

CO - LABORER

January/February, 1988



Enlistment Emphasis

Co-Laborer

Theme for 1988:
"Them Also I Must Bring"
 (John 10:16)
 Hymn: "Bring Them In"

January/February, 1988

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Editorial

They say time only moves slowly to the very young and the very old. I'm not old yet. I know, because time is still flying. Only yesterday we completed the first issue of the new-look *Co-Laborer*. Today it's the first issue of our second year. Have you ever wanted to catch Time by the coattail and holler, "Hey, wait for me!"?

We consider this a year of transition for *Co-Laborer*. It's been a year of both trial and error, victory and defeat, weeping and rejoicing. In retrospect, the positives have far outweighed the negatives.

Gary Warner, of the Evangelical Press Association, writes, "If all is sweetness and light between you and the rest of your organization . . . it is my guess your editorial staff has become lazy, secure and content . . ."

Well, we certainly haven't become lazy, secure or content. You have kept us on our toes as well as on our knees. I still open letters of comment with fear and trembling. And my heart races madly when someone approaches me with, "Now about the new *Co-Laborer* . . ."

We welcome your constructive criticism as much as your compliments because both indicate you care. It's those who cancel that discourage us.

We face this new year with expectancy: increased subscriptions — how long will it take to reach 20,000? We're striving for improved content and layout with a stronger missionary and spiritual impact. And can't you just picture *Co-Laborer* with a slick four-color cover?

Ladies, send us your ideas of how we can accomplish these goals. We **are** listening.

Lorene Miley

Names of all characters but the author have been changed.

I cleared the counter of empty mugs and wiped it clean. I poured myself a cup of coffee and hugged it in my hands. I'd have to swallow it fast, for the lunch hour at Bud's Restaurant was about to begin. As I raised the cup for a sip, I glanced through the glass entrance and saw Gene and Bud Tosky.

Bud opened the door and helped his father in the slow process of walking to the table. A paralyzed hand lay useless in a sling while Gene leaned heavily on a metal walker, almost willing his feet to form each new step. My mind registered disbelief at how his physical condition had deteriorated since I had last seen him.

"Is that Gene?" gasped Faye from behind me, her hands full of clean silverware from the kitchen. I nodded.

"Well, as far as I care, he got just what he deserved." She dropped the cutlery into the proper tray and returned to the kitchen.

This obnoxious man had been a daily customer before his stroke. He had built a wicked reputation during his 60 years of life. At one time he housed young girls for prostitution. He repeatedly cursed my Lord. He often made vulgar and insulting remarks to my co-workers, and they loathed him.

So I usually waited on him. I'd have his glass of unsweetened iced tea ready as he was seated at his usual table.

"Hello, Gene."

"Hello, Diane. I'll take the special today," except on Thurs-

days when he substituted chicken for the pork chops. "Gimme some barnyard buzzard," he'd say on Thursdays as he flashed me a toothless grin.

No, I didn't loathe Gene. I just didn't love him. I put down my coffee cup and went to help Bud in the difficult task of seating his father. I held the chair as he struggled to bend the useless leg and ease him into a sitting position.

"Hello, Gene," I said as I gently patted his hand. "Welcome back."

His eyes, void of recognition, stared blankly into mine. He could not answer. He had lost control of speech.

I served them and cut up Gene's meat in tiny bite size pieces before returning to my coffee, now cold and bitter. As I poured it down the sink, I studied Gene, a ghost of what he had been. I remember the last day he had been in . . .

with the wicked Gene Tosky. Away from the safety of a crowded restaurant, my heart raced wildly and I wanted to run. But I didn't.

Gene lay motionless, as though sleeping. "Gene," I whispered. "Gene." I tugged at his pajama sleeve. His eyes opened.

"Hello, Gene."

"Hello, Diane." He smiled.

In the hush of room 317, I tried to lead Gene Tosky to the Lord he had cursed. But he had passed the crisis of death and refused. I turned to leave. I had pled my case. "Gene," I begged. "God has warned you. Please don't wait for Him to get your attention like this again."

But he did. Two weeks later he was home watching a ball game on television and suffered a massive stroke.

Now across the restaurant, I watched him being spoon fed like a baby, tea dribbling from his

Them also I Must Bring. . . .

In The Work Place

by Diane Mitchell Thomas

Perspiration had beaded his forehead and his face waxed an ashen gray. He had little to say and ate even less. He didn't come at all the next day, but Bud telephoned. "They operated on Daddy yesterday," he told us. "Cancer of the colon . . . almost died . . ."

His call left me drained. A man I had served daily for almost three years had barely missed hell! I carried that burden for days as I followed his progress. Finally visitors were allowed.

I slipped the visitor's pass into my purse, breathed a prayer and entered the room. I stood alone

mouth. Yes, I did love Gene Tosky because God loved him. God had given us both a second chance — Gene at life and me in an effort to reach a soul close to hell.

The tables were filling now. Our customers were hungry. I took a sweeping look at the people before me and one more glance at Gene. "Oh God," I prayed. "Help me feed them before it is too late."

I went forth with the menu in my hand and a heaviness in my heart. This was my mission field. These were some of the other sheep that I must bring. ◇

Aim: To show that no two women are alike, but there is a place for everyone in the Woman's Auxiliary.

Scripture: Psalm 23; Prov. 27:23

Hymn: "Bring Them In"

All We Like Sheep

First, the sheep

Every woman in the church is encouraged to become involved in the Woman's Auxiliary. There's a place for every kind of sheep in the Auxiliary sheepfold. We may all look different, but we all have one common goal: we love the Lord Jesus and want to share Him with the whole world.

The psalmist declares we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. *(Call attention to some of the differences of the paper sheep.)* We are all similar—we're all sheep—yet distinctively different. Each of us has something that sets us apart from all the others.

Should this be surprising? We were made by a God who individualizes snowflakes, who numbers the hairs of our head, who even notes the sparrow's fall. He was there when we were conceived and when we entered the flow of humanity, He threw away the mold. Not even any two fingerprints are the same. Our God delights in diversity.

Why is it that we tend to shun those sheep that are different? Why is it we gravitate to those most like us and avoid those that are different—the one who is handicapped in some way; whose social status is different—divorced, widowed, single, the unmarried mother, etc.

It's easy to neglect those whom we do not understand or with whom we have nothing in common. You see them in most churches—three or four knotted here and there in small huddles. You know what we call these? Yes, cliques. There's no place for

that kind of attitude in Woman's Auxiliary. A varying flock is what we want to achieve. Come with us with your individual tastes and personalities. We each have something to offer.

Then the Sheepfold

Let's examine some of the advantages of being part of the Auxiliary sheepfold.

Women are created with a capacity and need for fellowship. We find it in the sheepfold with other believers. *(Have someone prepared to give each potential member a glass of water.)*

We're told that the body of a sheep is composed of about 70% water. This fluid maintains metabolism and nourishes every cell. Water determines the sheep's strength and vitality. Fellowship with other believers in the Auxiliary nourishes the woman of God.

Not only water for our thirsty souls, but the Auxiliary provides food for our hungering hearts. *(Distribute copies of CO-LABORER to these same women.)* We recognize that the Bible is the Christian's nourishment and we are encouraged to read it daily and apply it to our lives. In addition, we have additional helps, as *Co-Laborer*, with their spiritual and missionary emphases. You'll enjoy reading the monthly and special programs, as well as doing the Bible study. *Co-Laborer* abounds with materials and information to challenge you to see a lost world as God sees it.



Preparation: At your December meeting (or meeting preceding your enlistment program) give each member a paper sheep on which is listed the name of an unenlisted woman in your church. Her task? To bring her with her to the enlistment program. Instruct her to bring her paper sheep as well.

Prepare a sheepfold on poster or flannelboard. As the members arrive with their "sheep" the paper sheep is placed on the board. When the potential member joins, the paper sheep is placed inside the sheepfold.

In addition, each one attending should have a paper sheep. Using the pattern, cut a sheep for each one expected. Color these sheep in every way possible so that no two are the same — one black,



Many metaphors have been used to describe the Woman's Auxiliary. This enlistment program likens the Woman's Auxiliary to a sheepfold and each woman in the church to a sheep. Our task is to bring each of these women to the opportunities and privileges of living in the sheepfold.



one white, tan, with all degrees of spottedness, as a tail, leg, flank, face, etc.

Draw a flower in the mouths of the member sheep. Potential members have sheep with bows of various colors and designs.

These sheep may be pinned to the clothing, but they are more clearly visible taped to the forehead or hair.

Poster: Make your sheepfold and sheep to be used in your program and use them to publicize your meeting.

Refreshments: Serve something special in honor of those newly brought into the sheepfold. Decorate a lamb-shaped cake, make lamb-shaped cookies, or if you want something more substantial, serve lamb stew.

The woman who knows is a woman who grows, so we read good books on missions and Christian living. (Give each one a small book, with copies of **Heart-beat** and **Mission Grams**. These may be ordered from the respective mission boards, requesting the number of copies desired: P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.)

Finally, being sheltered in the Auxiliary sheepfold offers opportunities for unlimited grazing. Any fine sheep range is destroyed by overgrazing or poor management. The Woman's Auxiliary channels your enthusiasm into purposeful outlets. (Give each potential member a construction paper clover leaf and print on the lobes, *Mission Action*, *Mission Prayer*, or *Mission Study*.)

The Auxiliary sheepfold is like a base camp, fanning out from it in wide circles, like the lobes of a clover leaf, covering new pasturage that covers the scope of the world. We do this through mission action, study and prayer. This pattern of grazing is worked out so the grazing ground is kept fresh and nourishing.

The door of the sheepfold is open to each of you. Please come in!

Finally, the Shepherd

You don't have to be a member of the Auxiliary to know the Good Shepherd, but it does help you know Him more intimately.

We come to experience His divine guidance as He goes before

us. We sense safety, liberty and satisfaction in His presence.

The shepherd carries a "scrip", a bag made of animal skins and filled with food, as bread, dried fruit, olives and cheese. The Good Shepherd satisfies our spiritual hunger.

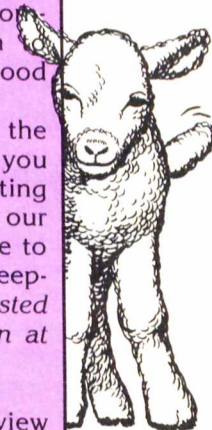
The shepherd carries a sling with which he is able to hurl stones at a hair's breadth with 100% accuracy. He frightens away animals or slings stones in front of wayward sheep to bring them back. Our Good Shepherd protects us from dangers.

The shepherd carries a staff and crooked rod to pull back wandering sheep or to rescue them in trouble. He throws this rod over the doorway at night as the sheep enter the fold. As they step over it, he examines them for wounds or any deformity that needs attention. Our Good Shepherd puts the rod before us, too, not to trip us, but to protect us.

The shepherd speaks to his sheep, sounding different calls for warning, encouragement, command or comfort. We learn to recognize the voice of our Good Shepherd.

Each sheep has a name and the shepherd calls him. Each of you has a name and we are inviting you to become involved in our Woman's Auxiliary. We'd love to slip each of you inside the sheepfold. May we? (Give the unenlisted women an opportunity to join at this time.)

Added Feature: A book review of "A Shepherd Looks at the 23rd Psalm".



January—Enlistment

How many women in your church are not members of Woman's Auxiliary? Begin your year by reaching out to those women.

Get them into a mission action group, a prayer group or study group.

Plan some really exciting meetings this year for all the women in your church. Send special invitations to those who are not members of the Auxiliary.

Use WNAC's enlistment folder "Wanted" to help the women of your church know the purpose and plan of Woman's Auxiliary. (Available at 12 for 75 cents.)

February Emphasis—National Student Fund

The National Student Fund began in 1980 when a fund, originally intended for students from Uganda, was designated by the Convention as a special fund "to be used in training nationals from our foreign mission fields in their own native tongues."

In 1981 the Convention made the fund permanent and designated February as National Student Fund Month.

Four students have benefited from the fund.

