

CO LABORER

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Co-Laborer

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Editorial

"I'll be honest with you," one pastor's wife told me. "Our women took one look at the new magazine and wanted to send them right back."

"Oh, please don't! Give us a chance!" I pled, swallowing back the tears. "Tell us what you don't like and we'll try to correct it."

I appreciate those women who care enough to tell us what they don't like. But please be specific. If you're disappointed, tell us *why* you are disappointed. Only then can we do something about it.

Several commented, "We can't find the programs." And you're right! We had thought to give you the element of choice. But note in this issue they are clearly identified.

"We'd prefer the program helps be given with the program instead off somewhere else," another said. Notice we've tried to do this. One said she didn't even want the helps in the magazine. And if enough of you think this isn't working out, please let us know. However, most of the comments have been positive.

Some criticism was not legitimate, we felt. One wanted a definite prayer emphasis. A careful examination would have shown an even greater emphasis. "Too much advertising," another said. That's because the first issue (one out of six) contains our catalog of supplies. This is for your convenience. Please try at least three issues before you write us off.

"Inconvenient size," several of you said, and this is one we expected. Changing the concept from a quarterly to a magazine will take some getting used to, I suppose.

Some misunderstanding existed about the price. In reality, the actual cost per magazine is less than you paid last year, considering you receive two more issues.

Co-Laborer is a magazine for all Free Will Baptist women. So for one person, a group of six, or an auxiliary of 75 members, *Co-Laborer* is for YOU.

Gifts My Mother Gave Me

Sandra Atwood



I never know exactly what to give my mom for Mother's Day. I search for weeks for just the right gift. She always tells me I shouldn't have spent so much. I think she would say that if I only spent 59¢.

When I was a little girl, I made her a paper clown. I colored two identical ones, cut them out, and glued them together. For some reason, they did not match up, but I still felt proud because I made it myself. I hid it until early Sunday morning when I could wait no longer. She acted as if it was the greatest gift I could possibly have given her!

Sometimes when I'm searching for her gift, I wonder if in some small way I am trying to repay her for all the gifts she has given me. I know I never could, for her gifts are those which cannot be bought.

Probably her most precious gift is love. She showed this love through the giving of herself. Often she did without so we would have. One Easter Mom sewed dresses, one for my sister and one for me, but Mom said she didn't need one. She stayed up late making the costume for the school play — the one I needed the next day but forgot to tell her until she kissed me goodnight.

Mom kissed away a thousand tears, corrected and corrected again, spanked, and fed me 19,700 meals. Mom explained fractions until she was blue in the face and rejoiced with me as I passed my math test. She wiped up spilled milk 4,683 times. (I was a clumsy child!) With weekly regularity, Mom washed the laundry though no one bothered to thank her. Her loving just kept on loving.

My mom's gift of prayer began before I was born and unfolded with the years. She bathed my life in prayer. When I was 11, we were

left without a pianist at our church. Mom suggested I learn to play and I agreed. We secured a teacher for a dollar an hour and drove across town every Wednesday. I plunked my heart out while Mom sat in the car and prayed.

In a couple of months I could play "At Calvary" and "What a Friend." We sang those two songs each service for several weeks until I could learn some more.

Her consistent life and godly example were to me as wings are to a butterfly — they taught me to fly.

In a world characterized by situation ethics, my mom's gift of a godly example shines like a light in the darkness. She didn't just tell us to do something, she showed us. She didn't wear one mask at church and another at home. She practiced what she preached.

Mom's "mercy missions" to those in need put the golden rule into action. I grew up seeing that ministering to others in need was as important as our own needs. Memories of her weeping for lost sinners is deeply etched in my mind. Her consistent life and godly example were to me as wings are to a butterfly — they taught me to fly.

"When I grow up, I'm never going to make my kids snap green beans," I used to complain. "I'll buy mine at the store!" Or,

"Do we have to vacuum the whole house? Nobody's coming!"

My mom was a wise woman and gave me the gift of responsibility. Now I'm glad she made me do all the things she knew were good for me, even though I didn't want to do them. Listening to a canner seal those jars of green beans makes me thankful for a gift I had to grow up to appreciate.

If I had to choose one gift that has most enriched my life, it would be my mom's gift of singing. She knows a song for every word. We need only say a word and she'd cut loose singing a song with that word in it. But you know what? I do it all the time, too! And you know something else? Our son does it, too! If you have a song in your heart, it lifts you up when there's no reason to be glad.

The gifts my mom gave me make my life happier and richer. They guide me through hard times and troubled waters. They make me laugh and furnish me with warm memories to last many a cold winter.

Thank you, Mom! ♦

Sandra Atwood and her husband, Richard, pastor of the First FWB Church in New Castle, Delaware, have three red haired boys: Jared, 6; Nathan, 4; and Justin, almost 2. Sandra home schools Nathan in kindergarten, teaches teachers in Sunday school, and enjoys reading and stenciling.

Cast: *three models for the hats. They come out as the hat is mentioned. Narrator. The script may be held inside a photo album.*

Props: *a dozen hats, beginning with an old-fashioned bonnet and ending with a modern beach hat.*

My mom! She has always been a hat-lover. Even now she can't resist trying on hats when we go shopping. In fact, all the women in our family have been hat-lovers.

Just the other day I was looking in an old trunk up in the attic and came across Grandma's old *red bonnet* (1). Mom says Granny never went outside without it because "too much sun is bad for you." It's all faded and worn now, but Mom has kept it because it reminds her of Granny.

I, too, have many memories of my own mother in hats. She seemed to have a different one for every special occasion. I have a photograph of Mom when she was a young girl. She's wearing a *straw hat with a brim and a dark band*. (2). She and a handsome young beau are drinking lemonade at a church picnic. Later they were married, but I think it was the straw hat that caught his eye!

Here's another photo. Daddy's holding me and mom is holding a diaper bag. She's wearing a *white hat with a small brim*. (3). It looks

like a sailor hat. We're standing in front of a train and Mom said we were on our way to visit Grandma and Grandpa. But it was so windy she had to hold on to her hat the whole time.

When I started school, I was so excited to know we would be having Parent's Night. How pretty my mom looked in her *purple velvet hat with pink feathers*. (4). My best friends, Janice and Sherry, told me my mom was pretty and I was so proud. Mom says that's one of the best parts about wearing a hat — you put one on and you feel special.

I remember our first long car trip together. We had a '59 Ford and our destination was Aunt Mary's house. It took us 4 hours to get there. Aunt Mary had planned a big family reunion for Thanksgiving. Mom, of course, bought a new hat for the occasion. It was a *brown felt with a long orange feather*. (5). Everyone at the reunion had a lot of fun kidding her and telling her she looked like Robin Hood. I remember most how we prayed and thanked God together for all His blessings.

When I was 12 years old, I got a part in our church's Christmas cantata. I was so nervous! But when I looked out at all the people, there was my mom wearing her *black velvet hat with a diamond brooch*. (6). She smiled at me and I felt confident. I sang my very best and afterwards Mom

gave me such a big hug that her hat almost fell off!

Many exciting and important things happened at church. I can still see Mom the day I was baptized. She wore a *small hat with pink flowers over it and even a veil*. (7). After church we went to a restaurant to eat. My hair was still wet but I didn't care because I felt fresh and clean inside. Jesus was now living in my heart.

A few years later, a somber event occurred at church. We attended my grandfather's funeral. My mother wore a *simple black hat with a veil*. (8). Many came by and told us what a fine Christian man Grandpa was. I will always remember the good times I had with my grandpa.

One of Mom's hats stands out as my favorite. It was a *plum-colored one with a large wide brim and big flowers on the side*. (9). It was her Easter hat and Daddy said she looked like a movie star in it. She's gotten rid of a lot of her old hats, but that special hat is lovingly wrapped and tucked away in her closet.

Mom was so excited when she was elected as president of the Woman's Auxiliary. She just had to have a new hat! She selected a *lavender one to go along with the auxiliary colors*. (10). She was so nervous the night she was installed that she almost dropped her hymnal on the preacher's head! By the way, she made a great president.



For quite a few years, no one wore hats. Mom was upset about this. She said she didn't feel she was fully dressed without a hat. She was so pleased when Princess Diana was often photographed wearing a hat. Slowly but surely they seemed to be making a comeback.

In fact, not long ago we attended my cousin's wedding and my mom decided to wear a hat. She chose a *small gray one with a veil*. (11). Mother was a bit nervous about being the only guest at the wedding wearing a hat, but many people came up to her and commented on how nice she looked.

Mom turned to me and winked. It was one of those "I told you so" winks. I've learned better than to argue with my mom about hats.

My mom went to the beach today. She wore her favorite *straw beach hat, the one with an orange feather*. (12). She must have tried on 15 hats before she decided on just the right one. She wanted one to shade her face because "too much sun is bad for you."

Oh, I almost forgot. Tomorrow is Mother's Day and I haven't yet gotten my mom a gift. What should I get her? I wonder what she'd like? I know! I see they're having a sale at both Sears and J.C. Penneys. Maybe something in blue—with a small brim! Wish me luck! (*winks*)

Happy Mother's Day, Ladies! ♦

Suggestions for your Mother-Daughter banquet

1. Center decorations, invitations, programs, etc. around hats.

2. Use hats as centerpieces. Decorate these with flowers and pastel colored ribbons.

3. Make table favors from miniature hats. Straw hats may be purchased from craft shops and decorated with narrow ribbon and tiny silk flowers. Glue a magnet to the back. A name may be written on strips of paper and attached to the band as a place card marker.

4. Honor a special mother who has endeared herself to the church through her godly example. Present her with a bouquet of flowers with a straw hat serving as the flower pot or vase.

5. A month before your banquet, sponsor a contest among the daughters and ask them to compose a poem about their mother. Award prizes for the best in each age category. One of the winners could recite her poem to her mother during the program.

This dramatic reading, written by Virginia Mann, is especially recommended for a mother-daughter banquet. Mrs. Mann, an elementary counselor, and her husband, Frederick, are members of the First FWB Church in McAllen, Texas. Her hobbies include traveling, public speaking, photography and writing poetry.

My 's Mother's Hats

A Mother's Day Feature

Virginia V. Mann



A Job Description for Senders

HOLDING THE

HOLDING THE ROPES

Sixteen years ago, Neil Armstrong stepped out of the Apollo spacecraft and uttered a few simple words: "One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." A quarter million miles away, a spontaneous celebration broke out in the control room in Houston. Neil Armstrong didn't step out onto the lunar surface alone. Behind him were thousands of people who made that one small step possible, who stepped out there with him, and who rejoiced in the accomplishment.

When a missionary sets foot in another culture and begins to show the people God's love, it's a small, though scary, step for him. Like the astronaut on the moon, the missionary depends on hundreds of others—his mission board, church friends, and family. They are the ones who send him; they help him take those little steps and rejoice in the victories.

In the next few years, mission leaders are expecting more Christians than ever to step into the thousands of cultures where the gospel hasn't been heard. These new missionaries need an even larger group of supporters—people who will live their lives at home in partnership with missionaries overseas. They need *senders*. Let's take a closer look at this unique group of people.

Down beneath the mighty ocean
Divers plunge for treasure rare,
But men hold the ropes above them,
So they breathe the upper air.
Seeking pearls of richest value
Braver hearts have dared to go;
But our hands must every moment
Hold the ropes that reach below.

