

CO LABORER

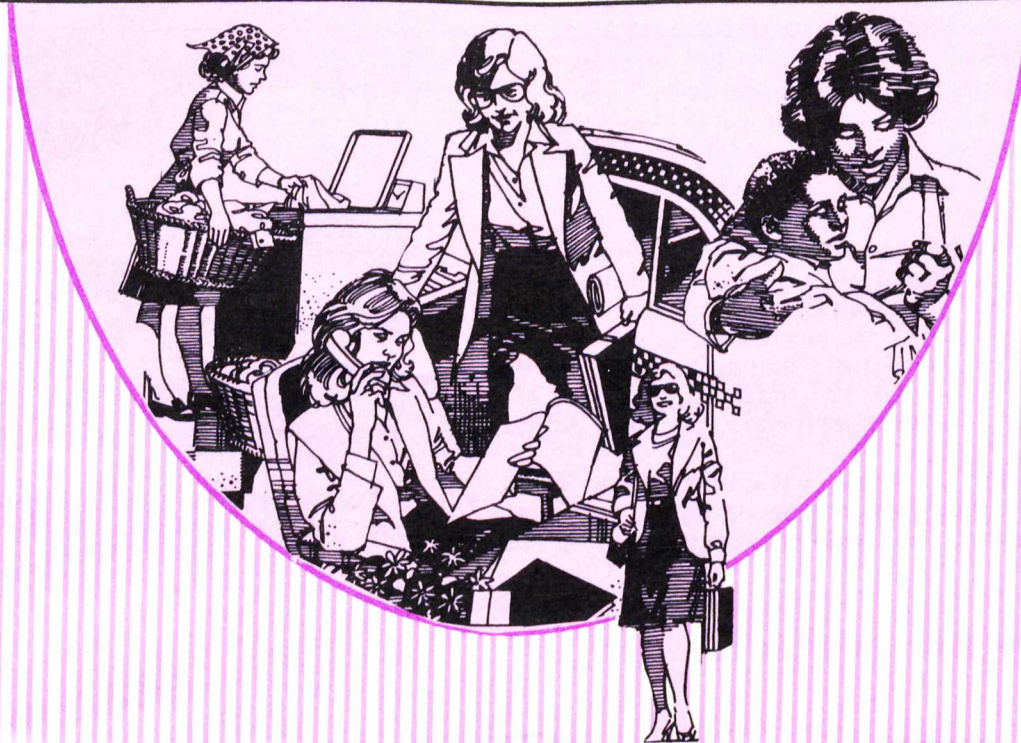
July
August
1992

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women



GOD'S IDEAL WOMAN

a Teacher of Good things



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Volume 32, Number 4, July/August 1992
a publication of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention
"For we are laborers together with God"
(I COR. 3:9)

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Pat Smith
Ceres, CA

Pat and her husband, Bob, retired, attend the Village Chapel FWB Church where she does follow-up visitation and teaches the women's Bible Study each Sunday morning. They have three married children, six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

For the past 22 years Mrs. Smith has been employed as a secretary for the State Farm Agency. She enjoys reading, knitting and sewing.



Becky Gwartney
Desloge, MO

Becky Fry Gwartney is married to Curt, youth and music pastor of the Fellowship FWB Church, Flat River, MO. They have two children, Darin, 9, and Casey, 6. Becky is Junior Girl's teacher, mission action chairman and district Auxiliary vice president. She also directs the youth choir and teaches signing classes.

For money, she is part-time supervisor of the student lounge/snack shop at the local high school. For fun, she enjoys sports, crafts, writing, baking and music.

Editorial

The time has come, I told Miss Wisehart. Come the end of the year, I plan to retire.

Her reply? "I thought you said you were going to be here forever."

I did say that. But I planned to stay forever in Africa, too. When we left America's shores in 1960, I expected to either be raptured from African soil or be buried in it. Instead, the Lord has delayed His coming and He brought us back to the States. If I've learned anything in following Jesus it is this: don't get too attached to one geographical location. And second, He makes you contented where He puts you.

In the WNAC office I discovered there could be life after Africa. I remember moaning—and I meant it—before we left the field, "The best years of my life are gone." Instead I've found a fulfillment I'd never dreamed possible. Why then am I reluctant to turn this new corner? Can there be life after WNAC?

God doesn't call us to understand, He calls us to walk in obedience. Last year the word retirement wasn't even in my vocabulary; today it looms before me as real as did our departure from Africa. I didn't know what the future held then any more than I do today.

One thing I know. I'm rooted in Him. I changed geographical locations, but the whole potted plant came into the WNAC office and the whole potted plant will leave come next December. As long as I remain rooted in Him, I face the future with expectancy. The best is yet to come!

—Lorene Miley

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A Woman God is Using

Davelle Riker was born December 26, 1962, in Flagstaff, Arizona, and was born again at age 13 after her family had moved to Arkansas. She attended a state college for a year and then transferred to Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. She realized she needed a Christian environment in her search for God's will for her life.



Here at Bible college, she met and fell in love with Jeff Halliburton, a junior who had spent the first ten years of his life in Vancouver, Washington. They married after her sophomore year.

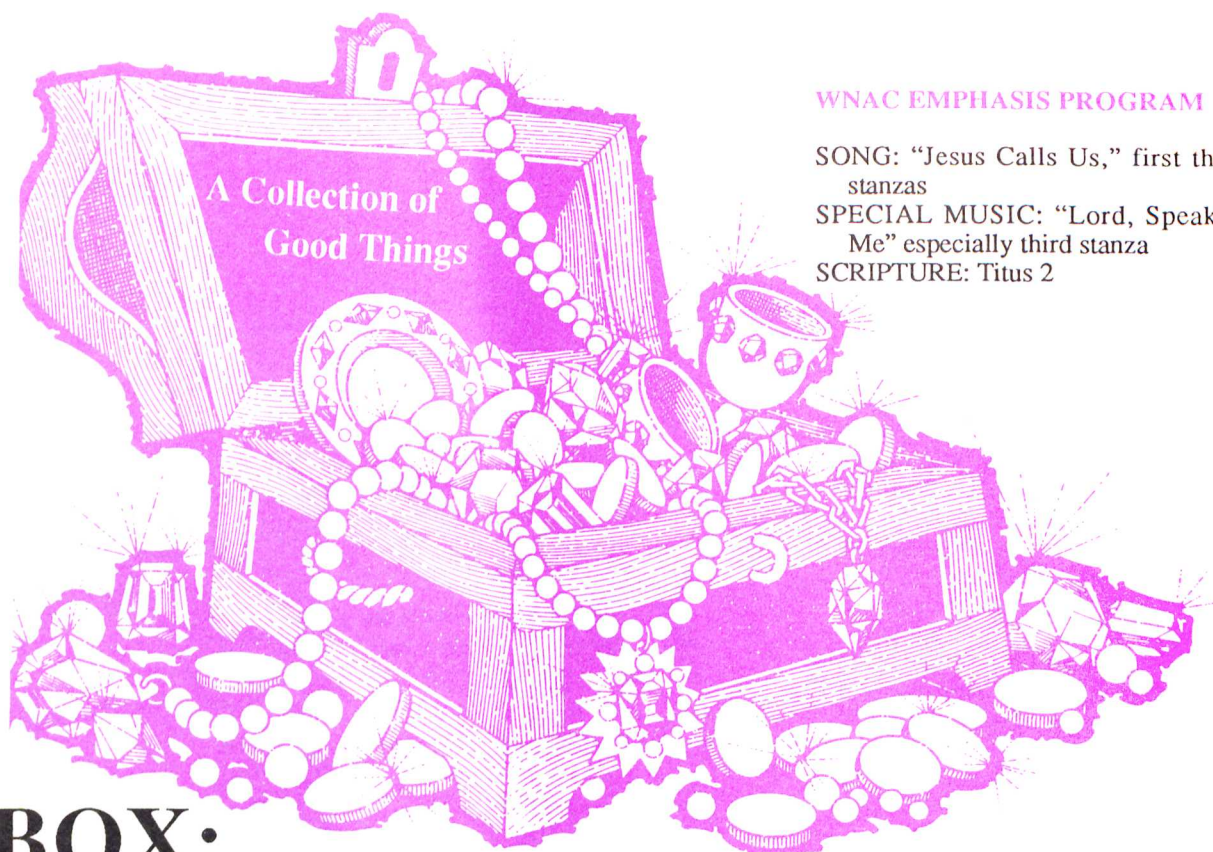
Their first ministry led them to a Christian school in Glenville, Georgia. After a year, they assumed a ministry with music and youth in Tupelo, Mississippi. Although this was a fruitful period, Jeff could never get away from the call to the northwest. Workers were so few and the harvest so needy. Seven years ago he became the minister of youth and music at the New Hope FWB Church in Kent, Washington.

Davelle plays an active part in the church, especially in music and helping in children's church. She serves as president of the New Hope Auxiliary and is secretary-treasurer of the Northwest District Woman's Auxiliary Convention. She mothers two active boys, Adam 7, and Philip, 5.

About three years ago Davelle was diagnosed as having a mild case of multiple sclerosis. However, it has not slowed her down from still being a young woman whom God is using.

—Betty Plunkett

PANDORA'S BOX:



WNAC EMPHASIS PROGRAM

SONG: "Jesus Calls Us," first three stanzas

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Lord, Speak to Me" especially third stanza

SCRIPTURE: Titus 2

CHARACTERS:

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY MEMBER

PANDORA

SPIRIT OF WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

FUN AND FELLOWSHIP, twins

PRAYER PRIVILEGE

INSPIRATION AND INFORMATION, twins

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

WORLD OUTREACH and women representing outreach

PASTOR OR WOMAN'S AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Each of these characters, except Pandora, may have a different colored ribbon slanting across the chest with the character's name on it.

Set stage with a table and a chair for Pandora. Either on the floor or table place a large box wrapped as a gift with a large bow on a lift-off lid. SPIRIT OF WOMAN'S AUXILIARY may come out of the box (if the box is large enough and be sure she can breathe in the box!) or she may rise from behind a covered table with the gift box sitting on the table. The box should be labeled TREASURES OF WOMAN'S AUXILIARY and contain six boxes wrapped with lift off lids, each with some item to suggest the good thing it represents.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY MEMBER:

Teachers of good things—that's our theme for 1992. There are Sunday school teachers, elementary teachers, high school teachers and college professors. There are teachers of math and science, teachers of English and literature, teachers of Bible and theology. But you know, we are all teachers in some ways. By our words and by our deeds, we are teaching those who live around us. As Christians, we want to be teachers of good things. I know Woman's Auxiliary has a lot of good things to offer. Look, this box is just filled with treasures if only our women would open it and make use of these gifts. (catches sight of Pandora approaching) Ah, here comes Pandora now. (aside) I wonder why they called her Pandora. She never has joined Woman's Auxiliary. Maybe she doesn't know about all the good things we have to offer. (stands behind box to observe Pandora)

PANDORA: (approaches and reads label on box) I'm really curious about Woman's Auxiliary. I'd like to get to know the women in my church. I want to be involved in ministry, but do I dare open this box?

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY MEMBER:

Of course, my dear, do open it. Why not?

PANDORA: Well, you remember, someone with my name once opened a box and let all our troubles loose, so they say.

WAM: (laughs heartily) I assure you this is not a Pandora's box. Look, it says Treasures of Woman's Auxiliary. I think if you open this box, you'll find just what you are looking for, a lot of good things.

PANDORA: (hesitating) Well, if you really think I should——

WAM: Come on. Let's do it together. (WAM stays on stage to help with gifts, placing boxes in attractive stack on table beside Pandora.)

