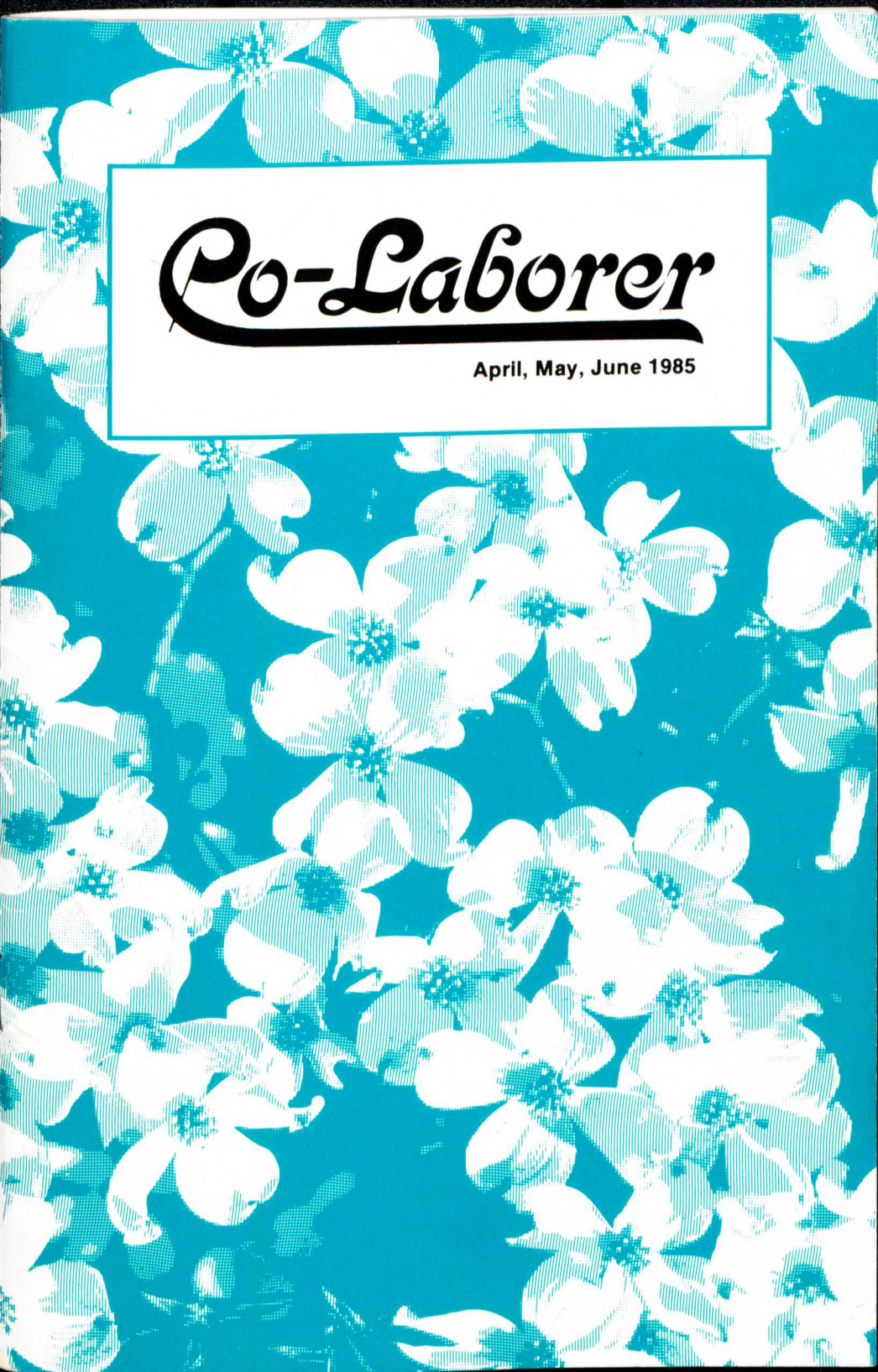




Co-Laborer

April, May, June 1985

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Our Writers



Loree Medley, a long time Bible student and teacher, resides in Wichita Falls, TX, with her husband, Buddy. Their two married children, one of whom is a preacher, also live in Texas.



Susan Mosley, Columbia, NC, serves as program chairman of the Sandy Acres auxiliary. She and her husband, Terry, the church's pastor, have two sons, Jared, 6, and Justin, 4.

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A Word On Spiritual Gifts

Anyone who seriously studies the spiritual gifts finds himself asking, "Are gifts permanent or do they come and go?"

If gifts are permanent, as some would say, I found that mine was inoperable over the recent holidays.

Once I was comfortable with the gift of hospitality. In Africa, I put myself wholeheartedly into having company and did it as unto the Lord. I anticipated having guests at meals and for extended stays and often regretted their leaving. When we returned to the states, I figured we would continue this ministry.

Not so, and for many reasons. Suffice it to say, the needs are not the same.

Back to Thanksgiving. Next morning about 3:00 A.M., our little house was bulging with wall to wall people. Suddenly a knock on the door announced the arrival of two young fellows (one a relative) who had traveled long and hard. They waited in the dark kitchen while my husband searched for blankets and fixed up beds in the laundry room.

The latent hospitable part of me screamed, "Get up! Turn on the lights! Fix those poor boys something to eat! Whoever heard of teenagers who weren't hungry?" Logic overruled. No sensible person eats at 3:00 in the morning!

Later as my unfed guests bedded down in the cold room, I burned in shame. Would I have reacted so ten years ago? Or even five? Certainly my behavior was not consistent with anyone who has the gift of hospitality. Come to think of it. The food hadn't been all that tasty or well-prepared either. Maybe we should have gone to Shoney's!

A few hours later I tried to make up for everything at breakfast. But I still wonder. How can one make such a mess of something that's supposed to be his spiritual gift?

Lorene Miley



Memo From Cleo

Golden Jubilee

A page of history will turn when the national convention meets in Nashville in July.

WNAC, born June 13, 1935, celebrates 50 years of continuous service to our denomination and missions.

The theme is "A Past to Remember . . . A Future to Mold" (1 Samuel 7:12b). We have a great past to remember and are thankful for leaders who were dedicated women of prayer with a vision.

Remembering the past inspires us, warns and sustains us in the present, but greater victories lie ahead of us—we have a future to mold. Every generation must mold the hearts and minds of women and young people through missionary education and prayer. Woman's witness is needed today in the community and around the world.

The Radisson Plaza Hotel will be WNAC headquarters and all Monday activities will be held there. Of course, the Tuesday convention will convene in the Municipal Auditorium. Help make history by attending our golden jubilee celebration!

Retreat Seminar/Child Abuse

Kitty Wells, Perry, FL, comments on the national retreat. "It is always a joy to hear Mom Willey and Miss Barnard but I especially enjoyed Norma J. Teague. I'm so glad we deal with such subjects. (Juvenile Ministry.) I, too, work in this area and Norma sure knew her subject, first hand . . . We need to share how to prevent, or recognize what could be happening within our families and churches. We cannot hide these things any longer. Women at the retreat shared for the first time how they had been abused as a child. Many women left with a new view on what to look for and how to deal with the problem once again. Thanks."

Missionary Provision Closet

You have been so generous we have only a few needs: Twin sheet sets (include pillow cases), mattress covers (twin and double), bedspreads (twin and double), heavy towel sets, stainless steel flatware (sets only, please).

January is Enlistment Month for Woman's Auxiliaries

A booklet entitled, "Enlistment Challenge," has been prepared by Cleo Pursell especially for this occasion. It has been sent to all on the Co-Laborer mailing list. It is a must for all auxiliaries. If you missed yours, please write for your free copy. Additional copies are 75¢ each. Send your request to:

WNAC
P.O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 37202

a Past to
remember
a Future to
mold

WNAO'S

1935

50th
Anniversary

1985



SALUTE TO TOM'S CREEK WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Tom's Creek, Nippa, KY, ties with Horse Branch, Turbeville, SC, in having more **Co-Laborer** readers than any other auxiliary—75 of them! Organized in 1972, the women of Tom's Creek are eagerly going into all the world through greater outreach and support of our missionary program. Evelyn McClure, president, keeps the auxiliary moving, working and learning.

