

Co LABORER



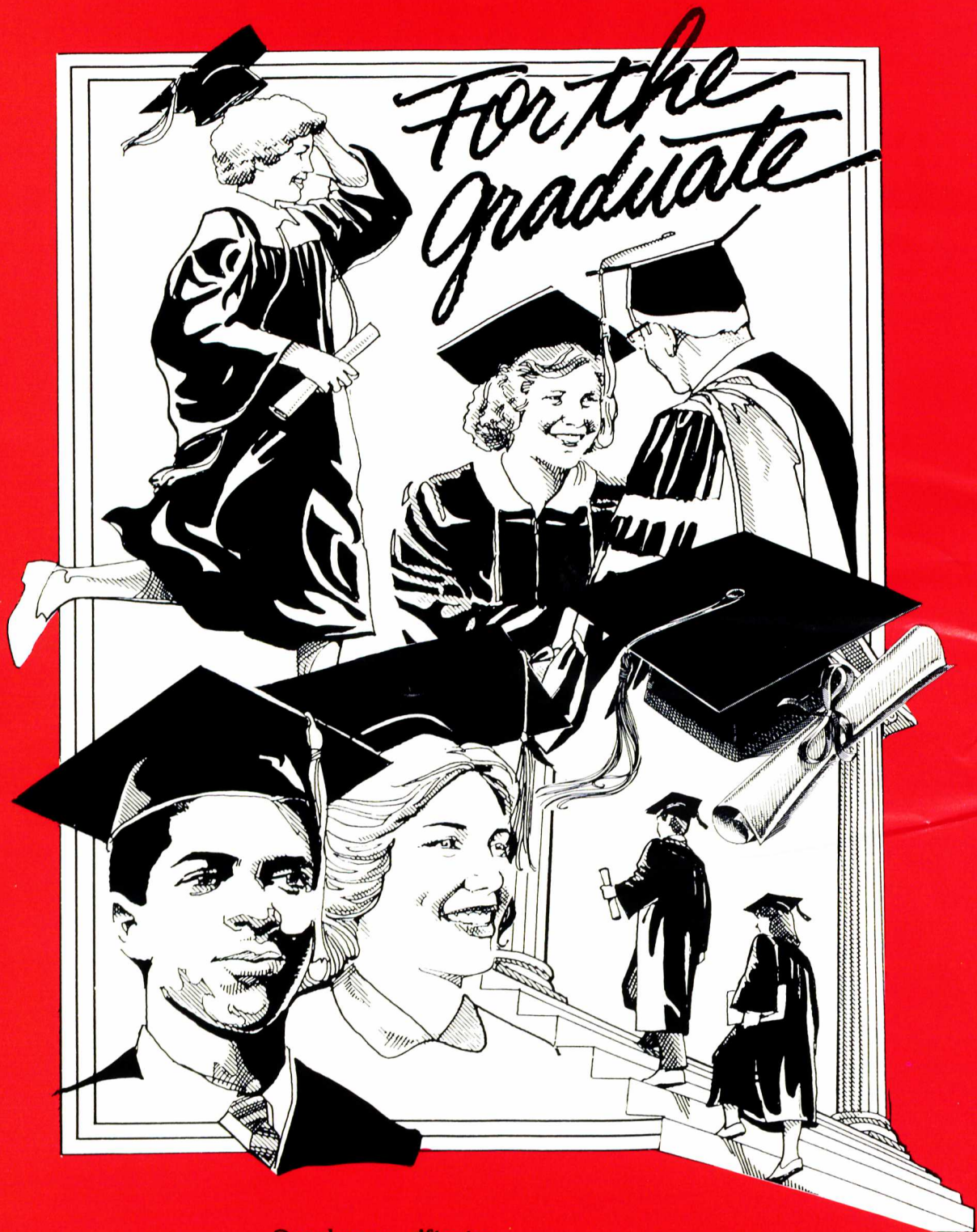
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September
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1992

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women



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Ve Ann Tilson, women's editor of the *Gem*, recently conducted a survey of Free Will Baptist women. The participants were equally divided into three groups: (18-35), (36-50) and (over 50), with 70% of them working outside the home. Of the 13 not holding an outside job, seven were over age 50. This indicates the largest number of working age families must deal with a working wife/mother.

