

Co-Laborer

October, November, December 1981



Co-Laborer

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Volume XXI, Number 4

A missions minded woman lets the love of God flow through her to her home, her church, community, nation, and around the world.

Programs

Who Me?	23
Carol Reid	
Program for October	
Come Let Us Sing	26
Shelia Carter	
Program for November	
The Auxiliary's Answer	
To a Lost World	20
Zylphia Bondeson	
Pre-Thanksgiving Week-of-Prayer Program	
The Sound of the Bells	29
Linda Simons	
Program for December	

Special Features

They Came Apart . . .	10
And Rested	
Love Letters	16
We've Been Blessed	11

Articles

Blessing in Disguise	12
Ella Griffith	
Wreath of Death	13
Diane Thomas	
The Rose and the Flower Garden	14
Jackie Rasnake	

Regular Features

Our Writers	2
Memo From Cleo	3
Co-Laborers Write and Share	4
Women in Action	6
Share-a-Book	15
Prayer Focus	17
Women God Has Used	32

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Editorial

Lorene Miley

What About Dreams?

Do you believe dreams have meaning?

Some dreams mean nothing more than too much to eat before retiring or a carry-over from a hectic day. But a few dreams are still so indelibly stamped on my memory that I believe the Lord was trying to tell me something through them.

Like the other night. It was late and I was catching up on some sewing and turned on the TV to make it go faster. The guests on this secular talk show were two "lovers" on a popular soap opera. I had never seen the program, but it didn't take long to feel the sway of the audience toward these two who pictured illicit sex as innocent and desirable. I was shocked to notice that even my own attitude had relaxed some toward permissiveness.

My sewing finished and the TV turned off, I started to bed. How could I sleep with all that hogwash swirling through my head! So I turned to God's Word to get the bad taste from my mouth.

That night I dreamed. In my dream I was wearing a nice dress down in a dark hole. The cavity was filled with every sort of abomination imaginable, some too obnoxious to even mention. The strange thing was that I was here by choice and it wasn't too horrible. Not desirable, but neither detestable.

But when I finally crawled from the hole, I reeked from contamination. The odor of the hole permeated my flesh and stained my clothes. Slimy flecks clung to my hair and nails. Oh, just to get somewhere and scrub away all this filth! Then I awoke, and behold it was only a dream.

The dream, however, didn't evaporate as most dreams do. After haunting me for a day or two, I turned to God for the interpretation. Sin is to "miss the mark" and anything short of His holiness is sin. Oh, God, is that hole how you view sin, regardless of how harmless we might consider it? Then let Your mind be in me that I can see it the same way.

Thank You, Lord, for cleansing. But please keep me far from the holes.

Our Writers

Zylvia Bondeson (Mrs. Ray), deacon's wife of Bloss Memorial Church, Arlington, VA, is the mother of two daughters, both students at FWBBC. Auxiliary worker for 20 years, Mrs. Bondeson also helps in DVBS and children's church.

Before her graduation, **Shelia Carter** was student president of the FWBBC Woman's Auxiliary. Now employed by the government, Miss Carter is active in her home church, Bethany, FWB, Norfolk, VA.

Ella Griffith (Mrs. Jerry, Sr.), McArthur, OH, has attended every auxiliary meeting since its organization ten years ago. Her husband organized the church and they have two married children and six grandchildren.

Jackie Rasnake and her husband, Fred, are members of Calvary FWB Church, Navarre, OH, and for the past 16 years have sung with the Messengers quartet. They have three married children and one grandson.

Carol Reid (Mrs. Garnett), Nashville, TN has one son. Two year old Hugh allows his mother time to be a church organist, CTS and nursery worker, and children's choir director at Cross Timbers FWB church where his father pastors. Carol also writes High Teens CTS literature.

Linda Simons (Mrs. Richard), New Bern, NC, is active in CTS, Sunday school and auxiliary at the Sherwood Forest FWB Church. Mother of three, Linda also cares for two others in her home while she works on her Bible correspondence and writing courses.

Diane Michell Thomas (Mrs. Ray) is a published writer from Grifton, NC. Mother of two "fantastic" sons, Chris, 10, and Brian, 6, Diane serves as auxiliary president, Junior Sunday school teacher, and assists her husband with Pro-Teens at the Grifton FWB Church.



Bondeson



Carter



Griffith



Rasnake



Reid



Simons



Thomas



Memo From Cleo

Cleo Pursell

Big "M" Month

January is Big "M" Month (Membership enlargement). We hope your auxiliary will make a special effort to enlist women not only in membership but in active service in your woman's auxiliary.

To help motivate your members to action a special enlistment program, written by Janice Blades, Marion, Illinois, will be sent to each auxiliary on the **Co-Laborer** mailing list. Recognition will be given participating groups at the 1982 convention.

Creative Writing Contest

An attractive booklet of rules is now available for those wishing to participate in WNAC's creative writing contest. Remember the deadline is March 1, 1982. A new category has been added to the contest—creative art which includes black and white photography.

Mission Prayers

A free packet of materials will be sent without charge to any home-

bound person who will promise to pray daily for missions. If you are confined to the home because of personal illness or for other reasons here is an opportunity to make a major contribution to missions. Your prayers are not bound!

Missionary Provision Closet

"It was better than Christmas!" says Sandra Lambert after going through WNAC's missionary provision closet. "I had been praying specifically for sheets and face cloths. Only God knew these requests. I praise His name for taking care of us." The Arthur Lamberts are missionaries to Concord, New Hampshire. The provision closet can use bedspreads (especially twin size), toasters, coffee makers, and steam irons.

Convention News

Look for a review of the 1981 convention held in Louisville, Kentucky in the next issue of **Co-Laborer** and the **COMMUNICATOR**.



Co-Laborers Write & Share

Appreciation

We the ladies of the First FWB Church would like to thank you for the fine literature you send out and for all your help. We have eight active members in our auxiliary and we are growing.

Carolyn Redfearn
Modesto, CA

I enjoy the Co-Laborer so much and always look forward to reading it.

Irene Whelehan
Winterville, NC

Our auxiliary at the Waipahu FWB church is growing and we thank the Lord for it. We appreciate the articles and programs in the Co-Laborer. Our ladies eagerly await each issue.

Sadako Hashimoto
Waipahu, Hawaii

I have been reading your Co-Laborer magazine that was given me. We are a newly organized FWB church with a small membership. After reading your magazine, I would like to know how we can organize an auxiliary in our church. I feel this will strengthen us and make us better Christians.

Jane Jefferson
Columbia, MO

Barbara Haas from France

... our daughter, Christine, is marrying one of our fine French young men on August 7. He and Christy will both be attending FWBBC this fall. Please pray for Andre'. Although he understands English, he is fearful to speak.... The Bible Institute students living with us want to thank our women for the towels, sheets, blankets, etc. that they have used in our home.

"March for Missions"

Our local auxiliary held a "March for Missions" in which each woman had a calendar which instructed certain deposits be made daily for various circumstances and activities. Those pennies add up pretty quick! Enclosed is our check for \$47.56. Please send to a missionary with a special need or for a special item for the provision closet.

Connie Stilson,
Topeka, Kansas

Pre-Easter Week of Prayer

Last week we had our pre-Easter program and luncheon with three area churches participating. Fifteen ladies attended to hear Carole Carner

challenge us to believe and then share our beliefs with others. Our ladies are still talking about it.

**Vicki Hidde
Tulsa, OK**

Our ladies presented "Worthy Is The Lamb" au lieu of our regular Sunday night service. Flannel scenes were used, a ladies duet sang the songs and the organ softly played appropriate songs as each lady gave her part. After the program we served refreshments. Thank you, Rosemarie Laffoon.

**Lois Hibbs
Montgomery, AL**

Provision Closet

Today we are shipping a box of Tupperware for the provision closet which was purchased by the Hopewell #2 district. The ladies met for a missions workshop at Midway . . . Shirley Combs shared her testimony experiences with us As we ate a salad lunch, one of the district members, who is a Tupperware dealer, took orders for the provision closet. It was an informative and uplifting day.