Raul Sanes, Panama, 1981

Esmilda Damaris Gonzalez,
Panama, 1982

Kyle Cayo Raymond, Haiti, 1983

Maurilio Amorim, Brazil, 1986

Provision Closet Needs

Fullsize bedspreads

Fullsize sheet sets

Hand towels

Matching sets of twinsize sheets

Queensize sheet sets

Queensize mattress covers

Rib cord bedspreads, twinsize

Terrycloth dish towels

Wash cloths

COME and SEE

GO and TELL

BRING them IN

Women constantly invite friends to come and see. Some things cannot be adequately described over a shopping cart at the grocery store or in a telephone conversation. We may want to share a new outfit, an antique chair, or a rose blooming in the backyard. Once we experience delight in something or someone, we hurry off to tell someone else.

Women have little trouble in following this format until it comes to applying it to the gospel of Christ. When someone speaks of the Great Commission, most are

The last command our Lord gave His disciples was to go and tell the world what they had seen (Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15). After the power of the Holy Spirit descended, the apostles began to tell the Good News and 3000 souls were saved in one day (Acts 2).

The book of Acts recounts one story after another of men who left security of home to share Christ. Persecution became so severe that the believers were scattered abroad and "mightily grew the Word of God." Philip went to Samaria. Peter went to a Gentile

Those in our homes must be brought to Jesus. They watch our daily lives, see our ups and downs, hear our gripes and complaints. Do they also see Jesus manifested in such a way that they desire to know Him, too? Our mission field begins around our own table.

Bring the neighbors to Jesus. We build fences and draw drapes to protect our privacy. Open the drapes. Invite them in. We rush in from work, grab a sandwich and rush off again. A host of activities consumes us until no time is left to bring our neighbors to Jesus. Make

Aim: *Christ is our most valuable possession. This program challenges women to share Him with others in 1988.*

Scripture: *John 1:35-51; Mark 16:14-16*

Hymn: *"The Woman's Hymn" (page 314, Free Will Baptist Hymnal).*

perfectly willing to sit back and let someone else do it.

The gospel of John records the beginning of our Savior's earthly ministry. John the Baptist declared Him the "Lamb of God," and two curious men immediately began to follow Him, asking, "Where do You live?"

"Come and see," Jesus responded. And the men obeyed.

One of the men, Andrew, ran and found his brother Simon. "We have found the Messiah," he told him, "come and see!" The other, Philip, found Nathanael and said, "We

have found him, of whom Moses in the law and the prophets, did write . . . come and see!"

And three chapters later, we find the woman of Samaria meeting the Savior at the well. Immediately she runs into the city, saying, "Come, see a man . . . is not this the Christ?" Those who see Christ can never sit down unchanged and bask in that vision. A sense of duty compels one to share Him with others.

Have we seen Christ for ourselves? To whom can we say, "Come and see?"

home. Stephen was stoned. Saul saw Christ and became Paul, and his going and telling resulted in the gospel reaching America.

Me, too? you ask. Yes, me, too! We would never buy new furniture or clothing and keep it hidden away. The gospel of Christ is our most precious of possessions, yet some are hiding it selfishly. Go and tell was our Lord's last command. It must not be taken lightly.

Program Suggestion: Divide your women into two groups, the seeing and the non-seeing groups. The seeing group comes to look into a box into which something complicated and difficult to explain is placed. Each returns to a member of the non-seeing group to describe what she's seen. Finally, the last group looks and compares what she's been told with what she's seen.

Enlarge the three program titles and print on poster board. Display these as the topics are given.

friends, visit over the fence, have coffee together, invite them to church with you. See them as Christ sees them.

The city can't come to your home to see Jesus, so take Jesus into the city. Get involved in a nursing home visitation, hold a Good News club in a housing addition, volunteer at a hospital or Rescue Mission. Every contact made in Jesus' name is a prospect to reach for Him.

While we are bringing in those in our own personal boundaries for Christ, we must never forget those

in the uttermost parts of the earth. Support our missionaries and the Auxiliary projects. Read missionary newsletters and help carry the prayer burden. And never forget — the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous women can literally lead someone into the kingdom.

CONCLUSION

Today is the day to begin sharing Christ, our most prized possession, with the world around us. Come and see. Go and tell. Bring them in.

Over My Coffee Cup



By Eunice Edwards

My employment at the State Hospital hinged on tests and examinations administered under the State Merit System. Therefore, I was required to furnish my supervisor with an annual report of my work.

I endured some anxious moments while waiting for his decision. Would my employment be continued? Would I earn a promotion? Would I merit a raise? Actually the real question was—what is my worth to this employer?

A recent experience reminded me of this and prompted some thoughts regarding my spiritual standing before God.

Peter, in his first epistle, 3:15-17, gives me reason for some real soul-searching. What is my worth to God's kingdom? Not that I feel I'm indispensable or that I could ever merit His favor. Rather, are there reasons in my life, my devotion to Him, or my service in His vineyard that would cause Him to withhold my needed blessings from Him?

What am I worth to my family, to my church, to my community? After all, these are the avenues through which I serve God, or through which I fail to serve Him.

One fact is sure—an accounting is awaiting. I certainly don't want any anxious moments then. ◇

Come, see a man who told me all things that ever I did. Is not this the Christ? (John 4:29)

Go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead (Matt. 28:7).

Bring in hither the poor (spiritually impoverished), and the maimed (wounded in spirit and soul), and the halt (believers who need discipling) and the blind (spiritually blinded) (Luke 14:21). ◇

AUXILIARY HUG DAY



Babies enter the world with a need to be touched and hunger for it all through life.

I am your baby,
Please touch me!
Not just when you feed me and
diaper me.

But stroke my legs, my arms, my
back, my head.
Hold me close in tenderness
That says — I love you.

I am your teenager,
Please touch me!
I need to feel a fond love
Coming through your hands, your
arms;

I need to see it in your eyes,
Hear it in your voice,
Even when we disagree.
Some of me is still a child—
Please touch me!

I am a child with a family of my
own,
Please put your arms around me,
Mother, Father, when my heart
aches

With heartaches you have known.
Now that I am a parent,
I see you differently and love you
more.

When you embrace your grand-
children,
Don't forget me!

I am your aging parent,
Please touch me
The way my mother did when I
was young.

My hair is coarse and gray
But please stroke it;
My hand is withered but hold it.
Embrace my tiring body,
I need your strength
Please touch me!

— *Pulpit Helps*

We must never underestimate the magic of touch. It has power to relieve pain, numb loneliness and drive away depression. Who of us can deny the need to be touched? A loving touch overcomes fears, eases tension and can melt even the hardest heart.

Jesus gives a Scriptural qualification for love in John 13:35: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." One of the most expressive ways of demonstrating love is through a hug. A hug is an outward expression of an affectionate feeling.

Everyone needs a hug from time to time. Anyone can do it for we come with the built-in equipment. Hugging provides stretching exercises if you're short and stooping exercises if you're tall. Hugging makes happier days happier and transforms gloomy days into sunshiny ones. Let's explore four of the most popular hugs among Auxiliary women.

THE A-FRAME HUG



This is the most popular hug practiced by both men and women, used, however, only with discretion among one another. The huggers stand facing each other with their arms wrapped around each others shoulders and cheeks pressed next

to each other. Bodies are not touching below the shoulders.

This is a casual greeting used in saying "Hello!" or "Goodbye," or "My, it's good to see you." You see a lot of this hugging in loving churches, reunions, and they're great at retreats and conventions. The length of time spent in this hug is very brief, usually only a few seconds.

This hug is relatively non-threatening and the ideal one for shy or non-huggers to practice with.

A lot of A-frame hugs were probably given as the lost coin was found (Luke 15).

BACK TO FRONT HUG



This hug is especially recommended for wives to use with their husbands as they are involved in some stand-up chore around the house. In this hug (also known as the waist-grabber) the hugger approaches the other from the back, folds arms around his or her waist and gives a gentle hug.

Some wives have encouraged their husbands to use this hug on them as they wash the dishes, followed, of course, by applying the dish cloth to those dishes. This hug expresses companionship and a warm feeling of support and encouragement.

CHEEK HUG



The cheek hug is probably the most versatile of all hugs. It can be comfortably received while sitting down or standing up, or even with one sitting and the other standing. The sides of the face are pressed together. Without a word even being said they breathe slowly and deeply as a feeling of relaxation envelopes them.

This cheek hug is a tasteful way to greet a friend seated in a wheelchair or to congratulate a pianist. This hug says, "I'm sorry" to a loved one experiencing a death or a disappointment; it expresses joy on a happy occasion; or it simply conveys, "I'm glad we're friends," or "I'm praying for you."

This may have been the kind of hug the neighbor women gave Moses' mother as she returned from placing baby Moses in the water (Exodus 2). Or how Lois and Eunice were comforted when Timothy left on his first missionary journey (2 Timothy 1).

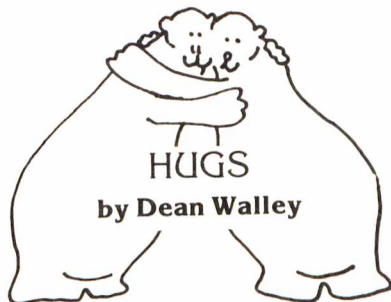
HEART CENTERED HUG



This is probably the highest form of hugging and reserved for those most intimate occasions that call for the deepest expression of spiritual love. It begins with direct eye to eye contact as the two huggers stand facing each other. They wrap arms around each other and lay their heads on each other's shoulders. There is full body contact. The hug is firm, yet gentle as the huggers focus on the compassion that is flowing from one heart to another.

The heart-centered hug is full of warmth and tenderness as it says, "I hurt with your hurt and I want you to know that I care." Or "I've prayed much for you and now we

are sisters in Christ." Perhaps it was this kind of hug Jonathan gave David as they said goodbye for the last time (1 Samuel 20).



It's wondrous what a hug can do.
A hug can cheer you when you're blue.

A hug can say, "I love you so,"
Or, "My, I hate to see you go."
A hug is "Welcome back again,"
And "Great to see you!"
Where've you been?"

A hug can soothe a small child's pain

And bring a rainbow after rain.

The hug, there's just no doubt
about it—

We scarcely could survive without
it!

A hug delights and warms and
charms,

It must be why God gave us arms.

Hugs are great for fathers and
mothers.

Sweet for sisters, swell for
brothers;

And chances are your favorite
aunts

Love them more than potted
plants.

Kittens crave them, puppies love
them,

Heads of state are not above them.

A hug can break the language
barrier.

And make your travel so much
merrier.

No need to fret about your store
of'em;

The more you give, the more
there's more of'em.

So stretch those arms without
delay

And give someone a hug today!

Aim: To encourage warmer expressions of affection among auxiliary women.

Scripture: The love chapter of the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13.

Hymn: "Help Somebody Today" only substitute "hug" for "help".

CONCLUSION

In some cases a handshake is preferred to a hug — when you meet a casual acquaintance, welcome your boss or pastor, or greet someone of the opposite sex. In these cases, grip the hand firmly, smile widely, and hug with both your eyes.

But in the body of Christ, and especially among Auxiliary women, hugs are still in order.



Presentation: Select two people to give each topic, one to give the topic and the other to help demonstrate the type of hug. Or ask two people to demonstrate all the hugs.

Poster: In addition to the poster included in this issue, fasten a teddy bear to a bulletin board with this announcement: Come get your bear hug at Woman's Auxiliary.

Invitations: Cut bears from fuzzy cloth (see pattern) and glue to an index card. Print the invitation on the reverse side. Some school supply stores stock bear seals which may be used. Or cut bears from magazines or toy catalogs.

Room decorations: Arrange pairs of bears around the room.

Special bear feature:

Hugs are scriptural, although they may be called by a different name. Find the scripture, but instead of reading the entire verse, call out the name of the word/words synonymous with a hug:

Luke 15:20

Acts 20:37

Genesis 33:4

Genesis 50:1

Ruth 1:14

Mini-review

I Peter 1—Peter has learned by experience that spiritual maturity is gained by testing. A faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted.

