

Co Laborer

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

November/December, 1991



CO-LABORER

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

November/December 1991

Volume 31 Number 6

UNTIL
HE COMES

Titus 2:13-15

Editorial

O n a recent vacation to Pennsylvania and Ohio, we explored the Amish-Mennonite communities. Mennonites are

modernized Amish. When an Amish leaves the farming profession, he automatically becomes a Mennonite.

Not content with the usual tours and visits—few slipped by unheeded—we followed horse trails to uncharted farms, stopped buggies to converse, and once interrupted a young man painting an Amish one-room school house.

Something about the Amish way of life captured our admiration. We share common roots—the Anabaptists of the European Reformation—but there the similarity ends. Noted for their peace and nonresistance, accountable church membership, mutual helping, separation of church and state, adult baptism, and missionary outreach, they reflect a culture we once knew and have lost. There's something to be said for their simple faith, moral values and uncluttered lifestyle.

Would I trade what I have now for that way of life? In a minute!—given the same situation.

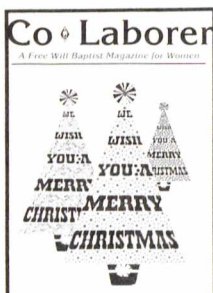
"We admire your faith in God and trying to live by the principles set forth in His Word," my husband told this bearded patriarch sitting so tall and straight in his horse drawn buggy.

"Where're you staying?" asked the matriarch when she learned we were passing through. Amish are hospitable, warm and friendly neighbors. Was this to be an invitation?

No, we had to rush on. Three hundred more miles to cover before nightfall. But as we sped along in our automobile and they loped off in their buggy, something about their way of life beckoned.

But I'd probably become a Mennonite.

—Lorene Miley



In This Issue

Threads of Thanksgiving and Christmas weave their way through the magazine and form a cross-stitch of spiritual inspiration. May God make each program and article a rich blessing to you and prepare you for His coming.

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by Eleanor Grindstaff

Children around us are lost and dying. If we don't reach them, no one else will. WNAC'S Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer Program



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The characters of Christmas reveal how they responded to the coming of the Christ Child.



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Alone With The Christ Child

by Marie Stewart

"But you can't spend Christmas alone," my friend urged. "Come and join me at my brother's."

I knew she meant well, but an elusive-something kept me from accepting her invitation. Still, I felt it almost impossible to get into the Christmas spirit. In vain, I tried to find something to warm my cold heart.

Christmas is fast approaching, I told my Lord. You are so real and precious. Help me capture the joy of Your birth.

It's like a jigsaw puzzle, I thought. I need to see how the pieces all fit together.

Thinking of puzzles—

That's something I can do! I decided to put together a puzzle on Christmas! I remembered hearing that our Christian radio station, beginning at noon on December 24, would air 36 hours of family Christmas listening. My heart leaped in anticipation! I would spend Christmas with my puzzle and my radio.

On Christmas Eve I set up the folding table and dumped out the puzzle pieces. Even my anemic little Christmas tree perked up as Christmas music began to fill my apartment.

"Joy to the World! The Lord is come..."

Joy doesn't come from external things, I thought. The big red barn began to take shape on the table. Though relaxed and at peace, I still felt no kinship with Christmas.

"There's room in my heart, Lord Jesus..."

Did I have room in my life for Him this Christmas? Had I become so busy I could not enjoy my Savior's birthday?

"It Came Upon a Midnight

Clear..."

The night became so special that had I looked out to see a guiding star in the sky I would not have been surprised. The night began to take on new meaning.

Speak, Lord, I'm listening.

Aha! That's where that piece of blue fits! The wagon is taking shape. This will be a beautiful picture with the snow and the icicles. But many pieces to go...

"I know that my Redeemer liveth..."

Not for a long time had I listened all the way through Handel's "Messiah." At 2 a.m. I headed for bed. I fell asleep as the last strains of the "Hallelujah Chorus" punctuated the air waves. Two-o'clock. My search had ended. Merry Christmas!

I awoke on Christmas Day with a song in my heart. A deep joy and peace flooded my being as I once again picked up the puzzle pieces.

Many hours later the picture on the table was complete. The pieces of my Christmas also finally fell into place. As my favorite little character boomed, "pa rum pa pum pum," I knelt before the Babe and gave Him all I had. I'm certain the heavenly Father gave His only Son such recognition on that first silent night.

"Sweet Little Jesus Boy..."

By this time, He and I were totally in tune with the day as we rejoiced together. The Son of God Immanuel had come down to dwell with me.

On a Christmas I shall never forget, I spent the birthday of all birthdays alone with the Christ Child.



Marie Stewart is a freelance writer in Glendale, Arizona.

A Ripe Harvest

by Eleanor Grindstaff

Aim: To show the need of loving and reaching the children.

Scripture: Mark 10:14

Hymns: "My Task", "Open the Door for the Children," or "People Need the Lord."

Satan has scored a victory these past decades. We as a church allowed it to happen, and yet we have the cure. What are we going to do about it?

Children are those who first strike our vision as we look up. They crowd out the far distant fields. Let's bring the children to Jesus. Let them know He loves them.

UNNATURAL PARENTS

(Rom. 1:28-31)

Introduction

Janet smiled as I passed her in the hall. Love oozed from her barely visible blue eyes, swollen from the black and blue bruises on her face. I returned her smile then turned and watched as she limped into the computer room.

I had already heard. Her drunken mother had beaten her—again. Janet was a former student, a straight-A student, my Girl Friday. How could this have happened?

We are told that at least one student in every classroom is sexually abused. Physical abuse is evident. Verbal abuse and other forms of neglect are not as visible, yet we deal with their deadly results every day.

Many of these children are unchurched, while others, sad to say, fill the pews in our churches. Why cry over the bloated tummies in the Sudan and close our eyes, ears and hearts to the bloated spirits around us? All we can do for them is pray and give, but we can do far more for the spiritually starved children within our reach.

We live in what I call a Romans Chapter-One society. This passage describes those who have not retained God in their knowledge. God calls them reprobrates.

One of the characteristics of a Romans Chapter-One society is "without natural affections." What could be more unnatural or unmotherly than a mother who beats and abuses her own child? What could hurt the child more than to know his mother mistreats him and probably doesn't even love him?

The results of unnatural parenthood are all around us. Wounded children are the norm, not the exception. These unwanted by-products of a Romans Chapter-One lifestyle pose a hindrance to their indulgence in further Romans Chapter-One desires.

Christian women, these unnatural parents are a mission field in our midst. Hear their cry for help. But an even greater call comes from these rejected children. Jesus says in Matthew 4:35: "...lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

THE WALKING WOUNDED

(Romans 5:6-8)

We've heard the silent scream of the aborted baby, but another silent scream impels us to listen—the cry of the walking wounded. These children cry for help. They cry for love. Some cry without knowing why they are crying. They miss something they have never known, yet something within our power to give—love, God's love and ours.

Too many children are robbed of their innocence. Many are so deeply wounded that healing is impossible apart from God's love. They encase their hurts in a hard shell and crawl into it. Problem children are often wounded children crying out for a mother's love.

Babies in the animal kingdom are self-sufficient in a short time. Not so with human babies. God didn't create them to be pushed out of the nest in a few months. They need years of love and protection in order to grow and develop into full-grown, responsible adults.

The unnatural mother pushes her baby out much too soon. Sometimes she kills him. Yes, some mothers murder their babies, yet they live.

DEAD, YET-LIVING BABIES (Matt 5:21-23)

Do you have dead or wounded children in your community, or coming to your church? Does your bus ministry bring them in? If you have children in your church, some are probably wounded.

God created us body, soul and spirit. All three parts need nourishment in order to grow and develop into the being God intended.

1 John 3:15 equates hating our brother with murder. Yet we kill our children every day by abuse. The soul houses the mind, will and emotions. A constant put-down—being told he is stupid, worthless or dumb—becomes a knife in destroying the child. If he is not taught the correct God-image, he cannot develop a correct self-image.

The wounded child seeks a replacement for his deprived feelings. He may turn to drugs, sex, or even to the occult. He needs a mother to assure him he is beautiful, important, and made in God's image. God made him and "God doesn't make junk." He's so important that He sent His son, Jesus, to die for him.

The child's spirit is exposed when his emotions are destroyed. The spirit is the part of him that worships and communes with God. A child with a destroyed spirit is pathetic. He sees no value in himself, so he gives up. He has no reason to try.

These wounded, dying children fill our reform schools, penal institutions and mental hospitals. Yet even in these last stages of dying, he is redeemable. He is crying for a surrogate mother.

SPIRITUAL SURROGATE MOTHERS (1 Tim. 6:10)

Look at this scripture. Notice all verbs are in the past tense. The godly woman is commended for deeds done in the past. She has adopted a

lifestyle of serving. She may be compared with the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31.

We cannot understand unnatural mothers. In fact, we condemn them. But are we not "unnatural spiritual mothers?" Have we aborted spiritual babies by refusing to give them life? Have we turned deaf ears to the silent scream of the aborted, yet-alive, children? Do we draw back from these wounded, dying, and maybe-dead children? Do we cry at the stories told by our missionaries and then ignore the lost around us? We shake our heads in disbelief at the plight of our children, but are we willing to become a surrogate mother to them?

Unnatural spiritual mothers are those who are so concerned with their own affairs they have no time for these wounded children. Will

Program Helps

Make five collage posters which contrast the good and the bad. Cut pictures from magazines or newspapers. Christian magazines especially are a good source for these pictures.

1. Unnatural Mothers. Contrast "night life" pictures with those of a happy, wholesome family life.

2. Wounded Children. Contrast happy children with those of children in trouble. Perhaps a crime scene.

3. Aborted Babies. Show the aborted baby as an unhappy, neglected child.

4. Surrogate Mothers. On one side show children in utter despair. On the other, a picture of a mother, preferably one reaching out with empty arms.

For a Home Missions emphasis, make two or three copies of the child silhouette on page 19 and paste them on a large outline map of the United States. If you use a real map of the United States, cut the children from black construction paper. Print the words, RIPE TO HARVEST, on top.

they be charged with spiritual neglect or abuse one day?

The price of surrogate motherhood is often only a smile, touch, look of love, or word of encouragement. For some, involvement means more. It may mean visiting an unpleasant home, leaving early to pick up a child, changing your plans to adapt to another's schedule, or offering a shoulder to cry on. It may mean bringing him home to eat at your table or sleep in your bed.

When you take him to church, take him to his class. Buy him a Bible. Be generous with things money cannot buy—enthusiasm, praise and encouragement. Remember he is a wounded child. He may not know how to act or react. He may require discipline. But even discipline can be a way to demonstrate God's love.

Conclusion

Perhaps God has chosen you as a "One Hundred Fold Mother" to some great servant of God. You may be the Priscilla in some Paul's life. One day these servants will look back and thank God for their surrogate mothers.

