

EWING Library



Co-Laborer

April, May, June 1981

Co-Laborer

April, May, June 1981
Volume XXI, Number 2

A missions minded woman is a woman of prayer, interceding for her loved ones and the lost around the world.

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Editorial

Lorene Miley

Retreat Reflections

Now all that's left are fragmented memories and unprofessional tapes. I ask myself, "Was the first national auxiliary retreat really worth it all?"

Physically it was exhausting. Tiresome travel, irregular meals, heavy schedule, and lack of sleep all took their toll. Though the outward man perishes, however, the inner man was renewed moment by moment. Spiritually it was a mountain top experience with an aura of glory yet hallowing those Smoky shadows.

No question about it—Sylvia, the exchange student from Brazil, led us into the presence of God as she shared her testimony of that wee morning hour prayer meeting. One minute we were bawling like babies and the next howling with holy glee. Bless you, Sylvia, you were so honest. We'll never forget you.

If anyone questions the emotional difference between men and women, they only have to attend a retreat such as this. Only women can frolic so frivolously, buy so spontaneously, and weep so unashamedly.

The scheduled meetings were uplifting, but it was evident that the most lasting results took place behind closed doors in the individual rooms during those impromptu prayer meetings. At least two women were saved and probably more than that had their doubts all settled.

I believe our women left the retreat with an intense desire to know God, really know Him in a dimension never yet before experienced. Debra Moore's enthusiastic admonition to become serious Bible students will be heeded by more than just a few women.

If I had one regret, it would be I wasn't given an opportunity to give. Giving is an act of worship too, you know. That last morning as my heart fairly ached to return to the mission field—there are lots of potential Sylvias out there in my Africa—if I could have just emptied my billfold of that little remaining money in a missions offering, perhaps I would have left the retreat without feeling so selfishly blessed.

But there will be other retreats. Put my name down for the next one.

Our Writers

Shirley Combs (Mrs. Jim), returned missionary from Brazil, is now on the Hillsdale campus, Moore, OK, where her husband teaches missions. Shirley has much to share of her life on the mission field. The Combs have three children, Kemper, 15, Cindy, 13, and Tania, 10.

Anita Haney (Mrs. Kenneth), is a CTS writer whose article won first place in the creative writing contest. A poem won second. She has three children, Lianne, 6, Eric, 4, and Ben, 1. Formerly of Guthrie, KY, the Haney's are pastoring now in Jonesboro, AR.

Rosemarie Laffoon (Mrs. Sam), deacon's wife from Seminole, OK, has been in auxiliary for 23 years and filled many offices in the local and district. Two children, Sam, Jr, a minister, and Cindi, are Hillsdale students. A second son, Dan, has just made her a young and expert grandmother.

Virginia Morgan (Mrs. William), Crossett, AR, is employed as bookkeeper for a local contractor. A member of the North Crossett church, she teaches a ninth grade Sunday school class and is involved in all phases of auxiliary work. She and her husband, a Ford salesman, have two grown sons.

Laura Wade (Mrs. Tom) is a registered nurse/IV therapist married to a busy engineer and active church leader. The Wades are youth sponsors at the First FWB Church, Morehead City, NC. She lists lap quilting among her many hobbies.

Mrs. Sue Winchester, St. Louis, MO, is a busy lady. Mother of two, she teaches junior girls in Sunday school and CTS, children's church worker, church organist, and president of the Southside auxiliary. She enjoys writing and sewing.



Combs



Haney



Laffoon



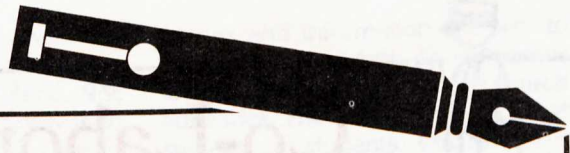
Morgan



Wade



Winchester



Memo From Cleo

Cleo Pursell

WNAC Retreat(s)

The first national WNAC retreat, held in the shadows of the Great Smoky Mountains in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, was definitely a success! Two sessions were necessary to accommodate the 792 women who came from 18 states. The music and singing were superb. The speaking and teaching were excellent. Prayer times were precious resulting in three decisions for the Lord. (Two saved and one re-dedication.) Fellowship was good with many women sharing their God-given talents during the musicale. There was time for a tour of the mountains and for shopping in nearby Gatlinburg.

One woman from Georgia wrote: "The retreat was great! Of the eight of us, five had never been to any kind of national meeting before and two of these had never been to a state meeting of any kind, so it was really exciting for them! We're anxious to hear plans for the next one!"

Enlistment Drives

We want to hear about your enlistment efforts in January (or

whenever you may have had your drive). Was it successful? Did you use the materials sent out by the WNAC office? Or did you have some creative ideas of your own? Please share with us.

Missionary Provision Closet

We need full and twin size sheet-sets with pillowcases, bedspreads and mattress covers. Also can openers (electric and manual), Corelleware, Tupperware pastry sheets, hamburger press sets, and sugar and creamers.

Historical Treasures

Recently WNAC was able to acquire some valuable materials for our historical collection. Included are: A complete set of The Missionary Helper published from 1878-1919 by our women (This is the equivalent of our Co-Laborer); small sketch of our women's work published in 1915, which proves that we had the first national women's missionary organization in the country; and A History of Women's Missionary Society by Mary A. Davis, 1900. We have a glorious heritage!



Co-Laborers Write & Share

Auxiliary Worldwide

I appreciate greatly the work of woman's auxiliary worldwide and am proud to be a small part of an organization which is so vividly being used of God.

Diana Postlewait
Jasper, AL

I've read everything in Co-Laborer magazine and the lessons are excellent. We enjoy them at Williams Hill...

Patricia Simmons
Hemingway, SC

The Lord is blessing our work here in Pocatello. We had 45 for church this Sunday... The FWB Women in Idaho have asked Mrs. Pursell to be our speaker for our spring retreat. The group is small, but we want to be a part of what Free Will Baptist women around the world are doing for Christ.

Sharon Bennett
Pocatello, ID

Individual Sheets

We praise the Lord for the work He has allowed our auxiliary to do. I was surprised myself at the 27 projects we have been able to complete in the

past 15 months. Surely the Lord honors and multiplies greatly the little we each do... The program packets are helpful, but sometimes prayer and program and invitation are on the same sheets. This makes it a bit difficult to divide the packet among the officers who need the information.

Ramona Kay Sessions
Roanoke, VA

This World Is Not My Home

We are settled in for the year. But, do you know, I can't get my feelings straightened out. It seems that I'm just staying here for a few days and that I'm not really living here. Maybe after a few months, this will seem like my home; but then it will be time to return to Brazil.

Sue Aycock
Goldsboro, NC

"Lowly" housewife

In our auxiliary we enjoy the programs and the fellowship we have studying together... but in regards to your editorial, please enlighten me as to why you used "lowly" in regards to the housewife?

Margie Boyd
Pinetown, NC

Ed. note: lowly describes character, not position. Please refer to: Psalms 138:6; Prov. 3:34; 11:2; Zech. 9:9; Matt. 11:29. The lowly housewife is an honored position. Perhaps a better wording would have been: "From the lowly housewife to the career and professional woman."

Caramel Corn

Calvary Fellowship, Fenton, MO, has published a book of favorite recipes. Frances Combs recommends her recipe for caramel popcorn.

2 sticks margarine
2 cups brown sugar
½ cup corn syrup
1 tsp. salt

Bring to a boil; stirring constantly. Boil five minutes on medium heat without stirring. Remove from heat, stir, and add:

½ tsp. baking soda 1 tsp. vanilla.

Note: Use white hullless popcorn. Place 6-8 quarts popcorn in large pan or cookie sheet. Pour caramel over popcorn and bake at 250° for one hour.

June Arnold, Missionary Appointee

My commissioning service has been set and I am making preparations to leave the states in December. I will be attending the Spanish Language School in San Jose, Costa Rica for twelve months and then proceed to Panama in late December, 1981. Please continue to pray for me.

