

Co-Laborer

January, February, March 1979



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Co-Laborer

January, February, March 1979

Volume XIX Number 1

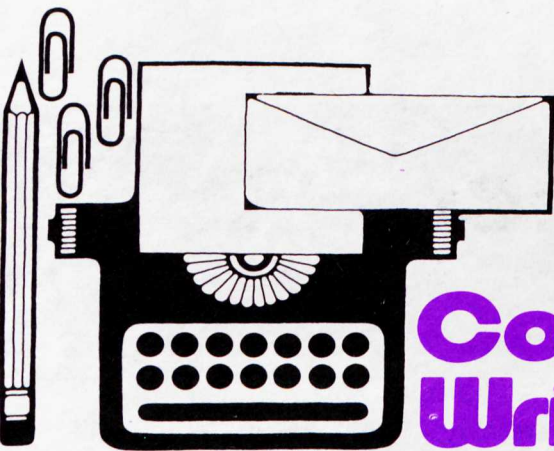
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Cleo W. Pursell, Editor-in-chief

Donna Carr, 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 \$2.25 per year; 5 or more to one address, \$2.00 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 ladies of the First Church feel so thankful, praise be to God, that we want to share our joy with others. We organized February 10, 1977, and closed the year with 24 active members. We have had so many blessings and found so many ways to help others and serve God; it's amazing.

Our special thanks to all the writers of *Co-Laborer*. They are always in our prayers.

*Alyene Collier
Springfield, Missouri*

It's with a happy heart I finally get back to you. We've organized our woman's auxiliary now with 36 members. We had a beautiful installation service in our morning worship hour one Sunday. Thank you for all your prayers and help.

*Paulette Scott
Vernon, Alabama*

Just a note to thank WNAC for the literature which you sent

our new auxiliary. We have seven members, five of whom have never been in an auxiliary before. They are thrilled and doing a great job already. Thanks for the good job you are doing.

*Eleanor Hart
Ayden, North Carolina*

We would like to praise God and thank Him for woman's auxiliary. We started two years ago and we have received many blessings from it. We also started a prayer group along with it which meets every Tuesday morning. We have received the blessing of a sweet fellowship with God and our sisters in Christ.

*Alda Santos
Union City, California*

Our woman's auxiliary is doing really well. We have grown in number and also in unity. We have visited and also made centerpieces for our nursing home here. We are very happy

with our *Co-Laborers* and program packets.

*Alice Ashford
Haure De Grace, Maryland*

We wish to thank all of you for the interesting suggestions from the help packet. They are very good and inspirational.

*Mrs. Johnny Williams
Bryan, Texas*

You do a great job in the office and we do appreciate the good work of all of you. There are no words to express how much we enjoy the *Co-Laborer* and the other materials that you have for just the asking. Thank you so much.

*Shirley Johnson
Batesville, Arkansas*

We have a new pastor here at St. James Free Will Baptist Church and our woman's auxiliary is beginning to grow. Our young girls have also increased in number and we would like to organize an auxiliary for them. We would like to say we sure do enjoy our *Co-Laborer* magazines. Keep up the good work. Thank you and may God bless you.

*Annie Ruth Richards
Phenix City, Alabama*

We would like to report that we have increased from a membership of 5 last March to a membership of 10 this year. Our little church is really growing and we are rejoicing in the glory of the Lord.

*Zatta Mouser
Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

Our ladies of Trinity Free Will Baptist Church organized a woman's auxiliary April 20th with ten present. I worked in auxiliary for about five years at another church and enjoyed it so much. The *Co-Laborer* has always been a blessing and I give credit to it and all the good writers for many spiritual uplifts.

May God continue to bless you and the staff in your efforts to serve Him.

*June Green
Aberdeen, Maryland*

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Lord for all the blessings we've shared this past year and to tell you how much we enjoy hearing from other auxiliaries through the *Co-Laborer*. Through your letters we feel we can share our blessings and also give thanks and glory to God for all He has done.

This past year we have grown from a membership of 4-5 to 8-10. There were 18 present at our last meeting. We recently had a Mother-Daughter Tea. There were 32 present and God really touched and blessed.

*Searcy First Woman's Auxiliary
Searcy, Arkansas*

Our ladies are ready to organize a woman's auxiliary. We have a fine and able group. Pray for them as they take this step forward. Thank you for your continued concern that God will have His wonderful way here in Daytona.

*Norlin D. Jones
Daytona Beach, Florida*

MEMO from CLEO

Cleo Pursell, Executive Secretary



Women Honored

Mrs. Mable (Mom) Willey was honored at the National Association in Kansas City, Missouri. Rolla Smith, Director of Foreign Missions, presented her with a plaque in appreciation for 40 years missionary service under the Foreign Mission Board.

Dr. Mary Ruth Wisehart, chairman of Free Will Baptist Bible College's English Department and WNAC Field Worker, was elected to the Historical Commission of the National Association.

Hold the Medicine Bottles

Sherwood Lee, missionary to Ivory Coast, writes that they have an ample supply of bandages and plastic medicine bottles at the present. Please do not send any more until asked to do so. There is a need for plastic syringes 5cc, 3cc and 2cc; and disposable needles, number 21 guage, 1 inch long and 1½ inches long.

Urgent Project

The Woman's Auxiliary and the Master's Men are each trying to raise support for two Ugandan students to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College. Our goals are \$3,000 each. Come on women! Don't let the men reach their goal first!

Missionary Provision Closet

We need the following items: bedspreads (twin and double), Corelle Ware, electric percolators, crock pots, and twin, queen and king size sheet sets.

Increase in *Co-Laborer*

For the first time in 5 years *Co-Laborer* magazine will have a price increase. WNAC has absorbed several price increases in paper, printing, mailing supplies and postage. Beginning with first quarter 1979 issue the prices are: Group Subscriptions, \$2.00 per subscription plus postage. Single subscriptions will be \$2.25 per year.

Women in Action



Walk-a-thon

The woman's auxiliary of Christian Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Pocola, Oklahoma, participated in a walk-a-thon and raised \$1,635 for the Earnie Deeds' vehicle fund. Although there were some tired feet and sore muscles all the ladies were in church the next day. Their banner says "We're walking so they can ride."

Banquet

Mrs. Helen Sanders was guest speaker for the mother-daughter banquet sponsored by the South Carolina Auxiliary, May 12, at the Four Seasons Restaurant in Florence, South Carolina. Approximately 200 women heard her speak on the topic, "It's Wonderful To Be A Women."

Members Honored

Effie Morris was honored for her many years of faithful service to auxiliary work at the annual mother-daughter banquet for Trinity Temple Free Will Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Nadine Hood, incoming president, presented her with a plaque, and Sherrie Romero, missions prayer chairman, dedicated a poem to her.

John West was the banquet speaker and a time of sharing was given to show the many ways that Sister Effie has helped the auxiliary and individual members.