I Peter 2—Peter emphasizes the necessity of Bible study to progressively grow, to maintain unity and to use, not abuse, possessions. Christ is our example.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES IN MARRIAGE (3:1-7)

Read the last five verses of chapter 2 where Jesus refused to revile when He was reviled, or retaliate when He suffered. He had power to do so, but chose to place Himself in God's hands, allowing Him to judge the wrongdoers in His own time and manner. Chapter 3 begins with the words "In the same manner . . .," proceeding with instructions to wives:

1. Be in "s_____" (under the authority of) "your own h_____" Our example is Christ in subjection to God. Though co-equal, He willingly committed Himself to God (I Pet. 2:23). God never intimidated that wives were inferior. However, no normal body has "two heads." In Ephesians 5:22-24, the marriage relationship is characterized as that of Christ and the church. A loving and willing submissiveness will lay grounds for a smoother marriage, rather than grounds for a broken marriage.

2. Submissiveness required even when the husband is an unbeliever. Though you may be hurt, maligned and harassed for your abiding faith and Christian walk, God says that unsaved husbands may "without the (benefit of) the w_____" be w_____" by the c_____" (behavior in word, actions, attitude) of the wife.

3. A winsome, lovable nature, a neat and tidy house and wholesome meals will capture his attention. Husbands (saved and unsaved) "b_____" your c_____" conversation (godly manner of life) coupled (linked with) f_____" Not "fear of your life," but a reverential respect for the position given to him by God: headship of the home.

In 3:3-6, a Christian woman's "adorning" should major on an inward spiritual development rather than an outward show of beauty. Note the two things in verse 3 that trap women in front of the mirror for hours each week: h_____" (it feels like straw and looks worse!) and a_____" (I need a new dress; I can't stand to wear this old thing again!)

1. An inner beauty is the "o_____" of a m_____" (not weak) and q_____" (calm) spirit. In God's sight, this is a beauty of "g_____" p_____"

2. Like Sarah of old, wives "t_____" in God, a_____" themselves (inner woman) being in subjection" to their husbands. Since Sarah's day, no woman can be truly beautiful or pleasant to be around with a rebellious, complaining nature glaring from inside. Reflect a Christ-like spirit and attitude.

In 3:7, I Peter says to husbands: "In like manner

. . ." (the same submissive, meek and quiet spirit dominating from within) "dwell with your wives." A husband has a big load to carry. He needs your love and support if he is to carry it out as God has ordained.

1. She deserves "h_____" (consideration, understanding, courtesy).
2. You are "h_____" t_____" (spiritual equals).
3. This godly relationship will assure that your p_____" are not h_____.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS (3:8-12)

In 3:8,9, Peter gives a strong appeal for the spiritual integrity of believers.

1. We are bound together, "all of o_____" m_____" (single purpose), having c_____" (a tender sympathy). We are to "love as b_____" (in the same family), be p_____" (see Eph. 4:32), be c_____" (the Golden Rule applies here, both at and away from home).

2. Not possessing a "get even" spirit, either in deeds (evil for evil) or in your words (r_____" for railing). See Matt. 5:43,44—difficult, but possible.

3. If we are a blessing to others, we will "i_____" a b_____" for ourselves.

Look at 3:10-12. Do you want to love life? Do you want to see good days? If so, Peter says:

1. Refrain (restrain) your t_____" from e_____. The tongue, like a hammer, can be used to build or to tear down. The key is with the user.

2. Keep your lips from speaking g_____" (deceitful words, as in not walking your talk).

3. "E_____" (avoid) e_____" and do g_____" ; seek p_____" (at home, work and church) and "ensue" (pursue) it. Keep on seeking peace—don't give up!

4. God is watching and He listens to the prayers of the righteous. However, He is "a_____" them that do e_____."

See Part 2 of chapter 3 in the next issue.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you find it relatively easy to have a submissive spirit in your home?

2. What traits should women seek to develop to help them fulfill their God-given role in the home?

3. What example should a woman set for her children to emulate prior to marriage?

4. Will a Christian's attitude and reactions before an unsaved husband or child make an impact on their lives?

5. Why are women (and their daughters) so "hung-up" on hair styles, fashion changes, etc.? What balance can you suggest?

6. What will "demanding my rights" inside or outside the home, do to our relationships with others?

7. How does one master "tongue control?"

Let's Perk Up For The New Year

at

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY



date

time

Bear
HUGS

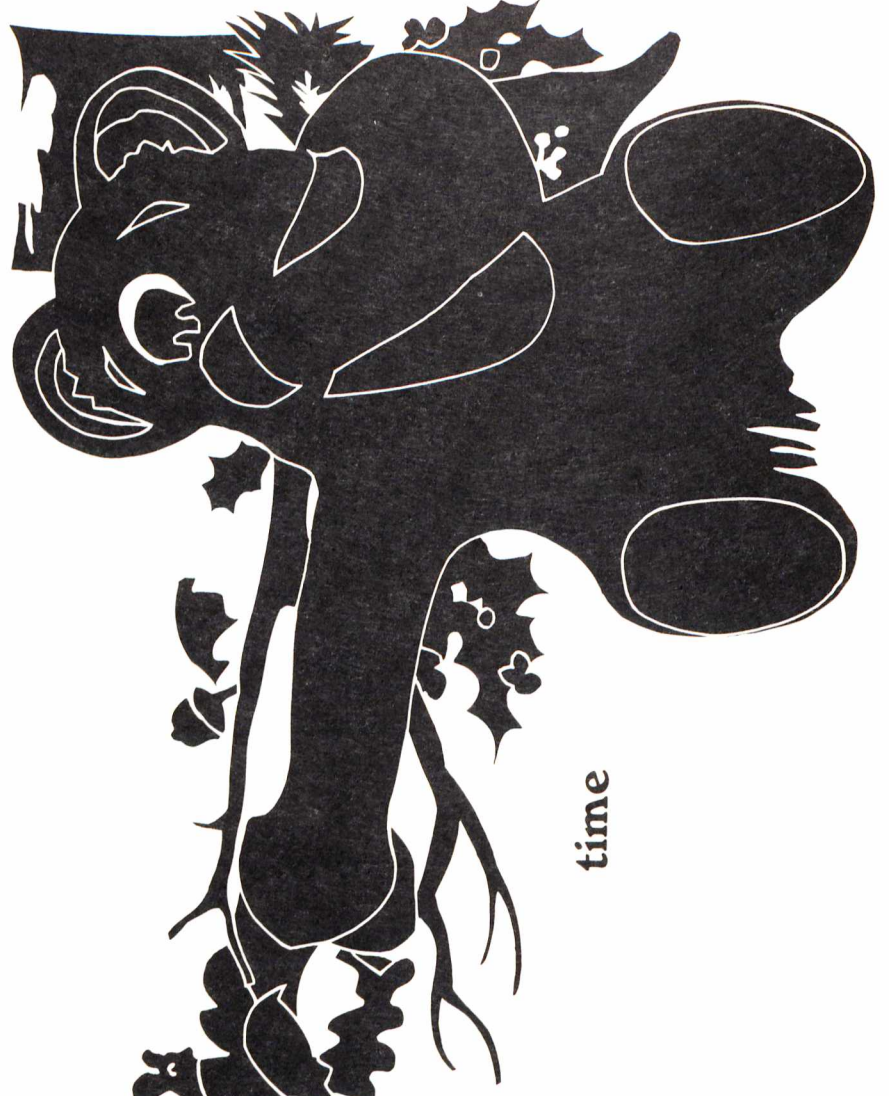
Bear
HUGS

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HUGS

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

date

time



H ELPS FOR LEADER S

Ideas to Stimulate Your Imagination

January/February, 1988

President/Vice President

January Invitations

A devotional for the New Year

A Matter of Time

What time is it? Once upon a time, mankind wanted to know, but in the meantime, summertime, wintertime, and seedtime came and went and man thought, "Sometime I'll get right with God, at a more convenient time." He thought he had plenty of time. He didn't have time for God. Eons of time passed. Then in God's timing came the flood.

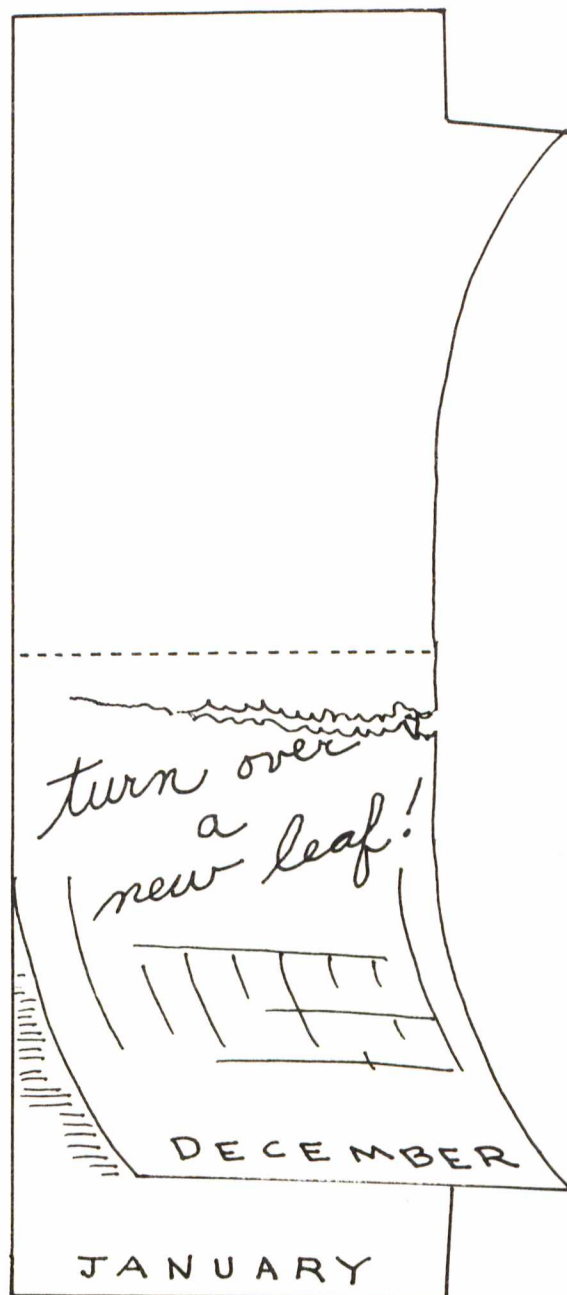
Mankind started anew. He was given extra time, so he began to waste time having a good time and he didn't take time for God or use time as he should. He would waste time having his fun time, and the rest of the time he'd kill time or give others a bad time.

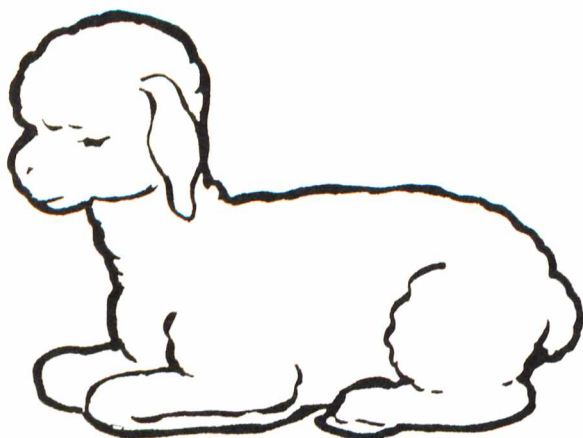
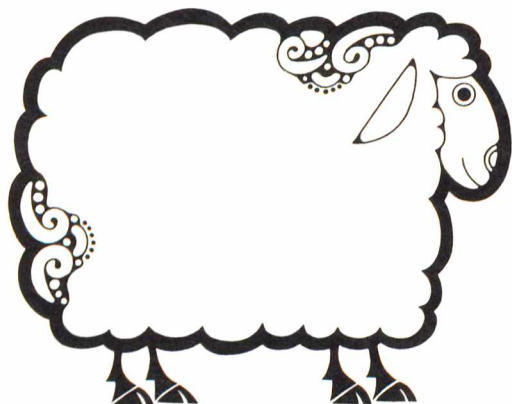
Man needed a Savior, so in the fullness of time God sent His Son, and His Gift was timed right because God has a timetable. As time went by, man again wondered how God's timer is set, because he knows that when the time is right, Jesus will come again. But instead of taking time out for prayer, man nervously checks his Timex, because he is in a hurry to have the time of his life, so he will spend time most of his lifetime, punching his time card, working overtime for time and a half, keeping up with Time magazine during standard time, daylight savings time, hard times, and good times, hoping that he can get saved in the nick of time.

