

GO LABORER

March-April, 1988

But Now is Christ Risen

WNAC's Pre-Easter Week of Prayer Emphasis for Foreign Missions

More Than An Easter Bonnet

A skit for the Little People

'Til Divorce Did Us Part

A first person Crosswinds feature

Women on the Streets

A missionary shares her method in creative evangelism.

It's A Small World After All

Bringing the International



Co-Laborer

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

March-April, 1988

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Our Contributors



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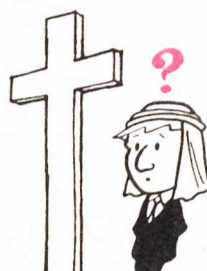
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Editorial

Auxiliary women are women of prayer, and many are scarred, yet triumphant, as they've battled the forces of darkness and prevailed.

It's been a long time since I've read a novel and longer yet since I've begun a book that held me enthralled to the last page. I work with words all day and it's more relaxing to pick up a piece of needlework than a book. But THIS PRESENT DARKNESS replaced crosstitch for several evenings.

This book portrays in frightening sequence how the New Age Movement schemes to take over a small college town. Not since SCREWTAPE LETTERS have demons been so graphically personalized and the power of prayer so dynamically illustrated.

Ordinarily I've deliberately avoided books on Satan or demonology. That they were real, I had not the slightest doubt. But I chose to do business directly with the Lord Jesus and let Him be my go-between. Satan did not even merit the courtesy of my attention.

But of late, I've sensed the urgency of engaging in spiritual warfare. This involves tangling with Satan and his demons on his own battleground. This old prince of the power of the air is out to thwart the efforts of our missionaries, destroy homes and families and take over our country. I needed all the help I could get.

"How's their prayer cover?" was a subject of vital importance to the demons on assignment in this book. I found myself examining my own prayer life. How strong am I covering my missionaries? I cringed to realize their defeat or victory hinged on my faithfully waging the warfare here at home.

Ladies, we are wrestling "against the powers, against the rulers of this world, against spiritual darkness in high places." But His promise "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" is ours to claim. Thank God! We are on the winning side!

[Them also I Must Bring. . .

Internationals

Dottie Wright

August 26 was an exciting day for our family. The four of us arrived at the Fresno airport laden with balloons and a banner which announced:

Hi, Lotta! Welcome to Fresno! We had come to welcome Ann-Charlotte (Lotta) from Stockholm, Sweden. She would be our foreign exchange student for the next ten months.

When my husband first asked me to consider this possibility, I had many doubts and questions. The usual problems and responsibilities of our own teenage children — Christine, 15, and Christopher, 13 — already seemed enough. But the enthusiasm of my husband, as well as the children, caused me to carefully consider it.

As we talked to the representative from the American Intercultural Student Exchange (AISE) and examined the applications, I realized what a tremendous ministry this could be. It offered an opportunity to influence a young person for Christ by demonstrating God's love through our actions and lifestyle.

Each of us read the applications and unanimously chose Lotta. We began exchanging letters immediately. We realized how important it would be for us to know as much about each other as possible. As time grew closer for her arrival, we were certain she was exactly the right student for our family.

Although the initial excitement has worn off, we still experience a

feeling of satisfaction and gratitude to God for bringing us together. She has warmly responded as we've tried to demonstrate God's love through our love for each other and our love for her.

Having an exchange student gives all family members a "reason" to get along better. We've tried to merge Lotta into our family. Christine has introduced her to friends at school and church. Lotta quickly learned Chris can be a real pest at times, but she knows he loves both of his sisters. Dad and Mom introduce her as "our new daughter." Even grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins have tried to make Lotta feel welcome.

Lotta is a conscientious student who strives to make good grades. After a few weeks her rigorous high school schedule became a normal part of her routine. The shyness she displays at times makes her an intriguing and interesting conversationalist. The adjustments have been many and difficult at times, but our openness and honesty have contributed to

producing a happy and content exchange student.

From the beginning, Lotta has been willing to cope with change. Many things are different in the United States, she says — language, weather, food, school, church, and, of course, our lifestyle. She has taught us that adaptability is the key to a successful experience as a foreign exchange student. We have learned that doing things in another way is not bad or necessarily wrong, just different.

Our family has tried to learn as much as we can about Sweden. Even with basic cultural differences, Lotta observes that "all teenagers are alike." She does not share our religious background; few attend church in Sweden. But she knew, through correspondence, that church attendance is a vital part of our lives and she is willing to participate in these activities. We frequently discuss our basic beliefs and customs. We try to explain those she does not understand and openly discuss those about which we seem to disagree.

It's A Small World After All

Have you considered opening your home to a foreign exchange student? It could be the next best thing to going to a mission field.



The Gary Wright family with Lotta.

We have no regrets in choosing to be "Host Family" to a foreign exchange student. We will always consider Lotta a part of our family and hope some day to visit her in her country. These months together have been a growing experience and will remain with us forever. And as Lotta opens her scrapbook of memories and pictures, we hope she will treasure her year as an exchange student.

As we have observed two totally different cultures intertwined within one individual, we stand amazed and acknowledge, "It is a small world, after all."

But Now Is Christ Risen

Characters:

Narrator

Choral Group (optional)

Social Worker, USA

Club Member, USA

* African Woman, wearing loose, long dress and carrying basket with heavy load on head

European woman, dressed in latest fashion

Indian woman, wearing sari

Japanese woman, wearing kimono or western dress

South American woman, peasant blouse and flounced skirt

Witnesses:

Mary Magdalene

Salome

Thomas

Disciples on the way to Emmaus

Paul

(Begin by singing the first stanza only, not the chorus, of "Christ Arose.")

NARRATOR: Stop! *(Turns to audience)* Suppose we had to end the song at that point. Suppose Christ did not leave the tomb. Suppose we were left to face life without knowing that he lives!

(Have NARRATOR or CHORAL GROUP recite 1 Corinthians 15:14-19.)

NARRATOR: In the darkness without the knowledge of Christ's resurrection, we have no Christians and no churches. Instead people have formed clubs and employed social workers to help people in need. Here come two of them now.

CLUB MEMBER: You call yourself a social worker!

SOCIAL WORKER: I do the best I can. I try to help people. That's my job. If your club wants to help me, fine. Help, but you have to do what I say.

CM: Don't tell me what to do. I'm just saying that my club demands proper recognition. If we are not recognized, we will

not contribute.

SW: Recognition! Recognition! Who needs it? What difference does it make?

CM: I warn you, my club will not help without it.

SW: Look, here comes someone in need of help now.

(Place SOCIAL WORKER and CLUB MEMBER on stage left.)

(AFRICAN WOMAN enters, heavily burdened.)

AFRICAN: I carry heavy loads on my head. My neck and shoulders bear such loads. But the load here in my heart, I have not the strength to bear alone. Yet there is no one to help me, no one to ease the load.

(AFRICAN approaches SOCIAL WORKER and CLUB MEMBER.)

AFRICAN: Can you help me?

SW: We'll send you food.

CW: And clothing.

SW: And medical supplies.

AFRICAN: But I need help here. *(touches heart)* I've tried praying to my gods; I've tried sacrifices, but the load does not go away. Who can forgive my sins? Can I never be clean?

SW: There was one who said he could forgive sins once. But he died.

CM: Forget about forgiveness. Eat, drink and be merry.

(AFRICAN groaning, muttering "No help," takes seat on front row.)

(JAPANESE WOMAN enters.)

JAPANESE WOMAN: My people are intelligent and progressive. We're great in science and technology. Wouldn't you agree? But sometimes I think we're missing something. What will happen to me when I die? Will I go into nothingness? Can you help me?

(She approaches SW and CM.)

CM: We will buy your products.

SW: We will boost your economy.

CM: We will admire your art.

SW: We will profit from your scientific advances.

JW: But what about this thirst for life in me?

SW: The one who said, "I am the life" lies sealed in a tomb. Maybe your family will remember you.

(JW goes to sit beside AW.)

(EUROPEAN WOMAN enters.)

EW: My continent has tried the philosophy of Jesus, but it did not work for us. We have cast it aside for the philosophies of men. But somehow they do not satisfy me. I have a deep longing for something more. Tell me, do you have anything else to offer?

SW: We respect your religious history.

CM: We marvel at your philosophers and artists.

SW: We desire to acquire your learning.

CM: You can teach us.

EW: But life is so empty. Is there something more?

SW: The one who said "I have come to give abundant life" is dead. He cannot fulfill his promise.

(EW goes to sit with AW and JW.)

(SOUTH AMERICAN WOMAN enters.)

SAW: My son, my beautiful son. He died in my arms. I could do nothing. I will never see his face again, never hear his sweet voice. Oh, my son, my son. Is there no healing, no comfort for me?

SW: We sympathize with you.

CM: Your grieving is part of all human suffering.

SAW: If only I had some assurance of his rest, some hope that he is alive and well somewhere.

SW: Do not speak like a foolish woman. Like the beasts men die and rest in their graves. That is all. Death has conquered.

(SAW joins others.)

(INDIAN WOMAN enters.)

IW: It is dark here and so lonely. My children have not been fed for days. How they cry. My husband is too sick to work. I cannot find help for him. We have been driven from our land to beg on these crowded city streets. Who can I turn to? What shall I do? Is there no light? No friend? No hope?

CM: You are only one of many who suffer.

SW: What can we do among so many?

CM: We're sorry, but you are far away, and we really have nothing to offer you.

Pre-Easter Week of Prayer Program for Foreign Missions

by Mary Ruth Wischart

IW: Then there is no hope? I must die in despair?

SW: The one who was thought to be the hope of the world lies bound by death. I have nothing to offer you.

NARRATOR: How dark and hopeless without the risen Christ. Despair lies heavy over a sinful, sorrowing world. But wait!

(Third stanza of "Christ Arose.")

(NARRATOR OR CHORUS recite I Corinthians 15:20-26.)

NARRATOR: Christ did rise from the dead. He is alive, and we have witnesses to his resurrection. I call the first witness, Salome, mother of James and John.

(SALOME enters.)

SALOME: I can testify to the empty tomb. We came, Magdala, Joanna, Mary and I, at dawn to anoint his dear body. We knew we could not move the stone they used to seal his tomb. Still like women, we went on, thinking somehow we'd get it done. Imagine our astonishment when we saw the stone to one side. The tomb was open for us. Inside was a terrifyingly brilliant young man. He said, "You're looking for Jesus, I suppose." We could barely answer yes. "The one who was crucified?" he went on. He left no doubt, it was our Jesus he was talking about. "He is not here," he said, his arm sweeping toward the empty tomb. "He is risen!" Then he told us we would see Jesus soon. You can imagine. We ran. We could scarcely talk to anyone. We were trembling with the wonder of it.

(As the WITNESSES continue, one by one, the women from different countries begin to come forward to hear them, until they all stand on the floor near the stage, looking up at the WITNESSES. SW and CM join them also.)

NARRATOR: Next witness, Mary Magdalene. Jesus saved her from the torture of demons. An emotional, but effective witness.

(MARY enters.)

MARY: He came to me, to me in the garden. The angel had spoken, but you know how hard it is to believe. I wanted so much to do the last things for him. When we couldn't find his body, I had to weep. Then he called my name. No one ever said my name as He did. He is alive. I tell you, I have seen him. He called my name.

(Song, "I've Just Seen Jesus" or "In the Garden.")

NARRATOR: This next witness was a doubter at first. He demanded proof of the resurrection. He is an excellent witness.