Mrs. Morris has served consecutively for 12 years as president and vice president, program prayer chairman and study course chairman. Mrs. Morris will be directing her energies into the prayer warrior group during the upcoming year as she serves as chairman.





Mrs. Delia Adams was honored as the oldest member of the Panama Free Will Baptist Church, Panama, Oklahoma. She has been a member of the auxiliary for 15 years.

Mrs. Cissy Canady has been a member of the woman's auxiliary of Prospect Free Will Baptist Church, Dunn, North Carolina, since its beginning 42 years ago. She has held the offices of president, vice president and program chairman. She is honored as the oldest mother in Prospect as well as a charter member of the auxiliary.

Retreats

One hundred eight women met at Camp Bethel April 14-15 for the Georgia Woman's Auxiliary retreat. Here are some of their comments:

"There are no words to express the enjoyment and spiritual fellowship I received. June Critcher did a marvelous job on the messages. The Lord was real to each and every one. The only thing lacking was sleep." *Fay Ogletree*

"What a spiritual blessing we all experienced. I think every lady left the retreat with a new determination to fill her own individual place in His service." *Jewella Lovering*

"Mrs. Critcher was certainly a 'Godsend.' To describe the retreat in one word would be 'FANTASTIC.'" *Emily Harting*

The Texas State retreat was held April 28-29 at Piney Woods. Missionary Marvis Eagleton, Brazil, and Everyl Getz, Houston, spoke on "The Obedient Christian Woman in Action." Two state retreats are planned for next year.

The Illinois Woman's Auxiliary met June 16 and 17th at the Free Will Baptist campgrounds in Benton, Illinois for their state convention and prayer retreat.

The theme for the meeting was "Keys to Service" and missionary to Uruguay, Marcia Ellison, was the guest speaker. The Illinois women also honored Mrs. Ellison with an informal tea.





Maude Coffey

State and District Meetings

The South Carolina District Woman's Auxiliary Convention was held at the Sand Hill Free Will Baptist Church on February 18, 1978, with over 100 auxiliary members attending.

Gloria Floyd presided over the meeting and Mrs. Gwen Lee brought a welcome and devotions. Mrs. Maude Coffey, Nashville, Tennessee, spoke on the convention theme, "God's Banner Over Us Is Love."

"What Happens When Women Pray?" was the theme of the Texas Woman's Auxiliary Convention June 8, 1978, at the Western Hills Church in Fort Worth. Cleo Pursell, WNAC executive secretary, was guest speaker.

Ava Hellard presided over the session. The 1978-79 project is to help defray deficit accounts of Texas missionaries serving on foreign fields. One new district was received into the state convention and 79 new members reported.

The 36th annual Ohio Woman's Auxiliary Convention met June 22, 1978, at the Free Will Baptist Tabernacle in Slocum Station. 2 Corinthians 2:15a, "For we are unto God a sweet smelling savour of Christ..." served as the watchword; and the theme was "Fragrance of Love."

Devotions were given by Marcia Ellison, missionary to Uruguay, and Brenda Henderson, missionary to Washington, Ohio; and messages were brought by Arnold Shrewsbury, home missionary to Canton, Ohio, and Walter Ellison, missionary to Uruguay. Pat Thomas, wife of Roy Thomas, the general director of the National Home Missions Department, spoke at the banquet.

The Maryland Woman's Auxiliary Convention met June 23 at First Free Will Baptist Church of Bedford, Virginia. Dr. Mary Wisehart spoke on "Victory Through Faith Over the World."

As a special project the auxiliary voted to give \$100.00 to WNAC toward the purchase of a stencil maker and \$100.00 to Home Missions toward the purchase of typewriters and other machines for our home missionaries. The project for the coming year is to raise money for the education of the Franks' children in Brazil.

The Maryland Auxiliary is made up of 10 local auxiliaries and 3 districts with an active membership of 116.



Bass



Cantrell



Deans

Who's Who in this Issue



Everson



Warren



Williams

Phyllis Bass, Jacksonville, Florida, wrote "Please Call Me Laura." A pastor's wife and mother, she is president of her auxiliary, church pianist and a Sunday school teacher. She also teaches kindergarten in her church's Christian school.

Gertrude Cantrell, Santa Fe Springs, California, is program chairman of her local auxiliary and president of her district. A Sunday school teacher and member of the choir, she is also co-leader of a youth club called Outreachers for Christ.

Elizabeth Deans, Bailey, North Carolina, is a wife, mother and substitute teacher. She serves as vice president of her auxiliary and mission action chairman of the district. Mrs. Deans teaches Sunday school, works with CTS and the church choirs, and is the church pianist.

Martha Everson, Colquitt, Georgia, is the author of W—O—M—A—N and field worker for the Georgia Woman's Auxiliary. She is a member of the Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church and serves as leader for the Pre-School Children's Church.

Martha Ruth Warren, Randolph, Mississippi, wrote "Let's Purpose in Our Hearts," our study for February. A pastor's wife and mother, Mrs. Warren is the mission action chairman of her local auxiliary and vice president of the district.

Jean Williams, Raytown, Missouri, guides home Bible studies in her area and has spoken at various retreats and women's clubs. She is the mission action chairman in her auxiliary, a Sunday school teacher and the church pianist.



USED OF GOD

Aim: *To learn to appropriate the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives so that we may be holy and acceptable unto God.*

Song: "Have Thine Own Way" or "To Be Used of God"

Scripture: *Romans 12:1, 2*

AS WOMEN who are committed to Christ and His church the question is often raised in our minds, "How can I best serve my Lord?" Let's consider this matter in more detail. Asking what we can do for God, as commendable as the idea might be, is not indicative of a true understanding of Christian living. True Christianity is not what we can do for God, but rather what He can and will do for us and through us as we yield our lives to Him. So let us rephrase that question and ask,

"How can my Lord best use me?"

To be used of God should be our deepest desire. The fulfillment of that desire will come only as we understand the necessity of complete dependence on the Holy Spirit. Within ourselves we are totally helpless and incapable of living a holy life, acceptable to ourselves or to God.

The Spirit Indwells

The indwelling of the Spirit is God's priceless gift to everyone who has been saved. He is in you; and all His fullness, unlimited resources, and power (the same power that raised Christ from the dead) are yours as you yield your mind, will and body to Him. You may not "feel" God's presence, but no where in His Word are we told to rely on feelings or experiences. We are to *know* the facts about God and ourselves as revealed in His Word, then rely and act on those facts. "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)" (John 7:37-39).

Since the day the Spirit was given, the day of Pentecost, God's Spirit has indwelt every believer. "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come . . . they were all filled with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:1, 4).

