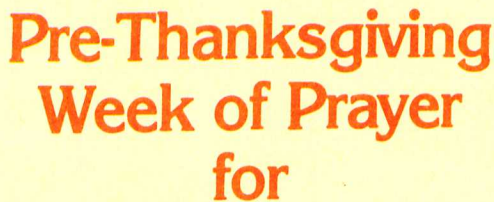


Co-Laborer

October, November, December 1984





National Home Missions

November 12-16, 1984





Editorial

"We'd like to have another Lobi New Testament," we told Elaine Allen, returned missionary from Ivory Coast. "The one we brought back with us is getting shopworn."

"There are no more," she informed us. She explained the government insisted the orthography be changed, so when the original supply was depleted, they did not reprint.

The Lobi tribe in the Doropo area has never had the Scriptures in her own dialect, although they could understand this Upper Volta translation. Now they had not even that.

While here in America, new English translations sprout up like mushrooms in springtime. If all the various translations of the Scriptures, along with the accompanying study Bibles, were lined up on a shelf, they would probably extend the length of your house!

And the Lobi tribe, like scores of other tribes, has not even the new Testament in her language.

If that isn't enough, commentaries abound to help us understand these Scriptures. One entire room at the Free Will Baptist Bible College library is filled with nothing but commentaries, with new ones added regularly.

Oswald J. Smith once said, "Why should anyone hear the Gospel twice until everyone has heard it once?" By the same token, why should America receive another translation of the Scriptures in her language until every tribe has at least one in her tongue?

O America, America! We who compose only 1/16th of the world's population already consume 40% of the world's resources. And now we satiate ourselves with the Word of God while the rest of the world dies in spiritual darkness without a single portion in their own language. What defense will we make on the day of judgment? "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required" (Luke 12:48).

Lorene Miley



Memo From Cleo

Bring Them In

January is enlistment month for Woman's Auxiliaries! Are you planning a special effort to win new members and to bring back absentees? New members mean new life and more women involved. WNAC wants to help you with this special emphasis. Look over the free materials which will be mailed to each auxiliary. Use them if you wish, adapting them to meet your own needs. Let us know what success you have.

1984-'85 Program of Work

Last year our primary emphasis was missions study. This year it is prayer. WNAC has a wealth of helps, some are free, others are priced materials. Write us for ideas.

Other New Literature

We have in stock new study course books, catalogs, secretary record and report book, poetry book ("Sparks from the Fireplace"), calendar key of activities, and a revised Co-Laborer Plan leaflet.

Co-Laborer Fund

How long has it been since your auxiliary increased its gifts to the WNAC Co-Laborer Fund? Inflation is making it difficult for the national departments to meet their obligations. WNAC is no exception. Please make this a matter of prayer.

A new leaflet, "The Co-Laborer Offering Plan," free for the asking, explains in detail where your money goes. It suggests three ways to send this offering. (1) A monthly offering. (2) Tithing the monthly income or a certain percentage designated for this purpose. (3) A certain amount included in the annual budget. The treasurer would regularly send the designated amount through regular auxiliary channels. If there is no district or state organization, please send money directly to WNAC, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. Thanks!

Missionary Provision Closet

We are short of towel sets, sheet sets, percolators or coffee makers, and steam irons.

Objective: To show the reality of John 12:24—the harvest we produce depends upon the seed planted.

Scripture: Mark 4:1-20

Hymn: "Bringing In The Sheaves"

Introduction

"Except a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone," said Jesus, "but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

At the moment of His highest honor on earth, the words did not seem appropriate—five days before His death and seven days before His resurrection. Friends meant to crown Him king, yet He declared He must die before He could reign. The law of sowing and reaping, seedtime and harvest, must work in redemption as well as in the world of nature. The Seed, which is Christ (Gal. 3:16) must die, be buried, and then rise again in fruitfulness.

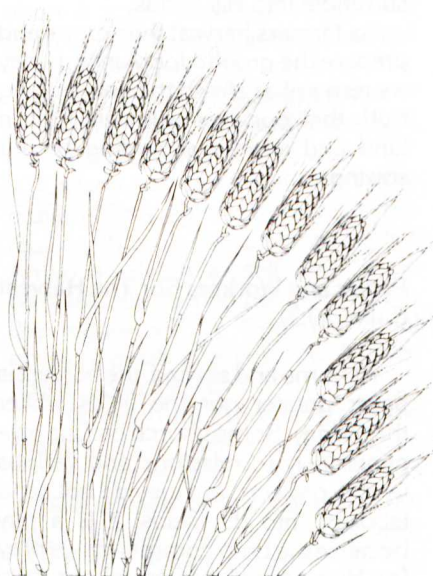
Over 100 years ago an American missionary began to plant the Word of God in the Belgian Congo. After 30 years and 30 missionary graves, only 800 converts gathered to worship. But at the outbreak of the brutal rebellion, Christians numbered 30,000 with converts being won at the rate of 4000 annually.

SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

Seedtime and harvest! This Thanksgiving season is an occasion for self-examination. Where no seed is planted in the earth, no harvest will be found.

Sowing and Reaping in Kind and Degree (Galatians 6:7; Hosea 8:7)

"He sowed his wild oats." Then his harvest will also be wild oats. When God forgives and cleanses away sin, He often allows the sinner to face the natural consequences of the sin. In creation, He made "fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind (Gen. 1:11). A



wheat seed yields wheat; an apple seed an apple tree. A grain of corn will never produce an apple, nor an onion a luscious grape. This is our day of opportunity for sowing seeds of character and service. A few years hence (or sooner) we shall be rejoicing or grieving over the harvest, depending on the kind of seeds we have sown.

If one small seed can bring forth a great tree bearing hundreds of fruit, one evil seed of neglect and indifference may yield a great harvest of regret. One year of failure to challenge our young people to purposeful service for God may result in an entire generation of spiritual deadness in the church, a church bearing no fruit.

Both in the natural and spiritual realms the law of sowing and reaping works—not only in kind but in quantity as well. One small wind becomes a mighty whirlwind by harvest time. But the principle holds on the better side, too—little is much when God is in it, for He blesses and multiplies all we surrender into His hands.

As farmers harvest their crops and prepare the ground for planting, may we remember afresh the unchanging truth that our lives will yield fruit in kind and degree according to our sowing.

Prayer and Workers For The Harvest (Luke 10:2)

At home and abroad, the harvest is never greater nor the fields whiter than today. Some church groups give generously to missions and various worthy projects, but they do not send laborers into the fields. It is a pity because the Lord commands we pray for Him to call out from our own

group those lives He can use for His work. Such a petition is rarely heard in our churches and family circles, although it is commanded. Churches that give a good share of lives along with their money may confidently expect to rejoice in a rich harvest.

No more fruitful service could be engaged in during this season of prayer than by praying that God would honor your church by calling out from your own group a company of young people to work for Him. There are also those in the middle-age group whom God would direct to change or adjust their businesses to count more for His kingdom work.

Prayer changes things. Much praying today misses the mark because it is not clearly aimed at something. Our prayers may send and keep workers in His harvest where workers are so few today.

Seedtime and Harvest for Nations (Obadiah 15)

The prophet spoke the words to the nation of Edom who had wronged God's people, Israel. He fulfilled this warning and destroyed this nation as it tried to destroy Israel. Throughout history, nations as well as individuals have been subject to this law of sowing and reaping.

The Bible tells how God built the Jewish nation for the purpose of bringing the Savior into the world; and of His judgment upon the nation when it became idolatrous and unfit for His use.

Both Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar were brought under the judgment and the great Babylonian kingdom was given to the Medes.

Greece and Rome, according to Daniel's prophecy, arose, flourished, and met their judgment.

Germany, once a great nation, was used of God to give us Martin Luther and the Reformation, but in faithfulness to His promise to Abram (Gen. 12:3) He brought judgment upon Nazi Germany.

