

Co-Laborer

October, November, December 1986



Diane Mitchell
Articles



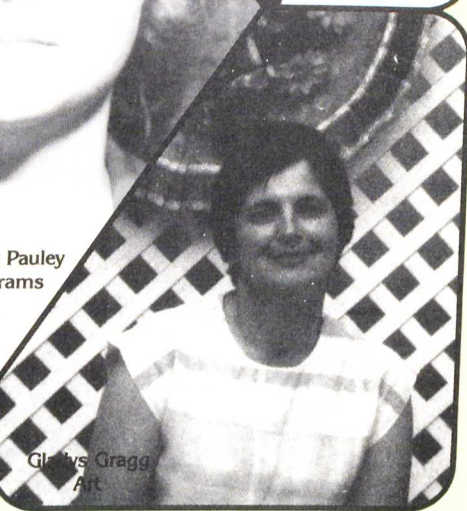
Sarah Fletcher
Poetry



Saebra Pauley
Programs



Lee Ann Wilfong
Plays/Skits



Gladys Gragg
Art

**First Place Winners
in the 1985-86 Creative Arts Contest**

Co-Laborer

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Missionary to Brazil



Gladys Gragg
Woodbine Auxiliary
Nashville, TN

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Executive Editor: Mary Ruth Wisheart
Editor: Lorene Miley
Circulation: Peggy Outland

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Our Missionaries Write

I have received so many pretty cards for my birthday from auxiliaries. Older must mean better. We'll be back in April of '87 for six months. If we are needed to speak at auxiliary meetings, feel free to ask us.

Olena McLain
Japan

Thank you for loving us missionaries. You'll always have a special place in this missionary's heart.

Cliff Donoho
Salem, IL

The Woman's Auxiliaries have always helped us, but never as much as in the last six months. For over two years our account had been in the red, but your gifts have put us into the black! How we thank you!

Virgil Maness
Vineland, NJ

Words From Our Winners

I'm thankful for the contest. It gives me an opportunity and incentive to take my writing off the back burners of my life.

Sarah Fletcher
Geff, IL

Sometimes after I've finished a piece of art, I look at my hands and ask, How did I do that? I didn't! God did!

Sandra Stone
Sylacauga, AL

If it wasn't for Jesus, I don't know where we'd be. No one on earth could have brought us through, but Jesus did.

Saebra Pauley
Parkersburg, WV

I'm at home nowadays . . . Our three children will soon be four. I have a part time home-based business called "Creation Express" (crafts).

Annette Dake
Newcastle, OK

I love to write and often try, but nothing has ever come as freely as that particular poem ("Postmarked: Emmaus").

Patricia Collins
Emporia, KS

On May 22, I gave birth to our first child. . .by caesarean. Megan had a

blood disorder. . . Through prayers of many, she is now producing her own blood cells.

**Lee Ann Wilfong
Desloge, MO**

My most challenging endeavor is the study and application of natural and wholesome food preparation and herbal medicines. After ten years of diligent effort, the rewards are worth the effort.

**Connie Burks
Bixby, OK**

Cuban Black Beans

A special feature of the cook book compiled by auxiliary women in Florida is the "Around the World" section at the back. Twelve missionaries from six countries share their favorite national recipes.

Most Americans seem to like black beans on rice and Paula Lopez shares her recipe:

Wash 1 lb. black beans and soak in six cups of water for five hours. Cook in a pressure cooker for 45 minutes.

Combine the following ingredients in a skillet and stir-fry for 2-4 minutes:

1 t. cumin
1/2 t. garlic powder
1/2 bell pepper
1 oz. can tomato paste
1 t. oregano
1/2 onion
1 T. salt
1/3 c. vegetable oil

Add to the beans and boil for 15 minutes. Pour 1/3 c. olive oil into the mixture and blend.

We thoroughly enjoy the excellent material you have provided.

**Marilyn Jones
Fenton, MO**

Here at Bethel we enjoy the **Co-Laborers** so much. We are increasing slowly, so please increase our subscription.

**Jewell Roark
Kansas City, KS**

Thanks for the programs. They are wonderful.

**Mable Doggett
Warren, AR**

We want to get our auxiliary revived, so please send us ten Co-Laborers.

**Joan Warren
Yakima, WA**

We had 28 for our last meeting with Molly Barker, guest speaker. . . Enclosed are washclothes for the Provision Closet.

**Lov Martin
Washington, NC**

This week I got out some old **Co-Laborers** and . . . thought, these articles are just as good today as they were in 1960. I found updates on the mission fields and our missionaries. In today's I still find missions emphasis. Praise the Lord!

**Nora McCarty
Ontario, CA**

Words For Women

Mary R. Wisehart



A New Wonder

"Mary changed God's diapers." What? Dr. Vernon McGee's statement strongly startled me. "Wait a minute," I said. Then I was caught up in the wonder of it.

The wonder of it! A tiny baby with dimples and toothless smiles, learning to sit up, to walk and talk. A tiny baby, frustrated, unable to communicate, unable to care for his own needs—wet, dirty, smelly, spitting up half-digested food. Trying to walk, falling, getting bruised and cut.

And God chose to come to us as one of those—one of us. No wonder Paul wrote: "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:7).

The wonder of it! Isn't it hard to imagine the great and awesome Jehovah in such a shape? He is holy. He is mighty. He is Creator and Lord. And He is love. His love prompted this wonder.

Oh! The wonder of it. Love for the man in prison, for the bag woman, the drunk, the organized crimeboss, the elevator operator, the president of the bank—and me. God's love for all of us prompted that gift.

Are they worth it? The painted woman on the street? The man with tobacco juice leaking out the corner of his mouth? God thinks they are worth it. And, oh, the wonder of it.

This majestic God came to us as a baby, and He is still with us. Think of it. The God who inhabited the Holy of Holies in the temple now makes His dwelling in my body and yours. And we are the evidence of His presence among us. What a wonder.

When I think of the tiny baby, when I think of His presence in us, I am overcome with a new wonder. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable (awesome and wonderful) gift" (II Corinthians 9:15).

His love is ever a new wonder. "His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22,23).

Watch For It!

Your next issue of **Co-Laborer** will be in the enlarged format, a 8 1/2 X 11, 32 page edition.

Annual subscription: \$5.75 (including postage) or \$5 group plan.

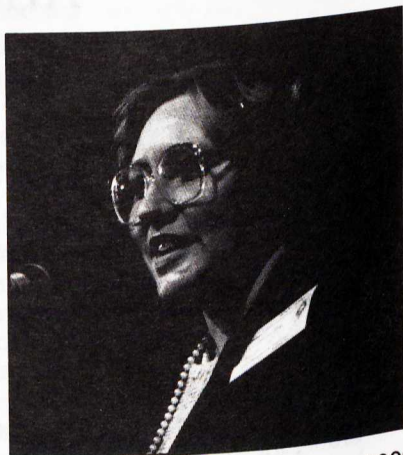




Convention



Sherwood and Vada Lee (Ivory Coast) bring the missionary challenge.



Vicki Hidde welcomes the 1008 registered delegates and visitors to the 51st session.



Both the executive and nominating committees meet on Monday.

Pictorial

July 21,22, 1986



State presidents and field workers catch a glimpse of God's wonders for tomorrow.



June Rolen, president, directs business which includes:

1. Enlarging **Co-Laborer** to a bi-monthly, 8 1/2 X 11, 32 page edition.
2. Awarding Maurilio Amorim, Brazil, with the national student scholarship.
3. Adopting a national project of \$50,000 to stretch over 5 years.