Judy Delong, mission study chairman, highlights three of their outstanding members:

Faithfulness is one of the keys to the effectiveness of any auxiliary. **Ernie Brown**, charter member, holds a perfect attendance record for the entire 12 years.

For ten years, **Bobbie Jean Allen** and her husband longed for a child, a problem complicated by emergency surgery and a medical condition. Last year the Lord overcame an abundance of medical problems and gave them a son. Today, Samuel Justin ("asked of God" and "God's justice") is a thriving testimony to God's love and power.

Marguerite Roberts boldly acclaims God's faithfulness. Constant headaches for 46 years finally resulted in the loss of vision in one eye. Then last year the doctor discovered an inoperable mouth tumor.

In desperation, Mrs. Roberts asked her church for anointing and prayer. Instantly the touch of God's powerful hand restored her vision and removed the tumor. She writes, "I can never say or do enough to thank God for His

marvelous love and mercy."

Co-Laborers around the world salute Tom's Creek auxiliary and these special members. Next issue we hope to look at Horse Branch.



Ernie Brown



Marguerite Roberts



Samuel Justin Allen

SHARE A BOOK

Healing for Damaged Emotions
by David A. Seamands
Victor Books, 1984
Scripture Press Publications, Inc.
Wheaton, Illinois 144 pages

By Genny Waddell

God made us emotional creatures. Jesus Himself wept and interacted with other humans. None of us can live in a vacuum, however much we sometimes long to escape life's pressures. All that we have ever experienced is now a part of us, and we live our daily lives being influenced by who and what we are. At times circumstances also shape our emotions, circumstances that we cannot control. Our emotions lie sometimes just beneath the surface in our subconscious mind, showing themselves only when a word or a happening triggers a memory. As a result of the piling up of these memories, our emotions are sometimes damaged, only casually or seriously.

David Seamands, a pastor and a counselor, has written **Healing for Damaged Emotions** for people who suffer. Unlike many books that deal in vague generalities, Seamands focuses on several specific problem areas that might have damaged our emotional health: anger, guilt, depression, inferiority, and perfectionism. He particularly speaks to the idea of loving ourselves in order to love other people. Seamands also shows how the Bible is not only God's Word, but it is the greatest book ever written on establishing and maintaining good mental and emotional health.

Basically, this book takes the "good news of the Gospel" and then applies it to "people with damaged emotions." Seamands also shows how "God loves us; . . . and Christ, our High Priest, bores our sins and our infirmities, . . . and the Holy Spirit offers us His continuous enabling presence and power." And, along with plenty of Scripture, the writer offers practical advice for hurting Christians.

Perhaps you will want to do as I have done. I have bought copies for friends and family who are in pain, and I intend to read this book again and again, not only to learn more about myself, but in order to minister to others, too.



Walking On The Water

Easter Sunday, April 22, 1984, was a date to remember.

That night as I did a breast examination, I found a lump. I knew in my spirit it was serious. Fresh in my memory was Jo, a co-worker in our bank, who had fought a losing battle with cancer just a year before.

The morning of my doctor's appointment, an icy band of anxiety settled around my heart. As I cooked breakfast, I cried out to God.

I heard no rolling thunder. I saw no blinding light. I heard no audible voice. But the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart. "You are going to walk on the waters," He said. "Underneath the river is deep and the current is swift. It can bring death and destruction. But if you keep your eyes on Me, you can walk above all of this."

Instant peace crept into my heart.

A biopsy confirming cancer was performed on May 1 with surgery scheduled for the next morning. There were no fears, tears, depression or morbid dread. The Shekinah glory of God flooded my room and heart. Friends and family came with long faces and left with uplifted spirits.

After surgery and still groggy from anesthesia, my brother asked me how I was doing. I answered, "I'm walking on the water." He told me, "You can walk on the water if you keep your eyes on Jesus."

God did perform His miracle surgery. During surgery, all visible signs indicated extensive malignancy. Yet when a team of doctors examined the 21 nodes removed, not a trace of cancer cells was found.

During recovery, Janie, a friend, and her friend, Linda, came to see me. Two weeks before the Lord had given Linda a poem which she felt was a message to me:

Children, children, when will you see
You need to keep all of your thoughts
on me;
This world is roaring like a troubled
sea,
But you can walk on the waters if you
walk it with Me.

Time nor circumstances has not diminished the reality of what God did for me and continues to do for me every day.



The Sheffield Clan

Purpose

Doris B. Sheffield

To everything a purpose,
A season and a place;
How useless is the having
A clock without a face.

A house without the people
To make of it a home
Is like a field that's ready
But seeds are never sown.

A car without a motor,
A plane without its wings;
A ship without its rudder,
And birds that cannot sing.

The clouds without the raindrops
To water everything
Is like an endless winter
That promises no spring.

A lighthouse that is darkened,
No beams of welcome light
To guide a troubled vessel
Safe through a stormy night.

A path without beginning,
A road that has no end
Is like a lonely pilgrim
That never finds a friend.

A book without its pages,
A forest without trees
Is like a wind that's blowing
But brings no cooling breeze.

A sky without the rainbow,
A rose that never blooms,
A choir that has no singers,
The heavens with no moon.

A crib without a baby,
An artist with no hands,
A heaven with no angels,
A beach that has no sand.

A world without the Maker—
How troubled it, indeed—
Is like a garden covered
With ugly, tangled weeds.

The stairs that reach to nowhere,
A room without a door,
A night without tomorrow
With darkness evermore.

A life without the Savior
Is like a ship at sea—
No light, no map, no captain
to chart its destiny.

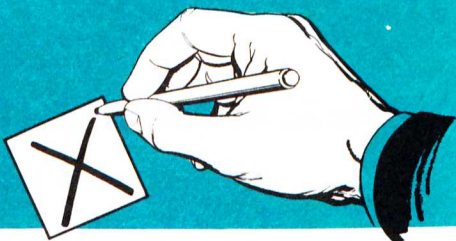
To everything a purpose,
The most God gives to man;
His lot is sure destruction
Without the Master's Hand!

Doris Sheffield (Mrs. C. C.), Newton, GA, is married to a retired farmer with serious health problems. They have two children and four grandchildren, all of whom attend Patmos FWB Church.

Mrs. Sheffield, a bank employee for 27 years, began to write poems and plays as she grew in the Lord. These have been presented on many occasions with her poems being printed in local newspapers. Her grandson, David, also writes poetry.

MY VOTE IS CAST

Charolette Tallent



My vote is cast. I'm not advocating a particular political candidate but a very special program sponsored by the Foreign Missions Department—the student missionary program.

This program may be new to you and you may ask what importance it holds. For the concerned mission student, it is ten weeks spent in the hub of mission activity. For the missionary, it is the thrill of watching their openness and excitement concerning missions. For both, though, it is a life-changing experience.

What better way for a student to receive a bird's-eye view of missions in operation with its bent to flexibility. Nothing is ever routine, they would agree. Their stay causes them to recognize the country's need for the Gospel. It is a time of ministry with us in touching those of the church with

love. Above all, it is God's opportune time in giving direction to their lives.

Not only does the student benefit but I have also been on the receiving end. Seeing France through their eyes rekindles my excitement and joy of serving here. Their stay is a time of learning and sharing together as new friendships are solidified. They also do a real good job of spoiling me with little special surprises.

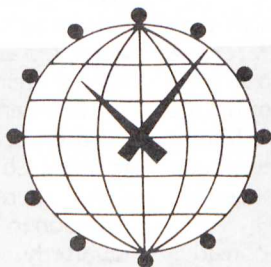
There's another reason why my vote is cast—ten years ago I first came to France under the same program. It was that summer which God used to direct me back to France. As each summer rolls around and then ends, I wonder which girl who comes my way will one day return and she, too, will cast her vote with mine—"yes" to the student missionary program!



Missionary Charolette Tallent (center) with her two student missionaries—Becky Nicholson and Susan Keesling

HOW TO PRAY FOR

Marion Duckworth
Salem, Oregon



MISSIONARIES' CHILDREN

The young missionary father bent over the pulpit and pleaded with the congregation: "If you remember only one thing that I say this evening, let it be this—pray for our children."

Missionary parents, whose children sometimes leave home before our own sons and daughters are allowed to cross the streets alone, echo the same plea.

