

Co Laborer

March/April, 1990

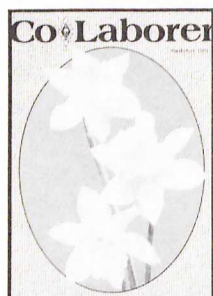


CO-LABORER

For we are labourers together with God. (1 Cor. 3:9)

March/April, 1990

Volume 30, Number 2



In This Issue

We hope this will be the most meaningful Easter you've ever known. This issue is designed to encourage you through the concert of prayer, Easter monologue, and special articles.

"The Great Invitation" theme continues in the March program.

Look for the special missionary features.

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By Mary Ruth Wisheart

A concert of prayer that embraces the world
WNAC's Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions features a concert of prayer.

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Theme for 1990

The Great Invitation

Rev. 22:17

Editorial

We missed Easter on our recent trip to Africa. I wish we could have been there for another Easter. Like Christmas, it has a flavor, an atmosphere, all its own.

The Easter I remember best began with a sunrise service. Benches were hauled from the church to an open area where we could catch the first glow of the sun peeping over the horizon.

As we waited, we sang. A carload of Christians had just returned from a Lobi conference up north, and overflowed with some brand new songs and thrilling testimonies.

I suppose the missionary must have preached, but what I remember most are the songs and testimonies.

Meanwhile the hot chocolate warmed and the water for coffee simmered. An earlier missionary had made Easter breakfast a custom in her area, and we followed suit. Hunks of freshly baked bread, cans of margarine, jars of homemade mango preserves, and washed down with Nescao and Nescafe, comprised this traditional feast.

When the Payne girls were there, Sandra had an Easter egg hunt for them, and our Suzanne always participated. Each year when I dug out her Easter basket, her eyes danced with glee—she knew what was coming! I wonder if she remembers.

You don't hear too much about sunrise services anymore. People would rather sleep, it seems. But this year as I awaken to catch the sun's first rays filtering through the trees, I'll pause and remember another Easter in another land—and listen for the drumbeat.

— Lorene Miley

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Through Gates of Splendor

by Odessa Ledlow

I cherish my private time with God. The mind is uncluttered with the day's demands and the soul seems to pause in expectancy. The Holy Spirit beckons in a personal, intimate way, "It's time to get alone with the Father. He's waiting for you."

I eagerly go to my prayer closet, and sure enough, He is there. I have access to the very throne room of God. I offer Him my praise and adoration and His spirit thrills my soul. The fellowship is so sweet I often find myself reluctant to leave.

Once I assisted a primary Sunday school teacher. We kept the room bright and attractive with colorful charts and posters. A joyful atmosphere pervaded the room and the children responded with enthusiasm. They relished the songs, lessons, activities and just being together. As the van arrived each Sunday morning, the kids raced to get inside the door where I stood to greet them. They didn't want to leave.

I find that same excitement when I enter my prayer closet. My loving Father waits for me at the door and bids me enter. Alone in His presence, there are no bounds or restrictions. I can praise, thank, confess, laugh, cry, intercede, agonize, or express however I feel. I have so much to tell Him and He's a trusted Friend. He never betrays my confidences.

We're different and pray differently. We pray out of the context of what we are. Our needs and requests may be different, but the Father who sees in secret rewards us openly as we seek to know and apply His will to our lives.

Do you have a prayer closet? The place is not as important as our attitude. A daily planned time of prayer brings consistency to our spiritual life. Some talk to God while driving to work, listening to tapes, on the job, or as they take their morning walk. This is, as Brother Lawrence says, "practicing the presence of God." But there must still be a reserved time for God, free from distraction and by regular appointment when we meet the Father in secret.

Once the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. How much more do I need to know how to pray, for what to pray, and how to maintain some order in my prayer life. The first element to me is worship as I gain audience with the Father. I approach Him with reverence and honor, recognizing Him for Who and what He is to me, and giving Him all praise.

After I have offered Him my worship, I confess my sins and ask for His forgiveness. I cannot come before Him with a pure

heart if I have ill-will toward another, unconfessed sin, or an unforgiving spirit.

Next I petition Him for personal needs. The "whatsoever we ask" in John 14:13 does not mean our every wish or desire. I do not know what is best for me, so I trust Him to give that which I should have and withhold that which I shouldn't. As my desires line up with His, my needs are met.

Certain characteristics must be developed daily if I am to mature as a Christian. It seems I am always asking Him for more patience or love or another fruit of the Spirit. Our thought life is also important so I ask for help with this.

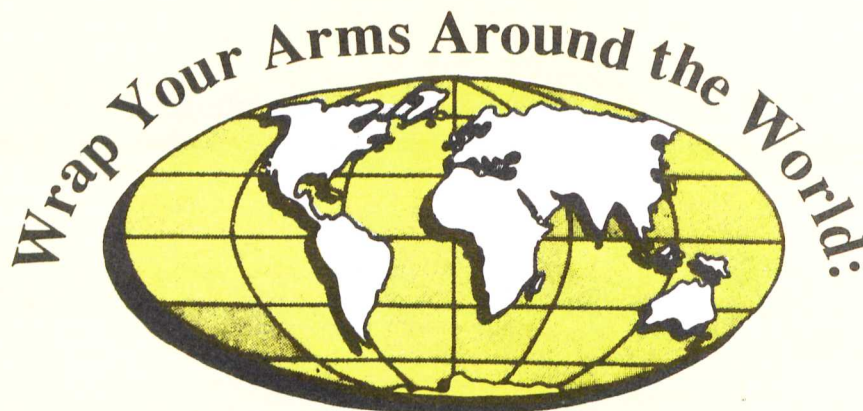
Now it's time for intercession, for my family, friends and community. Through prayer I can give myself to others and show them I really care. Sometimes He tells me I must put feet on my prayers.

Our church needs and missionaries are a vital part of my intercessory praying. I begin with what I know then move out, asking God to direct my prayer. Someone has said, "Intercessory prayer is the spirit of man joining the spirit of God in agony over a lost world." As I follow the example of the compassionate Christ, I fall to my knees in intercession for a lost world.

My heavenly Father grants me the blessed privilege to come into His presence and enjoy close fellowship with Him. Why should I ever want to channel my love in any other direction but upward?

I enter into His courts with praise and thanksgiving. Oh God, You are worthy! ♦

A tract, "How to Feed Yourself Daily From God's Word," is available from Faith, Prayer and Tract League, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-1390, and sells for 50 cents a dozen or \$2.50 per hundred. Distribute copies to your ladies to encourage them in maintaining a consistent and meaningful Quiet Time with God each day.



A Concert of Prayer

What is a concert of prayer? Jonathan Edwards used Zechariah 8:18-23 and defined it this way: "An Humble Attempt to Promote Explicit Agreement and Visible Union of God's People in Extraordinary Prayer for the Revival of Religion and the Advancement of Christ's Kingdom on Earth." Mrs. Fannie Polston defined it this way in 1929: "I believe we have an opportunity to attempt great things for God.... Our aim is to unify our forces in one stupendous prayer effort."

As instruments combine in an orchestra to produce a beautiful concert, so we, being many and varied, unite in one earnest prayer, sending up a harmonious, sweet sound to our God.

Scripture: Acts 1:8; Luke 13:29

INTRODUCTION

A population explosion in Africa, hunger, earthquakes, storms. Whole villages and tribes without a gospel witness, 3,000 groups of unreached people in India alone. Christians being persecuted and even killed for their testimony.

What can I possibly do in a world with so many needs? I'd like to reach out to these people. I'd like to share God's love with them. But what difference can one person make in the midst of such vast needs? I'd like to put my arms around them and show them someone cares. But how can I?

You can reach out to the people of the world. You can make a difference.

Come with us in this week of prayer and wrap your arms around the world.

Join in a concert of prayer this week. Unite with other Free Will Baptist women in the "one stupendous prayer effort" Mrs. Fannie Polston called for in 1929.

Day One

Thought: Since prayer must precede and undergird all our service, let us begin there. The women's auxiliary was born in prayer and its plans were shaped through prayer, so by observing the week of prayer we seek to focus the power of prayer upon a world task, believing that prayer can do anything that God can do and remembering the prayer of Jesus, "that the world may know." (Mrs. Fannie Polston, 1934)

I. A Time of Praise

God has been merciful to us and allowed us to hear the gospel message. God has been pleased to give us a part in reaching people in several countries around the world. Let us begin by recognizing who God is and praising Him for what He has done.

Scripture: Psalm 104

Ask several to mention a praise item related to who God is and what He has done.

Leader #1: Prayer of Praise to God
Chorus: "Alleluia" page 55

II. Wrap Your Arms Around Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa

Use the filmstrip "Where Gods Die Hard" (Cote d'Ivoire)

Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-19

Leader #2, Prayer Items: The Bible Institute, teachers, graduates and future students. Wisdom and patience in teaching. That God would call young people to prepare for service.

Leader #3, Prayer Items: The missionaries currently on the field. Good interpersonal relationships among all the workers. Physical needs and wellness for the missionaries.

Leader #4, Prayer Items: The medical work, Dr. Eagleton and his staff. Workers to man the hospital and money to supply the needs for equipment, medicines and supplies. That those who come to the clinic may hear, understand and accept the message of salvation.

Leader #5, Prayer Items: That God would send laborers into the harvest. Those now in language school or other preparation. Those home on furlough that their financial needs will be quickly supplied. That God will call some to go to Cote d'Ivoire.

Leader #6, Prayer Items: The African Christians and leaders. The unity of the church. That God will call young people there into His service. That the power of Satan may be broken.

Song: "Ready" p. 512

Pre-Easter Week of Prayer Program for Foreign Missions

by Mary Ruth Wisehart

Day Two

Thought: Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon his
knees.

I. A Time of Praise

Song: "He Lives!" page 186

Scripture: I Corinthians 15:12-26

Ask several people to mention what the resurrection means to them.

Leader #1, Prayer of thanksgiving and praise for the resurrection and all that it means to all people.

II. Wrap Your Arms Around Latin America and Cuba

Use the filmstrips "Destined for Liberty" (Panama), or Mightier Than These" (Brazil) or the VHS videos "He Must Increase, But I Must Decrease" (Uruguay), or "Growing Pains" (Brazil)

Scripture: I Corinthians 1:4-9

Leader #2, Prayer Items: All missionaries in Brazil (*See directory.*) Those on furlough and those in training. The training institutions and those who direct and teach. The unity of the church, for leaders. That God will call more laborers into the field.

Leader #3, Prayer Items: All the missionaries in Uruguay. The Bible institute, teachers, students. The retirement of the Robinsons and for someone to replace them.

Leader #4, Prayer Items: The missionaries in Panama and those on furlough. The children of missionaries. The economic and political situation. The leaders in the churches.

Leader #5, Prayer Items: The Christians in Cuba. The political situation. The leaders of the Free Will Baptist Church in Cuba. The rebuilding of the seminary there, materials and funds to finish the building.

Song: "Send the Light" page 371

Day Three

Thought: Call Unto Me and I Will Answer Thee. Jeremiah 33:3

I. A Time of Praise

Scripture: Romans 8:31-39

Brief testimonies of what God has given through His Son.

Leader #1, Prayer of praise for all the things that are ours in Christ Jesus.

II. Wrap Your Arms Around Europe

Use the filmstrip "Faces of Spain" or video "Miracle of Faith" (France)

Scripture: Colossians 1:9-18

Leader #2, Prayer Items: Our missionaries in France. The missionaries' children. The unity of the churches.

Leader #3, Prayer Items: Our missionaries in Spain. Their children. The unity of the churches.