The Spirit Leads

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Romans 8:14). One specific way in which the Spirit leads us is in Bible study and prayer. “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (John 15:7). Abide in Christ and His Word (study) and you shall ask (prayer) and He will answer. Bible study and prayer are inseparable. Both are important and necessary, but it seems in most instances prayer receives the greater emphasis. And why? What God has to say to us is infinitely more important than what we say to Him. Except for His Word, we would not know how to pray or for what to pray.

The Spirit also leads through adversity. God does not tempt us, nor does He cause any of the problems or storms that come into our lives. Satan does that. But God does *lead* us through these times for a purpose. Matthew tells us that the Spirit led Jesus. “Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil” (Matthew 4:11). Why did the Spirit thus lead Him? It was necessary that He be tried and proved. This is explained in Hebrews 4:15, “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.” Just so does the Spirit lead us into trying and difficult times so that we might be drawn closer to God, so that our faith might

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be strengthened, so that the quality of our lives might be improved.

Thirdly, the Spirit leads us into praise and thanksgiving. When we come to God in prayer it must be with praise and thanksgiving. It is rude to ask God for something without first saying thank you for past blessings. We are told to “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name” (Psalm 100:4). Listen, the Spirit-led Christian does not fret and worry, argue or complain. Paul admonishes us to “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving 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).

And lastly, the Spirit leads into Christian service. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). We are not to be overly concerned with “doing” for the Lord. Realize you are His workmanship, created in Christ for a special purpose, and allow Him to use you His way, not yours. It is said best in the often-quoted verse, “I beseech ye therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your

minds that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:1, 2).

When we are Spirit-led ours will be a life of service to God and to others.

The Spirit Bears Fruit

Remember, the fruit of the Spirit is His, not ours. Just as there are conditions to an orchard bearing a bountiful harvest, so are there conditions to the Spirit's producing fruit in our lives. Let's consider two negative conditions that hinder the fruit-bearing work of the Holy Spirit. First of all, we are warned not to grieve the Spirit. "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice" (Ephesians 4:30, 31). We could add to this list selfishness, unbelief, fear, pride, and immaturity. We must examine our hearts closely. If any of these conditions are present, the Spirit is grieved and He cannot bear fruit in us. We cannot go on, as verse 32 of the same passage says, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32).

And next we are told, "Quench not the Spirit" (1 Thessalonians 5:19). This is simply saying "no" to God, to resist Him and His leading. When we say "no" to God there will be no

fruit in our lives. Do you look back on your Christian life and feel regret? You can have a life of no regrets by always giving heed to and obeying the guidelines of God's Spirit within you.

The positive side to this is to yield to the Holy Spirit. "But yield yourselves unto God, as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God" (Romans 6:13). Allow Him to order and design the position and effectiveness of your life. He alone knows what is best for you. Nothing could be more misdirected than a self-directed life! Christ is the perfect pattern of a life yielded to the will of God, and Philippians 2:5 says, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Notice the word "let" in that verse. We cannot in ourselves live the life God expects of us, but we can allow Him to live that life in us. Through the Spirit we can have the very mind of Christ. How exciting to say with the Apostle Paul, "For me to live is Christ!"

Conclusion

As we consider the thrill of fulfilling our desire to be used of God, let us remember we are dealing with our Father. This is a personal relationship. The deepest secret of our walk is just to know Him. God wants us to be ourselves and to be sincere. True holiness is an inward adorning and it attracts and delights those around us. A yielded life is beautiful—God makes it so, and He uses that life.



Let's Purpose in our Hearts

Aim: To show that we need to do things on purpose.

Song: "Give of Your Best to the Master"

Scripture: Daniel 1:8

DANIEL PURPOSED in his heart that he would not defile himself. Exactly what does this mean? It means that he had made up his mind ahead of time on his course of action. He purposed not to let the king's meat and wine defile him. There is a valuable lesson for us co-laborers in this. We need to purpose in our hearts to do some things and then daily take steps to accomplish those things.

Purpose To Be A Growing Christian

We need to purpose in our hearts to grow as Christians. Peter tells us to "Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). How can we do this? First, we must make up our minds to grow. Let's purpose in our hearts to learn more about Christ by studying His Word. Set yourself a goal; for example, during the month of February I purpose to read 15 times and make a thorough study of the book of Colossians. Decide on a time to study. Use a pen, notebook and trustworthy commentary; but most of all, let the

Word of God speak for itself. We will never grow as Christians if we leave it to chance. Let's purpose in our hearts to grow.

Purpose To Be A Good Wife

We need to purpose in our hearts to be the best wives we possibly can be. We can do this by making it a daily goal. Study those scriptures that talk about the wife and her duties. Learn to be submissive. Learn to be a good helpmeet. Read trustworthy books on the subject. Season your day with continual prayer and work at being a good wife. We will do a better job if we do it on purpose.

Purpose To Be A Good Mother

We mothers need to purpose in our hearts to follow the command of Deuteronomy 6:6-9 and teach the Word of God to our children. "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates" (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).

We need to demand and en-

force godly discipline. It takes prayer and diligent effort to be a good mother. Do your children enjoy the blessings of a clean attractive home? Are they taught early to share responsibility? Do they enjoy delicious home-cooked meals where grace is said at the table and good manners are displayed? Are they taught early the importance of prayer and the discipline of daily family Bible reading and family altar? The Bible teaches us to train our children. All of this takes the purposed efforts of a good mother. She may perhaps need to revise her schedule many times; but good, well-disciplined, Christ-honoring children don't happen by chance. Let's purpose in our hearts to train those young lives for the glory of God; and our hearts can rejoice in the promise of God that says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Purpose To Be A Good Homemaker

We need to purpose in our hearts to be the best homemakers we can be. Notice that the word "homemaker" was used, not "housekeeper." While keeping a clean, attractive home is nice, this is only part of being a good wife, mother and homemaker. We do need to purpose in our hearts to get organized in order to have time to do the many chores involved in keeping a clean house. Therefore, schedule your cleaning, your child training and your quiet

time with the Lord. But be flexible and don't give up if the schedule doesn't always work. Just make up your mind to try harder the next time. Your home should display that you believe in being neat and clean. However, being a housekeeper and a homemaker are two different things. Many a woman has a spotless house who is fussy, gripy and anything but a good wife and mother. Therefore, we need to recognize the difference. God's plan for the home was for it to be a heaven on earth. Well-disciplined children and spiritual-minded parents all working together in their particular roles can make the home what God intended it to be. Purpose in your heart, ladies, to do your part to make the home all that God meant for it to be.

Purpose To Be A Better Co-Laborer

We need to purpose in our hearts to be better Co-Laborers. Do you know the watchword, the theme, and the purpose of WNAC? Do you remember to pray for Free Will Baptist work around the world at 9:00 a.m. each morning? Do you know the names and fields of service of all of the foreign, home, and state missionaries? Are you faithful in attending your local auxiliary? Do you participate and work hard to make it all that it can be? Do you support its projects, and do you take part in missions prayer, study and action? If the answer to any of these questions makes you feel small, take heart. It is not too late to improve. It's

just a matter of purposing in your heart to do better.

