

Co-Laborer

January, February, March 1986



FEBRUARY:
NATIONAL STUDENT MONTH

Co-Laborer

January, February, March 1986

Volume 26, Number 1

Programs

- 18 Reach Out And Touch
by **Mary Lou Seawell**
Program for January
- 21 Closed Doors
Program for February
- 24 Games People Play
by **LaCrecia McFaddin**
Program for March
- 27 They Followed Him
by **Mary Ruth Wisehart**
Pre-Easter Week of Prayer

Our Writers



LaCrecia McFaddin
(Mrs. Herman)
Kannapolis, NC



Mary Lou Seawell
(Mrs. Holt)
Bettendorf, IA

Articles and Special Features

- 4 Convention Review
10 Poet's Corner
by Donna Loggins
12 Invitation to Dine
by Vaudine Lancaster
16 Missionary Prayer Calendar

Regular Features

- 1 Letters From Co-Laborers
3 Words for Women
7 Communique
8 Women in Action
14 Circle the World With Prayer
by Eunice Edwards
32 A Woman God Has Used

Executive Editor: Mary Wisheart

Editor: Lorene Miley

Circulation: Peggy Outland

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.



Our Missionaries

Kathy and I are so thankful for the tremendous effort of the ladies in raising money for the work in South Dakota. We're also grateful for the quilts and supplies from the provision closet.

Tim and Kathy Coats
Rapid City, SD

During siesta time today I read the Co-Laborer from cover to cover. I especially enjoyed Doris Sheffield's poem and the compilation of personal experiences.

Vada Lee
Ivory Coast, West Africa

... Tests show I have MS (multiple sclerosis) . . . now in remission. Through this disease He has brought

me into another room of His school of learning and I'm learning to lean.

Cathy Crawford
Nantes, France

Convention Feedback

The cantata, "Go Tell Your World," was unquestionably one of the best special numbers ever to be presented at a convention. It clearly revealed the purpose of a Woman's Auxiliary.

Agnes Frazier
Nashville, TN

Words are inadequate to express my appreciation for your many expressions of love. The lovely gifts, plaques, quilts and encouraging words shall always be treasured. The retirement gift of \$19,120 was overwhelming. May God richly bless each of you.

Cleo Pursell
Nashville, TN

"Bowed Down By Grace"

I had surgery last week. The doctors weren't a bit optimistic as they prepared me for cancer of the lymph nodes. When I woke up and wasn't in I.C.U., I had to praise the Lord in front of the doctors and nurses. A song came from this entitled, "Bowed Down By Grace." I petitioned God's strength and received His grace.

Bev Welker
Houston, TX

Sherwood Lee in Ivory Coast writes, "Please, no more medicine bottles for Ivory Coast right now." Hold the bottles, ladies.

We are excited about our auxiliary as we have grown from 4-5 to 12-15. We plan a salad potluck next meeting as we elect new officers.

Shirley Walker
East Wenatchee, WA

Chicken Casserole

Country Cookin', published by the First auxiliary, Dothan, AL, features recipes from their former pastor's wives. A crescent chicken roll recipe, submitted by Emma Jean Mallory, sounds good:

Mix together 1 can cream of chicken soup, ½ c. grated cheese, and ½ c. milk; pour half of mixture in a 9 x 12 casserole.

Cook three chicken breasts, de-bone and cut in small pieces. Separate one can crescent rolls and fill with the cut-up chicken. Tuck in edges. Place in the pan and cover with the rest of the sauce.

Bake 20 minutes in a 350° oven. Decorate top with almonds and parsley.

Magazine Promoters

Thanks for the good **Co-Laborer**. We enjoy it and can't wait until the next quarter.

Inez Armstrong
Smithville, MS

Auxiliary Growth

Our auxiliary is growing and we need more books. Please increase our **Co-Laborer** order from 18 to 25.
Richton, MS

When we get our literature, we sit down and read it from cover to cover.

Glenda Aricer
Laurel, MS

We thoroughly enjoy the excellent material provided by the many talented women in our denomination. May God continue to bless us with these talents that we might grow in the Lord.

Jan Taylor
Dothan, AL

We of the Little Bethel auxiliary wish to thank you for the magazine and its writers. Each year we learn more.

Mrs. Monroe Ray
Ideal, GA

Auxiliary Member at Heart

I am now a bridge builder about to begin my second year with a wonderful class of ladies. I still love the Free Will Baptist doctrine and always will.

Loree Medley
Wichita Falls, TX

Salem District Meets

We enjoy a thoughtful skit "How's Your Prayer Life" by Pastor Kenneth Ray and his wife Wanda. After the session, we enjoyed a fellowship and a salad delight.

Malone First auxiliary
Malone, FL

Thanks from your Editor

On August 31, my mother went home to be with the Lord. Thank you, dear women, for undergirding me with your love and prayers during those unusual days.

Words For Women

Mary R. Wisehart



Snow! Snow everywhere, unbroken by a footstep. I love to make the first footprints in fresh snow, don't you? And there is something about a new year that has the same appeal.

Another year to make new footprints on our own path. Why not strike out in new directions this year?

Stretch yourself. Select a new devotional book. Read a new book, one you may have been intending to read, but haven't taken the time. Read a new one in an entirely different area. Learning about something different can open your eyes to more of God's wonders in our world. Try a new activity which will involve you with different people.

Reach out. A person right next door may need someone to listen. Reach out to some group you may have avoided—the elderly, the mentally retarded, the terminally ill. Reach to someone quite different from you—someone in another country or someone from a different culture who lives in your community. Make friends with a woman you think you wouldn't like. Help her to get involved in Woman's Auxiliary. Find out what a delightful person she really is, and let her get to know you.

Give yourself in a new way. Spend some special time with your children and husband. Volunteer some time to the church to help with home or hospital visiting. Make a special friend of a neglected child or elderly person.

Get into the Word afresh. Select a different book of the Bible for study this year, perhaps one of the minor prophets. Choose a theme, such as the prayers of Jesus, the commands to love, the promises of peace or Jesus' example of witnessing. Use a different commentary or book.

Go adventuring with God this year. Ask, and He will guide you in new paths and ways you have not known. Follow, and you will have the joy of His companionship in your journey. In the path where He leads is fulness of life. And He alone knows just where your path is going this year.

The days ahead stretch out before us like a continuous ribbon for Him. We move toward a future which holds no surprises or shocks for God. He is our guide and our provider for the new pathways. Make 1986 a year when you come to know Him, His way, and His Word better than ever before. Then the pathway of your year will be filled with worthwhile footprints, footprints which lead to that prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

WNAC: A PAST TO REMEMBER, A FUTURE TO MOLD

Mary R. Wischart

"The time is brief and the moment is rare," said Miss Laura Belle Barnard, and she seemed to capture the feeling of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention's Fiftieth Anniversary meeting. In the Municipal Auditorium, July 23, in Nashville, Tennessee, 1237 registered for the 1985 session from 24 states and 7 foreign countries.

Mrs. Agnes Frazier, 87-year-old auxiliary veteran, led the opening session with a devotion. Mrs. Frazier began work in the Auxiliary in 1925 and was one of the first officers elected in 1935. She also wrote the first manual of methods in 1940. Mrs. Frazier reminded the women of the accomplishments in the past and pointed out possibilities for the future.



Miss Barnard brought the 11:00 a.m. message, using portions of Joshua 3, 4, and 5. She reminded the audience that the memory stones commanded by God and set up by the Israelites served as monuments to what God did. They also served as monuments to remind the people of God's call to consecration and to a meeting with Him. She challenged the women: "Consecrate yourselves: tomorrow God will do wonders among us."

The business session included election of officers for 1986-87: president, June Rolen, California; vice president, Mary Neal, Indiana; secretary, Peggy Outland, Tennessee; members-at-large of the executive committee, Marguerite Kern, Oklahoma; Geraldine Waid, Georgia; and Maurine Lee, North Carolina.





Executive secretary, Cleo Pursell, retiring after 22 years of service, received special recognition Tuesday afternoon. Under the direction of Barbara Fletcher, member of the executive committee, the state conventions honored Mrs. Pursell with gifts. Seated in a fan chair, Mrs. Pursell received checks from 27 states and home and foreign missionaries. Representatives dropped the gift checks into a wooden box designed like the national manual. As Mrs. Fletcher called the amounts, a huge thermometer registered gifts to a total of \$19,120.

