

Co Laborer

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

November/December, 1990



CONVENTION ISSUE
Pre-Thanksgiving Week
of Prayer Program
Ideas for Christmas



In This Issue

Can you believe it's Thanksgiving and Christmas season already? Let CO-LABORER help give it a spiritual emphasis.

For Thanksgiving, the pre-thanksgiving week of prayer program and related materials, Anita Haney's thoughts on thankfulness, and "Thanksgiving Benefits", program for November.

Christmas emphases are sprinkled throughout the magazine. How many can you find? Now we approach "Until He Comes," with eager anticipation.

Each of us in the office wish you a happy Christmas and a blessed new year.

Programs

4 Let us Give Thanks

WNAC's Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer Program focuses on prayer and praise.



HANEY

6 Thanksgiving Benefits

by Rubenia Dobbs

Anita Haney's, "A Note of Thankfulness," is a welcome addition to this program centering on gratitude.

Program for November



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by Vicki Hubbard

What gifts can we give Christ this Christmas?

Program for December



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Editorial

When we went back to Africa after ten years, we visited our old house. It hadn't been lived in in two years, and any house left to itself, especially in the tropics, reeks with the ravages of time.

A wave of memories washed over me as we unlocked the door and walked through the spacious rooms. Sounds of children's voices in all stages of development bounced from the walls. The chatter of missionaries from many countries rose from the dining room table. I opened the door to Lynette's closet and remembered when a hen sought solitude there to lay her egg.

I snapped to reality as a lizard dropped from the ceiling and slithered across the dusty cement floor. Gone the joys of yesteryear. Only chipped concrete, peeling paint and termite-ridden woodwork remained.

Termites still loved our house, I decided. These white ants live under the soil so are rarely seen. But almost overnight they work their secret muddy path up through cracks into door facings with side detours through furniture and paper products. We discovered they especially savored books. They devoured more than one volume, and once they nibbled on our stamp collection.

Termites do their work in secret. That door facing looks perfectly normal until the day you discover they have eaten clean away the whole inside.

"Bring the creosote," we cry to the man-of-the-house at the first moment of detection. This obnoxious-smelling liquid kills and repels, but the damage remains.

Secret sins are just as damaging to the life of the Christian as termites were to our house in Africa. God applies the creosote as we go to Him in confession and repentance.

Thank God for creosote.

— Lorene Miley

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Where Have You Been?

by Mable Stadslev
as told to Robert L. Rodgers

Bessie Richards, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, related this story in her morning devotions at the WNAC Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

As young missionaries, my husband, George, and I established a mission station in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa. We were in the middle of a building project, trying to complete construction before the rainy season arrived, when a woman from a distant village approached my husband.

"I am told you are a man of God," she announced.

"That's right," my husband acknowledged.

"Come with me to my village," she said. "We've been waiting for you for many years."

My husband explained that he would be happy to come as soon as he completed his construction activities and the building was erected.

"All right," she answered, "I will wait for you." In her culture, this meant we were responsible for providing food and shelter for her until we complied with her request.

"No, go to your village and I will come very soon," he replied.

"I cannot go without you now that I have found you," she answered. "The others will not forgive me if, after finding you, I fail to bring you back with me."

After I packed some clothing and other necessities for him, my husband, accompanied by Albert, a national pastor, traveled with the woman some 30 miles to her village. There he found the villagers singing what might have been a gospel song, but the tune was strange and the words not quite right.

He was escorted to the door of an elderly man who probably was near the end of his life. "You have

come at last," he exclaimed. "Where have you been for these many years?"

My husband replied that he had come immediately when approached by the woman from the village.

But the old man explained. "Many years ago a young man was sent from our village to work and earn money to pay our head tax (an annual tax). 'There he heard the gospel story and became a Christian. He was told to return to

So many waited.

So many have died.

Where have you been?

our village, burn our fetishes and build a 'house of God.' He was told that a man would come to tell all the villagers more of God's Word.

"He returned to us and related the story he had heard. We burned our fetishes and built a house of God. We waited and waited, but no man came. The house of God became old and fell down. We built another and waited again. That house also fell down. We built another and another, and now this is the fifth house of God that we have built."

The buildings those villagers erected at that time would have lasted about five years. This meant the people had been waiting for more than 20 years.

My husband set up flannelboards to tell stories from the Bible, and all the villagers gathered to hear. He ended up teaching all that day. Then, using kerosene lanterns, he talked on into the night. After two days, as was customary, he asked for permission to return home.

"Have you finished telling all the stories?" the old man asked.

"No," he replied. "But I will return and tell you more."

My husband knew I would be worried. Ordinarily if he failed to return within a day or so, I would ask the French post commander for help. My husband felt he must return home.

The old man asked my husband to come with him to the cemetery. He could not walk, so the young men from the village carried him. He pointed to the graves one by one—graves of men and women who had waited to hear the Gospel story but never heard because no one came to tell them.

"Where have you been for these many years?" the old man asked over and over. "So many waited. So many have died. Where have you been?"

On the evening of the fifth day, I saw my husband's transporters coming across the market place of our town. As they approached the house I opened the screen door to greet my husband.

He did not even acknowledge my presence. Instead he went directly to our dining room, sat down, laid his head on his arms and sobbed.

Albert stood beside me, mute. It was the first time he had seen a white man cry. My husband was not one given to emotions, but I could hear him repeating over and over, "So many have died, waiting to hear the story. Where have you been? Where have you been?"

Those words formed a refrain that echoed and inspired and strengthened us through the years of our missionary service. "Why do you forget us forever? Why do you forsake us for so long?" (Lam. 5:20).

So many have waited or died. Where have you been?

(Reprinted from *ALLIANCE LIFE*, June 21, 1989 issue.)

Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for Home Missions

Let Us Give Thanks

NARRATOR: Welcome to this Thanksgiving prayer and praise service for National Home Missions. We take this opportunity to thank God for His love freely bestowed on each of us. We see His love manifested in the lives of His followers. We hear the voice of His love in truths spoken to us by His messengers. We feel His loving arms surround us in time of uncertainty.

Tonight we want to share His love with you. Come let us worship.

MISSIONS FACT: *(A member in the congregation stands in place and gives her part.)* God's love encircles the world and calls for a response. As tears magnify grief and laughter magnifies humor and smiles magnify joy, so our worship magnifies God.

VOICE OF TRUTH: "Let the people praise thee O God, let all the people praise thee" (Ps. 67:3).

CHORAL GROUP:

O come, let us worship and bow down;

Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

For He is our God and we are His people

And the sheep of His pasture.
O sing unto the Lord, bless His name.

For the Lord is great
And greatly to be praised.
Honor and majesty are before Him.

Bless the Lord, oh my soul,
And all that is within me
Bless His holy name.

MUSIC: "Bless the Lord, O My Soul" (page 25) All the songs mentioned in this program are from REJOICE, the Free Will Baptist hymn book.

NARRATOR: The love of God in our hearts floods us with His peace and security. It also compels us to share His love with those who have never heard.

MISSIONS FACT: The United States was founded as a Christian nation but has degenerated to a mission field, in spite of the fact that a third of the population claims to be born again. Evangelicals are not distributed among the unchurched people. Twenty million deaf Americans can't hear, 50 million Catholics, and millions of cultists will never hear unless someone gets their attention and tells them.

Participants:

Narrator

4 speaking parts from the congregation

Singing group or choir

Choral group (two or more women)

Voice of Truth (a figure, preferably male, dressed in a choir robe)

VOICE OF TRUTH: Read Acts 1:8

CHORAL GROUP:

Thank You, God, for Your wonderful love.

As we stroll down life's pathway,
Teach us to share your love with
a hurting world,

Beginning first in our own family
circle,

Our friends and neighbors, our
country,

Across our state

Then reaching to the faceless
masses

Of the regions beyond.

As Canaan was set before the
Israelites,

America was set before the Pil-
grims.

God's people viewed the
promised land

But feared to enter.

The immensity of the task over-
whelmed them.

We, too, stand before You, Lord,
Overwhelmed by the task. It's
too big.

But no bigger than You.

Fill us anew with your blessed
Holy Spirit

And send us forth to share with
others.

MUSIC: "Lord, Lay Some Soul
Upon My Heart" (page 360)

NARRATOR: Christ gave His last
commission to the disciples on the
Mount of Olives in the city of
Jerusalem. "Begin here," He said.
The Great Commission does not
begin in some remote outpost, but
right here in our own church.

MISSIONS FACT #1: Three out of
four Americans now live in the city.
Five out of six of them will find no
Free Will Baptist church to attend.
They must either change denomi-
nations or drop out of church.

MISSIONS FACT #2: (If you have a

missionary starting a church in
your state, give a brief description.
Or tell about a missionary your
church supports.)

VOICE OF TRUTH: Heb. 10:25

CHORAL GROUP:

Lord, we love Your House.

We love to come and worship
with Your people.

Remind us of those groups of
believers who worship in
homes

Or rented buildings.

They need a place of their own.

Provide one for them, please.

Lord, we have big cities without
a church of our own.

Nine states still wait for us to
come.

Your people move here and we
lose them

To other churches—

Denominations with the vision,
money and pastors

To establish churches.

Do it for us, too, Lord. We wait
on You.

MUSIC: "Rescue the Perishing," 4th
stanza (page 362)

NARRATOR: Free Will Baptists
have had some great church
planters in the past. Today the Na-
tional Home Missions Board has
commissioned more than 50 cou-
ples to establish churches in 27
states and 3 neighboring countries.

MISSIONS FACT: Untold millions
are still untold.

VOICE OF TRUTH: Joel 3:14a;
Jer. 8:20

CHORAL GROUP:

Lord, we need to be reminded of
Your righteousness,

Of your holiness and justice.

Help us to see a world without
Christ,

Dying and on the road to hell.

Give us a burden to see them
saved.

Empower us to go forth and im-
part Your love.

Thank You, Lord, that it encom-
passes the world.

We only keep your love when we
give it away.