Student Prayer Partners

You asked about how our Prayer Partner works. At the beginning of each school year, college students'

names and information are sent to the district president. These names are divided among the various church auxiliaries. The auxiliary prays for that student, or students. On birthdays and other special occasions they are remembered with money or some kind of remembrance. It has proven a real blessing to both student and auxiliary.

Eleanor Cutler
S. Georgia district president

Thanks for Missionaries

Our church was started in 1978 and the Lord is really blessing . . . Our auxiliary has had ups and downs, but it has really hit an all time record going from four members to 12 in three months . . . I thank God for missionaries, stateside or foreign. For without our missionary, I wonder if all six of us would be saved and working for Jesus now.

Rayma E. Rinehart
Moberly, MO

Provision Closet

Philip and I are very grateful there is a missionary supply and this note is to thank all those who helped to make this possible. It is so useful for us on the field because many items are so expensive and also hard to come by. We really appreciate your generosity in sharing with us.

Susan Hersey, Japan
daughter-in-law to Fred and Evelyn

Thanks so much for the bedspreads and shower curtains. They really add to the looks of the dorm.

Carol Pinkerton
Ivory Coast Academy

Auxiliary Women In Action

The Woman's Auxiliary of Corinth, AL autographed a quilt for **Allan and LaRue Crowson**, formerly of Ivory Coast and now appointed to France. **Jeff Turnbough**, missionary intern and the missionary's brother-in-law, is host pastor.



Kentucky women were spiritually refreshed at their semi-annual prayer retreat held at Jenny Wiley Lodge, Prestonberg, with **Rudene Kennedy**, **Linda Gilliland** and **Dorothy Cox** special speakers.

The spacious setting of McCormick Creek State Park surrounded the campfire as **Ginger Lake**, home missionary to Elkhart, gave evening devotions to Indiana retreaters. **Mary Ellen Hufford**, **Mary Neal** and **Lorene Miley**, WNAC were retreat personalities.

Mathel Barnes, Albany, was selected as the woman of the year and received special recognition at the Georgia state association which featured the Crowsons, France, as special speakers. **Fleda Snow** presided over this last-state-meeting-of-the-year held at the Emmanuel church, November 12, 13.

Kansas women, 68 of them, met at Rolling Hills Lodge, Salina, for their annual retreat (slumber party??). **Donna Brewer**, president, presided with **Wanda McClary**, home-missionary to Omaha, NB, bringing devotions. Skits or special music were presented by each auxiliary represented.

The outstanding personality at the Illinois retreat was multi-talented **Jan**



Ranoldi whose calligraphy, ventroloquism, matting, and a proper balance of humor and seriousness made even a church-located retreat a long-remembered event. **Bethel Church**, South Roxana, volunteered to host the state retreat which was slated to be cancelled when the new camp grounds at Ewing were not prepared in time. **Eddie Hollis**, **Lorene Miley**, and **Eunice Edwards** contributed to the program.

The "Over-Seventy" women were honored at the Tulsa, OK, area quarterly meeting. A corsage was presented to: **Bessie West**, **Gladys Howey**, **Edna Young**, **Lillie Taylor**, **Susie Pruitt**, **Ada Phillips**, **Cherry Fipps**, **Lura Gebhart**, **Girdie Webber**, **Louise Freeman**, **Effie Morris**, **Lela Crow** and **Ethel Reneger**. The last three were speakers for the day.

Betty Shelby presided over the Mississippi state convention held at Amory the first week in November. **Mrs. Laura Thigpen**, wife of the president of FWBBC, delighted all who attended the banquet at Shellaine Courts. **Cleo Pursell**, WNAC, was featured at the NE Mississippi district meeting at Beech Springs.

Yvonne Wolfenbarger kept things moving at Ohio's retreat, Big Prairie, with over 100 women attending. Showers of Blessings (a personal shower valued at \$300 plus \$264 in cash) was showered upon **Judy Smith**, missionary to Japan.

Tennessee began their annual convention at Trinity church, Nashville,

with an almost new slate of officers. **Sharon Riley**, president, introduced **Paul and Amy Robinson**, missionaries to Uruguay, who spoke at both the morning service and afternoon banquet. The Robinsons plan to return to their field after Christmas.

Tennessee delegates approved the action of WNAC to channel the Uguanda Fund into other institutions who are training foreign students and voted to make this a permanent one by pledging support to this project.

The Beaufort auxiliary, Beaufort, NC, honored their new youth and music director, **Ricky and Connie Ham**, with an old fashioned kitchen pounding. The entire church joined in this time of refreshing and fellowship. **Mrs. Lucy Dudley** is auxiliary president.



A record number of women, 130 attended the Missouri retreat held at the Niangua camp grounds. President **Helen McAllister**, Farmington, led the program based on the theme, "But Yield Yourselves." **Lorene Miley**, WNAC, was guest speaker with **Marian Whitaker** and **Geraldine Plummer** bringing devotions.

Mary Ruth Wischart presided over

the sixtieth annual convention of the Cumberland district, Ashland City, TN, with missionary **Judy Smith** speaking on "Knowing the Lost in Japan." **Mrs. Eunice Edwards** spoke at the fall workshop.

Glenda Fulcher and **Jean Maynard**, South Roxana, IL, are channeling an enthusiastic group of Junior Actionettes in the right direction through monthly community and missionary projects and activities. Here they prepare Easter baskets for the special education class of their Bethel Sunday school.



Alabama women sponsored a banquet in connection with their state's annual association which met at Center Point, November 6. **Lorene Miley** and **Cleo Pursell**, WNAC, were special guests. **Annette Tomlinson**, is state president.

Marguerite Kern, **Beverly Welch**, **Debbie Boyce** and **Carolyn McKinney** contributed to the music of the Oklahoma State convention in Muskogee. **Carole Carner** presided, assisted by **Judy Puckett**, vice president.

"To Be Used Of God" was the

theme of the first district conference of Free Will Baptist women, Bethel FWB Church, McArthur, WV, with **Ann Ruble** and **Glenna Murphy** directing the two days of worship and fellowship.

Karen Southwell, Maryland's newly elected president, presided over her state's retreat with 57 women present. **Alice Smith**, missionary to Ivory Coast, and her mother from Huntington, WV were honored guests. For two or three years the women have prayed for the Fredricksburg project and are rejoicing that **David Reece** has gone to establish a church there.



Following an all night meeting at United FWB Church, West Plains, MO, **Lucille Beatty**, pastor's wife, organized 17 women into an auxiliary. **Kathy Judd** was elected program chairman.



Retreat Recap

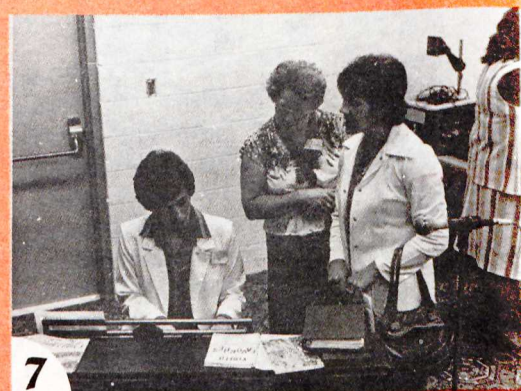
On September 23-27, 1980, the Woman's National Auxiliary sponsored their first national retreat. Seven hundred ninety two women converged on Smoky Shadows Conference Center, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, to participate in these two retreats. If you were there, these candid shots should spark flashbacks of nostalgic memories. If you were not, perhaps they will ignite a desire to be part of the next one.



Who They Are

1. Part of the second retreat
2. Helen Hosier, seated, at her book table.
3. Mary Neal with her mother and daughter.
4. Sharon Riley arranging the bus tour.
5. This wasn't a pleasant experience for some.
6. Midnight serenade of the Cross Timbers bunch.
7. Part of the special music.
8. The dignified seminar teachers in "Doctor, Doctor, My Daughter Is Dead."
9. Woodbine ladies give a Mary Kay facial demonstration.
10. Debra Moore and her "mean" guitar.
11. Testamony Time.
12. Sylvia, the Brazilian exchange student, and Marcia Ellison
13. More testamonies
14. Well, that's all, ladies.