So, amid the heathen darkness
There are heroes, true and brave,
Shrinking not from death or danger,
Bearing all to help and save.
But they cry, "O do not leave us
'Mid these dreadful depths to drown
Let us feel your prayers around us;
Hold the ropes as we go down!"
—copied

Senders? Who are Senders?

Senders don't just drop an extra amount in the plate when the missions offering is taken; they keep only that part of their salary that they need and regularly send the rest to those in cross-cultural service. They don't just pray for the missionaries at the annual conference; they carry the burden to God every day—interceding for the workers and the people they serve. They don't just sign the missionary birthday card that goes around the church; they are the ones who get the card circulating. All these lesser responses are necessary, and missionaries appreciate them. But

senders recognize that their primary role in the work of the kingdom is, investing their resources to send and equip cross-cultural missionaries.

Our mission board projects sending out 100 new missionaries by the year 2000. And at anywhere from \$25,000 to \$40,000 per year to maintain a missionary family on the field, these missionaries will need the financial, spiritual and emotional support of senders already dedicated to helping out.



LIFELINE

Program Suggestion for June

Aims: to challenge auxiliary women to become senders in the missionary program.

Scripture: Acts 13:2,3; Phil. 4:18

Hymn: "So Send I You" or another missionary hymn.

Program Helps:

Make a poster using a picture of your church and a missionary map. Label your church as the "Senders" and the missionaries as "Those Sent" or the "Goers." Maps are free from the Foreign Missions Office, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

incredible pressure, depends on hoses feeding oxygen to him from the boat. The crew in the boat has to pay careful attention to the mix of air going down to him and listen for signals he might be sending up. If the folks up above

Blueprint for Ministry

Senders need a blueprint for ministry so they can be sure that they are doing the things that will help the people they are ministering to and through. They need a banner to rally other potential senders around.

Fortunately, there's at least one good model for sending in the New Testament. Paul, the model missionary, had a model sending team. Though Paul actually started the Philippian church, in later years that particular congregation played a vital role in his continuing efforts to extend the boundaries of the gospel. Although the Philippians didn't commission Paul and set him on the road, they were his senders because they supported his work. Paul regarded them as his partners "in the gospel, from the first day until now" (Phil. 1:5).

What did this partnership consist of? Certainly the term implies far more than a business agreement or official church policy. Paul speaks with great tenderness of his love for the Philippians 1:8. Even Paul's word for partnership, the familiar term *koinonia*, implies a family bond. Sending isn't a contractual partnership that extends only to an exchange of checks and form letters.

The Philippians were called to this ministry as much as Paul was to his. "All of you share in God's grace with me," writes Paul. They were his co-workers from the first day—probably referring to the day Lydia opened her heart and her home as the center of Paul's ministry in Philippi (Acts 16:14, 15, 40). He refers specifically to a few of these fellow workers, those

Senders don't just drop an extra amount in the plate when the missions offering is taken; they keep only that part of their salary that they need and regularly send the rest to those in cross-cultural service.

get bored or distracted from their task, the diver may be signaling for more air while they're concentrating on reeling in a big fish.

Most senders wouldn't neglect a missionary in a life-threatening way, but without an adequate grasp of what their task is, they can lose track of what they're supposed to do. The missionary is far away; it's easy to forget you're holding the lifeline. Too many potential senders today are watching the sunset or waiting for a nibble while the missionaries who need their prayers, money and love are floundering, or worse, still waiting to get their feet wet.

The whole idea of dedicating as many resources as possible to the ministry of missionaries cuts right across the grain of American culture. All the pressures that tend to derail potential missionaries—opposition of parents, a church's appeal for help in local ministry, career pressures, financial insecurity, material possessions—conspire to keep senders from being effective.

Senders are like a boat crew for a deep sea diver. The diver, hundreds of feet down and under



"who have labored with me in the gospel" (4:3). Doubtless the Philip-
pians understood more of Paul's
struggles as they themselves
struggled to evangelize their own
community.

Along with this shared grace of
ministry, Paul challenged them to
live out—in their praying, giving
and encouragement of his
ministry—the same commitment
and sacrifice they saw in him. Paul
reminded them of the importance
of their prayers when he told them
he longed for Christ to be exalted
in every aspect of his life—
especially in the hardship of his im-

prisonment in Rome. "For I know
that this shall turn to my salvation
through your prayer, and the
supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ
... that Christ shall be magnified
in my body, whether it be by life or
by death" (1:19, 20).

There were no such things as
monthly pledges or faith promises
in Paul's day, but the Philippians
gave as regularly as they could

*The key to keeping
on track through
difficult times lies in
rooting one's identity
in Christ rather than
in the culture around
them.*

(4:16). Paul regarded their gifts as
"an odor of a sweet smell, a
sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing
to God." Paul didn't make himself
dependent on them, but on God
(4:13). Likewise they gave first to
God, then to Paul (2 Cor. 8:2,3).
Their gifts were so sacrificial that
the senders were as dependent on
God's resources as Paul was. Thus
he reassures them: "And my God
shall supply all your needs" (4:19).

The love and caring of their fel-
lowship didn't just happen during
"furloughs." Paul was eager to visit
them, but in the meantime, they
both worked hard at com-
munication. They sent
Epaphroditus — their "apostle" —
to work with Paul and "supply your
lack of service toward me" (2:30).
Without the benefit of modern
technology, they managed to get
messages back and forth to know
that Epaphroditus was ill and to
express their concern.

Heavenly Values

Contemporary senders can look
to Paul for more than a model of

how to relate to the missionary.
Paul seemed to recognize that
senders need to live a lifestyle as
countercultural as missionaries do.

He encouraged the Philippians
with the example of this own life.
He describes all his
"qualifications" according to the
values of his Jewish culture: "Cir-
cumcised on the eighth day, of the
stock of Israel, of the tribe of Ben-
jamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as
touching the law, a Pharisee;
Concerning zeal, persecuting the
church; touching the righteous-
ness which is in the law, blame-
less." Then he outlines his attitude
toward all this "right stuff": "But
what things were gain to me, those
I counted loss for Christ" (3:4-8).
All the things his society approved,
all the good breeding and
education that could have gained
him power and prestige (and cer-
tainly must have before his conver-
sion), he puts neatly in perspective
beside the ultimate purpose of his
life. It's all junk.

Paul admonished the Philippians
that the key to keeping on track
through difficult times lies in root-
ing one's identity in Christ rather
than in the culture around them.
Today, as senders strive to follow
the Philippian model of part-
nership with missionaries in prayer
and witness and lifestyle, they also
struggle to see the glitter of North
American culture as the trash that
it is.

Until the term "sender" becomes
as common as the term "mission-
ary," the senders of the next few
years will live as pioneers. They'll
write the job description for
sending by the way they obey
God's call in their lives. The
tremendous revival of interest in
missions among students today is
in jeopardy if thousands of their
peers don't commit themselves
equally to staying and living out
the life of the sender.

Condensed from an article written by Marie
Leydon in *World Christian* magazine,
Pasadena, CA.



Meet Some Senders

"What method do you use to support missions?" was asked several who give heavily to missions. Here are some of their responses.

"Each year we pledge to specific missionary accounts and then take care of that obligation just as conscientiously as we do our rent or utilities or car payment. It comes out over and above our tithe."

Their giving accounted for 20% of the church's total missionary budget. "We try to increase our pledge each year," she concludes.

Another sender frankly admitted, "I have a job to support my missionary habit." Instead of using the second check to cover college bills or family vacations, she has dedicated her entire income to missions. This money is not always channeled into an impersonal account, but she majors on items that contribute to the missionary's

"I have a job to support my missionary habit."

comfort and happiness—new shoes or coat, airline ticket or appliance, a call from home.

One family has the unusual hobby of collecting aluminum cans and converting them into cash for missions. In one year they were able to give over \$1000. "When I take my daily walk, I take along a sack and pick up the cans," said one family member. "We keep a container handy in the car also. Friends save them for us, too, when they learn they are helping missions."

Those who give most generously have learned you can't outgive

God. One professional couple has embraced a simple lifestyle in order to give to missions. "We resist the urge to buy things," she says, "in order that others might have."



Another pours herself into encouraging missionaries through letters. A personal letter is sent to each one on his birthday.

Gladys Gragg, Nashville, TN, uses cents off coupons and rebates for missions. Very seldom does she fall behind in her goal of \$30 a month in rebates and \$20 in cents off coupons.

She keeps all cash register receipts with cents off coupons amounts circled along with her rebate checks in a tin box. At the end of each month, she tallies the amounts and writes a personal check to her auxiliary designating the missionary or missionaries to whom it should go.

"The first six months of rebating are the hardest," admits Mrs. Gragg, "because you are developing a system and collecting forms and labels." She keeps her labels in a plastic basket or grocery bag in the kitchen where it's handy to drop them immediately after she uses the product. When the bag is full, she transfers the contents to specially marked larger bags kept in the basement.

Friends and neighbors also help her collect labels and save forms for her. One little friend calls her

"Granny Gragg." His mother has trouble throwing away her trash because he says, "Granny Gragg might need that."

This unusual sender has set a time limit for herself lest she spend too much time with her project. "It's habit forming," she says. She averages about two hours a week or less.

If Mrs. Gragg had a slogan, it would probably be "Turn Your Trash Into Cash." Her trash resulted in almost \$800 for missions last year. That's just one sender — think what ten could do. Or twenty? or . . .



Program Suggestions for May

Has Anyone Seen My ...?

Dorita Suggs

Purpose: To examine our lives for any lost possessions.

Scripture: 2 John 8

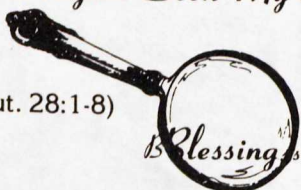
Hymn: "Let Others See Jesus in You."

Introduction

Have you ever lost something that was important to you? To lose an insignificant item is bad enough, but when the item is of great value, it can be a traumatic experience.

In our Christian walk, we, too, lose things along the way that are often vital to our spiritual development. Let's examine these possessions that we must guard against losing.

Has Anyone Seen My ...?



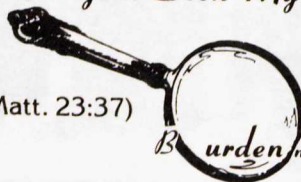
(Deut. 28:1-8)

Because the blessings we receive are both temporal and spiritual, they can be divided into two categories: first, blessings asked for and received, and second, blessings contingent upon obedience. We obtain God's choicest blessings as we put the correct amount of faith and prayer in our lives.

Song: "Count Your Blessings"

Feature: Several short testimonies of thankfulness.

Has Anyone Seen My ...?



(Matt. 23:37)

The story is told of a minister and an atheist who met for dinner. They had not seen each other since childhood and spent two hours talking over old times. As the minister turned to leave, the atheist looked him squarely in the eye and asked, "Joe, do you really believe there is a hell?"

"Indeed I do," replied the minister.

"Do you believe those who do not trust in Christ will burn there forever?"

"I certainly do," affirmed the minister.

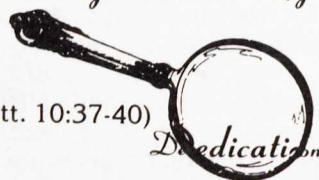
"Then, Joe, I'll have to call you a liar."

As the minister struggled for words, the atheist continued, "Joe, if you really believed what you say you believe, you would have wept over me at dinner. You would have begged and pled with me to escape such an awful place. Yet not one time did you mention my soul."

Has anyone seen your burden?
Chorus: "Lord, Lay Some Soul Upon My Heart"

Feature: Sharing of requests for the unsaved and intercessory prayer for their salvation.

