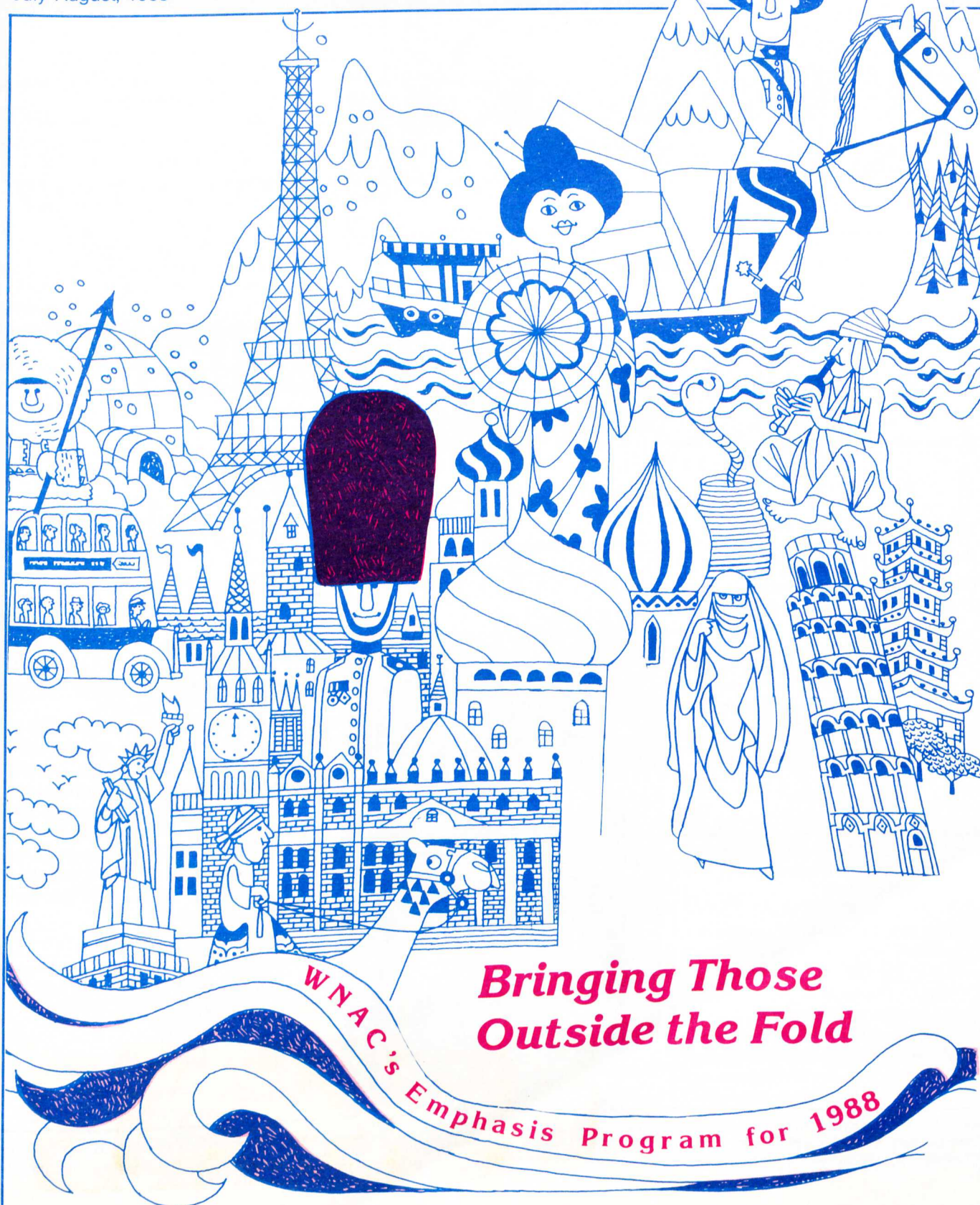


July-August, 1988



Co-Laborer

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

July-August, 1988

Volume 28, Number 4

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Editorial

"Why do you go to a retreat?"

You ask women this and receive an assortment of answers, from "To have fun," to "For spiritual refreshing."

WNAC's 5th prayer retreat, September 8-10, in Ridgecrest, is geared to lead you into a spiritual dimension you've never experienced. In order to prepare yourself for it, let us suggest the following:

Determine why you should go. It costs both in time and money—why should this be a priority? What do I expect God to do for me at this retreat? Expect great things from Him and be prepared to receive them.

Team up with a prayer partner. Pray about plans, transportation, finances, home and job arrangements, retreat speakers and leaders, those who attend, your roommate ... Bathe this retreat in prayer and we will experience His anointing.

Get acquainted with our furloughing missionary wives through a missionary map or directory. Most of them will be at the retreat and you'll spot them immediately. They want to meet you—they really do—so take the initiative.

Ridgecrest can be a restful experience, but don't wait until you get there to rest. Come rested in order to receive all that God has for you.

Come prepared to give a sacrificial offering to missions. Some of you will sacrifice merely to come, while others can give a token from their abundance. All can give up something we enjoy, as snacks, a meal or side trip, in order to give to missions. This is our opportunity to respond to God's love and blessings.

My heart is turned toward Ridgecrest in expectancy. Is yours?

Executive Editor
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BRINGING THOSE OUTSIDE THE FOLD

**WNAC's
Emphasis Program
for 1988**

By Loree Medley

This
emphasis program
is based on a
monologue
interspersed with
an officer's
planning session.
The six (or as
many officers
as you may have)
are seated at a table
center stage, or
sitting in a circle.
On either side,
arrange
a sheep scene,
one forlorn and
and the other
flourishing.
These may be on
either posters
or flannelboard.
Appropriate pictures
may be found in
most Sunday school
visuals.

I Was One of the Other Sheep

Once I roamed freely in the pasture with all the other sheep. My shepherd, the hireling, was a mean domineering, demanding, old rogue who cared nothing for his pasture or flock. He provided neither green pastures or clean water. I foraged for myself, and hunger, thirst and discouragement characterized my miserable existence.

Predators were a constant threat in our pasture. Dogs and wolves would sneak in for their sudden attack and I became an easy prey. In my weakened state, other sheep ran into me, butting me to the ground and leaving me lying with bloody wounds. I had no one to anoint my hurts or speak kind words. The hireling only cared about the price my fleece brought.

Summers were especially painful in this pasture of the other sheep. The flies laid eggs in my nostrils which irritated me no end. When the eggs hatched, these tiny worms wriggled their way into my brain. I sought relief from this tormenting pain by butting my head against trees and rocks. My fleece became torn and matted. The hireling only mocked my miserable condition.

Why didn't I run away from this barren pasture and wicked hireling? I tried. Many times. In one direction a high mountain rose with a sharp cliff. In another, a wide expanse of water blocked my escape. One direction led to vast wastelands. There was no escape. I supposed I would spend my days and die as did my parents and their parents before them—in this bleak pasture under the bondage of a hireling who never gives but wants everything in return.

Auxiliary Meeting

President: It's not easy for us who are safe and protected in the fold to look out for those still outside. And yet our Lord's last command was to bring them in and disciple them. The Woman's Auxiliary is committed to helping each woman in the church fulfill this last Great Commission. How can we do this?

Mission Study Chairman: Before we

can bring in the other sheep, we have to know who and where they are. Books are a big help in this area. Each Auxiliary is encouraged to sponsor two mission study classes each year using recommended books. Some mission books we have read are: (*Display those you have access to.*) These books bring the mission field right to our doors and put us in a better position to respond by giving, praying and going.

President: What other ways do we have of knowing what's going on on our mission fields today?

Mission Action: Both the Home and Foreign Missions Departments publish a regular newsheet (*display these*). *Mission Grams* and *Heartbeat* help keep us on our toes. Every Auxiliary member should receive and read them. Because of these publications, we know which missionaries are on furlough, who is establishing a church where, and rejoice in the moving of the Spirit of God around the world.

President: Mission study is a vital segment of an Auxiliary, for the woman who knows is a woman who grows. And a woman with keen spiritual insight is aware of those lost sheep without a shepherd to lead them.

Other Sheep

One miserable day only led to another as unbearable. At times I bit into the dry hard ground hoping to find some nourishment. I drank water infested with parasites which weakened my already thin, malnourished body. Was there no refuge? No hope?

And then a marvelous thing happened, so wonderful that even today I tremble to think of it.

I had left the flock in search of food, when suddenly I came up on another sheepfold that I had no idea existed. I butted my head against the ground to awaken my sluggish brain. Was I dreaming? Was it only a mirage? There on the other side of a deep chasm lay the most gorgeous sheepfold one could ever imagine. Green lush grass stretched as far as the eye could see, and running the length of it flowed a clear stream that sparkled in the sunlight. A flock of

Emphasis '88

Emphasis packets will be available at the WNAC booth in Kansas City, Missouri July 18-21. Plan to pick up yours or arrange for someone else to. They may be ordered from the WNAC office after June 1— P. O. Box, 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

sheep with coats like thistledown roamed freely, plump and contented.

But the most breathtaking part was the shepherd. How can I describe him? You could tell by the way he moved about his sheep, pausing now and then to stroke one then the other, that he loved them. He talked to them and even called them by name. I watched him pick up one of the little ones and caress it in his arms.

I watched spellbound for some time and was reluctant to leave. But I returned again and again. Each morning I'd escape from the bondage of my own sheepfold to race to this one. One day as I yearned toward that promised land across the chasm, the shepherd did a wondrous thing. He turned and looked straight at me. Never did I see eyes filled with such love and compassion. He looked past my near-blinded eyes, disease-ridden body, torn and matted fleece, right down to my little hungry soul. He extended his hand and I heard him speak, "Come unto me. I am the door. If you enter in, you can go in and out and find pasture."

Auxiliary Meeting

President: Yes, there are many lost sheep out there that we must rescue from the bondage and slavery of sin. As we learn of these in our study, it creates a burden to pray. Ask any missionary, and Auxiliary probably has as much influence in this area as any group in our churches.

Mission Prayer Chairman: A vital part of each Auxiliary meeting is praying for missionary requests. Often the prayer chairman makes attractive reminders that can be taken home and remembered. (*Show some samples of reminders that have been used.*) A missionary hot line with current requests also keeps missions before our women.

President: Auxiliary women are known as women of prayer. Nine o'clock is established as the hour of prayer when women all over the world unite in prayer, not only for missionary requests but church needs as well.

Mission Prayer Chairman: The three special seasons of prayer during the year highlight the Auxiliary calendar. The week before Easter promotes Foreign Missions, the week before Thanksgiving emphasizes National Home Missions, with another week of our choice for a State Home Missions emphasis.

Mission Prayer Chairman: We also have a study on prayer using a book recommended by the national Auxiliary which helps us become more effective prayer warriors.

President: We are laborers together with our missionaries as we pray. Our prayers actually help bring in those lost sheep.

Other Sheep

So there I crouched on the barren cliff with eyes glued to the shepherd who stood with outstre-

Materials available:

2 posters illustrating the 2 sheepfolds
quarter folders/envelopes
bookmarks
Additional program helps.

tched hands. At that moment some of my sister sheep attempted to pull me back. It was only a trick of the shepherd, they said. Just when you leaped to him, he'd pull back his hands and you would drop to the chasm below. I looked down and saw how it could be so. But when I looked again at the shepherd, I knew it couldn't be so.