We, the home congregation, hear their plaintive words and pray, "God bless Jimmy and Susan." We stop. We start again: "God bless the children . . ." Frustrated, our words trail off. What are their special needs? Just exactly how are we to pray for MKs—missionaries' kids?

Pray that they will experience a satisfying home life.

Although missionaries are professional people with irregular hours doing priority work and both parents probably have responsibilities outside their home, to their children they must be Mom and Dad "who push me on the swing, and listen while I tell what I want to be when I grow up." Where home is isn't nearly as important as that it be a closely knit one.

Pray that the MKs' home environment and activities will encourage them to become Christians themselves. "Our children accepted Christ at an early age in family devotions or during bedtime prayers," one missionary mother said. "This early relationship with Jesus Christ was an important factor in helping them accept the changes that their lives afforded."

Pray that MKs who attend boarding schools will adjust to life there.

What is boarding school life like? It is more regimented than home, for one thing. And for the first time, Mother and Dad aren't there to answer their questions or to tuck them to bed at night and pray with them.

Pray that God will provide sympathetic, sensitive dorm parents, teachers, and administrators in whom MKs can confide—ones to whom they can express their real, inner feelings.

Many of our missionaries' kids live close enough to attend school and come home each day. Pray for them much the way you'd pray for your own children.

Pray that this country will become "home" to MKs who are attending school here.

Eventually most MKs finish their education in their native land. Yet as a teenager, the MK will find it a strange place after spending most of his life on the mission field. Now he is farther away from family than he's ever been before; he knows he may not see his parents for a long time.

Although his peers may consider him different, he wants to be accepted. This may also be his first contact with alternate life-styles. He needs an adult to talk to—a friend, a relative, a teacher.

Pray that MKs will enjoy furlough time.

Itinerating with parents can be taxing. Some MKs admit they tire of

being showcase people who have to eat food they don't like without complaining and who are stereotyped as "super-saints." Pray that they'll be accepted as individuals with personalities of their own.

How can we pray for MKs? "The children of missionary parents need to see a Christianity that has time for them as real people," writes Peter Empson in *The Evangelical Missions Quarterly*.

When you pray for them, see MKs as real people instead of as photos on a missionary map or as extensions of their mothers and fathers without individuality or dimension of their own. Then your prayers for them will have substance.

—Used by Permission

Pray for OUR MK's:

Pre-Schoolers:

Brazil: Camila Cowart; **France:** Natalie Crowson, Joel and Ryan Gibbs, Stephen Riggs, Joel Teague; **Ivory Coast:** Joseph and Jennifer Bryan, Brooke Cousineau, Amy Daniels, David and Ruben Eagleton, Andrew and Amanda Filkins, Aaron and Autumn Morgan, Rebekah and Sarah Nichols; **Japan:** Benjamin Bailey, Kevin and Douglas Bishop; **Panama:** Jonathan, Alicia and Amanda Bunch, David Lytle; **Spain:** Melissa Turnbough.

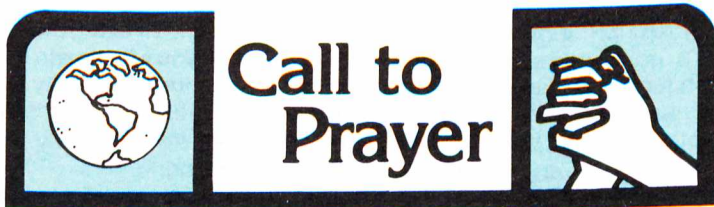
Teenagers:

Brazil: Kemper, Cindy, and Tania Combs, James and Daniel Deeds, Suzanne Franks, Lori Hughes, Vicki

Sturgill; **France:** Michelle Miley; **Ivory Coast:** Kathryn Lee, Gene and Randal Richards; **Japan:** Joy Banks, Paul Hersey; **Panama:** Johnny and Mark Inscoe; **Uruguay:** Michelle Bowling, Malinda, David and Paul Ellison.

In-Betweeners:

Brazil: Mark and Melissa Cowart; **France:** Timothy and Bethany Crowson, Jonathan Miley, Jered Teague, Marc Gibbs; **Ivory Coast:** Paulo and Daniel Eagleton, Trey and Adam Morgan, Marie West; **Japan:** Tracey Bailey, Justin Banks, Jeffery Bishop; **Panama:** Debora Inscoe, Michael and Phillip Lytle; **Spain:** Rachel Callaway, Miranda and Jonathan Owen, Matthew Turnbough; **Uruguay:** Chris Bowling



April

Meditation

Once I heard a woman tell what happens when a person gets down on the shinbones and talks to God.

Perhaps that statement prompted an extended prayer period given over to the needs of our missionaries and their programs on the various fields. After the usual rounds of "Bless her, Lord," and "Lead them, Lord," this particular period deepened and lasted on into the morning.

Suddenly I was conscious of someone sobbing—shinbone sobbing. Just as suddenly, I discovered I was that person sobbing those heartrending, wrenching sobs. I also discovered the reason for those sobs—I had come face to face with an alarming condition of trying to live a Christian life in myself instead of trusting Him to live it through me.

When sufficient courage had crowded out some of the fears, I recognized that underneath was the sobering realization that one of my loved ones was lost, really lost! Not just slap-on-the-wrist lost, but Cain-lost! Judas-lost! Do you know the feeling?

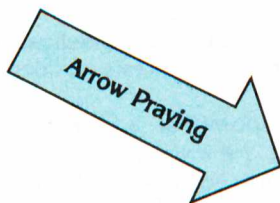
Then came grace! Oh, the relief that flooded this old heart when Jesus came on the scene and whispered, "When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee;

when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee (Isaiah 43:2; 4—7).

To be sure, these promises are made to Israel, but as Israel was called out from other nations, so the church is called out from the world. Therefore, the promises God made to Israel are mine also! He does love His church as much as He loved Israel, doesn't He?

"Because **thou** has been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice" (Ps. 63:7).

I, too, have learned what happens when a person really gets down on the shinbones and talks to God.



Target, or arrow, prayers avoid generalities and aim directly at specifics. These suggested prayers provide guidelines for aiming at specific needs.

FACT: Fred Jones (and wife, Barbara) fresh out of language school, assumes new responsibilities as director of the Bible institute in Monterrey, Mexico.

ARROW PRAYER: Lord, give Mr. Jones a good command of the Spanish language. Grant him wisdom as he establishes policies at the institute. Help him develop good relationships among the staff and workers . . .

FACT: April 28 is Call-a-Thon Sunday for Foreign Missions.

ARROW PRAYER: Lord, burden many people to respond to this privilege of giving. How much should I pledge?

May

Meditation

Night before last we had a torrential rain storm, accompanied by a magnificent display of thunder and lightning.

I loved this Wagnerian-like production of fierce splendor and gentle dignity. Wagner uses such fluid power as he vaults one to a mountain top in breathless tip-toe ecstasy, while teasing, "Wait! There's more!" And more he does as you glimpse delicate displays of powerful forests and demure daisies.

God's power is far greater than Wagner's. He invites, "Walk with me and I'll show you the world, the world of dignity and beauty and power and all things dear to my heart."

As the storm came on, I watched God's graceful ballerina from my eighth floor hospital room. The towering trees curtsied to Mother Earth with such exquisite grace and dignity that my heart fairly burst with the beauty of it. Yet for all the bowing and swaying, the trees remained immobile.

"Child, hold my hand," my heaven-

ly Father spoke. "I'll take you through this storm and you will remain upright, rooted and grounded by my grace." What glorious intimacy! What providential care! My heavenly Father watches over me!

I shall always be grateful to Wagner for his music, but more so to God who has set His world in my heart.



FACT: Thirteen students are leaving this month for ten weeks of foreign missionary service.

ARROW PRAYER: Lord, make the students so involved in the missionary program they won't become homesick. Give them common sense to see what needs to be done and help them do it without being told. Help them to use this time to discern Your will for their lives . . .

FACT: Bill and Lois Reagan are working to establish a church in Windsor, Ontario. Canada sends out more Catholic priests than any other nation.

ARROW PRAYER: Lord, give the Reagans spiritual victory in their lives. Enrich their love for Catholic people. Make them eager to knock on unresponsive doors. Prepare one home today to receive their Gospel witness and let its members become a vital part in the establishment of a strong church.

