

CO-LABORER

April, May, June 1983





Editorial

A few months before he died, Uncle Charley turned a wasted life over to Jesus Christ. He was 80 years old.

In the 33 years I knew him, he never once went to church. Matter of fact, he indulged in some embarrassingly sinful habits. In his youth he married a Catholic; not accepting her religion, this gave him good excuse to abandon his own Presbyterian heritage and he lived the rest of his life—except for those last few months—professing nothing more than our heathen in Africa.

Now long widowed, he came to live with his sister—my husband's mother—after her husband's death. He accepted the advantages of a loving Christian home but rejected anything having to do with God or His church.

One night during one of our visits, my husband was impelled to talk to Uncle Charley. The Holy Spirit quickened his failing mind. As the Scriptures were opened to him, he'd interrupt frequently in amazement, "It all comes back to me now . . . yes, I remember learning that as a child in Sunday school."

Verses nestled deep in his subconsciousness surfaced and he saw with new eyes this Savior he had ignored for almost a lifetime. Finally, after midnight when my husband came to bed, he left Uncle Charley a brand new creation in Christ whose spiritual ears were so tuned to God's Word he had no desire for even sleep.

This experience confirms the truth of God's Word: if a child is taught early in those formative, impressionable years of his life, he will never, never get away from that teaching. Even if it takes 70 years! The key is right teaching. My heart aches for these unloved, misguided, abused children we read about in our newspapers. Unless we get to them with this message of love, they don't stand a chance.

Thank God for the promise of Isaiah 55:10 and 11.

Lorene Wiley

CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER



Objective: To develop a deeper love for Christ as we see Him in the symbolism portrayed by the Passover.

Scripture: I Cor. 5:7, 8

Hymn: "Man of Sorrows, What a Name"

Introduction

One of the most exciting aspects of studying the Old Testament is to see it fulfilled in the New Testament—in the Old contained is in the New explained; in the Old concealed is in the New revealed.

From the foundation of the world God knew man would sin and break that intimate fellowship He desired. He devised a plan of redemption whereby we could be brought back into a right relationship with our Creator. In order for the world to be prepared for this Savior, He introduced a system of types and symbolism that would become so familiar to the people that there should be no mistaking Him when He would come. One of the clearest pictures of Christ our Savior is found in the Passover.

This program begins with that first Passover in the land of Egypt and concludes with a modern day observance. May the Holy Spirit open our eyes to see Christ as the lamb slain from the foundation of the world, and like Thomas, may we bow down before Him crying, "My Lord and my God."

Those First Passovers

Compare the two Scripture references to see how Christ was a fulfillment to the Old Testament regulation.

1. The Passover was for all the congregation (Exodus 12:47; John 11:51).

2. No stranger could eat of it unless he was circumcised (Exodus 12:43-45; Galatians 6:15).

3. It was to be eaten in the house, a lamb for a household (Exodus 12:3, 46; Hebrews 10:12).

4. It was to be eaten in one night, none left until morning (Exodus 12:10; I Peter 3:18—"once").

5. All leaven was removed from their homes for seven days (Exodus 13:6, 7; I Cor. 5:6).

6. The sacrificial lamb was to be without spot or blemish (Exodus 12:5, 6; Luke 11:53, 54).

7. No bone of the passover lamb could be broken (Exodus 12:45; John 19:36).

8. Sacrifice was at a place appointed by God (Deut. 16:5, 6; Luke 23:33).

9. Excommunication resulted for the Jew who omitted the Passover celebration (Numbers 9:13; Heb. 10:29).

Later Passovers

The second Passover celebration is described in Numbers 9:1-14. It occurred in the Sinai wilderness in the appointed season. None other is recorded during the next 40 years, possibly because circumcision had been withheld in the desert.

The first passover in the promised land was commanded by Joshua and followed a mass ritual of circumcision (Joshua 65:2-12). Hopefully we assume the Passover was religiously observed because the book of Joshua closes with these words, "And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua."

During the period of the kings, the Passover stood as a thermometer indicating the spiritual condition of the Jews. A revival with the Passover celebration was led by Hezekiah (II

Chron. 30:13). Josiah recleansed the temple, sanctified the altar and celebrated the Passover (II Kings 23:21; II Chron. 35:1-17).

There is no record of the Jews observing the Passover while in captivity. Ezra led the people in observing Passover following the return (Ezra 6:19-22).

As time went on, each rabbi and each succeeding rabbi added customs and traditions to embellish the celebration. Often these oral traditions of the ancient sages were regarded as being of equal authority with the written law of God. But the underlying theme was the same: God brought deliverance to His people and the memorial was to that miraculous occasion.

The Passover in Jesus' Day

The ritual of Passover as recorded in the Gospels was observed in the typical custom of the day. Jesus followed the prescribed washing and blessing and dipping, concluding with, "From everlasting to everlasting thou art God and beside thee we have no king, redeemer or savior."

The new memorial Jesus instituted followed the meal when no other food was to be taken. In this manner, He was teaching His disciples that after His death the pascal lamb would no longer have the same significance. It was a memorial of physical and historical redemption, a shadow of the ultimate redemption soon to come.

The Passover and the Lord's supper merge into one complete story of deliverance. Full significance of Israel's deliverance was being unfolded. Here was the Lamb in person about to shed His blood. He Himself was the final reality of what the pass-

over lamb had originally sought to convey (I Cor. 5:7, 8; I John 3:1).

Almost all the early Christians were Jewish. They celebrated the resurrection of Jesus at Passover time and called it Pascha, later mistranslated Easter. They continued to celebrate the resurrection in this manner during the time of the first bishops of Jerusalem. Thus the death and resurrection of Jesus are forever interwoven with the Passover and its symbolism.

A Modern Day Passover

After the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem in A.D. 70, all possibility of slaughtering an animal in the ritual manner ceased. Thus the Passover reverted back to being a family festival, just as it had been in the earliest days.

A thorough cleansing of the home has always been an essential part of the Passover preparation. Weeks before this holy day, the homemaker begins her spring cleaning, painting, repairing, scrubbing and waxing. Every scrap of leavening or that which has the capacity to be leavened is meticulously removed from the house. Until the house is ritually cleansed may the Passover bread be brought into the house.

The Passover table is covered with a fine white linen cloth and well lighted with candles. The elements of the Passover include 1) the **sedar** plate, a plate with six compartments, each division containing a symbolic food, 2) the unleavened bread, 3) wine, symbolic of blood, and 4) the **Haggadah**, or order of service.

The six items on the **sedar** plate, and eaten in the order given, include: bitter herbs, as lettuce or parsley (hardship endured under the whip);

horseradish (tears); a mixture of nuts and raisins mixed with honey called **charoseth** (bitter labor of Egypt). "How can something so sweet be so bitter?" one may ask, to which comes the reply, "Ah, when we knew our redemption was nigh even the bitterest of labor became sweet." Bitter root (sinful nature of mankind); roasted egg (temple sacrifices); and the shankbone of a lamb (perfect sacrifice).

Following this ritual meal, the elements of the Passover are removed and a real banquet follows. This meal often consists of five to eight courses and takes from three to five hours to eat.

Conclusion

Hope still burns in the hearts of God's chosen people. Thirty-five centuries with unfailing regularity relate the story of deliverance. They nurture the memories of the past and fervently look for a future deliverance. How tragic that the very symbols designed to point to God's Son are totally ignored by His people today.

To those not too impressed with symbolism, a Passover will have little meaning. But to those who have ears to hear and eyes to see, the Passover presents Christ in a way not perceived in any other way.

Detailed instructions for observing a modern day Passover are included in the second quarter **Leader's Packet**, a program help supplement published quarterly by the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202. If you desire this program, send 25¢ to cover postage and ask for "A Modern Passover."



MEMO

From Cleo

Ohio Convention

The national convention will be held in the beautiful Ohio Center and Hyatt Regency in Columbus July 18-19, 1983. There will be a president's and field workers meeting and also a special seminar open to all women Monday afternoon in the Hyatt Regency. You are invited!

September Retreat

More than a thousand women from 22 states and four foreign countries registered for the Woman's National Auxiliary retreat in Hot Springs. It was a glorious time of worship, prayer, praise and fellowship!

Our speakers and seminar leaders were the best. Arkansas women, led by WNAC president Genelle Scott, outdid themselves in providing a warm, Arkansas Razorback welcome. Butterfield Auxiliary (IL) received a standing ovation for "A Parade of Pious Personalities." Missionary offering of nearly \$3,000 was equally divided among the 14 missionaries who so graciously shared with us.