Purpose To Be A Good Steward Of Time

A lot has been said about using a schedule. To get things done and be a well-balanced wife, mother, homemaker, co-laborer and growing Christian demands that we schedule our time. This schedule will need to be revised again and again and again. For example, if you are not careful the devil will rob you of your time with Lord and put a halt to your growing in grace. You may possibly get so caught up in the role of being a good mother that your husband will feel neglected or vice versa. Or you may get so busy with auxiliary work that your role as homemaker suffers. To be well-balanced in all our roles, we must purpose to be well-balanced in our hearts. If you can make time for that weekly beauty shop appointment, that twenty minutes on the phone with a friend, and that hour in front of the television; then surely you can discipline yourself to be a better steward of your time. If we succeed in being all that God wants us to be, we must do it on purpose. It must be a clear-cut decision, and it will take determination and effort. But it will be worth it to hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21). Accept the challenge. Purpose in your heart to set a goal of yearly, monthly, weekly, daily and moment by moment making your best even better.

March Program
Martha Everson

WILLING AND
WONDERFUL TEACHER

OBEDIENT AND
OUTSTANDING LEADER

MMOTIVATED
MESSENGER

AAWARE AND
ADMIRABLE STUDENT

NNURTURER AND
NOBLE FRIEND

They talk about a woman's
sphere
As though it had a limit;
There's not a place in earth or
Heaven,
There's not a task to mankind
given,
There's not a blessing or a woe,
There's not a whispered yes
or no,
There's not a life, or death, or
birth,
That has a feather's weight of
worth—
Without a woman in it.
author unknown

Aim: To encourage us to incorporate into our own lives the characteristics that some of the outstanding Bible women possessed.

Song: "The Woman's Hymn"

*Scripture: Genesis 2:18,
1 Corinthians 3:9*

"Woman," what power, what potential lie behind that one word. Let us look briefly at some of the righteous women that God used—one from the Old Testament and four from the New Testament. These five women were most likely ordinary women like you and me, but because of love and devotion to God each is a great example for us today.

A Willing And Wonderful Teacher

Although Priscilla must have had many wonderful characteristics, she is best known for her Bible teaching. "And a certain Jew named Apollos... began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly" (Acts 18:24, 26). A teacher must first be a student. And Priscilla must have been a thorough and consistent student of the Scriptures because she and her husband could detect something lacking in the sermons of the great Apollos, and they were able to teach the Scriptures with such authority that they helped this eloquent preacher get his theology straight.

"But I'm no teacher," you say. What does the Word say? "And thou shalt *teach* them diligently unto thy children" (Deuteronomy 6:7). And the great commission includes you too. "Go ye therefore, and *teach* all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

An Obedient And Outstanding Leader

Because of their disobedience the Israelites were in captivity again, and this time they suffered for twenty terrible years before they cried out to the Lord. The Lord met Israel's need through a homemaker, Deborah. Read the story in Judges 4 and 5. While others complained and despaired, Deborah in faith obeyed, and allowed God to use her to lead Israel back to God and into forty years of peace. Deborah—the wife, homemaker, the judge, the military leader, the poet—was outstanding because she obeyed God.

You may never become the famous person that Deborah became. But God calls us to leadership and God honors obedience. Deborah's obedience resulted in outstanding leadership. Are you outstanding enough in your obedience to Christ that you lead others to Him?

A Motivated Messenger

What an honor Mary Magdalene had. She was the first person to witness the resurrected Christ and she was the first to carry the message to others!

"Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord" (John 20:18). Do you believe that Mary just happened to be there at the right time and it was coincidence that afforded her this opportunity?

We can look back at her life and see that from the time Mary first met Jesus she was His devoted follower. She followed Him to learn what He was teaching; she followed Him because she loved the other believers and desired their fellowship; she followed Him to give of herself and what she possessed toward spreading the Gospel.

The knowledge of His love for her motivated Mary Magdalene to carry His message to others. When He has charge of our lives, can we keep Him to ourselves? Review the teaching of Luke 24:46-49.

An Aware And Admirable Student

Martha was devoted to her family, and guests were always welcome at her house. Ever aware of the additional responsibilities one has when there are guests in the house, and being an excellent hostess who wanted everything to be just right; practical, organized Martha tried to fit everyone else into her own mold.

But she felt that Jesus could solve her problem for her, so she took it to Him. Although He answered her request quite differently from what Martha expected, she listened and learned from it. Martha, who went to Jesus so concerned about every-

one and super-sensitive to everything, is one of the greatest examples of a Christian woman who accepts the Word and applies it to her every day living. Later when her brother Lazarus died, it was Martha, aware again that Jesus could solve the problem, who went to meet Him while Mary remained at home.

2 Peter 3:18 admonishes Christians to grow. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). Are you aware of your weaknesses and of Christ's strength?

A Nurturer And A Noble Friend

What do you think the businessmen of Lydia's day thought of this upright, godly woman with the keen mind who could successfully trade in the market place with the best of them? She must have sensed the envy and resentment they had toward her at times. But Lydia was secure in the business realm for she knew her trade and could handle her business as well as anyone. Besides, Lydia had more important things to do than to waste her time and energy worrying about unfair criticism and pettiness.

She had the means and the desire to help further the Gospel and she worked consistently toward this goal. This woman provided a meeting place for the new church in Philippi, lodging and financial help for missionaries and evangelists, love and friendship for all Christians. While some of her own church

fellowship probably envied her financial security, ("She just does it to be seen.") and her prominence in the community, ("She thinks she is better than the rest of us."); Lydia continued steadfastly in the things she knew she should do. After all, God knows the truth and that is what really matters.

Lydia was a nurturer and a noble friend to everyone. How do you rate as a friend? Are you accepting and appreciative of the friends you have? Do you make an effort to make new friends? And most important, are you a friend of Christ's?

Conclusion

New doors are opening every day in every field for today's women. Whether you agree with all that is taking place or not, you must admit that Christian women have opportunities today as never before. Priscillas who combine homemaking and teaching positions, whether in the home, church, or school system, are common in our day. Deborahs in government are becoming more numerous and today's business world is full of astute Lydias who operate businesses in addition to their homemaking duties. The number of Mary Magdalenes (most likely widows or singles) and Marthas (full-time homemakers) increases every year.

God has always called and used women and He still does today! The big question for you is: "How are you personally responding to the opportunities that you have?"

Prayer Group Programs

by Pat Thomas

JANUARY

During the month of January, especially while the weather is cold in most places, it is important to remember to pray for home and foreign missionaries who are laboring in cold fields. Many times weather can actually be a hindrance to the work of God, especially to a missionary who does not have warm facilities in which to conduct worship services, or who must travel on icy, snow-covered streets to make calls.