Leader #4, Prayer Items: The changes taking place in Europe just now. That the Christians will grow and begin to take leadership and witnessing responsibilities. New opportunities to spread the gospel.

Song: "The Call for Reapers" page 370

Day Four

Thought: Work done by the rushing torrent of human energy will not save a single soul: whereas work done in the vital and unbroken contact with the living God will tell for all eternity.

I. A Time of Praise

Song: "In The Name of the Lord" p. 102

Scripture: Psalm 138

Give opportunity for testimonies about answered prayers.

Leader #1, Praise for God's loving kindness, for His help in trouble, for His answers to prayer.

II. Wrap Your Arms Around India and Japan

Scripture: I Timothy 2:1-8

Use filmstrip "With Both Hands and Both Feet" (India) or video "What Do You Offer?" (Japan)

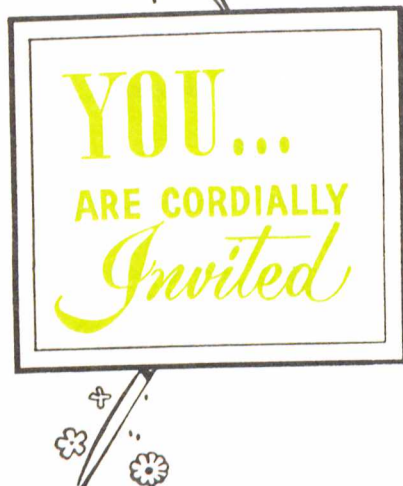
Leader #2, Prayer Items: Carlislè and Marie Hanna. That the Lord will open doors for others to minister in India. Pray for our churches in North and South India.

Leader #3, Prayer Items: Our missionaries in Japan. That God will make a way for the present missionaries to stay in Japan. That the doors will remain open to the gospel. That the Japanese Christians will grow and unite to reach others with the gospel.

Leader #4, Prayer Items: The 3,000 unreached groups in India. That the Lord of Harvest will send laborers into the harvest.

continued on page 12 →

Auxiliary women have responded with programs on "The Great Invitation." Some are too good to be omitted. This month we are offering, not one program, but four! Take your pick or use some from all of them.



By Betty Johnson

Introduction: The three fold invitation in Rev. 22:17

TO: Everyone. Our human nature cries to be included. We are hurt or embarrassed when everyone else receives an invitation and we're left out. But this is one invitation where no one is left out. Everyone is included.

WHAT: To drink from the Water of Life (Christ) freely. It is unlike any water we have ever heard of. Readily available. Pure and unpolluted. Sufficient for all needs. Thirst-quenching and satisfying.

PLACE: Right where you are. No need for a ticket or car pool. He meets you where you are and takes you as you are.

TIME: Now. No need to check your calendar or arrange for a sitter. Now is the best time for salvation, rededication and service.

GIVEN BY: The Spirit and the Bride. The emissary of our Royal High Priest, the Holy Spirit, issues the invitation with the bride, all true members of the church of God.

RSVP: To pastor, Sunday school teacher, Christian friend. Begin now to invite others to drink of the Water that never runs dry.

Program Helps

Enlarge an invitation and fill in the blanks as the topics are given. Distribute small invitations the Sunday before your meeting.



By Brenda Spruill

Find one invitation to illustrate the different kinds mentioned.

Introduction

The thrill of invitations, whatever kind they are. Let's look at some different kinds we receive and liken them to our spiritual walk.

BIRTHDAY PARTY. Both the young and the old celebrate birthdays. Do you remember your spiritual birthday (John 3:3)? Every now and then we need to stop and remember and celebrate.

BRIDAL SHOWER. The bride-to-be is showered with gifts to help get their marriage off to a good start. We, too, have been gifted to help in our Christian service (Eph. 4:8,11). Have you claimed your gift, or is it still lying unopened and unused?

WEDDING INVITATIONS. The Song of Solomon recounts a beautiful love story. It isn't the pomp and beauty of the ceremony that is significant, rather the blending of two lives into one flesh (Heb. 13:4a).

BABY SHOWER. The natural result of a love relationship is children. If pregnancy doesn't occur after a time, usually medical help is sought. We need to be celebrating those we have brought into the Kingdom (Ps. 128:3).

Meet Our Writers



Betty Johnson (Mrs. Glenn), a fulltime homemaker, teaches Sunday school at the Philadelphia FWB Church, Mt. Clemens, MI. They have two children, Bradley, 5, and Pamela, 2. Betty enjoys reading, baking and crafts.



Betty Reeves (Mrs. Robert), Farmington, MO, fills any empty slot at her Fellowship FWB Church. She has four married daughters. She enjoys crocheting, writing and sewing.

GRADUATION. We never arrive in the Christian life, but we should note definite steps of progression (Prov. 1:5).



By Betty Reeves

Introduction

If only we could renew that excitement of invitations that we had as children. How great to be included.

Addressee. Each invitation is individually addressed. That special person is YOU.

The Event (Rev. 19:7,9). An exchange of vows, pledge of love and trust, and beginning of a family unit are all part of the grand occasion.

Place of Event (Rev. 21:1,2; John 14:6; Heb. 10:20; Prov. 15:18; Isa. 30:21; 42:16; 45:2). The directions to the great event is Jesus. After finding the Way, we must follow directions and avoid short cuts.

Time of Event (Isa. 49:8; Prov. 27:1; 2 Cor. 6:2; Rev. 7,12,20). The time is not one I can put on a calendar. We are on standby. It may be today, at any moment.

RSVP (Rev. 3:20). The invitation is ours. He waits a response. Oh, that we might all respond with anticipation!

Know the God of the Great Invitation

by Roberta West

Introduction

God put in each heart a "God-shaped vacuum" that may only be filled with Himself. It prompts men to cry out, "Oh, God, I want to know You." How can we know God? How does He reveal Himself? Let's look at some ways.

I. His Names Describe Him

1. Jehovah-tsidkenu (The Lord our righteousness) Psalm 11:7
2. Jehovah-shamah (The Lord is present) Ezek. 48:35b
3. Jehovah-rapha (The Lord that healeth) Ex.15:26
4. Jehovah-jirah (The Lord provides) Gen. 22:13,14
5. Jehovah-nissi (The Lord my banner) Ex. 17:12b,13,15
6. Jehovah-shalom (The Lord our peace) Judges 6:24
7. Jehovah-raah (The Lord my shepherd) Ps. 23:1-3

II. God Reveals Himself Through His Attributes

1. Immutable—His unchanging nature (Ps. 102:26,27; James 1:17; Mal. 3:6)
2. Omnipotence—all powerful (Jer. 42:2)
3. Omniscience—all knowing (Ps. 139:11,12)
4. Omnipresence—everywhere (Jer. 23:24)
5. Sovereign—orders human events (Deut. 10:17)
6. Merciful (Ps. 145:9)
7. Holy (Heb. 1:13)

III. His Mighty Acts Declare Him

Psalm 136 pictures the mighty hand of our God. Read the psalm chorally. The leader reads the first part of each verse and the women repeat the chant.

IV. God May Be Known By His Tender Touches

In the midst of the Great Depression, I was enrolled at the University of Missouri. One Wednesday noon, I walked across the campus, penniless, depressed and hungry. In my solitude, I cried out, "Oh, someone tell me quickly if life is worth the living."

That night at prayermeeting, the pastor threw out this very question for discussion: "Is Life Worth Living?" Several spoke the usual cliches, but nothing struck a note to my seeking heart.

At last a German professor arose. "Life," he said, "is God's gift to us. We know little else about it. But since it is God's gift to us, we can be sure that it is eminently worth the living." God set up the whole scenario for me, for even me, a needy, questing student. That was the word I needed to hear and it has held me every since. I am now 85.

Time for Sharing: Relate one of God's tender touches in your life.

IV. Our Response to Him

God, I want to love You.
God, I want to praise You.
God, I want to worship You.



Brenda Spruill teaches 27 fifth graders in Waipahu, Hawaii. Her husband, Wayne, operates a Christian bookstore. Their four children are 15, 11, and 9 (twins).



Roberta West, Viburnum, MO, taught 20 years and superintended schools for 22 more years in Chinook, MT. Widowed since 1977, she has three married daughters. She enjoys filet crocheting, reading, writing and gardening.



LET THEM KNOW

Narration with choir, audience or special music participation. Since music frequently intersperses narration, the pianist should play throughout the presentation.

MUSIC: "Let Them Know"

Are you as nosy as I am? Then you will be interested in what I have to tell you about a man who rose from the dead. He did! I saw it myself! Let me tell you what happened! I just have to tell somebody!

MUSIC: Chorus of "Let Them Know."

Let me start from the beginning. We were on our way up to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. So was everyone else, it seemed, as the roads were packed with clusters of travelers.

Just ahead I noticed a group of men huddled close together as they moved down the road. Normally I don't engage in eavesdropping, but they seemed so intense that curiosity got the best of me and I quickened my step.

Attention focused on the Man in the center. Nothing unusual about His appearance, but His words held the men captive. Seems he was reminiscing about his life, kind of like it was about to end and he wanted to cherish the memories.

I gathered he had been born in a stable. A stable, mind you! Later he learned carpentry skills from his earthly father. His earthly father? I asked myself. The Man smiled as he recounted a childhood incident of being separated from his earthly parents on a trip just like this to Jerusalem. He seemed surprised that they didn't know he would be in the temple with the scribes and pharisees taking care of "His Father's business."

His Father's business? Who was this Man?

Everyone clung to his words, even me, as we walked along. When cousin John baptized him, he recounted, a dove posed on his head and a voice from heaven acknowledged Him as the son in whom His Heavenly Father was pleased.

He told of a man named Lazarus being raised from the dead, and the opening of the eyes of the blind. The crippled were made to walk and the captives freed. Seems rumors of these things had reached our village, but we had only passed them off as old wives' tales. Now I wasn't so sure.

Some addressed the Man in the center as Christ, others as Messiah; but make no mistake about it, to these men, he was their Leader and he was their friend. My heart yearned toward Him and

I longed to know Him, too. Who was He?

HYMN: first two verses of "Tell Me The Story of Jesus."

A pall settled over the group. The Carpenter instructed two of the men, Peter and John, I believe, to go into the city and prepare for the Passover. I thought the instructions seemed quite vague with no name, no address. They were only to follow some guy with a water pitcher. This I've got to see, I decided, and took off with a trot behind them.

Sure enough, it worked out just like He said. I waited outside until the rest of the group arrived and they assembled in the upper room.

My eyes were glued to the Passover scene and I don't think I could have pulled my eyes away had I tried. Following the usual Passover meal, the Carpenter ... Jesus ... began a ceremony of his own.

I caught phrases I couldn't understand:

"One of you shall betray me."

"This is my blood which is shed for many."

"I will drink no more...until I drink it new in the Kingdom of my father."

One of the men named Judas hurried from the room with such urgency that I felt impelled to follow. But something else captured my attention. Jesus picked up a

towel and basin of water and began washing the men's feet, almost in an act of anointing. The washing had already been done—I had seen it! What did it mean? My heart ached with his humility and yet I had never met him. What man is this!

This ended, He rose and started for the door, with the others at his heels. I waited until they had gone and followed them outside the city to the most serene garden I could ever imagine. This was a dear, familiar place to them, I could tell and love spilled out around them.

HYMN: first verse and chorus of "In The Garden."

Jesus went apart from the others and agonized in prayer. Huge drops of sweat formed on his forehead and flowed like blood as he prayed his heavenly father to remove from him the cup of death. Cup of death? Does he intend to die?