Russia must yet be dealt with on the same ground of her blasphemy and defiance of God. God deals with nations in terms of sowing and reaping. On the basis of their sowing, what kind of harvest should the Christian church expect to produce?

American Church: It's Seedtime and Harvest

In the light of the foregoing paragraphs, our own nation must come under the spotlight of Scripture. God judges nations on the basis of the light and privileges He has given them. God has given Americans freedom of worship, an open Bible, and every convenience for teaching and preaching and witnessing far and near. How has the church fulfilled God's purpose? What of the sowing? What of the reaping?

The American flag waved over the Philippines for fifty years, but when those islands became independent in 1946, whole tribes were discovered back in the neglected jungles that had no touch with civilization and no knowledge of God. Huge sections of the Caribbean claim a close attachment to the United States today, yet illiteracy, heathen superstition and economic poverty abound.

Our own country shows a view of moral and spiritual decay. Our cities overrun with crime, influx of Interna-

tionals, young people turning to drugs and alcohol, senior citizens locked up with no one to care, convicts behind prison walls, and campuses where young people are searching for satisfying answers.

Roy Thomas, director of the Home Missions department makes this observation, "American has risen from obscurity to the richest, most powerful nation in the world. She holds the key to worldwide evangelism, for she alone has the message, men and money in sufficient amounts to make worldwide evangelization possible."

How can we help? One way is to establish strong Bible-believing churches. The church extension department of the National Home Missions Board is dedicated to the task of putting a missionary in every state for a church in every city.

Conclusion

Twenty years ago the world gazed upon a tragic scene of martyrdom. Sorrow-stricken, the family of Dr. Paul Carlson received the news of the slaughter of their missionary son and brother in Africa. Yet a sweetness and satisfaction pervaded their sorrow.

Carlson had not been unwillingly drafted into a regimented service. His real death took place before he left America—death to self and to his own will. His life had not been lost in the higher will of God. His cruel physical death is a beautiful illustration of John 12:24.

This death and that of his fellow martyrs, of Chet Bitterman in El Salvador, of Stanley Dale and Phil Masters in New Guinea, their deaths have not been in vain. They will bring forth much fruit. Mark it down.

Our Writers

Laura Belle Barnard, retired veteran missionary to India, now resides in Glennville, Georgia. Her latest book, *Touching The Untouchables*, is scheduled for release, July, 1985.

Noveline Burgess (Mrs. Lowell), Antlers, Oklahoma, a deacon's wife, has four married children and seven grandchildren. She teaches teens at the Hall FWB Church. She enjoys making quilts, rugs, and helping her husband, a farmer, do carpentry as a hobby.

Kathy Douglas, Macon, Georgia, and her husband, Thomas, direct children's church at White Oak FWB Church. They have two sons of their own. Kathy operates a day care center from her home. Her hobbies are baseball and dieting!

Brenda Lewis, and husband, Bob, are church extension missionaries to Colorado Springs, Colorado. They have three sons, Tim, 11, Brian, 8, and Jonathan, 6. Brenda, a singer and pianist, teaches primaries and works in the children's church.

Joyce Little teaches Junior girls at Southern Oaks FWB Church, Moore, Oklahoma. She teaches private piano at Hillsdale Bible College, also in her home. She and husband Doug, associate pastor, have one daughter, Rachel, 7.

Beverly Riggs, mother of two small sons, serves as auxiliary president and musician at the Good Springs FWB Church, Pleasant View, Tennessee, where her husband, Randy, pastors. She enjoys crosstitching.



Around The World



With G.Y.W.A.

(G.Y.W.A. stands for Go Ye Woman's Auxiliary. Change the first initials to your own auxiliary.)

Objective: A missions study program

Scripture: The Great Commission as given in Matt. 28:19, 20 and Mark 16:15

Hymn: Any missions hymn, as "We've A Story To Tell"

Leader: Welcome to GYWA! We're so thrilled that you lucky ladies have won this all-expenses-paid trip around the world! How many of you have never taken this journey with us before?

Notice we have only women with us this trip. I understand you won this free trip as a result of joining the Woman's Auxiliary. We are taking this trip on the wings of prayer, so buckle your hearts and bow your heads as we speak to the Captain for His guidance on this trip **(have prayer)**.

Okay, ladies, we're on our way! By the way, we will be taking care of a few

business items during this trip and you're expected to help. It's always easier when we share the load.

PANAMA

We are now arriving at the Crossroads of the World! This lovely country of Panama is part of Central America and is located 600 miles north of the equator. Because of the recent controversy over the Panama Canal and the communist agitators, the Panamanians aren't very trusting of other governments, especially US personnel. Freedom of religion is the law of the land, but Evangelical Christians make up only about 6% of the two million population.

Because of this freedom, we will be **reaching some people** while we are in Panama. We have three couples there who will be helping us.

Brazil

All aboard! Would you like a cup of coffee? Guess where our next destination will be? You're right! Brazil!

This Portuguese-speaking country is where most of our coffee is grown. Did you know that all Brazilian coffee is mountain-grown? Well, it is.

Complete freedom of religion is enjoyed here but only one in nine is now a Protestant. Ninety per cent of the population is nominally Roman Catholic. With a force of 24 adult missionaries and more on their way, we are challenged to **touch lives** while in Brazil.

URUGUAY

Buckle up for another quick trip further south to the country of Uruguay! This is the smallest country in South America, yet one that has been torn by terrorist attacks, retaliation by the government, and ultimately by takeover by a military regime. Yet in spite of the political turmoil, Uruguayans are characterized by materialism, loose living, and love for pleasure. Because of the turmoil, we will be **lifting burdens** in Uruguay.

IVORY COAST

Our next flight will be one that will take us across the Atlantic Ocean to a small country on the continent of Africa—the Ivory Coast! The Ivory Coast lies on the southern bulge of West Africa just above the equator. You may find it difficult to communicate with these people because there are some 60 dialects! French is the official language so that might help some of you a bit.

Probably the great problem in the

Ivory Coast ministry is the low literacy rate of 25%. Approximately 25% of the population is Muslim with 4% Protestant. We are happy to say there are unlimited opportunities for evangelism. While we are in Ivory Coast, we will be **helping the sick and diseased**.

INDIA

Probably the most discouraging visit we will make is to the country of India. Nearly 1/6 of the world's population is Indian with over 800 languages spoken—all squeezed into 1,229,919 square miles of land area. Their economy is in serious trouble today because of the population explosion, lack of food, resistance to change, and their unwillingness to kill the cow (it is considered sacred). Because of this physical need for food, there's an even stronger need for **feeding these souls**.

JAPAN

Ladies, your dreams have come true because you have also won a trip to the Orient! We are now arriving in Japan. Fashions and decorating trends are coming to America from the Orient along with their religions. We are going to Japan to **share their lives!**

Japan consists of four main islands off the southeast coast of Asia. In spite of the lack of raw materials and limited agricultural land, Japan has maintained one of the world's most powerful economies.

Shintoism and Buddhism make up about 83% of the population. The people are largely materialistic but wrapped in a culture that is centuries old. Few are willing to make a break from the past.

The language of these people is reputed to be the world's hardest language, but these people are sophisticated and well-educated. Our missionaries work with students but find the greatest hindrance to this ministry are apathy and Marxism, as 90% of these students claim to be atheists.

Graciously share your lives with them so they can learn to love you and your God.

SPAIN

It's getting late now, but that won't matter because life doesn't start until dusk in Spain! These warm-hearted people will probably be sitting down to dinner, but they will be glad to see us.

Spanish is the official language of Spain and Catholicism unofficially remains the State religion, but rapid liberalization since 1975 has eroded the church's privileged position. The Roman Catholic church probably maintains more control in Spain than in any other European country. Because of this immunity, we must try hard to **open hearts** to the Lord's calling. Pray for these people.

FRANCE

Our last stop on this wonderful trip is to the largest of the Western European nations—France.

The country has a wide variety of landscapes, about two-thirds flat or gently rolling and one-third mountainous. It is the biggest food producer as well as winery.

