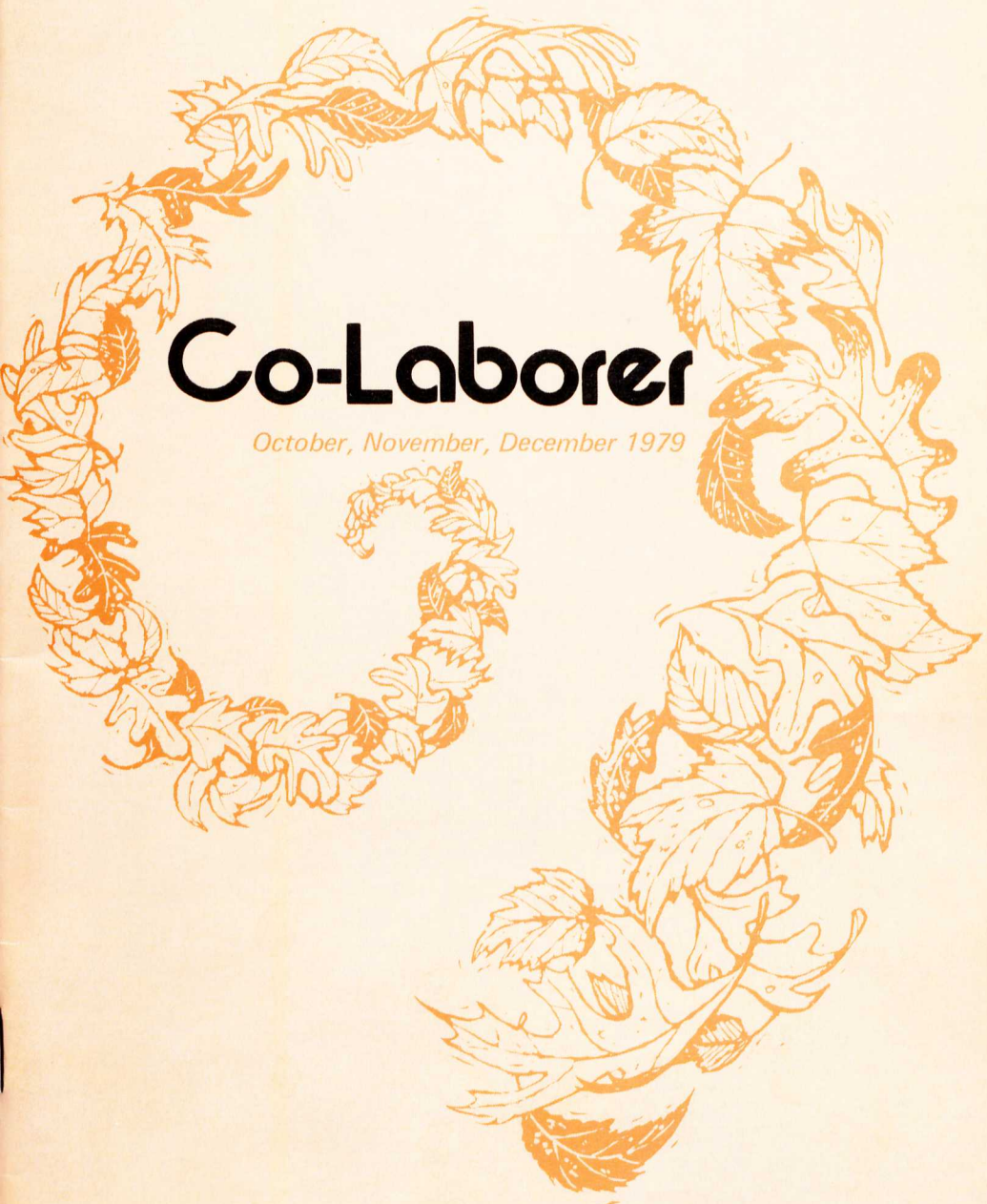




Co-Laborer

October, November, December 1979

Co-Laborer

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Volume XIX Number 4

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Cleo W. Pursell, Editor-in-chief Lorene Miley, Editor Evelyn Jones, Circulation
CO-LABORER (USPS 119-560) 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.



Arthur



Hersey



Hutchinson

Who's Who in this Issue



Reid



Waid

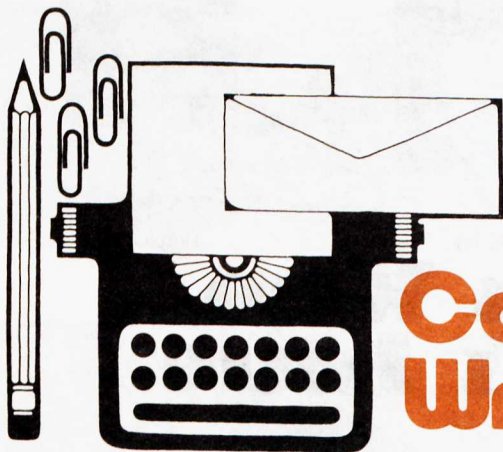
Earline Arthur, mother of two, is married to Clifford Arthur, pastor of the Free Will Baptist Church in Carroll, Twin Mountain, New Hampshire and former editorial assistant of *Heartbeat*, she now publishes an advertising factbook called *Media Market Guide*.

Vernie Hersey, Nashville, Tennessee, works with her husband, Herman, in the Department of Retirement and Insurance and is active in the Fellowship auxiliary. A free lance writer, Mrs. Hersey wrote the December program "Christmas Giving In Review."

Mildred Hutchinson, wrote "Please Step on My Toes" which won the honorable mention award in the creative writing contest. She is married to David who pastors the Liberty FWB Church, Manning, South Carolina.

Carol Reid and her husband, Garnett, pastor Cross Timbers FWB Church, Nashville, Tennessee, Her program, "If My Name Were Mrs. Noah, I Probably Would Have Drowned" won third place in the creative writing contest.

Geraldine Waid is the wife of Herbert, pastor of Corinth FWB Church, Brookfield, Georgia. The Waid's served many years as missionaries in Japan and her kinship with these people is reflected in the program for November "Be Thankful For..." Mrs. Waid is active both in the local and district auxiliaries.



Co-Laborers Write

We appreciate the *Co-Laborer* magazine and the fine work you do. Our writers are great! Praise the Lord for our wonderful group of ladies. The auxiliary is growing and doing good. God bless you.

*Helen Sanford
Scottsmoor, Florida*

My husband and I were in the middle of the terrible tornado which hit Wichita Falls. The news coverage did not come anywhere near describing the destruction. I was in it and lived through it and can tell you for a fact that God covered us with His hand. Our pastor, Rev. M. L. Sutton, lost most of his home and personal things, but no lives were lost. I ask your prayers for us all.

*Loree Medley
Wichita Falls, Texas*

Our auxiliary would like to study each month about a different missionary family. Any information you have will be greatly appreciated.

*Wanda LaBass
Keifer, Oklahoma*

We thoroughly enjoy your magazine and our meetings and working as a group promoting missions.

*Jackie Huckaba
Oil Trough, Arkansas*

We really enjoy our *Co-Laborer* magazine. Thank the Lord for our writers.

*Maiselle Woods
Uriah, Oklahoma*

Each Sunday afternoon we meet for a time of prayer fellowship, sharing prayer requests and

answers to prayer. This time of fellowship together has encouraged and enriched our lives greatly.

*Darthalyn Hughes
Alma, Georgia*

We appreciate the work you and your staff are doing.

*Mildred Snell
Cottonwood, Alabama*

We the members of the Pilgrim Rest auxiliary just praise the Lord that we can share in His work. We have 12 members and enjoy working together for the cause of Christ. We enjoy the literature we receive each quarter.

*Frances Daswell
Abbeville, Alabama*

From our home missionaries

I want to thank the auxiliaries for the loving things we received when we went through the provision closet. It was so moving to see all those nice gifts that the auxiliaries had worked so hard to provide.