HYMN: "Tis Midnight" or "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

The stillness of the garden was interrupted by the sound of approaching soldiers, and with them Judas, that little man who hurried from supper. What was he doing with them? I didn't have to wonder long, for he walked right up as big as life and kissed Jesus on the cheek!

That's nice! Friends should be able to show affection once in awhile.

But this was no act of friendship. That intimate action triggered some code to identify Jesus and he became their captive. Judas slithered off in the darkness as the soldiers roughly herded the Man into town.

"Can you believe he would sell out for 30 lousy pieces of silver?" I heard one spit out in contempt. "For \$52.80! Can you believe it! What a jerk!"

I couldn't stay away. He drew me like a magnet. What had this man done wrong and what were they going to do with him?

HYMN: first verse of "O Sacred Head Now Wounded."

I wish there was some way I could describe what happened in those long hours that lay ahead. Even now as I think about it, my words dry up. Throughout the long night I followed him from first one place to another, from one trial to another, until in the early morning hours it was over. Jesus was condemned to death on the cruel cross.

HYMN: "Guilty of Love" chorus

They led Jesus away through the city and out the gate to the place of death, Mount Calvary. I didn't want to go, everything inside me rebelled against it, but I couldn't leave had my life depended on it. My life seemed bound up with that One who struggled beneath that horrible cross.

No longer was I watching this scene of suffering and death; I was experiencing it.

Mere words could never describe what happened next, but let me try. I no longer was watching this scene of suffering and death; I was experiencing it. My body lay stretched on that wooden cross. I felt the agonizing separation of sinew as the sharp nails pierced my hands and feet. I screamed in anguish as rough men hoisted the heavy cross and jabbed it into the ground. I strained to pull myself from this nightmare, but I wasn't dreaming. This was real.

And thirst! Oh, thirst screamed through my body like lightning darting from one conductor to another. Then a terrible loneliness gushed over me and I felt the solitary of the ages. Time stood still.

As quickly as it came, it was gone, and I huddled among the other spectators. But I was no longer the same. Realization struck me—my sins had nailed Jesus to the cross, not His, for He had none. Then why? I raised my eyes to meet His waiting gaze. It

spoke only of love, forgiveness and acceptance.

Who was this Man? At last I knew! He was the Son of God, my Lord and my Savior!

HYMN: "I've been To Calvary" or "At the Cross."

What about you? Have you experienced the forgiveness of sins? You can.

HYMN: "There's Room at the Cross for You."

But wait! I haven't told you the most exciting part! He didn't stay dead! He arose from the dead! Here's what happened.

That evening they took the broken, bleeding body from the cross and placed it in a newly carved tomb in a verdant garden which belonged to one of His disciples. Joseph, they called him. They sealed the tomb with a huge stone. We thought it was all over.

When the Sabbath ended, Mary, Mary Magdalene, Salome and Joanna rushed to the tomb to anoint the body of our Lord. I, too, walked along with them. We wondered how we would remove that huge stone to get to the body, but God Himself took care of that problem. At that moment, the ground began to shake with a terrible earthquake. When we reached the tomb, the stone was rolled away.

Quickly we stooped and looked inside, but found it empty. Our Lord was gone!

HYMN: first three verses, then the chorus of "Christ Arose."

What happened next is a mystery hidden in Christ with God from the foundation of the world. I'm not sure I can make you understand, but I have to try.

The women all left to tell the others so I was alone. I walked to the entrance of the tomb, but a strong desire to actually enter possessed me. The whole scene opened before my eyes—the grave clothes, the place where He lay, the stillness of death.

As I stooped to leave the tomb, a blaze of light near the entrance

→ continued on next page

Communicator

Pre-Easter Week of Prayer

Christ's resurrection can scarcely be considered without considering His command, "Go ye into all the world" and "Ye shall be my witnesses...unto the uttermost part of the earth."

A week of prayer for our missions program at this time of year is especially appropriate. We should pray with thanksgiving in our hearts because, as Paul sings, "But now is Christ risen." And because He lives, we have salvation and justification, plus the assurance of eternal life.

Such cause for rejoicing should be reason enough for giving a testimony to others about the saving grace of God.

As we pray, let's ask God to give us direction in our witnessing, a desire to do what we can to spread the good news. Let's ask God to give us willing hearts to offer to the Lord what we have in our hands.

The Laura Belle Barnard Sacrificial Offering

What have you given to God recently at some sacrifice to yourself? David said, "Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing." II Samuel 24:24

Of course the regular toil of our work does cost us something. We can offer to the Lord the rewards for that toil. Is there more we should offer? Should we deny ourselves something in order to give to the Lord? In order to help spread the gospel?

Whatever we have to give, let's give generously, gladly and with rejoicing.

Check this issue of CO-LABORER for ideas and suggestions for the offering.

Even if you are going to designate this offering to some special project or missionary, be sure to place it under the Laura Belle Barnard Offering. We want to know exactly how much comes in for this Easter offering.

Executive Committee Meets

The executive committee of WNAC, made up of the officers and three members elected from the body at large, met in Nashville, December 4-6, for the Leadership Conference and a regular meeting.

The committee completed plans for the 1990 retreat, readied a budget for 1991, and worked on convention plans for 1991.

Members of the executive committee are Mary Neal, Indiana, president; June Rolan, California, vice president; Peggy Outland, Illinois, secretary; Mary R. Wisehart, executive secretary-treasurer and members-at-large, Kay Hampton, Tennessee; DeLois Loveless, Ohio; and Marian Reece, Virginia.

Funds Come in for Office Equipment

Some women have responded to equipment and furniture needs in the WNAC office.

The total November 28, 1989 amounted to \$1,047.50. More is needed for a computer, bookkeeping software and a typewriter.

Let Them Know/continued from page 9

blinded me. I shielded my eyes and focused on a figure inside the light. My Lord! It was my Lord! I longed to rush to Him but His gaze stopped me.

What He did next is forged on my memory like a branding iron. He pulled back His dazzling robe and I saw the ugly scar in his side where the soldiers had pierced Him. He touched His scarred side and drew from it something blazing with light. I didn't know it then, but I know now it was the very life of God.

This luminous ball of fiery life made flight straight into my very being and touched a still, gray thing inside which had been dead since the fall of Adam. I didn't even know it was dead until it ignited and became a living thing.

I couldn't believe it! I had been with Him before earth's foundation and now He was in me! The human spirit had risen with Him from the dead and now I could love Him with my whole being. Love flooded my heart and I lunged toward Him and fell on my face at His feet.

HYMN: "Love Divine, All Love's Excelling" or "If That Isn't Love."

Well, that's not nearly the end of the story, but it's all we have time for. For forty days He lived and walked among us. Then He ascended back to His Father in heaven. I yearned to go with Him, but He left me something to do first. What I had seen and heard and learned from Him, I was to impart to others. "Make disciples," He called it. He would come for me, He said, and then I could live with Him forever. So now His last words keep ringing in my ears:

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world (Matt. 28:19,20).

SONG: "Let Them Know"



Where There Is Love

By Louise Wampler

It seems that some of my best—and worst—times as a Christian have taken place in a hospital. In this setting, one witnesses love in action.

When our granddaughter, Sarah, was about three years old, she was admitted to the Johns Hopkins hospital, Baltimore, Md., with a huge pseudo-cyst on her pancreas. She looked so fragile in her hospital gown, almost like a castoff little doll.

We slipped to our knees to pour out our fears to our heavenly Father. We claimed His promise that His holy angels would encamp about and deliver us. Love is faith when circumstances are almost unbearable.

While Sarah awaited surgery, a young nursery school teacher lovingly explained what would happen to her body during surgery. Suddenly she could no longer bear the pain. She jumped to her feet and fled from the room. Love is compassion for others and she had learned it well.

For a time, Sarah shared a room with Steve, a teenager slowly dying from a brain tumor. "I don't mind dying," he told me, "and I'm not even bitter. But my heart aches when I look at little Sarah and watch her suffer." Love thinks of others.

On the day of the surgery, Sarah's father clasped his only child to him all the way to the operating room. He sang songs of love and faith and told her stories until she slept. Then he slipped

outside to endure the slow minutes that turned into hours. Love is caring more for others than one's self.

The Children's Intensive Care Unit is a lonely, frightening place filled with children whose broken little bodies lie attached to all kinds of ugly contraptions. I looked down at Sarah, her body tormented with pain. As tears flooded my eyes, Sarah opened hers and said, "No, MomMom, don't you cry. Jesus loves me and He is going to make me better." Love is trust and childlike faith.

We walked back to the children's ward to wait for the next visiting hour. Sounds of laughter filled the halls and I turned to see Jimmy, age 4, who had just received a kidney transplant. He jumped on my lap and called me granny. I sat amazed at the wisdom and intelligence of this little black boy, a wise old man in a tiny body. Love knows no barriers of race or age.

A nurse came down the hall gently pulling a wagon in which lay a small boy flat on his stomach. Cigarette burns punctuated his frail back.

"What happened?" I asked in astonishment.

"Suspected child abuse," she told me. Yet when his parents came to visit, this little fellow lovingly reached up his arms to the



ones who had inflicted such pain. Love is unconditional.

At last our long night of waiting ended. Sarah's surgery was successful. Now we waited for God's healing.

Sarah lived hundreds of miles away, so when she fully recovered, parting was inevitable. To leave this precious woman-child

Over My Coffee Cup



By Eunice Edwards

Once someone gave me a plant called the "crown of thorns." Legend claims it to be the plant from which Christ's crown was plaited.

I enjoyed this plant for about two years when one fall the strangest thing happened. The plant is characterized by long, tendril-like shoots with thorns. In summer it produces small, green leaves. But that fall, without my expecting it, the plant blossomed.

The blossoms were the most beautiful I have ever seen. Each blossom had four petals of a rich pink with a center that looked like a drop of pure gold. I watched fascinated by its delicacy and color. Such a fragile lovely blossom on such a harsh stalk! It nearly took my breath away to look at it. How utterly exquisite!

I have decided the plant was correctly named. When Christ shed His precious blood on Calvary's tree, He caused the ugly thing to blossom. And what a beautiful, exquisite blossom it remains for people of all ages to look upon!

My heart fairly sings with the unspeakable joy of salvation today. Only He can make our crosses to blossom! ♦

was almost unbearable. I tried to hide my sadness, but she always knew.

"No, MomMom, don't you be sad. I won't be far away. And anyway, I will come again and we can talk." Love is being patient as we wait.

And You, Father, tell me the same thing. "I must go away, but I will come again," You said. Grant me patience as I wait. ♦

continued from page 5 ...

Leader #5, Prayer Items: Free Will Baptists' part in reaching the world with the gospel. Free Will Baptists' prayer support, stewardship, witness to carry out the great commission.

Song: "We've A Story To Tell"
page 368

Day Five

Thought: More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams.

I. A Time of Praise

Song: "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing" p. 51

Scripture: Psalm 150

Leader #1, Praise the Lord for his blessings to all of us. Praise God that He has given us a part in taking the gospel to the world. Praise God for the work that has been done on our mission fields.

II. Wrap Your Arms Around Free Will Baptist Mission Workers

Use the video "From Victory Unto Victory" (history of FWB Foreign Missions).

If the video is not available, have someone give a brief history of Free Will Baptist foreign missions, based on the account in *The Fifty Year Record*, available from the Historical Commission, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202, for \$2.

Scripture: Romans 10:11-17

Leader #2, Prayer Items: R. Eugene Waddell, general director for Foreign Missions. The chairman of the board and board members who must approve candidates and make recommendations.

Leader #3, Prayer Items: Earl Larsen, treasurer, and for those who work with him in finances. Those in deputational ministries.