**Frances Lewellen
Graham, OK**

Susan Moser from Brazil

The Provision Closet has provided many things I've enjoyed using. I've often wished the quilts I got in '77 were listed with the names of the makers. Even though they weren't I've prayed many times for these ladies and thanked God for their work and concern for missions.

Capping Ceremony

We want to take this opportunity to thank WNAC for the loan made to our daughter, Cindy. She is in St. John's School of Nursing, Springfield, MO. On May 22, she will be capped and receive her first stripe. She has two more full years before becoming an R. N. We want to thank you for helping make this possible.

**Mrs. Cletus Nichols
Virburnum, MO**

Copper Pennies

Betty Curry, First Church, Benton, IL, gives her recipe for Carrot Salad in her auxiliary cookbook, **Recipes We Love To Cook:**

6 cups carrots
1 large sweet onion, sliced
1 green pepper, chopped
1 can tomato soup, undiluted
1 t. dry mustard
3/4 c. sugar
1 cup salad oil
3/4 c. vinegar
1 t. salt
1/2 t. pepper

Cook carrots until tender, drain, chill and slice crosswise. Mix the other ingredients and pour over carrots. Marinate overnight in the refrigerator.

Victory

We adopted the John Murray account as a special project for North Carolina state. We asked our ladies to bring a love offering to the state meeting to help meet the need of \$2100. On that day \$2100 was received! Praise the Lord for this great victory!

**Sandra Hudson
Greenville, NC**

Auxiliary Women In Action

State Conventions

Michigan: Treva Prater presided over the meeting at Kirby with Trula Cronk, Nashville, as guest speaker. Field worker, Lucille Steward, was so proud of her women who brought Provision Closet gifts valued at more than \$15,000.

South Carolina: More than 250 ladies from five districts packed the New Prospect church, Pamplico, to become "Woman—A Chosen Vessel." Frances Poston presided.

Illinois: Eunice Malone was featured as guest speaker at the Ina church. New officers included veteran Geraldine Lewis, Nason, as field

worker and first-timer Jan Arnoldi, South Roxana, as president

West Virginia: Central, Huntington, hosted the meeting directed by Glenna Murphy, president. Guest speakers included Mary Ruth Wisehart, WNAC, and home missionary Ron Scott, Wheeling.

District Conventions

Mount Moriah district, AL, will host the next state meeting. This newly formed district is thriving under the leadership of Vaudine Lancaster. Thirty-five women were present for their meeting on "Blessed To Be A Blessing" with the beatitudes given as topics.



Nora McCarty, state field worker, directed a Manual study at the North Ohio district meeting at Rittman with all five churches reporting. Blessings were reported in attendance, Bible studies, nursing home and other action group meetings, as well as many answers to prayer.

"My Heart Christ's Home" was the theme for Martin district's workshop hosted by New Home, Colquitt, GA. Each of the five auxiliaries brought a section of the heart home which president **Gail Everson** put together to form the puzzle. A "Bone Hunt" with a serious discussion on old bones in our heart and home contributed to the theme.

While **Sue Aycock**, missionary to Brazil, was speaking to the South Carolina district in Port City, Charleston, **Lorene Miley** was speaking to a record 134 ladies in the Beaver Creek district at Hearon Circle, Spartanburg. Vivacious **Gwen Hendrix** presided. One thing for sure, no one enjoys their business sessions more than the Beaver Creek ladies.

Using the installation "Hand of Service," **Ann Ruble**, outgoing president installed **Zella Renolds** as new president of the Beckley district at the Cranberry church with about 85 women in attendance. Future plans call for a fall women's Bible Conference.

Cleo Pursell, WNAC, was guest speaker at the South Georgia district at Lyons and organized their first auxiliary. **Barbara Roberts** was awarded the Woman of the year plaque.

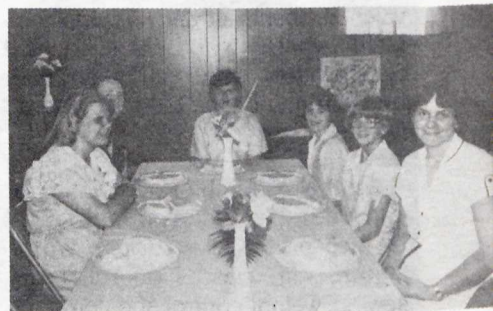
"In These Times—The Family" was the theme of the Alabama State Line district at Eastside, Dothan. **Melissa Long**, FWBBC student and missionary volunteer from New Home, was the afternoon speaker.

Vernon district, meeting in Tuscaloosa, installed new officers as **Paulette Scott** turned the presidential gavel to **Ida Lewis**. **Allan Crowson**, missionary to France, was guest speaker.



Mother-Daughter Occassions

Actionettes from Sophia, honored their mothers, grandmothers, and spiritual mothers with a buffet dinner in the church's fellowship hall. **Kathy**



McBride and **Ilene Barr** were leaders of this enthusiastic group of girls.

Diana Whitehead was featured at the Hazel Park, Michigan banquet.

Alma Cavalletto shared her personal testimony with the 32 mothers and daughters who attended a special tea at the First Church, Tucson, AZ.

Forty-two mothers and daughters came to hear the mother of the church's assistant pastor. A former Catholic with five Christian sons, she was brought to the Lord through one of their conversions. Her daughter-in-law, **Martine**, presided at the banquet.



Action Projects

Benton Harbor, MI, sponsored a valentine banquet and especially invited two bus mothers. The next Sunday they came and gave their hearts to the Lord. "Go thou and do likewise."

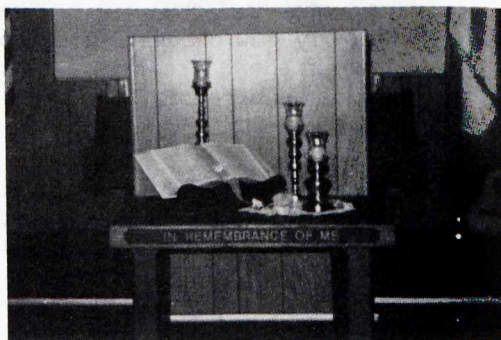
Central Church, Royal Oak, MI, combine Bible studies on John taught by their pastor's wife, **Diane Worthington**, with classes on macrame, sewing, weight control and ceramics.

Bethel Actionettes, South Roxana, IL, sponsored a "lock-in" with 60 young people imprisoned in the church for an all night meeting. Program included special music, chalk drawing, a film, and other activities, plus food and fellowship.

The auxiliary of the mission church in Omaha, NB sponsored a salad supper to enlist new members. They support the Sparks ministry in Spain.



Jackie Hopper, Goshen, CA, reports their auxiliary presented the church with a new communion table and prayer benches. These were delivered to the Neighborhood FWB church just in time for the Easter communion service.





Two members of the Sophia, WV auxiliary, **Norma Wickline** and **Ilene Barr**, designed a needlework banner using the auxiliary emblem and presented it at their regular meeting. **Pina Veneri** and **Lori Jividen** are holding the banner.

The auxiliary of Waipahu, Hawaii have compiled a cookbook. Because of the unique international make-up of the group of ladies, the cook book includes a wide variety of recipes.



International Dinners

"Informative as well as delicious" characterized the dinner prepared by the Smithville, MS auxiliary. **Inez Armstrong** reported they learned some of the customs although they didn't always know what they were eating!



The auxiliary of Calvary Fellowship, Fenton, MO, sponsored an international dinner in connection with their missionary conference. The men were so enthusiastic and appreciative that it may become a tradition. **Brenda Norris** is the pastor's wife.

They Came Apart... And Rested

Home missionaries Kathy Wright (Nebraska) and Peggy Adkisson (New Mexico) were honored at West Virginia's state retreat at Camp Virgil Tate just outside of Charleston. One hundred and twenty women came "To Be Used Of God" and hear June Critcher develop the theme. Attendance doubled at this second annual retreat.