THOMAS: My name is usually coupled with doubting. Thomas, you know me. In fact, perhaps there's a little of me in you also. Who can believe the impossible? I saw Jesus die. And then Mary and the others insisted he was alive again. I just needed to see him for myself. Suddenly, there he was among us. I could see the nail prints and the sword thrust in his side. Humanly impossible, yes. I could only acknowledge him as my Lord and my God. He spoke a blessing for you that night. "Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed."

NARRATOR: Two disciples of Jesus saw him on the road to Emmaus. They were not expecting him at all. Still, they both recognized him at the same time that evening.

(TWO DISCIPLES enter.)

FIRST: Could anyone feel more depressed than we did that evening as we walked toward Emmaus?

SECOND: We felt it was the end of hope, the end of faith for us.

FIRST: Why didn't we think it was strange when he appeared so suddenly with us?

SECOND: Too wrapped in our own sorrow, I suppose.

FIRST: Had you ever heard anyone explain the scriptures as he did?

SECOND: Never anyone except—
FIRST: How blind we were!

SECOND: *(turning to the people)*
Listen, he came to open our eyes, to show us that he is alive.

FIRST: When we heard him bless the bread and saw him break it, we knew.

SECOND: How many times we had seen him do it.

FIRST: We knew his voice, his hands.

SECOND: He came to restore our hope.

(Song, "Because He Lives")

NARRATOR: Our last witness is an apostle born, as he says, out of due time. The Apostle Paul is a worthy witness, for he did meet the resurrected Christ and dedicated his life to him.

(PAUL enters.)

PAUL: Even though I was not with the eleven, I met the risen Christ. I was a man bitter and angry inside. Then one day I met Jesus. Since that day, I have walked with the living Christ. I know he is alive. He died and rose again to forgive our sins. He lives to offer hope in despair, light in darkness, abundant life to all who believe. He triumphed over sin, hell, and death. Death is swallowed up in victory.

(CHORUS joins PAUL.)

PAUL AND CHORUS: O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Song, "He Lives")

NARRATOR: How about you? Have you met the risen Christ? Do you know forgiveness of sin and hope for this life and that to come? And what about those who know the risen Christ and have the message of life and hope? Are we doing our best to get that word to people here in our country and around the world?



Easter is ...

More Than An Easter Bonnet

LEADER:

Easter has a different meaning for different people. To some, it is a time for family get-togethers; to others, a picnic; an egg hunt; and to still others, a time to show off new clothing. Easter is most often characterized by the Easter bunny and coloring and hiding Easter eggs.

Let's see how the Little People feel about Easter. They are warm-hearted, church-going folk who probably have a good idea of what Easter is all about.

The Easter Bonnet

This skit features the Little People. They are four adults lying on their backs on an elevated surface, as a mattress, with the head hanging over the edge. They are covered except for the face and chin which are easily seen. Eyes and nose are drawn (painted) on the chin and a hat placed atop the chin. Dresses (costumes) cover the face above the mouth so that only the real mouth and the painted chin are seen. Participants should constantly move their lips, purse them, grimace, etc. for better effect.

SIS: I'm so excited I can hardly sit still. I can hardly wait for Easter to get here!

GRANNY: Speak up, girl, don't mumble. Who's coming?

AUNT EM: No one's coming, Granny. Sis was talking about Easter.

GRANNY: Esther who? I don't know any Esthers.

EM: Easter, Granny! You know, Easter—bunny rabbits, colored eggs, egg hunts and all that.

SYBIL: And don't forget the new clothes.

SIS: Especially the fancy Easter bonnets.

GRANNY: I'll have you know, young lady, Granny does not need a tonic.

EM: (shouting) Not tonic, Granny—Easter bonnets!

GRANNY: You don't have to shout! I know it's Easter. That's why I'm wearing my bonnet this morning.

SYBIL: Em, don't let her wear that moth-eaten thing.

GRANNY: Seems like only yesterday my Hiram bought it for me.

SIS: More like last century, I'd think. Probably brought over on the ark.

SYBIL: (in surprise) Noah's?

SIS: No, the Mayflower, silly.

GRANNY: Yes, my bonnet still looks pretty after all these years. Look at the flowers and feather—like new! Em, where does my bonnet look best?

SYBIL: How about the trash bin?

SIS: On Uncle Ed's scarecrow?

EM: (to the girls in a whisper) Hush, girls! (louder to Granny) Just like that is fine, Granny. You look wonderful!

(Granny moves her head, preens)

SYBIL: It's a disgrace to let Granny wear that atrocious hat. The feather is practically stripped and the material is falling apart. We'll be the laughing stock of the whole church.

SIS: That's right. At Easter, everyone should wear a NEW bonnet. After all, that's what Easter means—everything new.

EM: But that bonnet is important to Granny. Grandpa Hiram bought it for her and she has

worn it every Easter for the past 25 years.

GRANNY: I know you all wish you had one like it, but they don't make them like this anymore.

EM: We know, Granny.

SYBIL and SIS: Thank Goodness!

GRANNY: The first Easter Sunday I wore this bonnet, Pastor Smith was nearly in tears 'cause it was so pretty.

SYBIL: She poked him in the eye with her feather!

GRANNY: And Pastor Turner was so choked up with its beauty he could hardly preach.

SIS: Ha! He was probably laughing so hard he couldn't catch his breath.

EM: Girls!

GRANNY: And Pastor Franklin was so overcome he had to leave the room so as not to embarrass me.

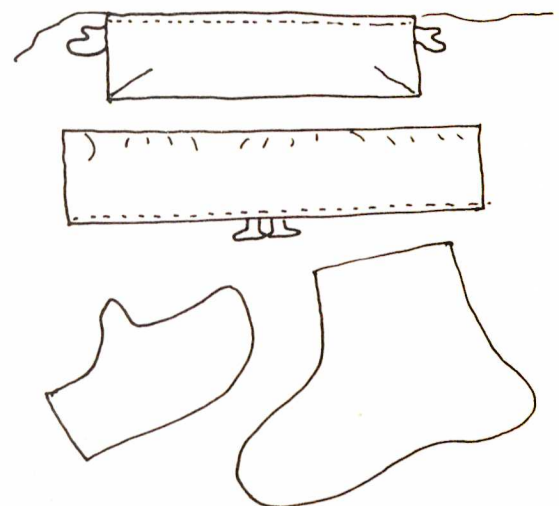
SYBIL: Overcome is right! You could hear him on the back steps, laughing his head off!

SIS: (loudly) Granny, everyone else will be wearing a new bonnet. Granny, why don't you get one, too?

GRANNY: Not on your life! This bonnet has gone through five pastors—or is it six? And it's still the finest one in town. You

Costumes for the Little People

1. Cut a strip of cloth 10"x4" on the bias. Hem the top edge.
2. Make the skirt from a strip 15"x4". Hem. Gather or pleat.
3. Sew together.
4. Personalize the dresses with collar and buttons, different fabrics, attach a bolero, etc.
5. Cut hands and feet from felt. Attach to costume.
6. Sew on strings for attaching to the head.
7. Make hats. Use your imagination. Attach hair (colored yarn) as needed. Hats will sit atop the chin but will need to fasten around the ears to keep them in place.



Aim: To focus on the real meaning of Easter.

Scripture: Mark 16:1-6

Hymn: "He Lives"

by Joan Warren

girls can wear those silly modern hats that a puff of wind will carry to the next county if you want. Mine will stay put!

SYBIL: So will a helmet!

EM: Oh well, an Easter bonnet is an Easter bonnet. The important thing is that we wear one. Seems it would be a bit sacrilegious to go to church on Easter Sunday without a bonnet.

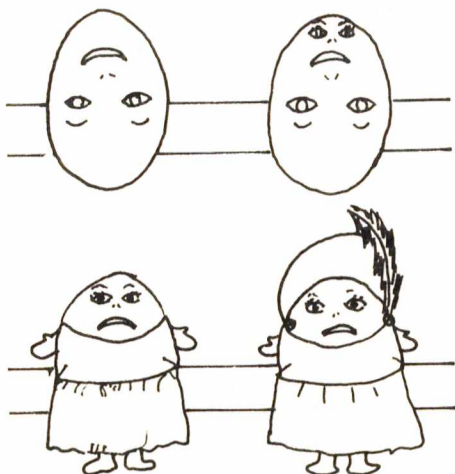
GRANNY: I see you all are struck dumb by my hat, too. You've hardly said a word all morning. Well, it's time to get ready for church. I'm sure pastor Wilson will appreciate my Easter bonnet. We always want to be decked out in our finest for Easter, you know.

SYBIL, SIS and EM: We know, Granny, we know!

The End

LEADER:

Well, it seems the Little People feel that Easter is synonymous with an Easter bonnet. I can't help but wonder how the disciples must have felt during that very first Easter.



Preparation: Prepare 7 flash cards with a first word of each stanza on each—DEFEATED, HELPLESS, HOPELESS, SORROWFUL, BURIED, DESOLATE, AND VICTORY. Display these cards on an easel as the poem is read.

The Disciples At Easter

Defeated.

Sadness filled their heart—
These men, who though not brave,
Had really meant to do their part.
But how could they now atone?
For they left their Master, self to save,
To face the wrath of judgment all alone
In Pilate's Hall.

Helpless.

They heard afar the sound—
Men with mocking, jeering cries,
Forgot they once had gathered 'round
To shout "Hosanna" to His name,
They fill the air with "Crucify!"
As quietly Christ endures the shame
Of Pilate's Hall.

Hopeless.

Far behind the crowd
These men, who still not brave,
Watched the struggling One who bowed
Beneath the weight of a rough tree;
As the loud, ungainly mock parade
Marched up the lonely hill of Calvary—
Golgotha's Hill.

Sorrowful.

They watched Him as He died—
Witnessed the agony and shame
As on the cross their Lord was crucified.
"It is finished!" was His final cry.
Other men came forth to claim
The body of the One who had to die
On Calvary's Hill.

Buried.

The body of their friend
Laid lovingly to rest in a new tomb,
Along with all the hopes and dreams of men
Who had a different end in mind
Than this, for Him who from His mother's womb
Was meant to die for all mankind
On Calvary's tree.

Desolate.

They watched the women mourn,
And knew they went to anoint their Lord
The first day of the week at early morn.
But as they to the tomb drew near
An angel came, and with convincing words,
Said, "He is risen, your Savior is not here
In Joseph's tomb."

Victory!

Hope burst forth anew!
With freshened courage they sped
To see if what the angel said was true.
The place was vacant where He lay,
And they, whose hearts had filled with dread
Now knew this was indeed a glorious day,
For He arose!

LEADER:

Hopefully, for the Christian, that empty tomb overshadows the world's celebration of Easter. The bunnies, colored eggs, new clothing and Easter bonnets become insignificant indeed when compared to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Easter is that time of year when we rejoice with gladdened hearts and celebrate anew the victory over death that heralds our own hope of life in Him!

Will You Wash My Dishes?

by Ruth Bivens



This is what service is all about—going where no one sees, doing something that is needed, then quietly going away.

Introduction

A story is told of a man who declared his love for his wife. He recited romantic poetry to her. He vowed how he would climb high mountains to be near her, swim wide oceans, cross burning deserts, and even sit at her window singing love songs to her in the moonlight.

After some time, she interrupted with, "But will you wash the dishes for me?"

Peter claimed he loved the Lord, and right away Christ gave him a job. The job didn't take him to downtown Jerusalem preaching sermons in the town square. Rather Peter was commissioned to the backside of the mountain feeding sheep. A very low profile position.

Christian service is a lot like washing dishes. Most of us would rather be sitting at the banquet table with the invited guests, taking compliments on our apple pie. What is needed are women who will stay in the kitchen with their hands in greasy water and clean up the pots and pans. This is what service is all about—going where no one sees, doing something that is really needed, then quietly going away.

