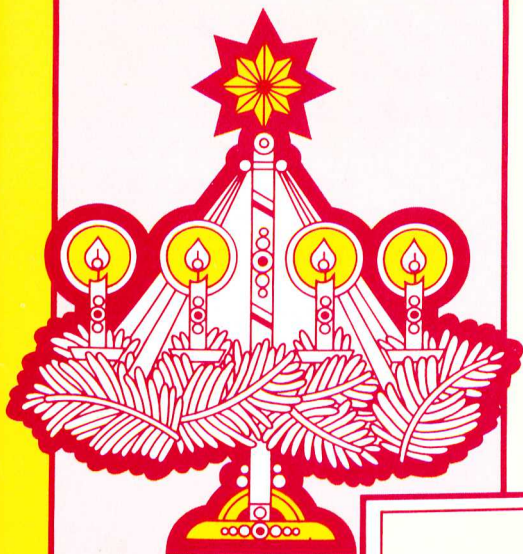




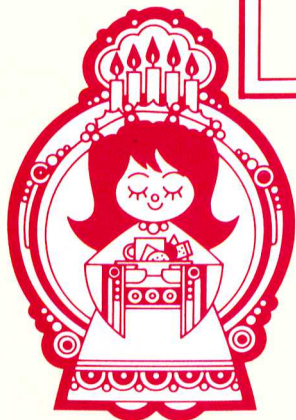
Austria—
Frohliche Weihnachten



Spain—*Feliz Navidad*

co-Laborer

October, November, December, 1985



Sweden—*God Sol*



Germany—*Frohliche Weihnachten*

Happy Holidays

Co-Laborer

October, November, December 1985

Volume 25, Number 4

Programs

- 19 Puerto Rico, Gateway to the Caribbean
Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer Program
- 22 A Great Woman
by Jackie Watford
Program for October
- 25 Apples of Gold
Program for November
- 28 Christmas Is Love
by Geneva Poole
Program for December

Regular Features

- 2 Words for Women
by Mary Wisheart
- 4 Women in Action
- 8 Share-A-Book
by Genny Waddell
- 9 Poet's Corner
- 11 Call to Prayer
by Eunice Edwards
- 30 Letters from Co-Laborers
- 32 Woman God Has Used
by Rosemary Blackburn

Articles and Regular Features

- 7 Faces About Me
by Diane Thomas
- 10 Missions In Action
by Kiska Sifers and Deyon McMillan
- 14 Adjustment—Name of the Game
by Deleen Cousineau
- 16 Creative Arts Contest Winners

Executive Editor:
Mary Wisheart

Editor:
Lorene Miley

Circulation:
Peggy Outland

Our Writers



Geneva Poole
Missionary to Brazil



Deleen Cousineau
Missionary to Ivory Coast



Diane Thomas
Teacher in Grifton, NC

CO-LABORER (USPS 119-560) is published quarterly by the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention (auxiliary to the National Association of Free Will Baptists). Subscriptions are \$3.75 per year (plus postage); 5 or more to one address, \$3.00 per year. Second class postage paid at Nashville, TN 37202. POSTMASTER: Send address change to: WNAC, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

ATTENTION!

Price for Linda's Song is incorrectly
quoted on back cover.

Correct price is \$5.95

We regret this inconvenience.



Altars And Tombstones

I was scared. The next day we were to look at the Ange house with the idea of buying it. I knew before the day was over I would probably either build an altar or erect a tombstone.

I've walked with the Lord a long time so have had plenty of experience with each. Our God is a gracious, loving God. He floods us with good things, exceeding abundantly above all we ask—or even think! Pressed down, shaken together, and running over! No wonder we prostrate ourselves at His feet in humble adoration and thanksgiving.

Altars are a natural expression of this gratitude, when I've given back to Him that which He's heaped on us—health, family, provisions, ministry, our book . . .

Tombstones also dot the pathway of my life. These mute reminders speak of those times He withheld what I wanted and I had to die to self—my desire to stay in Africa, the Coffey house, personal ambitions . . .
“Please, God.”

“No.”

“Please.”

“No.”

Finally, rising spent from the death throes of self, I've honestly prayed, “Not my will, but thine.” Dying never comes easy, but we can never receive His choicest blessings until first we empty ourselves of passing fancies.

The next day as we drove away from the Ange house, I began gathering stones for one of the biggest altars I had ever built. And the day we at last signed on the dotted line, I offered our new home back to Him to be used for His glory.

Since we often travel as Christ's ambassadors, many folks have opened their doors to us. We only opened our hearts to them in return. Now we are opening the door to a guest room as well. The welcome mat is out to each of you. Please do come to see us.

Lorene Miley

THE WONDER OF BEING A WOMAN

Mary Ruth Wisehart



So God made you a woman. How wonderful. Why should you ever wish to be anything else?

When man was made, God's creation was not complete. To complement man He created woman—a being especially designed for a special purpose. Any of God's creation is happiest and at its best filling the place God had in mind for it. We glorify God best when we live to our best as women.

God's special design for woman includes a sensitive and loving nature. She responds quickly to human needs and sufferings. Her nature seems especially designed to submit to love. This tendency toward submission often makes it easier for a woman to submit to the One who is love. Her heart is prepared to yield to Him in devotion and obedience. Women followed Him to the cross and wept with Him there. Perhaps their faith faltered also, but whoever He was, their love held them there to share His suffering. Women arrived first at the empty tomb. And Jesus Himself gave the first message of His resurrection to a woman.

To a woman God gives that wonderful experience of sharing with Him in life giving. And through the pain comes the joy of knowing a child is born, new life. The most powerful and lasting impressions of the child's life come from those early days with his mother. The child sees and knows her first. Her personality, her attitudes and values, and her love are the first touches shaping and molding the future adult. What other group in the world has such an opportunity for shaping and molding and leaving behind a living monument.

As the creature especially designed to be a fitting mate for man, woman again has a great opportunity for influencing the world. She can make a man or destroy him. She can provide a serene place of refuge for him, not only in their home, but in the knowledge that here is one he can always count on, not compete with, one who is always in his corner.

God wants for you the beauty of His beautiful woman. In 1 Peter 3:4 we learn beauty does not lie in outward features, hairstyles, jewelry, rich clothes. While these may relieve the monotony, a woman is truly adorned by a beauty from within.

God's beautiful woman, like the king's daughter described in Psalm 45:13, is all glorious within. That glow comes from the quiet, poised spirit, at peace in God's will, serene in the knowledge that God has made you a woman. And being satisfied to live to your fullest in that role. Then live, your face alight with the wonder of being a woman.



A SISTER REMEMBERS

Lavern Clark

Mary and I were the sixth and seventh daughters born to our mother and father after they were past forty. We were poor but didn't know it until we were grown.

We were three and one-half years apart, and no two people could have been more different than we. I was the loud, rough tomboy, and Mary was the quiet, gentle little lady. Once when I was being me, she told me, "I hope when you grow up you have someone who embarrasses you just as you are doing me." (And I did; I grew up and had four children.)

Mary and I shared everything. We shared our room and chores. Mostly I tried to leave mine for her. And she'd go right ahead and do them—until Mom found out.

We shared hopes and dreams as we walked up our little lane to catch the school bus. She always told me I could do anything I wanted to do if I wanted it badly enough. She had a special expression that made me so mad: "Can't never did anything."

We shared clothes. And for some reason, her clothes never came back in one piece. I would either lose a button or tear a hem or something would happen. She vowed never, never to lend me any more of her clothes. But she did.

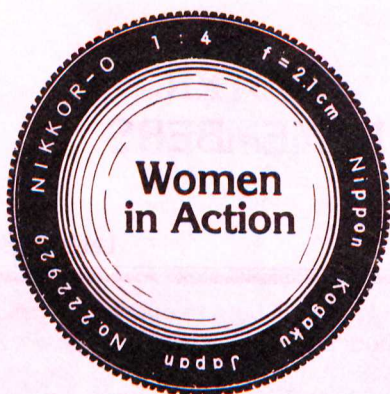
Mom used to ask me, "Why can't you be more like Mary Ruth? She never gives me any trouble and I never have to worry about her."