Mrs. Pursell then, in a traditional ceremony, presented Dr. Mary R. Wisehart, executive secretary-elect, an initialed briefcase. Dr. Wisehart assumed her responsibilities August 1.

The afternoon session included a selection from Don Marsh's cantata "Go Tell Your World," directed by Janis Williams. Mrs. Laura Thigpen and Mrs. Genevieve Waddell narrated. About 30 women from the Nashville area sang the cantata, and missionaries Amy Robinson, Patsy Vanhook, Susan Tumbough and Sandra Payne gave their testimonies.

The Convention approved the themes "God's Wonders for Tomorrow" for 1986-87 and "Rejoice With Joy" for the national retreat at Ridgecrest, North Carolina, August, 1986. The Convention also approved a budget of \$130,500 for the coming year.

The women passed a resolution that the executive committee study the feasibility of publishing a monthly newsletter and establishing an Auxiliary hotline. The Convention also directed the executive committee to suggest a national project at the next convention.

Creative art contestants received awards on Tuesday morning. The contest included 378 entries from 120 women representing 21 states and 2 foreign countries.





On Monday afternoon preceding the convention, approximately 350 women attended a seminar, "Jewels Far Above Rubies." The jewels of worship and adoration, motherhood, devotion or love, and courage were presented by June Critcher, Trula Cronk, Donna Wade, and Billye Gwartney. Carol Pinkerton read Mrs. Eunice Edwards' "The Jewel of Faith" when, because of illness, Mrs. Edwards could not attend.

Executive secretary-elect, Mary R. Wisheart, spoke at the state presidents and field workers meeting Monday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. She used the theme "A Future to Mold: Reaching for Tomorrow." She shared ideas and goals suggested in a survey of state presidents and field workers. On the surveys the women expressed desires to find a permanent place for national retreats, stay in closer touch with one another, challenge more youth to serve God involve more women, grow and mature in Christ, and hold to the original purpose of WNAC.

Dr. Wisheart urged the leaders to blaze new trails in getting out the gospel for this age. She challenged them to unite today in molding under God a future that Free Will Baptist women can remember tomorrow with praise and thanksgiving to God.



COMMUNICATOR

Fourth National Auxiliary Retreat
Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center
Asheville, North Carolina
August 27-29, 1986
Theme: Rejoice with Joy (1 Peter 1:8)
Rates include five meals (Wednesday
supper through Friday breakfast), two
nights lodging and registration

Single—\$85.25
Double—\$59.75 per person
Triple—\$53.95 per person
Quad—\$51.05 per person

Registration at Ridgecrest begins
January, 1986. Send \$15.50 (applies
to total cost) to
Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center
P.O. Box 128
Ridgecrest, NC 28770

SHARING THE JOY

All the workshops and seminars
planned for the 1986 retreat aim to
help us share the joy of salvation by
using what we have in our hands.

To help us assign rooms and dupli-
cate the right number of materials, we
are asking you to choose the ones
you wish to attend. You may attend
four: two on Thursday and two on
Friday. Please make a first and second
choice in case some fill more quickly
than others.

Check the ones you want below
and return this form to WNAC Retreat,
Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

Registration is not refundable after
July 27.

First Second
Choice Choice

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| ☐ | ☐ | 1. Sharing the Joy of Physical Fitness
Ruth Bivens—Workshop |
| ☒ | ☐ | 2. Sharing the Joy of Writing
Lorene Miley—Workshop |
| ☐ | ☐ | 3. Sharing the Joy of a Personal Walk
Sarah Mayhew—Seminar |
| ☐ | ☐ | 4. Sharing the Joy of Homemaking Talents
Diane Worthington—Workshop |
| ☐ | ☐ | 5. Sharing the Joy of Crafts
Debbie Burden—Workshop |
| ☒ | ☐ | 6. Sharing the Joy of Service
Vona Bazen—Seminar |
| ☒ | ☐ | 7. Sharing the Joy of Listening
Donna Wade—Workshop |
| ☒ | ☐ | 8. Sharing the Joy of Friendship
Mary Neal—Seminar |
| ☐ | ☐ | 9. Sharing the Joy of Reading
Marguerite Kern—Seminar |
| ☐ | ☐ | 10. Sharing the Joy of Our Faith
Ruth Johnson—Seminar |

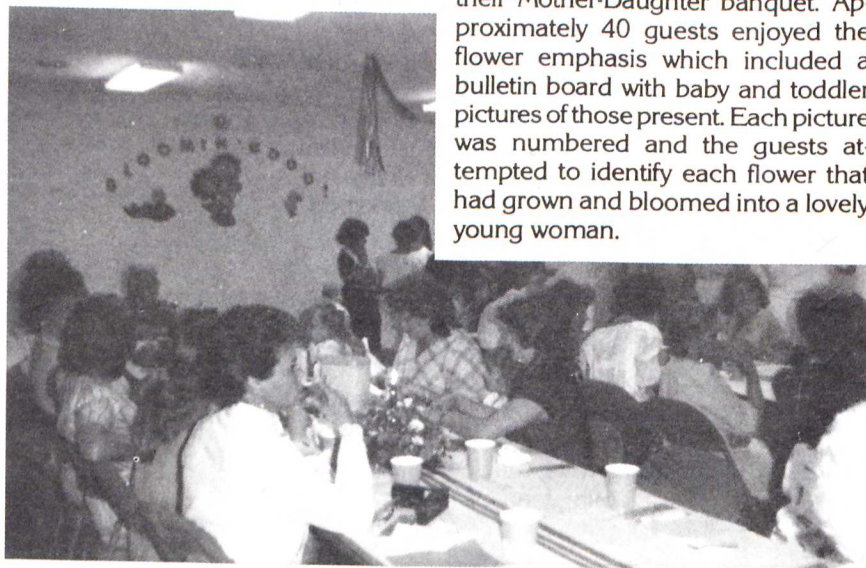
NAME _____

WOMEN IN ACTION



Emmanuel auxiliary, Sharpsburg, NC, sponsored a linen shower for the missionary provision closet. Our missionaries consistently express their appreciation for this "extra mile" the women go for them. DeLois Winstead is president of this missions-minded group of women.

First Church auxiliary, Dothan, AL, used the theme "Bloomin Good" for their Mother-Daughter banquet. Approximately 40 guests enjoyed the flower emphasis which included a bulletin board with baby and toddler pictures of those present. Each picture was numbered and the guests attempted to identify each flower that had grown and bloomed into a lovely young woman.



Ruth McDonald, missionary candidate, spoke at a breakfast meeting of the Vero Beach, FL, auxiliary. Tables were decorated with Japanese favors and missionary information. The ladies surprised Ruth with a shower of personal gifts for their missionary service in Japan.



Leona Mayfield organized the Trinity Temple auxiliary, Tulsa, OK, in 1954 and was the featured speaker at their emphasis program these 31 years later. Brenda Wills, who directed the program, "A Past to Remember, A Future to Mold," poses with the pastor's wife, Nadine Hood.



Lambert auxiliary, Jasper, AL, honored July ("Aunt Julie") Honeycutt as their mother of the year. This presentation was made at their Mother-Daughter banquet with Odessa Ledlow, Sylacauga, guest speaker.

The POET'S CORNER



Donna Loggins
Sophia, West Virginia

When the Lord asks you to give up something, He always replaces it with something better.

I learned this truth one winter day just four years ago. Up to that time I was hooked on reading romantic fiction. My husband, James, was at work all day and I babysat children in our home, as well as taking care of our only son, Adam Wade, then age 2. Even so, I managed to read two or three books a day.

When I had read about 400, the Lord began to get my attention. I loved the Lord. I taught Sunday school for ages 7 and 8 at the Sophia FWB church and sang in the choir. But He reminded me that I spent too little time with Him and too much time with the books.

That day, February 20, 1982, sitting by our coal stove, I sensed the Lord directing me to get paper and pencil and draw an hour glass. As I obeyed, He gave me my first poem entitled "Time." Two more followed in rapid succession, and that's how I began writing poetry.

I could never have done this alone; it had to be the Lord through me. Since that first poem, I have written over 200 others. Some are published in our West Virginia state paper and some by WNAC. All the poems I write are about the Lord. In this way I can

praise Him and hopefully, be a blessing to someone.

Face to face, I shall behold Him,
Soon I'll step on heaven's shore;
Face to face with Christ my Savior
No more parting evermore.
He's the One who bought my pardon,
No one else could there be found;
Face to face with my redeemer,
Soon I'll hear the trumpet sound.