Comments: "It was unusually inspiring and very challenging." "The hours passed so swiftly, but each left with a determination to be a more dedicated person." "We are already planning to attend the 1984 retreat at Ridgecrest!"

National Student

A gift from our WNAC National Student Fund enabled Damaris Gonzales, Panama, to enroll in Rio Grande Bible Institute in September. Judy Lytle writes that Damaris is a dedicated young woman and will be an excellent student. Judy will keep us posted on Damaris' progress. She expressed appreciation from Damaris and the National Association of Panama for the gift.

Missionary Provision Closet

The missionary closet is bulging with beautiful gifts thanks to your generosity and love. However, we can use a few items: ribcord bedspreads (all sizes), mattress covers, Melmac (sets of 8), hand mixers, and coffee makers. (No tupperware please.)

Our Program Writers



Betty Reeves (Mrs. Robert), Farmington, MO, has four daughters and four grandchildren. Active in the Fellowship FWB Church of Flat River, Mrs. Reeves serves as mission study chairman, church secretary and Junior High Sunday school teacher.

Diane Plymon (Mrs. Mike), McShan, AL, is the mother of two daughters, Alice Rebecca, 4, and Melinda Diane, 1. Church pianist, CTS and Sunday school teacher, and auxiliary president at Mt. Moriah keep her involved.



Miss Rudene Kennedy, a Bible teacher from Pink Hill, NC, gave permission for us to print her retreat message. Her tape ministry, called Anchor Tapes, lists almost a dozen albums of rich Bible messages in series plus many individual tapes. She is a member of the Cabin Hill FWB Church.

Announcing

Patrick and Susan Dickens, missionaries on furlough from Ivory Coast, are pleased to announce the arrival of their new baby by adoption. Joshua Jackson, 9 lbs. 3 oz. was born on November 12, in Conway, Arkansas.

The president and board of directors are happy to announce the opening of Southeastern Free Will Baptist College for 1983 fall semester classes. The new college will be temporarily housed in the facilities of Gateway Free Will Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The Sunday School and Church Training Departments announce their spring Enlargement Campaign, March 6-27, 1983 with the theme "Always Abounding."

The third annual Free Will Baptist Writer's Conference will be held May 13-14, 1983 on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. All women who contribute to the auxiliary's creative writing contests are encouraged to attend.

THE WALK OF LOVE

Diane Mitchell Thomas

I heard it again today, Lord. The story of how much You love me. And still I cannot understand love such as that. I closed my eyes and tried, really tried, to walk the road to Calvary, the walk that should have been mine but one You took in my stead.

That was an easy thing to do, Lord, to call on the Father in my agony. So often when my life becomes burdened I have to call out to You. And I am strengthened like You were strengthened that evening so long ago.

Then Judas came and broke the

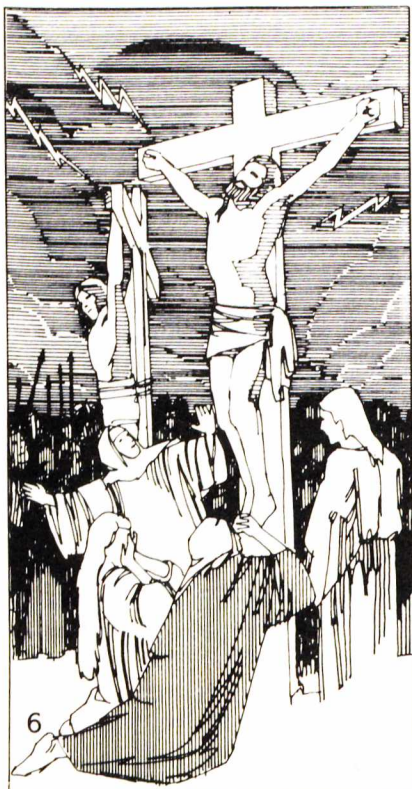
"I closed my eyes and tried, really tried, to walk the road to Calvary."

My imaginary journey led me first to the Mount of Olives and there I fell on my knees and prayed earnestly.

stillness with his betrayal. The guards surrounded me. I was so frightened my lips quivered and my knees trembled. As they led me away I looked back at Judas. I had to hold in the cruel words that I wanted to shout out to him. I could not love or forgive him as You did.

They took me to the house of the high priest. Peter followed in the distance. It felt good having a friend in the midst of my trouble, someone to take up for me. But then, Lord, he denied me! Peter said he did not even know me! Oh, that hurt. I could not forgive him for that, Lord. Not the way You did.

Then they started making fun of me, laughing at me. I know what it's like to be laughed at. Remember that old blue hand-me-down coat I had to wear as a little girl? Remember how a friend laughed at it? I wanted to run away and hide. And now I try to imagine all these priests and soldiers mocking me. It hurts and I want to run away and hide again. But You stood before them, calm and serene.



They lashed my back, they struck my face, the thorns pierced my head. Lord, I can't dwell on that too long. You know how I am. I cannot bear a lot of pain. I can't face the doctor because I am afraid he will hurt me. But You took it, the mocking, the beating, the pain. In silence, You took it. I can't understand that, Lord.

They led me to Pilate. I faltered under his scrutinizing eyes. But then he said, "I find no fault in this man." On the relief that flooded my being. Surely I would be free. But no. The people wanted me sentenced. I cried, Lord. I broke down and sobbed. It was just too much.

And it was far from over yet.

They took me to Herod. I was just a joke to him. He, too, laughed and sent me back to Pilate. Then a choice was given: release me or the murderer Barabbas. In my innocence I knew that justice would prevail. But they cried, "Crucify him, crucify him!" They were pointing to me, Lord. I was sentenced to die. I kicked and screamed and wept. I did not want to be killed. You were silent. You were willing. I can't understand that, Lord.

My head throbbed from lack of sleep, my mouth dry and swollen, my wounds burned. I was totally exhausted. There was no way I could lift that heavy wooden cross. A black man named Simon was pulled from the crowd and compelled to carry it for me. Horror filled me as I followed him to Golgotha, the cross shadowing my broken self.

The crowd followed with sorrow and waiting. It hurts to watch someone you love suffer the way You suffered.

And there it was, the brown rocky hillside of Golgotha, the place of the skull. It did have an air of death about it. I felt nauseous and faint. I reached



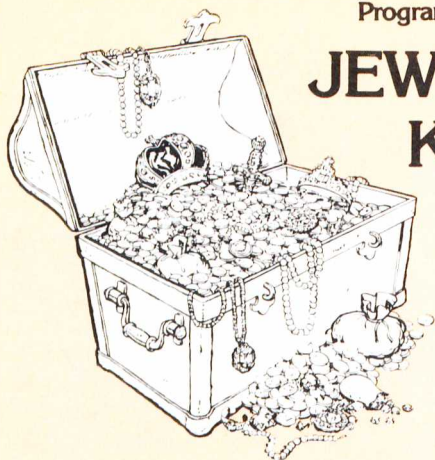
Diane Mitchell Thomas, Grifton, NC, mother of two sons, is president of her auxiliary and junior Sunday school teacher.

up to wipe away the tears and sweat from my face and pricked my hand on the thorns embedded into my head. I searched the crowd. Would no one help? I saw my mother. She was weeping and my friends were trying to comfort her. I ached for her through my own pain.

With a curse the soldiers pushed me down to the crude cross and spread open my arms. I saw the mallet and spikes in their hands. I saw the hatred in their eyes.

It was more than I could stand. My imagination could carry me no further. I was so glad it was 2000 years later and I was safe in my own home and my sins were forgiven. I was so relieved that I didn't have to take that walk to the cross. But someone had to. And You did, Lord.

Never. Never, will I understand that kind of love.



JEWELS IN THE KINGDOM

Betty Reeves

Origin

The word "gem" comes from the Latin word "gemma" which means bud. Just as a tiny bud bursts into a beautiful flower, so dull lumps of rock can be cut and polished into brilliant flashing stones.

Several factors determine what stones are found in certain areas of the world. The underlying rock structure will largely determine the type of mineral that will develop. Climate also seems to be an important factor. Opals and turquoise are found in areas where there is little rainfall. Emeralds and topaz are found in regions where erosion has exposed old molten lava rock. Some minerals, however, such as the diamond, seem to develop more readily in more recent molten lava.

Thus we see that as different factors, such as the climate and type of soil, rock, etc., determine what type of stone results, so certain factors will determine what kind of Christian the Lord can make of us. Just as gems are found in varied places, so too, Christian jewels are found in a variety of places. The country, culture and heritage will in a large part determine what type of gem they will become.

