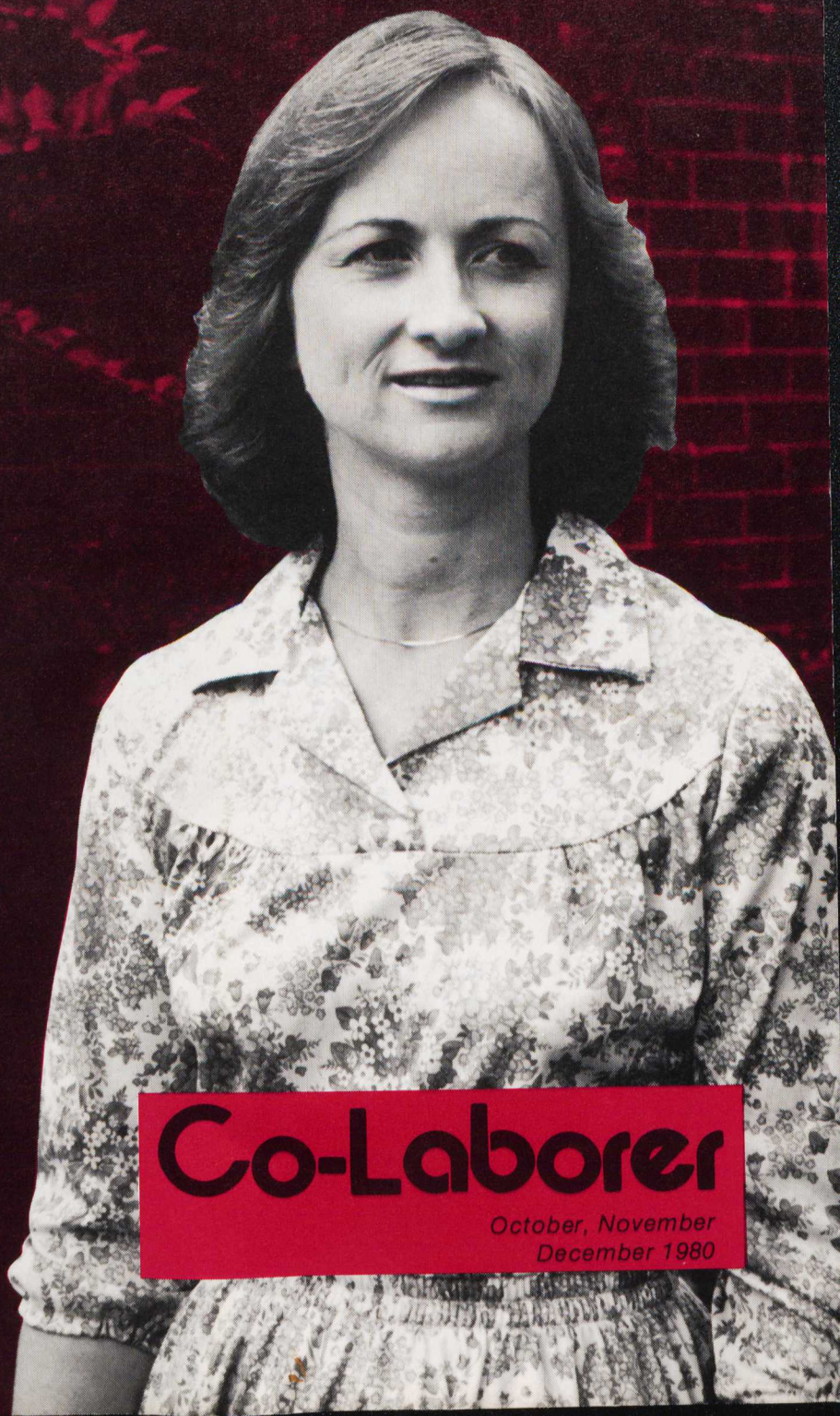




Co-Laborer

*October, November
December 1980*

Just Off The Press



The
Free Will Baptist
Woman's
Missionary
Society

Faith and Works Win

The Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary Missionary Society Faith and Works Win 146pp/\$4.95

WNAC has just reprinted this historical book originally printed in 1922 which covers a history of our women's work between the years 1873 and 1921, along with a resume of work from 1780-1873.

As we read the accounts of these women who were "enlisted for life" (their motto), we see in it the link that bridges an honorable past with the challenge of the present and a still more glorious future. You'll thrill to be identified with others who sought to fulfill their place in the Great Commission.

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

Co-Laborer

October, November, December 1980
Volume XX, Number 4

A missions minded woman is a joyful believer who delights in
personal witnessing

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cover: Norma Caton, missionary to Spain
photo credits: Bert Tippet

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Our Writers

Gertrude Cantrell (Mrs. Howard), Santa Fe Springs, CA, has been a member of Bell Gardens FWB Church for more than twenty years. Mrs. Cantrell has three married children and four grandchildren; loves to sing, teach, and write.

Betty Chrisman and husband Bradley are youth sponsors at the Hazel Creek FWB Church, Kirksville, MO. Mother of three sons, Betty is also part time vet clinic worker, teaches Sunday school and CTS, and enjoys cake decorating and singing.

Marsha Rolan (Mrs. Thomas), formerly of Stacy, NC, and now a missionary volunteer enrolled at FWBBC, Nashville, TN, where she serves as library assistant. Thomas is student pastor at Lewisburg and they have two sons, Paul, 10, and Matthew, 2.

Linda Simons (Mrs. Richard), mother of 14 year old twins and April, 4, manages a home day care center for seven children. Enrollment in Moody Bible correspondence courses prepares her for leadership positions in DVBS, CTS, Sunday school and auxiliary at the Sherwood Forest FWB Church, New Bern, NC.

Norma June Teague and husband Harold are joint home missionaries establishing a work in Longview, Texas. Norma is a licensed state child care administrator and one of WNAC's members at large. Son Michael, 14, completes their musical trio.

Bev Welker (Mrs. Bob), accountant, musician, Gospel song writer, and mother of nine-year-old Brandt. They are members at Eastside FWB Church, Houston, TX.

Cantrell



Chrisman



Rolan



Simons



Teague



Welker



editorial



"My tongue is the pen of a ready writer" (Psalm 45:1)

Last year eighty-six co-laborers took up the pen of a ready writer and submitted their compositions in WNAC's annual creative writing contest. These 270 entries poured in from 17 states and one foreign country, with Missouri and North Carolina taking the lead in number of participants.

The contest revealed a wide intellectual background—from college graduates to those who confessed they hadn't had much schooling, from career and professional women to the lowly housewife. Single and marrieds, mothers and the childless. Age variation was also evident. Since more and more younger women are involved in auxiliary, their fresh and enthusiastic approach was like a breath of spring air rustling the pages.

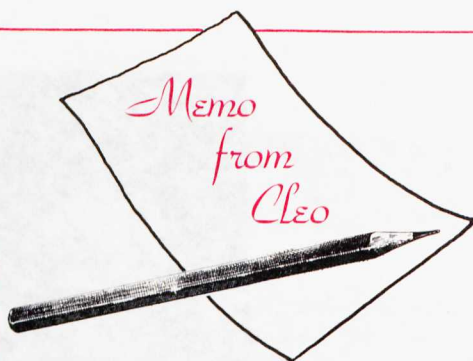
Our women love their husbands and children, but the entries clearly revealed that Jesus was the dominant personality in their lives. The thirty-one program writers portrayed Him as our Hope of Glory, The Cornerstone, Lamb, Timekeeper, Head of the Church, the Risen One, Light of the World, Sin Bearer, Lifeline, Architect, and Gardener.