The threat of communism is constant. The Roman Catholic church still has a large influence due to 85% of the population being nominally

Catholic. There has been turmoil and tensions within the church, leaving the people confused; thus few attend church, probably about 21%. Because of this, a strong anti-clerical feeling exists.

The people in France are very hard to get to know, so don't come on too strong. They don't care for loud and overbearing people. This, at times, makes it hard for our 15 missionaries. We are going to stop here and **give this country hope**. They have heard of religion all their lives, but they feel they have no hope. Please, ladies, won't you help us with this job—give them hope?

LEADER: I know you have a lot going through your minds, pondering over our thrilling adventures today. As we head back home to the States, let me give you some information.

Another benefit you have coming to you from GYWA is a free magazine and publication that you may subscribe to. That's right, it's free! The Heartbeat is a very informing magazine with missions as its heartbeat. **Mission Grams** is another publication that informs of the work in America.

Also we have taken measures to help you in case you may have forgotten your cameras or something ate them while in Ivory Coast. We have beautiful studio portraits of each of the missionaries we visited today as well as those on their way to the fields. Keep them on display and each day take them on the wings of prayer with our Captain, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you for flying GYWA!

Suggestions for visual presentation of this program, as well as word strips, are included in the Leader's Packet from WNAC.

Go!



It says here the purpose of the auxiliary is to help the woman fulfill her place in the Great Commission.



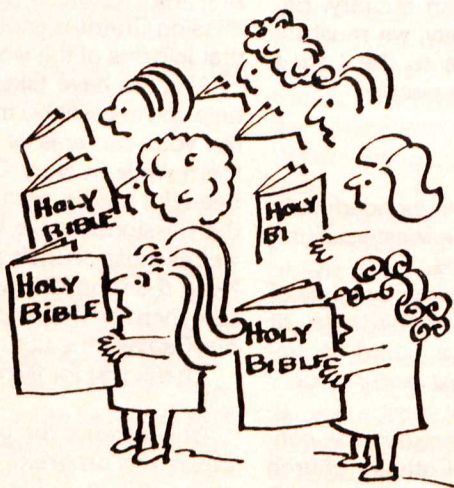
What is the Great Commission?



Go ye therefore and teach all nations...



How can I do that?



I'm only one person.

Designed for
prayer groups,
auxiliaries, per-
sonal, inter-
cessory prayer

Eunice
Edwards

Call to Prayer



October

1. The Missionary Conference at the Free Will Baptist Bible College is October 29-31. Pray that a burden for missions will be felt by students and faculty alike. Pray for the missionaries as they deliver the challenge. Pray that many will respond by saying, "Here am I, send me."
2. Pray for the missionary conferences in our local churches; that the congregation will respond by praying and giving.
3. Pray for revival on our mission field. Ask God to burden you for one particular missionary and encourage him/her today through prayer.

A young author, being interviewed regarding a recent book he had written, gave his opinion and indictment of "Victorian principles." He defended his premise by citing all the "freedoms" being enjoyed (?) by this generation. He then tried to persuade his viewers to believe that the humanistic approach to life and its problems was far superior to "any old Victorian or Puritan" principle.

That young man has a problem!

Elisha was at Dothan when the enemy surrounded him with "horses, chariots, and a great host." Elisha's servant, upon seeing such a threatening force, became panic-stricken and cried out to Elisha, "What shall we do?"

That young man, too, had a problem, and not a great deal different from the young author's. You see, both were using only man's logic and that path leads to certain defeat.

The weapons of a Christian are not carnal, but spiritual. Elisha knew this and through the practice of it, he was able to save the king of Israel. Elisha was a praying man, so he did not succumb to the despair his servant suffered. He simply prays, "Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see (2 Kings 6:17a).

We are told of a fish called "anableps" which has eyes that are divided into upper and lower halves, by which they can see equally well whether in water or out of it. They can literally see

in both worlds.

Elisha simply asked that his servant be given this same kind of vision. The servant's real need was to become aware of the dangers surrounding them. He also needed to become aware of the real help with which God had surrounded them. Our Lord never asks His children to fight a battle without Him or His resources.

The examples we have of God's children going into battle without Him invariably end in defeat.

Zeal is good, but it must be sanctified. "And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw . . . (2 Kings 6:17b). The servant could have been from Missouri! He was sighted!

Elisha next prays for his enemy and his host. He asked God to smite them with blindness so they could not see. And God did so—literally!

Elisha then led these blind enemies to the place where He wanted them to be—Samaria. When the king of Israel inquired of God's warrior regarding destroying these enemies, Elisha wisely advised, "Give them something to eat and drink and send them on their way." When it was done, the Word says, "So the bands of Syria came no

more into the land of Israel (2 Kings 6:23).

Zeal is good, but it must be sensible.

Until God opened His eyes, Elisha's servant was much like the unbelieving spies who were frightened out of their wits by the size of the Anak giants. The unbelievers said, "We can't." When lack of obedience is joined with spiritual blindness, one always has the making of despair and defeat.

If Christians look only at the Satanic giants all about them, they, too, will fear to do battle. They, too, will say, "We can't." But in the name of our God, we can do battle and win. God is still in the business of saving all those who call upon Him. His power has not lessened, His arm is not shortened. The Christian's part in this battle is to share His love with sinners by precept and example.

Zeal is good, but it must be serviceable.

So when the battle rages around you, ask God for the vision and grace to step into one of His chariots and rise above it all to the heaven that is within your heart—if you are a born-again believer.



December

1. December is Pop Willey Memorial Month. Pray for Mom Willey as she travels across the country in behalf of missions. Pray for son Tommy as he works with the Spanish church in Miami. Daughter Barbara lives in Bryan, Texas.
2. Pray for the Christmas services on our mission fields; that the message of Christmas will have a deep significance for the new believers; that these special services will result in a greater outreach than ever before.
3. Christmas is giving. Ask the Lord to show you what He would have you give this lesson to reach a lost world for Christ.

A Month of Prayer for Missions

November 1—November is Home Missions month on the auxiliary calendar. Pray for our women as they finalize plans for the Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer emphasis.

2—Pray for Roy Thomas as he directs the affairs of the National Home Missions department.

3—Pray for Jerry and Julie Barron as they open up Mexico City to the gospel.

4—Pray for Glenda Fulcher on her birthday. She and husband, Bill, minister to the Spanish speaking people in Houston, Texas.

5—The Missions Conference begins today on the Hillsdale FWB College campus. Pray the students will have heart preparation for the messages.

6—Pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit on the missionary speakers at the Hillsdale conference. Pray God will thrust out workers to the fields from among the student body.

7—Pray for Sharon O'Dell on her birthday. She and her husband, James, are church extension missionaries in Minnesota.

8—Pray for the national workers in Mexico, especially Chuy de la Rosa as he directs the Bible school.

9—Pray for the seven chaplains associated with the chaplains program. Capt. Kerry Steedley is stationed in Germany.

10—Gracie Lowe, church extension missionary in Idaho, has a birthday today. So does Sandy Adams, joint project missionary in Kentucky.

11—Pray for Henry Van Kluyve as he serves as principle of the Christian School in Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Pray for the outreach ministry of the school and church.

12—Today is the first day of the Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer. Pray that this first observance will be meaningful and set the pace for the rest of the week.

13—Marian Reece, joint project missionary in Virginia, has a birthday today.

14—Patsy Vanhook (France) and Marcie Ellison (Uruguay) have birthdays.

15—Pray for Bill and Lois Reagan as they re-locate in Windsor, Ontario.

16—Delores Hester, joint project missionary in Mississippi, has a birthday.

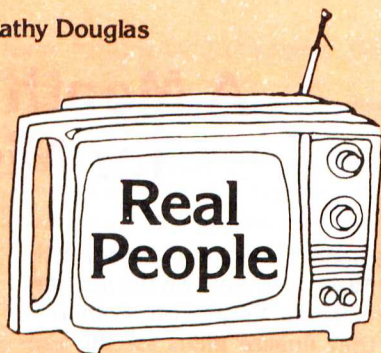
17—Ask the Lord to prepare hearts for the National Home Missions Sunday tomorrow.

