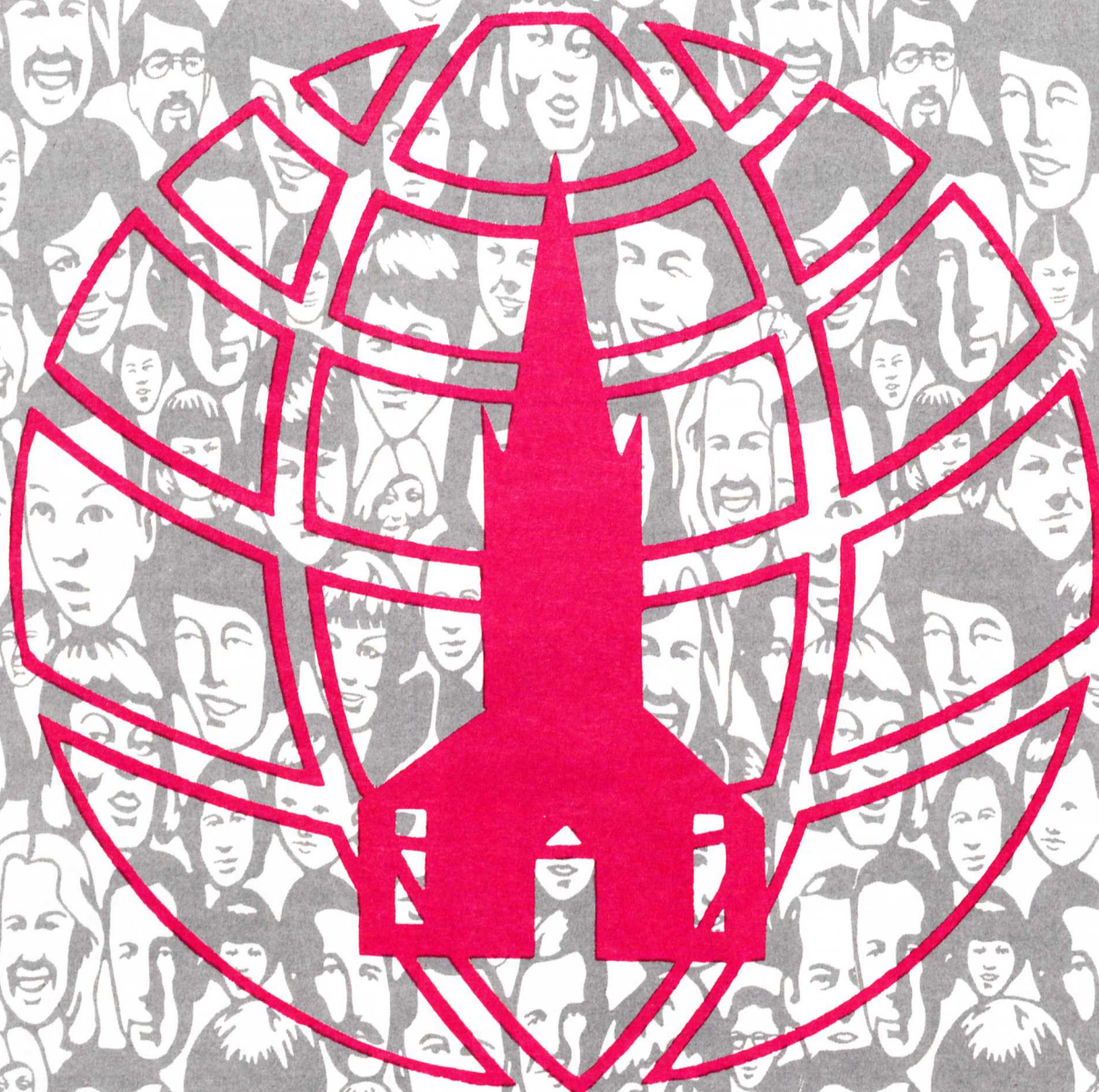


CO LABORER

November-December, 1988



Eunice Edwards Loan Fund
for churches abroad
\$15,672.00

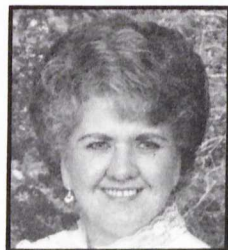
Co-Laborer

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

November-December, 1988

Volume 28, Number 6

Our Contributors



Gladys Hogsdon
Williamsburg, VA



Viola Jones
Arlington, VA



Virginia Morgan
Crossett, AR

Program Suggestions

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for Home Missions

6 *Prepare for the Storm* by Gladys Hogsdon
Program for November

8 *Suggestions for your Christmas Program*

10 *Bible Study*
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Executive Editor
Mary Ruth Wisehart

Editor
Lorene Miley

Circulation
Yvonne Wolfenbarger

Editorial

We left the deputation trail more than nine years ago, but some things I still remember. Mostly the good stuff. But today I was reminded of something that I thought I had forgotten.

We had traveled long and hard and reached the home of the pastor late Saturday evening. The family had already eaten, so he directed us to some restaurant choices in town a few blocks away. I almost wished for a bologna sandwich rather than piling into that car again.

Some missionaries are still being directed to Kentucky Fried Chicken or Bonanza instead of invited to sit down to family fellowship around a table. But it's the exception rather than the rule. I'm convinced Auxiliary women are the most hospitable people you'll find anywhere. They're more apt to overfeed missionaries than neglect them.

I deplore the fact that missionaries are often cast as beggars. We allow them to itinerate the length and breadth of the land with a tin cup, as it were, pleading for the support which would allow them the privilege of going/returning to the field where God has called them. They've answered God's call; they're trained; they're ready to go. Then why don't they go?

A missionary is responsible for raising his own support on deputation. (It's a humbling experience.) Food and lodging, if not provided by the host church, are deducted from those valuable funds he's required to build up.

When a missionary visits your church, make a point to know where he's staying and where he's going to eat. Invite him home with you or take him out. Offer; he won't ask. If a meeting is scheduled, ask the pastor ahead of time if the missionary can stay with you.

You may not have \$100 to drop into the offering plate, but you may keep much more than that from draining the missionary's account by your simple act of hospitality.

Lorene Miley

If He Had Not Come

By Nan Weeks

This reading is printed as was originally written. You are asked to adapt it for presentation. Effective given as a monologue.

It was Christmas Eve, and after Tommy had carefully hung his stocking by the fireplace, he went off to bed. Usually Tommy did not like to go to bed early, but tonight he was eager to get to sleep so as to be sure to wake up early to see his gifts.

For their daily Bible lesson that day, Tommy and his father had read Jesus' own words to his friends found in John 15:22. Five words had stayed in Tommy's mind, and he kept saying them over and over again until he fell asleep. They were the words, "If I had not come."

It seemed as if he had not been asleep any time when a cross, harsh voice growled, "Get up, get up, I tell you! It's time to get up!"

Thinking about the skates he wanted and the flashlight and the motor and the books for which he had been wishing, Tommy got up and hurried into his clothing and went downstairs. But all was still. No one was there to greet him; no stocking hung beside the fireplace; no wreaths were in the window; no splendid tree was there.

Hurrying to the door, Tommy looked down the street. The factory was open and he could hear the rumble of the machinery. He grabbed his cap and sweater and raced down the street to the factory door, and there stood a grim-looking foreman.

"What's the factory running for on Christmas?" Tommy asked.

"Christmas?" asked the man.

"What do you mean? I never heard that word. This is one of our busy days, so you clear out of here."

Filled with wonder, Tommy hurried on down the street toward the stores, and to his amazement he found them all open. The grocery, the bakery, the clothing store, each one was busy and cross, and each said in reply to his question, "Christmas? What's Christmas?"

When Tommy tried to explain, "It's Jesus' birthday," and that the first part of the word "Christmas" means "Jesus," he was gruffly ordered to move along, as this was a very busy day.

Going around the corner, he thought, "I'll go to church, our own church, for there's to be a Christmas service there." All at once, Tommy stopped short before a big vacant lot, and he mumbled to himself, "I guess I'm lost. I was certain our church was here. I know it was." Then he noticed a sign in the center of the big vacant lot, and on going nearer to it he read the words, **If I had not come.**

Suddenly the meaning of it all dawned on the puzzled boy, and he said, "Oh, I know, **If I had not come**—that's why there's no Christmas day nor church."

He was wandering along in a gloomy way, when he thought of the box of toys and games his class had sent to the Orphans' Home, and he said, half-aloud, "I guess I'll go up to the Home and watch the children get their presents." But when Tommy reached the place, instead of seeing the name of the home over the gateway, he read those same five

words, **If I had not come**, and beyond the archway there was no fine building.

Seeing an old man, feeble and ill, by the curb, Tommy said, "I guess you're sick, mister. I'll run to the hospital and tell them to send an ambulance for you." But when he reached the grounds, no splendid building was there to be seen, nothing but signs and posters bearing the words, **If I had not come.**

With a sigh Tommy said, "Oh, what a horrible world this is—no Christmas, no churches, no homes for little orphan children, no hospitals, no rescue missions, no almshouses, nothing but jails and gambling houses and police patrols and sickness and wrong and . . ."

Just then there came the sound of bells. The chimes were playing. Tommy listened, and sure enough it was his favorite hymn, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come," and then he heard his mother's cheery voice saying, "Merry Christmas, Tommy!"

With a joyous bound, Tommy was out of bed, and kneeling down, he said, "O Lord Jesus, I thank You that You did come." ♦



Get the Home

Gathering The Wood . . . (Matt. 9:37; John 4:35)

As we survey the vast forest before us, we begin to search for the areas most in need of harvesting, the ones with the most trees ready and waiting to be cut, salvaged, and hauled in for our fire. Only then do we begin to realize the enormity of the task ahead. We must have the right tools, be careful not to damage the surrounding trees, and be willing to sacrifice long hours in hard labor to gather in this wood.