This loan fund for building mission churches outside the U.S. honors Mrs. Eunice Edwards, first full-time WNAC executive secretary-treasurer.



Diane Thomas, Tillie Oliver, Martha Everson and Linda Harvey speak at the growth seminar on Monday afternoon.



Winners (or proxys) in the creative arts contest are recognized. The 1986 contest drew 147 women from 23 states and 2 foreign countries with 402 entries.

"The Wonder of Children" is presented by furloughing missionaries.



Judy Lytle (Panama).



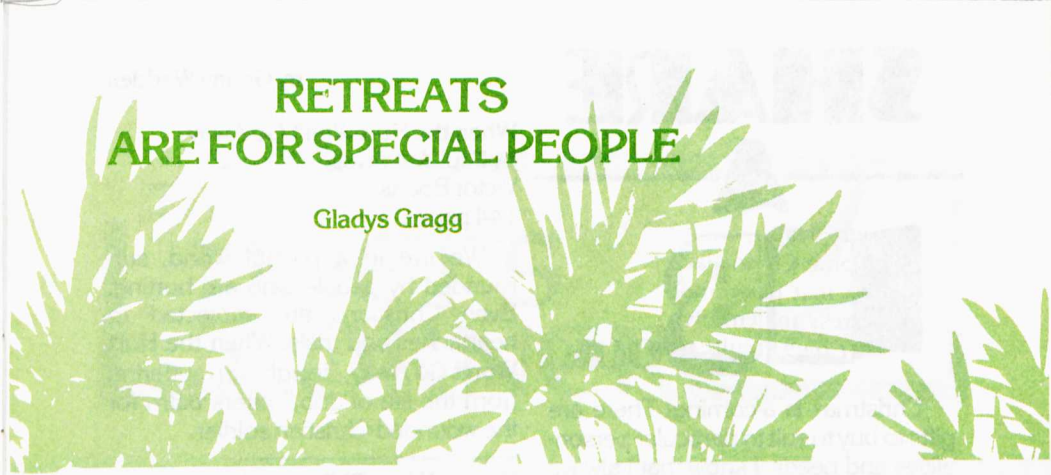
Lynette Morgan drafts other Ivory Coast missionaries for a classroom demonstration.



Cathy Crawford, Charolette Tallent (France), with Linda Callaway (Spain).



Cleo Pursell addresses a full house at the annual fellowship dinner.



RETREATS ARE FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE

Gladys Gragg

September finally arrived and our national auxiliary retreat was to become a reality.

Excitement mounted as I gathered up a couple of books I wanted to read and two pieces of cross stitching that needed some finishing touches, packed my bags and headed for the mountains. I was born in the mountains of North Carolina and spent my growing up years less than fifty miles from Ridgecrest, so I yearned for the serenity of these mountains I loved so dearly and had been away from for so long.

The drive from Nashville was beautiful and we arrived in time for the evening meal. The accommodations were beyond my expectations and the service was tremendous. We renewed old acquaintances, greeted missionaries home on furlough, and basked in the wonder of seeing so many Free Will Baptist women in one place at one time.

Little did I know the Lord was going to teach me a valuable lesson that week. Out of the five ladies in my cabin, only two of us worked outside the home and one of the two was a night owl. You guessed it—it wasn't me! One was a widow who kept children, one a housewife with four of her own, and the other had three children and a husband who had been ill. Do you think they were ready to retire and read? No way! They talked and giggled and giggled and talked until the wee hours of the morning. At last I laid my book on the night stand and listened.

This retreat was one of the most inspiring I had ever attended. As I glanced over the congregation, I saw not only faces, but I saw housewives, working women, missionaries, teachers, pastors' wives, single women, widows, and the list could go on and on. As our roles in life change, we may fit into a specific category, but it takes all these characteristics to make up a retreat. If we were the same, the retreat would not have the special flavor we experienced. If everyone stayed up all night and talked and giggled, we would have a group of sleepy heads. But on the other hand, if everyone stayed to himself and had his quiet times, where would the fellowship and developing of friendships come in? We all have different needs and they are met in different ways.

If the ladies who were in my cabin are reading this, thank you. Even though the only book I was able to read was my Bible and I finished one of my cross stitch pieces in the car on the way home.

SHARE

A



Christmas is a-coming! There are gifts to buy to suit to particular personalities and needs. I know that I always appreciate a good book, one that I can read and share with someone else. Here are some of the books I would recommend to grace any wrapping this year.

Words by Heart

by Ouida Sebestyen
Bantam Books
134 pages

Words by Heart is the poignant story of a young Black girl who is the best Scripture memorizer in "the cotton country of the West at the turn of the century." Lena's father teaches her that she must learn to forgive, just as the Bible teaches, at any cost. This is one of my favorite books for young or old.

Building A Caring Church

by Tom and Janie Lovorn
Victor Books
104 pages

Your pastor, a church leader, or any interested lay person ought to own this book. The theme is how to help your people help each other. The book is like a manual, but a very enjoyable one. It even contains sample notes to send to absentee members, to prospects, or to someone who simply needs a "care note."

by Genny Waddell

When the Hurt Won't Go Away

by Paul W. Powell
Victor Books
144 pages

We live in a painful world, surrounded by people who are hurting. Even Christians are subjected to heartaches and trials. **When the Hurt Won't Go Away**, "insights on suffering from the life of Job," offers balm for the wounded Christian soldier.

You and Your Child

by Charles Swindoll
Thomas Nelson Publishers
162 pages

If you have read other Swindoll books, you know that his style is going to keep your attention to the end. I have given numerous copies of this book as gifts because I find that parents will not be able to put it down once they begin it. **You and Your Child** focuses on creating a thirst for submission in your child, who is under your authority as long as he is under your roof.

A Happy Look at Aging

by Dr. Werner C. Graendorf
Here's Life Publishers
108 pages

Dr. Graendorf is a retired Moody Bible Institute educator, who has himself faced the issue of aging. I have confidence in what he writes. Also, the type size does not cause eyestrain. The sub-title is enticing, too: "Facing Life's Changes Confidently." Dr. Graendorf has also done graduate work in gerontology (study of aging) since retiring from Moody. Basically, he concerns himself with offering a "positive approach to aging" in a time when there is rampant pessimism about the subject.

The poet's CORNER



Linda Kathryn Sligh (Mrs. John Sligh, Jr. since 1947) lived most of her life in Jackson, MS until she moved with her family to the Smithville community four years ago. They attend the Pearce Chapel FWB Church.

The church organist, Linda also works with juniors and teens, as well as coordinates the programs for the Woman's Auxiliary. Professionally, she holds a master's degree in education and teaches math and remedial reading. Her hobbies include cooking, music, family activities, and, of course, writing songs and poetry.

Although Linda has always enjoyed writing, she never took it seriously until their third son, Ennis,

was born with an irregular heartbeat and jaundice. God gave her songs of thankfulness that he was finally well enough to be brought home from the hospital.

The Slighs have four children—Karl, 14; Adrian, 13; Ennis, 9; and Kathryn, age 7.

Linda specializes in poems and songs for special occasions, such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduation and outstanding days at church. Several of her poems have been published.

"All our talents are gifts from God, first to be used for His honor and glory," she writes, "and then for the pleasure and enjoyment of others."