(They lift the lid and with a sparkle of light, the SPIRIT OF WOMAN'S AUXILIARY comes out of the box or from behind the table. Let SPIRIT shower sparkling confetti or florist's crystal fiber IF these can be easily cleaned up afterward. Perhaps she can wear a sparkling dress.)

SPIRIT: Hello, Pandora, I'm the SPIRIT OF WOMAN'S AUXILIARY. Do I have a surprise for you. This box holds special treasures. I'm going to

bring you lots of good things from the Auxiliary box. (lifts a package from box)

(FUN and FELLOWSHIP appear and open box. May come from behind box or from behind table where box is. Their box has cookies and a coke or something suggesting fun and fellowship.)

FUN: (skipping around stage with cookies and a drink) Fun, fun, fun! I like to have good times, don't you? Some people think that Woman's Auxiliary is all solemn, sober, dull meetings. But I'll let you in on a little secret. I've heard these women laugh at meetings, at retreats, even at conventions. Wow! They're a happy bunch. They must be having fun.

FELLOWSHIP: Sure, we do have fun. But even better we have fellowship.

FUN: Wow! That's fun too.

FELLOWSHIP: We need one another.

FUN: To have fun.

FELLOWSHIP: Our fellowship together gives us a support we can't find anywhere else. We can pray together, cry together and—

FUN: And laugh together.

FELLOWSHIP: Listen and bear one another's burdens and form lifelong friendships.

FUN: And the Bible does say "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

FELLOWSHIP: Yes, and the Bible also says, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." We do have fun and fellowship in Woman's Auxiliary.

(They leave their gift box on table beside Pandora and exit.)

PANDORA: My, these are happy women.

WAM: No one is happier than people who serve, Pandora.

(SPIRIT lifts out another gift box, and Prayer Privilege enters.)

PRAYER: (takes prayer cards, Prayer Fellowship card from box) Look, you can reach far with your ministry if you join with us in prayer. Every day at 9:00 a.m. women in Auxiliaries across

the United States join in Prayer Fellowship for missionaries, for the church, for world and personal needs. We observe three special times of concentrated prayer each year for missions. Prayer is a vital part of Woman's Auxiliary. Through prayer we move the heart of God and change ourselves and our world. (places her box beside Pandora and exits.)

PANDORA: Oh, this is wonderful. Even I can minister through prayer.

WAM: What did I tell you, Pandora?

(SPIRIT lifts out another box and INFORMATION and INSPIRATION enter.)

INSPIRATION: (takes a CO-LABORER magazine from their box) We all need an uplift at times. Something that helps us know more of the God we serve. A song to sing. A verse to comfort us. A word of encouragement. A challenge to be what God wants us to be. Something like this article in our magazine. (She reads the title and suggests something of the article.)

INFORMATION: (takes the CO-LABORER, HEARTBEAT, MISSIONS GRAMSI, and CONTACT from the box) And we all need to be informed. To pray intelligently, we need to know about our missionaries, what projects need special prayer and any special requests. Here, Pandora, look for the column "Appointed to Pray" in the magazine. Read these publications and you'll stay informed. (takes books from box) I've brought you some books we use to help us with world missions, Christian living, and prayer.

PANDORA: (holding books and reading titles) I can certainly benefit from these. They'll help me see the big picture.

WAM: Remember, Pandora, the field is the world.

(SPIRIT lifts out the next gift box, and LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT enters.)

LEADERSHIP: (She takes from her box MANUALS and officers' GUIDES.) Some leaders are born women. You may be one, Pandora. Woman's Auxiliary offers you an opportunity to develop that leadership in God's service. WNAC publishes

helps for leaders. Take a look. We can use someone to help with organization, action, prayer, and study. Woman's Auxiliary offers you a place to serve.

(She leaves her box with Pandora and exits.)

PANDORA: I do want to serve. Do you suppose there is a place for me?

WAM: I know there is a place of service for you.

(SPIRIT lifts the next gift box and WORLD OUTREACH enters. This character may be one woman or a group of women representing the various places where Auxiliary ministers, including women costumed to represent the countries where we have mission work.)

WORLD OUTREACH: (Takes from her box tracts, the Bible, and missionary maps.) I come to you from your own community, from New Hampshire to California, from Africa, Europe, South America and Asia. Woman's Auxiliary has helped to reach souls for Christ all over the world.

Watch for your Emphasis Letter It contains more Good things

(One woman may do all these speeches or have several women represent the different ones.)

#1. They reached me when a group of women came to visit me in prison.

#2. Your women met me in a Crisis Pregnancy Center and led me to Christ.

#3. They brought a care basket to my hospital room.

#4. Your women came to our countries and lived Christ before us. They said Woman's Auxiliaries helped them minister there. (This may be a group of women dressed to represent the countries where we minister or one woman representing all the mission work.)

#5. Women from your church held a service for me in the nursing home.

#6. (a child) One of your members was a mentor for me in my school. She

loved me; I thought she must be like Jesus.

#7. When I felt discouraged in mission work here in the States, I had a note from your Auxiliary saying that you were praying for me, and you encouraged me.

#8. I was ministering in a strange land, far away from home, and you sent again and again for my needs. You remembered my birthday and anniversary. You encouraged me in the work.

(WORLD OUTREACH leaves her box with Pandora and exits with her troop or they may all stay for the last scene.)

PANDORA: These testimonies make me long to be a part, to reach out to oth-

ers. But I can't do all these things by myself.

WAM: Of course not, Pandora, but that's what Woman's Auxiliary is all about. Together we can do great things for Christ.

SPIRIT: Well, what do you think, Pandora? Are you sorry you opened the box?

PANDORA: Oh, no. Why didn't I do it sooner? I want to get in on all these good things from fun and fellowship to world outreach. Just tell me how.

PASTOR or PRESIDENT OF WOMAN'S AUXILIARY: There's one more good thing you should know about.

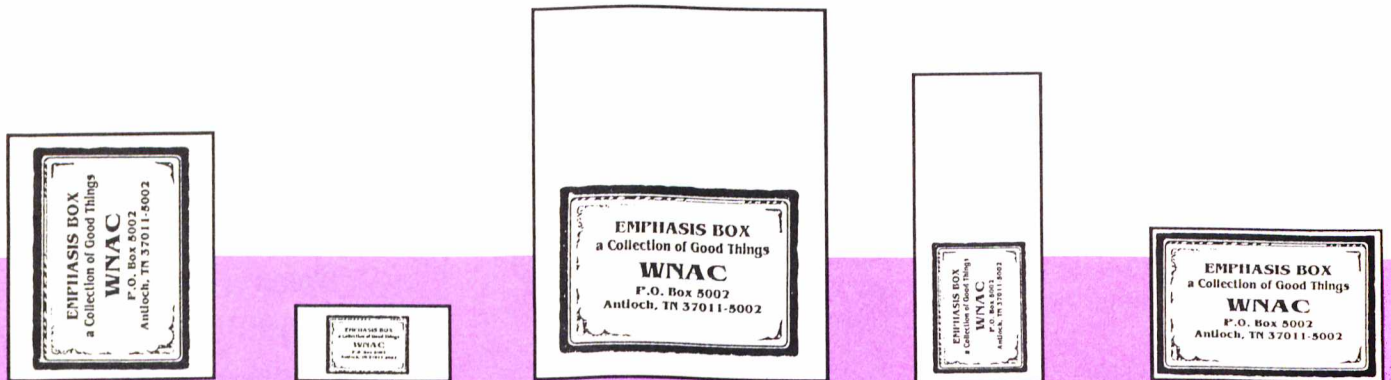
(SPIRIT lifts one last box.)

PASTOR OR PRESIDENT: (takes list out of box) We have an Auxiliary here, and they have (mentions contributions they have made to the local church). Pandora, you can get in on all these good things by joining the Woman's Auxiliary.

PANDORA: I will. I want to use all these good things.

SONG: last stanza of "Jesus Calls Us"

Ask the pastor to take the offering for the National Office. Give out quarter folders a month before and ask those who used them to drop them in the offering. Give the whole church the opportunity to contribute to WNAC.



Emphasis Box Rendezvous

Distribute the gummed Pandora Box labels at your June meeting. Ask the women to attach them to a suitable box and keep in a handy place. They will fill the boxes with money and bring to their Emphasis meeting. The month before your Emphasis program, ask five women to do this skit.

Characters:

Box 1—Belonging to Do-good
Box 2—Belonging to Make-well
Box 3—Belonging to True-faith
Box 4—Belonging to Careless
Box 5—Belonging to Good-heart

All characters wear an enlarged Pandora's Box label around their necks.

BOX 1: Greetings, my sisters. Isn't

it great we can all come together like this? For several weeks now our masters have been filling us with good things. I do hope we reflect a spirit of genuine commitment among our Auxiliary women.

BOX 2: I don't want to dampen your enthusiasm, my friend, but wait until you hear my story. In the first place, look what a tiny box my owner chose. That should have told me something. I feel so insignificant I didn't even want to come.

BOX 3: I don't know about the rest of you boxes, but do you realize our box life is about a third over? My master has been putting so many good things in me lately that I must be almost full!

BOX 4: You're kidding! (*pretends to blow off dust*) Pardon me, I was just blowing off the dust. I wonder how it feels to be full. I am so empty that I can't tell whether I've got a stomach ache or a back ache.

BOX 5: (*Addressing Box 4*) Then you know what how WNAC feels when they say they have no money to run the office in Nashville.

BOX 1: This is tragic, especially when they are counting on us. Did you know that when we support WNAC we are supporting missions around the world?

BOX 3: I do indeed. You know I belong to Mrs. True-faith. Well, let me

tell you, the minute she got her Pandora Box label, she searched for the nicest, handiest box she could find. She was proud of me from the very start and set me right in the middle of the kitchen table. "Little Emphasis Box," she told me, "I'm going to put you right here where we can see you each time we sit down to eat." And then you know what she did? She said, "I do believe you look real hungry right now." And with that she searched through her purse and emptied the entire contents of her coin purse inside me!" Yes, I was off to a good start!

BOX 1: How delightful!

BOX 2: I wish I could say the same for Mrs. Make-well, my master. Oh sure, she's generous and often when she thinks of the Woman's Auxiliary and all the good things they do, she'll enlist everyone in the family to feed me. Her problem is she seems to think I'm a loan factory. Every time she needs some change for the paper boy or for the children's lunches or some emergency, I'm the first place she looks. Unfortunately she doesn't give me a chance to build up.

(Other boxes shake their heads in pity.

BOX 3: How dreadful!

BOX 5: I belong to Mrs. Good-heart who has a son in Bible College. The other day he came home for a week end visit and as usual, his mom did his laundry and fixed him a huge care package to take back with him. When he caught me staring at him from the kitchen counter, he asked his mom about me. He was so impressed with the Auxiliary and all they do for missions—did I tell you he's planning to be a missionary?—that he emptied his pockets of all his change and fed me. My, how tasty those morsels were!

BOX 3: Did she tell him the Auxiliary also helps students prepare for the mission field? And that they

also give scholarships to Foreign Students?

BOX 5: She sure did.

BOX 1: I have a good master, too. I'm so glad I came into the home of Mrs. Do-good. They have fed me wonderfully well. I know some of you may think this strange since you all know the Do-goods are poor people and have a large family and Mr. Do-good is unable to work much of the time. I know for a fact—sometimes they feed me instead of buying something they'd really like to have.

BOX 2: That's too good to be true. Ouch!

BOX 4: Are you in some kind of distress?

Pandora Box Labels
are free upon request
WNAC
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002
(Please state number needed!)