If the Lord spoke to us today as he spoke to Peter, He'd likely say,

"Do you love me? Wash my dishes."

Women Who Served

The women in the Bible served in various ways.

Sarah was not invited out to meet the three strangers who appeared before Abraham on the plains of Mamre. Alone in the tent, she prepared the meal just as Abraham had asked her to do.

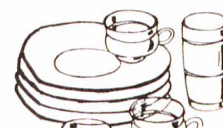
Ruth was a widow. Along with the other poor, she gleaned in the fields in order to feed herself and her mother-in-law. Rachel kept her father's sheep.

In the New Testament, Martha is described as a conscientious housewife and hostess. Other women from Galilee traveled with our Lord and supported Him financially. Only a few are named, but they made it possible for Jesus to continue His ministry.

What can I do, you ask? Many women tend to sit back with an air of resignation, "There is nothing I can do. I don't have any talents." While everyone cannot teach a class, everyone can do something. Women who sincerely want to serve the Lord can find a place.

Today the Lord is saying, "Do you love me? Wash my dishes." How can we wash dishes for our Lord? Start by looking around you, then just roll up your sleeves and get into the dish pan.

Will You Wash My



Every Day Dishes

Most of dishwashing is plain boring, every day stuff repeated over and over. Teaching a class or singing in the choir, keeping the nursery or sweeping out the church are tiring jobs.

Have you heard someone say, "I'm so tired of teaching that class. Besides they don't even listen. It's my turn to sit in a class for a change. Some younger person needs to take over this job."

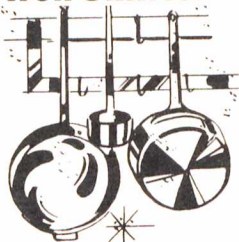
No one applauds, no checks are issued. Yet this job needs to be done over and over again. If the every day dishes don't get washed, the quality of life around the house drops in a hurry.

A primary teacher would develop a million dollars worth of skill in five years and be far more effective than a newcomer. What a waste to quit and go sit in an adult class and trust those precious children to some untrained person. Draft a young helper and train her, but don't stop washing those dishes.

Do you love Me? Wash my every day dishes.

Will You Wash My

Iron Skillets



Some dish washing jobs are just plain hard work. The Lord saves these hard jobs for the brave. Jobs like church visitation are hard. You go knocking on doors with a name and address from a visitor's card. Maybe you are taking a survey, checking out a neighborhood for new people, new prospects. Some will be courteous, some will even invite you in. Some will be rude, and some will order you from the premises. It is most difficult, but it is most important. People are lost. Someone needs to find them. Do you love them? Jesus does.

Another hard job is caring for an invalid at home. It is often a tiring, confining, thankless task—just plain 24-hours-a-day hard work. There's the daily bath, the bed to change, meals to prepare, and sometimes meals to spoon-feed. You have to turn the patient and clean up when he soils the bed. It drains a person's energy. Yet what special service, reserved only for the brave.

Maybe you don't have that particular job to do, but you know someone who does. Consider how you could help them for an hour or two each week to lighten their load. When Jesus speaks, He says, "Do you love me? Wash my old greasy skillet."

Will You Wash My



Program for April

Aim: To show that genuine love for Christ is demonstrated in our service.

Scripture: 1 Chron. 29:5b

Special Music: "The Longer I Serve Him"

Some items in the dishpan could cut you. Some jobs that the Lord calls you to do could expose you to hurt. You may feel led to reach out and befriend a needy person. Some may reject your friendship, or they may take advantage of your kindness and drain you dry. They may suspect that you have some ulterior motive.

Each time you extend your hand to help, you are in danger of being hurt. However, it is Jesus who is asking. Do you remember when Jesus held out His hand? Men drove a nail through it.

Do you love Me? Wash my knives?

Will You Wash My



Some of our Lord's dishes are fragile and require special care. These are jobs that may be difficult and require all one's skill and imagination. Taking care of small children is one of these jobs. It is a tiring, expensive, confining, 24 hour job that cuts you off from your circle of friends. Baby rarely expresses his thanks and no one notices what you have done unless you don't do it. It's an awesome responsibility.

Dr. James Dobson, on his radio broadcast, stated that a loving relationship with a caring woman during the first 18 months of life triggers a child's learning response. This personal contact affects a child's intelligence for the

Program Helps

The speaker stands behind a table on which is placed a plastic dish pan filled with the various pieces called for. She picks up each item as she talks about it, wipes it with a dish cloth or pot scrubber, then turns it up on a dish rack as if to dry.

rest of his life and the learning opportunity cannot be reclaimed once that age is past. Raising a child is a ministry and service to God. It should be considered no less of a career than banking or nuclear medicine.

Do you love me? Wash my crystal.

Will You Wash My



Other dishwashing jobs demand our attention. You can send a card to someone ill, or an absentee. Bake a pie for a busy mother. Cut a handful of flowers for a shut-in. Telephone that lonely widow. Take in a tired missionary on deputation and feed him a bowl of soup and hunk of corn bread. Give him a quiet place to sleep and do his laundry while he snoozes.

Go back and discover what happened to the women of the Bible whom we earlier considered. They were women who served quietly, out of sight, sometimes in isolation. In the end, they were richly rewarded by being named and recognized on the pages of God's Word.

There are dirty dishes piled up all over the Lord's kingdom. Just look around, roll up your sleeves, get your hands in the sink and wash His dishes. You'll see. ♦

Pray

Concentrate on prayers for Foreign Missions this month. Pray as never before for Free Will Baptist outreach to those who need to hear the gospel.

Pray especially for Free Will Baptist young people. We'll soon need replacements on all our fields. Then we want to reach to others as well. We can't maintain our work or extend it without laborers. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send laborers into the harvest."

Share

The Laura Belle Barnard pre-Easter offering gives your entire congregation a chance to share in reaching the world for Christ. Encourage that extra effort this year. Stretch a little and give more to the extension of the gospel in our time.

Last year WNAC received \$6,886.99 for the Laura Belle Barnard Offering. Surely we can double that amount this Easter.

The world holds so much spiritual darkness, so many are without hope. Let's help dispel that darkness with the glorious light of the gospel. Let's give them hope with the message of the risen Christ.

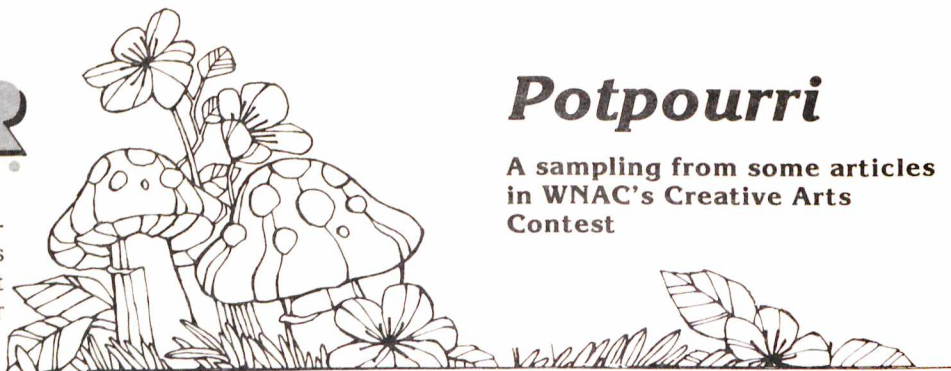
Provision Closet Needs

Colored Tupperware canister sets
Queensize sheet sets
Matching ribcord twinsize
bedspreads
Terrycloth dishtowels
Sets of matching twinsize sheets

Executive Committee Meets

The newly elected executive committee met in December with Mrs. Lorene Miley, editor, and Mary R. Wisehart, executive secretary-treasurer. The group completed plans for the 1988 convention in Kansas City, MO and the national retreat at Ridgecrest, September 8-10, 1988.

They also approved a budget for presentation to the convention in Kansas City and made some proposals about the National Student Fund.



Potpourri

A sampling from some articles in WNAC's Creative Arts Contest

Footfalls

A hospital. A place to repair, a place to heal; a place to live, a place to die. Once I sat and listened to the sounds of feet.

Listen. There is the quick pitter-patter of those in the prime of life, eager to get on with it. Then the steady, yet slower gait of those who have matured and recognize the worth of each step and how to make them count, never retreating. Finally, the shuffle of those who have gone beyond the rush-rush of determined years into the unstable and untried years, as if regressed back to the first steps of childhood. Or is it their last?

Oh, if every heart could know that not one single step has to be taken without Christ having already stepped there first to firm the ground and show the way.

Marilyn Craft
Conroe, Texas

from the leaves. But there under the leaves grew the most beautiful red apples. How could this be possible, I wondered.

Even though the apples were surrounded by thousands of insects they were connected to the vine. How like these apples is the Christian. Though surrounded by trials, temptations and sickness, we can produce fruit as we stay connected to the Vine. The sap that runs through the Vine into us enables us to overcome whatever obstacle is sent our way.

Lottie Campbell
Pocahontas, Arkansas

The Greatest of These

Let me love "in spite of"
All the faults and imperfections;
If I love "because of"
Too soon love wilts and fades.

Immature love is the result of "because of." We tend to identify with those who are an extension of ourselves. As love matures it deepens into "in spite of." This love continues to love even through disagreements, differing viewpoints, and obvious imperfections.

"Because of" love is easier, but only temporary since it is based on circumstances. "In spite of" love takes a conscious effort, but is eternal.

The Parable of the Apple Tree

We walked in our back yard and paused before the two apple trees we had set out five years before. Each year we watched for signs of fruit, but nothing appeared until now.

In surprise, I noted some of the leaves had turned color. My husband turned over the leaves to find thousands of tiny insects on the underneath side sapping life

Immature love soon dies and fades. "Because of" reasons are self-centered with shallow roots. Perfect love grows from roots embedded in "in spite of." Cultivated with interest, it withstands the storms of life.

Our Savior loves us "in spite of." I thank Him for His perfect love.

Dinese Dill
Pryor, Oklahoma

Cleaning House

I spent the entire day cleaning house. Finally I sat down to rest and see what I had left undone.

As I sat there, it seemed my spiritual house had gotten in total disarray. Faith lay buried under a mountain of dust. Where was Patience? Joy was nowhere to be found. I had not seen Peace in a long time. A cleaning was in order for sure, but where do I start?

I reached out to the Master for help. Then I dusted off Faith and soon had it shining. Oh my, just look at all those cobwebs! I swept away one of envy, pride, and another of resentment. What is that one? Oh my, gossip! I cleaned that one away quick.

Away off in the corner there, what on earth can that be? It looks like ... oh no, surely not! A tiny shred of hatred had grown into something black and hideous.

At last it was done. Joy and Peace flooded my heart. Grace and Patience sat on either shoulder. Restored Faith watered a budding Love that had begun to blossom.

I sat in my clean house and basked in my spiritual house, now cleansed through the power of prayer.

Maxine McCullar
Spiro, Oklahoma

Identification

She poised as a queen on the wooden, backless bench waiting her turn at the Doropo clinic. Short in stature and clothed in rags, this Lobi woman flashed a radiant smile as I entered. The wooden disks inserted above her upper and lower lips moved as she asked, with more than a hint of pride, "Do you know who I am?"

How could I know her? She looked no different from the other suffering women in Lobi Land. She had little, if any, formal education. Her material possessions consisted of the rags she wore, and perhaps a couple of cooking pots back at her mud hut. Her body bore the ravages of hard work, child bearing and perpetual ill health.

"Do you know who I am?" she repeated with a toothless grin.