The "rock hounds" of God (missionaries) often find rare gems in the ugliest of places. They cannot make them beautiful but their purpose is to bring the raw ore to the One who can bring out the beauty that lies hidden beneath the surface.

Objective: To liken gems to God's missionary program

Scripture: Malachi 3:16, 17

Hymn: "When He Cometh"

Introduction

Most women are attracted to beautiful jewelry, not only to look at but to wear as well. When a woman enters a room wearing a lovely piece of jewelry it stands out as the focal point of her costume. Many men, eager to impress the lady of their choice, often choose a gift of jewelry. Think back now of all the gifts you received from your husband before you were married. The engagement and wedding rings are good examples of the sentimental value women place upon precious jewels. Though not fortunate enough to own many pieces of fine jewelry set with stones, this in no way keeps us from appreciating their beauty.

This program takes a look at gems and likens them to God's children around the world. "And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels" (Malachi 3:17).

Interesting Sidelight: Have someone read a description of the breastplate of the high priest (Ex. 28:15-21). Show a picture, if possible.

Preparation

After the raw material has been found, it must be mined. The rock is worthless if it remains in its natural habitat. It must be removed from the earth and taken to a lapidary (a big name for a stonecutter) to be cut and polished. The extent of its value is dependent upon the skill of the stonecutter. A wrong cut can ruin the stone. The right cut can increase its value a thousand fold.

God, the Master Stonecutter, can perform much the same work of beauty in our life. The only requirement is that we submit our will to Him in much the same way the stone submits to its master. The stone never complains or tells the stonecutter what to do. If we are to become the beautiful gem God designed us to be, we must equally be as submissive as He transforms our lives into His image.

In her poem, "The Heavenly Jeweler," Laura Wade describes the loving care and concern of God as He finishes the stones for His collection. Nothing is left to chance. In the life of a Christian gem, each trial, each testing is carefully and compassionately given to enhance our final beauty.

Interesting Addition: Have someone read "The Heavenly Jeweler" by Laura Wade, found in Volume 3 of Poetry Written by Free Will Baptist Women, Poem Strewn Pathways (\$2.75 plus postage from WNAC).

Qualities

The value of a gem is determined by several qualities: hardness, color, brilliance, rarity and demand. Diamonds are generally the most prized because of their hardness and brilliance. Even though rubies and sapphires come from the same ore and have the same degree of hardness, rubies are more valuable because of their rarity. The value of sapphires rest in their color.

Emeralds are almost as valuable as diamonds, but their ultimate value is determined by color, size and freedom from flaws. The opal is a beautiful stone, yet soft, easily marred and unable to endure hard wear. The Christian also must have certain qualities to satisfy the Master. Paul admonished Timothy to "endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

The jewels in God's collection are composed of all colors. Just as jewels vary in color, shape and size, so the precious jewels of God are different. God has given each of us different attributes and talents that when placed back within His hands can make us quite valuable. The very fact of our uniqueness is what makes us beautiful. A collection consisting only of diamonds, though valuable, would be monotonous. But by adding the brilliance of a ruby or the sparkle of an emerald or sapphire, the diamonds are enhanced and made even more lovely.

Interesting Sidelight: Read about the jewels in the Temple from I Chron. 29:2 and II Chron. 3:1, 6

Purpose

We have watched a gem emerge from a dull lump of mineral to a cut and polished stone. After it has endured the tests, it is ready to be set in a mounting to increase its beauty. Only by a proper mounting can the full beauty of the stone be displayed. The wrong mounting would destroy the stone's effect.

After we have allowed the Lord to cut and polish our lives, He selects the place of service where we can best use the gifts and talents He has given us. Whether He chooses for us to serve at home or on a foreign field, the only way we can be of real beauty is to serve in that place He has chosen for us.

God desires His jewels be displayed. Many owners of precious stones hide them away in safes or vaults, thus denying anyone the pleasure of admiring the jewels. God's jewels are on display around the world so all the world might see and desire to become one of them.

Interesting Sidelight: Read about the **Jewels in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:19).**

Warning

Imitation or paste jewelry is quite popular. Simulated diamonds and synthetic pearls are sold right alongside the authentic gems. Only a qualified jeweler can tell the difference between the real and the fake.

In this day of synthetics and imitations, the Christian, too, must beware of paste Christians. In Romans 16:18, Paul warns the believers to be aware of the false, "Mark them which cause

division and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them." And again in II Cor. 11:13, 14, Paul warns, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

In the world of jewels, these paste, or imitation jewels passed off as real, may cause monetary loss. In the spiritual realm, paste Christians can cause real harm to the work of God. One of the greatest problems our missionaries face on the field is the false apostles of cults working among the lost and immature believers. They proclaim to know the truth, but don't; and in so doing, lead many potential jewels of God astray and into eternity lost.

Interesting Addition: Prepare two flash cards of a cameo. On the back of one print the name "Demetrius" and read III John 12. On the other print "Demas" and read II Tim. 4:10. For a time both seemed genuine, but only one went on to perfection.

Conclusion

The collection of God's jewels is not yet complete. There are still precious gems lying deep in the muck and mire of sin and ignorance. Many beautiful stones are waiting to be dug out to be taken to God to be cut and polished. It is our work to pray, to give and to go. God will finish the work. Rejoice that you are included in that collection of jewels that God spoke of in Malachi 3:17 and do your best to see that more are added to His collection.

A WOMAN OF IVORY COAST

Sandra Payne



Sandra Payne is now on furlough from her mission field in Ivory Coast, Africa. Her two daughters, Laura and Debbie, are enrolled in Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Standing on one of the steps that leads into her mud house, Monique stoops for baby Boaz and straps him to her back with a cloth worn for this purpose. She turns back, locks the door, scoops up her clutch purse and Bible, then walking the 25 feet across the yard to her little kitchen-house, she passes by her cooking area where three large stones have been placed to support cooking pots.

The kitchen-house does not boast a stove but serves as a storage place for wood and cooking utensils. A basin leans against the wall and the housewife places it inside before locking that door.

Her second son, Silvan, 4, waiting for his mother this Sunday morning, pauses against the corner of the house, tracing the path of a lizard on the wall. Together mother and sons pass around the end of the house to the dirt street and begin their 20 minute walk down the bustling streets of Bouna, a small African village located in Ivory Coast's uppermost northeast corner. She hurries along for she never likes to be late for church.

Had her husband, Adou Koffi David, the church's pastor, been home, he would have already gone ahead on his bicycle a half an hour earlier. But he and a couple of other Ivorien pastors had gone to Abidjan, the capitol city, to record messages for the Kulango program on Radio ELWA.

As usual, Silvan requires discipline on the way to church. He is full of life and quite mischievous. My friend told me once that she often spanked him yet saw little improvement in his behavior. Her youngest son sleeps peacefully on her back.

Her oldest son, Hebert, 7, is already at the church, gathered with a group of children under the outside shelter, waiting for Sunday school to begin. Silvan joins them.

Being a serious minded woman, Monique speaks quietly with some of the people gathered outside, then goes inside and waits prayerfully for the service to begin.

I'm glad to be a missionary in the same village as Monique. I think she exemplifies the characteristics of a good pastor's wife: concerned that the church maintain a good testimony for Christ, a faithful wife, a good homemaker, a loving mother and a caring friend to those in the church and to acquaintances in the village.

I love and appreciate her for all these qualities, but most of all, I believe she dearly loves my Lord.

Call to Prayer

Eunice
Edwards

A life transformed and heath restored
In lands so far away;
For Satan's fiery darts fall dead
When women kneel to pray.

Designed for use in missions prayer groups, auxiliary meetings or wherever a prayer burden is needed.



April

Mr. Jennings is a retired school teacher, an organist, and a gardener. He also happens to be my neighbor. His two garden plots are about 6 by 8 feet. The harvest from those two plots are a constant source of amazement to me. His wife cans and preserves an enormous amount of foodstuff from their garden. In fact, last summer Mrs. Jennings put up approximately 500 quarts of food. He very carefully plans what and when to plant as well as what to plant after the first harvest. He works at gardening, but he also enjoys it.

Watching this gardener and his garden has given me some thoughts about my own Christian stewardship. With such limited space he could excuse himself by waiting for a larger opportunity. Like we do sometimes? "If I were in a larger place of service, I would be glad to do this or that." "If I had more of this or that (time, talent,

money), I wouldn't mind serving."