BOX 2: I'm sorry. I'm afraid I haven't completely recovered from my last operation.

BOX 1: Operation?

(Boxes all look at her and ask, "What operation?"

BOX 5: Yes, tell us about it.

BOX 2: I've already told you how she chose this tiny box and how she considers me a loan factory. Well, one day she found me completely empty, so she glued and taped me shut so she wouldn't be tempted so easily. At first I felt safe and secure, but I should have known better. It wasn't many days later that the oldest child needed 50 cents for her girl scouts. She searched for money everywhere as the bus honked in front of the house. She tried to pry me open, but she had done her work well. She had no choice but to grab the

paring knife and in less time than a grasshopper can jump over the fence, Becky had her girl scout money. Even with the scotch-tape sutures which she used to repair me, I'm never going to be the same again.

(The boxes all shake their heads and sigh condolences.

BOX 4: Let me tell you about my owner. I belong to Mrs. Careless. She's a good old soul, but the flightiest person you'll find anywhere. How many times I've dreamed how beautiful her life could be if she only had the wisdom to know that time belongs to God and that her talents used in the service of God would give her joy and purpose. I wish I could tell her that the Auxiliary offers her an opportunity for fulfillment. Oh, she means well. When she brought her Pandora Box label home, she had the best of intentions. She chose the most pretentious box she could find. I sat on the mantle for a day or two, but the next time she cleaned, she stuck me off in the closet and there I've been until I came to this rendezvous. I don't think Mrs. Careless realizes that the money she gives to WNAC helps bind Free Will Baptist women together from around the world.

BOX 1: It thrills me to know that we are the receptacles for receiving some of the thousands of dollars needed for the WNAC office.

BOX 5: Say, do you Emphasis Boxes remember the saying, "The strength of a nation lies in its homes?" We might paraphrase it to say "The strength of WNAC lies in its Offering Boxes." In our contents are an expression of love from her women. Surely WNAC moves forward in direct proportion to the faithful, thankful hearts of those to whom we belong.

ALL BOXES: *(they bow their heads and pray together)* Thank You, God, for allowing us to share in bringing your love and salvation to the world through our Emphasis Boxes.



Aim: To make Jesus the controlling factor in our lives.
Scripture: Matthew 6:33
Hymns: "Seek Ye First" and "In My Life, Lord"

1 First Things First

A Description of the Well-Rounded Woman

Introduction

If we have accepted Christ as our Lord and Savior, He sits on the throne of our hearts. He is our pilot, navigator, boss—the controlling factor. If He is all of these in our hearts, He will be **FIRST** in our daily walk, in our home, in our friendships and in our time.



Christ, the controlling factor. That's often easier said than done. If He controls our lives, it will be manifested in our daily walk with Him. Our hearts and minds will dwell on spiritual things and a holy and awesome God.

We can't feed our minds trash and expect to grow spiritually. You've heard the saying, "You are what you eat." That's also true in our Christian walk. What do you feed your mind? Books, magazines, music and television all affect our lives one way or another, either for good or bad.

Instead of reading questionable literature, choose Christian au-

thors. Learn what God has taught them, how God changes lives, and how to live a joyous, victorious Christian life. Listen to music that encourages, strengthens, teaches, and helps you to worship and praise our Redeemer.

Of course, we must not neglect God's Word. His Word never grows stale. It is new and fresh every morning. Ask God to show you His message for you each and every day.

It continues to amaze me how God speaks to us through His Word. He knows what we need. Is there a message for you from God? Is there an example to follow? A promise to claim? A lesson to learn? A sin to avoid? A command to obey? Ask Him! He'll show you.

Our time alone with God is so precious. Guard it with all your heart. Write down the messages He gives you in your quiet time with Him. Place them on your desk, in your kitchen window, on your car dashboard, or in front of your mirror.

Oh, to be a Mary (Luke 10:38-42) and sit at Jesus' feet, soaking up all He has to offer. In her devotional book, Sarah Jepson Coleman writes about Mary and Martha: "A blend of both service and devotion is needed in the well-rounded Christian. Christ loved both Mary

and Martha and appreciated Martha's untiring service. But He also pointed out that 'Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.' If there were a choice between service and devotion, devotion would win, for it is the source of true service."

We can't be so busy, even with good things, that we neglect our personal time with God. Jesus tells us that "one thing is needful."



(Deut. 6:5-9)

If a stranger walked into your home right now, would he be able to tell you have a Christian home? What would he find on your coffee table? What program would be on your radio or television? What kind of music would be playing? Could he tell you're a Christian by your attitudes or actions? More than anything today, people need to see Christ in us and in our homes.

Our homes should be a place of comfort, strength, stability, en-

couragement, love and happiness; a place where we grow in the Lord and learn more about Him and His Word.

Children learn by our example how to walk with the Lord and live Godly lives. When was the last time your children saw you reading God's Word and in prayer? Do you observe prayer before meals and at bedtime? Family devotions? How faithful are you in church attendance? Children watch the way we talk and act, the things we read and watch, our attitude toward God, church and other Christians. These make a powerful impact on our children.

What kind of message are you sending your kids? Frank Hamrick, founder of Positive Action for Christ, says, "Nothing will influence our children more than our obvious personal surrender to Him." I agree.



(Eccl. 4:9, 10)

What a touchy subject for many of us. But if Christ is first in this area, our most intimate friends will be those who share our Christian faith. Second Corinthians warns us to be careful about close friendships with unbelievers. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful" (Ps. 1:1). How would you describe your closest friends?

"Nearness means likeness" applies to negative characteristics (gossip, griping, anger, greed) as well as positive ones. People judge what kind of a person you are by the company you keep. If someone leads you into depression, discouragement, or unholy desires, avoid that intimacy! We have enough in our lives to bring us down without help from our so-

by Becky Gwartney

called friends. Search for those who bring out the best in us.

Don't get me wrong—we must be courteous and friendly to our unsaved friends. Friendship evangelism is the most effective means of bringing someone to salvation these days. But guard against becoming spiritually weakened by the time you spend with them.

We all value friends—those who love and accept us with all our faults, those who laugh and cry

Program Helps

■ **First-Things-First magnets are available from some gift and specialty shops. Purchase one for each one attending your meeting.**

■ **Enlarge the symbol introducing the topics to poster board size. Use as publicity to announce the meeting, also as room decorations.**

and pray with us, those who edify, inspire and stir us up, those who are loyal through thick and thin.

Is that how you define a friend? Victor Hugo once said, "The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved, loved for ourselves, or rather loved in spite of ourselves."

Earthly friends, no matter how Godly, will disappoint you. Perhaps God allows human friendships to fail in order to remind us to seek our heavenly Friend, "a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24)—JESUS. Yes, He should be our very best friend. He meets perfectly all the qualifications of a true friend—loyal, loving, accepting, encouraging, and inspiring.



A great example of the well-rounded woman is found in Proverbs 31. Notice five areas in which this woman had time:

1. The Lord (v. 30)
2. Her family (v.11) and children (v. 28)
3. Others (v. 20)
4. Homemaking (vv. 27a, 13)
5. Herself (v. 17, 22)

If God is first in this area of our lives, we will make valuable use of the time He has given us. From the king on the throne to the pauper on Skid Row, in the matter of time, we are equals. The difference is how we use it.

Let us take time

...for the goodbye kiss. We shall go to the day's work with a sweeter spirit for it.

...to speak sweet, foolish words to those we love. By and by, when they can no longer hear us, our foolishness will seem more wise than our best wisdom.

...to be pleasant. The small courtesies which we often omit, because they are small, will some day look larger to us than the wealth and fame for which we struggled and sacrificed.

...to get acquainted with our families. The wealth you are accumulating, burdened father, busy mother, can never make a home for the son or daughter for whom you have no time for companionship.

Since we must all take time to die, why not take time to live? Live in the larger sense a life begun here for eternity.

Conclusion

Let us be like Daniel (Daniel 1:8) and purpose in our hearts to keep God first in everything. If we do, we will show the world that God is indeed sitting on the throne of our hearts.



The Anatomy of a Missionary

Aim: To learn more about a missionary by examining some parts of the body.

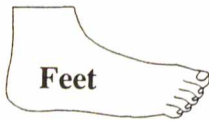
Scripture: Romans 10:13-15

Hymn: "The Call for Reapers"

Introduction

What makes a missionary tick? What motivates him to leave family and friends to live in another land? Is it fame? Fun? Fortune? Hardly!

I haven't met a missionary yet who came home with a large bank account or had his name blazing in lights or was met at the airport with a fanfare of bands, red carpet, and television cam-



eras. Oh sure, his family may be there, a few friends, and maybe some from the church. But for the most part, he arrives unnoticed, another face in the crowd.

Let's start from the feet and work our way up as we examine this one who is unparalleled to the ordinary layman.

Feet are considered the most unattractive part of the anatomy, yet God's Word describes them as beautiful (Rom. 10:15). At first glance, the feet of a missionary look just like those of anyone else. The difference is in their use.

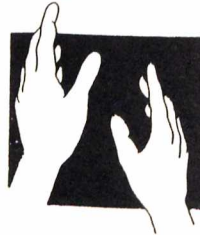
One could say Joni Erickson Tada has beautiful feet although she is a quadriplegic. She has a ministry that reaches far beyond her wheelchair as she brings many to Christ her Savior.

Planting one's feet means he is determined, his mind is made up, and he cannot be swayed from his course of action. God sets the feet of His children

on a rock (Ps. 40:2). He takes them from the slime pit to a solid foundation. The missionary helps. He reaches people wallowing in the slime pits of sin and brings them to the knowledge of the Savior.

Moving up to the hands, we find them a vital part of the missionary anatomy. Hands can be used in a deceptive manner, as Jacob when he disguised himself as Esau.

Hands



Solomon says, "Lazy hands make a man poor," implying we must keep busy. An outstanding characteristic of the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31 is her eager hands. This denotes a desire, excitement and enthusiasm, even passion and aggressiveness.

Such are the hands of a missionary. He has a passion for souls and reaches out, as goes the telephone slogan, to "touch someone." Only he touches them with the Gospel of Christ.

Sometimes the things we do will win more souls to Christ than what we say. One can speak with religious sounding words, but if his hands don't match his words with kind deeds, too often the words fall on deaf ears and fail to penetrate the heart.



Mouth

The Bible has a lot to say about the part of the anatomy called the mouth.

Old Testament writers wrote of speaking with one "mouth to mouth," meaning without an interpreter or third party. To speak "with one mouth" signifies universal agreement.

The New Testament also gives many references to the mouth. Matthew says, "From the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks." Paul describes the plan of salvation in Romans 10:9: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

The mouth of the missionary is God's mouthpiece, for He says, "I will put my words in his mouth and he will tell them everything I have commanded." As people respond to the message of salvation, God gives them a new song and fills their mouths with praise. Then His Word and His promises became sweeter than honey in the honeycomb (Ps. 119:103).



Eyes

The Bible records several derogatory remarks about the eyes. To look upon something with lust is the wrong use of the eye. When the nation of Israel intermarried with pagan nations, God warned they would become as snares and traps, whips on their backs and thorns in their eyes (Jos. 23:13). Women can look at men in a seductive manner in order to solicit their favors.

Jesus encouraged a positive use of the eyes. "If thine eye be single (good)," He says, "your whole body shall be full of light" (Matt. 6:22). Also "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest" (Jn. 4:35).

by Pat Smith

The missionary responds to this vision. He leaves family, friends and homeland to glean a ripe harvest. He urges young believers to fix their eyes on Jesus and look for that "blessed hope," a promise not visible with the physical eye, but strong through the eye of faith.