18—Pray that a strong home missions emphasis will be given in our churches today.

19—Pray for our missionaries in Puerto Rico—Miguel and Adelaida Vera; that they will establish a strong church in this Catholic land.

- 20—Pray for these newest missionaries appointed by the home missions board: Rev. and Mrs. Fred Jones to Mexico; Rev. and Mrs. Elzo Bevan to Culpeper, VA; and Rev. and Mrs. Bob White.
- 21—Russell Lowe, church extension missionary to Idaho, has a birthday.
- 22—Pray for Jim Nason, church extension missionary to New Hampshire, on his birthday.
- 23—Pray for Pat Thomas, editor of **Mission Grams**, and Don Robirds, editor of **Heartbeat**; that their ministry will promote the cause of missions through the printed page, both at home and around the world.
- 24—Pray that missions will take a greater priority in the lives of Christians.
- 25—If you have joint project missionaries in your state, pray for them especially today. Remember them in a tangible way this Christmas season.
- 26—Today begins the four-day session of the Foreign Missions Board. Pray for chairman Bill Jones as he presides over this important meeting.
- 27—Bessie Richards, Ivory Coast, has a birthday today.
- 28—Three birthdays today: Bobby Poole, Brazil; Mark Daniel, Ivory Coast; and Albert Rollins, Florida.
- 29—Pray for the foreign mission board as they select student missionaries to serve abroad this summer.
- 30—Pray for Harold Teague, Longview, Texas, on his birthday today.

Kathy Douglas



I don't know a great deal about missions, but I do know something about a few missionaries. They may never be celebrities on network television, but they are definitely Real People.

Lynette Miley Morgan was in my prayer group at Free Will Baptist Bible College. We shared many things, not only the bathroom and shower, but devotions and prayer requests.

We waited with a sense of expectancy for her barrel from the Ivory Coast. Just the sound of Ivory Coast led me to think it should be filled with jewels and riches. Finally it arrived and in the laundry room of Ennis Hall the rusty, dented 55 gallon drum was opened. Someone must have switched barrels, I thought! But no, Lynette was as thrilled as could be. It looked like normal junk to me, like the trinkets and mementos I stuffed in a dresser drawer at home. How human! Her clothes were not even close to exotic. She even had to lower some of her hems. But maybe she had grown taller waiting for that barrel to arrive.

Then there was Judy Smith. This tall girl from Texas, whom I'd heard starred on the All-State basketball team, sure had her patience tried by a certain novice player. But then, we didn't have girls' basketball in Illinois.

Maybe she wasn't angry with me, just excitedly exasperated—as a few Lumen pictures illustrate. I mean, how human!

Another Judy comes to mind—Judy Hovis Lytle, friendly, smiling and lefthanded. I didn't know her quite as well since she played basketball for our rival society. But she is entitled to a mistake or two—she's only human.

I would have labeled Smith and Wode a most unlikely pair. God in His infinite wisdom made a working team of two very different individuals. I remember Alice as soft spoken and genteel with a maturity far beyond her years. My remembrances of Arilla are somewhat foggy, but echo from somewhere out in leftfield.

Two others on my "near and dear" list include a foreign missionary and one at home. Judy Turnbough Bailey was not a Bible College acquaintance, but a former pastor's daughter during grade school days. We shared lots of good times and bad times, which I will let stay in the sea of God's forgetfulness. I doubt that Judy or anyone who knew her back then would argue with the description that she was moody. How very human.

Judy and I sang in a girls' quartet and wore matching outfits. The other two members of the quartet were sisters—Karen and Vickie Ragland. Vickie and I were best friends and went off to Bible College together. I honestly thought she was making a mistake to drop out of college and go to work so she could marry John Hollis. The romance had been rocky to say the least. What did she see in John anyway? (No offense, John.)

Now I know she must have seen God's will for their lives. Their record as Illinois home missionaries speak for themselves. Although we are hun-

dreds of miles apart and usually only correspond on Christmas cards, there is a kinship that cannot be denied.

The lives of many other missionaries have touched mine—many through Bible college and some through youth camp, as Trena Adams Owens and Carol Fowler Teague.

At college, I remember Sandra Ogletree Bishop for her dependability and long hours of work in the Administration Building basement printing thousands of publications. I wonder how Bert Tippet made it without her.

Then came Patsy Vanhook whose sense of perfection drove her to do the bulk of the work of the college yearbook herself, just to be sure it was done right. Janice Baskins Banks and Barbara Pate Gibbs were my society sisters and also played basketball. However in Barbara's case, it was more out of society loyalty than athletic skill.

Several others I never got to know very well, like Mirial Gainer, Karen Brown Coward, Susan Thompson Dickens, Ramona Mathis Miley, LaRue Culpepper Crowson. I remember only tidbits of their personalities, but enough to know they were real people, too.

This brief sharing of personal remembrances has not emphasized the most memorable, flattering, or endearing traits of these people, but it has portrayed their human-ness. We often get the impression that missionaries are super-human spiritual giants, when actually they are "men (and women) of like passions as we are"—human, attacking a giant task.

Their job is important, but so is ours. We must educate ourselves about their needs and problems so we can pray more effectively and give more liberally.

Creative Arts

12th annual contest
122 women
from 24 states
and one foreign
country
submitted
413 entries

ART 13 Entries



FIRST
Marie Scott
Rogers, AR
"He's My Brother"
(pencil)



SECOND
Dee Kingsmill
Nashville, TN
"The Storehouse"
(needlework)



THIRD
Oda E. Beall
Greentop, MO
"Lesson on Morning
Glory Seeds"
(photography)



FOURTH
Barbara Dixon
Springfield, TN
"Little Church In The
Wildwood" (oils)

ARTICLES 55 Entries



FIRST
Lisa Jolley
Oklahoma City, OK
"Missing Person
Found"



SECOND
Odessa Ledlow
Sylacauga, AL
"Consider The
Lilacs"



THIRD
Vaudine Lancaster
Ethelsville, AL
"Invitation to Dine . . .
RSVP"



FOURTH
Linda Cooper
Oklahoma City, OK
"No Strings Attached"



Margie Patton
Glennville, GA
"Across the Puddles"

PLAYS/SKITS 30 Entries



FIRST
Maizie Sevits
Kirsville, MO
"Locomotive"

Contest Winners

1983-84



SECOND
Daisy Harper
Marshall, MO
"The Day That Jesus
Came"



THIRD
Rubenia Dobbs
New Bern, NC
"Auxiliary Body"



FOURTH
Judy Puckett
Moore, OK
"The Field Is The
World"



FIRST
Donna Richey
Moore, OK
"Snowflakes"

POETRY 289 Entries



SECOND
Debbie Cavitt
Tulsa, OK
"He Lives Inside Of
Me"



THIRD
Alice Haney
Wabash, IN
"The Grand
Cathedral"



FOURTH
Ruthann Hall
Nashville, TN
"Stir Me, Lord"



FIRST
Joyce Little
Moore, OK
"Around The World"



SECOND
Virginia Morgan
Crossett, AR
"Keep That Fire
Burning"



THIRD
Brenda Lewis
Colorado Springs, CO
"Sticks And Stones"



FOURTH
Karon Anderson
Tulsa, OK
"Don't Color Me
Critical"

PROGRAMS 26 Entries

Ladies!
Send your entries
NOW
for the next contest
Deadline:
March 1, 1985

SHARE —A— BOOK

by Genny Waddell

IMPROVING YOUR SERVE

by Dr. Charles R. Swindoll

Word Books, Waco, Texas

1981 212 pages

Serving others is a dying art. Relatively few Christians understand Jesus' words in Mark 10:45. "For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

The world's philosophy—"Do your own thing!"—has also permeated the Church. And servanthood has been relegated to pious-acting saints or the very old.