*Karen Linton
Lawton, Oklahoma*

We averaged 30 for Sunday A.M. and 23 for P.M. Please

continue to plead for us before the Lord.

*Larry Nix
Smyrna, Georgia*

We would like to thank all the women of the WNAC for the great things you have done for us here. Several auxiliaries have sent money to help on projects and toward our general account. We thank you for the use of the provision closet. It was really good to be able to get a few things we needed. The church is growing and we are about to outgrow our building.

*Glen and Sara Poston
Millington, Tennessee*

The women in Mexico are active and serving the Lord. They do home visitation, personal work and teaching. They have classes for the children, using flannelgraph. They have a missionary fund for new works here in the country.

*Barbara Williams
Monterrey, Mexico*

Time seems to slip away . . . but we never let a day go by without praying for you who are standing with us as we prepare to go to the HIGHLANDS OF KENTUCKY.

Bob Shockey

And Abroad

We are praising the Lord that we have been finally approved by the missions board. We still await final word regarding our exact field. Will you please pray with us that the door through which God would have us enter would be clear to everyone involved?

Tom and Patty McCullough

Brazil

We don't want to forget those of you who sacrifice giving of your time in prayer and of your money to missions so we can do a work for the glory of God.

Bobby and Geneva Poole

Thanks for your prayers and support which make it possible for us to share the Gospel with those in Uberlandia.

Tom and Nancy Hughes

We are very busy but are doing well physically. Bobby has been able to lay aside his back brace for much of the time . . . he had worn it constantly for almost 3 years.

Bobby and Sue Aycock

Ivory Coast

Rainy season has arrived and what a joy to see the grass grow and flowers blooming. One could very easily say this is also rainy season in the Doropo church. The Christians are growing in the faith, souls are being saved and

people are inviting us to come to their village to preach.

Clint and Lynette Morgan

We are spending our time at Tanda six days each week leading souls to know Him and teaching them principles of the living Word. He is blessing in a special way and we praise Him.

Archie and Sarah Mayhew

Thanks so much for all you do for us. Because of the sharing of FWB women life is easier in Africa.

Jerry and Carol Pinkerton

Japan

Our furlough begins the last of July. Pray that we will be able to adjust smoothly as it is our first furlough.

Dale and Sandra Bishop

Thanks for each prayer offered and each gift given. During the past few months we have had many mountain top experiences . . . Our furlough begins June 25.

Fred and Evelyn Hersey

We want to express our appreciation for allowing us to go through the provision closet. May each auxiliary woman who participated in stocking the closet know what an important part she played in helping this missionary couple on the field.

*Dari and Sandy Goodfellow,
layworkers, assisting the
Jerry Banks*

MEMO from CLEO

Cleo Pursell, Executive Secretary



A Needful Project

Missionary Lonnie Sparks requests that Woman's Auxiliaries give prayerful attention to helping provide funds for the down payment on a permanent place of worship for the work in Alcala de Henares, Spain. Property is very expensive and store buildings are about their only alternative, yet these require a downpayment of one-third or more. "Believers give, but it is hard to get together enough for the downpayment," he said. The mission board has granted permission to raise \$25,000 to help in this project. The work is growing and their present place of worship is often full. This would make a worthy state or district project.

S.O.S. (Save Old Stamps)

You may now send old postage stamps to the WNAC office. They will be sold to a professional stamp dealer and the proceeds used to purchase office equipment. To save postage, send by bulk via UPS (United Parcel Service), third class printed matter. Please leave 1/8" of paper around the stamps. Do not tear the perforation nor peel off the stamp. Send common or commemorative, used or new.

Convention News

The first quarter issue of *Co-Laborer* will carry news and pictures of our recent contention activities in Charlotte, North Carolina. Watch for exciting plans for our future work.

Missionary Provision Closet

The missionary provision closet needs several items: Corelle Ware, towels and wash cloths, bed spreads (twin and double), and layettes (no blankets please). The dorm at Bouake, Ivory Coast, Africa needs 20 twin bedspreads and sheets. Also curtains for eight shower stalls. Please send items (or money) to WNAC, earmarked *Bouake Dorm*.

Home Missions Emphases

Use the helpful materials in this issue of *Co-Laborer* to plan for your Pre-Thanksgiving Season of Prayer and offering for National Home Missions November 12-16. There are also excellent materials for your state home missions emphasis. Formerly held in December, each state now sets the time for this observance in keeping with their states' mission program.

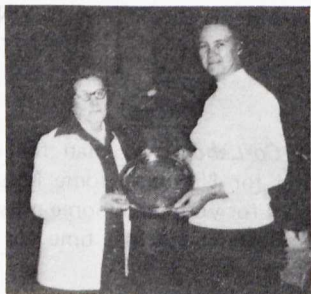
Women in Action



Senior Members Honored

The White Hall auxiliary, Waycross, Georgia, honored their oldest member at a Valentine party. Granny Moore was presented with a plaque by the president, Mrs. Eula Taylor.

February was Mabel Huckaba's birthday month and the Blackland auxiliary, Oil Trough, Arkansas, honored their senior member with a Valentine's Day holiday. Mrs. Lois Morris, president, presented her with a silver tray.



The Fellowship auxiliary, Detroit, Michigan, made valentines for the 142 men and women in the Pine Knoll Nursing Home.

When Mrs. W. J. Starr returned home from her 3 week hospital stay, her fellow auxiliary members at the Patmos FWB Church, Leary, Georgia, provided meals for her and her husband for several days.



Senior citizens as well as other church members were honored by the First Church auxiliary, Greenville, Mississippi, at a friendship luncheon. The entertainment consisted of singing, a skit, and a devotional message by the pastor, Bro. Walley.

The auxiliary of First Church, Auburndale, Florida, sponsors a regular visitation program at the local nursing home. Each Wednesday they take the wheel chair patients for a stroll in the park.

Other Members Honored

The Faith auxiliary, Dierks, Arkansas, sponsored a going away shower for Ginger Lake.

She and her husband, Mike, are home missionaries in Elkhart, Indiana.

The Horse Branch auxiliary, Turbeville, South Carolina, paid tribute to their past recording secretary, Mrs. Odessa Mims, who had served in this office for 16 years.



Mrs. Betty Henderson of the Brunswick auxiliary was voted South Georgia's Woman of the Year at the spring workshop which met in Jesup. She was introduced by Mrs. Lollie McLeod, who later, on Mother's Day, received a similar award—"Mother of the Year."

As Marcia Ellison's (Uruguay) furlough ended, Wooddale auxiliary, Knoxville, Tennessee, sponsored a farewell cook-out slumber party in her honor at the home of Arlene Farley. However, this friendly gesture did not influence the Ellison's decision to take their year's leave of absence. Marcia now is serving as pastor's wife to these warm hearted women.

Walk-a-thon

13 members of the Trinity auxiliary, Greenville, North Carolina, participated in a walk-a-thon which netted \$605 designated for deficit missionary accounts. The 6.2 mile walk began following a breakfast and inspirational 30 minute prayer time for our missionaries.



Study Courses

The auxiliaries of Greenwood and Greenville met at the home of Mrs. Gloria Pake, Indianalo, Mississippi, for a study of "You Can Be the Wife of a Happy Husband" taught by Mrs. Ann Espy.

Corinth auxiliary, Alma, Georgia, just finished a study on "Here Am I, Send Aaron." This study lasted 13 weeks with the ladies volunteering to each teach a chapter.

Approximately 75 women from 6 churches met at the First FWB Church, Sophia, West Virginia, to share creative ideas and listen to WNAC secretary Cleo Pursell speak. Ann Ruble is district president.

The woman's auxiliary in Monterrey, Mexico recently helped with some of the physical repairs at the Bible Institute, such as painting and cleaning. These women are musical as well.



Dorothy Cox presided over Kentucky's annual convention which met in the Highland Avenue FWB Church, Prestonsburg. 77 delegates registered to hear Dr. Mary Ruth Wisehart and Mrs. Cleo Pursell emphasize the theme, "Go and Bring Forth Fruit." Projects adopted supported the WNAC Convention expense, Ledgel Ferguson account, and the Bethel Bible Institute.