Think of Rev. Bob Francis who is laboring in St. Paul, Minnesota. This is one of the coldest fields of service in the United States. Many days during the winter in St. Paul the weather falls to below zero in temperature. When the weather is this cold, it is difficult to start an automobile or spend much time outdoors in the extremely low temperatures. Missionaries have been known, especially in Alaska, to have their lungs frost-bitten just walking a few blocks to get the mail or make a visitation call.

Other home missionaries serving in extremely cold places are Harley Bennett, Pocatello, Idaho; Jesse Dunn, Salem, Oregon; Charles Harris, Northglenn, Colorado; and Bob Thomas, Greeley, Colorado. In these areas there are many deep snowfalls during the winter, making door-to-door visitation difficult, and also causing the heating of the church buildings to be a major cost item. Icy and snow-covered roads can become dangerous, causing people to stay away from the services at the church.

Foreign missionaries working under similar conditions during the winter are the missionaries in Japan: Jerry Banks, Dale Bishop, Mirial Gainer, Fred Hersey, Jim McLain, and Judy Smith. The same problems facing home missionaries working in cold climates in the United States also face these missionaries in Japan. The heating of the church buildings is certainly a major cost item in this land where inflation is devaluating the American dollar. Please remember to pray for the needs of these missionaries, both home and foreign, as they labor through the difficult winter months.

January, February, and March usually bring much ice and snow to a large part of the United States. Pray for the home and foreign missionaries on deputation and for safety of travel during this time.

Pray for the Bill Adkisson family as they take over the work in Des Moines, Iowa, that God will soon raise up a self-supporting church in this needy city.

FEBRUARY

February is an important month to remember to pray for missionaries working in underdeveloped countries. Missionaries, both home and foreign, who work in such areas face many problems that those living under comfortable situations do not.

First, there is the problem of getting clean, healthy food to eat and good water to drink. Many times the missionary is forced to eat native foods of the country, whether these make up a balanced diet or not. In some fields medical aid is not what it should be, and hospitals are many miles away.

Jerry and Julie Barron have labored for many years in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, and have been plagued over and over again with parasites that thrive in the digestive system causing diarrhea and other ailments. Their baby daughter, Jerra, especially has been the victim of this, and needs our prayers that she may overcome this condition.

In Africa, many of the natives are plagued with diseases and ailments characteristic of warm climates. Dr. Miley and other missionaries have told of natives suffering from having the guinea worm. This is taken into the body in egg form—usually through drinking water—and develops into a worm of considerable length. As it develops it moves downward and usually begins its exit through a large sore in the leg, after which comes the long, painful pulling process

when the worm is extracted. Sometimes natives of Africa will have two or more of these dreaded worms in the body.

Many times serving the Lord in an underdeveloped country means having to live without the comforts of life that we tend to take for granted here in America. On many mission fields there are not the bath facilities, convenient appliances, and even electricity that many of us have grown so accustomed to here at home. In many of these areas there are not the clean, well-equipped, and staffed public schools as we have here at home, and this results in our missionaries having to either place their children in missionary schools many miles from home, or teach them themselves through correspondence courses. We need to be grateful for the blessings that God has given us, but also we need to daily pray for our Free Will Baptist missionaries laboring in hard places without the comforts of our modern homes.

Pray for the Jerry Barron family serving in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico that God will give them good health. Pray for someone to go and take the mission church they have started in another preaching point many miles from Guadalajara.

Remember to pray for Samuel Appia, the National Christian from Ivory Coast, Africa. He desires your prayers for all the National workers in the Ivory Coast.

Pray for the future of our medical ministry at Doropo, Ivory Coast, West Africa.

MARCH

In March we need to remember to pray for verteran missionaries who have given many years of their lives in service for Free Will Baptist home and foreign missions. While God has blessed in the past few years and has given many new candidates to go to the mission fields, there are a few veteran missionaries whose service continues to bring glory to God and souls to Christ.

Senior missionary, and of course serving longer than any other missionary, is Mabel Willey, who was born in 1905 and was the wife of Rev. Thomas H. Willey, Sr., who is deceased. "Mom" Willey has served forty years on several different fields, and is now serving in Panama. Many years of labor went to establish the work on the island of Cuba. We thank God for this great servant who is still giving of her life to reach others for Christ.

In Home Missions the Larry Powell family has given many years to the cause of planting Free Will Baptist churches in areas where there are none. In 1965 they were employed by the National Home Missions Department to begin a work in Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands. After establishing a fully self-supporting church and a Christian school on that island, they went to the island of Puerto Rico where they served many years helping establish the church there. From there they returned to the mainland and began a new church in the

beautiful Rio Grande Valley of Texas in the border town of McAllen. There is a strong church in the Valley today as a result of their efforts. We praise God for this family of "pioneer" church planters.

Other senior missionaries include the Dave Franks and Ken Eagleton families in Brazil; Carlisle and Marie Hanna in North India; Dr. and Mrs. Laverne Miley in Ivory Coast; the Lonnie Sparks in Spain; the Mark Vandivort family in Flagstaff, Arizona; and the Bill Adkisson family in Des Moines. These families have labored many years on various fields of service. Many of these families have established churches and won converts on two or more different mission fields, yet they continue to serve the Lord, counting it a real privilege to dig out Free Will Baptist churches where there are none, and win souls to Christ. Praise God for this kind of "pioneering spirit."

Pray for Carlisle and Marie Hanna as they return to India after being home for a short furlough.

Pray for new home missionaries Mike Lake, Elkhart, Indiana; Cliff Holland, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Larry Nix, Atlanta, Georgia; and Jim Turnbough, the new mission pastor in Enterprise, Alabama.

Pray for Earnie Deeds and his family in Lafaiete, Brazil as they have recently returned to their field for another term of service.

Pray for the Bible Institute in Monterrey, N.L., Mexico and the Director, Mr. Jim Williams, as he trains Mexican Nationals to reach their own people for Christ.

Woman's National Auxiliary Convention
Kansas City, Missouri
July 17-18, 1978

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



KEYS TO SERVICE, the theme, and the watchword, "A great door and effectual is opened unto me . . ." (1 Corinthians 16:9a), were emphasized in all the convention activities.



WNAC's executive committee met with state presidents and field workers for an exchange of creative ideas and a time of fellowship.

The Cumberland Chorale from Cofer's Chapel, Nashville, Tennessee brought special music at the fellowship dinner.





WNAC President Clara Picirilli directed the business sessions.



Cleo Pursell, WNAC executive secretary, reported on the year's accomplishments.



Oklahoma president, Lila Fay Morgan, presented a check of \$6,740 from the Oklahoma Woman's Auxiliary to Earnie Deeds for a car.



Carlisle Hanna, missionary to India, stirred hearts at the morning message.



Joan Filkins, Janice Banks and Taiko Uchikoska were among the participants in the missionary panel.



Home missionaries to Pocatello, Idaho, Sharon and Harley Bennett, warmed listeners with their singing and testimony.