The hireling came and yanked me away. Go with him, he warned, and my days of freedom would be ended. But once I had caught a glimpse of that shepherd, I could never be happy here again. I would do it! I would go!

But in my eagerness, I slipped and fell into a crevice on the side of the cliff. Just as quickly, a protective hook wrapped about my body and I was lifted up right into the strong arms of the shepherd. I had become a part of the flock of the good Shepherd.

The Lord of earth and heaven,
Of all things great and small,
He is my faithful shepherd;
I shall not want at all.
I shall not want green pastures
In which my heart may rest
And find, by living waters,
New strength for every test.
I shall not want restoring
When I am spent of soul,
And guidance in the good way,
And gentle, wise control.
I shall not want his presence
And comfort in the stark
Bare stony hours of sorrow
When all is cold and dark.
I shall not want fulfilling
Of all my honest needs,

And days made warm by sharing
Kind words and thoughtful deeds.
I shall not want his goodness
And mercy all my days,
And a house of sure abiding
In which to offer praise.

— Jane Merchant

Auxiliary Meeting

President: Not only must we learn about missions and pray for our missionaries, we must act. Mission action is reaching out to those in need and ministering to that need in the name of Jesus.

Mission Action Chairman: Auxiliary women do this in many ways. We respond by giving. Last year women over the United States gave \$349,013.88 to missions and mission-related projects. We respond in more tangible ways—through personal gifts and showers, stocking the missionary provision closet, sending cards and letters. We reach out in countless ways. *(Describe some activities in which your Auxiliary is involved.)*

President: As we bring the lost ones to Jesus, they become one fold with one shepherd. *(Turn the Other Sheep poster over and place it beside the other poster with Christ and his sheep.)*

Offering: The Woman's National Auxiliary Convention is that agency that equips the local Auxiliary to serve. It provides inspiration and opportunities for women to understand and fulfill their responsibilities at home, in the church and around the world.

The WNAC also sponsors an annual convention and a semi-annual retreat.

The area where the national convention helps most is providing leadership and literature. CO-LABORER magazine is a bimonthly publication which contains monthly programs, suggestions, and other inspirational and challenging information. The WNAC office receives no funds from the Cooperative Fund, but is totally dependent upon Auxiliary women.

There are other sheep that are outside the fold. The Woman's Auxiliary is committed to bring them in. Your offering and support help make this possible.

Program Helps

The monologue speaker stands beside the bleak sheepfold as she gives her first part. She then crosses the stage and stands beside the other poster for the rest of the reading.

For a full-length program, combine this emphasis program with the August program, "The Summer Is Ending." Following the emphasis program, the officers will remain seated at the table and go right into the new program. Divide the paragraphs (not topics) among those seated and present it as a discussion-type program.

Consider this book:

THE WAY OF THE SHEPHERD
By Don Baker
Multnomah Press, 1987, \$5.95

This compact volume, alive with vibrant four-color scenes from Israel, provides fresh inspiration from the long favorite 23rd Psalm. Each program leader is encouraged to read this book in preparation for the program. You may want to inject some of your own gleanings into the "Other Sheep" monologue.

THE WAY OF THE SHEPHERD is a good gift to give one who already joyfully follows her Shepherd, or to one who needs a greater commitment to this Shepherd who desires to direct her journey through life. ◇

Introduction

America is known as the land of the free. We are free to worship and speak as we choose. We are free to publish or print stories, news and beliefs as we desire. We are free to vote. We even receive free samples in the mail.

The Bible tells us we are free because of Jesus. We are assured that not only are we free from the bondage of sin, but this freedom sets us free to be

FREE

**to be
Pure and Holy
(Romans 12:1,2)**

In the 1930's, the world was shocked by Clark Gable's word of profanity. Times have changed, but God's Word has not.

Many preachers expound on soul and heart commitment, but few on giving of our physical body. In the Romans passage, Paul urges us to present our bodies to God. Although God made and redeemed us, He never forces us to give our body to Him; we must offer it freely. Other Scriptures support this: Rom 6:12, 3: 1 Cor. 6:9,20.

Are you aware of things that weaken your body? Have you set a list of standards in order to insure your family's purity? God's goal is not that we merely avoid certain things; holiness is a positive quality associated with our, every-day living.

God redeemed us and set us apart (sanctified) for His special use. After our salvation, sins began to appear to us as sins. This indicated that sanctification had begun which affected our morals. Do you struggle with feelings of discouragement? Are you ashamed to ask forgiveness for the same sin for the fiftieth time?

In the book *THE FIGHT* by John White, he explains the struggle in leading a pure and holy life: "You are forgiven, cleansed, accepted, justified because of what Christ has done for you and not because of the depth of your yieldedness." God's forgiveness frees us to live

Aim: To show that true and lasting freedom can only be realized in Jesus Christ.

Scripture: John 8:32-36

Hymn: "He Brought Me Out"

holy lives. We do not go to the cross with shame and humiliation; we go gladly. "Thank You, God, for telling me my body is yours to do as You please. I acknowledge my failure apart from You."

God does not convict to condemn us, but rather to draw us closer to Him. God says, "Be ye holy, for I am holy." Therefore, holiness is a command, not an option.

FREE

**to be Me
(Prov. 3:26)**

Psychologists tell us we have two basic needs—to be loved and to have a sense of self-worth. When asked, how much are you worth, how do you respond? By calculations of bank accounts, worldly possessions, goods, or accomplishments? Self-worth demands a purpose and a meaning for living. For Christians, this is found in God, not through family, friends, possessions or occupation.

Our confidence increases with our faith in God. God loves us and He never makes a mistake. We are important to Him (Ps. 139:14,15). A fulfilling Bible study or Scripture search related to self worth (as Ps. 119:73; Phil. 4:13) would be helpful.

The secular world spends millions of dollars and countless hours trying to find security and true worth when it can only be found in God. He specializes in transformation. In areas of inadequacy, attack these problems head-on. Privately, make three lists: first, list assets of your appearance and capabilities that you're glad God "built into" your design; second, list areas of weaknesses and insecurity; finally, list areas where improvement is possible.

Program for July

FREE



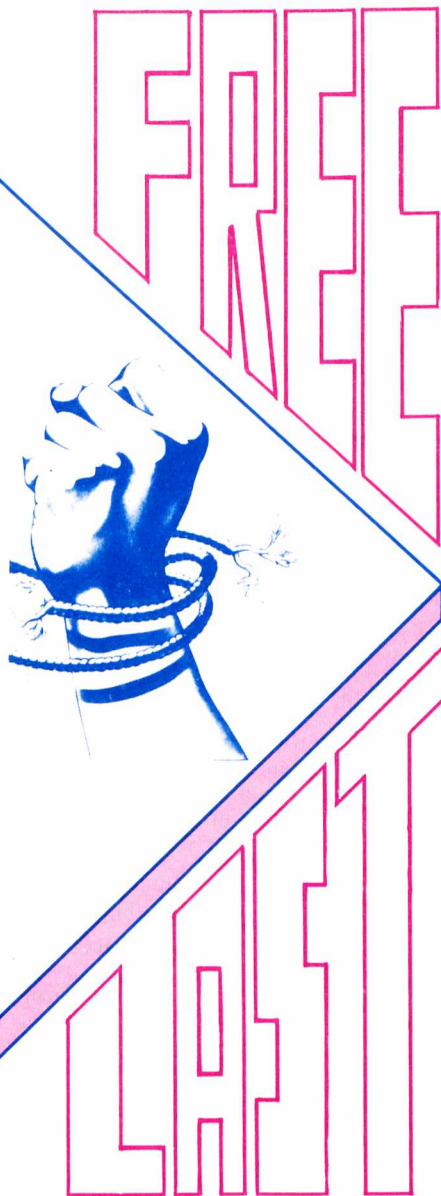
FREE

Miriam Neff in her book, *DISCOVER YOUR SELF WORTH*, suggests help comes as we take classes, talk to a friend, or read books in those areas of weakness. Satan wants us to dwell on our faults, because obsession with our faults defeats us rather than frees us to serve.

FREE

**to Set Priorities
(Phil. 3:7,8)**

By Karen Walker



Robert Bryan confessed that in his first term to Ivory Coast, Africa, he became so busy working for the kingdom that he almost forgot about the King.

Our number one priority should be knowing and spending time with God. You are not a Christian mother; you are a Christian who happens to be a mother. You are not a Christian salesperson; you are a Christian who happens to be a salesperson.

When asked the secret of her talent, an accomplished violinist

replied, "Planned neglect." Do we want His fellowship to the extent that we neglect whatever interferes with our intimate relationship? TV? Newspaper? Phone calls? Materialism?

God's Word tells us to redeem the time. Each day list your objectives and number their priority. At least by the end of the day you should have accomplished the important things. If time management is a problem area, a good reference book is *DISCIPLINES OF THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN*, by Anne Orland. Or use one of the time organizers now on the market.

Chuck Swindoll emphasizes four priorities for living in his book *STRENGTHENING YOUR GRIP*. First, be Biblical, he says. Then be authentic. Paul was so "secure, he peeled off all masks, all cover-ups and stood vulnerably before God and others" (1 Thess. 2:5,6). Third, be gracious. It's easy to be more abrasive and judgmental than thoughtful, tactful, compassionate and tolerant. And lastly, Swindoll says, "Be relevant." Jesus is our perfect example for He saw people as they were, not how they ought to be.

God is more concerned with your being than your doing.

FREE

to go Home
(John 14:2,3)

This world is not our home. Some day you and I will be free to go home to "my Father's house," as he promised.

We make the necessary preparation for drawing up a will. Many decisions are involved in this process. All our worldly goods and all the people we love are left behind. Are you ready to leave it or are there earthly ties that bind you here? Be ready, be free.

Conclusion

Picture a person completely bound in rope from hands to feet and struggling to be free. Are you bound by problems of holy living,

poor self-esteem, time management, or wrong priorities? Stop struggling to be free. Jesus Christ wants to do it for you. Allow Him and you will be free at last!

Program Helps

Additional Reading

Display books related to the program and encourage the women to read them:

THE FIGHT
DISCOVER YOUR WORTH
DISCIPLINES OF A
BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
STRENGTHEN YOUR GRIP

To introduce the program, select a woman ahead of time who is willing to be bound with a roll of toilet tissue. Ask her to come to the front and wrap her from top to bottom to resemble a mummy. As you wrap, explain that sin binds (Rom. 3:23; Isa. 53:6). Other effects of sin also keep us in bondage. Name those hindrances that are mentioned in the program—as stress, poor self-esteem, failures, worries, schedules, problems, misplaced priorities, materialism, insecurity, and any others that seem to be binding the women in your Auxiliary.

Write these words on peel-off labels. Peel them off as you mention them and attach to the mummy at random locations. As you conclude with "Christ sets us free" (Rom. 6:17; John 8:34-36), instruct the helper to burst free from her bondage.

Visuals: The author used the following visual aid in her presentation. On the front part of a sheet of large poster board, trace the outlines to indicate where the four parts of the puzzle will be placed. On the back side of the puzzle frame, complete the puzzle by showing the emphasis on freedom in Christ.

Cut another sheet of poster board into four pieces to match the pattern. Letter the pieces as indicated. Place each section at the beginning of the topics. After all the parts are given, turn the puzzle over for the conclusion.

(See page 18) ▶

THE SUMMER IS ENDING

Aim: To show how missionaries around the world are reaching their world for Christ.