When He comes to take me yonder,
Then my joy will be complete;
All the saints throughout the ages
Will be there for me to meet;
I'll shake hands with Paul and Stephen
I'll walk and talk with Abram, too,
Moses, David, Job and Peter
Are all there beyond the blue.

We'll meet loved ones, long since parted,
Walk and talk with them once more;
We will view our heavenly mansion,
See our name above the door;
Time is passing, swiftly passing,
Jesus Christ will soon be here;
Face to face with Christ my Savior,
Look up, friend, He'll soon appear.



A Challenge for the New Year

Invitation To Dine



Vaudine Lancaster

The maitre d' beamed me to follow as I handed him the engraved invitation to this most exquisite, ornate eating establishment my eyes had ever viewed. Even my best clothes appeared a bit shabby.

The aroma of gourmet food made my mouth water. As we entered the main dining area, I stopped in breathless awe. I had no vocabulary to describe the splendor of the magnificent food and table settings.

"I'm sure I won't even know how to order," I whispered to the headwaiter.

"That won't be necessary," he replied. "Your food has already been ordered."

But how did they know what I like? Who

R.S.V.P.

had invited me? Why was I invited? Lest I betray ignorance, I hushed and feasted on the beauty surrounding me.

Few diners were seated in this room, probably because it was so expensive. But the radiance on each face produced a magnet that made me long to join them. But the maitre d' motioned me to an adjoining room. Reluctantly I followed, although I turned around and stared as long as I dared without being conspicuous.

This second dining room was larger and somewhat plain. More guests were dining on a variety of delicious foods served in attractive arrangements. I prepared to be seated when the waiter motioned me to keep walking.

Curiosity enveloped me as we entered an enormous room filled with rows of giant high chairs facing formica-topped tables. Grown men and women, wearing bibs like babies, were seated in these high chairs drinking milk from huge baby bottles. Some sat plump and contented among their spilt milk, while others frowned and pouted and fussed and complained.

"Why are they here?" I asked in disbelief. "They look so foolish."

"These are puny Christians who have never grown. They are too weak spiritually to digest stronger food," he explained.

"But how can they grow?" I asked, nervously wondering in which room I would be seated.

"Daily servings of Bible study and prayer," he answered, "followed by obedience to His Word." He added that witnessing to others followed spiritual growth.

I could stand the suspense no longer. "Sir," I asked, trying to hide my fear, "where is my table?"

The maitre d' explained that I would begin with the first room where mature Christians feasted in elegance, and then to the middle room where Christians dined on the meat of the Word, and finally to the last room filled with spiritual babies. An automatic signal would denote my table, he said.

Suddenly I was no longer hungry. "Do I have to?" I whispered.

"Of course," he replied. "You've already planned your own menu, you know."

"I know." Past moments with God flashed before my eyes.

As I took a step forward, a loud ringing filled the air. Which room was I in? I reached for the chair when I realized my hand was on the alarm clock. It was only a dream!

As breakfast cooked, I couldn't keep from wondering in which room I would have been placed. In relief, I thanked God for the challenge to improve my spiritual diet.

How about yours?

Call unto me, and I will answer thee,
and show thee great and mighty
things which thou knowest not.



CIRCLE THE WORLD WITH PRAYER

January

Pray for the Ken Baileys (Japan) and Rick Bowlings (Uruguay) who have recently completed their formal language study. Pray they will have an effective ministry in their new language.

Pray that our short-term missionaries will accomplish all that God intends for them—Norman and Laura McFall (Brazil); Randy Hill (France); and Sarah Malone (France).

Pray for Buddy and Janice Drake as they open up a new frontier for Free Will Baptists in Cheyenne, Wyoming. This state capital has 70,000 population and few Bible preaching churches.

Meditation

As we read the story of Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, we glimpse the intimate relationship between them and their love for the Master.

Perhaps Mary's sacrificial gift of ointment poured out upon Jesus was due to her sitting at His feet as He visited in the home. Her magnificent gift is equalled only by the magnificent person upon whom this precious ointment was poured.

Mary emptied the fragrant perfume upon Jesus as a voluntary, spontaneous gift. Because she loved Him, she gave the most precious thing she owned—lavishly, cheerfully, freely. Do we hold anything too dear to give to Him?

Mary's gift cost her something. She dared not offer that which cost her nothing. Likewise our gifts to Him must be costly to us. Our gifts of little or no value are accepted in like measure. Thoughtless, careless gifts of leftover time or money hold little attraction. Yet no gift of love is too small to be refused. Our love for our Lord may be measured by the sacrifice we make to serve.

Did Mary sense her Lord was soon to be taken away? How did she know to anoint Him "aforehand?" Did her heart tell her to abandon her planned use of the ointment for a purpose far greater than she could ever have guessed? Moreover, the box was broken so no other could enjoy her precious gift save the One for whom it was intended.

Mary's faith was embodied in her act. She seized upon the passing moments to make her faith come alive. Her Lord would soon be leaving them! We also need to put our faith

into action, for soon He will be coming for us.

Notice the commendation accorded Mary: "... she hath wrought a good work on Me." And her example is a challenge to us today. Dear women, seize upon this brief day, as did Mary, to serve Him, love Him, and give your best to Him.

Mary's gift remains an unparalleled example of real love and the fragrance of her gift permeates the world.

February

The training of nationals is a vital effort on many of our mission fields. Pray especially for the teachers and directors; also for the students of God's choosing.

The Uberaba church, Brazil, welcomes the Coscias back after furlough. Pray they will be able to meet many spiritual needs in this area.

Pray for Jim and Pat Nason in New Durham, New Hampshire as they lead this historical church through a building program. The church, started by Benjamin Randall in 1780, owns two buildings, one of which has been designated by the government as an historical site. The church has outgrown the other and hopes to build a few blocks away.

Meditation

As the fragrance of Mary's gift brought pleasure to many, even greater is the fragrance of a life poured out in love for all mankind. The crucifixion of our blessed Lord released the beauty and majesty of unparalleled love to a lost world. Its fragrance reached even me.

Look at Jesus through the story of Mary and her costly spikenard gift. Consider His gift to us, given only once, and given in complete abandonment to His father's will, without measure, sacrificially, and with such love as staggers our minds. Given, given, given, and still giving of the most precious fragrance this world will ever know.

Was His work at Calvary a good work? It was as great as my needs and as deep as my grave. Yes! It was a good work!

His, too, was a work of supreme love. The pouring out of His precious blood was prompted by His boundless love for me, and others like me, who were hopelessly, helplessly lost. What was the value of His act of love? Priceless!

Did it cost Jesus to give us this gift? The value of His sacrifice can only be measured by what He gave up to become our Savior. When He left heaven and His rightful throne in glory, He humbled Himself to become man, and then, although sinless, to die the death of a common criminal. Explain to me, please, the cost to Him.

Then to realize that He who knew no sin became sin for me, the cost to Him is more than my feeble intellect can comprehend.

When the critics scorned, scoffed, and spat upon Him at the crucifixion and He prayed, "Father, forgive them", the cost of His gift to us mounts to the skies. Can I afford to serve this Man? I can't afford not to!

The sacrifice of our Savior has been felt through the ages. It is still alive and felt today. He still has the power to draw us to His side in surrender if we respond to His will. It is there, by His side, that the pungent odor of His love envelops and thrills

with its purest fragrance.

His boundless love still calls to each of us. Jesus says, "Give me your most valuable gift, your life, and I will give it back to you, good measure, heaped up, pressed down, and running over."

March

Missionaries on furlough request prayer for the churches left in other hands. Pray that the Lord will give church growth and maturity.

Pray for the new general director of Foreign Missions, R. Eugene Waddell, as he assumes the leadership role in the home office.

Pray for the new "Associate Missionary" program of the Home Missions department. These pastors, though not regular missionaries, receive designated support and many other benefits. Pray for the first workers under this program—Gary and Pat Brunson, Great Bend, Kansas.

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

Pray for the **Celebration of Love** effort, a special missions project of the Woman's Auxiliary in connection with our Pre-Easter Week of Prayer. **Celebration of Love** promotes Foreign Mission's Advance Celebration. Here's what you can do:

*Ask your pastor how your auxiliary can help. Each state is co-ordinating its own Advance Celebration and each church should have an Advance chairman.

*Study the wealth of materials available. Use them in connection with the

Celebration of Love devotional guide. (A master for copying is included in the Leader's Packet, or may be requested from WNAC.) Each woman in the church, whether or not she is a member, should have the privilege of participating in this activity.