What They Said

The National Retreat at Smokey Shadows was truly that. I speak for our ten ladies that attended. The program, location, fellowship, spiritual atmosphere . . . oh, just everything was perfect. Thanks to each person who made it so.

*Jewell Andrews
Durham, NC*

Thank you for the retreat! It will always be a blessing to remember.

*Kiska Sifers
Cleveland, OH*

Other comments:

"This retreat was super. The seminars were the right length and the free time most welcome. The facilities were excellent, clean and quiet. Food very good."

"I have enjoyed the fellowship and the instruction received to help me live a better Christian life."

This was my first retreat and I enjoyed it all. I plan to share it with my friends and loved ones."

"These wonderful meetings have helped me be a better Christian, wife and mother."

I think I will be a better Christian and a stronger person and more powerful to fight the devil as a result of this retreat."



SHARE-A-BOOK

Genny Waddell



PEANUT BUTTER ON MY PILLOW

by Rita W. Kramer
Thomas Nelson Publishers
\$3.95 151 pages

Have you ever longed to be a Mary instead of a Martha? Rita-Kramer wanted that, too, but the home economist discovered just how difficult it is to "sit at Jesus' feet" when a husband and eight children are clamoring for your attention. In **PEANUT BUTTER ON MY PILLOW**, Mrs. Kramer—called the Christian Erma Bombeck—has attacked the problem of being chopped into so many emotional pieces of life's demands. She has concluded that Christ is "Lord of the pots and pans just as much as He is Lord of piety and prayer." Prepare to laugh and cry all the way through her conclusions.

Not only is this book full of down-to-earth conversations with the Lord as the writer goes about her daily chores, but it is also brimming with practical household hints. Tips

on handling stress. Time-saving housekeeping ideas. Involving the whole family in deciding what is important and what isn't. And everything is handled with humor that really happened, as you will recognize if yours is a busy household.

This book will make you realize that God intended for each of us to have some Mary and some Martha in us. There is no room to neglect the spiritual or the practical. Rita Kramer has done a delightful, intriguing job of explaining that principle in her first book.

Of course, after you've read **PEANUT BUTTER ON MY PILLOW**, you will be interested in purchasing the undated planning calendar Rita mentions immediately. I heartily recommend it, too, as I use mine daily. (Linda Dillow's **PRIORITY PLANNER**, Thomas Nelson Publishers, \$5.95).

my little donkey

Laura Danielson Wade

When I was very young, I had ophthalmic surgery. I remember awakening unable to see even the faintest ray of light due to the bandages on my eyes. A child of four might have been hard to entertain under such circumstances, but for me this was not a problem. I had something very special that kept me company. It was a little stuffed donkey that my mother's friends at work sent to me. I could not see it, but I remember the first time I held it. I felt his tiny ears, the harness and reins; then I ran my fingers over his fluffy full mane. Next I felt his slender legs and little feet and—what was this? There was a little music box in his tummy! I wound it up and listened as the sweet melody filled my little world.

It seemed I waited an eternity and finally it happened. My bandages were removed and I saw my little donkey. His mane was snow white as was his body but with an occasional patch of gray. His neck and head were bound with a little red harness. He was more beautiful than imagined.

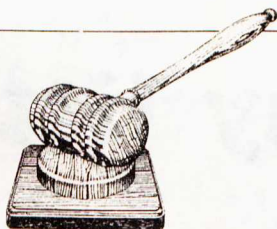
Enjoying my little donkey has always been such a beautiful memory for me. Lately it has become even more precious as I think of Calvary. I could not see, but I could hear the message brought to me by my friends. Then one day the shackles fell from my eyes and I saw Him—Jesus!

Many years have passed from the time I first saw my little donkey to when I first saw Jesus, but the stories are so similarly precious. My little donkey's mane of snow white reminds me of Christ's royalty, yet He rode into the city of Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. His small ears remind me of how Jesus must have felt when He heard the multitude cry out, "Crucify Him!" His little reins remind me of how the crowds led my Jesus away toward Mount Calvary. The harness my little donkey wears reminds me of the cross my Saviour bore, and the four small feet remind me of the feet that carried the cross—Simon of Cyrene as well as of my Lord.

And too, the red harness he wears upon his head reminds me of the crown of thorns that pierced Christ's brow and shed His blood. The occasional patches of gray remind me of the sky which hung heavy in sorrow over all the land. Finally, the music box reminds me of the triumphant melody of the angels as Jesus rose victorious over the grave.

Pausing in thought, my heart swells with joy and my eyes flood with happiness. "Thank You, Jesus, because through my little donkey I have caught a fresh glimpse of You, my Friend and Lord and Saviour."

Presenting Our State Leaders



Prater



Steward

Michigan

Treva Prater (Mrs. Jimmie), Southgate, helped organize the first local auxiliary in her home church, Woodhaven, which later led to the organization of the state convention in 1972. Active in auxiliary work for 14 years in both local and district, Mrs. Prater now enthusiastically serves as state president.

The Prater's marriage has been a 50-50 proposition—her deacon husband and three children are right handed while she and three other children are left handed. "We believe in dividing things," she writes. Four of the six children are married.

Mrs. Prater has served as Sunday school secretary for 15 years, paints, sews, and "loves life in the Lord."

Lucille Steward (Mrs. Wendall), Royal Oak, has probably done more for missions than any one single person. She traveled widely to promote missions in the Wolverine association long before she was elected as the state's first (and only) field worker. She organized the first provision closet shower 18 years ago and has seen it expand from less than \$100 to an estimated value of more than \$10,000.

The Stewards are members of Central FWB Church and have two children—Phyllis, married; and David, soon-to-be. Kelly Ann is their only grandchild.

Mrs. Steward has worked under a physical handicap since an automobile accident many years ago. Now she is undergoing chemotherapy for a recently discovered breast malignancy. Let's all undergird our dear sister in prayer during these difficult days.



Sunrise... Sunset

Anita Haney

Sentimental keepsakes, those photo albums. Just the other day, I got mine off the shelf and began at the very first page. The first picture I had glued in just happened to be one of myself standing out by the flower garden about as pregnant as one could be. As I chuckled under my breath, my mind traveled back and I recalled how I must have felt as that picture was snapped, not knowing at that time if the baby inside me was a girl or a boy. How time flies! It seems like only yesterday.

I flipped the page and there was a hospital scene with me in bed and my husband in a chair cradling in his strong arms our new bundle of sugar and spice. I smiled and turned another page. There she was again with a big grin on her fat, little face and two, tiny teeth peeping through. That was progress. Then at the bottom of that same page she was sitting all alone on a quilt on the front lawn. I remember carefully supporting her back and then jumping up ever so quickly and grabbing the camera to capture this moment before she lost her balance. That was progress!

The next page pictured her first big step alone. I remember how we both

cheered and applauded as those pudgy little legs bravely took one, two tiny steps. Then she sat down with a plop! But that, too, was progress.

On flipped the pages—First Birthday, Second Birthday, Three, Four and Five; each with special memories and accomplishments hidden among the years. Kindergarten pictures—she's a real little lady. She can count to 100, but leaves out the 90's and can write her name and alphabet if she copies mine. That is progress.

My mind wandered. What if God had photos of our spiritual lives? As the pages turn we see the happy day we were born again and how fast we grew up in Him each day. Another page—the progress made in daily devotions and Bible study; our first encounter in telling someone about Christ, and added progress in leading that first soul to Him. Our work in the church and community on the next page along with all the tasks involved in being a disciple. My, how proud I know He would be, just as any parent would and should, unless . . . unless . . . each picture on each page was that of a tiny, newborn baby.

Sentimental keepsakes, those photo albums.

PRAYER FOCUS

Eunice Edwards

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

April				1981		
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		

April



Lord, I thought I would never get the children off to school today so we could be alone . . . and I sorely need to be alone with You today.