The thirty-four article writers showed how Christ saves, comforts, heals, calls, answers, teaches, and empowers. The forty-one poets eulogized Him as Friend, Lord, Saviour, King, and coming again. The thirteen plays moved with a strong undercurrent of Jesus and His love.

To paraphrase Matthew 12:34: "Out of the abundance of the heart, the pen writes." These 270 entries gauge the heartbeat of our Free Will Baptist women and it's encouraging. The pulse of missions was not as strong as I anticipated, but it was felt—faint, yet steady. Promising, definitely promising. For as our love affair with Jesus deepens and matures, we'll find ourselves more attuned to His heartbeat, one that beats with love for a lost world.

How many ready writers are picking up their pens now? Contest ends March 1.

Lorene Miley



Convention News

Because this issue of **Co-Laborer** goes to the printer in mid-June, news and photos of our July convention will appear in first quarter issue. Also a recap of our first WNAC retreat(s) at Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. At this writing we anticipate near a thousand registrants at the two retreats in September.

Enlistment Month

Hopefully your auxiliary recruited new members and brought back absentees during WNAC Emphasis Month in August. Now it's time to again plan special efforts to enlist women in your church for membership in the Woman's Auxiliary. January is enlistment month.

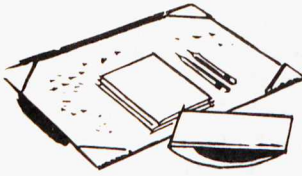
Numerous women have reported successful efforts through using the materials supplied by WNAC. Again this year special materials will be mailed to those on the Co-Laborer mailing list.

Hold Them

After you have gained new members it is important to hold them. Well trained officers and a well planned program of work go a long way toward keeping their interests. Plan the most interesting programs possible. Be sure the entire meeting is well-planned (business, promotion features and prayer time). This together with a warm, friendly, relaxed atmosphere will work wonders.

The Minister's Wife

WNAC's first publication for ministers' wives was well received. Here is some of the feedback. "I got to share some truths from it that very day to help a person in need . . . it was definitely sent by the Lord. Please send me more." "Satan is making a greater attempt than ever to destroy Christian homes, and the pastor's wife of all people needs to know who she is and to be able to stand firm and help others. I'm looking forward to more issues." "I have been trying to improve my self-image for some time. Your issue helps me apply to my life what the Bible teaches all of us. I am looking forward to your next issue."



Co-Laborers Write & Share

Emphasis Program

Enclosed is our emphasis month offering from Chesterfield. This is the first time our auxiliary has participated, and it was a blessing to us and our church. Eight different countries were represented. We decorated our rooms, shared information and pictures, showed slides, answered questions and shared national food where possible.

Patricia Waid
Daleville, Indiana

Church Library

This year our auxiliary wants to get down to business with God and let Him use each one of us to His fullest. We are starting a library in our church in order to grow spiritually and reach out to others.

Susan Atchison
Hampton, Virginia

Love In Action

The auxiliary sure did enjoy preparing meals for the men when they added an additional building to our church.

First Woman's Auxiliary
Roanoke, Virginia

McLain's from Japan

We had a new lady in cooking class

today. She walked me to the bus stop and I learned her grandfather and father were both Christians and she had attended church until she was 12. She said she believed Jesus was a good man, but not God. She became excited when she saw my hymn book and said she enjoyed singing hymns very much. Pray that the Spirit of God will work in her heart and the old fires will be rekindled.

More on the Scripture

We have received our new **Co-Laborers** and are so happy to see you have put the Scripture and song suggestion back. We use other Scriptures, too, but when you dropped the Scripture it seemed to take something away from the programs.

Mrs. M. B. Williams
Strawberry, Arkansas

I'm glad the Scripture references are back in our lessons . . . We have just finished the study on "Living Without Worry" and our ladies got a great blessing from it, so I would encourage other ladies to use it.

Mrs. Billie Johnson
Knightdale, North Carolina

Gateau de Yaourt

Ben Avenue FWB Woman's Auxiliary, Kannapolis, NC, has compiled

an unusual cookbook, **Home Cooking and Foreign Favorites**, in which many of our home and foreign missionaries have contributed favorite and international recipes. Billie Sexton, former missionary to France, shares her favorite yogurt cake recipe.

Use the container the yogurt came in to measure the ingredients: one can yogurt, two containers self rising flour, two containers sugar, and one half container cooking oil. Stir all together with three eggs and bake in a tube pan (it must be a **tube** pan) for 20-30 minutes in a 375° oven.

History Book

It was thoughtful of you to send me a copy of **The Free Will Baptist Woman's Missionary Society** book which you have reprinted. I am not only grateful for the copy, but for the fact that you have brought to the denomination's attention the continuing contribution made by godly women.

H. D. Harrison
Sunday School Department
Nashville, Tennessee

The Rosses in Minnesota

We wish there was some way we could personally thank all of you for your help. Those involved in WNAC are a blessing to missionary families.

Woman God Has Used

What a surprise when I walked into church and there on the Woman's Auxiliary bulletin board was the article you had printed about me. It was a

very humbling experience, but I do appreciate the honor. It was especially difficult because I was just recovering from the usual Mother's Day messages from our children. They have reached the age where they remember the right things I did rather than all the mistakes. But it is a reminder of how I wished I'd done better, and your recognition affected me the same way.

Darlene Melvin
Wheaton, Illinois

Judy Smith On Furlough From Japan

I enjoyed going through the Provision Closet. My little house was instantly turned into home after I came from Nashville, unpacked all the nice things and put them up. Thanks so much for providing these. They're beautiful! And I'll enjoy them so much here and in Japan when I return.

Henderson, Texas

Provision Closet

Our newly formed auxiliary held a provision closet shower and collected over \$150 in gifts. Amy Robinson, missionary to Uruguay, was guest speaker at our mother-daughter banquet. She's a delightful person and a wonderful speaker.

Pauline Smith
Charleston, South Carolina

Appreciation

Just a note to let you know how much we appreciate our Co-Laborer magazines.

Doris Ball
Chillicothe, Ohio

AUXILIARY Women IN ACTION

Alabama

"The best thing that ever happened to me," testified one auxiliary member following an unusual Pre-Easter week of prayer observance in Montgomery. For five straight nights the women gathered around the altar praying for the needs of the world.

First Church, Vernon, sponsored a combination study and banquet at a local restaurant. "It proved an excellent way to feel young on a night out with our husbands, and at the same time, have an auxiliary study which the men enjoyed as well," reported Paulette Scott, pastor's wife.

Mt. Moriah District Woman's Auxiliary Convention was organized at the Shiloh FWB Church near Gordo. Pat Pless was elected as president and Diane Plyman as field worker.

Florida

Pastor Melvin Sanford, Scottsmeer, received an unusual Christmas gift from his woman's auxiliary—a quilt depicting his pastoral history. In addition to 13 Bible scenes, other blocks included names of congregation, family and friends, names of 17 churches he has pastored in different states, etc. Names were written in their own handwriting and then embroidered

and quilted by the women. Says Brother Sanford, "No money could buy this quilt."



