 November Program
- 14 Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer
- 18 December Program
- 21 State Missions Season of Prayer
- 24 Prayer Group Programs
- 27 A Such As I Have Christmas
- 28 From the Field
- 29 Christmas—Now and Then
- 30 In His Hands
- 32 A Woman God Has Used

Front cover photo courtesy of
Union Pacific Railroad

Cleo W. Pursell, Editor Donna Carr, Associate Editor

Evelyn Jones, Circulation

CO-LABORER is published quarterly by the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention (auxiliary to the National Association of Free Will Baptists). Subscriptions are \$1.60 per year; 5 or more to one address, \$1.50 each. Address all correspondence concerning subscriptions to: WNAC, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee 37202.



Co-Laborers Write

We of the Arlington Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary wish to express to you and your fine staff our great appreciation for the fine literature and supplies over the past years. The materials seem to get better all the time.

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

I appreciate the opportunity to let you know how the Lord has richly blessed us through your inspirational programs. I believe they are responsible for the faithfulness of our members. I have seen our ladies share and grow in grace through these monthly devotions. Our attendance has grown from 16 to 25 with three new members since July.

May God richly bless your efforts and continue to provide you with such fantastic material.

*Mrs. Tom Rolan
Stacy, North Carolina*

We had a wonderful study course on winning souls during our Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer. Rev. Clyde Bruley taught it, and we all really enjoyed it.

*Maiselle Woode
Uriah, Alabama*

I am one of the Actionette sponsors in our church, and I must say I have enjoyed being with our young people and seeing them grow so much spiritually.

I also would like to tell you how much I love and appreciate our auxiliary and what it stands for—missions. I think you all are doing such a fine job and I can only imagine just how big that job is for you and your assistants.

*Mrs. Jerry Williams
Parrottsville, Tennessee*

Today as I received our *Co-Laborers* and leafed through the pages, I had to tell you that it seems this book for women is just getting richer and richer! In the future I look for this work to expand even more, for I personally think the *Co-Laborers* are just full of spiritual gems.

As David prayed, we also pray, "O Lord, we ask thee, send now prosperity to all who labor to give us the spiritual food we have been so richly receiving."

*Kiska Sifers
Cleveland, Ohio*

We of the White Plains Auxiliary enjoy the *Co-Laborer* very much. We have grown in number to 15. The Lord is blessing us in many ways. We are supporting

state, home, and foreign mission projects, and we've sent books to missionaries and gifts to a nursing home.

Our Christian lives are growing thanks to all the talented ladies of *Co-Laborer*. God bless you.

*Jean Parr
Blakely, Georgia*

All the ladies that attend our auxiliary really enjoy the lesson each month in *Co-Laborer*. And we are thankful for it.

*Maxine Bennett
Dearborn Heights, Michigan*

The Woman's Auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Kingstree, South Carolina, is enjoying the *Co-Laborers* so much. Our auxiliary was organized in October of 1977 and has grown from a handful of dedicated ladies to a membership of 17. As our number increases so does our dedication and determination. We want only to serve our Savior, and we feel that He is truly blessing us.

*Gail Timmons
Kingstree, South Carolina*

Just a word to let you know how much we are enjoying the programs in the *Co-Laborer*. Each time we meet the Lord gives us great blessings. We also are doing more for the cause of Christ through mission work.

Keep up the good work and may God bless you, your staff, and also the good writers.

*Nancy Mayhall
Guin, Alabama*

We thank God that He is using our auxiliary. We are active in

projects to raise \$150.00 for our church parsonage fund. Our ladies meet on Friday mornings for special projects for convalescent homes.

We thank God for the magazine and the faithful women who write the stories and put the magazine together. Thank you and may God further use co-laborers to further the Gospel.

*Vicki Fischer
Bellflower, California*

Please send five more *Co-Laborer* magazines. We are growing and enjoying the *Co-Laborers* so much.

*Iva Myers
Flint, Michigan*

We would like to say we are very proud of our auxiliary here at Western Hills Free Will Baptist Church; last year we gave over \$650.00 to various worthwhile projects, and with the Lord's help we hope to do more this next year. We have a wonderful group of ladies who love the Lord and enjoy the work they do for Him. Thank you and may God bless each one of you.

*Jean Foy
Fort Worth, Texas*

I appreciate the improvements you have made in the *Co-Laborer*. Comparing today's edition with the first *Co-Laborer* is not only revealing, but very rewarding. It's very much today like having Christian friends come to visit and tell about their auxiliary activities! Thank you for a job very well done.

*Agnes B. Frazier
Ashland City, Tennessee*

MEMO from CLEO

Cleo Pursell, Executive Secretary



New Materials

Exciting new supplies are available from the WNAC office: *Thoughts that Soar*, a book of poems written by Free Will Baptist women; a new Associational Woman's Auxiliary Manual; new plays; treasurer's book; installation services; an enlistment packet; and a Missionary Prayer Pack. Check your 1978-79 catalog for prices.

Spanish Publication

CONTACTO, the beautiful new publication edited by Tom Willey, Jr. and Benito Rodriguez, meets a long-felt need among our Spanish speaking Free Will Baptists. The Woman's Auxiliary page is edited by Carmen Rodriguez. The cost of one page is about \$50.00 an issue. If your auxiliary would like to support this worthy endeavor send contributions through regular channels to WNAC, earmarked "Tom Willey Project."

Missionary Provision Closet Needs

Queen and king size sheet sets and bedspreads, rectangular and round cake takers, pie takers, Corelle Ware, blenders, electric percolators, large mixers, toasters and crock pots. We have on hand a large quantity of *white* tupperware canisters and bowls, also *white* sheets. We appreciate your generosity, but please do not send more as we are running out of storage space.

Convention Information

Please see your first quarter, 1979 *Co-Laborer* for convention news and pictures. Our creative writing contest this year was the largest ever. More than 200 entries were received, but only 196 arrived by the deadline March 1, 1978. All others will be entered in the 1978-79 contest. Remember the next deadline is March 1, 1979!

Women In Action

The East Nashville Woman's Auxiliary, Nashville, Tennessee, emphasized the ministry of WNAC during their evening service on February 26, 1978. They presented the program "Appropriate Apparel," and had veteran auxiliary members, as well as two missionary kids and one summer missionary, share their experiences. An offering for WNAC, refreshments and a time of fellowship concluded the program.

In connection with the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer, this auxiliary also sponsored a prayer breakfast for the church on March 19. Mrs. Cleo Pursell, WNAC executive secretary, spoke on the resurrection theme. An offering of \$50.00 was received for foreign missions.

RETREATS

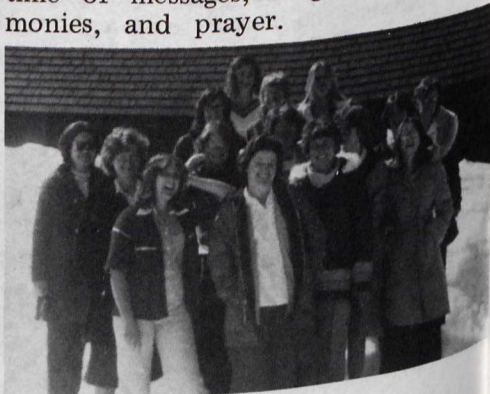
One hundred seventy-five Oklahoma women attended a retreat at Lake Texoma Lodge. "Something Beautiful," taken from Proverbs 31 was the theme of the meeting. Jean Deeds, missionary to Brazil, challenged all

the women to be true Christian wives, mothers, and witnesses. An offering of \$475.00 was taken to be applied to the Deeds' vehicle fund.

A grand total of 265 women attended the Arkansas Woman's Auxiliary retreat held April 28-29 at Camp Beaver Fork in Conway. The theme was "Come Ye Apart . . . And Rest Awhile." The women enjoyed good singing, skits, a sunrise service, a book review, and speakers Mary Ann Smith and Bessie Richards, missionary to Ivory Coast.

Majestic, snow-covered mountains formed the perfect background for the first annual Idaho Woman's Auxiliary retreat, held March 24-25 at Cathedral in the Pines camp near Sun Valley, Idaho. The theme was "A Recipe for Today" with each speaker taking one of the ingredients necessary in making today a successful day. JoAnn Bennett spoke on prayer, Sharon Bennett on priorities, and Gloria Carlson on praise.

Fifteen women enjoyed the time of messages, songs, testimonies, and prayer.