The 37th annual session of the Ohio convention met with the Heritage Temple FWB Church, Columbus, with Dock and Norma Caton, missionaries to

Spain, as speakers. Home missionaries McClarys and Shockeys also contributed to emphasize the theme, "Keys To Service." Yvonne Wolfenbarger succeeded Joann Sizemore as president.

David Matthews, pastor of First FWB Church, Auburndale, installed the following officers at the Florida State Auxiliary Convention: Peggy Hutto, president; Helen Allen, vice-president; Elizabeth Holder, secretary; Beverly Hartzog, field worker; Phyllis Bass, historian; Dorothy Briggs and Irene Lightsey, members-at-large. Bernadine Kimble, treasurer, was not present.



Senior Mothers Honored

First FWB Church, Glasgow, Kentucky sponsored a Mother's Day dinner to honor five of their oldest mothers. Left to right: Mrs. Winn, Vergie Garrett, Matilda Wiley, Viola Gosser, and Allie Jolly.



STATE CONVENTIONS HERE AND THERE

The spring session of the Arizona State convened at Son Valley Church, Phoenix, with Jo Hart bringing the morning message. Patti Duvall was elected as president.

Petty Hutto was re-elected to a second term as president of the Florida State which met in Auburndale using the national theme, "Knowing and Growing." Cleo Pursell and Lorene Miley were speakers. The mission project was to be split five ways—Tom Wiley, WNAC, Tallahassee and Daytona Beach missions, and the Combs family.

The 31st annual session of the California State met at South Union Church, Bakersfield, with LaVerda Mooneyham, wife of Dr. Stan Mooneyham, World Vision International, as speaker. "Do You Care?" workshops were also featured.

Approximately 150 delegates and visitors heard Dr. and Mrs. LaVerne Miley speak from the theme "Lest Thou Forget" at the Missouri State which met in First Church, Berkeley. One of the 4 mission projects adopted was for the Lynn Mileys: "wash, dry, cook, and grind. Help Ramona save some time." Helen McAllister was re-elected as President.

The Illinois State met at First Church, Benton, with Jim Summerson, home missionary to Milan speaking from the theme "Something Beautiful." The missionary project included raising

support for Dennis and Trina Owens (Brazil). Donna Tucker was elected as president.

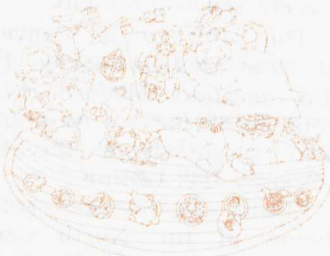
The 10th annual convention of New Mexico met in Hobbs and featured Clifford Holland, home missionary to Albuquerque who spoke from the theme "Occupy 'Till I come."

"Unity of Service" was the theme of the North Carolina State which convened with Sherwood Forest Church, New Bern. Speakers included Dr. Wisheart and Cleo Pursell. Mission projects for the year include \$2,000 for the FWBBC general fund. 237 were registered.

The South Carolina State met in the Beulah Church, Pamplico, with a registration of 179. Guest speaker was Cleo Pursell who spoke from the theme "Key of Communication." Marie Hanna, missionary to India brought afternoon devotions. The mission projects are to be distributed among the state's home and foreign missionaries. Frances Posten is the new president.

The Kilsythe Church hosted the West Virginia State with Sandra Kessinger presiding. The theme "What Happens When Women Pray?" was emphasized through the day in songs by Joan Darnell and a message by Cleo Pursell. The new missions project is helping relieve deficit accounts of the state's missionaries.

IF MY NAME WERE MRS. NOAH,



I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE DROWNED

Aim: *To learn from the example of Noah's wife how to be a better Christian.*

Song: "Oh, To Be Like Him"

Scriptures: *Genesis 6:8-14; 7:1, 23; 8:13-19; 9:1*

JUST PUT yourself in Mrs. Noah's place. What if your husband came home from work one day and told you that he would be busy for the next 120 years building a boat, large enough for your family and two of every animal on earth? Now remember, that includes polar bears, spiders, rattlesnakes, pigeons, skunks, and all. What would your reaction be? Maybe we need to study the example of Mrs. Noah and learn from this lady some important lessons about what the Lord wants in our lives.

The account of the flood and Noah in Genesis 6 through 8 never tells us that the Lord in any way spoke directly to Mrs. Noah about what would happen to her family. We assume that she was submissive to her husband and regarded God's instructions to him as instructions for her also. It is sad to think of the pulpits both in America and foreign lands that are empty because of wives who refused to regard their husband's calling as their own and kept them both away from God's will. Mrs. Noah may not have known all the implications of God's plan. She may have even considered her husband's project just as we think of our husband's workshop in the basement—bearing with it, tolerating it for his sake. She most likely went to bed without him a lot of nights listening to the sound of his hammer.

But she *didn't* nag him to fix the hole in the roof or take out the trash. She didn't feel embarrassed by the jeering of the community. She didn't get angry when the supper was cold and Noah still didn't come inside. She didn't gripe about the dirty, pitch-stained clothes she had to wash.

Mrs. Noah loved her husband. She submitted to him *because* she loved him. There were probably a lot of days when Noah came in tired and discouraged and depressed. She cheered his failing spirits when the neighbors laughed. When Noah talked

about the blueprints and the level and the quality of gopher wood, she listened and nodded her head like she understood.

Mrs. Noah didn't have a college degree. She didn't have any book on *The Total Woman* or any "Dear Abby" to write to for advice. She had something much more important—a deep, immeasurable, endless love for her husband. And because of this love, she supported, accepted, understood and trusted him. No matter what else you may know, no matter what other possessions you may have, you are poor as a wife if you do not have that kind of love for your husband.

MRS. NOAH—EXAMPLE OF A MODEL MOTHER

There was something special about Noah's family. When God saw the wickedness of the earth, He was sorry that He had even made it. But then, God remembered Noah. Genesis 6:9 tells us that "Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God." Noah, you might say, came from "good stock." You remember his grandfather, Methuselah, who lived longer than any other man, and his great-grandfather Enoch, who also "walked with God."

But Mrs. Noah was another matter. She didn't have all these prestigious ancestors on her side of the family tree. However, she obviously came to share Noah's belief in the true God. Accordingly, she raised her sons to also trust God. They didn't mind being "different" at the Noah household. If Dad and

Mom said no, then Shem, Ham and Japheth didn't go. And the standards were high and the discipline strict at their house. The wives of these three boys must have also trusted in God although it must have meant being excluded by and cut off from family and friends.

Mrs. Noah must have become a real mother to her three daughters-in-law. These girls had to leave and cleave—leave their wicked backgrounds and cleave to their husbands and the way of righteousness. She was their example of a godly mother and homemaker; a model to them of the woman, wife and mother they should strive to become. Can you imagine living on that ark for eleven months with your daughter-in-law? God gave Mrs. Noah and her sons' wives a special grace—a strong, edifying, understanding love for each other.

Mrs. Noah was the only grandmother in that new world when the floods receded. Again she prayed, advised and instructed. Everything was not rosy, but she willingly assumed her role of teacher and supervisor of womanly work and fulfilled her duties well. She told stories and rocked babies and cooked Sunday dinners and loved her family like any grandmother, as she guided and built her home to honor the living God.

MRS. NOAH—EXAMPLE OF SELF-CONTROL AND EFFICIENCY

Can you imagine how that ark must have smelled after eleven

months with all those animals and only one little window? Then you have to agree that Mrs. Noah was a real example of self-control. God must have worked especially with her attitudes to prepare her for her ordeal. Mrs. Noah probably didn't have that complaining spirit that often characterizes us. She had a real peace, instead, because she had accepted God's plan for her. She had a willing heart and working hands. With cooking and cleaning and washing—ark-style—and helping keep the animals fed and watered, there was no time for laziness.