Indiana

Mary Neal, New Castle, was elected president of the newly organized Indiana state convention. Fifty two women met for a carry-in lunch when Mrs. Pursell, WNAC, organized the Kosciusko county and White River districts into a state association.

Maryland

Mt. Calvary, Perryman, has only 15 active women, but they are discovering what God can do through them

when they are available. Lots of hard work, self sacrifice, and total involvement are netting much to the cause of missions and their church. These industrious women recently painted the parsonage.

Oklahoma

Seminole woman's auxiliary have established a missionary of the week program where a missionary family profile is displayed along with a prayer card. Rosemarie Laffoon is president of this missions-minded group of women.



Trinity Temple auxiliary, Tulsa, installed their new officers during the Sunday night service. Effie Morris, former past president, and Nadine Hood, outgoing president, officiated with Glen Hood, pastor, praying the dedicatory prayer. Margaret Andrew was elected the new president.



Highland Park auxiliary, Stillwater, presented a friendship quilt to Sandra Bishop, missionary to Japan; also a check for \$2,000.



New Mexico

Faith Chapel auxiliary, Hobbs, behind the communion table which was their home project for last year. Linda Ball is the pastor's wife.



North Carolina

A candlelight service was used to install the newly elected auxiliary offi-

cers of the Immanuel Church, Winter-
ville. They recently observed a "Be
Kind to Your Pastor's Wife Week" in
honor of Mrs. A. C. Morgan.

South Carolina

Central District raised money to-
ward the purchase of a vehicle for the
Jimmy Aldridges, missionaries to Ivory
Coast. A check for \$1,211.45 was
presented to Jimmy and Janie during
their annual meeting at the Mt. Oriel
FWB Church.

Tennessee

A baby shower for missionary
Lynette Morgan, Ivory Coast, was held
in connection with their annual moth-
er and daughter banquet at the Donel-
son FWB Church. Lynette's mother,
Lorene Miley, was guest speaker.

State Conventions

State	Theme	Presiding
Texas	"Where Is Your Vision?" Project: Judy Smith, Japan; Harold Teagues, Longview	Geneva Walker
California	"Growing Together"	June Rolen
Missouri	"Lovest Thou Me . . . Feed My Sheep"	Helen McAllister
Ohio	"Maturity in Christ"	Yvonne Wolfenbarger
North Carolina	"Be Ready" Project: FWBBC—Furnishing the Patton House; Herseys	Joanne King
Illinois	Project: Herseys, Japan; Odells, Montana	Donna Tucker
Virginia	"Here Am I, Send Me" Project: FWBBC; Bob Lewis, Williamsburg	Margaret Merkh
Michigan	"Chosen Vessels"	Treva Prater, new president
Florida	"Blessed to be a Blessing"	Peggy Hutto



Hodgepodge Of Praise



Two days before Valentine's Day we received the telephone call. For a whole year we had waited. The Welfare Department had a little girl four months old for us to adopt. She was from God Himself and we could hardly wait to take her home with us.

But we had a problem. We had no money. And a new baby needed a bed, clothes, food; and we were broke.

When we got home that day we found in our mailbox a check for a hundred dollars. I think it was insurance from some place. We just rejoiced all over the place! We shouted, cried and praised God all afternoon, then went to town and bought all the things we needed for this brand new life God was giving us.

**Sabrina Buckner
Midway, TN**

On April 10, 1979, a massive tornado ripped through Wichita Falls, Texas, leaving 45 dead, many wounded and total devastation

everywhere. All day long announcers blared out their warnings of impending doom. By 6:00, they frantically alerted us that three separate tornados had converged on our city and were headed right down our street!

Since we had no storm shelter, we raced to the car to flee for our lives. But there was no way to escape this zigzagging inferno as it crashed down over us. We pulled into a parking lot and leaned over the dash as windows exploded, violent shaking, overpowering thunder. A steel beam landed just inches from our backs.

Suddenly it was deathly still save for a few falling raindrops. Death and devastation everywhere, but we were alive—mud, glass and tar streaked, but alive! God had covered us with His hand.

In just a matter of 20 minutes, we had felt His guiding hand to safety, His protecting and calming hand during the storm, and His delivering hand through it all. Praise His name!

**Loree Medley
Wichita Falls, TX**

Back in the early forties, my family was driving an old car without windows which barely got us from one place to another. Daddy pastored a country church about thirty miles from home.

One Sunday Daddy and my oldest sister started off to church in the rain, leaving the rest of the family at home sick. By the time they reached church and back home, they were soaked. That evening at devotion time, Daddy called the family together and requested we ask God for a good car so we could go to church and preach His Word. He didn't ask for it to come "miracle-style," but rather some way be provided that they could afford to buy one.

In two weeks the little country church, unknowing to my folks, brought a beautiful black shining Ford—with all the windows!—to our house and handed the keys to Daddy.

**Arlene Thomas
Russellville, AR**

I was seven months pregnant when the doctor's words caused my dreams to crumble: "Please prepare for more tests; there may be some disorder." He suggested a genetic disorder, even mongoloidism.

Surely God wouldn't do this to us, especially not after two painful miscarriages the previous year. My Susannah Wesley heart yearned for a houseful of children, and happily, my husband shared this dream. We already had a three-year-old son.

The weeks passed with smiles on the outside, yet smoldering resentment inside. One weary day after extensive testing confirmed what we already knew, some memorized verses from childhood floated to surface: "Thou wilt keep

him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee . . . (Isa. 26:3, 4). As tears streamed down my cheeks, resentment gave way to repentance. I would love and cherish the little jewel growing inside me, no matter what. Indescribable peace flooded my being and Psalm 28:7 became my song.

Two weeks later, a mentally normal, physically healthy jewel named Matthew ("God's gracious gift") made his appearance. Today as I watch my seven month explorer crawl around with his toothy grin my heart bursts with gratitude. Thank You, Lord, for these two sparkling jewels that one day I want to cast down at Your feet."

**Trudy Haas Miles
Greenville, NC**

I praise God for little things—the luxurious feeling of lying in bed in the morning, the pleasurable sensation of a silk blouse against the skin, a soft cashmere on the arms, the way your mouth waters in anticipation of delicious food, the comfortable feeling after you've eaten, how blessedly good your feet feel in a pair of old slippers. And yes, even sensitivity to pain. For without pain how would we be warned of the danger of being burned or of touching sharp objects or the unknown illness which could be growing inside our bodies.

These beautiful gifts of God often become common and ordinary, just taken-for-granted blessings we daily expect without even an acknowledgement. God knew we were vain, ungrateful creatures. Even so, He loved us and gave us the greatest gift of all—His only begotten son.

**Darlene Wilmoth
Pontiac, MI**



A Little Child Shall Lead Them

Betty Chrisman

One afternoon my little Michael came through the kitchen door from Good News Club with his teacher right behind him. He had just asked Jesus into his heart and they wanted me to know. I wasn't very nice. I thought he was too young.

My husband and I had been raised in Christian homes and I had made a profession of faith, but I had strayed after we married. So many wasted years.

But I witnessed the change in Michael's life. I knew something had happened to him. One day the Lord allowed me to attend a work day at the woman's auxiliary. I listened, looked and worked. Everyone was happy, no one was gossiping. It made an impression on my heart. When I got home, I fell to my knees and asked God to forgive me. Now Michael and I were in this together.