"No, I'm sorry, Madame, I do not know you," I answered. Although there was something different about her. Perhaps the twinkle in her eye.

"Why I'm one of God's children from Panzarani!"

Indeed! What more does one need to know!

In this specialized age, many search for self-identity. Yet this wrinkled, poverty-stricken, ignorant lady from Panzarani had her priorities straight. What matter who she was or what she owned. Her sins were forgiven and she was on her way to heaven. In spite of hard circumstances, she possessed God's joy and peace simply because she belonged to His family.

Degrees are impressive, bank accounts give status; however, the only place of eternal value for your name is in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Who are you? Are you one of God's children?

Carol Pinkerton
Ivory Coast, West Africa

Over My Coffee Cup



By Eunice Edwards

God does not measure the value of our service by years, but by spirit. This truth is made abundantly clear in the parable of the laborers (Matt. 20:1-16). The worth of any member's service to the church is determined by his motive and spirituality.

Grumblers and whiners are of little value to Christ or the church. Their service is marked by the same spirit as those in the parable. If God chose to reward those who came last as handsomely as those who came first, what was that to them? It was His vineyard. He was the Employer. He made the decision. Perhaps His manner of handling the payroll may have been different, but who were they, or us, to question?

The old green-eyed monster is hard at work on all of us. If Satan succeeds in creating discord among the brethren, what could give him more delight?

A critical attitude may not send the grumbler's soul to hell, but it certainly steals his testimony and his worth to God's kingdom service.

Real Christians labor for love. They trust His generosity. They are confident of His integrity. They experience deep joy in serving their Lord. Their service is not a chore to them. It is a privilege accompanied by peace of heart and mind.

The parable of the laborers does not condone the sluggards, nor the habitual late-comers—to the service and/or commitment to Christ. After all, lateness is only a habit. It can be corrected. Submission to His will may not be easy, but it is the most blessed life and may be accomplished.

The reward of loving service is His presence. Who could possibly ask for more? He is the best of all His gifts.

BIBLE STUDY

by Mildred Daniel

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

Studies on 1 Peter 1 and 2 are in the September-October and November-December issues of CO-LABORER. The first part of chapter 3 is found in the last issue. In our last lesson, Peter counsels each partner in marriage to mutually respect, support and give consideration to the other. He also speaks of our practical relationships with other believers. Unity, compassion and peace should prevail.

Introduction (3:13-22)

Sound doctrine may sound dry to believers who have not yet grasped the vital importance of being "rooted, built up and established" (Col. 2:7) in basic Biblical tenets. Satan uses this lack of knowledge to promote his "social gospel" (dwelling on man's basic social needs and environment) and "humanism" (teaching that man is self-sufficient and should gratify self-interests). In the closing verses of chapter 3, Peter sets forth in practical terms, two basic doctrines of the faith:

1. God is Lord of all. Nothing is beyond His control.
2. Jesus Christ, our Savior and example, was victorious over sin and death.

The All-Seeing Eye (3:13, 14)

Verse 13—No matter how many things go wrong, if your faith is firmly anchored to the Rock, Peter asks, "Who is he that will h_____ you (snatch your joy) if (!) ye be f_____ (everyday walk) of that which is g_____?" God knows! He sees! He cares! He remains in control!

Verse 14—Jesus "suffered many things" (Matt. 15:21). Peter echoes Paul's experience and words of warning in 2 Tim. 3:10-12 (please read). "Health and wealth" preachers would have us believe that the Christian life is a veritable bed of roses. When a new or ungrounded believer runs head-on into pain, problems, persecution or penury, discouragement sets in and he is ripe for backsliding. "But, and if (when) ye s_____ (hurt emotionally or otherwise) for r_____ sake" (right living, in word and deed), then, "h_____ are ye." Maintain your inward joy and allow it to radiate outwardly. Don't be "a_____." Don't be "t_____."

Magnet Christianity (3:15-17)

Verse 15—"S_____ the Lord God in your h_____ (consecrated and dedicated to Him) and be r_____ a_____ to give an answer" when asked for a "r_____ of the h_____ that is in you" (and has noticeably oozed out). Just as a magnet is ready always to attract metal it contacts, so should we root ourselves in the Word until its teachings supernaturally flow through our expression, words, actions and attitudes. Is your faith easily shaken? Does your life convince others that you possess something they don't have?

Clearing the Conscience (vv. 16, 17). Peace and joy will not abide with a condemning conscience (v. 16). Peter says that we can have a "good (clear) c_____" provided we are innocent of the "e_____" others accuse us of. Ultimately, your accusers will be "a_____" as they witness your godly life.

Verse 17—When God wills or permits a believer to suffer, it should be for "w_____" (undeserved) rather than for "e_____" (deserved). The world can't refute a godly life.

Victory Through Jesus (3:18-22)

Verse 18—Christ "s_____ for (our) sins," to "bring us to C_____." Are we willing to suffer abuse as we witness for Him? Suffering is not exceptional; it "runs in the family."

Verses 19-21—Biblical scholars differ widely on the interpretation of these verses. Rather than confuse, we leave that which is not clear to others to debate. (Writer's note: For an understandable and concise listing of views on this passage, the book GOOD NEWS FOR BAD TIMES by R. W. DeHaan, pp. 100-105 is recommended.)

Verse 22—What is clear is that Jesus is the victor over sin and Satan and now sits at the r_____ hand of God. Sin imprisons souls. God is long-suffering (loving and caring). Comparatively few will heed His warning. Water baptism cannot wash away the "f_____ of the f_____" (sin). It publicly demonstrates a heart belief in and reliance on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Review Questions

1. How will the fact that God knows and is in control aid a believer experiencing persecution?
2. How can we prepare ourselves in advance for questioning by unsaved persons?
3. Denominations may differ on minor issues. However, there is only "one faith" or means of salvation (Eph. 4:4-6; John 14:6). In addition to the two basic doctrines in the passage under study, name other basic doctrines not to be deviated from.
4. How can believers refute the teachings of a social gospel and humanism?

Watch for chapter 4 of 1 Peter in the next issue.

If you profited from this mini Bible study and wish to have additional studies for personal or group use, the following are now available in more detail: Bible Background, Bible Survey, Romans, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, James and Revelation. All are 3-hole punched with a set of review questions. Send \$1.25 for each set plus 70¢ postage to M.M. Daniel, Route 12, Washington Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37130.

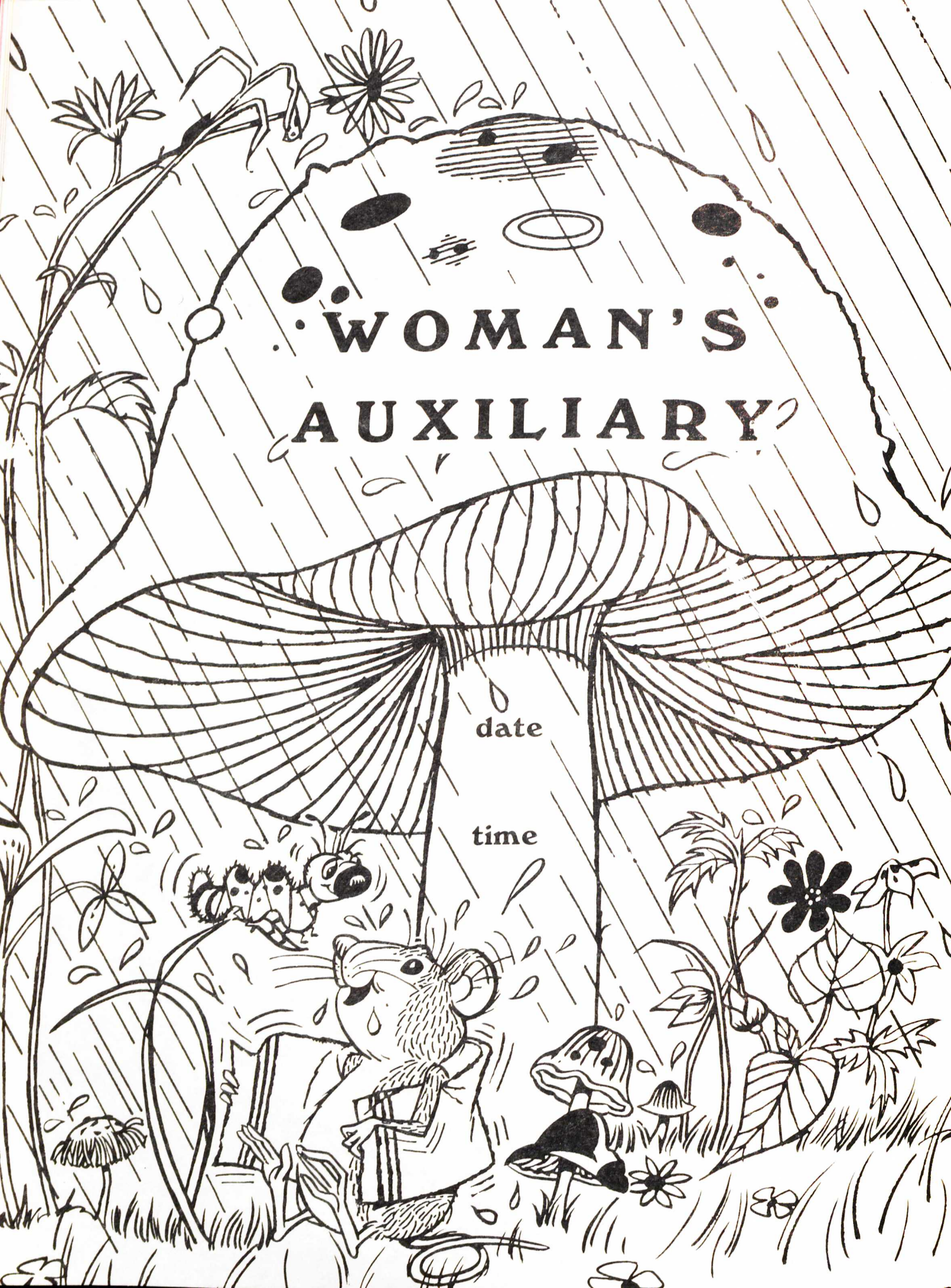
He is Risen

Date:

Time:

Place:

**WOMAN'S
AUXILIARY**



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY?

date

time

HELPS FOR LEADERS

Ideas to Stimulate Your Imagination

March-April, 1988

President/Vice President

Suggested Outline for your March meetings

- "But Now is Christ Risen" is WNAC's Pre-Easter prayer emphasis to be presented preferably on a Sunday night before the entire church. Ask your pastor for permission to present this program either on March 27th or April 3. Receive an offering for Foreign Missions.
- Regular meeting (if you have another meeting in addition to this special one).

Opening Hymn: "He Lives"

Prayer

Program: "More Than An Easter Bonnet" featuring the skit for the Little People (humorous) and the poem (serious).

Abbreviated Business Session

Old and new business/recommendations from the executive committee.

Reports from chairmen:

Mission Study: Study plans for MISSIONS USA.

Mission Action: Missionary Correspondence. If each woman has been assigned to a missionary, encourage her to write regularly, at least quarterly.

In addition, reach out to an International Student, either in your community college or our own Free Will Baptist colleges:

FWBBC:

Benedito Vicente (Brazil)
P. O. Box 50117
Nashville, TN 37205

Hillsdale:

Paola Di Turo (Venezuela)
P. O. Box 7208
Moore, OK 73153

Hong Vu (Vietnam)
(same address as above)

Mission Prayer: Make enough lily prayer booklets for each one present. Encourage the women to use them during the Pre-Easter week of prayer observance.