MUSIC: "Here Am I, Send Me"
(page 365)

*Adapted from a program written by
Vicki Hidde, Tulsa, OK, with additional
material credited to Roy Thomas and
Wanda Powell, Nashville, TN.*

Program Ideas

- Ask your pastor about present-
ing this special program the
week before Thanksgiving.
- Announce the service in the
church bulletin and/or individual
announcements.
- Distribute prayer leaflets to ev-
eryone attending. Copy the
leaflet on page 17 or order
enough copies from the Home
Missions department. Specify
number needed.
- Set up a display with home mis-
sions materials—free upon re-
quest from National Home Mis-
sions, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville,
TN 37202.
- Invite a home missionary to
speak.
- Display a map of the United
States. Designate the nine
states with no Free Will Baptist
witness (North Dakota, Nevada,
Utah, Wisconsin, New York,
Minnesota, Vermont, Connecti-
cut and Massachusetts). ♦



Thanksgiving Benefits

Aim: to praise God for all His benefits

Scripture: Psalm 103

Hymn: "Count Your Many Blessings"

Introduction

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." Why does the psalmist need to remind us not to forget God's benefits? Perhaps in the following topics we can find some of the reasons.

Unchosen Benefits (John 15:16)

Our greatest unchosen benefit is Jesus Christ our Savior.

Have you ever set your child down to a table laden with good food, yet he ignores the nutritious meats and vegetables and wants only dessert? A wonderful spread of benefits before him, yet he chooses to disregard all these benefits for self-gratification—"I want to do things my way."

"I didn't ask to be born," is another weapon children use to get their way. Ever thought this your-

A Monologue

A Thank You Note

by Anita Haney

Thanksgiving. We celebrate this national holiday annually on the 4th Thursday in November. Giving thanks is good. We should appreciate all the good things we enjoy.

Some may pause for 30 seconds on this special day and repeat a short, memorized prayer, as if such small thanks is sufficient. Many will not pray at all. To them, Thanksgiving is only a day when banks close and the mailman doesn't visit. Oh yes, they enjoy, but don't acknowledge where or from whom it all comes.

Thanksgiving should be not only a Thursday holiday, but a Tuesday, Friday, and Monday holiday as well. Not just a November event, but also a March, August and April one. Speaking of being thankful....

I saw a man on the news last week. He lived in a shelter made from cardboard crates stapled together. He had no stove, no bed, no running water except the rain, no heat except the sun. No home!

Thank You, Lord, for my home—for my warm bed and electricity for lights, heat and cool air. For a secure shelter in which to live, I'm thankful.

I visited an 85 year-old man in a nursing home the other day on his birthday. He had no birthday cake, no gifts to open and no one to sing "Happy Birthday." He had no family, no one to love or to love him.

Thank You, Lord, for my beautiful family—my strong husband and radiant children. Thank You for someone to love and care for and someone to love me back. For all my family wherever they are, I am thankful.

The world is full of sickness and physical handicaps. Every day transplants of the heart and liver fill the newspapers. Cancer runs rampant. Muscular diseases cripple thousands each year. I know some people who can't see the leaves change colors in their own back yard. It takes one of my friends five minutes just to hobble up her back steps. How often I ignore the smell of cookies baking or the

self? How ridiculous to think of permitting children from birth to choose their own nourishment. Equally foolish is the thought that we know better than our heavenly Father the nourishment necessary for our spiritual growth.

In Matt. 6:25, He tells us not to be concerned with what we shall eat. We have been chosen and beckoned to His bountiful table. We can either feast on benefits that produce spiritual maturity, or whine for the dessert of this world.

Offer thanks for what you cannot see or understand. We are promised all things work together for good to those who love Him and are chosen according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28).

Material Benefits (1 Cor. 3:1-3)

An infant craves "feelable" benefits—warm milk in his stomach, soothing words to his ears, and strong cuddling arms to hold him.

God offers eternal benefits, but we, like Esau (Gen. 25), often settle for the temporary. Money in the

bank is valued more than peace in the heart. Intense desire for material benefits causes a Christian to despise his God-given birthright.

Just what is our most valued material benefit? House, job, car, family? These do not belong to us; they are God's. All worldly possessions are temporarily on loan and God has the right to recall them without a moment's notice.

When used for God's glory, material benefits do not produce carnality. Only when we allow them to create envy, strife and division in our lives does Paul say we are carnal. Where these qualities exist, there is no room for thanksgiving.

Benefits in Disguise (Rom. 9:20)

Occasionally a certain children's church leader teaches her class the lesson that larger and prettier is not always best. She places a used toothbrush into a large box which is gift-wrapped and bow-tied. She places a \$5 bill and wrist watch in a small brown bag. One child is allowed to come to the front and

choose one to keep.

"Never have I had a child choose the bag," she says.

Often our choices are as child-like. We shy away from the rough-wrapped package. We must ask for wisdom to look beneath the surface and see God at work in our lives.

A \$5 bar of steel made into horse shoes is worth \$10. The same bar is worth \$250,000 if made into watch springs. The pounding, firing and polishing the bar undergoes increases its value.

Those willing to suffer most in the potter's hands emerge capable of yielding the most good. Blessed is that one who can trust even when he doesn't understand. Maturity looks through difficulties, sees God at work, and says, "Thanks."

Unshared Benefits

Read John 3:16; Matt. 5:6; Ps. 23:1. Now add some of your own verses. Ask each lady to share her favorite praise verse. ♦

sound of raindrops on my roof.

Thank You, Father, for my healthy body. Don't allow me to take it for granted or ever forget that even I could be blind, dying or confined to a wheelchair or bed.

I read recently about a young woman who took her life simply because she had no one to care. Her farewell note stated she had no friends. No one ever visited or phoned to chat for a moment and she could not take the lonely life another moment.

Thanks, God, for my friends, the many whom I like and love and long to spend time with. For all those who call and visit or hug or smile, I'm thankful.

A bomb fell somewhere this morning and killed many people. Millions live in constant fear for their lives, their homes and their vanishing freedoms. Very few peaceful countries remain in our

troubled world. Governments crumble and honesty is seldom practiced.

I'm proud to be an American. Thank You, Lord, for this wonderful land and government with freedom and justice for all. Don't let me take this blessing for granted.

Christians are found over the world, and churches, too. Yet millions would give their lives to be able to pray and sing and teach and preach without the threat of death or harassment—Russians, Chinese, Cubans, and the list goes on and on.

Bless them, Lord, and accept my thankfulness for my church—its building with all the comforts, my church family, and the Christians who make up Your church.

But the greatest gift and blessing I could ever thank You for is for being a member of Your big family. Many don't belong to You, some

don't care, some have never even heard, and millions die in that condition. If only they could experience the joy and contentment that comes with knowing You and belonging to You and having You in control of their lives.

Even if a person has all the other six blessings—a home, family, health, friends, church, and free country—without You in their lives, they have nothing at all. Thank You, God, for my salvation most of all.

Yes, Thanksgiving is a beautiful holiday, a time for going home and counting our blessings. Let's not relax and bask in our own good fortune, but let's share it. Notice other people in this world. Pay attention to their needs. There's plenty of God's goodness to go around.

Let's make Thanksgiving a daily holiday from now on. ♦

Introduction

As the Christmas season approaches, we spend countless hours browsing through department stores. We put much thought into choosing just the right gift for each loved one. Nothing brings more pleasure than to present a gift that is "just what I've always wanted."

However, most of us neglect to put the Savior on our shopping list. Let us look at some gifts we might present to Jesus this year. They may be just the very gifts He wants from us.



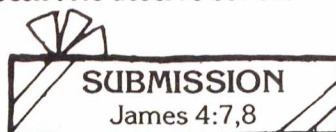
This Scripture admonishes us to seek after the things of God rather than the things of man. Each of us



should strive to be more God-like and less world-like. Are the dearest things to your heart of a spiritual nature or worldly nature? Our affections should be placed on things that will count for eternity, not on temporal things which pass away. Put Jesus first in your life and use all your energies for His service.

Actions speak louder than words. Do we shower God with a lot of eloquent words when we pray and then live lives that contradict those words? Jesus isn't happy with just words; He wants action.

Christ gave His all for us. Doesn't He deserve our all?



Submission would be a wonderful gift to give the Lord. Pledge to run from the tricks of Satan. Make a commitment to have clean hands, a pure heart and a stable mind.

God asks us to lift our hands to Him so He can fill them with His blessings. Too often we come to receive with hands filled with the world's glittering toys. Submission means we empty our lives of all that we value most in order to receive His transcendent riches. He cannot pour His riches into hands already full.

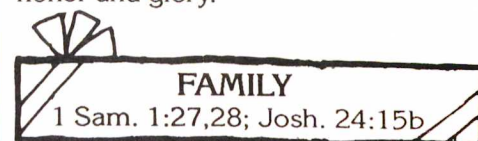
Consecration of ourselves is a daily response to God's love. Draw closer to God and He promises to draw closer to you.



In this parable of the talents, we see that the servant who refused to use the talent the Lord gave him, ultimately lost it. However, the more the profitable servants used their talents, the more blessed they were.

The same is true for Christians today. We are given a bag of tools and a book of rules. We either make a stumbling block or a stepping stone. When we refuse to use the talents God has given us, we are burying them just as the unprofitable servant did. If we do not use, we lose.

Develop your natural talents to their fullest. Sometimes God takes our natural abilities and transforms them into spiritual abilities. Give them to God this Christmas and allow Him to use them for His honor and glory.



Many Christians are anxious to give God "things," but when it comes to giving their family they are stingy. We need to say, like Joshua, "but as for me and my

They Presented Unto Him Gifts

Aim: to determine what gifts we'll give Jesus on His birthday

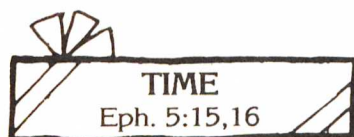
Scripture: Matthew 2:11

Hymn: "Give of Your Best to the Master"

house we will serve the Lord." Dedicate your home and your children to God. Hannah returned her son to God to be used in the Lord's work.

Sandi Patti, gospel singer and mother of four pre-schoolers, came to the place where she faced this crisis. "There really is no choice," she says. "I have to say, 'Okay. As much as I love my kids, I know You love them more.'" And she places them in His hands.

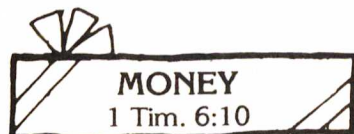
God may be calling our children—and grandchildren—to be missionaries. Can we send them forth with our blessing? Are we willing to give our children back to God?