There were so many trivial, yet important, things lost this morning—a sock, a shoe, pencil, a spelling list. It was so time consuming.

But they are off to school now and we can be alone. You reminded me earlier of Jeremiah 19:12, 13: "... ye shall seek me and find me when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Lord, I truly seek thee.

Lord, there are many things I need to talk to You about. We don't have food for today—food for our bodies and food for our souls. Each of the children need Your presence today, too. They miss their daddy. Comfort them today so they won't feel so alone. Help them learn their lessons. Grant that this heartache we feel today be turned to Your glory. Don't

let our sorrow be wasted. Help us to share with others these precious lessons you are trying to teach us. Renew our faith today. Let us mount up with wings as eagles.

There are other mothers who are filled with anxiety today. Bless especially those missionary mothers who are "setting their house in order" in preparation for furlough. They, too, need time to send their children off to school and spend time alone with You; but very often the school is the kitchen table and the only time alone is the odd minutes snatched from a busy schedule.

Bless them today, Lord, in their rush of packing, making travel arrangements, scrapping together the best of a well-worn wardrobe just to be presentable long enough to get back to America and replenish it, finishing the children's correspondence courses, treating that allergy that flared up—did this impending furlough have something to do with that?—training workers to take over in their absence, the agony of an account dipping into the red. Oh Lord, how they need Your touch today.

In Brazil: Bobby Pooles, Dave Franks and Tommy Hughes; in

France, John Murray and Joe Haas; In Ivory Coast, Clint Morgans, Ledgel Fergusons and Patrick Dickens; in Spain, the Ron Callaways. Thank You, Lord, for Your constant caring.

And Father, for Vergel Maness and his family today, I pray. They are dismantling five years of living in New Castle, Delaware and moving to Vine-land, New Jersey to begin a new church in this area. Refresh him spiritually and physically for this tremendous task.



May

Mother's Day is a day filled with bittersweet memories for most of us. Thoughts of other days when Mama was still with us. Memories of when our children made homemade cards at school and hid them behind their backs to surprise us, each little face with its anxious, wistful hope-you-like-it look as you carefully took time to open it. And the smiles as you hugged them close to you. Remember?

Happiness as deep as tears was mine each time a new child was cradled in my arms. Happiness? Yes! But also the awesome responsibility rolled in like a tidal wave. The weight of teaching, training, loving this tiny life was almost overwhelming and invariably left me trembling inside.

A verse nestled almost in the center of the last chapter of Isaiah spoke to me today: "As one whom his mother

comforteth, so will I comfort you . . . (Isa. 66:13).

Mothers are reflectors of God's love, but they can only reflect what is there. Help me, Lord. Fill my heart with Thy love so I can reflect it in my children.

Some women are not faithful to their role of motherhood. Help me, Lord, not to judge, but realize their priorities are simply out of line. And until they get them straight, help me to love their children as my own.

Help me, Lord, to reflect Thy concern to those who are orphans of the living. Give me an abundance of Thy comfort that I can comfort them with my presence, my words, my actions.

And, Lord, for our missionary mothers today I pray. The missionary may have many spiritual children even though she may have never physically birthed a child. They look to her for guidance, mimic her affectionally, and address her as Mother.

Lord, I pray today for the missionaries on the field who have no children of their own, whose children are away at school or have married and gone. May this day they receive a great and deep satisfaction in their spiritual children. For Florine Coscia (Brazil); Marie Hanna (India); Janie Aldridge (Ivory Coast); Anita Sparks (Spain); and Amy Robinson (Uruguay). Comfort them, Lord.

Some mothers are on furlough—or will be within the next month or two—and suffering along with their children through teenage adjustments and conflicts. Another country is their home and America is the foreign land and the culture shock can be devastating. For Pat Franks (Brazil) and her Dave, 16, and Suzanne, 14; Geneva Poole (Brazil) and son John, 15; Pansy Murray (France) and John David, 19,

and Patricia, 17; Marcia Ellison (Uruguay) and Stephen 20, John, 17, Ma-
linda, 14. Oh God, help them, I pray.

The Jerry Barron family, Mexico, need Your healing touch today. After ten years of living in this land, they are taking their first furlough and living on the Mexican border in Mission, TX. Bless their five children—two high school teenagers, Myron and Tony, eight-year old Timmy and Jerra, 4. And, Lord, somewhere, would you raise up someone to replace them for this year? That young man in charge needs a special anointing, too. Thank You, oh thank You, for Your enabling.



June

It was early spring and Daddy said, "You may go to town with me today." I was about four years old, but the memory of his words electrifies me still. To go to town with Daddy was The Treat. Because you see, on the way we would walk past the park where there were jillions of wonderful things to see. Daddy never hurried past the violets, or the sunflowers, or the rocks. And his fascination with the trees and woods—all of nature actually—was a never-ending delight to me. Because of these trips with my father, his fascination became mine and all of nature remains a delight to me this day.

Sometimes Daddy and I lingered a little too long and darkness began to

fall. It was most comforting to slip my hand into his for the walk home, perfectly confident that he knew the way and to feel the comfort of his presence right there beside me.

Thank You, Lord, for the assurance of Your presence even in the midst of trials and fears (Psalms 46:1).

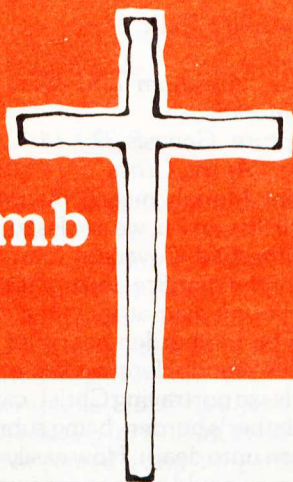
Thank You that You are in control. You who created all things and hold the world in Your hands can most assuredly care for the goings and comings of our missionary family.

Some are in real financial need. Their furloughs are ending and they yearn to return to their field of service, but their accounts are in the red. Thrust them out, Lord. Make their cofers fat with funds. For these today I pray: Ken Eagletons (Brazil); Bobby Aycocks (Brazil); Allen Crowson (France); Alice Smith (Ivory Coast); Judy Smith (Japan); Steve Lytle (Panama); and Sherwood Lee (Ivory Coast).

To the mission board, the amounts needed to get these missionaries back are staggering, but it's such a little thing with You. Teach our women the stewardship of money.

The Ron Dails in Virgin islands have 400 students with 200 on the waiting list. Lord, they need expanded facilities and a new chapel. Burden someone with this need. Encourage the hearts of the missionaries there. And for Puerto Rico, I pray today. The work there disbanded, scattered, all because no one was willing to proclaim Your name in this heathen land. We don't cry out in question, we only pray that once more your Holy Spirit will move in the hearts of Your men and women to the extent that they will cry out, "Here am I, send me."

Pre-Easter Week of Prayer Program
Rosemarie Laffoon



Worthy The Lamb That Was Slain

Introduction

Jesus is the lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Let us search the Scriptures, beginning with Genesis and ending with Revelation, and see how God's supreme sacrifice is the only acceptable sacrifice and way to heaven.

Scripture: Revelation 13:8 and 4:11

Song: "Worthy The Lamb That Was Slain"

One Man's Lamb

Flannel scene or picture: Adam and Eve in garden with coats of skins

Scripture: Hebrews 9:22 and 11:9

Song: "Nothing But The Blood"

When sin entered the human race, God killed an animal and made coverings for Adam and Eve. This object lesson showed them that blood was the only method for atoning for sin. Doubtless Adam was commanded afterward to burn all or part of the animal's flesh with fire.

Adam, having once known the

perfect relationship with the Father must have been anxious to recapture even a small degree of the fulfillment he had once known. If blood was ordered, then he would have been very careful to instruct his sons that blood was their only access to God.

Abel, Adam's firstborn, accepted blood as a necessity; therefore his sacrifice is the first real picture in the Scriptures of the atoning death of Jesus Christ. Abel came as a sinner, brought his lamb and the fat thereof, and made his offering to God with a truly, believing heart.