When Jesus gave the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19,20, He commanded that we go into all the world, teaching and baptizing. We need only to look around our own neighborhoods to be reminded of the many waiting to be gathered into God's kingdom. How thankful we are for our dedicated missionaries who have heeded the call to begin clearing the forests in search of these lost souls, who are starting those fires burning in His name.

Yes, cutting and hauling wood, contacting and winning souls takes a lot of commitment. For our missionaries, to obey may mean leaving family, friends, home and forgetting self. It may mean many visits, phone calls, prayers and patience before results are seen. If our churches and Auxiliaries are to be a part in starting new fires burning, we must also, like our missionaries, have members who are willing to go out and gather in the wood from the unsaved among us.

That "Hard-to-Start" Fire . . . (Gal. 6:9)

There are times when we get our wood laid just right, the match struck and flaming brightly, and the fire absolutely refuses to start! What could the problem be? Too much draft? Not enough draft? Too many ashes? Not enough kindling?

On a mission field, it takes a lot of time and gentle persuasion to instill in new members the importance of being faithful in attendance. Don't we have the same problem in our churches—getting people to attend Sunday school, worship, CTS, Woman's Auxiliary, and the other functions of the church?

Perhaps we need to examine the internal causes. Could it be too much worldliness, not enough witnessing; too many promises, not enough prayer; too many excuses, not enough commitment. Are we guilty when we fail our missionaries who are waiting to go to new fields, eager to start that fire, but are unable to do so because of non-support?

In order to share the burden of our church planters, we must make sure that our wood is seasoned with prayer, compassion, humility, patience, and knowledge of God's work. Then with love we shall win them.

Is our Christian love showing? Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another." We never know when that ONE little spark might be the ONE that kindles the fire. We must never give up. Unlit souls are at stake.

Aim: To challenge each of us to help establish strong churches at home in order that the gospel may spread around the world.

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:11-13.

Hymn: "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes"

Introduction

What is more satisfying and rewarding than to sit before an open, glowing fire on a cold winter night reading and meditating on God's Word? How grateful we are for the warmth that we enjoy.

This programs likens building a fire to starting home mission churches. As we bring in the wood, lay the kindling, light, then patiently nurse the fire to burn on its own, we are reminded of our home mission churches. Often it takes much hard work, careful handling, financial support and prayerful preparation before a group of believers, established in its own building, is ready to exist on its own.

Fires Burning!

The Flame That Burns Brightly, Then Goes Out . . . (2 Pet. 2:19-22)

Occasionally our fire surprises us by blazing up quickly the minute we put our match to it, almost explosively. This impulsive fire—one that burns brightly for a while, then when we least expect, the flame begins to weaken, then sputter, until finally it goes out completely. An area in dire need of a Home Mission church may react very enthusiastically at the news that a missionary family is being sent to establish a church. Then, after a while, the newness wears off, the worldliness slips in, and the work cannot survive. This brings to mind some of our own missing church members. Some who were once so loyal and dedicated to God's work. Others, especially the new converts, who accepted the free gift of salvation and eternal life so filled with Christian zeal, so eager to go out and spread the Word of Christ's coming to others.

Where are they now? What happened to their enthusiasm? Did we, as older Christians, fail to support them in their endeavors, offer words of encouragement, spiritual guidance, and uphold them in our prayers daily, with Christian fellowship?

The assembling together, whether in a local church, a home or foreign mission field, has been commanded by God in Hebrews 10:25. This has been illustrated by comparing the church family to the coals in a fireplace. The coals burn red-hot when they are together,

but if you take the tongs and move one of the coals away from the others, that coal will soon lose its heat and become completely cold.

The Christian who does not go to church will soon find himself cold spiritually. Through our missions programs, let us purpose in our hearts anew to strive to rescue the scattered coals, bringing them together to burn brightly once more.

The Fire That Cannot Be Quenched . . . (2 Pet. 3:18)

To ensure that our fire burns constantly with a steady, even heat, especially through the nights and dark hours that come, we must periodically add some backlogs or large wood to keep the coals warm and glowing. So must the Christian woman replenish and rededicate herself each day to uphold Christian principles and doctrine through regular Bible Study, prayer, Mission Action groups, and committed righteous living.

Though Satan likes us to become so bogged down with everyday problems and to become so discouraged and defeated that we neglect our Christian duties, we need to realize we are continually being tested in order to fortify our souls, humble ourselves, and prove His absolute faithfulness.

Our one authentic reason for living should be to glorify God (Rom. 14:8). We belong to Him, so we are to live for Him. We do this by accepting His love and grace, by sharing in His ministry, by praising Him

for His goodness, by obedience to His commandments and by being a faithful servant.

If we can store up these qualities in our backlog of daily living, we can be assured of that constant glow. The fire burning in our hearts cannot be quenched. Our ready warmth reaches out to share with the cold, the lonely, the indifferent. This glow must radiate from us throughout our own lands and to the regions beyond.

Conclusion

We make many choices as we go through life. We cannot all be missionaries, but we can all be mission-minded. Whether our calling is to GO and serve, or whether we STAY and serve, we can choose to build our fire for the Savior. We can either claim His promise of a heavenly home or we can neglect to light His fire and face an everlasting fire of eternal damnation.

1 Cor. 3:3 warns us "Every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."

The choice is ours. ♦

Prepare for the Storms



Aim: To challenge women to make spiritual preparation for the storms that are sure to come in their lives.

Scripture: Jeremiah 17:8

Suggested Hymns: "I Shall Not Be Moved" or "A Shelter in the Time of Storm"

Introduction

God has an unique design for each life. No matter who we are, where we are, or what situation we may be in, we can be confident that God has allowed us to be in this place at this time and in this situation.

As the autumn season comes to an end, brightly colored leaves fall from the trees to the ground. If we look closely at the bare tree, we see the handiwork of God as it prepares itself for the storms of winter. Let's look at some of the limbs we see on this bare tree and liken them to some people around us.

Kinds of Trees

Skinny limbs represent the people of the world who are less fortunate than we, who are poor and starving.

Fat limbs represent those who are abundantly blessed with this world's goods.

Short limbs remind us of the children and babies all over the world.

The **middle-sized limbs** speak of the youth of our land.

Old limbs, some fragile and ready to drop off, represent the older people of the land.

Position of the Limbs

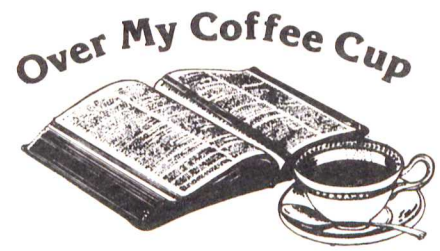
The **low limbs** close to the ground represent those who never seem to get their feet off the ground, as the saying goes. For one reason or another they never get ahead. They are always a "day late and a dollar short." There could be financial difficulty, employment problems, broken homes, separated families, death of a loved one, or many other factors that can cause hardship for a family.

The **middle limbs** are those who have an easier life, a home, a car, a job, and moderate security. They are able to pay the bills and provide food for their families, with even a small bank account.

The **top limbs** represent those in high office or position, such as the president of the United States, a pastor, deacon, teacher—or one in a place of responsibility.

Whatever the job that God has called us to do, we should do it to the best of our abilities and with the attitude that it is the most important job in the world.

The **tallest limbs** remind us of the saints who have labored and stood tall for the cause of Christ. One's spiritual life is not measured by



By Eunice Edwards

The passage in Matt. 15:32-39 portrays Christ's constant and consistent compassion for His creation. Do you have a need? He is just as moved with your need as He was with the need of the multitude. They needed food; He provided food. What is your need? He longs to meet that need.

Christ assessed the situation and then asked the disciples, "How many loaves have ye?" He would not send the throng away hungry. They had been without food for three days. He knew they were physically unable to journey into town to buy food.

Man's need moves the heart of Christ. He was so moved over our lost condition that He died to save us.

Note the personal pronoun in Christ's question to the disciples: How many loaves have ye? He has always included His disciples in supplying the needs of others. He asks only that we allow Him to work through us and with that which He had already provided.

Are there those around us who are in danger of fainting for lack of spiritual food? Are we sending them away unfed? How many loaves have ye?

The disciples had only seven loaves and a few little fishes, but Christ used it to feed a multitude. Although He could have, He did not create food from nothing. He used what was available. That which Christ supplied that day came from that which was already there.

Christ's work today depends on our giving back to Him that which He has already given to us. How many loaves have ye? Do you feel your talent is small and of no value? Have you asked Him to multiply it? He will!

one's stature. It is measured by our faith in God and our love for our fellowman. The more time we spend on our knees in prayer, the taller and stronger we grow in Christ and the better we are able to stand the storms of life.

What About The Leaves?

Some trees are not prepared for the storm. Some trees do not shed their leaves. In autumn as we look around, we see that although some leaves lose their vibrant colors, they never fall to the ground. Some have only a few brown leaves hanging on the very tip of the limbs.

These trees are not prepared for the storm. When the wind, cold rains and snow come and ice clings to the leaves, the limbs are unable to carry the extra weight and they break off, often taking a healthy chunk of the tree with it.

A stripped tree is better able to stand the storms. So it is in our Christian life. As we yield ourselves completely to Christ, the better equipped we are. We can cast all our cares on Him and leave them there, for He cares for us. If we fail to do this, we are not preparing for the storm that will come in our lives.

The brown leaves represent sin, worry and cares. Some carry a heavy burden; some only a few. If we choose to carry our own burden, not only will we lose some of our beauty, but neither will we be as strong as we can be. We will be unprepared for the storm.

Storm Warnings

No one is totally safe from the storms that come into our lives. Some are more severe than others.

Rain Storms represent the trials and testings, such as financial difficulties, defamation of character, conflicts in relationships, or just the

day-by-day problems that drive us to our knees for spiritual help.

Floods represent those problems that go deeper than piddly trials. These are the rain storms that are allowed to get out of control and threaten to take over our lives.

Wind Storms can be as severe as a tornado, cyclone or hurricane; such as death of a loved one, financial disaster, employment difficulties, divorce or rebellious children. Except as we are rooted firm in Jesus, disaster is sure to come.