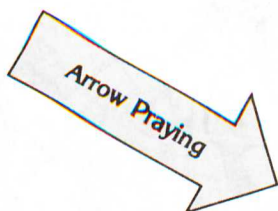
June

When Satan would be there/To tempt, to try, to blame,/Be Thou there O Lord/To strengthen, comfort, and sustain.

When Satan's lies lead me to doubt,/Be Thou there, O Lord,/To lead me out—/To truth and love and righteousness.

In kindness lead me on, dear Lord/In mercy to Thy throne/Where love rules and reigns/And Satan can no more enslave.

Give Thy peace to me, O Lord,/Thy peace I seek evermore—/For it passeth understanding/And soothes my questioning soul.



FACT: Howard Gwartney, Locust Grove, OK, deacon, has assumed responsibilities as builder/architectural consultant/contractor for mission churches.

ARROW PRAYER: Lord, so many of our mission churches are in building programs. Give Mr. Gwartney wisdom to know where he can best serve and when. Give him physical health to do the work well. Give him tact and patience in enlisting volunteer help, spiritual grace in dealing with city officials, and wisdom in deciphering city codes . . .

FACT: Jimmie (and Janie) Aldridge, former missionaries to Ivory Coast, has been appointed foreign secretary for the foreign missions department.

ARROW PRAYER: Lord, keep Jimmie well so he can do well this new task. Let Your mind be in Him as he counsels with missionaries and deals with problems on the mission fields. Give him an excitement in traveling . . .

WE'RE GOING BACK TO RIDGECREST!

for WNAC's 4th national retreat
August 27-29, 1986

Mark your calendars!

ASK OF ME

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jer. 33:3).



Read the experiences of some women who did.

Wanda Combs
Tuckerman, AR

Frances Heath
Cove City, NC

We Became a Family



Fire!



For years I prayed for Robert, my unsaved husband.

It wasn't quite so bad when the kids were little. I took them to church and when they asked why Daddy didn't go, I said, "Some day he will, if we be good examples and pray for him."

That satisfied them when they were young, but as they approached their teen years, Andy said, "I'm tired of being a good example for a grown man." I realized they were hurting as I. They wanted a real family, too.

Meanwhile, the kids grew up and drifted away from God. Jeff and Andy finished school and joined the army. I knew they were drinking and smoking pot. Melody starting going out with the wildest boy in town. I wanted to throw up my hands and quit.

One summer when Andy was on furlough, our church had a revival. Robert had been attending church some and went every night of the revival. So did Andy. The last night of the revival, when the invitation was given, Robert walked down the aisle, knelt at the altar and gave his heart to God. Then Melody came . . . and Andy . . .

That night we finally became a family.

It was three years later that Jeff finally got back from Germany and rededicated his life to God.

Yes, it was a long struggle, but the outcome far outweighs the difficulty in getting there.

We came from church that Sunday evening to find our house engulfed in flames. The firemen did what they could, but a charred skeleton was all that remained. To make bad matters worse, an insurance mix-up had resulted in a cancellation. There was no coverage.

We experienced the reality of Isaiah 65:21: "Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." Not a page of our family Bible was burned or even scorched, yet every stick of furniture was destroyed, even the table on which the Bible had lain.

The fire began in the attic above my clothes closet. Every garment burned off the rack, yet the family picture albums on the shelf above the rack remained safe.

I had been notified I was a winner in the creative arts contest, so had been saving money to attend the national convention. Each payday, I stuck a small amount under the carpet in our bedroom. When the ashes cooled, I sifted through the charred chips and melted carpet. The top half of a folded bill was scorched beyond recognition, but all the serial numbers were clearly discernible. The bank redeemed each one.

God met our needs through our church and pastor. They donated three rooms of furniture, necessities, and even raised enough money for a

down payment on a mobile home.

I can never praise Him enough for all He did. Is God real? You'd better believe it!

Diane Mitchell Thomas
Grifton, NC

The Day The Bus Turned Over



The school bus was late. I reached for the ringing telephone and glanced at the clock. My two sons should have been home 30 minutes ago!

"Mommy," the word trembled from my seven-year old in response to my answer. "Mommy," the school bus flipped over in the ditch." Then his shivering voice gave way to frightened sobs.

Fear knotted in my throat. His twelve-year old brother was deaf and could not use a telephone, and now all Brian could do was cry!

"We'll be there in a minute," I assured him. "It'll be okay."

As my husband and I jumped into the car and raced down the street, Psalm 56:3 stole its way through my fears: "What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee."

That morning I had gathered my sons in my arms at the door and prayed as I did every day of their lives, "Here, Lord, take Chris and Brian. I give them to You for this day." I trusted Him as I let them go. But now . . .

As we turned onto the dirt road, we saw the familiar orange bus sprawled flat on the soft embankment. Children, books, jackets and lunch boxes

had landed in a heap and students had escaped through the rear door. People milling about, fire truck, ambulance, news crew, and patrol car all created a beehive of activity.

"Mommy," Brian cried when he saw me. I grabbed him to me and Ray held us both. Then we pulled Chris into our circle.

"Mommy," Brian said when he became calmer, "I sure am glad you prayed for us this morning."

"Me, too, Son. Me, too."

Linda Cooper
Oklahoma City, OK

What My Heart Desired



Having my own family ranked right at the top for me. So after a couple of years of marriage, we decided to start our family.

Each month left us a little more disappointed than the last. After six years of frustration we began adoption procedures. Our age and religion were right and our backgrounds good. But our nursery sat empty for two more long years.

We were both heavily involved in church. We were doing such a good job for the Lord, surely He wouldn't deny us this request!

One summer when I was at the point of mental collapse, we escaped to the lake for a few days. Here the Holy Spirit brought me to my knees and broke my stubborn will. His love is unconditional. I could never win His favor through any merit of my own.

I came to the place where I could honestly pray, "Lord, if You want me to have children, I will. But if You don't want this for my life, then I want what You want."

Nine months later our first son was born. A year after Andy was born, we were blessed with Tony. Three years later, our twins were born. The Lord sometimes has to remind me that this is what my heart desired! But I'm glad His timing is never wrong.

Jimmie Cosby
Oklahoma City, OK

The Sound of Breaking Glass



The warm autumn sun glistened as Mom picked me up from school. As we pulled from the parking lot, she didn't see the other car coming. Suddenly there was a loud crash, the sound of breaking glass, and sounds of screaming. I didn't have a scratch, but Mom had a fractured hip.

The surgeon promised to do his best, but there was little chance Mom would ever walk normally again. But our family knew if the Lord desired it, Mom would walk again.

It hurt to see my mother lying in that hospital bed, helpless and suffering. For weeks she lay in one position on her back. When the heavy traction was removed, she began therapy.

Fifty-nine days after the accident and two days before Christmas, Mom came home in a wheelchair. After more therapy, she left the wheelchair and walked with a metal walker. To-

day she enjoys full use of her leg and hip and has no limp. The Lord made all our hopes and prayers a reality.

Leta Stallings
Southhaven, MI

Heartache Turned to Joy



For 18 years I had prayed for my husband's salvation. The turning point came when our oldest daughter, age 15, ran away from home. For three weeks we didn't know whether she was dead or alive.

"The Lord is watching over her," I assured my husband over and over. But he could not yet understand the comfort of the Holy Spirit or the power of prayer.

Our church friends, the pastor, and his wife stood with us during those dark days, visiting, calling and inviting us to their homes. Their love and concern spoke volumes to my husband out-of-Christ.

Then one night a phone call informed us Theresa had been found and would fly home in two days. She knew our love and prayers had brought her back.

She and her father went to church with us the next Sunday. Two months later he invited Christ into his life and became a new creation in Christ Jesus. Today he is our church's Sunday school superintendent.

Our three children are in church, but not yet saved. They are amazed at the difference in their dad. Together we are praying for their salvation and we believe in time all will be saved, for God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).



State Conventions

Mississippi women migrated to the gulf for their annual convention with the Ralph Hesters and the Gulfport mission church. Eighty-four attended the banquet to hear Cleo Pursell, Nashville, speak. The state project, \$4500, goes to the Stan Bunches, Panama.

Lynn Miley, France, addressed the Oklahoma women in convention at Muskogee. Their project money is spirit four ways—the Dave Filkins (IC); Danny Hesters (Bartlesville); Jim Combs (Brazil); and classroom computers for the Hillsdale college.