A Melody

Tranquility
In the waves of the sea.
Ecstasy
In the clouds so free.
Majesty
In the mountains, I see.
Symphony
When all things agree.
Harmony
In me.

WOMEN

IN ACTION

WNAC Salutes

Glenna Murphy, Beckley, who so ably directs West Virginia's women, not only in their convention and retreat, but a fall luncheon which featured a best hat contest and a spring workshop dealing with depression and "altar work."

Roberta Bain, Ewing, IL, who was honored as **Mother of the Year** at Benton First's Mother-Daughter banquet. **Cleo Leonard**, Waltonville, was guest speaker.

Vernon auxiliary for top giving in the Vernon district division (AL). Their 19 members gave \$2912.64 to missions and related projects.

Pat Pitts, First auxiliary, Warren, AR, for winning the district-wide reading contest with 14 books in a 3-month period.

Debbie Rye, friend and editor of **Victory-Co-Laborer**, who keeps **Victory** (Goldsboro, NC) women on their toes with this attractive newsheet. Perhaps more of our women with journalistic ability will volunteer for this labor of love.

Parlie Anders, New Life auxiliary (SC) who was crowned Queen for a Day by the Beaver Creek district.

Lora Shutes, Cordova, AL, who challenged the 178 women who attended Georgia's retreat at the Norman Baptist Assembly. President **Martha Everson** reported, "We laughed a lot, talked a lot and were spiritually fed."

Audrey Smith, Sophia, WV, who reigned as Queen for a Day for gaining most points in writing to missionaries, calling shut-ins, reading all of **Co-Laborer**, decorating and delivering cakes to shut-ins, quarterly auxiliary attendance, and bringing fruit for monthly fruit baskets.

Betty Plunkett, Kent, WA, who unites the Northwest with the Northwest. She also did a superb job of planning and directing the annual retreat at the **Lake Retreat Baptist Camp** with 35 in attendance. In keeping with the theme, "The Gift Goes On," each one exchanged a gift that had been special to her. **Phyllis Hartle** was re-elected as president.

Eastern Kentucky district and their Hospice volunteer work. Hospice is a support network for terminally ill people who choose to spend their last days at home. "Those who bring sunshine to others cannot keep it from themselves." **Judy Delong** serves as president.

Eastern district's (SC) president **Elmina Poston** and secretary **Evis Poston**, recipients of a singing valentine of appreciation delivered by **Gwen Hendrix** and **Margaret Fowler**.

An overall increase in giving was reported among California auxiliaries making a total of \$33,313.96! Their convention with the theme "The Password is...Encourage" stimulated 149 attendants to build up others who pass through their lives. An elegant box luncheon and encouragement exchange closed "the best convention ever."



"They Followed Him," an Easter drama, is presented by the Garner auxiliary (NC) and features Becky Godwin,

Edna Brown, Annette Waters, Sarah Whitlock and Janet Trowbridge.



Raymond and Winona Riggs, Cookeville, TN, with a quilt designed for them by the ladies of Scottsmoor, FL. Mrs. Riggs recently addressed the Indian River Association.



Bethlehem auxiliary, Ashland City, TN, present "They Followed Him," with Charlotte McClelland narrating. \$225 was received for the McDonald project.

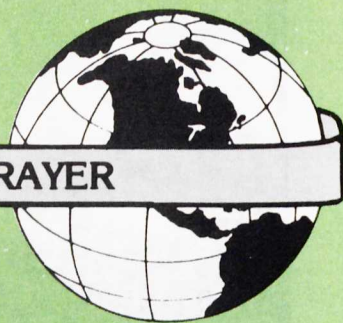


Kiska Sifers, Cleveland, OH, speaks to the 178 West Virginian retreaters at Camp Virgil Tate.

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

CIRCLE THE WORLD WITH PRAYER

Call missionary hotline for current requests:
615-361-5005



Eunice Edwards

Meditation for October

Games without rules are no fun. God gave us His rules for our lives when He gave us the Ten Commandments. He knew, better than we, our need for strong guidelines if we were to be happy, contented, and fruitful. And there are no substitutes for His rules.

Satan is trying very hard to convince us that situational ethics will serve as well, or even better, than God's rules. That is not true. Satan is a liar and the father of all lies.

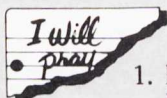
Situational ethics endeavor to fit God's rules into something quite different than He intended. It says, my situation is thus and so, so I can change God's rules to fit my situation. Not so! God's laws are immutable! Unchanging!

When God said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," He said what He meant and meant what He said. To change His meaning is to hurt ourselves.

When He said, "Thou shalt not steal," He meant that we should not take that which does not belong to us, simply because we want them or feel it permissible to do so. God's rule demands complete honesty. We are blessed and happy as we obey.

In the conquest of Jericho we are told of the complete obedience to God's command: "And it came to pass at the seventh time when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city" (Josh. 6:16). They realized full and complete victory because their obedience was full and complete. Note that the wall did not fall until that moment.

Do we have "walls" standing in our lives because our obedience to God is less than complete? God gave us rules because we need them and the rules are for our good.



1. Pray for lay couples working under the "Aquila and Priscilla Program"—Steve Cooper and Mike Turner families to Rapid City, SD to assist home missionaries Tim and Kathy Coats. These couples work at secular employment while assisting in building a church.
2. Many of our churches are involved in missionary conferences. Pray for enthusiasm from the pastors, traveling mercies for the missionaries, Spirit-anointed ministry, and a tremendous response from our people.
3. Pray for Howard and Patsy Gwartney, appointees to the growing Phoenix valley of Arizona. This Mormon stronghold will reach the 4 million mark in population by the turn of the century just 14 years away.
4. Pray for missionaries involved in language study—Don McDonalds in Japan, Steve Reeves in Spain, and the Hollands and Dr. Eagletons in France; also the Morgans in a refresher.

Meditation for November

This morning's newspaper carries a headline about pornography being tied to crime. Some years ago Del Priest was employed by the state of California and assigned to juvenile offenders. When asked the cause or causes behind most of the crimes, he replied without hesitation, "Pornography, working mothers and alcohol." Mr. Priest knew even then that pornography was the leading cause of many crimes.

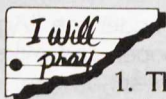
No question about it, children are strongly affected by what they see, hear and read. So are adults. These scenes are captured on a mental film that can never be erased.

When greed, lust, violence, and the like, are viewed repeatedly it makes an impact on the mind that is fearful to contemplate. A sobering question arises, what will the next generation be like?

Romans 1 gives a progressive view of what happens when such as the above happens. Verses 24 and 25 describe the wrong living practised; verses 26 and 27 describe the wrong loving; and verses 28 through 32 describe the wrong thinking that directed their behavior. The culmination was God's judgment: "God gave them over to a reprobate mind!"

My heart quakes in fear at the prospect of crimes yet to come if American Christians don't heed the danger signs.

The awful tragedy is that we don't need to experience such a dreadful prospect. "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:16). Christians have the tool, the power, the resource to refute satan's lies. Why don't we do it? Especially when his future victims are our children? Why?