The burden for my husband was heavy. It was on my heart, mind and tongue. One afternoon the boys and I were going to see a Billy Graham film. We had so wanted Daddy to go

with us. I told the boys how much I wished their daddy would be saved. All he would have to do is confess his sins and ask Jesus to come in. That's all he'd have to do, I told them.

Later during the invitation at the film, Mark, my six-year-old, turned to me and said, "Mom!"

"Sh! Be quiet, Mark!"

"Mom" again. More insistent, begging to be heard.

"What is it, Mark?"

"I did that, Mom. I asked Him."

"You did what? You asked who?"

"I asked Jesus in my heart."

"When?"

"When we were in the car, talking about Dad. You said all we had to do was tell Jesus we were sorry for our sins. I ask Him, Mom, and He did."

That made three of us now.

The going was getting rough for my man. So many problems. I thought of what God told Paul, "It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." Then a young minister with a lovable personality came to pastor our church and visited us one night. He led my miserable husband right to the Lord and encouraged him to live one day at a time. Not long after, Mark and his daddy walked down the creek bank and were baptized together.

One night after prayer meeting the boys and I stopped by my sister's (Daddy was working nights). We talked about the Lord and what heaven would be like. Our youngest son, Matthew, became very interested. He asked a lot of questions about the Lord, where He lived, and how we would get there. Even when we reached home, he was still talking about these things.

I began to get the message. When I put him to bed, I asked if he wanted to invite Jesus into his heart. He said No. I turned off the lights

and returned with a blanket. Would he like another cover?

"Mom, will Jesus hear if you just get half done?"

Yes, yes, He would hear. "Would you like me to help you?" I asked him again.

"O.K."

This time my husband rejoiced with me. It will soon be eleven years since that day Michael walked in from Good News Club saying he had invited Jesus into his heart. And one by one our whole family has been brought into His kingdom. Thank You, Jesus.

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

Bev Welker

I had just finished cleaning up the kitchen that Wednesday night and leaned down to pet the dog. Suddenly a stab of pain flashed across my chest, leaving me gasping for breath. I managed to get to the bedroom where Bob my husband was dressing for prayer meeting, but it was like tons of pressure crushing down on my chest.

A few minutes later, it was over. Just heartburn or something, I assured my anxious husband, and we went on to church as scheduled. I could even play the piano with no discomfort. I had no idea of the depths of suffering I would experience before I'd be able to sit on that bench again.

The pain started again on the way home; at first just a glimmer on the left side of the arm and neck and then progressively getting more severe. "Probably a pleurisy attack," the doctor tentatively diagnosed when Bob telephoned him, and suggested I use warm soaks and take aspirin.

Next morning, after a gasping,

sleepless night, I visited the doctor and was immediately rushed to the hospital with a totally collapsed lung. The thoracic surgeon and four nurses met me with all their frightening instruments, packages, gauze and needles. I almost panicked when he showed me that rod-like instrument with the knife point blade which he planned to insert into my lung. At that point, I closed my eyes and turned the whole situation over to the Lord. What do people do when they don't have Him to turn to?

There was a lot of pain for four days, but thankfully the lung did inflate without surgical repair. The church is our family circle and I was fairly enveloped in their love those days. When I returned home, the auxiliary arranged a schedule of bringing food daily for a week.

Faith grew that day in that valley and Romans 8:28 became more meaningful to me. I'm constantly aware of God's presence in my life (Psalm 18:32) and for everything I give Him thanks.



SAFARI SERVANT

by Genny Waddell

Foundry Press

Orangeburg, South Carolina

1980 \$4.95; 152 pp

Study Guide/Devotional Booklet

52pp/\$1.50

SHARE-A-BOOK

Margaret Engle Marsh served as a missionary in Tanzania, East Africa for forty-six years with the African Inland Missions. Since 1946, she has been supported by the Southern Methodist denomination.

She is an *ordinary* person whose *extraordinary* faith took her from a one-room school in rural Pennsylvania to the huts and villages of Tanzania. She delivered her first child herself; accompanied her husband on arduous missionary safaris; survived famines; matched wits with medicine men; and patched up villagers who were mauled by neighboring lions.

Widowed, she returned to Africa with her four-year-old daughter to teach in a girls' school and work among women in the bush country for almost thirty years more.

Margaret Marsh witnesses many of Tanzania's growing pains before and after it's search

for "Uhuru!"—the freedom which finally made the "Cinderella of East Africa" an independent nation in 1961. The African children who greeted her in 1919 wore tiny bead aprons or birthday suits and gathered under baobab trees. Africans who bade her farewell 46 years later wore westernized clothes and worshipped in modern churches.

Mrs. Marsh's extraordinary retirement at 69 brought new adventures in faith—witnessing to migrant workers and teaching Child Evangelism classes; visiting her missionary daughter in Guatemala; speaking in Southern Methodist churches; and spending a year back in Africa at the age of 75 in village safari work. Today she is actively involved in a correspondence and prayer ministry.

Margaret Marsh says about her exciting life, "As to the Lord, He has been faithful and I rejoice to remember all of His works. If I had another life to live, I'd live it in Africa!"

Presenting Our State Leaders



Shelby



House



Outland



Lee

Mississippi

Betty Shelby (Mrs. Glen), Waynesboro, serves as president of both state and her South Mississippi district convention. Her husband pastors Pine Grove where she is church pianist and Sunday school teacher. They have six children and two grandchildren.

Betty is teacher's aide at Buckatunna High School near Waynesboro.

Miss **Eva House**—Eva, the Beloved—is a charter member of the First FWB Church, Columbus, and has rendered outstanding leadership in the total denominational program. Both state and Northeast district field worker, Eva also serves as local mission study chairman and Intermediate Sunday school teacher. Professionally, Eva is a food service manager and cares for an elderly aunt.

North Carolina

JoAnn King has turned over the presidential gavel to **Peggy Outland**, one of WNAC's members at large. Mrs. Outland (Mrs. Gene), Durham, does secretarial work at Shady Grove FWB Church where her husband pastors. They have one daughter, Angela, a student at FWBNC.

Replacing veteran Annie Talton as field worker is **Maurine Lee** (Mrs. George C.), Goldsboro. Formerly teen editor and writer, Maurine now concentrates on her Couples Sunday school class at Victory where her husband pastors. They have two married daughters and two sons.



A Woman's Auxiliary- Japanese Style

Olena McLain

Perhaps distance wise, it didn't seem far, but it was an eight hour trip to attend the semi-annual convention of Hokkaido Free Will Baptists. After a cup of hot Japanese tea, we settled down on backless but padded benches for a worship service. After that, we removed the cushions from the benches, put them together on the floor, laid a thin piece of plywood over them spread with plastic table covers, and our supper table was laid. We sat on cushions on the floor and ate bowls of hot rice covered with curry sauce that contained vegetables and meat. Then we had mandarin oranges for dessert. One of the ladies served homemade cream puffs as a treat.

The people then divided into the general board meeting and women's auxiliary meeting. A few years ago the women started a scrapbook col-

lection. Each auxiliary writes up a year's report of activities with each member writing a short article and testimony as an introduction. They include snapshots of different activities their auxiliary has participated in over the year. Some draw attractive pictures in the corners, others illustrate with appropriate designs or add other features to make an attractive book.

At the end of the year, these reports are all compiled into one book, sort of like a hand made *Co-Laborer*. This book is sent to the different auxiliaries with the request it be kept for a designated period of time and then mailed to the next auxiliary to be read and shared. This has resulted in a more united auxiliary as ideas are exchanged and copied.