Eight of the 16 winners in the creative writing contest were present to receive their awards.

Presenting Our Presidents

TEXAS

Ava Hellard, Texas Woman's Auxiliary President, has been an active co-laborer for thirty years, and she has held most of the different offices at one time or the other. She has served approximately 20 years as local president, ten years as district president and four years as a national officer. Presently she is field worker for the district, as well as state president.

A member of the Free Will Baptist denomination most of her life, Mrs. Hellard married a minister in 1943. They live in Conroe, and Rev. Everett Hellard pastors the Brightlight Free Will Baptist Church, Bryan, Texas.

Working the field for the Lone Star state is Mrs. Norma June Teague, a native Tennessean. She also serves as president of her local auxiliary and mission study chairman for the East Texas District Auxiliary.

Mrs. Teague is a graduate of FWBBC, and she is licensed by the state of Texas as a child care administrator. She is presently working as an administrative social worker for Summit Oaks Center, Inc. A two-time winner in WNAC's creative writing contest, her husband Harold pastors the First Free Will Baptist Church, Henderson, Texas.

Hellard



Teague



TENNESSEE

President of the Volunteer State is Mrs. Brenda Patrick of Memphis, Tennessee. Before serving as president of the Tennessee Woman's Auxiliary, she had held the offices of local president, vice president and mission action chairman. She was also secretary for the state auxiliary for two years.

Brenda, originally from Glenville, Georgia, is a graduate of Belmont College. She is married to Rev. Dann Patrick, pastor of Randall Memorial Free Will Baptist Church, and they have two sons.

Dr. Mary Ruth Wisheart serves as field worker for the Tennessee Woman's Auxiliary Convention, as well as WNAC. She has organized several auxiliaries, spoken at numerous district and state meetings and retreats, and contributed much of her writing abilities to the work of her woman's auxiliary.

Originally from Myrtle, Missouri, Dr. Wisheart is chairman of the English department at Free Will Baptist Bible College. In July she was elected to the Historical Commission of the National Association.

Patrick



Wisheart



Actionette Activities

The Actionettes of Collinswood Free Will Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Virginia, have had a very busy year. They raised over \$1,000 in a rock-athon to help buy a bus, and they had a car wash to raise money to buy trees for their church lawn.

Not only concerned with the needs of their local church, the group's vision extends much farther. They had a doughnut sale to raise money for the Free Will Baptist Bible College and the Jerry Banks family, missionaries to Japan. They have also supported missionary to France, Charolette Tallent, and they recently showered the missionary provision closet with a wide assortment of baby articles totaling \$70.75.

The girls are living proof that no matter how old (or young) you are, the Lord will help you do *something* for Him.

Under the direction of Marcia Givens and Mary Neal, the Actionettes of New Castle, Indiana, have been earning, collecting and saving money for quite some time. First of all, they sponsored a successful paper drive.

Another project in which several of the girls participated was a rock-athon. On February 3 at 9:00 p.m. they began rocking and "rocked around the clock." A grand total of \$300 was raised. Pat Cross, Actionette president, presented a check of \$150 to Greg Hanson, the state youth director, to be used for the new Free Will Baptist campground. Vice president Jenny Hufford gave him another check of \$150 to be used for the needs of his family.

"We Actionettes are thankful to all those who supported us and made all this possible," the girls write. "But most of all, we praise God for watching over us and helping us in all that was done."

From the Field

We have just received the new issue of the *Co-Laborer* this month and we wanted to write and tell you that we do appreciate receiving free your publication and following the progress of the auxiliaries throughout our denomination.

We are also grateful to the ladies of Virginia and North Carolina for their gifts toward our furniture here in Spain and for the many other gifts that have come in from the woman's auxiliaries across the country. These gifts have paid for our typewriter and many other things which we use here in Spain. Ladies, we thank you.

*Ron and Linda Callaway
Madrid, Spain*

The dining room, living room and two bedrooms have new "drapes" (sheets from the provision closet). I like the curtains because they wash up nicely and are so pretty. We have stripped ones in the living room and flowered ones in the bedrooms.

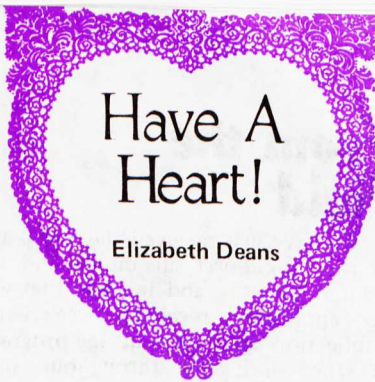
Meanwhile, we're at Bouake now as dorm parents for 18 high school boys. We need and desire your prayers...

Thanks also for sending us the *Co-Laborer*... believe me, it is read from cover to cover—including the covers. Many women we've never met have helped us through giving, praying, and the provision closet; and we enjoy reading about their auxiliaries' work.

*Carol Pinkerton
Bouake, Ivory Coast*

Just a note of appreciation to the ladies of our denomination. I am preparing to go to the field and have visited the provision closet several times to my joy. Women all over the U.S. sending items in for the missionaries! I am thankful for this service to us and special ministry to the Lord.

*Deleen Cousineau
Moore, Oklahoma*



Have A Heart!

Elizabeth Deans

"Give, so others may live;" this is the motto of the Heart Fund. Heart disease is a number one killer and money is needed for research. February is set aside as the month for emphasizing heart disease, and it is a time when many volunteers collect much money for the fund. This is a worthwhile project and we should give to causes like this. We should also get proper exercise to strengthen the heart and to help it pump the blood as it should. Too much fat around the heart causes poor breathing and shortness of breath.

As we examine this motto again, "Give, so others may live," we must realize that this old physical body is going back to dust after death. As Christians we need to adopt this motto, but think of the spiritual condition of the hearts of others—hearts that without Jesus are black with sin; hearts that are lifeless, dead. But if we give them Jesus, He can cause them to come alive and He can give them eternal life.

When I asked Christ into my heart, it was like a heart transplant. He took away all the sin and ugliness and replaced these with the fruits of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance . . ." (Galatians 5:22, 23).

When we allow the Holy Spirit to produce these fruits in our lives, we will be like Christ. The whole life of Christ was centered around serving and helping others, finally sacrificing His life for the whole sinful human race; only love could do that. If we could learn to sacrifice more, we would also be more Christlike. But I don't believe we even know the meaning of sacrifice.

Give. That's what Christ did—that others might live. We can give time; time praying for others, witnessing, studying the Bible, sending cards, phoning or whatever service we can give for our Lord. Secondly, we can give some money. "For God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7b).

And we can give love. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). A life totally surrendered to Christ will give each of these things without question. And James admonishes us, "To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

Let's examine our hearts. Are the muscles of desire and concern for helping and loving others weak? Have fatty tissues of things and self enclosed our hearts so that there is no room for serving and giving?