1. This is Home Mission month on the auxiliary calendar. Pray for record gifts to help erase deficit accounts, also for the traveling team—Roy Thomas, Trymon Messer and John Gibbs.
2. Pray for the health of our missionaries. Some have serious problems. Also for our deputational missionaries, Mrs. Mabel Willey and Don and Billie Sexton.
3. Pray for three new families employed under the Associate Missionary Program (they only receive designated support)—Butch Johns to Hanford, CA, John Hibbards to Pioneer, CA, and the Larry Williams to Martinez, GA.
4. Let's not forget our MK's! Many will be spending the holidays away from their parents for the first time, as Malinda Ellison, Uruguay, and Gene Richards, Ivory Coast.

Meditation for December

The word “unspeakable” occurs three times in Scripture.

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift” (2 Cor. 9:15). This is Paul’s song of praise. He had a habit of breaking forth into praise, even in the midst of a sermon. He praised God even as he served.

In this passage, Paul refers to the generosity of the Macedonian Christians and holds them up as a worthy example in giving. Their example reminded him of God’s generosity in giving His Son, so he breaks into a paean of praise.

Do we do this—suddenly break into song because His goodness overwhelms us?

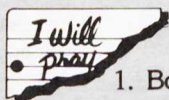
In 2 Corinthians 12:1-4, Paul shares a secret he had kept for fourteen years. He had heard “unspeakable words” while undergoing an experience in God’s service. This kind of experience can also be ours—in a measure—while in prayer and communion with our Lord.

We can know heaven in our hearts as we commune with Him. And we can know His love reaches into the unknown and gives us His assurance that underneath are His everlasting arms. What “unspeakable words!”

Paul also tells us of unspeakable joy: “Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory” (1 Pet. 1:8). To whom was Paul speaking? Christians! Christians who had had their property confiscated; despised, persecuted Christians, but they were believers!

You see, joy does not depend upon what we have, but on what we have in Christ. Note that Paul does not say they ought to rejoice, but simply that they were!

Are we rejoicing in Him? We should be.



1. Boards of both the Home and Foreign Mission Boards are meeting this month. Pray for wisdom and direction in all the decisions.
2. The Tommy Hughes have arrived from Brazil on furlough. Pray for wisdom in their adjustment and furlough plans.
3. Pray for the Rick Bowlings who have arrived on their field of Uruguay. Pray for their adjustment in getting settled in a new culture and for schooling for Michelle, 15, and Chris, 13.
4. Pray for Melvin and Sheila Haas as they open up the state of Connecticut to Free Will Baptists. They hope to establish a church in the very strong Catholic area of Hartford.

Creative Arts Contest

14th annual contest
147 women
from 23 states
and two foreign
countries
submitted
402 entries.

ART — 8 Entries



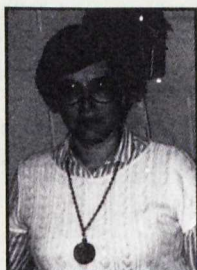
FIRST
Gladys Gragg
Nashville, TN



SECOND
Vicki Carmon
Greeneville, TN



THIRD
Sandra Stone
Sylacauga, AL



FOURTH
Sarah Whitlock
Garner, NC

ARTICLES — 51 Entries



FIRST
Diane Thomas
Grifton, NC



SECOND
Odessa Ledlow
Sylacauga, AL



THIRD
Deleen Cousineau
Ivory Coast



FOURTH
Anna Baird
Inman, SC

PLAYS/SKITS — 26 Entries



FIRST
Lee Ann Wilfong
Desloge, MO



SECOND
Donna Lamberson
Bixby, OK

1985-86 Winners



THIRD
Mary Webb
Dayton, OH



FOURTH
Rubenia Dobbs
New Bern, NC

PROGRAMS — 34 Entries



FIRST
Saebra Pauley
Parkersburg, WV



SECOND
Annette Dake
Newcastle, OK



THIRD
Margie Patton
S. Roxana, IL



FOURTH
Anita Haney
Knoxville, TN

POETRY — 273 Entries



FIRST
Sarah Fletcher
Geff, IL



SECOND
Connie Burks
Bixby, OK



THIRD
Patricia Collins
Emporia, KS



FOURTH
Bev Womack
Noble, OK

Ladies!
Send your entries
NOW
for the next
contest
deadline
March 1, 1987

A Tale of Two Sisters

The children of Israel were so close to the Promised Land they could smell it! Only the Jordan river separated them from their inheritance. Captain Joshua wisely selected 12 men to spy out the land and bring back a report.

The men walked the length and breadth of the land, then returned with contrasting reports. "Let us go up at once and possess it," urged two of them.

"No way!" contradicted the other ten.

We're quick to condemn the ten but these two letters point out we may be guilty of the same crime.

To Carol from Aunt Sadie

Dear Carol,

Well, it's about time we heard from you! Molly said you were probably busy with studies and exams, but I figure it was more likely some young man.

I knew it would happen sooner or later. And it did last Sunday as we were going to church—the old car stalled. We're going to have to trade the old thing off! Anyway, a young punk stopped to help us. And of all things, your Aunt Molly up and invited him to church! He did fix the car, but he was so slow about it we were late for the service.

An ambulance passed as we waited for the car. It stopped in front of the Greens. You remember, they are neighbors up the street. They say poor old Mr. Green's had another heart attack. One of these days he won't make it. They'll have a big hospital bill and ambulance bill, but no Mr. Green.

A big city lady sings in the church choir now. They say she taught music in Chicago, but she's not half as good as she thinks she is. She sang a solo this past week, but I'll bet she asked if she could.

We told you about the new preacher. Him and his newfangled ways. Why, last Sunday he had us all turn and shake hands with folks around us. "Dick, the Bruiser," next to me, really put himself into it. I declare, he fair near broke my hand and my arthritis has been acting up since and I'm out of my medicine, too.

I wish the new preacher knew when to quit. Surely he knows sensible people leave their dinner on cooking. I get so nervous thinking one of these Sundays I'm going to walk into a house filled with smoke. We had an auxilliary pot luck dinner the other night. Remember the city lady I told you about? She brought a cake, and would you believe? She brazenly handed out recipes to all who asked for it—and some who probably didn't! She's going to take over, you hide and watch! Looks exactly the type to me.

Nothing would do cousin Bill but to buy little Billy a two-wheel bike. He's only six, you know. I said to myself, Self, that kid's gonna break an arm or leg on that bike, or worse yet, get hit by a car. Well, sure enough, the other day I was sitting here on the porch and up rides Billy looking like a Band-Aid factory. "Aunt Sadie," he yelled, "Just two wrecks today, but I'm a-learning!"

You should see Molly's new hair style. She calls it a curly permanent, but she looks to me like one of those sheep dogs you see on TV.

Our oven konked out and have we had a time! They ordered a new part, but mark my word, it'll be a month before the thing is working again.

I must close now. I have lots to do but I knew you'd want to hear from us. Write soon.

Love,
Aunt Sadie

To Carol from Aunt Molly

Dear Carol,

What a pleasant surprise to get your letter and to know things are going so well with you. But, Honey, we don't expect you to write every time you get a letter from us. I know how busy you are, what with studies and all.

Let me tell you about last Sunday. We had car trouble, but the nicest young man stopped and fixed it for us. And he even went to church with us! He said he was new in town and had been looking for a church.

While the car was being fixed, the ambulance passed and stopped at the Greens up the street. Mr. Green has heart problems, but they said it was great the way the paramedics worked on him. He's doing fine now and should be home in a week.

I can hardly wait for you to go to church with us. We have this new lady in the choir. She's from Chicago and has such a lovely voice. Our choir was down with so many young folk away at college, so she's a real booster.