Reflecting on another part of the anatomy, and one we don't see from the outside, the heart is a missionary's most important organ. The heart is the center of one's physical life, the fountain of the entire life power. When the heart stops, life ceases. Scripture uses the heart symbol to represent the core of the spiritual life.

The heart is considered our seat of emotions, feelings, our true nature. The

heart of the missionary is set on fire for the plight of the millions dying in their sins without an opportunity to accept Christ as Savior. The love of Christ compels him to go. Often he goes to very primitive and unfamiliar places to spread the Word.

Luke tells us that where our treasure is, our heart is there also. A missionary's treasure is anyone, anywhere without the light of the Gospel of Christ. There you will find his heart.

The apostle Paul, the greatest of all missionaries, confessed his heart's desire and prayer to God for the salvation of the Israelites. Our missionaries express this same desire for those in their designated area. They suffer, as did Paul, with anguish of heart and many tears. God's love constrains them.

Conclusion

The Woman's Auxiliary plays a vital part in the life of a missionary. We can bind together in prayer for their needs and believe together that God will give them fruit for their labor.

We can help supply some of the tangible items necessary as they minister to the needs of others. Every missionary, both home and foreign, receive items from the Missionary Provision Closet in Nashville, Tennessee. We can help provide supplies.

We can write to them and express our appreciation. We can send them birthday cards.

When they have services in our area, we can make a special effort to go hear them. Invite them into our homes. Ask them how we can help.

We are laborers together with God. We are partners with the missionary.

Program Helps

1. Enlarge the parts of the anatomy, as illustrated, and glue to flash cards. Posters of the parts of the body are also available from school supply stores. The speakers will hold the cards as the topics are given. Afterward, display them on easels.
2. If you could secure a skeleton, it would add to the interest.

What's a Woman To Do?

by Ruth Creech Mullen

Most Christian women want to please God and their husbands and their families and their churches and their... The problem is how to accomplish everything that has to be done, deciding what to do and what to leave undone.

I know. I'm trying to do this myself and it isn't easy. We even have our priorities straight and know we must please God first, family next and the rest somewhere farther down the line.

Frustration sets in when these responsibilities clash and we need to be in two places at once. Or we only have one hour to give and 30 hours of volunteer work wait to be done. How do we daily decide to place God, family, church and community on the calendar? Do we participate at all in community activities since these are outside the four walls of the home and church? Can a woman work outside the home and still love God and care for her family? How many jobs should she hold at

church, especially if she doesn't work outside the home and therefore, "has nothing to do?" (Ha!) As time marches on, things seem to get worse.

So what's a woman to do? Society has confused the once clear, separate roles of men and women. Much has been said and done in the name of liberating us women, a little of which was beneficial at first, but most has gone to an extreme that is a far cry from God's ideal.

What really throws us is the vastly differing views of our role as women in Christian circles. Even among Free Will Baptists we see both ends of the spectrum and all points in between. We, as women, are the ball batted back and forth.

Some think the Bible has a rigid plan that applies to every woman. It's almost like a legal document entitled God's Will for Woman and it never varies. You must stay home, raise kids and keep silent.

I don't believe this is God's plan for us. Nor do I believe He's happy with the way-out ideas of

(Continued on page 13)

News from The National Office

Communicator ...

August Is Emphasis Month

WNAC selected August in 1965 as a month for special emphasis for Free Will Baptist women's work. This observance of a once-a-year event gives the women an opportunity to review the purpose, work, and value of Woman's Auxiliary for the entire church.

During this month the entire church should have the opportunity of giving for the support of the WNAC.

This issue of the magazine has a special emphasis program with suggestions for presentation. Each Auxiliary on the mailing list will receive an Emphasis Packet.

Plan and publicize the special emphasis program. Get the support of your pastor and encourage the whole church to participate in the program and the offering.

WNAC Monthly Expenses

Why an offering during Emphasis Month? Below is a report of expenses for the month of February, 1992.

Salaries	\$ 5,817.61
Payroll Taxes	445.13
Employees' Retirement	290.87
Employees' Benefits ..	349.00
Legal & Accounting Fees	40.17
Copier Payment	192.80
Dues Refunds	8.50
Employees' Insurance.....	780.83

Insurance-Business....	119.00
Literature Printing	209.35
Magazine Printing	5,300.00
Miscellaneous Expense	63.78
National Retreat Expense	326.40
Rent	2,755.14
Office Supplies	10.62
Postage	323.57
Provision Closet Expense	200.00
Telephone.....	80.65
Telephone Equip. Payment	45.69
Continuing Edu.	230.00
Equipment Repairs & Maintenance.....	30.00
Leadership Conf.	41.29
Total Operating Expense	\$17,660.40

Regular monthly support makes it possible for the WNAC office to pay the bills, keep planning, printing, mailing, and sending out materials. The Emphasis Month Offering contributes to the support.

Report on Furniture in the WNAC Office

The following states have contributed to furniture.

Alabama
California
Florida
Georgia
Kansas
Mississippi
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
South Carolina
Tennessee

Auxiliaries and individuals have contributed the following:

Donelson Auxiliary, flower arrangement for the reception area
Inman First Auxiliary, flower arrangement for the Conference Room

Molly Gibson, ceramic container for arrangement in the Conference Room

A total of \$5,566.06 is still needed to complete the payment for the furniture.

Provision Closet Needs

Sheet sets in all sizes
Twin mattress covers
Pressure cookers
8 place settings of Corelleware and stainless flatware

**WNAC National Retreat
September 17-19, 1992**

What's a Woman to Do?

Continued from page 11 ...

the feminist movement. We are NOT free to do whatever we like; we have limitations. The right to your body does not include the privilege to murder another human being.

God's plan for women lies somewhere between those two extremes. Some basics of His will is binding on all, in other areas, it is individualistic. His will for you is not His plan for me. I am able to stay home and therefore, have more time for church and school responsibilities. You may be a single mom who has to work to feed your children and therefore, are more limited in outside activities.

The important thing is for each of us to do what God wants us to do. Satan wins when we do what we want and don't even try to find God's will.

Another snare is overcommitment. I'm one of those folks who find it hard to say "No." For a long time that small word wasn't even in my vocabulary. I assumed that God wanted me to do everything I was asked. WRONG! When I do it all, others are not learning to lead. Plus they miss the blessing involved.

We must maintain a close, daily relationship with Jesus. This alone assures we make the right choices and decisions. Now this is not a new idea, but something we need to be reminded of occasionally. A busy schedule serves as a reason to stay close to God. We must have daily, private devotions.

God wants to help us more than we want His help. He will guide us through the perplexing problems we face. Should I work outside the home? Am I the one to teach the Junior Sunday school class? Do I accept the position on the textbook committee at school?

God's plan will be different for each of us, tailored to meet our individuality. He will help us coordinate the details of our lives as we yield to him, keeping Him first. Let's strive to please God and be the best Christian woman we can be.

That's what a woman is to do!



By Eunice Edward

Over My Coffee Cup



I Made a Dress

I made a dress for myself today. The material, a Christmas gift, has a small, geometric pattern in a most skillful blend of colors.

God taught me some marvelous lessons while working on this dress. I laid out the pattern pieces, and then in order to conserve material, I rearranged them. Except for the scarcity of material, this reminded me of our lives.

I could almost hear my heavenly Father speaking. Our lives are given as a gift. "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19, 20).

When my friends gave me this material, they included the thread, zipper and notions. A little note attached read: "Make something pretty for yourself."

This is exactly what God has done for us. He gave us not only our lives, but the glorious privilege of serving Him. The blessed Holy Spirit empowers us for service so we could make something "pretty" for ourselves. When we serve others, we add to our own lives. A proverb says: "All that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own." So when we fail to serve, we subtract from our own spiritual growth.

When I placed the pattern and

began cutting, the soft material slipped right away from the scissors. I called for Wanda to come and help. How often, I thought, have I depended upon the help of others when the sharp edge of circumstances cause me trouble.

Yes, at times I've taken my life into my own hands only to mess it up miserably. Then the Master carefully rearranges the pieces and encourages me to try again. He keeps a picture of the finished product before Him and tries to get me to see it, even as I have a picture of the finished dress on the front of the pattern envelope.

Even the skillful blend of colors in this cloth, both bright and dark, is like our lives. Not all are pastel pinks and blues with lacy clouds of delight. Some are dark and somber. Yet when these all blend into one harmonious whole, the result is a rich, full life.

After all this, do you wonder why I like this dress so much?

Mrs. Edwards wrote this devotional thought several years ago and included it in the WNAC cookbook which she edited. Recently Mrs. Edwards experienced some dark and somber threads in the material of her life with the homegoing of her daughter, Wanda. She wishes to convey this note of appreciation:

Please accept my gratitude for your many kindnesses, and especially for your love-prompted prayers during the illness and death of my daughter.



Bible Study

I Timothy Chapter 1, Part 2

REVIEW: In introducing this study, a few pertinent facts pertaining to Timothy, the young pastor, were pointed out. Timothy had a mixed background, his father being a Greek, and evidently, an unbeliever. However, he was brought up under the influence of a devout mother and grandmother (Acts 16:1,2). After meeting the apostle Paul in Lystra and being converted, Timothy became a trusted and valuable companion to Paul in his further missionary endeavors, and is honored by his mentor by being addressed as "my own son in the faith."

Paul had left Timothy in Ephesus, a city given to the worship of the goddess Diana, to establish proper order in the Christian church. In 1:2, Timothy is specifically charged that the teaching of any other doctrine be strictly forbidden.

LAWS FOR THE LAWLESS (1:8-11)

1:8,9—"But we _____ that the _____ is good, _____ a man use it lawfully, knowing this, that the law is not made for a _____ man, but for the _____ and _____, for the _____ and _____, for _____ and _____, for _____ of fathers and murders of mothers, for _____."

Only the lawless need fear the penalties rightly imposed on lawbreakers. Lawlessness originates in the rebellious heart of unregenerated man. Here Paul covers the gamut from "disobedience" to "murderers of their own parents."

1:10a—"For _____ (fornicators), for them that _____ themselves with mankind (perversion), for _____ (kidnappers), for _____, for perjured persons..." Paul continues the listing of criminal actions, both civil and moral, that merit the penalties imposed by law.

1:10b-11—"..."And if there be any _____ thing that is _____ to sound _____, according to the glorious _____ of the blessed God, which was _____ to my trust." The breaking of any civil or moral law brands one a "lawbreaker." However, the breaking of God's laws and commandments brands one a sinner. Some may escape detection of crimes committed here, but all will stand before the ultimate Judge whose judgment is "according to truth" (Rom. 2:2). There will be no hiding, cover up, excuse or plea bargaining in the heavenly court.

THE CHIEFEST OF SINNERS (1:12-15)

1:12—"And I thank Christ Jesus, our Lord, who hath _____ me, for that He counted me _____, putting me into the _____." Since all have sinned and are at best sinners saved by grace, our Lord deserves all the credit for the change wrought within and any good accomplished. The meaning of minister is servant. In that sense, we are all saved to serve. Serving is a privilege, not an imposition.

1:13—Paul shares his personal testimony in this verse. "Who was before a _____ (one who speaks

degradingly of the Godhead), and a _____, and _____; but I obtained _____, because I did it _____ in unbelief."

Paul honestly gives us the before-salvation look at his life, not to boast but to contrast it with what God accomplished when Paul "saw the light" while on his way to further persecute the followers of Christ. As a devout Pharisee, Paul would never blaspheme God. What he failed to understand before his encounter with Jesus on the Damascus Road was that Jesus is God in the flesh.