Unless we commit our time to God we will waste it foolishly. In our fast-paced society we often neglect to schedule time for the things of God. The tasks we view as trivial may be the most urgent ones to Him.

Time is like money in the bank. Each day 1,440 minutes are deposited into our account. We can use them anyway we want, but at the end of the day, the balance is cleared and a new amount deposited. God, the Banker, keeps accurate accounting, but the books will not be balanced until the day of judgment.

How are we using our time? The Lord deserves our prime time, not just the leftovers.



Our pocket books are dear to our hearts. Yet we may either love God and use money or love money and use God. If we give God 10% we think that is all that matters, but

10% already belongs to God. We are not giving until we give some of the 90%.

Money is another pair of legs going where we cannot go, another pair of hands carrying burdens we cannot touch, another pair of vocal chords speaking where our voice cannot be heard. What we do with our money we do with ourselves.

Those who give generously and even sacrificially enjoy freedom from want. Smile, and give God an extra offering this Christmas. He loves a cheerful giver.

Conclusion

Which gift do you need to give Christ this Christmas? Is it your submission, affection, money, time, talents, or your family? Maybe you need to give several or all of these. Don't neglect to give something. Give Him your best.

Give of your best to the Master
Give Him first place in your heart;

Give Him first place in your service;

Consecrate every part.

Give, and to you shall be given—

God His beloved Son gave;

Gratefully seeking to serve Him;

Give Him the best that you have.

—Howard B. Grose

Program Ideas

Present this program as a candlelight service with one speaker giving all the gifts; or use six speakers, one for each topic. Decorate the stage area with six large gift-wrapped boxes with an unlit candle on top of each.

As the speaker begins her topic, she lights the candle on her package.

Plan to give an invitation at the close of the program. Ask the audience to come and stand by the package they would like to present to God. Conclude the service with a prayer of presentation of ourselves and our gifts to God. ♦

A Christmas Tradition

by Cheryl Riley

This past December I decided to focus my children's minds on the true meaning of Christmas.

For months they perused catalogs and roamed the aisles of the discount store trying to decide what they most wanted to find waiting for them under the tree on Christmas morning.

Rebecca, age 9, being the oldest and practically a teenager, decided on her own telephone. Joey, 7 and all-boy, settled on a skateboard. Ashlee, 3, teetered between a baby doll and a stuffed cow.

Christmas gifts are such an important part of childhood that I didn't want to diminish their joy and anticipation, but neither did I want it to be all consuming.

With this in mind, one day I gathered the children around me, Bible in hand, and proceeded to read the story of Jesus' birth from the gospel of Luke. They had heard it many times, but sat enraptured as they listened, even little Ashlee. Then we read the story from Matthew.

In order to reinforce the teaching, I questioned them about what they had heard. They answered correctly with enthusiasm. Rebecca enjoyed it so much she begged for more questions.

Joey was so impressed with our study, he insisted we bake Jesus a birthday cake for Christmas. We did and it became one of the most memorable experiences of that holiday season. We plan to make this a tradition at our house which I hope will be carried on for generations to come.

What better gift could we give Jesus on his birthday than our children's hearts? ♦

Woman's National Auxiliary's 55th Convention July 16, 17, 1990



Mrs. Cleo Pursell and JoAnn Hurst, Nashville, TN, participate in the convention.



Mary Neal, president, presides over the convention.



Pat Atchley, AZ state president, welcomes the convention.



Janie Aldridge leads the Monday afternoon seminar featuring Lynette Miley, Cote d'Ivoire, and Marilyn Pritchard; Judy Smith, Japan, and Wanda Powell; Anita Sparks, Spain, and Odessa Ledlow.



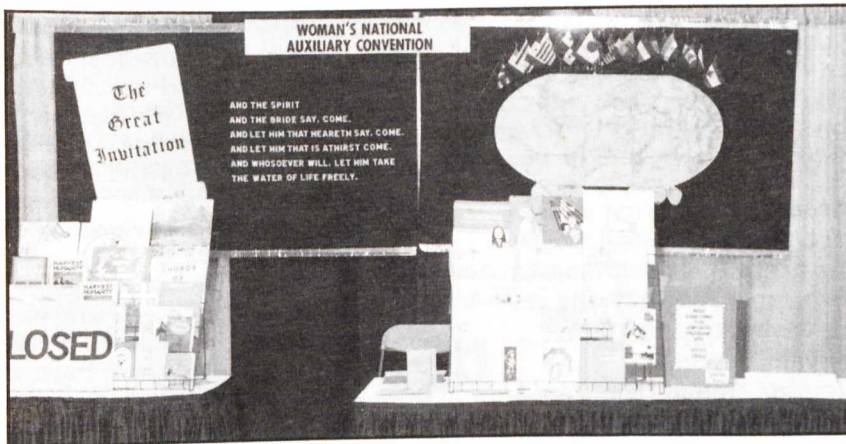
WNAC's executive committee meets for deliberations.



Rudene Kennedy, NC, addresses the Fellowship Dinner.

Phoenix Civic Plaza Phoenix, AZ

WNAC's nominating committee gets a headstart on next year's election.



The WNAC booth promotes the theme: "The Great Invitation."



Dr. Kenneth Eagleton, Jr., Côte d'Ivoire, delivers the missionary message.



Missionaries from Japan minister on Tuesday afternoon: Ruth McDonald, Debbie Griffin and Judy Smith. Other participants: Patsy Vanhook, France; Rejane Eagleton, Brazil/Cote d'Ivoire; Susan Turnbough, Spain; Deleen Cousineau and Bessie Richards, Cote d'Ivoire; Patsy Gwartney, USA; Amy Robinson, Uruguay; and Paige Powell, TN.



Creative arts contest winners. Pictured: Vicki Hubbard, AR; Virginia Weber, TN; Odessa Ledlow, AL; Susan Burgess, IL; Barbara Jarvis, OK; Vicki Turner, MO; and Lynette Morgan, Cote d'Ivoire.



Bessie Richards, Côte d'Ivoire, brings morning devotions.

Motion passed:

"That the women named below constitute a study committee to evaluate Woman's Auxiliary and report to the Convention in 1991:

**Diana Bryant, Florida
Kay Hampton, Tennessee
Marguerite Kern, Oklahoma
Peggy Outland, Illinois
June Rolen, California
Diane Thomas, North Carolina
Mary R. Wisehart, Tennessee."**

Over My Coffee Cup



By Eunice Edwards

Faithfulness is the most precious talent a Christian can possess. Nothing takes its place. Many have great abilities, but if you cannot count on them to be in their appointed place at the appointed time, they lose their value in God's eyes. It won't be long until they lose their value in the eyes of the church as well.

The Sunday school teacher who lacks respect for her students arrives unprepared, and usually late, even though her ability as a teacher is above average. A faithful teacher prepares the lesson, prays for herself and her students, and opens wide the windows of learning for her class every Sunday.

An officer of the church who has great ideas but is unfaithful in attending the services will have a hard time convincing others of the worth of those ideas.

The Auxiliary officer who fails to prepare for the program will discover failing interest among the members. But when she prepares faithfully and prayerfully she enjoys an increase in interest and in attendance even though she may not be a great leader.

Paul sets forth four great principles in following the Lord: 1. Be faithful in presenting the Word. 2. Be faithful to your assigned task. 3. Be faithful in attendance. 4. Be faithful in prayer. Please read 1 Tim. 1:12, 18, 19; 3:7; 2:1-8; 2 Tim. 1:13, 14; 2:2; 3:14, 15; Luke 19:17; 16:10; and 1 Cor. 4:2.

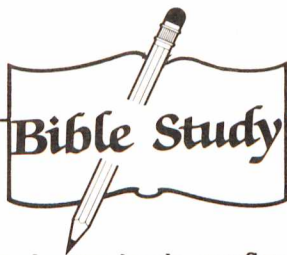
Nothing can take the place of faithfulness, the most important of the Christian graces. Our greatest need today is not so much for great talents, abilities or leaders (although these needs exist among us), but rather faithfulness. ♦

Eunice Edwards Loan Fund



**5 year goal
\$50,000**

**Amount Received
\$29,309.03**



I JOHN Chapter 4, Part 1

REVIEW: This little five-chapter book overflows with easily understood and practical instructions for believers. However, as the previous six studies set forth, many of its tenets require supernatural intervention through the indwelling Holy Spirit to enable a Christian to put them into practice. The command, not optional, to love the brotherhood and to demonstrate an agape love is set forth repeatedly in chapters 1-3. Chapter 4 begins with...

ON GUARD! (4:1)

4:1—"Beloved (brethren), _____ not every spirit, but _____ (test) the spirits whether they are of God; because many _____ prophets are gone out into the world." Today one need only turn on television on Sunday morning, or browse through a national magazine to find confirmation of the present-day reality of John's warning.

Gnosticism (the mingling of Christianity with various philosophies) had already crept into the early church and has been multiplying since that time. Seductive cults and the modern "health and wealth" preachers have the wherewithal to promote their heresies worldwide. Masses are attracted by smooth words and a religion that pays rather than one which demands obedience and faith to follow. How can believers discern between unadulterated truth and insidious error? By....

HE THAT IS IN YOU (4:2-4)

4:2—In spite of the hyperbole, mixture and controversy aboard, God says that we can KNOW who is anti-Christ. The first test concerns the Person of Christ. "By this know ye the Spirit of God; every spirit (proclaimer) that _____ Jesus Christ is _____ in the _____ is of God." Belief in the virgin birth of Immanuel (God with us) is of critical essence. Denial is a mark of error.

4:3—"And every spirit that _____ not that Jesus Christ is come in the _____ is not of God." Counterfeit, deceitful spirits deny Christ's deity and His miraculous birth. "...And that is the spirit of _____, of which ye have heard that it should come, and even _____ already is in the world." Deceit, in the name of religion, is rampant and dangerous to your spiritual health. Compare 2 John 7.

4:4—"Ye are of _____, little children, and have overcome them, because _____ is He that is in you than he that is in the _____." True believers who persevere in the Word can recognize the deceit and will not fall prey to the deceiver because the Holy Spirit of God reigns within, helping us discern between truth and error. Compare John 14:16, 17.