Mrs. Noah must have conquered another one of our "number one" problems—the tongue. She must have made a special effort to sing instead of to argue, to praise rather than complain, to smile and pray instead of whine and nag. There were enough wild animals on board without a loose tongue, which no man can tame (James 3:10).

Think too about all of the food that one husband, three sons, three daughters, two cows, two horses, two chickens, two grizzly bears, two giraffes, two gorillas, two elephants—you get the picture—could eat in eleven months! Mrs. Noah did a lot of canning and planning for that trip. She was probably in charge of the "stores" for the animals and the menus for her family. But she could handle responsibility and took her work in stride. She developed the talents and good sense that God had given her and used them to His

glory.

MRS. NOAH—EXAMPLE OF A FAITHFUL BELIEVER

Hebrews 11:7 includes Noah in the "Hall of Faith." Mrs. Noah was also a lady of faith.

By faith, Mrs. Noah didn't ridicule her husband for building a huge boat to escape a never-before-heard-of flood caused by never-before-heard-of rain. By faith, Mrs. Noah climbed aboard the ark with thousands of untamed animals according to God's command. By faith, she watched God seal the door of the ark—closing out friends and home and all of life as she knew it. By faith, she awaited the end of the rain and the drying of the earth, not knowing what life would be like when the ark door was opened again. By faith, Mrs. Noah pioneered the "new" world, with only eight human inhabitants, and held to the covenant that God had made with her family.

Yes, Mrs. Noah's faith is an example for us. Her trust was not in her possessions or economy or people; it was in the changeless God who rewarded her faith and faithfulness in ways we cannot ever know in this world. What a difference Mrs. Noah's exemplary faith has made through the years, yet a difference that we seldom even recognize in our day. We don't even know her name.

November Program
Geraldine Waid

BE THANKFUL FOR.....

Aim: To encourage us to be thankful and effective Christians

Song: "Count Your Blessings"

Scripture: Colossians 3:17

The Living Saviour

I AM HE THAT liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen..." (Rev. 1:18).

Have you ever heard the expression "He is sincere, but sincerely wrong?" Many, many times while serving in Japan this statement came to mind. Most Japanese are sincere and faithful in their religious obligations. It gives one such a helpless feeling to visit a Shinto shrine or a Buddhist temple on a religious holiday and see the throngs of people worshiping an idol or the spirit of a dead national leader. One gets the same feeling when viewing the family at the Buddhist altar or Shinto godshelf in their homes as they worship the spirit of their deceased loved ones. There is no life or hope in an idol made of wood, stone, or even gold. There is no happiness or joy in worshiping such. There is only fear of offending one who is never capable of blessing, but of causing harm or bad luck. You might ask why such intelligent people could worship a piece of wood or stone or a dead spirit. This is all they know, for Satan

has blinded their eyes.

Jesus, our Saviour, the object of our worship, is alive! We did not create Him with our hands as the pagan does his god (Isaiah 44:9-18); He made *us*. He loves us and seeks our love in return. Jesus is neither the concept of man's imagination nor a philosophy. HE IS. He is alive and coming again and very soon we shall see Him face to face. Be thankful that we know this One who in Japan is referred to as "the true and living God" which is in contrast to their false gods.

Be thankful and rejoice! Because He lives we can know Him and some day we will live with Him eternally.

Worship

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23, 24).

One of the freedoms set forth in our constitution is "freedom of worship." However, it seems many interpret it as "freedom to not worship." The number of Christians who do not attend church is appalling. As true believers, we are to worship in spirit and in truth. In Hebrews 10:25 we read: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Those of us who do worship the true and living God find it hard to realize the frustration and loneliness of those Christians in the world today who are not allowed to worship with other believers or who are allowed to do so only under restricted circumstances. We know there are many in Catholic and Communist countries, such as our Free Will Baptists in Cuba, who do not have this freedom of worship. Many of our Japanese Christians were hindered because of family and social pressures to worship and engage in pagan religious rites. Others were harrassed by pro-communist contemporaries. Such a one was a high school chemistry teacher who seemingly loved the Lord, eagerly studied the Word and enjoyed fellowship with fellow believers. He was so bold in faith he named his son "Creation." When his fellow teachers (communitistic) realized his Christian interests, they ridiculed him terribly and arranged for him to be on duty on Sunday.

How privileged we are to have the freedom to worship anytime, anywhere with no hindrances. All Christians, even some Free Will Baptists, are not able to exercise this freedom. We are not the better ones. They have been counted worthy to suffer in this way for our Lord.

Be thankful! And be faithful!

Home

"But as for me and my house

we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15b).

Home is the center of everything. If things are right at home then our world runs smoothly. If things are disrupted at home, even the smallest child knows it. Even a baby senses the lack of love in the home.

God established and sanctioned the family unit when He created man and woman for each other. The basic family unit is a father and a mother who produce and nurture children. The extended family is the relatives who support the basic family unit. Satan knows how important the home is and has tried to destroy it from the beginning.

In America we are free to make a good home for our own children, love them, provide for them, educate them, and to "train them up in the way they should go" (Proverbs 22:6). This is freedom with a responsibility.

In Communist countries the State takes the children and trains them to become what it wills. You may say, "How sad." If we are not alert and ready to act, the same thing could happen right here. Satan is already working. This year of 1979 is labeled "Year of the Child." On the surface it sounds good, but let's examine it more closely. This concept originated 20 years ago in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, a proclamation from the United Nations. It states that there should be "special protection" from birth (by the government) with "opportunities and facilities" to help a child develop physically,

mentally, morally, spiritually and socially (State supplied). This international movement wants to shift child-rearing responsibility from the parents to the government—"for the good of the child."

Beverly LaHaye, author and co-author of several Christian books, in a recent article in *Christian Life* magazine, warned that IYC proponents want to "completely liberate the child from the authority of the parent in every area—morals and values, religious training, nationalism and patriotism, defensive militarism, and capitalism." She also warned that churches and concerned individual believers, teachers and parents, all should do something to save our children and home from this kind of Satanic attack.

Be thankful we can still have Christ-centered homes. Be alert to keep it so.

Communication

"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so . . ." (Psalm 107:2a).

If we are to communicate Christ, we will have to give of our time, money, prayer, and ourselves. God could have given angels the job of communicating Christ, but He chose us to do it. Those who believe Christ is the Saviour of the world must communicate Him.

We spend much time communicating other things—how bad the world is treating us, how bad we feel, how much prices are affecting us or how important we

are, etc. How long has it been since you communicated Christ? When was the last time you publicly praised Him (other than in church)? . . . had joy in the midst of trials? . . . had the sparkle of true joy in your eyes?

We need, first of all, to communicate Christ at home. What are our children reading in us? What do family members think we are saying? What do fellow believers seeking encouraging and/or reinforcement of good behaviour, detect in us—indulgence and permissiveness or a sincere desire for their well-being? What do unbelieving loved ones think we are trying to get across? Are we selling ourselves or showing Christ's attitude?

In many societies women especially are not allowed the freedom to communicate their feelings at all, much less to speak of Christ. A certain Japanese Christian wife prayed much for her unsaved husband. She tried to communicate Christ to him but each time she verbalized it she ran the risk of getting beaten up for just saying the name of Jesus. She often came to church with black and blue and swollen places visible. But she remained sweet. This was her way of communicating.

Our time is running out. None of us know how long we have or if we will ever have a chance to communicate Christ again. Let's not miss a single opportunity to witness for Christ. There's a precious family inside and a big world out there that needs to know.

Be thankful He chose us for the job.

Christmas Giving in Review



Purpose: *To re-evaluate our Christmas tradition of giving gifts; to re-examine our Christmas giving; and to present ways the custom can glorify and honor Christ.*

Song: *A Christmas carol*

Scripture: *Matthew 2:1-11*

AS THE Christmas season approaches, our hearts are once again filled with joy. And rightly so, for it is a time of rejoicing as we commemorate the birthday of God's Son. His coming to earth almost 2,000 years ago, His death on the cross and His triumphant resurrection from the grave are the greatest events in the history of the world.