1:14,15—"And the _____ (unmerited, undeserved favor) of our Lord was _____ abundant with _____ and _____ which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and _____ of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save _____, of whom I am _____." This is no brag, just fact. Paul experienced the four basics present in every conversion: He recognized he was a sinner, he claimed God's mercy and grace for his salvation, he experienced a transformed life, and his heart responded in praise.

BEWARE! SHIPWRECK POSSIBLE!

(1:16-20)

1:16, 17—"Howbeit, for this cause I obtained _____, that in me first, Jesus Christ might shew forth all long-suffering, for a _____ to them who should hereafter _____ on Him to life _____." Prior to breaking forth in a glorious hymn of praise and gratitude, Paul shows himself willing to be a pattern, demonstrating to others what God can do with a totally dedicated life. "Now unto the King eternal, _____, _____, the only wise God, be _____ and glory forever and ever. Amen."

1:18—The charge I commit unto thee, _____ Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on (pointed to) thee, that thou by them mightest war a _____ warfare." The world system often calls evil good and vice versa. In the war against sin and Satanic influence, a believer needs proper guidance and armor or he courts disaster. We need to read and heed the word, such as Ephesians 6:12-17.

1:19—"Holding faith, and a good _____, which some, having put away concerning _____, have made _____." This is a dangerous course and may prove to be fatal. Paul goes so far as to mention two men by name:

1:20—"of (among) whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have _____ unto Satan, that they may _____ not to _____." Light is shed on these men and their deeds in 2 Timothy 2:16-18 and 4:14,15.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are there any limits to how far a believer should go in obeying the laws of the land? (See Rom. 13:1-7.)
2. What has been the leading contributor(s) to society's light view of sexual sins and perversion?
3. Why do some seem to regard commitment as an imposition on their freedom and lifestyle? What is lacking?

HELPS for LEADERS

**PRECIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT**

JULY



The American Flag

A patriotic devotional for the flannelboard using the Wordless Book colors

Material required: An economical American flag, green flag pole and gold tip for the pole. Cut the tip and pole from gold and green felt.

Presentation: The black background of the flannelboard represents sin (Romans 3:23). *(Place on the tip)* Gold speaks of heaven. No sin can enter there.

(Place on the white flannel) We must have our sins washed away before we can enter heaven (Ps. 51:).

(Add the red stripes) The blood of Christ cleanses us from sin.

(1 John 1:9).

(The blue section) God loves the world (John 3:16).

(The green standard) Green stands for growth, fruit-bearing (2 Pet. 3:18).

When we look at our flag, let us thank God for our country, but at the same time remember what the colors stand for in God's great plan of salvation.

AUGUST



Make your Emphasis Program a major event.

- Announce it in the bulletin beginning several weeks before the date.

- Divide your membership into sections and appoint group captains to call and urge all women, members or not, to attend this special meeting.

- See that every woman in the church has a Pandora Box label and is saving money for the Emphasis Offering.

- Assign parts ahead of time so the women are familiar with their assignment.

- Prepare a large gift-wrapped box with an open top into which the women may deposit their Pandora Boxes. Pass the collection plate to the others.

- When it is over, evaluate the results. What can you do to make it more effective next year?

- Ask for divine wisdom and direction.

- Meet with the pastor several

months ahead to arrange a date on the church calendar.

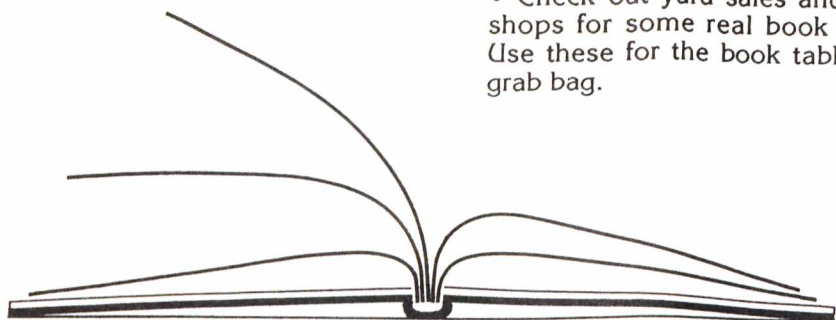
EMPHASIS BOX
a Collection of Good Things

WNAC

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

Mission STUDY Mission

Book Night Special



Have your women been reading this summer? Evaluate the results at this special recognition meeting. A service such as this teaches the value of reading and encourages others to read or read more.

- Plan to have your meeting in the library if possible. If not, display books and book covers around the room.
- Check out yard sales and thrift shops for some real book finds. Use these for the book table and grab bag.

- Set up a Book Exchange table where the women may leave one and take one. Have a few extra for variety.
- Make a Book Grab Bag from a plastic shopping bag. Wrap the books in brown wrapping paper so the titles will be a surprise. Every woman who has read a book has the privilege of reaching in and choosing a book.
- Give a gift-wrapped book to the one reading the most books during the summer. This should be a new one.
- The women will bring their books to the meeting. Ask them to choose one they liked best and highlight the theme. She may share why it was special to her.
- Distribute bookmarks, either store-bought or home-made, to every woman attending.

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!

Olivet Actionettes

This mixed group of young people have recently engaged in these activities:

- sent a care package to Saudi Arabia for the soldiers fighting in the gulf war.
- took part in the annual Christmas parade.
- enjoyed regular monthly meetings.
- decorated the church Christmas tree.

Clarksville, Tennessee

- caroled for the shut-ins in the community.
- sent money each month to the Alabama Free Will Baptist Children's Home.
- kept a scrapbook and entered it in district competition.
- sent cards and flowers to the sick.
- sponsored a special event each month.



Back row: Francis Ann McGregor, Darlene Wilson, Sterling Anthony Jr., Pastor Kenneth Wilson, Margaret Anthony, Mary Pat Smith and Billy Farmer.

Front row: Tabatha Wilson, Gretchen Wilson, Helen McGregor, Emily Ford, Melissa Anthony, and Paulette Camp.

Not pictured: Paul Evans Jr., Chris Camp and Kim Smith.

MISSION PRAYER MISSION

July

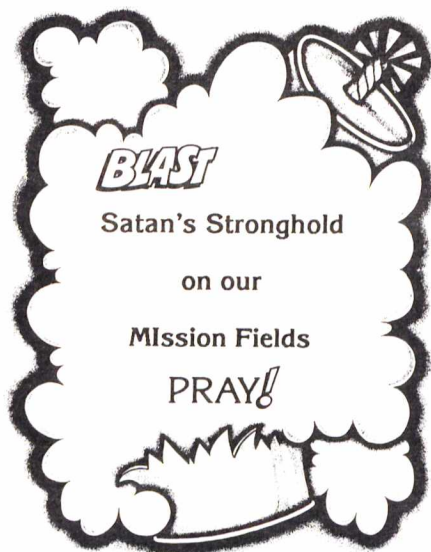
Write missionary prayer requests on the back.

Missionary Cryptogram

Can you decipher this famous statement by Oswald J. Smith?

In a cryptogram, one set of letters is substituted for another. The words are in their right order with a space after each word. To get you started, C is substituted for E.

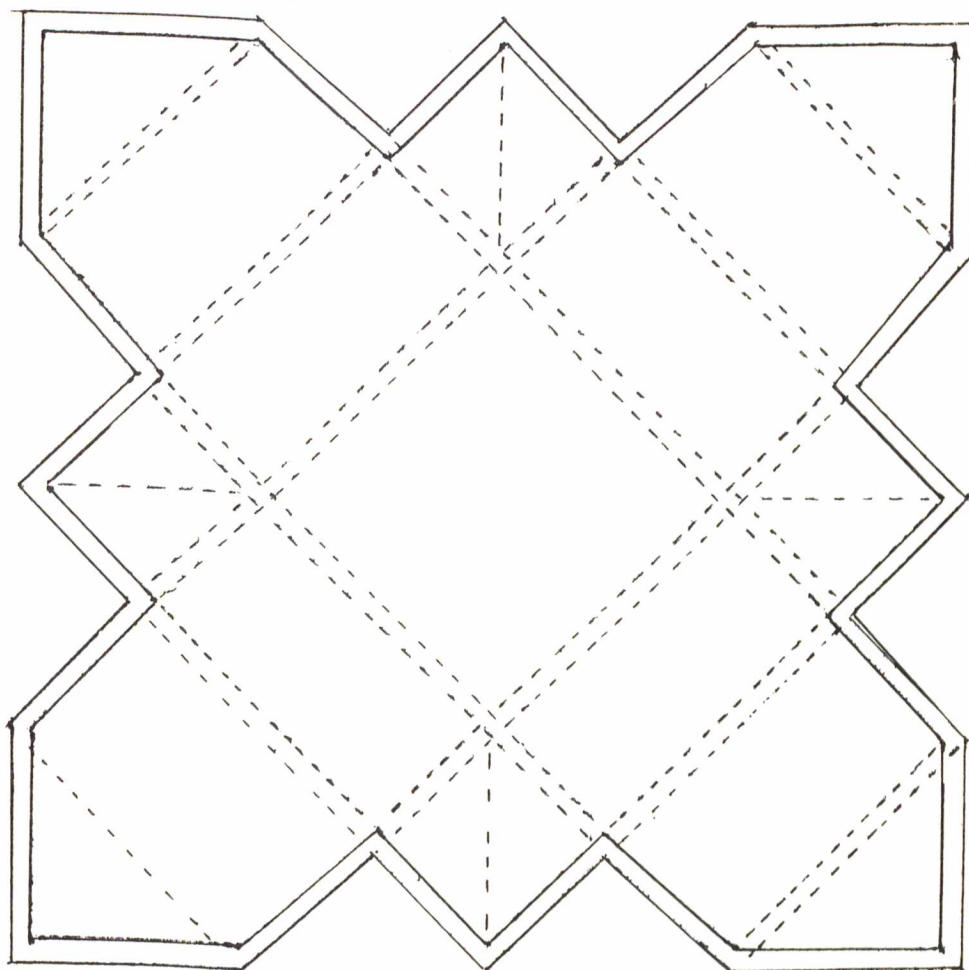
NWK OWMRDZ YPKMPC WCYS VWC IMOBCD
VNTQC RPVTD CFCCKMPC WYO WCYSZ TV
MPQC?



August

Plan to distribute Pandora Box prayer reminders following your emphasis program. Print prayer requests on slips of paper, fold, and place inside small match or pill boxes. Purchase seals of praying hands and attach one to the top of each box.

If you are unable to find these small boxes, follow the pattern to make your own. Use heavy paper or lightweight posterboard. The inside lines are for the box bottom.



MISSION ACTION MISSION

Glenna Murphy, a past president of the West Virginia State Auxiliary Convention, recently conducted an Encouragement seminar at their annual Ladies' Bible Conference. She made a folder for each participant filled with a collection of materials on this unique ministry.

Do the same for your ladies. Be on the lookout for appropriate materials, make copies of them, and file in attractive folders, as illustrated.



Helping Women

Christian women in modern society have special needs. What we need is a burden for helping one another—ordinary women who believe and practice the Word of God in their own lives and who can help and encourage other women. Let me suggest ways you can help:

1. Take time to listen.
2. Play "the Devil's advocate." Suggest possible reasons for another person's response.
3. Use the Word of God. Don't give answers based on your own experience.
4. Many problems spring from a person's own lack of self-esteem.
5. Lead the person you are trying to help into an assurance of her salvation.
6. Deal with whatever sin question may be involved.
7. Give ideas for dealing with problems: (a) Accept some problems as God's sandpaper, (b) Remember "this too shall pass," (c) Work on your own attitudes and responses, (d) Trust God to do what seems impossible.
8. Encourage the person you are dealing with to minimize the past and to emphasize the future.
9. Counsel with humility (Gal. 6:1).
10. End the discussion with prayer.