Pat Thomas from the national Home Missions department met with Alabama women at Northwest Youth Camp, Yampertown, and spoke on "Woman: God's Gift To Man."

"Climbing Life's Ladder to Eternity" was the timely theme of the ninth annual Oklahoma East area retreat held at Western Hills State Lodge, Wagoner. Three hundred and fifty-eight women from 47 churches participated in a book review by Lila Morgan, challenging messages from Eunice Edwards and inspiring music led by Bev Welch and Marguerite Kern.

West Tennessee district sponsored their first retreat with all four auxiliaries in the area participating. Home mission Liberty church, Millington, and pastor's wife, Sara Poston, entertained the

21 women who met for a missions and Manual study by Lorene Miley, WNAC. Bea Presley, district president, presided.

Camp Mt. Bethel hosted Georgia's retreat with Trula Cronk and Laura Belle Barnard sharing their burden for India. Carla Creech's devotions, Linda Gay's laughter, and music by Margie Pattons and Carolyn Riddick all contributed to make the 116 women feel they had been blessed to be a blessing.

The Idaho district invited Cleo Pursell to share in their second annual retreat at Twin Falls with Joan Bennett, president, presiding.

Vice-president Sarah Fulton planned and directed the Northern Illinois retreat at Camp Joy. Lorene Miley, Jean Wilson and Darlene Melvin developed the theme "In Christ . . . Free to Be" through music and message.

Laura Thigpen, Nashville, TN, spoke at Arkansas's tenth annual retreat at Camp Beaverfork with 264 women registered. Vicki Mutchler decorated camp areas promoting the theme, "Patterns for Prayer."

We've Been Blessed

Do you appreciate your friends? I pray with one friend. We have had some very spiritual highs and lows, but I'm so thankful for a friend to pray with. I can talk to another friend. She gives me a shoulder to cry on and always says just the right words. I sing with two other dear friends. We get to singing and I just lose myself. I have another friend who is my example. His life is so Christ-like that it encourages me to live more like Him. He is teaching me faith. Then I have another friend who is "nuts" and we have such crazy times. God has blessed me with such a variety of good friends.

Barbara Otwell
Santa Paula, CA

From the moment I rose from the altar, my life began to change. Now I have more patience with my family. People are friends instead of strangers. I love being in God's house which I never did before. God has given me a chance to make my life meaningful.

Dottie Gobel
Cleveland, OH

Our son was a five year survivor of the worst type of leukemia. He became a Christian in kindergarten and was such a testimony during his

illness. He was so strong and full of courage and made us so proud. His months were spent in the pediatric ward where two or three children died each day. Theo was his friend. One day, unable to find him in his room, he asked me, "Mom, where's Theo?" But before I had a chance to answer, he gave his own explanation, "He was too sick to go home and he's not in his room so he must be gone to heaven." I felt so relieved and grateful as he spoke again, "Only special children get to go live with God."

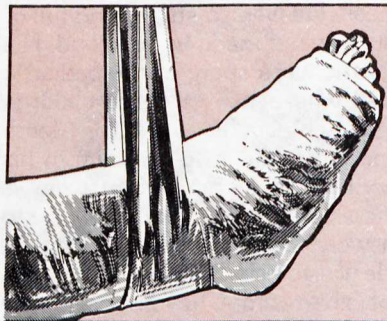
John became one of those special children almost five years ago now and I still realize that our lives were blessed from the things he taught us.

Linda Pinson
Pensacola, FL

As a result of an automobile accident, I developed severe pain and stiffness in my back and hip. Sometimes the attacks were so severe I could not walk without excruciating pain. The doctors had no diagnosis except for some "could-be." They suggested traction or complete bed rest. But when you have a family, a home and a job, this was most difficult.

On Tuesday, April 8, 1980, I had a severe attack which lasted all day and went to work with me at 5 P.M. Then sometime that evening, the pain miraculously stopped. I am still marvelling that the pain and stiffness are gone. I have shed buckets of tears of joy and humility. What a wonderful God we have who gives us His marvelous gifts, not because we are worthy, but just because He loves us.

Mable Riley
Sedalia, MO



A BLESSING IN DISGUISE

Ella Griffith

During the depression I had to walk quite a distance to school, and shoes were always an item of concern. I looked forward to the time when I could have all the shoes I wanted. A love for pretty shoes became an obsession with me.

A few years ago my daughter-in-law and I were helping with a youth project at the church. We were running late, and even though there had been a lot of rain, I took a shortcut across the wet lawn. I ignored my better judgement as I started down the wet embankment. And yes, I fell and broke my left leg just above the ankle.

What ordinarily would have been a burden turned out to be a blessing. With a broken leg I had plenty of time to look up to God and down on myself. Indulging in self-pity, I had wondered if anyone really cared for the poor old pastor and his wife. As I lay in bed with my leg raised high, my sisters in Christ showed how much they really cared.

After seven weeks, my husband took me to have the cast removed. The doctor ignored my matching shoe. "You won't wear that shoe for a long while," he said. "For some time you'll need a good support shoe, like a saddle oxford."

Never in my life had I worn a saddle shoe; they just weren't pretty. I thought of my brown garden shoes. I'd give them a good cleaning and polishing, I decided, as the doctor wrapped the elastic bandage.

However, I couldn't begin to get the brown shoe on the wrapped foot. I couldn't buy another pair. My niece came to the rescue with a pair of black and white saddles, the very kind I said I would never wear! So with a black and white shoe on one foot and a brown garden shoe on the other, I stood firmly on two feet. "Thank You, Lord, I can walk again," I sighed gratefully.

Next Lord's Day dawned bright and beautiful. As I walked up the church steps, I looked down at my unfashionable feet. "What will people think? They'll think I'm crazy, that's what, wearing one shoe of a kind."

Gratitude flooded my being. What a privilege to be in God's House with my brothers and sisters in Christ. I have health and the ability to walk. I couldn't help but think of the many on beds of affliction who would be willing to run to church if they could.

The Lord gave me a new set of values that day. I found something more important than pretty shoes (I Cor. 5:17).

The Wreath Of Death

Diane Thomas

I don't know how or when it happened, but it was during a soul-winning revival that the realization struck me—my burden for lost souls had disappeared.

I had convinced myself I really cared. I prayed for missionaries. I supported them. I rejoiced when a sinner walked the aisle. Didn't that mean I cared?

But God stirred my heart. When did I last weep for a lost soul? Approach someone with the Good News of salvation? How often had I quenched His spirit when moved to witness?

How could I have allowed this to happen? I was so frightened I felt like screaming. Instead I fell on my knees at the altar and begged God's forgiveness. For the first time in a long time, I wept for lost souls.

The next day I saw the results of my uncaring. As I drove into town to do my weekly shopping, I passed the wooded area next to our house. The house closest to ours was a small, neglected one covered in red tar paper. For seven years a family of blacks had lived there, but I knew nothing about them except that at times I had seen three small children playing in the unkempt yard. Also that the man who lived there was a drunk. He often passed our house with a brown paper bag raised to his lips. The closest I ever came to him was inside the neighborhood store. He reeked of wine and dirt. Not once had it crossed my mind to share with him the Gospel as I knew it. Not once.

I glanced at the small forlorn house

and stopped short to see a white funeral wreath hanging by the door. Someone had died.

That evening I read the obituary. *James Tucker Barrow, age 41, survived by a wife and three children. The drunk. Lost. Hell-bound. And I never cared. If only James Tucker Barrow could pass my house once more. But I had missed my chance.*

Tears of shame fell on the paper before me. Through misty eyes, I read: "... survived by wife and three children." My heart pounded as if it would burst. Here then was my job. My neighbors were lost. Black or white, they were lost. I must reach them, the survivors, before it was too late.

The next day I walked the short distance separating our houses.

The smell of carnations reached my nostrils as I climbed the rickety steps. It was the stench of death. Tears choked me as I thought of James Tucker Barrow burning in hell.

My knock was answered by a small, gentle black woman staring at me with questioning eyes.