*Give sacrificially. First we meditate on God's love, then focus on those who have never heard of this love. Our financial response helps in four areas:

- training of national leadership
- building overseas churches
- equipping missionaries
- sending new missionaries

The devotional guide suggests you begin on March 1 and put a dime in an envelope. At the end of 30 days, you should have \$3. WNAC's combined offering could exceed \$50,000 if each woman gave an additional \$2 praise offering, making a total of \$5. What a glorious way to celebrate Easter!



Missionary Prayer Calendar

Missionaries supported by both Foreign and Home Missions departments are listed by their birthdates. Detach this sheet and keep it near your Bible as a reminder to pray.

January

- 1—Florine Coscia (Brazil)
- 5—Donna Daniel (IC)
- *6—Janice Drake (WY)
- **7—Ron Wallace (GA)
- 11—Walter Ellison (Uruguay)
- 13—Jim Combs (Brazil)
- 13—Karen Cowart (Brazil)
- **13—Bob White (KY)
- 14—Shirley Combs (Brazil)
- 23—Priscilla Inscoe (Panama)
- 24—Jerry Pinkerton (IC)
- 26—Cathy Crawford (France)
- *28—Vicky Mutchler (OR)
- 29—Janice Banks (Japan)

February

- 1—Linda Reeves (Spain)
- 2—Jim Cowart (Brazil)
- 5—Judy Bailey (Japan)
- *5—Bill Reagan (Canada)
- 7—Pam West (IC)
- 8—Don McDonald (Japan)
- 10—Sandra Payne (IC)
- **10—John Hollis (IL)
- **12—Gary Brunson (KS)
- **13—Billie Sexton (TN)
- **13—Laura Ellis (TN)
- 13—Rejane Eagleton (IC)
- 17—Barbara Gibbs (France)
- 21—Judy Lytle (Panama)

March

- 2—Evelyn Hersey (Japan)
- **3—Janice Wallace (GA)
- **5—Willie Booth (OH)
- 7—Patty McCullough (France)
- **8—Judy Hayes (TN)
- 13—Vada Lee (IC)
- 14—Allan Crowson (France)
- *14—Peggy Adkisson (NM)
- 19—Anita Sparks (Spain)
- 20—Trena Owens (Spain)
- 27—Olena McLain (Japan)
- *29—Lois Reagan (Canada)

April

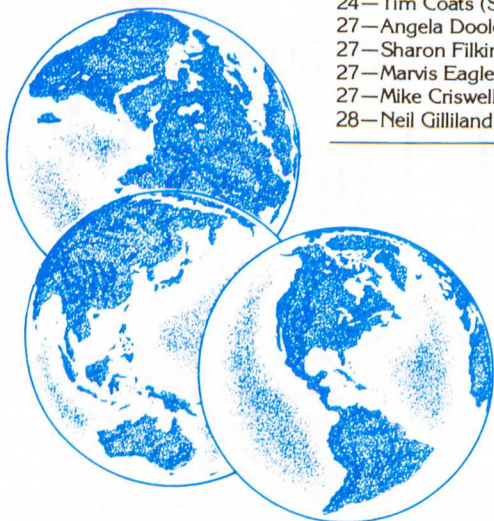
- 1—Mike Lake (IN)
- 9—Marie Hanna (IN)
- 9—Ramona Miley (France)
- 11—Ledgel Ferguson (IC)
- 13—Charolette Tallent (France)
- 18—Miguel Vera (Puerto Rico)
- 24—Tim Coats (SD)
- 27—Angela Dooley (OH)
- 27—Sharon Filkins (IC)
- 27—Marvis Eagleton (Brazil)
- 27—Mike Criswell (OR)
- 28—Neil Gilliland (IC)

May

- *6—Bill Fulcher (TX)
- *6—James O'Dell (MN)
- **10—Delores Burns (GA)
- 11—Elaine Holland (IC)
- 13—Amy Robinson (Uruguay)
- *14—Brenda Lewis (CO)
- 16—Dale Bishop (Japan)
- **16—Elaine Parker (TX)
- **17—Ora Booth (OH)
- 17—Steve Reeves (Spain)
- 21—Ernest Holland (IC)
- 25—Lynn Midgett (Spain)
- 26—Kenneth Eagleton (IC)
- *29—Jerry Barron (Mexico)
- 30—Alice Smith (IC)

June

- 2—Jean Deeds (Brazil)
- 6—Stan Bunch (Panama)
- **7—Bobbie Hensley (CA)
- **11—Kathy Donoho (IL)
- **13—Mabel Willey (FL)
- 14—Steve Lytle (Panama)
- 20—Paul Robinson (Uruguay)
- **21—Wallace Hayes (TN)
- 24—Jim McLain (Japan)
- **28—Ron Parker (TX)
- 29—Steve Riggs (France)





July

- **1—Jean Bevan (VA)
- 1—Ken Eagleton (Brazil)
- **2—Hughes Ellis (TN)
- *3—Bill Adkisson (NM)
- **6—Vickie Hollis (IL)
- **6—Danny Hester (OK)
- *7—Wanda McClary (NB)
- 9—Linda Bowling (Uruguay)
- **9—Luther Burns (GA)
- **9—Don Sexton (TN)
- *11—Barbara Jones (Mexico)
- **19—Norris Hawkins (SC)
- *20—Paul Thompson (AZ)
- *20—Robert Bryan (IC)
- 20—Fred Hersey (Japan)
- **22—Roy Roach (OH)
- 26—Sharon Ferguson (IC)
- 27—Lynette Morgan (IC)
- 27—Eddie Payne (IC)
- 27—Ron Callaway (Spain)
- 29—Dennis Teague (France)

August

- *1—Alyne Maness (NJ)
- 1—Deleen Cousineau (IC)
- 2—Judy Bryan (IC)
- *2—Marilyn Thompson (AZ)
- 3—Carlisle Hanna (India)
- 3—Jerry Banks (Japan)
- 5—Dennis Owen (Spain)
- 6—Darrel Nichols (IC)
- 7—Vicki Sturgill (Brazil)
- 8—Rick Bowling (Uruguay)
- **12—Pat Nason (NH)
- **13—Sam Hensley (CA)
- **17—Ralph Hester (MS)
- 17—Jim Sturgill (Brazil)
- 18—Judy Smith (Japan)
- **24—Cheryl Reed (VA)
- 26—Larry Inscoe (Panama)
- 27—Sandra Bishop (Japan)
- 29—Linda Callaway (Spain)

September

- **1—Grace Williams (MO)
- **2—Steve Cannon (VA)
- 2—Ken Bailey (Japan)
- 7—Susan Turnbough (Spain)
- **7—Sylvia Hawkins (SC)
- *7—Mirial Gainer (Japan)
- 8—Jeff Turnbough (Spain)
- *8—Jerry McClary (NB)
- 9—David Filkins (IC)
- 9—Nancy Hughes (Brazil)
- **10—Cliff Donoho (IL)
- 14—Carol Teague (France)
- 16—Sherwood Lee (IC)
- *16—Julie Barron (Mexico)
- *16—Steve Trail (LA)
- *17—Gail Criswell (OR)
- *23—Bob Lewis (CO)
- *25—Kathy Wright (NB)
- 27—LaRue Crowson (France)
- 28—Brenda Bunch (Panama)
- 29—Pat Franks (Brazil)
- 29—Ruth McDonald (Japan)
- 30—Norman Richards (IC)