BEATITUDES For Friends of the Aged

Blessed are they who understand my faltering step and palsied hand. Blessed—who know that my ears today must strain to catch the things they say.

Blessed are they who seem to know that my eyes are dim and my wits are slow.

Blessed are they who look away when coffee spilled at the table today. Blessed are they with a cheery smile who stop to chat for a little while.

Blessed are they who never say, "You've told that story twice today." Blessed are they who know the ways to bring back memories of yesterdays.

Blessed are they who make it known that I'm loved, respected and not alone.

Blessed are they when I'm at a loss, find the strength to carry the cross. Blessed are they who ease the days on my journey home in loving ways.

—Esther Mary Walker

Keep in Touch

Address an envelope to a district friend, family member, or missionary and keep it on your bedside table. Each day put in a newspaper clipping with a handwritten comment, a jotted note (include the date), a recipe, a memento such as an autumn leaf or spring flower. At the end of the week, mail it. You'll feel close to each other all week long.

Sunshine Box

Cover any size box with fabric, wrapping paper, wallpaper or Contact paper.

Or use an attractive basket

Fill with such items as
craft books
tapes, books, bookmarks
wordsearch puzzle books
cartoons from newspapers or magazines
poems
cosmetic samples, perfumed soap
note cards, pens, stationery, greeting cards
postage stamps
nail clippers
magnifying glass
Promise Cards
decorative candle
assorted tea bags
bedroom scuffs
small jar of jelly
mints, gum, candy, cookies
prescription drug sorter
attractive napkins, tissues, lip balm

In Love Serve One Another

God's instructions to do something for others fill the New Testament. Here are fifteen things He told us to do for others:

- | | | | |
|----------------------|------------|-------|-------|
| 1 Thessalonians 5:11 | E | _____ | _____ |
| John 13:24 | L | _____ | _____ |
| Hebrews 3:13 | E | _____ | _____ |
| Ephesians 4:2 | Be P | _____ | _____ |
| James 5:16 | C | _____ | _____ |
| Ephesians 4:32 | Be K | _____ | _____ |
| James 5:16 | P | _____ | _____ |
| Ephesians 4:32 | Be F | _____ | _____ |
| 1 Peter 3:8 | Have C | _____ | _____ |
| Ephesians 5:21 | S | _____ | _____ |
| 1 Peter 4:9 | Show H | _____ | _____ |
| Colossians 3:16 | A | _____ | _____ |
| Galatians 6:2 | Bear B | _____ | _____ |
| 1 Thessalonians 4:18 | C | _____ | _____ |
| 1 Peter 4:10 | Exercise G | _____ | _____ |

At the side of each instruction, write the name of an individual who has this need. Write a date by each name. Ask God to lead you to minister to each individual's need by the date you have entered.



WOMANS

AUXILIARY

Date

Time

COME TO

Woman's Auxiliary



DATE

TIME

The Minister's Wife

Newsletter

Compiled By Cleo Pursell



volume 12, number 4, 1992

The A B C 's of a Pastor's Wife

by Connie Smith

I met my husband for the first time at a wedding when I was about 7 and he was a year older. He said he felt something special between us even then. But I never saw him again until several years later.

I attended a Southern Baptist Church as a bus kid and was saved at age 12 in children's church. I stayed here until my teens when my Aunt Melissa began picking me up and taking me to her church. Here I met Danny again and I was on the way to becoming a pastor's wife.

Here are some ABC's that I'm learning in our first pastorate.

Danny wasn't a preacher when



ACCEPT

we married, but God began dealing with him that first year. He struggled for some time before he told me he felt the Lord was calling him to preach.

My face lost all expression. What did it mean? How would it change our lives? I knew nothing about being a preacher's wife.

We talked to our pastor who offered to help and gave Danny opportunities to preach. We knew we needed more. One year later we moved to Nashville, Tennessee to attend the Free Will Baptist Bible College. Here we were grounded in God's Word and trained for the pastorate.

After accepting the call to be a

preacher's wife, I then had to accept the call to be the wife of a pastor. Especially when the Lord led us to a church ten hours from family and friends. I kept telling myself, you don't know how to be a pastor's wife. You're too young. You don't know how to help people with problems. You don't.... And the list went on and on. But I learned early that whatever worries you have, God has a way of answering them. He may speak to you through His Word, books, a message, through the experiences of others, or even His still small voice as you spend time in prayer.

One morning as I waited before God, a light clicked on. I realized that each and every pastor's wife—no matter how lofty and experienced they appear to be—began with that very first church. I remembered the advice of a very special pastor's wife. Frances Varney told me, "The best experience a pastor's wife can get is experience itself."

After you accept the call and put your faith in God, He helps you deal with whatever lies before you.

One morning our phone rang



BELIEVE

about 3:30 a.m. I hesitated to answer because it seems only bad news comes at that time of the day. This was no exception. One of our church families had called the pastor to be at the side of

God is not so concerned with our abilities as our availability.

the pastor to be at the side of their dying mother. She died an hour later, but Danny was there to comfort the grieving family.

Now it was my turn to start praying. *Lord, give me the words to say. Show me the right ways to help.* The answer came that I was to say nothing. Give them a shoulder to lean on and a listening ear. Any gesture of help, whether of food, watching the children, or simply running an errand, would be appreciated.

Not only do we believe the Lord will help us with our task, we must believe in ourselves. He chose us. We're special. He can complete the task through us as we surrender our wills to Him. Remember Philipians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

The life we have accepted and believe in may not always be a bed of roses. Heartaches, trials and adverse circumstances come into everyone's lives. But as we walk in the center of God's will, we experience God's choicest blessings.



COMMIT

After accepting the call and believing in what God can do through us, we now commit ourselves to the Lord. Only then can we be fully committed to our calling.

Many times we question why we run so much here and there, drop plans at the last minute for an unexpected visitor, or accept last minute responsibilities at church.

It took me a long while to come to the realization that the Lord put me here for a purpose and He will not leave me. He promises to help. God never puts more on us than we can handle. He is not so concerned with our abilities as our availability.

If we accept the call to be a pastor's wife and believe the Lord will help us, we are able to commit

ourselves to the task. He does not expect us to carry the burden alone. "Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Jos. 1:9). He's right there to help us each step of the way.

Conclusion

As a final note, I'd like to quote a passage from the book "*Help! I'm a Pastor's Wife!*" written by Mrs. Jean Coleman. "Is every pastor's wife called to co-pastor with her husband?" she asks. "Probably not. Yet I do believe the potential is there—but often hindered by doubt, fear, rejection, tradition and prejudice. If you tell a person often enough that he cannot achieve something, eventually he will believe it."

"However, if a woman believes she and her husband are called together to pastor a church, God can bring gifts and talents to light to be used for His glory in the kingdom. If the Lord knows that she is willing to step out in faith into ministry at the side of her husband, miracles happen to prepare her to function effectively in the church."

I recommend these ABC's of a committed pastor's wife and hope you will experience the same joy in following them as I have.



*So your husband has
a call into the ministry!*

Connie is
queen of the
Corinth
manse, Mid-
land City, AL.
They have
two children,
Joshua, 7,
and Leslie, 2.



WOMEN in ACTION



Ladies in the Guymon First Auxiliary, Oklahoma, fashion designed sweatshirts from the 24 damaged, torn or stained shirts donated by a local clothing store. Completed shirts were sent to the Children's Home in Greeneville, Tennessee.

Sweatshirt artists are: Joan Brooks, Susie Robinson, Evelyn Pio, Sharon Watson and Lavena Chastine. Not pictured: Jan Brooks, president, and Naomi Rice.



Ladies of the North Warren Auxiliary, Warren Michigan, bring items for the Provision Closet during their "Birthday Party for Jesus." This Auxiliary averages 22 and enjoys Spirit-filled meetings. Kim Bianchinia is president.



Pastor's Wife Peggy Rider, First Auxiliary, Cape Girardeau, MO, presents an early birthday gift of \$126 to Charlotte Tallent, France. In just one year since its organization, the Woman's Auxiliary averages 30 and is still growing. Sherry Inman does a terrific job as president.

Bury Their Talents? Not These Women!

Sue Lewis, Skiatook, Oklahoma, writes of what happened when the ladies of her Owasso Auxiliary learned of the fire in Ivory Coast, Africa which destroyed the hospital and its contents.

Dean Kaase, mission action chairman, received permission to finance her plan from the Auxiliary and gave each member a "talent"—an envelope containing five dollars. She challenged them to use their talents and creativity to multiply it and donate to the hospital fund. Excitement ran high and ideas flashed back and forth like sparks from a crackling fire.

One member bought ingredients for her famous cinnamon rolls and netted over \$100. Another matched it by purchasing supplies for 35 dolls and selling them.

One couple who teaches a 5th and 6th grade CTS class chal-



lenged them to a car wash. They bought supplies and secured permission from a bank to use their parking lot and water. The kids had a great Saturday afternoon as they raised over \$100 for the hospital.

Other women made ceramic greenware, painted, made jewelry, sewed aprons and dresses, and

sponsored garage sales and craft fairs. One member with limited mobility multiplied her talent with savings on coupon items.

They discovered an enormous array of creativity among the 33 ladies who raised over \$1000 for the new hospital. Quite a return from a \$165 investment, wouldn't you say?



Seminole Auxiliary, Oklahoma, sponsors a Valentine "Have a Heart for Hillsdale" dinner with proceeds going to the Hillsdale Bible College, Moore, OK. Some participating are: Lucille Darr, Bernice Richardson, Vina Estes, Jewell Arnold, Mary Thompson, Genevieve Brown and Juanita Lowe.

Josie Blair, Wellington, Kansas, will be 100 years on June 16. Her daughter, Clara Hills, praises her mother who was a preacher's wife and reared 13 children, mostly alone. "She stayed on her knees and trusted God to raise us on meager means."

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.

Twice Saved

Flames leaped hungrily at the four-year-old's clothing. They melted her baby-soft skin and singed her golden blonde hair into a tangled mass.

Her older brothers, 13, 11, 8, and 6, frantically rolled the child on the summer-warmed earth. They beat at the vicious flames, and as a last measure, plunged her into a barrel of cold water into which they had earlier "bobbed" their heads.

The children's mother heard the screams and came running. The boys had built a fire for the purpose of burning a broken handle from a garden hoe. One of them had thrown a small coffee can full of gasoline on the fire. It exploded and caught the clothing of the little girl.

The mother wrapped her baby in a blanket and waited anxiously for her eldest son to run two miles through neighboring fields to summon her brother-in-law for transportation to a hospital fifteen miles away.

The child suffered severe burns over two-thirds of her body. They didn't expect her to live, so her relatives were called.

Days and nights blended to form one continuous pain. But through it all, God was working His miracle. The little girl began to improve. Thirty days later, she left the hospital and continued therapy at home—hot baths to straighten the calves of her legs and ointment to prevent infections and promote healing.

by Bonnie Turner

As the child grew older, life wasn't always that simple. Children were often rude and thoughtless. She shunned any activity which might reveal her scars—cheerleading, swimming

and even some dating. Plastic surgery was extremely painful. Often she thought that maybe she'd have been better off had God allowed her to die instead of her suffering so much.

I am that child. Only the scars remind me of that traumatic time in my life. God has blessed me with a wonderful husband and three delightfully healthy children.