"Mrs. Barrow?" I asked and she nodded.

"I'm your neighbor," I told her. "I have come to share some Good News with you."

A flicker of hope crossed her tired, grieving face as the tattered screen door was opened for me to enter. I crossed the threshold carrying the Good News of salvation and a new-found burden for a lost soul.



The Rose And The Flower Garden

Jackie Rasnake

Happiness oozed from Rose as she soaked up the small patch of sun peeking through the clouds. Nearby in a fenced-in garden, the other flowers shivered. No sun reached their forlorn place and the autumn winds blew fierce upon them.

"Rose," called Iris to her sister in the sun. "It's so cold in our garden. Can we come out and join you for awhile?"

"Oh, dear me," Rose said as she wilted a bit. "I'm afraid there isn't enough sun for all of us. I know! I'll come in and visit you!"

And with that, she left her warm spot and entered the chilled garden.

Tulip dragged herself over to Rose, her long petals brown flecked and drooping. "Why do you have a spot of sun and we don't? Do you know something we don't? If you do, oh please tell us. You wouldn't let us die here in this place if you had the answer, would you? Would you?"

Rose felt a tinge of pity, but what could she do? Hadn't she come to share their sorrow for a few

minutes? Doesn't she help them from time to time? Surely they can't expect her to share her tiny ray of sun.

She turned to hear a low moan coming from underneath a cluster of flowers. Pushing them aside, she saw a tiny marigold gasping for breath. As she reached to lift up the scrap of yellow, the others fell back on them, smothering the helpless flower.

Rose wept because she had been too late. But there was only so much she could do. Could she help it if she had been blessed with strength and love and a spot in the sun? Did she have to share all of that with others who were too weak to stand alone?

A sharp wind caught at Rose's petals and she glanced up at the sky. It was darkening and night was coming on. She pulled loose from the grasping flowers and raced to her place in the sun, back to warmth and love and safety.

Suddenly, even as Rose watched, a rake came down on the flowers. In horror, she watched her flower friends all swept into a pile for burning. They seemed to stare at her accusingly, "Why are you spared and we are to die? You were our friend. If you knew what we should do, why didn't you tell us?"

As the match was struck, the sun flooded Rose with its brightness. She looked upward and then wilted in remorse, "Oh dear," she thought. "Why did I always go to them? Why, there is plenty of sun and to spare. Why didn't I invite them to visit me instead?"

Why? Oh, why?

SHARE-A-BOOK

Genny Waddell



SO YOU'RE SINGLE!

by Margaret Clarkson
Harold Shaw Publishers
Weaton, Illinois
1979 \$2.95 166 pp

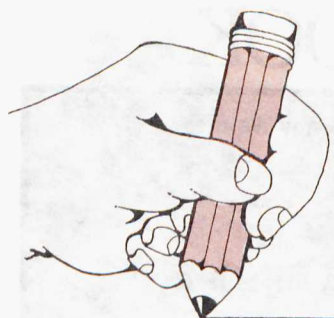
Miss Clarkson, also the writer of the beloved hymn, "So Send I You," sets the stage for this thought-provoking book by pointing out that the Christian church has a total lack of understanding and concern for the single person. She explains that the Garden of Eden had only one single and God recognized Adam's need for a mate right away. When man destroyed the perfection of Eden, he brought disease, famine, war, sin—and singleness—upon the human race. Until this time, there has seldom ever been much understanding towards people who do not marry.

"We should realize that we must not make general statements about singleness; people may be single for a variety of reasons," Miss Clarkson writes. "Singles should not have to be targets for tactless personal questions, unwelcome teasing and crude, embarrassing 'jokes.'" She says that many singles "struggle increasingly for a sense of identity and self-esteem," when, all the while, "God is sovereign in the personal

history of each of His children Nothing can touch my life but what God in love and wisdom permits."

Although this book was written by a single for single people, my life is richer for having read it. Not only have I been blessed by the personal testimony of one who knows the Lord Jesus Christ intimately, but I have been challenged to look on every single as an individual in the will of God—not as "a failure or one who has missed the boat or been passed by." The book stands alone as a reference on the sovereign of God, as well as personal self-esteem. Every woman—and man—would benefit from reading SO YOU'RE SINGLE!

The writer is a practical poet, however, and offers many suggestions for dealing with depression, the need to find fulfillment in homemaking, friendships with married couples, and numerous subjects of special interest to unmarried Christians.



LOVE LETTERS

Anonymous

How specifically should we pray for missionaries? we often ask ourselves. Especially when we don't know them personally or know their needs.

If we mentally allow ourselves to be placed in their circumstances, the Holy Spirit will make us sensitive to needs. This article is designed to encourage a burden of prayer.

This past week we received love letters from two of our children. For a year now we have been adjusting to their absence, so these letters really gave us a boost.

One of our children is trying it on his own and has been a wayward child in some ways. We have shed many tears, spent hours on our knees and tossed sleepless nights over this one. I read everything I could get my hands on about wayward children. The biggest lesson I learned was from a statement in a Mennonite magazine which said something like this: "Our heartaches over our children teach us how the Lord must feel when His own children rebel and are disobedient." It was a real lesson for me when I thought of it that way. May the Lord forgive me for the heartaches I've caused Him.

But his letter told us of how he was finding strength and help through prayer and was praising God for being with him through trials. This

was what gave us joy: "Thank you for raising me like you did."

Another child is away in school. Today we received this letter: "I'll have to apologize for my selfishness . . . I want you both to know that I really love you so much and I don't want to do anything to make it hard on you. I'm proud of you both and am glad you are my parents. I appreciate both of you with all my heart! You're so patient and understanding and giving."

There's no way to put in words what these two love letters from our children did for us.

If receiving these letters mean so much to us, doesn't the same hold true when we tell the Lord how much we love Him? I could almost repeat word for word the second letter in a prayer of confession and praise to my Lord.

Lord, help me not to expect more from my children that I am willing to give Thee.

PRAYER FOCUS

Eunice Edwards

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

October 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	31

October



Jesus was preparing to return to His Father and He told His little band of followers, "Wait . . . stay here in Jerusalem." Their hearts were aching, the day seemed dark, they were uneasy about the future, but Jesus says, "Wait." For what? For the promise of the Father! When every instinct of self-preservation urged this little band to fly away, Jesus said, "Wait."

How many times have you faced situations like this? Unknown elements are at work, resources have been exhausted, and you turn to run and hide, when suddenly your Master cautions, "Wait."

Jesus constantly reminds us He is doing something about our problem, our situation, our perplexities. Even as He encouraged His followers that day, He encourages His followers today. There is no problem too difficult for Him.

"The promise of the father" was the coming of the Holy Spirit. On that

day He would give this little band of followers the courage they needed to pick up and go on and even rejoice while doing it!

Dear Christian, when your back is against the wall, wait for "the promise of the Father." He will arrive in the nick of time with every answer, every tool necessary to defeat Satan and bring victory to His child. Perhaps not in the way you planned or expected, but He will come. He's promised. Just wait.

Prayer Requests

1. Tom and Patty McCullough have finished their formal language study and have replaced the Joe Haas family who are on furlough. Pray for their ministry in Rennes, France along with the national pastor, Gerard.

2. Pray for Henry and Virginia Van Kluyve as they have assumed the leadership of the church and school in Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Pray that the school can complete construction of a building on the eleven acres of land they have purchased.

3. Pray for Sherwood and Vada Lee as they have returned to Doropo,

Ivory Coast, to carry on the medical work and the missions outreach in that area.

November 1961						
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					



November

Blessed Lord!

Words are so inadequate to praise
Thee as I think upon

Your love to me

Your kindness to me and mine

Your constant concern for my
welfare

Your constant faithfulness despite
my unworthiness

Your Word that encourages me

Your Holy Spirit that speaks for
me. Without His promise I would
utterly know frustration. As it is, I feel
so absolutely inadequate to even
approach Thy throne.