Cain, on the other hand, offered a bloodless gift, thus typifying the stubborn, self-righteousness of a sinner going through the motions of worship but insincere in all his action.

Through the sacrifices of Cain and Abel, we see the necessity of personal salvation, a personal walk with God and an individual worship. But this is only the beginning. We must share this blessed knowledge with others so they can also have a chance to worship our Saviour.

One Family's Ram

Scene: Abraham and Issac on Mt. Moriah

Scripture: Genesis 22:1-14

Song: "At the Cross"

Mount Moriah means mount of sacrifice. In verse 6, we see Issac, the son of the Old Covenant, carrying wood for the sacrifice. Issac was a full grown young man at this time, well able to be the burden-bearer of the sacrificial wood. Here we see a picture of Issac portraying Christ, carrying his father's burden, being submissive even unto death. How easily this strong man could have overpowered his aged father and ran away. We often magnify the faith of Abraham, yet Issac's strong faith allowed himself to be bound. He willingly laid down his life on his would-be funeral bed.

According to Jewish tradition, two thousand years ago to the day and only a few yards away from where Issac laid down at the command of his father Abraham, Jesus carried the wooden cross (wood for the sacrifice) and laid down His blessed body on the cross at the command of His Father, thus fulfilling the promise of God Himself providing a sacrifice.

Obedience is God's call to us today. Are we willing to give all we have to serve the Lord with gladness? What do we willingly sacrifice to work for Christ?

One Nation's Lamb

Scene: Passover

Scripture: Exodus 12:3-13

Song: "The Blood Will Never Lose It's Power"

Here was a nation suppressed

into bondage and hardships. Yet as they leaned upon the Lord they multiplied in strength and numbers. The Lord was getting them ready to enter their land of promise.

Notice there is again a shedding of blood, this time at the Passover. The Passover is a type of Christ our Redeemer. The lamb used was a carefully selected victim without blemish, a male of the first year and tested for four days. If any became sick or lame, they were eliminated; only the best was chosen. Thus being tested, they were killed. This sacrifice saved from the penalty of death.

Jesus was tested and tried in His earthly life. Even that last night before His death He underwent severe testing. The beautiful part is that He willingly, selflessly and lovingly was obedient even unto death.

Moses told his people to put blood upon the door post and above the door. If you were to draw a straight line across the door joining the blood and then draw a line from the blood at the top of the door downward, you would have a cross. This is what the Passover was symbolizing for all time.

The fact that the blood was not sprinkled upon the threshold reminds us that we must be very careful not to trample the blood of Christ underfoot. This blood is precious and should be carefully guarded.

The lamb was to be eaten. Likewise we must feed upon Christ's words to sustain or spiritual lives. Obedience was all that was demanded; it was a saving force. The people were to remain in the house where the blood had been applied. They were safe as long as they obeyed. As long as we keep our lives under the blood, we are safe. When we fail to obey, we step beyond the

limits of the protection of the blood and find ourselves in real spiritual trouble.

A Lamb For The World

Scene: The Crucifixion

Scripture: John 1:29; Isaiah 53:5, 6

Song: "The Cleansing Wave"

The Old Covenant was built on the concept of sacrifices. The burnt offering involved a whole animal, slain, drained, and placed on the altar daily as a continual sacrifice. The trespass offering atoned for the act of sin; each time a sin was committed, a new trespass offering was necessary. The sin offering atoned for the guilt of sin, the peace offering brought into right relationship, and so it was. But all these offerings were only types, mere shadows of that which was to come. They only temporarily covered the sin and had to be repeated over and over again.

In this lesson we have seen that we are to worship, as did Abel, with a personal and individual offering. We are to worship as a family, as Abraham and Issac typify. And a national lamb was offered to represent national worship. Thus the Scriptures lead us step by step to the most exciting Lamb of all—the Lamb to which all the others pointed, the Lamb which takes away the sin of the world—the spotless Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

In all reading and writing, preaching and teaching, nothing should stir our innermost being as this—Jesus Christ, the son of the Most High,

allowed Himself to come and die for a worm such as I.

Alive Forever More

Scene: Resurrection and/or Ascension

Scripture: Matthew 28:6 and 18-20 and Acts 1:8, 9.

Song: "Christ Arose"

At Easter we celebrate the fact of Christ's resurrection. The sinless, incorruptible blood has been made as an offering for sin, once and for all. God accepted it and our pardon has been sealed. The veil of the temple was rent from top to bottom signifying that no longer was it necessary to sacrifice the blood of bulls and goats; the perfect sacrifice has been made. Perfect atonement is now possible. All we must do is believe and accept it.

Because Christ rose victor over death, hell and the grave, we likewise are delivered from the same. Because this Spirit that raised up Christ dwells in us (Romans 8:11) this same Spirit will also deliver us in like manner. So we can cry out triumphantly with Paul, "O death, where is thy sting, oh grave, where is thy victory . . . Thanks be unto God! . . ."

The last command of our Lord before ascending to heaven is found in Acts 1:8. This message is to us today just as surely as it was to those who witnessed His ascension into heaven. Let us pray for holy boldness that we may do our part to reach a lost world for Christ before His return again as He has promised.

Chorus: "Thou Art Worthy."

Program for April
Shirley Combs

A Net Cast Into The Sea



Objective: To be reminded that Christ's followers are fishers of men; to see the nets that missionary wives have used in Brazil; and to examine our own fishing equipment as we fish for the souls of men.

Scripture: Matthew 13:47, 48; 4:19

Song: "Must I Go, and Empty Handed"

A most impressive sight on a Brazilian fishing coast is when dozens of fishermen and villagers stand on the beach and, in perfect rhythm, pull in the enormous net which men in boats had let down earlier into the sea. As the net coming out of the foamy water reveals its catch, everyone on the beach runs closer to see the great variety of fish and sea

animals. These are divided, sorted and weighed, ready to be sold or fried on waiting fires.

Three missionary couples once observed this sight and were reminded of the Saviour's words: "... the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind . . ." (Matthew 13:47). This now was their task—to be fishers of men in a new and difficult frontier.

A Sea Full of Fish

The original plan of the three missionaries—Jim Combs, Sam Wilkinson, and John Craft—was to keep the city of Tubarao as a hub from which to reach out to surrounding cities which had no Gospel witness.

The fishing villages and outside preaching points were the responsibility of John Craft. Sam Wilkinson directed the Christian reading room and English school ministries. Jim Combs directed the weekly services in their home and a daily radio program. Their ten MK's, ranging from newborn to teen-ager, made a tremendous contribution.

Before the message of Christ could penetrate this unreached area, they had to break down feelings of suspicion and resentment toward "americanos" and "protestantes." So the missionary wives became involved in many people-meeting situations. Besides helping their husbands with their ministries, they led Bible clubs, visited their neighbor women, provided hours of home entertainment, and made a seemingly endless number of trips to markets and shops for one simple list of groceries.

Casting a Big Net for Lady Fish

One of the most exciting people-meeting situations was a monthly meeting with the women. Remember there were no converts as yet, not even one woman who regularly attended the weekly meetings. Most of their women friends let them know they were very religious and needed no change.

The wives noticed that charity teas were popular among the society women and they had received invitations to these “cha das ladies.” What about something like a tea to reach women with the Gospel? Shirley, June and Connie decided they would try it.

The term “Coke-In” was used for these informal gatherings. (In Portuguese Coca-Cola is never abbreviated as Coke. Some admitted later they thought it meant cock-tail party!) Invitations were sent to every woman they met those first few months. These included doctors’ wives, wives of local merchants, college professors, grade school teachers and numerous neighbors. It was a large net for such a short time.

Would They Take The Bait?

The wives had several things going for them. They were the only Americans living in town and many were just plain curious to see a “real-live” American, especially three at one time! Secondly, English is required in all schools as a second language and many were interested in learning the language or practicing the little bit they already knew. Finally, perhaps

the topic written on the invitation interested them—“Is the Bible against or in favor of the total liberation of the woman?” The Brazilian women had heard the USA propaganda about Women’s Lib and had very definite ideas concerning the matter.