October

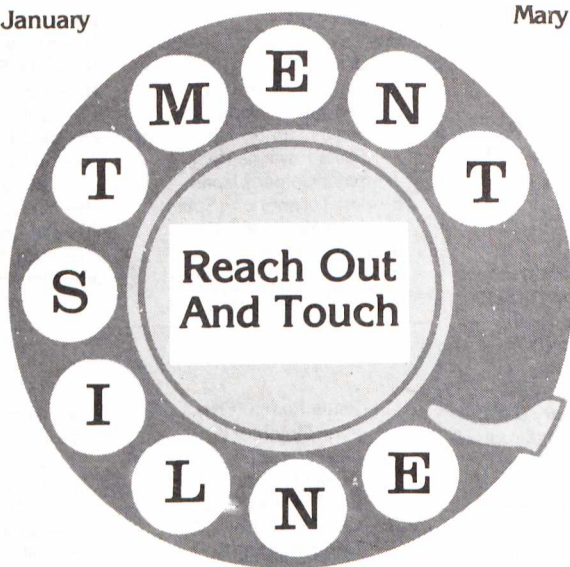
- **1—Paula Roach (OH)
- *1—Mike Mutchler (OR)
- 3—Dawn Sweeney (France)
- *3—Adelaida Vera (PR)
- 5—Dave Franks (Brazil)
- 6—Carol Pinkerton (IC)
- *7—Buddy Drake (WY)
- *7—Ginger Lake (IN)
- 8—Clint Morgan (IC)
- **13—Vivian Waller (Japan)
- *13—Kathy Coats (SD)
- 13—Jerry Gibbs (France)
- 13—John Murray (France)
- **16—Gladys Turnbough (FL)
- **14—James Mertz (MO)
- **16—Jim Williams (MO)
- 17—Geneva Poole (Brazil)
- **17—Deanna White (KY)
- *18—Bob Thomas (CO)
- 18—Becky Riggs (France)
- 23—Mike Cousineau (IC)
- 23—Lila Nichols (IC)
- 23—Robert West (IC)
- *23—Judy Trail (LA)
- 25—Sheila Gilliland (IC)
- 28—Lynn Miley (France)
- **30—Jonathan Yandall (CA)
- 31—Earnie Deeds (Brazil)

November

- 3—Greg Bevan (VA)
- 3—Shirley Hester (OK)
- 4—Glenda Fulcher (TX)
- 7—Sharon O'Dell (MN)
- 10—Gracie Lowe (ID)
- 13—Diana Yandall (CA)
- 14—Marcie Ellison (Uruguay)
- **16—Delores Hester (MS)
- *21—Russell Lowe (ID)
- *22—Jim Nason (NH)
- 27—Bessie Richards (IC)
- 28—Bobby Poole (Brazil)
- 28—Mark Daniel (IC)
- **28—Albert Rollins (FL)
- *30—Harold Teague (TX)

December

- **1—Rose Mertz (MO)
- 3—Pansy Murray (France)
- *6—Vergel Maness (NJ)
- *7—Russell Wright (NB)
- 9—Debbie Griffin (Japan)
- **10—Pat Brunson (KS)
- *10—Katy Minor (RI)
- **10—Irene Rollins (FL)
- **11—Fred Jones (Mexico)
- **12—John Reed (VA)
- **13—Norma Teague (TX)
- 14—Lonnie Sparks (Spain)
- *14—Rosa Lee Thomas (CO)
- **16—Tom Dooley (OH)
- 18—Tom Hughes (Brazil)
- 19—Molly Barker (Uruguay)
- 22—Tom McCullough (France)
- *22—Peter Minor (RI)
- 24—Louis Coscia (Brazil)
- **29—Elmer Turnbough (FL)
- 30—Ariella Wode (IC)



Objective: To be constrained by the love of Christ to reach and touch others.

Scripture: John 13:34, 35

Hymns: "We Are One In The Spirit," "Reach Out To Jesus," or "Touching Jesus"

Special: As someone sings "Reach Out And Touch" (words and music included in **Leader's Packet**), ask someone to do the hymn in sign language.

Introduction

A TV commercial popularizes the phrase "Reach Out and Touch Someone." Reaching out and touching others should be a way of life for Christian women.

One of the most moving accounts of the healing touch of Christ is the account of the hemorrhaging woman recorded by three of the Gospel writers. So strong was her faith that she pressed through the curious crowd to touch but the edge of his garment.

"Who touched me?" He asked as He sensed healing power go from Him.

Peter tried to minimize the situa-

tion. "A whole crowd of people about and You ask, 'Who touched me?'"

Then to the trembling seeker, Jesus says, "Your faith has saved you."

The amazing fact is that He continues to touch us today—not in a physical sense but in His transforming impact on our lives. He, in turn, empowers us to reach out and touch others with His love. This program focuses on four specific areas in which we can touch others.

**Reach Out
And Touch Someone—
At Home** (2 Tim. 1:5)

More than anyone else in the world,

a mother touches the lives of her children. That touch can have eternal results. Just as sincere faith was implanted in the heart of young Timothy by his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois, Christian mothers help their children come to a saving knowledge of Christ. Loving discipline and encouragement can help mold character into a vessel God can use.

If our home has never been blessed with children, we can have a ministry of love to younger women in the faith. Paul encourages women to teach Christian principles to develop their maturity. These principles of sensibility, purity, kindness, and reverence for the marriage relationship are drastically needed in most families today.

Christian wives touch the lives of their husbands as they become intertwined in their vocations. These wives recognize the headship of the husband and give him the respect God requires.

A woman with an unsaved husband may so touch his life by her Christian behavior that she may win him to Christ (1 Peter 3:1). Hers may be the only witness for Christ he receives. That touch can count for a happier life here, as well as result in eternal reward.

Reach Out And Touch Someone— At Church (Prov. 11:30)

Our churches are filled with opportunities to reach out and touch. Give that elderly saint a genuine hug and call during the week. An invitation for a meal with your family, every month or so, would be a bright spot in his day.

We can touch the lives of the teens or college students in our church who come from non-Christian homes. Invite them for meals or an occasional overnight visit. They will see firsthand the difference Christ makes as head of a home. Your sympathetic touch may encourage him to reach out to his own family and win them to Christ.

Reach out and touch the young mothers who need a day free for shopping, rest or time to themselves. Reach out to the new mother separated from family and friends. Reach out to the unwed mother.

Reach out in love to the emotionally crippled in our churches, those who are unlovely, critical and on the fringe of fellowship. Many new converts and unsaved seekers are turned away from Christ and His claims for consecration when Christians exhibit partiality (James 2:1).

Even the full-time Christian workers need touching, be it daily intercessory prayer, financial aid, or emotional support. Remember the advice in Hebrews 13:17.

Reach Out And Touch Someone— In The Community (Heb. 13:1-3)

Reaching out to our community requires time and effort. We are admonished to show hospitality to strangers and not to forget those in prison. Prison populations in the United States continue to soar. And yet the average Free Will Baptist church has never even considered a prison ministry. Let's pray the Lord will call out laborers with a burden for this ministry in our church.

Christians who volunteer in hospitals, nursing homes, food banks, hospices and rescue missions can reach out and touch the dying, elderly, suffering, and downtrodden with Christ's love. One Spirit-filled and guided Christian can make eternal differences in his community.

Reach Out And Touch Someone— In The World (Mark 16:15)

The Great Commission includes all the world and all creatures. If we believe God's Word, we can't sit idly by without aiding in worldwide evangelism. If He has not called us to reach out and touch physically, He certainly expects us to support those who have answered that call.

Reach out by choosing a specific field . . . a specific missionary . . . then reach out with a letter. Reach out and help meet financial needs, touch them with birthday cards, letters of encouragement, special remembrances.

More importantly, we reach out and touch our missionaries by our faithful, fervent prayers. Consider them as your own family members. Some day in heaven we will rejoice together with our missionary family and the converts from that field—all because we cared enough to reach out and touch.

Conclusion (1 Pet. 4:8-10)

Women, let's use our Christian gifts to reach out and touch someone.

Prayer of consecration

Bible Study



This lesson lends itself well to an in-depth study of the healing touch of Jesus. From your study Bible, or a good concordance, (or ask your pastor), compile a list of all the healing miracles Jesus performed. Now divide your women into small groups. Divide the Scripture passages into as many groups of women as you have.

1. Make a chart. How many times did Jesus heal with a spoken word? From a distance? With a touch? Isn't it amazing how often He reached out and touched someone?

2. Do you think Jesus touched the demoniac of Gadara? (Matt. 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-21; Luke 8:26-40) The Scriptures do not say specifically; why do you believe as you do?

3. In Matt. 14:36 and Mark 6:56, those in need desired only to touch the hem of His garment. How can we touch the hem of Jesus' garment today?

The Healing Touch of Jesus

- Peter's mother-in-law (Matt. 8:15)
- Leper (Matt. 8:3)
- Daughter of Jairus (Luke 8:54)
- Malchus' ear (Luke 22:51)
- Widow of Nain's son (Luke 7:14)
- Blind (John 9:6; Mark 8:22, 23; Matt. 21:34)
- Deaf and Dumb (Mark 7:22, 32)
- Unclean spirit (Mark 9:27)
- Infirm (Luke 13:13)
- Power in a Touch (Luke 7:19)

CLOSED DOORS

Characters: Narrator

Mrs. Christian

Five women wearing placards reading: Pride, Self-Pity, Resentment, Rebellion, and Lack Of Faith

Friends who walk through the open door

Friends who give encouragement (may be the same women)

Preparation: Arrange a setting before a closed door since all action takes place before it. You will need a comfortable chair (turned sideways to face the closed door) and an end table holding a Bible and assorted religious books.