All my life I've wondered why I **couldn't** be more like Mary Ruth. I've always envied her strong quiet spirit and endless capacity for work. As children, she could always outtalk me. I was the strongest physically, but she could tie me in knots and leave me speechless with her words.

When Mary was six, she had an appendicitis attack. We were far from doctors, no car, and the hospital miles away. So by the time they got her to the hospital, her appendix had ruptured and she was a very sick little girl. The hospital was small, outdated and unequipped, so they almost lost her.

Mom stayed with her night and day for a very long time. As she improved, they discussed the fact she had almost died. Mary said, "Mama, you know, I guess the reason God didn't let me die is because He has something for me to do."

And He did. Now He has something else for her to do. And I'm sure, with His help, she will do it just as well as she's done all the other jobs He has given her.



Local

Susan Jones, First auxiliary, Hot Springs, AR, reports a good program entitled "Food for Thought," which developed three areas: Food, Food Preparation, and Food Serving. Even the simple things must be done with efficiency and contentment.

Long Run auxiliary, Porter, OH, sponsored a four night weekend service with preaching by **Dave Cox**.

Tom's Creek auxiliary, Nippa, KY, invited all ladies to attend a prayer breakfast followed by cleaning the church.

District

Pam Hackett, Spartanburg, SC, installed new officers for the Beaver Creek district. **Gwen Hendrix** was re-elected president over the 14 auxiliaries.

Martin district of Georgia gave **Sandra Bishop** a grocery shower during their one-night missions empha-

sis. You should have seen the groceries! She had a hard time getting them all in her car to take home.

A prayer emphasis continued at Cumberland district's (TN) spring workshop as **Mildred Daniel**, Smyrna, gave a study on prayer.

Women from the South Carolina district reported reading 411 books in 1984. They also gave \$5,500 to missions in addition to their other projects. **Carolyn Riddick**, president.

Shirley Combs organized a new district in Western Oklahoma. Union is composed of five auxiliaries.

Marilyn Pritchard, who spent almost a year in Ivory Coast, showed slides at the West TN district retreat at Camp Chickasaw. **Mary Walkley**, president.

Milly Hanna, RN, daughter-in-law of the Carlisle Hannas, missionaries in India, was guest speaker for the Central district at Little Bethel, Johnsonville, SC. Her husband, Don, an M.D., is completing his residency with the university and seeks the Lord's direction about returning to India or establishing a stateside practice.

Randall district (NC) retreated at Presbyterian Point, Clark, VA, and featured **Molly Barker**, missionary to Uruguay. **Maureen Lee**, Palmer district president and **Ethel Whaley**, Kinston, brought challenging messages.

Blue Ridge district (NC) retreat featured a workshop in Christmas crafts with **Victoria Norman**, Nowlings Chapel, Morgantown, in charge.

State

State Meetings: Glenna Murphy was reelected president of the West Virginia state. Cleo Pursell spoke.

The Fred Herseys, missionaries to Japan, were featured at the Illinois state.

Michigan state chose the theme "Lights In Dark Places" and split their project three ways for their state's representatives in dark places—**Steve Riggs**, **Tom McCulloughs** and **Paul Robinsons**. Speaker was **Cleo Pursell**.

Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Eagleton and their four sons attended the Indiana state at Ft. Wayne. The Eagletons are scheduled to depart July 27 to take over the medical work in Ivory Coast, West Africa.



Osark auxiliary (AR) hosts international banquet with Yvonne Wolfenbarger, Russellville, as guest speaker.

Delegates at the Missouri state heard **Dave Filkins**, missionary appointee to Ivory Coast.

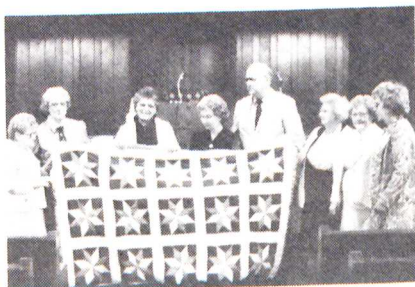
Retreats: "Every Member A Builder" a construction theme, dominated the Arkansas retreat with **Eunice Edwards**, guest speaker.

Alabama women met in Ramada Inn, Montgomery for their retreat, and heard **Pat Thomas**, Home Missions. **Pat Pless**, Vernon, replaces **Annette Tomlinson** as president.

Oklahoma's retreat featured a historical pageant written by **Debbie Cavitt**, **Carole Carner** and **Karon Anderson** and honored their early pioneers. Speakers were **Jan Arnoldi** and **Cleo Pursell**.



Nadine Hood, far left, presides over First Mission's district meeting with Shirley Combs, Brazil, center, as guest speaker.



Illinois ladies present a quilt to missionaries, Fred and Evelyn Hersey, Japan.



Belvoir auxiliary, Greenville, NC, sponsor a Provision Closet pounding as a Valetine love project.



South Georgia's district 1985 "Mother of the Year" award is presented to Ocie Cauley by her daughter, Betty Henderson.



Provision Closet towels serve double duty for the Morgan children (Ivory Coast). Angels or Spacemen?



Organizational meeting of the Kita Hiroshima Chapel auxiliary (Japan) with 11 members. Chie Uemori, president.



St. Patrick's Day "Irish Potato Soup Get Together" at the Victory auxiliary, East Wenatchee, WA.



Piney Grove auxiliary present the skit "Parade of Pious Personalities" at the South Georgia spring retreat. Janice O'Steen poses as Debbie Depressed.

FACES ABOUT ME

Diane Mitchell Thomas

From my place in the choir I watched as the patients from the nursing home slowly made their way into the sanctuary. Hubert was not among them, I casually observed. But as we rose to sing, I thought no more of the empty spot where the old, stooped, black man usually sat.

So I was not prepared for the pastor's explanation. He came to the podium, smoothed out a folded note, paused for a long moment, then read:

Dear Pastor and all my beloved friends at the church, I cannot come today because I have no shoes to wear. My old ones are so full of holes I feel it would be a dishonor for me to come to the Lord's house. But my thoughts and love will be there. Thank you for always making me feel welcome in your church.

Hubert

The words washed over me and held me in their grip. The motto of our church is "We care," but as I sat there I knew I hadn't cared about Hubert. I knew he had no family. I remembered those gray, corduroy bedroom slippers as he shuffled in each Sunday. I had seen the holes as he knelt before the altar. I was so shamed to have to admit to myself and to God that I hadn't cared.

As the choir rose again, I looked into a sea of faces. I focused on the frail wisp from the nursing home, her face empty of expression. There was Julie, alone since her husband had left her. Martha, sitting on my right, had lost her mother two months ago. Her grief was still fresh; I could tell by the way her shoulders leaned inward, caressing her heartbreak.

The young couple sitting in the back were having marital problems. One could almost feel the cold, stone wall between them. I had meant to invite them to our home for a meal and encouragement. Also that new couple who had just dedicated themselves to the Lord. Even now their faces asked questions.

I mourned for these I had failed. The tears came freely as I bowed my head before them and prayed, "Lord, never let me see a face without seeing the need behind it. Help me respond. Lord, make me care."

The choir came down and we took our seats in the pews. From the corner of my eye, I saw the empty place where a black man with worn shoes usually sat. Touched with compassion, I reached over and squeezed the hand of the aged, deaf lady beside me. She looked at me and I smiled. Her face brightened as she smiled back.

SHARE — A — BOOK



Genny Waddell

What do you say on the way to die?

She being dead, yet speaketh.

Genny Waddell, together with Agnes Smith and Linda's tapes, fuses together an unforgettably true story. It is one of faith, courage, love, pain, and final victory.

Linda's Song, subtitled, **What Do You Say On The Way To Die?** is a vivid portrayal of a life with a terminal malady to age thirty-two.

Linda (Smith) Underwood was the eldest daughter of Foreign Missions General Director, Rolla Smith and his wife Agnes.

This gripping, real-life account relates the roller coaster emotions experienced by Linda, Joe Dan Underwood, her husband, and Linda's parents, sister, and in-laws.

Their growing faith and final resignation to the reality of death are worthy of emulation.