Mr. Jennings uses what he has, where he is, and now. This is the secret of his success. And he works at the job. Day in and day out, he can be seen going about his duties. The results speak for themselves.

Isn't this what Jesus expects of us? He knows what we have, our abilities, how much we want to serve Him, and how glad we are, or are not, to be in His service (Luke 19:11-27). Dear Heart, Jesus never grades "on the curve." His blessings or judgments are based on what we have, what we do with what we have, and how gladly or grudgingly we serve Him.

Isn't His system marvelously simple? "Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus."

Remember our MK's

Birthdays in April:

2 Dale Filkins, age 14, on fur-
lough from Ivory Coast

- 8 Joy Banks, age 11, on furlough from Japan
- 13 Kathryn Lee, age 13, Ivory Coast
- 17 David Caton, age 6, Spain
- 19 Philip Moser, age 4, on furlough from Brazil
- 27 Randal Richards, age 12, on furlough from Ivory Coast

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the contacts made by the Callaways and Owenses as they try to establish a church in Mostoles, Spain.

2. Pray for the David Archer family in Glenpool, Oklahoma, and the Gary Elder family in Great Bend, Kansas, as they work jointly with their state mission boards and the National Home Missions Board in establishing churches in those needy cities.

3. Remember Don and Billie Sexton and Mrs. Mabel Willey in their deputational ministries for the Foreign Missions Department. Pray for their health and for safety of travel.

4. Pray for the office staff in the Home Missions Department as they strive to make the job easier for the workers on the field. Pray as they mail out newsletters, publish soul winning materials, and seek to put the tools for church growth into the hands of 50 families establishing churches across America.

May



A little boy bicycled past my house this morning. The weather was just right, he was evidently full of vigor and vitality and seemed to be having a lot of fun. Soon a problem developed of

which he was completely unaware. You see, he was wearing a pair of earphones and listening to music on his pocket radio. A speeding car shot out behind the boy and only the fast reflexes of the driver saved a tragedy.

As I pondered this, my mind focused on a spiritual application. Many Christians wear earphones. They enjoy the music, the salvation of souls, but are absolutely unaware of what it costs someone else. They attend church where the action is, but know nothing of the cost of discipleship. They're found at the Big Singings, but they don't sing in their own choir. They respond to pleas for funds for this or that TV faith work, while our own missionaries beat the bushes to try to get to their field of service.

Who doesn't enjoy a good choir, a revival spirit, a growth in the church? My Friend, it costs! In order to conscientiously enjoy these things, it requires time, effort, strength, faithfulness, and most of all, a keen sense of discipleship.

Even as Jonah fled from responsibility, the Word commends him for one thing: "But Jonah rose up to flee . . . **so he paid the fare thereof**, and went . . . from the presence of the Lord" (Jonah 1:3).

Jonah paid his way! Are you? Or are you wearing earphones that are tuned only to the pleasures of the moment?

Remember our MK's Birthdays in May:

- 7 James Deeds, age 15, on furlough from Brazil

- 11 David Ellison, age 13, Uruguay
- 24 Daniel Deeds, age 12, on furlough from Brazil
- 25 Timothy Crowson, age 7, France
- 26 Natalie Crowson, age 2, France
- 28 Aaron Morgan, age 3, Ivory Coast
- 29 Melissa Cowart, age 6, on furlough from Brazil
- 30 Jonathan Miley, age 10, France

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the Miguel Vera family living near San Juan, Puerto Rico and conducting church services in the garage of their home. Pray they will be able to win people to Christ on this strong Catholic island.
2. Pray for the many decisions to be made during the annual Foreign Missions Board Meeting, May 2-5, in Nashville, Tennessee.
3. Pray for the National Home Missions Board as they meet May 2-3 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.
4. Pray for the 17 summer missionaries as they arrive on the respective fields to serve in their summer assignment.



June

Please get your Bibles and turn to I Chronicles 29. Let's share together some gems from God's Word. In verse 5 note God's call for consecrated service. Just think! Christians have privileges denied to angels! David wanted to build a house for His Lord, but was denied this privilege because

he had been a "man of war." Someone has said, "War and worship don't go together." However, in keeping with His gracious character, the Lord permitted David to accumulate supplies necessary to the building. Why should our interest lessen because we can't do the "big" things in His kingdom work?

Verse 2 gives us an insight into David's purposeful service: "Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God . . ." Can we say as much? He set a most worthy example before his people by giving generously of his own wealth. His liberal gift was measured only by his love for God.

The urgency of this call to service is obvious as God asks, "Who then is willing to consecrate his service **this day** unto the Lord?" (*italics mine*). The King's business requires haste. Today is the day of salvation.

Please read verses 6-8 for the overwhelming response of the people. There were no slackards, no grudging gifts, no jealousy here. Everyone was in on this revival. Wouldn't it be tremendous if we could see **all** our members as enthusiastic about revival in our own churches?

When the heart is right with God, the hands are busy in His service and the claims of God are not grievous but joyous. There would never be a lack in God's house if hearts were completely yielded to Him.

Verse 9 describes the revival that followed. "Then the people rejoiced . . . because with perfect heart they offered willing unto the Lord."

Read David's prayer of praise and thanksgiving in verses 10-22 and the remarkable deeds that resulted from this tremendous outpouring of love to God. Joy is the fruit of the Spirit.

Happy Christians are those who willingly serve Him with their whole being.

Remember our MK's Birthdays in June:

- 9 Stephen Webb, age 12, on furlough from France
- 22 Matthew Turnbough, age 5, Spain
- 25 Valerie Sturgill, age 7, on furlough from Brazil

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for Paul and Marilyn Thompson as they seek to gather a nucleus of people to establish a church in one of the fastest growing regions

of the United States—the Phoenix, Scottsdale, Mesa metropolitan area of Arizona.

2. Pray for safety of travel of all the missionaries who will be returning to the field or to the states for furlough. Several families will be coming and going during this time of the year.

3. Pray for Hughes and Laura Ellis, joint project workers to Paris, Tennessee, as they knock on doors and do witnessing on a one-on-one basis in their efforts to establish a church in this region which has no Free Will Baptist church in a 20-county area.

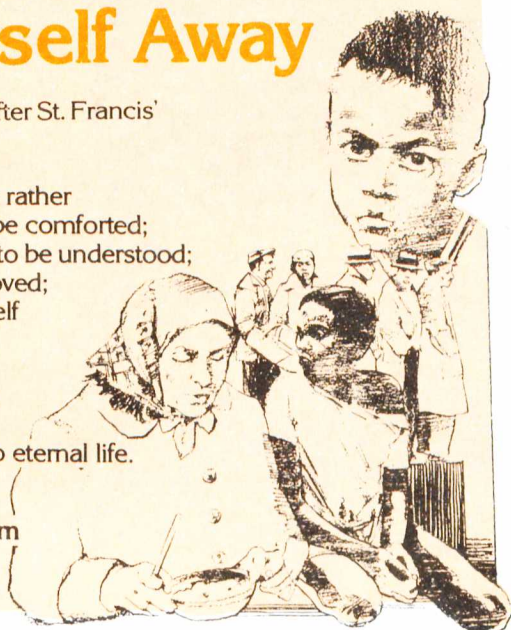
4. Pray for the missions emphasis given in DVBS and youth camps this month. Missionaries on the field testify to the strong influence of these crucial experiences that helped them determine God's will for their lives. Expect to have some missionary volunteers from these efforts.

Give Yourself Away

In words modeled after St. Francis' prayer:

Lord, grant I may seek rather
to comfort than to be comforted;
to understand than to be understood;
to love than to be loved;
for it is by forgetting self
that one finds,
it is by forgiving
that one is forgiven,
it is by dying
that one awakens to eternal life.
Amen.

—World Concern



The Woman

SECOND NATIONAL A



When the first national auxiliary retreat concluded two years ago at Gatlinburg, Tennessee, we knew we wouldn't want to miss the next one.

And more than a thousand women didn't. Since the women were pre-registered, only the Lord knows the actual number who converged on Hot Springs, Arkansas, September 23-25, 1982, for this second national retreat. To be sure, we jam-packed the Arlington Hotel auditorium designed to accommodate 1200.

One sensed the anointing of the Holy Spirit as the three major speakers—our very own—delivered the messages they had lived with for months. On Thursday night Trula Cronk bared her missionary heart in "The World God Sees." Next morning Rudene Kennedy's Bible study on "Women Like Us" left us relating to at least one who found God's will for her life. The concluding message, "The Service God Sees," was delivered by Eunice Edwards. Other great speakers may challenge the intellect, but Mrs. Edwards speaks right to the heart.