Surely Esther must have felt this
same reverential fear, awe, and trembling
as she approached the throne of
her Lord that day. But need drove her
on and she obeyed. Because of her
desperate plea, her people were
spared.

Father God, need drives me, too. I
come to You today with a simple cry
for help. Even as David prayed, "Help,
Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; for
the faithful fail from among the children
of men" (Ps. 12:1).

You gave David strength and courage.
Do Thou as much for me. You made
David a better man for the tasks ahead
of him. Oh Lord, give me a double
portion as you gave to David. I truly
need it.

Some of my loved ones are living
as a guilty distance from you. Help
them to hear Your voice above the
crass materialism that clamors for
their attention. And even as I ask, I
need thy anointing for the task. Help
me to so live before them that they will
know Your love is the greatest thing in
the world—and in the world to come.

Besides my loved ones, Dear Lord,
there are others who have not yet
experienced your love. When the
hostages returned, I could not help
but liken them to the hostages of
Satan. Each hostage stated, "I love
you. I long to be with you. I hope the
reunion will come soon."

It is my earnest conviction that
those whom Satan has in his grip
really want Christians to intercede for
them—to help them break the chains
of sin. Although at times sinners
scorn us, turn aside from us, I am
certain they want us to cry to You for
help.

Help our missionaries, Lord, who
are on the front lines of battle. To
Whom can we go except You? "Thou
hast the words of eternal life."

Prayer Requests

1. This fall and winter finds several
foreign missionaries home on deputation.
Pray for them as they travel
from service to service sharing the
burden of getting the Gospel out to
those who have never heard.

2. Pray for the CELF program
(Church Extension Loan Fund) which
is designed to finance first units for
Home Missions churches. Available
funds would hasten the establishment
of self-supporting churches and the
low interest on the repayment would
save thousands of dollars.

3. Pray for Bill and Glenda Fulcher as they assume the responsibilities as missionaries to the Spanish-Americans in the United States. Not only will they be establishing new churches, but organizing a fellowship with existing churches. They hope to assist with Spanish literature as well.



December

When Jesus died, John tells us "some women stood by the cross" (John 19:25).

It is remarkable that any women at all stood by the cross of Jesus in the face of all that was happening there. There was cruelty displayed at the cross. Extreme hatred. Stark ugliness. Yet, praise God! The Scriptures tell us that these faithful women "stood by the cross of Jesus."

What a sobering thought! How were they able to bear to look upon that awful scene? They loved the Saviour who was dying there on that torture rack, that's why. And because they loved Him and stood by His cross, they were near enough to gain insight into God's plan for the ages.

The cross is central to all truth. It joins the Old Testament to the New. It is central to our faith. It joins the promises of God to our exercise of faith and reconciles us by His grace.

If we could only learn these truths taught at the cross. If we would only turn our hearts to Him, He in His grace, would turn it all to His glory. The cross is a place of victory. It is

hard, harsh and hurtful, but it is also a Place of Blessing. The glory that shines from the cross will light your path and lighten the load you are carrying. I encourage you to turn all your hurts over to Him.

The cross of Christ banishes littleness. One cannot stand by His cross and continue to harbor envy, malice, greed, lust or whatever is unChristlike.

Identifying with His cross has a way of aligning one's priorities. Standing by His cross erases false goals, false ambitions, false ideals. The light from the cross brings into focus the path we are called to walk. One cannot walk in darkness or in ignorance of God's will when standing by His cross. It's a classroom of learning.

Prayer Requests

1. Language school and mastering a foreign language often proves to be a frustrating time in the life of a missionary. Pray for Neil and Sheila Gilliland in Albertville, France as they study the French language preparatory to going to Ivory Coast as dorm parents.

2. Pray for the Miguel Vera family as they complete their training at the Rio Grande Bible Institute in Edinburg, Texas in preparation to go to their native Puerto Rico as missionaries. Thank God for answering prayer. It was just a few short months ago that we asked God to raise up workers for this field.

3. The Aycocks and Eagletons have returned to Brazil from furlough. The Lytles have returned to Panama. Pray for these couples as they make the necessary adjustments.

The Auxiliary's Answer To A Lost World

Objective: To picture a world dying without Christ and to challenge us to give what we have in the name of Christ.

Scripture: Romans 10:13-17

Song: "Give Me A Vision," "He Was Not Willing," "Here Am I, Send Me"

Leader: Over and over again we remind our children to "Brush your teeth, do your homework, pick up your toys, clean your room, etc." Sometimes it seems a hopeless and thankless task.

As Christians we must be constantly reminded of our task in sharing Christ with a lost world. We attend a missionary conference or listen to a returned missionary and our hearts burn within us. Yet, sadly, within a twenty-four hour span we have become so wrapped up in our own little selfish world that we forget this important area of our Christian life. This program is designed to arouse women to the urgency of reaching the world for Christ now.

Bread That Satisfied (John 6:51)
(Display a long loaf of unwrapped bread)

In many countries of the world, bread is the staple food item. One small piece can amazingly satisfy hunger pangs. It can be the difference between living and dying, starvation and plenty. Thus the significance of Jesus' statement is clear. Christ is

sufficient to meet the needs of man for eternity.

Islamic Woman (dressed as a Moslem): In areas of my home country of Morocco and other Islamic countries, bread is still the staple item of diet. Sometimes we grind the flour at home, sometimes at a local mill. The women of my village go through the traditional process of pounding and kneading. We add a little yeast to make it rise. Sometimes we add anise or poppy seeds for flavor. Shaping it into round, flat loaves about ten inches by one inch thick, we cover it and leave it to rise.

Just before noon, the bread-man comes around and collects all the bread from the neighborhood and transports it to a public oven. When it is doubled in height, hot and crusty, it is returned just in time for the midday meal. After the meal, all the crumbs are carefully salvaged. No bread is ever wasted.

Leader: Bread in America takes a very small place. It has been so stripped of its nutrients that it can hardly be considered satisfying. In fact, in our "diet-crazed" world, thousands abstain from eating bread almost entirely. Thus the real Biblical emphasis has only token significance to us.

Yet Jesus declares Himself to be the Bread of Life. Whether it is

physical (daily) bread or Christ Himself (spiritual), one must partake of it to benefit from it. Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, is revealed through the Word of God and if offered to all nations. God's Son and God's Word can satisfy man's spiritual hunger.

Life-Giving Water (Prov. 25:25)
(display a glass or pitcher of water)

Ramona from Brazil: My name is Ramona and I'm from Brazil. At a table in my small kitchen, I trusted the Lord for salvation. Immediately I began attending church and praying for my husband who worked some 500 miles away.

When my husband returned home, he witnessed the change in my life and said he, too, wanted to become a Christian. At this same little table, he, too, trusted the Lord as his Savior.

We had no knowledge of God's Word, so began working on a Bible course supervised by the missionary. We grew rapidly in His Word and before long were ready for baptism. That was a happy day.

Leader: Brazil, the world's fifth largest country, makes up almost half of the South American continent and has a population of over nearly 100,000,000 people. The harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few, oh, so few. Twenty four adult Free Will Baptist missionaries are offering the living Water of Life through radio broadcasts, Christian film, cassette tapes, retreats, camps, telephone hotlines and literature. They are hewing out churches, training lay leaders and national workers, and organizing fellowship groups.

How much do we care? Do we

care enough to pray, give and even go if He leads? America has the means of providing the life-giving water for a thirsty land.

Unsuitable Apparel *(display a wedding garment)*

Largest of the Western European nations, France is its biggest food producer. She is also a land of romance, wine, fashions, celebrities and film festivals. France has major seaports on three bodies of water and made beachheads in two world wars. Yet this land of wealth and nobility lacks the most precious possession of all—the wedding apparel for the marriage feast of the Lamb.

A Woman From France: Many people from my country of France are actually agnostics, cynical and suspicious by nature. Generally we must be shown, not just told, the truth before we will accept it. Our indifferent attitude says, "I am in the church, but I'm not interested in religion. We want to be baptized and buried by the church, but we stopped taking God seriously long ago. We are atheist. There is no God."