Scripture: John 9:4

Hymn: "Work For The Night Is Coming"

Introduction

The purpose of the Woman's Auxiliary is to help our churches teach and support missions. This is accomplished through three avenues—mission study, mission prayer and mission action. As women learn about our missionaries and their needs, a burden of prayer rests upon each. As we pray, we respond by reaching out to those around us, as well as by giving to promote missions around the world. This program shows how the Woman's Auxiliary is helping reach those who are lost with the Gospel of Christ and the urgency that impels us, for soon "the night cometh when no man can work."

Them Also — The Children

Women have always had a burden for children, beginning with family devotions, neighborhood Bible clubs, and Sunday school and CTS classes.

In Africa, missionaries explore these same areas as well as reaching out to children through released-time classes in the public schools. These schools are still wide open to the gospel and many decisions for Christ have been reported.

Missionaries to Brazil have used about every method for reaching children as has been used in the States, but a puppet ministry has been most successful. A puppet ministry is also effective in Spain. Puppets welcome new visitors to Sunday school, call up the birthday person of the day, and even sing "Happy Birthday" to him.

When Jerry and Barbara Gibbs went to France, they envisioned a children's ministry. Children are so patient! At their weekly Bible club, the children receive points for memorizing Scripture verses with special recognition given at the end of the year. The children also sing once a month at the morning service. Most of the parents are unsaved, but many come to hear their children perform. One grandmother was saved as a result and is now a faithful member. "I didn't know the Lord before, but now I

met Him and am on my way to heaven," she testifies.

Daily Vacation Bible School proves to be an effective tool in child evangelism on the mission field as well as here in America. Molly Barker usually conducts five each summer in Uruguay.

The McLains in Japan operate a Christian kindergarten as an outreach of their church ministry. Three years ago when they began they expected about 20 in a regular program with Bible and simple English. Last year they opened in a new building on their own land with 20 staff members and 250 children. Some of these have enrolled in Sunday school. "As a child, our Japanese pastor attended a Christian kindergarten," explains Olena. "Now he has a tremendous burden for planting the seed in these youngsters' hearts."

From the shores of Montezuma to the plains of Tripoli you find missionaries reaching out to the children and bringing them to Jesus.

Them Also — The Teenager

"Our church was mainly started with teenagers," says Nancy Hughes. Their experience in Brazil is a good example of how teenagers are brought into the fold.

"When we first went to Brazil, we didn't know a single person," continues Nancy. "But we had a teenage son and a preteen daughter, so it wasn't long before lots of happy visitors were knocking on our door. At first they came for friendship and ping-pong. It just naturally fell into a teen fellowship." But ten years have passed and the youngest teenager is no longer a teenager. Now that fellowship has progressed to a church full of young couples beginning their families.

Missionaries on other fields, whether or not they have teenage children, sponsor informal weekly sessions where those outside the fold are free to come for food, fun and open discussions. Reading rooms are widely used in Africa to reach teenagers. A reading room is a large room stocked with Chris-

tian literature and tapes. Students stop by on their way home from school to read and talk and listen. Many reached through this ministry are now church leaders.

Music is the universal language that attracts teenagers around the world and has been widely developed on most mission fields. These informal songfests usually end in the simple presentation of the gospel. Contacts are often made in this manner which would be otherwise impossible.

Uruguay as well as Africa also sponsors drama teams. These serve a double purpose—development of latent talent as well as evangelism outreach.

Them Also — The Women

Many women both in Third World countries and others have been reached through sewing classes. Women in Brazil sponsor an outreach meeting annually. During the year they handcraft items to give each visitor to this meeting. One year they made pot-lifter gloves, another year, aprons, etc. Missionary Jean Deeds says, "I feel a lot was accomplished through these things we made together with our hands. It was also an opportunity for them to reach out to their neighbors, friends and relatives."

Missionaries in Japan use cooking classes to reach the unreached women. They frankly admit the classes do not score high in nutrition—food like pizza and chocolate chip cookies—but it provides an opportunity to have the women visit them in their homes. "They are interested in seeing how Americans live, what kind of furniture we have, and all," they say. But more importantly, "It helps establish a close relationship with these to whom we have gone to minister."

"Our son had been in a Japanese school for a year and a half," says Judy Bailey. In taking him to and from school, five young mothers approached her with, "Please teach us English." So each Friday she invited them over where for 45 minutes she tried to correct their

vocabulary and pronunciation. "Then Kenneth comes in and we have a brief Bible study," she explains. Conversational English is one avenue many missionaries take in Japan.

On some fields, the women are organized into Woman's Auxiliaries much like ours in the States. In Brazil a local Auxiliary of 12 members averaged \$10 per member monthly for missions last year. They make crafts and sell them, not in the name of the church, but on a personal basis and bring the proceeds into the Auxiliary. They help support three missionary couples and two singles. They also sponsor a Bible study among the unsaved.

The Nationals on other fields have learned to reach out to others in the name of Jesus. Judy Bryan, Ivory Coast, tells about going through some dark days when a group of women who regularly visited on Thursday came to her with words of comfort and cheer. "Madam, we wanted to bring you something, but we didn't know what to bring."

Judy was embarrassed because she knew what they were thinking. What could they bring someone who already had everything? "This is what we brought you," they said and began to lay out fruit at her feet—bananas, pineapple, mangos, papaya, etc. Judy remembers, "It reminded me of the verse they had brought me that God will not forget our work of love."

When women hear the Word, they, too, reach out to those who have never heard and the gift goes on.

Special Music: "The Gift Goes On."

Program Helps

Arrange the stage like a missionary panel. Assign different women to impersonate specific missionaries and let them give the program in the first person. They may sit at a table or in chairs on either side of the leader.

If your Auxiliary is small, say 5-8, all may be seated around a table and participate in a discussion-type format. Assign paragraphs, not topics. ◇

This program was adapted from a missionary interview led by Geraldine Waid during the afternoon session of WNAC in Birmingham, AL. Mary Elizabeth Griffith of Cofer's Chapel, Nashville, TN, transcribed the taped session.

AND
THEY
ARE
NOT
SAVED

BIBLE STUDY

by Mildred Daniel

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

Note: The study of I Peter began in the Sept./Oct. '87 issue. An introduction to chapter 4 appeared in the last CO-LABORER.

Peter's main reason for writing was to encourage those saints undergoing severe suffering and persecution. He begins chapter 4 with an admonition to believers to emulate our Savior's example regarding suffering. Verses 4-6 warn that you may be misjudged and labeled strange when your lifestyle is one that pleases God rather than one that follows the fluctuating fads and fashions of the world. But—

THE END IS AT HAND

In verses 4:7-9, the statement speaks for itself. God has a timetable. With Him, "One _____ is as a _____ years (2 Pet. 3:8). Using this formula, we are at the close of the 6th day, beginning with the creation of Adam. The "end of all _____ is at _____ (very near):" therefore, Christians are admonished to do the following:

1) "Be _____ (sane and level-headed) and _____ (alert, with an eye on the clock) unto prayer." Serious, consistent prayer is a believer's life-jacket. It will buoy you safely above the vicious undertow of the world system which would drag you and yours under its influence. "Above all things," the apostle counsels,

2) "Have _____ charity (intense and unfeigned love) among _____". Some believers are disagreeable, some are weak and stumble, others may tax your time and patience. But, "_____ (love) shall cover the _____ of sins," though it be stretched and strained in the process. The wounded should be cared for without limits. Peter learned this lesson himself. (Read Matt. 18:21,22.)

3) Here Peter refers to an increasingly lost art in society today. Believers are cautioned to "_____ hospitality one to another without _____ (complaining)." A welcome should be more than words on a doormat. An open door policy means that others are welcome to share a meal, join in fellowship, hold a cottage prayer meeting, etc. Homes which emphasize the latest decor become showplaces while those dedicated to the Lord are used in His service.

In 4:10, referring primarily to the above mentioned gifts of love and hospitality, Peter urges that they be "_____ (distributed freely) one to another, as good _____ (entrusted with that which belongs to another)." As recipients of a full and free salvation, through "the _____ grace of _____," He expects us to freely minister these gifts to others as God gives ability and opportunity, even to the most undeserving.

THE PURPOSE OF GIFTS (4:11)

In 4:11, Peter distinguishes between two types of

ministry.

1) The spoken word: "If any man _____, let him speak as the _____ of God." God's written word is precious. It must first be known, then can be spoken carefully and accurately, with deep conviction of its everlasting and unchanging truth.

2) Unselfish service. "If any man _____ (perform practical deeds of service to others), let him do it as the _____ which _____ giveth (depending on Him, rather than self-sufficiency)." For what purpose? "That _____ in all things may be _____ through Jesus Christ."

THE BAD FOR OUR GOOD (4:12-19)

Look at 4:12. While in the process of putting your gifts to work for the Lord, don't think it "_____ concerning the _____ (intensely hot) trial" you experience. God knows, He cares and He has a purpose.

In 4:13, rather than groaning, we are admonished to "_____." How? Why? Because, having suffered with Him (for Him), one day we shall reign or rule with Him (See 2 Tim. 2:12.). This realization will take the sting out of suffering, replacing it with an attitude of "_____ joy," trusting Him for enduring strength and to work it out for His glory.

Warning! (4:14-16) You may be "_____ for the name of _____," even while doing your best. While not easy to endure, it is possible and brings inward happiness (peace of mind), provided the reproach was undeserved. Some may suffer as a "_____—_____ (murder by tongue), or as a "_____ (of goods or reputation) or as a "_____ in other men's _____." However, if we suffer as a Christian, we have no reason to be "_____."

In 4:17,18, "For the time is come that _____ must begin at the _____ of God." This is not the judging of others but a self-judgment of personal lifestyle, attitudes, priorities, motivation, etc.

In 4:19, if the will of God permits a Christian to suffer, then Peter concludes, simply "_____ this to the Lord in "_____—_____ as unto a _____ Creator." The alternative will mean falling into a state of unhappiness and self-pity, neither of which will bring glory to God or peace to the heart.

Chapter 5 will begin 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.

For almost 20 years we lived in a pagan land and rubbed shoulders with those who had never once heard the name of Jesus. Our every waking hour offered an opportunity to witness for our Lord, either by action or spoken word.

Then nine years ago the Lord led us back from Lobi Land to

wouldn't know how to write one if we did."

The very next day another manuscript crossed my desk. The From Crime to Christ Prison Ministry (now merged with Van Impe Ministries) requested volunteers to follow up their prison contacts. "There you are!" a Voice screamed. "There are your prisoners."

schools, places to work and play, but void of hope. Would I be willing to enter that land?

On the eve of our departure for Africa, Bob Pierce told us, "Unless you're willing to kneel and kiss the black man's boots, you'd better not go to Africa." This statement came back to haunt me as I considered this new mission field. These were the dregs of society. For the most part, they deserved every scrap of punishment meted out to them. Yet for the grace of God, these could be my own sons. Could I reach out to them in genuine love? If not, forget it!

I didn't enter it lightly. I knew it would cost something: first, in time. I had painfully neglected our own children on the mission field. Could I conscientiously take on others?

It would cost money. Not only the 22 cents postage, but stationery and other incidentals. Yes, there were other incidentals of which I was unaware.

It costs something to become involved in the life of another. His burdens and problems and frustrations become yours and you find yourself awakened from sleep to intercede for him. I don't think I was prepared to pay this price.