Your purchase will aid Foreign Missions. Royalty payments from the sale of this book will go to the Foreign Missions Department.

Paperback, \$5.95. Add \$1.00 for postage and handling.

Order from: WNAC, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202

MAKER OF DREAMS

Pearl Mitchell

As I traveled down the road of life,
My dream so safe and sure;
My life was smug and settled,
My plans were all secure.

My heart was happy with joy,
I rode my dream with pride;
As I traveled toward fulfillment
With Jesus at my side.

Then all at once the road ahead
Began to twist and turn;
As my dream slowly started to shake,
My heart began to burn.

I put both hands on my dream
And tried to hold it still;
But the shivering and the shaking
Were all that I could feel.

And then it shot right off the road;
My dream! I started to shout!
I heard the awful sound of crash—
My dream was totaled out!

Totaled out! Completely destroyed!—
My hopes, my breath, my blood.
I knew my life was over,
The tears flowed like a flood.

And then I thought of Jesus
Who sat right by my side;
I turned and looked into His face,
My tears I tried to hide.

The look on His face was the saddest
look
As slowly He said to me,
"It hurts me very deeply, Child,
Your faith is weak to see."

"I'm the maker of dreams," said He
"The finest found on this earth;
And my dreams are very stable,
Yet no one knows their worth."

He offered me another dream,
Shiny and bright with favor;
He promised to protect it;
My faith will never waver.

Now I ride my dream down the high-
way
With Jesus as my guide;
He controls from the driver's seat
While I sit by His side.



This is one of Pearl Mitchell's favorite poems. She left elementary school teaching after a bad experience and felt almost as if her life was over. Then God gave her a new dream in a Christian school where she finds fulfillment teaching the fifth grade.

Mrs. Mitchell and her husband, Willie, have three grown children (one of whom is married). All are members of the Landmark FWB Church, Phenix City, AL, where she teaches the Teen/Young Adults class and serves as treasurer for the church and the auxiliary.

MISSIONS

IN ACTION

Mission-Canary

"Mommy!" my daughter calls as she looks through my **Co-Laborer**. "What's a 'mission-canary'?"

"Well, Babe," I answered with a laugh, "A missionary is a very special person God has chosen to do a very special work. He prays and God tells him in his heart where he should go."

"Where?"

"Sometimes they go far, far away to a place where God needs them to tell people how to be saved. Sometimes God uses them just to go next door to their neighbors and tell them about Jesus."

"Wow!" she exclaimed, "Then I can be a mission-canary?"

Of course she can! We all can if we just make ourselves available and pray, "Here am I, send me."

—Deyon McMillan
Russellville, Arkansas

He Said His Name Was Mike

Yesterday I talked with a man on the street. Sitting in front of a bar, his well-worn T-shirt and trousers cling to his thin frame. Tousled gray hair brushed his very blood-shot eyes. Some would refer to him as a hobo, a tramp, drunkard, a bum. Only a misfit to society.

My heart ached for this lonely man. I had to stop and tell him of One who loved him enough to die for him—my own personal Savior, Jesus Christ. But for the grace of God, I could have been sitting there. Only by His grace am I what I am today—safe in the strong arms of a loving, caring God.

Today I hold my baby in my arms. Tender, soft, my innocent baby is safe in a mother's love and care. That man I talked to yesterday was once some mother's child. Once he, too, was innocent, laughing and playing. And look at him now! Seventy two years old and wrecked in sin. Satan seemed so strong to bind him so tightly.

My whole soul aches for this man I talked to yesterday. Do you suppose he remembers what I told him, how Jesus could free him and save his soul? The song, "Rescue the Perishing" keeps racing through my mind as I think of that poor man. He said his name was Mike.

—Kiska Sifers
Cleveland, Ohio



Meditation for October

Recently a friend said to me, "I'm really down. Please pray for me." I assured her it would be a privilege to pray for her, but it set me to thinking. I began remembering how many other Christians had made similar remarks. Surely the club of discouragement is being used with increasing vigor in these last days.

As the story of the fearful disciples as told in Mark 4 came to mind, I couldn't help thinking how alike are these cases of discouragement and the disciples.

Verse 37 says, "... and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full." Then they asked Jesus for help. Have you ever wondered why they waited so long to make their needs known to the Lord? He was in the boat with them. But it wasn't until they were in danger of sinking that they turned to the One Who could save them.

Could it be that we delay asking for help until we're in over our heads? The disciples were getting along well until the sea got into the boat. As long as the boat was in the sea, they were fine. I suspect this is our problem too many times. The sea gets into our ship of faith and discouragement grips us.

The cry of the disciples was almost an accusation, "Carest Thou not that we perish?" Does He care? Oh yes! He cares!

Do you suppose they didn't call on Him sooner because they were too busy dipping water? Sometimes we get so busy trying to keep our boat afloat that we forget this journey is by faith. All human efforts to save ourselves or to keep us saved are in vain. How quick His response when we call upon Him—"Peace be still."

The disciples asked, "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and sea obey him?" This is Jesus, the Prince of Peace! If we could only learn to look up when we are down. Throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity we will still be thanking Him for stilling our storms.

Prayer Requests

1. City officials have consistently refused to grant permission to some of our mission churches to buy land. Pray especially for the McClarys in Omaha, NB. Also for these who worship in rented facilities: Reagans in Canada, Veras (PR); Turnboughs (FL); and Criswell (OR).
2. Dave and Pat Franks have returned to their work at Barbacena, Brazil following a brief furlough. Pray for renewed enthusiasm in work; as well as for their children here in the states.
3. Pray for Jonathan and Deanna Yandell, joint project workers to Sacramento, CA, that necessary support be underwritten to evangelize this needy

area.

4. With the departure of the Robinsons on furlough, Molly Barker assumes most of the responsibilities in the Livramento, Uruguay area. Pray that Paul and Amy will have an effective furlough ministry and Molly will have unusual wisdom and strength for the task.

Meditation for November

The Bible has more to say about praise than about prayer. Why, then, do we praise Him so little?

Are you discouraged? Praise Him and your discouragement will lessen. Are you despondent? Praise Him and realize anew how many ways He has already blessed you. Are you sad? Praise Him and watch the clouds lift.

God's blessings are not a passing fancy. They are real, lasting, and of permanent value. If God has promised you something, be very sure He has neither forgotten you nor His promise. He keeps His promises.

So praise Him! The first verse of the 89th Psalm is a precious decision, "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations." Have you rehearsed to your children how God cared for you when the way was dark? Perhaps they were too young to remember or to realize the blessings came from God.

Hudson Taylor had three "musts" that governed his life: "I **must** work the works of Him that sent me . . ."; "I **must** preach the kingdom of God to other cities also . . ."; and "other sheep I have . . . them also I **must** bring." Mr. Taylor, although destitute of this world's goods, hindered in his

work at every turn, and scorned by many he sought to help, never failed to praise God for all His blessings. He was too busy carrying out the **musts** of his life to waste time worrying over things. Is that why we praise so little? Are we too busy with things?

Ask God to make you aware of His presence today. Then praise Him with all your heart. You will see things grow brighter. The clouds will not hang as heavy. Your fears will be less fearful, the storms of life less threatening.

"Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance" (Ps. 89:15). Try singing these words back to God. Make up your own tune. If you sing them from your heart He will accept them as being in perfect harmony and pitch.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the home missions emphasis in most of our churches this month; that the programs sponsored by the auxiliaries will be Spirit-anointed, informative, challenging and life-changing.

2. Some pastors establishing churches in isolated areas urgently need lay workers to help, especially with the music: Trails (LA); Coats (SD); Lowes (ID); Minors (RI); Hesters (MS). Patrick Dickens requests a "tent maker" to assist in the church's outreach in Midland, TX. Pray the Lord of the Harvest to thrust out workers into His harvest.

3. Pray for the Darrel Nichols and Mark Daniels families as they complete their formal language study in France before going on to Ivory Coast to begin their ministry.

4. Many missionary families are

oceans apart during this holiday season. Pray they will experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Pray also for our furloughing missionaries that it will be a blessed time for them.

Meditation for December

I love Christmas! I love the carols. I love the beautifully decorated shop windows. I love to give and receive gifts. I love the friendliness that permeates and perfumes the air.