The missionaries pushed the furniture around in the large living room and placed all the extra chairs that would fit. They arranged freshly-cut flowers, chilled the cokes, and prayed and waited for three o’clock to come. It did and with it the women—55 of them! They came in twos and fours and sixes. It kept the three of them busy greeting the women in the local custom of a kiss on each cheek. More than 100 kisses were given before the meeting began.

Results of the Large Net

Following some get-acquainted conversation, Bibles were passed out for the women to use during the message. It was the first time some had actually held a Bible in their hands and looked up a Scripture for themselves. Others admitted it was an unusual women’s meeting since there was no gossiping.

They left that meeting with their curiosity satisfied, their thinking stirred. For some it was the beginning of an interest in the Word of God. As each one was given her two good-bye kisses, many expressed their thanks and asked to be invited again.

The monthly meetings continued and often the attendance was even more than that first one. When the Crafts returned to the States and the Wilkinson’s transferred to another area in Brazil, Shirley continued to

use the meetings as an evangelistic tool.

Very few of the women started attending the Sunday meetings and *not one* was saved to her knowledge. But many became very dear friends and listened to the message of the Lord Jesus.

A Smaller Net

In 1974, the city of Tubarao was buried in a flood which reportedly destroyed 3000 homes and seriously damaged 7000 others. About 50,000 inhabitants, including the Combs, were scattered until rebuilding of the city was possible. It seemed the appropriate time for the Combs to take an early furlough and when they returned, they saw a resurrected city.

Meetings resumed in their repaired and remodeled flood-damaged home, but later were moved into a rented house down the block. "When will our women's meetings begin?" some of the women asked, but Shirley didn't feel led to continue this type of evangelistic thrust. Although several were attending the services regularly, none had been converted.

A Christian lady, Dona Jandira, moved in from another area, so it seemed time to cast out a small net—through the Woman's Auxiliary. It was rather difficult with only two of the twenty women saved. Shirley guided the objectives along Christian lines, but tried to let the women create something really Brazilian.

Shirley suggested meeting once a month; they voted a minimum of twice a month. She suggested meeting in homes; they voted to meet at the church. Since they wanted re-

freshments, she suggested a different person provide something simple. Out-voted again! They voted that each bring something.

The program was left entirely to Shirley, but they suggested it include Bible study and prayer, along with many projects for helping the needy. They didn't have to be taught about grocery and clothing showers since their religions were based on good works. They were a mission action chairman's dream.

A Bigger Catch

Evangelization was included in each meeting, but soon family seminars were added. *Mulher Total*, the Portuguese edition of *The Total Woman*, had just come out and through this study the women began seeing the Bible as a guidebook for their lives. Their husbands and families witnessed the change. Light was penetrating the darkness.

During the testimony time each meeting, it was evident that after all these years they were finally realizing that they were not meeting God's requirements for entering heaven. Gradually they desired change. Then came genuine conversion. First, Dona Jandira's daughter-in-law accepted Christ at the church's little altar. Then a mother and her two married daughters became believers, followed by another mother and her married daughter.

What a difference it made in the women's meetings and in the little mission church. After many years of casting their nets, the first women converts entered the water for baptism and began a new life of service.

LOST VISION

A true story

She was so ashamed of her awful secret that she had shared it with no one—not her husband, children, mother, and oh dear God, certainly not her pastor. What would they think of her if they knew?

How long had she known? Weeks, months, years? She didn't know. She only knew that day by day now she was becoming more acutely aware of her terrible plight. If only she could tell someone! With trembling hands she picks up the telephone and begins to dial a number, but before she finishes, she drops it back into its cradle.

The seemingly unending stream of tears begins to trickle down her cheeks as she pours herself another cup of coffee. She opens her Bible, but closes it again. If only she could share her heavy burden with someone. Shame hits her again and she lays her head over her closed Bible, wetting its cover with her tears. "Oh dear Jesus, help me. Give me courage to confess my shame."

She returns to the phone and lifts the receiver. Dialing, she pushes back the flood of tears that burn her eyes and wet her face. Hearing the busy signal, she breathes a sigh of relief, cleans her nose with a tissue and sinks into a chair.

Doesn't she attend church regularly, doesn't she tithe, didn't she once teach Sunday school, hold an

office in Woman's Auxiliary, and doesn't she and her husband uphold their pastor as God's man of the hour? Why, she even washes dishes at church socials! How could this terrible thing have happened to her?

She picks up the telephone one last time, thinking, "It's now or never." Rr ring . . . rrring . . . rrring. She isn't home, her mind races; and then "Good morning," her mother's cheerful voice touched her numbed ear drums. "Good . . . morn . . . ing, Mother," she chokes and the tears break over her bottom lashes once more. "I've tried to call you all morning . . . I . . ." she tries again, "I really need to talk to you. Do you have a minute?"

"Of course, dear, you know I always have time to listen to you," the soft voice reassures her.

"Are you sitting down? I have some very bad news, so bad I couldn't even face you with it. That's why I'm calling you instead of coming to your house." Her voice is now almost a whisper.

"Yes, sweetheart, I am now. What is it?" the voice asked with deep concern.

"Oh Mother, I'm so frightened and ashamed. I don't know when or why or how it happened. I've always tried to live a good, clean and devoted

Continued bottom of next page



Corrective Surgery

Objective: To sharpen our spiritual awareness to the needs of a world without Christ

Scripture: Romans 10:14, 15

Song: Send the Light

Introduction— story by Rosemarie Laffoon

When you first visit a new physician, you are required to fill out forms relating to your health history. This information aids the physician in diagnosing your illness and prescribing treatment. The following questions are designed to help you look for trouble spots in your own missionary vision.

Part I 1. How many missionaries can you name? Can you match them with their field of service? 2. Name

the last missions book you read. When? 3. Do you read *Heartbeat* regularly? 4. Do you have a regular method for missionary praying? 5. Have you personally witnessed to someone this past month?

Part II 1. Have you written to a missionary in the past six months? Received any letters from missionaries? 2. Have you gone "next door" to witness to any of your neighbors? 3. Have you participated in any of the mission action projects of your auxiliary in the past three months?

Part III 1. Has the vision of a lost people without Christ ever brought tears to your eyes or took away your appetite? Recently? 2. Have you responded financially to missions in a sacrificial manner, say, in the last six months? Do you have a regular

LOST VISION

Christian life. You know that, don't you, Mother? but I've talked with the Best of Doctors and the prognosis isn't too good. Matter of fact, I'm going to have to have surgery."

She wipes her eyes and nose before continuing.

"Mother, I'm going deaf and blind and have a serious heart condition. I must undergo a threefold operation—eye surgery to lift the near

sighted scales from my eyes to see a world bound for hell, ear surgery to hear the pitiful cries of the lost, and open heart surgery to remove the lead that is hindering the flow of God's love through me."

She speaks quickly, as if she doesn't talk fast enough she might not get the words out at all.

"Mother, don't you see, my illness could be terminal to thousands of people. You see, I have lost my missionary vision and I must find it again. I must have it back. I must."

method for giving? 3. Would you be happy for your child to be a missionary, even if it means being thousands of miles away and seeing him only every four years? 4. Have you ever experienced the tug to pray for a certain missionary and then promptly interceded for that missionary in prayer?

How did you score? If you are weak in Part I, make an appointment with an Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat specialist. If you scored poorly in Part II, contact an orthopedic surgeon for repair work on arthritic hands and feet. A last bad score indicates you're a prime candidate for open heart surgery.

Appointment with an ENT Specialist (John 4:37, 38; Mark 4:23, 24; Isa. 50:5)

"There is none so blind as he who will not see." How much we miss because of unconcern or complacency. How many needs in our church or community go unmet while we wait for someone else to take care of that which we could do. Seeing our own needs, yes, but blind to the needs of others.

The most serious blindness is unconcern for the lost. If we turn away from the challenge of spreading the Gospel, we can expect God to do the same to us (Isa. 1:15).