Leader: Only until recently has the Christian world been made aware of the lostness of the French people and the great need for evangelism in this religious land of more than 53 million people. Free Will Baptist missionaries maintain an effective ministry among university students in two major cities. Family ministries, English Bible studies, church planting, and Operation Mobilization teams have also produced fruit.

Fashion trends are set in France which are adapted by the whole world. Yet, tragically, France is still

without the wedding apparel for the marriage of the Lamb. We must hasten to give them the invitation.

Life Changing Message (*display an open Bible*)

A missionary from Africa:

How good is the God we adore,
Our faithful, unchanging Friend,
Whose love is as great as His power
And knows neither measure nor end.

These words came from the mission hospital room of a dear old saint, a former fetish chief. The singing voice faltered from weakness, but the spirit remained undaunted as triumphantly he sang the second stanza:

'Tis Jesus the first and the last,
Whose spirit shall guide us safe home;
We'll praise Him for all that is past,
And trust Him for all that's to come.

Tears shone in the eyes of us who lovingly stood by. Though the singer found it difficult to phrase the difference Christ had made in his life, this song expressed it for him. It was a message of hope.

When Stephen died a few days later, his funeral was a real Christian testimony of victory over death.

Leader: In the midst of nations that have forgotten God, the faith of Christians have been put to the test as never before. In spite of the darkness that looms over the earth, souls are still responding to the faithful proclamation of God's Word. Souls are still being transformed by the Holy Spirit who continues to "re-

prove the world of sin and righteousness and of judgment" (John 16:7-11).

Yet there are still over 400 unreached tribes which have never heard the Good News that Jesus loves them. Sixty thousand Protestant missionaries are sharing the Gospel with over two billion people. Bread, water, and clothing are not enough.

Challenge

Jeremiah asked the question, "Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician? Why then is the health of my people not recovered?" Today we still ask why.

Suppose God in His providence had chosen that you be born in a remote African tribe or born a child of Moslem parents or even be an agnostic in France. Would you be satisfied with the attitude of "Christian" America? Jesus said, "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." How will they know they are lost and need a Saviour unless they are told? And how shall they hear unless we tell them?

God plans for all nations, creeds and colors to assemble at His marriage feast. Only you and I may issue His invitations. Yet for 2000 years we have clutched them tightly in our hands. Sixty-six heathen die each minute without Christ.

Time is short. In fact, very short. There is much to be done. Bread, water and clothing are not enough. We must hasten ere they be lost.

Program for October Carol Reid



WHO ME?

Objective: To show that in Christ we are free to be all that He intended us to be.

Scripture: Galatians 5:1

Do you remember the game you played in elementary school where everyone was assigned a number? Then the rhyme started:

Who stole the cookie from the cookie jar?

Number One stole the cookie from the cookie jar!

Who me?

Yes you!

Couldn't be!

Then who?

Number Four stole the cookie from the cookie jar . . .

And so the game went. But that question, "Who Me?" is the one we want to center our thoughts on right now. All of you "me's" stop just a moment to consider that you are God's special, unique, perfect creation.

Let's look in the Old Testament at a few of the heroines there—some of God's extra-special creations.

Deborah

We read in Judges four and five about Deborah, a judge of Israel. Deborah was a housewife who did her judging not in a court, but in her back yard under a tree. She was childless, yet was the mother of all Israel, according to her song in chapter five.

Deborah was in touch with God. When He revealed His battle plans for Israel to fight Jabin's army, she passed His message on to Barak, the commanding officer of Israel's forces. Barak had jello-knees though. He told Deborah in Judges 4:8: "If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go." What Barak thought Deborah could do to aid in the battle, we do not know. She had numerous reasons for not going. But she gladly assumed the position of general and told him, "I will surely go with thee." Deborah didn't say, "Who me?"

Esther

Esther was a Jewish orphan who won a beauty contest in King Ahasuerus' court and became his queen. But when the lives of her

people, the Jews, were threatened, she did not stop to ask, "Who me?" when the daring opportunity was given her to save them. She used all of her resources to bravely go before the king and cunningly prepare a banquet to "set him up" for her request. Through her, the Jewish nation was protected from death and extinction in Persia and the lineage of the Lord Jesus Christ was preserved.

Widow of Zarepeth

Surely the widow in the famine-stricken city of Zareph thought, "Oh, you selfish evangelist!" when Elijah asked her for the last pancake she had. But "Who me? Share the last of my provisions to aid the Lord's servant?" was not her response. She gave Elijah what she had, and the Lord blessed her with plenty so that she never lacked again, according to the story in I Kings 17.

Not Me!

You may say, "I'm glad the Lord will never ask *me* to give away our last pancake to a prophet or be a general in a battle! And He'll certainly never ask me to win a beauty contest to save a nation!

Feel like you're off the hook?

How do you feel when someone says, "Use your talents for the Lord?" Who me?

Ephesians 4:7 and I Corinthians 12:7 will nip those "Who me's" in the bud. God has given to each believer at least one gift to help her fulfill her place in the Great Commission.

Now you may never sing, play the

piano, speak at a meeting or write an article for *Contact*. You may never go to the mission field or drive a church bus. But you may raise children who will become missionaries and full time Christian workers. Perhaps you always remember birthdays or phone numbers or check on your neighbors. Do you have good business sense, or away with children, or a green thumb? These are all gifts that God has entrusted us to use for His kingdom.

When you get a bank statement, you don't want it to be under or over the correct amount in your account. You would not be able to use your money properly if it were. In the same manner, we need a fair, reasonable, accurate assessment of what we can do and then we need to do it. The Lord expects no more and no less.

Who me? Yes you.

Here Comes Another One!

I Peter 3:4 tells us, "Let your beauty be from a gentle and quiet spirit."

Who me, Lord? My personality is anything *but* gentle and quiet. I can never exhibit that spirit in my life."

But at home, church, classroom or job, this treasure of gentleness should characterize us. It is a sign of refinement and poise. It makes you a person that others enjoy speaking to and being with. A quiet spirit protects us from eating our words and embarrassing ourselves and others. And we can depend on the Holy Spirit to mold even an adverse personality into this beautiful one if we submit to Him and depend on His strength and grace.

Opportunity

Make the most of your opportunities.

Who me? What opportunities?

We all have an opportunity to pray. When you are in need, God is giving you the opportunity to ask. Tremendous spiritual, physical and emotional resources are available to us if we but ask. Yet, "ye have not because ye ask not." Make the most of your privilege to pray for your family, friends, church, missionaries and even your enemies.

You also have the opportunity to witness.

Who me? Yes, and with confidence.

Witnessing is not always knocking on someone's door or approaching him on the street with a decision on heaven or hell. You can witness with a gift for a friend, a tract with your tip in a restaurant, a bowl of soup for your sick neighbor, or a cup of tea with the lady who lives behind you. Witnessing should be a constant, natural, every-day part of the Christian life—a living testimony of what Christ has done for you.

We are also given the opportunity to share—to give of ourselves, as well as our means. The widow gave her mite (Mark 12 and Luke 21), but the Lord did not overlook the huge significance of her small gift. In the same way, He will justly evaluate what we give to Him.

Submission

Titus 2:4 and 5 tells us, "... teach the young women . . . to love their husbands . . . to be obedient to their own husbands . . ."

Who me? Obey him?

Yes, even as we obey the Lord, Ephesians tells us. Not painfully, but joyfully, willingly; not losing our personality or individuality, but giving and extending it unselfishly and unreservedly.

"But you don't know my husband," you say.

You picked him. Nobody *made* you marry *him*. And love "suffereth long, endureth all things, never faileth."

Some of you are saying, "Whew! I'm not married so I don't have to obey or serve anyone."

But check Ephesians 5:21, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." And Philippians 2:5-9: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus . . . humbled Himself . . . and became obedient." We are all servants. We are all called, demanded to give up, crucify self, according to the New Testament. The truth of God's Word is the only thing that makes us truly liberated women.

Conclusion

Who me? Submit myself, serve and obey?