Would you undergird these women with your prayers?

PRAYER FOCUS

by Kay Hampton

Programs designed for use in mission prayer groups, regular auxiliary meetings, or wherever a prayer burden is needed.

October 1980

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

France

To most of the people of the world France is a land noted for fine wines, beautiful women, and expensive, trend-setting women's fashions. However, to Free Will Baptist missionaries, France is the home of more than 53 million needy people.

Thirty-eight thousand towns and villages dot France's 213,000 square miles of land. Only about 1,500 of these communities have a permanent evangelical witness. Although 85% of the population is Catholic, only 21% of the population actively practice this religion.

For several years Frenchmen have lived under the specter of communism. The French Communist Party already holds a large number of seats in the National Assembly.

At the present time, there is complete freedom of religion. Forty three

different mission groups have a total of 519 personnel in the country. Even so, 38 of the 95 departments (states) do not have resident missionaries.

What do the French cities of Lorient, Nantes, Rennes, and St. Nazaire have in common? They are all sites of Free Will Baptist mission works. Jerry and Janice Webb, now in their second term, minister in Lorient. During their first term they worked with Don and Billie Sexton in establishing a church in Nantes, a city of 500,000. The Webbs have three sons; the two older boys are studying at home using the M.A.C.E. program.

The outreach to Nantes is in the western section of France where John and Pansy Murry have assumed responsibility. Their two teenage children, John and Patricia, also follow the M.A.C.E. program.

A substantial work exists in Rennes as a result of the ministry of Joe and Barbara Haas. These senior missionaries have five children, the youngest a student at FWBBC. Miss Charlotte Tallent and the McCulloughs are also assigned to Rennes.

Jerry and Barbara Gibbs as well as

Patsy Vanhook minister in St. Nazaire. A strong Jehovah's Witness element in the city hinders this outreach.

Praise

Thank God for:
the men and women He has
called to serve in France
the French people who have
responded

Prayer

Pray that God would:
bless each of our missionaries
with physical and mental health
the believers would be strength-
ened
leaders would be raised up a-
mong the Christians
the threat of Communist de-
nomination will not materialize. That
our missionaries would be allowed to
freely preach the Gospel.

November 1980

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Home Missions

According to Roy Thomas, General Director of Home Missions and Church Extension, there were ten new missionary families sent out in 1979, sponsored jointly with eight state home missions boards—Kentucky, California, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Florida, Ohio, Virginia and Alabama.

The total support of the Rosses in

Minnesota, Shockeyes in Kentucky and the Bowers in Colorado is assumed by the National board.

Lee Caudill and Robert Cooper have been endorsed as our first chaplains in the U. S. Navy.

Praise

Thank God for:
these men who have been led
into church extension work
providing men for these slots in
the Navy chaplaincy

Prayer

Pray that:
these men will live strong, vigor-
ous lives
needed funds would be supplied
to keep these mission pastors on the
field
many souls would be saved
through their ministry
these chaplains would be en-
abled to communicate His Word effec-
tively to the military personnel in their
charge.

December 1980

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Japan

Just off the coast of southeast Asia there are four large islands. Together their total land mass (142,726 square miles) is roughly the same as California's. These islands stretch 1,150 miles from tip to tip and are 180 miles across at the widest point. Within

these confines live 112.5 million people. The largest city in this chain of islands (in fact, the largest city in the world) is Tokyo with a population of over 11 million.

Japan, "the land of the rising sun," is an ancient land. Yet, it is a contemporary, "with-it" society. There is a curious blend of East and West in the Japan of today.

Ninety-nine percent of the people in Japan are able to read. Nine hundred colleges afford two million students an education. Teachers are firmly situated on the top rung of the ladder of prestige.

Religiously, only one word can adequately describe Japan—Pagan. The two main religions of this nation are Buddhism and Shintoism.

Catholic missionaries were dispatched to Japan from Spain in 1549. In 1837, Protestant missionaries were denied entrance. When they were allowed to enter, they found the name of the Lord was despised. By 1873, all major Protestant denominations were engaged in missionary work in Japan. Seventy years later missionaries were severely persecuted during World War II.

It was not until 1954 that Free Will Baptist missionaries arrived in Japan. Today's mission staff is composed of four missionary couples, one single woman missionary and one associate missionary. Associate missionaries are self-supporting missionaries who work with the regular missionaries as their time and abilities allow.

Fred and Evelyn Hersey, in their sixth term of service, have worked with the Bihoro, Iroso and Irumagawa churches.

In 1969, Jim and Olena McLain joined the staff in Sapporo on the

island of Hokkaido. Following language study, Jerry and Janice Banks joined the McLains to develop a new work on the island. Their present ministry is at Kita Hiroshima.

The short-term missionary program pays off. Dale and Sandra Bishop, short-termers in 1971, are now in their second term on the Hokkaido island.

Kita Hiroshima is home for Judy Smith. As a single missionary, she helps in the Sunday school, works in the coffee shop ministry, and teaches both English and Bible classes. Her furlough home is Henderson, Texas.

Associate missionary Mirial Gainer helps out in Sapporo. Sandy and Dari Goodfellow, associate missionaries in Kita Hiroshima, have recently returned to the United States to work at the Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Praise

Thank God for:
the mission staff in Japan
Japanese believers won over
the past 26 years
national pastors who have assumed pastorates

Prayer

Ask God to:
meet the financial, spiritual and physical needs of our missionary staff
call more people to serve as missionaries
strengthen Japanese believers
raise up more national workers
bring about a more stable economy worldwide (especially in Japan)
so that missions outreach will not have to be curtailed
for the furlough ministry of Judy Smith. For the Goodfellows in their new work in the States.

Let's Just Praise The Lord

Linda Simons



Monday

The Pilgrims Learn to Praise

Scripture: Psalm 145:4

We live in a land that offers freedom of religion because those who lived before us dared to stand up and acknowledge this wonderful God of heaven. Our forefathers learned the hard way, as we often do, how to thank God for the little things in life.

Their arrival on Cape Cod was a miracle in itself. While enduring the journey, they encountered fierce storms and lost several friends. It was a privilege for the survivors to

kneel with bowed heads and thank God for sparing their lives. But soon they would be tested further through severe trials and tribulations before they would become thankful for even the "little things."

Once they dined on elegant meals, great feasts prepared at any time. Now they found themselves in a strange land. No field of grain to be harvested, no meat smoked and hanging in the store house, not even any staples available. They turned to God. They remembered all the times they had forgotten to thank Him, to truly thank Him for the bounty He had

supplied. They had taken His gifts for granted, received them ungraciously, and used them selfishly—not fully appreciating the Giver of the Gift.

Yet while they were remembering all these things, God was still providing for them. He had never left them. He drew their attention to the nearby forests. For inside the harbor of trees was an abundance of wild turkeys, rabbits, deer, squirrels, and numerous wild game. God even used the inhabitants of this new land, the Indians, to teach them how to plant corn and use it for food.

How often we are like the pilgrims. Today each of us share an enormous wealth in the things of this world; yet we are neglectful in thanking our heavenly Father for them. Must we learn the hard way? Will God have us suffer hardships before we look up and praise Him from a thankful heart? May we take heed from this lesson and be a pilgrim of praise in this world before we are called to our heavenly home.