Conclusion

Just as the tree prepares for the storms, let us do the same. Let us shed all our brown leaves by casting all our cares on Jesus. He truly cares for us.

We each have burdens, worries and cares. Let's share our burdens and help carry another's. God created each of us. He has put us in this place, this situation, at this time for a reason and a purpose. We may not always understand. Some things we may never understand in this life, but we must have faith and trust in God's Word. Only then are we assured that He will keep us through the storms of life.

Program Helps

The author used a Home Interior picture of a large bare tree as she presented this program. She pointed out the different sizes of limbs and positions. She recommends the lesson be given as an object lesson.

Mrs. Hodgson says: "This program was inspired by my father who was a tall oak tree." Although crippled with arthritis, he adored all people, but especially his God. He stood firm and steadfast to the end, even in his pain and suffering. "It is my prayer that I will be a tall strong oak tree in the life of my children and others along the way." ♦

For a Special Christmas...



A Christmas Pantomime

By Viola Jones

To the tune of "Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms"

Dear Jesus, we bring you rare gifts
from afar,
We have borne them for many a
day;
Now we place them with
tenderness at Thy dear feet
Although in a manger You lay.
For the caretaker found you no
place in the inn,
They are full; they've no room
for the poor;
And although they don't know it
as yet, it is true,
They turned Jesus away from
their door.
And it's here in a stable our
Savior was born
All alone with His parents so kind;
And they placed in the manger
their tiny new son,
Our Lord, come to save all
mankind.
They know by the innocence of
that sweet face
That this Savior was sent to
forgive;
They all kneel at His feet that
same moment and vow
In His righteousness ever to live.
Some day this same Savior will
knock at your door,
He will ask that you follow Him,
too;
And if you will but open the door
of your heart
He will constantly guide what
you do.



For a Missionary Flavor

Decorate a Christmas tree with missionary cards. These sets of colored pictures are free upon request from the Foreign Missions Board, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202. Punch a hole in the top of each card and insert a hanger.

Assign one missionary to each woman (or let her select a missionary) and ask her to be prepared to tell how her missionary will be spending Christmas.

What can we do to help make Christmas a joyous time for our missionaries? How can we make Christmas more meaningful to us? Instead of a secret pal gift exchange, bring a special Birthday Offering to Jesus for our missionaries. Prayer-

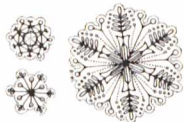
Ten Commandments for Christmas

1. Thou shalt not leave Christ out of Christmas. Make room for Him.
2. Thou shalt not value thy gifts by their cost, for many shall symbolize love that is more blessed and beautiful than silver or gold.
3. Thou shalt give thyself with thy gifts. It will increase the value of thy gifts an hundredfold.
4. Thou shalt not let Santa Claus take the place of Jesus, lest Christmas become only a fairy tale.
5. Thou shalt not burden those who serve thee—the mailman, the merchant, the clerk.
6. Thou shalt not neglect thy church. Do not forget its services.
7. Thou shalt not neglect the needy. Share thy bounty with those who will have little or nothing unless you are generous.
8. Thou shalt be like a little child. Only when thou hast become childlike in spirit wilt thou be ready to enter the kingdom of heaven.
9. Thou shalt prepare thy soul for Christmas and not spend all thy time and money preparing gifts.
10. Thou shalt give thy heart to Christ. Put Him at the top of thy Christmas list. In so doing thou shalt join the truly Wise Men of 1988. -Copied

fully consider it, plan ahead, and sacrifice in order to make your gift as large as possible. Designate it for a specific missionary or to Missions in general.

Write your check to your local Auxiliary who will send it through the regular channels. Or gather up your coins and bills. Place them inside a gift box. Include a letter to your secret pal and tell her what you have done "in her name." Gift wrap as usual.

Quick and Easy



Since many women don't have time to prepare for an elaborate program, ask each (or volunteers) to:
tell what she likes best about Christmas
share a memorable Christmas experience
recite a Christmas poem or recitation, perhaps one given as a child
describe a Christmas custom or tradition your family observes
answer this: "Name one specific thing you/your family are planning to do to make this Christmas an especially God-honoring one."



Plays and Skits

A Christmas play (along with 5 or 6 others) is in each of the five play booklets published by WNAC. Each booklet is \$1 (except Vol. 5, \$1.25); please add 35 cents for postage and handling.

Volume 1: "A Song is Born" by Sharon Clifton (Music interspersed with narration)

Volume 2: "Choosing the Best Gift" by Doris Sheffield (11 characters)

Volume 3: "The Day That Jesus Came" by Daisy Harper (4 characters)

Volume 4: "Jenny's Christmas Dream" by Ordealia Martin (3 speaking parts in pantomimed action)

Volume 5: "A Reason for the Season" by Margie Stone (3 characters)(\$1.25) ◆

The POET'S CORNER



The Shepherd's Tale

When winter's chilly hand doth turn
Our very bones to icy cold,
It warms us well once more to think
On shepherds' stories told of old;
Of how one frosty winter's night
A brilliant star did shine
To tell, along with angel's song,
Of a child that they might find.
So on to Bethlehem they traveled
Guided always by the light;
In faith they traveled for so far
Through the dark and lonely night.
Once inside the manger stall
They found our Savior sleeping,
And 'round His head God's glory shone
Though oxen were his keeping.

They worshiped Him with reverent love

For they knew that they had found
God's only Son from Heaven sent
Through whom His love abounds.
Should we, like they, step forth in faith,

I think we'd all find, too,
That God's great glory, through
His Son,
Is there for me and you.

— Sherry Anderson
Conroe, Texas

This Star of Bethlehem

We sing of a babe in a manger
Born in Bethlehem;
Mary and Joseph had traveled so far,
But there was no room in the inn.
Jesus our Blessed Savior was born
Out in the stable that night;
The King of Glory came to this earth
As a plan for salvation and right.

And the star stood over Jesus
To let the whole world know
A King came down from Glory
Because He loved us so.
To give His life on Calvary
To save sinners like you, like me;
This star, bright star, from Bethlehem
Shining out to a world lost in sin.

Shepherds abiding out in the fields
Were told by the angels that night,
"Fear not, good tidings
Of great joy we bring
Of Jesus to be the Light."
They hurried off to Bethlehem
To find this baby King;
There in the stable they fell on
their knees
And worshipped while angels did
sing.

— Mildred Collingsworth
Dayton, Ohio

T-H-A-N-K-S-G-I-V-I-N-G

May be sung to the tune "A Word that Means the World to Me" — (Mother). Words by Howard Johnson and music by Theodore Morse.

T is for the many things He gives us,
H is for His holy, holy name;
A is for the answer when we're praying,
N means that we never seek in vain.
K is for the kindness that He shows us,

S is for the Son who died, you see;
G is for His greatness and His mercy
And all this means the world to me.

I means He inspires us to live daily
As He tells us in His holy Book;
V is for the victory in Jesus
We can have if to Him we will look.
I is for His interest in all mankind,
N is new-life that we'll be living
G is for His goodness and His glory,
And all this spells a THANKSGIVING.

—Maizie Sevits
Kirksville, Missouri

Woman's National Auxiliary Convention

July 18, 19, 1988



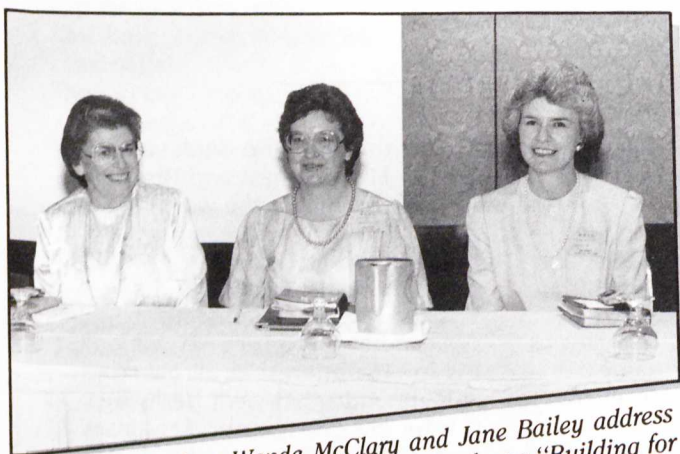
Creative Arts Winners



The missionary offering following the presentation for the Eunice Edwards Loan Fund for Churches Abroad boosted that account to more than \$15,000.



President Rose Mertz presents a check for \$2571 to WNAC from Missouri instead of center pieces for the Fellowship Dinner.



Helen Sanders, Wanda McClary and Jane Bailey address the Monday afternoon seminar on the theme "Building for Eternity."



*James Munsey,
Mexico,
Convention Speaker*

Kansas City, Missouri

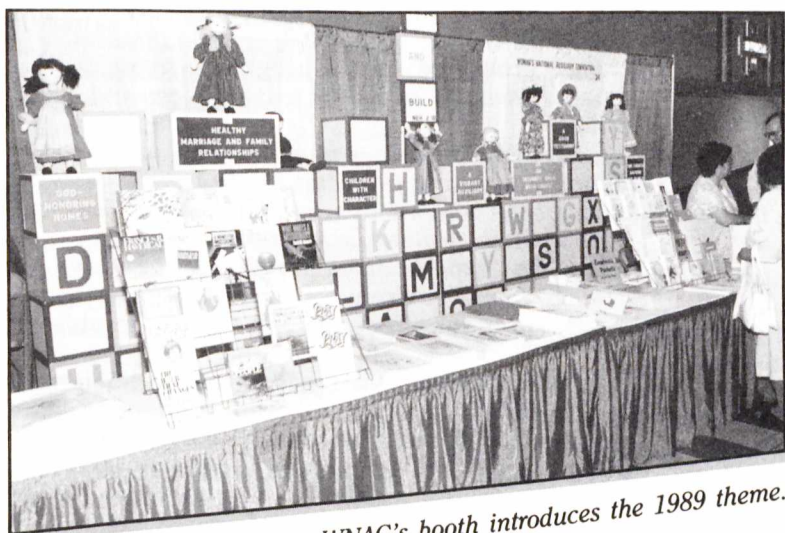
Memorial Auditorium



*Cleo Pursell awards June Rolan
for her 14 years of service to WNAC.*



*Marguerite Kern, Maurine Lee and Delois Loveless
challenge the state
presidents and field workers.*



WNAC's booth introduces the 1989 theme.