How many times has God's Word spoken to you and you turned a deaf ear? The cries of thousands around us are pleading for someone to care. Suicides, vandalism, alcoholism, drug addiction are all cries for help, for someone to love. Oh, how we need to learn to listen!

A throat infection can cause lary-

ngitis, or the inability to speak. Sin can silence our lips. Isaiah was a "man of unclean lips," but after the Lord purged them, he said, "Here am I, send me." It's sad to have a song in your heart and not be able to sing it. Sadder yet is the woman who has the Gospel story and whose lips never share it with others.

Jesus Christ is waiting today to give us clear vision, sensitive ears, and the "tongue of the learned that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary" (Isaiah 50:4).

Orthopedic Repair (Luke 6:6-10; Matthew 9:2-8; Ecclesiastes 9:10)

Our hands serve many useful purposes for us, yet often they are filled with idleness. We must keep them busy or they will wither like the leaves of a dying plant. Arthritis in your idle hands can often be overcome by useful exercises. Stretch out your withered hands to Christ. He wants to heal them right now.

Not only do our hands suffer from laziness, but our feet gradually become crippled if we take them to the wrong places or allow them to satisfy their own desires or lusts. Others sit back when opportunities call to take a stand for Christ. Yes, he's on the way, but crippled, hindered, and beset.

Without a missionary vision, we are like a paraplegic in a wheelchair; or one struggling to walk with crutches, or legs in braces. We must make good use of our feet that we walk worthy of the Lord in all pleasing. A love for lost souls around the

world puts strength in our legs, a swing in our gait, and a purpose in our walk.

Open Heart Surgery (Ezekiel 36:26, 27)

One of the most tragic results of old age is hardening of the arteries. In this situation, deposits of fatty materials line the arteries which result in poor blood circulation. As the lining thickens, the artery loses its elasticity which may cause dizziness, loss of memory, or increased blood pressure. If it isn't controlled, it may cause permanent damage or even death.

Surgeons relieve the symptoms by stripping these fatty deposits from the arteries and allow the blood to circulate freely. Christians, too, tend to allow fatty deposits to clog the flow of God's love from their lives to others. Unconcern, selfishness, and worldliness all need to be flushed out of the channels that carry His love through us to a lost world.

In some cases, a person's heart becomes so diseased and useless that a heart transplant is necessary for healthy life. God wants to give us a new heart. How? But completely breaking up the old one (Psalms 51:17). Then and only then can He fashion a new one, warm with life and pulsating with love and passion for lost souls.

Prognosis and RX (Chances of Recovery and Method of Treatment)

When a case becomes apparently hopeless, the physician refers to this

disease as "terminal", meaning it will most likely end with death. Thank God, He never writes "terminal" over us when we come to Him with a sincere, searching heart. He yearns to lift the scales of blinded eyes, restore hearing and speech, mend bones, and give a new heart. And this He often does in one single operation, with one stroke of the knife.

There are no magic pills or elixirs that promise a sure fire formula for maintaining missionary vision and fervor. But the auxiliary does provide a promising prescription:

To: All Auxiliary Members

Attune your heart with the heart of Jesus which beats with love to a lost world,

Participate in the auxiliary plan of work.

Read missions books and our denominational papers.

Become informed of our missionary's needs by writing them. Visit them.

Pray on a regular basis. Become familiar with names and needs.

Participate in mission action and soul winning projects.

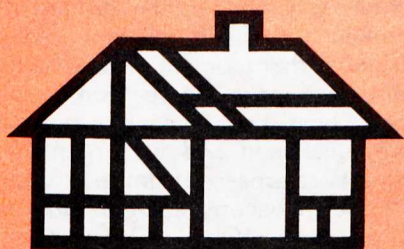
Support missions financially, cheerfully.

RX: Take as directed

May be Refilled as necessary

Satan may smugly let you fill this prescription, but He'll do everything in his power to see that the bottle remains in your medicine cabinet untouched, unopened. Follow the adage: "If a little does some good, then a whole lot will do a lot of good." Refill it often. Then the more you take, the more intense your missionary vision will become.

Program for June
Virginia Morgan



BUILDING? FOLLOW YOUR BLUEPRINT

Objective: To liken the construction of an earthly house to our own spiritual development

Scripture: Hebrews 3:1-6

Song: "The Solid Rock"

Most American women have a dream house, a spacious one designed with special extras for their family's comfort, convenience and pleasure. To achieve this goal requires much preparation, many decisions and frequent sacrifice.

In this program, let us compare the life of a Christian to the building of a house—our earthly house which is pleasing to us and our spiritual house which is pleasing to God.

We Must Choose An Architect (Joshua 24:15)

An architect is a builder who designs building, draws up plans and supervises construction. He is a creator. You trust him to advise and guide you until your house is completed, for the success or failure of your building rests in his hands. His services, however, are usually quite expensive.

The Christian has access to the greatest Architect of all. His services are free, yet He doesn't force them. We must ask Him. God the Father chose us in Him before the foundations of the world, but we must choose Him to be the architect of our life. We are assured our house has been designed with eternal values in view and the plans are all in order. If we prayerfully ask His leadership, we can be confident that He will direct us step by step until our spiritual house is completed (Psalms 127:1).

Some have natural talents for architecture and can erect masterful edifices, but unless Christ has designed the plans, they are subject to condemnation even before that first spade of dirt has been dug. The master architect is Christ.

We Must Select The Blueprint (John 6:68)

A blueprint is an exact or detailed plan, a set of instructions that must be followed to assure correct construction of the house. It includes a list of specifications which include the quality and quantity of necessary materials. Much time is spent in studying this list, analyzing and selecting quality merchandise, and then

visualizing the completed results.

The Bible is the Christian's blueprint and set of specifications. This one Book contains all the instructions and solutions we shall ever need to conquer any situation.

"The Word of God contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of life, the doom of sinners and the unhappiness of believers. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It gives light to direct you, food to support you, comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler's map, the soldier's sword, the Christian's chart. Here paradise is restored, heaven is opened, and the gates of hell described. Christ is it's theme, our good it's design and the glory of God it's end. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labors, and condemns all who trifle with it.

The Old Testament closes with 'lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.' The New Testament closes with 'The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.' " (copied)

In order to enrich our Christian witnessing, we must desire this Word, study and obey it, build upon it and hide it in our hearts. Following God's blueprint, we can share it with others, helping them build their own spiritual house in faith and trust.

A Firm Foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11)

The first step in the actual construction of a house is to prepare the foundation. The footing must be dug

deep and laid on solid ground so the house can withstand the force of the storms and elements.

For a Christian, the ground is broken and the foundation established at that moment of new birth. When we make the decision to accept Christ as our Saviour, our spirits are quickened and we are made alive. We are passed from death unto life and are become new creatures in Christ Jesus (1Cor. 3:17). There can be no lasting construction without this all important foundation. Flesh-made buildings may look sturdy, they may even be attractive; but they will fall just as surely as did the house in the parable Jesus told (Luke 6:48, 49).

Raising The Framework (Ephesians 2:20-22)

The framework of a house consists of many structural pieces which cannot stand alone, but when all are cut, fitted and nailed in place, it is strong enough to hold our house together.

Likewise the Biblical principles and doctrines of the church is the Christian's framework. Each member is supported by all the others, strengthening each other through fellowship and prayer, forming a strong framework for each life. We are admonished to assemble together (Heb. 10:25) as a protection against Satan's fiery attacks which threaten to weaken and destroy our house before it is even completed.

As we drive the nails into our framework, we should be reminded of the nails that held our Saviour to the cross. He died that we might live. As the roof is added to cover the framework, let us remember that His

blood was shed as a covering for our sins.

Strengthening The Walls (Matthew 21:22)

Walls must be added to support the framework and divide the rooms of our house. Without these, it would only be an empty shell, neither functional nor attractive.

As Christian women, we have the task of deciding on how many or how few rooms we can afford in our house. The Woman's Auxiliary floor should certainly occupy a prominent place in our house plans. Spacious rooms for mission prayer, mission study and mission action should have ready access to every room in the house. Allow plenty of space to grow through faithfulness, stewardship, witnessing, visiting, study and giving.