PROJECTS COMPLETED

A total of \$5,310.27 was given by the Georgia Woman's Auxiliary for the Allan Crowsons to buy a station wagon. The women exceeded their goal by \$264.14.

The Mt. Harmony Woman's Auxiliary, Gaffell, Arkansas, made a quilt for one lady who had been hospitalized for a long period of time.



STATE MEETINGS

The Arizona State Auxiliary met April 8, 1978, at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Phoenix. Naomi Wright, author of *The Ever-Widening Circle*, was the guest speaker. Ms. Wright started a home Bible study 18

years ago which has grown to over 650 in attendance and is now being conducted in three different churches.

The California State Woman's Auxiliary Convention was held March 31-April 1 at Sherwood Forest Church in El Sobrante. The convention officers conducted workshops on Friday night and the featured speaker for Saturday was Mrs. Cherie Noel, principal of Liberty Baptist Christian High School.

"Enough Blood to Cover the World" was the exciting missions theme of the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention. Missionaries Walter and Marcia Ellison spoke at the meeting held at Goshen Free Will Baptist Church in North Belmont May 2.

"Ye Are a Chosen People" was the theme of the New Mexico State Auxiliary Convention held April 14, 1978 at Faith Memorial Chapel, Carlsbad. A record attendance of 53 heard guest speaker Cleo Pursell, WNAC executive secretary. A luncheon was held in her honor and the state adopted the project of contributing toward a stencil maker for the national office.



Cleo Pursell installed the following officers at the New Mexico Convention: Katie Pinson, president; Wanda Gibb, vice president; Arlene Hinton, recording secretary; Flois Hickey, corresponding secretary; Doris Heard, treasurer; Sue Randolph, field worker; Fannie Gibson, parliamentarian.

BANQUETS

The **First Bible Free Will Baptist Church** in New Castle, Indiana, hosted a spring banquet for the **Indiana Woman's Auxiliary** on **April 8**. Eighty-four people from churches in Anderson, Evansville, Indianapolis, New Castle and Chesterfield dined family style in Hagerstown.

The theme of the banquet was "Peace Like a Rainbow" and Rev. Bobby Helms spoke on the need for peace in today's world and the responsibility of Christians to demonstrate the genuine peace that only Christ imparts. He also told of his work in Evansville, Indiana, where he and Mrs. Helms serve as home missionaries. They established the New Life Free Will Baptist Church there in August of 1977, and "Since that time," Brother Helms stated, "we've always had at least one new face every Sunday!"



The woman's auxiliary of the **First FWB Church, Kingstree, South Carolina**, sponsored a Valentine Banquet with the Master's Men for their church. The auxiliary, which has 17 active members is pictured at one of their monthly meetings and around the three-tiered cake at their banquet.



MEMBER HONORED

Mrs. Hattie Sledge, age 89, was honored on her birthday, October 27, 1977, as the oldest member of the Antioch Free Will Baptist Church, Randolph, Mississippi. The woman's auxiliary surprised her with a special service, and President Peggy Tutor presented her with a plaque. Mrs. Sledge was showered with gifts, and a birthday cake and other refreshments were served.



Who's Who in this Issue



Sharon Bennett, Pocatello, Idaho, and her husband Harley serve as home missionaries under the Free Will Baptist Board of Home Missions. Her experiences there well-qualify her to write the program for the State Missions Season of Prayer. Sharon is active in her local auxiliary and she serves as missions chairman for the district of Idaho. She is the mother of two.

Joanne King, Cramerton, North Carolina, wrote our study for December, "Let Us Honor Mary." She also writes "Words for Women," the auxiliary column in the *Witness*, North Carolina's state paper. Joanne is a pastor's wife, mother, school teacher, and president of the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary.

Delois Loveless, Columbus, Ohio, is the author of "Giving Thanks," our study for November. She serves as president of her local auxiliary, field worker for the district, and vice president for the state. She works in the Ambassador Bible Bookstore and writes for the woman's page in the *Ambassador* magazine.

Debra Moore, Nashville, Tennessee, teaches English and Speech at Free Will Baptist Bible College. She is a Sunday school teacher and president of her local auxiliary. Four years ago she went to Ivory Coast as a summer missionary, and her program, "Through God's Eyes," is born from her experiences there.

Bob Shockey, Columbus, Ohio, is Director of Missions and Evangelism Outreach with Welch Avenue Free Will Baptist Church. He served as General Director of the National Home Missions Department for five years and is the author of the Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer Program, "Missions Outreach."

October Program
Debra Moore

Through God's Eyes

Viewing:
PEOPLE
PROBLEMS
POSSESSIONS
PROSPECTS

Purpose: *To help us realize the importance of seeing things from God's eyes and His perspective rather than our own.*

Song: "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

Scripture: Psalm 144:1-2
See Program Help Packet

IT WAS A bright, sunshiny Sunday in Doropo, Ivory Coast. Looking out the missionary home, I could see a tall water tower that had just been completed by one of the village masons. Each Sunday morning the two of us summer missionaries would have a Sunday school class with the missionary children at the station in Doropo. This particular Sunday we chose to climb that tall water tower and have Sunday school at the

top. As the warm breeze blew around us, I looked out around that tower and saw a beautiful landscape. Yes, that Sunday morning my mind was touched with many thoughts as I sat atop that high tower. Question after question arose in my mind because I was seeing things from a perspective from which I had never before seen them.

Psalm 144:1-2 lists numerous characteristics of God. One of those characteristics pictures God as our high tower. As we draw ourselves closer to God, closer to His Son, and closer to His fellowship, we begin to see things from God's perspective. No longer do we look at things through our own human eyes, but we look at things through the eyes of Someone greater. We have new insight and a new perspective through which to look.

VIEWING PEOPLE

Our view of people around us is so often limited. Many find themselves so rushed in life that they don't have time to really see the needs of others nearby. We rush from home, to work, to the store, and back home again with very little time to get involved in knowing our neighbors. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:39b) seems to be a practice that has passed with time. A card when a neighbor has problems, a call on the telephone just to show some concern, or a pie to let it be known that we are interested all seem to be great

ways of expressing love, but they also are somewhat unpracticed. If our insight was only similar to God's, we would find ourselves reaching out to our neighbors in order that they might see the love of Christ.

By looking through God's eyes we also find that we see lost people from a different perspective. It is easy as we glance around us with our own limited view, to see one or two lost neighbors, and perhaps we set out to win them through our actions or through our words. But let us pause for a moment and look at the lost through the eyes of God Himself. Millions and millions of people are out in the world lost without Christ and destined to spend an eternity in hell. It is up to us as Christians to supply whatever means necessary to reach each precious soul—yes, those many souls for Christ. Standing on the ground, our view is somewhat blocked, but the closer we get to the top of a high tower, the more our vision expands and the more people we see.

The closer we draw to our High Tower, God, the more open our vision becomes. Only as our vision expands will we see in reality our responsibility to win the lost. We will see the important need of supporting missions with our finances. Prayer for missions and missionaries will become a part of our daily lives. Luxuries will be sacrificed in order that we might give to win the lost. Finally, we will commit our own lives to Christ to be used as missionaries if it is His will. Each Christian can fulfill the deep responsibility of bring-

ing souls to Christ as he sees and acts from God's perspective.

VIEWING PROBLEMS

Often as we are faced with problems we look at them through human eyes and become worried or angry. We wonder how those problems are going to work out and why they have come our way. "Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6). Be anxious for nothing? How? As we see worries and problems from God's eyes we realize that everything is working out for our good to help us grow in the Lord. By looking through the Father's perspective we will see opportunities, not difficulties. We will see solutions and answers to prayers, not problems.

Let us climb our High Tower and see those stammering problems from God's eyes. Then we will see problems that want to draw us into a closer, deeper fellowship with our Lord and Savior. Let us see problems which will help us grow and which will help us reach other people for Christ.

VIEWING POSSESSIONS

Our material possessions are another thing which we look at inappropriately through our own eyes. We see what we have in our homes, and we thank the Lord for giving them to us to use and enjoy. But seen through the eyes of our Saviour, we realize that

those material possessions were given to us to share with others and to minister to others. Perhaps that food was given to you, not just for your consumption, but to invite others over and to witness to them for Christ. And then what about that neighbor who wants to borrow some small tool such as a hammer or maybe even a lawnmower? Whatever it may be, it is not your own. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above..." (James 1:17a). Our possessions are God's, and He wants us to use them to minister to others and to love them to Christ.