The Mexican Quartet in special music.



*Laura Thigpen
gives a dramatic presentation
at the Fellowship Dinner.*

BIBLE STUDY

by Mildred Daniel

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

BACKGROUND

The elderly apostle Peter has come a long way, spiritually, from the impetuous disciple to a competent leader and teacher of the true faith.

Writing this second epistle, Peter is well aware that martyrdom will soon bring his earthly life to a close (1:13,14).

Peter's first epistle encouraged the suffering saints, ostracized and persecuted by legalistic Jews as well as pagans. His second epistle warns that another more subtle and dangerous enemy was sweeping the ranks of Christianity. A flood of error and apostasy was invading the church.

These warnings are even more relevant in this modern age of so-called "neo-Christianity"—that form of religion which weds truth to error, deceives and deludes seekers, and infiltrates the true church wherever possible with its heresies. Peter vividly describes these "false prophets" in Chapter 2.

A key word is "knowledge" and the key verse is 2 Peter 3:18. A spiritual "math lesson" on multiplication and addition can be seen in Chapter 1.

INTRODUCTION (1:1,2)

1:1 — Peter calls himself both "a _____ and an _____ of Jesus Christ." One title gives authority to his admonition while the other speaks of the common life-service of all saints. He addresses those who "have obtained like _____ faith with us." There is no "big I and little you." All sinners must meet at the foot of the cross and enter salvation through the One Door. As Matthew Henry puts it, "this faith vastly differs from the false faith of the heretic, the feigned faith of the hypocrite and the fruitless faith of the formal professor."

1:2 — The grace (of God) and peace (with God) is "_____ unto you through the _____ of God and of Jesus, our Lord." Those who had obtained the true faith (vs. 1), which was "not of _____ lest we should boast" (Eph. 2:9) are now admonished to expend personal effort to begin the process of "addition." The alternative is stagnation, frustration, depression and other dangerous downward trends that will rob believers of the joy experienced by "adding to our faith."

THE "ADD TO'S" (1:3-7)

1:3 — We need not lack anything! God has "given unto us _____ things that pertain unto _____ (spiritual and temporal) and _____ (God-like-ness in our attitudes and responses)." Note, however, that all of these provisions come to us "through the _____ of Him that hath called us to and _____." A perpetual neglect of the Word and the "knowledge of Him"

discovered therein will result in a forfeiture of all victory and growth.

1:4 — It is through a concerted study of the Word that we discover the gold mine of "_____ great and _____ promises" available to the serious believer. FAITH leads us to a quest for a deeper KNOWLEDGE of Him through His Word. That KNOWLEDGE brings to light the myriad PROMISES He has made to those who truly desire to grow and make spiritual progress. Those PROMISES fulfilled in your life make you a PARTAKER of the _____ NATURE," allowing you to escape the "_____ that is in the world through _____ (self-gratification at all cost)." 1:5-7 — "Giving all _____ (persistent perseverance)" we are to begin "adding to your _____" seven Christian graces:

- a. _____: A pure strength and courage to face the enemy daily.
- b. _____: Prudence; good judgment in using the means available to us to win the lost and edify others
- c. _____: Self-control; moderation in determining values and setting priorities in life.
- d. _____: Man is born to trouble. We must learn to bear it without murmuring and complaining.
- e. _____: An "experimental knowledge" of what God can and wants to do in a believer's life.
- f. _____: A tender affection for all saints, lovable or not.
- g. _____: This (phileo) love reaches beyond believers to encompass the entire world. It is a tender compassion for all mankind, reaching beyond "sympathy" to a deep "empathy."

Each grace seems to grow out of those preceding it, as rings expand around a pebble dropped in a lake. A development of these graces in a believer will "reach out and touch someone" in a way Ma Bell never dreamed possible!

(This chapter is concluded 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:

HOW DID WE GET IT? (Bible Background)
AN AIRPLANE VIEW OF ALL 66 BOOKS (Bible Survey)
FOUNDATION OF THE FAITH (Romans)
WALKING WORTHY (Ephesians)
JOY UNDER STRESS (Philippians)
GOD'S PLAN OF THE AGES (Revelation)

All are 3-hole punched with a set of review questions. Please specify sets by number or name. Postage and handling are included in the price of \$2.25 each, or \$16 for all 8 sets.

Order from: M. M. Daniel, Route 12, Washington Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37219.

On the way home from the shopping center, I thought of Eunice. My first impression of her was a lasting one. She was standing at the entrance of my favorite discount store, greeting customers. She flashed a smile from ear to ear. After that, we always exchanged smiles and sometimes I would give her a big hug. Something about her friendliness enriched my life.

Though we were friends, I didn't know if she was my sister in Christ. So one day I asked her. With eyes gleaming, she answered, "Yes, I'm a Christian." I knew it in my heart. Anyone so happy and radiant as she had to know the Lord. Her countenance reflected true happiness.

Eunice will never know what her smiles mean to me. It takes little effort, yet she makes my day. With joy bubbling in my heart, I pushed my way through the crowded aisles of the store.

The Lord seems to know when we need a spiritual lift. It may come through a letter, a gentle touch, a kind word, or yes, even a smile.

I thought of the many whom I'm in contact with each day, in the home, at the hospital, or even on the street. So many sad faces. So many lonely and depressed. Discouragements and disappointments plague even the Christian. Some who used to smile, now have none left to give. Others have grown faint and weary, too tired to smile. One told me she didn't have anything to smile about. How sad! That troubled me. Her world was falling apart and she felt like giving up, yet midst all her burdens she had failed to look around and count her blessings.

From deep within, I prayed, "Oh, God, let me always be able to smile. Help your joy flow through me in spite of circumstances."



The Worth of a Smile

By Odessa Ledlow

It's not always easy to smile. No one is immune to trials and temptations. We all face discouragements and heartaches. We may be misunderstood or misused. In the loss of a loved one, a long illness, wayward children, or discord in the home, we tend to become despondent. Our valleys may be more frequent than the mountain tops. Lest we forget, we are God's children and He is the source of eternal joy. Just to know He is within makes it easier. We can smile though the world caves in on us.

Our loving compassionate heavenly Father never allows all of us to be in the valley at the same time. If He did, who would spread sunshine to the sad and comfort the brokenhearted? Who would offer a kind word to a troubled soul or help bear the

burden of a friend? Those leaving the valley must encourage the ones entering. We need each other. So if we happen to meet someone on the way, let's offer encouragement and a smile. We may help them view life in a different perspective.

A smile—what is it worth? Who can place a value on a smile? Yet they are no good until we give them away. Ladies, let's spread a little happiness. The world needs to see Jesus in us. Find someone who doesn't have a smile and give him one of yours. Who knows, someone may have to give us a smile along the way.

As I turned to leave the store, I glanced toward Eunice. She was still smiling. "Eunice, keep giving those smiles away," I called to her. "The world needs them." ♦

November Emphasis— Home Missions

THE LIZZIE MCADAMS OFFERING

November is a time for giving thanks and a time for sharing from our bountiful supply.

God has richly blessed Free Will Baptists in the USA. Let's share His blessing by reaching out to those without Christ in the United States.

The CO-LABORER magazine this year has included a study of the book MISSIONS USA by Parvin. Several Auxiliaries have bought the book and studied it in depth.

Perhaps our eyes have been opened to the white harvest fields all around us.

Let's not stumble over the fields of ripened grain near us while we try to reach the distant places.

This November enlist everyone in your church to share in the Lizzie McAdams Offering. All the money in this offering goes to mission work in the United States, Mexico, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Canada.

PRE-THANKSGIVING WEEK OF PRAYER

Sometimes we look at the shape our society is in and feel like throwing up our hands and saying, "What can we do?"

But we can pray. How the USA needs prayer.

God has given us the weapon of prayer. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Perhaps as never before our land needs healing from God.

Check the requests for our Home Missions Department in this issue. Involve your whole church in prayer for missions in the USA.

PROVISION CLOSET

The Provision closet is well supplied. The greatest need right now

is for funds to help missionaries get to the field or stay at their post of duty.

Send funds through the usual channels marked *Deficit Missionary Accounts*.

CO-LABORER SURVEY REPORT

The May/June issue of the CO-LABORER included a survey form. The main purpose of the form was to help the editors determine whether or not to continue the leaders' helps in the magazine.

In March we mailed out 14,000 magazines. As of June 30, we had received 84 of the survey forms. They came from Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Of the 84 returns, 78 preferred that we keep the magazine the way it is with the leaders' helps included. Only six preferred the helps in a separate edition, and at least two of those did not want an additional cost for the separate edition. Of course additional cost could not be avoided if the leaders' helps are published in addition to the magazine.

Several women gave helpful ideas and suggestions. At least four expressed preference for the smaller look and the three programs in each edition.

The staff really appreciates all the compliments, kind words, and rave reviews on the survey forms. They encourage us to do better, and they assure us that our women are enjoying and using the magazine.

Co-Laborer

The Magazine for Free Will Baptist Women

Subscription Rates:

\$5.75 single

\$5.00 in bundles of 5 or more

Order from:

Co-Laborer
P.O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 37202

Let's Hem The Tea Towels

by Eva Bea Wood

Some discarded material offered me the possibility of much needed tea towels.

After I tore out three, the thought of hemming them by hand stopped any further preparation. I folded the three and replaced them on the shelf, secretly hoping that some Good Samaritan would offer to machine-hem them.

Today I ran across the potential towels and decided to attempt hemming them, as I had planned.

Not long before lunch time, I assembled my needle-threader, needle, thimble and thread. As I began work, I became fascinated that with 20/400 vision, I could do it! I didn't want to stop for lunch!