Since the 12th century, Christians have associated the tradition of giving gifts with the celebration of Christ's birth. Of all the customs and traditions we observe at Christmas, this one is by far the most popular and perhaps the most meaningful. It is a cherished tradition and one we want to preserve and teach our children.

But, we must be on guard!

Each of us changes as our circumstances change from year to year. We are apt to be influenced by what we see and hear and by what others think and do. Because we as Christians are not immune to being influenced by the world around us, we need to make sure that this tradition which we enjoy brings glory and honor to Christ. Periodically we need to re-evaluate the tradition and re-examine our giving in the light of God's Word.

Re-Evaluating the Tradition

Giving gifts at Christmas is a tradition based on the loving generosity of God, the greatest Gift Giver of all ages. To the Christian, gifts are symbolic. We give gifts in remembrance of God's Gift to the world, Jesus Christ, by whom we have eternal life.

The wise men perhaps started the tradition. They traveled a long distance searching for the Christ child. "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 2:11KJ).

Giving gifts as an expression of thanksgiving and gratitude to God was not new with the wise men. There is an historical record of just such a custom established by the Jewish people in the 9th chapter of Esther.

King Ahasuerus had allowed Haman, a man who hated the Jews, to manipulate him into sending out a decree to kill every Jew on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month. Esther, his Queen, who was Jewish, with the encouragement of Mordecai, her foster father, risked her life and defied the king. She entered his presence to intercede for her people. The plan was foiled, the Jews delivered from death and wicked Haman punished.

After a time of feasting and rejoicing over God's deliverance of His people, Mordecai wrote letters to the Jews telling them to establish two days the same time each year to commemorate the event. He wrote that they should keep "the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day; that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another and gifts to the poor" (Esther 9:21, 22).

And, why should Christians not commemorate the birth of their Saviour by giving gifts? For

surely our sorrow is turned into joy and our enemy is defeated. Esther's people were saved from physical death; we are saved from eternal death.

Certainly, sharing with one another and the poor is an acceptable way to commemorate the birthday of Christ.

Re-Examining Our Giving

God gave His Son in the true spirit of giving—meeting the needs of people. We should have no lesser standard of giving, even at Christmas.

In re-examining our giving patterns and heart attitudes, we should give serious thought and reflection to the questions below. The answers will indicate whether our Christmas giving passes the test.

1. Do I have the right motive when I give? Are my gifts a true expression of good will and love from my heart? Or, do I give to appease or to win favor? Review the account of Jacob's gifts to Esau. Genesis 32; 33

2. Do I give expecting nothing in return? Or, do I give to receive again, merely exchanging gifts with others?

3. Do I give unto others as unto God? Or, do I give grudgingly or of necessity?

4. Do I give to the poor and needy, putting their needs above my wants? Or, is my giving self-centered? Do I overindulge my family?

5. Do I include missions and benevolent causes? Or, do I confine my giving within my own family and close circle of friends.

6. Do I give cheerfully? Or, have I lost the joy of giving and sharing?

7. Am I a good steward, being careful how I use the money God gives me to meet the needs of others? Or, do I give foolishly—just anything to get by and fulfill

an obligation?

8. Does my Christmas giving pass the test of 1 Corinthians 10:13 bringing glory to God?

9. Have I lost sight of Jesus' teaching that "It is more blessed to give than to receive?" Acts 20:35

Making Your List, Checking It Twice

After you make your Christmas list, check it to see that you have followed the biblical principles of giving. You will receive a sense of satisfaction knowing that every gift, whether large or small, is chosen as just the right thing to meet a need in someone's life.

Now, checking it twice, you may decide to give some really different gifts.

- Affection to an unloved-child who attends your Sunday school
- Friendship to an elderly person living away from family
- Cheer to a downhearted person who works with you
- Hospitality to a neighbor, a traveling friend or a stranger
- A letter to a missionary
- Forgiveness to someone you may have resented for some-time
- Time to a homebound or

handicapped person who needs someone to read or perform small tasks

- Encouragement to a weak brother or sister in Christ
- A good word to someone each day, including members of your own family
- A listening ear to someone discouraged or depressed
- A hearty smile to a passerby
- A telephone call to someone who is troubled or lonely
- The good news to those you meet that Christ can save from sin

These are gifts that lasts long after the Christmas season is over and can be given throughout the year.

"You give but little when you give of your possessions.

It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."

—Gibran

Pre-Thanksgiving Season of Prayer Far Away Places

by Earlene Arthur

Aim: To receive a greater prayer burden for our home mission fields

Scripture: Acts 1:8; 18:18-23

Hymn: "Ready"

THINK FOR A moment. Picture in your mind's eye the geography of the United States. Then pinpoint your exact location at this moment. Now turn your eyes toward the horizon and view the vast expanse of space—Boston, Massachusetts; Concord, New Hampshire; or Portland, Maine. Even though the latter are much closer, distance-wise, they probably seem as far away as most of the other cities. When you mention New England to a number of our Free Will Baptist constituency, you get either a blank stare, or worse, "Did you go by plane or ship?"

On the northeastern tip of the United States are positioned several small and scenic states. God's Country, we like to call it. The roots of the people run deep in the early history of America, and they are a proud and private people.

With the exception of a few good-sized cities, New England is mountains and farming country. Residents of less than 10 or 15 years duration are frequently still referred to as newcomers. Perhaps the real test of whether or not you can qualify as a true resident is the winters. Winter comes early to New England—usually frost by Labor Day—and stays late, often with light snow in May. You don't dare plant your garden before Memorial Day because frost until that date is quite common. That makes for a short growing season, which means



high produce prices most of the year. In fact, prices for most basic necessities are high in this region. To complicate matters, New England states probably rank as some of the most economically depressed in the nation. Industry operation is scarce and expensive, so jobs are hard to find and wages are unbelievably low.

Early History

New England is rich in Free Will Baptist heritage. Names like John Buzzell, David Marks, John Colby, and especially Benjamin Randall stand out as early leaders of our fledgling denomination. Initially Randall was a congregationalist, but became dissatisfied when he saw that his church resembled a city without gates: "all who had a mind to come in, came in, converted or unconverted; and those who were disposed to go out, went out, without labour or discipline." Randall also opposed the view of God's complete domination over man's soul, preferring rather to believe that man, as a free moral agent, possessed a will of his own and could choose to accept or reject the gift of salvation provided through the crucifixion and resurrection of the Son of God.

The First FWB Church in New England was organized in New Durham, New Hampshire on June 30, 1780 by Benjamin Randall. The FWB Connexion (as it was then called), grew rapidly. The reports of the General Conference in the 1830's indicate as many as 600 churches in the state of New Hampshire alone, and does not even include the churches in Main, Vermont, New York and Pennsylvania. Where did they all go? The merger with Northern Baptists, of course, is the obvious answer. How sad

to compare these statistics to today's—three active FWB churches in all of New England.

Mack and Jackie Owens

In present day history, the name Owens has become synonymous with New England. In December, 1958, the Mack Owens family moved to Littleton, New Hampshire and organized a church there 8 months later. He also pioneered in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Vermont before moving to Massachusetts in 1974.

Randall Memorial FWB Church was organized in 1976 in North Chelmsford, a populous suburb in greater Boston. The congregation there, under the leadership of Brother Owens, was able to purchase an unused church building and today has a lovely and multi-faceted facility for worship and fellowship.

This home missionary also conducts regular Bible study groups in Southern New Hampshire communities and periodically travels to Nova Scotia to encourage the faithful remnant there.

Special prayer is requested for Jackie's health. She has labored faithfully beside her husband, most often suffering under a chronic health condition. She is doing very well at this time, but is always subject to recurrent problems.

We owe this family a great debt of gratitude for 20 years of faithful service in one of the most difficult areas of the country.

The Maine Connection

The Linneus FWB Church, organized sometime prior to May, 1850, is our only active,

denominationally-affiliated church in Maine. The church is located in northernmost Aroostook county, smack dab in the middle of potato farming country.