Leader #4, Prayer Items: Don Robirds, director of communications and those who work with him. Fred Warner, director of missionary-church relations. Jimmy Aldridge, overseas secretary. All the secretaries and helpers in the Foreign Missions Office.

Leader #5, Prayer Items: Free Will Baptists. Enlarged vision. Generous giving, especially in the Laura Belle Barnard Offering taken this week. That the Lord will call our young people into His service and equip them for ministry.

Program Suggestions

This program is arranged for five prayer services or concerts of prayer. It may be used in one evening, if you allow from 1 and 1/2 to 2 hours for the time of prayer. Be sure to include the time of praise. Then have one leader for each of the countries where we have missionaries, one for the office workers and one for Free Will Baptists and their missionary vision. Cut out some of the songs and perhaps some of the scriptures. Also, if you are going to use audio visuals, perhaps you should choose "From Victory to Victory" to get an over-all view of our work. Don't neglect the prayer time.

The filmstrips and VHS videos are available from the Foreign Missions Office (see page 16). If you do not use the filmstrips and videos, have someone dressed to represent the different countries and give some information about them and our work. Request the brochures for each country, "Field at A Glance."

Designate the prayer leaders ahead of time and see that they have a Foreign Missions Directory and missionary profiles for the ones they are remembering.

Have a prayer card available for each member of the group to take home as a special reminder throughout the year.

These materials are available from the Foreign Missions Office, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202, at no charge.

All page numbers for songs refer to *The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book: REJOICE*. ♦

Start Your

By Marie Stewart

I had always thought of missionaries as simply speakers in church with curious artifacts on display. But when our church conducted its own missionary conference, I discovered I had a lot to learn.

I listened in wonder as one after another described his hard life on the field. Could I have given up my comfortable existence for that? I sincerely doubted it.

Of all the missionaries participating in the conference, Sam and Jolene Rowen with their three little girls impressed me most. They spent four days in our home, sharing their experiences with our family. These missionaries were more than pages out of some book. They were real and much alive in Christ.

Soon the Rowens had to return to Sao Paulo, Brazil. But I couldn't get them out of my mind. As I consistently prayed for them, one thought kept repeating itself—God wanted more from me.

"What can I do to help?" I finally asked Jolene in a letter.

"Do you have any books we could read?" she replied. "Our nine-year-old Jane loves to read, but we can never keep her supplied."

My children loved books, so I had shelves filled with children's storybooks, novels, biographies and devotionals. I decided to start a circulating library.

After compiling a list of about a dozen missionary families in Central and South America, I sent letters explaining the project and inviting them to participate. Those interested would supply name, age and sex of each family member with his particular reading preference.

At the same time, my partners and I put out an SOS to church members for additional books. Big, little, hardbound, paperback, worn and new came pouring in. By the time we were ready to

Own Missionary Circulating Library

Some of us with hearts for missions will never make it to a foreign field. But we can pray, write letters, and fellowship with missionary families through books.

begin shipping, we had more than 300 volumes.

Because I had worked in a high school library, I knew something about cataloging. We recorded the following information on index cards for each book:

Book File Card	
Author	_____
Title	_____
Subject	_____
Fiction	_____
Non-Fiction	_____
Suggested age range	_____
Book assortment number	_____

As we packaged the books for mailing, each received a permanent book assortment number. Then we set up a master file to keep track of library activity. From this record, we could more or less determine the whereabouts of any book at any time.

Master File Card		
Number	Mailed to	Date
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Inside the flyleaf of every book, we pasted two slips of paper run off on the church copier. One duplicated the information on the book file card; the other had space for readers to record their names, the date read, and comment about the book's value. This helped weed out unfavorites.

Our missionary families were divided into three groups, accord-

ing to the ages of the children. Families, as the Rowens, fit into Group A, couples in Group B, and singles in Group C.

Next our crew designed a single parcel of books to suit the tastes and needs of families in the first group. We tried to choose at least two selections that might appeal to each family member.

Finally we had a shipment ready to go. Two more shipments would follow, one each for the first contact in Groups B and C.

Rough mail treatment required secure, strong packaging. My husband wrapped most of the books and delivered them to the post office. We sent them book rate, the cheapest and slowest means of mailing. These assortments were uninsurable, but God was faithful. We lost no books.

International Postal Rates for Books	
Weight	Surface Rates (all countries)
1 lb.	\$1.34
2 lb.	2.30
Each additional pound over 4 lbs.	.90

A few months after each shipment, we mailed a letter of instruction with news from home, when possible. This included a reply postcard to inform us when and where books were sent.

Return Postcard	
Dear Marie:	
We have sent on book assortment number # _____	
to _____	
as instructed.	
Date	_____
Signed	_____

Often one of the children became family librarian. Meanwhile we forwarded a new shipment to the first family in each group.

When a book parcel had completed its rounds, then it would return to us. This often took a year or more. Missionaries paid postage at their end, but whenever the Lord provided extra funds, we passed these on.

From THE BOBBSEY TWINS to Oswald Chamber's MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST, books were not just read, they were devoured.

"What a blessing. It really filled a need," one missionary commented. My favorite response stretched across the page, printed in large letters by a shaky, unsure hand: "I like it."

Through the fellowship of books as well as the exchange of letters, I have come to know many missionary families intimately. Our children have become pen pals.

For five years I watched missionary children grow and their reading tastes mature. Of course, we had to work furloughs into the system. These changes required occasional juggling to meet changing needs.

Our books entertained, informed and ministered to lives. One grateful missionary wife expressed it: "Do you have any idea how empty and hungry our hearts become on the mission field? Even as we minister to others, many of us starve for fellowship and spiritual food. We need someone to minister to us with God's Word and inspiring books."

A missionary circulating library does just that. ♦

Marie Stewart is a freelance writer from Glendale, Arizona.

I John Chapter 2 Part 2

REVIEW: In the first 11 verses of chapter 2, the aged apostle John deals with the fact of sin in a believer's life. Sin is to be quickly recognized, frankly admitted and fully confessed, leading to a genuine repentance. God tests our professed faith that others may see and be encouraged by our right response under pressure. A sharp distinction is made in this passage and elsewhere in Scripture between the "say-ers" and "doers." Before tackling the increasingly difficult tests that follow in this brief epistle, all believers should honestly face the self-examination of verses 9-11.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

2:12—"I write unto you _____ children, because your _____ are _____ you for his name's sake." Using the tender appellation of "little children," John addresses all true believers; those who have personally and honestly dealt with the sin question and have the assurance of God's forgiveness through the atonement of Christ and not by any merit of their own.

2:13,14—"I write unto you _____, because ye have _____ Him that is from the _____. I write unto you young _____, because ye have _____ the wicked one." The five-letter key word in these two verses is used three times. What is it?

Knowing about God and His Son and knowing them personally are as different as day and night. A true believer recognizes the fact that the Godhead was "from the beginning" (vv. 13, 14). This heart knowledge will impart the spiritual strength needed to enable one to "overcome the wicked one." How? Because "...the _____ of God _____ in you..." The "eth" on the word "abide" gives it a perpetual connotation. Someone has rightly said, "Seven days without God's Word makes one weak." Daily spiritual food is vital to Christian growth and strength.

DESIRES AND PRIORITIES (2:15, 15)

2:15—"Love not the _____, neither the _____ that are in the world." John refers to the world system, with its fads, fashions, motivation, godless immorality and self-centeredness, as well as the inanimate "things" money can buy. The beauty of God's universe and creation are always to be appreciated as more of His love gifts to mankind. We also are greatly blessed by the daily provision of our needs and the many added comforts enjoyed in everyday living, far exceeding our basic needs. However, when "things" become an obsession or goal, they come between us and our Father. Fine homes, furnishings or expensive clothing, as well as position and renown can either be used to honor God or to drive a wedge between the Father and His child. All must be viewed in proper perspective and a God-honoring balance achieved.

2:16—The three phrases that incorporate all sin are listed in this verse. Two of these begin with the unpleasant word "lust." What are they? The third phrase features the word "pride," and Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goeth before _____." The sin of pride received top billing in the list of seven things God hates (Prov. 6:17-19).

Beginning in the Garden of Eden, our sin-prone nature wants what we do not have, which is the lust of the flesh. Then we can depend on Satan to see to it that we make a visual contact with that "thing" (lust of the eyes). As we endeavor to "keep up with the Joneses," pride leads to the active pursuit and gratification of these desires.

WHERE WILL IT END? (2:17)

2:17—"And the _____ (system) passeth away and the _____ of it..." What is incorporated in the "world system?"

the world's ways?	corrupt and dishonest
the world's thoughts?	base, humanistic, pornographic
the world's motivation?	greed and self-promoting
the world's desires?	self-centered, self-gratifying
the world's interests?	current fads and fashions

"... but he that _____ the will of God _____ forever." Honestly seeking God's leadership and will in our daily lives will bring about a drastic change, reflecting a genuine salvation experience and growth.

A believer's ways?	honest and open (Matt. 5:13-16)
A believer's thoughts?	positive and godly (Matt. 6:25)
A believer's motivation?	others before self (Phil. 2:2-4)
A believer's desires?	obeying, pleasing the Father (John 14:23)
A believer's interests?	serving God and others (1 Cor. 6:19,20)

The world will continue to mock God's Word, ridicule Christ's atonement and criticize believers for being "narrow minded and moralistic." However, there is one clear proof of the power of Christianity that no one can deny, and that is the drastic change that takes place in the actions and attitude of a sinner saved by grace (2 Cor. 5:17).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the significance of the terms "little children, fathers and young men" in verses 12-14?
2. Which of these terms refers to all believers of any age and experience? What does the term denote? (1 Pet. 2:1-3)
3. What enables believers to overcome Satan's tactics and temptations? (2:14)
4. What danger lies in emphasizing the accumulation of money or the things money can buy? What is God's formula? (Heb. 13:5; Phil. 4:11; 1 Tim. 6:6-10)
5. How do Christians "fall short" in making an indelible impression for the Lord on the lives we contact? ♦

Helps for Leaders

Ideas to Stimulate Your Imagination

President Vice President

An Easter Meditation

Have you thought how the number three is so closely connected with our Lord's death and resurrection?

1. He prayed three times in the garden.
2. He took three of His disciples with Him into the garden.
3. He was tried by three men—Caiaphas, Herod and Pilate.
4. Peter denied Him three times.
5. Judas betrayed Him for 30 (three times ten) pieces of silver.
6. Pilate pronounced Him not guilty three times.
7. He was crucified at the third hour.
8. There were three crosses.
9. Three languages were inscribed on the cross.
10. He spoke to the Father three times on the cross.
11. There were three hours of darkness.
12. He arose on the third day.
13. Mark names three women who came to the tomb.
14. He appeared to His apostles three times.
15. Three times He commissions Peter to service.

—by Beatrice M. Keur
Sacred Literature Ministries



Finalize plans for your Pre-Easter Week of Prayer service. Meet with your pastor and see about scheduling it on a Sunday or Wednesday night. This involves the entire church in a missions emphases.

Instead of a poster, a tax form idea is presented on page 20. If your women object to being "monied to death" you may postpone this idea until later. The Pre-Easter offering for Foreign Missions takes priority during this season of the year.

This tax form project has been used by many Auxiliaries with exciting results.

Invitations—Distribute store-bought invitations the week before your meeting. Or copy some of those shown on page 6 and write the information on the back.

Posters—Get as many different kinds of invitations as you can find and place on the bulletin board. Make a large one in the center which gives information about your meeting.

Instead of using invitations around the large one, use the

word "Come" printed in many different lettering styles and in different colors.