Announcements: Announce the Pre-Easter program. Distribute empty plastic eggs and ask the women to fill them with money as they spend time each day in prayer. If you combine your regular meeting with the special meeting, distribute these eggs the Sunday before your program. The women will return both eggs and money on the night of your special offering.

Suggestions for your April meeting

Make invitations and distribute the Sunday before your meeting.



Reverse your schedule this month and conduct the business session first. Limit it to 5-10 minutes, not more than 15.

1. Old and new business/recommendations from your executive committee.
2. Reports from chairmen

Mission Study: Display the book *WAYS WOMEN CAN WITNESS*, give a brief highlight and encourage the women to read it.

Mission Action: Joy Banks, daughter of Jerry and Janice Banks, missionaries on furlough from Japan, will be 16 on April 8. Her parents still need many thousands of dollars before they are allowed to return to Japan. This month flood Joy with birthday gifts to help them get back to their adopted land. Send money through regular channels and designate: Banks' account in honor of Joy.

In addition, send a birthday card/cards to Joy, informing her of what you have done. You may want to send a small gift (many teenagers lack proper appreciation for account gifts!) Send to: Route 1, Box 395B, Sapulpa, OK 74066.

Missionary Prayer: Distribute prayer cards to which a bar of soap (or packet of detergent) has been attached. Ask someone to lead in prayer for all the deficit accounts.

Program: "Will You Wash My Dishes"

Arrange the dishwashing paraphernalia on a table. The illustrated message could be given by one woman. Or two women could be doing the dishes, one washing and the other drying, and the program be given in the form of conversation.

Mission Study Chairman



MISSIONS USA by Earl Parvin
Lesson 2

This lesson continues a study began in the last issue of CO-LABORER. **MISSIONS USA**, a 380 page paperback, may be ordered from WNAC. The cost is \$14.95 and please add \$1.25 for postage and handling.

Ethnic Ministries

Objectives: (1) to define ethnic, 2) to recognize the ethnic groups among us, and 3) to help fulfill our obligation to "bring them in."

America is a melting pot composed of 40,000,000 immigrants from 134 backgrounds. These ethnics often maintain their identity, so congregate in their own culture groups, speak only their native language and practice their form of religion. Among these ethnic groups, **MISSIONS USA** develops four: American Indians, Blacks, Hispanics, and the Internationals in our country, or the immigrant citizens among us.

Teaching Techniques

A. Kick off the study with an opinion quiz. Give each person a piece of paper and pencil. Ask her to reply to these questions by marking in a column the numbers 1-3. She does not sign her name. When everyone has finished, collect the papers, shuffle them, and tally the answers.

1. A family from an ethnic group moves next door to you. What would you do?
 - a. Honestly welcome them and tell them so.
 - b. Ignore them.
 - c. Organize the neighborhood to get them to move.
2. Would you be willing to accept one ethnic group more than another?
 - a. Yes, I believe some are more socially acceptable than others.
 - b. I lump them together; they're all different.
 - c. No, in God's sight we are all God's children, regardless of culture, language or skin color.
3. If you have an ethnic group in your community, how do you think the church should react to them?
 - a. Welcome them to all services.
 - b. Allow them to come if they want to, but keep them segregated.
 - c. If they want a church, let them start one of their own.
 - d. If they want a church, offer your facilities until they can get one of their own.

e. Witness to them on a one-on-one basis and ask God to raise up one who is culturally related to them to start their church.

f. Go to the children. Let them win their parents.
B. Enlarge the map on pages 60, 61, or better yet, display a map of your state with the number of Indians printed across it.

C. Use an outline of your state. Print the number of Hispanics in your state.

D. The book lists some 18 different immigrant groups. List these on a sheet of poster board or on the blackboard. Call attention to those that live in your area.

Study/Discussion Questions

1. About half the 1.4 million Indian population live on 100 reserves. The others are scattered over all 50 states.

a. What are we doing to reach the _____ (number) of Indians among us? b. Where are the American Indians located? c. How successful has Indian evangelism been?

2. The 30 million Black Americans are a neglected mission field because at least 40% are unchurched and the spiritual needs of the rest are not being met in their churches.

a. How has history influenced the black man's religion? b. Describe the spiritual condition of the black church. c. What opportunities exist for missionary activity among the blacks?

3. Hispanics are our second largest ethnic minority, but because of their high birth rate, they are fast becoming our first. More than 10% of the world's 266,000,000 Spanish-speaking people live in the US.

a. Pinpoint the largest concentrations of Hispanics. Why are they thus located? b. Describe the social situation of the Hispanics. c. It has been estimated that less than 1% of the Hispanic community is born-again. What methods have been used to evangelize them?

4. We no longer have to go overseas to witness to someone who has never heard. The world is coming to us. What can we do to reach the stranger among us for Christ?

Mission Prayer Chairman

PRAYER REMINDERS FOR MARCH

Using one of the lilies on the back cover of CO-LABORER as a pattern, cut construction paper lilies for prayer booklet covers. Cut 7 sheets of identical lily shapes from typing paper. Write the days of the week on these sheets with a missionary prayer request for each day. Call Missions Hotline for current requests. Staple these pages together. Distribute to all women in the church the Sunday before Easter or at your March regular meeting.

PRAYER REMINDERS FOR APRIL

On one end of a 3x5 card, print the message. On the other end, glue a sample size bar of soap. Or staple a small packet of detergent. On the back side of the card, list the names and amounts of deficit accounts.

**Wash Away
Deficit
Missionary
Accounts**



Pray then Give

What About Those Prayer Reminders?

"How many of you still have your grapes on your refrigerator door?" asked Vivian Pitts at that district prayer retreat in Richton, Mississippi. Several nodded in the affirmative, remembering those purple chenille pipe cleaners which had been twisted into grapes with the name of a prayer partner attached. They had been distributed at an earlier retreat.

Vivian then related an incident that left each one with a greater determination to be sensitive to the needs of that one whose name was attached to her prayer reminder.

"This was last August and my grandmother had just died," continued Vivian. She had always been unusually close to this dear lady who had raised her and loved her as her very own. Her family, many of them unsaved, asked Vivian to sing at the funeral.

"Do you think you can do it?" her unsaved uncle asked cautiously. Tears came easily to his niece's tender spirit and she could so easily botch this whole thing.

"Yes, I can," she answered. "I'll depend on God to help me."

Though doubts and misgiving arose, she promptly

took them to her heavenly Father. On Thursday, the day of the funeral, she awakened in full confidence.

"Do you think you can do it?" they asked again. There was still time to avoid a scene of embarrassment to them all.

"Yes, I can," she repeated. "I'm depending on God to help me."

She had never sung with such freedom. Her spirit meshed with those present and communicated God's love, His comfort and His power. That day she experienced the reality of His strength being made perfect in our weakness.

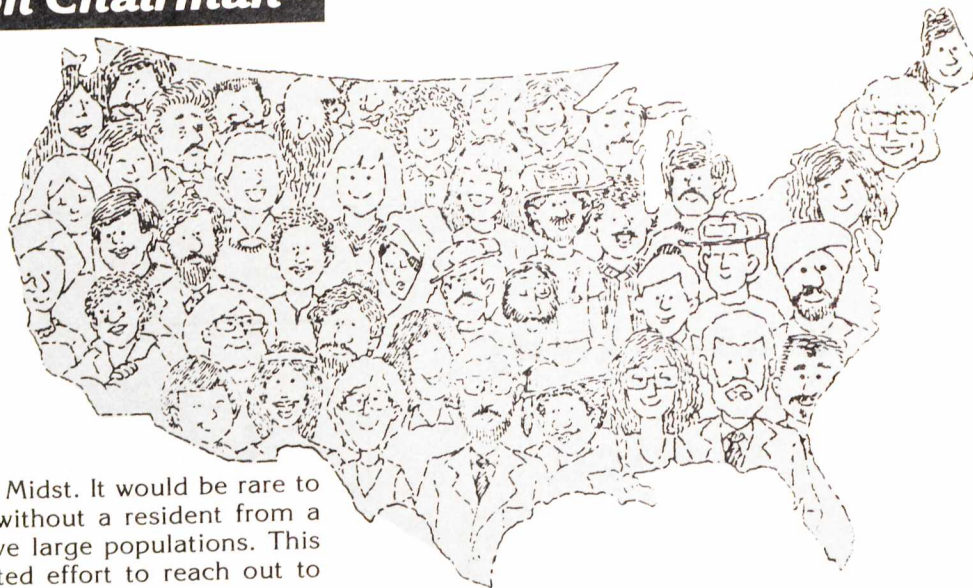
"How could you sing like that?" some asked at the graveside.

"It was God," she answered.

A few days later she received the letter. Her prayer partner from 120 miles away had written on the day of the funeral. "Dear Vivian," the letter began. "This morning during my quiet time, I had this overwhelming urge to pray for you. Perhaps you have a special need today and I want you to know I am praying for you."

Take another look at that name on your prayer reminder. She may have a special need right now. ◇

Mission Action Chairman



The International in our Midst. It would be rare to find a community today without a resident from a foreign country; some have large populations. This month make a concentrated effort to reach out to them.

How to Find Them

1. Registrar of your college
2. Chaplain at the military base
3. Administrative Officer at the hospital or Medical Center

How to Contact Them

1. NAFSA (National Association for Foreign Student Affairs) and COSERV (National Council for Community Services to International Visitors) as well as ISI (International Students) are organizations devoted to providing hospitality and other services to the stranger in our midst. Check your telephone directory to see if such an agency works in your area. Volunteer your cooperation.

2. Pray for guidance and arrange an appointment with them personally.

How To Reach Them

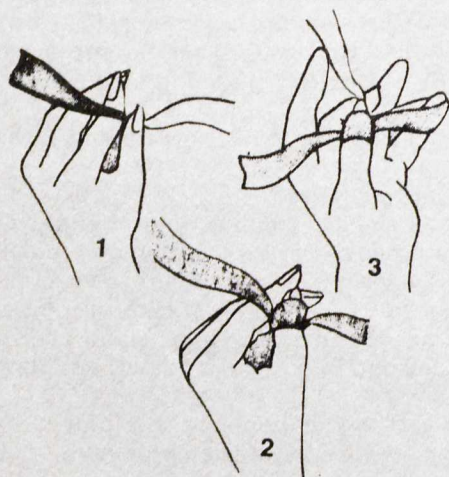
Establish a friendship:

1. Invite them to your home for a meal.
2. Offer to teach them conversational English.
3. Help them shop.
4. Offer to baby-sit for them.
5. Give cooking/sewing/driving lessons.
6. Share in family games.
7. Share picture albums/home movies/slides.
8. Share a mutual hobby.

Group Activities

1. Invite them to a special dinner in their honor.
2. Plan a national dinner and let them prepare food from their countries.
3. Sponsor a picnic in the park.

Add a bow to your Easter Craft Project



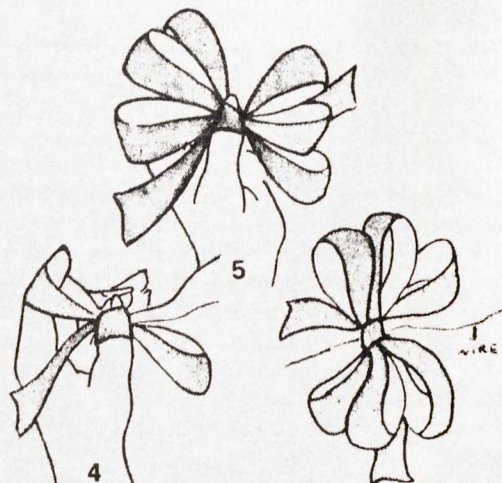
You need 1 yard of $\frac{3}{4}$ -1" ribbon for each bow.