Now thirty years later, I no longer wonder why God saved me from the flames at age four. Nor do I wonder why He saved me from sin some years later. He proved His love that day as I knelt at the altar and asked Him to forgive me of all my sins and to erase the anguished feelings that developed after the accident.

God saved me twice so that I could serve Him with all my heart.



Bonnie and her husband, Gregory, have three children: Jonathon, 11; Janie, 7; and Daniel, 5. Bonnie is the Auxiliary's mission study chairman and teaches in Children's Church at the Woodward FWB Church in Woodward, Oklahoma. She is a fulltime wife and mother who enjoys crocheting, cross-stitching, writing, traveling, carpentry, reading, cooking, sewing, gardening and praying. She volunteers to teach illiterates and collect food for the needy.

Bonnie would like to dedicate this article to the memory of her grandmother, Millie Bishop, who passed away this year.



Books to stimulate spiritual growth

Book Highlights ...

IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

by Max Lucado
Word Publishing, 1991,
\$15.99
Reviewed by Mary Ruth
Wisehart

It's the piranha hour! Have you ever felt that everyone is demanding a piece of you?

Then Lucado's book is for you. "Piranha hours: parents have them, bosses endure them, secretaries dread them, teachers are besieged by them, and Jesus taught us how to live through them successfully."

Lucado considers three life situations: the stress of demands, the storms of doubt, and the sting of failure. The author subtitled the book "One Day in the Life of Jesus." Lucado considers the day the most stressful of Jesus' life, aside from the day of His crucifixion. On that day Jesus faced all three situations. How did He do it?

As the author says, what you will discover in this book are godly attitudes. Jesus gives us a model for viewing people and problems.

The book includes study outlines for 12 sessions. Let your women read the book,



and then get together for the discussions in the study guide. Perhaps it will move you from "encouraging thoughts to daring living" even in the eye of your personal storm.

WNAC recommends this book as a study for Christian living.

BEHIND OUR SUNDAY SMILES

by Jimmy Ray Lee
Baker Book House
Reviewed by Tammy Keiffer



How many people in your church are hiding life-controlling problems behind their "Sunday Smiles"? Dr. Lee suggests that for every twelve people in a church pew, at least three suffer from a life-controlling problem. These include eating disorders, drug and alcohol addictions, obsession with money or possessions, addiction to pornography, or anything that master's a person's life other than God.

This book discusses life-controlling problems and how they affect, not only the controlled person, but the people who love him. The author presents a plan for

churches to develop an on-going program of support to help people conquer their life-controlling problems through the power of Jesus Christ.

Ultimately we can all join with the apostle Paul: "I will not be mastered by anything."

THE WOMAN WITH TWO HEADS

by Elizabeth Cody Newenhuyse
Word Publishing
Reviewed by Sandy Atwood

Balancing family, work, church and other responsibilities often leaves a woman feeling like a two-headed monster. How can a woman do it all? She can't! Newenhuyse honestly and humorously shares her personal struggle. She loves both her work and her child and constantly feels divided—to stay home and bake cookies or to to work as an editor of a Christian magazine.

In this easy-to-read book, the author challenges women to constantly evaluate their priorities. Diligently keep a quiet time with the Lord. Plan times of intimacy with your mate. Spend time with your



children. Maintain close relationships. Sound difficult? It is!

The book gives no easy answers. It will always be a struggle to do all you need and want to do. If you sometimes feel like a woman with two heads, this book will certainly entertain and encourage you.

GOD USES CRACKED POTS

by *Patsy Clairmont*

Focus on the Family Publishing,
152pp

Reviewed by Diane M. Thomas

When a friend read this book she thought of me and gave me a copy. No, I wasn't insulted, just thankful as I was reminded that God definitely uses all types of personalities. Patsy Clairmont and myself were truly made from the same broken mold.

The author calls the book a lighthearted look at life's foibles and fears. It contains a collection of two-page humorous pokes at life and concludes with a thought that puts life in a spiritual-provoking perspective.

This book offers delightful reading from one of God's delightful broken vessels. Treat yourself to a reading.

WNAC does not stock these books. Please order them from your state bookstore, or from Randall Book Store, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37211.

God—Beginning and End

by Linda Sligh

Power, Glory and Majesty,
Unto the Lord Most High;
Praise and Honor and Thankfulness
We shout it to the sky.

Joy and Peace and Gratefulness,
Our hearts can scarce contain;
Appreciation and Adoration,
Our spirit's sweet refrain.

Words cannot describe it,
Thoughts can't comprehend,
Love can't fully express it—
God—Beginning and End.

The POET'S CORNER



Judges in the poetry category chose the following poems as winners in WNAC's annual creative arts contest. You may send your entries now for the new contest which closes March 1, 1993.

Submissive Wife

by Judy Ridgway

Am I really as submissive
as God would have me be?
Or is there just a little
of the "oldness" left in me?
Am I setting a good example
of the Jesus whom I know;
When all my husband sees in me
is the stubbornness that I show?

As Jesus stood before Pilate
as accused as He could be,
Did He sulk up, whine, or whimper,
or submit...so willingly?

I'm accused of a whole lot less
in my husband's mortal eyes,
For you see, He's not a Christian
and me...I'm not so wise.
I pray You'll help me, Jesus,
as I answer Your mighty call;
When You hung before Your accusers
You were submissive through it all.

Won't someone please come
Look inside my door
I'm shattered and bleeding
My heart has been torn.
I'm wounded and aching
For a comforting word
But you're looking outside
Where the pain can't be heard.

Very gently I'm gathered
With the greatest of care
By the One who can see
What the world does not dare.
When I'm weak, He is strong
When I'm broke, He's my glue;
When I'm lonely, He assures me
That He'll take me through.

There's a place I can hide
Where the glass never breaks,
Where the burdens I carry
He lovingly takes,
Then gathers me close
To His bosom for rest;
What the world cannot see
My Father sees best.

The Deceiver

by Vicki Turner

Stealer of children
Destroyer of life
Tempting the innocent
With colorful lies.

Cloudier of wisdom
Mocker of pain
Using our children
For his own gain.

Twister of knowledge
Deceiver of men
Tell me please, Jesus,
When will it end?

Broken Glass

by Teresa Sergent

This glass house I live in
Is viewed by all,
The structure appears strong
The frame must not fall.
The world is amazed
How the glass never breaks
Though the ground all around
Trembles and shakes.

Be a Prayer Missionary

Appointed to Pray ...

It Isn't Easy

by Florine Coscia

It wasn't easy to say goodbye to our families, friends and homeland when we left for Brazil in 1964. But God called us and in His providence directed us to our field of service. We packed our bags and barrels and followed His guidance. As we look back today we can testify that He was faithful to go before His sheep and lead us step by step.

It wasn't easy to learn a new language and adapt to a different culture and climate. But again God gave us grace, patience and the ability to understand and love the people to whom He sent us.

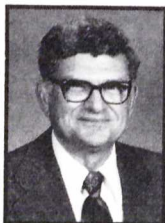
It hasn't always been easy to proclaim the message of salvation to people rooted in traditions which often sound Biblical but in practice are far from God's Word.

It hasn't been easy to wrestle against the powers of spiritual darkness in spiritism. We have experienced many hardships and disappointments. But thanks be unto God, we have also enjoyed the pleasures of victories achieved and God's richest blessings.

It wasn't easy to tell our dear Brazilian congregation that the time has come for us to retire and return to the States. In fact, we remained here more than a year beyond the usual retirement age because we were reluctant to leave. More importantly, we felt this was God's will.

It isn't easy to think of leaving the people we have learned to love as our brothers and sisters in Christ. We know they will continue to face opposition and discouragement, but we commit them to Him

Personality Profile



The Coscias
Louis and Florine
Brazil



It's sad that the Coscias have retired after 28 years on the mission field and folks still know so little about them. These Brazilian pioneers are friendly, but private. Distance separated them from the other mission stations so they had little opportunity for hospitality and fellowship.

Louis, an avid jogger (up to 15 miles daily) and ice cream addict, had his degree in agriculture before leaving for Brazil. He specializes in colorful flowers, especially pansies. Both are near-experts in the field of gems and once had a nice collection.

Florine is famous for her pizza. She taught English and helped produce DVBS literature.

The Coscias plan to locate in Asheville. If you visit them, look for the colorful pansy blooms.

African Women's Retreat

by Carol Pinkerton



Not since 1986 had the women met for a national retreat. One hundred and eight women came from 25 villages. The Lord blessed our four days together. All except the Pale Faces (missionary women) slept on mats at the church. Bathroom facilities weren't the best—only one real bathroom in the parsonage, but lots of bushes. Only one real shower, so I took cement blocks from the building site, used a couple of tarpaulins to cover one side and had four showers. I never heard any women complain about anything.

Because of the different tribes represented, everything had to be translated into Koulango, Lobi and Baoule. Time was too short. A 15 minute devotional lasted an hour! But each needed to hear and understand.

I can't describe how wonderful it was. Each woman made sacrifices just to come—leaving home, family and paying for the transport, but it was well worth the effort.

A national, Madam Apponi, taught us well. "I have prepared some things for you, but it is the Lord who will satisfy our hearts," she said. She was a charming, simple woman who spoke in practical terms. Alice Smith spoke on prayer. Bessie Richards spoke on training children. Judy Bryan had the question/answer sessions. Lynette Morgan and Deleen Cousineau spoke to the single gals about remaining pure and choosing a mate.

I had an afternoon session about the inside being the most important in contrast with the outside. It was hot and mine was the last of the day so all were very tired. I dressed up in an African outfit and wore black panty hose for black feet and legs. I used a short broom to sweep and sang a Koulango song. I certainly got and kept their attention!

Departures were sad as we walked away or rode off in hired trucks singing, "Goodbye, God bless." We've already started plans for next year.



who is faithful to give grace and help in time of need.

It won't be easy for us to readjust to the American way of life after living in a Third World country for so many years. It will be difficult to adjust to a slower pace after being used to constant activity. We desire your prayers that God will guide as we decide where to settle. Our hearts' desire is to continue being used for His glory and the promotion of His kingdom work. As our health and opportunities make it possible, we want to continue serving Him in whatever capacity we can.

Our blessed hope is that one day we will all be together in heaven where there will be no more sorrow or separation.

It hasn't been easy to write this last letter as your missionaries to Brazil. But God has given us peace in our hearts that we are in His will as we make final arrangements to leave. Please pray for us. "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess. 5:23). This is our prayer for you.



WNAC's Prayer Bookmark

Week of June 29-July 4

A fire destroyed the home of Louie Nix in Waipahu, Hawaii, with all their possessions. A relief fund has been set up in the Home Missions Department. Pray this will be successful.

Pray for a greater outreach in the Waipahu church.

Birthdays this week: 29—Steve Riggs (France); 2—David Burgess (IL); 3—Mark Vandivort (AZ)

Week of July 5-11

The church in Villalba, Spain (first recipients of the Eunice Edwards Loan Fund) has encountered snags in securing permits to build. Pray:

- that all the permits would be granted
- for Jeff Turnbough as he directs the project

Birthdays this week: 6—Hope Nason (SC); 7—Wanda McClary (NE); 9—Luther Burns (GA); 11—Barbara Jones (Mexico)

Week of July 12-18

Jonathan, 2, son of Mark and Donna Thomas, Greeley, CO, has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

- Pray that his physical and vocational therapy will be effective.
- Pray the church in Greeley will become self-supporting.