Program—A medley of programs is suggested on page 6. Use one, all, or some of all.



Spend much time in preparation for your concert of prayer. Ask God to make it a moving experience for all.

Set a goal for your Easter offering and encourage every woman or family to use the 30 pieces of silver offering bags. These are free upon request from WNAC.

Invitations—Use anything that suggests Easter. Write your invitation on 3x5 index cards and glue on a candy Easter egg wrapped in cellophane. Write invitations as:

A tisket a tasket

A green and yellow basket
We're planning a meeting for our women

You have your chance—don't pass it

Don't pass it

Don't pass it....

Include information about the time and place of your meeting.

COME

COME

COME

COME

Come

COME

COME

Mission STUDY Chairman

Arrange a video or filmstrip study

Each strip is accompanied by a cassette tape sound track with audible-change signal or silent signal for automatic projectors. Please indicate either audible or silent signal when ordering.

Prepare an information pack for each member. Request materials available for the field which you are studying. Please state the number of women you expect to attend. The following literature is available for each field:

Field at a Glance

Prayer Cards for each missionary

Profile Sheets for each missionary

Also:

Foreign Missions Directory

Foreign Missions Map

Foreign Missions Banner

Booklets: "Who is Called?" and "Why and How to Pray For Missionaries"

Thirty Pieces of Silver Offering Bags (WNAC)

VHS Videos:

From Victory Unto Victory
(history of FWB Foreign Missions) 35 minutes

He Must Increase, But I Must Decrease (Uruguay Bible Institute) 20 minutes

Serving the Missionary and You
(home office staff) 20 minutes

Letter to Melitino
(Cuba) 30 minutes

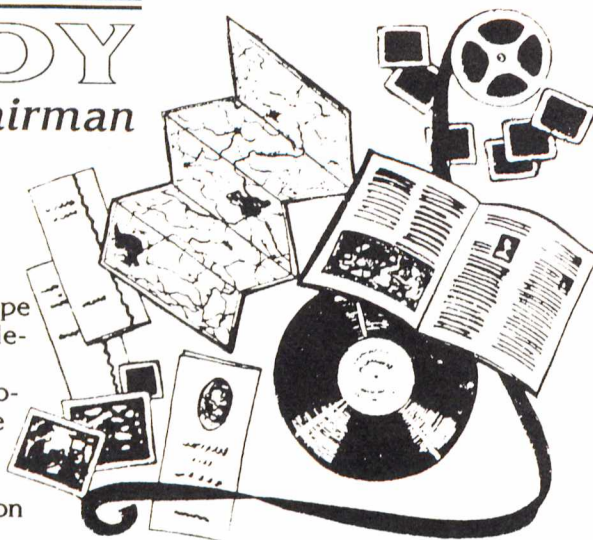
What Do You Offer?
(Japan) 20 minutes

Miracle of Faith
(France) 20 minutes

Facts and Artifacts
(Cote d'Ivoire) 20 minutes

Growing Pains (Brazil) 20 minutes

Filmstrips and videos are avail-



able on a rental basis (free will of-
fering with a suggested minimum
of \$10.00).

Mission PRAYER Chairman

Helps for Pre-Easter Week of Prayer

1. Make a poster or flip chart indicating the countries and main prayer requests.

2. Use a filmstrip or short video of a field to stimulate prayer (see page 18).

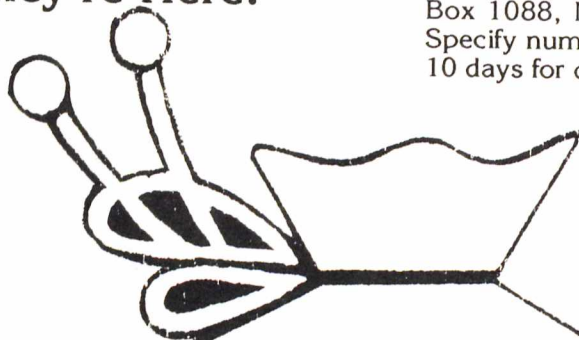
3. Provide a foreign mission map for each family. A list of other materials available is included on page 18.

4. Use a banner to keep the emphasis on a needy world.

5. Display flags of the countries served by Free Will Baptist missionaries. Make, buy, or borrow the flags.

6. A sample prayer bulletin is provided in this issue which may be copied. These are available free of charge upon request from the Foreign Missions Board, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202. Specify number needed. Allow 7-10 days for delivery.

They're Here!



30 Pieces of Silver Offering Bags for your Pre-Easter Week of Prayer For Foreign Missions

Has your Auxiliary used the 30 Pieces of Silver Offering Bags? Here's how it works. A week or so before Easter, distribute a bag to each woman or family in the church. Each day as they remember the missionary prayer requests, they put one or more silver coins in their bag. On Easter Sunday, complete the offering with thirty pieces of silver, and place it in the offering plate. Send it through the regular WNAC channels—local to district, district to state, state to national, national to where it is designated.

3. Pray for the new work being launched in Belo Horizonte, **Brazil**. The Dave Franks and Norman McFalls are working in this area.

FRIDAY

1. Pray for Dwain and Debbie Crosby in language school in Madrid, **Spain**. Language study started January 1. Pray for their cross-cultural adaptation, health, and open doors for sharing the gospel and for God's grace as they study a new language. Pray for the Alcala de Henares work since the Sparks are home on furlough. Pray for the teachers in their Christian school.
2. Millions of people are still unreached in **India** and more than 500,000 cities and villages have no church. Pray for Carlisle and Marie Hanna, our only missionaries to India, as they witness in this needy country. Continue to pray also for the film ministry which has been a very effective means of winning people to the Lord.
3. Pray for Gilberto Diaz Triano, a layman, and Roberto Perez Hernandez who is secretary of the **Cuban FWB Association** as well as director of Cedars of Lebanon Bible Institute. Pray the additional \$10,000 needed to complete work on the institute will be received soon.

Prayer Requests for Pre-Easter Week of Prayer, 1990

MONDAY

1. Pray for Pastor Kawasaki who will be left in charge of the Ai No Sato church in **Japan** when Don and Ruth McDonald come home for a much-needed furlough this spring.
2. Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Hokkaido, **Japan**, churches as they meet for their Bible conference scheduled for the first week of June. Pray for Christians in Japan who have a unique opportunity to steer the country to righteousness.
3. Missionaries in **Japan** will convene for their field council meeting the first week of June. Pray that God will guide this process and use it for His glory.

TUESDAY

1. The El Sembrador Bible College in **Uruguay** started 1990 classes in March. Please pray for the following teachers: Walter and Marcia Ellison, Rev. and Mrs. Acevedo, Ricardo Acevedo, Oscar Baglietto, Mr. Felpetti, and Martin Gurlekian. Pray that many students will find Christ as Savior through this Bible-teaching program. This could be the means of evangelization for a future generation in Uruguay.
2. Pray for special anniversary services at St. Nazaire, **France**, and for the outreach this church has had. Patsy Vanhook will be returning to the United States for furlough early this summer. Pray for a real sense

Prayer Requests for

WNAC Pre-Easter Week of Prayer

for Foreign Missions

April 9-13, 1990

of the Lord's direction and wisdom as she ministers in St. Nazaire these last months before furlough.

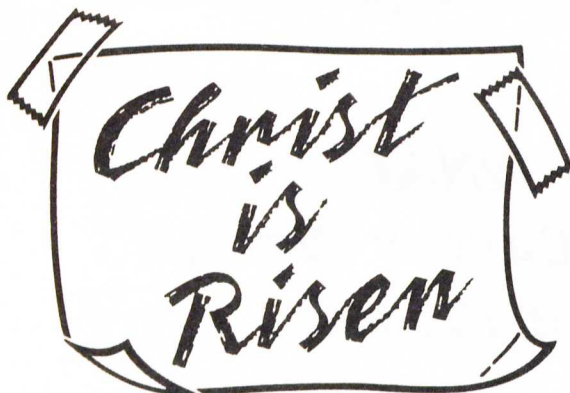
WEDNESDAY

1. Pray for Missionary Kids Brooke Cousineau and Aaron and Autumn Morgan as they are completing the 1990 school year by correspondence at home in **Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)**.
2. Pray for the Mike Cousineau and Clint Morgan families as they prepare for a year of furlough in the States.
3. Pray for the eight Bible institute students in **Bouana** who will graduate at the end of June from their three-year program of study. Pray for God's leadership in their future places of service.

THURSDAY

1. Since this is the rainy season in **Panama**, many people will use the rain as an excuse not to go to church. Pray God will burden hearts to participate in all of the church activities. VBS and youth camps are held during the months of February and March. Pray that many will be won to the Lord during this time, and pray for students as school starts in April.
2. Ask God to save many souls through the outreach of the Second FWB Church in Uberlandia, **Brazil**, where Tom and Nancy Hughes serve the Lord. Louis and Florine Coscia will be retiring this year from their work in Uberaba. Pray for someone to replace them in this area which is heavily influenced by spiritists.

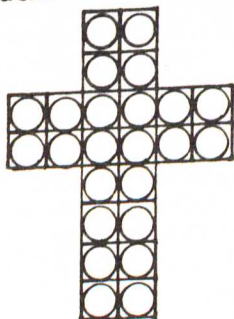
Mission Action Chairman



Write this greeting on a 3 x 5 index card and tape it to your bathroom mirror or car visor. Repeat these words to yourself each morning. As you meditate on the meaning, you are preparing yourself for the message of Easter.

A few years ago Alton and Delois Loveless celebrated Easter with Lonnie and Anita Sparks in Spain. "They don't observe Easter like we do," Delois observed. "They don't buy new clothes or have Easter bunnies and eggs. Mrs. Sparks did color eggs for a centerpiece for her dinner table. She didn't have egg coloring, so she boiled an onion and dipped the eggs to color them. It worked fine!"

A beautiful white cross can be constructed from two egg cartons arranged as diagrammed. Secure the cross to a background of black velvet with silver headed thumb tacks in the center of each section.



Tray favors are always welcomed in hospitals and nursing homes. A wheelbarrow loaded with jelly beans is a good one for Easter.

Materials Needed: Paper straws, nutcups, lifesavers, and a paper punch.

How to Make Them: 1. Punch holes in the lower front of the nut cup about 1/2" apart. Punch two more holes in the upper back cup about 1" apart.

2. Bend the straw in half. Thread one end of the straw through one of the back holes, leaving the cup about half way on the straw.

3. Insert the lifesaver at the bend.

4. Bring the straw through the lower front hole and back through the upper back hole.

5. There's your wheelbarrow! Now fill it with jelly beans.

Arnold View Auxiliary, Creal Springs, IL, put their Easter missionary offering in plastic Easter eggs and hung them on a white painted tree.