We want you to meet the new minister, too. He preaches longer than the old one did, but you hardly notice because he's so interesting. His new ideas are like a spring breeze. Last week he had us welcome folks by turning and shaking hands with those around us.

That new lady I was telling about that sings in the choir? She brought the best cake to our auxiliary pot luck dinner. I have the recipe and plan to make it for you when you come home.

Well, it's happened! Your cousin Bill got little Billy the bike he's been saving up for. You should see him! He's had some accidents, of course, but nothing serious. I watched him and he is careful about the streets and cars.

I got a new permanent the other day. It turned out a bit curlier than I expected, but my hair grows so fast it'll be fine in a couple of weeks. Besides I was ready for something different! Hats are back in style now and I have one that just sets it off. I must close now and start supper. Our oven went out but with the crock pot and electric skillet, we hardly miss it. Besides the part is to be in Monday. We are praying for you, my dear, especially at exam time. We are eagerly planning your first visit home.

Love you,
Aunt Molly

Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for National Home Missions November 17-21, 1986



Plan Ahead! Order Home Missions maps (picturing all workers); prayer cards of individual missionaries; directories listing birthdays, addresses, and fields of service; bulletin inserts; and lessons booklets which may be used as a study course. Other literature available includes quarter saver folders, prayer guides and history booklet. Request specific amounts from the National Home Missions Department, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN

Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer

Roy Thomas

Give Ye Them To Eat

Objective: To see the areas of need on the mission fields of America.

Scripture: Amos 8:11-13

Hymn: "Here Am I, Send Me"

Introduction

Amos describes the spiritual famine that filled his land prior to the captivity. Such a hunger grips the heart of the American. The church needs to see the people on our continent and mobilize herself to reach them.

Jesus said, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35). A look at the various sections and sects of America will reveal a people hungry for God, from the youth to the old man. While they are trying to satisfy that hunger with possessions, position, people, places, pleasures, and popularity, may we see that this

hunger is satisfied by a Person, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Cultures, Communities, And Cottages

A look at our cultures is in order. Forty million Americans (one out of five) is a member of an ethnic group. There are thirteen million Jews in the world. Over six million of these live in the United States, mostly in the larger cities. There are one million American Indians in 280 tribes. Many of these live almost as primitively as they did 200 years ago. One million Gypsies live according to their tribal customs, knowing only the Gypsy language. There are 270,000 Chinese and Japanese, 36,000 Eskimos, 11,000,000 Mexican Americans, and 20,000,000 Negroes. Over 350,000 foreign students attend our American colleges. All of these are people who will never hear the gospel until someone becomes burdened enough to break the cultural barriers.

Narrow the view to our communities. The average community has an empty church building. There are more than 60,000 closed churches where the gospel was once preached. Over 9,000 churches closed last year. That is 25 churches every day, or more than one per hour! In more than 10,000 small towns and villages there is no church of any kind.

Next let us look behind the closed doors of America's cottages. The basic unit of any civilization is the home and family. Few people in America know what it is to go to bed hungry physically, but ninety percent of them are hungry in their souls. One out of three homes has been shattered by divorce (approaching one

out of two). More each year just live together without marriage. Behind the average door is a miserable existence.

Our Children, Cults, and Handicapped

A quote from a survey taken of the fifth and sixth grades of the Orange County school system, is revealing: "Less than fifty percent of the children are related to any church." These children will run our country, make our laws, be our teachers. They will also commit crimes and inhabit our prisons. Surveys reveal that most prisoners come from broken homes. Amos described us: "In that day shall their young faint for thirst."

A growing threat to the people of America is the cults. In 100 years, Jehovah's Witnesses have built Kingdom Halls in every major city in America and 200 foreign countries. Mormons were driven to Utah to practice their religion. Today they are one of the richest and fastest growing religious organizations in existence. They are no longer confined to Utah. Mormons are in every state in this country and also 278 countries of the world.

Another group which has been neglected is the handicapped. There are over one half million blind in our country. Sending these a Bible will do no good unless it is in braille. Eleven million Americans have significantly impaired hearing and two million are profoundly deaf. No radio preacher will ever reach these. They can only be reached by someone who will become burdened for them, learn their language, and go to them with the gospel.

The Convicts, Chaplaincy, And Communes

Convicts are a segment of our society some would rather forget. But they are here and they must be reached for Christ. Today there are two and one-fourth million men, women, and young people incarcerated in the United States. It can't be said of these, "They know where the church is, let them come if they want to." They can only be reached by someone who is willing to take the gospel behind bars. Most people in prison today are there because of liquor or drug abuse. People drink and take drugs because of hunger for happiness. Jesus gives a thrill with no hangovers or withdrawal pains. He is a lift that lasts a life time.

We must not forget the chaplaincy. Anyone who has served in the armed forces knows what a crying need there is for Bible-believing chaplains who really know the Lord. Young men are removed from the home environment to a barracks where drinking, gambling, profanity and other sins are ever before them. No wonder one half of the boys who come back from overseas are addicts! They return home more bewildered and unhappy than before they left.

Another group some would like to forget because of the trouble many have caused are those in communes. These are the long haired, dirty young people hitch hiking across our country and living together in hovels of all kinds. They are in rebellion against the home, the church, the country, and God. Their movement is world wide. Their main motivation many times is drugs. No group has excelled them in changing the life style set forth in the Word of God.

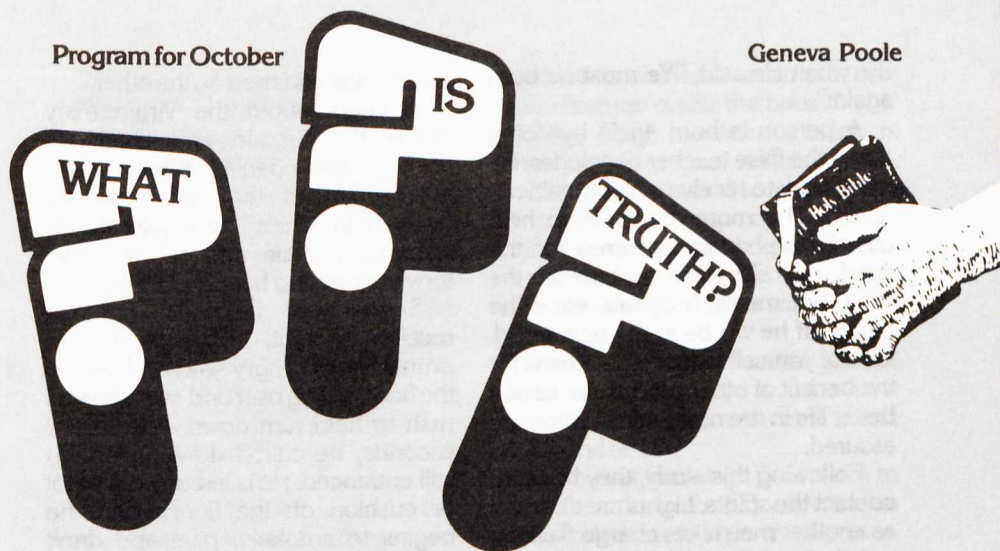
The Campuses, Conclusion, And Challenge

According to a Gallup poll of sixty-one campuses, seventy percent of American young people have taken some kind of drugs at least once. New York City has 100,000 drug addicts today. Most large cities have had to double the police force to take care of the crimes committed by young people to support their drug habits. These are young people for whom Christ died. They were born in our country, grew up in our homes, attended our schools, but never met our Christ. Think what could be done if all the energy and manpower in these young people could be harnessed for God instead of the devil!