He can't read the signs of the time—that the time is short and he may have little time left when God will say, "Time's up, your time has come." He doesn't know that now is the right time to accept Jesus and receive salvation, so that his length of time can be used to redeem the time and have a happy time in the Lord, because soon the time of grace will be over and the timeless Son of God will return, in a moment of time when God's timeclock runs out. He'll come for His own because our time is in his hands.

Are you ready to be transported in time, to live with Him time without end?

—Sacred Literature Ministries, Inc.





Mission Study Chairman

MISSION STUDY CHAIRMAN

MISSIONS USA is an expensive quality paperback —\$14.95 for 380 pages. But it is replete with tables, lists, maps and appendices. The next issues of CO-LABORER will contain suggested studies for this book.

Introduction to a year's study is in this issue. In future issues, watch for Ethnic Ministries, Religious Ministries, Institutional Ministries and Geographic Ministries.

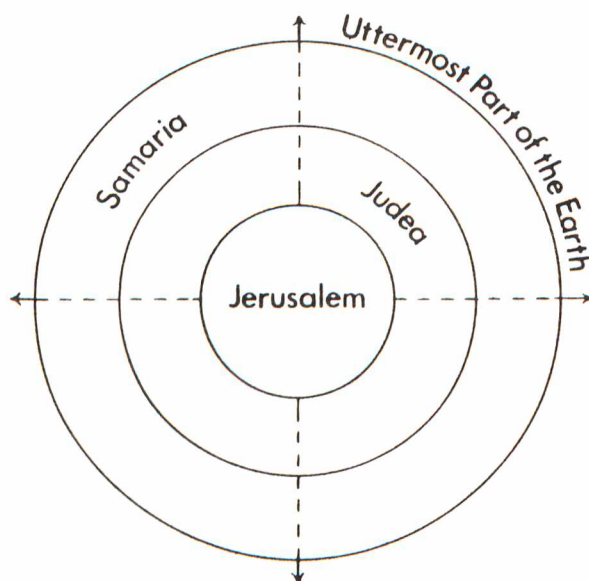
Lesson 1

Objectives: 1) to see America as a mission field, 2) to define the term missionary, 3) to get a brief historical background of home missions.

Suggested Teaching Techniques:

As you pray, prepare, and plan to teach this course, remember every good lesson has four essential parts—approach, apprehension, application and action.

1. Determine what method of evangelism was used in winning those of your own group.
2. Illustrate Acts 1:8 with the following illustration. Emphasize the both/and of this verse and the multi-dimensional aspects of it: (a) cross-cultural, (b) cross-national, (c) cross-geographical, and (d) cross-time.



3. Debate the question: "Is every Christian a missionary?" Appoint one group in the affirmative and the other in the negative. Allow the groups five minutes to "brainstorm" and come up with their supporting statements. Each group chooses its own leader who has one minute to speak for his side. Conclude with a mini-lecture on the definition of a missionary.

Study/Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between home missions and evangelism?
2. America provides the lion's share of sending and funding of foreign missions. How then can she be considered a mission field?
3. Discuss the spread of Christianity. How did it reach America?
4. List some methods of evangelizing today. How successful are these methods?
5. Is there a distinction between service normally expected of all believers and one who is commissioned and sent forth for a specific task?
6. Discuss the 8 propositions to consider in developing a larger vision of Christian responsibility.
7. What do you think of this statement: The church in America must be a missionary church or it will die?
8. Beginning with John Eliot in 1646, trace the progress of home missions on American soil.



This is your order form for auxiliary supplies. Send the entire form with your order.

The form contains sections numbered 1-6. Check the items desired in each section. Total up the amount owed in each section. When all six sections have been checked, transfer the amounts to the order blank on the back page.

Total up the columns. Figure in the postage and handling. Check any free materials desired, as well as the subscription to the *Co-Laborer* magazine.

Send this form and remittance to: WNAC, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202. If you need to order supplies in a hurry, call 615-361-1010 and your order will be billed.

Thank you for your order. We consider it a privilege to serve you.

For Your Mission Study Groups



Missions USA, Earl Parvin — Promotes the theme "Them Also I Must Bring." WNAC recommends a full year's study from this invaluable home mission handbook replete with tables, lists, maps and appendixes. Plan a study each quarter on the population areas of the U.S. that constitute a challenge for missionary outreach:

Ethnic Ministries

American Indian, Blacks, Hispanics, Internationals, etc.

Religious Ministries

Jews, Non-Christian religions, Cults, etc.

Institutional Ministries

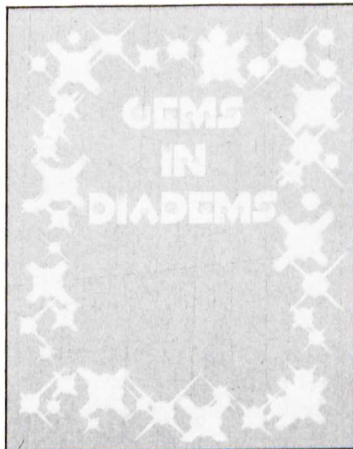
Prisons, Military, Education, Institutions of Mercy, etc.

Geographic Ministries

Mountain areas, Urban, Mobile, etc. *Missions USA* is acclaimed to be "mind stretching and heart searching."

Check #3 Inside.

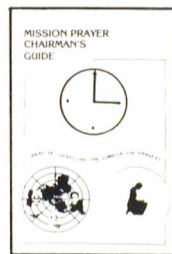
WNAC's 10th collection of poetry written by Free Will Baptist women is compiled from entries in the 1986-87 creative arts contest. It contains 119 poems written by 69 women.



With this 10th edition, *Gems In Diadems* completes the collections of poetry in this 8½ × 11 format.

Check #4 Inside.

New!



Three new officers' guides have been added to the latest series. *Mission Prayer Chairman's Guide*, *Mission Action Chairman's Guide*, and the *Mission Study Chairman's Guide*, all written by Mary Ruth Wisehart, come in a handy convenient size to fit your Auxiliary manual.

Also in this series, the *President's and Vice-President's Guide*.

Check #1 Inside.

1 Auxiliary Supplies

- ☐ **Woman's Auxiliary Manual.**
Picirilli & Wisehart—The official guide book for organizing and operating a local Woman's Auxiliary. 32pp \$1.00

- ☐ **Time For Everything.**
Mary Ruth Wisehart—A Leader's Guide to the auxiliary manual. Makes learning enjoyable in a classroom atmosphere. Includes twelve 8½ x 11 visuals which may be used as posters,

transparency masters, or as a flip chart.
12 visuals with 29 page guide \$1.50

- ☐ **Associational Manual.**
Picirilli, Wisehart & Pursell—Explains the purpose and work of a district, state or national organization. 32pp. \$1.00

OFFICERS' GUIDE BOOKS

Designed for the new officer who asks, "What am I supposed to do?" as well as for the more experienced woman who wants to do a better job.

- ☐ The President and Vice-President's Guide (New) 20pp/\$1.00
- ☐ The Mission Prayer Chairman's Guide (New) 20pp/\$1.00
- ☐ The Mission Action Chairman's Guide (New) 20pp/\$1.00
- ☐ The Mission Study Chairman's Guide (New) 20pp/\$1.00
- ☐ The Secretary-Treasurer's Guide 24-28pp/75¢
- ☐ Field Worker's Packet—Gives ideas on organizing and promoting auxiliary work in the district and state. 75¢

ENLISTMENT AIDS

- ☐ **Enlistment Challenge.**
Cleo Pursell—Basic helps to enlist and keep every woman involved in a Woman's Auxiliary. 75¢
- ☐ **Enlistment Leaflet.**
This two-color leaflet briefly states the aims and purposes of the Woman's Auxiliary. 12/75¢
- ☐ **Invitation Cards.**
Two-color postcard to publicize meetings and invite new members to the auxiliary. 12/75¢

RECORDS AND REPORTS

- ☐ Secretary's Record and Report Book —Space for membership roll and auxiliary minutes. Includes annual report blank in duplicate. \$1.00
Secretary's annual report blanks 12/\$1.00
- ☐ Treasurer's Record and Report Book —Provides space to record receipts and disbursements for a year. Includes annual report blank in duplicate. \$1.00
Treasurer's annual report blanks 12/\$1.00
- ☐ Officer's Plan Book—Each officer needs one as plans are charted in the officer's planning meeting. 35¢
- ☐ Membership Cards—These billfold-size cards identify members of a Woman's Auxiliary. 12/70¢

2 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:

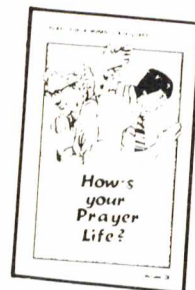
Let Me Go by Ruth Bivens (2 characters) Missions
Party Line by Kathy Lay (radio announcer) Auxiliary Work
Aprons of Service by Maizie Seivits (Installation)
Let Suzie Do It by Cindy Vandivort (9 characters)
Good News From Bad News by Frances Owen (8 characters)
The Awakening Dream by Leora High (monologue)
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 World 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 Elected to Minister \$1.00**

Contents:

Elected To Minister (Installation) by Maurine Lee
Auxiliary For Sale by Annette Dake (4 characters)
Your Fair Share (Missions) by Cheryl Riley (2 characters)
Jenny's Christmas Dream by Ordealia Martin (3 speaking parts)
To Tell The Truth by Bev Womack (7 characters)
The Easter Basket by Ruth Bivens (2 characters)



Total \$ _____

Total \$ _____

3 Study Books

Missions

- ☐ **Second Mile People**, *Isobel Kuhn* (OMF) 154pp/\$3.50
- ☐ **A Vision For Missions**, *Tom Wells* (Banner of Truth Trust) 157pp/\$3.95
- ☐ **I Looked For a Man ... And Found One**, *Lorene Miley* \$5.95
- ☐ **Touching The Untouchables**, *Laura Belle Barnard with Georgia Hill* \$6.95
- ☐ **Missions USA**, *Earl Parvin* (Moody Press) 381pp/\$14.95
The book asserts that the U.S. is a bona fide mission field. It must be evangelized by reaching those who have been bypassed in the great thrust of planting new churches at home.