After lunch, I resumed the challenge and soon had them finished. It was so gratifying to realize that I had done what I had considered too much for me.

How much like Christian effort. A chance to witness to a lost soul is considered impossible, so we place the thought on the shelf. The thought of a visit to the hospital or nursing home is shelved because we make ourselves believe no one would benefit from it. The small missionary offering we think of giving is not turned in, for we reason it too small to help anyway.

Not only do we deny the blessing to others, but deprive ourselves of blessings immeasurable. Why can't we take the unhemmed tea towels from the shelf, collect our faith, our talents, our time and whatever skill is required and enjoy the reward of a job well done?

HELPS FOR LEADERS

Ideas to Stimulate Your Imagination

President/Vice President

Agenda for November

Major on your Pre-Thanksgiving Season of Prayer for Home Missions. Follow the guidelines on the back cover of this issue for an effective observance.

In your October meeting, assign Psalm 100 to memorize. Award those who can quote it *word perfect*.

Invite a florist or someone in your church with know-how to demonstrate how to make a Thanksgiving floral arrangement. Take it to someone sick or shut-in.

Mission Prayer — Order the prayer folders as suggested on page 17.

Mission Study — Plan to present the skit on page 16 as an incentive to study.

Mission Action — This is a good month for Thanksgiving baskets or juice trays to your shut-ins.

Program — Virginia Morgan, author of "Get the Home Fires Burning," suggests using thank folders as an activity.

Using the instructions below, make a folder for each one. If you have few members, write the names of your members on the apron. Distribute the folders and ask each to write a short sentence describing why they are thankful for each one. Virginia says, "I have treasured mine and often wondered who wrote what about me."

If you have several members, you may want to write only one name on the apron. They could then be collected—unsigned—and given to the name on front.

An alternative plan would be to write the name of a Home Mission couple on the apron and ask each member to write a sentence of appreciation. It could be mailed along with a thanksgiving offering.

Mrs. Morgan suggests folders be cut from orange construction paper with a white sheet pasted inside which reads at the top: "I am thankful for you because". Paste on a head cut from a catalog, black construction paper over the black portion of the dress, and other accents cut from white paper.

Agenda for December

Make this meeting special and invite all your non-enlisted women to attend.

Most Auxiliary business is put "on hold" during this month.

Mission Prayer — Decorate a Christmas tree with missionary cards and let each one take a card home as a reminder to pray.

Mission Study — Donate all your used study course books to the church library. Invite your librarian and make a ceremony of it.

Mission Action — Promote the special "Birthday Offering to Jesus" offering to our missionaries (suggested on page 9). Set a goal, involve all the women and work toward achieving it. Most of us know little of sacrificial giving.



Mission Study Chairman

Do You Need Bifocals?

Characters: Two women, one an optician's assistant, Janet, and the other an Auxiliary member, Gladys. The member is returning a poster borrowed from the optician's office.

Setting: The two women are sitting at a table drinking coffee or sitting in a living room.

JANET: Now Gladys, never again tell me how curious I am. You've been in the house almost an hour now and I haven't even asked you about your Auxiliary meeting. What did Grandma Brown want with our poster on poor vision?

GLADYS: I am so eager to tell you and was afraid you'd never ask! But first, tell me how she happened to have the poster?

JANET: Well, she came into the office the other day to have her glasses adjusted. As she was leaving, she commented on the poster hanging on the wall. "May I borrow it for our Auxiliary meeting next week?" she asked. I wondered how an optician's sign could be of any use to a missionary meeting.

GLADYS: When she learned we were friends, she asked me to return the poster and be sure and tell you about our meeting.

JANET: I'm interested. Go on.

GLADYS: Grandma Brown is the mission study chairman in our Auxiliary. She works hard to see that we all read good missionary books. Maybe that's why her glasses needed adjustment! She spends a lot of time checking out good books for us to study. When she saw that poster, it gave her just the idea she needed.

JANET: Hmmn, I see. "Are distant objects vague? Are nearby objects blurred?" I still need help with the application. Did it work?

GLADYS: Did it work? You should have seen! Let me show you how she used it. *(They both rise and*

move to the front of the stage to illustrate the poster. They comment on various features. They leave the poster in view as they return to their former positions.)

JANET: With Grandma Brown's doctoring, the poster seems to speak for itself. Did the women accept it?

GLADYS: Well, you always have a few. There's old Mrs. Gray who persists in saying, "We need to clean up our own doorstep first before we go to those so-called heathen in Africa and Brazil. They are a lot more religious than some of the people here. At least they are sincere. Let's cast the beam out of our own eye before we try to take the mote out of some brother's eye who is far across the sea."

JANET: Surely she doesn't believe that.

GLADYS: Oh yes, she does. But it's only because she is so wrapped up in the work within her range of vision. Nobody is more generous toward the Children's Home or Good Will Center.

JANET: Then it seems the upper part of Mrs. Gray's spectacles needs adjustment.

GLADYS: I suppose. Then, of course, Sara Foster had something to say. She's the one who's always ready to evangelize the Africans as long as they are in Africa, but she can't see a bit of use in doing anything for the blacks on the other side of town, or the Orientals in the produce market, or the internationals in the local college. She says you'll never change them in a lifetime so why bother?

JANET: Most certainly she is in need of the bifocal lens.

GLADYS: Yes, but Grandma explained the poster so tactfully that no one felt she was being accused. She made clear the importance of mission study.

When we know true conditions far and near, we better understand the need for the gospel message, both at home and abroad:

JANET: Another case of "seeing is believing"?

GLADYS: Right!! And the way she talked about the frame was clever, too.

JANET: Any good optician knows the importance of the frame. What did she say?

GLADYS: She labeled the nose piece "Service" and the shafts "Love" and "Faith." It takes all these to keep the missionary lenses on straight and tight in order to see conditions around the world. When she told us that we should all be wearing mission study spectacles, well, we just had to agree with her.

JANET: Oh you did, did you? And just when are you going to put them on?

GLADYS: Right away! She announced plans for a study on foreign missions in the spring as preparation for the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer. *(Display the book suggested and read the title)* Also another study in November is suggested leading up to the Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for Home Missions. *(Display this book.)* Grandma Brown told us that some Auxiliary women wear their mission study spectacles all the time. And it looks as though if she has her way, we, too, will be regular glasses-wearers.

JANET: Offer Grandma Brown my congratulations. It seems this poster has served a far greater purpose than hanging in our office. By the way, what was the name of those books again?

(Adapted from a play written by Jane Gilbert and published by the Women's Missionary Society of the United Lutheran Church in America.)



WEEK OF PRAYER

Prayer Booklet

(Emphasis: NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS)

November 14-18, 1988

(Please send offerings through WNAC channels, designated for National Home Missions or for particular Home Missionaries.)

Home Missions Department
National Association of
Free Will Baptists
Post Office Box 1088
Nashville, Tennessee 37202

MY PRAYER GUIDE

MONDAY

NORTHWEST---OREGON: Mike Criswell
Mike Mutchler
WASHINGTON: Tom Hunt

WEST-----CALIFORNIA: Sam Hensley
John Hibbard
Millard Sasser

SOUTHWEST---ARIZONA: Howard Gwartney
Alvis Paul
Larry Reynolds
Paul Thompson
Mark Vandivort

TUESDAY

MOUNTAINS---COLORADO: Bob Lewis
Bob Thomas
WYOMING: Russell Johnson

PLAINS-----NEBRASKA: Jerry McClary
SOUTH DAKOTA: Tim Coats

MIDWEST-----ILLINOIS: David Burgess
Cliff Donoho
INDIANA: Tim Hackett
Joe Rager

OHIO: Willie Booth, Tom
Dooley, Roy Roach
MICHIGAN: Leon Gibson
Tim Steele

WEDNESDAY

CENTRAL-----LOUISIANA: Steve Trail
MISSOURI: Jim Mertz
Jim Williams
OKLAHOMA: Larry Haggard
TEXAS: Ron Parker

SOUTH-----KENTUCKY: Bill Johnson
Bob White

S. CAROLINA: Earl Hanna
Norris Hawkins
Dennis Keen

Billy Vanderford
TENNESSEE: Glenn Poston
Gwyn Pugh

THURSDAY

SOUTHEAST---MISSISSIPPI-Ralph Hester
ALABAMA: Richard Hendrix
Tim Trimble

FLORIDA: Albert Rollins
Elmer Turnbough
GEORGIA: Luther Burns
Larry Williams

(Continued---)

(Thursday, continued)

NORTHEAST---MARYLAND: Jim Sasser
N. JERSEY: Vergel Maness
N. HAMPSHIRE: Jim Nason
RHODE ISLAND: Pete Minor

FRIDAY

ISLANDS-----HAWAII: Louie Nix
Puerto Rico: Miguel Vera
Virgin I.: Grady Runyon

MEXICO-----Fred Jones, John McClure
James Munsey

CANADA-----Bill Reagan

STAFF-----H.M. TRAVELING TEAM:

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General Director
Trymon Messer,
Associate Director

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Pat Thomas
Iva Mae Bracey
Ida Lewis
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Larry Russell
Gordon Sebastian
Glenn Thomas
Wendell Walley
Milburn Wilson

Pray for National Home Missions as
we work to place "Missionaries In
Every State For Churches In Every
City."

Mission Action Chairman

CENTRE MEDICAL DE LA MISSION PROTESTANTE
EGLISE BAPTISTE LIBRE
A DOROPO
ADRESSE: B. P. 20 - BOUNA - COTE D'IVOIRE

Open Letter to all Woman's Auxiliaries

Praise the Lord for the faithfulness of our women. Thank you for your cash gifts to the Doropo Hospital as well as your gifts in needed supplies. Because of your help we have been able to make the patients' medical care cheaper for them.

Here are some items you can help us with: sets of twin bed sheets, preferably white; plastic medicine spoons; rolls of bandages made from strips of used sheets; medicine bottles without child-proof caps; surgical gloves sizes 7½ and 8; intracaths sizes 21-1½ and 22-1. disposable syringes sizes 2cc, 3cc, and 5cc; needles and

Please divide the supplies in boxes no bigger than 2 lbs. each and attach a green customs sticker. Milk cartons make good packing boxes. Send surface mail and allow 4 to 6 months for delivery.