The eight seminar leaders directed workshops designed to lift the woman to a higher plane of spiritual life. Peggy Davis challenged us to live above our frustrations; Dot Cox, to be forgiving; Eva House, witnessing; Joanne King, vivacious; Laura Thigpen, hospitable; Brenda Evans, organized; and Nancy Trimble, to be all God wants us to be. Helen Sanders warned that our useful-

n God Sees

AUXILIARY RETREAT

ness as a vessel of God depends upon our unconditional surrender to Him.

The missionary hour on Friday afternoon highlighted the assembly. Most had never before seen so many missionaries in one place at one time. Fifteen home and foreign missionaries participated in this time of music, testimony, and parade of missionary fashions where each missionary modeled a costume from her field of service.

Some left the retreat physically renewed as well as spiritually stimulated. Missionary Olena McLain writes, "I'll have to admit I was so tired from traveling that I didn't want to go. But the messages and seminars met my needs in such a marvelous way that I came away refreshed."

This retreat measured a milestone of progress. Pioneer auxiliary worker, Agnes Frazier, writes, "With no question of any kind in my mind, the very challenging and unusually inspiring retreat at Hot Springs was the best meeting of Free Will Baptist women that I have, in the 47 years of Woman's Auxiliary activities, ever attended."

Yes, God stamped His approval on this retreat. Women will become the women God sees—better wives, mothers, church workers, prayer warriors, and Bible students because God allowed them to go.

The third national auxiliary retreat is scheduled September 6-8, 1984, in Ridgecrest, North Carolina. I've already marked my calendar. Have you?



A Bouquet From A Dimpled Hand

Velda Tucker

The door slammed. A little voice rang out, "Mommie, Mommie! I've brought you a bouquet of beautiful flowers!" My seven year old daughter came dashing into the room and with an outstretched hand offered a bunch of tiny violets she had picked from our back yard. As she held out her little dimpled hand, her face showed how proud she was of this she had done to show her mom how much she loved her.

Not willing to be distracted from my routine chores, I made some remark like, yes, they are lovely and would you just lay them on the table? She lovingly placed them on the table and dashed back outside to play.

I forgot the flowers as I continued my housework. I've always worked outside the home and thought I had to keep everything up to par, at home as well as at work.

Later she came in and saw the flowers, now wilted, still on the table. Those flowers were as precious had they been chosen from the most prominent florist in town, yet I hadn't even taken the time to put them in a vase of water. Neither had I taken the time to hug her and tell her how much I appreciated them. She dropped her little head and her sad and disappointed look haunts me to this day. I felt so ashamed.

As I roll back the pages of memories, I'm made to wonder how many times our Heavenly Father has given us bouquets and gifts from loving hands just to show how much He loves us. Yet we often cast them aside because we are too busy or wrapped up in our own selfish desires to take

the time to say, "Oh, thank You, Father. I appreciate Your love and concern for me."

The Lord still loves us though we hurt Him. He is gracious and understanding and often gives us a second chance. When our little son came along, he too, would come dashing in with his prize bouquets. Did I lay them aside? No! I immediately rewarded him with a hug and a big "Thank you!" and hunted a vase to display them in a prominent place. How his little face would light up for he had done something special to please his mom.

Does this mean I loved my son more than I loved my daughter? No, no, a thousand times no. It means I was given a second chance.

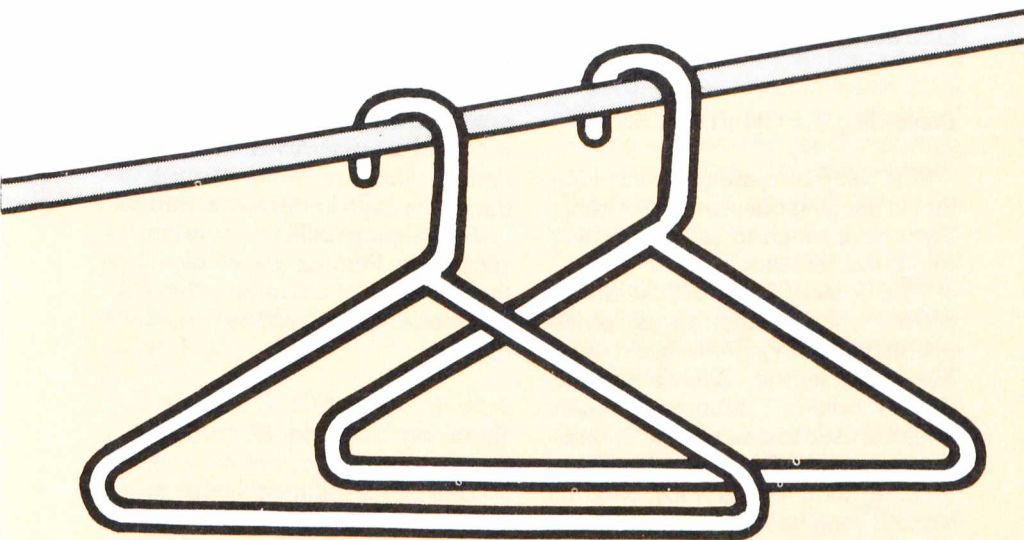
Let's not wait until it's too late to give ourselves away to those we love and who love us. Neither should we wait to thank our Heavenly Father for His wonderful love and compassion to us.

Yes, I was given a second chance after a heartbreaking experience from a little girl who presented her mother with a priceless bouquet from a dimpled hand.



Velda Tucker (Mrs. Dean), Batesville, AR, is assistant high teens teacher, auxiliary president, and state member at large. Her two children are now grown.

ENTER INTO THY CLOSET



Diane Plymon

Purpose: To take inventory of our spiritual closets and see which garments need discarding, repaired, or replaced in order to glorify God.

Scripture: Matthew 6:6

Hymn: "Search Me, O God"

Introduction

How many times have we gone to our closets only to exclaim, much to the dismay of our husbands, "I have nothing to wear."

Of course, we do not mean that there is not a single garment hanging

there to cover our bodies. The implication is usually one of three things: 1) there is nothing appropriate, 2) there are things appropriate but need cleaning or repair, or 3) the clothes hanging there are outmoded or outgrown and should be discarded.

Jesus admonished us to "... enter into thy closet" so that we could pray more effectively. Before we pray, however, perhaps we should take inventory of our lives to see our strengths and weaknesses. The process might be compared to the spring cleaning of our physical closets; that is, by discard-

ing all clothing no longer useful or appropriate, repairing and cleaning garments in need of such, and finally, replacing clothing with that which is well-fitting and proper.

Come now unto our spiritual closets. Take inventory and then go to the Lord Jesus with the results.

Discarding the Old (II Cor. 5:17)

The Scriptures are our measuring tool in gauging our standard of living. They have much to say concerning things women should avoid.

The book of Proverbs, like a concerned school teacher, warns women in one reoccurring theme: avoid negative characteristics. Words such as wicked, odious, foolish and contentious are used to describe the undesirable woman. That is, wicked, ill-natured, know-it-all, gossipy, brawling women bring harm to themselves and their husbands like a malignancy. Queens Jezebel and Athaliah aptly illustrate the harm that can be done when these characteristics go unchecked. Quickly toss away these garments. (See Prov. 12:4, 30:23, 9:13 and 27:15).

Arrogance and pride are found too quickly hanging in our closets. The prophet Isaiah thundered out against the women of Jerusalem who were entirely absorbed in their luxury-loving world (Isa. 3:16, 17). Their gay, care-free lifestyle encouraged the moral decay of the nation. If we're not careful, fashion, materialism, the battle of the bulge and desire for fame crowd out our concern for a lost world. Remove arrogance and pride from the rack and bury them in the box of forgetfulness.

Anxiety caused Rebekah to be an

ambitious mother, Rachel to be jealous, Zipporah to have a temper, Miriam to be racially prejudiced, and Job's wife to curse God. As compassionate as possible, Jesus pleads with us not to be anxious (Matt. 6:28), yet this probably takes up more room in American closets than any other one thing.

According to "Family Weekly" it is now estimated that from two to twenty million women in America are medication "junkies" who cannot get through a day without taking tranquilizers, sleeping pills, pain killers or stimulants. Perhaps we should claim the promises of Jesus and clean out our medicine cabinets as well as our closets.