With TN hosting the 1985 convention, the state designated their project for WNAC. The afternoon session was devoted to preparing banquet favors. Neil and Sheila Gilliland, IC, challenged convention guests at Donelson FWB Church, Nashville.

Margie Patton presided over Georgia's convention which adopted their own Dale Bishop family as a project—\$6000 to get the family back to Japan. Women presented Sandra

with a purse overflowing with \$834.

Sandra Bishop (Japan) and Patsy Vanhook (France) each received a love pillow stuffed with \$545 at the AR state convention in Camp Beaverfork. Genelle Scott was elected to replace Linda Harvey as president.



Retreats

Billie Sexton, former missionary to France, spoke at WV's prayer retreat in Charleston. She and **Judy Bryan**, IC, also addressed a Mother-Daughter banquet in the Butterfield church, Aurora, IL.

Wilma Ankrom reports that **Patsy Vanhook**, France, spoke on "Coming Together as One" at the Kansas retreat which met at the First church in Wichita.

Pat Thomas, Nashville, and **Jane Burden**, VA (whose children married each other) were joint speakers at Maryland's annual retreat in Syria, VA.

Missionaries **Evelyn Hersey**, Japan, and **Carol Teague**, France, retreated with California women at Bass Lake using the theme, "Touch the World Through Me." Vice president **Betty Watson** presided.

Women of the Mt. Zion district (AR) saw a film "In His Steps." A panel discussion and prayer period concluded the challenging retreat.

Center district (OK) retreated at the First church, Ada, with 63 in attendance. A seminar on depression highlighted the retreat. An offering of \$275 was received for the David Filkins family, IC.

Delilah Scott, Wheeling, spoke at WV's first retreat for minister's and deacon's wives.



Here's What They Did

Central district (AR) sent \$10 to each of their Bible college students for Thanksgiving.

Hazel Dell auxiliary, Sesser, IL, took Thanksgiving dinners to families in the community.

Yorktown auxiliary (AR) brought toiletries for the FWB Children's Home.

Northern Virginia district women brought funds to support the school library of the Christian school on St. Croix, Virgin Islands.

Center Point, Vilonia, AR, presented Patsy Vanhook, France, with a Sweet-heart Money Tree.

Tom's Creek, Nippa, KY prepared Christmas baskets with canned food and gave to needy families.

New Harmony, Greentop, MO, and Westside auxiliary, Midland, TX, made stuffed animals for the Provision Closet.

Shirley Combs (OK) organized the Pioneer auxiliary, Stigler, then united this new auxiliary with two others to form the Eureka district auxiliary convention. Isabelle Sirmans is field worker.

Women of the Unity FWB Auxiliary, Sylacauga, AL, met with the men of the church for a Pre-Thanksgiving prayer breakfast. Five of the women presented the challenging program, "Seedtime and Harvest." Circle prayer and the chorus, "Let's Just Praise The Lord," closed this memorable service.

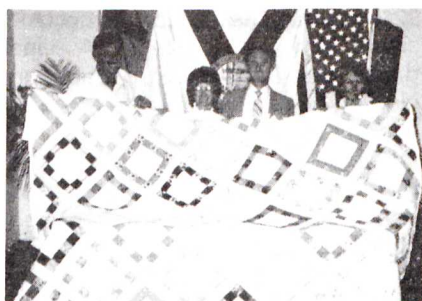
Pleasant Mount Auxiliary, Bellevue, TX, contributed \$500 toward an X-Ray machine for the medical station in Ivory Coast Africa. Dr. Kenneth Eagleton, Jr. and family are planning a 1985 departure.



Walkathon ladies from the First auxiliary, Berryville, AR, net \$446.10 for Patsy Vanhook, missionary to France.



Odessa Ledlow, Sylacauga, presents Patsy Vanhook with a gift from the East Alabama district retreat.



Auburndale auxiliary (FL) presents their pastor, Al Cobb, and wife, Pam, (center) with a quilt listing names of the church family.



Bible auxiliary, Odessa, TX, sponsor a Tupperware party for the provision closet. They also observe the 9 A.M. prayer hour and testify to many answered prayers.



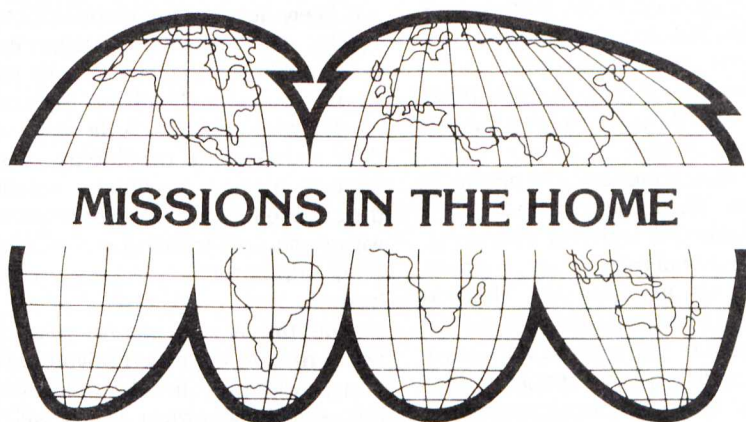
Home missionary Albert Rollins, Gainesville (back center) and a delegation from the St. Petersburg mission, participate in the International Dinner sponsored by the Auburndale, FL, auxiliary.



Shirley Walker, president of the Victory auxiliary, E. Wenatchee, WA, reports almost \$250 was given from their harvest project to support the Mike Criswells and the mission work in Eugene, OR.



“Golden Garbage” collectors of the Grace auxiliary, Arnold, NO. Shirley Crutchfield, vice president, counted the cans, wrappers, labels and receipts which netted \$55 for missions.



Purpose: To show the example parents should be in winning their children and producing in them a missionary spirit

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:14

Hymn: "Bring Them In"

Introduction

Church members often become so involved with church-related activities that they forget their own family's spiritual needs. As mothers, we have the sacred responsibility of bringing our children into a personal saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. This means we are to be missionaries in the home.

The Family Learns Through Example

As we recognize that missions begin in the home, we are able to see world missions in its proper perspective. Because we do not identify ourselves as missionaries, we are incap-

able of relating meaningfully with the professional missionary. We think of ourselves as one kind of Christian and the career missionary as some faceless servant of God whose job is winning the unseen masses to Christ.

If the family has an effective missionary influence, the parents must be examples of the missionary spirit, i.e., a sincere concern for all sinners. This concern begins first with the immediate family, for it is inconsistent to display a concern for the unseen masses without a display of concern for personal and intimate relationships.

World missions then is best taught by example as parents seek to win their children to Christ. Or, as in some cases, children try to win their parents, brothers and sisters.

Family Giving

Giving involves more than dollars and cents. Indeed, an organized missionary program cannot operate without financial support, but we must recognize that mere money cannot get the job done.

What else is needed? The answer is education. The family can be an effective medium of learning about our denominational missionary program. The parents acquaint the children with various missionaries by encouraging them to correspond with them. This personal contact not only enables the family to know specific needs, but encourages them to help meet these needs.

Encourage the children to participate in family projects to raise money for specific needs, buy or make needed items; introduce them to the faith promise plan.

Giving of oneself can be learned by doing missionary work together, as visitation, helping needy families, tract distribution, and inviting friends to church. These factors strengthen the family as they are united in one common goal.

Family Praying

The missionary spirit is often caught more than taught. Family members know who has the true missionary spirit for it is reflected in everything he does.

The family altar is an excellent opportunity to display true missionary spirit. Give each child an opportunity to request prayer for his friends and favorite mission field or family; finally introduce your own special concern for needs and missionaries. When

other members see that you are deeply moved by the needs of others, they will likely develop the same concern.

The use of missionary prayer cards help introduce the children to missions. Some families keep the cards on the table and conclude one meal daily with special missionary prayer for one specific missionary, rotating the cards each day. A large world map with push pins locating our missionaries brings the world into our own homes.

This family concern for missions will spread to their own private devotions. And only the Lord knows—perhaps these prayer times will be instrumental in the child himself answering the call to missions, "Here am I; send me."

Our Home, A Mission Field

This two-scene playlet is an attempt to show how many of us get so wrapped up in church and missionary activities that we often fail to see the need in our homes. Our homes should be the center of missionary influence. Let us not leave the job to formal missionary organizations and church activities.