Who me? Make the most of my prayer, witnessing and giving opportunities?

Who me? Have a gentle and quiet spirit?

Who me? Discover and put to use my talents?

No, not you. But Christ in you, the hope of glory. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me . . ." (Gal. 2:20).

Who me? Yes, you. Through Christ.



Come Let Us Sing

Objective: To compare the elements of good music to the work of the auxiliary and to encourage each believer to exercise her spiritual gift for the good of the whole.

Scripture: I Corinthians 12:12-27

Song: "He Keeps Me Singing", "I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord"

She rushed into church, dropped into a convenient pew and thought, "My clock must be wrong!" Usually she sneaked in during the first congregational song so few folks knew how late she habitually was. To her surprise, however, there hadn't been any congregational singing. The choir didn't assemble, no one presented a special musical number, and after a somewhat uninspiring message, they were dismissed.

How boring and unspiritual a church service would be without the presence of music. In fact, often little the preacher says is of consequence without the prelude of music to pre-

pare the congregation for his words.

Just what is so important about music anyway? It's only harmony, a little rhythm, a little pitch, we reason. Yet music communicates something to us in which we find momentary or enduring satisfaction. It has the power to stir and motivate people to do things they believed impossible. Surely one of the greatest things in the world is to motivate others for good. Perhaps if we used more regularly the elements that make up good music in the exercise of our individual talents and spiritual gifts, the Lord could more effectively work through us. This program should help us see how.

Harmony

Take harmony, for instance. Philippians 2:3, 4 speaks to those who feel they do a better job than "that" lady sitting next to them. Paul says we should perform our service, not so everyone can see we have talent, but as a benefit to those around us.

Sometimes it's easy to become discouraged and feel, "I am making a 'solo' effort for the cause of Christ. No one knows how to do things right but me. Every time someone else plans the auxiliary project, it falls apart. I may as well do it myself."

Sounds familiar? If we allow ourselves to think in this vein, we rob others of the blessings they could gain by sharing in the work of the Lord. Melody is the tune. We remember a beautiful song more for its melody than by its words. Certainly melody (or the actual realization of some project) must be present in any activity, but without the harmony contributed by others, music and life would soon become monotonous and lose its vitality.

Many of us think harmony means crushing down and stifling our own ideals in order to get along with others in the body of Christ. However we must remember that harmony can't exist without everyone "singing" his own part. Wouldn't it be a sad expression of our Christian joy if everyone tried to sing bass . . . or even soprano?

I Cor. 12:12-27 illustrates how the body of Christ is made up of many members, each contributing to the work of the Lord in his own individual way. If everyone believed in doing things for the Lord in the same manner—all decided on brown carpet and white paint for the parsonage, all agreed the church visitation program was "just fine," and the budget should remain unchanged, our churches would stagnate. Our pastors, from sheer boredom, would be looking for new locations in which to serve. A diversity of opinions is not necessarily bad; they often serve to broaden our limited horizons.

Pitch

In order for the work of music to harmonize and blend, each member of a group must sing her own part exactly on pitch. Few things are more irritating to the music director than the one who persists in singing slightly off pitch; not as bad as the raking fingernail on the blackboard perhaps, but nerve-racking nevertheless. Likewise how our little skirmishes and variances within the auxiliary family must rankle and grieve the heart of our Lord.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works" (Eph. 2:10). A popular poster reads: "I must be good 'cause God don't make junk." Since God is perfect, His creation must be perfect. It is sin which has spoiled it and rendered it unholy.

In salvation, we are declared righteous and justified—just-as-if I'd never sinned. In the same moment, the Holy Spirit comes to indwell us, enabling us to use the spiritual gifts He gives to be used to build up the body of Christ. Sometimes He empowers our natural talents, those given to us at our physical birth. More likely, however, He gives us a brand new ability, talent—a spiritual gift.

When we determine to do God's work, there's no reason to hide these special capabilities the Lord has entrusted to our care. In fact, the Bible relates time and time again how failure to exercise one's gifts can result in loss and discontent. Thus we must not stifle our creative talents and spiritual gifts. Natural abilities plus natural graces result in barrenness. Natural abilities plus spiritual graces (fruits of the Spirit) result in

limitations. But spiritual gifts plus spiritual graces result in abounding fruitfulness.

Our various personalities exercising our spiritual gifts result in a Christian comradeship surging forward at a strong pace. It transfuses new blood to the auxiliary and church, the effects of which will even be felt on our mission fields around the world.

Rhythm

Now perhaps you don't feel particularly "with it," rather "out-of-step," or just can't get with the rhythm. You try to do "your thing" for the Lord and may even do it quite well. You attempt to harmonize with others, but for some reason it just doesn't seem to blend. Perhaps it isn't *what* you're singing but *when* you sing it.

For instance, it matters little how well or how correctly you sing your part if you sing on page two and the rest of the choir sings on page five.

Solomon reminds us in Ecclesiastes that there is a time for everything we do (chapter three). This same wise man exclaims that "a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." Not only does that proverb include saying the right thing but saying it at the right time. We may think we have all the answers and are sure we know the "score," but only by faithfully watching our Director and following His signals can we be certain where we fit into God's choir.

The unbeliever has the privilege of marching to any drumbeat he fancies, but it is not so with the follower of Christ. "Christ is the head of the church . . . the church is subject unto

Christ" (Phil. 5:23, 24). It is only through following our Lord's directives that we are assured our plans and ambitions are in step with the rhythm of God's master plan.

Good directors usually know where their choirs are having difficulties. Although he can often point out these individual problems, he prefers each one to discover his own weaknesses and work to improve these deficient areas—a positive sign of musical growth. Perhaps the Great Director is yearning for you to identify areas where you fail and alleviate those problems by careful examination of His Word—a positive sign of spiritual growth.

Conclusion

Good music is the result of much planning, diligent hours in practice and careful attention to the director. Good relationships, likewise, can only be produced when we share honestly with our Christian family, allowing each other to use his natural talents and exercising his spiritual gifts. This involves willingly laying aside our detailed planning for the Lord's perfect rhythm.

Tone color is one of the most elusive qualities in music. Human voices may sing the same range of notes, yet produce widely different sounds. The auxiliary is composed of many different voices, yet they are singing the same range of notes. Our theme song is missions and this sweet musical tone makes every auxiliary a symphony.

So don't be afraid to "sing out." You may make a mistake once in a while, but more likely you will perform a service for the Lord that no other individual could.

Program for December
Linda Simons



The Sound Of The Bells

Objective: To translate the prophecy of Isaiah 9:6 into a personal promise for every believer.

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6

Choruses: "His Name is Wonderful", "Ring the Bells of Heaven", "Wonderful, Wonderful"

Bells are a real part of our world today. They signal time periods in churches and schools. We place them around the necks of our pets and livestock that we might know where they are. Some mothers use bells to call their family to meals or their children home from play.

Let's suppose for just a moment that the sound of ringing bells sum-

moned the people to the stable on that first Christmas morning. "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy," the angel proclaimed, "for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

If bells did accompany this glorious announcement, what was the message they sounded to a waiting world? The prophecy in Isaiah 9:6 became a living reality that morning; and even today, 2000 years later, the sound of bells still peel out a message for us if we would only take time to listen.

The Bell of Hope

"Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given . . ."

For 400 years the voice of the prophets had been stilled. Yet the world clung to a single ray of hope that one day a Messiah would come who would bring light and salvation to all mankind. "But when the fullness of time was come," God sent this promised Redeemer into the world. On that day God came down. Immanuel, meaning God with us—Jesus Christ, a precious gift from the loving hands of a heavenly Father.

Zacharias heard the bell of hope that day and exclaimed, "The daystar from on high hath visited us to give light to them that sit in darkness" (Luke 1:78, 79). Hope swelled in Simeon's breast as he praised the "One who has come a light to lighten the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32). The bell of hope drove the wisemen from the East to find the Babe, the shepherds to tell the news abroad, and Mary to ponder all these things in her heart.