While working did not affect church attendance a great deal, it had a definite impact on church participation, especially among those with children. Over 60% felt their work schedule interfered with church involvement. One lady commented: "I would rather all mothers be able to stay home and 'mother'; however, since this is not the case, one must set spiritual priorities, stick to them, and turn off the TV!"

In Cheryl Biehl's book, *I Can't Do Everything*, she says we must 1) set priorities. Say yes to the best plan and no to the other things; and 2) focus your life. Make sure you've included time for prayer and Bible study.

Ve Ann closes her observations with a statement by a pastor: "At the end of my life, I don't want to look back and wonder what life would have been like had I done it God's way."

How do you cope with all the demands life makes of you? Where is your focus?

—Lorene Miley

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A Publication of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention
"For we are laborers together with God"
(I COR. 3:9)

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by Marie Phillips and Tanya Hart

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Cover: "Gatherings"

by Teresa Pennington

Our cover features an original colored pencil drawing by Teresa Pennington, a self-taught artist of Waynesville, North Carolina. Ms. Pennington operates her own gallery and specializes in colored pencil works.

Signed and numbered prints of "Gatherings" are available at \$35 each, plus \$3 postage. Contact T Pennington Art Gallery, 105 Church Street, Waynesville, NC 28786. Or call (704) 452-9284.

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Missions Explosion Questionnaire

Would you prayerfully answer these questions as if God were the interviewer and you were the interviewee?

1. How many specific needs of our missionaries do you know?
2. When was the last time you corresponded with a missionary by letter or card?
3. How much time have you spent this week praying for the needs of our missionaries?
4. Is the number (615) 731-3839 (Missions Hotline) a number that appears on your telephone bill?
5. Did you participate in the day of prayer and fasting suggested in *Heartbeat* magazine last December?
6. What did you do this week that will matter in 100 years?

Who Me? Adopt a Missionary?

by Marie Phillips

Experts are predicting adoptions to sky rocket across our United States. The boom started with the Missions Explosions meeting on Saturday morning, January 18, 1992 in the obscure village of Grifton in eastern North Carolina.

Tanya Hart, summer missionary for three years, birthed the idea.

Tanya's parents were graduates of Free Will Baptist Bible College and instilled a missionary flavor in their family and church. Her vision for missions deepened at Liberty University where she pursued studies in Physical Education. It was not, however, until she became acquainted with Vickie

Sturgill, a furloughing missionary from Brazil, that the mission field came into focus. Through this relationship, she vicariously experienced life on a mission field. The next summer she responded to a request for help.

This experience turned Tanya's world upside down. She would never again be the same. She brought the mission field home to those around her through her vivid descriptions and dramatic explanations. We shuddered at the plight of the millions of Brazilians, especially children, dominated by Spiritist control.

Tanya is concerned for the lost of the world, but her heart aches for the missionary in her day-by-

day stresses. For example,

Language—Did I use the wrong word? Did they really understand?

Cultural—Dinner is served from 9-12 p.m. Greetings are important.

Crime—Locked yards and barred windows.

Time Zone—It's still daylight at 9:30 p.m.

Work Load—24 hour a day responsibilities.

Children's Education—Three-hour public transportation. Or boarding school and separation from parents.

Inflation—A can of hair spray is \$12. Gas \$5.85 a gallon.

Tanya returns from her mission—

ary stints with a greater desire to be an encourager to her newly acquired missionary families. She mails packages of Kool-Aid, food mixes, videos and books...small value, but of infinite encouragement to her co-laborer on foreign soil.

How much of this can one person do? Pretty much if God has burdened you with this desire.

How much could hundreds of women do in a district or state? A hundredfold more as they catch

this flame from Tanya and join her in reaching out to our missionaries around the world.

How much more could be done if the fire raged out of control and spread across our state and our country? It boggles my imagination.

Who me? Adopt a missionary? Get involved by encouraging God's messengers with Kool-Aid? You bet! Now where is my Foreign Missions directory?