Leader's Introduction:

In your walk with the Lord, have you ever encountered a closed door? When you wanted something more than anything else in the whole world? It was something only God could do, and yet for some reason, He refused to honor your request to open that door and let you experience those blessings on the other side.

Perhaps it was a child, when, like Rachel, you cried out, "Give me children, or else I die!" (Gen. 30:1). Yet with alarming regularity, monthly signs seemed to mock your request.

Your closed door may be a place of service—on the foreign field or a chosen place here in the States. Perhaps a home closer to aging parents or children. A desired profession, a specific job.

Putting down permanent roots, as buying a home or a business, may be your closed door.

A husband could be a closed door. Or the way out of a bad marriage.

Paul encountered a closed door (2 Cor. 12:8). Some think it may have

been a health problem. Is this your closed door?

A closed door may be anything that you desire that God withholds. Something known only to you and God.

This program focuses on the closed doors in a Christian's life.

Narrator: Mrs. Christian had walked with the Lord for several years and enjoyed all the blessings and benefits so freely bestowed upon her by her Lord. He opened doors and she walked through them. It seemed all she had to do was choose a door, express a desire to enter, and lo! it opened up before her.

Once, however, in her journey through life, she came upon a closed door. She desired to enter this door with all her heart, but it opened not before her. She paid it little heed at first because she was so engrossed in the opened doors. Occasionally, though, she returned to this closed door, but it was always the same. It would not budge. It was a closed door.

One day she stopped before the door and thought, "Why should all these other doors open before me and not this one?" She was tired of seeing it shut all these years. She wasn't sure who had shut it or why, but in a starkly rebellious way, she wanted that door to open. **(Enter woman wearing "Pride" placard, stands to the side.)**

(Enter a few friends, They may speak or the narrator may read the conversation.)

"All you have to do is open the door," one of them told her.

"Look! It opens for us," another said.

And it did. With an ache in her heart she watched as the door opened and her friends walked through. But when she made plans to walk through, it slammed shut in her face.

(Enter second woman wearing placard "Self-Pity" who stands quietly in the background.)

"Why should it swing wide at their touch and not mine?" she exclaimed. At this point she determined she would open that door if it was the last thing she ever did!

Self-Devised Efforts

Narrator: Mrs. Christian began her reading campaign. **(Again Mrs. Christian may read from the books herself, or the narrator may do so.)**

"There are no shut doors for God's people," this one told her.

"Shut doors are God's opportunity," another said.

"Behold I have set before you an open door," God's Word reassured her. All God's doors are open for

those with faith enough to believe, she reasoned. Oh, she believed! She willed herself to believe! There are no shut doors to those who are persistent, who work hard and have a go-for-it mindset! She rose armed with the kind of artillery to go for it! How could such a determination like that possibly fail?

(She charges the door, but it is as resolutely shut as before. She returns to her chair. Woman wearing "Resentment" enters and stands quietly in another location about her.)

Mrs. Christian has no trouble finding those who agreed with her. **(Three friends enter who speak in turn and then exit.)**

"Of course, we understand how you feel. After all, God wants the best for His children. He wants this for you, too, so don't be discouraged. No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Ps. 84:11).

"Delight thyself also in the Lord and he shall give you the desires of your heart" (Ps. 37:4)

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; for everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened (Matt. 7:7, 8).

They all served to assure her she was on the right track. "That door must be opened," they said in unison. But when she rose to open it, it was still a closed door.

(Enter Pride)

Keepers of the Keys

At this point she began a private

campaign to wrest the keys to this shut door from the two who had them—God, the Great Keeper of the Keys, and her husband to whom God had also entrusted a key. Both had the same mindset about the door. If the Great Keeper would give the order, she was absolutely certain her husband would open the door. But there was no order. Without realizing it, she began to arm herself against the two most formidable forces in her life. **(Enter husband)**

"Look," she reasoned with him, "we should open this door together." She showed him the facts and figures she had carefully worked out. She pointed out why this door should be opened—it would bring glory to God, it could bless others, they could accomplish so much more . . .

He shook his head no.

She did this not once, but many times. Each time, he shook his head no.

She became enraged at his complacent manner. "How can you be so blind to all the wonders behind that closed door? I think you actually enjoy the look of that closed door!"

And to further her anger, he began to point out all the good points of the door, its hinges, the size and color, its sturdiness. She had no time for that kind of attitude and her urge to rebel became stronger.

(Enter Rebellion and exit husband)

The door began to loom larger and larger in her imagination. It's not that there weren't many other open doors. There were! But she didn't see them. All she could see

was that one closed door.

As time went on, she began to spend hours each day trying to figure out how to open that door and tried various keys of her own making. She tried the key of reason. She could help more people, God's kingdom would be advanced . . . it did not work.

The next key appealed to God's love and mercy. He loved her, He wanted the best for her, He wanted her happiness. The key refused to turn. She tried the key of determination, but it, too, bent with the force of her pressure.

The closed door became the subject of every conversation and every prayer. Finally one day, in total desperation, she cried out to the Keeper of the Keys. "God, You said in your word, Command thou me, and I'm commanding you to open that door!" (Isa. 45:11). A resounding **NO** echoed through her tears. "Open!" she repeated the command. And each time a resounding **NO!** You don't say "Open Sesame!" to God. The door was as shut as that first day she encountered it.

Submission

At last, all strength spent, all resources depleted, all arguments exhausted, she began to seriously question the rightness of forcing the door open. Would she actually be willing to allow the closed door to affect her relationship with the keepers this way? And if she did, wouldn't it mean a continuous ripple of never ending conflict? Which was more important to her—a right relationship with the keepers or the

blessings on the other side of the door?

She answered the questions as fast as they came and as honestly as she could. She searched the Guidebook for answers. Then, like warm oil, the Holy Spirit flowed over her and her resistance began to crumble. She had no choice, no good and happy choice, but to raise the white flag. She must surrender her will to the Keeper of the Keys. Quiet, unemotional, in-the-will surrender. No bells. No tears. It was over.

She didn't know if the door would be closed permanently or if He would open it tomorrow. Slowly and painfully she turned her stricken gaze from the closed door. Acceptance and resignation and peace wrestled one last time with pride and stubbornness. The almighty Keeper fanned the dying embers of God-love in her heart as she came face-to-face with a new truth. "This closed door is from Him." Somehow she thought He was only the Keeper of open doors.

The Almighty Keeper of the Keys took her on a short journey where they met some recent acquaintances: Pride, Self-Pity, Resentment, Rebellion, and Lack-of-Faith. She didn't like any of them. She no longer wanted them as guests. **(They exit)**

The battle was over. She had met the Lord of the closed doors. She learned that He had closed this door because of His great love and because He had other directions in mind. At last she bowed at His feet in sincere praise and adoration and thanksgiving for the closed door.

Leader's Conclusion:

What is your attitude toward the closed door in your life? Can you honestly and sincerely, with as much as in you is, thank Him for it?
Dedication chorus: "He Is Lord"

Suggested by an article written by Linda Andersen in Discovery Digest, Radio Bible Class, Grand Rapids, MI, and used by permission.



Program for March

LaCrecia McFaddin

Aim: To show that our service for Christ must be characterized by unfeigned love for others.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Hymn:

Introduction:

We are a game-oriented society. More than a hundred years ago someone discovered games to be natural and helpful in a child's development. Children the world over still play their versions of "Tag," "London Bridge," "Drop the Hankerchief," and "Follow the Leader."

Games not only entertain, they may teach valuable lessons, develop teamwork, train the mind, or provide relaxation from a busy schedule. Many families also testify that participating in a family game does more to unite them than mere observance of an action sport on TV.

While there are definite positive aspects of games, let's watch out for the negatives. A game is a game and must never be carried over into real life. Some games involve physical competition, some mental. But all require knowing the rules and game strategy. After all, victory is at stake!

This program examines the rules and game strategies of some popular games and likens them to ourselves and our auxiliaries.

Monopoly

The ultimate goal of this game is to gain a monopoly over the other players by buying up huge chunks of real estate. Eventually he becomes so powerful he bankrupts the other players.

The auxiliary is not a power player. No few women have a monopoly on its membership or leadership. A wise leader sees that every woman in the church has an opportunity to develop her talents and use them for God. Mission action, mission prayer, and

mission study provide outlets to stimulate every interest and personality.