An old proverb says, "It is better to put a fence around a cliff than an ambulance at the bottom." Dear Christian women, we must be both a fence and an ambulance. Some children are pushed to the cliff's edge. Will you be the surrogate mother who steps over the edge and catches that child in the net of God's love? Can you love him back to a healthy life?

Can you be at the bottom to catch those who are pushed over? Can you adopt a spiritual child? Let some child adopt a spiritual surrogate mother today. It isn't an easy task, but it's worth it.



Eleanor Grindstaff (Mrs. Robert), a teacher by profession, has taught Sunday school for 38 years at the First FWB Church, Erwin, Tennessee. She has four grown children and six grandchildren. She has authored one book, FOREVER AND EVER ... AMEN, with others waiting publication.

Thanksgiving

November Program

Trivia

Introduction

Thanksgiving Day is one of our most cherished traditions. It summons every American to pause in the midst of a busy schedule, however necessary and valuable, to give simple and humble thanks to God. In order to appreciate this day, let's go back to its beginning. How much do you remember from history?

Trivia question #1

On December 4, 39 English settlers

Who spoke the first words of thanks in America?

arrived at the Berkley Plantation near Charles City, Virginia. The group's charter required that the day of arrival be observed yearly as a day of Thanksgiving to God.

The first words of thanks in America may have been spoken when the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock. When all were safely on shore, Elder Brewster gathered them together and intoned: "In the name of God, Amen! For the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith, we have found us a new home where we may worship God in our own way."

After other prayers and singing they arose from their knees to face a new world.

In what year was the first Thanksgiving celebrated? Where? By whom?

After a winter of terrible suffering from cold, hunger and sickness, the Pilgrims were at last rewarded with an abundant harvest. During the summer they had been able to make their homes warm and secure for the winter. They also stored up enough food until the next harvest. Many had died during the cruel winter, but at the time of the celebration not one person was sick in the colony.

William Bradford, first governor of Massachusetts, proclaimed July 30, 1623, as a day on which the Pilgrims at Plymouth should thank God for a bountiful harvest and for their victory over great hazards in establishing new homes in the wilderness.

Of what did the first Thanksgiving feast consist?

On the day of the feast the women cooked wild turkey, fish, corn cakes, succotash and other side

dishes. The children helped by turning geese and ducks on spits in front of the fire. After a fervent prayer of thanksgiving by Elder Brewster, the colonists ate the first Thanksgiving feast in America. Actually the celebration lasted from Tuesday until Saturday.

What part did Indians play in that first Thanksgiving?

On the second day of the feast, Massasoit, a friendly chief of the Iroquois, and his tribe were invited to the celebration. They brought venison, cranberries and oysters, which they considered a great delicacy.

This is probably the origin of the tradition that guests be invited at every Thanksgiving table.

Which president issued the proclamation for the first national day of Thanksgiving? When?

At the request of Congress, president George Washington named

Thursday, November 26, 1789 as a day "to acknowledge with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God..."

However, for many years after there was no regular Thanksgiving Day.

When was the next day of Thanksgiving observed?

President Grover Cleveland called for "prayers and songs of praise" that would render to God the appreciation of the American people—for His mercy and for the abundant harvests and rich rewards He had bestowed upon the nation through the labor of its farmers, shopkeepers and tradesmen.

This proclamation, as well as the first one, included a recognition of our shortcomings, our transgressions and our dependence upon Almighty God.

What determined woman was instrumental in making Thanksgiving a national holiday? Under what president?

In 1827, Sarah Hale edited the *Ladies Magazine* in Boston. She began her campaign by writing an editorial urging a unified Thanksgiving Day, as was July 4th.

For the next nine years, as editor of the *Godey's Lady's Book*, she wrote state and territory governors urging this day be declared a national holiday. She wrote thousands of letters to senators, congressmen and other influential people.

By 1852, she had won 29 states; however, each observed a different time. Presidents Filmore, Pierce and Buchanan all turned a deaf ear to her request for unification.

During the Civil War, Mrs. Hale begged President Abraham Lincoln for a "Thanksgiving Day of Peace." Two years later, he proclaimed Thursday, November 26, 1863, as a national "day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father." From that time on, presidents formally named this last Thursday in November as a national holiday.

When was Thanksgiving declared a legal holiday that needed no proclamation? By whom?

In 1941, under president Roosevelt, Congress established the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

What is the significance of five grains of corn?

An old Thanksgiving Day custom is still observed by many families around Plymouth, Massachusetts. At breakfast, five grains of corn are placed beside each plate. They symbolize the pitiful ration to which each of the original Pilgrims was eventually reduced in that first bitter winter before the relief ship arrived from England and saved them from starvation.

Some families still place from one to five grains of corn on each plate (depending on number of guests). Before partaking of a sumptuous Thanksgiving dinner, they share one blessing for each grain of corn.

Quote one verse of Thanksgiving.

Eph. 5:28
2 Cor. 2:14; 9:15
Ps. 95:2; 106:1; 107:1

Quote a psalm of Thanksgiving.

Psalm 100
Psalm 103:1-5, 22

Give a hymn title of Thanksgiving? Can you sing it?

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"
"Now Thank We All Our God"
"Count Your Blessings"
"He's Been So Good To Me"

Count your blessings this Thanksgiving season. Name one.

Conclusion

We need to remind ourselves constantly that millions of people in the world never have a complete meal from the time they are born until they die; yet we live in a land of plenty. In a world where millions have lost their freedom, we are still free to speak our minds, choose our life's work, worship at the church of our choice, own property, and vote officials in and out of office.

These blessings are the gift of a God whose greatest gift was His only Son who came to bring eternal life. Let us join the Psalmist:

*O give thanks unto the Lord;
call upon his name:
make known his deeds among
the people.*

*Sing unto him,
sing psalms unto him;
talk ye of all his wondrous
works.*

*Glory ye in his holy name:
let the heart of them rejoice
that seek the Lord.*

(See Program Helps on page 15)

Wise Men Still Seek Him

Preparation

Place a manger and a cross on stage. Costume Bible characters. Participants stand on dark stage. Shine spotlight on manger and each person as she speaks. If spots are not available, have participants stand with backs to audience, heads bowed. When speaking, turn to audience and step forward. When finished, step back and assume former position.

NARRATOR #1: For hundreds of years God sent birth announcements through His prophets. The time, place and circumstances of Christ's birth were not some vague promise.

For years Israel waited. Each generation wondered, "Will He come in our time?" They lived in hope and expectation. Though He failed to come, they believed He would.

That hope has been fulfilled for you and me. Now we look for His second coming. Though He may not return in our lifetime, we know He will come as promised.

NARRATOR #2: His first coming began with a lowly birth. The Jews expected their king to come in majesty and splendor. Instead He came humbly, almost unnoticed.

His second coming will not go unnoticed. He will come with power and great glory. All the world will know it. Will the world be ready? Will you? As Christ's first coming called for response, so does His second.

NARRATOR #3: How did those witnessing the Bethlehem birth respond? What did they do with God's son? What have you done

with Him? How will your choice effect your eternal destiny?

MARY (Luke 1:26-38): I'm a teenage virgin engaged to Joseph, a carpenter. We're from Nazareth, a city despised by most Jews because of its contact with Gentiles. We're very poor. Why would God choose me to mother the Messiah? Gabriel's greeting both surprised and perplexed me. What did he mean when he said I was highly favored and the Lord was with me?

I'm neither divine or wealthy. I claim no uniqueness, except for my response to His message. Of course, questions raced through my mind. I believed the promise that I would bear the Messiah, but how could a virgin birth a child?

Gabriel explained the miracle. I would be pregnant, but Joseph wouldn't be the father.

Would people accuse me of being unfaithful to Joseph? Perhaps. I considered the consequences and concluded I must risk it. I believed God and surrendered myself as a willing servant. I desired to magnify my Lord. I submitted to His will.

JOSEPH (Matt. 1:19-25): My name is Joseph. I face a sticky situation. Mary is pregnant. An engaged pregnant woman is considered an adulteress sentenced to death by stoning.

I love Mary. I can't put her on public display. I could divorce her privately, but what a trial that would be—for both of us. Has Mary been unfaithful? I do not know.

As I wondered what to do, the angel of the Lord spoke to me in a dream. I must proceed with my marriage, he said. Mary had conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost.

I believed God and obeyed His command.

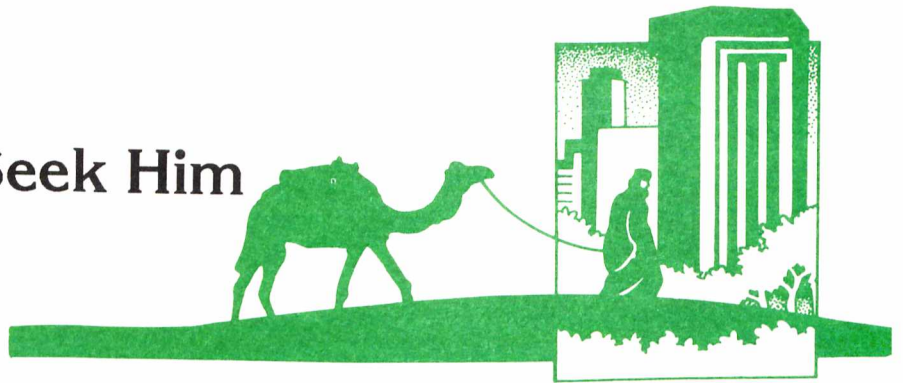
THE SHEPHERDS (Luke 2:8-17): The first announcement of the Messiah's birth came to us, lowly shepherds, unlearned men condemned to poverty and hard work. Why us? Why not the religious leaders?

Shepherds are often despised outcasts. They question our honesty and integrity and we're not even allowed to testify in a court of law. Yet God chose to honor us with His Son's birth announcement. His message includes the poorest, the simplest, the less gifted and accomplished.

By faith we received God's message and responded with immediate obedience. We rushed to Bethlehem and found the Babe, as the angel instructed. We shared the good news with all we met.

God used humble shepherds as the first human witnesses of the Messiah's birth. We accepted Him as our Messiah.

THE WISE MEN (Matt. 2:1-12): We wise men come from a line of philosophers, priests, and astronomers living in Persia and Arabia. We claim great wealth and intelligence. Since we are Gentiles, we received no direct message from heaven, only a sign in the



sky. We regarded the appearance of a new star as an omen of some remarkable event.

We knew the Jewish people hoped for a coming Messiah. This expectation spread to other countries. Their prophets even pinpointed Judea as His place of birth. Thus, guided by the star, we came to Jerusalem to pay homage and honor this renowned person.

We rejoiced when at last we found Him. We presented to Him tokens of our respect, the most valuable gifts our countries produced.

HEROD (*Matt. 2:1-16*): I, Herod, sat on my throne the day the wise men came to Jerusalem inquiring about the whereabouts of the "king of the Jews." Fear and alarm filled my being. King of the Jews? The star had led them, they said. Both the visit of the wise men and the guiding star confirmed the birth of the Messiah.