Hold one end between thumb and middle finger, leaving 2" to left of thumb. Start with the right side of ribbon face up. Make a half twist so dull side will be up. Loop the long end around thumb and twist so all right sides will be up.

Every time the ribbon goes between thumb and finger, make a half twist so right side will always be up.

Repeat until there are 3 loops plus a tail on each side of the thumb. Thread a wire through loop in space between thumb and finger.

Twist several times around the bow.



WOMEN IN ACTION



Maxine Sych with some of the 34 members of the Pikeville Auxiliary, Pikeville, KY. Their latest project supported the Missionary Provision Closet.

Library lounge furniture at Hillsdale FWB College, Moore, OK — a project of the Oklahoma State Auxiliary Convention. One year they equipped the science lab. This year they project raising \$2,500 to expand the computer lab.



Rhonda Collins installs the Sandy Valley District (KY) officers: Diann Harmon, Sharon Woods, Carol Justice, Judith Goble, Rhonda Collins, and Betty Dye, president.

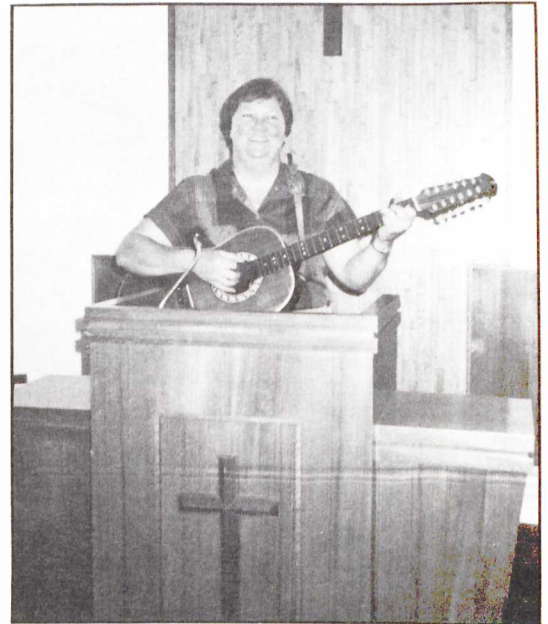


All-Hokkaido Woman's Retreat with 17 women, 3 pastors, and six children from 5 ladies' groups.

Judy Smith leads the singing.



Judy Smith leads the musical group.



Rhoda Creech, short term missionary, makes this observation: "My elementary Japanese only enables me to understand the simplest sentences. Therefore, I did not catch the name of the song that was announced. When the introduction was played, I was sure it was part of 'Sewanee River.'" As it turned out, the hymn was a medley/combination of 'Down At the Cross' and 'Up Calvary's Mountain' — to the tune of 'Sewanee River.'"



Sandra Bishop brings a message.

From here and there —

Martha Everson was re-elected as president of Georgia's state convention. They plan to raise \$5,000 next year for the Bishop account, missionaries to Japan.

Polk Bayou (AR) district retreat highlighted the theme "The Bride of Christ" and featured a "Repetition of Vows" installation service. Cheryl Riley presented a miniature wedding veil to each participating officer.

Ohio retreaters showered Marcia Ellison, Uruguay, with a \$1,500 shower of blessings and cash. According to Marcia, every returning missionary should first be allowed to attend the Ohio retreat. For a minute, she wondered if she had already died and gone to heaven.

Old Mt. Zion fall retreat (AR) closed with Geneva Waterman's poem "Family Cow" read by Dixie Payne.

West Virginia retreaters at Camp Virgil Tate brought a love offering for the McCormicks and the new church in Wheeling.



South Florida district women enjoy a retreat with Dr. Wisheart, front left, guest speaker. A sunrise devotional held beachside highlighted the occasion.

Asking and Receiving

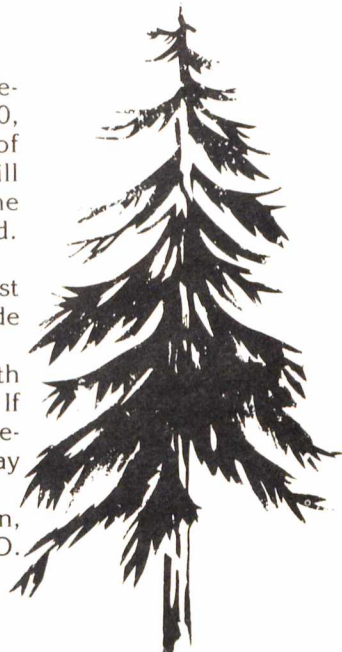
The theme for the National Retreat, Ridgecrest, September 8-10, 1988 underlines the power of prayer. Hundreds of women will join together in praying for one another and the needs of the world.

Get your reservations in early.

If you wish to fly, Ridgecrest works with the airlines to provide special fares.

Plan to stay on the grounds with other Free Will Baptist women. If you cannot stay in the housing, remember that walk-ons must pay the registration fee, \$17.

If you need more information, send your request to WNAC, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.



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.

'Til Divorce Did Us Part

Anonymous

Divorce is many things to many people: rejection, relief, or even rescue from a hell on earth. For me, it was a ripping apart, a casting away, a cutting off from my lifetime mate—the

one with whom I hoped to share my dreams, create a family, and grow old and gray 'til death do us part.

Never in my wildest imaginings did I dream it would be 'til divorce do us part, until that fateful day three years ago. Even as a small child, I believed that marriage lasted a lifetime. No matter how great the problem, the storm was weathered. Love was for always. You lived happily ever after, as the fairy tales told us.

I've asked myself a thousand times, "What did I miss?" How could I not have seen his misery, his pain, his fear? Were all the years only bit parts in a play for the benefit of the spectators only? Had he always been unhappy? What went wrong ... and when?

Problems? Oh sure, we had them, in all shapes, sizes and magnitudes. All married couples do, one kind or another. Perhaps ours were more complicated with our handicapped daughter and the expectant birth of our third child.

Stress takes many forms. Positively, stresses in any situation can wean us from self-centeredness, producing brokenness, gentleness, and a sacrificial love toward each other. Possibly he had not taken time from the mounting pressures of family responsibilities to fully grasp this, and somewhere along the way, self-will took over. That self-will left me with three daughters to raise, and for many months, a broken person inside.

On the surface, divorce may not seem that devastating, incapable of producing such intense pain and agony. It involves a cutting asunder, not only for the partners and the children, but even from the immediate family. The awkwardness that dominates these relationships just doesn't seem to go away.

Next to death, probably nothing is more painful than divorce, and tragically, it isn't realized until it is too late. To have lost my husband in death would have at least left me and

the children with our self-esteem intact. My ego suffered a staggering blow. I felt rejected, cast aside, simply discarded. His actions screamed, "You're worthless! Whatever you possessed when we first met and married, you've lost. You haven't measured up to my expectations and now I've found better things to do with my life than spend it with you and the children. I need something or someone new."

Satan chipped away daily at my self-worth. Although I had the

*Divorce
is not God's
divine plan.*

*I never
chose it;
it was
thrust
upon me.*

children, I was alone. One day I was his wife, happy and in love. The next day, he was gone. I had no one to share my innermost thoughts, to reach for when I felt our child move within me in the wee hours of the morning. I found myself crying constantly, not functioning, only existing. Falling apart before my children's eyes and not being able to control it became a way of life. His words punctuated my every thought, "I'm never coming back," over and over. I felt dead inside, yet how could a corpse feel so much pain?

I was forced into the roles of both father and mother, not really being either. I had to

establish my own identity, yet not knowing how. For 14 years we had been as one, in spite of the stresses. Where was I supposed to even begin? Yet I knew full well there had to be a beginning—a new beginning.

Divorce is not God's divine plan. I never chose it; it was thrust upon me. He wanted out. The choice was no longer mine. It was sink or swim. And if I sank, so did our children.

In a moment of desperation, a passage in God's Word became real to me and has continued to speak to me.

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32).

It has taken much time on my knees in prayer, but God has removed all bitterness and wrath. God understands rejection better than anyone. No one has felt its pain more deeply than He. He has taught me through His Word and through the love of godly Christian supporters to cope with the present, to pray for the man I will always love, to teach our children to love God, their father, others, and themselves. I've learned to live one day at a time. And most importantly, I must know and understand that what Satan has taken away, God will restore according to His riches in glory. He promises to be that absent husband and father.

Can I forget ...
Words without expression
Sentences without truth
Time standing still
Days without end
Nights without love
A husband's infidelity
A name without a face
The other woman.

Can I forget ...
Possibly not
But if I do not forgive,
Forgiveness
Will never be mine. ♦

THE MINISTER'S WIFE

Compiled by Cleo Pursell



by Wanda Powell

Life in the Fishbowl



“What’s it like living in a fishbowl?” quizzed a friend recently.

Until that moment I hadn’t given it much thought. Life in a fishbowl—parsonage? Yes, I suppose it is similar. Like it or not, ministers’ families are under some scrutiny most of the time. But it can’t be ALL bad!

The Chinese, back in the 10th century, delighted in keeping fish indoors, and they created aquariums that were veritable works of art. Goldfish were the first to be kept and are still a favorite for bowls, aquariums, pools and ponds. Over 100 fancy breeds today range in price from less than \$1 to \$200 a pair.

Through the years we’ve owned a number of aquariums, both fresh and salt water. They always seem to be the focal point in any room. What is it that draws you to watch an aquarium for hours on end? Is it the brilliant flash of color from the great variety of fish, the plants swaying gracefully in the tranquil water, or the tiny air bubbles floating to the surface? Whatever, they form living pictures that you never grow tired of watching.

We learned valuable lessons as we cared for our aquariums. A well-balanced aquarium brought

pleasure to all who looked upon it; but when neglected and out-of-balance, it becomes a green murky mess with slimy plants and floating dead fish. What do our congregations see in our fishbowls as they watch our lives?

Keeping the right balance of water, light and plant life will keep the water sparkling in our aquarium. Balance is important in our lives. If we aren’t careful, we may get so caught up in one area of work and life that we neglect the others and before we know it, our attitude has gone sour and we need replenishing.

As missionaries in St. Croix, Virgin Islands, we lived on the ocean and had easy access to many of God’s unusual creatures from the deep. Snorkeling among the coral reef was a favorite pastime for my husband and two sons. Often they’d return with as many fish for the aquarium as they would for the table. We’d sit in the evenings and watch an activity that was as captivating as any Sea World television special.

There were the gaily colored Neon Gobys, the Queen Butterflies, Jewel fish, and even some eerie ones like the Moray Eels and slinky Octopus! We’d find ourselves wanting to rescue the tiny Banded-Coral shrimp from

If we are to reflect the beauty of Christ in our lives, we must feed daily from His Word.

predators like the Blue Crab with his gaping claws. They all led fascinating lives and seemed oblivious to onlookers.

Can we in our fishbowl lives do the same? "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men: Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." Of course, we care that our people are pleased with our performance and have confidence in us and our leadership. But not everyone will be pleased all the time. If our Lord Jesus Christ couldn't do it, why do we think we can?

When the water became too deep in the tank, some of the fish would leap out. You can imagine what happened if we didn't find them in time! Have you ever wanted to leap out of your fishbowl or run away and hide when you felt the water was too deep and it looked so much better on the outside?

The Yellow Tang was a friendly little fish and tried to socialize with the others. Soon she'd tire of being chased by the Bo Gregorys or Sargeant Majors and she'd duck into a shell and hide. Sometimes we have to draw apart from people and "draw nigh to God ..." (James 4:8). Christ recognized the need for spending time alone with God and He was God incarnate. If He, then why not us?