The church fathers wisely manipulated a move to avoid the 1910 merger. The church's name was changed to "Farmer's Union," thus was not affected by the merger. Later when the threat was passed, the original name was restored.

John Ruth, a native New England, contributed greatly toward national affiliation. This is a difficult area, which is evidenced by the fact that while the church has had many pastors, few have stayed more than a year. Bob Breeden, who stayed 5 years, served the longest.

Under pastor Breeden's capable leadership, the church has prospered and is involved in a wide range of outreach ministries.

The Mountainous North Country

First FWB Church, Carroll, Twin Mountain, New Hampshire, is the smallest of the churches in the northeast. Scenically located—in the heart of the White Mountains—it has a rich and deeply rooted history. Clifford Arthur currently serves as pastor.

The church was organized in 1881. On the wall of the pastor's office hangs the original deed for the church property. Now wrinkled and yellow with age, it reads: "For the establishment of a Free Will Baptist church and the consideration of one dollar, we deed this property..." One of the original record books bears testimony of the early history. The building, constructed in 1884, with its high, old fashioned ornate metal ceiling and charming bell tower

steeple, is in use today.

The area is probably 95% or more Catholic. The ever-present New England philosophy of "no outsider is going to tell me what I need" results in a prevailing attitude of self-sufficiency. But these dear souls need Christ, too, and the missionaries there need constant prayer.

The Future

The opportunity is great in New England. Workers are needed—not temporary, short-term workers, but people with a burden for the souls of the seemingly cold and hard-hearted New Englanders—to love them, minister to them, become one of them, win them to Christ. It isn't easy. Sometimes it seems they take three steps backward for each step forward.

Lack of fellowship is a problem related to living in an isolated area. The New Hampshire church is the most centrally located, but they are three hours away from their Boston brethren and six hours from the congregation in Maine. Fellowshiping in special services is virtually impossible.

Part of the progress of the work rests on us. What can we do?

Pray. That God will impress the needs of this part of the country on the hearts of young people preparing for Christian service.

Give. Winters are long and cold, and special offerings toward fuel expense would be a great blessing. Vacation Bible School literature and craft materials would always be welcome.

Go. 1980 is the bicentennial year. Plan your vacation to visit this scenic and historic part of our country. Drop in on our fellow workers there and encourage them in the Lord.



Alyne Maness

INTERVIEW WITH VERGEL MANESS



Vergel Maness

Why did you go to Delaware as a home missionary?

I was both saved and called to preach in 1962 at the age of 25 in St. Louis, Missouri. Two years later I began my first pastorate. The churches of my pastorate have always been strong supporters of missions, and my wife and I discussed and prayed about missions many times. Each time the Lord redirected our steps elsewhere. I know now the Lord was saving us for this task.

In June 1972, I attended the Maryland State Association and became a prayer partner in establishing a church in Wilmington, Delaware. God intervened and, in 1974, this time through a series of events too numerous to recount, He led us to this mission field as a joint project of the Maryland state and the home mission board of the National Association.

What was your first impression of arriving "on the field?"

We drove into Delaware with no assisting family, having neither house nor land, financially broke, and driving a truck load of furniture with no certain place to unload it.

How did you actually begin?

Since we knew no one and no one knew us, we had no "grass-roots" laity with a burden to establish a church. I never in a million years expected or realized the work, difficulties and sacrifices it would necessitate to accomplish the beginning and then the effort to keep it going. With so little help from others, I discovered the actual meaning of the phrase "talk is cheap."

We decided to locate in New Castle. There's not a home in this area that I haven't knocked on its door. We certainly did not present a very attractive potential. We met in our living room and my wife, who was the pianist, was just learning to play and knew no complete song. When we had visitors, we sang with zest those few she could play.

How did your family accept this new role?

Our oldest son was 17 and experienced difficulties in the area of drugs in the high school. Some of the gangs were certain he was an undercover agent for the police and gave him a hard time. Kathryn Ann, 4 years

younger, had similar problems as she grew older and experienced physical abuse by girl gangs. But these have matured her in the Lord and today she is a great blessing to the church and her home.

Jonathan has experienced no problems as far as we can discern. He is now 6 and has stated that he wants to be a preacher and sits behind me on the platform during all services. He has given us many hours of relief from tension and I pray God may truly call him into the ministry and grant him much fruit.

How would you describe your area?

The immediate area of the church is almost totally residential. We have community developments in all stages. Some communities have been established since 1640 with churches experiencing their 300th birthday this year. Across the road we have 21 new homes under construction.

We are surrounded by Roman Catholics. In a two mile radius we have three large churches and two of them operate large private schools. These as well as other Baptist churches and those ignorant of our doctrine really ridicule and mock our practices and beliefs, like feet washing, for example.

What was your greatest obstacle in the work?

The fear of failure. Second was the fear of misunderstanding. Many decisions have been on so much faith it frightens me to think about them now. But we were always confident that which He had begun He was able to finish. Our greatest regret is our lack of faith in every area. I fear we

complicate our problems by trying to help instead of letting Him work.

Have the women helped in the work?

They have accomplished so much. My wife has organized a woman's auxiliary and is president. They serve the church in so many ways that without them we would certainly not have a church in New Castle.

What progress has been made?

Today we have property valued at \$225,000. Our five year extended plans include the construction of Sunday school rooms and removal of an old building for parking. We desire to become totally self-supporting with a full time pastor. In March we averaged 82 in Sunday school.

How can we pray?

Pray that the young believers will become stable, mature Christians, faithful in their testimony and service for Christ.

Do you have a final statement?

We are so thankful for the privilege to be in New Castle. Without His leadership we would never have come. We pray and beg that the people will not give up on us as we struggle often and experience great setbacks to establish the work here. We are laboring toward our church becoming the source of many others being established in this area before the Lord returns.

Prayer Group Programs

by Pat Thomas

OCTOBER

October is one of my favorite months of the year. I love the fall colors in the leaves and shrubs, especially the aspen trees of Colorado. The October weather turns them such a bright yellow that they seem so many gold pieces shimmering in the breeze. I love the excitement of high school football games, the sight of pumpkins and apples gathered from the harvest, and the noise of wild geese flying south.

But what makes fall the most exciting to me is the renewed emphasis in Sunday school attendance campaigns, the increase in soul winning activities, and the harvest of souls won as a result. These are some reasons why fall is the most fruitful time of the year for soul winning.

Women can do many things to aid in the ingathering of souls during the fall. Of course, prayer must be made for the pastor, the Sunday school teachers and staff, the lost of the community, the young people and children, and for that special friend you are trying to win to Christ. Women

can also take an active, energetic part in the soul winning efforts of the church.

Through the mission-action emphasis of the auxiliary, a special women's soul winning group can be organized. Invite a woman who is a successful soul winner to visit your church and train the women to become effective soul winners. A trainer-trainee program can be developed in which a more experienced soul winner takes a new inexperienced partner with her in a soul winning effort. After completing the training and bathing the efforts with prayer, she must go out soul winning. No amount of study and prayer will make a woman a soul winner if she does not go forth carrying the Word of God to the lost.

Prayer requests: Pray that our auxiliary women will become more active in personal soul winning.

Pray for new home missionaries: Howard Bowers family to Colorado Springs, Colorado; David Fox family, Fairfield, California; Ernie Ross family to St. Paul, Minnesota; Steve Stidham family to Hamilton, Ohio. Pray that they will be able to build strong self-supporting churches in these needy cities.

Pray for Carlisle and Marie Hanna, the only FWB missionaries now serving in India. Pray for their three children who are in the states—Don, a medical student in S.C.; Mark, in LeTourneau Tech, Texas; and Brenda, married, who lives in Georgia.

NOVEMBER

For many years the month of November has been designated Home Missions Month at which time a special thrust is made to raise funds to be placed in the general fund of the Department of National Home Missions.

Each home missionary has a special account in the national office in Nashville, Tennessee from which his salary is paid. No funds are taken from the salary accounts to maintain the office or pay the office staff. Money for these expenses must come from the general fund.