Christian Living

- ☐ **The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life** (with introduction and built-in study guide by Elisabeth Elliott), *Hannah Whitall Smith* (Word Books) 172pp/\$5.95
- ☐ **Ways Women Can Witness**, *Muriel Larson* (Broadman Press) 143pp/\$5.95
Some sow the seed, some reap, some fertilize the crop, but God gives the increase. Each uses his talent for Jesus in one way or another.
- ☐ **How To Bring Your Children To Christ**, *Andrew Murray* (Whitaker House) 312pp/\$3.50
This practical guidebook to parenting, formerly titled *Children For Christ*, helps parents realize that the spiritual health of their children rests in their hands.
- ☐ **The Ministry of Intercession**, *Andrew Murray* (Whitaker House) 204pp/\$2.95
Prayer is the most dynamic opportunity available to God's children. It not only strengthens faith, but enables us to intercede for others with tremendous results.
- ☐ **Pray: How To Be Effective In Prayer**, *Warren Myers w/Ruth Myers* (Navpress) 171pp/\$5.95
- ☐ **The Hour That Changes The World**, *Dick Eastman* (Baker Book House; 174pp/\$2.95

- ☐ **Facing Death and Dying**, *Cleo Pursell* \$1.25
- ☐ **Triumph Over Suffering**, *Cleo Pursell* \$1.25
- ☐ **Basic Principles of Parliamentary Law and Protocol**, *Marguerite Grumme* 68pp/\$5.00
- ☐ **Guide to Better Poetry**, *Lorene Miley* 25¢

General

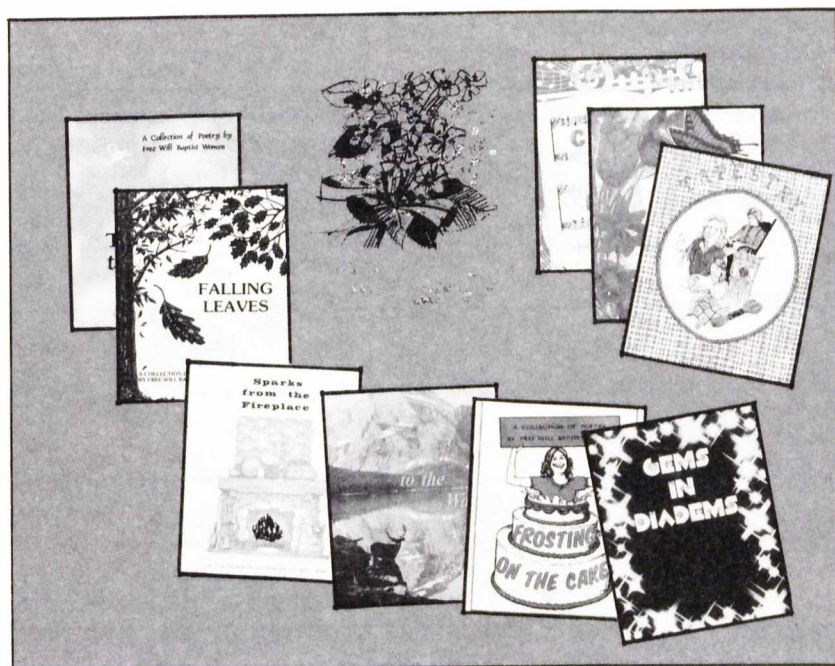
- ☐ **Sparks Into Flame**, *Mary Ruth Wisheart* \$4.95
- ☐ **Free Will Baptist Woman's Missionary Society**, *Reprinted* \$3.00
- ☐ **Treat Yourself to A Retreat**, *Donna Carr*—Helps for planning a woman's retreat. 28pp/\$1.00
- ☐ **Gifts For Missionaries**, *Lorene Miley*—Offers suggestions for missionary giving with instructions for mailing. 29pp/\$1.00

Total \$_____

4 Collections of Poetry

Compiled from entries in WNAC's annual creative arts contests, these 8½ x 11" volumes contain poems on Christian living, home and family, seasonal, devotional and missions. Make excellent gifts.

- | | | |
|--|--------|---------------|
| ☐ Volume 1 Thoughts That Soar | \$3.25 | |
| ☐ Volume 3 Poem Strewn Pathways | \$3.25 | |
| ☐ Volume 4 Come To The Water | \$3.25 | |
| ☐ Volume 5 Falling Leaves | \$3.25 | |
| ☐ Volume 6 Tapestry | \$3.25 | |
| ☐ Volume 7 Sparks From The Fireplace | \$3.25 | |
| ☐ Volume 8 Chords of Music | \$3.25 | |
| ☐ Volume 9 Frosting on the Cake | \$4.50 | |
| ☐ Volume 10 Gems in Diadems | \$4.50 | Total \$_____ |



5 General

Seals

These white and lavender seals are designed with the auxiliary emblem and come in two sizes:

☐ 2 x 1" 24/50¢

☐ 2 x 4" 24/75¢

Jewelry

Pin—Features the emblem of the Woman's Auxiliary. Clutch fastener only.

☐ sterling silver ☐ gold tone \$7.50

Gavel Guard—Attaches to the pin with a chain and worn by the auxiliary president. Choice of sterling silver or gold tone.

☐ gold tone ☐ silver \$4.50

Girl's 7" gold plated charm bracelet with three charms—GTA emblem, world and open Bible.

☐ \$1.00

Notebooks

White plastic 3-ring binder with the WNAC logo.

☐ \$3.50

Total \$ _____

6 Actionettes

WNAC's missionary program for the youth of our churches.

☐ Volume 1 **Pattern for Missions**
(5½ x 8½)

☐ Volume 2 **Key To Missions**
(8½ x 11)

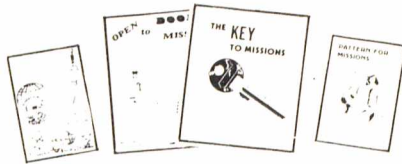
☐ Volume 3 **Open Door To Missions**
(8½ x 11)

☐ Volume 4 **Spotlight On Missions**
(5½ x 8½)

Yearbook \$2.00

Leader's Packet \$2.50

Suggested constitution and by-laws for Actionettes free upon request.



Total \$ _____

Office use only.

Co-Laborer

A Magazine for

Free Will Baptist Women

Co-Laborer operates on a continuous service plan. Once you begin receiving the magazine, the subscription will never expire unless you decide to discontinue it. Subscription prices are six bi-monthly issues for \$5.75, and this price includes postage and handling. Bundle subscriptions (5 or more to one address) are \$5. Please fill in the form below to begin your trial subscription.

Free Materials

- ☐ Calendar Key
- ☐ Creative Arts Contest
- ☐ Co-Laborer Offering Plan
- ☐ Eunice Edwards Loan Fund
- ☐ Missionary Provision Closet
- ☐ Mission Prayers (for shut-ins)
- ☐ Prayer Fellowship Cards
- ☐ WNAC Gift Plan
- ☐ Sample copy of **Co-Laborer**

Woman's National Auxiliary
Convention
P. O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 37202

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Column 4	_____
Column 5	_____
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I would like to try the new look
CO-LABORER. Please enter
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magazine(s). I understand that I
will be billed and that I may can-
cel at any time.

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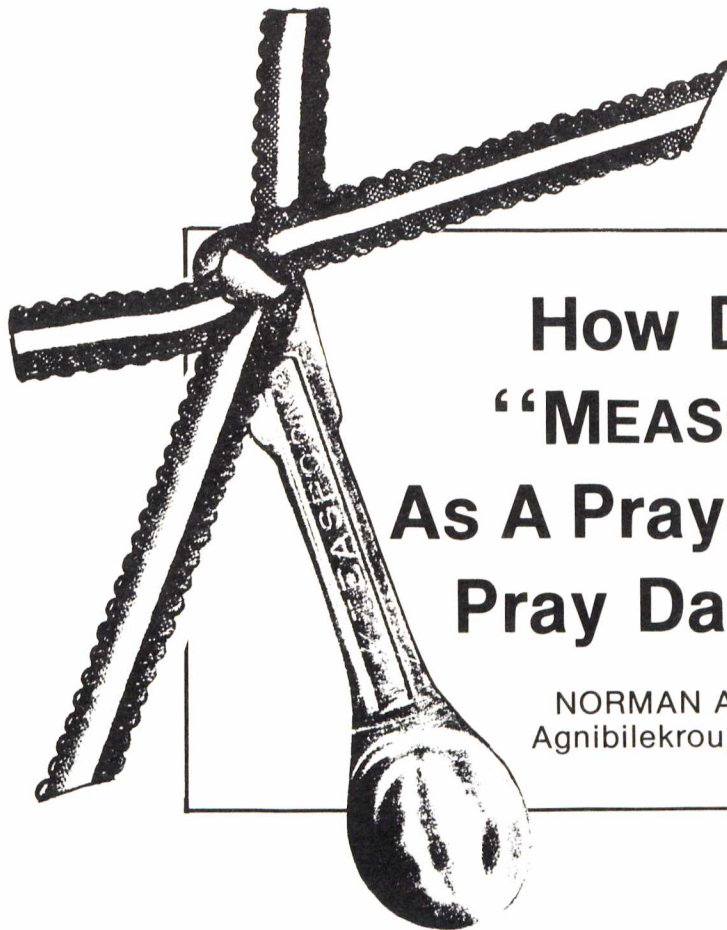
Mail to:

CO-LABORER, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Mission Prayer Chairman

January Prayer Reminders

Tie a real measuring spoon to the corner of an index card. Names of missionaries are available from maps or profile sheets.



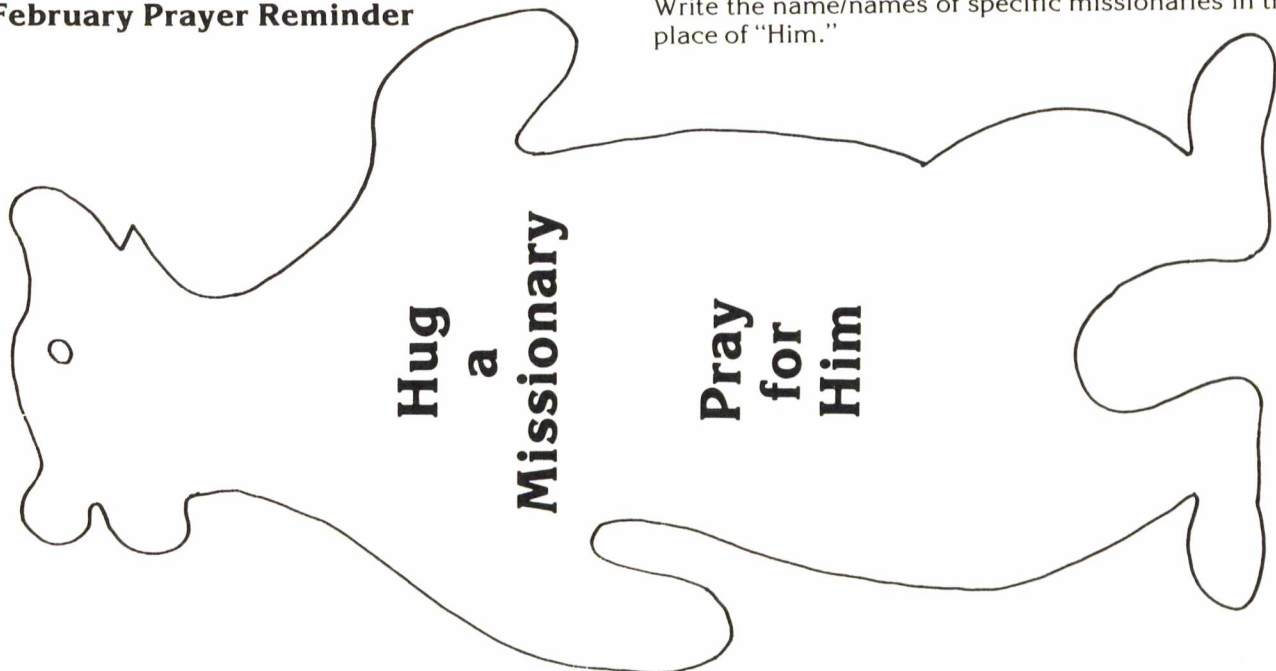
**How Do You
“MEASURE UP”
As A Prayer Warrior?
Pray Daily For**

NORMAN AND BESSIE RICHARDS
Agnibilekrou, Ivory Coast, West Africa

February Prayer Reminder

Write prayer requests on the back.

Write the name/names of specific missionaries in the place of “Him.”