However there was none of this when God sent His Love-Gift into the world. Except for the angels' chorus, there was no "Silent Night, Holy Night," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," or "Joy to the World."

No friendly neighbor came to the stable bearing cookies, fruit cake or even a "spot of tea." Nor did Mary have a gift-wrapped bauble to exchange with those who did call. The delicate odor of Johnson's baby powder was noticeably absent as the odor of hay and animals filled the air.

Let's look and listen and feel and smell what really took place in that humble stable and realize what we missed. There was the star, the heavenly choir, the worshipful shepherds and the glory of the Lord in that lowly place. The Light of the world was born that memorable night.

Mary, with all her natural feelings, fears and forebodings, was honored with a reception by God Himself. "She laid him in a manger . . ." How utterly out of place for His birth to occur in a stable. I can envision Mary cradling this precious One in her arms.

Her crooning was drowned out by the crescendo of the angelic choir as they proclaimed, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good

will toward men" (Luke 2:14). Handel's **Messiah** is magnificent, yet it pales into a shadow when compared with the joyful music that filled the skies when Christ was born.

The shepherds said, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing . . . which the Lord hath made known unto us" (Luke 2:15). The sweet odor of obedience filled that stable and arose to the nostrils of a Holy God as a sweet-smelling sacrifice!

I love Christmas! It's a happy, loving, family time. It's a time to remember past blessings while looking ahead to future blessings. It's a time for rededication. It's a time for renewing our vows to Him and to each other. Love came down at Christmas

Prayer Requests

1. The Foreign Missions board meets this month. Pray for wisdom in all their decisions, especially the appointment of student missionaries for the summer.
2. The ultimate goal of all home missions projects is to produce self-supporting churches, but some are closer to this realization than others. Pray especially for these as they hope to reach this status within a few months: Jessie Dunn (OR); Archers (OK); Scott (WV); Kirkland (AL); Walden (AL) and Reece (VA).
3. Pray for Roy Thomas and those who work with him in the Home Missions department; Pray for Rolla Smith and the staff in the Foreign Missions department. Each one wishes to extend their warm thanks and appreciation for the prayers and gifts of each auxiliary woman this past year.

ADJUSTMENT— THE NAME OF THE GAME

Once I thought the word "adjustment" held a negative connotation. Not anymore. Not since I became a missionary. The life of a missionary is characterized by adjustments. No two years are alike on the mission field, much less no two terms.

Adjustments begin early in the life of one bound for the mission field. He leaves home to attend college and adjusts to new rules, disciplines, food and friends. He leaves college for missionary internship and adapts to a new church in another state, new responsibilities, ideas and traditions.

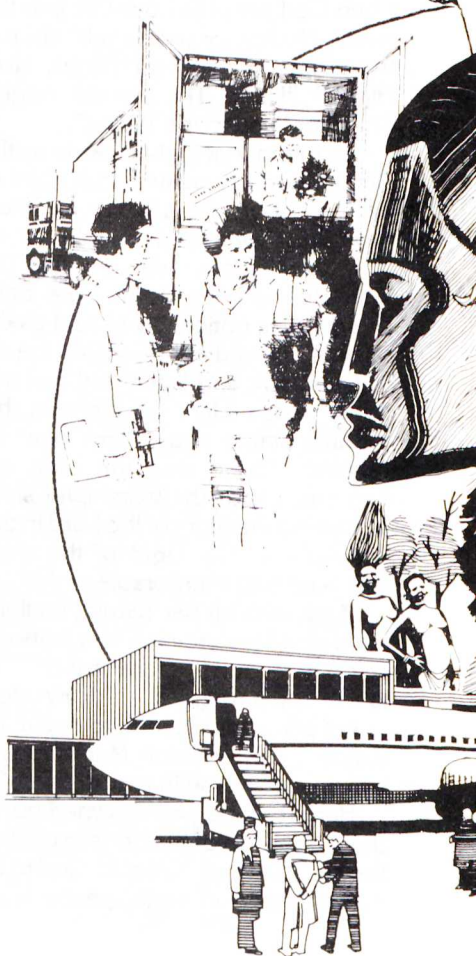
After a year, he leaves internship for deputation. Basically the same presentation is given nightly but within the framework of a different pastor and congregation. Nothing routine here.

Deputation ended, he faces adjustments of language school. Try buying groceries before understanding the money system. Or look for commonplace items, as Minute Rice. How do you ask where to find the restroom? Or to say, "Fill it up" to the gas station attendant? How do you order from a menu? Or ask for a pound of ground beef in a country that operates from the metric system? Remember the surprise of finding peanut butter and canned Spam in the foreign foods section? Adjustment—not necessarily bad, just necessary.

A word of encouragement to new appointees: Give yourself time. This is only the adjustment period. And to missionaries in language study: Don't give up. Look at all you've learned, not at what you don't know. In time you will become accustomed to the new

culture. It is not wrong, just different.

Why, the French don't even count on their fingers the same way we do. They begin with their thumb for number one instead of the index finger. Hamburgers are unheard of (except in Paris), and oh, to have ice in your cold drinks. Adjustments—not big things . . . just little ones.





Adjustments continue as she arrives on the mission field. Her preconceived ideas go down the drain as she spends hours preparing a meal, sifting bugs from the flour and cornmeal, not to mention rice and macaroni; bleaching lettuce and vegetables; cleaning beef and chopping it; filtering water. Whatever happened to the real missionary—all the spiritual things like teaching Bible classes, witnessing, and bringing all the lost heathen into the kingdom?

Her days are spent tending to the everyday needs of her family and those around her, and very often, not spiritual needs. Sick people come by for attention, cleaning sores, sitting with a worried mother, encouraging a new believer. She visits courtyards strong with the smell of burning wood and smoked urine. Flies, sheep, goats (and their droppings), and naked children monopolize the scene.

Adjustments—accepting life as it is, not as you wish or thought it would be. Sometimes we're pricked by a restless, nostalgic desire to return to the past. We're prone to remember only the good things, especially if we are in a situation that stretches, tries and tests us beyond measure. Missionary life is claiming Romans 8:28 and resting in the sovereignty of God.

Adjustments come to every life, not just the missionary. The same principles apply. We will never be through with adjustments, and we wouldn't want to be. Adjustments are like tunnel experiences designed to lead us to a higher spiritual plane. We can allow them to stagnate us or we can learn from them and emerge victoriously, closer to the heart of our Lord.

Creative Arts Contest

13th annual contest
120 women
from 21 states
and two foreign
countries
submitted
378 entries

ART—11 Entries



FIRST
Ann Truett
Smithfield, NC



SECOND
Zoe Hersey
Shalimar, FL



THIRD
Barbara Dixon
Springfield, TN



FOURTH
Lesa Steele
Joelton, TN



FOURTH
Gladys Cooper
Kirkville, MO

ARTICLES—55 Entries



FIRST
Deleen Cousineau
Ivory Coast, Africa



SECOND
Odessa Ledlow
Sylacauga, AL



THIRD
Carla Williams
Oklahoma City, OK



FOURTH
Lois Smallwood
Cabool, MO

PLAYS/SKITS—18 Entries



FIRST
Robin Williams
Smyrna, TN



SECOND
LaCrecia McFaddin
Kannapolis, NC

1984-85 Winners



THIRD
Vaudine Lancaster
Ethelsville, AL



FOURTH
Anita Haney
Knoxville, TN

POETRY — 265 Entries



FIRST
Debbie Atwood
Wabash, IN



SECOND
Wilma King
Rocky Comfort, MO



THIRD
Fannie Henderson
Greeneville, TN



FOURTH
Bonnie Broadway
Chapmansboro, TN



Betty Reeves
Farmington, MO

PROGRAMS — 24 Entries



FIRST
Geneva Poole
Brazil, S.A.