The Box Fish never seemed to go in any one direction. How hard they struggled, their tiny fins swishing to make even a small circle. Do you feel you spend a great deal of time spinning your wheels? Priorities are the hardest for ministers' wives to set when we're pulled by needs of husband, children, church, outside jobs and our own personal needs. God expects us to manage our time and to discipline ourselves. If we could

learn to pray first and plan afterward, how different our homes and churches would be. "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:6).

The Cowfish is a lazy fish even at feeding time. Can the same be true of us? We're told we can enhance the brilliant color of our fish by what we feed them. If we are to reflect the beauty of Christ in our lives, we must feed daily from His Word. Often we become so busy caring for all the other fish we forget our own spiritual needs.

Moses arose early and met God on Mount Sinai. When he returned he had to cover his face with a veil because it was so radiant (Ex. 34). Oh, that those looking in our fishbowl could tell by our very countenance that we have been with God and learned the secret of His presence.

Good swimming! ♦



Three Families, Maybe More

When one is born physically, he is born into a family to grow up with.

When we are born again spiritually, we also have a family, our church family.

I've learned you often can depend more on this church family than your blood family. Your church family prays for you, helps you through rough times, encourages you and loves you even when you're unlovely.

I treasured my church family. We praised the Lord, sang with our whole hearts and enjoyed the most spiritual services one could ever imagine.

Perhaps, I thought, God would

surely put us all together in some special place when we got to heaven so we would continue to praise Him through eternity.

Then my husband accepted the call to preach.

Whoever thought I would become a preacher's wife?

He accepted a church far away in another state.

I thought I would die. How could I leave my family?

I looked at my new family. How could I love them?

I thought it couldn't be done, but God did it!

He put such a love in our hearts that in a short while they became our second family.

We loved them and grew with

them.

We shared good times as well as bad.

We were one big family.

But you know what? God's love knows no boundaries. Soon He was asking us to love our third family.

Over 50 souls have been added to this new family.

But one thing is true. No matter where we are,

we are still a part of our families no matter how many miles separate us.

For we are all a part of God's family.

Wanda Ray
Selma, Alabama ♦

In the Seasons of Prayer programs, I have heard the words "sacrificial offering" used. What does this mean?

During three seasons of the year (Easter, Thanksgiving, and another of your choice) WNAC proposes women gather at the Lord's feet for a whole week of intensified prayer for World Missions. These observances make us aware of needs and challenge us to give—sacrificially.

Giving sacrificially means you give all you can, then you give until it hurts, then you keep on giving until the hurt is replaced by an indescribable joy. One who gives sacrificially does not toss in loose change or give a mere token from his abundance. How can we comfortably enjoy the luxuries of the world while millions die in their sins?

Sacrificial giving is worship. We break off a small fragment of ourselves and place it on the offering plate. Christ blesses it and feeds the multitude.

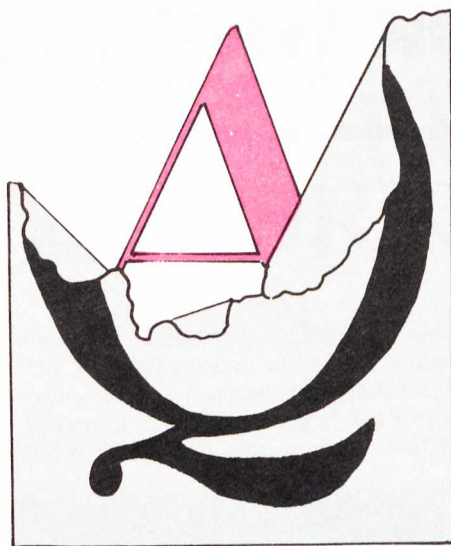
Is it possible for a local auxiliary to bypass the district convention and report directly to the state?

If you do not have a district convention, you are encouraged to report directly to the state. But when there is an organized district convention, the local auxiliary should report to that district. The district then reports to the state and the state to the national convention.

This channel of reporting has always worked well for Auxiliary women.

Some of our women are ill and confined to the home. Can they become active members of the Woman's Auxiliary?

Of course, they can. Home-bound women can have an active



Your questions answered on:

Woman's Auxiliary

**by Mary Neal
WNAC President**

part in the Auxiliary. Mission Action groups can meet with them regularly. They can participate in the 9:00 a.m. Prayer Fellowship hour. They could be a part of the Prayer Chain. They may share prayer needs with a telephone prayer partner. My mother has been my prayer partner for many years.

The homebound member may be a bookworm and could recommend books to the church library. Possibly she has more time to read and study. This knowledge in Christian living can be shared with the other members.

And a companion question with a similar answer: Some of our women work nights and can't attend Auxiliary. How can they become involved?

The keyword is communication. The vice-president should assume responsibility for communicating

to these the proceedings of each meeting. Keep them informed of projects and give them an opportunity to participate. Be sure they receive the newsletter—if your church has one; if not, you might consider starting one. Distribute copies of CO-LABORER.

An Auxiliary Yearbook is a good way to unify all women in the church. A Yearbook gives at a glance the proposed activities of your women for a year, lists officer's names and addresses, projects, meeting plans, the prayer chain, etc.

The privilege of fulfilling the Great Commission is extended to every woman, whether or not she is able to attend the regular Auxiliary meetings. Bring her in!

I am concerned about the reference to immature Christians and giving in this column in the May-June issue. If I don't have \$100 but I can buy materials for \$10 and make and sell crafts, will God honor me if I give Him 100% of the sales?

If you don't have \$100 to give, but you can earn that with your crafts and give the \$100 from sales, you have actually given \$110, plus your time, talent, and some of yourself. Surely God will smile on such an offering when it is motivated by love for Him.

From the beginning, the women of WNAC emphasized stewardship of time, talent, and goods — all that we are and have. They taught that we should give to God because we recognize who He is and obey His Word. We need nothing other than our love for Him to motivate us to give.

Remember our Heavenly Father knows everything about us. He wants our best, the best of our goods, talents and time. When we give Him our best, we don't need to worry about the rest.

BOOK HIGHLIGHTS

Aids to Spiritual Growth

Romantic Lovers

by David and Carole Hocking
Harvest House, 1986

"Oh, so that's what that passage means." This may be just the book Christian couples have been waiting for. It's a verse by verse explanation of the Song of Solomon — the book that's rarely talked about.

David and Carole Hocking have translated this beautiful and sensuous story from God's Word into a language which we can understand. They have researched customs and objects of the time of Solomon which help us comprehend the intimacy of these scriptures.

"Your neck is like the tower of David," gives the mental image of one weird-looking woman, until we realize that the people depended upon the tower for strength and security. The neck, a strong part of the physical body, is often used as a symbol of strength. Abishag had strength of character and Solomon admired this quality.

ROMANTIC LOVERS is an important book for couples who need scriptural understanding on this

important subject, or for those who want to deepen their knowledge. In this age when Satan has destroyed the beauty of the intimacy God intended for married couples, this book helps return it to its honest place.

"Oh, so that's what it means."

— Diane Mitchell Thomas

You Gotta Keep Dancin'

Tim Hansel

David C. Cook Publishing Co., 1985

When an exhausted secretary splashes through an afternoon rain after a hectic day at work, stands slightly soaked at my front door, and pokes a book in my face with, "Here! You've got to read this!" I'm left with only one option—read the book!

My friend's enthusiasm for YOU GOTTA KEEP DANCIN' soon rubbed off on me. But two minutes after she left, I quietly moaned—and wondered why I even agreed to read it. After all, I had accepted a job assignment with a deadline, and I didn't have time to read about dancin'.

But I decided I should take time, and now I'm glad I did. God knew perfectly well how desperately I needed to soak up some of Tim Hansel's genuine enthusiasm for life.

Just a few days before reading YOU GOTTA KEEP DANCIN', I was reading in the Psalms and stopped at 30:11: "You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my

A WOMAN God Has Used

Dorothy Riggan did not use up her three score and ten years before God called her home. She had barely lived two score and ten. However, it isn't the number of years one has lived, but how one has lived those years that counts.

This Smithville, Mississippi native is remembered for her long, unselfish service. You could count on Miss Dot doing the little jobs that everyone else hated to do. She loved small children and delighted in teaching them in Sunday school and CTS. In the Woman's Auxiliary Mission Action, she was a pack rat, promoting our missionary program by collecting stamps, coupons, etc.

Mrs. Riggan married at a young



age and produced two daughters who follow her godly example.

The last seven years of Miss Dot's life were spent in failing health. Heart surgery revealed cancer and both were complicated by diabetes. Some Wednesdays her treatments left her drained, but she went to church even though she had to lie down in the back seat on the way. When questioned about the wisdom of her going, she replied, "Someone may be there that needs me."

What Miss Dot once called heaven, she now calls home. And those who knew her best are left with precious memories of a woman whom God has used.

sackcloth and clothed me with joy." At this time the gauge on my joy tank read "Empty." So I needed to personalize this verse, not once but repeatedly. As I began reading this delightfully refreshing book, I discovered the book is based on this verse in Psalm 30.

Eleven years ago Tim slipped during a climbing expedition in the Sierras, and has since lived in constant pain. But the beauty of Tim's story is that one can experience any type of injury—disappointment, heartache, failure—and yet choose to be joyful. Through the physical and emotional pain, Tim Hansel has allowed God to help him discover the real meaning of joy.

While YOU GOTTA KEEP DANCIN' is by no means a simple formula to joy, it is the story of a believer who chose to be joyful in the midst of suffering. Certainly pain is unavoidable, but misery is optional.

Tim says, "This book is in no way meant to diminish the awfulness of pain, tragedy and affliction. I don't want to 'celebrate pain,' but more deeply understand the dignity of what can happen in it, through it and because of it."

I needed a fresh supply of joy and this book helped meet this need. If your joy supply is getting low, you'll find this refill refreshing.

— June Critcher

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

Three Crosses

Three crosses high upon a hill.
As I think of it, seems I can still
Hear the echoing as they drove the
Rusty nail through His hands and
feet.

As they dropped the cross deep
into the
Hole, the agony He felt now floods
my soul;
Just to know He did it all for me.

Three crosses upon that hill stood
high.
A thief on each side was doomed
to die

The poet's CORNER



The poetry of Mildred Collingsworth, Dayton, Ohio, has highlighted several of WNAC's ten collections of poetry. In addition, she has been honored with six blue awards and two golden poet award



certificates from other publications.

"My goal in writing poetry," writes Mrs. Collingsworth, "has always been that someone out there would read one of my poems or hear a song I had written and receive a blessing. Or better yet," she concludes, "that someone make a decision for Christ. What better reward could there be."

Ed and Mildred Collingsworth have celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary. They attend First Church, Dayton, where Mildred has taught Sunday school for the past 25 years. "I love working with children," explains this devoted teacher. "But the greatest thrill is when a child gives his heart and life to the Lord." They have two grown children and one grandchild.

Professionally, Mrs. Collingsworth is a hairdresser and supervises the J. C. Penney Styling Salon. She also serves as a volunteer fire fighter and emergency medical technician.

For the sins that they themselves
had done.

One looked at Christ in scornful
plea, "If

Thou be the Son of God, cast
thyself down—
And me!" The other with a lowly
heart,

"Remember me
When Thou comest into thy
kingdom."

Three crosses on that hill stood
tall.

The middle cross stands for us all,
for

The sins of the world was laid on
Him.

From the middle cross was heard
a plea from

Our precious Lord, "Forgive them,
they know

Not what they do."

This plea as He died for me and
you.

Now three empty crosses stand
high on that
Hill. Jesus is placed in a tomb with
a seal

And guarded so no one could steal
Him away.