Tuesday **Psalms of Praise**

Each woman should have her Bible turned to the Psalms. Beginning at Psalm 89 and going through the book, have several minutes devoted to reading spontaneously verses of praise. Especially note Psalm 89:1; 92:1,2; 95:1-7; 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 103, 105, 106, 107 etc.

David was a man after God's own heart. He learned to praise God regardless of his situation. Whenever David found himself in the valley of despair, he could still cry out, "Praise

ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely (Psalm 147:1). David felt a heart crying need to praise God. He knew without a doubt that God was his source of strength and wisdom, and most of all, His source of salvation.

Oh, that we, too, would open our hearts and voices to sing songs of praise unto Him, our most high God. What a wonderful Thanksgiving we could experience if we, His children, would remember to acknowledge Him with our songs of praises. May we purpose to praise Him, not only on this Thanksgiving Day, but on every day of the year as well. Then, we too, can be psalms of praise.

Wednesday **Prayers of Praise**

David's prayer of praise: Psalm 100

Moses and the Children of Israel: Exodus 15

Mary: Luke 1:46-55

Hannah: 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Deborah: Judges 5

Father, as we approach this Thanksgiving season, may we be reminded of all Your blessings. Let us meditate upon Your goodness.

Often we take your blessings for granted. We eagerly accept your gifts; then just as quickly, forget to thank you. Please forgive us for our ingritudes and carelessness; but most of all, dear Lord, forgive us our neglect.

Father, teach us to be thankful in all things regardless of what they might be. Help us to know that all things work together for good to us

because we love You.

And, Father, thank you we are a new creation in Christ Jesus. May we be faithful in spreading your joy and happiness to others that they, too, may know that You are a God of love and compassion. Use us to be soul winners. Fill our hearts with heaviness and a fervent desire to witness for you. Grant that each deed and conversation will be an opportunity to share your gift of salvation.

It is with a sincere heart and a heart full of praise to our wonderful Lord that we ask these things.

Thursday

A Parable of Praise: Luke 17:11-19

As Jesus journeyed through the land,
He passed by Galilee,
He came to a certain village,
To see what He could see.
At the entrance to the city,
He was met by ten sad men,
Bowing low to Jesus,
They loudly called to Him,
"Please, Master, look upon us,
Please don't turn away,
Grant to us your mercy,
Restore our health today.
Don't leave us here rejected,
Cast out, all alone,
Free us from this dread disease,
That we may all go home."

Immediately He saw them,
Compassion filled His soul,
Then stretching forth His loving hands,
He made their bodies whole.
With gladness singing in His voice,
Our Lord said unto them,
"Go show yourselves now to the priest,
How you've all been cleansed."

It came to pass, they went their way,

That one of them turned back,
Fell on his face at Jesus' feet

His praises, never lacked.
He thanked Him for His mercy,
And His abundant grace
While tears of joy and gladness,
Filled his happy face.
He thanked Him for his pardon
And releasing him from sin,
For cleaning up his sinful heart
And giving peace within.

"What happened to the other nine?
Why've they not returned?
To sing God praises for this gift
They had so often yearned?"

The lonely leper shook his head,
For he did not know why
The other lepers ran away.
Thus he made Him no reply.
So, smiling, Jesus took his hand,
Said, "Arise and go your way,
Thy faith hath made thee whole, my Son,
On this very day."

Friday

Our Auxiliary Praises

Scripture: Philippians 4:7

The heart of God is touched and overwhelmed with joy when we acknowledge the wonderful works He performs in our lives. The key to peace in our hearts is praising God and giving thanks in all things.

Conduct a praise service where the members share their recent blessings from God.

Program for October
Norman June Teague

Resources For A World In Need



Aim: To recognize the resources Christ has made available to us in order to reach the world for Christ.

Scripture: Mark 6:30, Matthew 14:13-21

Songs: "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus"
"So Send I You"
"Breaking of the Bread"

The need for the church to fulfill its awesome responsibility has never been greater. W. Stanley Mooneyham, president of World Vision, recently stated: "The question now for me is not so much 'Am I my brother's keeper?', but 'Am I my brother's brother?'"

One of the excuses used most for neglecting the commands of Christ is that there does not seem to be adequate time nor response to meet all of the needs around us. Many so-

called Christians are so busy fulfilling social, civic and family duties, they shrink the most important responsibility given to the church—sharing the message of salvation with the world.

Just as the name Christian implies, the Christian's life is to be Christ-like. The Scripture texts clearly describe the compassion that Christ, the supreme example of the Christian, demonstrated for man—even in adverse circumstances.

Christ Retreats With His Disciples

At this particular time, Jesus and His disciples were weary and probably saddened by the beheading of John the Baptist. Jesus, recognizing their need for rest and revitalization, led the disciples into a "desert place by ship, privately" (Mark 6:32). How-

ever, the people, hungry to learn more of Christ's teachings, were not to be denied. Literally, they outran the boat transporting Christ and the disciples, and were waiting when they arrived on the other side of the lake.

Even though the original plan called for a quiet time with His disciples, Jesus viewed the multitude with compassion. He responded to their needs and began to teach them. What the disciples anticipated to be a "short devotional" grew longer and longer until "the day was now far spent" (Mark 6:35).

The disciples had been tired already for hours, and now began to survey the situation. No food was available for this multitude of people. They probably had a quick "disciple meeting" out away from the crowd to examine their resources (billfolds) and quickly realized they certainly did not have money required to purchase food.

Using their own initiative, they scouted around the crowd, only to find one lad with a small lunch of five loaves and two small fish. Quickly they reconvened the "disciple meeting" and appointed their committee to talk to Jesus about the matter. How wise they must have felt to approach the Master and tell Him their assessment of the situation and recommend that He send them away for something to eat. Even though they were the elite, God's chosen ones, they failed to comprehend His power.

Jesus commanded that *they* feed the people. Should they go and purchase food? Jesus, then simply asked them what resources were available. When they told him, He instructed

that the boy's small lunch be brought to him.

After receiving the lunch, Jesus instructed the disciples to arrange the people on the grass in an orderly fashion. He blessed the loaves and fish and broke them into serving pieces. As the disciples began to serve, there continued to be enough and all the people were filled. Even more than enough, for "they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments" (Mark 6:42, 43).

The Multitude Today Is Hungry

Many comparisons can be made between this incident in the life of our Lord and the responsibility of Christians today. The church is facing a multitude of hungry souls, eager for what we can give them through Christ. Recent statistics give the world's population at more than four billion or twenty times the population of the United States. It is estimated that more than half of the world's population, 64.3 percent, have *never* had a clear presentation of the Gospel.

Christians who are presented with the needs of the world often come together for a "little business meeting" to decide what action they should take. After examining the financial condition of their local church, they agree they do not have enough money to help. Others look at the high cost of missions today and decide the Great Commission needs qualifying. Surely if Christ had known it was going to cost so much to get a missionary on the field and keep him there, He would never have issued such a command! The truth is, He has no other plan.

Personal dedication is still the greatest need. Millions are turning to cults

and other forms of religion in their desperate search for Truth. Finances are necessary, but personal commitment is vital. God's Plan for evangelizing the world still depends on Christians who are willing to say, "Here am I, use me—send me."

Christ's Message For The World

The Lord Jesus travelled few miles from His home town during His life, but His message affected the entire world. He individually, saw the needs of the multitudes and responded to those needs in a personal way. He chose a select group of helpers and directed them to respond to and meet the needs as well.