Repairing Garments (Rom. 12:2)

Like Dorcas, the dedicated seamstress of old, we need to skillfully take needle and thread in hand and restore some garments to their original beauty. Again the Bible will be our guide (needle) and the Holy Spirit our tool (thread).

As Christians we should have a glow that reflects a tranquil conscience, a settled mind and forgiven sin (Eccl. 8:1). Why does our sunny countenance have a torn place? Moses' face shone in this manner only when he had communication with God (Ex. 34:29, 30). Let us once again establish close communication with our Lord.

Where is our modesty? Can we push through racks of clothing and find this sometimes forgotten garment? Timothy advises us to wear this garment often and to leave off others lest we give the appearance of being harlots.

Ladies, have we become so conformed to the standards of this world that we no longer fear the Lord? Proverbs 31:30 suggests something the wise woman seeks after: "the woman that feareth the Lord shall be praised."

Some garments need to go through the cleaning cycle. Our attitudes, dispositions, and thought life need daily cleansing (Ps. 51:10). What about our spiritual gifts? Paul tells us that every Christian has been given at least one, and some even more (Eph. 4:7). Has ours become moth-eaten with disuse?

Adding to our Wardrobe (I Cor. 12:31; I Cor. 13:1)

Let us splurge on a shopping spree, taking thought of neither time nor expense. As we slowly move down the aisles, let us select the most beautiful garments possible from the racks and racks of a huge clothing store. In our spiritual journey, of course, the clothing will be desirable characteristics and the aisles and racks, the verses, chapters and books of the Bible.

On the first rack we find many wonderful fashions to enhance our personality. Let us gather them quickly:

An excellent wife, something that cannot be purchased (Prov. 31:10)

A meek, quiet spirit—not creating disturbances nor participating in them.

Serious, not slanderous, temperate, faithful in all things (I Tim. 3:11)

Holiness, not false accusers, temperate, a wise teacher (Titus 2:3-5).

A vision of a lost world (John 4:35). After we have selected these seem-

ingly small things, we see the need to add more elegant, formal wear to our collection.

The inner life. In a society that advocates toothpaste will make us sexy, beer will make us popular, cigarettes will make us modern and diet drinks will make all heads turn, it is tempting to emphasize the outward, physical appearance. In Isaiah 3:16-24, he mentions twenty articles of woman's dress. He concludes however that fashion isn't the problem. The problem is the inner life of the woman.

Jesus forcefully demonstrated the fact that a person must be whole physically, psychologically and spiritually. He warned both enemies and friends alike that the rituals of church attendance, giving and personal sacrifice were of no value unless the inner quality of a person reflected the right attitude and purpose. Debates about fashion, style and the Christian woman are fierce and continuing. One should consider, however, that women because of their position of motherhood must be the standard bearer. Many studies have shown that the only civilizations that last are those whose women established high standards of purity.

Conclusion

The importance, then, of entering into our closet must not be taken as another household routine. Serious, prayerful consideration of these matters might lead every woman into the most fashionable boutique of all—a heavenly walk with our loving Savior, Jesus Christ, and an indisputable witness to the world that we have been with Jesus.

WOMEN IN ACTION



Women from the New Salem auxiliary, Colquitt, Georgia, quilting for the Provision Closet. "We had a good day together and hope our quilt will give as much comfort as it gave us pleasure in making it," writes Cheryl Newberry, mission action chairman.

State Meetings

Missouri state adopted three projects of \$2000 each: The Turnboughs in Spain for Language Study; Fulchers to Spanish Americans; and Renovation of the Youth Camp swimming pool.

Georgia state is dividing their \$6000 among their three missionaries: Dale Bishops (Japan), Allan Crowson (France) and Ron Wallace (Marietta). Cleo Pursell presented president Fleda Snow a Woman's Auxiliary pin and gavel guard as a token of appreciation for Georgia's top giving in the Co-Laborer Offering Fund.

Cookeville hosted Tennessee's state convention with Jerry and Barbara Gibbs, missionaries to France, as guest speakers. Project adopted provides for their transportation back to the field.

One hundred fifty eight registered for Oklahoma's 74th annual state convention. Carole Camer presided with Marguerite Kearns as music director. Jean Deeds, Brazil, spoke in the morning session. In addition to the Deeds, project support goes to the Institute of Gold in Mexico.

Karen Southwall presided over Maryland's state convention which featured Mabel Willey, pioneer missionary, as special speaker. \$1014 was raised last year for the Student Loan Fund with this year's goal of \$1500 to purchase land for a future youth camp.



Poplar Springs auxiliary members, Iuka, MS, make quilts and pillows for missionaries.

Mother-Daughter Banquet

Cross Timbers auxiliary, Nashville, TN, enjoyed a Mother-Daughter banquet with Mrs. June Critcher, guest speaker. A local dress shop furnished suits and dresses which were modeled by auxiliary women. "To Mother With Love" was the theme of the evening with 74 mothers and daughters attending.

Enlistment Buffet

Southside auxiliary, Paintsville, KY, sponsored a salad buffet with the theme "God Uses Women Like You." Specially prepared auxiliary yearbooks were given to each woman present. Included in this book were pages for: auxiliary officers, committee members and group leaders, auxiliary basics, coming events, prayer chain, and a personal word from the president, Walta Preston.



Twenty-eight regulars and eight new members attend the enlistment brunch sponsored by the East Tulsa auxiliary, Tulsa, OK.

New Auxiliary

Gay Sullinger, O'Kean, AR, organized eight ladies of the Eastvale FWB Church, Blytheville, into a new auxiliary. Debbie Roach was elected president.

Cards, Cards, and More Cards

"We drew names of our college boys and girls to be sure their birthdays would not be missed," writes Ramona Long, Harmony, GA. "We also did the same about our aged and shut-ins."

District Meetings

Olena McLain, Japan, spoke at the Greater Ozark district meeting, Lebanon, MO, with 48 women in attendance. Suzanna Harlamert presented a cello solo accompanied by Marilyn Lawson.



Genelle Scott, center, WNAC's president, with Doris Rainwater and Bentrena Johnson, president of Unity district. Genelle was surprised with a birthday party at Unity's meeting at Bethlehem FWB Church, Van Buren, AR, where she was guest speaker.

Little Brown Creek district held its first family prayer retreat at the First FWB Church, Booneville, MS. The event attracted 105 persons and featured June Critcher from Nashville, TN. Nine churches in the district as well as Pearl, Columbus and White Hill churches were represented.

State Retreats

Patty Box and Judy Puckett, Moore, OK, were special speakers at the Niangua, MO retreat. Mrs. Puckett reviewed the book, "Improving Your Serve."

Northeastern women met for their annual retreat near Bellevue, WA. The two day meeting featured Susan Moser, missionary to Brazil.

Eunice Edwards, Maurine Lee and Lorene Miley developed the theme of "He Shall Teach You All Things" at Illinois' state retreat at Camp Hope, Ewing, with Earlene Galloway presiding. A feet washing service concluded the program.

Virginia held their retreat at Sprouse's Corner near Richmond. President Margaret Merkh presided with Lorene Miley speaking on the theme, "Calling, Hearing, Going." Brenda McPeak led the singing.

California women held their tenth retreat on the theme "How To Fail Successfully" from the book by Jill Briscoe. The 124 women left with the assurance that failure is never final, often it's a stepping stone to blessing.



Susan Dickens, speaker at the California retreat, is presented a baby blanket covered with dollar bills for her adopted baby.



Christmas Banquet and Mission Program at the Union Grove FWB Church, Atkins, AR with Boyd Osborn, guest speaker.

Auxiliary Salad Bowl

Shirley Kimbrel

7 Officers	5 Delegates
3 Appointed	Cheerful Givers
1 Correspondent	Volunteers
New Members	

In a large mission bowl, prayerfully place all 7 Officers to serve under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Blend together the 3 Appointed in charge of simple refreshments. Add to mixture 1 Correspondent with cards of love and concern for the sick and shut-ins. Next add all Cheerful Givers at one time so their small gift can be multiplied and those who have never heard may be enriched with the Gospel.

At the appointed time, place all 5 Delegates aside to be filled with information and spiritual blessings at the annual conventions. When filled, add to mixture. Please sprinkle Volunteers at any time for a richer, sweeter taste. Finish filling the mission bowl with new members. To make sure all ingredients glorify God, place the bowl in the hands of Jesus. He will bless and multiply so it reaches around the world.

—Georgia Promotional Bulletin

WOMEN LIKE US

Rudene Kennedy

Objective: To examine the lives of four women in Scripture who paid the price to find God's will for their lives; to see the price we must pay if we would become the women God would have us be.