The other extreme to monopoly is the "Let Suzie Do It" syndrome where no one takes responsibility! Let's all roll up our sleeves and share the load. **(Read Ephesians 6:7.)**

Trivia

You win in this game by correctly answering certain trivia questions.

Serving the Lord is a serious matter and auxiliary work is a missionary service of the church. No place for trivia here and serving as an officer is not a game. Most of us are too busy to waste time at an auxiliary meeting filled with trivia.

The auxiliary helps each woman fulfill her place in the Great Commission. Why is it that so many of our auxiliaries have dropped in attendance or even disbanded? Could it be that so much time is spent on trivia that women leave the meeting spiritually starved and unmotivated?

Let's be serious minded about our Lord's reputation and put His work first in our schedules. **(Read Colossians 3:17)**

Sorry

In this game, each player is given four tokens and a stack of instruction cards, one which reads "Sorry." When the player turns up this card, he is allowed to exchange one of his starting tokens with an opponent's advanced one. While this advances the player considerably, it sends the other back to the beginning.

We are laborers together with God. But if we aren't careful, we become so

carried away with our own spiritual advancement, we hinder others along the way. This game has resulted in the spiritual death of many young Christians.

When we carry the game of Sorry into real life, we become stumbling blocks (1 Cor. 8:9) or rocks of offense (Rom. 9:33). In 1 Corinthians 8:13 **(read)** Paul leaves us a principle to follow: We abstain from whatever offends others, even if we don't see anything wrong with it.

Let's help in the development and progression of others instead of their downfall and destruction.

Life

Players of this game move across a board in pursuit of life's activities—marriage, college, family, possessions, etc.

We tend to become so involved in this real life pursuit that we fail to realize families around us are also

playing the same game. We join the same carousel of getting married, going to college, having a family, choosing a occupation, acquiring stock, a home, and on and on. The sad difference is no one is telling them that the ultimate outcome of life depends upon what they do with Jesus Christ.

Ladies, let's lay aside life's duties and demands, our laundry, dishes, meetings, or whatever it is that keeps us from the real purpose of life—to glorify God and make Him known to others. **(Read Luke 9:23-26.)**

Conclusion

A dramatic conclusion to this program would be Amy Carmichael's "The Cry of the Blood" (available from WNAC for 30¢). This reading depicts the pathos of souls going to hell as Christians carelessly sit about weaving their "daisy chains."

Alternate Bible Study: Judges 14:5-20

Riddles are a form of game which is frequently used in Scripture. It means any saying of which the meaning is not immediately clear and must be found by shrewd reasoning.

Take turns reading this passage or read it chorally. Here are some questions to guide your discussion:

1. Who were the participants in this game? (vv. 11, 12). What two words in verse 3 describe them?
2. What was the riddle? (v. 12) Is this so different from our riddles of today?
3. How long did the game continue? (vv. 12 and 15)
4. Who was the winner? (v. 18) Why?
5. What else did Samson lose beside the game? (v. 20)
6. How could 2 Corinthians 6:15-18 be applied to this passage?
7. How does this apply to us today?



They Followed Him

Monday

Suzanne & Chris

Song: "I Saw One Hanging on a Tree" or "Calvary"

Scripture: John 3:14-17 *Dana*

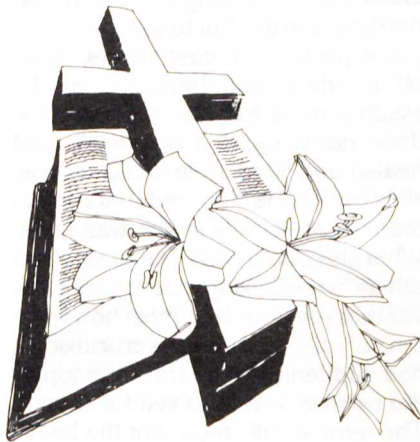
Ang NARRATOR: Suppose you had been there during Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection? How would you have responded? We women were there, you know and some of us followed Him. We listened to His words, served Him, and supported His ministry any way we could. We followed Him even to the cross and stood there on that day. Among us we supported Mary, His mother.

Helen THE MOTHER: He was my child, my first born, my precious one, and He was dying. He called God his father, and yet He died alone. But even in that aloneness He thought of me and made provision for his old mother. I stood at the cross and remembered Simeon's words again. How many times I had called them to mind. "My eyes have seen thy salvation," he said. "A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Israel." But He spoke of a sword that day too. One that would

Pre-Easter Week Of Prayer Mary Ruth Wisheart

pierce through my own heart. Oh, how it pierced that day. Not just for a son, but for a Savior. Hanging there between earth and sky was God, my Savior. He was despised and rejected by men and acquainted with grief. But all these He suffered for my sins and yours. He was God's perfect sacrifice for sin. He was lifted up that all the ends of the earth should see the salvation of our God. Now we rejoice in His salvation. But we are also sent ones. "As my father hath sent me, even so send I you," He said. His father didn't send him into a world of gentle people. He came to His own, but they rejected Him. So we are sent to those who reject, who hate, who will not listen. We are sent to the poor, the hungry, the dirty, the wicked, sinful of the earth. They may not listen; they may reject us and our message. Yet we are sent and must faithfully serve. "As the father hath sent me, even so send I you."

Tuesday



334
P. 18 H2
wounded Joe
Song: "What Did He Do?" or "What A Wonderful Savior"

Scripture: Luke 2:36-38

and **NARRATOR:** At the time of Jesus' birth a young girl was serving in the temple, Susanna. She listened wide-eyed to Anna's words about the Christ. Anna was dead long before Jesus started his ministry, but Susanna had not forgotten. She listened eagerly to Jesus and determined to follow Him. Had not Anna said that he had been born to bring redemption to Israel? As he had served in the temple, so she would serve this man. She was also standing at the cross that day.

Suzanne **SUSANNA:** I saw Him first when he was a tiny baby, brought into the temple by his parents. I, coming in with Anna, saw only an ordinary baby, a first born son coming for the sacrifice. But Anna suddenly lifted her voice in praise to God. She saw in Him the promised one, the one we had longed for, a savior. She said He would take our hands and put them into the hands of God. Anna died soon afterward. But I remembered her words, and when He began His ministry, I left the temple to follow Him. I followed even to the cross. The cross. It's hard enough to watch anyone you love die, but to watch the one you expected to redeem Israel, throw off bondage and bring peace. To watch someone so punished who had done no wrong, but only loved and healed and lifted. How could we possibly bear it? He died, and I returned to the temple, for my leader was gone. What else could I do? The priests and others were talking about the great veil that separated the most holy from the holy place. During the crucifixion it had suddenly ripped from the top to the bottom. I went to see for myself. The temple still stood, but the heavy

veil was torn so that anyone who dared could see or walk right into the holy of holies. I stood and thought. This was the place where God himself dwelt among His people. What did it all mean? Now He was dead; His people had killed Him, and God had deserted the temple and His people. Only later did I realize why the veil was torn. Not in anger, but in love and victory. He had fulfilled Anna's prophecy. God was no longer confined to the holiest where only the High Priest could go. Jesus had taken my hand and put it into the hand of God.

Wednesday

Song: "Where He Leads Me"

Scripture: Mark 15:39-41

NARRATOR: Salome lived in Galilee with her husband, Zebedee and her two strong sons, John and James. She always wanted her sons to have the best and to amount to something. You remember how she came to Jesus and asked the best seats, the seats of honor for her boys. We all resented that a bit, but nevertheless, she was one of us. She followed Jesus and came to Jerusalem with Him from Galilee. She too stood by His cross.

Rafael **SALOME:** He called my brave strong sons to follow Him, and I knew they could be the best in His kingdom. He offered so much and He swayed the multitudes as well as my sons. My own heart longed to be a part of His great work, and so I too followed Him. How could any of us know exactly where it would lead? I remember what He said to my sons: "Are you able to drink of the cup I drink of and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" We were full of pride

that day, but He didn't reject us. Instead He taught us a lesson about our position in His kingdom. To all of us He said, "Whoever wants to be great among you, let him minister to others' needs. And whoever wants to be chief, let him be your servant." Then He spoke of Himself. "I," he said, "am among you as he that serveth." Here He was, the Lord and master of us all, but He took the servant's place. And so we, if we are to follow Him, must do the same. I followed Him to the cross that day. I saw Him die. I went with those who took Him into the tomb and saw them lay His body there. He was quite dead and all our hopes were gone. Yet He had something in mind for us, something even more wonderful than we could imagine. He's still planning that something wonderful for His people. But we must be followers, servants to those around us.