Finally with God's "Go Ahead" signal, I contacted Mr. Baker and received my first six or eight inmates. I'm still writing to one of them today. His first letter said he was not saved and his second one said he had accepted Christ. So with this confirmation of God's leading, I pursued it with great anticipation.

That was six years ago. These years of a Prison Correspondence Ministry have been both encouraging and discouraging. I've had the privilege to minister to someone in the name of Jesus. As I've spent time writing to one in a lonely cell, I feel I have spent time with my Lord.

When I write to prisoners, I feel a kinship with Paul. He wrote many of his letters from a prison



*Them Also
I Must Bring*

IN PRISON

by Lorene Miley

Nashville, Tennessee, a city of churches. I began work in our national headquarters and my husband at our national college. We reactivated our church membership. We moved in a totally Christian environment. I didn't even know an unsaved person. Embarrassed? Yes! Ashamed? Convicted? Yes, oh yes!

One day a manuscript from a prisoner came to CO-LABORER. I returned his scathing denunciation on the church for not writing to prisoners with this notation: "I think you came down on 'us' pretty hard. Most of us don't even know a prisoner and

I explored the possibility. I learned this mission field was filled with 1.3 million prisoners, $\frac{3}{4}$ th of them under the age of 25, 20 times as many men as women, with a large number of blacks and minorities. More than 80% do not possess employable skills. Each has been created in the image of God, yet something has gone wrong in the life of each—they have lost touch with why they were created. In terms of IQ, normal, but he is a failure—a failure in school, in marriage, at work, and a failure in society. They live in a land where violence, despair and hopelessness abound. It has

cell. His love and encouragement and Biblical exhortation provide our best example for a Christian correspondence relationship.

A letter is not much on the surface, but it pipes hope and encouragement into walls of hate and bitterness. Isolated from whatever positive influence they might once have had, their lives are now filled with despair and hopelessness. One inmate wrote, "I've written over 200 letters since I've been in prison and yours is the first I've received." Then he added, "You've lifted me higher than I've ever been before."

Letters take inmates away from the hustle and bustle of prison and allows them to concentrate on something above them. It helps them keep touch with outside values, reflect on what's happening to them, and unburden themselves by sharing their thoughts with someone who listens. It keeps them in touch with reality as they struggle to stay sane in an insane environment. Many have told me, "Thank you for allowing me to share your world."

A prison correspondence ministry enables us to share the promises of God to hungry hearts. "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee," has special significance to someone isolated from all they've ever known.

Our prisons do a poor job of rehabilitation. Statistics show that more than 80% of prisoners have a prior criminal conviction with 2/3 of them being repeat offenders. Letters written in the name of Christ help redirect his thinking and form positive convictions based on Biblical principles. They help the inmate face life so when he is released the risks will be lessened.

A Prison Correspondence ministry is often a thankless task. I've been vulnerable. They present their urgent needs and I'm ready to send my paycheck. Their release is coming up with nowhere to go and I'm ready to offer the guest room. I know I've been used at times and if I had

some things to do over, I wouldn't do them. Some I probably would even though I lost.

Or did I? God keeps the score and He promises His Word will not return unto Him void. Neither will that which is done in His name. This is basically a seed planting, seed nurturing ministry. Someone else may reap the harvest. But it does afford an opportunity to help bring in part of those "Other Sheep" which are not of the sheepfold. ◇

Guidelines for writing Prisoners:

1. Keep your street address secret by renting a Post Office Box or have letters sent in care of the church.
2. Don't pry or reveal too much too soon. Respect the prisoner's need to keep some things private and expect the same respect for yourself.
3. Don't discuss prison policies or administration with an inmate.
4. Never put yourself in a position for which you are responsible or an accessory to the actions of an inmate. Don't place ads for his products or publications, or establish accounts for him.
5. Use discretion in sending photos. Just because they ask doesn't mean you must comply.
6. Giving out phone numbers could mean unwanted collect calls or charging of other calls to your number.
7. Before sending anything (other than letters), write to the institution for a copy of regulations on mail and visits, a rule book, and information on wages paid to inmates.

Over My Coffee Cup



By Eunice Edwards

Today the news media carried the astounding story and pictures of the beginning of a space station in outer space. Two hard-hat astronauts, while tethered to the space capsule, went outside the capsule and erected a structure upon which they proudly displayed the red, white and blue of their country for all the world to see—the flag of the United States of America! What a sight! And we are justly proud.

Two thousand years ago a man called Jesus hung suspended between heaven and earth. And except for His love for mankind, there were no tethers for Him. But He also revealed the colors of His country. There was the blue of His Heavenly Father, the white of His own pure life, and the red that reflected the redemption from sin He was offering to all men everywhere. What a sight! And we are justly shamed.

Three great shuttles carried the blue, white and red threads of Christ's mission to this world. He did not come from outer space, however. He came from His home in heaven. And those who will accept Him are invited to share that place with Him throughout eternity. ◇

8. Put all stories and requests in perspective. The validity of such may be checked by writing or calling the facility.
9. Select a carefully chosen tract to insert in each letter.
10. Keep in mind you are the inmate's Christian correspondent, not his source of supply. Some will use any tactics, including spiritual to get what they want. Through prayer and discernment, choose the inmates you can most help through a correspondence ministry.

CROSSWINDS

by Brenda Boiter Newton

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.

It has been over two years now that I was diagnosed as having cancer. The doctors at Chapel Hill gave me six to eight weeks to live.

Denial

My first thoughts were, "This is someone else's diagnosis. It can't be mine!" I had had cancer many years before but had been cured. This must be a mistake.

I don't deny I have cancer, but I can't accept that it is final. Although I am destined to die, I cannot believe that I will die as a result of cancer. I refuse to let this monster get the best of me, much less die from it.

I find I'm having trouble sharing my feelings with God. *God, You said You loved me. How can this be if You let me die with cancer?*

If this is God's way of showing me how much He loves me, then I don't think I want His love.

Anger

It is God's fault I have cancer. He's making me die. I didn't ask for this. I certainly didn't want all these tests and treatments. I'm mad ... mad at me ... mad at the world ... mad at God.

God, where are You? Why are You letting me go through all this alone? If that's what he wants, then I don't need Him anymore. I

can handle it without help from anyone.

People can't understand how I feel. Why can't I make them understand? I may be dying, but I'm not dead yet. I'm still alive, don't bury me. I want to be a part of their lives. They seem to think

***Death
is not
the end.
It is only the
beginning.***

that since I'm sick I don't need to be bothered with their affairs. I need to know that I am still a part of their lives, just as they are a part of mine.

I could end it all right now. Then my family and friends could go on with their lives and quit hurting because of me. I can't

stand to watch them suffer because I am dying. Why can't it end?

God, if You love me, why are You making me go through this?

Bargaining

I've always tried to do what God wanted me to do. I got my act together a long time before this cancer came along. Years ago I learned that Jesus died on the cross for my sins. I invited Him into my life and He forgave my sins and came into my life to stay. I was God's child.

Please, God, let me live and I will do anything You ask. I will help others through their illnesses. I will tell others what You have done. I will bring the unsaved to You.

How is it that from the cross Jesus forgave those who hurt Him, yet I'm finding it hard to forgive Him?

The Son of God must have understood because at that moment, He seemed to come down from the cross and place His powerful arms around my shoulders. How could He love me when I had been so angry with Him? I let go all my fears, my anger and bargainings.

God, I accept Your plan for my life. You are worthy of my trust. I knew He would never leave me,

Living Through the Five Stages of Death

Some private thoughts of a woman facing death and dying.

Bountiful Supply

Good news! The Provision Closet is full and running over as this is being written (April 1).

Missionaries will be coming by in May during the board meetings, June, and July, however; and shelves will empty out as articles are selected to serve in Africa, Panama, Japan, the USA and wherever Free Will Baptist missionaries work.

Now, by the time this is published, the Provision Closet will be in general need of everything we stock—linens, flatware for 8-12, dinner service, small appliances.

Special thanks to the women who keep the Provision Closet bountifully supplied.

Here It Is Again

WNAC Emphasis Month is here again.

Last year our churches gave \$10,588.58 in Emphasis Month offerings.

Notice churches. Emphasis offerings give everyone in the church an opportunity to share with WNAC.

WNAC does not receive any funds from the Cooperative Fund. Very few churches have WNAC in the budget. (I know two churches that include WNAC in monthly budgeted giving.)

Emphasis offerings become a unique opportunity for the whole church to express its support of the women's work.

In August (or whichever month you choose) give your church an opportunity to share with WNAC.

Retreat Eager Beavers

By March 31, already 125 eager women had registered for the national retreat at Ridgecrest, NC.

Ridgecrest will take reservations right up to September 8.

Remember that walk-ons not staying or eating on the grounds should still register and pay the \$17 fee. This fee helps cover speaker honorariums and the meeting facilities so well furnished by Ridgecrest.

See program details in this issue. ◇



Progressive District Convention, Cordova, AL

Crosswinds, cont. from p. 13 ...

no, not even at death.

Thank You, God, for loving me.

Depression

There's no way I can condense my thoughts on depression to a few words. The dying process with cancer is normally depressing. I wish there was some way I could make my loved ones understand this.

I hate being excluded and assumed unable to help. I hate being sick. I hate tests. I hate treatments and hospitals. I wish it were over. Not only for myself, but for everyone who loves me. The physical pain of suffering I can handle. It is nothing. It's the emotional and mental pain that comes from watching my hurting family that I cannot handle.

How can they love me after all I've put them through?

God, I want to die. Why am I still living? I want to be free. Oh, God, let me die.

Understanding

As I now live on extended time, I thank God for allowing me to

have cancer. I see many things now that I did not see before. I take time to smell the roses. I have been allowed to see the other side of terminal illness. Both of my parents died from a terminal illness and now I can better understand their pain and anguish, their moods and tense moments.

Dying does not bother me. Death is the beginning, not the end. I now know more of God's precious love and forgiveness. I may still shut out my loved ones, but I'm letting God in more than ever. I can share with Him all my fears and frustrations. He understands when no one else can. I know what being "homesick for heaven" means and "Be still and know that I am God." God allowed me to have cancer that I might grow in His grace.

God, I'm no longer angry at You. I'm holding on to You. Please keep holding on to me.

Peace

I'm still awaiting to experience the final stage—peace. ◇

HELPS FOR LEADERS

Ideas to Stimulate Your Imagination

President/Vice President

Devotional: Freedoms in the 23rd Psalm

Recite the 23rd Psalm in unison.

Each verse in this psalm lists a freedom that is available to every believer who allows the Good Shepherd to direct her life.

Verse 1: Freedom from want

The Good Shepherd is concerned about our every need. We not need worry nor fret for He promises to supply material, physical, financial and spiritual needs.

Verse 2: Freedom from hunger and thirst

He provides food to satisfy our hunger and wells of living water that never run dry.

Verse 3: Freedom from sin

Our lives are kept pure as we follow the Good Shepherd along right paths.

Verse 4: Freedom from fear

He promises never to leave or forsake us. We never face anything that He does not face with us. How can we fear?

Verse 5: Freedom from defeat

Greater is he that is in us than he that is in the world!

Verse 6: Freedom to live

Because He lives, we, too, shall live and we can face the future in expectancy.

Agenda for July

Make this a patriotic affair. Ask the women to wear clothes of red-white-blue combinations. Give an award (a small flag) to the most patriotic outfit. Award a boobie prize to those with none of those colors visible.