As the old saying goes, "the heart of every problem is the problem of the heart." If our hearts are right, our actions will be right. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37). Because we love Him with all our hearts, we gladly serve Him.



*"Please
call me
Laura!"*

Phyllis Bass

"Owe no many anything but to love one another" (Romans 13:8).

Shortly after my husband Howard and I were married, we moved to Memphis, Tennessee. I taught kindergarten and Howard coached and taught Bible and math in a Christian school. We looked for a nice "cheap" place to live—one reason being that my husband is a very "thrifty" person!

We found our "dream house"—a three room duplex. Our first neighbors nearly "rocked and rolled" us out of the place, and the second couple brought their pet roaches with them, so we began looking for another place to live!

It just so happened that my husband's cousin was moving to Alabama and had not been able to sell his house. He actually asked us if we would move in and watch things until the house sold—and all for the same price we were paying for the little "dream house!"

Needless to say, we moved in the day they moved out! What a house... wall-to-wall carpets; two exquisitely decorated bathrooms; master bedroom with walk-in-closet;

huge family room with a fireplace; large kitchen with a dishwasher, garbage disposal, and Mexican tile floors... it was lovely! And here we came; we moved into a Cadillac neighborhood with a '68 Chevy pick-up truck and a '73 Vega. Wow! did we ever add prestige to that neighborhood!

We did a marvelous job decorating the house in the very latest style! The living room, dining room, play room, and two bedrooms were absolutely empty, and the family room and kitchen held our collection of what one friend called "early American junk!"

When Howard finally decided to mow the grass, he got out our gorgeous lawn mower. Someone had given it to us because it didn't work, and I think it was the first one ever made. While everyone else in the neighborhood was riding around mowing the grass, my husband was pushing that wobbly-wheeled antique around the yard. (He still uses the same lawn mower now!) He must have looked like the caretaker because the little old lady from two doors down came to compliment the job he was doing and then asked him if he would do her yard. Howard told her that he would be glad to do it for her. When he finished, he came back and announced that Miss Laura Warne wanted to know if we would have dinner with her some evening. I thought for sure he must be kidding, but he wasn't and we accepted the invitation. We wore our "Sunday best" and brushed up on all the etiquette we knew, but we still didn't feel prepared when we walked up to her door and rang the doorbell. She opened the

door and welcomed us in. Howard introduced me and she replied with a warm friendly "Just call me Laura." We guessed that she was in her sixties or early seventies and we just could not bring ourselves to call her Laura, so we called her Miss Warne.

She showed us to the parlor and told us to make ourselves comfortable. I offered my assistance but she insisted that she would take care of it. As she left the room, Howard and I traded glances, wondering if we were doing everything properly. She came shortly and led us to the table. The table was set so beautifully with china, silver, crystal, linen napkins . . . the whole works! She asked Howard to say the blessing and when he finished she got up to pour us some ice water. My husband exclaimed, "Hey, I was wondering why we had two glasses!" I was so embarrassed, but Miss Warne just laughed. She thought everything he said was cute. We had a wonderful evening. After dinner we went into the den to visit because she said that it was friendlier than the parlor. We exchanged our life histories that night and when we left she again urged us, "Just call me Laura!"

Howard continued to mow her grass and she continued to ask us over to eat. We were always happy when the secretary at school came to tell us that we had a call from Miss Laura Warne, W-A-R-N-E (she always spelled her name on the phone) because we knew that a delightful evening was waiting for us. We spent many happy hours with Miss Warne, and she finally persuaded us to call her Miss Laura. Always after dinner we would go into the family room and she would share recipes with me and then she would go

get her Bible and ask Howard many questions. She was a born again Presbyterian and she wanted to know all about us Free Will Baptists.

My husband is now a pastor in Jacksonville, Florida. Last spring we stopped in Memphis on our way home from visiting relatives in Illinois. We could hardly wait to get to Miss Laura's. When we pulled in the driveway we noticed the house was empty and there was a FOR SALE sign in the yard. We went to the neighbor's to see where she had moved. I could not help but cry when she told us that Miss Laura had died a few months earlier.

I will always remember Miss Laura and those warm friendly chats in the family room. There was much to learn from Miss Laura, but the one lesson I truly want to learn is the one that she exemplified so well—making others feel welcomed, loved, and important. It wasn't her beautiful house, her beautiful furniture, or her beautifully set table that made her beautiful; it was the way she saw beauty in others.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 for the housewife:

Though I speak eloquently and properly with my dinner guests and have not charity, I am become as clanking silverware and shattered crystal.

And though I have the knowledge of the newspaper and understand the whole book of Revelation so that I could discuss any topic with any person, and have not charity, I am nothing.

And though I give to the missionaries and donate my time as a volunteer worker in the church, and have not charity—it profiteth me nothing.

Cumbered With Much Serving

Gertrude Cantrell



DON'T YOU FIND it irritating to be talking to someone, perhaps even answering a question, only to find that they are listening to and watching what is going on in a group nearby? And after you finish speaking their attention returns to you (after they were filled in on the other conversation) and they exclaim, "Oh, what did you say?" And you have to repeat the whole conversation, knowing you still have only a portion of their attention.

Or have you ever tried to teach a class while several whispered conversations were being carried on? It's small comfort that a few were listening, for usually, if you continued your teaching, sooner or later someone previously engrossed in their own conversation or trying to overhear the conversation, is bound to ask about a question that you just finished ex-

plaining. And then you have to repeat what you just finished saying.

Many times people accuse others of talking too much when in reality they are the one guilty of not listening or of being rude or afraid of missing out on what's going on around them. One of the most difficult things to be is a good listener! For once something is said that is familiar to us, there is an almost overwhelming compulsion to compare experiences instead of hearing of experiences. Hence, the need for expensive visits to psychiatrists; people paying someone to listen and give them a chance to unburden themselves of all their doubts, fears, and cares without interruptions.

And it is such a shame for they could find the same comfort in prayer and in sharing with their sisters in Christ. Jesus said, "Come unto me, all

ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). And we, also, are to be available to those who are going through times of trouble, heartache, or temptation. For Scripture commands us to "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

And James tells us to even share our faults with others. "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed" (James 5:16). How many of us are strong enough to be entrusted with someone else's secrets or weaknesses? And how many people would you feel secure in confiding your innermost feelings doubts, and weaknesses to? Make a mental list of all the people in your acquaintance with whom you could, without fear or reservation, freely bare your innermost thoughts. Knowing that your secret would go no further, can you name them on the fingers of both hands? On one hand? Or would you still have fingers left over? And on how many lists do you think you could be counted? Few? If any? What a shame!