DECEIVERS MARCH TO A DIFFERENT DRUMMER (4:5,6)

The spirit of seduction, deceit and denial of the deity of Christ is tuned in to the present world system. "They are of the _____, therefore, speak they of the _____, and the _____ heareth them."

While Christian churches struggle to get their membership to faithfully attend services and to demonstrate daily the change that has taken place within, the sports fans and rock concert devotees pack huge stadiums in a frenzy of enthusiasm. Likewise the cults attract the masses who pour in their finances to help spread their heresies. They are tuned in to worldly wisdom and fleshly gratification and tuned out to the truth of God.

4:6—"We are of God. He that _____ God (in a born-again experience) heareth us." This is the test of how often and how sincerely we are tuned in to the things of God, through His word and through His Spirit working out His word in daily demonstration. "...He that is not of _____ heareth not us."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Glance over chapters 1-3, locating and underlining or shading in key words as fellowship, love, know, and abide. Read a verse that contains one or more of these words.
2. What are the marks of a false prophet or antichrist?
3. How can believers guard against being drawn in to a worldly doctrine?
4. Why are some believers an easy prey to popular cults?
5. What do you believe Paul meant by the term "itching ears" in 2 Tim. 4:4-4?

Writer's note: A new name has been given to the series of Bible Studies available for deeper study. They are now called "Basic Bible Studies." The price remains the same (\$2.25 per set of study sheets and review questions, or \$19 for all 9 sets. Postage and handling is included.)

AIRPLANE VIEW OF ALL 66 BOOKS (Bible Survey)

FOUNDATION OF THE FAITH (Romans)

WALKING WORTHY (Ephesians)

JOY UNDER STRESS (Philippians)

WISDOM vs. PHILOSOPHY (Colossians)

FAITH IN ACTION (James)

BLESSED ASSURANCE (1 John)

GOD'S PLAN OF THE AGES (Revelation)

Order from: M.M. Daniel, 5860 Washington Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37129

To My Missionary With Love

by Lorene Miley



All missionaries are special, but some are extra-special special. Here are some goodies to help show them that you care.

Shops are full of useful gadgets in all price ranges. A compact travel iron (about \$25) helps your missionary stay neat and tidy. These may be switched to 110 or 220 volts, so are equally useful overseas as well as in the States. An alternative to ironing on a motel bed is a compact garment steamer (\$50).

Small travel hair dryers and curling irons may also be switched from 110 to 220 volts. Sanyo makes one of the tiniest battery-operated shavers you'll probably find anywhere (\$25 in a case with a mirror).

Inflatable hangers and braided elastic clothes lines, packets of soap powder and a tiny sewing kit help keep the missionary-on-deputation's wardrobe clean and in good repair. Give him a basket of travel-size cosmetics to perk up his appearance.

The Itty Bitty Book Light (\$30) clips onto either hardbacks or paperbacks for reading in bed, plane or car. A light that plugs into the car's cigarette lighter lets the itinerant missionary brush up on his notes enroute to his service. A Japanese-made generator light (\$15), almost as compact, is a great idea for folks who forget to check the batteries. You pump a lever with your hand to make the light shine.

Missionaries traveling by car may appreciate a multi-purpose lamp, signal wand, torch and blinker (\$10). A tiny tool kit (\$25) that includes an awl, various screwdrivers,

wrench, pliers and bore might come in handy. An auto visor organizer (\$15) arranges sunglasses, pens, change, maps and papers. A large atlas in a leather cover could well become his best-used gift.

Some useful stocking-stuffers include sturdy leather luggage tags, a money belt, ankle wallet, Swiss army knife, eye masks to help the missionary sleep on long flights, an immersion heater, a manicure set, or a folding umbrella. A tiny calculator with built-in currency exchange (\$20) makes shopping and

Help a missionary enjoy a memorable deputation!

haggling a breeze overseas. Hand-held computers translate phrases into the language of your choice (\$100).

They're expensive, but every missionary values one. A compact computer organizer, as a Sharp Wizard, replaces appointment schedules, calendars, telephone directory, memo-pad, calculator and world time/alarm clock (\$250). No excuse for missed appointments. A leather case (\$40) organizes travel documents as passport, tickets, health cards, foreign currency and vouchers.

A first-aid kit may be a wise addition on many trips. A more novel idea is the Emergency Dental Kit. Both the deluxe (\$20) and the mini (\$10) models contain materials and instructions to handle such problems as lost fillings and crowns, a broken tooth, loose or broken dentures.

Missionaries are rather selective

when it comes to luggage, but they could all use a just-in-case bag (\$40). This nylon zip bag fits in its own pouch and measures 25x16x16 when opened. For your single missionaries consider a set of fold-up wheels. A steel luggage carrier helps maneuver stairs and curbs without tipping. Personalized luggage straps (\$15) with the name woven into the fabric allow instant recognition on a busy carousel.

When wake-up time is crucial, missionaries need a travel alarm. The most ingenious ones combine the digital alarm clock with a smoke detector. Criterion markets a tiny clock with a built-in pillbox (\$20). You set the alarm to remind you to take your medication.

You can't miss with books. The Janette Oke series of life on the frontier, Louis L'Amour western classics, Chronicles of Narnia, or the Chuck Swindoll bestsellers all rank high on the want-list. Consider a One-Year Bible in a favorite translation, a new study Bible, or a pocket-size New Testament in one of the latest colors and styles.

For the computer buff, check out all the software possibilities. Games as Golf, Jeopardy, Challenge or Chess help keep Jack from becoming a dull boy.

If you don't have an extra-special missionary, send your gift to the Missionary Provision Closet. Enclose your name and address with a personal note if you'd like an acknowledgement. It could be the beginning of a beautiful missionary friendship.

Let's go shopping. Your gadget could help some missionary enjoy an exciting, memorable deputation. ♦

Helps for Leaders

Ideas to Stimulate Your Imagination

President Vice president

November

Suggestions for Thanksgiving

- Ask someone to prepare the monologue, "A Thank-You Note," to present.

- As the women enter the Auxiliary room, give each a piece of paper on which is written a praise verse. Ask them to sign the paper and drop it in a basket. At the close of the program, each one draws a paper, reads the verse and tells why she is thankful for the Auxiliary sister whose name is written there.

- At one Auxiliary meeting, each member brought something she had made or grown—i.e., crafts, garden produce, baked goods or canned items. During fellowship time, they drew names and presented their gifts to the person drawn. The gifts were presented one at a time so all could enjoy seeing the others' talents.

- One Auxiliary sponsored a "Treasure Hunt" for staples to fill their food pantry. The teens received a list of donors willing to donate items. Adult drivers were provided as chauffeurs. Announcements were made so members not at home could leave goods in a specified place.

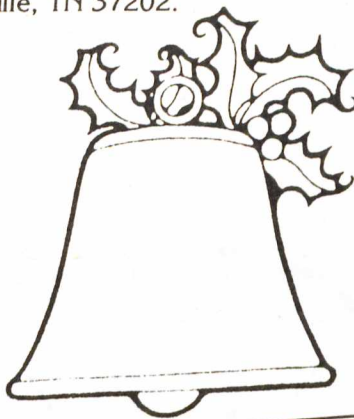
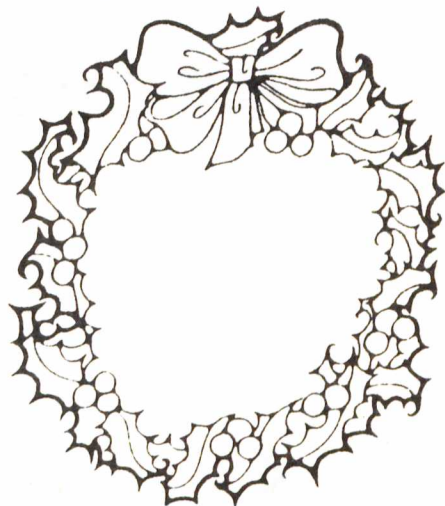
The group who collected the most items won a special treat. All enjoyed refreshments.

December

If you liked the play, "You Be The Judge," written by Linda Coffman and Joy Price, you'll want to order their Christmas play, "R-U-OK?"

This award-winning play centers around a reporter on a busy street corner interviewing passersby on what Christmas means to them. Instructions are given for props and sound effects.

To order this full-length play, send \$1 to: WNAC, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.



Plan Ahead for Christmas

WNAC offers some special items for Christmas gifts.

Auxiliary pins - only \$3 each (gold or silver color)

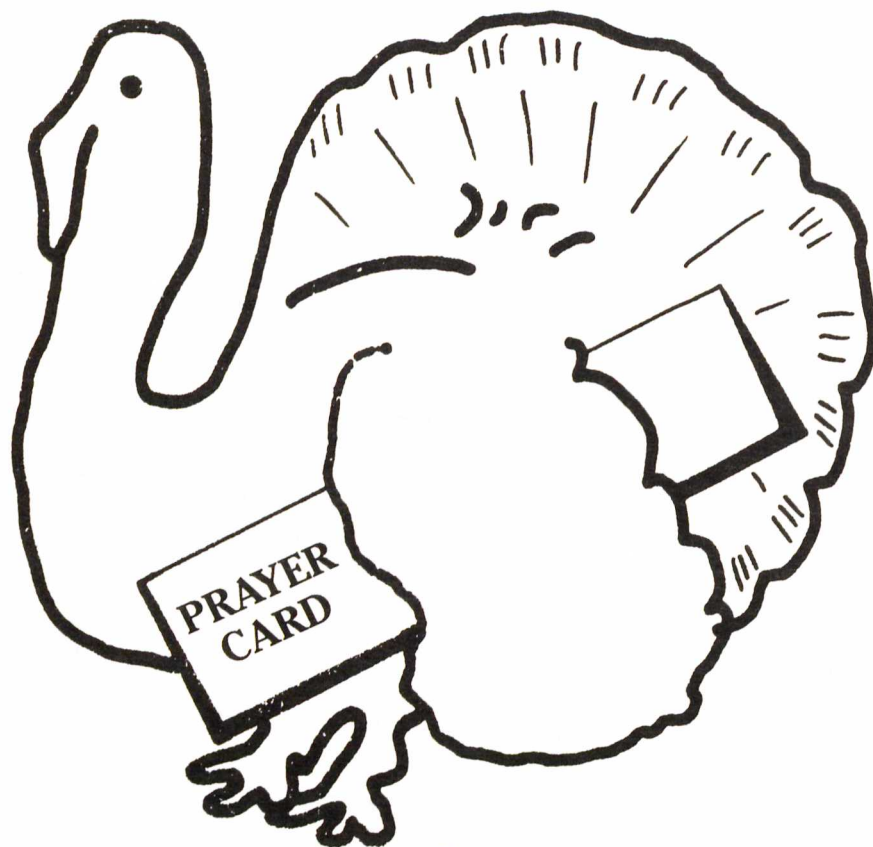
So Send I You - a collection of missions poetry by Free Will Baptist women, \$3

WNAC notebooks - \$3.50 (magazine file strips, 12 for \$2.50)

Why not give a shut-in or a friend who may not be able to attend a Woman's Auxiliary a gift subscription to the CO-LABORER? \$5.75 annually, six issues. If you note that it is a Christmas gift, we will send a Christmas card announcing your gift.