We are happy to announce that the new operating room is finished and functioning. Again I would like to express my appreciation for your help in the name of all our hospital staff. May the Lord bless you.

Kenneth Eagleton Jr.

A BOUNTY OF PRAISE



Woman's Auxiliary

date

time



Date

Time

NOEL

Gifts

Woman's
Auxiliary

WOMEN IN ACTION



June Critcher, Nashville, TN, is honored at an Appreciation Birthday Dinner for her discipleship ministry among the women in the Booneville, Mississippi area. Front row: Velma Garvin, president of Little Brown Creek District; Erlene Smith, president of Booneville First Auxiliary; Madine Brown; and Mary Lou Bullard, state president. Back row: Rachel Livingston, Altie Walker, Lurline Wright, June Skinner and June Critcher. Not pictured, but participants in the event, are Cindi Bullard and Thena Wright.



Auxiliary women present a special program at the Kansas State Meeting Banquet.



Glen and Nadine Hood, Northglenn, CO, celebrate 25 years in the ministry. Bro. Hood, pastor of the Mile High FWB Church, has pastored seven churches in six states.



Oak Park Auxiliary, Pine Bluff, AR, divide their women into three teams—red, white and blue—for their patriotic July meeting. Miniature flags were awarded the team with the most women present.



Jalayn Martens and Glennda Leatherbury, Ivory Coast missionaries, speak at the Kansas State Auxiliary banquet.



Annual Christmas Party

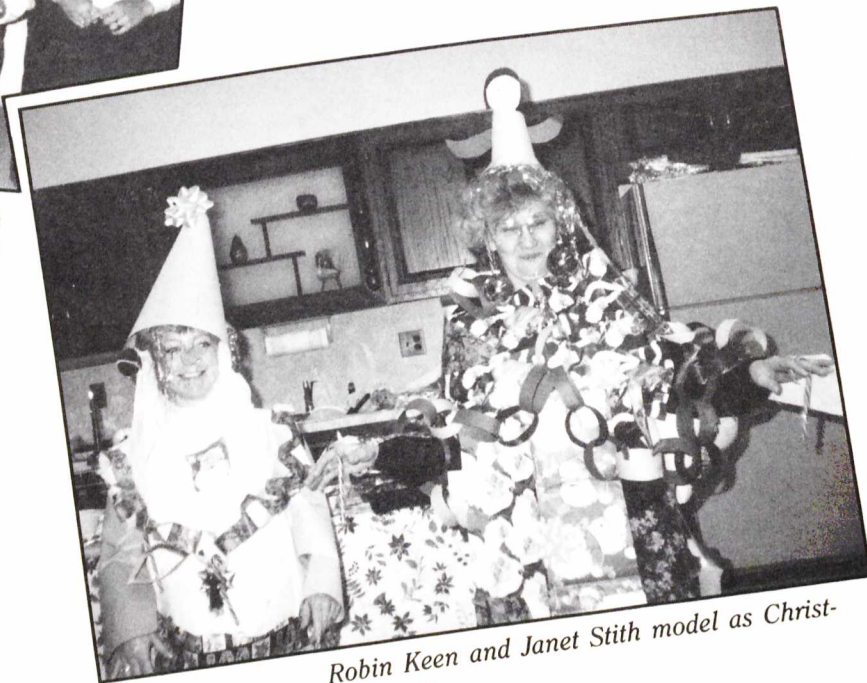
*Women in Wabash, Indiana
have fun, but try to
keep the right focus.*



One officer was absent for their installation, so they drew a sketch of her. Front row: Vickie Carlson, Rhonda Daniel, Lorene Butcher, Sheila Harris. Back row: Patricia Fleshood, Toni Stith, Janetta Lester, Elsie Scott and sketch of Kathy Phillips.



Debbi Atwood, pastor's wife, hugs April Bever in a bear hug demonstration.



Robin Keen and Janet Stith model as Christmas trees.

THE MINISTER'S WIFE

Compiled by Cleo Pursell

She's the woman who married the minister.
A woman, yes but often a slip of a girl fresh out of college.
Yesterday she was a teacher, nurse, clerk;
The voice at the other end of the telephone;
The face at the Loan Office window.
Yesterday she was plain Sue, Mildred, Jean;
Today she is: "Mrs. Mark, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Lee — "The minister's wife, you know?"
Now it's, "Mrs. Mark, will you lead in prayer?"

"What does this mean?"
"What do you think?"
"Please sit here."
"No! Not that."
"You mean you . . . Oh!"
She's a lamb among wolves—and a few angels.
"A woman's place is in the home, I say!"
"I missed you at Prayer Meeting,"
"Why weren't you at Mrs. Phillips funeral?"
"See you at Auxiliary."
"We didn't hire the minister's wife!"
"Do go see old Mrs. Pitiful, she's so . . ."
"Don't forget the General Meeting."
"Will you help set the tables for the Men's Supper?"
"Tell the pastor when he comes in . . ."
"We need help in the choir—you sing . . ."
"You just must take a Sunday school class, we . . ."
She's loved and hated; admired and scorned;
She's made much-of and ignored.
She has many friends and none;
She's the little girl with the little curl right in the middle of her forehead;

What is a Minister's Wife?

By Mrs. H. B. Brown

She's an enigma—to herself more than anyone else.

She blunders; she falls; she makes a fool of herself;
She gets up and starts all over again.
God is with her; she loves Him.

What is a minister's wife?
She's the pastor's silent partner.

She's never "called" but she always goes;
She's never installed but she still serves.
She's an ambassador-without-portfolio.
She's "104 sermons a year"—on the listening end.

She's the minister's beloved critic, counselor, confronter.
She worries about his sermon, the irate elder, his adamant wife; the budget.
It's none of her business, she ought not to; but she does.
She has all the problems the minister has—plus him!
She ponders the paradox of love and hate, kindness and cruelty within the Church of the living God.

She sees the viciousness of human nature struggling toward the

sweetness of Christ-like love.
Some make the goal.
She's the head cheerleader in the pew.
She's an expeditor; she runs a telephone exchange;
She folds the bulletins; she holds the key to the church;
She protects the scholar in his study; she feeds the tramp;
Entertains the official guest; she subdues the children; keeps the pots boiling.
"Mrs. Mark, will you pour the tea?"
"Mrs. Mark, we want you in the receiving line."
"Mrs. Mark, you will sit at the head of the table with the minister."

What is a minister's wife?
She's the woman who lives in the Glass House.
Her ways are not "our ways"; she's the object of endless discussions—a shining target.
Her children are the light of her life; the bane of the congregation.
She's the woman whose husband is never at home in the evenings.
She's a wanderer on the face of the earth;
She makes her home on the mountainside; she descends to the plain;
The seaside knows her; the sweetness of the pine woodlands, the filth of the town.
The fullness of the village, the crime of the city—she knows them all.
She finds no resting place;
"It's time to move . . . not good to stay too long."
Her life is without root except in God.
Home is where the heart is, the children are.
Big houses, little ones—

"This marriage was made in heaven; and since God chose it for me, He will work out the details."

dilapidated, modern—all are home—for a time.

Most of her life is spent in the whirlpool of household chores.

She's wife, mother, cook, laundress, seamstress, chauffeur;

She's Chancellor of the Exchequer—purchasing agent par excellence.

She tries to keep her house orderly, her children clean,

Her own slip must never show.

She abhors luxuries and a fur coat never enters her mind.

Her days are measured not by hours but by physical endurance.

She is all things to some—nothing to many more.

What is a minister's wife?

She's a simple soul; a pure idealist; a woman with stars in her eyes and her hands in the dish pan.

She's a woman with a heavenly destination; her children will rise up to call her blessed.

She knows fulfillment and frustration; her days are restricted, colorful, happy.

Her life is a hard one—but good.

She's the woman who stands hand-in-hand with "God's anointed" as he views with discernment and compassion the passing parade: the greedy and generous; the haughty and

the harassed; The poor and the proud; the weak and the wise; And the living and the dead.

They are all there and in many she sees herself; she ponders the mystery of life—its plan and its purpose—and her place in it. "What am I doing here?"

She never discovers the answer but one thing she does find out: "This marriage was made in heaven and since God chose it for me He will take care of the details."

—Pulpit Helps

Our Pastor's Wife

Sandra Cody is our pastor's wife. God has used her in many ways. She teaches the ladies' class in Sunday school; She counsels new preachers' wives even three at a time. She is on call 24 hours a day.

She's a shoulder to cry on in bad times. She rejoices with us in good times. When we are sick, she takes us to the doctor. When we have a trial, she prays with us and cries with us, and helps us see it through.



Even though she has a baby just one year old, and little Lisa, age 4, with a rare bone disease, she takes time from her own time to do for us. She always has something in the pot for anyone who comes in.

Our preacher's wife is our sister
Friend
Guide.
Sandra Cody, we at Mt. Carmel we love you.
You are a woman God is using.
— Ida Heffner

Pastor and Mrs. John Cody and family
Mt. Carmel FWB Church
Sharon, South Carolina

CROSSWINDS

By Patsy Helton

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.

Someday We'll Understand

As I stood over my 13 year old daughter in intensive care and watched her life slowly slip away, God gave me a measure of grace I could never imagine. My mind went back to two years earlier when this same daughter led me to the Lord.

Stephanie was only 11 when she told me she wanted to be saved. I was very skeptical and wondered if she even knew what she was talking about. She knew all right. Soon after I followed in her footsteps. It produced a chain reaction because the next week her dad was saved.

We all grew together in the Lord over the next two years. Sure, we had our share of problems, but God was always there for us.

As Stephanie entered her teens, she seemed to pull away from me. The harder I tried to reach her, the farther apart we grew. It wasn't until I walked into her bedroom and found her lying on the floor that I realized how far apart we had actually become.