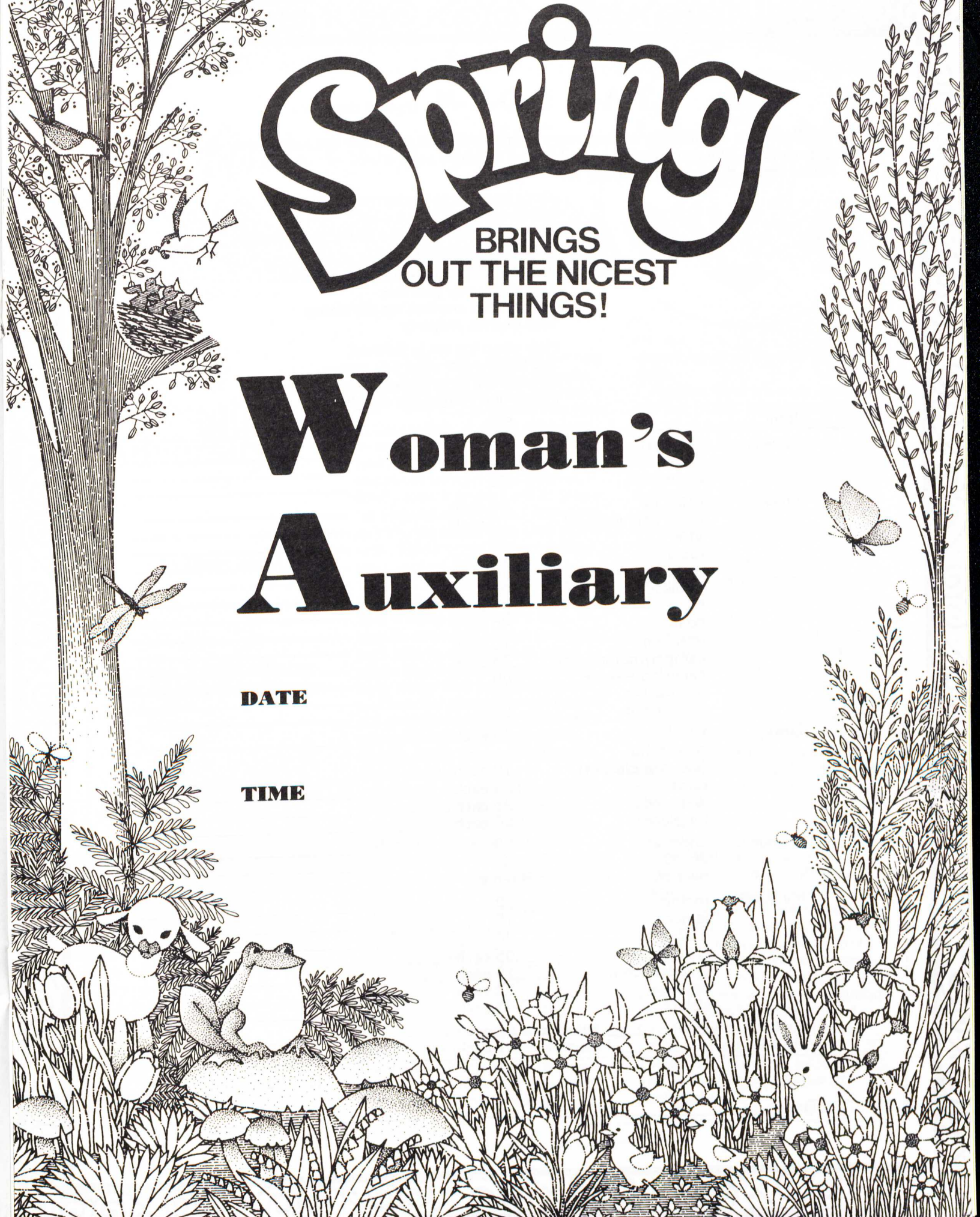
President Erlene Smith, Booneville Auxiliary (MS), distributes Easter eggs to her church family. Each egg contained a request to participate in their Easter project—the Southaven mission. Before leaving the church, they replaced the request with their gift to missions which amounted to \$127.00



Make Easter Flowerpot Bread. Use any quick bread recipe, such as banana or zucchini. Line one or more small unglazed clay flowerpots with aluminum foil, overlapping the outer rims of the foil. Fill pots 2/3 full with the batter. Insert a straw vertically into the pot for venting and to enable the bread to rise. Clip the straw 2-3" inches above the batter before baking. Bake until the straw comes out clean.

Make "flowers" from gumdrops secured to straws and inserted into the bread.

Serve the bread with a beverage as part of an Easter devotion or give as an Easter gift to a shut-in.

A detailed black and white line drawing of a spring scene. On the left, a large tree trunk is covered in moss and has a bird's nest with two eggs. A dragonfly is perched on the tree. In the foreground, there are various plants, including ferns, mushrooms, and a small lamb. In the center, a frog sits on a rock. To the right, there are tall grasses, a butterfly, and a rabbit. At the bottom, two small ducks are visible. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border of leaves and flowers.

Spring

BRINGS
OUT THE NICEST
THINGS!

Woman's Auxiliary

DATE

TIME

T-A-X F-O-R-M (April 1 deadline)

The Woman's Auxiliary is asking every woman who will to fill out the form below and return it with your payment. The money will be used for our missions project and we need your help.
Please return the form and money to:

Since taxes have become the style,
We've come up with a dilly:
We'll have some fun and make some dough,
For this tax is really silly.

Just figure up the things you own,
And gladly pay your fee;
For you can see that we are taxing
Your dearest property.

Now when the tax is finished,
You'll know just what you owe—
So send the form straight back to us;
Please don't forget the dough!

Item	Fee	You owe
I live in a		
house/condo	.20	
trailer	.10	
apartment	.05	
I have a		
color TV	.50 each	
black and white TV	.10 each	
VCR	.25	
radio	.05 each	
personal computer	.50	
Cadillac	1.00	
car	.25 each	
boat	.50 each	
telephone	.10 each	
camper/motor home	.75 each	
cabin/time share	1.00	
dishwasher	.25	
microwave	.50	
I own		
watches	.10 each	
spectacles		
(inc. sun glasses)	.10 each	
rings	.05 each	
diamonds	.25 each	
fur pieces	1.00 each	
My age is		
under 25	.50	
26-50	.25	
over 50	exempt	
My family		
mother	.10	
father	.10	
husband	.20	
children	.05 each	
grandchildren	.10 each	
brothers	.03 each	
sisters	.03 each	
My full name has _____ letters at	.01 each	
My address has _____ letters at	.01 each	

Total Taxes Due _____

Signed _____

The Ministers Wife

Newsletter

Compiled By Cleo Pursell



volume 10, number 2, 1990

Victory Through Adversity

By Elaine Skiles

A pastor's wife reflects over 30 years in the parsonage.

In the early years of my husband's ministry, I thought that my role as a minister's wife was to please everyone in the church. It didn't take long to realize this was an impossible task. After many frustrating attempts at being a peacemaker, I finally took it to the Lord in prayer. He showed me that as I answered to Him, He would take care of the rest. Thirty years in the ministry have proved this to be true.

I think loneliness is one of the toughest problems I have had to deal with as a minister's wife. Everyone seems to expect their pastor's wife to always be in good spirits and free from problems. I have never felt I could share my problems or disappointments with our church members. Since my whole life revolved around the church, it left little opportunity to make outside friends.

However, we were blessed with three wonderful daughters. As they grew, we could do things together and share confidences. Now that they are grown and have their own lives, I miss having them around.

One fact that continually encourages and strengthens my faith in God is the realization that He always keeps His promises. Countless times we have seen the Scripture fulfilled: "But my God shall supply all your need...." (Phil. 4:19). God has always supplied the needs of our family. Once when Carla was a baby, we were completely out of milk and no money to buy any. A man from the

church stopped by with a gallon of milk.

Another time we were down to our last \$10 to buy groceries for the week and my husband used the money to pay our tithes. After church that night, unaware of the circumstances, a man handed my husband a \$20 bill. This was 28 years ago when you could still buy a week's supply of groceries for \$20.

A traumatic experience ten years ago convinced us that there is never a need too big for God. Carla, 14, was diagnosed with terminal Aplastic anemia. Her only hope lay in a bone marrow transplant which involved extensive treatment costing well over \$100,000. Before they would even admit Carla into the hospital, they asked \$50,000 up front. We neither had that kind of money nor any prospects of raising it. A host of friends across the state united with us in prayer. The next day the hospital called and informed us that the money had been provided.

The Lord did not stop there. He guided the doctors as they extracted the bone marrow from Crystal, 19, and transplanted it into Carla. Miraculously God effected the healing process and today she is the picture of health.

God performed another miracle when He gave us a healthy grandson. The doctors had warned Crystal that her baby might be stillborn or deformed. On May 30, 1985, she gave birth to Jacob, a healthy baby boy, brother to Amber, then 2.

One fact that continually strengthens my faith is that God always keeps His promises.

I've had a problem with patience all my life. I never understood what waiting upon the Lord meant until He allowed us to go through these experiences with Carla and Jacob. So God continues to teach me lessons in patience which I'm finding are very important in the ministry.

I'm also learning lessons in responsibility. When your husband is in the ministry, then you are also a big part of his work. Two years ago I worked full-time, tried to care for my family, as well as all the church work. Due to my

lack of time and energy, my joy in the work of the Lord had diminished.

Then my pace slowed considerably. In the space of one year my husband and I were involved in two automobile accidents. I suffered permanent back and neck injuries which left me unable to work. Though quite an adjustment for me, I now have time to devote to the work of the Lord. I anticipate accompanying my husband on daily visitation.

The role of minister's wife often clashes with that of a parent. I

feel I expected too much of our daughters. I expected them to be perfect children, good hostesses to church visitors and exemplary young people. They often felt that because they were the pastor's kids they couldn't do all the things that the other church kids did. I wish now that I had placed more emphasis on the fact that Christian teenagers shouldn't do some things or go to some places, not because they were the preacher's kids, but because they were dedicated Christians.

As I reflect back over my life as a minister's wife, I realize that it hasn't always been easy. It has definitely been interesting, and always rewarding. I have been blessed with some of the greatest friendships that anyone could ever wish to have. I have experienced an over-abundance of love and kindness. I thank the Lord for those who have stood by and supported me, my husband and our family through the past thirty years of ministry. ♦

The Pastor's Wife

By Loretta Reifel

They were middle-aged when they were married,
And she became the pastor's wife.
She soon found chores that were wide and varied,
And she thought it was a wonderful life.

She answered the doorbell, she answered the phone,
And some of the callers were inclined to drone;
She went to every women's meeting
And often found herself overeating.

She played the piano, she helped with the youth,
She made calls with her husband, she worked at the booth,
She unlocked the church door and turned on the heat;
She was working for God in her role of helpmeet.

She also served as the church's clerk,
And that entailed a bit of work;
She had done all she could—couldn't sing for the choir—
Well, the time finally came for them to retire.

And then her heart began to ache,
She had done it all for Jesus' sake;
But had the gain been wholly hers?
Or had there been other harvesters?

One day they returned, just a visit to pay,
To meet the new pastor—single, by the way—
And to greet old friends who were very dear.
Then she heard some words that were great to hear,
Some words she'd remember the rest of her life—
"We certainly miss having a Pastor's wife!"

Pulpit Helps



Elaine is the wife of Dale Skiles, pastor of the South Fremont FWB Church, Springfield, Missouri.

Women in Action

Friendship Retreat

By Lou Bullard

The more I thought about it, the more I wanted to have a Friendship Retreat. As I prayed about it, God increased my desire to invite friends from several local churches into my home for a weekend of praise, Bible study, prayer and rich fellowship with one another.

God brought together 16 ladies from five different churches. Throughout the retreat He did a tremendous work in our hearts as He manifested His presence. The Holy Spirit quickened the Word to our hearts. We became better acquainted with one another and made new friends. Before leaving, we teamed up as prayer partners.

Some slept on beds, others on "Methodist pallets", while three "softies" went home for the night! They returned for our Saturday morning breakfast, praise, worship and the concluding sessions.

I asked my good friend, June Critcher, Tennessee, to be our teacher. She took us through numerous New Testament passages that emphasize our responsibilities to one another. We became more aware of our need for others and our need to minister to each other.

I would like to encourage our ladies to invite a dozen—more or less—ladies into their home for a weekend Friendship Retreat. Invite women who are hungry for God, who have a desire to know Him better and who are willing to sacrifice a few hours in order to enrich their walk with the Lord.