VIEWING PROSPECTS

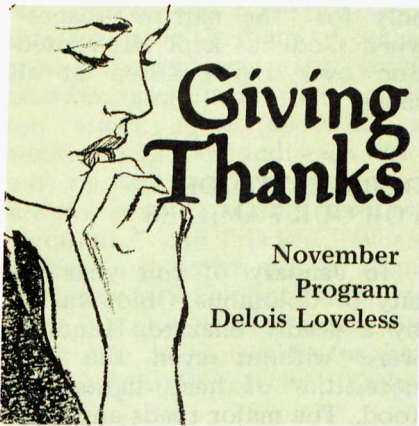
What about the future? There are so many times that we have doubted and wondered what God wanted us to do. There are a great number of things that many of us would like to do, but only one can be done. So many times as we look at the future through our mixed up, confused eyes, we become depressed, and we seem to wonder more and more what we will be doing a year from now. But praise God, we do not have to look at the future through our eyes. We can look at it through His eyes and see a God who loves us, a God who does not want us to go wrong, and a God who says, "You be willing to do my will, and I will make sure that you know what it is."

In Psalm 32:8 David assures us of this promise when he pictures God saying, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee

with mine eyes." How thrilling it is to know that there is someone to trust, someone to share our doubts with, and someone who knows the future and knows just how to bring it to pass.

Think back to the time when you were a small child. Chances are each time you did something wrong, your father or mother would go out, get a switch off a tree, and then come in and whip you. This is not a pleasant thought. At least, it wasn't then. Children often hear the remark that parents punish them only because they love them. When you were a child, you would not believe that statement for anything. In no way could you see your parents punishing you because they loved you, for you were looking at your behavior through the eyes of a child. But now as you look back on your childhood, you are glad for the parental punishment. You can see that punishment through the eyes of an adult. There is a different perspective. Thus, the occurrence of that punishment seems today only to have been worthwhile.

The same is true when we climb that High Tower, when we draw ourselves unto God and when we grow closer to Him. We can learn to see each person, each problem, each possession, and each prospect through the eyes of Someone who knows and understands our all. Looking at things through our eyes makes them seem bothersome, worthless, or frightening, but looking at things through the eyes of Christ and letting Him be our High Tower, everything can seem worthwhile.



Purpose: *To remind us of the importance and meaning of true thanksgiving.*

Song: "Come Ye Thankful People"

Scripture: Psalm 100:3-5

See Program Help Packet

AN ELDERLY mother was bedridden with her final illness. The three married children, two sons and a daughter, were called to her bedside. Conscious, but weak, the mother smiled weakly at them. One of the sons bent over and said, "You've been a good mother." With a sigh, the mother whispered, "Do you mean that?" "Of course you have," all three joined in. The mother's voice came again very faintly, "I didn't know. You never said it before, and I didn't know."

How sad that a mother could live out her life and wait until the aging shadows were lengthening before hearing a word of appreciation from her children. Yet some people live a long while before they ever say thanks to God or man for divine favors or human kindness.

GRATITUDE VS. INGRATITUDE

Several ancient proverbs speak of thanklessness: "As soon as you have drunk you turn your back on the spring;" "Gratitude is the least of virtues, ingratitude the worst of vices;" "Unthankfulness is theft" (Martin Luther).

The apostle Paul, listing the stages in man's descent from true knowledge of God to vile wickedness, placed thanklessness as the fountainhead of other sins. He wrote, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful" (Romans 1:21).

Dictionaries tell us that the primary sense of "thank" is "thought." If someone does you a favor, in response you have a kind thought which may prompt expression in word or deed.

How easy in our blessed America with its abundance to somehow conclude that all these things—our bank accounts, our furniture, our cars, our appliances, our homes, our jobs—we earned by our initiative, our own ingenuity, our own industry! If only we would pause to ponder, we would quickly recognize that it is God who gives the strength and power to get wealth. Then we would thank Him and live a life of gratitude.

"Thanksgiving" consists of two parts; thanks and giving. We may give without thanking, but we cannot thank without eventually giving.

There are two kinds of giving; forced and free. Forced giving says, "I have to give. It is my duty." Free giving says, "I want

to give. I'm so thankful." The first has no song, though it may give all its goods to feed the poor. The second flows from a full heart. Thanks leads to giving.

OUR GRATITUDE FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS

The biggest insult to Jesus Christ is failure to thank Him for dying on the cross to provide your salvation. Christ is God's greatest gift. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son" (John 3:16).

All through the Bible are scriptures that relate our need to be thankful. "Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness" (Psalm 30:4). "O give thanks unto the lord;" "Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth" (Psalm 100:1,5).

How often David poured out his heart in gratitude for his protection of life. "He delivereth me from mine enemies: Yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man. Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the heathen, and sing praises unto his holy name" (Psalm 18:48, 49).

Once a man related his miraculous escape from a burning commercial liner in which several fellow passengers had perished. A friend replied, "I have an even more remarkable experience. I have taken that same flight, not once, but many times. There has never been a crash, fire, or loss of a single life. I think I have greater cause for thanksgiving."

Yes, sometimes we thank Him only for "the narrow escapes" when God has kept His protection over His children at all times.

OUR GRATITUDE FOR OUR FAMILIES

In January of this year the city of Columbus, Ohio, was hit by a deadly blizzard. Hundreds were without even the bare necessities of heat, lights, and food. The major roads and highways were closed for days. All businesses were closed. The city was in a paralyzed state. Where was the blessing in this terrible time? What was there to be thankful for? These questions were asked by many.

First, the snow and the closing of schools and places of employment gave families a chance to be together. It was a good time to talk, pray and study God's Word. As it is families have so little time together. It was also a time to slow down and visit with God.

During this great storm neighbors helped each other—even strangers! Homes with heat were opened to those who were without. No one expected pay for their service. Just a thank you was enough.

The storm of '78 was terrible and the roads were very bad, but the Lord gets our praise for all things; the good and the bad.

At a Thanksgiving dinner in New York a mother said, "The holiday will take on an added meaning because my three year-old son will give me a morning kiss, something he has just learned to do." A victim of cerebral

palsy from birth, with no muscular control, the boy had been learning with the help of therapists to control arms, legs, facial muscles, and back. Able to sit up, crawl, move about in a walker, help feed and wash himself, he had just been taught to say a few words: "no," "more," "momma," and "daddy." When taught to press his lips to form the letter "b" he also learned to kiss. "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever" (Psalm 136:1).

Parental love deepens and lengthens through the long duration of infancy and childhood. Parents wish to watch their offspring grow, see his first smile, cut his first tooth, take his first step, speak his first word. Parents delight in hearing a child ask, "Tell me a story." Parents enjoy the good feeling inside when little ones, hurt in a fall, run to them for comfort and then smile through their tears.

One family recently viewed home movies of their children that had been lost over fifteen years. What a change! Yes, but what a joy. From laughter to tears, but greater the sense of accomplishment. Parenthood is a blessing from God.

OUR GRATITUDE FOR FRIENDS

Because God made us social creatures we should be thankful for friends. As we prepare for our Thanksgiving dinner we will invite friends to share our meals. It doesn't really matter what we eat. It will be delicious because of the fellowship we share.

Thank God for you,
good friend of mine,
Seldom is friendship
such as thine;
How very much I wish to be
As helpful as you've
been to me.
Thank God for you!
When I recall from
time to time
How you inspired this
heart of mine,
I find myself inclined
to pray,
"God bless my friend this
very day—"

Thank God for you!
So often at the throne
of grace
There comes a picture
of your face
And then instinctively
I pray
That God may guide you
all the way—
Thank God for you!
Someday I hope to stand
Before the throne at
God's right hand,
And say to you at
journey's end,
Praise God, you've been
to me a friend—
Thank God for you!

Anonymous
Gratitude to friends is something so seldom given. Yet gratitude is something of which we cannot give too much.

The four deadly "d's"—disappointment, discouragement, depression, and defeat—can be overcome by thankfulness. The grateful Christian cannot be beaten. By living above the circumstances he becomes more than a conqueror. "If you're thankful for everything, nothing can get you down."

MISSIONS OUTREACH

Bob Shockey

WHAT IS A MISSIONARY?

1. A missionary doctor working in a hospital in Africa.
2. A Bible translator working with a national to translate the Bible into his native language.
3. A teacher at a missionary school in Mexico.
4. A construction worker directing the work in the Virgin Islands through the National in building a church.
5. A literature worker in Spain distributing Gospels to the people in the villages.
6. A student witnessing for Christ to the students on the beaches in Florida and other areas of the country.
7. A high school student sharing the Scriptures with a friend and inviting him in to a Bible group.
8. A young person reading the Scriptures to an elderly person to bring the love of Christ to a discouraged heart.
9. People reaching out to share Christ with someone who doesn't know Him.