The child must be destroyed! I and I alone would bear the title "King of the Jews." Since I had obtained my kingdom in the first place through cruelty and craftiness, I would keep it the same way! I demanded the chief priests and scribes to tell me where this Christ would be born. I calculated the time from the precise moment the star appeared. I sent my visitors to Bethlehem with instructions to report back to me. I, too, would pay homage I told them.

My plan failed. The wise men failed to return. I poured out my vengeance by ordering all male children aged two years and younger to be slaughtered.

I opposed the Christ child.

CHIEF PRIESTS AND SCRIBES (*Matt. 2:1-12*): I am one of the 72 members of the chief priests and scribes. Our council is charged with the civil and religious affairs of our people, the Jews. We study and explain the Old Testament and know it well. So when Herod demanded to know when and where the Messiah would be born, we quoted the prophecy from Micah 5:2.

We knew of His birth, yet we didn't bother to look for Him. We

were only five miles from the Messiah we expected, yet we did not go to worship Him. We ignored Him.

INHABITANT OF JERUSALEM (*Matt. 2:1-12*): I watched the wise men as they entered my city of Jerusalem. They expected to find gaiety, excitement, celebration and jubilation. They found none of these. We had heard nothing.

When we heard the news, we were troubled. "King of the Jews"—What did this mean? It sounded like a revolution to me. What would Rome do when they learned? And what of Herod's rage? He could be a terror at times.

In light of the circumstances, we in Jerusalem chose to reject the message. Later this rejection caused Jesus to weep. And in the end, we screamed, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Sadly, all Jerusalem rejected Him.

Conclusion (*Three narrators stand near cross*):

NARRATOR 1: What about you?

NARRATOR 2: What have you done with the Savior of the world?

NARRATOR 3: Have you sought him,

#1: submitted to Him,

#2: obeyed Him,

#3: and accepted Him?

#1: Or have you chosen to oppose him,

#2: reject Him,

#3: ignore Him?

#4: Your eternal destiny hangs on your response.

#2: As surely as He came the first time,

#3: He will come again.

#1: God's Word warns,

#2: be ready:

#3: "for at such an hour as you think not

#1: the Son of man will come."

#2: Nobody knows when.

#3: As a thief in the night He will come.

#1: When the world is feeling secure,

#2: God's judgment will fall.

#3: The heavens will be dissolved.

#1: The elements will dissolve.

#2: The earth and all its works burn up.

#3: All man's great works will be destroyed.

#1: Are you ready?

#2: Is what you're living for destined to go up in smoke?

#3: To vanish forever?

#1: Or are you living for God

#2: so your works will live forever?

#3: The prospect of Christ's return

#1: should make a difference in your life.

#2: Are you watching eagerly,

#3: expectantly

#1: for His return?

#2: Constantly ready?

#3: Is your hope fixed

#1: only on the Lord Jesus Christ?

#2: Not on anything in this world?

#3: Is your life characterized

#1: by holiness?

#2: Godliness?

#3: A life devoted to pleasing God?

#1: A pure life?

#2: What about your service?

#3: Does it please Him?

#1: Will you be afraid,

#2: ashamed,

#3: when you stand before the judgment seat of Christ?

#1: When you give an account

#2: and your works are judged and rewarded?

#3: Where the true character

#1: and motive of your works are exposed?

#2: Whether they have been good or bad?

#3: Whether you have been faithful

#1: or unfaithful?

#2: Where your faithfulness

#3: will be recognized and rewarded?

#1: Where you will cast your rewards

#2: at His feet

#3: in an act of worship and praise?

#1: Are you maintaining an eager expectancy

#2: that leads to holy living

#3: and faithful service?

#1: Are you keeping the promise of the second coming in your heart?

#2: Wise men still seek Him,

#3: live for Him,

#1: serve Him

#2: look for Him.

#3: What have you done with Him?



COMMUNICATOR

by Mary Ruth Wisehart

Woman's National Auxiliary Convention Charleston, West Virginia July 22-23, 1991



Showers of Blessings in Charleston

Attendees at WNAC in Charleston experienced special blessings from the Lord.

The registration committee reported a total of 1076, a higher number than WNAC has registered for the last six years. West Virginia Free Will Baptists worked and prayed and were excited about the convention.

The work and prayers resulted in a convention that Free Will Baptists will remember for a long time.

Convention Business

The delegates approved a budget of \$184,740 with the provision that approximately \$20,000 of this amount come from a 5% information and service fee on all monies handled by the WNAC office.

The body adopted resolutions supporting the Jubilee Year for Free Will Baptist Bible College and the formation of a women's international fellowship, and voting \$3,000 from the Foreign Student Scholarship Fund to students at the Ivory Coast Institute for its next session.

New Executive Committee

Delegates elected the following officers to serve for two years: president, Mary Neal, Indiana; vice president, Delois Loveless, Ohio; secretary, Joann Wood, Oklahoma; members at large, Gwen Hendrix, South Carolina; Pam Wood, California; and Everyl Getz, Texas.

Their first meeting is December 4, following the Leadership Conference in Nashville.

Seminars Challenge

Seminars on crisis pregnancies, substance abuse, and the homeless challenged women to become active in ministry in their own communities.

Debbie Hansen jarred the women with facts from the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Morehead City, NC. "Our clients range in age from 11 years to over 40," she said.

Stacy Rakes, a registered nurse from Huntington, WV, said, "Our country is being destroyed by drugs and alcohol. Pray that God will help us turn America around."

Joy Worrell, formerly with the Nashville Union Mission, asked the women to open their eyes to the homeless problems in their towns. "I think you'll be surprised what you find."

Each speaker gave the women practical suggestions to help them become in-

volved in reaching people trapped by one of these problems.

State Leaders Meet

The Study Committee heard from state leaders suggestions for changes, expansions or additions to the Woman's Auxiliary.

One of the concerns expressed was involving younger women in the work.

The Study Committee requested permission to continue their work for two more years. Committee members invite women to send suggestions and ideas to them or to the WNAC office.

State leaders also discussed the five percent service charge suggested by the executive committee in the proposed budget for WNAC.

"Whatever is done," said Frances Poston, president, South Carolina, "let's agree to work together and stay united."

Until He Comes

Speakers took the theme, "Until He Comes," and challenged attendees to keep witnessing and working faithfully until then. Charolette Tallent set the mood for the convention in her devotional Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

Steve Lytle used "Occupy till I come," from Luke 19 to call us to evangelize the world, using the gifts, abilities, and resources God has given us.

Beverly Welch, Laura Cannon, and Joyce Little lifted spirits with the music. Soloists Donell Wilson, Ann Maines, and Susan Forlines expanded the theme and delighted us with their songs.

Special Feature

Tuesday afternoon The Evangels from Free Will Baptist Bible College presented two dramas: "Until He Comes" and "Needed: A Miracle." Written and directed by Joseph Jones, the first play challenged the audience to seek eternal values because He is coming soon. The second play stressed the need for spiritual strength in the home and family.

Fellowship Dinner

West Virginia women decorated the tables with candles and hats in WNAC colors of lavender and white.

About 800 people filled the hall to hear Dr. Mary Wisheart describe the potato chip syndrome—obsession with collecting crumbling, decaying things of the world. The message suggested the cure for the syndrome and specific steps toward effecting a cure.

For picture identifications see p. 12.



Woman's National Auxiliary Convention



1. Eva House (MS) participates in the President and Field Workers' Seminar.
2. Maureen Lee (NC) chairs the Nominating Committee.
3. June Rolan (CA) and the Study Committee Report to the Presidents and Field Workers.
4. Ron and Linda Callaway, Spain, enjoy the Fellowship Dinner with Trula Cronk.
5. Creative Arts Contest Winners: (back) Anne Worthington (TN), Alice Grant (OH), Margaret Ashcraft (KY); (front) Diane Thomas (NC), Nancy Harris (TN) and Pam Jones (AR)
6. WNAC's booth
7. Mary Ruth Wisehart, Fellowship Dinner Speaker
8. June Rolan explains procedure to Steve Lytle, Panama, convention speaker.
9. Charolette Tallent, France, brings morning devotions.



"The measure of a woman is not the number of people who serve her, but the number of people she serves."

My husband pastored for several years before we returned to our home state to begin a home missions work in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. In each of our pastorates, we were served by the Marys and Marthas. Most possessed characteristics of both.

Not long after I meet the Marys, I know they spend time in prayer and in the study of His Word. I know I can count on them to pray for their pastor and his family. They have trusted and proved God's Word and share it with an air of authority. It has never failed them. Neither will it fail me.

The Marys are quick to suggest helpful books in areas such as teaching, devotions or as a helpmate to my husband. They direct me to area Bible studies since I usually try to attend one as well as teach one.

Often I look out from the choir on Sunday morning and search for the faces of my Marys. I know they are praying for the needs of the service and I feel God's anointing. Marys are the first ones to minister at the altar.

When we arrive at a new location, my Marthas have the parsonage cleaned and ready with a prepared meal on the table. Marthas know instinctively what must be done around the church today, next week, or next month. They see that it gets done, even if it means step-

ping on toes.

Marthas see to the serving of the many dinners and functions of the church. Always the first to clean up, they expect others to naturally fall in and help.

Martha volunteers to feed the evangelist. When the parsonage is full of company, she shows up with a casserole or an elaborate dessert. Martha keeps the children so the pastor can take his wife out on a date, or enjoy a quiet evening at home.

When Pastor and I are held up at the hospital or delayed by many visits, Martha calls. "Come by and pick up your dinner," complete with even tea or lemonade. What would a church be without our Marthas?

Or the Marys? We need them both. As they serve us, we are able to serve others. They help us be good helpmates to their pastor.

As I get older, the more I appreciate both the Marys and Marthas. I open my book of memories and remember something specific that one of them has done. Sometimes I send them a note saying, "Remember when you did this...or that? I may not have thanked you then, but I do now. You're in my book of memories."

Our three daughters were reared in the parsonage and absorbed this example of service. Now grown, they don't wait to see if another will do a job. They go ahead and meet the need themselves.

Our churches need the services of both the Marys and Marthas. I pray I have served them nearly as well as they have served me.



To Serve and Be Served

by Willa Johnson

Over My Coffee Cup



By Eunice Edwards

What is word? Webster defines a word as a brief expression or remark, or perhaps a word of advice. Solomon further describes a word fitly spoken to be as "apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Prov. 25:11). Therefore, it would seem that words have power to bring forth a response from another person. For example, a word fitly spoken can bless. When spoken in anger, it blisters. "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (Prov. 15:1).

An air of frustration characterizes our society today, and frustration always leads to anger. The tendency to "give back as good as they send" seeds severe problems. "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent" (Prov. 15:4).

The Word of God is spoken of so carelessly by many who say they revere it. They mispronounce words, omit or change words, leave out a phrase, or read with an irreverent attitude. This is inexcusable.