Other expenses that must come from this fund include the board members expense to meetings where they approve new missionaries, adopt policies, and project plans for the future. The cost of printing tracts, follow-up lessons, and soul winning materials comes from this fund; as does the printing and mailing of *Mission Grams* which keeps our people informed of the progress of our home mission fields. Other expenses taken from this fund are salaries of staff members who receipt and disburse missionary funds, print newsletters, process faith promise cards, arrange itinerates, and prayer and counsel support.

At this time the general fund desperately needs support. Please pray that during this special home missions emphasis month the money will come in that these missionary benefit services can be continued.

Encourage your church to observe Home Missions Sunday on November 18, the Sunday

preceding Thanksgiving. Order special bulletin inserts from the national office, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. Receive special offerings in your church and Sunday school, and don't forget the sacrificial offering in your auxiliary in honor of Lizzie McAdams, pioneer home missionary. All these will go to the general fund of the National Home Missions Department.

Prayer Requests: Pray for the National Home Missions board as they meet in their annual meeting November 5-7 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Pray for Tom and Nancy Hughes and their work in the city of Uberlandia, Brazil, South America, that they can develop a strong nucleus of believers. Pray for Tommy Jr., 17, a high school senior living with his grandmother in Tennessee; and for Lori, 13, attending a Brazilian school.

Pray for the promotional men in the home missions department as they travel among our churches—Roy Thomas, Trymon Messer, and John Gibbs.

DECEMBER

December is State Missions Emphasis Month in our auxiliaries. This is a good time for special prayer in behalf of our own state missionaries and becoming involved in mission projects for them, especially at Christmas time.

Some state missionaries are joint project workers. This means they are sponsored jointly by

their state mission boards and the national home mission board. Through this joint effort a new church is placed in a needy area within states that have existing state mission boards. The national board provides many benefits for these joint workers such as free materials, song books, literature, guaranteed salary, scheduling itinerates, and processing faith promise cards and newsletters.

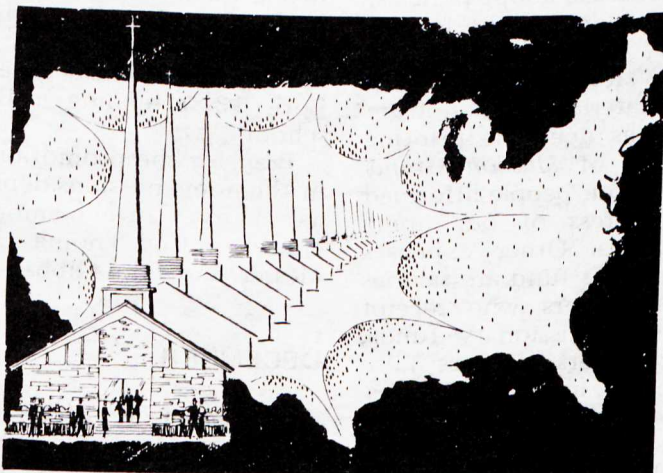
For complete information on these 28 joint missionaries, including a prayer card, write the Department of Home Missions in Nashville.

Prayer Requests: Pray for these home missionaries as they labor to establish new churches in needy cities.

Pray for the annual meeting of the Foreign Missions Board as they meet in Nashville, Tennessee, December 3-6. Pray for Rolla Smith, Henry Van Kluyve, Don Robirds, and Harold Critcher who head up the office staff of the foreign missions department.

Pray for Jesse Dunn, Salem, Oregon, that he will find property to locate the new church. They have been meeting in rented facilities for several months.

Pray for Elaine Allen, R.N., Mike and Deleen Cousineau, and Arilla Wode who are studying the french language in Albertville, France. All four are looking forward to a ministry in Ivory Coast.



send your sacrificial

Lizzie McAdams offering to:

WNAC
P. O. Box 1088
Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Mildred M. Hutchinson

Please Step On My Toes



"Enjoy your children while they are small. They're walking on your toes now—later it will be on your heart."

I often heard those words when our four sons were small. A few years later I began to experience what they meant. The years for molding and shaping the lives and character of our children were passing so rapidly. They were growing up and making their own decisions and our hold on their lives was slipping from us.

Then God gave us a daughter. As I looked down into the crib at this precious little afterthought, the words came, "... on your toes now—later" I realized what a tremendous responsibility and opportunity were mine. Silently I told her, "Please step hard on my toes, my darling child. Keep reminding me that you are watching my every action and reaction to life and its problems. Step

hard so I'll remember that I can't possibly train you up in the way you should go unless my feet are walking unerringly in it. Step hard, get my attention, so that I'll remember that I must not claim the promise that "when you are old, you will not depart from it" unless it is Jesus, the only way to heaven in which I'm helping you to learn to walk. Remind me over and over that it doesn't say to let you get out of line and stray away for a time and then eventually you'll come back.

Help me remember, step real hard on my toes, baby, so that I'll hold the standards high and make sure you conform to God's standards in obedience and honor to parents, speech, the friends you choose, the things you see and hear and the places you are (or are not) allowed to go, even when you just can't seem to understand why. Make my toes ache now, so that later my heart will not be broken by a wayward, selfish young girl.

Yes, please step on my toes, so I'll remember that you're more important than the many other things that clamor for my time and attention. Remind me that this opportunity to train you up in the way you should go can only be taken advantage of *now* when your life is just beginning. Don't let my push you aside for less important duties and obligations.

Please make me aware of your presence. Step on my toes, little one, so that our lives, yours and mine, will be an example to other mothers and children. That they, too, may learn to walk in the way of the cross of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Quiet Moments

As I quietly sit and meditate upon the holy Word of God, I realize how much I depend upon His sweet presence as I go from day to day, from situation to situation, and how much He holds me in His hand when I submit myself to Him completely. At times I wonder what my place is in this world and what I will be doing in the future. Then I remember the statement I heard at a revival meeting once: "Don't look back, don't worry about the future, just live for today." Truly God answers prayer if we will just sit still long enough to listen.

*Dina Woodham
Midland City, Alabama*

It was late one evening. We had read the story of Samuel to the children and said our individual prayers, and tucked in our 6 year old son. I fed the baby his bottle, changed him and rocked him to sleep. As I relaxed in our den, suddenly our hand-made antique ship caught my eye. It needed dusting again. That would not be so bad except the hundreds of tiny strings which represent the ropes had to be cleaned individually with cotton swabs. While I was admiring the beauty that the

craftsman had so patiently created, a wonderful thought touched my soul. Our lives are like the sails of the old ship. Each segment is held together with so many intricate ropes which our Creator has so patiently crafted. We must seek daily cleansing through the study of His Word and communion in prayer. If we fail to perform the upkeep of this temple of God, we shall gather dust as did the old model ship.

*Marsha B. Rolan
Stacy, North Carolina*

It was an ordinary Sunday morning. As we assembled in the sanctuary, I remembered that in my hurry scurry to get things done that morning, I had forgotten to pray. I tried to sing, but the words would not come. Instead a verse of Scripture kept pushing its way into my thoughts: "Men ought always to pray and not to faint." I could almost hear the words that Jesus spoke to Martha, "Martha, you are careful and troubled about many things, but one thing is needful, and Mary has chosen that good part." I felt so ashamed and bowing my head, silently prayed, "Lord, forgive me and create in me a clean

heart." Tears stung my eyelids, but only for a moment, as the refreshing cleansing wave of forgiveness washed over my heart. Raising my head I joined in singing "Amazing Grace." It had never sounded so sweet.

*Mrs. Jimmie Johnson
McMinnville, Tennessee*

The day had started badly. I was going at a frantic pace, tackling the many household chores to be completed that day. Then something happened to change my whole attitude. I listened as my 7 year old daughter sang cheerfully, "God's beautiful world, God's beautiful world, He made it for you, He made it for me, I love God's beautiful world." The words of this song seemed to dissolve the unnecessary worries I was letting mount up for the day and made me realize that this day was made just for me if I would accept it.