Yes, what is a missionary? A missionary is a Christian involved in sharing the love of Jesus and the message of salvation in Him at home, at school, and even to

the ends of the earth. Now, are you a missionary? Would you like to be?

The term "missionary" means different things to different people. When we say "missions" or "missionary" we are talking about sharing the Gospel. So we could say a missionary is one who actively shares the Gospel—one who shares his faith by giving witness to other people. Didn't Jesus Himself say that we are to be witnesses to the uttermost part of the earth?

Perhaps the first two questions to ask are, "Does the world still need missionaries? Are there a lot of people who are unsaved in these days when there are so many opportunities to hear the Gospel?"

Where are the people who need to be saved? Are they in unevangelized countries? Are they in ghettos or in big cities? Or perhaps in your own neighborhood, too?

WHO IS LOST?

Think of some of your friends. Who among them are Christians? Who are lost? The thing about being lost is that you don't have to do anything. You don't have to go out and rob a bank, steal or

even lie to be lost. All you have to do is be born.

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12).

If you think about what being lost really means it will shake you up. Consider what Paul said to the Thessalonians, "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (II Thessalonians 1:7-9). Think about these words: "forever separated from God."

Now after we think about what it means to be lost, we do need to recognize that there is only one way to be saved, and that is to know Jesus Christ as personal Savior. No wonder the Bible says in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." You see, God wants to give each one eternal life and that is through the Lord Jesus Christ, because we are told in Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth His love to-

ward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." Now, do you know what that means? "But God commendeth his love toward us" means that God proved his love toward us by giving Christ to die for us. No wonder the Bible says, "But what saith it? The Word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach: That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart, (or with all of your heart or all that you are) that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:8-10). "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). Your name can be placed where the word "whosoever" is used and you can be saved. So, if you haven't received Jesus Christ you are lost. You are on your way to forever being separated from God if this is true. However, if you have been saved and you do know Him as your Savior, you can be a witness and share Him with someone else. That's what this is all about, sharing your faith in Jesus Christ.

SHARING YOUR FAITH

After you have known Jesus Christ as your Savior, share Him with others. Sharing Him with others is a very natural thing and it can be a natural thing for you. Your life needs to be filled with the Spirit of God. Be sure you

are sharing your faith in the power of the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to fill your life daily and make you a witness for Him. Read how the Apostle Paul shared his faith with the people in Romans 1:1-7.

After Paul had been a missionary for some time and was at Miletus, on what turned out to be his last trip to Jerusalem, he sent for the elders at Ephesus and when they arrived he told the new men "though, from the first day that I set foot in Turkey until now I have done the Lord's work humbly, and with tears—and have faced grave danger from the Jews' plot against my life. Yet, I have never shrunk from telling you the truth, even publicly or in your homes. I have one message for Jews and Gentiles alike, the necessity of turning from sin to God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ." Then Paul reminded them that he was on the way to Jerusalem and drawn irresistibly by the Holy Spirit. That's how God wants us to do it. He wants us to be witnesses through the power of the Holy Spirit, to share our faith with others in the Lord Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S FIELD

When Jesus told the disciples that they were to be witnesses, He indicated that they were to begin at home and then to branch out from Jerusalem into all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

Has the task been completed in the almost two thousand years

that have occurred? It seems that the spread of the Gospel has not kept pace with the population growth. How does the world stand today? Is there any missionary work left to do? Here are some statistics that point to the need.

There are more than three million villages in the world today without the Gospel message. More than half of the people in the world have never heard the gospel one single time. The Bible is still waiting to be translated into two thousand languages. At the present rate this will take over one hundred and fifty years. Missionary personnel is shrinking at the rate of 25% at every decade while world population is exploding.

Canada, to the north of us is the second largest country in the world; exceeded only in land area by Russia, it is almost as large as all of Europe! Almost all of its more than 20 million inhabitants live within two hundred miles of the United States border. Its population is of French and English ancestry, with about 230,000 Indians and 16,000 Eskimos added. Canada has two official languages, English and French. In the Province of Quebec, French is spoken almost entirely. A total of 8,400,000 Canadians are Catholics and two and one-half million belong to the Anglican church. There are 285,000 Jews. This makes a total of more than 75% of the people who have never heard the Gospel! Canada is a wide open field to which we need to look. Free Will Baptists have absolutely no organized churches in Canada at this time.

To the south lies the country of Mexico with a population of more than 53 million. Ninety-nine percent of these are Catholic and in the remaining one percent both Jews and cults are found. If Jesus were to come now almost one hundred percent of the people of Mexico who have reached the age of accountability would be lost. Our hearts have been heavy for years over the country of Mexico. Such a great need lies among some of the most tender-hearted people who have ever listened to a Gospel message, and yet, there don't seem to be many people going to this part of the continent. Oh, please pray that Jim Williams will be able to reach more souls in Mexico. Our hearts hunger for the day when the Mexicans can hear the Gospel as freely as we hear it today in the United States.

Did you know that Free Will Baptists have approximately 2,400 churches located primarily in the South and Southeast of our country. Ten states are without any Free Will Baptist churches at all. These are North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Nevada, Utah, Wisconsin, New York, Vermont, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. In these states Free Will Baptists are doing absolutely nothing to reach the people with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Six states have only one Free Will Baptist church and 14 states have only eight or less. So, Free Will Baptists are basically found in 20 states and each of these twenty states have entire counties without Free Will Baptist churches. For instance, we are told by our

new director that the state of Georgia has 109 counties void of Free Will Baptist churches. South Carolina has 46 counties and 26 of these have no Free Will Baptist churches.

A closer look will reveal that many areas are neglected by other denominations as well, leaving many of the 220 million Americans without the Gospel. Not one American in ten is a Christian, not one in a thousand is Free Will Baptist, and only one church out of five is preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our country really needs the Gospel. But the field is still even greater.

Communism still controls over a billion people. This is almost one-third of the world's population.

One of the largest fields in the world is Asia where there are over 300 million Moslems, over 300 million Confucianists, and nearly 400 million Hindus. Among these vast throngs there are only about ten million protestants. About 30,000 people die every day in India without knowing Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Africa has a population of over 300 million with only 3% Christians. In Europe, where Protestantism began, only $\frac{1}{2}$ of one percent of Portugal's nine million people are what we call true adherents to the Gospel. France has 49 million people, and in thousands of towns there is no Gospel witness. Spain is 99% Roman Catholic. Australia, with a population of eight million, is 90% Roman Catholic.

Who is going to win the lost in these countries to Jesus Christ? Will you be a missionary?

December Program
Joanne King

Let Us Honor Mary

Purpose: *To give Mary due recognition and see what qualities she possessed that we should incorporate into our own lives.*

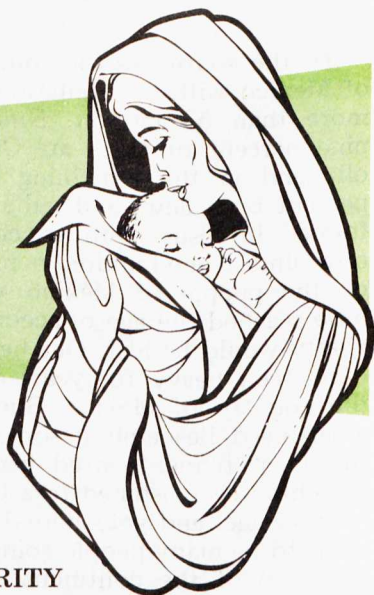
Song: *"There's a Song in the Air" or "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"*

Scripture: *Luke 1:26-38*

See Program Help Packet

PERHAPS as Protestants we place Mary on too common a level. The reason for this is probably a reaction against the high honors heaped on her by the Roman Catholic Church. One New York City preacher stated that out of 433 Catholic churches and chapels in Rome, 121 were dedicated to Mary and only 15 to Christ. Someone has suggested that Catholic school Christmas programs would be better entitled "Mary Christmas."

Protestants search the Scriptures and do not discover this exalted Mary, so we swing the pendulum from one extreme to another, failing to give Mary the commendation due her. Christmas sermons on Biblical characters frequently omit her, but she deserves proper recognition. The angel Gabriel exclaimed, "Blessed art thou among women" (Luke 1:28).