Has Anyone Seen My ...?



(Matt. 10:37-40)

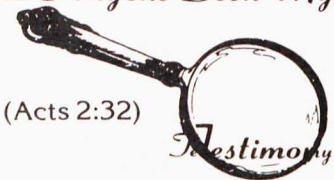
A pig and a hen observed the sermon topic on the church marquee: How Can We Help The Poor? After thinking a moment, the hen suggested, "I know what we can do! We can give the poor a ham-and-egg breakfast!"

The hog squealed, "Oh sure! That would only be a contribution for you, but for me it would mean total commitment!"

Any commitment short of total commitment comes up short in God's service.

Special music: "Whatever It Takes"

Has Anyone Seen My ...?



(Acts 2:32)

A little boy helped his grandmother pack several items away in boxes. He asked why some things were put away and not others. His grandmother explained she was spring cleaning and getting rid of items she no longer used.

The little boy walked over and picked up a book from the bookcase. "Pack this, Granny," he said, handing her the Bible. "I've never seen you use this."

What about your testimony? Has anyone seen it?

Feature: Read Acts 4:5-13 responsively.

Lost and Found (Conclusion)

The ones who gave the topics will stand from where they are seated and ask the questions. The leader responds as if reading from the classified section of the newspaper.

Has anyone seen my blessings?

Found: blessings galore as one becomes involved in the Women's Auxiliary.

Has anyone seen my burden?

Found: a sincere burden for the lost as one reaches out through the Woman's Auxiliary.

Has anyone seen my dedication?

Found: heartfelt dedication to God as one devotes as much time to the Auxiliary as she does to that hobby or leisure time.

Has anyone seen my testimony?

Found: a testimony seen and witnessed by all as one becomes involved in the Woman's Auxiliary.

Has anyone seen your devotion to Christ lately?

Program Helps: Use the magnifying glass idea for both poster and invitations.

The Apostle John

A Character Study

For personal Bible study or those auxiliary groups who "just want to use the Bible".

Programs

**Bible
Study**

If the Bible were a house and the Gospel of John one of the rooms, we would find a well worn path leading to his door. John's gospel is probably the most loved, most precious book to believers the world over. John, more than all the other gospel writers, reveals the innermost thoughts and emotions of our Lord. Is it possible that John knew our Lord in a dimension the others did not? What is it about John that makes his gospel different from the others? For a clue, let's do a character study of the author, the apostle John.

Background

1. What was John's nationality? From what province? (1:44; Matt. 4:18). All the 12 disciples, except Judas Iscariot, seem to have come from this province and the greater part of our Lord's ministry was spent here.

2. Who was his father? What was his profession? Who were his partners? (21:2; Mark 1:19, 20).

3. Who was his mother? What was her relationship to Mary, the mother of Jesus? What relationship did John have to Jesus? (Matt. 27:56; Mark 15:40; John 19:45).

4. His brother's name? (Matt. 4:21) Probably the elder because generally named before him.

5. What do the following verses suggest about their financial situation? (Mark 1:19,20; Luke 8:3; Matt. 27:55; John 19:27; 18:16).

6. What association did John have with John the Baptist? (1:35)

His Personality

1. John was quiet, reserved and introspective. Only three sayings are attributed to John in his gospel: 1:38, which could have been spoken by Andrew; 13:25, which was forced upon him by Peter; and 21:7. What do these three sayings have in common?

2. John never refers to himself by name in his gospel. How does he identify himself in these verses: 13:23; 18:15,16; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20, 23, 24? What does this tell you about his character?

3. John was one of the 12 disciples, yet was also a part of the "inner circle." On what three occasions were the three honored for a closer intimacy with their Lord (yet which John chooses to omit)? (Matt.

17:1; Mark 5:37; Matt. 26:37). How do you relate Galatians 2:9 to this?

4. He was trustworthy. On two occasions John was entrusted with a special responsibility. What were these? Luke 22:8, which he fails to mention; and John 19:26, which he alone mentions.

5. There are some negatives to John's personality. His nickname indicates another side to his character. What was it? (Mark 3:17) How does Luke 9:54 reinforce this fact?

6. What does Mark 9:38 hint about his character? And Mark 10:35-37?

Later Years

There are few historical references to John after his gospel.

1. What did John do after the ascension? (Acts 4:1-22; 8:14,15)

2. What part did he have in the early church? (Gal. 2:9)

3. What three books did John write? His first longer gospel showed the person of Christ. The three short epistles shows Christ in the individual believer. The last one predicts the future glory of Christ.

4. John was not martyred for his faith as were the other disciples. What punishment did he receive? (Rev. 1:9)

History tells us John lived in Ephesus after his exile and shepherded the churches in that area until his death at a ripe old age.

Application

1. John had some definite flaws in his character, yet is remembered as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." Jesus loves us even with our imperfections.

2. God immediately set about conforming John to the image of His Son and the fiery son of thunder became an apostle of love. Which of your character traits is He chipping and sanding away in order to conform you to the image of His Son? ♦

Convention Preview

The National Convention meets July 20-21, 1987 in Birmingham, AL. This meeting enables us to carry out our business, make decisions about projects, and generally determine our goals in accomplishing them.

This meeting also challenges leaders as we introduce a new theme, new studies and new publications.

It also gives time for a mission challenge as well as time for fellowship.

Pre-Convention Features:

Executive Committee Meeting on Monday, 9-12 a.m. WNAC officers meet with the executive secretary and editor to formulate plans, approve the budget, and make recommendations to the body.

The **Nominating Committee** also meets on Monday at 9 a.m. This is election year. The members elected by the state conventions to serve last year should also be serving this year.

Mini-seminars designed especially for women and emphasizing our theme for next year are planned for Monday afternoon, 1:30-2:30. This year they are concerned with reaching out to youth, prisoners, and minority groups.

A meeting is planned especially for **State Presidents and Field Workers**. District and local organizations without a state or district convention should also send a representative to this meeting. Plans include leadership training with kits available for use in your state.

Missionary Features

WNAC invites all those attending the National Association to hear a **missionary speaker** at 11 a.m. on Tuesday. A special offering is received to help with convention expenses. Come prepared to share.

On Tuesday afternoon, a **panel of missionary women** will share the methods they use for reaching the unsaved in their areas of work.

WNAC's traditional **Fellowship Dinner** takes place at 5 p.m. on Tuesday. This dinner could be



called husbands' night when members extend special invitations to their husbands. The men enjoy it also! See the next page for tickets.

Business Session

The business session is scheduled on Tuesday from 9 to 3.

Voting delegates include state presidents and field workers, district presidents where there is no state organization, and elected delegates.

In 1986, there could have been around 1500 voting delegates. Only 307 actually registered at the convention! Send your representative.

Provision Closet Needs

Fullsize sheets and mattress covers
Twinsize bedspreads (preferably ribcord)
Flatware (service for eight)

Convention Personalities: Music Co-ordinator: Rebecca Pugh
Organist: Fleda Snow
Pianist: Sandy Jackson
Registration Chairman: Elwanda Oaks
Devotions: Olena McLain, Japan
Special Music: The Howard Gwartney Family
Missionary Message: Robert Bryan



"I'LL BE THERE."

Pre-Convention Meetings in the Hyatt Birmingham Monday, July 20

WNAC Executive Committee Breakfast and Meeting 8 a.m. Room 1701

WNAC Nominating Committee 9 a.m. Room 206
This is election year so all committee members (or their proxies) are asked to be present.

WNAC Seminar "Reaching Out" 1:30-2:30 Pacific/Atlantic/
Indian Room
All ladies are invited to attend.

Presidents and Field Workers Meeting 3-4 p.m. Arctic Room
Mini-leadership session

Convention Theme:

"Them Also I Must Bring"

"SO WILL I."



Woman's National Auxiliary Convention

Birmingham, Alabama
July 19-21, 1987

Attention Secretaries and Treasurers!

Each state convention is entitled to 15 delegates plus its president and field worker. Where there is no organized state, a district may be represented with five delegates plus local presidents. Where there is no district, a local may send three delegates. Any local may represent by paying \$3.00 at the booth. Send annual reports (whether or not you send a delegate) to: Peggy Outland, 611 Glenpark Ct., Nashville, TN 37217.

Treasurers, send your report and membership dues of \$1.50 per member to: Mary Wisheart, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

Creative Arts Contest Winners

Winners in WNAC's annual contest will be recognized during the Tuesday morning session. Each participant is asked to be seated on the platform before the 9 a.m. session begins.

Fellowship Dinner

If you heard Verla Pettit speak at the fellowship dinner in Louisville in 1981, then you won't want to miss her this year in Birmingham.

Mrs. Pettit, director of the Memphis Union Mission since 1946, also founded the Memphis Christian Servicemen's Center and the Victory Valley Bible Conference and Retreat Grounds outside Memphis. Youth Conferences are held here all year long plus two women's retreats.

Mrs. Pettit, widow of the late Leon Pettit, major league ball player, has traveled around the world visiting wounded servicemen in military hospitals. Her vast experience qualifies her as a speaker on the theme, "Them Also I Must Bring."

All banquet seats have been reserved and you are asked to get your ticket early in order to avoid disappointment. We encourage our auxiliaries to make it possible for all furloughing missionaries to attend the dinner. When you order your ticket, include one for a missionary as well. WNAC will see that the missionary receives the ticket.

Refunds available through July 1. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request.

_____ Number tickets requested

\$_____ Amount enclosed

☐ I wish to purchase a ticket for the following missionary:

Send tickets to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Yes!

I want to attend the WNAC Fellowship dinner, Tuesday, July 21, 1987 at 5 p.m. in the Hyatt Birmingham Four Seas Ballroom. I understand each ticket is \$12, including tax and tip.

Mail to:

WNAC Tickets
P. O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 37202

Over My Coffee Cup



Eunice Edwards

Church was over. As I waited my turn at the one stop sign in our little town, I was suddenly reminded of the spiritual parallelism of stop signs in our Christian lives.

When I'm approaching a red light in traffic, my brain telegraphs a message to slow down, apply the brakes, prepare to STOP!

But for some reason, yellow lights don't seem to be regarded as seriously as red lights or an approaching traffic cop!

Spiritually, a caution light should be treated just as seriously. It is God's way of saying, "Slow down. Take time for Me."

Here are a few important caution lights that must be treated with extreme care:

1. When the Word does not appeal to me.
2. When His Word is read without attention to what is being said.
3. When it's easier to "do" something rather than wait quietly upon Him.
4. When private devotions become duty rather than joy.
5. When another's faults look larger than mine.
6. When Satan sends someone to visit when it's time to pray — and I feel relieved to be excused from prayer! After all, effective prayer is hard work.

These are but a few of the tactics Satan uses on me. Each should be recognized as a ruse by Satan to draw us away from our lovely Lord.