Mission Action Chairman

Punched Wall Hanging

Materials needed:

7 inch fluted aluminum pie tin
tin punch tool or a nail
masking tape
hammer
wooden board for work surface
3½" x 45" piece of fabric for ruffling
2 pieces of 1/8" elastic, 12" long
small piece of wire for hanging loop

Directions:

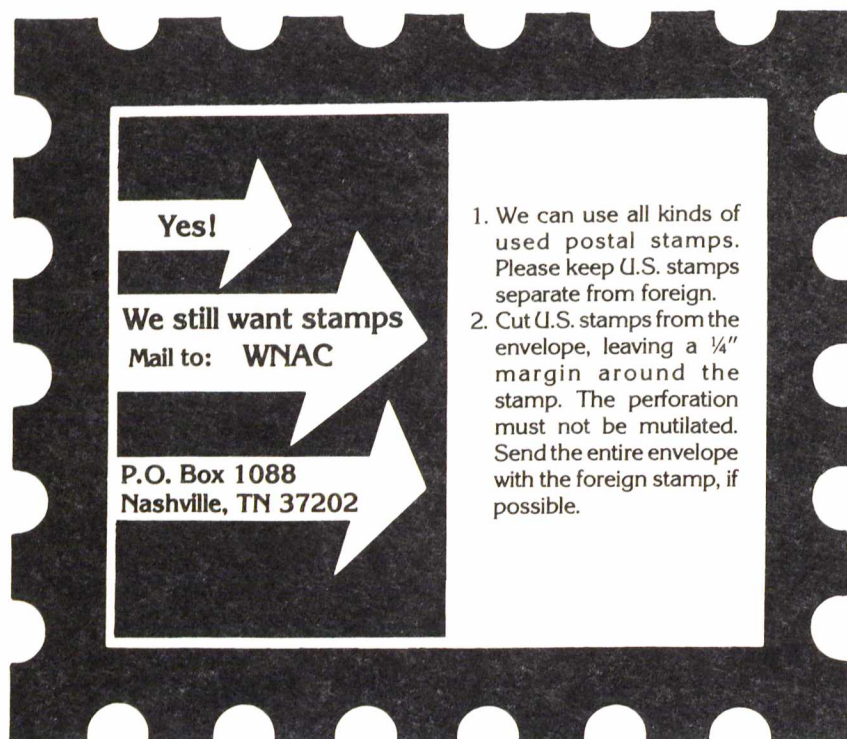
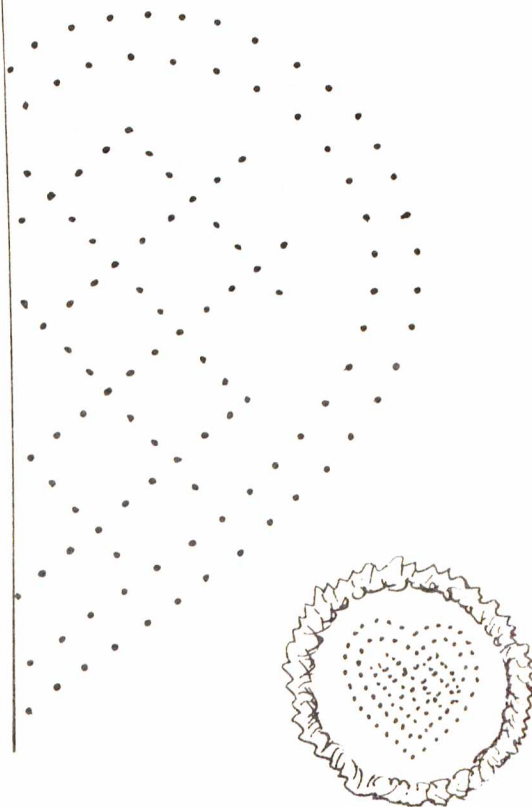
Fold tracing paper in half. Place fold on center line and trace design. Traced design will show through on opposite side of fold. Trace design and unfold paper for complete pattern.

Center design to inside of the pie tin and tape with masking tape. Place tin on a wooden board. Use hammer and punch tool to uniformly punch a hole in each black dot of pattern. When design is complete remove pattern.

For the ruffling, sew the ends of the fabric together. Sew a casing for the elastic by turning up the edges on each side. Thread the elastic through on each side. Make gathers uniform. Slip this elastic ruffling around the end of the pie tin.

To finish, thread a thin piece of wire through the top and twist wire in a hanging loop.

fold



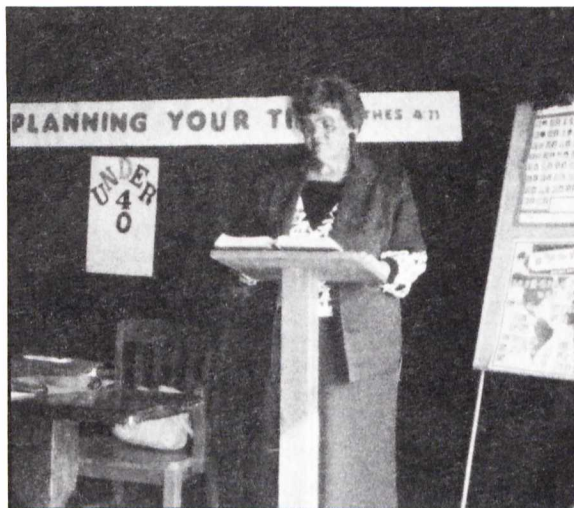
1. We can use all kinds of used postal stamps. Please keep U.S. stamps separate from foreign.
2. Cut U.S. stamps from the envelope, leaving a ¼" margin around the stamp. The perforation must not be mutilated. Send the entire envelope with the foreign stamp, if possible.

The Key Word is Volume

1. Provide trash bags to local businesses which receive a large quantity of mail, as telephone, gas and electric companies. Ask them to save their opened envelopes for you.
2. Designate regular pick-up schedules, and be consistent. Dependability encourages their co-operation.
3. Distribute stamps to volunteers for clipping. Involve your shut-ins and senior citizens.
4. Mail the cheapest rate possible.

WOMEN IN ACTION

Women in the Five Points Auxiliary, Washington, North Carolina, surprise Teresa Wallis with a money tree. Teresa is a freshman at Bob Jones University.



Rosa Lee Thomas addresses the 12th annual Rocky Mountain Auxiliary retreat at Christ Haven Lodge, near Colorado Springs, Colorado. Other speakers included Brenda Lewis, Laurie Meyer, and special guest Donna Wade from Oklahoma City.

Cumberland district's (TN) 67th annual convention featured **Steve and Becky Riggs**, France. In the business session, delegates elected **Rose Tidwell**, Ashland City, as president.

Mary Lou Bullard presided over the Mississippi state retreat in Kosciusko with 76 women attending. "The best part," according to **Elizabeth Gibson**, "was the messages, music, fellowship and prayer times."

Tennessee women met in Pigeon Forge for their state retreat with **Jane Bailey**, Limestone, presiding. Speakers included **June Critcher**, **Rachel Crawford**, **Laura Thigpen**, **Lorene Miley**, **Phyllis Reed**, **Marcia Ellison** and **Anne Worthington**.



Emphasis Program at First, Glennville, Georgia: Leeressa Kicklighter, Susan Waters, Wyndell Reynolds, Beulah Winge, Aldeen Baxter, Pauline Patrick, Debbie Stubbs, Annie Bruner, Denise Barger, Deanna Thompson, Barbara Roberts, Irene Simmons, Julia Thomas, Ladell Barnard, Arena Davidson, Manor Jane Waters, and Laura Belle Barnard. Vice president Julia Thomas directed the program in six parts with an offering of \$92 received for WNAC. Hand made invitations were distributed.

Just as the body of Christ has many members, each with his own unique function, the local auxiliary has many members. Each member must cooperate in order for the whole body to function properly. Here's a little quiz to use in scoring your "Cooperation Quotient."

1. I attend my auxiliary meetings:

a. Always, unless hindered by illness or vacation.

b. Only when I like the topic and/or speaker.

c. Only when I have a part on the program.

2. By majority vote, my local auxiliary has decided to have a yard sale to raise funds for a missionary project. Since I believe that missions funding should come only from tithes and offerings, I will:

a. Quietly excuse myself from the project, keeping my reasons to myself.

b. Criticize and condemn the project publicly, letting everyone know why I'm not participating.

c. Talk to the president and/or mission action chairman and explain why I cannot participate. In a spirit of love I will offer alternative projects for the future.

d. Lend whatever support I can to the success of the project. After all, maybe an offering does not necessarily have to be money. Even though this method is not my "cup of tea," it may be the only way some women feel they have of giving.

e. Get mad and quit going to auxiliary until they miss me and beg me to come back.

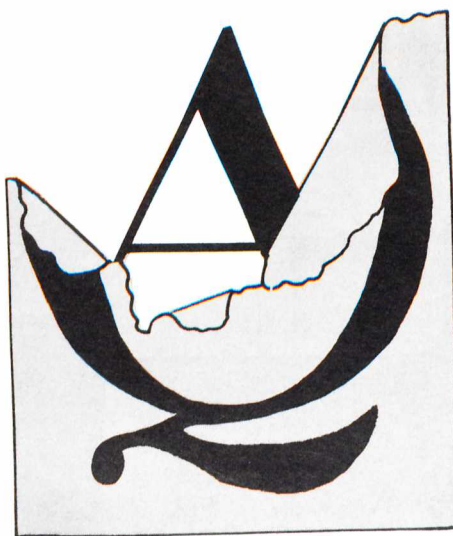
3. I've been asked to coordinate registration at a large auxiliary meeting, but I would much rather sing/teach/participate in another way. I will:

a. Get mad and let everyone know that if I can't sing, I just won't attend the meeting.

b. Get mad, but keep it to myself. I'll pout and sulk until someone asks me what's wrong.

c. Agree to be used wherever needed.

d. Agree to be used wherever needed, but add that I would also be willing to sing/teach/participate in another way, either at this meeting or in the future.



Cooperation Quiz

by Sue Larson

4. Since prayer is an important part of any Christian endeavor, I will:

a. Pray consistently for our auxiliary, its leaders, members and projects.

b. Pray that God will intervene and help us get new leaders. The ones we have are so hard to work with.

c. Resent being reminded by anyone to pray for specific needs. After all, I've been a Christian for 20 years and I know how to pray!

HOW DID YOU DO?

Score yourself by using the following key. Regardless of your score, you are an important part of the local auxiliary. The nicest thing about your Cooperation Quotient is that it can improve with time, prayer and effort. Let's work together to accomplish all that the Lord has planned for us.

Answer Key:

Give yourself the proper score, as indicated below.

1. a. 5 points Good for you! 1.____
b. 3 points Well, at least you're honest!

c. 1 point That's better than nothing!

2. a. 3 points Thanks for not 2.____
causing trouble!

b. 1 point Oops! Your attitude is showing!

c. 5 points You must be true to your convictions. A private explanation and suggestion of alternatives indicates maturity and sensitivity.

d. 5 points Another excellent way to handle a difference of opinion if you don't feel a Biblical principle is being violated.

e. 0 points Your auxiliary leaders are not mindreaders. Behave this way and they may not ask you to come back!

3. a. 1 point There's that 3.____
attitude again.

b. 0 points You're only hurting yourself.

c. 4 points A willing spirit is beautiful.

d. 5 points A willing spirit coupled with an honest offer for additional or future service is great.

4. a. 5 points Thanks for 4.____
your prayers.

b. 2 points Prayer changes things, but why not pray for patience and try to work with things as they are.

c. 0 points We all can use help. Don't shut out those who are trying to help.

Total_____

Scoring

20 points—Perfect! You may have trouble finding an auxiliary in which you will be accepted! Seriously, a good attitude and sweet spirit are always needed and gladly received.

15-19 points—Nearly Perfect! Work on your problem area and willingly share with others in the areas where you have found victory.

10-14 points — Halfway There! You have so much to offer. Don't let some areas of auxiliary work cause you to isolate yourself from the auxiliary as a whole. We need you and you need us!

5-9 points—Great Opportunity! Just look at the possibilities for your life and work in auxiliary. We can all grow and learn.

0-4 points—Don't Give Up! Remember your Cooperation Quotient can change.

THE MINISTER'S WIFE

Compiled by Cleo Pursell

We loaded our last piece of furniture on the Ryder and turned to our families for our last goodbye. A vast emptiness enveloped us. Texas loomed as a strange and different land and a brief reluctance gripped us at leaving our native Tennessee. I suddenly felt a kinship with other pastor's wives who had experienced the reality of "whither thou goest, I will go."

God doesn't lay His plans out for our approval. He only expects us to obey. And in our obedience sometimes His plans are revealed. Sometimes not. But in our Texas pastorate, God answered some questions that had plagued us for more than three years.

Three years before, I became very sick, to the point of being hospitalized and undergoing surgery. The physical problem created such severe depression and nervousness that I was forced to quit my job. Added to this was the strain of being on a medication which produced serious side effects if taken over a long period of time. Even after the physical problem cleared up, the depression deepened.

I begged God to make me well. And when He didn't, I searched my heart. What if I had backslidden? I repeatedly told myself that God was still there, He had not left me and I had not left Him. But the depression continued.

One day my best friend (my mother), suggested that perhaps I was praying the wrong prayer. Maybe I should pray for strength and courage to bear the affliction, to accept it and claim His help in living with it. Finally I mustered the courage to begin praying this prayer. Slowly, but not overnight, I experienced a change for the better.