It's a great way to spend a Friday night and Saturday morning!



Second Auxiliary, Ashland, KY, highlights France at a recent meeting. Each brought a different French dish and ladies dined on small tables covered with red checked tablecloths. The special offering went to our missionaries in France.

Elaine Gibbs drew the Eiffel Tower backdrop.



Ladies of the Westside Auxiliary, Pryor, OK, gather for a Hawaiian luau.



Yvonne Wolfenbarger installs new officers of the Sylvan Park FWB Auxiliary, Nashville, TN. Pam Potete, right, is president.



Aline Buckner and Gladys Haney, Cookeville, TN, present Joe Rager, Elkhart, IN, with a quilt from their Auxiliary.



Center Point Auxiliary, Birmingham, AL, showers the Missionary Provision Closet with gifts. Rumell Kimbrough serves as president.

One hundred seventy-nine North Carolina women retreated to the Sheraton-Crabtree Hotel in Raleigh to hear Diane Thomas, Joan Peterson, Pam Stokes, Betty Hill, Pam West and Phyllis Bass. An offering of \$400 was received for Puerto Rico.

South Carolina women retreated to Look-Up Lodge to enjoy a "balance of frolic, humor, laughter, spiritual food and fellowship."

Gwen Hendrix and her Beaver Creek ladies hosted the "great meeting."

Brenda McPeak, a professional meeting planner, coordinated Virginia's state retreat at the Hotel Sheraton, Richmond. More than 125 ladies attended this biennial event with Lorene Miley, guest speaker.

Women from Mississippi re-

treated at the Central Hills Baptist Retreat Center, Kosciusko with Billie Sexton, Tennessee, guest speaker. "God manifested His presence at this year's retreat," said one participant.

June Critcher, Nashville, Tennessee, met with the California women for their 17th annual retreat at Emerald Cove Camp, Bass Lake. June addressed the theme, "Forgive Me, But..."

CROSSWINDS

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

This column addresses everyday problems that often bring defeat and discouragement in our walk with the Lord.

Give it all to Jesus

By Diane Mitchell Thomas



Northport Auxiliary (AL) present Pat Franks, Brazil, with a hand-bag and \$50 spending money. This church is home for Suzanne, the Franks' daughter, while enrolled in the University. They gave her a gift certificate on her birthday, gave Regina a musical bear, and boosted their monthly pledge by \$50.



Kendall Lamberson and Lauren Weaver join hands in front of the wall used in the Emphasis Program by the Liberty Heights Auxiliary, Bixby, OK.

The most horrible thing you can imagine happened to me as a child. I was sure I would carry the pain, bitterness and shame for the rest of my life. But for the grace of God, I would have.

Four years ago the burden of the memory, the ugly scars and hidden tears became too heavy to bear. Finally I gave them all to Jesus. "Here, Lord," I prayed. "This heavy load causes me to stumble. I can't carry it any longer."

When I turned it loose, the Lord removed the weight of this most horrible thing in my life, and I was free! He replaced it with indescribable peace, as well as the courage to share it with others.

One day I sat across from an embittered woman in a failing marriage. "You don't understand," she said impatiently. "Your life is all together. You've never experienced this kind of hurt and destruction."

I smiled from a heart of love and told her about that horrible thing in my life and how God gave me victory. She cried as she listened. I cried, too. Then the Holy Spirit hugged us both as we knelt and claimed His peace for her hurt, too.

I held the hand of an unsaved woman. Her black hand was a contrast to my white one, but her story was no different. As she spilled out her story of shame and bitterness, the shoulder of my dress became wet with her hot

tears. I held her until her sobbing stilled, then I said, "Let me share with you how I found peace from this horrible thing in my life."

Peace. Ah, peace. She turned hungry eyes in my direction and listened intently.

God placed another young woman in my path. She came from another country and worshipped false gods. The horrible thing had happened to her, too, leaving her suicidal. In spite of our differences, we were bonded by this experience we shared and I shared with her the deliverance my God had given me.

"Have any of your gods given you peace," I asked.

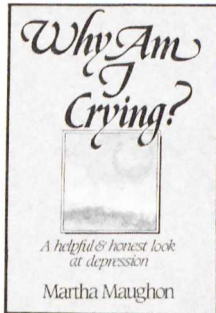
"No," she answered, shaking her head sadly.

"Well, I have the answer," I smiled confidently. And she listened. That ugly thing gave me an opportunity to share the gospel with her.

A dear wife and mother attended a banquet where I shared my testimony. She had been witnessed to for months, but refused to believe God loved her. God used my words to reach inside and touch the spot she had hidden away. With tears streaming down her face, she accepted Christ into her life.

I gave the most horrible thing in my life over to the Lord and He transformed it into an instrument that He keeps using over and over. I don't mind. I have His peace. ♦

Book Highlights



By Martha Maugham,
Discovery House, \$3.95
Reviewed by Opal Messer

This book describes a personal, honest account of one woman's journey through clinical depression. As I related to some of her experiences, I found myself wanting to read on to see how she overcame it.

Chemical depression is a depletion of a chemical fluid to the

brain cells which often produces an uncontrollable depression. We can no more snap out of it than a person can recover immediately from a broken arm or leg. It requires time and treatment. You didn't get in this depressed state overnight, neither do you get over it overnight. Sometimes it takes days, even years.

God teaches us many lessons through depression. The author shows how God's Word provides strength and comfort. I could relate to this. God's promises took on a new dimension for me.

For a long time I thought I was the only person on earth who felt the way I did. This book helped me see that others have gone through the same experiences and are now free to express themselves without people thinking they are crazy or losing their mind.

The author gives good insights in seeking help from a medical doctor, psychiatrist and a spiritual counselor. Support of the family is also invaluable.

COMMUNICATION:
Key To Your Marriage
By Norman Wright,
Reviewed by Lari Harrison

This book presents methods for reducing friction and conflict, not only in a marriage, but in any situation where you are involved with people.

At the end of each chapter, the author assigns activities for a couple to do together. We did not do these, but the book was still a great help to me, and we've been married 44 years.

I highly recommend COMMUNICATION.

WNAC does not stock these books. Please order them from your state bookstore, or from Randall Book Store, 319C Harding Place, Nashville, TN 37211.

A Woman God Has Used

Emily Malone was born in Southern Illinois before the turn of the century in 1885. She married into a coal-mining family and lived her entire married life in the Mulkeytown community and the Bear Point FWB church where her husband, Hila, served as a lifelong deacon.

"Granny", a term of endearment bestowed upon her, began her walk with God at age 8, and for almost 75 years, God molded her into His image. She clearly was in love with Jesus. Her lips spoke kindness, her hands generated service and her home radiated hospitality. She loved preachers, missionaries, young people and hurting folks, and a steady stream found their way to her door at all hours of the day and night.

Woman's Auxiliary came to Illinois in the 1940's and Granny always held positions of leadership. One district is named in her honor. This gracious lady moved with poise and carriage, modeled purity and honor, and presided with class and character.

Granny was a woman of Israel noted for being a prayer warrior and great intercessor. She often said, "When it's hardest to pray, that's the time to pray the hardest." She kept a weekly prayer list and knew how to reach God. Her faith was her life.

Her dining room table centerpiece consisted of her Bible, notebook, Sunday school quarterly, DAVIS DICTIONARY OF THE BIBLE, and a JAMISON, FAUSSET AND BROWN commentary, tools she used to ably teach her woman's Sunday school class.

Early campers remember the Malones as concession stand supervisors, and Granny as cook, dishwasher, waitress and mother to all the campers. She led many to the Lord during those days.

Granny always expressed a little girl's glee in anticipation of heaven, the place she sang about, taught about, shouted about and knew she was going to. One spring morning in 1968 while picking strawberries, God summoned her to this fulfillment. We rejoice in her gain, but still sense a deep loss.

Granny Malone, you were a woman that God has used.

— Eunice Malone



Jesus

In the garden of Gethsemane
Our dear Savior went to pray;
His heart was heavy
As He knelt down that day.

Three times He prayed
To His Father on high,
While His disciples were sleeping
Somewhere nearby.

Praying, "Oh, my Father,
All things are possible with Thee—
Take this cup away from me.
Nevertheless, not my will
But Thine be done,"
Came from the lips of God's only Son.
And never resisting
God's will or His plan,
He would die on the cross
For every sinful man.

Thirty pieces of silver
Were paid that day,
Betrayed by a friend
And taken away.
Beaten and abused
And put to shame,
Three times Peter
Denied His name.

He was tried like a criminal—
This man of no sin;
The words rang out loudly,
"Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

Up the hill of Golgotha,
Downtrodden and in pain,
They led our dear Savior,
While they cursed His name.

Nailed to the cross
A crown of thorns on His head
He looked toward the heavens
And this is what He said,
"Father, forgive them,
They know not what they do,"
And He shed His life's blood
For me and for you.

But, hallelujah, praise His name!
He's our Savior, Lord and King!

No grave could hold Him,
The stone was rolled away;
For He's gone on ahead
To prepare us a way.

Harden not your hearts
When He's calling your name;
Don't let our dear Savior
Have died in vain.

He's gone on to heaven,
But He'll return once more
To take us right with Him
To heaven's open door.

The poet's CORNER



We are only to trust
And believe His name
Then through all eternity
In heaven we will remain.

— Pat Ross

He Is Risen

The women came that first Easter
day,
They came to where the Master lay;
But they were in for a great surprise
They could not believe their very
eyes.

The stone was rolled from the sepul-
chre door,
They knew it was there the night be-
fore;
The linen cloths lay folded neat
Trembling they bowed at two angels'
feet.

"Why seek the living among the
dead?
Your Lord is risen," one angel said.
"Don't you remember Christ's every
word?"
Yes, He had told them, but they hadn't
heard.

He said, "I'll be delivered to sinful
men,
I'll die on a cross for all your sin,
I'll be buried by loved ones and
friends,
But on the third day I'll rise again."

The women came that first Easter
day,
They came to where the Master lay;
But from the tomb that day they ran,
Spreading the best news ever heard
by man.

— Liz Stember

The Cross

There it stands so dark and dismal,
The cross on Calvary's hill—
A symbol of shame and suffering
Formed by society's ills.

Large spike nails were used to hang
These men who were brought to die;
The man on the right was a robber,
The left one a thief in the night.
But the middle man was my Savior
And no sin was found in His life.
His arms stretched wide in forgive-
ness
As the blood flowed from His side.

The blood that was shed there on Cal-
vary
Changed the look of the cross;
No longer was it dark and dismal
But shining with love's great light.

— Maxine McCullar



Appointed to pray



Clint and Lynette Morgan
Cote d'Ivoire

Clint is a loving disciplinarian, tactful missionary and respectful, considerate son and husband. He likes fried chicken and sports, any kind; dislikes leftovers and strict regimentation.

Clint met Lynette at Bible college and brought stability to this shy, sensitive, floundering MK from Africa. Lynette enjoys shopping, garage sales, motherhood and desserts; dislikes plane rides, conflict and ice crunching.

Clint plays the guitar; Lynette, the accordion.

Clint helps direct the Bible Institute. Lynette works with the women and children, as well as teaching their two youngest children, Aaron, grade 4, and Autumn, grade 1. Two older sons, Trey, 15, and Adam, 13, attend boarding school for missionary children.

Have I No RIGHTS?

By Lynette Morgan
Missionary to Cote d'Ivoire

On the one morning I can sleep late, I am awakened by village children who have come into the yard to play.

Have I no rights?

The yard which I work so hard to keep neat and attractive is littered with the mess the children make and my flowers and shrubs lie trampled underfoot.