If you get your gift order in before November 15, your friend's subscription will begin with the January/February issue of 1991.

Bookworm Reminder



Mission **PRAYER**
Chairman



Prayer Booklet
Thanksgiving Week of Prayer
November 12-16, 1990

(Cut on solid lines and staple to make prayer booklet.)



WEDNESDAY

Pray for missionaries serving in isolated areas, some who are the only Free Will Baptist workers in their state. Pray for *Tim and Kathy Coats*, Rapid City South Dakota; *Russell and Vonda Johnson*, Cheyenne, Wyoming; *Jerry and Wanda McClary*, Omaha, Nebraska; *Tom and Lynda Hunt*, Tri-Cities, Washington; *Jim and Pat Nason*, New Durham, New Hampshire; and *Terry and Tammy Miller*, Providence, Rhode Island.

MONDAY

Pray for the health of home missionary families as they serve, especially those in Mexico (*Fred and Barbara Jones* and *James and Mitzi Munsey*).

Pray that God will call more Free Will Baptist couples as missionaries to the nation of Canada. Free Will Baptists have only one couple serving as missionaries there now, *Bill and Lois Reagan*.

THURSDAY

Pray for Missionary Builder *Howard Gwartney* and his crew of volunteer workers who construct mission churches.

Pray for eight Free Will Baptist chaplains in the military, *1st. Lt. Terry Austin*, *Major James Bishop*, *Capt. Bill Conlon*, *LCDR Robert Cooper*, *Major Larry Langford*, *Col. Gerald Mangham*, *Major Kerry Steedley*, and *1st Lt. Tim Sturgill*.

TUESDAY

Pray for Home Missions Staff Members *Roy Thomas*, *Trymon Messer*, and *Richard Adams* as they travel extensively for the National Home Missions Department.

Pray for the nine members of the National Home Missions Board as they work diligently to formulate the policies and procedures of the National Home Missions Department.

FRIDAY

Pray for the five Target City - Phoenix, Arizona couples, *Paul and Marilyn Thompson*, *Howard and Patsy Gwartney*, *Larry and Sherry Reynolds*, *George and Linda Harvey*, and *Jim and Pam Taylor*.

Pray for home missionaries serving in the U.S. owned islands of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. These are *Miguel and Adelaida Vera* in San Juan, and *Ron and Barbara Dail* and school workers *Joe and Pauline Postlewaite* in St. Croix.

Mission ACTION Chairman

Christmas Trees

Supplies needed: 1 READER'S DIGEST

- 1 can Christmas green spray paint
- Sequins, ribbons or other decorations
- Glitter, 1 rhinestone star
- Glue

How to make:

1. Fold magazine, one page at a time. Bring the upper top corner to the center of the page. Glue the first page to the last page. It will puff out like a tree.
2. Spray paint the tree. Be sure to cover all the white between the pages. Let dry.
3. If you use glitter, spray the second time and sprinkle glitter while still wet.
4. After drying is complete (drying time varies), decorate as desired.
5. Glue the rhinestone star on top. If unable to find one, make one from cardboard and paint or cover with gold foil.

6. Make a base by covering a 12" circle of cardboard with foil or colored paper.

Cheryl Anne Day, chairman of Action 5, a mission action group in St. Petersburg, FL, comments: When Action 5 was new, we had no money to work with and two of the girls didn't have jobs. But we wanted to serve the Lord. We decided to make Christmas trees from READER'S DIGESTS to give our nursing home patients and shut-ins.

One girl went to a garage sale and found a bag of 50-60 READER'S DIGESTS all for the price of 25 cents. Praise God!

Note from Cheryl: "Remember, ladies, you should put the name of a missionary on the back. After all, the greatest gift we can give them is our loving prayers.

These may be used as prayer reminders, or again as small gifts or invitations.

Peggy Hutto, our state president, suggested this idea."

This is a very special gift
That you can never see;
The reason it's so special is
It's just for you from me.

Whenever you are happy
Or even feeling blue,
You only have to hold this gift
And know I think of you.

You never need unwrap it,
Please leave the ribbon tied;
Just hold the box close to your heart
It's filled with LOVE inside.

Gift Boxes

Supplies needed: small blocks of wood

- wrapping paper
- tape, scissors and hole punch
- ribbon
- poem on slips of paper

How to make:

1. Wrap small blocks in gift wrap.
2. Type verse on small pieces of paper. Punch one corner.
3. Tie ribbon around package then slip verse through the ribbon.
4. Make a bow on top.

Actionettes

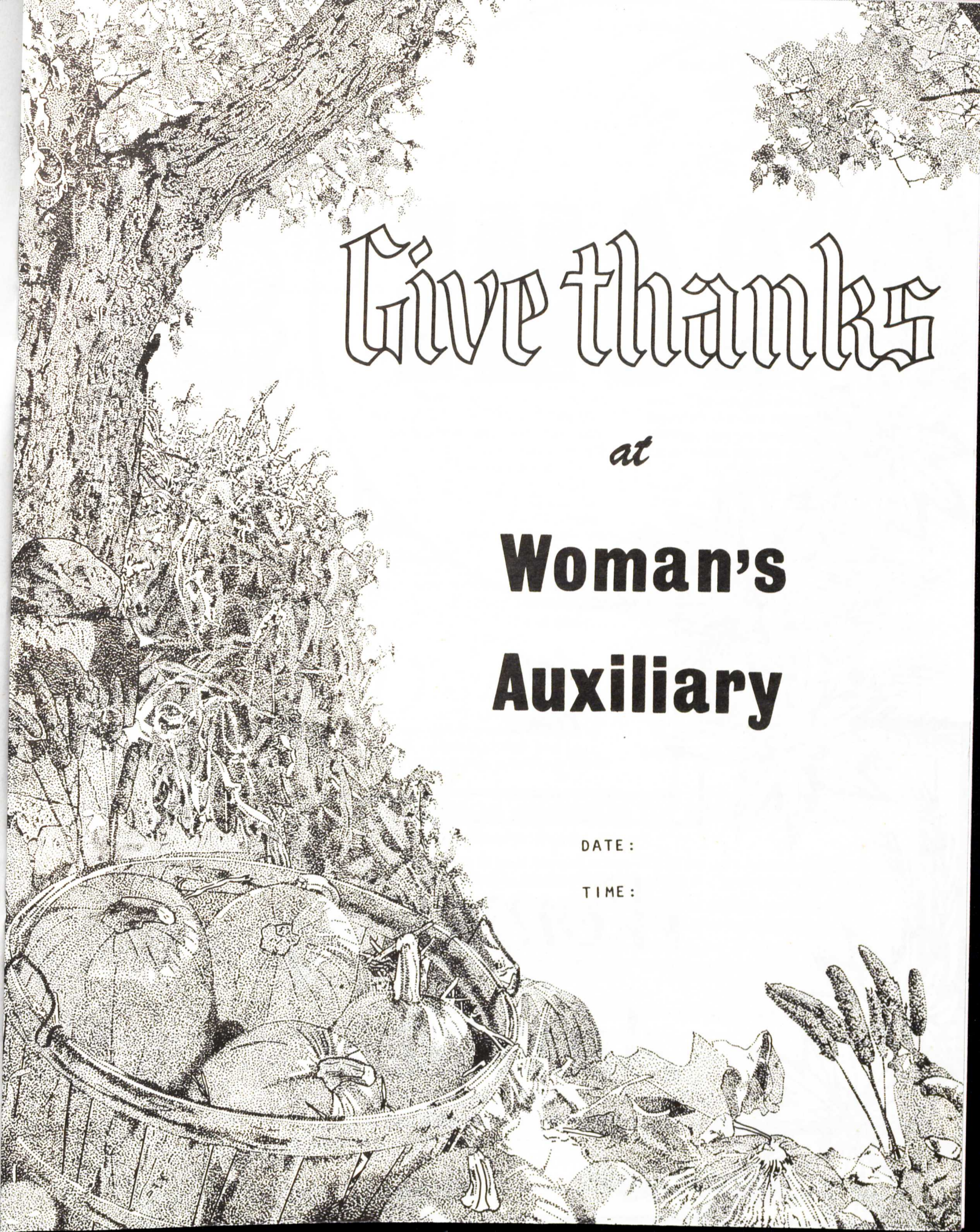
Actionettes! We're trying to find out where you are and what you are doing. Send us reports of your activities and projects—with pictures.

Let's get together!