PURITY

Mary's best known title today is still the VIRGIN Mary, for her most outstanding quality was purity. Her town of Nazareth lay in the path of the caravans going from Capernaum to the seaports. There were many girls Mary's age who had affairs with the traveling men of these caravans. We are told that they would put bright ribbons in their hair and flirt with these merchants. Mary refused to be a part of this and it may have been that the others told her that she was old-fashioned and was missing something. Maybe they said, "You're only young once, Mary. Have your fling." But Mary chose to remain pure, and God blessed her for her purity.

Studies indicate today that a sizeable percentage of girls do not maintain their purity until marriage. Society no longer frowns on free promiscuity among young people. Many have lowered their standards and loose behavior is acceptable. But these

standards do not come from the Bible. The God of Heaven still seeks the chaste pure woman to use and to reward.

SUBMISSION

The second outstanding quality that Mary possessed was submission. When the angel announced to her that she was to bear a son, not of her espoused husband, Joseph, but of the Holy Spirit, what was her answer? "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38). What submission! She could have given many objections which any of us would have understood. To be sure she could have said, "I am unworthy. My family has no social or political standing. We are too poor to rear the Son of God. He deserves the best. And there is Joseph. He might not believe my story and disgrace me publicly. Lord, I love Joseph and I cannot give him up." But Mary chose to be submissive to God's will and put nothing before Jesus, even before His birth. And how many of us today need to pray, "Yea, Lord, help me overcome my stubborn, self-willed ways. Give me Mary's submission that I might be used of Thee."

HOMEMAKER

Another lovely quality that Mary had was her willingness to be a homemaker. We do not believe that she came from a wealthy family. It was the custom in the Hebrew home that all members helped in the chores.

No doubt Mary was acquainted with toil. She probably had rough hands from helping with the grinding of the grain. She frequently did the family laundry near the public well. She too had carried the water pitcher on her head. No doubt she babysat with younger sisters or brothers and had wrapped a newborn babe in swaddling clothes. She was ready at marriage to pitch right in with the household chores. Her family numbered at least nine; including father, mother, Jesus, four other sons and at least two daughters. This meant nine to feed at every meal, nine to wash and care for—and no automatic washer, dryer, dishwasher, micro wave oven, or modern plumbing. In the day that God sought the woman to be the mother of Jesus, He wanted an industrious homemaker—a keeper at home. In this day of working women it might not be easy to find a woman who possessed this one admirable quality that Mary possessed.

SECRET-KEEPER

Can you keep a secret? Mary had the unusual ability to keep things to herself. She never bragged to neighbors and friends that angels sang the night her child was born or that her child was special and would grow up to be an important man. But the Bible says, "Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19).

Too easily we reveal some confidence or report some idle rumor. Someone said, "If you must gossip, tell your tale to

someone who will not tell anyone else, like an old-fashioned wooden Indian or your dog."

A lady known for her gossip approached the pastor after church. "I'd like to place my tongue on the altar." Knowing her too well, he replied, "I'd like to help you, but the altar is only fifteen feet long." But Mary possessed the rare grace which enabled her to control her tongue.

SUFFERER

Mary knew what it was to suffer agony of spirit. At the time of Jesus' arrest Mary was on the outskirts of the crowd when it shouted, "Crucify Him!" She saw the soldiers nail Him to the cross. A sword pierced her own soul as it had many times, but never like this time as she saw her boy hanging on the cross, slowly dying.

Amazingly, she never raised her voice in His defense. Why did she not make some plea to save his life? Did she love Jesus less than other mothers love their sons? No, but she knew He was different. He was uniquely born, wise beyond measure and the possessor of a miraculous power. He was destined to be the Savior. She willingly let him die, for this is the way He was to be the Redeemer.

Mothers, are you willing to give your child to the Lord's work so that others might become Christians? If mothers give their boys to fight overseas, should not Christian mothers be willing to give their sons to bring tidings of peace to the heathen across the oceans?

Give of thy sons to bear
the message glorious,
Give of thy wealth to speed
them on their way;
Pour out thy soul for them
in prayer victorious;
And all thou spendest Jesus
will repay.

So let us honor Mary for her purity, her submission to her God, her faithful homemaking, her ability to keep secrets, and her sacrificial spirit which led her to give up her beloved Son that others' sons and daughters might be saved.

As we honor Mary, let us not forget that she was a sinner and needed a Savior as everyone does. She will be in heaven, not because Jesus was her child, but because He was her Savior.

Our Christmas Prayer

Dear Father,

Our minds are once again overwhelmed by the fact of your love—love that gave your Son, our Savior, to a sin-filled, unwelcoming world. Our hearts are warmed by the simple message of a baby's birth and stirred by the miracle of a virgin birth and incarnate Lord. Our souls are challenged to purity, to submission to your perfect will, to sacrificial giving. As we strive to follow the example of Mary may we spread the life, the meaning of Christmas to a lost mankind. Grant that we may replace darkness with light, despair with hope, grief with joy, and hatred with your love.
Amen.

State Missions Season of Prayer
Sharon Bennett
See Program Help Packet

MESSAGE from a MISSIONARY

Everyone wants to lead a rich, fulfilling life. I've wanted to lead a meaningful life since I was a child. I had always dreamed of being a pastor's wife, a missionary, or a full-time Christian worker in whatever area God chose. Matthew 16:25 says, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." I feel, and I know, that I have found that "life." It's not just an existence, it's LIFE, the more abundant life that only Jesus can give.

To backtrack . . .

IN THE BEGINNING

I, as well as my husband, was brought up in mission work. We both became Christians at an early age. Our parents taught us by their own examples how to live for God. My parents helped start the first Free Will Baptist Church in New Mexico and Harley's parents helped start the first one in Idaho. Harley and I met for the first time at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

After getting married and graduating from college we moved to Goldsboro, North Carolina, to work with Brother Frank Davenport at Faith Free Will Baptist Church. I could not understand why God wanted us to move there, but we followed

His leading and now I can understand. We were to spend six of the most important years of our lives there. While there we were involved in the Christian school, the music program, junior church, the bus ministry, visitation, summer camp, teacher training, business managing, and Sunday school. We learned by doing, as well as by observing.

In the summer of 1975 at youth camp the Lord began dealing with Harley about becoming a pastor. Harley answered the call, and immediately the Lord laid Idaho on his heart. Our next step was to call Home Missions. To make a long story short; we were approved, our support was raised, and after a sad farewell we were on our way to Idaho.

YESTERDAY

*Got any rivers you think are
uncrossable?*

*Got any mountains you can't tunnel
through?*

*God specializes in things thought
impossible;*

He does the things others cannot do.

Oscar Eliason

We crossed the physical rivers and mountains fine, but what an awesome feeling to arrive in Pocatello, look at the field white unto harvest, and know God wanted to use us there. We were so unworthy. The people across America were giving of their money and prayers for us. God was counting on us. Home Missions had faith in us. The lost of Pocatello needed us to share the Gospel with them. We were certainly thankful for the promises in God's Word that He would

bless us. Proverbs 3:5-6 promises that God will direct our paths. I Corinthians 15:58 tells us that we can know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. And II Corinthians 12:9 assures us that His grace is sufficient, for His strength is made perfect in weakness.

After arriving in Pocatello, we bought a mobile home, got settled, and tried to adjust. What a drastic change we were going through. No wonder our stomachs were upset for such a long time! In Goldsboro we had lived on the church campus. All our neighbors were dedicated Christians. Our children had gone to a Christian day care and kindergarten. We attended a church that was averaging in the 500's. Now here we were in what seemed to us a heathen, God-forsaken land. When the telephone rang we assumed someone had dialed the wrong number. We were lonely, scared, and anxious, but we trusted the Lord and started visiting.

We enrolled Christy in the Lutheran school which brought us many disappointments, but one special blessing. We were able to rent the basement of the school in which to hold our meetings. We still thank God for that. It had a piano, a pulpit and many folding chairs. Some Sundays we would use several of the chairs, while other Sundays we only needed four. But through it all, God did not let us become too discouraged.