But as Easter morn came around,
many came to

The tomb and found it empty,
with angels nearby.

He is risen! Just as He said! The
King of glory

Arose from the dead and ascended
back to the

Throne of God. Now the choice we
must make—

Heaven or hell—which road will
you take?

I'm so glad He did it all for me. ♦

A PPOINTED TO PRA Y

Be a Prayer Missionary

When I began my language study in Paris, I moved into a one-room studio in a basement. The house was on a main street and an iron fence surrounded the house. It wasn't long until I noticed three or four women outside the iron gate every day. It wasn't much longer that I recognized these women as prostitutes. Quite honestly, that scared me. (I didn't tell my mom and dad until much later!)

"Well, I am in a most unique situation," I thought. I knew God had brought me to Paris for some reason and put me in this particular studio. I could do one of two things. I can do what the rest of the neighborhood does—ignore them and go my way. Or I could do that for which I was sent—befriend them in order to share Christ with them.

I began speaking to them as I went out the gate. Before long, we were chatting about the

weather, this, that and the other. We didn't talk about work!

Finally, emboldened by prayer, I invited the prostitutes to tea. They were thrilled that someone cared enough to talk to them, much less ask them to tea. Then panic struck. What on earth would we talk about for three hours!

No problem! We established very good rapport. I thought these women would know nothing about God, but they considered

themselves to be very religious. I didn't try to straighten out their warped concepts in that first meeting. I did send them home with a copy of PEACE WITH GOD by Billy Graham.

I went out of town for the weekend. When I returned, these women were knocking on my door and calling me on the phone. They had read the whole book and were ready to be saved! They were ripe for the picking. God had prepared them and then put me in that spot at that particular time.

When they invited Christ into their lives, they left the streets and have not been back. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation." These former prostitutes are now your sisters and mine.

Women on the Streets

by Dawn Sweeney
Missionary to the Ivory Coast

Personality Profile

Dawn completed a term in France before her furlough and assignment to Africa. She suffers from a severe back problem in her Tennessee home where "Be still and know that I am God" becomes more of a reality each day.

"Dawnie" enjoys playing the guitar, singing, observing nature, and hiking in the Alps. She maintains a healthy weight in spite of



Dawn Sweeney
Ivory Coast

pizza, hamburgers and chocolates. She's comfortable in casual clothes and playing ping pong and basketball.

Pet peeve: tailgating.

Dawn, an RN, is committed to missions and Hudson Taylor is her hero. She excels in working with youth, especially in camps, and counseling.

Miss Sweeney is one missionary who enjoys correspondence. If you want to prove this, write her at: 201 Stuffle Hgts., Kingsport, TN 37660.

Eunice Edwards Loan Fund

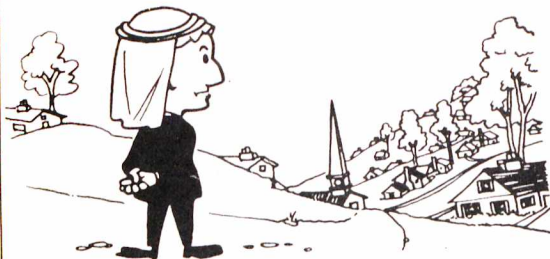


5 year goal
\$50,000

Amount Received
\$10,061.82

Other Sheep

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



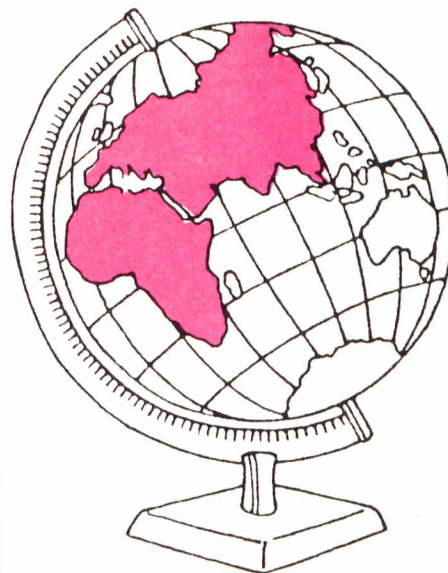
International Students

Between 1980 and 1985, the number of International Students in the United States rose from 400,000 to 525,000. Experts predict that foreigners might well account for 10% of the entire college population by 1990.

Tens of thousands of these International Students are from home governments that forbid evangelism. Most are not the typical citizens of their countries. They are members of the highly educated classes and represent the leadership element. To win them is to influence an entire country for Christ.

Missions is no longer something we do merely overseas, but something we can do with foreigners on our doorsteps now. Establishing genuine friendships is perhaps the best and most effective method for reaching the International for Christ. Once a sustained friendship exists, a verbal witness of the reality of life in Christ is more readily received.

Look around you. Who do you see?



Missionary Hot Line

615-361-5005

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.

March

- 2 Evelyn Hersey (Japan)
- ** 5 Willie Booth (OH)
- 7 Patty McCullough (France)
- * 11 John McClure (Mexico)
- 13 Vada Lee (IC)
- 14 Allan Crowson
- * 15 Lynda Hunt (WA)
- 15 Linda Moore (IC)
- 19 Anita Sparks (Spain)
- ** 19 Melba Hibbard (CA)
- 20 Trena Owens (Spain)
- ** 25 Howard Gwartney (AZ)
- ** 24 James Sasser (MD)
- 25 Jim Teague (IC)
- * 26 Tom Hunt (WA)
- 27 Olena McLain (Japan)
- * 29 Lois Reagan (Canada)

April

- 9 Marie Hanna (India)
- 11 Ledge Ferguson (IC)
- 13 Charolette Tallent (France)
- ** 13 Rhoda Trimble (AL)
- * 13 Miquel Vera (Puerto Rico)
- ** 15 Donna Nix (HI)
- * 24 Tim Coats (SD)
- ** 25 Bill Johnson (KY)
- ** 27 Angela Dooley (OH)
- 27 Marvis Eagleton (Brazil)
- * 29 Mike Criswell (OR)
- ** 30 Debbie Jude (WV)

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

Please Pray For:

- ☐ Students and teachers in the newly opened Central Bible College in Jaboticabal, Brazil.
- ☐ Tim and Kathy Coats in Rapid City, SD; for a good nucleus of believers to form a new church.
- ☐ Student missionaries raising funds for summer work on various mission fields.
- ☐ The Russell Johnson family as they establish a church in Cheyenne, WY.
- ☐ Daniel and Paul Eagleton, 10 and 11, attending boarding school in Ivory Coast and separated from their parents for the first time.
- ☐ Fred and Barbara Jones and the building program at the Mexican Bible Institute near Tampico.
- ☐ An overwhelming response to the Foreign Missions April Call-a-Thon month.
- ☐ Howard Gwartney family in Mesa, AZ, that land and building be provided for their new church.
- ☐ Traveling mercies for our itinerating missionaries.
- ☐ Tim and Pam Hackett as they establish a new church in Bloomington, IN.
- ☐ The eight FWB chaplains serving in the armed forces.

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.

General

- ☐ **Basic Principles of Parliamentary Law and Protocol**, *Marquerite Grumme* 68pp/\$5.00
- ☐ **Guide to Better Poetry**, *Lorene Miley* 25¢
- ☐ **Sparks Into Flame**, *Mary Ruth Wischart* \$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

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



Sharing the Joy

I buried my husband nine days ago ... He had been saved years ago but for years had not been living a Christian life. Before his death, in Creston, Illinois, 700 miles away, God spoke to my son-in-law, who is a preacher, and gave him a mission ... They drove without resting and rushed to the hospital. When he walked into the room, my husband said, "Help me with my soul." Mission accomplished.

*Fannie Ruth Henderson
Greeneville, TN*

My husband and I spent a week in Honduras with a medical/dental mission team. We saw over 3,000 in the clinic in four days. All heard a gospel message with over 10 saved.

*Ruth Bivens
Pryor, OK*

Missionaries Write

With the help of the ladies of the church, we now have a family of five puppets. A presentation in connection with a film will be a part of an outreach service to people who live in the church area.

Lynn Midget, Spain

The following story captures how we feel about giving to missions. Sometime ago Andrew Fuller asked an old friend for money for foreign missions. The friend said, "I will give you 5 pounds, Andrew, since it is for you." Fuller refused the money, "I cannot take it since it is for me, as you said." The friend replied, "I see the point. You're right. Here are 10 pounds since it is for the Lord Jesus."

Please remember that coming to the aid of our account is not a gift to us. It is rather support for the preaching of the gospel to all nations.

*Tom and Patty McCullough,
France*

The process of learning a new language is slow and often discouraging. The alarm at 5 a.m. signals the return to routine. Each morning I walk to the train station and join the masses of people who push and shove their way into the trains and subways rushing to

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the downtown area. One and a half hours later I arrive at school. There I continue the slow plodding process of understanding a different grammar, building a new vocabulary, and learning to read and write. After four hours I again board the train for the trip home.

*Debbie Griffin,
Japan*

Clint and I united our skills to produce a Smurfette cake for Autumn's 4th birthday. When it came time to open her "big" present, she opened a box containing a lifesize baby doll dressed in red with white polka dots, complete with some of Autumn's own one-year clothing. After everyone oohed and ahed, I announced, "That doll came from the Provision Closet."

It has brought much joy to a little girl and her playmates (along with the usual spats of who gets to hold her!) Thank you, whoever sends such lovely gifts to the Provision Closet. Just another of the many, many, many ways the women have of supplying, not only our needs, but our wants as well.

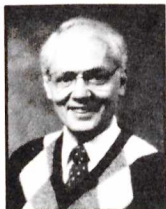
*Lynette Morgan,
Ivory Coast.*

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Words For Women

Mary R. Wisehart



She was sitting on the stone bench in the corner of the garden near the magnolia tree. I could tell by the droop of her shoulders and the expression on her face that she had problems.

I explained my reasons for intruding on her solitude. She didn't respond. I said, "I'm going to be right here weeding this flower bed. If you want to talk about it, I'll listen. If not, it's okay."

I weeded in silence for awhile.

Then suddenly she said, "Watching you has helped me. Weeds grow in that flower bed, yes. But it has a lot of flowers too. I believe I've just been concentrating on the weeds."

Ah! How many times we concentrate on the weeds instead of the flowers. Weeds! My house is not as big as... Nothing left after the tithes and offerings and bills. Johnny made a C- in math. Susie is always bursting into tears. Tom never brings me flowers or any little surprise. Nell talks too much. The preacher never stops before 12. The church people don't appreciate my services.

Weeds! Weeds! Weeds!

All of us have some weeds in our gardens, but there are also flowers.

Concentrate on the flowers.

Nell may interrupt you right in the middle of your best story, but remember how she took the baby home with her when you were at wit's end. You didn't even have to ask.

Tom doesn't bring little surprises, but he does come home at night, and he does remember birthdays and anniversaries. You don't have lots of money at the end of the month, but you always have enough to cover the bills. Your house, though not large is adequate.

Your pastor and your church are both loving and caring, willing to pray and to share.

Although Johnny makes a C- in math, he makes A's and B's in his other courses. Your children are often obedient and cooperative and always loving.

Once you begin looking for the flowers, you're likely to find them springing up everywhere. The weeds get lost in the rush of beautiful things.

But, of course, if you want to look for the weeds, there are always plenty of them around—even in your own personal garden.

Coming

In the next issue of CO-LABORER

Preview of the WNAC convention in
Kansas City, Missouri, July 18, 19, 1988

Missionary Speaker: James Munsey, Mexico

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But Now Is Christ Risen

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