SECOND
Mary Lou Seawell
Bettendorf, IA



THIRD
Annette Dake
Blanchard, OK

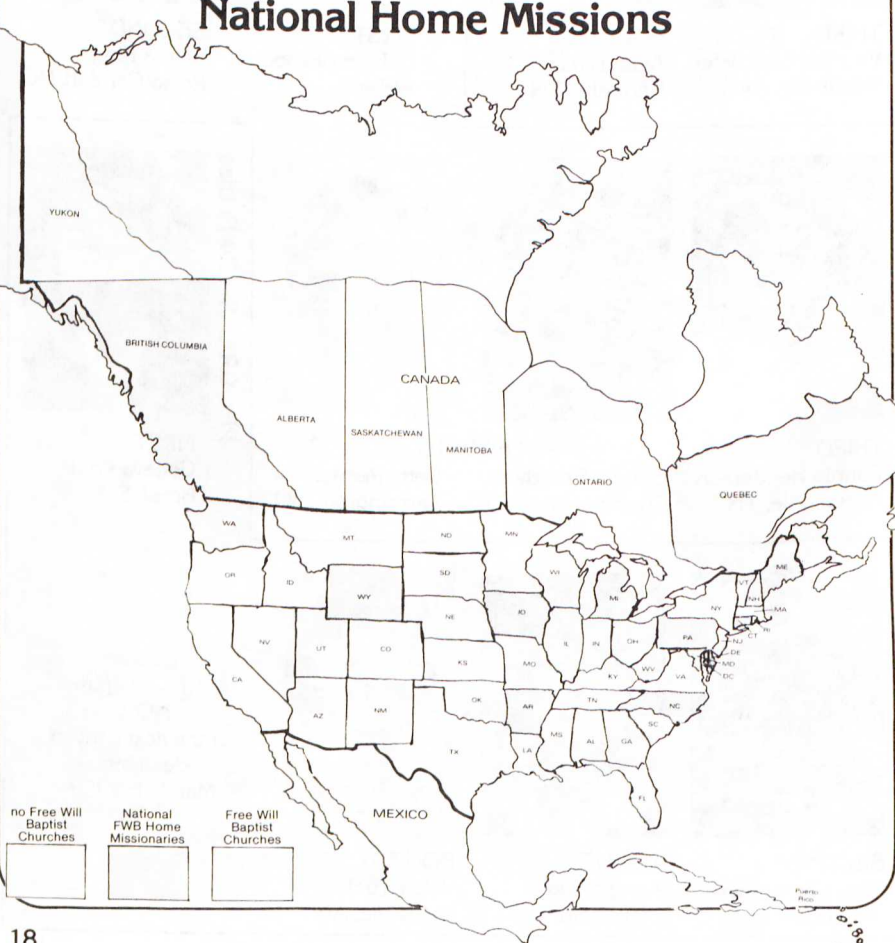


FOURTH
Velda Tucker
Batesville, AR

Ladies!
send your entries
NOW
for the next contest
deadline:
March 1, 1986

**A Date To Remember
November 18-22**

Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for National Home Missions



PUERTO RICO, GATEWAY TO THE CARIBBEAN

Preparation: Arrange a display of travel booklets and pictures. Secure a supply of prayer cards of the Miguel Veras, missionaries to Puerto Rico (from the Home Missions Department, P.O.Box 1088, Nashville, TN). Create a tropical atmosphere by decorating the room with tropical plants, wicker baskets and chairs. At the table use straw mats and sea shells for favors.

Ask the women to wear full skirts, short sleeved blouses, beads or a shell necklace, and flowers in the hair. Wear flat heeled shoes.

Serve traditional dishes of rice and red beans with coconut pudding for dessert. Arrange bowls of Spanish peanuts on the table. Play taped Spanish music as background.

Historical Background

Puerto Rico is referred to as the gateway to the Caribbean and is located about 100 miles SE off the coast of Florida. Christopher Columbus discovered this island in 1493 and named it "Rich Port," characteristic of this tropical paradise which abounds in bananas, pineapples, sugar cane, coffee, and tobacco. A mixture of rare scenic beauty blends with the rustle of the wind among the

palm leaves, the song of the multitude of birds, and the ripple of the canal that runs quietly through the backyard.

We could travel by boat, but the fastest way is to board one of the 12 airlines that schedule flights regularly to the capital city of San Juan. We won't need a passport because all Puerto Ricans are American citizens. United States captured it from Spain in 1898 and they choose to remain a possession instead of a state. Her ties with U.S. are clearly seen in their freeways (more than 3500 miles of surfaced roads), housing projects and shopping centers.

We recognize many labels in our favorite stores—J.C. Penney, Sears, and even K-Mart. Neither should food be a problem. Burger King, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and McDonalds have all made their mark on this island.

Columbus brought the Spanish language and culture to this island and it has endured through the centuries. This heritage is reflected in all her holidays and religious festivals. Churches and forts from the colonial days are still standing. Although Spanish is the main language, all students are taught English as a second language. Almost 100% of the people would claim a Roman Catholic background.

Puerto Rico is a crowded country with more than 934 people per square mile. In the U.S., only New Jersey has more people per square mile. More than 2/3 of the people live in the three largest cities. One can drive the length and width of the country in less than a day and still have time for sightseeing and a picnic lunch.

Puerto Rico, called the land of enchantment, is a tourist attraction. It offers sandy beaches, temperate climate, resort hotels, deep sea fishing and other water sports, historical buildings, and colorful shops.

Yet for all this, it is an island steeped in sin and darkness, peopled with those for whom Christ died. Who will take them this Light of Life?

Free Will Baptist History in Puerto Rico

It was not until July 28, 1969, that Free Will Baptists raised their banner in Puerto Rico with the arrival of the Fred McCoy family from Oklahoma. They chose the Round Hill suburb of the capital city for their outpost of evangelism. They were soon joined by the Charles Francen family, a lay couple from California, who taught in the public school and undergirded the fledgling ministry until 1979.

Many people were reached through DVBS, correspondence courses, a Christian Day School, and, of course,

a service, held first in the McCoy carport, and later in a rented building.

When their first term was completed, the McCoy family was replaced with the Larry Powell family from Georgia. The church matured under these able missionaries. When they transferred to a broader town in McAllen, Texas, a national, Ruel Morena, continued to carry on in the rented building.

Immature and lacking the strong backing of a mission and missionary, the work folded some time later. Thus from 1979 until 1982, the witness of Free Will Baptists was stilled in Puerto Rico. Then God raised up the Miguel Vera family. A native of Puerto Rico, he had come to the States, became an American citizen and joined the navy. While stationed in Jacksonville, NC, he was saved and disciplined and challenged to return to his native land with the Gospel of Christ.

After a year at the Rio Grande Bible Institute, he and his family departed from their homeland. He gathered up the remnants of a past ministry, plowed new territory, and once again the Free Will Baptist banner waves in this predominantly Catholic land.

Testimony From A Latin

Is it genuine? Does it last? Have you experienced the depths of Christ's love as has this one in his testimony?

Cristo (Christ)

Do you listen at his feet to the melody of his voice,
explaining the mysteries of life and death?
Then call him Master and follow him!

Do you behold him serene and bright as, in spite of
the horrible abyss ever before you, you climb along
the dark steep path?
Then call him Guide and, fearless, follow him!

Were you the serf of all your passions, miserable
slave of your vices, and he broke the yoke and sundered your chains?
Then call him Liberator and follow him.

Does he, perhaps, wipe away your hot tears, and, when
suffering would break your heart, is his breast a
comforting shelter for you?
Then call him Heavenly Friend and follow him!