John refers to Christ as the Word (John 1:1). Our approach to Him, our communication, and our service should be carefully guarded. Not carelessly, but with authority.

God teaches us as long as we're teachable (Isa. 50:4). Handling the Word of God is a sacred privilege given to all believers, regardless of their service—preacher, teacher, or lay person.

Paul admonishes us to minister the word with love (Eph. 4:15). Not just correctly, but in love. Christ's love covers a multitude of sins and strangles out a multitude of problems if ministered in love.

God's Word is sweetness and light. Let's be careful how we handle it.



Titus Chapter 2 Part 1

REVIEW: This brief epistle from the aged apostle Paul to his "son" in the faith sets forth the proper church order to be followed. The teaching of sound doctrine, accompanied with an outward demonstration of a life-changing belief is emphasized in these three chapters. Though Paul makes it clear, in this epistle as well as in other New Testament books, that we are not saved by works (3:5), he underscores the fact that a true salvation experience is evidenced by our works (2:7).

NO GENDER GAP (2:1-3)

2:1—Read the last verse of chapter 1 again. Paul concluded that some "professors" of Christianity actually deny it by their practices. Continuing the thought, but in contrast, he writes, "But speak thou the _____ which _____ sound doctrine."

To whom do these "becoming" words apply?

2:2—"That the _____ men be _____ (sober-minded), grave (serious), temperate (exercising self-control), _____ in _____ (unwavering and steadfast), in _____ (love in action), in _____ (endurance);

2:3—"The _____ women _____ (all of the above), that they be in _____ as becometh _____, not false accusers (quick to gossip, judge or slander), not given to much wine (total abstinence an even better example), _____ of good things."

Someone has said that the power of beautiful people lies not in their looks but in their lives. The minister is to set an example both by precept and by practice.

THE MASTER'S WOMEN (2:4,5)

2:4—"That they (older, spiritually matured women) may teach the _____ women (by both precept and example) to be..."

Sober. Sober-minded is the opposite of frivolous-minded.

•To love their _____. Compare Eph. 5:22-24, which is love in the proper perspective, setting an example in the home.

•To love their _____. Compare "agape" love in 1 Cor. 13. While holding high Christian standards and being firm, this love demands dealing in kindness, consideration of age, with respect, understanding and a willingness to listen.

•To be discreet—careful, prudent, using good judgment in manner, dress, attitude and actions, particularly in contacts with the opposite sex.

•To be chaste, above reproach, pure in body and mind.

•To be _____ at home. The "keeper" sets the tone of the home and it reflects her personality. Women make it a place where family members need not be ashamed and know their friends are welcome.

•To be _____ to their own husbands (see Eph. 5:23,24). Note that the Christian husband has a tremendous responsibility and is answerable to God for his actions, decisions and leadership affecting the entire family. He needs the support and side-by-side assistance of his wife to enable him to carry out his God-ordained role in the home.

Women, we would do well to note that the above are not mere suggestions but are to be taught and practiced by all who desire to please the Lord. Why?

2:5—"That the _____ of God be not _____," mocked or made light of by those who choose not to obey God's order of behavior.

THE MASTER'S MEN (2:6-8)

2:6,7—"Young men, _____, exhort to be sober-minded, in _____ things showing thyself (older, more mature men) a _____ of good works; in _____ showing _____ (Biblically sound), gravity (seriousness), sincerity (reality)."

The pastor should be a pattern to all the people, or role models to be safely followed by both genders and all ages.

2:8—This pattern also includes "sound _____, that cannot be condemned (found fault with), that he that is of the _____ part (opposers of the truth) may be _____, having no _____ thing to say of you."

Saving faith, demonstrated in daily living stops the mouths of those who would frustrate, find fault with, or try to prevent the carrying out of the Great Commission.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. To be real, what must accompany the teaching of sound doctrine?
2. How do believers give evidence of true salvation?
3. According to Titus 2:2,3, what is "becoming" to both men and women?
4. Who is responsible to teach the seven qualities in 2:4,5? How? When? Where? Why?
5. Being sober (sober-minded) is referred to three times in 2:1-8. What does it mean?

WRITER'S NOTE: Ten Basic Bible Studies with outline and review questions are available for further individual or group study for \$2.25 each, including postage. A study in Ephesians, "Walk Worthy," would be an excellent follow-up to this study in Titus. Write M.M. Daniel, 5860 Washington Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37129.

Helps for Leaders

Ideas to Stimulate Your Imagination

**President
Vice President**



Program Helps

Write these trivia questions on 3x5 index cards. Distribute them to various women before the program begins. An equal number of women should be prepared to answer the questions. Some women may have more than one part.

We Have Moved!



National Association of Free Will Baptists

- ⇒ Executive Office/Contact
- ⇒ Foreign Missions
- ⇒ Foundation
- ⇒ Home Missions
- ⇒ Master's Men
- ⇒ Retirement and Insurance
- ⇒ Woman's National Auxiliary Convention

Our New Addresses:

Mailing:

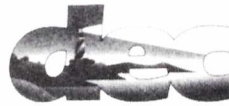
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Location:

5233 Mt. View Road
Antioch, TN 37013-2306

Phone: 615/731-6812

Fax: 615/731-0049



Use this poem in connection with the December program, "Wise Men Still Seek Him."

Christmas Card

"Glory!" Heaven's host proclaimed,
The star a little brighter shone;
Excited shepherds to Him came—
The newborn babe, so all alone.

The weary, waiting world slept on,
Heaven watched the scene unfold;
Somehow they knew, and wise men donned
Their traveling clothes to bring Him gold.

The wise today still bring Him gifts
Of time and life and love unbound;
The foolish still gaze through earth's mists
And wonder what the wise have found.

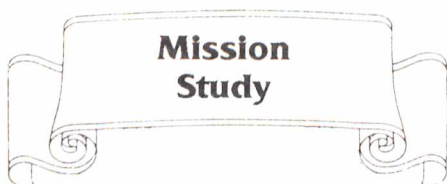
God in flesh? A Holy Child?
Our simple minds can't understand.
He came to die? A Baby mild?
Eternity in His small hand?

My hope for you this Christmastide
Is that your eyes and mind are free
So that the star can be your guide
And lead you to God's mystery.

—Judy Parkman

Invitation





This Thanksgiving give to the Lizzie McAdams sacrificial offering for national Home Missions.

Meet Legendary Lizzie McAdams

Pioneer Home Missionary

by Pat Thomas

Many noble and loyal men and women have served as home missionaries in the Free Will Baptist denomination, but one of the most colorful and committed was Sister Lizzie McAdams. This outstanding woman spearheaded the establishing of many Free Will Baptist churches throughout the midwestern part of the United States.

Elizabeth Lawliss was born in Pike County, Alabama, October 1, 1884, one of ten children. She was converted in a revival at the age of seven, and at thirteen she "wanted to be a missionary."

She married Reverend Hiram McAdams in 1912 and they became an evangelistic team. Their only child, Naomi Rebecca, was six years old when they went to the island of Barbados, West Indies as missionaries.

After returning home they were very active in recruiting students and raising funds for the Free Will Baptist college in Tecumseh, Oklahoma. Later she worked for support of the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, and was present for the opening.

"Sister Lizzie" was avidly interested in all phases of the Lord's work in the denomination. She loved the cause of missions and never ceased praying and soliciting support for our missionaries. She was a charter member of the National Home Missions Board that was elected at the National Associ-

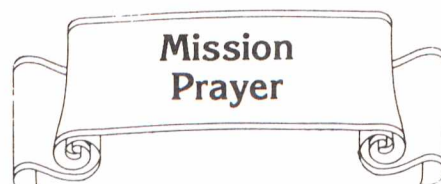


ation in 1938 and sent a monthly contribution to this work for as long as she lived.

Rev. and Mrs. McAdams ministered in 17 states, held 300 revivals with about 10,000 professions of faith in the Lord Jesus, organized 11 churches and numerous Auxiliaries. During this time they spent four years as home missionaries and organized churches in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri.

Mrs. McAdams had been in the Lord's work 54 of her 80 years when she died. Many of our Free Will Baptist pastors were converted under her work as a home missionary.

A trio of biographies (Lizzie McAdams, Alice Lupton and Laura Belle Barnard) may be ordered from WNAC, P.O. 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Enclose \$1 plus 55¢ postage and handling.



November

Use the prayer booklet on the next page. Order one for each woman.

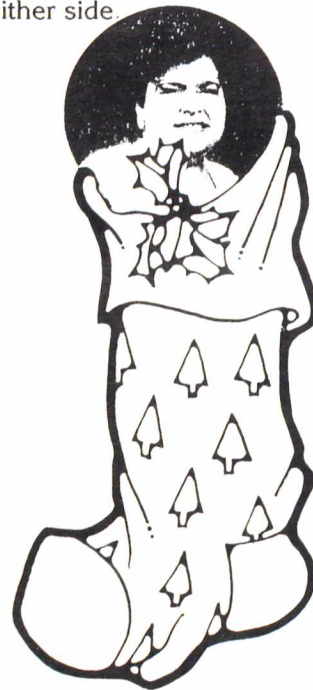
December

Fill Your Christmas Stocking With A Missionary

Make Christmas stockings from scraps of Christmas fabric.

Cut missionary pictures and information strips from profile sheets (available from the Foreign Missions office, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002). Glue together, back to back, so a picture shows on both sides.

Slip the paper down into the stocking with a picture showing on either side.



Prayer Booklet

Thanksgiving Week of Prayer
November 18-22, 1991

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



WEDNESDAY

Pray for home missionaries serving in the mountain and plains states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska. This is a strong cult area with few Bible preaching churches. The workers are *Russell and Vonda Johnson*, Cheyenne, Wyoming; *Jerry and Wanda McClary*, Omaha, Nebraska; *Bob & Brenda Lewis*, Colorado Springs, Colorado; *Bob & Rosa Lee Thomas*, Ft. Collins, Colorado; and *Mark & Donna Thomas*, Greeley, Colorado.

MONDAY

Pray for home missionaries laboring in the most statistically unchurched region in America---the great Northwestern states. These isolated areas have very few gospel preaching churches. The missionaries are *Tom & Lynda Hunt*, Tri-Cities area of Washington; *Mike & Gail Criswell*, Eugene, Oregon; *Darrell and Sandy Smith*, Portland, Oregon; and *Tim & Kathy Coats*, Rapid City, South Dakota.

THURSDAY

Home missionaries laboring outside the continental United States need prayer. These are *James & Mitzi Munsey*, coordinators for the work in Mexico; *Fred & Barbara Jones* who head up the Bible Institute in Altamira, Tamps., Mexico; *Bill & Lois Reagan*, Windsor, Ontario, Canada; *Ron & Barbara Dail*, St. Croix, Virgin Islands; *Miguel & Adelaida Vera*, San Juan, Puerto Rico; and *Louie & Donna Nix*, Waianae, Hawaii.