*God
never lays
out His plans
for our
approval.
Following Him
demands
our blind
obedience.*

*Thankful?
For sickness?*

by Darlene Wilson



Why, why? we questioned. For three years we questioned. Here I was, a preacher's wife. I was supposed to be a pillar in the community and a leader in the church. Pastors, missionaries, ministers and evangelists—with their wives—are not perfect and must never be set on a pedestal. I felt I had tumbled from my self-imposed pedestal and lay crumpled and broken at its base.

Time proved a great healer. Just when the sun was beginning to shine again, the call came from the church in Texas. And in our obedience, we found the answer. In the church was a family of five with the father suffering from severe emotional problems. Sickness, worry and pain etched his thin face. I looked at him and ached. I knew just how he felt! The wife, helpless and frustrated, reminded me so much of my husband when he, too, knew

not what to do. As we looked at them, it was as though the past three years of our lives were being reflected in a mirror.

This then was why we came. We visited them many times. They came to us often for counseling. We were able to comfort them with the same comfort we had received.

I'll always be grateful the Lord led us to that family during the crisis years of their lives. It had been ten years since his last drink of alcohol, but he teetered on the brink of drinking again. His wife threatened to dissolve their marriage, take the kids and leave. But after only a few months, the sun began to shine for them, too.

Our mission accomplished, the Lord returned us to our native Tennessee. What have I learned from this? When you have sickness, or even death, or something

We comforted them with the same comfort we had received.

that's impossible to understand, God is there. Turn to Him in genuine thanksgiving. He may be preparing you for the greatest adventure of your life.

MY FAMILY

When I was growing up, I dreamed of marrying a preacher and living on a farm. Both came true. James Kenneth Wilson and I will be married 14 years on June 7. We live on a farm, too, but not on one with chickens and cows. Our task is gathering the harvest in God's field. Kenneth pastors Olivet FWB Church in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Someone once asked, "What would you change in your marriage?" I would not change anything, including the trials, sickness and testings of our faith. All have brought us closer to each other and to God.

The Lord has blessed us with three children. Tabatha, almost 12, was our first. Her goal in life is to become a nurse and she reads every book on this subject that she can get her hands on. She loves ball (any kind) and her dog, Tiffany.

Gretchen, 10, is our second daughter. Her goal in life is undecided, but she loves to sing. Our family is entertained every night during bath time.

James Kenneth Wilson II (Kenny), almost 7, is our little man of the house. He presented a dramatic change from our two daughters. His goal in life changes every day, but he likes to help his daddy do everything. He would go to church every day if he could.

The most important member of our family is our heavenly Father. Never a day goes by but that He is right there lending a helping hand. He provides strength and courage to get us through this troublesome world. His love is more precious than gold.



Beatitudes for a Preacher's Wife

by Helen M. Young

1. Blessed is the preacher's wife who considers her life a "plan of God," and who accepts her particular role as "God's appointment."

2. Blessed is the preacher's wife who joyfully occupies her role and looks upon the minister's work as the noblest, the hardest but happiest, on earth.

3. Blessed is the preacher's wife who knows that her own spiritual growth demands the scheduling of her time — to meet the needs of her family, the demands of the congregation, and her own need for replenishing her spiritual resources.

4. Blessed is the preacher's wife who radiates a spiritual glow reflecting her joyous and confident faith in Christ and a love for all his people.

5. Blessed is the preacher's wife who keeps the common touch, who feels at home in all places and with all people — and learns to be content in all circumstances.

6. Blessed is the preacher's wife who has a listening ear for the problems and vexations of the people she works with, who can keep a confidence, be chary with advice, and who will not stoop to petty talk.

7. Blessed is the preacher's wife who can pray for those who criticize her or her husband and can, in turn, show love and forbearance, who will be as kind and gracious to the unloving as to the "best members" of the congregation.

8. Blessed is the preacher's wife with sanctified common sense, who does not take herself too seriously, but who takes the unity and progress of the church very seriously and, by good judgment and charity, strives to promote love and unity.

9. Blessed is the preacher's wife who accepts gifts with gracious appreciation as a token of love of the giver and turns to give generously to others.

10. Blessed is the preacher's wife whose loyalty and devotion to the man she loves makes of her marriage a oneness, divine and indivisible. Her joyous commitment to love and cherish her husband until death expresses itself in daily acts of tenderness, affection, consideration, and encouragement.

11. Blessed is the preacher's wife who considers the role of motherhood her greatest career, and who lovingly trains her children to be Christlike. She recognizes that bringing her children up in the way of the Lord is her highest and most rewarding task.

12. Blessed is the preacher's wife who learns to be content, to be positive in her attitudes, and to be always ready to serve, to encourage, and to appreciate others.



CROSSWINDS

by Hedy Caldwell

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.

“Remember, Mom, you can’t TELL teenagers anything!” cautioned my 18-year old daughter as she looked over my shoulder to the list I was examining. My current concerns list included such topics as abortion, AIDS, drugs, teen pregnancy, suicide, etc.

“I thank the Lord that you are so perceptive,” I replied.

It’s true we may recognize the pitfalls our children face and strive to prepare them. However, we can’t merely TELL them and expect them to understand. An unknown author of a proverb says:

*I hear, I forget
I see, I remember
I do, I understand*

We learn something of how to communicate truth by examining the example of Christ. He knew how people learned so He found a spot which promoted learning. This is called controlling the environment.

When I discuss a touchy topic with my teen, I choose a private spot with few distractions, a place where eye contact isn’t necessary. Teens are discreet, especially about sexual topics. They discuss these subjects more comfortably with peers or teachers than with parents. Perhaps parents tend to judge rather than listen.

Learn of Me

*Come
unto me . . .
and learn
of me
(Matt. 11:28, 29)*

Christ also knew that some things are best taught in a group and others in private sessions. Mothers especially tend to make examples of their teens. We either build them up or tear them down in front of their peers. The teens react with, “Oh, Mother! You don’t know anything!” Often the intensity increases until all efforts of communication are broken down.

The most effective way around this block is for the adult to apologize. If the teen apologizes, it sets the parent up as the know-it-all. If neither apologizes, the block, with the hurt, continues.

Christ freely used parables to create learning situations which stimulated the learner to think in order to find the answers. This is called problem solving. In problem solving, the learner finds more than the answer to a problem. He discovers many

answers for many situations. All too often, our society expects one answer for one problem. We avoid further problem solving by applying this same answer to all situations.

Christ, aware of the impact of verbal tone and words, was never offensive in His teaching. He taught both young and old, rich and poor, sick and well, and leaders and followers. He ministered effectively to each according to his need. Affirmation and acceptance enable the listener to succeed.

This was a major lesson for me to learn because I was in the habit of spontaneously speaking my mind. These spoken thoughts often aired judgments, opinions, hidden hostility or anger which were offensive to my family at times. Only time, study and practice have enabled us to speak our minds less offensively.

Christ practiced care, gentleness and compassion with all people. We must say to our teens, “I care about you enough to listen to your troubles.” And as we manifest this same spirit with our teens, they will be free to discuss any topic with us, no matter how delicate. ◇

BOOK HIGHLIGHTS

Aids to Spiritual Growth

You Bring the Confetti

by Lucy Swindoll

Word Books, 1986, hardback
\$9.95

Honestly, I must confess the name "Swindoll" drew me to this delightful book. Luci Swindoll is Chuck Swindoll's sister—and how a brother and sister can be so madly in love with life is quite a credit to one or both parents.

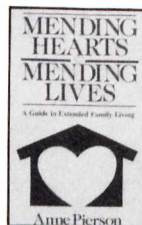
Luci Swindoll loves living so much she wants to celebrate every facet of life. Even as a child, she wrote her own "scripture" verses about celebrating the joy of life. One of her favorites was:

Thou sluggard! Get ye up. Throw thou a party. Today calls for a celebration!

Every day calls for a celebration.

As I sat on the couch to enjoy a time of relaxed reading, I became increasingly perky while reading Luci Swindoll's fun ways to celebrate life—

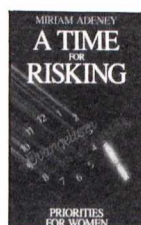
- *birthdays
- *meals
- *friendship
- *knowledge and learning
- *the nine-to-fives
- *the victory of accomplishment



- *imagination
- *beauty in everyday life
- *America
- *God, the greatest of all celebrations

Moving from chapter to chapter, I soon felt a new surge of inspiration sort of recharging my creative batteries—and I found myself terribly excited about different ways to celebrate life.

While Luci's remarkable insight and quick wit and charming sense of humor saturate this delightful book, her depth of maturity shines too as she shares *reasons* to celebrate life.



This book helps me become more aware of ways to celebrate the joy of living. Every day brings new opportunities to throw a party—for my family, my friends, my neighbors—even myself.

"Celebrate life!" Luci says. "Throw thou a party and invite me. I'll bring the ice cream . . . You bring the confetti!"

**Reviewed by June Critcher,
Nashville, TN**

A Time for Risking

by Miriam Adeney

Multnomah Press, 1987 pb \$7.95

"Love hurts," Miriam Adeney confesses in her book, *A TIME FOR RISKING*. And that's what it's all about. If you want to live for God and exert a godly influence in your world, then you must be ready to take the risks.

Adeney places us exactly where we are in a 20th century world filled with demands, stresses, sticky problems. Yet she believes that Christian women can find balance, learn to say yes to the right things and fill the place that God has for them in their world.

A WOMAN God Has Used

Garner FWB Auxiliary, Garner, North Carolina, recently honored Annie Talton with a plaque which summed up their admiration:

You have touched us

We have grown

North Carolina has been home to Mrs. Norwood Talton for most of her life, except for a few years in Norfolk, VA in her early marriage.

The Taltons, 48 years married, serve at a senior citizens center, as well as in their local church and community. They have two married daughters and five grandchildren.

The name of Annie Talton is almost a legend in Woman's



Auxiliary, from the local on up to the state where she was reelected as treasurer. Her unselfish spirit, enthusiastic manner and sense of humor have brightened many an executive committee.

The Taltons' door is propped open to every evangelist and missionary that comes through. She became personally acquainted with many of these as they sat around her table savoring her specialty, chicken stew.

Annie Talton is not perfect—who of us is?—but she walks daily with her Lord. And all those whose lives touch hers are blessed.

Perhaps she extends a bit too far the section on nurturing your child's caregiver. She is not afraid, however, to face the fact that many women are entrusting their children to others while they work. She does make some good suggestions for such mothers in this section.

"What kind of old woman will you be?" she asks. We will be wounded by life. We do run some risks, she insists. We can't stop the wounding, but we can determine how we respond. The wounds can become channels of God's blessings on our lives.

Her book poses the questions of how should women live, what should their priorities be, what can each one contribute that no one else can. What have I come to the kingdom for? She gives some role models from the past, as well as biblical examples.

She includes in the Appendix some questions designed to help women reach out to those from other cultures.

A TIME FOR RISKING raises some thought provoking issues. Don't read it unless you are willing to take some risks.

Reviewed by Mary Ruth Wisehart, Nashville, TN.

Mending Hearts, Mending Lives
by Anne Pierson
Destiny Image Pub., 1987, 158 pp.

C. T. Studd once said, "Some wish to live within the sound of chapel bells. I wish to run a rescue mission within a yard of hell." It's one thing to read Christ's words commissioning us to help others; it's another thing to translate those words into practice.

This book trains families to use their home as a ministry to unwed mothers. Be open to God's call as you read this book. He may send a hurting person across your path.

WNAC does not stock these books. Please order them from your state bookstore, or from Randall House, 319C Harding Place, Nashville, TN 37217.

The POET'S CORNER



Cheryl Akers, Jacksonville, Florida, began writing poetry as a child "just for fun." She developed her talent while in college but only for special occasions. She writes now as an expression of a thought God has given her. Some day she'd like to write poetry for children.

Cheryl was saved at age 17 through the witness of an older sister. She married Michael, an army reserve chaplain, and assistant pastor of the Immanuel FWB Church where she substitutes as Sunday school teacher, updates the church bulletin board, and participates in both the local and district Auxiliary.