The following January God moved on the heart of a very faithful Christian family to move to Pocatello and help us in our new work. The Stephensons,

Jack and Valerie, proved to be a real blessing to us. Many encouraging things began to happen. Our friends from Goldsboro would call and encourage us; our families, as well as Christians throughout Idaho, were a tremendous blessing. The Home Missions staff was always ready to help. And the fact that so many were giving to our account and praying for us told us we must press on. One by one the Lord began to add to our group. A young Christian from Wisconsin started attending our church. Soon her husband was saved. We still continue to be blessed as we see them growing in the Lord. I could mention so many that we have seen give themselves to the Lord, some for the first time and others in the form of rededication. Got any rivers? Yes, but they are not uncrossable! Luke 18:27 says "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

TODAY

*With eternity's values in view, Lord,
With eternity's values in view,
May I do each day's work for Jesus
With eternity's values in view.*

Alfred B. Smith

God has prepared us for a work, we are where He wants us to be; so now we must ask, "What does God want me to do now—today? This is not a question just for missionaries or full-time Christian workers. This is a question that all of us should ask the Lord daily.

We now have in the high 30's

attending every Sunday. We have four Sunday school classes, a woman's auxiliary, five adults who attend visitation every week, a rest home ministry, and the most wonderful people in the world to minister to. It's hard to look back now and think we were ever lonely. It's not so hard to look back on our discouragement, because we still have to battle that at times. Sometimes we are discouraged because we do not have a larger number, or because we do not win more to the Lord, or because some are not growing in the Lord as we long for them to. And just as you, we become discouraged when we do not discipline ourselves and do as we know we should. No one is here to make us punch a time clock or do our work a certain way, but we must say as the chorus goes, "May I do each day's work for Jesus, with eternity's values in view."

TOMORROW

*I know who holds the future and I
know who holds my hand.
With God things don't just happen;
everything by Him is planned.
So as we face tomorrow, with its
problems large and small,
I'll trust the God of miracles,
give to Him my all.*

Alfred B. Smith

What's going to happen tomorrow and the next day and the next? Aren't you glad God knows and cares, and He has it all worked out? All we need to do is follow Him today. "Commit thy way unto the Lord: trust also in him: and he shall bring it to pass" (Psalm 37:5). "Thou

wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

What we need to do as missionaries is really the same that you need to do as fellow Christians. First of all, we need to follow Matthew 22:37 where it says "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." This is then followed by verse 39 of the same chapter, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:39).

In addition, all Christians need to pray. "Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually" (I Chronicles 16:11). We need to continually study God's Word as II Timothy 2:15 admonishes, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." We all also need to witness by our actions as well as our words.

We need to build Christian homes and train our children in the ways of the Lord. We are to trust our problems to the Lord as Psalm 37:3-5 puts it so beautifully. We should always show the Lord we are thankful for what He has blessed us with.

Last, but certainly not least, we need to hold one another up in prayer. I need to pray for you as you pray for me. We should never forget our missionaries, pastors, and leaders of our denomination. Pray for those you know personally, and as you pray for those you don't know, remember God knows them, as well as their needs, and He will answer your prayers.

Prayer Group Programs

by Pat Thomas

OCTOBER

Now that fall is here, children are back in school, and the holiday season is approaching; it is a good time for Christian women to get back to keeping a time schedule. Would you like more time for Bible study and prayer? Do you wish for more time to keep a cleaner house? Do you desire more time to train your children? The answer is a time schedule. Use the twenty-four hours per day that you have more wisely. Why is it that some women seem to get everything done so efficiently? Do they have 25 hours in each day? No—they just discipline themselves to use the time wisely that God has given to each person.

Print some time schedules for your use so that you can face each day with a purpose, with the time all planned out wisely to give direction to all the many things you must do throughout the day. Take about five minutes each night before you retire to make out your time schedule for the next day. Plan what you are going to have in your private scripture reading and devotions the next morning. Plan what you are going to prepare for each meal the next day and lay out frozen meat to thaw that may be

needed for those meals. Write down special household chores that must be done and make a list of any appointments that need to be filled. Divide the household chores so that no one day is packed too heavily with difficult tasks.

Divide the household tasks up among family members. Let the children make their own beds, clean their own rooms, empty the trash, shake the rugs, clean off their own place settings from the table, and assist with doing the dishes. The husband should take care of the lawn and heavier household tasks. With all the family working together, keeping all items in place, hanging up clothes, and sharing the cleaning tasks; the house can stay straightened and clean at all times. With each family member living this kind of disciplined life, there will be more time for family fellowship, worship, and playing together, and less time for disagreements, confusion, and an atmosphere of continued harassment. Christian homes should reflect lives that are serene with the peace of God.

Pray for three new home missionary couples: Rev. and Mrs. Bob Lewis, Williamsburg, Virginia; Rev. and Mrs. Glenn Poston, Millington, Tennessee; and Rev. and Mrs. Ernest Harrison, Jr., interim missionaries to Dalton, Georgia.

Pray for Rev. Roy Thomas, new General Director of the National Home Missions Department, and Mr. Trymon Messer, the new Associate Director.

Pray for the many converts who have been won since the

first of this year in the village of Tanda where Archie and Sarah Mayhew are ministering.

NOVEMBER

November is National Home Missions month in the Free Will Baptist denomination. During this month special emphasis is given to the cause of National Home Missions through study courses, prayer meetings, and special services in Free Will Baptist churches across America. Special offerings are given, especially on National Home Missions Sunday, November 19; and many churches adopt special projects, such as helping a missionary's account that is in the red or giving a large offering to help get a new missionary to the field.

National Home Missions is the work of starting new Free Will Baptist churches in areas where there are none in the North American continent. This includes all fifty states, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Some missionaries are designated *National Home Missionaries*, working solely under the National Home Missions Board, while others are designated *Joint Project Workers*, who are sponsored jointly by the National Home Missions Board and a state or district mission board.

National Home Missionaries working solely under the National Home Missions Board are:

Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Barron,
Guadalajara, Mexico
Rev. and Mrs. Harley Bennett,
Pocatello, Idaho

Rev. and Mrs. Ron Dail, Virgin
Islands
Rev. and Mrs. Sanford Davis,
Temple, Texas
Rev. and Mrs. Jesse Dunn, Salem,
Oregon
Rev. and Mrs. Bob Francis, St.
Paul, Minnesota
Rev. and Mrs. Charles Harris,
Northglenn, Colorado
Rev. and Mrs. Robert Helms,
Evansville, Indiana
Rev. and Mrs. Butch Johns, San
Diego, California
Rev. and Mrs. Larry Russell,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Rev. and Mrs. Bob Thomas,
Greeley, Colorado
Rev. and Mrs. Mark Vandivort,
Flagstaff, Arizona
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Williams,
Monterrey, Mexico
Rev. and Mrs. Bill Adkisson, Des
Moines, Iowa

Please remember to pray for these fourteen couples. Most of them are working in isolated places where there are few Free Will Baptist churches. There are also 19 couples working as Joint Project Workers. These will be listed in the December program. Please pray for the work of these 33 couples employed by the National Home Missions Department. Also remember to pray that God would send forth laborers into the ten states in our country that have no Free Will Baptist churches.

Pray for the Jim Williams family as they make efforts to reopen the Bible Institute in Monterrey, Mexico, that God will provide finances, students, and needed materials and equipment.

Pray for the National Home

Missions Board meeting November 13-15 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Remember the Free Will Baptist missionary kids—"M.K.'s"—who are attending school at Bouake in Ivory Coast, West Africa.

DECEMBER

As mentioned in the November prayer program, *Joint Project Workers* are home missionaries who are sponsored jointly by the National Home Missions Board and a state or district mission board. There are approximately 19 couples employed by the National Home Missions Board as Joint Project Workers. They are:

Rev. and Mrs. David Bigger,
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Rev. and Mrs. Buddy Drake,
Enid, Oklahoma

Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Gore,
Jackson, Mississippi

Rev. and Mrs. Burt Hall,
Wheeling, West Virginia

Rev. and Mrs. Ernest Harrison,
Jr., Dalton, Georgia

Rev. and Mrs. Wallace Hayes,
Lebanon, Tennessee

Rev. and Mrs. John Hollis,
Kankakee, Illinois

Rev. and Mrs. Norlin Jones,
Daytona Beach, Florida

Rev. and Mrs. Bob Lewis,
Williamsburg, Virginia

Rev. and Mrs. Vergel Maness,
Wilmington, Delaware

Rev. and Mrs. Steve Nichols,
Greenwood, Mississippi

Rev. and Mrs. J. D. Norris, Jr.,
Tallahassee, Florida

Rev. and Mrs. Glenn Poston,
Millington, Tennessee

Rev. and Mrs. Larry Powell,
McAllen, Texas

Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Presley,
Memphis, Tennessee

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Reid, Green-
wood, South Carolina

Rev. and Mrs. Arnold Shrews-
bury, Canton, Ohio

Rev. and Mrs. Rue Dell Smith,
Shawnee Mission, Kansas

Rev. and Mrs. Jim Summerson,
Milan, Illinois

December is state missions month in the Free Will Baptist denomination. During this month special emphasis is given to missionaries working within our own states. Not only are the above 19 couples serving as state missionaries, there are also many other couples working solely under state or district boards who are not working with the National Home Missions Department.