TUESDAY

Home missionaries laboring in the Free Will Baptist denomination's Target City of Phoenix, Arizona need prayer. They are *Howard & Patsy Gwartney* laboring in the suburb of Mesa, Arizona; *George & Linda Harvey* in Phoenix, Arizona; and *Larry & Sherry Reynolds* working in the suburb of Chandler, Arizona. Also pray for *Mark & Louise Vandivort* serving in the mountain city of Flagstaff, Arizona.

FRIDAY

Home missionaries laboring in the challenging New England and Eastern Seaboard states need prayer. These are *Richard & Sandra Atwood*, Dover, Delaware; *Vergel and Alynne Maness*, Vineland, New Jersey; *Terry & Tammy Miller*, near Providence, Rhode Island; *Jim & Pat Nason*, New Durham, New Hampshire; and *James & Janice Sasser* working in Waldorf, Maryland, near Washington, D. C.

Mission Action

Cheryl Anne's

Christmas Hodgepodge

Scissors, glue gun, and spray glue are needed for most items and are not included with the supplies.

Magnets

"You're So Very Deer To Me" Reindeer

Items Needed



flat ceramic reindeer
flowers or ornament
glitter
gold or brown paint
small round magnet

Here's How

1. Paint reindeer and let dry.
2. Spray with glue. Apply glitter. Dry.
3. Glue flower or ornament on neck. Or tie a ribbon around the neck.
4. Glue magnet on back.

Christmas Card Magnet

Items Needed

"Pass it On" card or cuttings from old Christmas

Cards
ribbon
magnet

Here's How

1. Glue a small bow on lower front of card.
 2. Glue magnet on back.
- Says Cheryl, "These are good for large groups. Very nice to send to shut-ins."

Hanging Ornaments

Canes

Items Needed

pipe cleaner
red tri-beads
white holed lace
red ribbon

Here's How

1. Cut the pipe cleaner to about 6" strips. Alternate threading 1 tri-bead with the lace until full. Bend in shape of a cane as you go along. Glue the ends.
2. Glue a ribbon loop at the top and a small bow at the front center.



Snowflakes

Items Needed

flat plastic snowflakes
glitter
beads, glass mirror, glass leaves, lace, angel

Here's How

First Snowflake: Brush on glue. Sprinkle with glitter. Dry. Glue a small bead in the center.

Second Snowflake: Instead of the bead, use a circle of lace and a tiny angel.

Third Snowflake: Glue a 1" round mirror (from craft shops) to the center. Glue on three green glass leaves and a red bead in the center.



Christmas Wreaths

These may be either hanging (with a yarn loop) or a lapel pin (attach a craft pin).

Items Needed

H, I or J crochet hook
3 ply green yarn
red ribbon
beads, glitter or tiny flowers

Here's How

1. Chain 5 slip stitch together to make a circle
2. Chain 3 do 22 double in the hole (23 total counting the chain 3)

THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

3. Single crochet in each of the tops of the 23 double crochets.
4. Slip stitch together. Make a loop. Clip and tie off.
5. Eliminate the loop and attach a pin for the lapel pin.
6. Glue on beads and other decorations.

Holiday Earrings

Items Needed

needle nose pliers
open back earrings
pretties: bells, crosses, wooden cut-outs, etc. "Kids' play items work great." says Cheryl.



Here's How

1. With the needle nose pliers, straighten the bottom of earring. Thread the ornament through the loop. Tighten back up again.
2. On wooden cut-outs, turn bottom of loop toward you, flatten, then glue together.

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!



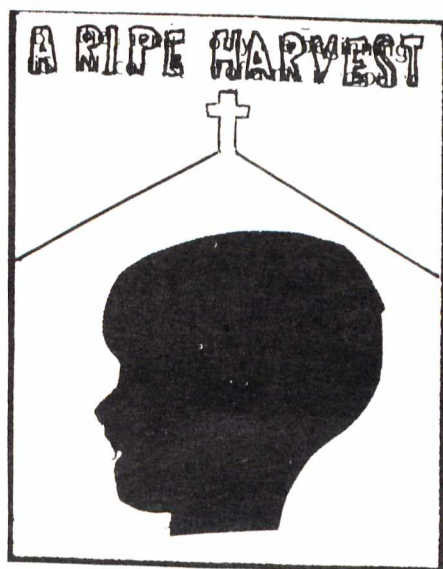
Oak Grove Actionettes

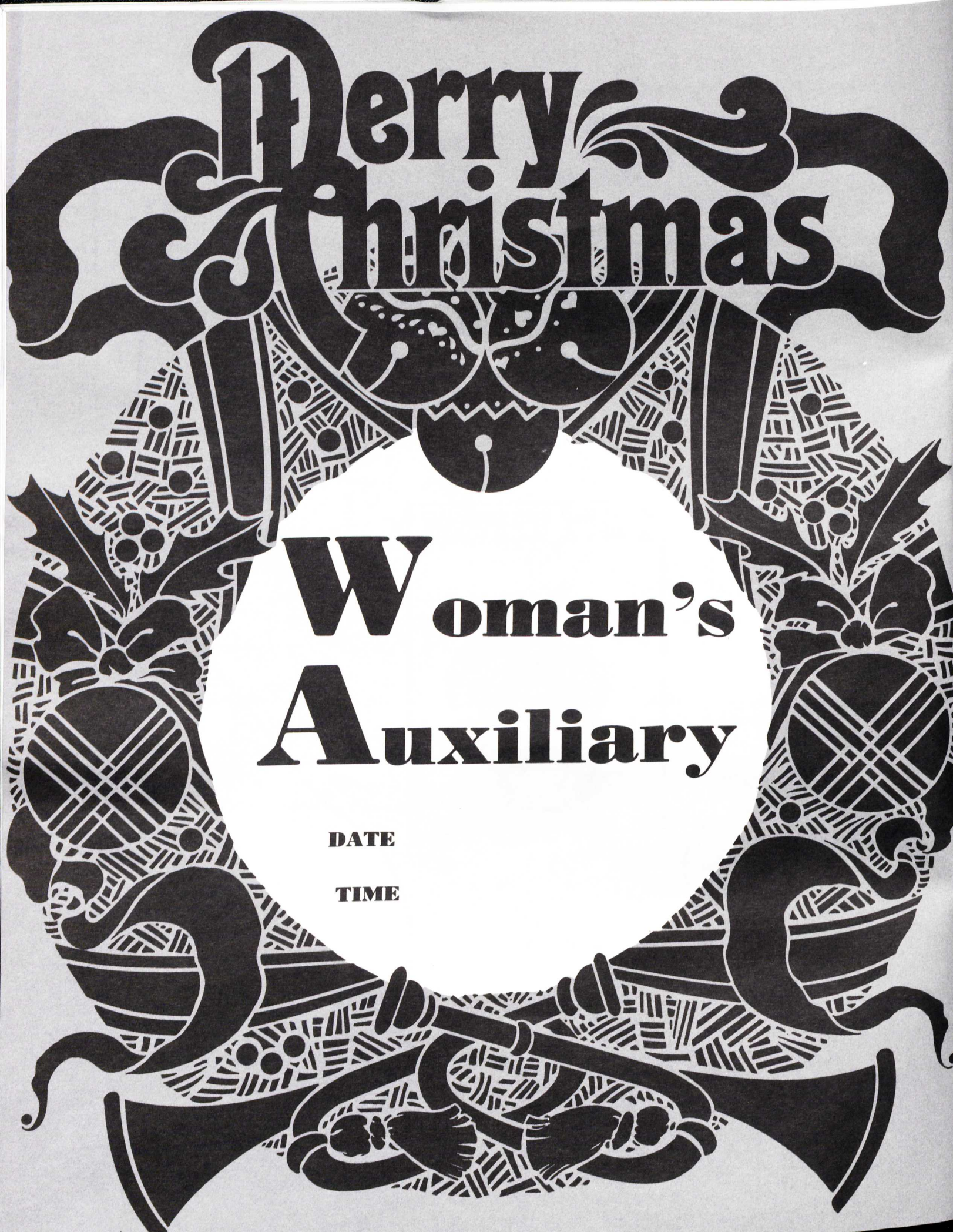
Conway, South Carolina

Georgia Johnson sponsors these young ladies, ages 10 to 15. They meet monthly and spotlight one person a month from their church. back row—Becky Jordan; Tracey Jordan, vice president; Jennifer Johnson, secretary; and Christy Hyman. front row—Sabrina Graham and Donette Jordan, president. Brenda Smith, treasurer, is not pictured.

Cut the silhouette from black construction paper. Paste to a map of the United States. Add a pony tail to make a girl. Use this in your Pre-Thanksgiving week of prayer service.

Use the silhouette another way. Paste to a church made from white construction paper. Paste to a sheet of poster board. Cut letters to form "A RIPE HARVEST" from newsprint and paste to the top of the board.





Merry Christmas

W oman's Auxiliary

DATE

TIME

The Minister's Wife

Newsletter

Compiled By Cleo Pursell



volume 11, number 6, 1991

A Greater Miracle

by Anne Truett

In April, 1966, at age 20, the diagnosis was confirmed—rheumatoid arthritis.

But, Lord, I'm engaged to marry a preacher. You have to do something! Lord, I need a miracle!

Over 25 years have since passed. He didn't do a miracle that day, He began one. Through one knee and two total hip replacements, over 125,000 pills and some 15 different doctors, the Lord is teaching me the meaning of contentment.

Someone has said that suffering is a universal language understood by all. In *A STEP FURTHER*, Joni Eareckson pictures suffering as a kind of scale ranging from little to much. Every person alive fits somewhere on that scale of suffering.

God places the believer on that scale exactly at the place He pleases. All suffering is unpleasant, no matter how little or how much. But God promises sufficient grace when we learn to lean on Him.

Suffering enables us to help others. Faithfulness to God in spite of affliction demonstrates the reality of Christianity. F.B. Meyer wrote:

"The child of God is often called to suffer because there is nothing that will convince onlookers of the reality and power of true religion as suffering will do, when it is borne with Christian fortitude." Our response to suffering is the key.

God has used my handicap to teach me and my family some tremendous principles. My disabili-

ty has made my husband, Sam, and our son, Chris, more sensitive to the disabled. We now understand things we would not have realized otherwise.

The first lesson to be learned in dealing with disability is acceptance. God is too wise to make a mistake and too good to be unkind. This belief has enabled me to accept my arthritis as a part of His will for my life.

Acceptance was not easy. For months I denied it. But denial neither made my arthritis go away nor made it better. I had to stop looking for deliverance and start asking for endurance.

For a time it seemed that everyone I met recommended some remedy they knew about. I probably tried them all, including acupuncture, a multitude of potions, lotions, pills, and even wearing a copper bracelet. Finally I settled for more orthodox medical treatment.