Mrs. Akers serves as secretary of her husband's tree-trimming business. She enjoys homemaking and mothering 8 year old Timothy and 6 year old Alisa. Other special

Never Too Small

*One yellow flower outside my door.
Is small as it stands alone.*

But it brightens my days

*When I pause to gaze,
God has clothed it for His own.*

*One tiny drop from the silvery sky
Is small upon the pane;*

*But when gathered with friends
And the storm begins,
God is praised for sending rain.*

*One man alone in this whirling world
Is small upon earth's sod;*

*But one saved man
With an outstretched hand
Is never too small for God.*



interests include sewing, crocheting, reading, traveling, working crossword puzzles and experimenting with health foods.

"For me, poetry (and indeed any writing at all) is typically hard work," writes Cheryl. "But the Lord has enabled me to write, so He deserves any credit that my writing may afford." Her program, "Abigail: A Woman For All Seasons," won first place in the recent creative arts contest.

CREATIVE ARTS CONTEST

NOW is the Time
to get your entries in the
Creative Arts Contest
Five Categories
Art
Articles
Plays/Skits
Poetry
Programs

Mail before the MARCH 1 deadline to:

**Creative Arts Contest
P. O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 37202**

APPOINTED TO PRAY

Be a Prayer Missionary

Jim walked into the door carrying the box of mail from the downtown post office. He dumped the contents on the table and we eagerly began sorting into four stacks. Jim is field treasurer, so missionary letters go to him. I edit a magazine called *Folha Evangelica*, so I process these letters.

Most of the box's contents is made up of letters sent in by students taking the Source of Light Bible Correspondence Courses. We average 100 envelopes weekly with more than 500 students enrolled, up 300 from last year. Jim takes the requests and letters from prayer partners and donors (not as many as we would like), and we divide those from the correspondence course.

Jim takes his stack to his desk in the tiny storage room while I organize the dining room table.

We open and stack the lessons according to number and courses. We offer three different courses

Humdrum Labor

by Shirley Combs,
Missionary to Brazil

totaling 22 lessons. This is the easy part. I find myself eager with anticipation as I slit each envelope.

Next we check the lessons and record the grades on individual file cards. Sometimes amid the buzz of envelopes and file cards, one of us calls, "I got a decision!" meaning someone has responded by giving his testimony.

Sometimes the news is so good we have to stop and share it: "I was involved in so much sin and rebellion that I was breaking my parents' hearts. They are religious Catholics, but couldn't give me

answers. A friend invited me to a Protestant church and gave me a coupon to study this course."

Or perhaps it is a letter like this one: "I passed a group singing at the city 'praca' and stopped to listen. One guy told how God freed him from drugs and I knew I had the same problem. I accepted Christ and your Bible study course has helped me grow in the Lord."

We realize how much work there is to do when one writes: "I consider myself a Christian because a priest baptized me as an infant. A friend suggested I study this course."

Our students represent ten Brazilian states—north, south, east and west. One day, to our surprise, we opened up a letter from a man in a Portuguese speaking country in Africa.

At last the lessons are completed. The graded lesson, along with the next lesson, is placed inside a large envelope. We enclose a certificate if the student has completed a course.

The ungummed envelope is addressed and glued. Finally Jim takes them to the post office where he'll stand in line at least 15 minutes to have the envelopes run through a stamp machine. If he's delayed longer, I can expect either the machine to be broken down and he's licking the stamps one by one for each envelope, or the clerk is taking a coffee break.

Humdrum labor? Admittedly, the filing, addressing and grading are humdrum, in a sense. At times we tend to discouragement at the time and expense involved—stamp prices just increased 80%; but through these correspondence courses we have been able to sow the seed and make disciples of at least a few.

Whoever heard of anyone anticipating humdrum labor? We do.

Personality Profile



Walter and Marcia Ellison

(grilled meat) with salad is his specialty.

Marcia has been called the Carol Burnett of Foreign Missions. This popular speaker leaves one alternating between laughter and tears. She delights in window shopping, needling friends, story-telling and teaching her missions class at FWBCC while on furlough.



The Ellison's three oldest children are married, with two sons remaining at home. The family all read, listen to "good" music, and compete at table games.

Other Sheep

Gypsies are one of the largest groups in the world without a homeland. A nomadic people, they are found on every continent, typically traveling by horse-drawn or motorized caravan. Gypsies call themselves Rom, meaning Man, but are known to others by many names.

Locally Gypsies are organized into bands of from ten to a few hundred. Each is led by a chief who acts as treasurer for the group, decides on patterns of migration and acts as spokesman to local authorities.

Discrimination and ill-treatment are common to Gypsies. Typically they have engaged in seasonal

Other sheep have I which are not of this fold: them also I must bring.



occupations—circuses and fairs—and other pursuits too menial or distasteful to the majority of the population. Many are undertakers, executioners, entertainers, horse dealers and fortune tellers.

Because most Gypsy relationships almost entirely exclude strangers, contacts are best made through personal introductions by those who have gained their respect. Few have any fixed profession of faith. A great hindrance is the lack of a good Bible translation.

Jesus has some other sheep among the Gypsies. What can you do to bring them into His fold?

Prayer Promise

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

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.

January

- 1 — Florine Coscia (Brazil)
- 5 — Donna Daniel (IC)
- 11 — Walter Ellison (Uruguay)
- ** 11 — Shirley Gibson (MI)
- 13 — Jim Combs (Brazil)
- 14 — Shirley Combs (Brazil)
- 23 — Priscilla Inscoc (Panama)
- 24 — Jerry Pinkerton (IC)
- 26 — Cathy Crawford (France)
- * 28 — Vicky Mutchler (OR)
- 29 — Janice Banks (Japan)

February

- 1 — Linda Reeves (Spain)
- 2 — Jim Cowart (Brazil)
- 5 — Judy Bailey (Japan)
- * 5 — Bill Reagan (Canada)
- ** 7 — Larry Williams (GA)
- 8 — Don McDonald (Japan)
- 10 — Sandra Payne (IC)
- ** 11 — Willa Johnson (KY)
- ** 11 — Vicky Rager (IN)
- ** 12 — Gary Brunson (KS)
- ** 13 — Billie Sexton (TN)
- 13 — Rejane Eagleton (IC)
- 17 — Barbara Gibbs (France)
- 21 — Judy Lytle (Panama)

* Home missionary or church extension pioneer.

** Joint project worker or deputation missionary.

Please Pray For

- ☐ MK's in college—James Deeds, Rose State (OK); Paul Hersey, Northwestern (IL); Vicki Sturgill, TSU (TN); Gene Richards and Suzanne Franks, FWBBC (TN).
- ☐ Two more couples to plant five churches in Phoenix, AZ by 1990.
- ☐ The Dr. Kenneth Eagleton family as they resume their duties at the medical center in Ivory Coast.
- ☐ Louie Nix family as they establish our second church in Hawaii. The new one is in Kehaha on Kauai.
- ☐ The salvation of Jeanine Coche, Lorient, France.
- ☐ The salvation of Mr. Hirago, Japan; his wife, son, and daughter-in-law are believers.
- ☐ Mike Mutchler as he leads his mission congregation out of rented facilities into a building on their own property.
- ☐ Norman and Laura McFall as they begin their study of Portuguese in Campinas.
- ☐ Steve Trail and the day care ministry in Alexandria, LA that it may bring many new families into the mission church.
- ☐ The opening of the Bible Institute in Jaboticabal, Brazil, scheduled for February. Jim Combs, director.

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PS Form 3526, Dec. 1985

(See instruction on reverse)

Eunice Edwards Loan Fund

5 year goal
\$50,000



Amount Received
\$5,393.57

LETTER S

From our Readers

Congratulations to you and to us! We are enjoying the July-August issue of *Co-Laborer*. You have definitely taken action on our suggestions. We appreciate your interest and concern for our Woman's Auxiliary. We plan to be subscribers and defenders of our magazine for many years to come.

Joplin Auxiliary, Joplin, MO

I appreciate so much the opportunity to reminisce as I remembered Christmases past in Brazil. My spirit was refreshed as I plucked those cords in my heart once more.

*Rebecca Aycock,
former MK from Brazil*

The Messies Manual

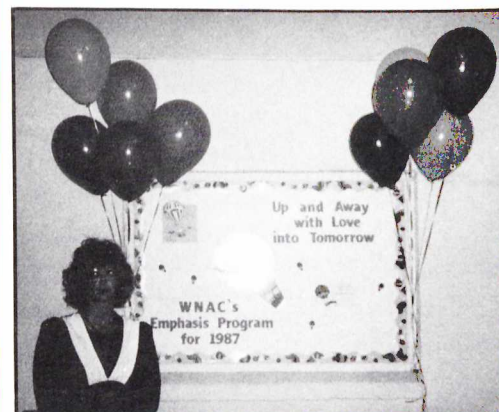
The book that Mrs. Waddell reviewed, *The Messies Manual*, is really good! I bought it, read it, and then cleaned out all three of my closets!

Merle Archer, Ahsoskie, NC

Emphasis Program

Here is our \$40 Emphasis Offering from the ladies at Surprise Free Will Baptist Church in beautiful Arizona. We only have ten members, but God is blessing us.

Lena Siler, Surprise, AZ



*Emphasis Program at Trinity Temple, Tulsa, Oklahoma
President Brenda Wills*

Our Emphasis program was a real blessing and lots of fun. Our overall attendance is 7 and we had 15 ladies for our Emphasis program.

Phyllis Bass, Jacksonville, FL

Retreat

We had our district Northeast Missouri retreat this week. Close to 40 came; 20 brave souls spent the night in our rustic camp. To interest our teens in Auxiliary, we invited them. They were so helpful in many ways, as well as furnishing the special music.

Maizie Sevits, Kirksville, MO

Creative Arts Contest

I have had a few minutes to get my thoughts together, so am sending my things for the creative arts contest. I thought I'd send them early instead of waiting until the last minute.

Betty Reeves, Farmington, MO

I would like to submit a poem I recently wrote for my grandfather's 80th birthday Two weeks later, Grandpa died. The family requested that my poem be used as part of the program. I thank God that He gave me the talent and desire to express the love of his grandchildren in this special way.

Lisa Hernandez, Houston, TX

I know God has given me the gift of writing, but I seem to be getting nowhere with it. Any suggestions?

Loree Medley, Wichita Falls, TX

Editor's Response

Yes! Attend a Writer's Conference which features Norman B. Rohrer, the man who has been "firing up" writers for more than two decades. He will lead a "Write to be Read" workshop on May 13 and 14, 1988, in Nashville, TN. This conference is sponsored by Randall House Publications. For a descriptive brochure and registration form, write to:

Rev. Harrold Harrison, director
Randall House Publications
P. O. Box 17306, 114 Bush Road
Nashville, TN 37217

Or call: (615) 361-1221

Words For Women

Mary R. Wischart



Catch Today

Lay aside the old calendar. Open the first page of the new.

A whole year lies before us, and only God knows what the days hold.

What problems? What pain? What losses and disappointments will 1988 have for us? How can we face the possibilities?

But the new year unfolds as did the old—one day at a time.

The philosopher, Pascal, wrote: "Let each one examine his thoughts, and he will find them all occupied with the past and the future. We scarcely ever think of the present; . . . So we never live, but we hope to live; and, as we are always preparing to be happy, it is inevitable we should never be so."

Actually, we have only this day, this moment. We need to live it to the fullest.

Catch today. Fill it with the things you must do, the things you want to do, the things you've been putting off for a convenient tomorrow.

Today is the time for love. Include in the now the spoken "I love you." Slip in those little touches of love you've forgotten or thought you'd get to one day.

Today is the time for gratitude. Write that letter to say thank you. Let someone know how much you appreciate the kindness, the influence, or the steady hand.

Today is the time for action. Visit the nursing home or Aunt Susie. Reach out to the neighbor down the street. Write that article. Begin that Bible study. Learn something new.

What is it you really want to do when it's convenient, when there's time? Today is the day.

Today is the time for happiness. Savor this moment. The quiet of twilight, the laugh of your child, the touch of a hand. Be happy in the now.

Seize this moment and make it count for eternity.



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