She had decided that life was no longer worth living. Where had I gone wrong? What had I not done? Why hadn't she come

to me? Didn't she know how much we loved her?

For the next 24 hours, as she hovered between life and death, I was certain God had forsaken us. It took three people to hold her down when she went into convulsions. They inserted ominous tubes and needles and hooked her up to all kinds of machines.

Three times she stopped breathing. The doctors gave us little hope. Even if she lived, they told us, severe damage had already been done to her body. I found myself beginning to agree with the doctors—there wasn't much hope.

But, praise God, that night God reached down and touched our daughter. The only damage she suffered was a slight memory loss. The doctors couldn't explain it; I guess they took the credit. But I knew who deserved all the credit and had no problem understanding the miracle.

Stephanie is now a 15-year-old, beautiful, healthy young woman. After months of counseling, many wonderful friends with strong shoulders to cry on, and countless prayers, we are on the road to recovery. I say "we" because my daughter wasn't the only one who had problems. I'm not saying

everything is easy now—or that it ever will be—but we have learned to listen to our daughter, appreciate her and to respect her feelings.

I don't know why the Lord allowed us to go through this ordeal, and probably won't know until I see Jesus. But I do know that God spared my daughter's life for a reason. I believe He has special plans for her. But if all she ever does is hug me and say, "I love you, Mom," well, that's enough for me.

Mothers, please remember your children are people, too. They hurt and have needs just like we do, maybe even more. Listen to what they say, but more than that, listen to what they don't say. Above all, just love them. Don't take it for granted that they know you love them. Tell them. Show this love no matter what they do. This is the same kind of love that Jesus gives us—unconditional love.

Pray for your children. They are God's gift to us. If we leave nothing else behind in this world, we will leave our children. And what we have taught them can be passed from generation to generation. ♦

Mrs. Helton and her daughter have grown closer through this experience and would be happy to write anyone who might need help in this area.

BOOK HIGHLIGHTS

Aids to Spiritual Growth

WOMEN UNDER STRESS: PRESERVING YOUR SANITY

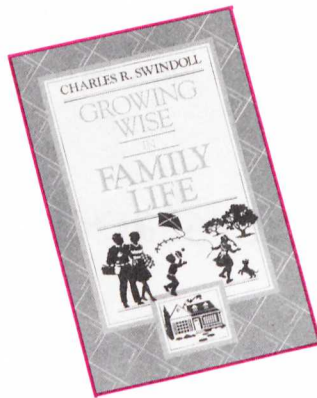
By Randy and Nanci Alcorn. Multnomah Press, 1988, \$5.95. Reviewed by Sue Hayes.

Nanci Alcorn, a homemaker, and Randy, a pastor, have battled stress in the same way many of us have. Through reading this book we can learn how to pace ourselves so that stress doesn't get the best of us.

Stress is the wear and tear of life. It makes demands on us physically, mentally, emotionally, as well as spiritually.

Most research done on stress has been done on men; however, stress is just as common a problem among women since women are the ones most often crying out for help.

Nanci discusses the many tensions women face, pressures different from those facing men.



Women Under Stress helps us to understand stress in its many forms and effects. This book also shows us how God can use stress to our advantage.

GROWING WISE IN FAMILY LIFE

By Charles R. Swindoll. Multnomah Press, 1988, \$15.95 hardback.

In the tradition of *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life* and *Growing Deep in the Christian Life*, Swindoll's newest volume blends spiritual counsel, lively illustrations and a warm and winning writing style to address today's family.

Growing Wise in Family Life issues a call for godly wisdom to counteract the dismembering of the American family. Basing each chapter on a Biblical text, the author examines numerous aspects of family life, including the roles of mom, dad, grandparents and children.

As with other Swindoll books, this one is rich in resource material and reflects thoughts from his "Insight for Living" radio series.

A WOMAN

God Has Used



It is impossible to describe Eva VanHoose with mere pen on paper. Only a personal contact could have revealed her true worth.

To use Solomon's words from Proverbs 31 in speaking of a virtuous woman, "strength and honor are her clothing" (v. 25); this was characteristic of Eva. Encouragement was a way of life as she helped mold the lives of those in both her home and church. She always seemed to lift the spirits of those she loved and worshipped with.

"She openeth her mouth with wisdom and in her tongue is the law of kindness" (v. 26). Eva's quiet spirit and soft manner of speaking brought inner strength to those around her.

"Her children arise up and call her blessed, her husband also and he praiseth her" (v. 28). Eva was a

dedicated wife to her husband, Roy, and a loving mother to their five children. Her Christian testimony will be long remembered.

As a faithful member of Tom's Creek, she served as DVBS, CTS, and Sunday school teacher. One term her Woman's Auxiliary elected her as president. You could count on Eva to fulfill any task that needed to be done.

When Eva finished the work God had for her here, He called her home this past February. Although her physical presence is no longer with us, her influence lives on in those who knew her.

"Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou [Eva] excellest them all" (v. 29).

*Lovingly remembered by
Judy DeLong and the women of
Tom's Creek Auxiliary,
Nippa, Kentucky.*

THE GREAT OMISSION

By **Robertson McQuilkin**. Baker Book House, 1988, \$4.95. Reviewed by **Yvonne Wolfenbarger**.

The author contends that at Pentecost, God gave mankind the power to be His instruments for evangelizing the world. "But," he continues, "the 20th century church is experiencing power failure . . . mainly because we've been drawn aside from our purpose by Satan."

He asks the probing question, "How come more than half the world's people not only have never heard the gospel of Christ, but they cannot hear because there is no witnessing church among them?"

McQuilkin answers these probing questions with five statements:

We don't care that much.

We don't see very well.

We think there must be some other way.

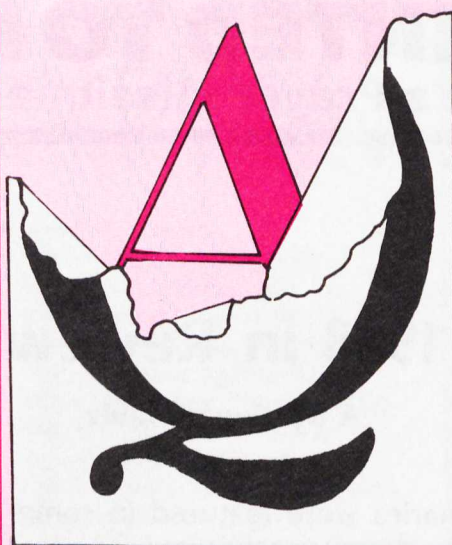
Our prayers are peripheral.

We're not listening to God.

Why is it that those of us who have been charged to rescue the lost have spent the last 2000 years doing other things—perhaps even good things—yet have failed to send and be sent until all have heard?

It's the great omission! This seasoned missionary, author, lecturer and educator says we have heart trouble, eye trouble, head trouble, knee trouble and ear trouble.

THE GREAT OMISSION is good reading, but be prepared to let its message change your life. You may find yourself asking, "How may I best fit my life into God's purpose and bring all that I possess to more effectively accomplish God's purpose in the world?" You may find, as I did, that your priorities will be rearranged.



**Your questions
answered on:**

Woman's Auxiliary

by **Mary Neal**
WNAC President

If an Auxiliary member is not a member of the church, can she be elected to an office?

While any believer may be a member of your Auxiliary, the Manual states: "The officers of any Auxiliary shall be members of a Free Will Baptist Church and shall perform the duties set out for them in the Manual."

I realize this can be interpreted as any Free Will Baptist church. However, it seems if one is interested in becoming an Auxiliary officer, she would be interested enough to join the church.

One of the contestants left the church after she submitted some entries in the creative arts contest. Is she still eligible for the awards?

If she was an Auxiliary member at the time she submitted her entries, her entries are therefore eligible for awards. If she has left

the denomination, she may not want them entered. Let her make the decision to leave them or have them returned.

What is the difference between a circle and a group?

In the Woman's Auxiliary manual published in 1965, circles were suggested as a means of reaching all the women in the church, developing leadership, and giving greater emphasis to missions. In the manual published in 1971, however, the idea of groups is introduced. These groups represent an emphasis on study, prayer and missions action. While some Auxiliaries do divide into these three groups, others involve all the women in the three different kinds of activities.

The 1971 manual also suggests two or more Auxiliaries if the needs of the women in the church may be better met by two or more.

So you see the three groups and the suggestion for two or more Auxiliaries have replaced the idea of circles. Of course some women continue to call these groups circles.

What's in a name? The main purpose is to meet the needs of the women in the local church.

Do you have suggestions for getting our ladies more into the Word? I've been battling the idea that the office of Missions Action Chairman is for fund raising, which isn't what the chairman's guide tells me. Does anyone have spiritual dynamite to help get our ladies moving for Christ?

I sincerely believe that our spiritual dynamite is PRAYER. A day by day communication with our Lord is vital to a Christian's growth.

Read James 5:13-16. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. If we want our women on the move for Christ—then PRAY! Only as we earnestly pray will our women grow in Christ and our Auxiliaries do more for Jesus. Everything that counts for eternity will be accomplished through prayer. ♦

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

A PPOINTED TO PRA Y

Be a Prayer Missionary

1988 in Review

A Missionary Quiz

The following missionaries were featured in some way in the 1988 CO-LABORERS. How many do you recognize?

- 1. He described "An African Funeral."
- 2. He wrote about the obstacles to growth in Lorient, France.
- 3. This home missionary is Missouri's state president.
- 4. She tags their home Bible courses as "Humdrum Labor."
- 5. A former missionary to Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands now writes of fish-bowl living in the parsonage.
- 6. Speaker for the WNAC convention in Kansas City.
- 7. Devotional speaker at the WNAC convention.
- 8. She directed music at the All-Hokkaido woman's retreat.
- 9. The Carol Burnett of Foreign Missions.
- 10. From Uruguay, he participated in the missionary drama in Kansas City.
- 11. She ministered to some prostitutes in Paris, France.
- 12. Her article portrayed a Lobi woman in Ivory Coast.