Of all the pills I have consumed, acceptance was the toughest to swallow. It was also the most beneficial.

Adjustment was the second lesson to be learned. I had to face the fact that life was going to be different, not only for me, but for my family as well. The "We'll just grin and bear it" approach would not work. I had to realize my limitations and go from there.

To be honest, this was especially

difficult for me, an active sports enthusiast. I played basketball all through school. Once an active participant, I am now an active spectator, though at times I have had to use a cane and a wheelchair.

I remember the embarrassment at being pushed in a wheelchair. It seemed so humiliating and degrading. But God helped me to adjust. Now I am the envy of the national convention with my motorized cart!

Charles Swindoll writes, "Disabilities need not disqualify you." I cannot do everything, but I can do some things, and with God's help, I will do what I can.

Adjustments also includes learning to reply upon people who love you. You swallow your pride and sometimes your dignity, but you don't wallow in self-pity.

God has richly blessed me particularly in this one area. He has given me a loving husband and a wonderful son who never complain about helping me. I have parents, brothers and sisters upon whom I can call at any time. In addition, I have good in-laws, faithful friends, and a wonderful church family. God has surrounded me with loving and caring people.

One area that helps us most as a family is maintaining a sense of humor. Don't take yourself, or others, too seriously. It's better to laugh than cry, especially when you can laugh at your own disability.

When Chris was in the third grade, I visited his classroom. When he arrived home from school he was upset with a classmate who had asked him if his mom was retarded.

God's people may suffer without a remedy, but never without a reason.

"No, Dummy. She's handicapped," Chris told him.

We all had a good laugh before explaining to Chris that his friend had not been intentionally unkind. My husband even suggested there might be some accuracy in the young lad's diagnosis!

Suffering is not a license for self-pity. It can be a lamp stand from which one's light can shine. The ability to smile through the pain can be an effective testimony. My prayer has often been, "Lord, help me to be a blessing and not a burden."

As a child, I spent a great amount of time in the home of my grandmother. One of her neighbors made a definite and distinct impression on me. I never heard that lady say she felt well.

God chooses that through which we must go, but we choose how we go through it.

I know God could heal me if He so chose, but God seldom does all that He could do. To quote my husband, we need the "if not" kind of faith that the three Hebrew children displayed. They believed that God was able to deliver them. Then they declared they would be faithful even if God chose not to deliver them. That kind of testimony demonstrates to the world that faith makes a difference when life gets difficult.

Faith has not eliminated all frustrations for me. The flesh seems particularly vulnerable to them. Frustration grips me when I cannot open a jar or lift a heavy pot. Some days I drop things and have to call a family member to pick them up, or clean them up—dropping things can be very messy.

But I do not lose my joy, only a jar now and then. Real joy is not found in the things I can or cannot do, but in my personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. Even frustra-

tions can make that relationship all the more precious.

In 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, we read of Paul's "thorn." Scripture does not tell us what this thorn was, but evidently it was frustrating at times. Most commentators agree it was some type of physical problem.

Paul decided that if his thorn were removed he could be more useful to God. Three times he went into the presence of the Lord seeking deliverance. Surely he could serve the Lord more effectively if only... We do not know how long Paul prayed such a prayer. It could have been weeks, months, or possibly years.

For years I prayed, "Lord, please take away my arthritis." All the while, the Lord was saying, "My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Sometimes we are so busy trying to tell God what He ought to do for us that we are unable to grasp what He wants to do in us. We are so certain that the only thing to be done is to remove the problem. We fail to consider that the problem might be a part of His plan for us.

When Paul finally listened, the Lord made it clear that God had a purpose for his thorn. God's people may suffer without a remedy, but never without a reason.

Verse 7 of 2 Corinthians 12 begins and ends with exactly the

same statement: "Lest I should be exalted above measure." God never makes a mistake with His child. He does expect us to be available and usable in any way He chooses. When we place our lives in His hands, we discover He has made wondrous provision for us to overcome any infirmity. Then we learn the truth of His promise, "My grace is sufficient for thee." That sufficiency may not be what I have asked, but if I continue to trust Him, it will be abundantly more than I have asked or thought.

My mother once sent me a poem entitled, "God Knows Best." It speaks of the tests the Lord puts us through with suffering and sorrow. He treats us, not to punish us, but to prepare us to meet tomorrow. Afflictions make our spirit stronger. A strong spirit is much to be preferred to strong hands or feet.

As I look back over these last 25 years, I am convinced that my arthritis is part of God's plan for my life. I'm not bitter. I have never been angry with God. He has reasons behind my suffering. Learning some of them has helped. Just knowing there are reasons beyond my understanding helps even more.

God can still do the miraculous. He has power to heal me today should He so choose. But which would be the greater miracle—to remove the disease or to enable me to endure victoriously? I believe the latter! So I rejoice in that greater miracle.

In the familiar hymn, "All the Way My Savior Leads Me," Fanny Crosby wrote, "For I know whate'er befalls me, Jesus doeth all things well."

He really does.

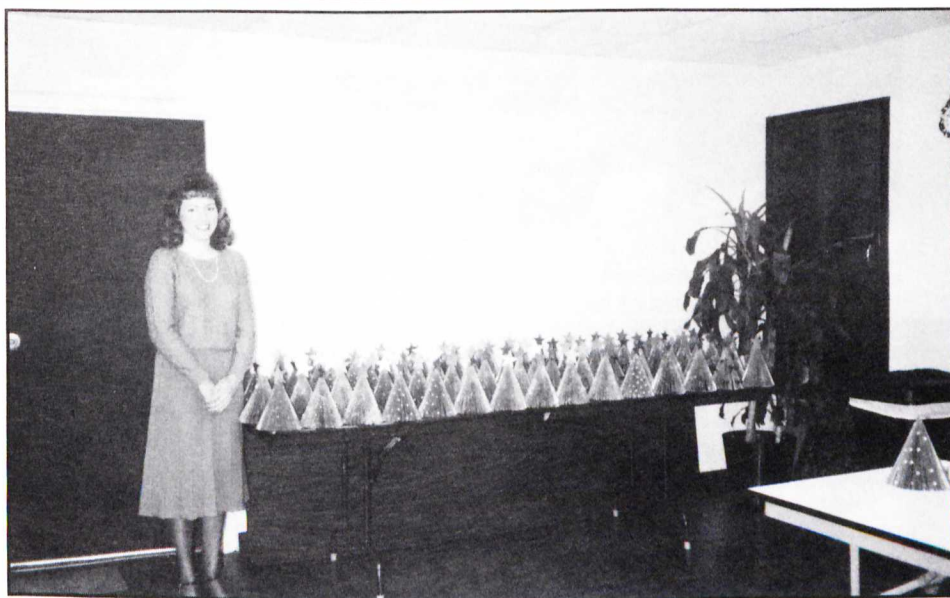


For the past 16 years, the Truettts have served the West Calvary FWB Church, Smithfield, NC. She is also state field worker, district president, and local mission action chairman.



WOMEN in ACTION

Nancy Pipkins, Christian Grove Auxiliary, Pocola, Oklahoma with the 85 Christmas trees they made from Reader's Digests. The trees were given to residents in a local nursing home.



New Sulphur Auxiliary, Prairie Grove, Arkansas, present an embroidered quilt to their pastor and wife, Glen and Judy Faulkner, on their 25th wedding anniversary.



Philadelphia Auxiliary, Mt. Clemens, Michigan, present Diane Worthington a money tree when she spoke at their Christmas banquet. They gave each widow a loaf of homemade pumpkin bread.

During October, the women collected pennies (\$217.20) for Lois Reagan, home missionary to Canada. Betty Johnson leads this active Auxiliary.



Actionettes of Garner, NC, pin boutonniers on all fathers as they arrive for church on Father's Day. The Woman's Auxiliary provided the flowers.



Debbie Mouser presents a check for \$460.88 to missionaries Donnie and Ruth McDonald, Japan, from the Cross Timbers Auxiliary, Nashville, TN. The money will be used to help purchase a computer.



Sunday morning got off to a good start in spite of the fact that my husband—our pastor—left early to conduct a service at the nursing home. That left me singlehandedly to get myself and our three children to church—on time, of course. Even 15 month-old Jonathan cooperated in his rambunctious sort of way.

I twisted the curling iron in my hair and mentally checked off items on my schedule. Very good!

Suddenly a scream from the kitchen broke my concentration. "MOM!" 9-year-old Scott called from the kitchen. "Mindy's having a seizure!"

With half my head in curls, I rushed to the kitchen. All emotions vanished as I mechanically began the routine played out in our home so many thousands of time over the years. I slid the full cereal bowl away to safety as Scott rescued his sister's glass of milk. From his high chair, Jonathan, much less accustomed to this scene, mutely judged the situation to determine whether he should contribute some reaction.

The seizure reached its peak and Mindy began to slide from her chair. I placed my arms around her and braced myself as I began to ease her gently to the floor. The weight of her 11-year-old body combined with the force of the spasms flung us both to the floor in an ungraceful heap. So there we sprawled in our Sunday best clothes.

As the seizure began to ebb, my own tangled emotions flooded back in on me, wave after wave. The kitchen tile floor became my altar. *Oh, Lord, I don't think I can do this.* I felt drained, deflated and defeated. I longed to find a quiet place to sit and wait for the Lord to send me a package of comfort and peace.

But Mindy was struggling to get up and my mind flew ahead readjusting my plans for the day. *If it's going to be a bad day, she'd better stay with me in Sunday school... What about the worship service when I'm at the piano and her dad's in the pulpit?...If the nursery isn't crowded, Sister Eva will let her stay there...Thank You, Lord,*

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.

Acceptance With Thankfulness

by Patricia Collins

for Sister Eva...

We struggled to our feet, collected ourselves and took up where we had left off. *Shift into high gear, Patricia! You know the pastor's family must be on time!*

Years of this unexpected, yet familiar, routine had long since removed any anger from my thoughts. Acceptance replaced whatever anger might have been there. We had learned to go right on living with it, paying as little attention as possible to its demands, while at the same time trying to help our daughter in every way possible.

With a somewhat dented spirit, I loaded the children in the car and headed for church. It must have been while waiting at the second stoplight that the phrase "In everything give thanks" popped unbidden into my mind. Reluctantly, I allowed it to remain. Lately I had been working a lot on being thankful for everything, and for epilepsy in particular.

I honestly felt I had come to the place of ACCEPTANCE early in Mindy's seizure disorder, although we had prayed for her healing. I knew instinctively that acceptance was necessary to survival, spiritually and even emotionally. I had to accept it myself before I could help my child deal with it. THANKFULNESS was a concept yet to be reckoned with.

I had not gone out on a search for THANKFULNESS as a state of mind. I decided it was hard to find and something which must pur-

posefully be tracked down and compelled to stay. Some day, I hoped, it would pop in and take up residence. When at last I came to the point I could honestly pray, "Thank You for Mindy's seizures," and mean it a little, my "load" curiously lightened. Burdens slowly transformed into blessings.