Bakerville Actionettes
Mt. Vernon, Illinois

front: Jana Smith, Morgan Jones, Devin Jones
back: Jessica Smith, Heather Bays
center: Jeanee Culli, leader; Jennifer Jones, assistant;
and Kerri Melburn



Give thanks

at

Woman's Auxiliary

DATE :

TIME :



COME

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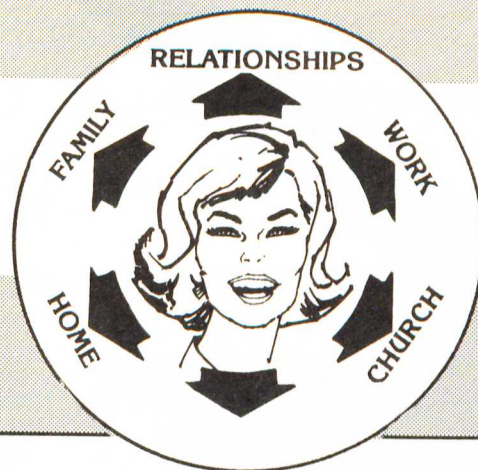
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Woman's
Auxiliary

The Ministers Wife

Newsletter

Compiled By Cleo Pursell



volume 10, number 6, 1990

Telephone Etiquette

by Barbara Harwell



Roger Harwell pastors Bethany FWB Church, Broken Arrow, OK, where Barbara serves as Auxiliary president, children's choir director and teacher of the 4 and 5 year olds. She's past-president of the Missouri State Auxiliary Convention.

Mrs. Harwell, an accredited records technician and DRG analyst, works part-time at the Hillcrest Medical center.

Ring...ring...ring.
"Hello, Harwell residence...I'm sorry the Pastor is not home, but I expect him to return around 5:00. Would you like to leave a message?...I'll have him return your call as soon as possible. Thank you for calling."

As I return to the white shirt stretched smoothly over the ironing board, I think, "If that phone doesn't stop interrupting, this ironing will never be finished."

The clock ticks softly in the quiet room as the iron glides over the freshly starched shirt. My thoughts drift back to our early days in the ministry.

Our first parsonage was modestly designed—four rooms and a "path."
Running water meant dashing to the well, drawing water and lugging the sloshing, splashing liquid

back into the house.

We lived in a sparsely settled farming community. Our neighbor to the north boasted of an artesian well. The neighbor to our south enjoyed the luxury of a modern telephone. The parsonage had neither an artesian well or an up-to-date telephone. We managed quite well, however, oblivious to the inconveniences.

Today our family uses 25 gallons of chlorinated, purified water daily. Several telephone extensions are dispersed throughout the house. Answering machines "baby-sit" the telephone in our absence. Paging devices shadow every trip. Undoubtedly, the telephone is an essential tool of ministry.

Over the years, however, a love-hate relationship has begun to materialize with the phone. →

Telephone etiquette for the Parsonage

- Answer telephone promptly.
- Pay attention to your tone of voice. Try to sound pleasant without being unnatural. The voice creates an impression. Put your best voice forward.
- Ask permission to place a caller on hold and explain the reason for doing so. Return to original caller quickly or give a progress report.
- Be considerate. Hear out someone who is angry or upset. Attempt to calm a distressed person. Handle complaints or antagonism tactfully.
- Avoid interrupting.
- Sound interested and concerned. Speak in a courteous, helpful and caring manner.
- Avoid giving information that is not authorized. Protect confidences of church members and friends.
- Always end on a pleasant note and hang up gently.

The telephone is either a source of blessing or cursing.

Our daughter calls to report the results of the latest sonogram. Our "surprise package" will be a grandson.

A parishioner has been awarded a promotion, raise or a special trip.

A prayer request has been answered.

I cherish the warmth and intimacy of those conversations. On the other hand, when I am awakened from a deep sleep by the ringing telephone, adrenalin surges through my body. Apprehension replaces composure.

"Reverend Harwell, this is Green County Security. We have an alarm from the church on perimeter. The police have been dispatched. Would you please meet them at the church as soon as possible?"

The telephone becomes an instrument relaying unfavorable news. It can be either a source of blessing or cursing.

For the parsonage family. Saturday afternoons are notorious for challenging calls. Late one Saturday, the youth group and sponsors arrived home following a worthwhile but sleepless weekend outing. As we finished unloading, the telephone rang. Forcing a pleasant tone, I greeted the caller. "You are going to die today," the deep voice startled me.

The combination of physical exhaustion coupled with a flash of spiritual anger activated an unnatural boldness. "Well, good," I replied, "I'm ready to die." I told him that several years ago I had invited Christ in my life and placed my trust and faith in Him. I now had the gift of eternal life and would go to heaven when I died.

Just before I could lead my

caller down the Romans Road, he abruptly ended the conversation. "I don't want to hear about God," he said and slammed down the receiver. The motivation to share my testimony with a crank caller may have been improper, but he never called again.

While my husband served as treasurer for the Community Transient Fund, we received numerous requests for assistance, some quite unusual. One Saturday the phone rang while Roger was mowing the law. A young lady asked to speak with

the "Reverend." I explained the situation, but offered to call him to the phone.

"I didn't know Reverends mowed their grass," her nervous, high-pitched voice twittered.

Broad smiles spread over our faces as I shared this enlightening news with my husband. Perhaps she thought our grass did not grow or that we owned a goat.

When you reach out and touch someone, make it count for Christ. "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).

A Former Pastor's Wife

Eva D. Clenney

Who can find a virtuous woman? Folks in southwest Georgia can. They all adore their Miss Eva whose humble prayers and compassionate heart endear her to all. Born in Camilla and saved at an early age, Miss Eva, or Granny, became church pianist at age 15 at the Bellview Free Will Baptist Church. She began her

55-year teaching career the next year.

Miss Eva married a preacher in 1927. She and pastor Bruce raised five girls and three boys before his homegoing in 1960. All children, including spouses, faithfully serve their churches.

Aside from her dedicated role as pastor's wife and raising a large family, Miss Eva organized and trained Auxiliaries in most of the 13 churches her husband pastored. She has served on all levels of the work, including the state presidency. Wild horses cannot keep her from attending their state retreats, not even the top bunk.

Who can find a virtuous woman? Just ask Miss Eva's 21 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. They will assure you that her price is far above rubies.



Women in Action



Diane Thomas, Grifton, NC, addresses the Shady Grove Mother-Daughter banquet, Whitesburg, TN.



Brenda Boyd, president, presents gifts to guest speaker, Phyllis Bass, at the Mother-Daughter banquet sponsored by the Five Points Auxiliary, Washington, NC.



Richard Clifford and Joe Abed, honorary members of the Philadelphia Auxiliary, Mt. Clemens, MI, help with the garage sale which netted \$138 for missions. Other workers: Lena Abed, Phyllis Wolf, Florence Wing and Elaine Patterson.





Georgia Colbert installs officers of the North Carolina State Convention. Front: Joan King, vice president; Ann Truett, field worker; Loretta Lilly, secretary; Rita Murphy, treasurer.

Back: Diane Thomas, mission study chairman; Maurine Lee, president; Betty Hill, mission action chairman; and Brenda Boyd, assistant secretary.



Pamplico (SC) District Officers. Front: Marion Swanner, assistant secretary/historian; Merle Archer, mission study chairman; Lillie Woolard, president. Back: LaDonna Hawley, mission action chairman; Brenda Boyd, secretary; Barbara Wall, vice-president; Betty Whitley, mission prayer chairman; and Faye Corey, treasurer.



Newly elected officers of the First Auxiliary, Monett, MO. Front: Rose Thomas, vice-president; Paula Dodson, president; Gail McCulley, mission prayer chairman. Back: Dorothea Roller, secretary/treasurer; Lorraine Wallen, mission action chairman; Jean Phillips, assistant; Marion Whittaker, mission study chairman; Janette Smith, program chairman and reporter.

First Auxiliary completed some exciting projects this past year: entertained the Indian Creek Association in a Pre-Thanksgiving Day of Prayer; birthday party for residents of the Camden Health Care Center; bloodmobile; Bear-ry Special Project for the Steve Reeves, Spain; Poinsettias to the elderly and food baskets to the needy; and Mother-Daughter and Father-Son banquets.

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.

Once Upon a Christmas Past

by Valerie Driggers

I'll never forget the Christmas 25 years ago when I was 31 years old.

Charles and I had been separated for some time when a bulldozer overturned on him at work and crushed him from the waist down. After nine months in the hospital and many operations, he came home, although still bed-fast. I took him back because I felt our two little girls needed their daddy.

Our only income was my salary from the bank where I had worked for several years. It barely stretched to cover the soaring medical bills, day care for our children, and the ordinary expenses of daily living.

I had skipped periods before so wasn't too alarmed when I missed one. After the second month, I realized something was wrong. Panic struck—what would happen to us all if I couldn't work?

I made an appointment with an obstetrician and prayed all the way that by some miracle I wouldn't be pregnant. When the doctor confirmed my worst fears, I burst into tears. I already had more than I could handle, I tried to tell him. But he could do nothing.

My body still wracked with sobs as I left the office and climbed into the 1954 station wagon. I'll drive at a high rate of speed into the end of a bridge, I told myself. No



one would ever suspect it was not an accident. Suddenly I thought of my girls. No way could I leave them, not deliberately anyway.

"Oh God, help me," I cried out. "I've got to be strong for my family." New courage surged through my trembling body as I headed the car homeward.

"A miracle is working inside you," an older cousin reminded me. "Only God can make a life." My spirits lifted. Work came easy. Plans and preparations took shape. I planted a garden, sewed school clothes, and hoarded vacation days.

One afternoon as I left work, one of the girls stopped me. "Sit down," she told me, "we're going to have a meeting." So I sat. Soon my fellow workers began flooding me with baby gifts, not

just one item, but three and four of each and everything you could think of! My cousin also helped give another shower.

A week before the due date, I quit work. Charles's mother stayed with him and the girls while I went to the hospital for our son's Christmas delivery. Charleen, the youngest, pouted when she learned she had a brother. "Now I probably won't get to go fishing anymore."

My house looked so good when I came home a couple of days later. Our larder bulged with canned foods, sugar, shortening and other staples that loving friends had donated.

Since the baby came at the end of the year, I took next year's vacation with no loss in pay. Then I learned the bank president needed someone to keep his small set of books, and I got the job. The \$50 salary paid the extra needed for Charles' care.

I've been widowed now for several years. Today Ramona is a nurse; Charleen, a school teacher; and Charlie, a carpenter. I've learned that nothing is impossible if we believe and trust Him. As the song says, "When you come to the place where I'm all you have, you'll find I'm all you need."