There are also many couples employed at secular jobs to maintain a living who work to establish new churches and are not sponsored by any mission board. These also need our prayers and encouragement. These "tent makers" have established many Free Will Baptist churches across America, and are to be commended for their courage to step out on faith and do what God has commanded them.

Pray for the Foreign Missions Board meeting which will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, December 4-7. Pray as they select summer missionaries at this meeting.

With rapidly rising costs and spiraling inflation, pray that the 1978 budget of both the Foreign and Home Missions Departments will be met by the end of December.



A SUCH AS I HAVE CHRISTMAS

Gertrude Cantrell

If you were invited to a party and could only bring a gift with a personal touch, what would it be? Consider for a moment, if all you could give this Christmas was something of yourself, what would you give? If there were no stores, no charge cards, no checks or no money, what sort of Christmas would you have. Or would you just want to cancel Christmas because of "circumstances?"

Can't you just hear all the "I couldn't give anything" answers? But think about it. What resources do *you* have? Not any? Nonsense! Look inside you. Look around you. Most of all, look up above you. Rediscover or discover yourself. You might be surprised at what a truly outstanding person you really are. God thought so anyway; He sent His son to help you find the real you. And yet, many people sit around like paupers and say "I don't have any contribution to make to society at all. I don't have any talents. I don't have a thing to offer others." But this is just not so!

Close at hand and around the world there are those who are yearning, hungering, literally dying for what *you* alone are capable of providing. And we

must all give account of our stewardship and how we handle these opportunities to meet their needs. Remember, it's not your capability, but your availability that is important to God.

Money has been the dominating ruler of the universe for so long that all resources are measured against what a person possesses. To most, money is the ultimate symbol of riches, of success and attainment. For a moment let's just "devalue" the power of the dollar in terms of giving true happiness. Money has become so much easier to use to solve all our problems that we rely on it much too heavily and have lost sight of the riches within us.

What gifts could *you* give? Perhaps you can sew? Knit? Crochet? Embroider? Weave? Quilt? Macrame? No? Then keep searching. Next think of the avenues open to bestow such gifts; orphans, invalids, the elderly, the needy, your family or friends. Do you cook, even just one specialty? Then use it to its best advantage. Do you make crafts, draw, or paint? Or are you inventive and creative? Are you successful at growing things? Then give a plant, a bouquet of flowers, or a basket of fruit or vegetables. If you preserve or can, jars of homemade jams, jellies, or fruit can be given. They make wonderful gifts.

You still haven't found yourself? How about communicating? You can write letters or send cards to let people know they are not forgotten and that you care. Have you ever had the desire to jot down a description of a beautiful sunset, sunrise, or other natural beauty of exceptional quality? Was it just too lovely for you to keep to yourself? There are those who can't see who might enjoy "seeing" it through your eyes. Do you enjoy reading? Why not read aloud to the

many with eye problems or to youngsters who can't read yet? Could you visit the lonely or homebound and share your time, yourself, with those in need?

Do you like to do yard work? Wash cars? Babysit? Why not wrap presents, address cards, or trim a tree for someone unable to do so. Maybe you enjoy talking. Most of us like to do that, yet there are people literally craving the sound of a human voice, not those with whom we usually converse, those who are already busy answering calls and taking care of their business, but those who would love to be "bothered" by a ringing telephone letting them know someone cares.

Have about patience and love? The world is drying up for lack of love and affection. Countless children need homes or just a little kindness, some individual attention, shown them. They need someone who will recognize them as persons with personal wants, needs and opinions. They need someone who will listen to them when they speak and really hear what they say; someone to recognize the good within them and help them reach their full potentials. Newspapers tell us that more elementary school age children are committing suicide than ever before. The same holds true for the elderly. The underlying cause given in both instances was loneliness; the frustration at being ignored and forgotten, the feeling that no one cares for them as themselves, or who they are.

Isn't it a shame so many sit around bemoaning their lack of talents, fretting over their lack of gifts to give, when we have the most well-stocked warehouse of presents available—ourselves, and the neediest object on which to bestow them—people. May we learn to say with Peter and John, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee" (Acts 3:6).

From the Field

When Jim was in the provision closet recently he picked up a box of Corelle Ware and some matching accessories. He had gotten me place settings for four for Christmas in the same pattern, so now I have place settings for eight. It is really nice.

I'd like to know who I should thank for such a nice gift because I really do appreciate it.

*Olena McLain
Kirksville, Missouri*

We are enjoying living in France, and are having ups and downs with French study. No one ever said it would be easy... but we are learning a lot.

Let the ladies know how much I appreciate the provision closet and special surprises they do for missionaries from time to time, such as personal showers and gifts. The ladies themselves, as well as the things they have done for us, are really a blessing.

*Susan Dickens
Albertville, France*

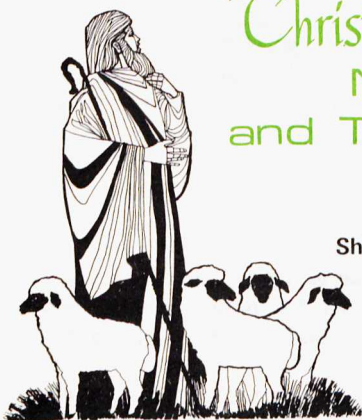
I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and WNAC for the things we received through the provision closet. I was amazed at the items collected from the woman's auxiliaries across the country. I wish I could thank each one individually for the gifts we received. It is a great help to us.

*Brenda Lewis
Williamsburg, Virginia*



Christmas Now and Then

Shirley Lee



With Thanksgiving past and December approaching we realize that Christmas is just around the corner. Christmas means various things to different people—parties, presents, food, families and friends—but to Christians everything connected with Christmas should remind us of the Savior's entrance into this sin-filled world.

The Christmas season truly is a busy time. And the hustle-bustle seems to start earlier every year. With cooking, shopping, partying, and decorating, we barely have time to wrap our packages, address our cards, and run to the play at church. It was also a busy time in Judea when Jesus was born. Everyone was returning to his own city to be taxed. Because there were so many people in Bethlehem there was no room for Mary and Joseph at an inn, and our Savior was laid in a manger of hay. And we think our homes get crowded at Christmas!

Even before Thanksgiving is past, Christmas songs and carols are heard on the radio and television. We even begin playing them in our homes to get us into the Christmas spirit. And well they might, for wasn't there music on that first Christmas night when the angels praised God and said,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14).

And how can we help but notice all the decorations? There are lights on trees, in windows, on lamp posts, in all the shopping centers and in most homes. The warm glow of candles flickers from everywhere. There were Christmas lights 2,000 years ago as well. An eastern star led the kings to the Christ child's manger. "And, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy" (Matthew 2:9, 10).

And oh, the gifts! We must not overlook anyone, especially those who will be giving us something. And of course, our gifts must be as nice and expensive as the ones we'll be receiving. The wise men started the tradition of gift-giving on that very first Christmas. "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh" (Matthew 2:11). And what about the most precious gift of all—the gift of salvation? Have we forgotten about it? Have we even attempted to give that gift to anyone? And yet, that is what Christmas is really all about.

Even when we see commercialism and corruption (and there is usually plenty of it during the holiday season) it should remind us that Jesus Christ came to change the world.

How dare any Christian become a Scrooge at this blessed season. Let's not let the world rob us of our joy at Christmas, but rather let's share it with the world. For indeed, joy has come to the world.



In His Hands

Waynelle Scott

"Tara, look here at what Mommy and Daddy brought home for you. Can you say 'hi' to your new baby sister?" Tara's eyes opened wide and looked from one of us to another, trying to comprehend just what was taking place. "Her name is Stacy. Can you say Stacy?" "A-ie," was the response. And thus, A-ie was accepted into Big Sister Tara's life.

As parents of a 21-month old little girl, we worried about how Tara would react to a new baby in our family. Would she be jealous? Would we have enough time to make both babies happy? Would she be too rough for the new baby? We need not have worried. Tara loved Stacy. She enjoyed the role of "Big Sister" and lived it for all it was worth. Tara and Stacy were our pride and joy and we thanked God for our two precious blessings.