CHARACTERS: Mother
Dawn, the daughter

SETTING: A living room with a telephone. First scene occurs about 4:30 P.M. with the second scene early the following morning

DAWN: (Rushes in from school, throws armload of books on couch) Mom, Mom . . . (louder) Mom, anyone home?

MOTHER: (coming from bedroom,

dressed to go out, fastening her necklace) Oh, hi, Dawn. Anything new? **(Begins to gather her material, Bible, notebook, pamphlets, etc. and pays no heed to Dawn's answer).**

DAWN: **(excitedly)** Oh yes! Listen, Mom, just about the greatest thing in all the world has happened! Chuck Thomas asked me to go steady . . . and I . . .

MOTHER: **(Not hearing and interrupting)** Honey, I've got to run. Auxiliary begins in 15 minutes and after that I have to meet with the PTA Planning Board, so I'll see you at prayer meeting. Your dad has a deacon's meeting before church so he'll probably be home only an hour. Dinner's in the over. Keep it hot for him, O.K.?

DAWN: Sure, Mom.

MOTHER: Well, I'd better run.

DAWN: Mom, I'm not going to church tonight. I'm going out with Chuck Thomas.

MOTHER: Honey, I wish you wouldn't go with him. I hear his parents drink a lot.

DAWN: Oh, Mom, that doesn't make him bad.

MOTHER: Well, I guess you've got a mind of your own. Be careful, though, hon . . . Well, gotta go. **(Exits)**

DAWN: **(Dejectedly looks toward front door)** But, Mom, don't you care if we're going steady . . . **(goes to couch and slumps down).** Oh, who cares about anything I do around here? I'll talk to Dad about it . . . **(Phone rings.)** Hello . . . Oh, Dad . . . Yes, Mom's already gone . . . You won't . . . No, I'll be O.K. Mom already

fixed dinner . . . Yeah, O.K. . . . Say, Dad, can I go out with Chuck Thomas tonight . . . Dad? **(hangs up)** Oh well, I guess it's all right with him, too.

(Goes to kitchen) Man, am I hungry. I sure hope Chuck calls soon. **(Phone rings and she runs happily to answer.)** Hello. **(Sweetly)** Oh, hel-lo, Chuck. **(Giggles.)** Ah, go on . . . Of course, I do, Chuck . . . O.K. I love you, so there, see! . . . You sure you wouldn't like to go to church instead of Gary's party? . . . No, I didn't think you would . . . You bet! I'll be ready . . . **(Kisses air)** . . . You, too. Bye-e **(hangs up phone, gets up dreamily, picks up some of her books and hugs them to self.)** Ooooooh! I just can't believe someone as cool as Chuck loves me so much.

Scene 2

(Mother comes from bedroom in housecoat, goes to front door and gets the morning paper, returns and calls to bedroom)

MOTHER: Bill, Bill! Coffee's on! Better get Dawn up, too . . . **(Phone rings)** Hello . . . Yes, this is Mrs. William Hunter . . . Who is this? **(Shocked)** The police? What's the matter? What? . . . Yes . . . Beer in the car? Oh no! . . . Yes sir, we'll be right down. **(Hangs up, stunned, gets up and calls to Bill)** Bill, Bill, Dawn's at the police station. She and Chuck were arrested at a wild party and for being in possession of beer. **(Returns to the couch and cries)** Bill, oh Bill, where did we fail?

Discussion: Is this play applicable to Christian homes today? In what way? Who failed? How? How could the outcome of this play been changed?

Suitable for a Mother-Daughter Banquet

APPLICATION OF BEAUTY

Characters: Make-up Specialist

One to make the application

Preparation: You will need a table, chair, mirror, and make-up.

MAKE-UP SPECIALIST: (Standing) One of the priorities of every woman is to be as beautiful as possible, and we all seem to feel we need help. Beauty salons are busy six days a week. The magazines that sell best are those dealing with fashion, exercise and beauty. Popular talk shows feature people who tell us how to have successful diet programs, how to have a good wardrobe with few articles of clothing, and how to make ourselves look and feel beautiful.

As women, we also feel that a major part of our beauty deals with the make-up we choose and how to apply it. Tonight we would like to demonstrate the application of make-up. To be pretty without goes hand-in-hand with being pretty within. To be truly attractive, you must have both.

(Is seated) If you want a pretty face, you must start with it being fresh and clean, for nothing is more appealing than a clean face. So we wash it with a mild soap or cream, whichever you prefer, followed by rinsing in warm water until soap or cream is gone. We then give our face a final rinse in cool water to close the pores, and finish by patting dry with a soft, clean towel.

APPLICATION: There is no such thing as a clean and pretty girl with an ugly and dirty heart. Proverbs 23:7 tells us, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he . . ." So if a daily cleansing of our face helps us to be pretty outside, then a daily cleansing of our heart will help us to be pretty inside.

David prayed for this inner cleansing in Psalms 51:2, 7, and 10 **(Read these verses.)** Cleansing of our hearts comes through confession of our sins to God. God has promised us this in 1 John 1:9: **(Read.)**

SPECIALIST: After we start with a clean face and clean heart, we next apply the foundation. When applying make-up, we should learn to apply it so skillfully that others will be aware of our beauty and not our make-up. When you buy foundation, take time to select just the right color for you. A shade that is too light makes our skin appear chalky or ghost-like. A shade that is too dark gives an artificial effect.

If your skin is pale or sallow, use a pinkish tone to add a warm blush to your skin. As you apply foundation, blend it into your skin smoothly and evenly with your fingers.

APPLICATION: We must also build our inner beauty on the sure foundation which is Jesus Christ our Lord. In Isaiah 28:16, we read: **(Read this verse; also 1 Corinthians 3:11).**

SPECIALIST: Next we apply blush. For some women, their natural cheek coloring is enough. But if you have no coloring in your cheeks, you may benefit from a touch of blush. There are several types from which to choose—liquid, cream, cake or brush-on. Whatever type you choose, apply it sparingly and blend the edges smoothly so as to resemble a delicate blush of color.

APPLICATION: What we feel inside can also produce a natural glow of color in our face. When we feel unworthy of love, when we know we've done wrong, or when we no longer respect ourselves, then that glow goes from our face. But through God's transforming power at work in our hearts, that glow can be restored.

The Bible speaks of another way we are to use our cheeks. (**Read Matthew 6:39**). All this is saying is if someone does evil to us, we shouldn't retaliate with harsh words, gossip, or slander. We should respond meekly and commit the situation into God's hands through prayer.

SPECIALIST: Next we move on to eye make-up. Although eye make-up may enhance our beauty, it can easily destroy it. When applying mascara, eye shadow and eye liner, we must be very careful not to set an artificial appearance to our face.

APPLICATION: We can also have beautiful eyes through the way we use them. God's Word tells us in Proverbs 20:12 that "the hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them."

So if God made our eyes, then it only makes sense that we should use them to bring glory and honor to His name. Therefore, we should strive to spend more time in reading God's Word and good Christian literature and in seeing the needs of others instead of being concerned with our own.

Not only do we look **out** of our eyes, but other people look **in** our eyes. They can see about anything we feel. Through our eyes we show sorrow, grief, age, happiness, hatred, anger. We can also show the love of God through our eyes. What do your eyes show?

SPECIALIST: Now let's move on to our lips. A touch of lipstick, when applied skillfully, can give our face a well-groomed look. We should first make sure our lips are dry and then apply the lipstick in a clean-cut outline. End by blotting the lips.

APPLICATION: We should also allow Christ to use our lips and tongues. All through Psalms and Proverbs we are told to use them for praise and to speak wisdom.

Not only should we speak of praise and wisdom, but we should also speak to God through prayer. In Philippians we are told to worry about nothing, but in every situation we are to commit it to the Lord through prayer. Then we should give thanks for the answer that is already on the way.

In James 3:5, 6, and 8, we are told that our lips and tongues are often used

in the wrong way. **(Read these verses.)** Let's give our mouths to the Lord to be used for His glory.

SPECIALIST: Now let's talk a little bit about our hair. Beautiful hair must be healthy and clean. To have healthy, shiny hair, you must have a moderate amount of exercise, a good diet, and a regular schedule of brushing and shampooing.