"Is it really possible, in today's 'look out for number one' world, to adopt the kind of servant lifestyle Jesus modeled for us?" This is the basic question addressed by Dr. Charles Swindoll in **Improving Your Serve**, a book that remained on the Christian Bestseller list for 18 months. This work is the result of the author's two-year study on the biblical concept of servanthood.

Dr. Swindoll's writing style is like his teaching style: practical, down-to-earth, interesting, and very thought provoking. As I read this book, I sometimes had to lay it aside as the Holy Spirit convicted me of my un-servant-like lifestyle.

The writer first sets out to make his readers shake their mental attitudes towards the very word "servant." Most of us, he assumes, associate "servant" with "slavery," usually the African kind. We dismiss the principle of serving, along with caring and being involved.

So what is the remedy? How do Christians minister to one another in our too busy world? Dr. Swindoll answers this question by writing about four basic areas of Christian living.

How to be a giver, not a getter.

How to forgive, not hold a grudge.

How to forget a wrong, not keep a score.

How to be a servant, not a superstar.

The first step, Dr. Swindoll says, is for each Christian to be willing to be a servant. "There must be a willing spirit that says, 'Lord, show me . . . teach me . . . help me . . . to serve and to give.'"

Sometimes we think we have a monopoly on serving others because we "wash the saints' feet." This book may shake your attitude toward genuine service as you confront the question: "What do I really know or practice about serving others on a daily basis?" I want to challenge you to prayerfully read **Improving Your Serve**, and ask the Holy Spirit to make all of us His willing, useful servants.

Objective: To be on guard in using our tongues

Scripture: James 3:2-18

Hymn: "Yield Not To Temptation"

Sticks And Stones

Introduction

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me!"

We may repeat that old adage to ourselves and even teach it to our children. The fact of the matter is we may feel big and tough as we throw off hurtful comments when actually our hearts are torn and aching. Our first reaction is to hurl even harsher statements toward those who hurt us so they can feel the pain we harbor inside. The result? A broken fellowship which may be mended for a time, but never completely restored.

No wonder the Lord repeatedly expressed the importance of "bridling" our tongues. The psalmist David saw this need. To avoid sinning with his tongue, he said he would keep his mouth with a bridle (Psalm 39:1). The Scofield Reference Bible defines a bridle as a muzzle. We muzzle dogs to keep them from biting. Perhaps we should use a muzzle at times to keep us from saying those biting words we

are tempted to say.

Satan can so quickly take control over our tongues. Before we realize it, we blurt our things we are sorry for later. Let's check up on some areas where we may unintentionally, and perhaps unconsciously at times, misuse our tongues. Let's call it "Verbal Abuse."

Our Family (Psalm 15:4)

Often we hurt the ones we love the most. Could it be possible that Satan would use the tongue, that one small member, to destroy the union of God's divine sanction—our homes?

The husband and wife relationship should be precious, yet too often we get into "nit-picky" arguments and say things we do not mean. Spat, Spit and Spite are closely related. Can't we blow things out of proportion at times? While our main intention is merely to come out on top of the argument, we forget that the one we are hurting is the dearest one in the world to us. We forsake a lot to satisfy that old ego. What was gained? What kind of example did we set before our children?

Those precious little ones whom God has so graciously given can ruffle our feathers at times. If we aren't careful, we lash out and hurt their feelings. Though we may forget our words or try to sweep them under the rug, I wonder if our children forget so easily?

Many parents would never physically abuse their children, yet are not so cautious of verbally abusing them. We teach our children not to use the words, "hate," "stupid," etc. Some of their first memory verses are, "Be ye kind . . ." and "Love one another." But how well do we follow these passages

ourselves?

Let's avoid harsh words spoken to our children. While a stern inflection of voice is sometimes needed in dealing with them, this doesn't condone the crude choice of words we sometimes use.

The family line includes in-laws, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, etc. Let's not let our tongues get in the way of keeping these ties on loving terms.

Church Family (Proverbs 10:19)

Used correctly, the tongue is a tremendous influence for good in the church. We can voice our love for fellow members, share words of encouragement and fellowship, teach, testify, sing praises to our Lord, and whisper prayers to Him who longs to hear.

Some of our conversations, however, could be considered anything but good and meek. All too often, Christians use words unbecoming to Christians at all. Though often only two are involved, somehow it affects the entire congregation, dividing and accusing one another. Could this possibly be called gossip?

How Satan loves to destroy the harmony of the church. And where does it usually begin? With the tongue! Many a slanderous word has been hurled during church business meetings. Fixing our eyes on each other, we lose sight of our complete mission as a church. Thank God, as He convicts, differences are resolved and hopefully revival comes. Although the church may be on the mend, often wounds take a long time to heal.

If we loved our brothers and sisters as Christ loved us, there would be no place for verbal abuse in our churches.

Our Friends (Psalm 39:1)

Our tongues could use some practice in witnessing to others. Many of us cannot tell the world of God's love with our tongue, but we can tell those around us. We pray and give and send others to tell those whom we cannot reach.

What about our unsaved neighbors, acquaintances, or fellow employees? We can offend a person in many different ways, but if we learn to bridle our tongue, we have come a long way in maintaining a good relationship (James 3:2).

A peasant with a troubled conscience went to a monk for advice. He said he had circulated a vile story about a friend, only to learn afterwards that the story was not true. "If you want to make peace with your conscience," said the monk, "you must fill a bag with chicken down, go to every door in the village, and drop before each one of them one fluffy feather."

The peasant did as he was told. Then he returned to the monk and announced he had done penance for his folly. "Not yet," replied the monk. "Take your bag, go the rounds again and gather up every feather you have dropped."

"But the wind must have blown them all away," answered the peasant.

"Yes, my son," said the monk, "and so it is with gossip. Words are easily dropped, but no matter how hard you may try, you can never get them back again." (copied)

In our weakest moment, when Satan is ready to take advantage, let's remember to "bite our tongues!"

Our Pastor (Psalm 105:15)

Our pastor is God's chosen leader. He needs our support and prayers, yet often he receives criticism, allegations and distasteful remarks. To be sure, he has faults and makes mistakes, but better is a pat on the back than a stab.

Imagine how much more pleasant it would have been for Moses had not the people murmured against him. Time and time again we see Moses pouring out his heart to God over the complaints of his people. Could our pastors possibly pray similar prayers at times?

Nevertheless we are moved by Moses' love for his people. Little did he know that God spared His judgment because of the pleas of His servant. Once Moses asked that his name be blotted from the Book of Life if God chose to destroy his people. How he loved them! Could we be blinded to our pastor's love through the criticisms of others?

Conclusion

A careless tongue may kindle strife.
A cruel tongue may wreck a life.
A brutal tongue may smite and kill.
A tattling tongue may warp the will.
A gracious tongue will smooth the way.

A joyous tongue will light the day.
A timely tongue will lessen stress.
A loving tongue will heal and bless.

—author unknown

The poet's CORNER



A revival was in progress at the Rock Springs FWB Church that July night in 1944. I don't know what John L. Welch preached on, I only know the Holy Spirit was working in my heart. I came to Jesus that night and each day with my Lord grows sweeter.

I have always enjoyed the language of poetry. I wrote my first poem as a Christian the day of my baptism in the Cumberland River. As I prepared dinner for my husband and three children, I thought of my lost loved ones and longed to see them saved. A tune kept going through my mind and soon a message to my loved ones blended with the tune: As busy as I was, I wrote the words down lest I forget:

I am watching and praying, dear loved one,
Watching and praying for you;
Praying you will accept Jesus
And to God's love forever be true.

Forsake the devil, don't serve him!
He has nothing in store for you;
Nothing but heartache and trouble,
Damnation when life here is through.

Oh, flee from the presence of Satan,
Ask God to show you the way;
To lead, to guide, and direct you
To heaven forever to stay.

To heaven that glorious kingdom
That is ruled by God and not men;
Where Satan is forever outcasted,
Never to tempt us again.