As an example for the Christian today, He still commands each individual believer to respond to the needs of the world—not only to our next door neighbor (Jerusalem), or those in nearby towns and cities (Judea), or even those in distant states within our own United States (Samaria), but His command embraces the needs of the entire world (Acts 1:8).

In feeding the multitude, Jesus did not ask His disciples to perform some miraculous feat. He only asked that they surrender to Him what resources they had available and allow Him to bless and break those resources. Christ instructed the disciples to work systematically and to perform the tasks in an orderly manner.

He asks the same of us today. The resources of Free Will Baptist women are many. We are commanded to pray without ceasing. Often our prayer life is a formality, but effective praying

springs from a heart that is burdened for lost souls everywhere.

Christ was moved with compassion to meet the needs of the multitude. Christian women today should realize that all of us are called to be missionaries; some at home and others abroad, but all are called.

Your resources are essential to meet the needs of the missionary on the field. Do we practice faith promise giving in order to keep the missionary's account out of the red? How many missionaries could be sent to the field immediately if every Christian gave a small amount regularly to support missions?

He may ask you to give your children. Often we want someone else to provide the personal means, when all the time He's looking for that which we have to give.

Jesus used what was available. He blessed and broke it and the lunch was more than enough. He did not see the lunch as small. He recognized it as food needed for the occasion. Jesus does not look at how little we feel we have to offer; He only asks for our ALL.

The disciples obeyed the command of the Lord. They followed His plan of action. But wait! There's more! There were twelve baskets full of fragments left over. Abundant blessings result from following God's plan and purpose for each individual life.

The command of "Go Ye" has been given. The plan of action is easily discerned from God's Word. One thing remains. Each one must, individually, present his resources to the Lord to be used by Him. If we hold back a part, then a part of the world will remain spiritually starved.

Program for November
Marsha Rolén

Help! I've Just Been Robbed!

Aim: To recognize and defeat the thieves that are robbing the believer of his joy.

Song: "Joy In Serving Jesus"

Scripture: Philippians 4



The Thief of Circumstance

Most of us are happier and easier to live with when things are going our way. The children can tell whether or not Dad has had a good day. If he comes home from the office with a smile instead of a frown, a tender kiss for Mother, playful attention to the kids—they know!

We see the apostle Paul unjustly accused, convicted, jailed, flogged, suffering various indignities, yet he was undeserving for this treatment. In the midst of severe adversities, he wrote a letter filled with joy. He

The Scriptures teach that the believer is a happy, joyful person. Why is it then that we see so many who have been robbed of the joy that is rightfully theirs? This passage in Philippians show how we can capture these thieves by cultivating the right kind of mind. If we have true, honest, just, pure, and lovely thoughts in our mind, we can rejoice continuously.

The Psalmist David calls our attention to the Christian's privilege to have pleasures and joy forevermore (Psalms 16:11).

This program should help us become aware of the thieves that are about to rob us of our joy and then to see the protection that is available to set off the burglar alarm.

looked past his circumstances to Jesus Christ. This is the much needed quality lacking in our lives today.

Worry—The Mental Thief

This worry thief robs us of peace and fulfillment and leaves us burdened with serious physical consequences. Modern medicine may remove the symptoms, but cannot remove the cause. You can purchase “sleep” from the corner drug store, but money cannot buy “rest.”

Paul had plenty of occasion to worry. He was a prisoner with no mission board to support him and no lawyer to defend him, yet he did not worry. Instead he wrote a letter saturated with joy and exhorts us to stop worrying. He even reveals God’s secret for victory over worry—“Be careful for nothing . . . the peace of God . . . shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:6, 7).

The Thief of Dissatisfaction

There is a story about Abraham Lincoln taking a walk with his two sons. They were both crying and a friend asked what was wrong. Abe replied that it was the same thing that is wrong with the world. He had three walnuts and each boy wanted two! This is the attitude that many Christians have concerning material possessions.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warned against laying up treasures on earth. They are not safe, they do not last, and they never satisfy.

We must develop a spiritual mind. Material possessions are given to us

to be used, they must never be allowed to possess us. They must be held lightly, viewed through the eyes of God.

My Friend—A Thief?

Every day we come into contact with some of the most dangerous thieves in the world. Of course, they are not usually aware of their crimes. People, yes, people often rob us of our joy. People—who they are, what they say, and what they do.

No man is an island; we cannot isolate ourselves from others. Paul put Christ first, others second, and himself last. He says, ‘Rejoice in the Lord’—not in circumstances, things, or people. We can never rejoice over the death of a child, sickness of our loved ones, or trials that daily come to us; but we can rejoice in the fact that we are His children and He loves us and He has allowed to enter our lives the things that are best for us.

We cannot rejoice when someone is unthoughtful or inconsiderate of our feelings. People are only human and will continue to disappoint and discourage us. But we can learn to consider the good of others to be more important than our own plans and desires (Luke 14:11) and rejoice in the promise that He will never leave or disappoint us (Heb. 13:5).

The Deadliest Thief

An unsuspecting thief hurled into our world by Satan is the ignorance of the lost state of the heathen. The great missionary vision of William Carey in 1792, which spurred him to a life of service to lost men of other

nations, has been stolen quietly away as our caring people were mistakenly taught that God would not destroy the heathen. Many were convinced that if these people around our globe were never introduced to Jesus then surely God would not condemn them to eternal punishment.

This thief has almost successfully completed his evil talk. Our most precious trust given to us by God has been taken from us without even a battle. Our missionaries' accounts are constantly in the red. The home office struggles to juggle enough money to keep our missionaries on the field. Very few young people are even confronted with the fact of millions going to hell without ever hearing the Gospel.

The number of lost people in foreign lands dying without any hope of salvation is staggering when compared to the number of missions students enrolled in our Bible colleges.

Are we to allow this thief to rob us of Romans 3:23, John 14:6, and Matthew 28:19, 20? Let us now allow this thief to rob us of the greatest joy a Christian can realize—the joy of reaching others with the Gospel of Christ.

An Ounce of Prevention

Our nation spends millions of dollars every year trying to lower the crime rate. Crime fighters practice new routines and learn to use new devices in order to prevent crime

from spreading.

Christians have the greatest crime prevention manual ever written. It is a collector's item in many American homes—a collector of dust! After the thief has struck and our joy stolen in the night, then we turn toward God and His Holy Word. We expect a prompt answer to our desperate call for help. We want justice immediately. We expect Him to restore our joy miraculously as if it was His fault that we lost it. If only we had practiced some simple crime prevention in the first place, this joy unspeakable in our soul would have signaled of approaching danger.

Every Christian has a duty to look forward to judgment day and work as if each day may be his last (1 Pet. 4:13). Count your temptations as stepping stones toward a perfect life in Christ (James 1:2). Surely if Jesus could experience inner joy facing the cross, we can be joyful in our trivial trials and tribulations (Heb. 12:2).

God has promised to fill us with joy and peace. How can we possibly allow Satan to steal such a precious treasure from us? We must constantly be on our guard against people and things that could rob us of this joy. We have a beautiful inheritance through the power of the Holy Spirit, as promised in Romans 15:13 and 14:17.

No matter how weak we are or how many times we fail, we cannot escape the fact that no man or thing should be allowed to rob us of our joy (John 16:22; John 15:11).