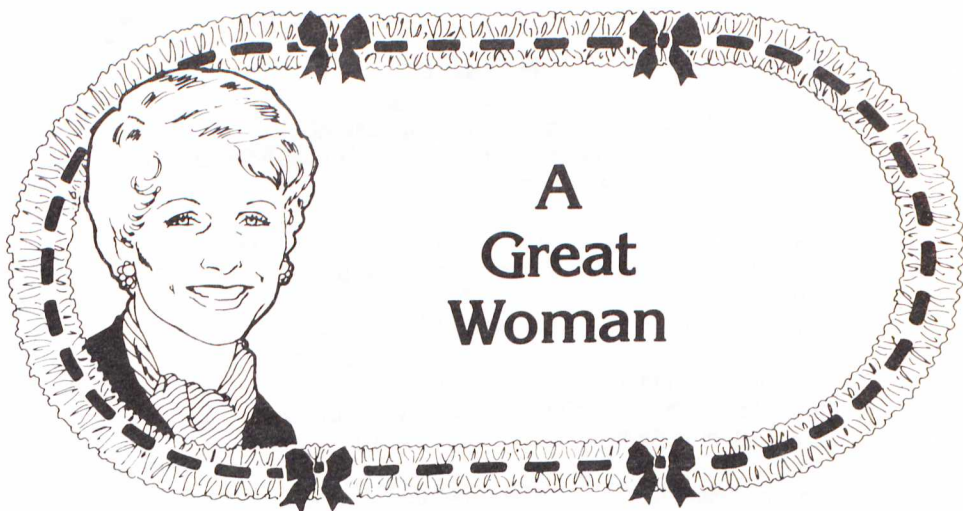
Did you, a repentant soul, lay the burden of your sins
at the foot of his cross, and he saved you from them all?
Then call him Savior and, lovingly, follow him!

Do you desire to do his will day by day, and void of
doubts, reservations, or selfishness, have you surrendered
all to him as your burnt sacrifice?
Then call him Lord and Master and follow him!

Were you, in anguished thought, asking, "What is man;
what is his origin, and what his destiny?" and he,
with his life, came and tore away the veil of the mystery?
Then call him Son of man and follow him always!

Or was your enigma the hidden power which fills the
infinite with its glory? And in vain you asked the
sage, the mystic, "Who is God? Who is God?" until
at last you found in him that answer?
Then call him Son of God and ever follow him!

It may be that, later on, as you meditate on him, you
find no words to define him. Then be silent! In
adoration the echo of one's voice seems sacrilege.
The worship which the stars render him, though silent,
is none the less bright, and a saint has said, 'He
dwells in silence in highest heaven.' Are you aware
of him who walks by your side, ever with you and ever
near, and do you love him and feel him near! Let
importunate lips be silent, and in quiet devotion and
surrender let others seek a name for him. And you?
Do not give him any! But follow him!



Aim: To develop qualities in our lives that would make us better able to display God's love to others

Scripture: 2 Kings 4:8-10, 32-34, 36-37; Romans 12:1

Hymn: "More About Jesus"

Introduction

Queen Elizabeth, ruler of all England; Nancy Reagan, first lady of the land; Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister; Elizabeth Taylor, famous movie star—the list could go on and on of women whose names are known the world over. They possess fame and fortune. Their names carry prestige.

Is the title a woman carries important? Yes! Most of us will never have recognition as a great woman in the eyes of the world. But what matter? Our desire should be to be called great in the eyes of our families, our churches, our communities, and most important, in the eyes of God. Our titles are many and varied: Sunday school teacher, choir member, Woman's Auxiliary member, wife, mother,

sister, daughter, friend. We carry the most important title every bestowed — Christian.

Let us look at a great woman in the Bible who carried all her titles well. There were four qualities in her life which she especially possessed. God help us to desire to develop these qualities in our own lives.



This Shunammite woman made her house a home because she lived

there. Her home was her gift to God. We as Christian women must realize that the greatest danger we face today is that we have stopped living at home. Home is often no more than a place to sleep. Or a place where we slip in and dress, or a place to vent our bad tempers that have been building up all day. Home may be all of these things if God is not preeminent there.

The Shunammite woman's home radiated love and hospitality. Here was a tired preacher and she built a room just for him. What an artist she was at entertaining! She wasn't so engrossed in worldly pleasures that she didn't have time for others. She was pleased to have people come into her home.

God forbid that women today be so preoccupied with soap operas and an insatiable appetite for material gain that they do not make their homes a place where others feel welcome. Oh, that God would raise up more hospitable women. Christian women need to not only open their hearts, but also their homes to the needs of others.



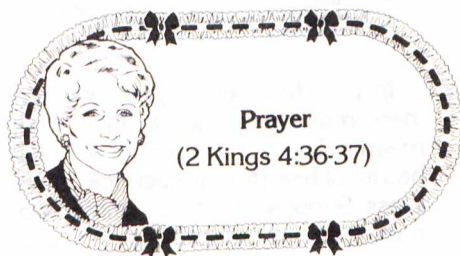
When faced with the death of a loved one, how many would keep their faith alive and strong? This Shunammite woman fought the battle of impending death until her son's heart was still and he lay unmoving in her arms. Instead of crying out in wild

despair, she immediately went after Elisha, believing that the prayer of faith would raise her beloved child from the jaws of death.

A great woman is a woman whose faith is strong even when those around her lose hope. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1). Faith can move mountains. Faith can build a church. Faith can raise the sick. Faith can change an impossible situation.

There is a saying, "A genius is one who shoots at something no one else sees, and hits it." True faith does not act upon what can readily be seen or touched. True faith takes God at His word, believing when there is no reason for belief.

Christian women everywhere can be as great as their faith. How great is yours?

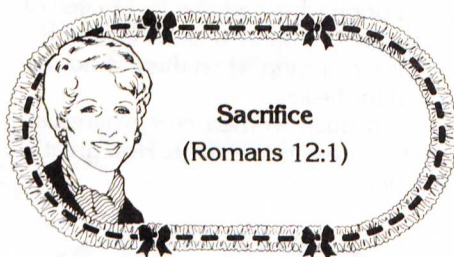


A great woman is a praying woman. Had this Shunammite woman not believed in the prayer of faith, her son would not have been restored to her. Many great women today have children who have never tasted physical death because of the power of their prayer life.

Mothers praying for a sick infant have felt fevers cool and still bodies begin to move again. Children have been kept safe as they ride school buses because mothers pray for them.

Teenagers have driven cars without harm because somewhere Mother was on her knees. And how many who have gone into sin have been brought back by the faith and love and devotion of a holy mother?

A saintly woman can move the heart of God as nothing else can. We should be in a constant state of prayer for our missionaries, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and our nation as a whole. Perhaps one woman on her knees to God could change the course of history. Yes, prayer is the mark of a great woman. Let us not be slack in taking our petitions to God.



In the life of every great woman there must be some sacrifice. How meaningless our lives would be today had it not been for the sacrifice on the cross. Suppose this Shunammite woman had not made the sacrifice to open her home to a tired, weary preacher named Elisha. Perhaps she would never have known this Godly man who was able through the power of God to raise her son from the dead.

A woman shows her greatness when she completely gives of herself to others. If tomorrow we are to have a Christian nation, and if tomorrow we are to have Christian churches, then today we must have Godly women who are willing to sacrifice.

Remember these words, "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus, his

mother." A Godly woman is ever by the cross. The woman who dodges the cross also dodges the crown. Thank God for women who count it a privilege to sacrifice for the cause of Christ.

Conclusion

We who desire to be called great must come to a new understanding of what God expects from us. Let us serve Christ with our hearts full of faith, prayer, hospitality, and sacrifice. May we never count the cost, but go forward "with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men" (Eph. 6:7).

Betty Scott Stam, missionary pioneer to China, was a picture of a great lady. Before she and her husband, John, were martyred, she penned this prayer. May it echo the cry of our hearts.

Lord, I give up
 all my own plans and purposes,
 all my own desires and hopes,
 and accept Thy will for my life.
 I give myself, my life, my all
 utterly to Thee
 to be Thine forever.
 Fill me and seal me
 with Thy Holy Spirit.
 Use me as Thou wilt,
 Send me where Thou wilt,
 Work out Thy whole will
 in my life
 at any cost,
 Now and forever.

Introduction

The writer of Proverbs refers to a word fitly spoken as apples of gold in pictures of silver. Most of us prefer real fresh apples in a wicker basket, but we do agree that his poetic language emphasizes the value of well-chosen words.

An apple is the most valuable of all fruits grown on trees. More apples are produced than any other fruit. Nearly 7500 varieties are grown in the world with more than 2500 produced in the United States alone. Apples are grown anywhere except in the very hottest and coldest regions of the world.

Apples are now being harvested in most parts of our country. Let's look at this popular fruit and see if there are lessons we can learn about ourselves.

Apples on Display

Arrange an attractive display of various kinds of apples. Place them on a table and stand in front of it as the topic is given.