Have I no rights?

Sunday afternoon, the one day I claim as my own to lie down and read a whole book, is interrupted by some women who come to visit.

Have I no rights?

It's hard enough to keep both a 4th grader and a kindergartner interested in home schooling without the 101 interruptions of people wanting something.

Have I no rights?

A group of teenage girls come daily for help with their knitting and crocheting while the pile of things I need to do mounts higher and higher.

Have I no rights?

Our car is already full with our own family of six, "But there is still room!" So two men and a chicken squeeze in.

Have I no rights?

We pay the rent. We buy food. But my children's friends sit all day on my porch and expect me to feed them and share my goods.

Have I no rights?

There's a government clinic with a doctor down the road, but everyone and his brother bypass it and come to my door for medicine and treatment.

Have I no rights?

I'm so tired. I hurry lunch so I can have noon rest, but just as I lie down a woman from the church comes just to greet me and chat awhile.

Have I no rights?

If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me (Luke 9:23).

Lord, I surrender my rights to you.



The Intercession Connection

A woman who was be-moaning the death of her three sons who were lost at sea could not understand why one after the other had decided to be a sailor. Then it was pointed out to her that the beautiful sailing ship which dominated her fireplace may have been an influencing factor. An object that is looked at every day, whether or not it is studied closely, will have a way of etching itself into one's mind. A world map, prominently placed, can increase world vision if used regularly to pray.

Some of the many ways of using a world map are:

Pray for countries alphabetically.
Pray for countries on the map that are colored the same color.

Pray along specific lines of latitude or longitude. (Did you realize over two-thirds of all unreached peoples live between the equator and 30 degrees north latitude?)

In praying over a map, most of us pray, "God bless Japan" or "Help those in Africa." Do our words have to be so vague? No. Praying over a map need not be overly general or merely repetitious. Praying with a map takes a bit of spiritual imagination, but you can target your prayer with

some of these particulars.

Pray for the People. Imagine the people who live in the country you're praying over. See more than the rivers and the mountains depicted on the map: see women washing clothes in the river and men carrying wood down a mountain trail. Figure out what time of day it is there and pray for the people in their various activities. Picture the streets of the city bustling with living, breathing inhabitants off to work for their daily bread. Ask God to set His Spirit moving there now.

Pray too for the International Students on campus who are from that country. Pray for opportunities to befriend such students and to get them into a Bible study. Pray for them as you would for non-Christians on the campuses. They can be a key to the Gospel's entry into an unreached group.

Pray for New Workers. Focus on Luke 10:2: "Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Ask that a burden for this country may be set on the hearts of Christians willing to give their lives for Christ's cause. Pray that visitor's eyes may be opened to possibilities in the land. Ask God to prepare places for new laborers to enter.

Missionary Prayer Calendar

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

March

- 2—Evelyn Hersey (Japan)
- ** 5—Willie Booth (OH)
- * 5—Vonda Johnson (WY)
- 7—Patty McCullough (France)
- 13—Vada Lee (C'I)
- 14—Allan Crowson (France)
- * 15—Lynda Hunt (WA)
- 15—Linda Moore (C'I)
- ** 19—Melba Hibbard (CA)
- 20—Trina Owens (Spain)
- ** 24—James Sasser (MD)
- * 25—Howard Gwartney (AZ)

- * 26—Tom Hunt (WA)
- 27—Olena McLain (Japan)
- * 29—Lois Reagan (Canada)

April

- 9—Marie Hanna (India)
- 13—Charolette Tallent (France)
- * 13—Miguel Vera (Puerto Rico)
- * 24—Tim Coats (SD)
- * 25—Bill Johnson (KY)
- 27—Marvis Eagleton (Brazil)
- * 29—Mike Criswell (OR)

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.



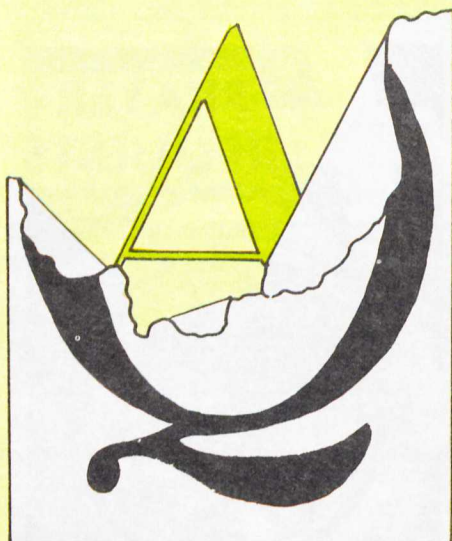
Pray for Present Workers. Pray for those you know who are ministering in that country. Pray for mission boards and missionary friends. Pray that God would give them wisdom, the fruits of the Spirit in their lives, and opportunities to share. Pray for their adjustment to the culture and ease in learning a new language. Remember their children, their health, visas, and other things that you would pray for yourself.

Pray for the National Church. Consider the ministries and needs of your own local church such as leaders, teachers, finances, world vision, youth or music ministries, and outreach. You can assume that national churches on your map will stand in need of many of these same things. Pray for the churches as if they were your own.

Pray for the Government. Pray specifically for any leaders you may be familiar with. Using specific titles of offices, pray that those men and women would be saved. Pray for a relaxation of visa restrictions and for good church-state relationships.

Prayer is work and we must labor at tilling the soil so that seeds are sown and the harvest realized. May you, in prayer for the world, take no rest and give Him no rest.

— Reprinted from CO-LABORER



**Your questions
answered on:**

Woman's Auxiliary

by Mary Neal
WNAC President

How can the pastor support and encourage the local Woman's Auxiliary?

The pastor can help by attending the annual planning meeting, putting Auxiliary on the church calendar, encouraging church participation in weeks of prayer and Emphasis Month offerings, and by announcing Auxiliary activities from the pulpit.

He should be aware of the purpose, goals, projects and activities of the women. Above all, he should love, pray for and encourage the women of his church.

How can an Auxiliary support the ministry of the local church?

Prayer is a very important way. We observe nationally a 9 a.m.

hour of prayer. Many Auxiliaries have prayer chains and these women pray for special requests. We spend time in prayer at each meeting, plus during special weeks of prayer.

Giving. We teach stewardship. **Visitation.** Many Auxiliaries have teams visiting shut-ins.

Witnessing. We encourage women to reach out to other women. Mission action chairmen encourage community and church service.

Can the weeks of prayer be observed with only one service or should some observance be made each day?

Some Auxiliaries have only one special service for the whole church during the week of prayer emphasis. The whole church then has an opportunity to join in prayer and also in the sacrificial offerings given during the prayer weeks. These Auxiliaries, however, also observe a week of prayer, usually Monday-Friday, with prayer requests remembered at home, together as a group, or in small group meetings.

In the January-February issues, CO-LABORER features a special Enlistment program. Do most Auxiliaries have an extra meeting for this or is it given in connection with the regular program?

In my own experience, more new women join when we have a special meeting for enlistment. Each church is different however, and women respond differently. Most likely the majority of Auxiliaries use the program at a regular meeting.

Whichever meeting you use, put some enthusiasm and excitement into it and get those women enlisted.

Do you have a question about Auxiliary work? Send it to President Mary Neal, 138 North 24th Street, New Castle IN 47362.



Our Missionaries Write

Please continue to pray for Panama. It still remains an urgent prayer request.

Steve and Judy Lytle, Panama

We've been to many churches during our furlough. How good to be with women informed, compassionate and faithful in the task of world missions. Pastors may get weary in well-doing, but where there is a group of Auxiliary women to give continuity and help, they spring right back and churches respond to the heart challenge of God—Go into all the world!

Jim and Shirley Combs, Brazil

We appreciate the opportunity to receive so many nice items from the Provision Closet. They will save us a great deal of expense as we relocate in the Southaven area.

J.L. and Dot Gore, MS

We appreciate WNAC's scholarship funds for our Bible Institute students.

Mike Cousineau, Cote d'Ivoire

On the Home Front

Thank you for the help and information you gave in organizing our Auxiliary. We had eight present for our first meeting. All are looking forward to being co-laborers through our Auxiliary.

*Judy Trail
Pineville, LA*

Twenty ladies attended our October "hobo" meeting and trash supper. We're thankful for our good attendance each month.

*Maxine Johnson
Pine Bluff, AR*

Our ladies enjoy the CO-LABORER and the work you do.

*Helen Blaylock
McCurain, OK*

Our ladies served lunch at a farm sale. It was hard work, but good fellowship. We learned to work together as a team.

Amanda Denny
Tulsa, OK

We enjoy CO-LABORER very much. It would be nice if you could include a copy of the songs suggested in the program. Our hymnals don't always have the songs called for.

Molly Calton
Wise, VA

We love CO-LABORER. I always read mine as soon as it comes. Many articles I read several times. Thank you for a much loved magazine.

Wanda McKinster
Louisa, KY

Thank you for your hard work to keep us informed of our missionaries...and making CO-LABORER an enjoyable and informative publication.

Shirley Ham
Cocoa, FL

WORDS FOR WOMEN

Mary Wisehart



Have you noticed the spring rains? Sometimes they come in a gentle shower. Sometimes they come with thunderstorms and sometimes with a fierce tornado.

But however they come, they do "bring May flowers," as the rhyme says. Gentle or fierce, they produce a desired effect.

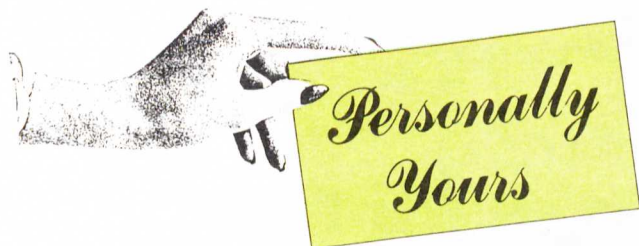
Isn't that what God does in our lives? Sometimes He may deal with us gently. Through the love of a dear one, in a beautiful environment. In a special time of peace and serenity, God may speak to us and bring us to Himself.

But sometimes God may come in the fierce storm. We can't understand why. We may even be tempted to ask, "Why is God letting this happen to me?"

Just as in the times of peaceful serenity, God is in the storm. In chapel years ago, one of God's elder statesmen, gave me this message, "If you look carefully, you will see Jesus walking toward you on the very storm you think will sink your boat."

Whether God comes in the gentle rain in your life or the fierce storm, he plans all to produce a desired effect. He says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Jeremiah 29:11

Look for Him in the storms. He will be there.



WNAC'S 10th National Retreat

Mail to:
Ridgecrest Conference Center,
P.O. Box 128
Ridgecrest, NC 28770
Tel. (704)669-8022

Air and ground transportation discounts are available. Call or write WNAC or Ridgecrest for information.

COST PER PERSON

(Price includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals and conference fee)

No. in Room	Cost Each	Deposit Required
1	\$107.00	\$19 applied to total cost
2	75.50	May be refunded if cancelled
3	68.00	before August 21.
4	64.50	

RESERVATION FORM FOR WNAC'S SIXTH NATIONAL RETREAT, 1990

Please reserve _____ rooms for the Free Will Baptist WNAC retreat, September 20-22, 1990, at Ridgecrest for the following:
(Please list all the names.)

Enclosed is \$_____ deposit. (Make check payable to Ridgecrest.)

Pre-Easter Week of Prayer

for
Foreign Missions
April 9-13, 1990



As you pray...

- Witchdoctors are overpowered ● Spiritual blindness flees
- Chains of sin are broken ● People turn to God from idols
- Missionaries are protected from Satan's attacks

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