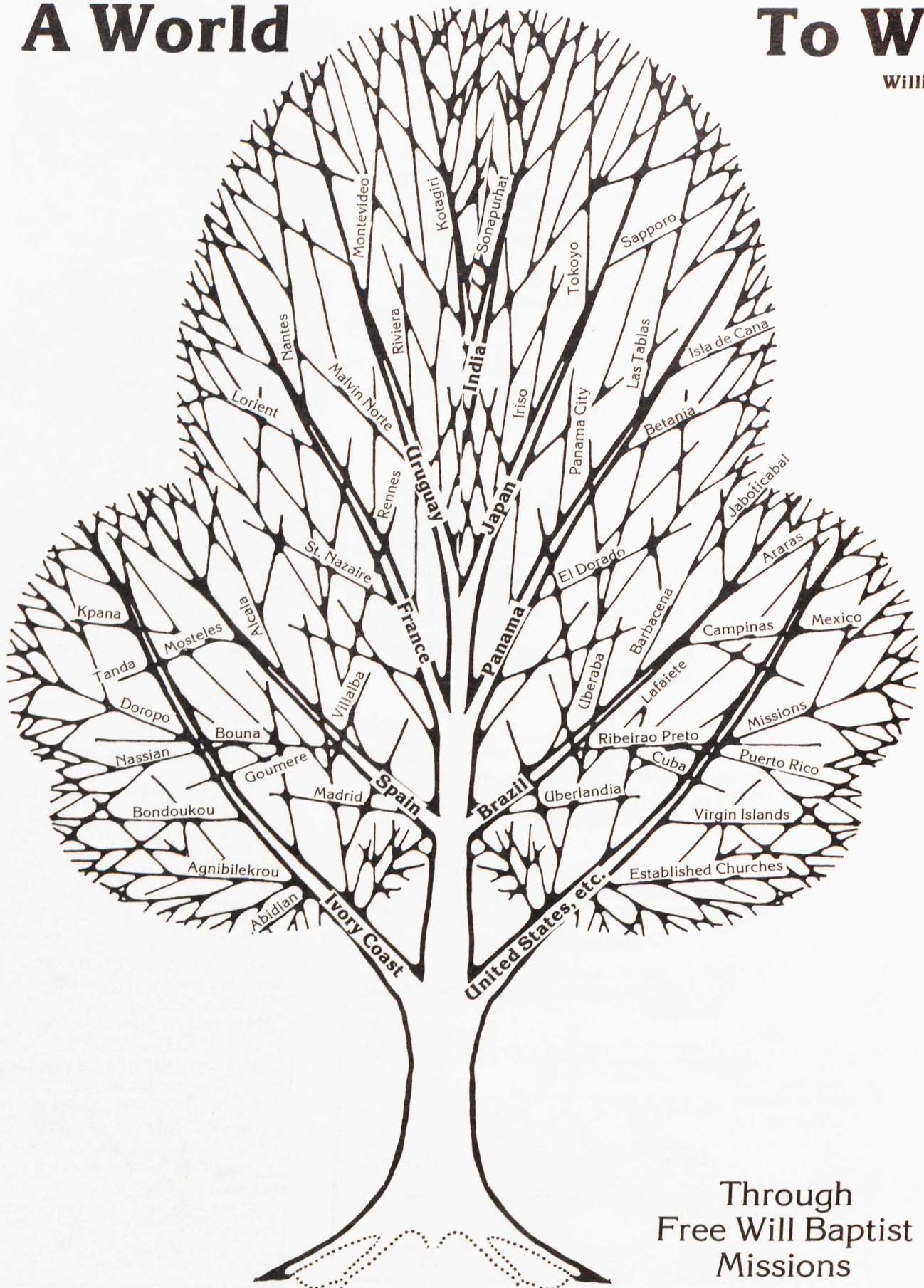
You know, my friend, that backsliding begins with little things: a cold heart, disobedience to the known will of God, exaggerated concern with the cares of this life, failure to acknowledge God's sovereign right to order my life, neglect of prayer, and a deliberate disregard to all the caution lights God sends along our paths.

Remember the red light follows the yellow caution light!
Read 1 Chronicles 28:9, 10.

A World

To Win

Willie Gage



Through
Free Will Baptist
Missions

Helps For Leaders

May-June, 1987

President/Vice President

Spice Up Your Summer Meetings

Summer usually plays havoc with regular auxiliary meetings. In order to avoid the summer slump, spice up your summer meetings in a variety of ways.

Auxiliary Picnic

Invite the whole family to share potluck in a park. Perhaps a family who lives in the country would be willing to invite the group to share their spacious yard.

Take a Tour

See what facilities are available within a one hour radius of your town. (Teachers who take their students on field trips can make suggestions.) Some establishments have a cafeteria or lunch room open to the public so arrange to arrive (or leave) near lunch time.

Whip Up a Workday

Work is more fun when it's shared, so declare a church kitchen clean-up. Inventory the tasks to be done, have necessary cleaning supplies on hand, delegate responsibilities and . . . whistle while you work!

Someone who enjoys cooking may prepare a one-dish meal for lunch. The devotional could compare a clean kitchen with a clean life.

Plan a Trip

The WNAC meets July 20 and 21 in Birmingham, Alabama. Charter a bus. Your women will return with renewed enthusiasm and challenge.

Sunday Night Festival

Ask your pastor if the auxiliary could have the service on Sunday night. Afterwards serve refreshments, perhaps a light snack, or have an ice cream supper.

Invitations

Using the magnifying glass pat-

Contents

President

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Vice President

Food to Grow On

Invitation and Poster Ideas

Mission Study Chairman

Let's Have a Study Course

Mission Prayer Chairman

Prayer Reminders

Mission Action Chairman

Cheer Packages

Auxiliary Place Mats

tern (next page) prepare invitation folders (as illustrated). Write information, as time and date inside. Slip an enlistment leaflet inside each folder. These are 12 for 75¢ and available from WNAC, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 3202.



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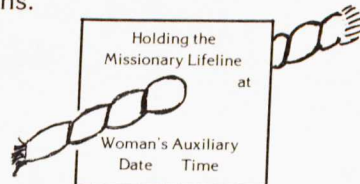
Woman's Auxiliary

and then . . .

COME

Rope Invitations

Cut a length of rope into strips and thread through your invitations.



Poster:

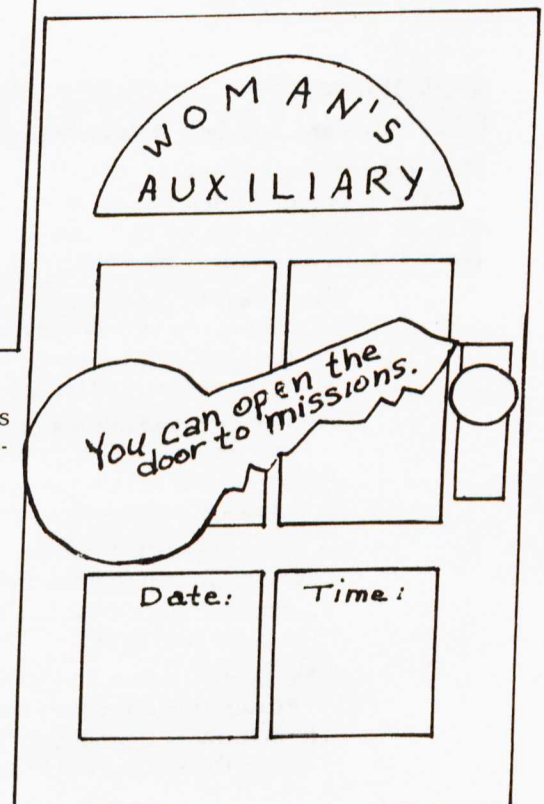
Cut out a large cardboard door and print as indicated. Make a large key from colored poster board and glue on the door.

Enlistment Idea

Food to Grow On

Give prospects or absentees a live plant in a small clay or styrofoam pot. (Or give to your guests at the mother-daughter banquet.) Styrofoam cups could be used. You may want to fancy them up a little with a WNAC emblem and a piece of lavender ribbon. Attach a note reminding them that this little plant needs food just as Christians need spiritual food. Invite them to come to the Woman's Auxiliary meeting the next month and get food for the plant and for themselves as well. Prepare an envelope with one feeding of plant food. Make sure that the program that night does give them some spiritual food.

Auxiliary seals in two sizes are available from WNAC. The 1" x 2" inch ones are 24 for 50¢. The larger ones, 2" x 4" inch, are 75¢ for 24.



Mission Study Chairman

Let's Have a Study Course!

Have you studied the two mission study books suggested for this year — *Second Mile People* and *Vision for Missions*? Another recommended book, *Evangelism for our Generation*, brings the mission field right to our doorstep.

This book, a sequel to *Evangelism as a Lifestyle*, and one in the Discipleship Today Series, is designed to challenge Christians to become effective witnesses in the course of their day-to-day life. It is essentially a Bible study on biblical patterns of evangelism, consisting of sowing, watering, cultivating and reaping.

Since the message of the book is vital to the entire church, perhaps the pastor would agree to teach it as a series during the Wednesday evening prayer services.

A special feature of the book, *Evangelism for our Generation*, is the 47-page Bible study entitled, "Twenty Four Hours With John," at the conclusion of the book. This material is designed as a guide in leading an unsaved person to Christ and discipling him in the faith.



This 214 page book, written by Jim Petersen and published by Navpress, is available from WNAC for \$5.95 plus postage and handling.

Alternate Study Suggestions

This book is divided into two sections—1) the people of our generation and our message, and 2) a practical guide for lifestyle evangelism. Most of our evangelism effort is limited to strays from our own fold. What about those from another cultural background, the cultists, or those totally ignorant of Christ as Savior?

Divide your women into two groups—those who have been evangelized and those who have not yet been. Prepare labels from 8"x10" cardboard board to which strings have been fastened for hanging around the neck. On one side print "Saved" and on the back side "Unsaved."

Each unsaved woman should be paired up with a saved one. In the dialogues and demonstrations, these two will interact with each other.

Using your two groups, demonstrate the four stages for building a friendship, listing some aspects of each phase (p. 84). Appoint participants from your two groups to give the dialogues on pp. 112-119.

Conclude the study with the unsaved being evangelized by the saved.

Mission Prayer Chairman

May Prayer Reminders

Make a prayer folder for each woman. Requests may be written inside as they are given. Read this poem before your prayer session:

There's a holy high vocation
Needing workers everywhere;
'Tis the highest form of service,
'Tis the ministry of prayer.

None need stand idly longing
For a place in which to share
Active service for the Master:
There's always room in prayer.

In these days of tribulation
Wickedness pervades the air;
And the battles we engage in
Must be won by fervent prayer.

There's no weapon half so mighty
As that the intercessors bear;
Nor a broader field of service
Than the ministry of prayer.

— A. S. Woolworth



and then . . .
PRAY

fold

Prayer Reminders for June

Make a prayer reminder for each woman. On the back print specific missionary requests. Decipher the message. Write down every other letter on the spaces below.

1. _____

_____!

2. _____

_____!



Idea Contributed by:
Vicky Christy, Student at FWBBC.

Mission Action Chairman

Cheer Packages

Cheer packages are suggested for one who goes into the hospital for a prolonged stay. Wrap several small gifts individually. Attach a small card to the outside of each package giving the day the gift is to be opened, as well as a Scripture reference. This verse hints at the contents and should be read before the gift is opened.

For example:

Monday — Job 24:7 ("covering in the cold", terry-cloth or crocheted footlets)

Tuesday — Proverbs 27:9 ("perfume rejoices the heart", bath powder, perfume, or some other cosmetic)

Wednesday — Song of Solomon 5:1 ("honeycomb with my honey", a bar of candy)

Thursday — Judges 14:13 ("put forth thy riddle", small booklet of puzzles/word games)

Friday — Leviticus 26:31 ("savor of sweet odors", breath mints/chewing gum)

Saturday — Ecclesiastes 10:19 ("money an-

swereth all things", 5-6 quarters for the snack can-teen)

Sunday — Psalm 119:148 ("meditate in the word", a small devotional guide)

Pile all these gifts in a small wicker basket and tie a bow on the handle. Include a small bell or a Christmas bell attached to a colored card. On the top place a cheerful card with this verse written inside:

Here are gifts to cheer you
Each day of your stay;
Don't open them at once —
There is one for each day.