An apple picked from a well-nurtured and tended tree is a healthy piece of fruit. It delights the eye with colors ranging from green and gold to pink and dark red. Apples come in many sizes, from the tiny crab apple to the giant Red Delicious.

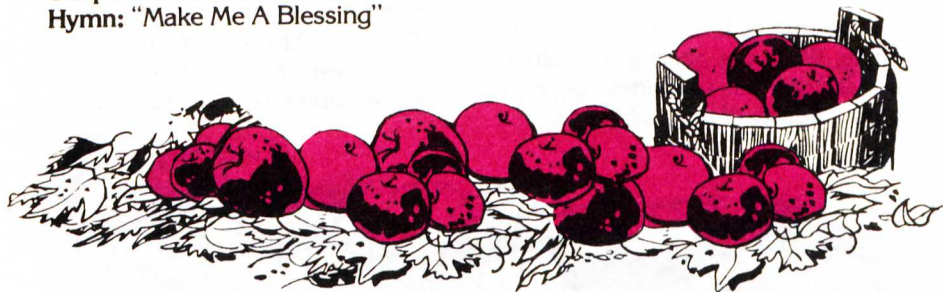
The quality of the tree determines the appearance of the fruit. Many kinds of insects and diseases can attack apple trees and their fruit. Some fungi cause black spots to appear on the leaves and blossoms and produces spotted and poorly shaped fruit. Various larvae chew on the apples

APPLES OF GOLD

Purpose: To learn practical Christian truths from an apple and apply these lessons to our daily living.

Scripture: Proverbs 25:11

Hymn: "Make Me A Blessing"



and leaves which cause wormy fruit.

What about a bruised, rotten, or wormy apple? What about a life that has been scarred by sin and bruised by affliction? God specializes in making beauty from ashes (Is. 61:3); restoring the years that the locusts have eaten (Joel 2:25); healing wounds and restoring health (Jer. 30:17); and bringing wholeness from brokenness (Luke 4:18).

So the appearance of an apple reveals the kind of tree from whence it comes. Jesus says, "By their fruit ye shall know them." The Bible has a lot to say about a Christian's appearance. She should not be worldly (1 John 2:2; Romans 12:1, 2); she should be modest (1 Tim. 2:9); joyful (Ps. 5:11); humble (Luke 18:13); and clean (Ex. 19:10, 30).

What kind of an appearance are we making to a lost world?

Feature: Have someone sing or read the words to the song, "Something Beautiful."

Tasty Apples

Beside the basket of apples, arrange a tray of apple section. Place on toothpicks and distribute as samples.

The fruit is the substance of the apple. While the peeling may attract our attention, its usefulness depends on the quality of the fruit inside.

Just as an apple takes many shapes and hues, it also tempts the taste with delicate flavors from tart to sweet, from juicy and crisp, to moist and crumbly.

In Galatians 5, Paul clearly describes the two kinds of fruit the believer is capable of producing—the works of the flesh (vv. 19-21) and the fruit of the Spirit (vv. 22-23). As long as a Christian is being made conformable to the death of Christ, his life will not be characterized by the works of the flesh.

Paul said, "I die (to the flesh) daily." This should be our motto. Only then is the Spirit able to produce the loving fruits as described in verses 20 and 21.

In Matthew 7:16, 20, Jesus warns of those who pretend to follow Christ, but whose lives do not produce good fruit. "By their fruits ye shall know them," He is still telling us today. Are we producing fruit? What kind?

Feature: Have someone sing or read the words to the song, "Nothing But Leaves."

Right At The Core

Cut out of the apples in half to display the core and seeds.

The heart of the apple is its core which encases a cluster of tiny seeds. When an apple is plucked from the



tree, it is removed from its source of life and begins a dying process. Yet you can take a single seed, and if planted under satisfactory conditions, it will produce a tree that will bear apples of its own.

Christians have been entrusted with the seed of the Word of God. In the parable of the sower (Luke 8), Jesus tells of the hearts that receive His Word. **(Recount these).** We are not responsible for the results, but we are held accountable for the sowing. We have His promise that if we are faithful in doing our part, He is faithful in doing His (Phil. 4:20; Ps. 126:6).

How can we be faithful in doing our part? First, in prayer. Keep a prayer list of unsaved neighbors, friends, and relatives and pray consistently. Secondly, be especially concerned about one person, cultivating his soil to receive the good seed.

Invite someone to Sunday school. Two out of every three unsaved people who attend Sunday school become Christians. Go on visitation and verbally witness to one person each week. Begin a tract ministry.

Help missionaries plant the seed through your prayers and financial support. We are laborers together in this task and one day we will share in the rewards.

Feature: Special music, "Bringing In The Sheaves" with the group singing on the chorus.

Uses of the Apple

Ask each woman to prepare her favorite apple recipe and display these on the table. For a greater variety, you might make a list of the possibilities (see a cookbook), write these on slips of paper and ask the women to draw one. Or make a list and ask for volunteers.

In addition to the usual pies, cakes, and salads, have an arrangement of jellies and canned apple products.

There is beauty in non-conformity. An apple is not created to be admired or displayed, it is to be eaten. (Uses for the apple are almost limitless—look in any cookbook.

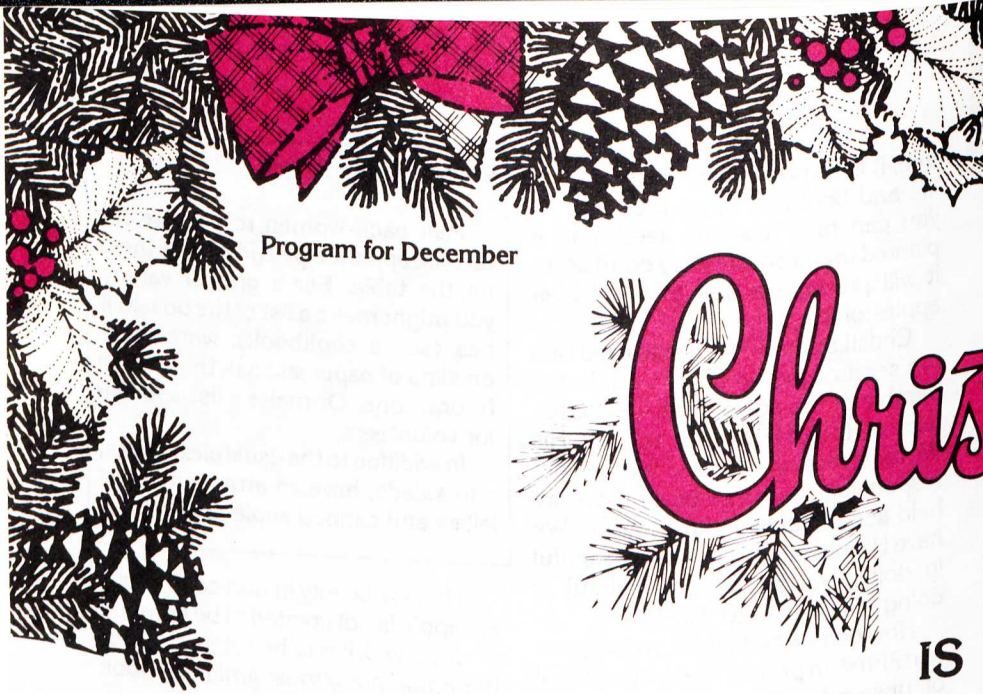
Each of us is created in the image of God, yet like these apple products, we are all different. This does not mean one is better than the other; but, rather, that we are different.

In 1 Corinthians 12:14, we read of the Spiritual gifts—the enablements the Spirit gives His followers to empower them for service (read 12:4-11). He does not want us all to be apples in a basket, but He has a distinct purpose for each of us. We will not experience satisfaction until we allow Him to fulfill His purpose in our lives.

We are not saved to sit on a shelf, we are saved to serve.

Feature: Special Music: "Saved to Tell Others"





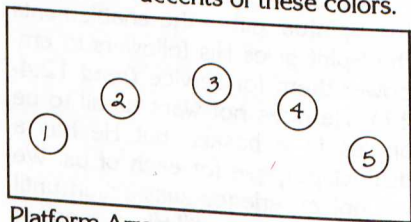
Program for December

Christ

IS

(A paraphrase of

Characters: Five readers, dressed in solid reds and greens, or accents of these colors.