Marie (Mrs. Bill Phillips) is an unemployed school teacher with two grown children and four grandchildren. She teaches Juniors at the Living Water FWB Church, Bethel, NC. Her adopted family is the Crowsons which, as she says, "is an exciting experience."



Ways to Help Missionaries

by Tanya Hart

Suggestions gleaned through personal experience and association with missionaries.

- ① **Know your adopted family**, their favorite candy, gum, and taste in books, music, and hobbies. The more you know them, the easier it is to send their favorite items.
- ② **Pray daily** for your family. Discover specific needs then pray specifically. Call the missions hotline—615-731-3839. Requests are changed weekly.
- ③ **Commit yourself** to their ministry. Become a partner in the Gospel.
- ④ **Write regularly** about things happening in your life, local and national news, weather, and denominational news. Don't be disappointed or quit writing if they don't answer promptly.
- ⑤ **Send Christmas and birthday packages**. Send one item, a few or several. (GIFTS FOR MISSIONARIES, published by WNAC, lists some suggestions along with mailing instructions. Order from WNAC, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Enclose \$1.25 for each booklet plus 60 cents postage and handling.)
- ⑥ Missionary parents especially appreciate your **remembering their children**. Know their favorite toys, foods and tastes. For example, send a gift of a new Barbie outfit, the latest toy or clothing item. These help them identify with this culture when they come back for furlough.
- ⑦ If the child is older, perhaps approaching college age, **send money gifts** earmarked: "College Fund." (Write your missionary for the best way to send money gifts.) Send tips or information relating to colleges or financial aid. It's hard to pursue this information from overseas.
- ⑧ If possible, **call your family**. If several families are involved, take turns calling or share the cost. (Contact your long distance carrier to learn specific cost per minute and the cheapest time to call. Remember time differences.)
- ⑨ **Send magazine subscriptions** or send your own magazines after you read them. *Good Housekeeping* costs \$7 a copy in Spain.
- ⑩ **Christian Literature**. Send recently published books, thrift shop finds, or some favorites from your collection.
- ⑪ **Christian music**. Learn the musical tastes of your family and send just-released tapes.
- ⑫ **Preaching and teaching tapes** of sermons and special occasions. BBN (Bible Broadcasting Network, Chesapeake, VA) mails copies of the Conference Pulpit tapes to missionaries if you write and request it.
- ⑬ **Airmail candy and decorations** three weeks before holidays, as Christmas and Easter.
- ⑭ Many families can use videos. **Tape and mail TV specials**, sporting events, and favorite TV programs—with commercials if they appreciate them; others prefer them blocked out.
- ⑮ **Cards, Calendars and Prayer Journals**. Missionaries often cannot find cards in English to send home on special occasions.
- ⑯ **Food Items**: Kool-Aid, spices, salad mixes, cake and frosting mixes, puddings and Jello.
- ⑰ **Be available**. A missionary needs someone to call on in an emergency. She may need a new perm, watch band, dental repair kit, a prescription filled, a battery for his hearing aid, or some other personal item. Be someone who cares enough to help.

A couple of last minute reminders. Be willing to give of your time before committing yourself. Adopting a missionary may take time and money but consider it as a ministry.

Treat your missionary family as an extension of your own. That relationship will direct you how to best help them.

As we lift the corner of the carpet that covers the hurts and stresses of our missionary family, it fans the spark of compassion burning in each of us. Let's lift that carpet. Let's adopt a missionary family today.



**IT'S
ABOUT TIME!**

**Spending
the Gift**

Scripture: Psalms 90:12,17

Introduction

During a group meeting, one woman complained that since becoming employed outside the home there was never enough time to get everything done. A young stay-at-home mother countered that she too seemed stressed at the lack of time to accomplish necessary tasks.

When invited to a retreat, a single, childless, career woman was first interested in knowing if semi-

nars on time management would be included. She confessed a need to learn to organize.

How about you? Do you refuse to turn the calendar page because you are not through with the month? We Christian women are finding it difficult to keep up with supply and demand on our time. Browse through the secular magazine covers and you will find many articles on managing time and stress. Truth is, all women have a problem "getting everything done."