The view we have seen is a dark one. It is also a sad one. The people described are those whom we are making little or no effort to reach.

The plight of the average American can be illustrated by two cars. In the first car is a family that is running away from God at a speed of 100 miles an hour. In the second car is the church of the Lord Jesus Christ chasing them at the rate of 10 miles an hour. Unless we have a renewed emphasis upon evangelizing America, and unless a rapid pace of church planting is set, our country and the rest of the world will be doomed.

But it doesn't have to be this way. If we dedicate ourselves to the task we can evangelize our country and the rest of the world will enjoy the results. May we accept the words of the Lord Jesus Christ—"They need not depart; give ye them to eat" (Matt. 14:16).



Objective: To show some religious beliefs that are prevalent in Brazil and to challenge each believer to become a “fellow helper of the truth.”

Scripture: John 3:25-32

Hymn: “Break Thou The Bread of Life”

Introduction

On the night of His trial, Jesus told Pilate, “For this cause came I unto the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth me.” Pilate, perplexed, responded, “What is truth?”

People are still searching for an answer to that same question. Let us take a trip to the great country of Brazil to see how the people there would answer this question—“What is truth?”

“Corrupt Minds and Destitute of the Truth” (1 Tim. 6:5)

The best way to see what transpires in one of the spiritist centers of high spiritism is to make a visit. As we

arrive, we are cordially invited to enter and are led to a comfortable, padded seat. The meeting hall seats more than a hundred and is already about full. A long table with chairs around three sides stretches across the front.

As the meeting begins, several emerge from a room and sit around the table. One of the men stands and leads a Bible study from John 14:1,2. Practically no one in the building has a Bible and the leader only refers to his occasionally.

The false teacher begins his explanation by referring to the mansions in his father’s house as the seven different spheres of reincarnation. Jesus has already passed through all the reincarnations and has reached heaven, thus He is in that ultimate place, we are told. He is the great example and should be followed. Jesus taught reincarnation in John

3:7 when He said, "Ye must be born again."

A person is born again by doing good, the false teacher concludes. He must work to receive a higher reincarnation. The more one does to help others— orphanages, homes for the aged, free day care centers for the poor, hot meals, hospitals, etc.—the better off he will be in the next world. Give of yourself and of your means for the benefit of others and chances of a better life in the next reincarnation are assured.

Following this study, they begin to contact the spirits. Lights are dimmed as another man takes charge. Talking quietly, he walks behind those seated at the table. He feels the moving of a spirit and stops behind one of the women. Still chanting with vibrating hands near her head and shoulders, he works for her to receive the spirit. As she does, a voice begins speaking from her lips, the voice of a dead loved one of someone present. The voice speaks words of encouragement.

A Word of Warning: The teachings of the spiritists only lead to false hope. They must receive Him who declares to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

"These Resist The Truth; Men of Corrupt Minds" (2 Tim. 3:8)

Our second visit leads us to another level of spiritism—the voodoo, candomble, macumba, or xango, which is no less than demon worship. While all these groups are similar, they are different in the works they do. Some deal only in curses, others in blessings.

This meeting hall is smaller with inexpensive chairs placed for the visitors or those seeking help. Women sit

on one side and men on the other.

A chant about the Virgin Mary opens the session and continues through the opening ritual. Those taking part in the ceremony are dressed in white. They join hands forming a circle and slowly move forward, swaying back and forth.

Suddenly it happens. As one receives a spirit, he bends double, grunts like an angry sow, and falls to the floor, rolling over and over. Several rush to hold him down. After a few seconds, he calms down, although still entranced. He is led to a low stool or cushion on the floor where he begins to smoke a pipe and drink whiskey from a gourd.

This scene is repeated until several mediums receive spirits. Those who desire help are seated in front of the mediums. Each one goes through a ritual consisting of hand movements and finger snapping. As the need is revealed, the solution is given to the problem.

It so happens this group does only "good," as evil spirits are cast out, the sick healed, or help given to financial problems. Once a medium pronounces a curse, he is able only to reach those spirits with the power to bring about a curse.

One of the visitors crosses his legs. Immediately a monitor comes and asks that the sign of the cross not be made since it hinders the work of the spirits.

A Word of Warning: These spiritists are liars, evildoers and deceivers. Only the truth of God's Word will bring them from their darkness into the truth.

"Who Concerning the Truth Have Erred" (2 Tim. 2:18)

Our next visit takes us to a Catholic chapel. As we enter, we are immediately impressed with the elaborately painted walls and ceilings, ornate scrolls and splashes of gold. Many of the paintings remind us of stories we learned in Sunday school.

Our eyes casually drift to the mural painted in the dome at the front of the chapel. Is it possible? The false doctrine of the church is declared by this painting as it shows the place of prominence given the Virgin Mary.

An old grayhaired man to the left represents God the Father. The young man on the left is Jesus, the Son. The dove above the throne pictures the Holy Spirit. On the throne between the two is Mary, the "Mother of God." God the Father and God the Son are placing a crown on Mary's head, crowning her Queen of Heaven.

A Word of Warning: Only the truth of God's Word can stop people from following the false teachings proclaimed from false churches.

"By The Word of Truth" (2 Cor. 6:7)

Our next visit takes us to the Free Will Baptist church in this city. We feel right at home as we enter because the congregation is singing a hymn accompanied by the organ and piano. We do not understand the words, but we are told it speaks of a desire to know more of Him who is truth.

Since the church was begun by American missionaries, the service is carried on more or less like those to which we are accustomed. We follow the familiar order through the prayer, offering, and recognition of visitors.

As the young pastor opens the

Word, he preaches in a simple, profound manner under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. As the invitation is given, a young man walks forward. Another is summoned to accompany him to the counseling room.

Both the pastor and the counselor have been trained in the local Bible college, begun and maintained by the missionaries.

When the service is ended, several speak encouragement to the new convert and rejoice with him in his new found faith.

A Word of Warning: Be careful to continue in the truth of God's Word so others can come to know the Truth.

"Fellow Helpers of the Truth" (3 John 8)

Every Christian should be a fellow helper of the truth. Begin right where you are, spreading the truth to those whom you meet each day.

Second, participate in the church projects—on the local, state, national, and worldwide level—to spread the gospel to those who do not know the truth.

Third, take heed that you are grounded in the Word of Truth lest you be led astray. Study the Word diligently so you may speak freely and confidently the truths of God's Word.

Last, engage in prayer for our missionaries who are in the battle against the fiery darts of the devil. Become a prayer warrior. Join with your missionaries as fellow helpers of the truth.

A Word of Warning: Beware that you are not guilty of going out into eternity not knowing the truth because you failed to be a fellow helper of the truth.



Ten Came Back

Characters: Narrator
Ten Lepers

Narrator slowly reads Luke 17:11-19. Allow time between the verses for the ten ragged lepers to make their way down the aisle. As they near the front, the narrator reads verse 13. They raise their hands in supplication and kneel at the altar.

As the 14th verse is read, the lepers stand to leave. As they take a few steps, they discover their cleansing. They all leave joyously except the one who returns and kneels at the altar.

Narrator: There were indeed ten cleansed, but where are the nine? Let's use our imagination to see why they didn't return.