A life that is free of temptation,
Of trials and trouble and shame;
We will live with God and we'll serve Him,
We will honor and praise His dear name.

Besides the 160 typed poems, I have no idea how many I've scribbled on scraps of paper waiting to be typed. Two have been published. My aim, however, is not so much to be published, but that my praise, prayers and thanksgiving be unto God for His glory.



Kathryn Christy and husband, Bill, a retired farmer, are members of Bethel FWB Church, Ashland City, TN. They have been married 49 years and have three married children and nine grandchildren.

Women in Action



Women In Retreat

June Critcher, Nashville, was guest speaker at Virginia's state retreat with president **Ramona Kay Sessoms** presiding. **Lottie Cardwell** and **Glenda Cox** arranged a display of crafts and needlepoint items in connection with their workshops.

Knar Guekguezian spoke at California's retreat at Emerald Cove Camp using the theme, "Yours Lord."

Arkansas used the theme, "The Prescription That Works" for their annual retreat at Camp Beaverfork.

Oklahoma registered over 900 at the Camelot Hotel. **Diane Worthington**, Michigan, was guest speaker. A fashion show and a skit by the missionary wives highlighted the occasion.

Georgia's retreat was bigger than ever and necessitated moving to larger facilities. Norman Baptist Assembly, Norman Park, housed the 171 women who came to hear **Cleo Pursell**, Nashville. Liberty auxiliary won first award in the poster contest.

Eunice Edwards, Missouri, and **Rudene Kennedy**, North Carolina, enriched Kentucky's retreat at Jenny Wiley State Park.

Limestone (TN) sponsored an area wide retreat with a Bible conference atmosphere. **Rudene Kennedy** (NC), **June Critcher** and **Lorene Miley** (TN) all developed the theme, "Her Candle Goeth Not Out By Night." **Debbie Mitchell** coordinated the program.

Women On The Move

DeLois Loveless, Columbus, Ohio, reports: "Alton and I were in Sophia, West Virginia recently. They have furnished an apartment for the visiting missionary or evangelist. They call it the "Missionary Room." It was so nice and comfortable. They had filled the refrigerator with food so if we didn't want to go out, we could eat there. Maybe you would like to implement this idea."

The auxiliary in St. Croix, Virgin Islands sponsored a five day Bible Conference with **Marge Miller** from the Donelson FWB Church, Nashville,

TN, guest speaker. She gave a study on the book of **Revelation**. Following the conference, the ladies retreated at a local hotel while the men cleaned house and baby-sat.

Central auxiliary, Alabaster, Alabama, surprised their pastor's wife, **Vina Walden**, with a birthday celebration. A hand lettered sign read, "God Bless You. You're special to all of us."

Lola Hopkins, president of the North Memphis auxiliary, reports they have an on-going craft project which gives them opportunity for fellowship as they work and pray together.

Nancy Graham, secretary of the First FWB auxiliary, Omaha, Nebraska, reports a warm and joyful year in their auxiliary. They sponsored monthly projects among which was support for **Darlene Corey**, summer missionary to Africa.

Mary Runyon, Lenore, WV, writes: "For our Easter project, we netted \$266.06 by sewing up small heart shaped pockets large enough to hold 30 pieces of silver. We left a small opening at the top to place the money inside. We passed these among the members . . . and gave the money to someone in great need." This is a good idea for your missions project.

Deleen Cousineau, missionary to Ivory Coast, reports Norman Auxiliary (OK) bought daughter Brooke's kindergarten books (\$335) and Pleasant Mound, Bellevue, TX, bought her first grade books (\$360). Unity Association District (AR) contributed \$1000 for an automatic washing machine. First Mission district (Tulsa, OK) and Noble auxiliary donated food and necessities for returning to the field.



Deleen Cousineau receives a microwave from Capitol Hill Auxiliary, Oklahoma City.



Annette Tomlinson and Barbara Fletcher load missionary provision closet gifts from AL convention.



Sylacauga, AL auxiliary presents Rickey Bowling, missionary appointee to Uruguay, with umbrella covered with one hundred dollar bills.

Women in Convention

Molly Barker and **Linda Bowling**, missionaries to Uruguay, spoke at the AL State Convention in Northport. A shower for the missionary provision closet was estimated at more than a thousand dollars.

Mabel Willey spoke at the West Virginia State Convention in Wheeling. **Glenna Murphy** is president.

Mary Neal was re-elected president of Indiana State Convention. **Mabel Willey** and **Cleo Pursell** were guest speakers at this 5th annual session held at Chesterfield.

Hillside FWB Church (SC) hosted the Eastern District with **Mrs. Evis Poston**, vice-president, presiding. **Carolyn Riddick**, Pamplico, spoke on the theme, "Enriched Through God's Word."

Patricia Powell presided at the Central District Convention at Mt. Ariel, Conway, Arkansas. **Janie Aldridge**, missionary to Ivory Coast, was guest speaker.

Kansas women met in Wichita with **Donna Brewer**, Topeka, presiding. **Jackie Elder**, home missionary to Great Bend, addressed banquet guests on "Sowing Precious Seed in Kansas." The Elder support was adopted as a state project. Kansas

reported eight auxiliaries with 74 members.

Wall to wall people packed the Sand Hill FWB Church, Coward, for South Carolina's state convention. **Frances Poston**, president, reported \$15,000 given to missions and related causes. **Genevieve Waddell**, Nashville, developed the theme, "Filled with Knowledge."

Stan and Brenda Bunch, missionary appointees to Panama, challenged the Missouri state convention in Lebanon. International exhibits and brunch highlighted the morning session.

Maryland state convened at Heritage FWB Church, Fredericksburg. **James Earl Raper**, Greeneville, TN, spoke in the worship hour.

Ohio women met at Heritage Temple, Columbus, for their annual convention. **Tom and Patty McCullough**, France, and **Tom Dooley**, Hamilton, brought the missionary challenge.



Fifteen women from the Ozark auxiliary (AR) sponsor a Tupperware shower for the Provision Closet.

O Come, Let Us Adore Him



The Christmas season with all its festivities passed two months ago, but our two young sons still ask to sing some of the carols during our devotional time. Just yesterday our 4-year-old pulled the book of carols from the bookshelf and pleaded, "Mommy, sing with us, please!"

His 22-month-old brother echoed, "Mommy, sing peas!"

Each one crawled onto my lap and we sang together:

**O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethle-
hem;
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels**

And when we came to,

O come, let us adore Him,

the words stuck in my throat. They spoke volumes to me. The boys didn't seem to notice the choked words and the tears coursing down my cheeks as we finished,

**O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.**

After another song or two, they were content to play with the building blocks and matchbox cars. But my

mind would not forget those powerful words,

O come, let us adore Him.

As I silently prayed, my greatest desire was to adore and give praise to the Lord.

The Psalms alone speak of praise to God more than 125 times. Our praise to Him involves giving due glory to His name because of Who He is. Many passages tell of His attributes.

"We will sing and praise Thy power" (Ps. 21:13)

"Sing praise unto the Lord . . . at the remembrance of His holiness" (Ps. 30:4)

"Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good . . ." (Ps. 135:3)

"I will praise Thee, O Lord . . . for Thy mercy is great" (Ps. 57:9, 10).

The Psalms also speak of praise for the Lord's righteousness (7:17), defense (59:17), marvelous works (9:1, 2), greatness (150:2), lovingkindness (63:3), and goodness (135:3).

These passages hardly begin the list of reasons why He deserves our praise. So let's praise Him during the Christmas season, yes. But let us also praise Him throughout the year and sing in our hearts,

**O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.**



Objective: To see that the gifts that mean the most are those we give away.

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-40

Hymn: "Give Of Yourself To The Master"

Characters: Christmas Spirit, dressed in an old, shabby dress and wrapped in a long patched shawl.