Each one has a Scripture,
As to contents, it's a clue;
Find the verse and read it,
Does it tell you what to do?

Open up, enjoy it — once you've
Shaken, felt, and smelled;
Now if you guessed correctly,
Would you ring the little bell?



Candlewick placemats add an old-fashioned charm to any auxiliary function.

The beauty of the unfinished piece lies in the fact that the fabric shrinks after washing, making the knots more prominent and secure. *Do not preshrink the fabric.*

Materials Needed

100% lavender cotton fabric
white candlewicking thread
washable fabric pen
tapestry needle with large eye
embroidery hoop
eyelet ruffling, if desired

Directions

1. For each placement, cut a rectangle 17x21. Lay the pattern on top of the fabric. Prick holes in the pattern and use the marking pen to mark the fabric through the holes.

2. Embroider the design. Make french knots to candlewick the emblem. Embroider the leaves with the satin stitch. Backstitch the stem (see design).

3. Wash in cold soapy water to remove traces of the pen.

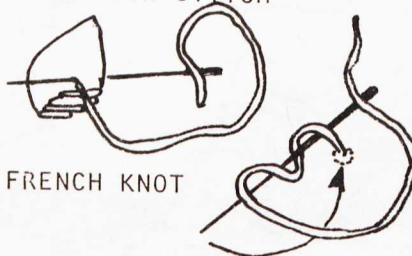
4. Rinse in very hot water to shrink the fabric.

5. Roll in a towel and gently squeeze.

6. Press face down on a towel and iron dry.

7. Edge with eyelet ruffling and face with lavender bias tape.

SATIN STITCH



FRENCH KNOT

BACKSTITCH

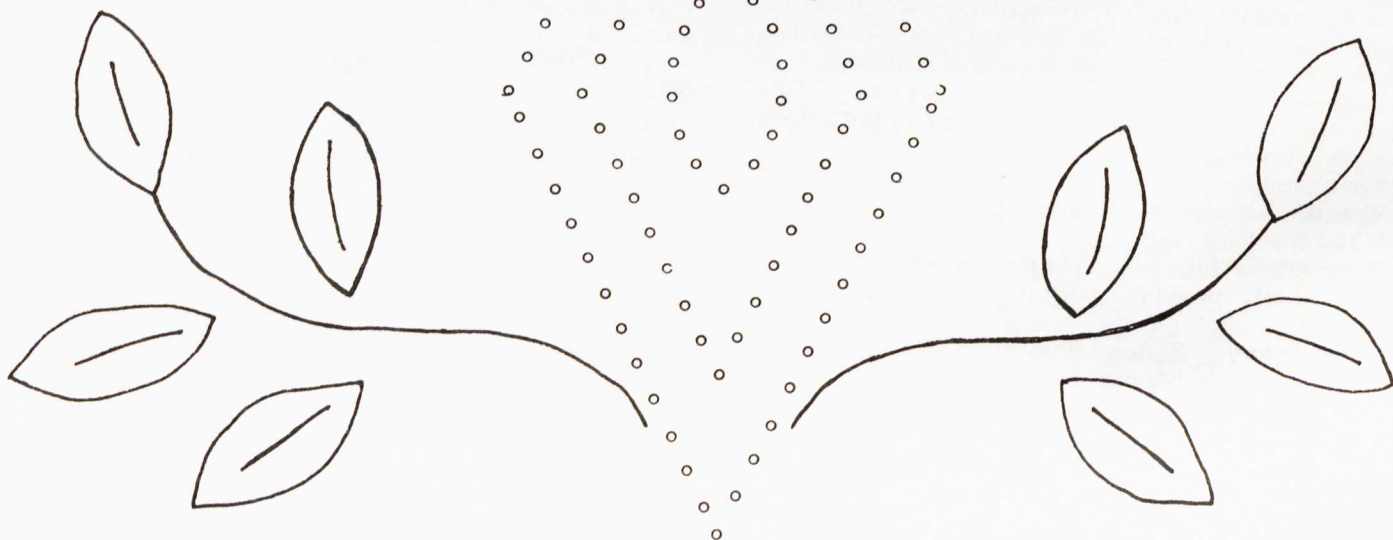


Alternatives

1. Enlarge and center the design on a square of cloth and finish as a pillow.

2. Frame the finished work in a hoop and edge with the ruffling.

These crafts would serve as good gifts for retiring officers, appreciation gifts for service rendered, or for just any occasion.



Women in Action



Hands and feet of those who helped bring about the Alabama state auxiliary banquet . . .



With committee members Marie Gray, Betty Jeffreys, Betty Brumley, Uleen Lowry, Vada Landers, Barbara South and Reba Ritter . . .

And participants.



Alabama State Auxiliary Banquet meets in Sheffield.



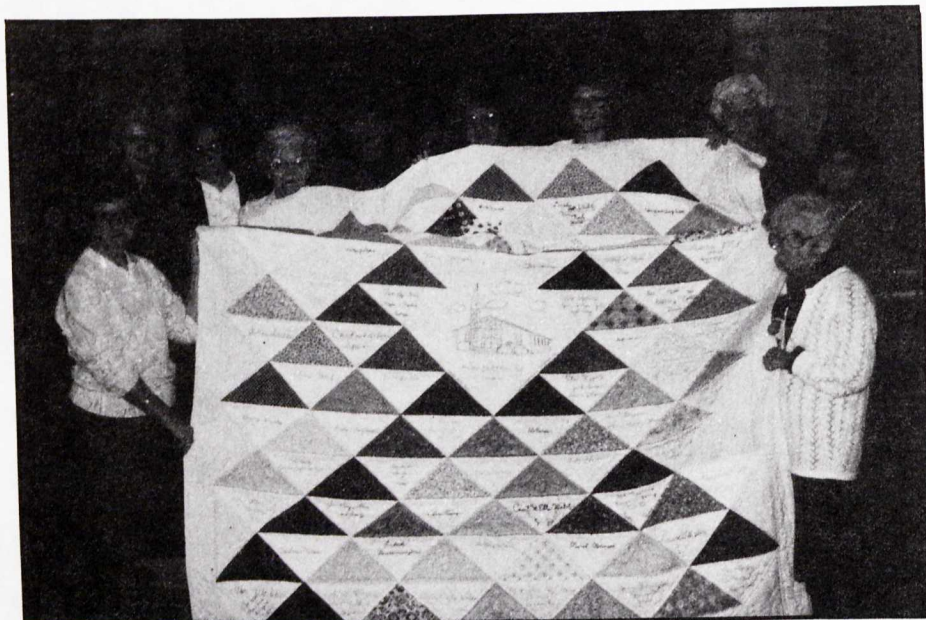
Calvary auxiliary, Claremore, OK, presents their emphasis program, "More Than Conquers," and nets \$30 for WNAC. Those participating: Beth Welch, Janie Laughlin, Mary Davis, Mary Wood, Mary Brown, Ida Belle Long, Helen Henry and Wende Vinson.



The Four District Prayer Retreat meets at the Northwest Alabama Youth Camp with Mrs. Levy Corey (front row) representing the Children's Home.



Four District Representatives: (left side) Marie Terry, North Alabama district president; Elwanda Oakes, Vernon district president; Linda Trawick, Jasper district president; Joyce Gibson, president-elect of the Vernon district. On the right side: Odessa Ledlow, seminar speaker; Jackie Peters, missionary to Ozark; Pat Pless, state president; and Sherry Reynolds, Mt. Moriah district president.



Bear Point auxiliary, Sesser, IL, piece a quilt for Japan missionaries, Ken and Judy Bailey. Those helping are: Mary Bunton, Bess Mygatt, Ollie Sulcer, Arcada Prior, Lorane Wilson, Aileen Spann, Linda Cook, Marie Bunton, Earlene Roberts and Nina Gilliam.

Bicycles for All

When the ladies from Cardinal Village, Jacksonville, NC, visited the SC Children's Home, they left with a challenge that created a surge of excitement through the entire church and community. They would give each of the 22 children a bicycle for Christmas!

And they did! A few weeks before Christmas, they unloaded five big wheels, ten 20" bikes, and seven 10-speed bikes. Each bicycle was decorated with a bow and came with a copper plate riveted to the frame with his own name engraved.

The project cost \$1,047.50.

West Virginia on the Move

Glenna Murphy, state president, commends her women for their participation in last year's projects and anticipates even greater things for 1987. A workshop, "Auxiliary — What's It All About?" kicked off the year's schedule of retreats, luncheons, Bible Conference and convention.

Shower for Mirial

Peace FWB Auxiliary, Florence, SC, honored missionary Mirial Gainer with a "Ministry" shower which was preceded by a "Literal" shower (loaded water pistols). Mirial, an University English professor in Japan, received many gifts to help in her work, especially with the young people.

Miss Auxiliary for 1986

Ruth Mucklow was chosen Miss Auxiliary for 1986 at the Tom's Creek auxiliary, Nippa, KY. She was honored for her Christian testimony and outstanding service in the auxiliary.

Four districts in the Tulsa, OK area meet for fellowship in honor of three of their missionaries in Ivory Coast. Vicki Hidde, state field worker, back row, poses with the three women: Glennda Leatherbury, front row; Arilla Wode, back row; and Jalayn Martens, front. Becky Massey and Brenda Martin are also pictured.



Mile High auxiliary, Northglenn, CO, with president Lorene Ware and pastor's wife, Nadine Hood.



Cindy Vandivort, 70, Garden Grove, CA, presents "Homespun Christian." She displays a quilt pieced and quilted by her grandmother and an aunt.

A Woman God Has Used

To know Mary Garland was to love her.

Mary Bennett Garland's mother died in her infancy, so an aunt opened her heart and home to the small child. Thus she received the warmth and security of childhood, plus a love for people and the taste for hard work. While yet young, a blinded uncle needed care, so Mary lived with him and became his "eyes." With Mary leading, Mr. Jim with his cane and banjo became a familiar figure in their small community of Erwin, Tennessee.

Mary grew into a lovely lady, and at age 20, married a young man who provided her with a home of her own plus three children. She continued to reach out to others. Once a local family with four children faced a severe crisis. Mary pitched right in with her sacrificial love and gift of organization. She made arrangements for one child in

a foster home in Chicago where she could receive corrective surgery. She drove another who was handicapped to an institution several miles away. She took one into her own home temporarily until she and another sister could be taken into a children's home.

For four years, until their retirement, Mrs. Garland and

her husband served as houseparents at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Greeneville, TN. This ministry was salve to her servant's heart.

Mary was happiest in serving others. She volunteered to help in the clothes closet for the poor sponsored by the Woman's Auxiliary. She spent hours in sorting, mending, washing and ironing.

One Sunday when she was 78, Mrs. Garland attended both services at her church. Close friends observed a sort of radiance about her. Little did they realize that God was preparing their friend for her homegoing. Next morning at 8 o'clock, God called her home.

In her early years she knelt before the glider on her front porch and asked God to save her. In return, she dedicated her entire life to Him in loving service and became a woman whom God has used. ❀



The poet's CORNER



On June 26, 1987, C.N. (Jack) and Eva Bea Wood, Mountain Grove, MO, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. "We were married in the home of a minister friend," Mrs. Wood remembers. "An incident happened then that should have been a warning to me. I have spent endless hours in waiting for him!"