When I came to the place where He was all I had, I found He was all I needed. To this day. ♦

Book Highlights

HOW DO YOU SAY "I LOVE YOU?"

by Judson J. Swihart, Intervarsity Press

Reviewed by Debbie Anderson

Recently my husband and I had a conversation that went something like this. I said, "Honey, have you noticed that we express our love for each other by doing what we enjoy receiving?"

"What does that mean?"

"I send you cards from work so that you will get them while watching the children during the day, when really, cards don't mean a thing to you."

He grinned. "And I work hard to keep the house clean all the time because that is what is important to me. At times you would prefer that I sit and talk with you, messy house or not."

We both laughed as we reflected on the different ways we enjoy

being treated. Unfortunately many couples are not laughing because they experience extreme frustration, misunderstanding the "language" their spouse uses to say "I love you."

HOW DO YOU SAY "I LOVE YOU?" looks at eight primary ways that individuals communicate love: meeting material needs, helping each other, spending time together, meeting emotional needs, saying it with words, saying it with touch, being on the same side, and bringing out the best.

Every person has a unique mixture of ways they communicate love. The mystery of every marriage is learning how to say "I love you" in a manner that your partner understands and enjoys. Swihart provides some short checklists and questions that couples can fill out to learn which "language" is most effective with their spouse.

The beauty of this book is its simplicity and Biblical common sense. Any couple who follows its advice will enhance their marriage.

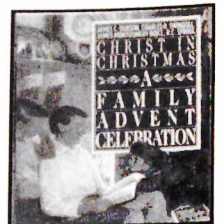
CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

A Family Advent Celebration
by James Dobson, Charles Swindoll, James Boice, and R. C. Sproul

Navpress, 1989, by Ligonier Ministries

A must for every Christian family.

Directions are given for making an advent wreath, also five sections for family worship—the four Sundays preceding Christmas with one for Christmas Eve. Each chapter contains:



A Woman God Has Used

Evelyn Imboden, Chillicothe, OH, was one, yet many for God.

She was a daughter. Born in 1918 to farming parents, she helped care for younger siblings, did farm chores, cooked, baked, cleaned and a myriad of other household duties.

A sister. The oldest of two brothers and three sisters, she took her sisterly responsibilities seriously and maintained them for a lifetime.

A wife. In 1936, she married Clem Imboden and set up housekeeping in her own home.

A mother. She raised 12 children of her own, yet still had time to love any child who needed mothering.

Mother-in-law. With each of her sons' wives she shared her cooking skills, old-time sickroom remedies, quilting, and most of all, herself.

Grandmother. Babies were her favorite and she stepped into this role with ease and poise. She passed along to them her values and commitment to life.

Widow. After 38 years of marriage, she became a widow, a role she assumed with dignity. The 14 years she lived alone were characterized by spiritual maturity.

Friend. Now with time on her hands, she reached out beyond her family to others around her.

First and foremost, she was a Christian, a child of God. Finally, she became that for which she had long dreamed. On the morning of January 21, 1988, she awakened into the heavenly kingdom of our Lord, a resident member of the family of God.

The memory of Evelyn Imboden demonstrates the love of God which carries on through all generations.

—Norma Imboden



Scripture passages
Hymns and carols
Devotionals
Questions to ponder
Family activities
Prayers

A complete advent Scripture reading plan is also included.

Christ in Christmas—a perfect way to make sure the Light of the World shines brightly in your home this holiday season.

YOU CHILD AND THE NEW AGE

by Berit Kjos, Victor Books

Reviewed by Beverly Riggs

This book exposes New Age deception and equips families to stand together in confident, loving resistance.

The author covers two main areas that affect the lives of our children. First, the New Age and the school system. Counterfeit spirituality, values clarification, and New Age globalism have crept into our schools without our being aware of it.

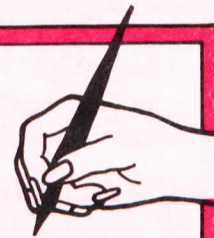
The second area that Mrs. Kjos covers is the New Age and the media—movies, TV, (yes, cartoons too, Mom), toys—a real eye-opener—music and magazines.

All is not gloom and doom in this book, however. The author gives adequate solutions and Scriptural principles to every problem presented.

"We can teach our children to know the Truth so they will discern the counterfeit. He who loves children even more than we do will show us how to prepare them to recognize and resist evil—no matter how inviting its call." ♦



The POET'S CORNER



Jesus is the Reason for Each Season

Jesus is the reason, the purpose of it all

Wintertime, summer, springtime and fall;

He's the God of all creation, the Father of this earth,

Each season should remind us of his death, his life, his birth.

Jesus is the reason, the shepherd of each lamb,

The Alpha and Omega and the great I AM;

Rose of Sharon, seed of David, and the bright and morning star

Always ready, ever willing, to meet us where we are.

As we look across God's land and appreciate each season,

Let's not forget to share the fact that Jesus is the reason.

He's the reason for each season; in my life may others see

That indeed it was this Jesus who made the difference in me.

—Sharon George

A Grand Christmas It Was

Of all my days on earth, I shall remember none so grand

As the day I once spent Christmas with a poor family man.

His eyes seemed rather tired and his hair bespecked with gray

When he picked me up hitch-hiking on the eve of Christmas day.

"If you're in no hurry and it's not family you're travelin' to,

We'd be mighty honored to share Christmas day with you."

I told him I'd be honored for I really had no plan;

In my heart I thanked the Lord and held out to him my hand.

No fancy gift-wrapped packages lay under their small tree,

Or heavily-filled stockings hanging by the chimney.

But as I looked around the house, so humble, yet so clean—

These were the grandest people that I had ever seen.

He introduced me to his wife with a new child on the way,

Behind her peeped a little girl who had nothing much to say.

That night I fumbled through my pack and found a little prize

I felt on Christmas day would bring a sparkle to her eyes.

We stood around the table on that blessed Christmas day,

We bowed our heads and closed our eyes; the man began to pray:

"We thank Thee Lord in heaven, we're so humble for thy grace;"

I blushed to feel a silent tear flowing down my face.

In this fast-paced world about us, Christmas has lost its face,

We push Christ out of Christmas, ignore His saving grace

But of all my days on earth, I shall remember none so grand

As that day I once spent Christmas with that poor family man.

—James Cotton

James Cotton is an inmate serving in the Huntsville, Texas prison. This Christmas reach out to someone less fortunate than yourself and minister to him in the name of Jesus.

Appointed to pray



Missionary Adoption Contract

A 5-Way Plan

by J. Ronald Bluer

The temperature of a church's interest in missions is not measured with dollar signs but with dedicated servants. Has your church produced workers? How many home-grown missionaries have you sent to reproduce a harvest in the thorny fields of God's favored planet earth?

Missions means sending and sending means more than giving. Yes, there is relief to the financial indigestion that is bringing heartburn and internal distress to missions. How do you spell relief? ADOPT. It is time to go beyond "supporting" missionaries. Missionaries need to be "adopted." What is needed is the concern and care afforded a family member.

A simple five-fold adoption contract insures continued missionary commitment. It includes, but goes beyond, the decimal precision of financial contributions. This plan is practical and measurable. It fulfills these five responsibilities.

1

Pray daily. Every day one prays for the members of his adopted family. To insure that this commitment is kept, it is advisable to secure a prayer card for the adopted missionary or missionary family and post it on the bathroom mirror, in the breakfast nook, or in some other conspicuous place where it can serve as a daily reminder for prayer.

What are the prayer requests? That is easy. Even when there are no known specific prayer needs, prayer can be specific. Missionary needs are not unlike a church member's needs. It is often helpful to utilize a simple "P.S. system." As a person prays for his children he simply adds, "P.S. Please help our missionary children in their studies, too. Protect Jimmy and Susan. Help them grow in your grace and knowl-

edge." As one prays for the decisions facing him in the day, he adds, "P.S. Guide Dick in the decisions he must make today in Thailand." Prayer for the adopted family becomes a delightful and rewarding experience.

A conspicuous clock set to the time zone of the adopted family helps to give an idea what they might be doing there. The daily exercise of prayer can take on new meaning with an added awareness of the missionaries' probable schedule of activities. The more personal the plan, the more productive the procedure.

2

Give Weekly. Although missions is not money, missions does require money. The focus, however, is shifted from money to manpower when it is conceived as a part of a family enterprise. The sustenance and care of an adopted missionary family or families becomes the main concern. The offering placed in the collection plate each Sunday is part of a deeper family commitment.

The apostle Paul instructed the Corinthian Christians to set aside a sum in keeping with their income "on the first day of every week." This can become a new service of worship. Proportional, systematic giving is a weekly exercise to insure adequate provision for the "brothers and sisters" in service overseas.

Giving should not be a burden but a delight. God loves the cheerful giver. The Bible does not say, "Give until it hurts." In essence

Missionary Hot Line
615-361-5005

the biblical instruction is, "Give until you are happy!" To be able to provide for a much loved family member is not a pain but a pleasure. It is not forced but a very natural exercise. Missionary support suddenly takes on the fuller meaning it should rightfully claim.

3

Write monthly. There is nothing that encourages missionaries more than a letter. Letter writing need not be a laborious chore. Nor need it involve a great deal of time. Perhaps the best way to accomplish this aspect of the adoption contract is to secure a good supply of aerogrammes from the post office. These letter-forms require neither an envelope nor a stamp. They speed by air mail to any destination in the world at the bargain rate of a mere thirty-nine cents.

A quick note relating some family or church news is ideal. The most important sentence of every letter, however, is "We are praying for you every day." There is no greater encouragement to a close relative in far away places than to know of the systematic support in prayer.

4

Send a "care package" quarterly. A small package or manila envelope filled with simple items, like some recent magazine, the latest best-selling paperback book, a "match-box" car, a miniature stuffed animal, or some gum and candy sent three or four times a year will bring untold joy to the adopted relatives. Especially helpful to them are items not attainable in their country of service. For example, dry yeast is not readily available in many countries of the world. Quality cloth diapers are either not sold or are extremely expensive in some nations.