Time is among our most valuable possessions, and especially Christians, must realize it is not ours to spend as we please. Our time should belong to God as expressed in this poem by an unknown author.

by Diane Mitchell Thomas

God's Minute

I have only just a minute,
Only sixty seconds in it,
Forced upon me, can't refuse it,
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it,
But it's up to me to use it,
I must suffer if I lose it,
Give account if I abuse it
Just a tiny little minute
But eternity is in it.

So Much To Do—So Little Time The Problem (Ps. 39:4)

If life were a merry-go-round,
then Christian women seem to be
hanging on for the ride. A church

bulletin depicted that truth with this humorous blessing: "We thank Thee, Lord, for our instant coffee, microwave cocoa, one minute oatmeal, and pop-up waffles. In haste, Amen."

We fill our homes with time-saving devices, yet still hurry, scurry and can't get our act together. The scripture presents a beautiful picture of managing time—a calm Jesus Christ. In her book, *WHEN MOM GOES TO WORK*, Mary Beth Moster shares the thought that He never appeared frantic, yet people were lined up for His attention. The difference is that He knew what the Father's purpose was in His life on earth. He knew what was important. Dwight Eisenhower said, "The important is seldom urgent and the urgent is seldom important."

We must learn the distinction between that which is urgent and that which is important. We often shove the important tasks aside for the urgent ones. First decide that you can't do everything then make decisions based upon your goals and priorities.

First Things First Priorities (Matt. 6:33)

Ann Ortland, author of *THE DISCIPLINES OF THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN*, says that we are to first seek after Jesus. Everything else must flow from the first. As a general rule, we produce our best when we give our efforts and mind to one task at a time; therefore, choices must be made. This is why priorities are important.

There are several books on the market offering help with time management. All agree that a priority list is a must. The list will differ with each individual. For example, a woman employed outside the home will have a list different from the full-time homemaker, as will women with children and those who have none. Christian experts agree that our list must begin with God. A simple, Biblical priority list for the Christian woman would be:

ABC's of Time Management

for Auxiliary Women

- | | |
|---|---|
| A – Allow God first place in your life. Arrange an appointment with Him each day and keep it. | N – Never neglect the important to tend to the urgent. |
| B – Be kind to your body. Eat right, exercise, drink lots of water and get plenty of sleep. | O – Organize the contents of your purse, drawers and cabinets. |
| C – Communicate with clarity. Take nothing for granted. | P – Plan ahead. Make goals. Set priorities. |
| D – Delegate what you can, then concentrate on what's left. Delete, defer. Discipline yourself. | Q – Quit unnecessary activities and habits. Turn off the TV. |
| E – Eliminate clutter. Simplify your life. | R – Read CO-LABORER and other spiritually-uplifting materials. |
| F – Forgive and forget. Focus on the important. | S – Stock up on essential items when they're on sale. |
| G – Get up early each morning, get dressed, get going. | T – Time Out—Take Five! Exercise instead of eat. Pray instead of worry. Call or write a friend. Sing, laugh, quote a Scripture promise. |
| H – Have a schedule for each day's activities. | U – Use your resources wisely. Update your wardrobe. |
| I – Inventory your resources. Index your files and books. | V – Value time. It's a gift from God. |
| J – Jot down ideas and thoughts for later use. Keep a journal. | W – Write it down! Waste not, want not. This applies to time. |
| K – Keep your car and clothes in good repair. | X – Exercise your mind by learning something new. Read a book. Work a puzzle. Do something old in a new way. |
| L – Laugh a lot. It could eliminate the need for medicine. Learn to say no. | Y – Yield to the Spirit. |
| M – Music can alter your mood. Choose it wisely. | Z – Zero in on those things which last for eternity. |

→ God. Not just a Christian lifestyle, but a time of intimate quietness with the Lord. It helps put everything else into perspective.

→ Family. Woman are the appointed keepers of the home.

→ Soul-Winning. So important was this to Christ that it was His last instruction to us before ascension.

→ Christian Service.