Scripture: Matthew 10:37-39

Hymn: "Take My Life"

Introduction

People who love the will of God most are those who have walked longest in His love. Let's look at four women in the Bible who found God's will for their lives. These are not women who stand three or four feet taller than we or who went around with a halo over their heads. No, they are women just like us—women who had to wash their clothes and dishes, change their babies' diapers, prepare meals for their families, women whose babies got sick. But they paid the price to find God's will, and oh, how sweet they found that will to be:

Deborah, the woman who had to do a man's job to find the Lord's will for her life; Ruth, the woman who had to leave home and family; Hannah, the woman who had to give up her son; and Esther, the woman who had to lay her life on the line to find God's will.

Let us see how God worked in each of these lives to bring about His will and accomplish His purpose in their lives.

Deborah (Judges, chapters 4 and 5)

The Israelites in this particular time of history were in trouble. God had allowed a foreign king to come in and for 20 years he had terrorized and oppressed the children of God. During that dark day in history, there arose a woman named Deborah who "judged Israel." This leader, judge, and military general found herself in a situation where a job had to be done. Why God placed a woman in this man-size job, we do not know. But He did and His purposes are His own.

Women don't need to take over men's jobs in the world and in the church. We must be very careful and sensitive to God's leadership in this area. There were women in our denomination, pioneer women, who had to do a man's job to find God's will for their lives. Missionaries go into areas and do a man's work because there is no one else to do it. Many working women today are there, not by choice (they'd rather be home), but they have to work.

As Godly women, there may be times when we find ourselves in a place where we think, "Somebody's got to do something." And God may put His finger in our face and say, "**You** need to do something." When we tackle a job we know God has urged us to tackle, even though it is too big for us, God always meets that kind of dedication and makes up the difference.

Deborah was used to bring rest to the land of Israel for 40 years. She was willing to take her place even though it was a hard one. Sometimes women are called on to do hard jobs, but God being our helper, we can do them!

Ruth (The Book of Ruth)

Ruth was a foreigner, a Gentile outside the commonwealth of Israel, an alien from the promises of God. But God's marvelous grace brought this woman into the very blood line of our Savior.

Ruth's husband died while she was yet a young woman. She cast her lot with Naomi and God's people saying, "Your people shall be my people and your God my God." She left her home and family in Moab and followed her mother-in-law to Bethlehem, Naomi's home. These two destitute women were reduced to daily bread.

One morning Ruth left home to beg in the fields. The Bible says she just "happened" to be in Boaz's field. And in that beautiful, kind and gentle Boaz, Ruth found a haven. She found love, a home, and another family.

Have you ever felt destitute? Many widows have. When their husbands died, all of a sudden their moral, emotional, and financial support—everything—were wiped from beneath their feet. Ruth experienced this.

Some women know what it's like to beg for daily bread. Maybe not literally, but to come before the Lord crying, "Lord, I have a bill due today. Will you please from some source help me play this bill?" As God provided for Ruth, He does for us.

Ruth left home and family to find God's will. Missionaries too have sought what God wanted, but they've

had to leave what many of us take for granted—having our families and children and grandchildren around us every day. This is the price they've been willing to pay to find God's will for their lives.

Hannah (I Samuel 1, 2)

Hannah lived in an unpleasant home situation. She had no children and her desire for children was an overpowering force in her life. So intense was her desire that it controlled her every attitude and action.

Out of this troubled home and troubled heart, Hannah came to the house of God. She poured out her heart to God. "Lord, if You'll just give me a son, I'll give him back to You," she promised.

The Lord took her at her word and one blessed day you could hear the cry of a newborn from Hannah's bedroom. That precious cry of that little boy brought all the joy and happiness that a woman would ever want to Hannah's heart. She didn't become more and more unattached to him as the day came closer for her to take him to the temple. No, her love for him increased day by day.

She waited as long as she could. Finally the day came when she bundled his little things together and off to Shiloh they went. Hannah went willingly but it isn't likely she skipped down the road. This was the hardest thing she had ever done in her life. But she had promised that she would and she did.

Each of us has a Samuel in our lives. It is either a child or something else. And to find God's perfect will, we must take that something to Shiloh. God may not ask that of us in that

particular way, but mothers, grandmothers, God wants our children on the altar. He needs them. The unreached multitudes of the world needs them.

Sometimes our heart cries out, "God, the price is too high." But we will never worship God in greater measure than on the day we bring our "Samuel" to Shiloh.

Esther (The Book of Esther)

Esther's life was very different from Hannah's, Ruth's and Deborah's. Orphaned early in life, she was raised by a cousin who taught her the ways of God.

Esther was one of those ladies with a perfect figure and a beautiful face. She was among a group of women brought to the palace to go through a twelve month training to enter a beauty contest. But with Oil of Olay and Estee Lauder everywhere, Esther required nothing to add to her beauty. She was beautiful in her own right and was chosen as queen of Persia.

Mordecai had cautioned Esther not to let it be known she was a Jew. When wicked Haman plotted to kill all the Jews, Mordecai realized that God had placed his cousin in that important position just for this reason.

Queen Esther never had to wash dishes. She didn't even have to put on her own makeup. Yet she was brought into a position that to be true to her God she would have to give it all up, even her life if that were necessary.

That morning Esther probably put on what she thought was her husband's favorite dress. With a heart trembling within her and every ounce of her being shaking, she walked in to see the king. She didn't know whether

she would see nightfall or whether her head would be taken from her body. It was probably a 50-50 chance, but she went. "If I perish, I perish."

God's will may bring us into a position where we are scared to death. But if we allow fear to cripple us, we'll miss God's choicest blessing.

Conclusion

Deborah was a working woman. She knew what it was to forge out into a man's world and do a job that had to be done. Ruth was a poor woman. She knew what it was to go down the road and hope somebody would be merciful to her and let her get corn for that night's supper. Hannah came from a distressed, troubled home. She knew what it was to cry herself to sleep at night. Esther didn't have to turn her hand for anything. But from all four of these varied backgrounds, these are women who paid the price of God's will in their lives.

If we have set our sights on the goal of being a woman of God, we will have to pay the price. His will is the most precious thing we will ever find. We must not fear it, rather embrace it. For His will will never lead us where His grace cannot keep us.

"Women Like Us" is a message presented at the second national auxiliary retreat at Hot Springs, Arkansas. It is available on tape from WNAC for \$3.00 plus 75¢ postage and handling.



HOW I LICKED THE WORLD'S #1 KILLER

Juhree McClain

In 1920, I was born into a good country family. I weighed three pounds. Since fat was considered healthy, I was soon fattened up. I was a fat grade school student, fat junior high student, fat high school graduate, fat college student, wife and mother. Like many fat people, I tried all kinds of diets. I had been fighting high blood pressure since age 20, and finally, amphetamines brought about a heart attack. While hospitalized, my doctor recommended Weight Watchers. I thank God every day for this chance.

I faithfully worked at losing weight for my life depended on it. This weight loss program of good nutrition consists of the daily amounts of proteins, grains, dairy products, fruits, fats and vegetables that a body needs to maintain good health. I lost 142 lbs. and have kept it off now for nine years. Size 9-10 is much nicer than 26.

When God created the body of man (the temple of the Lord) He also supplied the fuel (food) for that body to be fed properly. Being healthy is much like being a Christian. The guideline (program) is necessary, but it must be my choice, adding faith and a change in attitude and activity.

Changes come about with positive thinking, receiving help from others, new eating habits and three regular meals a day. Self discipline will grow, for we are what we think and do.

A regular walking program is a good addition to a weight loss program. At the advice of my doctor, I began with a mile, then two, three, four and now I make a daily habit of at least five miles. How rewarding to walk and talk with the Lord in the cool of the morning. Walking is good for the muscles, bones and circulation; but, most of all, to get my head on straight to best use this valuable time the Master has given me.

When my husband retired in 1979, He joined me in this ministry of working with overweight people. Together we encourage and motivate them and teach a balanced program with nutrition. Our greatest reward is seeing people regain good health and confidence in themselves. We look forward to seeing our 150-200 friends at our three weekly classes. We rejoice at their success and hold their hands if they slip. You see, we understand how they feel. We've been there.

I believe God gave me this wonderful gift and I love sharing it with others.



SHARE-A-BOOK

by Genny Waddell

FOOD FOR ALL OF US
World Concern/CHRISTA International
Seattle, WA 94 pp.