The adopted missionary family,

Missionary Prayer Calendar

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

November

2—Laura McFall (Brazil)
14—Marcia Ellison (Uruguay)
14—Patsy Vanhook (France)
**20—Gwyn Pugh (TN)
**21—John Hibbard (CA)
*22—Jim Nason (NH)
27—Bessie Richards (C'I)
28—Bobby Poole (Brazil)
28—Mark Daniel (C'I)
30—Dwain Crosby (Spain)

December

** 1—Rose Mertz (MO)
** 2—J.L. Gore (MS)
** 2—Sandra Atwood (DE)
* 6—Vergel Maness (NJ)
* 8—Barbara Dail (VI)
* 8—Russell Johnson (WY)

9—Debbie Griffin (Japan)
*11—Fred Jones (Mexico)
**12—Richard Atwood (DE)
14—Lonnie Sparks (Spain)
*14—Rosa Lee Thomas (CO)
18—Tom Hughes (Brazil)
19—Molly Barker (Uruguay)
**20—Rebecca Pugh (TN)
**21—Tammy Miller (RI)
*22—Joseph Postlewaite (VI)
22—Tom McCullough (France)
24—Louis Coscia (Brazil)
**24—Mary Nell Whitehead (FL)
**26—Brenda Williams (GA)
*27—Patsy Gwartney (AZ)
27—Dave Franks, Jr. (Uruguay)
30—Arilla Wode (C'I)
**31—Carol Keen (SC)

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 workers or deputation missionary.

of course, knows both the items they wish that they could get and any special mailing instructions needed to avoid excessive duty charges or other customs restrictions. In most cases, a small packaged identified with a green sticker available at any U.S. Post Office will be received with no duty charged.

5

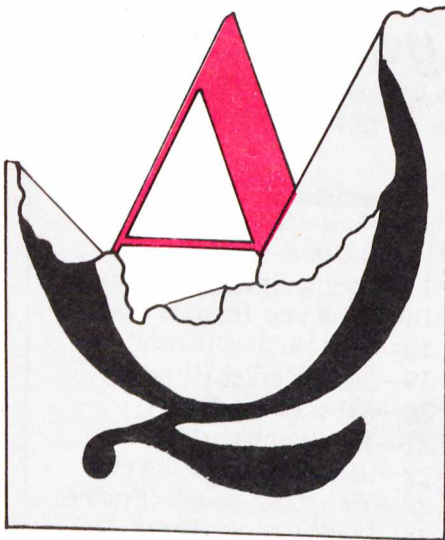
Remember birthdays and anniversaries annually. Nothing carries a more personal touch than a birthday or anniversary greeting. It is just one more way of demonstrating close loving concern for the adopted missionary family.

It is advisable either to sign the card lightly in pencil or to enclose a note and leave the card unsigned. Why? Birthday greeting cards in English are another item

that cannot normally be purchased overseas. If the card is not signed it may be recycled! The one who sends the card may very well be blessed with the same card on his birthday the following year!

The financial indigestion of missions has a cure. The focus need only move from money to manpower. The shift from supporting missionaries to adopting missionaries can provide the personal touch that will not only relieve the financial pain but provide full health to the most important body in the world—the Church of Jesus Christ. The church around the world can become the multiplying force God desires it to be—a family of redeemed people committed to work together to reach alienated people with the message of life. This is real missions!

Adapted from an article "The Five Way Plan" published in Evangelical Missions Quarterly, spring quarter, 1981. Used by permission. Reprints are available for \$82 a hundred.



A Missionary Quiz

The following missionaries were featured in some way in the 1990 CO-LABORERS. How many can you identify?

_____ 1. This veteran missionary to Japan wrote about seed planting there.

_____ 2. This missionary doctor brought the convention message in Phoenix.

_____ 3. She brought morning devotions at the convention in Phoenix.

_____ 4. From Brazil, she wrote a poem on the Auxiliary.

_____ 5. She was one of the five missionaries on the prayer cube prayer reminder.

_____ 6. This Home Missionary from South Dakota was pictured with a money tree.

_____ 7. She wrote "Have I No Rights," first place winner in the articles category of the creative arts contest.

_____ 8. This missionary to France introduced the 1990 theme with the January program.

- a. Pat Franks
- b. Tim Coats
- c. Olena McLain
- d. Bessie Richards
- e. Kenneth Eagleton
- f. Lynette Morgan
- g. Tom McCullough
- h. Lynn Midgett

Answers to the Missionary Quiz.

1. c; 2. e; 3. d; 4. a; 5. h; 6. b; 7. f; 8. g.



Japanese Exchange Student Saved

Have you all heard that Yuki, my Japanese exchange student was saved at our state meeting last week? Talk about rejoicing! After she heard Donnie McDonald speak, she stepped out and knelt in prayer. I think almost everyone present felt the spirit and sensed what missions is all about. It was wonderful!

*Reva Baker
Thayer, MO*

Missionary Secret Sis

Instead of drawing names for secret sisters at Calvary Fellowship, we plan to draw a missionary's name and remember them with a card or small gift on their special days...Thanks for your help with the skits for our fund raiser. The Lord really blessed us and we raised \$1250 for our missionaries.

*Sheila Johnson.
Ballwin, MO*

Winning Poem

What a surprise to learn that my poem had won a prize. "My Mission" was one of the easiest poems I've ever written. It came to me almost as fast as I could write, with very little concentration or rearranging.

*Fannie Ruth Henderson
Greeneville, TN*

Retrospection from a 91 year-old

Around noon each day the Postman brings the mail. Today he brought CO-LABORER. As I read the pages one by one, my heart grew with praise for such an attractive, inspiring, informative magazine for the spiritual development of Free Will Baptist women.

Retrospection took over and my mind was in a living room where three women met to plan and ar-

range for a yearly program book for Auxiliary members. With not a penny of money, but with the determination of Mrs. Fannie Polston, the faith of Mrs. Mary Welch and the willingness of Mrs. Agnes Frazier, a booklet of 12 monthly programs became available.

Out of that effort, in time, came a magazine named CO-LABORER. So today as I read this new issue, I thought of a little poem that Mrs. Welch mailed to me when the first program book came out: "Who does God's work, gets God's pay. For God in wisdom has a way, come what may. Who does God's work will get God's pay."

Thank you for your work with CO-LABORER. This is just what these three women envisioned. So for Mrs. Polston, Mrs. Welch and myself, I want to say the biggest most sincere thank you that I know how to say. You are doing a marvelous job producing a magazine that can easily compete with any magazine of similar purpose.

*Agnes Frazier
Nashville, TN*

Babies, Babies and more Babies

When we began the church in Uberlandia, the Lord blessed us with a church full of teenagers, energetic and ready to learn and work. Thirteen years and 16 weddings later, these grown-up teens have produced 17 children under three years of age, and four more on the way.

Tom and Nancy Hughes, Brazil

Arrested Tuberculosis

I am continuing to recuperate from a resistant strain of tuberculosis. It is now arrested, but I have other medical problems. The doctor says I cannot return to Côte d'Ivoire to live. The severity of the climate has taken its toll...I have asked to be reassigned to a country in a more temperate climate, although I will remain a part of the African missionary team until I am released by my doctor.

Arilla Wode, Côte d'Ivoire

WORDS FOR WOMEN

Mary Wisehart



Joy! Joy is naturally a part of this season in the year, right?

One year a friend in Nashville said to me, "Christmas is the loneliest, saddest time of the year." He had lost his family. His friends were busy with theirs or gone away for the holidays.

The world is full of a lot of sad things. Sometimes it seems we cannot possibly be happy or have joy when we think of all the suffering, the pain and trouble surrounding us.

Driving home from the office one day, I saw a woman whose face reflected a hard, troubled life. She was hitchhiking on the interstate. In the cars and trucks around me, people seemed to be sad. I thought, "If I were God, I wouldn't let people be so sad." "What would you do about it?" a voice seemed to ask. "I'd send someone to help them, someone who would be one of them, someone who could give them joy." "That's what I did," the Father reminded me.

God sent someone to us, someone who was one of us. Yet He was sinless and could die for us and lift us up to God. In his last days on earth, He spoke to His disciples a lot about joy.

"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." (John 15:11)

Amy Carmichael includes a quotation in one of her books, "Joy is not gush; joy is not jolliness; joy is perfect acquiescence in the will of God."

Here at WNAC the staff wishes you joy: joy in knowing God's gift of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ, joy in sharing that gift with others.

This season take joy for yourself and share it with the sad and lonely.

Balanced Meals

This morning I sat down at the kitchen table with a cup of coffee and began to devour CO-LABORER.

As usual, I read the Editorial, then "Quiet Time Set Free" on the next page. Already I'm being fed, wonderful spiritual food. As I began the paragraph "Hang up your hat," and read to "You are accepted in the beloved," the tears began to flow.

Not everyone enjoys the same foods and what touches me spiritually may not touch someone else. But I do believe CO-LABORER serves up good balanced meals. Keep up the good work.

*Mable Riley
Sedalia, MO*

"Let Them Know"

As Shirley Brogan read the program, "Let Them Know," she felt led to make this program into a slide presentation for the entire church for Easter. Men and women of our congregation donned costumes and went to a state park. They made pictures for slides and enjoyed every minute.

Our church was full and everyone was blessed by this program. The slides were beautiful and so effective. Thank you for such impressive programs.

*Illene Barr
Sophia, WV*



**PRE-THANKSGIVING
WEEK OF PRAYER
NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS
NOVEMBER 12-16, 1990**

PLAN! To have a successful Thanksgiving Week of Prayer, you must plan early. Order all necessary free Home Missions materials. Contact the National Home Missions Department to schedule missionary speakers. Publicize the dates and activities of the Thanksgiving Week of Prayer on your church calendar so you can involve the entire church in the observance.

PROMOTE! Order free prayer booklets and other materials. (See sample prayer leaflet in this issue of CO-LABORER.) These prayer booklets are available in quantities upon request from the National Home Missions Department. Other free materials available to help you sponsor an effective Week of Prayer are: Missionary Maps, Prayer Cards, Directories, Bulletin Inserts, Prayer Booklets, Home Missions Study Courses, Offering Envelopes, and Quarter Saver Folders. Order from National Home Missions, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

PRAY AND GIVE! Set a goal for your special offering to National Home Missions. Your Auxiliary may designate your offering for National Home Missions General Fund or for particular Home Missionaries. Contact the National Home Missions Department for a list of deficit missionary accounts. Send offerings through the WNAC channels designated for "National Home Missions."

CO-LABORER

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