Platform Arrangement

(Lighting on platform only. Soft background music.)

- 3: Though I tell the Christmas story beautifully and sing the Christmas carols harmoniously and have not love, I will only be making a noise as a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.
- 2: Though I distribute costly gifts and spend large sums of money and have not love, I am nothing.

- 5: Though I offer donations to the needy and tire my body working in their behalf and have not love, I am still worth nothing at all.

ALL: Without love Christmas has no meaning.

- 2: Love is very patient and kind,

- 4: Never jealous nor envious,

- 1: Never boastful nor proud.

ALL: If there is love in Christmas,

- 3: We will not be haughty,

- 5: Nor selfish nor rude.

- 1: We will not demand our own way,

- 2: Nor become irritable nor touchy.

- 4: We will not hold grudges nor suspect others

- 5: But will act on behalf of others in the name of the truth of the Love of God that He gave in Christ, our Savior.

- 3: This love is divine, given to the world through the Babe of Bethlehem.



Geneva Poole

Christmas

LOVE

1 Corinthians 13)

- 2: Who inspires us
3: And gives us the strength to bear all things,
1: Believe all things
5: Endure all things.
ALL: If Christmas is love, it will never fail.
4: The Christmas trees will wilt and dry up,
2: The colorful decorations will break and be thrown away,
5: Presents and toys will be forgotten,
1: Because all these things are symbols of a distorted Christmas;
3: However, when Christmas has Christ at the center, all these shall be done away.
5: When I was a child, I saw Christmas as a child—toys, parties, food. But when I grew up I put away those selfish ideas about Christmas.

- 1: For now we can understand only a little about the real meaning of Christmas,
4: As if we were peering at Christ's reflection in a poor mirror;
2: But one day we are going to see the greatness of Christmas.
ALL: Now all we know is a distorted meaning of this event,
3: But a day will come when we will see everything clearly about God's gift to the world: Jesus Christ.
1: Christmas is faith,
2: Christmas is hope,
4: Christmas is love;
5: Christmas is all of these,
ALL: But above all, Christmas is Love.

(Lights down. Music up. Readers leave platform.)

Special Music: "If That Isn't Love"



Co-Laborers Write

Student Missionary

I'm so glad the missionaries didn't think the weather too bad or Mt. Moriah church too small when they were invited for Missionary Conference. Otherwise Jaimie might never have had a special concern for missions.

Vaudine Lancaster
Ethelsville, AL

Ed. note: This past summer Jaimie Lancaster, student at FWBBC, served as student missionary in Japan.

Co-Laborer

The programs in the recent issue of "our" magazine were excellent.

Judy Nichols
Westerville, OH

We would like to order 12 copies of the **Pro-Laborer** for our auxiliary.

We use the Co-Laborer and enjoy it very much.

Eula Statler
Marquand, MO

Never-Fail Syrup

Leona Blankenship, Fourth church, St. Louis, MO, contributed this recipe for their auxiliary cookbook:

1 c. white syrup
1 c. brown sugar
1 c. white sugar
1 c. water
pinch salt
maple flavoring

Stir together all ingredients in a saucepan and slowly bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Let boil 5 minutes. Add maple flavoring to taste. Makes a little over a pint.

Praise the Lord!

My husband has been saved! After praying seven years, six months and nine days! He gets up an hour earlier than he normally leaves for work to read his Bible.

Jan Craig
Clawson, MI

Missionaries Write

We're homesick for Ivory Coast. It seems things are popping open with an eagerness we've not had before and we'd like to be there.

Carol Pinkerton

Our auxiliary keeps a notebook of current prayer requests and these are prayed for daily. How wonderful to see the Lord answer in a definite way and be able to mark through some of these requests.

Judy Lytle
Panama

We needed so many things when we arrived from Spain, so we are so thankful for the women who gave that missionaries may have.

Susan Tumbough

We had our first official Woman's Auxiliary . . . now the missionaries don't have to make sure everything gets done—we just fit into the schedule plans like all the other members.

Janice Banks
Japan

Stamp Project

Enclosed are some stamps. We hope they will in some way benefit our missionaries.

Brenda Flora
Virginia Beach, VA

Grumble Jar

We had a Grumble Jar for our Pre-Easter offering. We fined ourselves 10¢ each day we grumbled or griped about something. We must still have some Israelites around, for we had a good offering.

Velda Tucker
Batesville, AR

Coupons for Missionaries

Lately when we have missionaries in our area or home, I let them go through my discount coupons and

take what they can use. Since I do not have cash to help them as I would like, I save these and pass them on to missionaries. Sometimes they get double discount value, too.

Martha Everson
Colquitt, GA

Faces About Me

It was uplifting to get your card expressing interest in my article. We had just learned our Chris, who has nerve deafness, had lost more hearing in his right ear. Your card was the Lord's way of saying, "Dry your tears and lift your head. Take my hand and let's get back to work." I did and the world is a nice place again.

Dianne Mitchell Thomas
Grifton, NC

Sheets for Africa

I haven't been able to get any more sheets from our hospital. I'd like for some in other towns to check with their doctors about getting some from their hospitals. Those they donated before were in perfect shape.

Joan Jones
Duncan, OK

Appreciation

Mrs. Pursell is a living example of the virtuous woman as described in Proverbs 31. I hope we see her smile and benefit from her experience for many years to come.

Sammie Montgomery
Hollywood, FL



A Woman God Has Used

Sister Janie may have been small in stature—she had to stretch her 90 lbs. to reach five feet—but she was mighty in the Lord.

Mrs. Hoffard was born and raised in southern Illinois and Harmony FWB Church outside West Frankfort was her home church for all her married life. She married her childhood sweetheart, Charlie, and God blessed them with three children, two sons and a daughter. Though widowed the last 30 years of her life, her love for God, her wit, and enthusiasm for life never dimmed.

Sister Janie is remembered for being small but mighty in service. When Brother Charlie was ordained a deacon, she answered the call to become a deacon's wife. Preparation of the Lord's Supper was a service dear to her heart and a duty she joyfully assumed as long as she was physically able. She never taught Sunday school or presided over auxiliary, but she excelled in faithfulness.

This pillar of the church witnessed the church emerge triumphantly through troubled times, so she refused to let anyone remain long in the valley of discouragement. "Press on," she often encouraged her church family. "There's nothing too hard for God." Small but mighty in encouragement.

Perhaps Mrs. Hoffard is best remembered for her power in prayer. She often wept over loved ones and neighbors lost in sin. When she led in prayer you felt she actually led you into the presence of God.

Sister Janie loved good preaching and was not one bit backward with her amens. Her love for God often overflowed in loud shouts of praise. She always sang in the choir and at age 83, could out-sing all the others.

On April 18, 1984, at age 84, Janie Hoffard went to sleep here on earth and woke up in the presence of God. If we listen closely, we imagine we hear her singing in God's choir, blending, yet with a strength that out-sings them all.

CO-LABORER

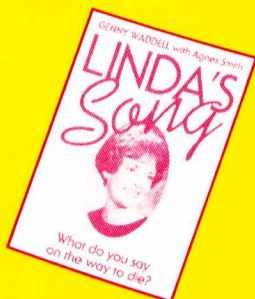
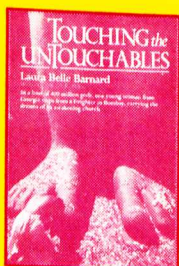
P.O. Box 1088

Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee

New!

Three Great Books By Our Own Free Will Baptist Women



Use the convenient order blank below to order yours.

TO ORDER

1. Print your name and address below
2. Indicate the book/books you wish to receive.
3. Add \$1.00 postage and handling for each book.
4. Enclose a check or money order.

☐ Sparks Into Flame • \$4.95 _____

☐ Touching The Untouchables
• \$6.95 _____

☐ Linda's Song • \$4.95 _____

☐ Bill me

Name _____

Address _____

Church _____

Subtotal _____

Postage _____

Total _____