Acceptance without thankfulness is only a grudging acquiescence. Not until I realized that true acceptance must involve thankfulness was I able to use the opportunities God provided through Mindy's "bad days."

We pulled into the church parking lot that Sunday morning—on time! I turned off the ignition and took a deep breath. *Please help me, Lord, to be what You want me to be for others today.*

No matter how hard I try, I can't always hide my own dents and spiritual bruises. Sometimes I fail dismally as a pastor's wife. Compassion can be as elusive as thankfulness. Some Sundays I surprise myself at how resentful I feel as I listen to the troubles of others, judgmentally categorizing them as minor compared to mine. But I've learned that as thankfulness takes up residence, compassion naturally springs up.

Small daily routines often turn into complicated and discouraging tasks in any home where a family member has a disability. It presents unique obstacles in the pastor's home. But thankfulness can turn those obstacles into opportunities.





BOOK HIGHLIGHTS

THE WOUNDED PARENT
Hope for Discouraged Parents
by Guy Greenfield
Baker Book House, 150pp, \$9.95
Reviewed by Ruth Bivens



"The Wounded Parent, Hope for Discouraged Parents" is a working handbook for parents wounded by the lifestyles of their children. These may be teens, adults, run-

aways, or children who have left the family circle while still living at home. The offensive lifestyle may include rebellious behavior, immorality, drug abuse, or rejection of the parents' spiritual values.

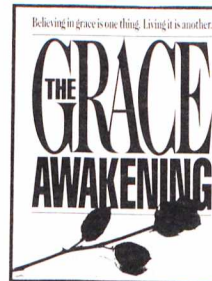
The author shows that Christian families are not insulated from

problems with their children. Their typical response is to try to keep up appearances and never admit the problem to church family and friends who might offer their support.

Greenfield reminds the reader that the storms came and beat upon both the house built on the rock and the house built on the sand. He recommends practical steps of positive action to help the parents survive and to begin to reestablish communication with the child.

Using case studies as examples, Greenfield shows the problems, successes and failures experienced by several families. He provides a workable plan of strategy for redemption/restoration of the child, and prevention. The lists of resources at the back of the book are worth the price of the book.

THE GRACE AWAKENING
by Charles R. Swindoll
Word Publishing,
Reviewed by Robin Williams



"Grace killers" are everywhere! They have invaded our churches, Christian schools, and other ministries. Instead of preaching, teaching and sharing the truth

that sets us free—the gospel of grace—grace killers are committed to an agenda of criticism, condemnation and control. And we allow it.

Strong words? Absolutely. In fact, *The Grace Awakening* could be subtitled "A Treatise of Legalism." Legalism has a negative connotation, however, and Swindoll's objectives are positive.

Swindoll's discussion, based in Romans with liberal doses of Galatians, 1 Peter and 1 and 2 Corinthians, begins with salvation by grace. It climaxes with an appeal to confront legalism. Legalists are identified as those who preach "a different gospel"—alien to the grace of Christ, those who spy and enslave, and hypocrites who lie and deceive.

The book concludes with a challenge to exercise your spiritual gifts in a manifestation of the grace of Christ to others. Grace should flow freely in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, and the church.

The Grace Awakening is a call to personal and corporate "grace-full" living. As Swindoll instructs, "Remember that while grace came to you freely, it cost the Savior His life."

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

Just a year ago in December Maude Jones went home to be with her Lord. She had loved Him for over 70 years and spent 54 of them in the Beulah FWB Church, Pamplico, SC. Most of that time she served as a deacon's wife.

Mrs. Jones taught teens in Sunday school for 32 years. Then she substituted or taught the adult class until her death.

Auxiliary women recognized her ability as secretary/treasurer and elected her to this position for 40 years. She served the state in this capacity for 16 years. In addition, you could count on her in countless ways.

Someone said of Mrs. Maude, "She was a perfect pattern for any young lady to follow." She touched and influenced many lives, both young and old, for the Lord Jesus. She was one faithful lady.

Mission Field Walker

by Louisa Godissart McQuillen

I've called you to a mission field
Hewn by the hands of God,
Then traced your journey to and fro
Beyond where man has trod.

You've answered to a higher call
Than most will ever know;
Remember this when doubts rush in
With bitter seeds to sow.

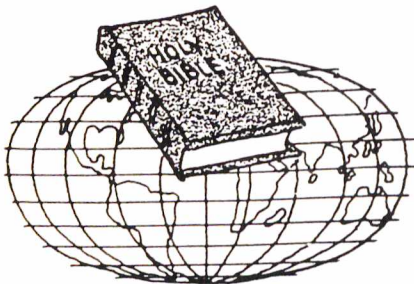
There may be stormy days ahead
And skies not always fair,
But trust the One who guides you here
To also guide you there.

Your wealth may not be riches that
The world can understand,
But you'll be blessed beyond your dreams
When guided by My hand.

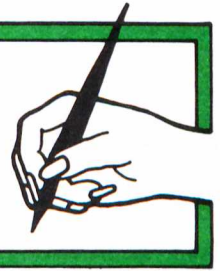
Into the dark of night we walk—
Watch now, but do not fear;
Just train your eyes to seek My face,
And tune your ears to hear.

If you will keep your hand in Mine
In everything you do,
You'll know that He who walked
with Paul
Will also walk with you.

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE WHOLE WORLD



The poet's CORNER



He's Only Seven

by Lila Balisky

He's home again,
my boy, my son.
Oh, dear God, he's been gone so long.
Tonight I sat beside him on the bed
while he was sleeping
just to look and watch...
thinking of times past
and
times to come
And cried praises that now, tonight,
he's home!

His place at our table makes
the family circle full.
The food to cook is more
and extra dirty clothes
are strewn on the floor
Like it used to be.

He's grown so much since he left
home—
knows much more of living,
knowledge, humor.
Knows You better, too, I sense;
Has grown in confidence.
Strong,
But still so young
to be away from home.

My mother heart begs that
he might stay.
But when he's gone,
we always keep a place his
own—
his special drawer,
shelf of treasures,
his bed made in his room
so he could come at any time.
And tonight, he's home!

God numbs a mother's heart
so when he's gone
we all get used to an empty
bed.
It's almost—dare I say it?—
like he's dead.

What does my boy think to
come home again?
And will he go away with
peace?

Does it tear his heart—
these comings and goings—
like it knifes a mother's soul?
God, keep him.
Many times again he will come and go.
Always keep him,
and may he always know
You love Him and we love him, too.
Keep him in the right way.
Make him strong and tender,
brave and true,
honest, humble—a Man like
You.
May he know You, God,
that's all I ask.
I give him to you.

Thank You, God, for Hannah.
who gave her son to You;
It's also all that I can do.
And maybe, God, maybe...
You know all about it
for You sent
Your only Son away from
home.
He didn't have to go,
But You loved us so.
And we don't have to send
ours,
except
That we love you
And want others in the world
to know You, too.

God, You turn my tears to joy,
You'll be always with my boy...
But he's not a man yet, or twenty-
one;
He's only seven, my little son.

*Paul and Rhoda Creech, dorm parents
in our Free Will Baptist dorm, Cote
d'Ivoire, West Africa, included this
poem in their recent newsletter.*

APPOINTED to PRAY

Be a Prayer Missionary

a diary of a young girl's faith

The Budding of Spiroula

by Charolette Tallent

October 16, 7:30 p.m.—Tuesday evening Bible study, the first of the academic year. Go over check list before students arrive:

Chairs in place. Check. *Think big, Charolette.*

Song books and Bibles on the coffee table. Check.

Notes in my Bible. Check.

Nerves intact. Not quite. Maybe a quick prayer will remedy this.

8:00 p.m.—Ding dong!...Hi, Charlene! *Wow, what a trooper! She's brought three students! Marielle and Valerie had come to our barbecue and pizza parties, but this was their first Bible study. They do pay off!*

"This is Spiroula, Charolette. She's from Canada."

I knew from the beginning. God had His hand on Spiroula even before this first Bible study.

10:00 p.m.—*Oh ye of little faith!* Ten students prompted crowding in extra chairs. Spiroula drank in every word. There's something different about this quiet little Greek Canadian.

October 23—Tonight at the Bible study, Sandra rushed into the kitchen as I prepared refreshments. Did I have an extra Bible she could borrow? Spiroula had expressed a

desire to read it. Of course, I did. I suggested she begin with the gospel of John.

November...December—I can count on Spiroula. If she misses the Tuesday night study, she shows up for the Monday night study. Fellow students pray for her. The Koinonia group of Christian students join in.

Christmas Break—Today Spiroula and I discussed her need of salvation. The Holy Spirit is doing His work, but I sensed a decision now would be premature. We continued to pray.

January 14 (beginning of new semester)—We meet for Bible study in Spiroula's dorm room.

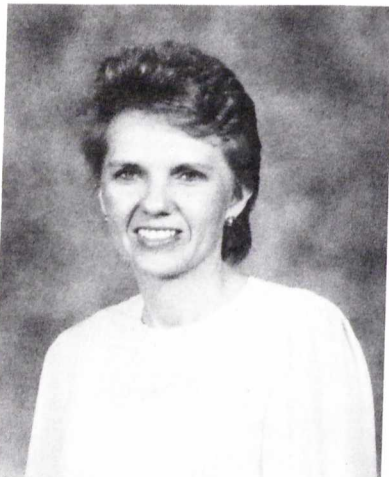
January 24—Regular Bible studies begin.

Wednesday, January 30—Spiroula and I have a quiet moment to ourselves. Had she thought anymore about committing her life to Jesus Christ? Her smile answered and I knew. She was now my sister in Christ! Just the week before, alone in her room, she had invited Christ into her life.

February 3—Spiroula makes public confession of her faith in Christ. She came to France to perfect her French, but God had something better—that she would come to know Him as her Savior.

Personality Profile

CHAROLETTE TALLENT
Missionary to France



Charolette, who has three younger brothers, values her Christian home and the Southside FWB Church, St. Louis, Missouri, which nourished her spiritual growth.

She enjoys Mexican food (in a French culture?), collects demi-tasse cups, and cross stitches for relaxation.

Charolette is living with her parents while on furlough. Invite this tall, lean, warm and friendly blonde into your home and church and prepare for a blessing.

April 16—We say goodbye to Spiroula. She tells us she's interested in returning to France as a short-term missionary. Good news must be shared.

Summer, 1991—Spiroula's faith is put to test among her family and friends in Canada. We ask God to send her a Christian friend who will help her grow spiritually.

Fall, 1991—Lord willing, Spiroula will seek out the Christian Fellowship group at the University of Trent in Peterborough, Ontario.

Lord, that which You have begun in her life, would you continue it until Your coming?

Who gets the credit for Spiroula's salvation?

Charlene who brought her to that first Bible study?

Sandra who heard her say she'd like to have a Bible?