Question: "If 12,000 persons die each day from hunger, how can one person make a difference?" This is the question posed by Mr. Arthur B. Beals, Executive Director of World Concern, a Christian relief agency.

Answer: "Well, if the people die one at a time, then we can help them one at a time. It's amazing how much can be done to help in every simple ways."

Using 1 John 3:17 as a basis for helping those who have so little when we have so much, the compilers of **FOOD FOR ALL OF US** offer some interesting and practical ideas and recipes. (Don't you hate cookbooks that require expensive ingredients found only in a Queen's pantry!) The theme—using **less** for ourselves in order to feed the starving ones **more**—is woven throughout this attractive book and its interesting recipes. Nutrition tips are also generous. How to combine milk products with grains or legume with grains to make complete protein. How to serve well balanced, less expensive meals. How to celebrate without blowing your food budget. How to fast as a whole family on behalf of the world's hungry peoples. How to plan "International Feasts."

Most of all, this book ought to remind each of us that we are our brother's keepers. In an age when cans, wrappers, cartons—even people—are disposable, we can lose sight of our responsibility to be involved in relieving physical sufferings of others. In no way does this lessen our primary responsibility for providing spiritual nourishment for those who face a Christ-less hell.

Why not read this book, coupled with James' thoughts of helping our brothers and sisters in need, use its recipes, and digest its pointers on wasting less so that others want less? Afterwards, let your pastors or auxiliary contact WNAC and the Foreign Missions Department to find out specifically how you can be that person who makes a difference in the lives of individuals who are starving to death.

This book is available free from World Concern, Box 33000, Seattle, WA 98133. Please enclose \$1.00 to cover postage and handling.

Co-Laborers Write



Appreciation

Thank you for this fine magazine. The programs are just super and the articles are always an inspiration . . . Our auxiliary has been growing. We have a membership of 25 and other ladies we would like to join.

Donna White
Fredericktown, MO.

May God bless each one who writes the **Co-Laborer**. We enjoy each lesson.

Jean Julicino
Sylacuaga, AL

Praise the Lord for our writers. It was a blessing when I read the October lesson. Maybe it means more to me because Wanda Kellett was one of our faithful members when we were at the Lawton church.

Mrs. Jim Haas
Skiatook, OK

California Transplant

We love the weather in California even what they call bad. We miss the people in Ohio. We're organizing our auxiliary December 10. We've already started Bible study and some action projects.

Nora McCarty
Salinas, CA

Hot Chocolate Mix

Adventures in Food, a recipe book published by Cliff auxiliary, Prestonsburg, KY, gives a hot chocolate mix by Mary Bingham:

Mix together and store in a tightly covered container in a cool place:

8 qt. size powdered milk, 1 lb. box Nestles hot chocolate mix, 6 oz. jar coffee creamer, and 1 c. powdered sugar.

To serve, mix $1/3$ c. mix with $2/3$ c. hot water.

Still Running

I finished my third marathon this past Saturday #1 in my age division and third woman overall with a time of 3:44:22; that is 9:13 better than my last one. The Lord is still working with me.

Margaret Speer
Tulsa, OK

Oops Again

We just received the fourth quarter Co-laborer and I was delighted when I looked on the back and saw how much weight I had lost! Please extend my condolences to Darlene Wilmoth.

Connie Stilson
Topeka, KS

Ed. note. In the poetry category of winners, the printer reversed the names. The names of the winners went left to right instead of right to left as were the pictures.

Provision Closet

Our auxiliary had a Tupperware party for the provision closet. All our members were involved and were we excited about the \$130.40 value of our products.

**Juanita Houston
Blakely, GA.**

Would you please tell the ladies how much our family appreciates (and need) the household items we get from the provision closet. They have shown their love for us in so many ways . . . Gene was voted "student of the month." Randal is in Boy Scouts and Gene in soccer. I have two teens classes at church, work with the choir, senior citizens, and have a ladies Bible class at my house, plus speaking at auxiliaries.

**Bessie Richards
Ivory Coast, now Searcy, AR**

Our auxiliary has sent a four place setting of dishes for the provision closet. We appreciate the fine work that is being done and our prayers are with you.

**Nancy Koonce
Pine Bluff, AR**

God's Protection

The Lord's protection was over our church and the property during the hurricane. No damage.

**Joyce Tafaoa
Waipahu, Hawaii**

I'm so thankful for all those women who keep the closet stocked with so many useful items. I really don't know what we missionaries would do without it.

**Jean Deeds
Brazil, now Moore, OK**

Accepts Challenge

The New Harmony auxiliary accepted the challenge of Carol Walsh and voted to give \$1.00 per member to the deficiency of our missionary accounts. We hope many other auxiliaries will be stirred to do so, too.

**Gladys Cooper
Kirksville, MO**

Bob Breedons, Wausau, Wisconsin

The First Free Will Baptist church in Wausau is small this year, but last Christmas there was none at all. We are out of the mainstream of Free Will Baptist work, but your area was that way before someone came and started a church.

Quarter of a Century

I love the good news of our sister auxiliaries. I've been a member of the First Church (Columbus) since we organized in June, 1949. I still have my first note book that I recorded when I was combined secretary and treasurer.

**Imogene Young
Hilliard, OH.**



A Woman God Has Used

Helping to tell a lost world about Jesus Christ might best describe Jewel Sweeney's goal in life.

Mrs. Sweeney was saved at an early age in her native Virginia and married at age 17. Some time later, she and Pastor Sweeney moved to Kingsport, Tennessee, where they have served the Fellowship FWB Church for the past 22 years. Both are strong missions-minded leaders and have influenced their church to support missions both at home and abroad. The church recently purchased a missionary house for missionaries on furlough.

The Sweeney's only daughter, Dawn, graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College and is now a nursing student in preparation for missionary service in the Ivory Coast. Her church is already building up her missionary account. The Sweeneys also have two married sons—Larry, an officer in the Air Force, is stationed in Louisiana and Rick resides in California.

In spite of her public job at a dry cleaners, Mrs. Sweeney is an involved pastor's wife. An active member of the Woman's Auxiliary, she has served as an officer in both the local and district conventions. For years Pastor Sweeney has supervised a tour group to the Holy Land with Mrs. Sweeney often accompanying him. These trips have contributed to her teaching ministry among the women in her adult Sunday school class.

Always ready to listen with Christian compassion to problems or join in a youth activity with equal enthusiasm, Jewel Sweeney's quiet smile and cheery disposition make her a joy to be around. Her firm faith in a loving God who hears and answers prayer is a constant testimony to all who have grown to love her, both young and old alike.



MY TASK

Three little boys, Lord, You've given me
To cuddle, to train, then offer up to Thee.
You've loaned them to me for such a short time;
To great heights for You, may they ever climb.

My hope for them in life's brief race
Is that Christ becomes their Hiding Place;
Fashioned in character like men of old,
Like David, or Joseph, or Daniel so bold.

But it's up to me to show them the Way.
We live in a world where it's hard, they say,
To train up a child in the way he should go
So that when he's old, Your Word he will know.

The job is before me, careful planning it takes;
It's a day by day task, a great man to make.
Three little boys, Lord, You've loaned to me,
Help them, I pray, to live and work for Thee.

—Trudy Miles



D. J., age 6½



Darin, age 3½



Daniel, age 2

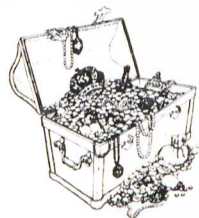
CO-LABORER

Second Quarter, 1983

Volume 23, Number 2

Programs

- 8 Jewels in His Kingdom by **Betty Reeves**
Program for April
- 19 Enter Into Thy Closet by **Diane Plymon**
Program for May
- 25 Women Like Us by **Rudene Kennedy**
Program for June



Articles

- 6 Walk of Death by **Diane Thomas**
- 11 A Woman of Ivory Coast by **Sandra Payne**
- 18 Bouquet From A Dimpled Hand by **Velda Tucker**
- 28 How I Licked The World's #1 Killer
by **Juhree McClain**



Special Features

- 1 Christ In The Passover
Pre-Easter Week of Prayer Program
- 16 The Woman God Sees
Second National Auxiliary Retreat Report



Regular Features

- 4 Memo From Cleo
- 5 Our Program Writers
- 12 Call to Prayer by **Eunice Edwards**
- 22 Women in Action
- 29 Share-A-Book by **Genny Waddell**
- 30 Letters
- 32 A Woman God Has Used by **JoAnn Parker**



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