*Vaudine Lancaster
Ethelsville, Alabama*

One day during our revival meeting, my two little pre-schoolers had been unusually mischievous. By the time I had them settled down for their naps, I was near my breaking point. It was a good time for my devotions. I took my Bible to the bedroom and shut the door. How quiet everything seemed. As I read the Scripture, "Come ye apart into a desert place and rest awhile," I broke down into tears.

As I meditated on His Word, suddenly my questions were answered. Somewhere along the

line I had become so interested in my works that I had forgotten to take the time to be alone with Jesus. I had become too busy to rest. "Okay, Lord," I prayed, "I'll start again. But this time I'll break away and come often into a desert place with You and rest awhile. I'll give you a chance to renew my strength and fill my soul."

There at my bedside I felt the presence of the Lord. I was filled with His Spirit. I felt peace and joy. How good it felt to be at home again.

*Diane Thomas
Grifton, North Carolina*

Our New Year's service was ended. It had been a beautiful service of singing, praying, and testifying. I came home and went to bed, but could find no sleep. My testimony that night had been more of complaints than praise. Just three weeks before, my only child was killed in an accident, and, as a widow, I couldn't understand why God had allowed me to be so alone. As I tossed and turned, I decided to review the past months for some evidence of God's presence in my life.

It was everywhere. It was so pleasant to remember all the beautiful things God had done. About 2 A.M., I decided to get up and make a list. My blessings were so abundant! But gradually I sensed that the blessing that far exceeded any other was the strength and presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God.

*Pal Moomey
Fort Smith, Arkansas*

Presenting Our Presidents



Tucker



McCann



Smith



McAllister



Burton

Illinois

Donna Tucker, Mascoutah, has been involved in auxiliary work for almost 20 years and served as an officer for most of that time. She was elected as president at the spring convention. Her husband, Dempsey, a deacon, and she have 4 children, three of whom attended FWBBC (Rex, Guy, DeAnn). All, including Tim, are musically involved in FWB churches.

Mary McCann stepped up/down from the office of president to that of field worker. She, too, is married to an active layman, Carl, and they have two teen-age daughters. Mary is an active participant in the whole church program of First Church, Benton, currently serving as auxiliary president and church clerk-treasurer. She has planned and directed several prayer retreats.

Kansas

The women of Kansas chose as

their president a home missionary. Ozella Smith and husband Rue Dell pioneer in Shawnee Mission where she does a lot of door knocking and tract distribution.

Mrs. Smith has a strong Christian heritage which she has passed on to her three daughters, and they, in turn, are imparting to their children. A born leader, Ozella serves as president or vice-president in most auxiliaries she attends.

Linda Ash, Salina, is field worker.

Missouri

Helen McAllister, Farmington, serves as Missouri's president. She is the wife of a very busy pastor, Jim. For an inside scoop of their marriage read their excerpt in *Why We Are Happily Married* edited by Harold and June Critcher. Two of their 4 children are married.

Assisting in state promotion is Vivian Burton. She gives office assistance to her husband, Clarence, who serves as the state's executive secretary. They are the parents of two married sons, one of whom is an Arkansas pastor.

A Woman God Has Used



Mrs. Myrtle Parris, 72, is a member of the Cramerton Free Will Baptist Church, Cramerton, North Carolina. Her life exemplifies the life of one who is totally sold out to her Lord. When she gave Him her heart, she offered her life to Him for service.

Mrs. Parris has a love for missions and the auxiliary offered an outlet for expression and growing. She was a charter member of that first auxiliary which Lizzie McAdams organized in 1945 and has only missed one monthly meeting since. During her 33 years of auxiliary service, she has held almost every office at one time or another, not only in the local, but in the district and state as well. Currently she is president of the Western Piedmont district and treasurer of the North Carolina State Convention.

She takes her responsibilities seriously. In 1977, while serving as district president and state treasurer, she was disturbed that the auxiliary offerings were not up to par. She contracted with a local company to make aprons, which she did for 3 years. Her entire profit of \$563 that first year was donated to WNAC Emphasis Month offering. The contributions for the other years were more than \$300. Other women were better able to give and others were better seamstresses, but this was *her* responsibility and she did what she could to fulfill it.

The fruit of faithfulness graces her service. She regularly participates in all church activities, even visitation. If there is a death or sickness in the community, she is the first one there with help and comfort.

The fruits and gifts of the Spirit are manifested in the life of this woman and those who know her rise up and call her blessed.

Welcome New Staff Member

WNAC welcomes Lorene Miley to the staff as editor of *Co-Laborer* and secretary. She replaces the former Donna Carr who recently married and moved to Florida. Lorene and her husband, Dr. LaVerne Miley, served as medical missionaries in Ivory Coast,

West Africa for almost 20 years. They have three married children, Lynn, Lynette, and Larry, of whom two are serving as missionaries in the Ivory Coast. Lorene served as president of WNAC prior to her missionary work.



Lorene Miley

Dear Co-Laborer,

Although the auxiliary was not my first love in Christian service (I had already discovered DVBS and Child Evangelism), it was a close runner-up. My love and appreciation for the auxiliary deepened during our years in Africa. Our prayer partners were auxiliary members. Our supporters belonged to the auxiliary. Our kitchen shelves and linen closet were stocked by the auxiliary. You wrote us letters, sent us cards, mailed us gifts. You let us know in a hundred ways that you knew, you loved, you cared.

When God directed us back to the States to live and work, it was only

natural I would be attracted to the auxiliary. I returned with full confidence that my years on the mission field would be a preparation for this NEW THING He had awaiting me. My work with *Co-Laborer* is exactly that. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5, 6) is just as applicable today as it was 25 years ago.

We are still co-laborers, as we've been through the years. Only now I'm on your side of the ocean.

Lorene Miley

OBEDIENCE

(adapted from a poem by George Macdonald)

I said, "Let me stay here in Doropo."

He said, "No, I want you in America."

I said, "But my house and flowers are here."

He said, "I'll have those for you there."

I said, "But life is so hectic there."

"Just brief times squeezed in for You."

He said, "I'm *within* you and I'll woo you to me.

I'll be with you in all that you do."

"But our work with the sick, what'll happen to it?"

I cried out in deep despair.

"Is it your work, or mine?" He asked with a sigh.

"I've a new work for you now over there."

"But my children are here, and Suzanne," I said.

"And my friends all want me to stay."

He asked, "Are they more important than I?"

If you *truly* loved, you'd obey."

I took one last look as we drove out the drive.

Then I set my face toward the sea.

He whispered, "My child, is it really so hard?"

Can you leave it all to follow me?"

So I gave Him my throne and fell down at His feet.

Oh, my heart felt so happy and free.

And I'm walking now in great delight.

This path I hadn't wanted to see.

Lorene Miley



Creative Writing Contest Winners

Second Place



*Programs—Diane Mitchell Thomas, Grifton,
North Carolina*

Articles—Loretta Williams, Sperry, Oklahoma
Plays/Skits—Magaline Statzer, Bristol, Virginia
*Poetry—Wilma Allene King, Rocky Comfort,
Missouri*

Third Place



*Programs—Carol Kettelman Reid, Nashville,
Tennessee*

*Articles—Mildred Hutchinson, Manning,
South Carolina*

*Plays/Skits—Vaudine Lancaster, Ethelsville,
Alabama*

Poetry—Karon Anderson, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Honorable Mention



First Place

*Programs—Carolyn Franks, Mantachie,
Mississippi*

*Articles—Diane Mitchell Thomas, Grifton,
North Carolina*

Plays/Skits—Lorene Brooks, Ozark, Arkansas

Poetry—Goldie Mertz, St. Louis, Missouri

Programs—Phyllis Bass, Jacksonville, Florida
Anita Haney, Guthrie, Kentucky

Articles—Dorothy Ireland, Norfolk, Virginia
*Plays/Skits—Velda Tucker, Batesville,
Arkansas*

Poetry—Bev Walker, Houston, Texas