First Leper: (Walks down the aisle and faces the audience.) I didn't run away because I was ungrateful. Indeed I was very grateful. But you see, I had been separated from my family for several years—five years, six months and two days, to be exact. My baby was not yet born when I was driven from my village and made to live like an outcast. My first thought was that now I could

see my family again and embrace them once more.

But it was Jesus who made it possible. So I have come back to thank Him in a small measure for my family, my wife and children, as well as my mother and father and all those who love and care about me.

(She casts aside her leper garb and kneels at the altar. Or she may stand with clasped hands and bowed head with the grave clothes on the floor about her.)

Narrator reads Psalm 68:6a.

Second Leper: I, too, was grateful for my cleansing although I must admit it didn't look like it. When it was discovered I first had leprosy and was driven from my home, I was strong and well-fleshed. Now I am only skin and bones. Every day I've been among the tombs, I've dreamed of highly spiced vegetables so sharp they make your bones sing, and sweet concoctions of dates and figs and honey. . . To my shame, when I saw my whole-

ness, my first thought was that once again I could eat of that which I had only tasted in my dreams.

But I am thankful for food which God provides so abundantly for us. And I've come back to show my gratitude. **(She kneels or stands at the altar.)**

Narrator reads Psalm 136:25.

Third Leper: When I looked down and saw my body was cleansed and whole once again, I guess I lost my head. For days, yea, months, and even years I had been concerned about my business. I had to leave it when I became an outcast, you know. Has my partner been able to handle it? Was it providing adequately for my family? Was he honest in his dealings? Is it making a profit? These questions haunted me day and night.

Then at last when I was able to enter the market place in freedom, I ran off without even thinking of the One who made it all possible. So I've come back to thank Him for giving us the wisdom and the opportunity to have jobs and earn money that supplies the necessities of life. I know I'll never take these things for granted again. **(She kneels.)**

Narrator reads James 1:5.

Fourth Leper: I stand here accused of being ungrateful and I plead guilty. On the surface, that is. You see, I hadn't been here as long as some of the others and I hadn't become accustomed to all the loneliness and isolation. Sometimes the silence fairly drove me insane. Dwelling among these tombs made me feel half-dead myself. I need to be among people, don't you see? Warm, loving, caring people. So when I looked down and

saw my cleansing, I left this place of death as fast as I could to once again be among the living. You never know how much you appreciate friends and fellowship until you've been deprived.

But I've come back to acknowledge my ungrateful heart and to thank Him for the warm loving fellowship He gives among friends. **(She kneels.)**

Narrator reads Psalm 133:1

Fifth Leper: I'm not like the others. I wasn't ungrateful—I was obedient. The One who healed us told us to show ourselves to the priest, and that's exactly what I proceeded to do.

But as I thought on it, I wanted to return to the One who had cleansed me. Not only to thank Him for what He had done for me, but also for providing priests to carry on the work of the Lord. I'm grateful for the pastors of our churches, the shepherds of the flock, who lead us in our worship of God.

Narrator reads Luke 4:18.

Sixth Leper: I wanted to come back and thank Him for healing me, honest I did. Once I stopped to turn back. But I felt so unworthy, so unclean. Even though my flesh had returned to normal, I needed to wash away all the filth of the tombs, lay aside the grave clothes and put on fresh apparel. I couldn't let my Lord see me like this!

But then I realized He loves me just as I am. He takes account of what's on the inside more than what's on the outside. I'm grateful today for the inward cleansing and forgiveness that He gives all who call upon Him.

Narrator reads Psalm 51:10

Seventh Leper: I, too, stand accused

of an unthankful heart. Indeed it would seem so. When I lifted my hands to Jesus and begged for mercy, I really needed His touch. My whole body needed to be made whole. Being cast out to live in the damp outdoors had created all kinds of physical problems and often my body was racked with pain. Then suddenly, miraculously, the pain was gone. My body had new life. Now I can run and jump and leap and sing for joy!

Then I remembered the One who made it all possible—Jesus. And I've come back to thank Him for health and strength and healing of body.

Narrator reads 3 John 2.

Eighth Leper: I, too, was one of the ten who was cleansed of leprosy when I called out to Jesus. Why did I run off like an ungrateful lout? I just had to tell someone! Look, whereas once I was blind, now I see! Once I was lost and now I am found! Good news like this must be shared.

But I'm thankful today that He saved me and I've come back to tell Him so.

Narrator reads 1 Cor. 15:57.

Ninth Leper: To someone who can go and come as he pleases, he has no idea what it's like to be confined within four invisible walls. For more years than I care to remember I knew nothing of the outside world; and then in one day—in the twinkling of an eye—I was free! Free to come and go and love and work and worship and serve others. Freedom is a wonderful privilege.

Now I've returned to thank God for the privilege of living in a land of freedom.

Narrator and all **Ten Lepers** read the 100th Psalm in unison. The lepers

are seated.

Narrator: So were the lepers ungrateful after all? They merely had their excuses. Jesus has given us the Great Commission (quote, or read, Matthew 28:19,20 and Mark 16:15). One day we will stand before Him for an accounting. What are some of the excuses we will hear?

(These participating will stand in various parts of the audience, then are seated following their part.)

First: Supporting is just as important as going. I decided I would stay home and work and support missions with my finances.

Second: The heathen have their own religion and are quite contented. Why should we bother about disturbing their peace? They have their own gods.

Third: I don't feel called.

Fourth: My parents are aged and depend on me. I'm an only child and feel my responsibility toward them.

Fifth: God is a merciful God. I can't believe He would condemn a person if he has never heard of the true God.

Sixth: I think it's important that we clean up our own doorstep first before we go across the seas to another people.

Seventh: I would like to go, but my health is too bad. I couldn't take it.

Eighth: I have a family to care for and they would never be willing to go.

Ninth: It costs too much.

Tenth: The message is going out today around the world via satellite. It's not necessary to go in person.

Narrator: Read these verses: Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16: 15,16 Luke 24:48; John 20:22; Acts 1:8.

(The ten who gave excuses stand and say in unison, "Here am I, send me.")



Aim: 1) To introduce Christians to the Jewish feast of Hannukkah; 2) and to use the Jewish candlestick (menorah) as a symbol of the gifts of Christmas we receive when Christ comes into our lives.

Introduction

During the 400 silent years between the Old and New Testaments, the apocryphal books of the Maccabees recount the story of the Jews in Jerusalem. The city had been overrun by the Syrians, but finally, after a three year struggle, the Jews

regained possession of the city and the temple.

After cleansing the temple of Syrian idols, they found only one small cruse of oil with which to light their holy lamps. But miraculously, the cruse provided oil for eight days.

Judas Maccabaeus, the Jewish leader, then proclaimed a feast to commemorate the cleansing and rededication of the temple.

This special festival, called Hannukkah (Hana'ka) is a joyous occasion accompanied by singing and great rejoicing. Each evening of the eight-day celebration is celebrated by lighting an additional candle on the menorah. Gifts are exchanged and contributions made to the poor.

The similarity of Hannukkah to our Christmas observance makes it applicable at this season of the year.

Jesus, the Light of the World (center candle) John 1:9; 8:12; 9:5; 12:46

At least four times in John's gospel, Jesus declares Himself to be the light of the world.

In a true menorah, the same fuel that lights the center candle also feeds the others. The source of all our blessings is found in Jesus Christ and all our gifts are wrapped up in Him. No gift is bestowed apart from Him.