There is a difference also in "hearing" and hearing to heed and understand, just as in "believing" and believing unto salvation, or in "conviction" and conviction unto conversion! This has been so down through the ages. While speaking face to face with congregations, God, through the prophets or disciples, or Jesus in His teaching would suddenly cry out, "Hearken," or "Hear me." Hearken, hear, and heed my commandments. Get your mind off the world and worldly cares and pay

attention to what I am saying!

Don't you suppose this is how our Lord feels much of the time when He is trying to impress us with the importance of some task He wants us to perform, and we are only listening "with one ear," the other being tuned in to the things of the world? Or when we're reading God's Word or hearing it taught and our minds are busily planning what we're going to do later, or listening to what someone else is saying or to the radio or T.V. Can we still say we are tuned in to God? There are so many things that we give priority to over the service of the Lord, things that in themselves are not wrong. In fact, they are very needful, but its just the order in which we place them, which we consider to be of more importance. There was nothing wrong in Martha's wanting help with the serving, nor her wanting everything to be just perfect, the very best they could offer. Christ commends a job well done and good stewardship. Yet the rule of life is first things first. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). Mary was seeking this better part while she had the opportunity. Sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to His every word, once enlightened, Mary would be better equipped to serve in every capacity.

How many times have I been forced to decide whether I would clean house, prepare a lesson to teach or program for auxiliary, or work on an article or poem that was just ready for the writing. The times that I chose to do other duties first are the days when it was "one of those days," a day

when everything seemed to go wrong; dropping, spilling, breaking, burning things and one interruption after another until I didn't accomplish much in any way. Other times I have yielded to my first love, which is writing or preparing to teach, and have found that I accomplished more in the remaining time than I could have done the entire time. It just seemed as though there were other hands helping; beds were made more easily, dishes were done more quickly, other duties were completed in jiffy time. Getting things completed after I had done what I considered most important made me feel good about my day's work. "Blessed are they that keep my ways" (Proverbs 8:32).

This is opposed to the days when it seemed I couldn't get anything done; the day was gone before I accomplished a fraction of what I intended. In matters of "Shall I dust and vacuum now? Or shall I pray and read my Bible, or call that sick friend, or send that card or letter, or visit that one who is on my heart while the Spirit is impressing me to do so," which comes first? When there is a choice between one and the other if you let the latter wait, you never seem to find just the right time to do them. Or even if you do, it's just not the same as when the Holy Spirit was dealing with you to do it. How do we decide which things come first? If you should die before the day's end would you rather face your Creator in judgment with an immaculate, dust-free house or with a last day full of good deeds for others? How do you want to be remembered? With a reputation as a good housekeeper or soul-winner? Which

will matter most one minute after your death? What would you rather leave behind? Whose standards are we living by, God's or man's? Why do we do the things that we do, anyway? For our own benefit or others? Of all the time—consuming, mind-consuming, nerve-wracking activities that we are engaged in day after day, how many are really required of the Lord? And how many are the result of our efforts to maintain the world's standards? We're so cumbered with the customs of the world, so bound by rules of etiquette written by those who don't have the slightest idea of "thus saith the Lord." We hearken to ideas and traditions of people who do not even accept the belief that there is a God and His Son called Jesus. We dress along fashions designed by people who care not the least bit for decency and modesty. Even Christians are guilty of not wanting to be out of step or out of style with the world.

Christians have one book of rules to live by, the Bible; once voice to listen to, the voice of our Lord and Savior; one manner of life to live by, that of a peculiar people unconformed to the ways and customs of the world; one voice to lead us daily, the wooings and promptings of the Holy Spirit. But are we too busy listening to the world and involved in what's going on around us until we have to keep asking, "What did you say, Lord?" "What is it that you would have me do?" When we should be up and about our Father's business, He has to take precious time to get our attention and repeat what He's been saying, what we could already be doing if we had only been listening!



A Woman God Has Used

Mrs. Nelle Woolsey, a native of East Tennessee, was saved at the age of eleven in a rural Methodist church, and for several years she worked in the Sunday school and league of that church. Forty-two years ago she married a Free Will Baptist minister, Rev. Paul Woolsey, and has strived to help his ministry in her role as pastor's wife.

The Woolseys served as missionaries in India for five years. And Mrs. Woolsey worked as matron in the Tennessee Free Will Baptist Home for Children, Greeneville, Tennessee, for two and one-half years. For 21 years she worked in youth camps as either teacher, counselor, cook or dishwasher. Mrs. Woolsey has also served in Sunday school, League, CTS and VBS.

A strong supporter of woman's auxiliary, Mrs. Woolsey has been a faithful member, and she has held the office of president; local, district and state; unnumbered times. She has been instrumental in organizing local auxiliaries, and she has taught several study courses. The Young People's Auxiliary and Go Tell Auxiliary have also benefited from her guidance.

Nelle Woolsey taught in the public school system for 36 years, and in 1974 she was honored by being chosen "Teacher of the Year" in the Greene County School system. Part of her daily teaching was Bible stories and scripture memorization. She said, "I learned while teaching school that if we started the day with devotions and prayer, all went well."

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FOIA DELETED SECTION		
STATEMENT OF OVERSEAS MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION		
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: <u>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</u> DATE OF PREPARATION: <u>12/15/1954</u>		
1. NAME OF MEMBER	2. ADDRESS	3. DATE OF BIRTH
1. <u>WILLIAM L. WATKINS</u>	<u>1114 MacDonough Ave., Baltimore, Md.</u>	<u>12/15/1904</u>
2. <u>Occupation:</u>		3. <u>Occupation:</u>
<u>Member of the United States Coast Guard Reserve, 1st Class, 1942-1946</u>		<u>Member of the United States Coast Guard Reserve, 1st Class, 1942-1946</u>
4. <u>Education:</u>		5. <u>Education:</u>
<u>University of Maryland, Baltimore, Md. (1926-1930)</u>		<u>University of Maryland, Baltimore, Md. (1926-1930)</u>
6. <u>Employment:</u>		7. <u>Employment:</u>
<u>Member of the United States Coast Guard Reserve, 1st Class, 1942-1946</u>		<u>Member of the United States Coast Guard Reserve, 1st Class, 1942-1946</u>
8. <u>Other Information:</u>		9. <u>Other Information:</u>
<u>Member of the United States Coast Guard Reserve, 1st Class, 1942-1946</u>		<u>Member of the United States Coast Guard Reserve, 1st Class, 1942-1946</u>
10. <u>Signature:</u>		11. <u>Signature:</u>
<u>WILLIAM L. WATKINS</u>		<u>WILLIAM L. WATKINS</u>
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Write in Style!

Send your entries now to WNAC's Creative Writing Contest

Categories: Programs (suitable for publication in *Co-Laborer*)
Skits and Plays
Articles
Poetry

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. Please enclose the original and one copy.

Awards: In each of the four categories the awards are:
First place—\$25.00
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Deadline: March 1, 1979

Entries will be judged on: Originality, content, interest, and suitability for Woman's Auxiliary work. Send as many entries as you wish.

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