Program for December
Gertrude Cantrell

Love Is Born

Scripture: Phil. 4:8
Hymn: "Silent Night"



Jingling bells and Christmas carols
Are the sounds that fill the air,
Plump, jolly Santas are the merry
heralds
That the holiday season is here,
Jangled nerves and aching feet
And tempers oft prone to flare,
Jostled and shoved by shoppers we
meet
With long waiting lines everywhere.

Juggling gifts from store to store
To purchase we-know-not-what,
We only know we must buy more
We just don't know what they've got.
Is this too large: Or that too small?
Is this gift "nice enough?"
My arms are so tired, I'm ready to
fall,
Oh, I still must wrap all this stuff!

There's the tree to trim and cookies
to bake,
And parties, at least three or four,
There's film to buy and pictures to
take,
And the wreath to hang on the door.
There's dusting and cleaning and
gifts to be sent,
So now's not the time to be stopping,
My checkbook is empty and money
near spent,
And I still haven't finish my shopping.

There're menus to plan and meals to
prepare
And cards I simply must mail,
I must hurry home; oh, what will I
wear?
Now where did I see that good sale?
"Over the hill to Grandma's
house,"
Or "Dashing through the snow,"
Seems to be the only hymns
The world today doth know.

Are these the thoughts that come to
mind
When first we think of Christmas—
Of food and clothes and gifts to be
bought
And not one thought about Jesus?

Isn't it a shame that a time set
apart to celebrate the birth of one
who came to bring hope, joy, peace,
goodwill, brotherhood and love for
all mankind has been changed into a
season of frantic buying, selling, get-
ting, giving, goings, and doings until
the real reason for it all is lost in the
confusion? As though celebrating some-
one's birthday and then forgetting to
invite him to the party.

Often the same person who shops
for a gift to show love and goodwill
will get into a shoving and shouting
confrontation with another fellowman
while buying this gift of peace and
goodwill.

Tired, weary children are jerked
and dragged along, angrily rebuked
and chastened by parents who are
themselves so exhausted by hours of
trudging from store to store to buy
gifts to give to that same tired, tearful
child on Christmas morning. Sup-
posedly we do this to show how
much we love him.

Family harmony is often spoiled
by how much (or how little) was
spent on "whose" side of the family.
Petty childishness and greed are often
displayed as one weighs the value of
gifts received against gifts given.

Small hurts and resentments often
resurface as one remembers that
they weren't remembered with even
a card last year from some friend or
relation. A revengeful attitude of get-
ting even sometimes comes to mind
as one determines to this year re-

member to not remember them this year.

People frantically try to buy for all who will buy for them, dropping those who don't, or didn't. Society as a whole has begun to use the value of gifts to express inner feelings and thoughts, both good and bad. Often there are so many activities until the season of peace and goodwill has become the most hectic time of ill will and resentment.

Even in Christian observances more emphasis is usually placed on the gifts, angels, shepherds, manger, wise men and the star, than the gift of God, His Son.

Even on that day long ago amid crowded streets and highways when people's minds were full of thoughts of money and taxes and obligations, at that time, too, there was no room for God's Son. He was crowded, then as now, into the background and love was born in a stable.

Could the reason the angels went to the shepherds on their quiet hillside with the joyful news that Christ was born instead of to those in towns be because those in town were too busy to hear and heed the message? Too busy for peace and goodwill?

Perhaps, we, too, have lost the joy, the victory, the peace and goodwill, the true meaning of the season. Let's pause for a while. Fear not, for behold! Love is born!

Rejoice with us, t'will do you good,
For we sing of love and brotherhood
Of hope and cheer and peace on
earth,
Of love fulfilled, our Saviour's birth.
Relive with us that most holy night
When shepherds of old saw a heavenly sight,

Angels proclaiming goodwill to all,
The Lord has come as a babe so small.

We bid thee come and find anew
The gift of love that was given to you.
Forget the crowds and the Christmas list,
Forget the gifts and the names you've missed,
For it's not the lights and the Christmas trees,
Nor the sights and sounds one hear and sees,
Nor the toys and games to thrill or please—
True happiness comes not from all these.

But it's the gifts of love of joy and peace,
The gift of freedom from pain and grief,
The gift from sin a quick release,
And eternal life that will never cease.
For love was born on Christmas day.
And in a lowly manger lay
His birth foretold all the prophets say,
As the Christmas light to show the way.

So rejoice and greet each Christmas morn
With hope and joy and goodwill
Sing Glory to God for Christ is born!
His mission on earth did fulfill.
And love is born!

A WOMAN GOD HAS USED



God uses people who look for the silver lining in the clouds instead of the pot of gold at the foot of the rainbow. Clemence Turnipseed is such a person.

Ethelsville, Alabama, is her place of birth and most likely where she'll be buried. Mrs. Turnipseed placed her faith in God at an early age and is confident He has a plan for each life. Left widowed with three small children, she moved back to her parents' home and, single handedly, raised her own and cared for her parents until their death. A school teacher by profession, she chose a home child care service in order to be available to her own. Ask any of her adopted children and they will tell you—she's a strict disciplinarian. But it was meted out in love and that makes a difference.

Her first love in Christian service was youth work, even today participating in their socials and activities. Although past retirement age, her spiritual life has not slackened. She continues to teach the adult Sunday school class which she has taught for more than 20 years. She helped organize her church's woman's auxiliary and serves as historian.

Like most sensitive people, Mrs. Turnipseed reaches out to her community in many tangible ways. Life is never too busy but what she doesn't stop what she's doing and visit someone in need.

Mrs. Turnipseed is a victim of childhood polio. Someone once mentioned that Clemence couldn't do some things because of her crippled foot, and a child replied, "Well, I hadn't noticed she was crippled." Her inner radiance overcomes any physical handicap.

God doesn't just use leaders; thank God, He uses followers, too—His followers, that is. The life of Clemence Turnipseed testifies to this.

Have You Seen These?

Compiled from entries in WNAC's annual creative writing contests, these three volumes are a must for every auxiliary member. Includes poems on the Christian life, salvation, missions, evangelism, seasonal and praise. Makes excellent gifts or can be used to supplement your auxiliary meetings.

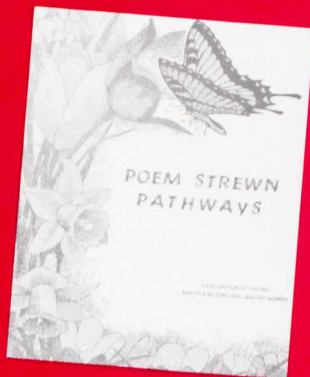
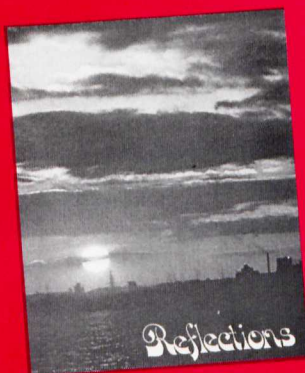
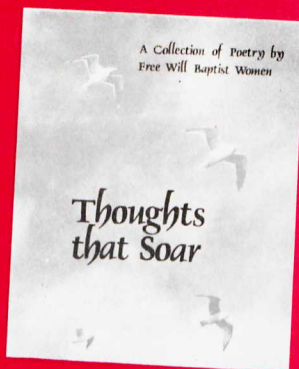
THOUGHTS THAT SOAR
Compiled by Donna Carr
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Christy

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Third: Lorene Brooks, Ozark, Arkansas

Poetry

Second: Anita Haney, Guthrie, Kentucky

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