Housewife, dressed in a new warm robe and slippers

Scene: This one act play is cast in a living room or den, with two or three comfortable chairs and a small table. The housewife is busy at the table wrapping gifts.

HOUSEWIFE: . . . and this one is for me—a new fur scarf. I've been

wanting one for a long time and I saved enough on the other gifts that I bought to pay for it. These new socks are for Bill. My poor husband has holes in all his socks. And the rest of these things are for little Bill, that sweet little fellow.

I'm afraid I spent too much on him, but I do like to indulge him with all the things I never had as a child. Let's see—here are ice skates, Dukes of Hazard cars, Mattel battle machine, Star Wars set and a new water pistol. He had a temper tantrum and ruined the one I gave him last year. Of course, he did shoot the poor postman with it and I had to take it away from him, but after all, he is only a small boy . . . (a knock on the door interrupts her). . . who can that be? Bill is working late and Little Bill is sleeping, (finally) Oh well, I'll never get these gifts wrapped. (She opens the door to find an old woman standing there). Oh! Who are you and what do you want? I'm afraid I'm awfully busy and I've already given some old toys and clothes to the Salvation Army and our old worn-out sofa to Goodwill. I don't have . . .

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: I didn't come to beg. I am the Christmas Spirit. I've come to give.

HOUSEWIFE: Why, I have lots of Christmas spirit, just see all these things I've bought for my son and my husband, and even myself. I don't need any more . . .

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: (reading names on packages lying on table) Socks for Bill. A fur scarf for you. All these things for your son. (tums

sadly to housewife) I don't see anything here for Christ in your gifts.

HOUSEWIFE: How do you expect me to give Christ anything when He isn't even here?

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: But when He was here, He said to His disciples, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto Me." Have you thought about sending a gift to a child in the Children's Home, or to a poor widow lady down the street, or to someone on your church's bus route, or to a missionary far away from home, or even to the Provision Closet for missionaries? I don't see a gift here for your pastor either. Did you forget him, too?

HOUSEWIFE: Well, I guess I could give him a pair of these socks.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: And what about his wife and little boy? Do you have anything here for them?

HOUSEWIFE: **(Angrily)** If you think I'm going to give her my fur scarf, you're . . .

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: Have you never read, "It's more blessed to give than receive?" The pastor's wife is not interested in your fur scarf. In fact, I suspect she would be more than a little embarrassed to wear it with some of her shabby dresses. But have you thought about giving her a little love by helping her with the teens at church, or going on visitation with her? **(She reaches into folds of her shawl and hands Housewife a package labeled LOVE.)** I think she would love that more than your fur scarf.

HOUSEWIFE: **(Taking the package)** Why, sure, I could do that. Are you sure she wouldn't rather have

my fur scarf?

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: I'm sure. And while you're helping her, you might consider giving some of this away. **(Hands her a package labeled HOPE.)**

HOUSEWIFE: I don't understand. How can I give hope away?

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: By sharing your life with others who are less fortunate and sharing your testimony of God's love with those who have never heard.

HOUSEWIFE: But I don't know anyone like that. I can't . . .

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: Your pastor knows many like that. I'm sure he would be delighted to give you a list of names of people who need a lot of caring. It would also help restore his faith in his flock to know you're willing to give yourself to others.

HOUSEWIFE: Oh, I'm so sorry. I've been so selfish. I never thought my pastor might need his faith restored. He always seemed so strong. I guess he could use a little help. He looked a little tired the last time I saw him.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: And when was that?

HOUSEWIFE: Oh, a few Sundays ago. You know, the day he spoke on missions. He spoke of the tremendous need of our missionaries, but I didn't think He was talking to me. After all, what do I have to give to missionaries? I doubt they'd want my fur scarf.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: No, but you have something far more important than a fur scarf.

HOUSEWIFE: I do? What? **(looking around)**

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: **(handing her the gift of PRAYER)** Missionaries want your letters, they depend upon

your money, but their lifeline is prayer. Time invested in prayer is the greatest possible gift you can give our missionaries.

HOUSEWIFE: I'm so ashamed (**hanging her head**)

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: Jesus wept, and I think He might be weeping now over your unconcern.

HOUSEWIFE: I'm so ashamed. I just never thought about the gifts Jesus would have me give. Let's see, I do have a Bible here somewhere (**searching underneath the packages**) Where did I put it the last time I went to church?

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: (**finding the Bible under some packages**) Here it is. And here is your last gift from me. (**Hands her a package labeled KNOWLEDGE**) (As you pray and study the Bible, you will become a worker approved of God, and you will be able to impart this knowledge to others. Through the prophets of old, it was foretold that a Savior would one day be born. As you read about this Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ, you will find the way to God. For it is recorded, No man cometh unto the Father but by me." As God gave the world that Babe so long ago, so also we are to give ourselves to others in His name. (**She looks at the Housewife and prepares to leave.**) Well, I must be going. It is getting very late and I still have a long way to go. May God's blessings be yours this year as you celebrate His Son's birthday. I leave these gifts with you. Use them well. Goodnight, my dear.

HOUSEWIFE: (reaching for the fur scarf) Here—please take this and wear it to keep you warm. You have only that shabby old shawl to keep

you warm and it's very cold outside. CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: May God bless you, Child, but I have no need of your fur scarf. I have God's love and it warms my heart everywhere I go. Have you forgotten that I am the C-H-R-I-S-Tmas SPIRIT? (**She departs**)

HOUSEWIFE: (**Rubbing eyes and dropping down in an old chair**). I must have dropped off to sleep. I thought an old beggar woman came to my house and said she was the true spirit of Christmas. What was I thinking of? It seems I tried to give her my new fur scarf. (**Looks about the room and sees the four boxes of HOPE, LOVE, PRAYER, and KNOWLEDGE.**) No, I wasn't dreaming. Here are the boxes she left. I wonder what's in them? (**Opens one**) Here is a card, "Put yourself in these gifts and give them away." I wonder what she meant by that?

Give myself away, she said. (**Picks up the fur wrap.**) I know what I'll do. I'll give this to the old widow lady down the street. Won't she be surprised when she opens this! This is certainly myself (**caresses the fur.**) Oh well, I really didn't need this anyway. I might become vain!

And I'll send some of these toys to the Children's Home. Little Bill doesn't need any more spoiling. You know, the old beggar lady was right—you really can give yourself away.

(**Opening the box labeled PRAYER.**) Look! Here's a directory of all our missionaries. Oh yes, the greatest gift I can give them is to invest my time in prayer. (**Reaches for the Bible and reads Luke 4:18, 19 and John 20:21**).



Co-Laborers Write

Our Contest Winners

I was surprised to hear my program entry was a winner when we have so many more talented, inspired writers having their programs used in our **Co-Laborer**. Each issue gets better!

**Virginia Morgan
Crossett, AR**

This is the first time one of my poems has been chosen as a winner, and naturally I am delighted.

**Debbie Cavitt
Tulsa, OK**

Can you imagine my gratification and joy at learning my photo had won a prize? And the wonder of realizing that someone would want to read my poetry. I appreciate the chance to share them.

**Oda Beall
Greentop, MO**

... I'm a painfully shy person, so things I can't get up and say for God, I come home and try to express on paper.

**Alice Haney
Wabash, IN**

Missionary Tic-Tac-Toe

We would like to use the Missionary Tic-Tac-Toe. There's only one prob-

lem. There is no answer sheet. Do you have one?

**Wayne Dugger
Knoxville, TN**

In our packet for June, there is a sheet for Missionary Tic-Tac-Toe. Do you have the answer sheet for this? Or can you tell me where to find the answers?

**Debbie Lawrence
Ariton, AL**

Editor's Note: How many of you share this experience? Answers are available from WNAC, but wasn't it fun finding them on your own?

Correspondence Courses

I'm in charge of Vacation Bible School and the thought came to me that we may be able to use the Bible correspondence courses in our adult class. Did Mrs. Daniel pose her questions to just the ladies, or could it be used with the men as well?