(See answers on next page!)



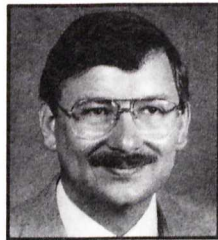
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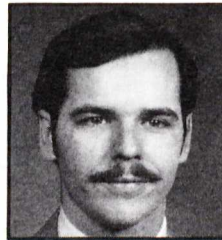
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H



I



J



K



L

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.

November

2 — Laura McFall (Brazil)
14 — Marcia Ellison (Uruguay)
**16 — Delores Hester (MS)
**20 — Gwyn Pugh (TN)
**21 — John Hibbard (CA)
**22 — Jim Nason (NH)
27 — Bessie Richards (IC)
28 — Bobby Poole (Brazil)
28 — Mark Daniel (IC)
**28 — Albert Rollins (FL)
30 — Dwain Crosby (Spain)

(December cont. . . .)

**10 — Pat Brunson (KS)
*10 — Katy Minor (RI)
**10 — Irene Rollins (FL)
*11 — Fred Jones (Mexico)
14 — Lonnie Sparks (Spain)
*14 — Rosa Lee Thomas (CO)
**16 — Tom Dooley (OH)
18 — Tom Hughes (Brazil)
19 — Molly Barker (Uruguay)
**20 — Rebecca Pugh (TN)
22 — Tom McCullough (France)
*22 — Pete Minor (RI)
24 — Louis Coscia (Brazil)
**26 — Brenda Williams (GA)
*27 — Patsy Gwartney (AZ)
**29 — Elmer Turnbough (FL)
30 — Arilla Wode (IC)
**31 — Carol Keen (SC)

December

1 — Evelyn Teague (IC)
** 1 — Rose Mertz (MO)
3 — Pansy Murray (France)
* 6 — Vergel Maness (NJ)
9 — Debbie Griffin (Japan)

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.

Please pray for

- ☐ Home Mission projects striving toward a self-supporting status.
- ☐ Language students Debbie Griffin (Japanese); Ron and Linda Moore, Jalayn Martens and Glenda Leatherbury (French).
- ☐ Both Home and Foreign Mission Boards as they meet in annual session; for divine wisdom in decisions.
- ☐ Janice Banks, teaching at Hillsdale and Dwain Crosby at California Christian College, an interim period to reaching their fields.
- ☐ McClarys (NB), Maness (NJ) and Burns (GA) in completing their building programs.
- ☐ The health of Carlisle and Marie Hanna, veteran missionaries to India.
- ☐ The dedication of the Mexican Bible Institute.
- ☐ FWB Seminary in Cuba, reopened in October with five students.
- ☐ Woman's national organization in Cuba with 400 members.

All-Night Prayer Retreat

First Auxiliary, Mountain Grove, MO, consists of 36 members who are divided into four groups. Older women comprise the Mary Martha Prayer Circle. A group of mixed ages is tagged the Leah Mae Mission Study Circle. Two groups of working and young mothers make up the Emma Ruth and Charolette Tallent Mission Action groups. Each group meets monthly to plan its own particular phase of work.

The Mary Martha Prayer Circle recently planned an all-night prayer and praise retreat in which 50 women registered. The concert of prayer consisted of taking each spoken request to the Lord. Often these intercessions were interspersed with testimonies and songs of praise. Circles of prayer as well as individual prayer periods ended at 1:30 A.M. for nap time.

A cowbell recalled the women at 4:30 for more prayer until 7 when the Emma Ruth Circle served breakfast.

The women are already planning their all-night prayer and praise retreat for next year.

Prayer Chain

One of the most efficient prayer chains you'll probably find anywhere is at the First FWB Church in Gastonia, NC. Hattie Robinson directs the 72 women prayer chain which is broken down into 12 groups of 6 women each, grouped according to availability.

Each group has a captain who makes two calls. When Captain #1 receives the initial call, she calls Captain #2 and the next name on her list. Captain #2 calls Captain #3 and her next name, and so on. If a name cannot be reached, they go to the next name and try to get the first one later.

Captains meet with their groups at least once a month. Captains meet together occasionally. Since requests are dated and answers recorded, the results are reviewed.

"We've had many answers to prayer since organizing," writes Edith Savage, a pray-er. "We are indeed learning what happens when women pray."



12. E — Carol Pinkerton
11. A — Dawn Sweeney
10. B — Rick Bowling
9. L — Marcia Ellison
8. C — Judy Smith
7. K — Marvis Eagleton
6. J — James Munsey
5. I — Wanda Powell
4. F — Shirley Combs
3. C — Rose Mertz
2. D — Allan Crowson
1. H — Mark Daniel

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More CO-LABORER comments

As a minister's wife, I am very grateful for the section "The Minister's Wife." It is reassuring to know that I am not the only one who has particular trials and it is a joy to share in their blessings.

*Sandy Howell
 Virburnum, MO*

I look forward to the CO-LABORER each month and like it the way it is. Perhaps a cover letter sent to each officer once a year briefly explaining her role and informing her on what page her "Helps" would be located might be helpful and would familiarize her with the format.

*Laura Hamm
 New Castle, DE*

We are a young Auxiliary (only two years old) and we're rather isolated down here on the border. We enjoy seeing faces and names of other workers and reading about their projects.

*Hope Teel
 Chula Vista, CA*

Thank you for including the foreign and home missionaries on their birthdays in CO-LABORER. The names underlined for those on furlough are great.

*Joyce Cariker
 Tulsa, OK*

From our Missionaries

Mr. and Mrs. Briquet, grandparents of two boys in our children's club, were moved to tears at a recent worship service . . . Pray that this couple will be saved as well as their son and his family for whom we've been praying a long time.

Patsy VanHook, France

Linda and I realize more every day the important role prayer has in our ministry and witness. We have many weak areas, we are foreigners, we speak with an accent, we still have much to learn about the language and culture, we have never before worked in a

cross-cultural setting. The list could go on and on.

We need your prayers for our witness, for the ones who will hear the message, for the working of the Holy Spirit in these lives. Your prayers are vital to the work of missions, not only here in Spain but around the world.

Steve and Linda Reeves, Spain

We have a small congregation here with anywhere from 20 to 35 . . . not wealthy people. Last Sunday they surprised us. They gave Evelyn a bouquet of flowers and me an envelope. The card read: "Thank you for always working for the salvation of the Japanese people. We want to give you a small amount of money." . . . and inside the envelope . . . \$2,176.

It really makes us feel accepted by these, our dear Japanese brothers and sisters in Christ.

Fred and Evelyn Hersey, Japan

Poetry Winner

I was excited about my poem "What is a Tear?" winning a prize. I am having a co-writer put music to it and I expect a demo soon.

*Fannie Ruth Henderson
Greeneville, TN*

Missionary Games

My primary-aged CTS class played a missionary game lately where they could not sit down until they named a missionary from every country where Free Will Baptists serve. They struggled over Uruguay until they hit on Molly Barker's name. I didn't know why she was so easy to remember until several of them mistakenly called her "Dolly Parton."

. . . Our children could rival the adults in our church with regard to missionary prayer and knowledge. Maybe adults need a few more missionary games, too.

*Carol Reid
Nashville, TN
(formerly of Columbia, SC)*

Editor's note: You're right! Watch for missionary games or quizzes in future issues.

Words For Women

Mary R. Wisehart



The Grace of Loving

"I try to love her," my friend stormed, "but she doesn't appreciate my love."

"Wait a minute," I thought. "Is there any human being who would not appreciate love?" The answer seems to be no. Every human being not only wants, but needs love.

What is the problem then? Perhaps it is the way we "try to love her."

For years a conflict went on between my mother and me. Oh, it wasn't a real battle with angry words and tears, but an underlying conflict.

It went like this: Every Christmas, birthday, Mother's Day, or any gift day, I would carefully select a gift for my mother. Carefully select according to my taste and what I thought she ought to like and appreciate. (Our tastes were very, very different.)

Each year she would express appreciation and then put the gift away in the recesses of her closet or corner cabinet or give it away to someone who liked "that sort of thing." I felt hurt, and she probably felt the same way, thinking, "Why doesn't she buy something I like?"

But one day I grew up a little—how long it takes sometimes—and said to myself, "Why don't I try choosing something she will like, something that suits her taste and not mine?" I guess all those years I thought I could persuade her to adopt my tastes.

I tried it and it worked. And she started saying, "I know I can't buy to suit your taste. Just take the money and buy something you want."

Maybe we need to ask how we are "trying to love her." Maybe we rush in with what we think she needs, not even taking time to listen, to observe, to hear with our hearts what she is crying out for so desperately.

Maybe we want to make her over in our own image. After all, if she would only be like me!

Maybe we are trying to feed her steak when what she likes is chicken. (But steak is so much more expensive!)

Maybe we need to stop trying so hard and simply let love flow.

Love covers. Love does not demand its own. Love hopes, even when rejected or used.

At this season of love, Lord, teach us to love as you loved. May the realization of your love revealed in the person of Jesus, enrich our own ability to love. And thank you, Father, for your indescribable gift of love.

CO-LABORER

P. O. Box 1088

Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee

Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer For National Home Missions November 14-18, 1988



For a Successful Week of Prayer: Plan early! Order all necessary materials. Contact Trymon Messer, Home Missions Associate Director, to schedule missionary speakers. Involve the entire church in the observance by publicizing the dates and activities on your church calendar.

Order Free Prayer Booklets and Other Materials: Prayer leaflets (see page 17) are available in quantities upon request from the National Home Missions Department. Other free materials are: missionary maps, prayer cards, directories, bulletin inserts, Home Missions study courses, quarter saver folders, and "30 Pieces of Silver" coin bags. Order from National Home Missions, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202 and specify number needed.

Set a Goal for Your Home Missions Offering: Your Auxiliary may designate your offering for the General Fund or for a specific Home Mission project. Contact the Home Mission department for a list of deficit missionary accounts. Send offerings through the regular WNAC channels (local-district-state-national) and designate "Home Missions."