Before your patriotic meeting, perhaps at your June meeting, divide your membership into three groups of red, white and blue. To make the division fair, write every name on your membership roll on a slip of paper. Fold, shuffle, then separate the slips into three piles. Staple together the ends of the slips and appoint a captain over each. See which team can have the most of its women present at the next meeting. A visitor counts as two women for the team. Give a small flag to each one on the winning team.

Room Decorations: Secure 5 small tin cans, #303, and a box of sparklers (if they are legal in your area). Paint the cans red, punch a small hole in the bottom, and insert the sparkler in the hole. These should resemble firecrackers.

Invitations: Paste a U.S. flag seal on white 3" x 5" cards. Print on each: Come to Auxiliary for a red-white-blue celebration.

Publicity: Use the poster in CO-LABORER.

Open your meeting by singing "God Bless America." Give the salutes to the flags and Bible.

Brief Business Session

Secretary and treasurer's reports. If the treasurer's report is lengthy, make copies and give to each one. Allow time for scanning and answering any questions.

Old and New Business. Try to screen as much as possible through the executive committee.

Officer's Reports

Program: "Free At Last"

Agenda for August

August is Emphasis Month when a special program is presented before the entire church. If this month is not convenient, plan to have it at another time. These programs are effective on either a Wednesday or Sunday night, so arrange this ahead of time with your pastor.

If you have a regular meeting in addition to your Emphasis Program, use the theme of "At Summer's End." Write invitations on index cards on which a sun is going down. Display the poster as suggested in the magazine. Use this fun activity as a warm-up.

At Summer's End

(Select five women to line across the front. The leader stands beside them, but one step forward and turned toward them so they can mimic her actions.)

Once at the end of summer, we visited an exciting Woman's Auxiliary meeting. One might call this a model Auxiliary meeting as everyone worked together to accomplish many worthwhile activities. The President realized her purpose was to promote missions, so she called the women to attention. *(She snaps her fingers on one hand and continues this action as each of the five in turn repeat the words and action.)*

The vice president of this model meeting was charged with enlistment and publicity. She was a vivacious soul as she beckoned the women from far and near to come to Auxiliary. *(Beckon with one hand while continuing to snap with the other. The other five do the same.)*

The Mission Study Chairman was on her toes as she encouraged the women to read books on

missions. She reviewed one that night which was called MISSION TO THE HEADHUNTERS. (Drop head as if it had been severed from the body. This action is continuous with the snapping and beckoning. The others repeat the action.)

You knew right away the women in this Auxiliary were women of prayer. The Mission prayer Chairman distributed prayer reminders to keep the women on their knees. (Bend knees up and down, up and down, while continuing the other actions.)

When we care for people, we will reach out to them in love. The Mission Action Chairman called everyone to action with "Up and at 'em!" (Each time you pop up your head, call out these words. As the five finish, all should be simultaneously snapping, beckoning, bending, sagging and calling.)

So that's the way it was at this model Auxiliary meeting at summer's end. And pretty good advice for us, too, I might add. (They return to their seats.)

Hymn: The Call for Reapers or Harvest Time

Program: "The Summer Is Ended." Use this program as a panel discussion or assign paragraphs, not topics, to various women.

Brief Business Session

Old and New Business

Reports From The Officers

Mission Study Chairman — Arrange a study on Chapter 4 of MISSIONS USA.

Mission Action Chairman — Plan to visit your city jail. Make care packets to take to each prisoner. Be sure to include some appropriate gospel tracts and literature.

Write to Prison Fellowship to secure promotional literature on a prison ministry. Distribute these to those interested.

Mission Prayer Chairman — Prepare copies of the Missionary Trivia quiz and give one to each woman. Or put it on the blackboard and do it together.

Mission Study Chairman



MISSIONS USA by Earl Parvin
Chapter 4

Institutional Ministries

Aim: To explore the areas of mercy provided for those unable to help themselves

Preparation: Write the chapter divisions on a flip chart and flip the pages as you progress in the lecture.

Write the following four assignments on sheets of paper:

1. Prison/Jail Ministry. If my son or daughter were in prison serving a life term or on death row, what attitude would I want the other women in my Auxiliary to have toward him? How would I want them to express that attitude?
2. Institutions of Mercy. God made women with a compassionate heart for the needs of others, as abandoned and abused children, troubled teens, handicapped, addicts and alcoholics, blind, deaf, or aged. We are most sensitive when our own family members are the victims. Do we have an obligation to help those unable to help themselves? What Scriptures teach this? How do we determine which ones we will help?
3. Military Establishments. Make a list of those in the military who are associated in some way with your church. What have you or your Auxiliary done to encourage them? What can you do?
4. Educational Communities. Just suppose your child's best friend in public school is a latchkey kid who is totally unevangelized and worldly wise, although he does go with you to church occasionally. You've noticed your child adopting some of his offensive mannerisms and vocabulary. What can you or your Auxiliary do to win and discipline him, as well as others like him?

Teaching Techniques

Divide your women into four groups and appoint a leader over each. Give each group one of the four assignments. Allow five minutes for groups to reach a conclusion and allow time for discussion.

I. Prison/Jail Ministry

- A. Describe the average prisoner by age, race, sex, education and morals.
- B. Describe missions activity among the prisoners.
- C. Return rate for prisoners is about 80%. Those who minister to them must have an "infinite capacity for disappointment."

II. Institutions of Mercy

Describe what is being done to evangelize the abandoned and abused children, troubled teens, handicapped, addicts and aged.

III. Military

- A. Why is the military considered a neglected mission field?
- B. What opportunities exist for reaching the military for Christ?

IV. Educational Ministries

- A. America's children must be evangelized while they are still in their prime years. What conditions make this a problem?
- B. How are our children being reached through the public schools?
- C. Describe a ministry to college students.
- D. How can international students be reached?

Mission Prayer Chairman

Prayer Reminders for July

Print the name of one chaplain on each prayer reminder.



Capt. James Bishop
(US Army)

LCDR Robert Cooper
(US Navy)

Major Walter Golding
(US Air Force)

Major Larry Langford
(US Army)

Col. Gerald Mangham
(US Army)

Major Kerry Steedly
(US Army)

1st Lt. Tim Sturgill
(US Air Force)

1st Lt. Bill Conlon
(US Air Force)

Prayer Reminders for August

Prepare a quiz for each person. Write it on a blackboard, or read the questions and let the women answer, either orally or on a scrap of paper.

- Which missionary has a son who is also a missionary?
 - Ken Eagleton
 - Tom Hughes
 - Bobby Poole
- Who is the only single missionary in Spain?
 - Cathy Crawford
 - Patsy Vanhook
 - Lynn Midgett
- Who are the newest appointees to the Ivory Coast?
 - Dwain and Debby Crosby
 - Norman and Laura McFall
 - Ron and Linda Moore
- Whose father died recently after a long illness?
 - Anita Sparks
 - Shirley Combs
 - Molly Barker
- Who is/was the missionary speaker at the WNAC in Kansas City?
 - James Munsey
 - John Murray
 - Robert Bryan
- Some men from the States recently went to France to erect a church. Who headed up this project?
 - Steve Riggs
 - Jerry Gibbs
 - Dennis Teague
- Which of our mission fields suffers from severe depreciation of the dollar?
 - Japan
 - Spain
 - India
- Who is the youngest baby in our missionary family?
 - Baby Holland
 - Baby Nichols
 - Baby McDonald
- Who are the dorm parents in the Ivory Coast Academy?
 - Neil and Sheila Gilliland
 - Jim and Evelyn Teague
 - Jerry and Carol Pinkerton
- Who is our oldest active missionary?
 - Paul Robinson
 - Louis Coscia
 - Carlisle Hanna

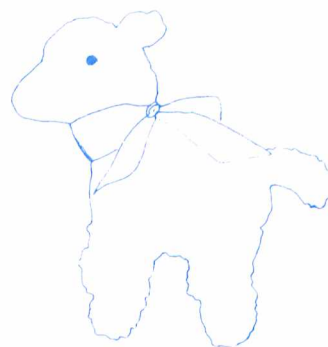
Mission Action Chairman

"I was in prison, and you came unto me."

Prison Fellowship, P. O. Box 17500, Washington, DC 20041-05001 offers opportunities to minister to prison inmates, as:

1. Visiting an inmate
2. Writing an inmate
3. Visiting the family of an inmate
4. Attending or leading a prison Bible study
5. Hosting a furloughing prisoner during work release projects
6. Serving as counselor during prison seminars
7. Participating in a prayer chain

Contact the official at your city jail and ask permission to provide a care package for each inmate. You may prefer to minister to only women. Use plastic bags or make drawstring bags from cloth. Into each, put a bar of soap, tooth brush, tooth paste, deodorant, shampoo, comb, tablet, stamps and envelopes. Other articles may be added. Include a New Testament or gospel portion and your church newsletter.



Materials Needed

16 x 12" piece of wooly type fur fabric, preferably black
small pieces of both white and pink felt
3/4 yard of ribbon
2 black faceted beads
craft glue
stuffing
needle and thread

Instructions

Enlarge the pattern on a copier.

On back of fur, draw 2 bodies and 2 underbodies, reversing one of each.

Draw 2 ears, 2 tails and 1 head gusset.

Cut out, allowing for seams.

On white felt, draw 2 ears and 1 nose. Cut out, allowing for seam.

Pin 1 side of head gusset to one body, right sides together and sew from D to C.

Repeat for the other side.

Pin and sew in underbody from A to B, sewing around legs.

Sew seam from A to E, then from D to B.

Trim seams and clip. Body should be open at center underbody seam and at the nose.

Stuff and sew up underbody seam.

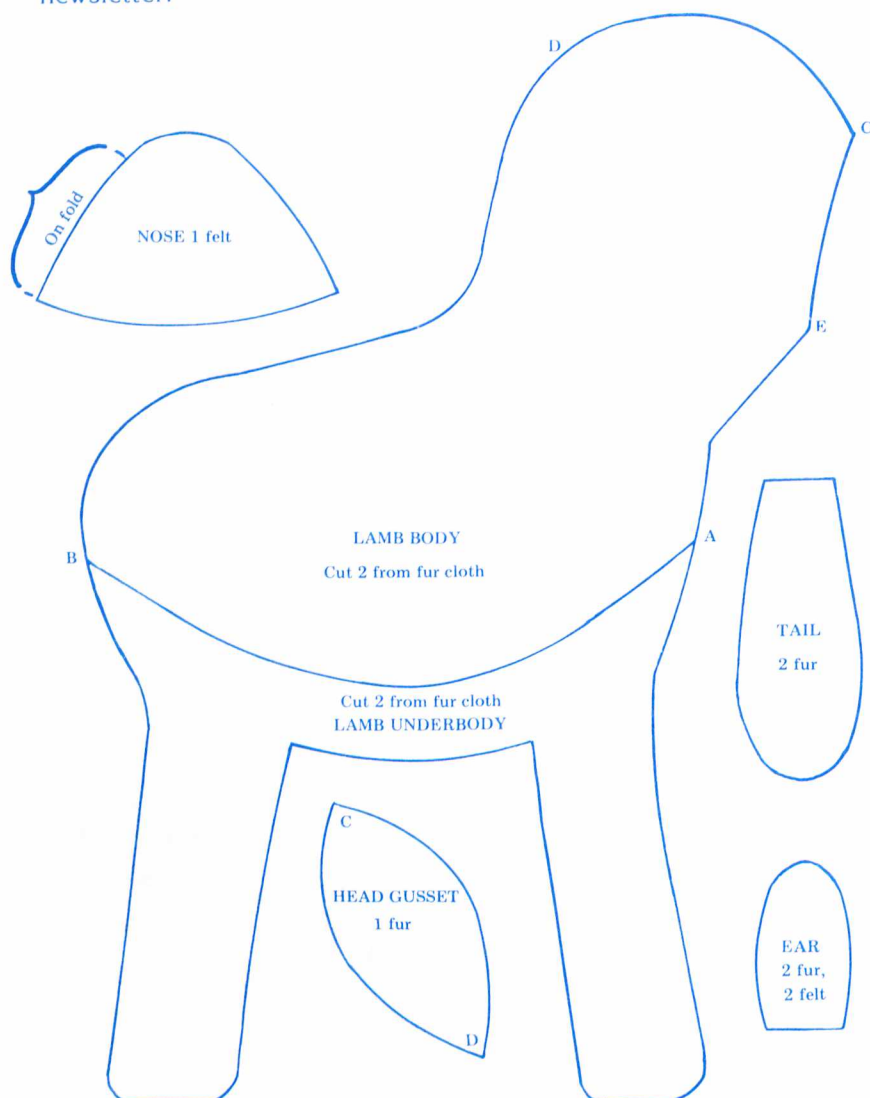
Sew nose seam, stuff and sew over opening, turning edges as much as needed.