The gifts of Christmas are the by-product of knowing intimately the Giver. As we know Him to the fullest, the greater is our capacity to receive the gifts He makes available.

The Gift of Life (John 10:10)

From the unborn babe to the aged saint, there reigns a dogged determination to hang onto this gift of life.

Some of those who have been told they have a terminal illness have related how they spent those last days. They sharpened their awareness of simple things—as wind, rain, sunlight, the sweetness of a kiss, a touch. They honed their five senses to a keen edge.

But the beauty of this gift of life that Jesus gives is that it is eternal, never ending. Even now He is preparing a place where we may enjoy the wonder and glory of this gift forever and ever (John 14:1,2).

The Gift of Love (1 John 4:7)

Perhaps one reason our world has so degenerated is because of our inability to reach out to others in love. Selfishness has consumed us like a plague. Then Jesus comes. He offers His gift of love which enables us to do what we are unable to do within ourselves—love others. A mark of a believer is one who loves.

What is this gift of love? It is silence when your words would hurt. It is patience when your neighbor's curt. It is deafness when a scandal flows. It is thoughtfulness for other's woes. It is promptness when stern duty calls. It is courage when misfortune falls.

To what extent have we claimed this gift?

The Gift of Joy (John 15:11; Phil.3:1; 2 John 12; John 16:24).

A merry heart is like a medicine.

Joy, flowing through the channels of consciousness, does indeed seem to improve the blood circulation through the veins and arteries. It's amazing how many illnesses have been helped, if not healed completely, simply by the application of joy.

If you're suffering from the CDT's (Cares, Difficulties, and Troubles), cultivate the gift of joy. Instead of a tranquilizer, enjoy a good belly laugh. Others who have followed this advice testify to renewed health, vitality, life and radiant happiness.

The Gift of Hope (1 Pet. 1:3)

Someone has described hope as the cork to a net which keeps the soul from sinking in despair. Fear, he says, is like the lead which keeps one floating in presumption. The song writer describes it: "One sat alone beside the highway begging. . . then Jesus came. . ." And what a difference rekindled hope made in his countenance and posture.

Hope is the wealth of the homeless, health of the ailing, freedom to the captive, and rest to the laborer. There is no happiness which hope cannot promise.

The Gift of Faith (Eph. 2:8,9).

Abraham, an example in faith, went out not knowing where he went. He believed God's promises in the sheer face of an impossible situation. Yet every promise claimed was a

promise possessed.

Faith is that magical ingredient that keeps one believing even when all logical reasoning tells us it cannot be. A measure of faith is imparted to all at salvation, and living faith is offered simply for the claiming.

How fully have we exercised this gift?

The Gift of Peace (Isa. 26:3; John 14:27).

The promise of peace was included in the angel's announcement to the shepherds on that starlit night. A peaceable disposition is distinguishing mark of a Christian character, and the want of it is a serious defect.

We live in a world characterized by turmoil and strife, wars and rumors of war, but Jesus promises peace in the midst of the storm. Hudson Taylor once said that peace was not the absence of danger, but the peace of God—even in the midst of danger. This is the experience of those who have accepted His gift of peace.

Presentation: One large white candle may be used in the center and flanked by three smaller white tapers on either side. The middle candle should be lit at all times. The others will be lighted as the gift is mentioned.

(This program was suggested by one written by Annette Dake, Newcastle, OK, and entitled "Christmas Spirits;" also by "The Seven Lights of Christmas" by Linda Simons, New Bern, NC.

**A
Woman**



**God
Has Used**

Alsie Simmons, a saint with God, is worthy to be included among the women God has used.

This daughter of a Free Will Baptist minister was born in 1912 and born again some 11 years later. Her entire life was spent in the Hemingway area of South Carolina and the Williams Hill FWB Church. She began to teach at an early age and through the years committed huge chunks of the Bible to memory. A stickler for accuracy, she delighted in discussing Biblical truth and doctrine.

At the age of 17, young Alsie married a farmer, Harmon Simmons. Their two sons, Gilliard and Lyman, both married, have followed their parents' example in Christian commitment and church involvement. Five grandchildren are left with a positive bent for good because of their grandmother's godly influence.

Although teaching was her first love, Mrs. Simmons became a charter member of the Woman's Auxiliary and helped organize the Eastern district convention. She promoted missions through these avenues as well as at home. Missionaries from this state remember her as a woman of prayer.

For years Mrs. Simmons battled severe degenerative arthritis and glaucoma, but these did not diminish her faithfulness in service or love for reading. She was bedridden her last 15 years and her husband provided her total care.

In July, 1985, Mrs. Simmons passed to her reward, leaving us an example of one who lived not somehow, but triumphantly.

CHINA CALLING

Sampans floating on horizons
First remark of China's presence;
Feel of China coming nearer
For a young man with the gospel.

As I lean upon the railing
Dreaming of my call to Hong Kong;
How I marvel at God's leading,
Calling me to His endeavor.

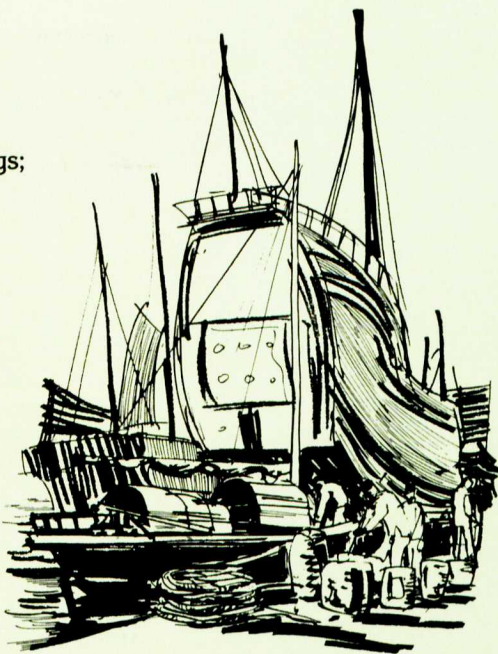
Hong Kong beckons, teeming city,
Lights and sounds and fervent feelings;
Busy place for my residing,
Bringer of the Word of Jesus.

Bless me, oh, Thou great Jehovah,
Fill my infant heart with ardor,
Fill me with the Word's own passion,
Pearly of joy for desperate people.

Labor years within the vineyard,
Bringing fruit to floors for trampling;
Fruit of human souls delivered,
Opening doors to hear the Gospel.

Warm they gather at the wharveside,
Lean against the railing singing,
God be with you till we meet you,
As I sail away from China.

James Alger



CO-LABORER

Her Time Has Come



Your next issue of **Co-Laborer** promises to be bigger and better than ever before.

The convention in session last July approved plans to expand **Co-Laborer** to a bi-monthly, 32 full-page format at a cost of only a few pennies more. We're excited at the possibilities.

Here is a little of what you may expect in that first thrilling issue:

- * Two monthly programs, with an enlistment one thrown in.
- * Helps for Leaders in a handy centerfold section for easy detaching and filing. Look for an index at the end of the year.
- * WNAC Order Supplies Leaflet to replace the annual catalog.
- * The Minister's Wife newsletter.
- * Communicator
- * A greater missionary emphasis.
- * A sprinkling of the new to attract new readers along with the old familiar features that has long made **Co-Laborer** a favorite—A Woman God Has Used, The Poet's Corner, Women in Action, Book Reviews, plus much, much more.

CO-LABORER

A Magazine For Every Free Will Baptist Woman