This remarkable lady still rides horseback, milks the cows, feeds the calves, gardens, keeps chickens, but avoids mundane housework. She actually manages to squeeze in crocheting and quilt-making on the side.

Teaching was Mrs. Wood's profession and three of their four children have followed her example. In addition, she helped in the family retail business for 18 years, shared the responsibility of a dairy farm, and for a few years labored in the California vineyards and packing houses. In other words, Eva Bea Wood has led a varied and interesting life.

"It's all because of Jesus," declares Mrs. Wood. Her early conversion more than 70 years ago climaxed an old time revival meeting held in their rural Ozark community when a scholarly Methodist teamed up with an illiterate Baptist minister. Her upbringing in a Christ-centered home prepared her to accept the salvation offered.

The Woods had always assumed a place of leadership in the Mt. Pleasant FWB Church until such was terminated by impaired vision. "The lifelong habit of attendance has been curtailed slightly," says Mrs. Wood, "but the church has first priority for both of us."

Mrs. Wood began writing a poem for her second grandson on each birthday and this continued until he was 20 years old. They have seven grandchildren who were brought up in the church and made early commitments to the Lord.

As a teenager, writing was almost an obsession. To this day, rhymes occur in the night and continually nag her mind until she can get them down on paper. Now, however, she has to depend upon her daughters to interpret and type her scribbling, and regrettably, none are close by.

Co-Laborer is proud to salute this remarkable lady!

Were You There?

A cripple came to church today,
He could hardly walk at all;
But for a loved companion,
He might once had a fall.

But no one said,
"How are you?" Or
"We're so glad you came."

He later hobbled out the door—
Nobody asked his name.

What a shame!

A blind girl sat in Sunday school,
A smile lit up her face;
She had not read her lesson,
But she thought that no disgrace.

She listened

As the students read,
She entered the discussion;
One well could tell she had the love
That is worthwhile possessing.

Could it be true

That no one said, "My dear,
We're glad you came?"

She followed those who walked
away,

But no one asked her name.

Shame! Shame!

A deaf man in the service
Watched close the preacher's
stand;

Though he was denied hearing,
He seemed to understand.

His radiant face responded
As though he heard each word
And felt its impact in his soul,
He must have known the Lord!

Yet when he turned to go away,
Was there no one who came
To grasp his hand and mouth the
words,

"And please,
Tell me your name?"

O for the shame!

A shabby woman came our way,
Crept meekly through the door,
But finding every pew was filled,
She sank upon the floor.

Was there no one to bid her rise,
To offer her a chair?
To tell her she was welcome
Our services to share?

Nay.

Everyone ignored her,
There was no one who came;
And when she passed into the
night,

No one could tell her name.

What a shame!

A well-known artist found our
church,

He came in pomp and glory;
Our people noted him at once—
They all knew well his story.

They bid for his attention,
They even called his name,
They coveted identity
With one of wealth and fame.

Which one of these had need of
friends—

The hurt, the blind, the maimed?
How could we turn them all away,
Not even ask their name?

What a shame! ♦



NOW WHAT DID YOU SAY?

Hedwine Caldwell

Our teenage daughter monopolized the supper table conversation, although her younger brother interrupted occasionally. Grandma sat in her own private world. My husband ate quietly, an interested bystander. My own mind wandered in and out among personal needs and studies.

My ears perked up when Lisa announced, . . . "and I opened my big mouth." What had preceded this, I wondered, so I asked what she meant.

Well, it seems about a year ago the youth group at church had started a newsletter which had now attracted even the students and teachers at school. It had developed into an informal sharing of the gospel.

My attention now claimed, I asked, "And just who is the editor of this newsletter?"

"I am!" she announced, her voice alive with pleasure.

And to think! I almost missed this dramatic moment because I had tuned out the world around me and focused in on my own private world.

Communicating in a family of one is difficult enough. If what I say to myself creates fear, anger or resentment toward myself or others, I can almost certainly predict a stress-filled day. Add a husband, teenagers, a grandmother/mother-in-law, dog, cat, telephone, TV, tape deck, and the attempt to communicate can pose astronomical proportions approaching bedlam.

CROSSWINDS

How can I be concerned about the pagan in Africa when my world is falling apart around me? In other words, how can I find a balance between my place in the Great Commission and peace and harmony in my home?

This column addresses everyday problems that often bring defeat and discouragement in our walk with the Lord. This first problem addresses communication in a Christian family. Read it again the second time and look for the spiritual application as well.

At some point, I attempt to take control. "David, call your attack poodle off that cat!" Next I yell loudly to Grandma to come help bring in the laundry before the rain totally soaks it. As we hurry to the clothesline, we literally duck to avoid the argument raging between our two teenagers.

We usually manage to maintain clear communication in our household. First we get attention, then clearly state what needs to be said, then finally, we get on with the problem solving.

The first obstacle is getting attention. Too often blocks to communication can become so commonplace we don't recognize them as obstacles. For example, misdirected attention, hearing impairment, distractions, emotional hang-ups, or simply, he may have tuned us out.

If I fail in my attempts at communication, I explore these questions: Did she hear what I said? Did he understand? Did she interpret what I said in the manner I meant? Did he react with feelings that I don't understand? Do I resent that I don't speak his language or that he doesn't understand mine? Working through these questions aids in communication.

Our various roles threaten to block clear communication. For

example, I am a wife, mother, nurse, daughter-in-law, babysitter, cook, chauffeur, housekeeper, mechanic, typist, organist, goatherd, teacher, or a specific situation may call for some other specific role. There may be some similarities among these, but if I react to my husband as I do to the goats, I'm headed for real trouble!

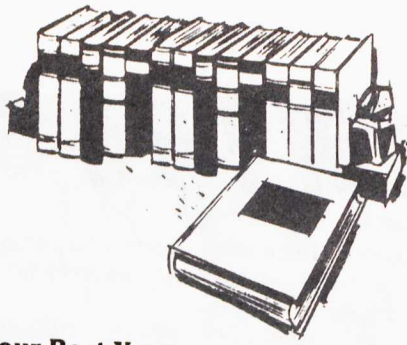
To be forewarned is to be forearmed. If we are aware of these blocks, we are better prepared to avoid them. Maintain eye to eye contact. Those with hearing problems often unconsciously develop the ability to read lips. Stand still when listening or talking. Decrease external distractions. TV threatened to pose a formidable barrier to clear communication in our household. As a last resort, I cut off the TV plug — literally! It was effective only for the length of time it took my ingenious son to discover a way to put it back together again.

The last guideline to follow in clear communication is to observe the effects of what you say to the other person. She may not hear what you intended her to hear. Ask for some response. If there is misunderstanding, stop, pause, take a deep breath and restate what you had previously said. This allows for hearing problems and avoids unnecessary explanations and clarifications which only cloud the issue.

In the final analysis, a little listening goes a long way toward effective communication. ☘

Hedy Caldwell, Morehead, Kentucky, is married to Wayne, an 8th grade math teacher, who is active in his local church and district association. Their family is involved in the Morehead Free Will Baptist Church.

This multi-talented co-laborer with a degree in counseling is well-qualified to address your questions on interpersonal relationships. Co-Laborer welcomes Mrs. Caldwell and invites you to send your topics of interest for her development in this column.



BOOK

Highlights

Genny Waddell

Your Best Years

by J. Oswald Sanders
(Moody Press, 132 pp.)

Your Best Years was published the year J. Oswald Sanders, who was associated with Overseas Missionary Fellowship, turned eighty. Ten years earlier, having retired as OMF's general director, he elected to become principal of a training school in Papua, New Guinea, rather than retreating to the comfort and safety of his fireside. Dr. Sanders' attitude explains why the subtitle reads "Staying Young While Growing Old," for this is his philosophy.

The author says that when we cry out "Why?" to God, that an answer often does not come, but that the "very silence of God sometimes causes us to feel that He rules the world with His hands off and His mouth shut." But on the same

page, he describes the sufficient grace of God, which is "divine assistance." Job had it, Paul had it, and we can have it. This book does an outstanding job of studying suffering through Job's eyes, eyes which reflect the beautiful grace of God in troubled times.

Dr. Sanders' very positive approach to the subject of aging is not a sugar coated one. He does encourage each person to confront old age honestly and realistically, but he also tells them to "enjoy the many positive blessings and opportunities it can bring." He says, "Realism and optimism with regard to the aging process can sleep in the same bed," Dr. Sanders also emphasizes that "the Christian has available resources that too often remain untapped."

In no way does *Your Best Years* try to gloss over the many difficulties associated with aging, but

the author creatively proves that "old age has its compensations" and that "retirement is a new beginning," for example. And Dr. Sanders sprinkles poetry and quotations throughout the biblically based book, making it even more enjoyable to read. I can think of no better book to use personally or to use as a study tool in a Golden Agers' meeting.

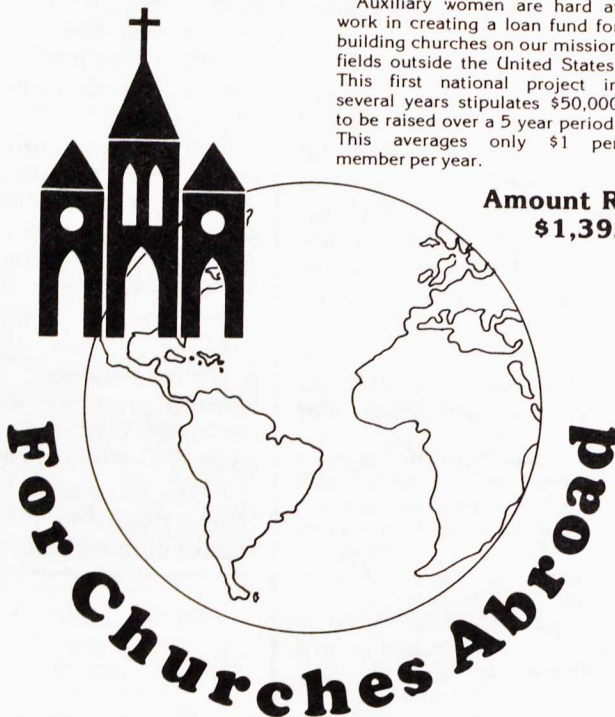
When the Hurt Won't Go Away

by Paul W. Powell
(Victor Books, 144 pp.)

Paul W. Powell, a Baptist pastor from Texas, surprises the reader by offering more than syrupy platitudes about suffering. He delves into the book of Job and explores what to do "when the hurt won't go away." He particularly zeros in on the "why" of suffering, but he never allows the reader to believe that anything positive is accomplished by hand wringing and questioning God. He does, however, offer alternatives to living in despair in the midst of suffering. He looks at Job's life, and specifically at the way Job reacted to his suffering. He also explores Job's friends' reactions to his suffering and their untimely advice.

Powell's book could easily be called "how to find peace in the midst of suffering," because the scriptural insights do support this idea. In no way does the author intimate that suffering comes because God forgets his children. Neither does this book promise that there is a way to escape suffering and become wealthy and whole. *When the Hurt Won't Go Away* speaks to suffering people—and those acquainted with the suffering—about yielding ourselves to God, as Job did. Then the peace will follow.

Eunice Edwards Loan Fund



Auxiliary women are hard at work in creating a loan fund for building churches on our mission fields outside the United States. This first national project in several years stipulates \$50,000 to be raised over a 5 year period. This averages only \$1 per member per year.