**Diane Martin
Donaldsville, GA**

Editor's Note: The courses are no respecter of persons.

Party Punch For 20

The Wedded Belles, an organization for the wives of students enrolled at the Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, TN, have compiled a cookbook of their favorite recipes. Lori Tallent, Jesup, GA, submitted this popular punch recipe:

2 (3 oz.) pkg. Jello
2 c. hot water
1 large pineapple juice
4 oz. lemon juice
2 c. sugar
5 c. cold water
1 large orange juice

Dissolve Jello and sugar in hot water. Color of Jello will determine the color of the punch. Add cold water and cool slightly. Mix in other juices and chill well.

Stamps

Could you send me a bag of envelopes to take the stamps from? I have had surgery for a malignancy and taking chemotherapy, and I can do small things like this when not feeling too well.

**Dorothy Riggan
Smithville, MS**

Missionaries are Co-Laborers

We certainly thank the Lord for the many ways our women help us. Only the Lord is aware of the needs and how ladies have assisted through prayers and gifts. **(Carol Pinkerton, Ivory Coast)**

The boys and I made peanut butter tonight. We finally used up those four

buckets some friends from Donelson gave us before we left. We sure enjoyed it. **(Lynette Morgan, Ivory Coast)**

Slim Francis, one of our first converts, has answered the call to preach. He has returned several times to his Island of St. Lucia to witness to family and friends. The Lord has honored his efforts with more than 50 converts. **(Henry VanKluyve, Virgin Islands)**

I hope to be able to go on furlough next year with my account still in the black, so that I can soon return to the field. **(Judy Smith, Japan)**

Full Size Magazine

The Co-Laborer gets better and better. It's hard for us not to start reading it when they are handed out at the meeting. It would be wonderful if we could grow into a Woman's Auxiliary magazine, and I know we could!
**Vaudine Lancaster
Ethelsville, AL**

Gift for Africa

Enclosed you will find five men's watches and one calculator from the auxiliary of Pleasant Mound. We would like you to use these as part of the gifts you will be taking to Africa.

**Vickie Parr
Bowie, TX**

Enjoys Bible Study

I have taken many study courses but this one is the best. I appreciate people like Mildred Daniel who take time to educate our women in the Bible.

**Virginia Hutchinson
Nashville, TN**



A Woman God Has Used

Until her fall last January, Mary McCracken, 83, served as church pianist of the Limestone FWB Church, Limestone, TN. She had been the only pianist that many remembered the church having.

"Mamaw," as she is affectionately called, and her husband, Carl, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary before his death 14 years ago. God blessed them with 13 children, 28 grandchildren, and 22 great grandchildren. All but two of her children are living for the Lord today. Three have preceded her in death.

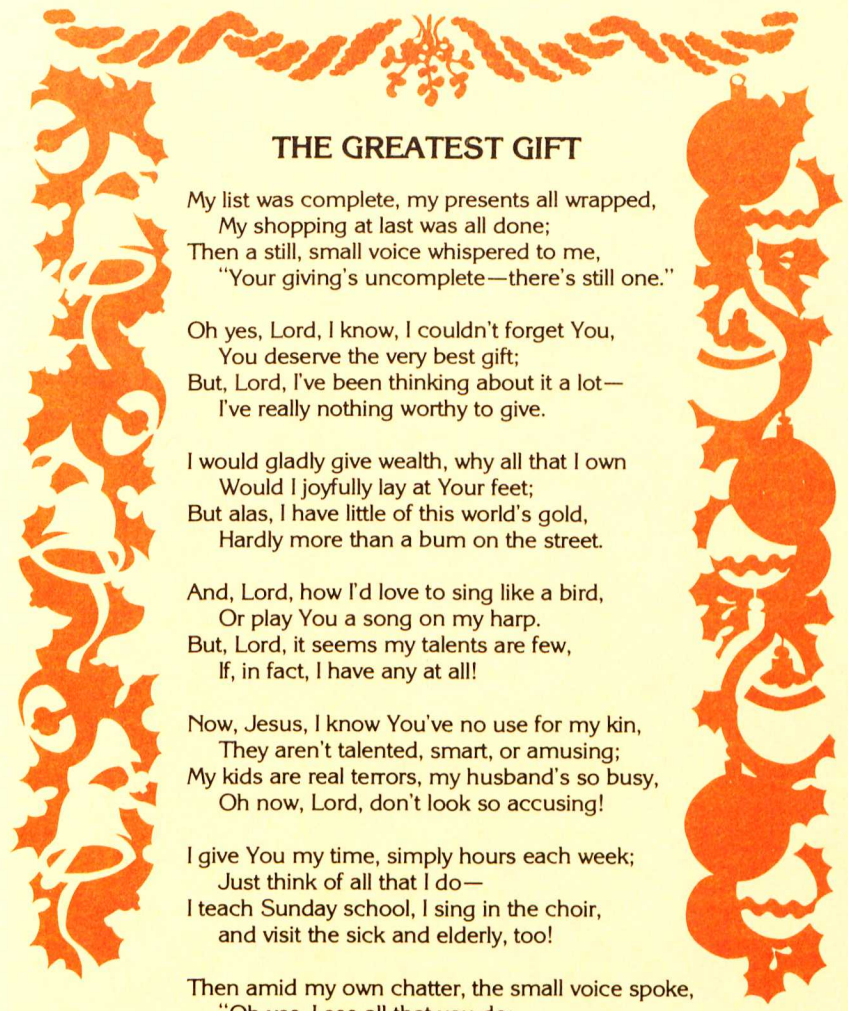
In addition to her natural family, Mamaw is a friend and counselor to many young people. Often as they share their burdens, she reminds them, "Honey, His grace is sufficient."

Mrs. McCracken is characterized by faithfulness. She is remembered as one who was at church every time the door opened. That is, until her accident. She used to say she found peace and quiet at church. Now she is experiencing the presence of her Lord while being bedfast in her son's home.

This little lady is known for sending birthday and get well cards, not only to church family, but those in the community. As a member of the mission action committee, the auxiliary depends on her to carry on their card ministry.

Not long ago the young adult class honored Mrs. McCracken as their special grandmother of the year. When approximately 35 family members came in as a group and sat beside her, our Mamaw was tearfully silent.

Mrs. McCracken loves auxiliary and missions and is considered a missionary herself, in her home, church and community. And her prayers span the world.



THE GREATEST GIFT

My list was complete, my presents all wrapped,
My shopping at last was all done;
Then a still, small voice whispered to me,
"Your giving's uncomplete—there's still one."

Oh yes, Lord, I know, I couldn't forget You,
You deserve the very best gift;
But, Lord, I've been thinking about it a lot—
I've really nothing worthy to give.

I would gladly give wealth, why all that I own
Would I joyfully lay at Your feet;
But alas, I have little of this world's gold,
Hardly more than a bum on the street.

And, Lord, how I'd love to sing like a bird,
Or play You a song on my harp.
But, Lord, it seems my talents are few,
If, in fact, I have any at all!

Now, Jesus, I know You've no use for my kin,
They aren't talented, smart, or amusing;
My kids are real terrors, my husband's so busy,
Oh now, Lord, don't look so accusing!

I give You my time, simply hours each week;
Just think of all that I do—
I teach Sunday school, I sing in the choir,
and visit the sick and elderly, too!

Then amid my own chatter, the small voice spoke,
"Oh yes, I see all that you do;
But it isn't money, family, talent I ask,
My child, I just simply want you."

At last I saw the true meaning of giving,
And I've come to the very best part—
I knelt right there on that Christmas Eve,
And gave Christ His gift—my heart!

This poem, written by **Loretta Williams**, Van Buren, AR, appears in **Sparks From The Fireplace**, WNAC's 6th volume of poetry written by Free Will Baptist women. Order yours now by sending \$4.50 plus \$1.15 postage and handling to: WNAC, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

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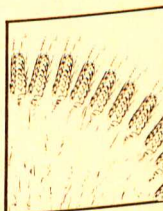
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