Stacy was only four days old when she went to church for the first time. Church was a regular pattern in Stacy's life. Sunday school, morning worship, Sunday night, Wednesday night, choir practice—Stacy enjoyed them all. She even spent extra hours at the church when Mommy went to office work.

When Stacy was three weeks old we had a dedication service at the church. At that time we told God that Stacy was His to do with as He saw fit. It was our hope that Stacy might grow up to be a fine Christian young lady who could be instrumental in God's work. However, God's plan for Stacy

was not what we had hoped. Stacy had been with us for only eleven short weeks when God took her to be with Him.

Saturday morning is always a time of rush and getting ready for the day's activities in the Scott household. Saturday, November 26, 1977, was no different. The alarm clock went off and I made a comment to my husband Jerry about how good it was that both the girls were sleeping and we could get ready before waking them up. I had just finished brushing my hair when I heard Jerry's alarming cry.

"What is it? What's wrong, Honey?" I asked. I could see that he was holding Stacy in a peculiar way, and then Jerry said, "She's dead, Stacy's dead!" He turned her around so that I could see, and I let out a cry that was half-scream, half-prayer, "Oh, my God, she can't be dead!" But even as I said the words, I knew it was true. Somehow with the realization of the truth, God gave me the presence of mind to know that she was now with Him.

Tara woke up crying, afraid because of all the commotion. As I went to reassure her, I kept saying to myself and Jerry, "It's all right . . . She's with God now . . . It's all right . . . He's going to take care of everything." It was about that time I realized the fact that Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (Crib Death) had come to our home.

The next few hours passed by with a vague numbness prevailing. My

parents and brother and our pastor and his wife met us at the hospital emergency room. Our doctor checked the baby and confirmed that Crib Death had indeed taken its toll. He assured us that Stacy had not suffered. She had gone to sleep in her own little bassinet and when she woke up she was with Jesus.

Throughout the day God gave us strength and comfort we never before had known possible. Family and friends gathered at my parents' home, and we felt their prayers and support continuously.

In our family we have devotions right before bedtime every night. Our story that night was about the wise King Solomon who had to decide which woman was truly the mother of the baby brought before him. Tara loved the story and listened carefully. Then it was time to sing. One of Tara's favorite songs is "He's God the Whole World in His Hands." Just the night before as we sang it I had rocked Stacy in my arms and we sang, "He's got the little bitty babies in His hands..." Tara automatically started rocking her pretend baby so we could sing that verse. With tears in my eyes, I helped her sing, "He's got our little baby Stacy in His hands... He's got the whole world in His hands." Then we said our prayer and thanked God for taking care of Stacy for us.

Sleep was impossible for me that night. Every time I shut my eyes I could see the cold, dead body of my precious baby. My sister stayed awake with me. We talked and cried and comforted each other and, strange as it may seem, we sometimes even laughed together as we recalled the good times with little Stacy.

Finally the night passed and it was Sunday morning. Jerry and I went to church as usual, feeling the need to be with our Christian friends now more

than ever before. Our pastor seems to always have just the message we need, and that particular day was no exception.

In the afternoon my mother and I lay down for a bit of a nap in preparation for the ordeal yet to come. That evening we would see Stacy's body as it would be put to a final rest.

The funeral home was beautiful; the directors were kind and helpful. With a prayer in our hearts we went to the tiny bassinet-like casket that held the earthly tabernacle of our baby.

As I looked at the precious little baby, a sense of peace and relief flowed through my body. No longer was there any kind of turmoil in my mind, but God's peace that passeth understanding made its presence known to me. Stacy looked beautiful. She was dressed in the same little long pink dress and bonnet she had worn for her dedication service and held her own New Testament in her hand. People came and looked at her and nobody could get over how pretty and healthy she appeared. We realized that Stacy is still alive and healthy and happy. I could shed no tears for Stacy—only for myself.

Stacy was a very special baby. We still thank God for our two precious blessings. One we have with us to love and care for; the other is being taken care of in a havenly place. Our memories of Stacy are beautiful. She is one of the treasures we look forward to seeing in Heaven. In the meantime God's grace has been and always will be sufficient to meet our every need. Every day Tara throws kisses to Jesus and Stacy. She is too young to understand, but we have told her that Stacy lives with Jesus now and that He still has her "in His hands."

Stacy Leigh Scott
9-10-77 to 11-26-77



A Woman God Has Used

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13) is the motto of DeWees Evans, and with Christ on her side she is doing all sorts of things to further His kingdom.

Saved in a Missionary Baptist Church as a teenager, Mrs. Evans joined the First Free Will Baptist Church of Jesup, Georgia in 1963. Active in her church's ministry, she has taught Sunday school and CTS and has helped with Vacation Bible School. She is currently serving as church reporter and historian, and she orders flowers and has arrangements made when needed.

DeWees Evans has held various offices in her local auxiliary, including president and mission study chairman. She is now the secretary. She has served as corresponding secretary for the district and at the present time is the district field worker. In March she was honored by the South Georgia District by being chosen "Woman of the Year."

Mrs. Evans writes, "I enjoy woman's auxiliary work very much. I especially enjoy the meetings when we meet with other auxiliaries—like the district conventions, state conventions, spring workshops and retreats."

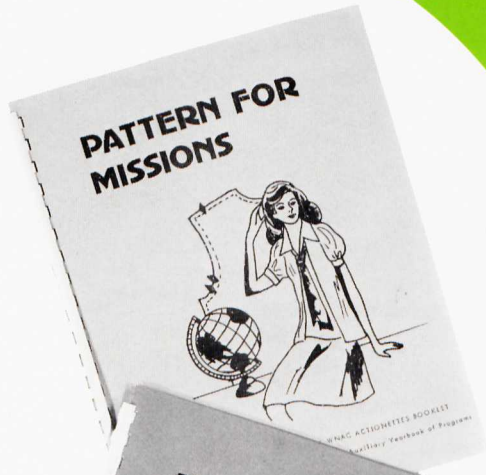
The wife of John B. Evans, DeWees is the mother of two teenage sons.



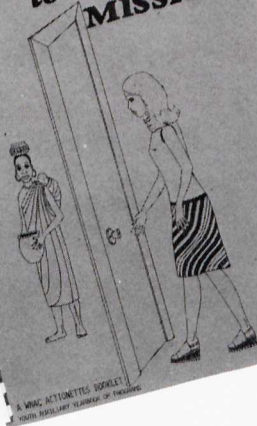
EARLY INVOLVEMENT IS THE KEY



FOR YOUR
ACTIONETTES



OPEN to
DOORS
MISSIONS



Order from WNAC
P.O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 37202



Williams



Everson



Warren



Dwyer



Deans



Bass



Cantrell



Wilson



Davidson



Tucker



Bomar



Stephens



Ross



Oglesby



Christy

CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

PROGRAMS

First Place

"Used of God"
Jean Williams
Raytown, Missouri

Second Place

"W-O-M-A-N"
Martha Everson
Colquitt, Georgia

Third Place

"Let's Purpose in
Our Hearts"
Martha Ruth Warren
Randolph,
Mississippi

Honorable Mention

"Are Your Wheels
Spinning"
Carolyn Dwyer
Amory,
Mississippi

ARTICLES

First Place

"A Lesson from Our
Feathered Friends"
Elizabeth Deans
Bailey, North Carolina

Second Place

"Please Call Me Laura"
Phyllis Bass
Jacksonville, Florida

Third Place

"Cumbered with Much
Serving"
Gertrude Cantrell
Santa Fe Springs,
California

Honorable Mention

"Christians and
Chestnuts"
Sheila Wilson
Bristol, Virginia

PLAYS/SKITS

First Place

"The Invisible Guest"
Geraldine Davidson
Stella, Missouri

Second Place

"7 Wonders of 7
Women 7 Days a Week"
Velda Tucker
Batesville, Arkansas

Third Place

"The Christian's Pests"
Connie Bomar
Fresno, California

Honorable Mention

"God's Love"
Cindy Stephens
Miami, Florida

POETRY

First Place

"The Holy Bible"
Mrs. Olive Sargent
San Antonio, Texas

Second Place

"Honor Roll"
Joan Harrison Ross
Allen, Oklahoma

Third Place

"My God Is in
Control"
Carol Oglesby
St. Louis,
Missouri

Honorable Mention

"Today"
Kathryn Christy
Ashland City,
Tennessee