Birthdays this week: 14—Willis Osborne (VA)

Week of July 19-25

WNAC meets in Indianapolis, July 20, 21. Pray for:

- Mary Neal as she presides over the executive committee and convention
- speakers Steve Riggs, Jean Deeds and Trula Cronk
- Pam Wood as she directs the missionary special
- Jo Ann Wood as she directs the seminar for ministers' wives
- the study committee as they make their initial report

Birthdays this week: 19—Gail Fender (TN); 20—Robert Bryan (C'I) and Fred Hersey (Japan); 22—Roy Roach (OH)

Week of July 26-31-August 1

Louise Vandivort, Flagstaff, AZ, is recovering from a radical mastectomy. Pray for:

- complete healing and restoration of health

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



• her family during this traumatic time
Birthdays this week: 26—Sharon Ferguson (C'I); 27—Lynette Morgan (C'I) and Ron Callaway (Spain); 29—Dennis Teague (France) and Larry Haggard (KS); 1—Alyne Maness (NJ) and Deleen Cousineau (C'I)

Week of August 2-8

Pray for the annual Foreign Missions retreat, August 3-8, in Nashville, TN. Ask God to:

- give the mission board wisdom in their sessions
- refresh, encourage and challenge the missionaries attending

Birthdays this week: 2—Judy Bryan (C'I); 3—Carlisle Hanna (India); 5—Dennis Owen (Uruguay); 6—Darrel Nichols (C'I); 7—Vicki Sturgill (Brazil)

Week of August 9-15

The Miguel Vera family in Puerto Rico have services on their open air porch since Hurricane Hugo destroyed their rented building. Ask God to:

- lead them to a building they can purchase
- give them entrance to the hearts of many lost and hungry people

Birthdays this week: 10—James Munsey (Mexico); 12—Pat Nason (NH)

Week of August 16-22

Joe and Tanya Dudley, short-term missionaries to France, are working with the Crowsons and Charolette Talent in Nantes. Pray that they will:

- adjust well to a new country, climate and culture
- have an effective ministry among the university students
- contribute to the spiritual health of our missionaries

Birthdays this week: Jim Sturgill (Brazil)

Week of August 23-31

Pray for the International Consultation this week in Panama. One national representative from each of our mission fields has been invited. Pray for:

- unity among the brethren
- wisdom as they seek to form an International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists

Birthdays this week: 27—Sandra Bishop (Japan); 29—Linda Callaway (Spain); 31—Curtis Alligood (FL)

Update Your Prayers
615-731-3839

Questions

Q Do we need a Free Will Baptist women's organization? Why or why not?

A The answer to these questions lies in the basis for an organization's existence in the first place.

That basis is the purpose of an organization, its mission statement.

What is the purpose of Woman's Auxiliary? What is its mission?

Our understanding of and appreciation for the basis and purpose of an organization increases when we know something of its background and foundation.

After the women's society in the Northeast lost its identity, Free Will Baptist women still wanted to remain a group working together for the Lord. Some women tried to continue the society organized in 1873 even after the 1910 merger. Their efforts failed, but Free Will Baptist women in North Carolina, Texas, Georgia, Tennessee and other states had women's groups.

These groups sent representatives and organized WNAC in 1935. Mrs. Fannie Polston wrote about its purpose: "From the very beginning, the purpose of this organization has been to lead the women of the Free Will Baptist Church into a larger share in the winning of the world to Christ."

Those pioneer women felt this purpose could be fulfilled in one word: service. Mrs. Polston thought that Auxiliary fulfilled the purpose by "providing a place of service for every woman in the church."

The women's organization has always been a service organization, an auxiliary to the church to aid and help her accomplish her mission.

Since women are good at raising

money and since it's easier to give things than to give oneself, Mrs. Polston feared the Auxiliary might become just a money-raising organization. She wrote in one of her notebooks, "The main purpose is not to raise money."

Mrs. Polston wrote down four things she felt the Auxiliary should do for women: develop spiritual life, increase interest in the mission task of the church, unite kindred minds in a spirit of fellowship in God's service, and train in systematic and proportionate giving to the work of the church.

Q Does the need still exist to enlist women in God's service? Does the need still exist for a fellowship of women among us? Can the organization fill a need in the spiritual life of women and train them in the use of possessions for God's glory? Does a Free Will Baptist women's organization fulfill a need not supplied by any other organization?

A If you answer these questions with a yes, then let's unite as a group of women with a mind to work.

Mrs. Lizzie McAdams wrote in her 1945 report to the National Association: "One woman wholly in God's hands outnumbers thousands in the enemy's hands." Let's be those women wholly in God's hands.

"It requires little faith to move in the light of today," Mrs. Polston wrote in an undated manuscript. "Faith projects life into tomorrow and the days ahead."

With out faces toward tomorrow, I challenge you to join me in rededicating ourselves for the greater task God has just ahead for Free Will Baptist women.

Answers

Letters

Provision Closet

Thanks for allowing me to visit the Provision Closet...Isn't that just like our women?—reaching out to others through their means whether great or small.

*Willa Johnson
Elizabethtown, KY*

Thanks so much for the items from the Provision Closet. It was like Christmas again in February! I didn't realize how bad my iron was until I used the new one.

*Judy Trail
Pineville, LA*

Eunice Edwards Loan Fund

The church in Villalba has asked the Master's Men to come and construct their building. September has been set as the church's faith goal. In the meantime, the church must finalize the papers for the land, contract an architect, and obtain all the necessary permissions. Please pray!

Jim and Susan Turnbough, Spain

Appreciates CO-LABORER

Co-LABORER gets better and better! We enjoy the programs, poetry, letters, Minister's Wife, and the missions prayer requests. Thanks for sponsoring the creative arts contest.

*Linda Sligh
Smithville, MS*

I love CO-LABORER! It's been an inspiration to me and I read it as soon as I can.

*Barbara Bullock
Tishomingo, MS*

I really enjoy CO-LABORER. Surely a lot of thought and work goes into it. Keep up the good work.

*Terry L. Poore
Limestone, TN*

I'd like to see some space allotted to unusual circumstances that God

Words for Women

Gray, gray everywhere. We left the house on one of those gray winter days. You know the kind. Dead lawns, bare branches against a steely gray sky. Even the spirit seems a bit gray. You're ready for spring with warm sun and flowers, but it's still winter. The world is gray.

There's something about gray. It's hard to see lights in the first gray of the dawning or in the early twilight. It seems to dull the spirit and sometimes even cause depression.

That morning, we got in the car and headed east. Suddenly, in the gray ahead a point of light grew to a bright spot.

"Look, a light, a brightness in the middle of a gray world."

"That's what we are as Christians," I said, "a brightness in a gray world."

Sometimes our world seems very gray, indeed almost black. Children suffer, evil seems to triumph, good is almost invisible—everything seems wrapped in the gray of despair.

But what a time to shine. We're sent as a brightness, a light in the gray and the dark. A brightness to light others to the Light of the world. He is the supreme light and the grayness cannot overcome His brightness.

Now He says to us, "You are the light of the world."

Is your world gray? Then how about creating a brightness. Let your light shine.



Mary Ruth Wisehart

allows to happen to show He is with us during the crisis periods of our lives.

*Lottie Campbell
Pocahontas, AR*

Ed. Note: What about it, ladies? Do you have something to share along this line? We'd be glad to see them.

Leaving the Field

During the past two and one-half years I have fought—in vain—to regain my health. I know that returning to an overseas assignment in the near future is not possi-

ble....This is a difficult change. Remaining stateside is much harder than going overseas. I have cried many tears, but the fact is, I must remain here. Please keep praying for me.

*Arilla Wode, formerly of Cote d'Ivoire
Collinsville, OK*

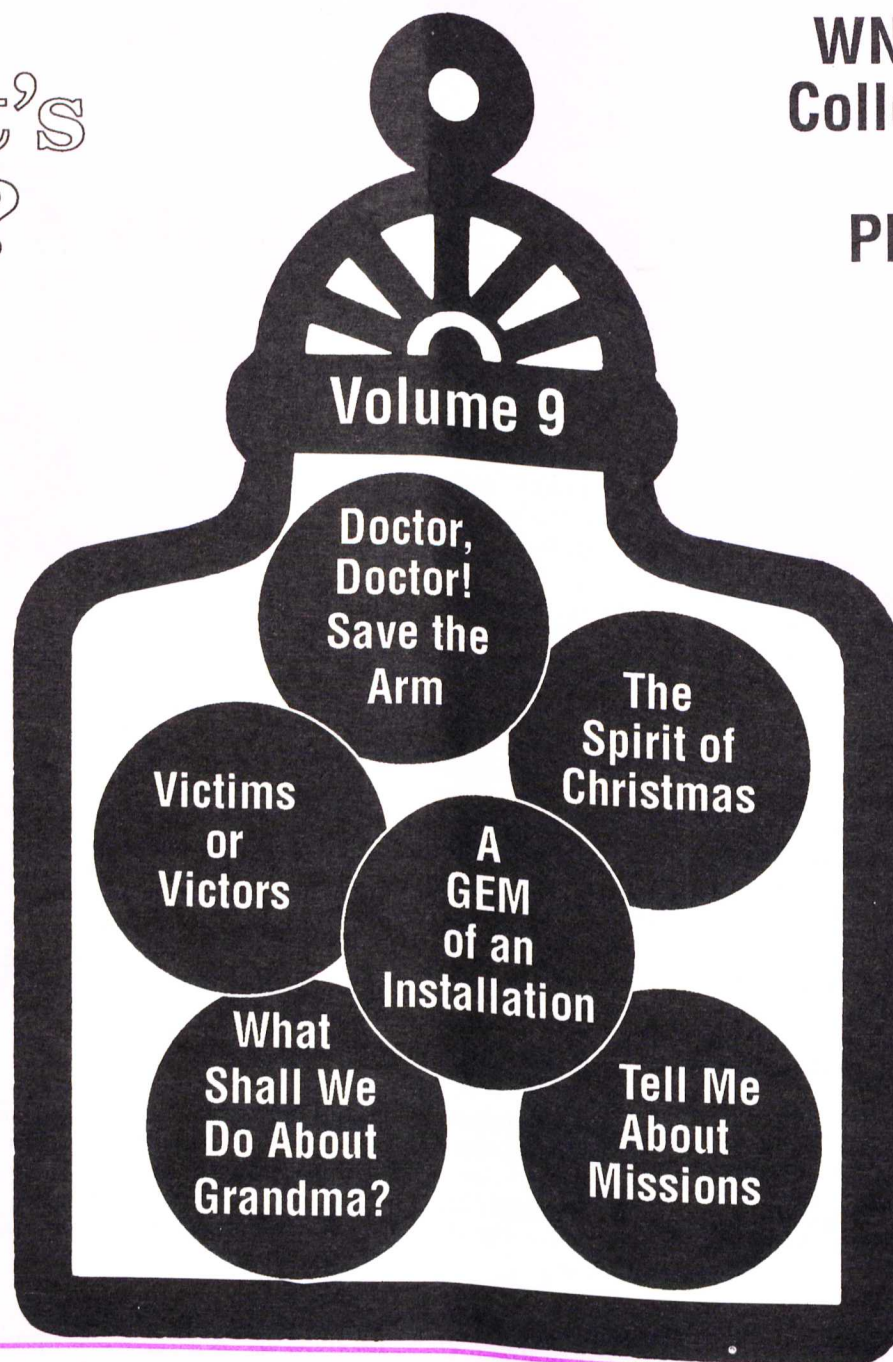
I will be leaving Japan in April. I feel God is opening a new field of ministry and I need to get some special training in working with children. I will always be a missionary. God is just changing my geographical place of ministry.

Judy Smith, Japan

POTPOURRI

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