Amount Received
\$1,395.60

The Minister's Wife

Compiled by Cleo Pursell

Do you believe that your husband has a heavenly call? If so, for heaven's sake, you need to give a little consideration about prolonging his life!

Are you killing him sweetly? Perhaps you pride yourself on being an excellent cook. You enjoy his look of appreciation as you set that high-in-cholesterol casserole in front of his eyes. You may delight at the way he licks his lips in anticipation as you set that crammed-with-calories cobbler before him.

However, you might be willing to consider changing your cooking habits if you knew:

(1) That a diet high in fat leads to cancer of the colon as well as increasing the risk of heart disease. Since he is probably getting about fifty percent of his calories from fat, why not cut his fat intake in half?

(2) That salt is a major factor in hypertension and hypertension is not only a killer in its own rights, but it can also increase the risk of heart attacks or strokes.

(3) That a lack of fiber (the indigestible part of grains, fruits, and vegetables that we eat) is suspect in colon and rectal cancers, appendicitis, and perhaps even heart disease and diabetes.

If your husband is like most ministers, he finds himself a frequent guest in the homes of people who insist that he have a slice of cake or pie and a cup of coffee. Too, he is often at meetings where eating is part of the activities. This means he has little or no control of his intake. As a matter of fact, he may feel that he would be rude to refuse the offered refreshment.

This makes your responsibility at home all the greater. When your husband conducts an out-of-town revival meeting and is fed heartily by the members there, you may find that he needs to go on a rather immediate and strict diet the following week.

Therefore, put your pride aside and don't try to compete with the good cooks who've been feeding him. His health is much more important than your receiving his compliments for your dishes.

Keep desserts at an absolute minimum at your house to counteract the many that he consumes during visitation. Save part of the supper meal, perhaps the congealed salad, as an after church no-additional-calorie treat.

Invest in a good "Count Your Calories" booklet (Dell Purse Books has one for 35¢ in most grocery stores) and keep track of calories. It's sad but true that a man between the ages of 35 and 55 who desires to maintain 187 lbs. can have only approximately 3,100 calories daily.

Taking Care of Hubby

Dietary problems are not the only contributors to shortening your husband's life. Certain stress conditions that he may be living with can be doing their part also.

The person who is hostile, hurried, impatient or constantly under stress from an urgent, pressing feeling that he hasn't enough time is one of the best candidates for a coronary.

Sometimes a minister has a particular program going that he truly believes in and wishes to see succeed. On the other hand, some person or group in the church may not see the situation as he does and may even actively oppose the program.

Being human, the minister may not realize that it is the program and not himself that the opposition refutes. As a result he may find that hostile feelings toward the other person have crept into his thoughts. Frequently he may not even be aware that these feelings exist. However, they drain him emotionally.

If you are able to retain your objectivity, you may provide him the necessary outlet for talking through these unwelcome feelings and seeing the situation as it really is.

Since he is a "man for all seasons," your husband often finds himself rushing from one appointment to the next. He naturally loves the ministry and the fact that people depend on him. Often he overcommits himself and finds that he has scheduled two equally important things back to back. Frustration is the by-product.

*A walk together will serve two purposes
— a healthier husband and a special time
to share.*

As a minister, his life is, by necessity, one of irregular hours. He is constantly on call. Practically everything he is involved with is of a serious nature. Frequently there do not seem to be enough hours in the day to do all the studying, visiting, counseling, administrating, praying, educating, etc. that are so important.

Therefore, at a day's end, he may feel there is still so much to do that he did not have time for. It seems to be impossible to close the book on a day feeling a sense of completion. He can always recall some person he needed to see, some hospital visit that he needed to make, some meeting he should have attended. This feeling contributes to stress.

One way you can help your husband is to encourage him to eliminate unnecessary events and activities or to delegate these responsibilities to others. He may discover, upon inspection, that not everything he is involved in is of major importance.

Encourage him to allow time for pleasure reading and maybe a bit of idle day-dreaming, too. A day or afternoon off works wonders. Suggest that he take short breaks when he is doing tasks that make him tense. An after-lunch nap is a pretty good idea, too, especially if his day is going to run long into the night.

Together derive a planned program of regular exercise. A walk together will serve two purposes — a healthier husband and a special time to share!

Encourage him to develop a hobby and be sympathetic if he has

a favorite sport that he enjoys. These will most likely prolong his usefulness and will make his life more enjoyable and fulfilling.

Your husband, as a minister, is so busy helping others that he may neglect his health. Ask yourself, "When was the last time my husband had a complete physical examination?"

Remember, it is a good idea for him to have his blood pressure checked annually, to have a yearly

check of his cholesterol, and to have an examination for cancer every year or two if over the age of forty.

Since healthy, happy people are more productive, encourage your husband to take better care of himself. And, by the way, remember that most of these suggestions apply to you as well! ♦

By Myra Shofner, *Pulpit Helps*.
Used by Permission

TAKING CARE OF HUBBY

Goal: _____

Target date: _____

How I'm going to do it:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

What I'll feel like when I've accomplished it: _____

I need help from: _____

I am pursuing this goal because: _____

What do you do if the pastor's wife is not interested in auxiliary?

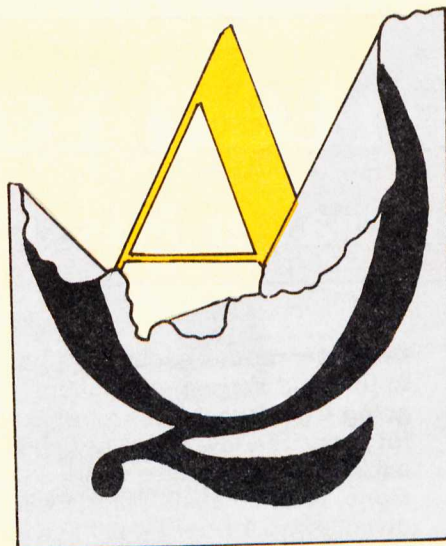
Share with her what auxiliary means to you, how much you enjoy it and how it helps you have a place of service. Ask her kindly why she is not interested. Listen carefully to her answer. Possibly in the past she had a bad experience in auxiliary or with a group of women. She could be embarrassed because she is not informed about auxiliary and feels that the church women think she is or should be. Invite her to go with you to district and/or state conventions and retreats. Plan a special auxiliary program and invite her to participate. Encourage her but do not criticize her. Show her lovingly the potential of the auxiliary.

What do you do if the president always gives a lengthy devotional that consumes one-half of the time and distracts from the program?

Discuss time element in your executive planning session. Allow each officer limited time for her presentation including the president's remarks. You could alternate the order of the meeting having the program first every other time. The program chairman or one responsible for presenting the program should not go over allotted time. Discuss how to conduct your business, present your program and dismiss using the allotted time.

Our women want to know why we don't receive any money from Co-op?

For some reason, women like to choose their own officers and conduct their own business. Our independence is part of our heritage. In 1939, the National Association dissolved the board for women's work at the recommendation of WNAC. If we were part of the Co-op, our officers would be replaced by a board elected by the National Association and all our business placed under their direct supervision.



Your questions answered on:

Woman's Auxiliary

**June Rolen, Fresno, CA
WNAC President**

We've just moved from another state and want to get involved in Woman's Auxiliary. But all this new group wants to do is promote sales, dinners and other schemes to raise money. I'm not comfortable with this and prefer just to give. How can I tell them this without hurting someone's feelings? Maybe I should just drop out.

Please don't drop out! Who knows but what you may have been brought "into the kingdom for such a time as this." Immature Christians try to support God's work in immature ways. Stewardship is part of the maturing process; it doesn't happen overnight. Perhaps they are now ready to go on to bigger and better things. But act in love. Explain to the president ever so gently (and perhaps in private) how you feel and why you can't support these projects but that you still want to co-operate. Instead of baking a cake, etc., offer to give an outright contribution.

How can I be a better prayer-partner for our missionaries?

You pray regularly for them and let them know that you are. Keep a reminder where you will see it several times a day. The following weekly cycle of prayer topics has helped several women know how to pray:

Day 1 THE MISSIONARY'S OWN RELATIONSHIP TO GOD
Feeding on the Word
Prayer Life
Maturity, growth in grace
Victory over Satan and the flesh

Day 2 THE MISSIONARY'S PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL LIFE
Adaptation to climate
Health in the midst of disease
Safety in danger
Victory over loneliness, depression

Day 3 THE MISSIONARY'S FAMILY
Husband/wife relationships
Children
Relationships with others
Family life as a model to nationals

Day 4 THE MISSIONARY'S ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE
Language study
Continual improvement in fluency
Cultural adaptation and understanding

Day 5 THE MISSIONARY'S MINISTRY
Teaching, preaching, witnessing
Boldness, open doors
Prepared hearts, fruitfulness

Day 6 HIS RELATIONSHIPS WITH FELLOW WORKERS
Other missionaries
National evangelists, pastors, teachers

Day 7 HIS COUNTRY OF SERVICE
Government—national and local
Political situation
Visas, continued open door
Outreach to cities, villages, tribes

Appointed to Pray

Be a Prayer Missionary

The Greening of Fatima

Nancy Hughes
Missionary to Brazil

Twice in her life Fatima was given away. Her earliest memory is clinging desperately to her mother's skirts in a beauty shop as her ownership changed. This young, black, unwed mother was among Northern Brazil's poorest poor. Fatima never knew her father but inherited his white skin and delicate features.

Fatima's foster parents loved and provided for her as best they could, but they, too, were very poor. Her short-lived happiness ended abruptly with the death of

her foster mother. Jobs were hard to find and Fatima remembers going from town to town begging for food. The law would not allow a foster father to raise a girl alone, so once again Fatima was given away. A poor family leaving to escape the poverty and hardship of the north agreed to take Fatima with them.

Actually the displaced Fatima became more of a maid than a daughter in her new family. She worked hard at home and then hired out as a maid in the homes of others. A desire for education burned in her, as in so many Brazilians, so after a hard day's work, she struggled to attend classes from 7 to 11 P.M. Her job allowed little time for homework, so eventually she was able to replace her maid duties with work in a drug store.

When Fatima turned 18, she almost died from pneumonia. Her family, not fully convinced she wasn't exposing them all to tuberculosis, turned her away. This rejection and hurt were almost more than her weakened condition could bear. It was no accident that a Christian friend took her in and nursed her back to health.

Fatima's introduction into the Christian community was strong tonic to this love-starved young lady. She quickly accepted Christ into her heart and life. She grew strong physically and spiritually as her closeknit church family showered her with love such as she had never known.

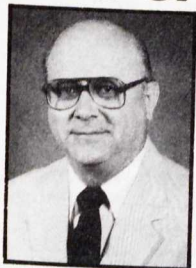
Something this good must be shared, so Fatima often visited her foster family and witnessed of the changing power of Jesus Christ. Although it was rejected, she returned again and again.

Fatima's life changed abruptly once again when her foster father was brutally murdered at his work as night watchman. Her mother, unable to live with her own children, asked Fatima to move back and care for her. She rebelled inwardly, but her desire to win her mother burned deep as she sensed this to be an opportunity to put Christianity into practice.

Distance, discouragement and her mother's constant nagging were almost more than this fledgling believer could bear at times. Over and over she requested prayer. Over and over she testified how the Lord had supplied their needs in unexpected ways and often in the nick of time. She studied evangelism in a Bible institute to better equip her for her task.