Cut nostrils and mouth from pink felt and glue on.

Sew tail and ears and sew to lamb with felt side at the bottom.

Sew on eyes.

Tie a bow around the neck.



continued from p. 7 ...

**Free to be
Pure and Holy**

**Free
to be
Me**

**Free to
Set Priorities**

Free to go Home

JESUS sets us free



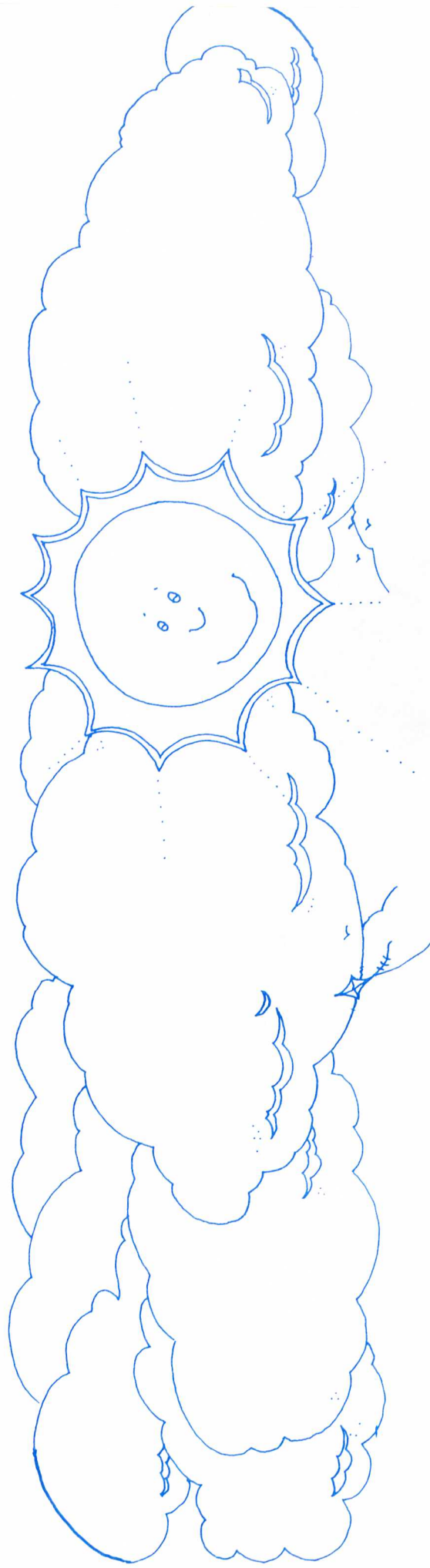


date

time

IT'S

Summer's End



Woman's Auxiliary

date

time

WOMEN IN ACTION



Liberty Heights Auxiliary, Bixby, OK, sponsors a slave auction on Old-Timer's Day which netted \$225 for church pioneer, Paul Thompson, Phoenix, AZ.



Jasper women cater food for the Alabama state banquet with Ned Peters, home missionary to Ozark, as guest speaker. Lydia Bozeman, Pat Pless, state president, Leatrice Price, Betty Hawkins and Linda Silas.

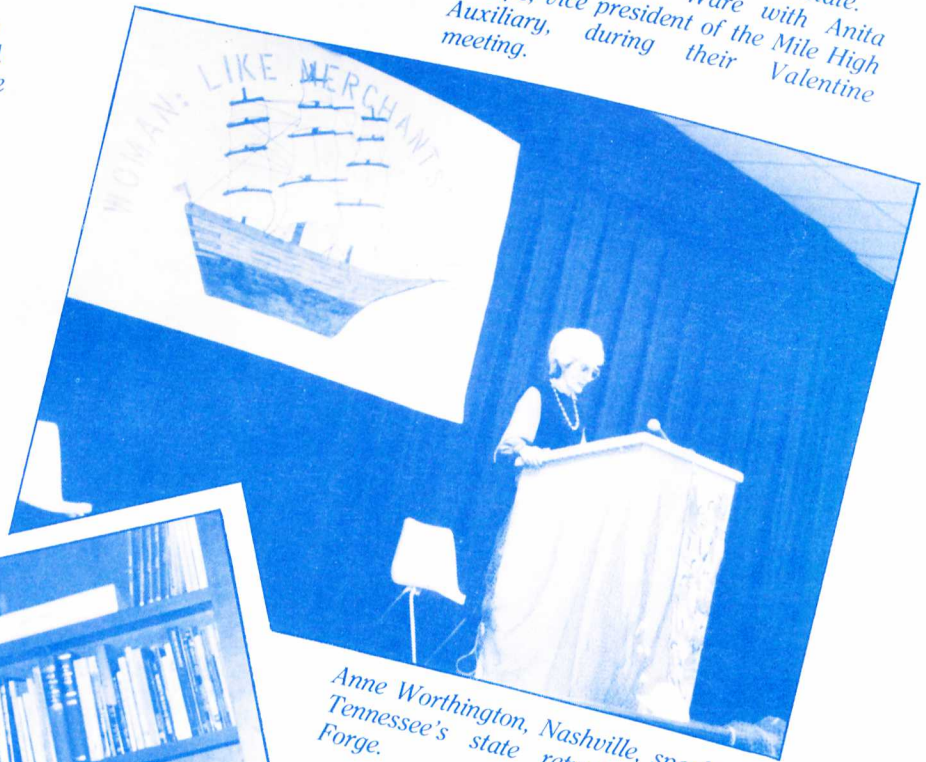
Alabama State Banquet



Joyce Gibson, president of Vernon district, presents home missionary Richard Hendrix (Madison) with a floral centerpiece. Bro. Hendrix spoke at the 5th Vernon district banquet.



Barbara Myer, Faith, and Nadine Hood, Mile High, are installed as officers of Colorado's Rocky Mountain district. Five auxiliaries comprise this mission state. President Lorene Ware with Anita Phillips, vice president of the Mile High Auxiliary, during their Valentine meeting.



Anne Worthington, Nashville, speaks at Tennessee's state retreat at Pigeon Forge.



Mary Ruth Wisehart with her hug from Walt and Lena Golding, with the military in Clovis, NM. The note attached read: "Since we cannot be there ... on 'Auxiliary Hug Day,' we are sending a 'Military Bear Chaplain' to do it for us."

Waltonville Auxiliary (IL) made bibs and lap robes for the nursing home.

Sophia Auxiliary (WV) sponsored its annual banquet with a giant Christmas card extravaganza. Women representing our missionaries brought Christmas greetings from the various countries.

Women brought their favorite teddy bears for the program, "Auxiliary Hug Day." Vicki Sturgill, missionary to Brazil, received special hugs along with a quilt for their family.

According to the CO-LABORER mailing list, the average auxiliary has 13.67 members. Some have as few as 5 and a couple over 60. Therefore, CO-LABORER programs must be adapted according to your particular group.

We try to suggest programs in the magazine that are adaptable to all size groups, although it may require ingenuity on the part of your program leader. CO-LABORER welcomes ideas on how you have altered specific programs to meet your needs. This will encourage other Auxiliaries to do the same.



Progressive District Convention, Cordova, AL

A WOMAN God Has Used

In the space of three months, Oklahoma lost two of her most ardent missionary supporters—Lura Gebhart and Joan Jones.

Mrs. Jones of Duncan, carried a heavy burden for her missionary family and let them know it in myriad ways. She wrote to all of them and sent birthday and anniversary cards, even to the children.

Joan also engaged in spiritual warfare in behalf of her missionaries. She often awakened in the night to pray for them, calling each name before the Lord.

She knew the personal tastes of the older crop of missionaries and sent gifts to their liking. She stocked an unused barn with items and conducted a perpetual garage sale with proceeds going to her missionaries. Five years ago when her health failed, she began sending \$10 monthly (later



decreased it to \$5) for a personal fund which she called the "Cosmetic Fund," but was actually used for whatever personal request the missionaries made.

Edward and Joan Jones had no children of their own, but she was Mom to many. Their home was ever open to children around them, especially the homeless or neglected.

Mrs. Jones corresponded with her missionaries to the end. A month before her death, she wrote, "The doctor kept me asleep for about five days. Now I'm trying stay awake long enough to get to my missionary cards." Many times she'd write a while, rest, then write again. Even when her eyesight deteriorated to near blindness, she still communicated her love and support to her missionary family.

The Woman's Auxiliary was an integral part of Joan's life because it offered an outlet for her missionary energy. She left a void that only someone like you can fill.

THE MINISTER'S WIFE

Compiled by Cleo Pursell

Can we talk? Really talk for a moment about something that's important to all of us? I'm thinking of our life as a minister's wife (hereafter known as MW).

Most of us "entered the ministry" wearing rose-colored glasses. We were going to be Super Pastor's Wife (hereafter known as SPW). It didn't take me long to realize there were few of these around. It's an almost impossible task for the average woman.

Gradually reality set in. Since I had a long time to live in this situation, I decided I'd better make some adjustments for my own sanity. The first, I believe, was to admit there are a few things about being an MW that we just don't like. Since I'm not a SPW, I confess there are some things which irritate me no end.

For instance, there's the hectic schedule—major stress! Do you ever feel that your family only passes each other every day? Have you made an appointment with your husband just to discuss family matters? A hectic schedule is probably not a problem for a SPW, but the average MW must establish priorities with the help of her husband.

And how about goldfish bowl living? Sometimes I feel the parsonage walls are one-way wood—everyone can see in, but I can't see out. Surely even the passersby can see if I'm sleeping late, use frayed towels, or harbor fuzzbunnies under my bed.

It's no bed of roses raising your children in a glass cage. It's amazing that people who have (or had) no control over their own children always know how to raise the minister's children. Few things arouse my righteous indignation more than having someone unnecessarily criticize my children, whether privately or publicly.

Aggravation

Advice

And

Adjustments

by Shirley Sharpston

When a couple marries, they become one. If you marry a minister, however, it's as if you, your husband AND the congregation become one, with the MW low person on the totem pole. It's not easy sharing your husband with dozens of people.