To maintain beautiful hair, we should begin, first, by brushing daily. Secondly, keep our combs, brushes, rollers, and other hair tools clean. Next, shampoo on schedule. Finally, rinse and rinse again. When we learn how to keep our hair in good condition, then it becomes our "crowning glory." Not an ornament for self-glory, but a crown to be worn with simplicity and grace to glorify the Lord Jesus.

APPLICATION: Did you know that our hair is an important symbol of our femininity? God wants ladies to look like ladies and men to look like men. A woman's hair should signify modesty, honor, virtue and submission to her God-appointed place in life.

Not only should we have the outer qualities that symbolize our femininity, but we should also have the inward qualities that make us completely feminine. As a daughter of the King, we must be modest, pure, and have a quiet and upright spirit. We should treasure these qualities if we own them, for Proverbs 31:10 tells us, "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is above rubies."

Virtue will place a glowing crown of happiness upon your life. Ask the Lord to help you guard your purity. He is always ready to show you the way out of every temptation.

SPECIALIST: Perfume is a wonderful finishing touch. With so many different products on the market, we can have fun choosing just the right fragrance to wear on the outside.

APPLICATION: But we must choose a fragrance to wear on the inside as well.

We have the fragrance of contentment or discontentment, joy or unhappiness, peace or unrest, and love or hatred. Does the fragrance you have chosen compliment your fragrance of beauty?

God runs a beauty parlor. He can actually transform your facial appearance. Learning how to cleanse our faces, apply make-up skillfully, and care for our hair is important and helpful. Yet when every technique has been mastered, there remains a vital work to be done in our faces which we can't do for ourselves. God must perform this final beauty treatment, for it begins deep within our hearts. Only God can transform the human heart.

If God's love and beauty are missing from our hearts, all our efforts at making ourselves pretty are in vain. The Bible says in Jeremiah 4:30, "Through thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair."

LORD, WHERE'S THAT JUNIPER TREE?

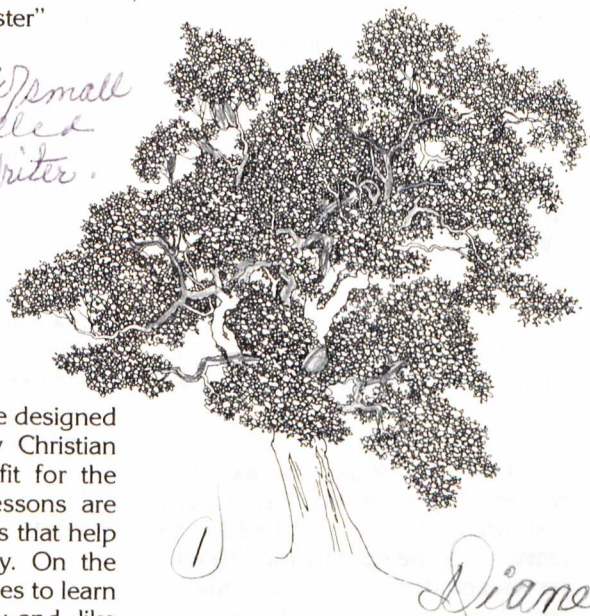
Purpose: To examine five crisis that Elijah faced; to see that as God gave him the victory, we, too, may experience the same victory in our crisis experiences.

Scripture: James 1:2, 3; Romans 8:28, 29.

Hymn: "More Like the Master"

Chorus: "Got Any Rivers"

A leafless shrub w/ small white flowers -- called scraggly tree by our writer.



Introduction

A crisis is an experience designed to transform an ordinary Christian into one set apart and fit for the Master's use. Valuable lessons are learned during these times that help produce spiritual maturity. On the other hand, one who refuses to learn the lessons, will run away and, like Elijah, fall in despair under a scraggly juniper tree.

A juniper tree affords scanty protection and represents man's solutions to life's crisis experiences. One finds little rest or comfort from its skimpy branches.

Elijah was a man with our same emotions and feelings. The Bible recounts five crisis that he encountered in his walk with God. In a measure, each Christian faces these same experiences. Let's examine some of these and ask God to teach us the lessons He would have us learn.

By the Brook of Cherith (read 1 Kings 17:1-7) The Crisis of Solitude

Elijah appeared before King Ahab boldly delivered the message of impending judgment—three-and-one-half years severe drought. Even God's people had come to believe that Baal, not God was responsible for their fertile fields and flocks. God chose this method to discredit Baal and help turn the people back to Himself.

God protected His servant by sending him to a place of solitude and seclusion by the brook Cherith.

Through supernatural means, He sustained him and prepared him for the tremendous task ahead.

Life's most valuable lessons are learned in solitude. Every saint who desires power with God and with men must acquire it alone in God's presence. Taken aside from the mainstream of activity, we are more receptive to the truth of His Word and more sensitive to His voice. Paul's three years alone with God in Arabia (Gal. 1:16) prepared him to become the greatest missionary the world has ever known.

Had Elijah escaped the brook and ran to the juniper tree, he would never had the courage to face the ordeal on Mt. Carmel.

② *Judy Harmon*
Barrel of Meal and Cruse of Oil (1 Kings 17:8-16) Crisis of Developing Faith

After the brook dwindled away to a dry bed, Elijah obeyed God's further instructions. It wasn't easy for Elijah to leave his home country for a Gentile nation and depend on a foreigner to feed him. But no idol of pride prevented him fully obeying the command of God.

This widow of Zarahpheth may not have been the person or the place he would have chosen, but God makes no mistakes. God prepares his table in unexpected places and appoints those most unlikely to minister to us. A few years ago someone coined the word "serendipity" to suggest an unexpected delight while pursuing the ordinary. This refuge in Zarahpheth was a serendipity along Elijah's path.

God had said the widow would sustain him for many months, yet all

she had were the ingredients for one meal. If he looked only at circumstances, he would see a virtual impossibility. Yet what God had spoken in darkness, he knew he could not doubt in the sunshine.

Often God speaks to us when all we have is the promise of His Word. If we look only at circumstances or trust in people, we might find ourselves wallowing in self-pity under the juniper tree.

Sandy ③
Mt. Carmel (briefly recount 1 Kings 18:17-40; then read vv. 41-46) Crisis of Unanswered Prayer

God took Elijah back to the place of his greatest victory on top of Mt. Carmel, to experience his greatest test of faith—unanswered prayer.

Elijah had just slain all the prophets of Baal and warned Ahab to do what he must do, for there was the sound of abundance of rain. The cloudless sky was as it had been for three-and-one-half years, yet with ears of faith, Elijah heard the falling rain.

Six times he asked God to keep His word and send the rain. Six times there "was nothing." Faith is never so animated as in prevailing prayer. So after the seventh prayer, he knew that tiny cloud as a man's hand was going to expand and open the windows of heaven. And rain it did!

We are intercessors in a worldwide ministry of prayer (Romans 8:26). Missionaries depend on our prayers. Showers of blessings are often tokens that God is answering our petitions. But even when we don't experience these outbursts of His power, we keep on believing, knowing that He is faithful that promised. Elijah's prayer broke the drought and revived the earth.

Our prayers of intercession break spiritual drought and famine at home and on our mission fields around the world.

Had Elijah run off to the juniper tree, the drought would not have been broken. Solutions are never found slumped under the tree of man's reasoning.

4

Gloria

Juniper Tree (1 Kings 19:1-7) Crisis of Depression

Satan always attacks at one's weakest point. Elijah had just experienced the greatest victory of his life—the false prophets had been overthrown and with one voice, the people cried, “The Lord, he is God!” But on the heels of victory often comes the greatest periods of depression. Now, physically exhausted, Elijah learns Queen Jezebel intends to kill him. He runs for his life.

The well beaten path to the mishapen juniper tree is rutted with many feet. Some stir up dust as they run quickly along the path. Others trudge about aimlessly. Some weary souls have erected homes in the shadow of depression and dejection. Their neighbors hover about, complaining and criticizing. No notes of joy and praise are heard under the juniper tree.

Elijah runs along these dusty ruts and drops in despair under the scraggly limbs. After a long sleep, a touch from God dispels his depression and produces a spark of renewed strength and discouragement. No one is meant to stay under the juniper tree.