→ next page

Personality Profile



Fred and Evelyn Hersey

holics, musically proficient (he with the trumpet and she on the piano), enjoy teaching English Bible and composition, and prefer American food to the Japanese cuisine.

Fred lights up your life with practical jokes. Interspersed along the deputation trail are embarrassed victims who wished he hadn't gone so far or stopped a little sooner.

An update on their five children: The two older, both business-



men, are married. Philip, in Japan, has three children and Samuel, one son in Florida. Stephen is a student in Asbury College, Kentucky. Vivian is employed in Nashville. The youngest, Paul, a near-professional musician, is studying at Northwestern in Chicago.

Fred and Evelyn Hersey have spent over half of their lives in Japan. Evelyn teaches a cooking/Bible class and Fred is a church planter in the Tokyo area.

Opposites attract, they say, and Fred and Evelyn have proven this true—in spite of their similarities. Both are choco-

Focus on the Field

France

Location: The largest country in Western Europe

Population: 53,100,000

Capital: Paris

Religions: Catholic with less than 0.5% conservative evangelicals

Language: French

Ministries: Church Planting



Missionaries

Cathy Crawford
Allan and LaRue Crowson
Jerry and Barbara Gibbs
Tom and Patty McCullough
John and Pansy Murray
Steve and Becky Riggs
Dawn Sweeney
Charolette Tallent
Dennis and Carol Teague
Patsy Vanhook

Missionary Prayer Calendar

Missionaries supported by both Foreign and Home Missions departments are listed by their birthdates. Brighten their day with your prayers and cards.

May

- * 6 — Bill Fulcher (TX)
- ** 7 — Butch Johns (CA)
- * 7 — Alvis Paul (AZ)
- **10 — Delores Burns (GA)
- 11 — Elaine Holland (IC)
- 13 — Amy Robinson (Uruguay)
- *14 — Brenda Lewis (CO)
- 16 — Dale Bishop (Japan)
- **16 — Rose Haggard (OK)
- **16 — Elaine Parker (TX)
- **17 — Ora Booth (OH)
- 17 — Steve Reeves (Spain)
- *18 — Judy Runyon (VI)
- 21 — Ernest Holland (IC)
- 25 — Lynn Midgett (Spain)
- 26 — Kenneth Eagleton (IC)
- 30 — Alice Smith (IC)

June

- 2 — Jean Deeds (Brazil)
- 6 — Stan Bunch (Panama)
- ** 7 — Bobbie Hensley (CA)
- **11 — Kathy Donoho (IL)
- **13 — Mabel Willey (TX)
- 14 — Steve Lytle (Panama)
- 20 — Paul Robinson (Uruguay)
- **22 — Paula McClure (Mexico)
- **22 — Bernice Hanna (SC)
- 24 — Jim McLain (Japan)
- **27 — Bobby Jude (WV)
- **27 — James Walden (AL)
- **28 — Ron Parker (TX)
- 29 — Steve Riggs (France)

- * Home missionary or church extension pioneer
- ** Joint project worker or deputation missionary

A recent letter from Brazil states that 19 people have been saved since we left on furlough. No, none of these are Fatima's family—yet—but I can hardly wait to hear the story about Marie and Alexandre, two of Fatima's friends who were among the 19. Could these be only the firstfruits to the ripening harvest? 🌱



Please Pray:

- ☐ Urgent! God-called men to salvage the churches in Idaho.
- ☐ Ten student missionaries as they minister on five fields.
- ☐ Thank God for the physical healing of Ken Eagleton and Archie Mayhew. Ken and Marvis have returned to Brazil.
- ☐ The doctors have not yet released Archie. He and Sarah are in Dickson, TN. Pray for perfect healing.
- ☐ Completion of the physical plant of the Mexico Bible Institute in Altamira.
- ☐ Missionary appointees Ron Moores and Dwain Crosbys in their missionary orientation program.
- ☐ Eddie Payne, director of the summer orientation program.
- ☐ MK's who return home for the summer, especially the Franks children to Brazil and Gene Richards to Ivory Coast.
- ☐ Mission churches who have outgrown rented facilities and need to purchase land—Mutchlers (OR), Coats (SD), Drake (WY) and Haas (CT).
- ☐ Over 2 million Vietnamese in the U.S. Only 3% is Christian with the rest Buddhist.
- ☐ Adjustment and ministry of returning missionaries—Baileys, Banks, Bryans, Gibbs and Sweeney.

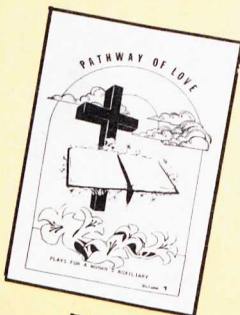
Plays/Skits

The former Play-Paks have been replaced by four play booklets. This method preserves your favorite plays in a compact size easier to manage during practice or presentation. Each 32 page booklet contains an assortment of plays and installations. Order one booklet for each participant.

Volume 1 Pathway of Love \$1.00

Contents:

The Christian's Pests by Connie Bomar (monologue)
The New Member by Rubenia Dobbs (6 characters)
A Song Was Born by Sharon Clifton
Past, Present and Future by LaCrecia McFaddin
Thanksgiving in Reverse by Joyce Holder
Pathway of Love by Rebecca Purkey
Take Up Thy Cross by Vernie Hersey



Volume 2 Let Suzie Do It \$1.00

Contents:

Let Me Go by Ruth Bivens (2 characters) Missions
Party Line by Kathy Lay (radio announcer) Auxiliary Work
Aprons of Service by Maizie Sevits (Installation)
Let Suzie Do It by Cindy Vandivort (9 characters)
Good News From Bad News by Frances Owen (8 characters)
The Awakening Dream by Leora High (monologue)
Choosing the Best Gift by Doris Sheffield (11 characters)



Volume 3 How's Your Prayer Life? \$1.00

Contents:

The Day That Jesus Came by Daisy Harper
How's Your Prayer Life? by Mildred Daniel (monologue)
Flowers (An Installation Compilation)
The Field Is The Word by Judy Puckett (9 characters)
All Flopped by Barbara Fletcher (6 characters)
Rejoice With Us by Magaline Statzer (5 characters) Easter
Let Me See by Betty Reeves (poetical monologue)
 Thanksgiving



Volume 4 \$1.00

The latest booklet contains brand new plays selected from the best entries in the creative arts contest. Available May 1, 1987.

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

Add 35¢ the the first dollar and 20¢ for each additional dollar. NC residents add 5% sales tax.

Letters

Homespun Christian

We especially enjoyed the "Homespun Christian." Give us more programs such as this, that we can present by easily making spiritual comparisons to familiar activities in our daily lives.

Gertrude Cantrell
 Santa Fe Springs, CA

From Our Missionaries

The final decision has been made and we are proceeding with deputation plans. We want to thank the WNAC for its missions motivation.

Jim and Evelyn Teague,
 dorm parents appointees to
 Ivory Coast Academy

During a Sunday morning service a mother stood to testify, "It's been a year since God healed my son of cancer. I thank and praise His name for this miracle of healing." Perhaps you remember that this was a prayer request when we were on furlough, so God heard your prayers, too.

Louis and Florine Coscia,
 Brazil

As a new appointee to missionary service, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the provision closet. Much work, time and money has been put into providing these items. I especially appreciated the handmade ones.

Laura McFall, Brazil

The Wests brought out the new *Co-Laborer*. It is really nice . . . even from a man's point of view!

One minor item of correction . . . under "hobbies," I was described as a "CB addict," when actually I am a "ham addict." To put it into language you would understand, it is sort of like calling a board surgeon a pre-med student!

Jerry Pinkerton,
 Ivory Coast

Former Missionary

. . . I have been home now from Ecuador for three years to care for my parents. Mother went to be with the Lord last year while Dad continues in a local nursing home. It is my desire to return

one day to the field, but meantime I continue as a missionary in the local church and in the community.

*Shelia Williams,
Long Branch, WV*

And now the magazine

Your enlarged edition of the magazine is a yes. Oh yes!

*Tom and Nancy Hughes,
Brazil*

I like the new *Co-Laborer* very much. I haven't subscribed in years, but I'm subscribing to this one through my local auxiliary.

*Oretha Hamlin,
San Pablo, CA*

I like the idea of having everything in one magazine. It certainly cuts down on confusion in trying to get all the program helps and ideas to the right people and on time.

*LaVerne Mock,
Albany, GA*

We do not like the new look or style. It leans more toward the large group type. We are extremely small.

*Mable Massey,
Columbia, TN*

The *Co-Laborer* is all I hoped for and more. I find it crammed full of ideas, information and inspiration.

*Eunice Edwards,
Desloge, MO*

Your magazine resulted in much spiritual growth.

*Sarah Barnard,
Moyock, NC*

Our January meeting was so different—for the better! We all seemed to come with a renewed spirit, and we think it was due in part to the new format of *Co-Laborer*. Sort of like a new dress, we just felt good about ourselves. . . . In our church, we all spiritually grew up with the articles in *Co-Laborer*. Most of our ladies are second generation co-laborers having accompanied and witnessed aunts and mothers at work in the Woman's Auxiliary program. How many tears we've cried in joy and compassion; how much laughter we've shared as we read those articles and programs . . . we will always have a special place in our hearts for *Co-Laborer* magazine, whether of yesteryear or tomorrow!

*Rhetta Butler
Slocumb, AL*

Words For Women

Mary R. Wisehart



Faith Makes Whole

"Wilt thou be made whole?" Jesus asked the man at the pool of Bethesda. What a question! The man had been troubled with his problem for 38 years. Anybody could see the man wanted to be healed. Right? Maybe.

He responded by telling Jesus the circumstances which kept him from being whole. The circumstances were no barrier to the divine Healer.

Healing! Healing for the inner man. How much we need it today and how often we hear about "cures." Establishing the right self-image, assertiveness training, dozens of how-to books. Man longs for healing, yet neglects the Healer.

Dare we ask the question, "Wilt thou be whole?" Do we really want healing? Or do we hug our lack of wholeness to us and use it as a way of avoiding responsibility or gaining sympathy? Do we enjoy poor emotional health and refuse to face ourselves as we really are?

What do you suppose it cost the man to get rid of that infirmity? Cost him, you ask? But think about it. For 38 years he had his illness as an escape. Perhaps there were things he didn't have to do, conflicts he didn't have to face.

Certainly, his life would be different.

How about yours? What would healing mean for you?

The first question is "Wilt thou be made whole?" Then Jesus demands faith. The woman pictured in Mark 5 *knew* He could make her whole. "If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole," she said. Jesus responded, "Thy faith hath made thee whole."

Perhaps we have difficulty believing that He can really heal us. "Not me," you may say. "I'm such a dreadful person. He couldn't possibly heal me." But then we are looking at ourselves and not the wonderful power of the Healer.

We may feel at times that we have brought this problem upon ourselves. How then can we ask Him for healing?

Job's friends may have been "miserable comforters," but among their empty solutions, there are some gems of truth. Eliphaz said to Job, "He maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth and his hands make whole" (Job 5:18).

Has the Good Shepherd wounded in love for your own good? Then He also heals for the same reason. It is the touch of divine love, both in the wounding and in the healing.

Surely, we can also experience the wholeness Jesus gives. The awareness of who we are, not existing in others opinions or evaluations, but realizing we are children of the King. The freedom to be our best selves, to develop as a person into the personality He wants for us.

We need the knowledge that nothing from the outside can hurt or destroy. We need poise without pomp or assertiveness. We need healing and wholeness from His hands.

"Wilt thou be made whole?"

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