Not only was He a special child,

He was a special Son. Not only was He given to us, but for us. He came as a babe that He might grow as we grow, live as we live, die as we die without sin. He was tempted in all points as we, yet without sin. Not only did He leave us an example to follow, but in some miraculous way He indwells us in order that we might be empowered to live like Him.

Bell of Authority

"...and the government shall be upon his shoulder..."

The One who came to dwell within the hearts of men is One who would have authority over them all. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

He showed His authority to forgive sins when He told the sinful woman, "Thy sins are forgiven" (Luke 7:48, 49). He exercised authority over the calamities of nature. Contrary winds and boistrous seas raged around that tiny boat on the Sea of Galilee. At His command, the wind and sea obeyed and there was a great calm.

Jesus had authority to heal the sick, even on the sabbath day. He had power over death, over demonic spirits, over deaf and dumb spirits, over blinded eyes, and even over Satan Himself. Once in the temple the chief priests challenged His authority, "By what authority doest Thou these things?" Even they recognized it as supernatural.

It was the same authority that backed the Great Commission to His disciples and which is still binding on us today (Matt. 28:19, 20).

No wonder we cry out in victory at the sound of this bell: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power" (Rev. 4:11).

Bell of Comfort

"...and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor..."

He is wonderful because He has redeemed us from the curse of death. He is our counsellor because He hears and answers our prayers. He ever lives to make intercession for us (Heb. 7:25).

In John 17, we read the beautiful intercessory prayer of our Lord for His believers. He who has promised to never leave or forsake us is worthy to be our counsellor. Where could we find another Friend as He?

He comforts us in sorrow, pain, persecution, tribulation, and loneliness. He comforts in death. He cradles us in His bosom even as Lazarus was seen in the bosom of Abraham (Luke 16). Job suffered at the hands of Satan, but he could go no further than the loving hand of an all-knowing God would allow.

If we have responded to this bell of comfort, we have a responsibility to comfort others with the same comfort we have received (II Cor. 1:4). Many are hungry for what we can give them in the name of Jesus.

The Bell of Glory

"... the mighty God..."

The mighty God deigns to work miracles in the lives of mere humans. Not only is He the mighty God who changes the hearts of men, but He changes the very course of nature. His power is displayed in the tiny bloom of a flower, in the force of an earthquake, in the gentleness of the clouds and the beauty of a rainbow.

He is mighty who rules kingdoms,

subdues the powers of evil, humbles the hearts of proud and boastful men. Yet He condescends to hear and answer the faintest heart cry.

This mighty God let the glorious of heaven to be born in a lowly stable, to be rejected of men, wear a crown of thorns, and suffer excruciating pain on a shameful cross. Satan tried to destroy Him, yet He won the victory, even the victory over death.

We who have heard the sound of this bell cry out triumphantly with Paul, "Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15:57).

Bell of Immortality

"... the everlasting Father ..."

Not only did Christ come as a child, a Son, and our Saviour, He came as our eternal, everlasting Father. As Adam is the father of flesh, Christ is the father of our spirit. All who have been born into God's family have access to the Everlasting Father.

The empty tomb is evidence of the fact of our eternal, risen Saviour. He says, "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive forevermore." No longer do we need fear death because He has conquered death.

To Martha who was grieving over her dead brother, He says, "I am ... life; he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25). He is alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. He was, and is, and is to come. There is no end to His deity or existence.

The sweetest peal of this bell of immortality assures us that death has no dominion over us. Because

He lives, we too shall live—forevermore! Praise His name!

The Bell of Peace

"... the prince of peace."

Today's society is filled with turmoil and unrest, trouble on every hand. And people everywhere are turning in every direction searching for peace. But sadly they have never turned to the One who is the Prince of Peace, the only One able to give permanent and lasting peace.

Jesus came that we might have peace (John 14:27) and it can only be obtained through salvation. Romans 5:1 teaches us that when we believe in Christ we have peace within our souls and it is just-as-if-I'd-never-sinned. Peace is a fruit of the spirit (Gal. 5:20) and is manifested as we abide in Christ.

We have been blessed beyond measure. In order to keep this bell of peace ringing in our hearts, let us follow after the things which make for peace and the things which edify one another (Rom. 14:19).

Conclusion

Have you heard the sound of the bells? The bells of hope, authority, comfort, glory, immortality and peace are still ringing out their glorious messages over our land. May we rejoice in the messages, apply them to our hearts and be quick to share them with others who are thirsting for what we can give them through Christ.



Women God Has Used

If a missionary goes to the Prestonburg-Paintsville area of Kentucky, it's likely she will leave wearing a new dress (or maybe even a suit or coat) from the Peggy Lou Shoppe.

The manager of these two shops is Walta Lee Preston, a lady with a warm smile, a generous heart, and a personality that radiates the indwelling Christ.

Active in auxiliary work since its beginning and serving as president much of the time, Walta Lee is now training younger women to take over places of auxiliary leadership.

In addition to her secular and auxiliary work, Walta Lee is the wife of Broughton's milk distributor, teacher of teens Sunday school class (of which her only son is a member), and serves as treasurer of Southside, her home church.

Years ago Walta Lee's heart was knitted with that of Dorothy Cox and they formed a spiritual team which has helped bring their state to national prominence. Their prayer retreats are among the largest attended of any state (except Oklahoma); a large percentage of missions giving stems from sound auxiliary teaching; and Kentucky women are winning prizes in the creative writing contests.

Dot's interests have shifted dramatically in recent years when her husband James gave up his Chevrolet franchise and, by faith, launched Camp Caleb, a Christian camp ministry. She has proved a help meet in every sense of the word, encouraging, assisting in promotion, and running the camp office from their home. Two married children and two grandchildren live in the area with 16 year-old Timothy still at home.

The Dot-Walta Lee relationship is established on Eccl. 4:9-10, 12. The Lord is their third partner and they have agreed—He gives the directions and they do the work, but all the honor and glory goes to Him.

You can't beat that, can you?

Just Off The Press

WNAC's fourth volume of poetry, entitled "*Come To The Water*" is now ready for shipment.

Growing Up

Little child . . . how often have
I ignored your eyes,
 pleading for my time,
 your measure of love.

I grew so confused and
 entangled in me . . .
And you waited for Mom
 to grow up.

When I gave God my life,
 I found you weren't so much
 to handle as I thought . . .
Rushed in my world of escape.

So I became a Christian mother,
 And you God's little child;
And totally at ease at last,
We sat on the floor
 and played trains.
 —Connie Norwood Stilson



This poem and others gleaned from the annual creative writing contest is found in "*Come To The Water*." For your copy, send \$3.00 plus 75¢ for postage and handling to:

WNAC
P. O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 37202

Creative Writing Contest

Eighty-four writers from 20 states submitted 228 entries. The four first place winners in the four categories are all first time winners. Here are names and places of all seventeen winners:

Programs: First—Virginia Morgan, Crossett, AR
 Second—Janero Stokes, Macclesfield, NC
 Third—Shelia Carter, Norfolk, VA
 Fourth—Zylphia Bondeson, Sterling, VA



Morgan

Articles: First—Louise Wampler, Edgewood, MD
 Second—Vaudine Lancaster, Ethelsville, AL
 Third—Diane Thomas, Grifton, NC
 Fourth—Velda Tucker, Batesville, AR



Stokes



Carter

Plays/Skits: First—Robin Richardson, Batesville, AR
 Second—Velda Tucker, Batesville, AR
 Third—Sharon Ross and Clara Cronon, Tipton, CA
 Fourth—Magaline Statzer, Bristol, VA
 Frances Owens, Jonesboro, AR



Bondeson



Wampler

Poetry: First—Connie Stilson, Topeka, KS
 Second—Pearl Mitchell, Phenix City, AL
 Third—Connie Burks, Huntsville, AR
 Fourth—Frances Heath, Cove City, NC



Lancaster



Thomas



Tucker



Richardson



Ross



Cronon



Statzer



Owens



Stilson



Mitchell



Burks



Heath