The whole building must be supported with bricks and walls of strength. The spiritual structure depends on a consecrated prayer life, the Christian's wall of strength. Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount and Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 give us further instructions for praying. In Ephesians 4:20, Paul tells us that the cement that holds the bricks together is love—love for ourselves (we are God's creation), for our fellow man, but most of all, our love for God.

The Finishing Touches (2 Samuel 7:29)

Now we come to that point in construction where each woman must decide just how she wants her almost completed house to reflect her own personality.

First let us hang doors that are

always open with hospitality to those less fortunate than we. Then we'll add plenty of windows for the joy to shine through. Next we will insulate the attic with kindness and gentleness, install ceilings of hope, paint our walls with meekness and long-suffering, and finally, trim everything throughout with forgiveness.

Almost finished now, we'll build our cabinets of peace, fill our closets with compassion, carpet our floors with understanding, and then to complete the job, we will light the entire house with love for all who cross our path.

Satisfied that we have completed our house to the very best of our abilities, let us offer the prayer and thanksgiving of David, as given in 2 Samuel 7:29.

Conclusion (1 Corinthians 3:12)

Before we can move into our new home, there is yet one test that must be passed which will determine our success or failure as a builder—the final inspection. And the Corinthian passage warns this will be a test by fire.

On that day as our building is bathed in flames, only that which is of gold, silver and precious stones will remain. That which is of wood, hay and stubble, or that which we have done apart from Him, will be reduced to ashes.

As the Great Inspector surveys our efforts on that day, what will His answer be? How tragic to hear the words, "Sorry. Condemned." But how joyous and gratifying when we hear, "Well done, enter thou into the joys of the Lord."

A Woman God Has Used



"A handmaiden of the Lord" describes our Volena Wilson, former missionary to India. It seemed God had always wanted her to be a missionary although she wasn't born into God's family until the age of 16. God clearly impressed her with the command "Go" during an evangelistic tent campaign held in Asheville, North Carolina while attending Blanton's Business College. In spite of doubts and fears concerning finances, she transferred to Nyack Missionary College, Nyack, NY, and His promise in 1 Thessalonians 5:24 saw her through graduation with every bill paid.

During one summer vacation, she became acquainted with Free Will Baptists and united with them after receiving her degree. She was accepted for missionary service to India in April, 1951, and was commissioned and sent out that same year.

Following language study, Volena joined Miss Laura Bell Barnard in South India and became a faithful and enthusiastic witness. She and a Bible woman went from village to village and house to house making Christ known. She conducted village Sunday schools, directing the Elementary School where she taught a weekly Bible lesson, and assisted the Indian teachers prepare their daily lesson. She also handled the school and church's correspondence and bookkeeping.

Hers was a busy and joyful life for almost three terms. In 1967, it was necessary she take a medical leave. Today she resides in Asheville, NC and assists with the publication of the fundamental journal, "The Presbyterian Journal."

A faithful supporter and promoter of missions, she travels widely conducting special services and giving slide presentations in order to challenge others to pray, give and go. "Volena, we love you."

Traveling On My Knees

Last night I took a journey
To a land across the seas;
I did not go by boat or plane,
I traveled on my knees.

I saw so many people there
In deepest depths of sin,
But Jesus told me I should go,
That there were souls to win.

But I said, "Jesus, I cannot go
And work with such as these."
He answered quickly, "Yes, you can
By traveling on your knees."

He said, "You pray; I'll meet the need,
You call and I will hear;
Be concerned about lost souls,
Of those both far and near."

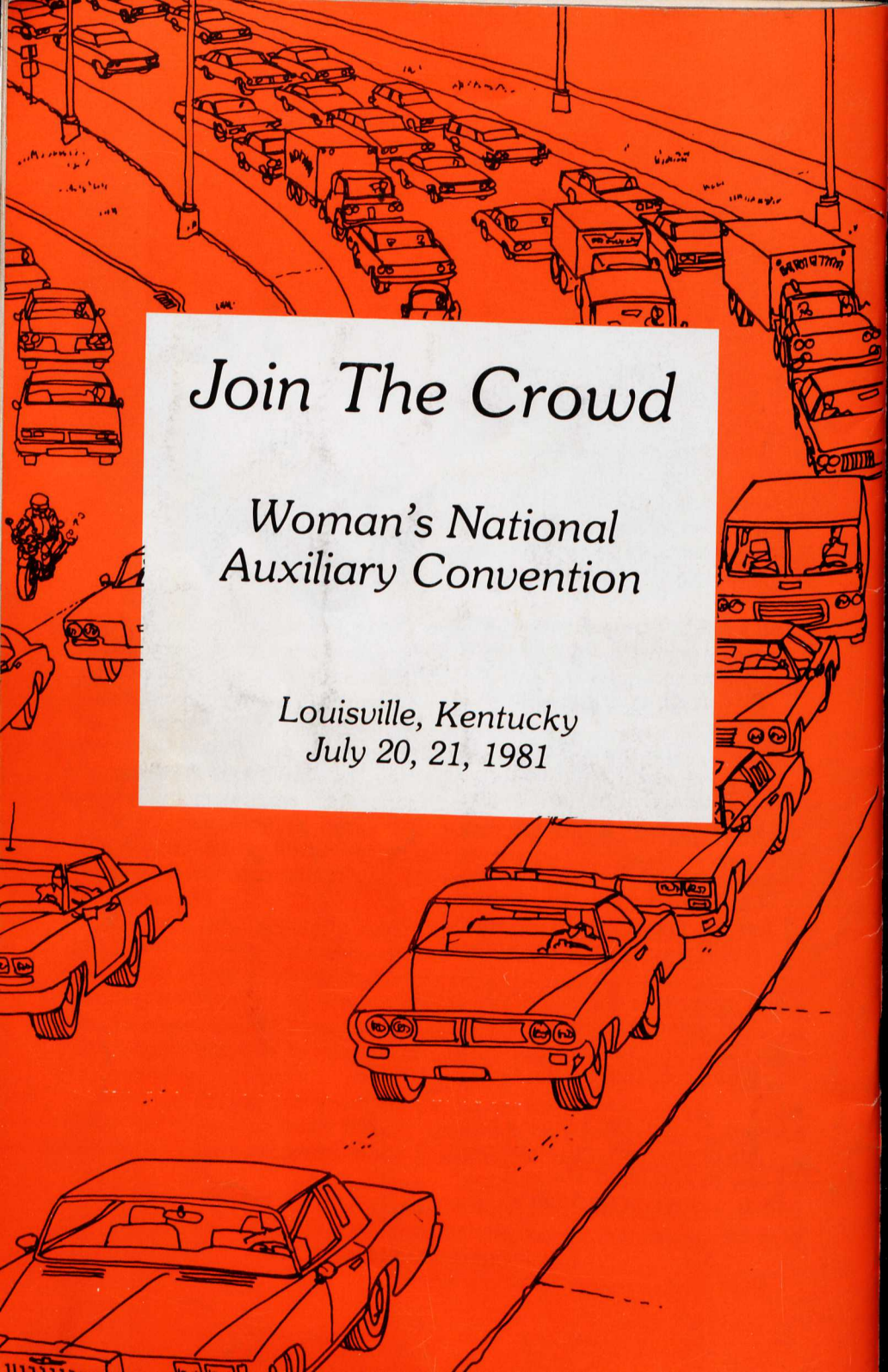
And so I tried it, knelt in prayer,
Gave up some hours of ease;
I felt the Lord right by my side
While traveling on my knees.

As I prayed on and saw souls saved
And twisted bodies healed,
And saw God's workers' strength renewed
While laboring on the field.

I said, "Yes, Lord, I have a job,
My desire Thy will to please;
I can go and heed Thy call
By traveling on my knees."



—Sandra Goodwin



Join The Crowd

*Woman's National
Auxiliary Convention*

*Louisville, Kentucky
July 20, 21, 1981*