The Koininia group for their prayers?

Or those of you from afar who gave of your means and prayed for our ministry in France?

All of them! For we are laborers together with God.

"I Will Guard Myself"—Until He Comes

Charolette Tallent related this story in her devotional given at the WNAC in Charleston last July.

Last February, Claudine's husband, Denis, sailed off to the Persian Gulf to participate in Desert Storm. Prior to his departure, they prepared for their separation. They discussed everything from the raising of their daughter to the administration of their household. They even discussed how she would manage should he not return.

Claudine pledged to Denis her love and fidelity during his absence. She saw it not as an occasion for unfaithfulness, but rather she gave attention to communicating her undying love and loyalty. If absence makes the heart grow stronger, it was certainly true in their case.

She filled her letters with every detail imaginable from her daily activities, of Julie's growth, and minute description of their new apartment. From each letter or phone call from Denis, she attuned her heart to the news she most longed for—the date of his return.

Claudine could anticipate Denis' return because she was not ashamed of her conduct in his absence. Her every waking moment focused on their joyous reunion. She carried no guilt that her devotion to Denis had become threatened, divided or disloyal. In her heart she purposed that "until Denis comes," I will guard myself for him and him alone.

What about it, ladies? Can we say as much? Are we keeping ourselves pure and godly as we await the return of our Bridegroom Jesus?

Today is a good time to renew our commitment to Christ. Let's loudly proclaim by our actions that we are eagerly awaiting His return.

Unless the missionary is on furlough, send cards directly to the field. Addresses are found in the home and foreign missions directories. The following missionaries on furlough may receive their cards at P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37211-5002: Patsy Vanhook, Tom Hughes, and Dave Franks, Jr.

WNAC's Prayer Bookmark

Week of November 3-9

Most of our fields have Bible Institutes, seminaries or other training programs. Pray for:

directors, students and potential students.

effective training and outreach

The one week in the year there are no missionary birthdays. A complete listing of all missionaries is found in CO-LABORER's January-February issue.

Week of November 10-16

Pray for these church planters on new home missions assignments:

Carl Lloyd, Wisconsin

Larry Haggard, Kansas

Cliff Donoho, Iowa

Willie Osborne, Virginia

Ask God to give them good leads from door-to-door knockings.

Birthdays this week: 14—Marcia Ellison (Uruguay) and Patsy Vanhook (France)

Week of November 17-23

Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer. Follow the prayer guide given on page 19 of this issue.

Birthdays this week: 20—Gwyn Pugh (TN); 22—Jim Nason (NH)

Week of November 24-30

Cote d'Ivoire meets for their annual field council session.

Pray for:

Jerry Pinkerton, field director national churches and pastors Spirit-anointed plans and decisions

Birthdays this week: 27—Bessie Richards (C'I); 28—Bobby Poole (Brazil) and Mark Daniel (C'I); 30—Dwain Crosby (Spain).

Week of December 1-7

Leadership Conference and all-boards meetings in Nashville Tennessee.

Pray that God would:

give wisdom to the study committee

guide the Foreign Missions Board in appointing summer student missionaries

direct the new executive committee in its first session

Birthdays this week: 1—Rose Mertz (MO); 2—Sandra Atwood (DE) and J.L. Gore (MS); 6—Vergel Maness (NJ)

Please clip this prayer bookmark and keep as a reminder to pray.

Week of December 8-14

Over 400 students are enrolled in the school in St. Croix in the Virgin Islands with 100 attending the church.

Pray for:

Ron Dail, pastor

Joseph Postlewaite, school administrator

Other teachers and aides

Birthdays this week: 8—Barbara Dail (VI) and Russell Johnson (WY); 9—Debbie Griffin—Japan; 11—Fred Jones (Mexico); 12—Richard Atwood (DE); 14—Rosa Lee Thomas (CO) and Lonnie Sparks (Spain)

Week of December 15-21

Louis and Florine Coscia and Paul and Amy Robinson are retiring from foreign service.

Ask God to:

provide a stateside ministry

send replacements

bless them with good health

Birthdays this week: 18—Tom Hughes (Brazil); 19—Molly Barker (Uruguay); 20—Rebecca Pugh (TN); 21—Tammy Miller (RI);

Week of December 22-28

Pray for MK's separated from their parents during the holidays.

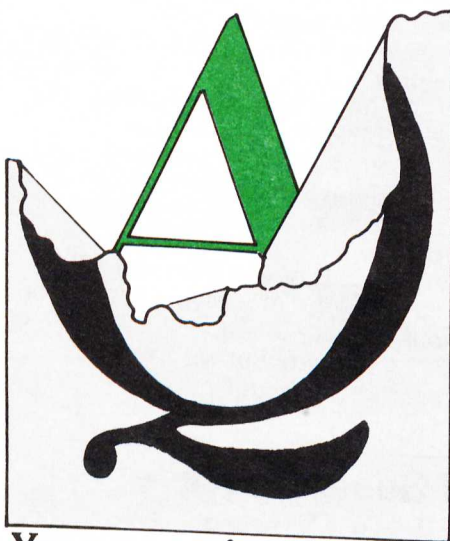
Ask God to bless all the Christmas services on our mission fields.

Birthdays this week: 22—Tom McCulloch (France); 24—Louis Coscia (Brazil), Rex Lynn (GA) and Mary Whitehead (FL); 27—Patsy Gwartney (AZ) and Dave Franks, Jr (Uruguay)



**Dial
615**

**731-
3839**



**Your questions
answered on:**

Woman's Auxiliary

by Mary Neal
WNAC President

Today's question is addressed to Mary Ruth Wisehart, WNAC's executive secretary-treasurer.

At our recent convention much ado was made over the fee you plan to deduct from money channeled through WNAC. Can you explain it? Why 5%?

In December 1990, the WNAC executive committee approved a 5% fee from all monies passing through the national office, beginning July, 1990. Accordingly, they designed a budget in 1992 to show an estimated \$20,000 from that source. This estimate is based on past receipts and future increase.

In July the convention considered the possibility of increasing dues or levying the fee. The delegates voted to levy the fee and approved the budget of \$184,740.

Why a fee on all monies passing through the national treasury? In 1990 WNAC office handled \$511,195. Of this amount, \$338,211 went to national ministries and other outside causes. That left \$172,984 for operating expenses. Operating expenses, however, amounted to \$178,969. WNAC operated in the red again in 1990. With this deficit, theoretically, we could operate only 6 more years, and there would be no more money for operation.

The Executive Committee considered several options. In 1987 the delegates adopted a resolution asking each member to give at least \$5 to the general fund. The gifts have not yet reached this amount. The dues for 1990 increased from \$1.50 to \$2. Still funds are insufficient to meet the rising cost of operations.

Since most funds pay for their own promotion and handling expenses, this method seemed a sensible one for WNAC. Most, if not all, charitable agencies use a certain percentage of their revenue to pay operational expenses. Most of the time the percentage is higher than 5%. Once WNAC took one third of its income for operational expenses when the Co-Laborer Fund was used to support its operation and other national ministries. Funds that once would come to the Co-Laborer Fund are now being designated to national ministries. This method of support leaves WNAC without sufficient funds.

Is there another better plan? The executive committee is open to all suggestions. WNAC is being included in the National Ministries Offering. Also, we hope to build an endowment fund for WNAC with the Free Will Baptist Foundation. The interest from such a fund will continuously help the operation of the national office. (In August we received our first interest check from the endowment—\$1!)

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

LETTERS

Thanks for Clinic Packages

A few days before the hospital fire, we received about 15 or 16 boxes. We left most of them in storage. I failed to get the names of the senders, so they will not receive a thank you note. Could you please include a thank-you in CO-LABORER to all those who have sent packages?

Glennnda Leatherbury
Cote d'Ivoire

African Snake Story

Glennnda found a spitting cobra in her bedroom. "It was big!" she reported. Robert West, the snake killer, estimated it to be only 6 or 7 inches long. Said Glennnda: "It would have been longer if he had found it in his bedroom!"

Jalayn Martens
Cote d'Ivoire

Likes Poetry

I love CO-LABORER. I learn so much from the lessons and Bible studies. I especially love the poetry section because I, too, write poems. You have many talented people who write...Keep up the good work.

Judy Haynes
Lancaster, SC

Appreciates Freedoms

Stan shared with the Christians here about his visit to Cuba...Learning about the Cuban lifestyle makes everyone appreciate the freedoms they have.

Stan and Brenda Bunch
Panama

Thanks for Missions Support

Every prayer sent heavenward on our account and every penny given to us is received with a grateful heart.

Terry Miller family
N. Kingstown, RI

Likes CO-LABORER

Our small Auxiliary would like to express our appreciation for CO-

WORDS FOR WOMEN



by Mary
Ruth
Wisehart

"U ntil He Comes." It's been a good theme, and even though 1991 is ending, we'll keep looking up and expecting Him.

We know that He is coming again. He has warned us not to be misled by those who claim to know where or when. When He comes, we will know immediately. We'll have no doubts about who He is.

Perhaps He will come in the winter time. We'd welcome His coming into a cold, frozen world. His warmth and light would flood our winters and bring the spring of new life.

Suppose He should come as we celebrate His birth. What a lovely thought. Even though we may not have the exact date or even the season when He was born, what a special touch His second coming would give to our celebration.

Not coming as a baby to suffer again, but coming as a king to reign. Coming in glory and power and victory. Coming to take us as His bride to be with Him eternally.

Just a few more days. It can't be long now until we see Him, whether coming in the clouds or through death.

In the meantime, we work, watch and wait.

LABORER. It is very helpful and informative.

Cathern Smith
Moore, OK

thought "Let's Take a Vacation" a good idea and used it for our Emphasis offering.

Chris Tillery
Sulphur, OK

New Auxiliary

We recently started an Auxiliary with our women in the new work in Melo. The first meeting we had five present...About 30 women attended the last meeting at the church on the border.

Molly Barker, Uruguay

"Let's Take a Vacation"

We enjoy the programs in CO-LABORER very much. We also enjoy doing the projects and ideas ... We

ed. note: Bethlehem Auxiliary, Ashland City, TN, also used this idea to collect their Emphasis offering. Women were instructed to use unusual containers in which to collect their money and bring to the meeting.

Over \$150 came in, among other containers, an old sock, sugar bowl, cookie jar, handkerchief, baby shoe and a mesh onion bag.

Pre-Thanksgiving

Week Of Prayer

November 18-22, 1991

*Special Lizzie McAdams
Memorial Offering
for National Home Missions*



ARRANGE to have a successful Thanksgiving Week of Prayer by planning 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.

ADVERTISE by ordering free prayer booklets and other materials. (See sample prayer booklet 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 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

APPEAL for a sacrificial *Lizzie McAdams Memorial Offering for National Home Missions*. Set a goal for your auxiliary to reach in the special offering. 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 "*Lizzie McAdams Memorial Offering for National Home Missions*."

CO-LABORER

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