One of our most difficult tasks is moving. Next to the decision to move is the task of breaking the news to the children. If your family moves every two or three years, or more often you barely get unpacked, much less put down roots, before starting all over again. Yet moving after a

lengthy pastorate can be heart-wrenching for the whole family as well. Through the whole ordeal, the MW's attitude determines how much ease and with how much difficulty the move is made.

There are so many positive aspects about our position that we must not dwell on the negatives. Satan can use anything to defeat us and the more we dwell on something, the bigger it becomes.

Lest you think I'm a pessimist, let me assure you that while the life of an MW isn't all good, it certainly isn't all bad, either. How can I describe the thrill of seeing souls born into the kingdom of God and maturing into dedicated servants? How can I describe the satisfaction of helping others through spiritual ups and downs?

A salesman stopped by the parsonage to see the pastor. The little boy stopped his playing to say his father was in the study praying about accepting a larger church. When the salesman asked to see the boy's mother, he replied, "She's upstairs packing."

This illustrates the precarious position of an MW. Most of us run the gamut from being placed on a pedestal to being trampled underfoot. We may be criticized, imposed upon, and taken for granted; yet no wives are more praised, complimented, made to feel special, shown appreciation, loved and treated with respect than the pastor's wife.

On this note then, may I give you some advice? First, don't dwell on the negative. Accentuate the positive and eliminate the negatives. You may not be able to eliminate all the negative, but you can put it in its proper place in your life and learn to grin and bear it.

Secondly, be yourself—don't be someone you're not. People know when you are faking happiness or contentment. Strive to be the best

Christian you can be, but don't be a phony.

We serve the Lord because the love of Christ constrains us, not because we think everyone else expects it of us, and certainly not because the former pastor's wife always did it. We answer to God first, then our husbands.

Be open with your husband about your feelings. You may have to get his attention first, but be persistent until he listens. Your husband doesn't always view things as you do; therefore your concerns may seem insignificant to him.

Last, but not least, keep your sense of humor! Laugh about the midnight caller who asks, "Is the pastor there?" Where else would he be at that time of night? I still believe there are times when my phone number is flashed subliminally during any TV program in which I'm interested.

Once in a fit of frustration, I made this feeble attempt to express my feelings:
Dear Lord,
There are some things that I don't like

About being a minister's wife;
It's constant, demanding and trying

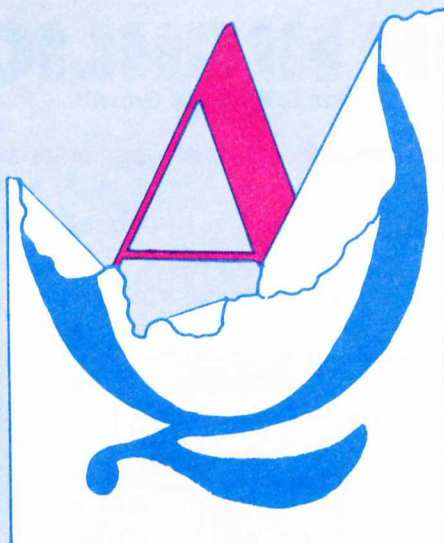
It's not an easy life.
Now I'm not asking for more salary, less work

Or extra hours of slumber;
But, Dear Lord, could I please just have

An unlisted telephone number?

There have been many Monday mornings when my husband has resigned and equally as many when I wished he would! Fortunately these times have never coincided and he's still in the pastorate. Paul encourages us to be content in whatever state we are in, but it takes work.

I'm certainly not an expert in this field. I probably don't even qualify as an outstanding MW. But I know I'm in the Lord's will and as I add all the pluses of the ministry and subtract all the minuses, it equals out. When this at last dawns on us, we MW's usually settle quite contentedly in the parsonage nest. ◇



**Your questions
answered on:**

Woman's Auxiliary

**by Mary Neal
WNAC President**

What is the significance of the Auxiliary colors lavender and white?

Lavender symbolizes royalty; white, purity. Royalty speaks to us of Christ the King. Purity suggests our desire to be the pure vessels our King can use to carry out His command: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

We're confused. Our district and state usually try to use the national theme for our conventions. But we used "Them Also I Must Bring" last year. What is the theme we should use this year?

"Them Also I Must Bring" is the national theme for January through December, 1988. A new theme will be introduced at the convention in July. The new theme, "Arise and Build," will be emphasized from January through December, 1989.

The national retreats also suggest themes. The 1988 theme at Ridgecrest will be "Asking and Receiving." We used "Seeking His Face" for Indiana's state convention.

Your own theme suggestions can be a special blessing to your district and state.

Is it the same everywhere—every woman pays for her own CO-LABORER magazine? Or do some Auxiliaries pay for them from the treasury?

Some churches pay for CO-LABORER from the church treasury. Just as they provide for all the other departments, churches provide the Auxiliary with literature. Other Auxiliaries pay for the magazines from their own treasury. Still, in many of our churches each woman pays for her own subscription.

More and more of our women who have no organized Auxiliary in their churches are ordering individual subscriptions. CO-LABORER is for every woman. Use whatever subscription plan is best for your situation.

According to the Manual, our Auxiliary is to have two mission studies per year for all women. Most of our women work and do well to get out one night a month; a series of nights is impossible. We need to know—exactly what constitutes a study?

No one set way, book, or method for study courses is best for each Auxiliary. Each Auxiliary must find its own best way to have a study.

The *Mission Study Chairman's Guide* has several ideas about planning times for study courses; for example, a one-night study with 2 or 3 brief sessions, a day-time study with 3 or 4 sessions and a fellowship brunch or lunch. (See pp. 10-11 of the *Guide*—available from WNAC—for more suggestions.)

Involve all the women in planning a time; check the church calendar and plan a time convenient for the whole church. ◇

BOOK HIGHLIGHTS

Aids to Spiritual Growth

THE BLESSING

by Gary Smalley and
John Trent, Ph.D.

Thomas Nelson Publishers, \$14.95

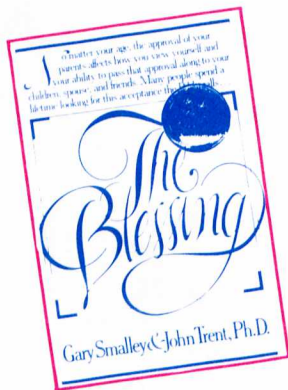
In the Bible we can understand the significance of the blessing that Isaac gave to Jacob and he to his own sons. Are we, as parents and spouses and friends, responsible for blessing others in this day and age? The writers of this book suggest that we are. And if we don't bestow "the blessing," those around us may spend a lifetime in search of it.

Smalley and Trent use many vivid, true-life examples of persons in search of the blessing of others. They outline and detail the five elements of the blessing:

1. The meaningful touch
2. Spoken Word
3. Expression of high value
4. Description of a special future
5. Application of genuine commitment

This book reveals homes of people we know and love. We may even see our own. This book could be an invaluable tool for parenting.

— Diane Mitchell Thomas



A SEASON OF SUFFERING

by John N. Timmerman

Multnomah Press, 1987, 221 pages,
\$8.95. Reviewed by Lila Thompson

When depression strikes a family, it isn't just one who suffers. It is the experience of all. A

SEASON OF SUFFERING is a personal account of 19 years of marriage and four children. When the mother was three months postpartum with the youngest, she began a seven-week hospitalization period for depression. This book chronicles the journey the family took with her before, during and following her illness.

The book describes the clinical, emotional and spiritual dynamics of depression. It dispels the myth that depression is a punishment for unconfessed sin, lack of faith or personality flaws. Depression is an illness and must be treated by a competent physician.

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." Suffering—and depression—endures for a season. The book gives reassurance that the Christian family will survive and remain intact as they depend upon the Lord.

A well-researched appendix gives much information concerning depression and related illnesses.

The POET'S CORNER



Congratulations to the four women who submitted these winning poems in WNAC's creative arts contest. Watch for other choice poems in future issues of CO-LABORER.

The Greatest Gift

The Sunday school teacher stood
And said to her primary class's
listening ear,

"Our Christmas program is going to be
A little different this year.
When our nativity scene is shown,
Each of you will bear a gift—
Something of your very own!"

The entire class shuffled their feet
And racked their brain.
What gift could they part with,
With the least pain?

Kari said she'd give her doll,
As she would get another
When Santa came again.

Anyway, it was looking rather bad
From lying in the rain.

Kim thought and said,
"I'll give my catcher's mitt.
I don't play much anymore,
So I won't miss it."

Tim scratched his head, said,
"I'll give my trike,
Cause Santa is bringing me
My first two-wheel bike."

But one, Jimmy Brown,
Walked sorrowfully away;
He had no toy to bring.
His poor family just
Lived from day to day.

Finally the time came
For the program to begin;
The parents and families
Had all gathered in.

The children each walked
Down the middle aisle; →

On every face there beamed
A great big smile.

Each was proud of the gifts
That he had brought;
Whether it was worthy,
No one gave a thought.

Last came Jimmy Brown
And the church gasped to see
Him encased in a box
Christmas-wrapped with bow.
What was his gift?
The church wanted to know.

The teacher's chin quivered,
Tears rolled down her cheek;
She swallowed hard
Then began to speak.
"When I asked each one to
Give to the Babe this year,
Some of you were not lending
A listening ear.

Jimmy was the only one
Who really did hear;
He had no toys like you,
Not even a bat or ball,
So he gave himself,
The greatest gift of all."

*Dorothy Hamilton
Waltonville, Illinois*

Successful in Stewardship

Life

His precious gift to me
Returned to Him unselfishly
All I am, or hope to be—
Surrendered in Stewardship.

Money

Earned through toil and care,
Tithes and offerings, His just share,
Make me humble aware (of)
Sacrifice in Stewardship.

Personality

Diverse traits,
Flaws that He eliminates
To perfect me for His gates,
Sanctified in Stewardship

Talents

Those that I possess
Used to glorify, praise and bless
The Lord Jesus, I confess
Sincerity in Stewardship

Convocation

The work I do,
His partnership and guidance true,
Witness to others to serve Him, too
Specialty in Stewardship.

Influence and Opportunity

What, when and where
He needs me to be
Dedicated totally,
Submission in Stewardship

Time

Used wisely everyday
To read and study, watch and pray,
Never to waste or squander away
Sobriety in Stewardship.

Substance

All on earth I own
Shared with others e'er it's gone;
It's not mine; it's just a loan,
Service in Stewardship.

All these things are a part of me,
Bound together in unity,
Let me consecrated be—
Successful in Stewardship.

*Linda Sligh
Smithville, Mississippi*

These Hands

Antique

These hands—wrinkled, gnarled antique hands!
How often I've wished they wouldn't show.
A precious little girl taught me a lesson
I would very much like you to know.

"Your hands are sure getting old,"
Was what she had said to me;
My eyes were suddenly opened
As her hands patted mine lovingly.

It was then I realized how fortunate
That I could tie those shoe laces;
And with these, my antique hands,
Wipe tears from small dirty faces.

So many times as we walk here below
We emphasize outward beauty.
And while struggling to accomplish this,
Forget being Christ-like is our duty.

Remember, life is a God-given gift.
Be not ashamed of wrinkles and grey hair;
We won't think of them anyway
When we're shouting in Hallelujah Square!

*Mable Riley
Sedalia, Missouri*

What Is A Tear?