Thursday

Song: "In the Garden"

Scripture: Mark 16:9-11

NARRATOR: Among the followers of Jesus was another Mary—Mary of Magdala. Proud, powerful, self-centered, and cruel, she was respected, feared, and hated. But one day she met Jesus, and He changed all that. He rebuked the seven demons that possessed her. She yielded to a stronger power, the power of love itself. Magdala became a follower of Jesus, and oh, how she loved Him. She served with the rest of us. She had to come to the cross that day, even though it seemed to tear her apart.

MAGDALA: The men—most of them at least—ran away. That was their

answer to the cross. They didn't want to watch, couldn't bear to stay. But I, how could I leave Him then, the one who freed me from the cruel powers? Even if He died in disgrace, I must be there. I had been envied and hated, but, oh, so alone and so tortured. Mary of Magdala, rich, so they said, but really poor and unhappy, that is until I met Jesus. The wonder of it; He freed me; He cleansed me; and He loved me.

Yes, I stood at the cross. I had to be there, don't you see. And I followed the men to the tomb. I had to see if there were any last things I could do for Him. He had done so much for me. Who else would even have dared reach out to a person like me? But He knows what is in men's hearts and loves us still. He reached out to even me. He gave me the greatest commission: to tell the others that He wasn't dead, but alive. Never, never will I forget the joy at seeing His face, hearing His beloved voice. How could I do less than share the joyful news? He is alive, and He is still the same. Listen. He is still saying, "Go tell the others that I am alive."

Friday

Song: "One Day"

Scripture: Mark 15:25-47

(This part of the program is to be performed as a drama with the characters of Narrator, Mary the Mother, Salome, Susanna, Mary of Bethany, Mary of Magdala. The characters may be costumed or in contemporary dress. They are recalling for the audience and the narrator speaks directly to the audience.)

NARRATOR: We are the women who followed Jesus, who ministered to

and served Him. We stood at the cross and watched Him die. Early on the first day of the week after the Sabbath we gathered to care for His body properly. You see, there hadn't been time before. Magdala, Joanna, and others had observed exactly where His tomb was. We planned to go as soon as it was light to do what we could. You understand we loved Him so, and the anointing was the very last service we could do for Him. But here we were to receive the cruellest blow yet, for the tomb had been opened and his body was missing. We felt cheated, cheated out of that last opportunity to do for Him. But what could we do? We left the garden, but Magdala insisted on returning alone to the tomb. Let us tell you what happened then.

(Women huddled together, some weeping, all distressed.)

SUSANNA: Why, in His death at least, could they not let Him alone?

JOANNA: They are too cruel to disturb His burial like this.

MARY: At least they could let Him lie in peace.

SALOME: What can we do for Him now?

MARY: He is truly gone, Oh, my dearest, dearest friend.

(SUDDENLY MARY MAGDALENE BURSTS IN.)

MAGDALA: **(She stands radiant, puts down her ointment.)** He doesn't need this any more.

SALOME: He doesn't need the ointment?

MAGDALA: He isn't dead. He's alive.

SUSANNA: What do you mean?

MAGDALA: He is alive, I tell you.

MARY: We saw Him die.

JOANNA: We saw Him buried.

SUSANNA: And, Magdala, you saw Him buried too.

MAGDALA: But now I have seen Him alive. Just this moment in the garden. I was weeping there, and suddenly, I saw these two dressed in white, glistening garments. They asked, "Why seek the living among the dead? He is not here; he is risen."

MARY: Remember, he told us that He is the resurrection and the life and that he would rise the third day.

SUSANNA: This is the third day.

JOANNA: But how can you be sure he is alive?

SALOME: Has His word ever failed?

MARY: Never, never.

SALOME: Tell us more, Magdala.

MAGDALA: I turned away from the tomb then, and He was standing there. He called my name.

SUSANNA: Take us to Him.

MAGDALA: Wait. He said a strange thing. He didn't want me to cling to Him.

MARY: What did he say?

MAGDALA: He said, "I am not yet ascended to my Father, but I do ascend unto my father and your father, to my God and your God."

NARRATOR: For a moment we stood in wonder, stunned by Magdala's words. Then we began to remember the teachings we had heard.

MARY: He has accomplished His work, don't you see? He is the Messiah, the Savior. He is the resurrection and the life.

SUSANNA: Anna said that He would take our hands and put them into the hand of God. That's why the veil was torn. We can now enter into the Holy of Holies before God Himself. Jesus has taken my hand and put it into the hand of God, His father and mine.

MAGDALA: He said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also and greater works than these shall he do because I go unto my

Father. Greater works, because He will be with our Father and will be interceding for us.

SALOME: He said "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the son." We need only ask in His name.

JOANNA: He said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." Abiding in Him, we ask only what He wishes. Who wouldn't grant such requests?

MARY: Remember what He said about the spikenard? He said that deed would be spoken of "wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world."

JOANNA: Throughout the whole world? What did He mean by that?

SUSANNA: Perhaps He means we are to begin by telling the news that He is alive.

MAGDALA: I only know He lives, and He said to tell the others.

SALOME: Come, then, let us find James and John—and the others.

JOANNA: They will not believe us.

MARY: Indeed, we scarcely believed Magdala ourselves.

JOANNA: They will call us foolish women.

SUSANNA: Perhaps we are foolish, sometimes, but they must be told.

MARY: He left it to us to tell.

JOANNA: They will laugh at us; they will not believe us.

MAGDALA: What does it matter whether they believe us or not? He said tell them, and I must tell them. Are you coming?

ALL: (except Joanna) Yes, let us go and tell the good news.

JOANNA: Well, you go ahead. I'll stay here and pray for you. Didn't you say somebody should pray?

MAGDALA: (laughing) Come on, Joanna. We'll do our praying as we go.

NARRATOR: We did go together. You know the story. They didn't believe us. They did call us foolish women. But their unbelief did not change the fact that Mary had seen Him and that He is alive. He still lives. And He is still speaking.

ALL: All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all people everywhere that I am alive and I want to put their hands into the hand of God.

NARRATOR: Then let us be on our way, praying as we go to tell the good news. He lives.



March 24-28, 1986
Pre-Easter
Season of Prayer
for
Foreign Missions

EQUAL SACRIFICE, NOT EQUAL GIVING

Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with percent heart they offered willingly to the Lord: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.

1 Chronicles 29:9

A Woman



God Has Used

Born in Cove City, a small community in eastern North Carolina, in 1909 and born again some 12 years later, Annie Heath's first desire was to serve her Lord. At age 14 she taught her first Sunday school class and has taught almost continuously during the 60 years since.

Miss Annie organized the first woman's auxiliary, then called "Ladies Aid," in the Core Creek FWB Church in 1927. In 1962, after the state convention pulled out of the National Association, she was instrumental in preserving a church to support national causes, the Cove City FWB Church.

Left widowed in 1958, Miss Annie has three children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Involvement is her middle name. For 35 years, Mrs. Heath directed most of the Christmas programs and other extra activities in the local church, conducted numerous studies, and held all offices at various times in the auxiliary. On the district level she served as vice president of the Coastal convention for 15 years. For ten years she planned and prepared the meals for the Coastal Youth Summer Camps. Her state convention elected her to serve as vice president for one term.

Mrs. Heath's door is always open to pastors, evangelists, missionaries, Bible College students, and the multitude of friends she has made over the years. She shares home-cured pork, eggs, and vegetables from her garden as well as special home-cooked treats with pastors and their families.

Annie Heath maintains a close relationship with her heavenly Father. Because of this, she is a woman whom God has used.



HELP! WHAT CAN WE DO FOR OUR JANUARY ENLISTMENT?



WHY NOT USE THE ENLISTMENT PACKET? IT HAS ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN AN ENLISTMENT BRUNCH.



THE ENLISTMENT CHALLENGE IS CHOCK FULL OF IDEAS.

HOW ABOUT BOTH?



LET'S GET STARTED TODAY!



Packet
\$1.00

Challenge
75¢

Order from your WNAC office
P.O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 37202
Please enclosed 50¢ for postage and handling.

CREATIVE ARTS CONTEST



Don't miss this great opportunity to enter WNAC's annual creative arts contest. Submit entries in five categories: art, articles, plays/skits, poetry and programs. There is no entrance fee and you may submit as many entries as you desire. Mail to:

WNAC Arts Contest
P.O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 37202