5

Effelen

Horeb, Mount of God (1 Kings 19:8-12) Crisis of Knowing God

Elijah's ministry had been characterized by miracles—his prayer had shut the heavens that it rained not for three-and-one-half years, he had been sustained by ravens and a cup of meal and cruise of oil that failed not, had raised the dead, called fire down from heaven, slain the prophets of Baal with the sword, and opened the faucets of heaven.

Now God had further lessons to teach. While spectacular demonstrations of power are sometimes necessary, His greatest work is not accomplished by such methods. God is not served in the zeal of emotions or the flurry of noisy activities. He transforms lives with His still small voice. As we wait before Him in prayer and in His Word, we experience the transforming power of God in our lives.

6

Debbie

Conclusion

In each crisis, Elijah learned lessons that matured and prepared him to serve God. At the brook Cherith he passed the crisis of loneliness as God prepared him for service. At Sidon, his faith deepened as that small quantity of oil and meal miraculously sustained him for months. On Mt. Carmel, he thrilled at God's spectacular display of power; and later, as he waited for God to send the promised rain. At the juniper tree, he learned that God's touch can dispel depression.

On Mt. Horeb, Elijah came to know God in a manner he had never known—not in miraculous displays but as his spiritual ears became attuned to that still small voice of God.

May God help us to be faithful in each of these crisis experiences of our lives.

Prayer Chairman 29
Classes —



Co-Laborers Write

Cover Picture

The cover is just great. I appreciate the work Mrs. Pursell has put into the women's work of our denomination.

Betty Reeves
Farmington, MO

Russian Tea

If you like spiced tea, you will like this recipe by Carol Yates in the cookbook published by Soul's Harbour FWB Church in Cullman, AL:

4 oranges
3 lemons
2 c. sugar
1 T. tea
1 gal. boiling water
1 T. cloves
1 stick cinnamon

Thinly slice oranges and lemons; cover with sugar and let stand an hour or more. Make tea, using directions given for hot tea. Strain tea over fruit; add cloves and cinnamon and let simmer for 2 hours.

Restrained!

Chapters 35 and 36 of Exodus record the building of the tabernacle. One day all the workmen left their job to voice a complaint—too much material was being donated. Moses then sent a message throughout the camp, restraining the people from bringing more.

Oh, that people had to be restrained from giving to God again! Wait! What is this I read? "Please, no more Tupperware." Not long ago we were requested to send Tupperware to the Missionary Provision Closet. And now we are being restrained from bringing more? Thank You, God.

Lois Smallwood
Cabool, MO

National Retreat

Concerning the retreat at Ridgecrest, it was out of this world. Our ladies are already talking it up for '86.

Anita Haney
Knoxville, TN

I loved every minute of the retreat. The accommodations were excellent nestled among the beautiful mountains. I'm having a hard time coming down from my mountain.

Odessa Ledlow
Sylacauga, AL

Thanks for the spiritual retreat, a mountain top experience. We had 19 women from our Vernon district, one an 80-year-old woman.

**Paulette Scott
Vernon, AL**

We enjoyed hearing the missionaries tell how much the Provision Closet meant to them when we were at the retreat . . . We are wondering if the items must be new or can we send good used items?

**Donna Glenn
Dayton, OH**

Thanks for inviting me to take part in the missionary program at the retreat. I feel so bad about the boo-boos I made, but did you know, as a result of those mistakes I made, I renewed old acquaintances. Folks I had not seen since 1961 deputation came up to reintroduce themselves. If this had not happened, they would not have even seen me.

**Mary Ellen Rice
(former missionary to Brazil)
Morehead City, NC**

Never Say Can't

Please send me Mom Willey's book, **I Can't Say 'No.'**

An Old Timer

I joined the auxiliary in Phoenix, AZ in 1954, so I'm 30 years old! I have most of my auxiliary books.

**Myra Hill
Russellville, AR**

Our Missionaries Write

Thank you for supporting our recent evangelistic campaign. During one week approximately 11,000 people heard the message . . . Satan battled our efforts . . . Bessie and two fellow workers were knocked to the ground and bruised a bit. Bessie's glasses were lost, never to be found.

**Norman Richards
Ivory Coast**

The program by Joyce Little was super. Rarely have I seen our mission fields presented in such a realistic, factual manner in so short a space. She obviously had done her homework.

**LaRue Crowson
France**

Have you heard our good news? We are expecting baby #2 in April. Brooke has her order in for a baby sister.

**Deleen Cousineau
Ivory Coast**

Clint said he had one of the nicest birthdays he could remember and felt it was because women were praying on that day.

**Lynette Morgan
Ivory Coast**

Minister's Wife

This issue of the **Minister's Wife** is the best.

**Ruthann Hall
Nashville, TN**



A Woman God Has Used

Mildred Hicks, like Dorcas, goes about serving her God and others, avoiding both thanks and recognition.

She attended Bethel FWB Church, McArthur, WV, for several years before accepting Christ as her personal Savior at age 22. This dramatic moment is engraved in her memory and serves as the cornerstone of her ever-growing faith. This able servant has ministered as teacher, secretary, auxiliary officer, and now serves as Mission Prayer Chairman.

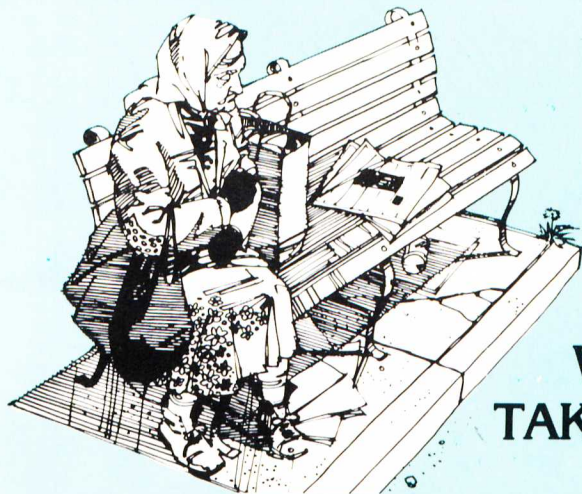
At age 31, Mildred married Frank A. Hicks, Jr., a coal miner and widower with three small children. God blessed them with three children of their own. When Ronnie, the youngest, was three years of age, her husband suffered a fatal heart attack, leaving Mrs. Hicks both mother and father, as well as sole breadwinner for her needy family.

The words of the hymn, "There is peace in the time of trouble, there is peace in the midst of the storm," characterized this dark period of her life.

For 21 years, Mrs. Hicks worked in a market by day and cleaned and sold baked goods by night. Fiercely dedicated to her family, she gave them every advantage. Church placed high on her priority list and she never neglected this vital part of their training. Today all are married, except Ronnie in the Air Force. Her expanded family includes ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Shy and unassuming, Mrs. Hicks prefers to remain in the background, whether praying, counseling, baking for missions, cooking for bereaved families, or offering kind words of encouragement.

Because Mildred Hicks tries to use her spiritual gifts to the fullest, she is a woman God is using.



WHO WILL TAKE GRANDMA?

Who will take Grandma? Who will it be?
All of us **want** her, I'm sure you'll agree.
Let's call a meeting, let's gather the clan,
Let's get it settled as soon as we can.
In such a big family there's certainly one
Willing to give her a place in the sun!

Strange how we thought that she'd never wear out,
But see how she walks, it's arthritis, no doubt.
Her eyesight is faded, her memory is dim,
She's apt to insist on the silliest whim.
When people get older, they become such a care!
She must have a home, but the question is—where?

Remember the days when she used to be spry?
Baked her own cookies and made her own pie?
Helped us with lessons and tended our seams,
Kissed away troubles and mended our dreams?
Wonderful Grandma! We all loved her so!
Isn't it dreadful she's no place to go?

One little corner is all she would need,
A shoulder to cry on, her Bible to read;
A chair by the window with sun coming through,
Some pretty spring flowers still covered with dew.
Who'll warm her with love so she won't mind the cold?
Oh, who will take Grandma now that she's old?

What? Nobody wants her? Oh yes, there is **One**
Willing to give her a place in the sun—
Where she won't have to worry or wonder or doubt,
And she won't be **Our** problem to bother about.
Pretty soon now, God will give her a bed,
But who'll dry our tears when dear Grandma is dead?

—Author Unknown

WNAO'S

50th
Anniversary

1935

1985

MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

Nashville, Tennessee
July 22, 23, 1985