There are tears in the eyes of the preacher,
As for a lost sinner, he prays;
Tears in the eyes of the widow
As she stands by her husband's grave.

There are tears of joy for the mother
Whose son comes home from the war;
Tears of grief for another
Who'll see her child no more.

Tears of hope for the Christian
When his eyes look up to the cross;
But oh, the tears of a sinner
In hell, eternally lost!

Tears when we're happy, joyful and glad,
Of grief and sadness and pain;
Signs of emotion, love and devotion,
Revolving again and again.

Tears are truly a mystery;
What is the force that controls?
Can it be that tears are sincerely
A product of the soul?

*Fannie Ruth Henderson
Creston, Illinois*

A PPOINTED TO PRA Y

Be a Prayer Missionary



**Lord,
I'm trying to hear you,
but there's static on the line.**

Reprinted from *Confident Living* magazine
(formerly *Good News Broadcaster*), Oct. '78
issue; Back to the Bible, 301 St. 12th St.,
Lincoln, NB 68508.

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.

July

- 1 — Ken Eagleton (Brazil)
- * 7 — Wanda McClary (NB)
- 9 — Linda Bowling (Uruguay)
- ** 9 — Luther Burns (GA)
- ** 9 — Don Sexton (TN)
- * 11 — Barbara Jones (Mexico)
- ** 19 — Norris Hawkins (SC)
- ** 20 — Paul Thompson (AZ)
- 20 — Robert Bryan (IC)
- 20 — Fred Hersey (Japan)
- ** 20 — Mark Vandivort (AZ)
- ** 22 — Roy Roach (OH)
- 26 — Sharon Ferguson (IC)
- 27 — Lynette Morgan (IC)
- 27 — Ron Callaway (Spain)
- ** 29 — Larry Haggard (OK)
- 29 — Dennis Teague (France)

August

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

Names underlined indicate they are on furlough.
Please send mail to: P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202

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

Pray for:

- ☐ Returning summer interns and missionaries; that God would use this experience to help them determine His will for their future.
- ☐ National leaders as missionaries are on furlough, especially in Malvin Norte, Uruguay (replacing the Bowlings) and in Barbacena, Brazil (replacing the Franks).
- ☐ Ron and Linda Moore beginning their French language study in Albertville preparatory to missionary service in Ivory Coast.
- ☐ The support of the 17 Mexican pastors. About \$200 is needed monthly for each.
- ☐ Joint project workers recently entering new areas to establish churches—Hacketts in Bloomington, IN; Ragers in Elkhart, IN; Keenes, Charleston, SC; and Johnsons, Cheyenne, WY.
- ☐ The political situation in Panama, especially Steve Lytles and the Stan Bunches located there. The Inscoes are on furlough.
- ☐ Two congregations now worshipping in their newly completed church buildings in Ai No Sato, Japan and St. Nazaire, France. Volunteers from the states contributed labor in these projects.

Other Sheep

Refugees

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

A refugee is one outside his or her country with a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

Next to Cuba, perhaps Vietnam has sent more refugees to our shores. The Vietnamese have a traditional attachment to their country; not one would willingly leave home, homeland and his ancestors' graves. Yet now 13 years after the fall of Saigon, boat people continue to flee their homeland. Approximately 660,000 are known to have clambered aboard vessels

and risked their lives on the high seas as they fled to other Southeast Asia countries. Almost 350,000 of these have settled in the United States. According to a modest estimate, 100,000 never survived their attempted escape.

It might be easy to dismiss the refugees with, "This is a government problem, not one for the church." Yet as the Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian, Cuban and Panamanian settle among us, we must ask, "Who is my neighbor?"

"Lord, what would You have me do?"

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prayer
is effective
prayer**

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Volume 5 There's a Skeleton in My Closet

Contents:

- Rainbows** by Sharon Simon (installation)
- There's A Skeleton in My Closet** by Joy Price and Linda Coffman (2 characters)
- A Reason for the Season** by Margie Stone (3 characters)
- Easter Is ...** by Annette Dake (5 characters)
- Auxiliary Shape-Up** by LaCecia McFaddin (7 characters)
- You Know How Some People Are** by Donna Lamberson (3 characters)
- A Renewed Vision** by Velda Tucker (5 characters)



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Contents:

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



Volume 2 Let Suzie Do It \$1.00

Contents:

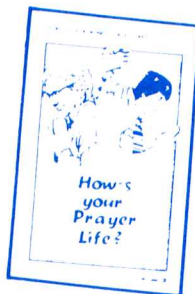
- Let Me Go** by Ruth Bivens (2 characters)
- Party Line** by Kathy Lay (radio announcer)
- Aprons of Service** by Maizie Seivts (Installation)
- Let Suzie Do It** by Cindy Vandivort (9 characters)
- Good News From Bad News** by Frances Owen (8 characters)
- The Awakening Dream** by Leora High (monologue)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



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

Contents:

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



Volume 4 Elected to Minister \$1.00

Contents:

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



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

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

Missionary Outreach

Our Auxiliary is newly established and we have an unbelievable enthusiasm to help win souls to the Lord in other countries as well as our own. Although there are only four of us, we're going to do the best we can to help raise funds to send the Ellisons back to Uruguay.

Phyllis Schreiner
Chicago Heights, IL

Last Friday night I helped organize an Auxiliary in the mission work across town. We are thankful for the enthusiasm these six ladies have for the advancement of God's work.

Geneva Poole, Brazil

Creative Arts Contest

Thanks again for a contest like this that keeps encouraging me to write for the Lord.

Linda Sligh
Smithville, MS

Though the thought has crossed my mind many times, this is the first time I've entered the contest. I want to thank the WNAC for allowing myself and others to become involved.

Norma Imboden
Chillicothe, OH

I love writing for the Lord. Winning is not nearly as important as the people it may help.

Debbie Michael
Fredricktown, MO

Writing for the contest has really encouraged me to strive for bigger goals. Right now I'm working on proposals for two books. Whether the talent and drive is there, well, we'll see.

Annette Dake
Newcastle, Oklahoma

Enclosed are contest entries from women in our Auxiliary. We had our first local contest this year.

Sandra Atwood
New Castle, DE

I wrote this article ("The Worth of a Smile," a winning article) even though I was going through a deep valley.

Sometimes we have to smile when we don't feel like it. You can't imagine how many times I wrote and re-wrote it I've already been thinking about some things for the next contest along the theme "Arise and Build."

*Odessa Ledlow
Sylacauga, AL*

New-look Co-Laborer

You caused my morning plans to go awry. I had planned to get a lot of correspondence taken care of and in the mail was the CO-LABORER. As usual, at home or abroad, I have to read the whole thing as soon as I get it. I especially appreciated the mention of missionaries and daughters-in-law.

Olena Filkins, Japan

One night shortly after receiving CO-LABORER, I went to bed early and took the magazine with me. I especially enjoyed Eunice Edward's "Over my Coffee Cup." What a great truth she expressed. Also, as one who loves to read, I enjoyed the book reviews.

*Faith Poston
Jacksonville, FL*

The new CO-LABORER has been a blessing. The change in size hasn't affected the content—still great! We've used some of the programs here at my school (Hokusei Gakuen University) for Christmas and other special occasions. Keep up the good work.

Mirial Gainer, Japan

Spiritual Blessings

I'm still amazed at God's timing and thankful that He has used this place (Columbia Bible College) as a spiritual retreat for re-fueling, particularly in honing me down for further service for Him in France.

Charolette Tallent, France

I'm very much a believer in Auxiliary. Many times I have depended on them for support, encouragement and prayers during my long illness. If I could convey how important the Auxiliary has been in my "survival," then every lady would be knocking the doors down to get to an Auxiliary meeting.

*Brenda Newton
Forest City, NC*

(ed. note: Read Mrs. Newton's article, "Five Stages of Death" in this issue.)

Words For Women

Mary R. Wisehart



July, August—hot, dry, dusty months. Dog days—we heard about those in the Missouri Ozarks. The sun seemed to shine with a deadly anger. Nature turned against us, and life was full of don'ts. We couldn't even enjoy the usual country delights—not during dog days.

Once luxuriant green foliage languishes in the heat, dulled by a coating of dust. Not a breeze. Not a cool shower. Even Earth herself lies a victim of the hot, dusty days.

I think sometimes our innermost being experiences dog days. Dry, dusty, and wilted. No cooling showers of blessings. No gentle breeze of love. The beauty of our relationship with God has turned to dust and ashes.

Where is He? Has He forgotten us in the heat of the day?

Faith sometimes demands that we simply hold on to Him and ask Him to hold us. We know who He is.

One thing we know about dog days. Under the cruel sun, the dust and heat, life still flows.

Always we know God is God and He is still there. Hebrews 13:5: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

The heat, dust, and dryness in our lives are screened through His love. He puts all things together for our good as he works out His purpose in us and for us.

Another thing about dog days. They end. We could swim in the creek again. The air was touched with the feel of coming frost. The fall rains fell and washed away the dust. The life cycle began anew.

The dry days in our hearts will pass. And if we let Him, God will turn even though those dry days into something beautiful. Perhaps they usher in a new beginning in our adventure with Him.

Dog days for you? Don't despair. Even when God seems silent, His love still surrounds. Soon the cooling breezes will blow and you will feel the touch of gentle showers.

Dryness lasts only for a season.

Eunice Edwards Loan Fund



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

1987 — \$10,136.85

1988 — \$ 1,076.58

Total — \$11,213.43

CO-LABORER

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Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee

WNAC NATIONAL RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 8-10, 1988

RIDGECREST

THEME: Asking and Receiving
SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 33:3
SONG: "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

MUSIC COORDINATOR: Barbara Anderson
PIANIST: Beverly Welch
ORGANIST: Winona Riggs

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

3:00-7:00 P.M.	Check-in, Pritchell Lobby
5:30-6:30 P.M.	Supper, Dining Hall
7:30 P.M.	Opening Session, Spilman Auditorium
	Prayer Songs and Choruses
	Welcome, Mary R. Wisehart
	Drama, directed by Laura C. Thigpen
8:15 P.M.	Speaker, Trula Cronk
9:30 P.M.	Personal Prayer Time in Hotel Rooms
11:30 P.M.	Curfew

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

7:30- 8:00 A.M.	Breakfast, Dining Hall
8:30- 8:00 A.M.	Prayer Songs and Choruses, Spilman Auditorium
	Devotion, Marcia Ellison
9:00-10:15 A.M.	Group Sessions
10:15-10:45 A.M.	Break
10:45-11:30 A.M.	Message, Trula Cronk
12:00-12:30 P.M.	Lunch, Dining Hall
	A Time of Relaxation and Prayer
1:00- 2:00 P.M.	Group Leaders in Meeting Rooms
5:30- 6:30 P.M.	Supper
7:00- 9:00 P.M.	Devotion, Marcia Ellison
	Service of Prayer and Praise, directed by June Critcher
9:00-11:00 P.M.	Time for Rest and Prayer
11:30 P.M.	Curfew

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

7:30- 8:00 A.M.	Breakfast, Dining Hall
8:30- 9:00 A.M.	Singing
	Devotion, Marcia Ellison
9:00-10:00 A.M.	Group Sessions
10:00-11:00 A.M.	Missionary Time, directed by Janie Aldridge
11:00-11:30 A.M.	Break
11:30-12:30 P.M.	Concert of Prayer, Directed by Mary R. Wisehart
12:30 P.M.	Adjourn