→ Others.

We make time for the things that are important to us; therefore, we need prayerful guidance as we determine proper priorities. Ted Engstrom shares in **THE MAKING OF A CHRISTIAN LEADER**, that "managing time really means managing ourselves." We often hear "I wish I knew how to manage my time better," when actually it comes down to managing ourselves better.

One Day In Time Goals (Rom. 12:1,2)

Mary Beth Moster encourages women to set goals. "We need them in our spiritual, family and business life," she says. Very little can be accomplished without them. They give us purpose and a sense of direction. Once we know where we are going we can then begin using our time more effectively to reach those goals.

Ann Ortland says that "our time will be largely wasted unless it flows out of a predetermined set of goals and strategies."

What kind of Christian woman do you want to be? What are your goals as a wife, mother, career woman? Set your goals prayerfully and then purpose in your heart to reach them.

Times a'Wastin' Discipline (1 Cor. 15:58)

With all the resources available on organizing, perhaps you still feel overwhelmed at the shortness of a day. Organization is a necessary method, but discipline is the key.

Dr. James Dobson said, "If one examines the secret behind a championship football team, a magnificent orchestra, or a successful business, the principal ingredient is invariably discipline."

Most experts agree that we would be surprised to learn the amount of time we waste because we do not think in terms of minutes. Some suggest keeping a chart for a week to learn where the "leaks" of our time occur. We would, therefore, discover where we waste time and what our current priorities are.

Time really is precious and cannot be recalled. Learn to value it.

From One Day to the Next Methods (Eccl. 3:1)

Effective time management re-

quires planning. A quote from **STRATEGY FOR LEADERSHIP** says, "Although we live in an imperfect world, the unexpected or predictable keeps throwing us off balance. With planning we attempt to reduce the impact of surprise."

Methods of planning will vary with each individual, but perhaps the most important tool is the calendar. A master calendar on the refrigerator is helpful to keep the family on the appointed course. A personal notebook with daily and long-range plans is helpful. Be realistic in your planning, using a pencil point that allows erasing for the unexpected.

When your calendar is full, do first that which has top priority. Jot down ideas and thoughts for later use, avoiding the strain of doing two things at once. The

Honesty on the Job

Use the following self analysis to help you judge your own honesty on the job. Read the true-to-life situations and relate them to your own work habits. They may not exactly parallel your own situation, but you'll have little trouble making the adaptation. For each give yourself a grade:

A - The thought would never cross my mind.

B - Rarely, almost never.

C - Well, maybe sometimes, but it's not a habit.

D - I admit it's a problem and occasionally I feel convicted about it.

F - Guilty thief!

▶ The first half-hour of the day is spent with a cup of coffee and visiting co-workers.

Grade: _____

▶ I didn't get the raise I deserved, so I cut my work day by a half-hour. I either read or write personal letters. It's the payback my boss deserves.

Grade: _____

▶ If I finish my work early my boss gives me junk work to do. So I

slow down to make the timing come out right. Or play computer games until time to leave.

Grade: _____

▶ I try to schedule doctor or dental appointments on a Friday afternoon instead of on Saturday.

Grade: _____

▶ I make all my phone calls from work. It saves me money and those few dollars are nothing to a big company. Besides everyone does it.

Grade: _____

▶ When it's time to clock out, I leave, even if the phone is ringing or the work is unfinished.

Grade: _____

▶ One of the nicest things about my job is the long conversations in the ladies' room.

Grade: _____

▶ (This is a do-it-yourself situation. What example of time stealing could you add? Don't forget to grade yourself on your own illustration.)

Grade: _____

Are you satisfied with your report card?

greatest time-saver is to finish what you start. Avoid perfectionism and reject compulsive drives.

Turn your calendar over to God. Trust that it will work and you will have success.

The Time Keeper You (Matt. 6:34)

Remembering that family is to be high on the priority list, recognize that you are part of that group. You may even be a family of one. Learn to take care of yourself. God made provision for us to rest. He gave us Sunday. He intended for rest to be a rou-

tine. A tired woman is often irritable, depressed and ineffective.

Treat yourself to exercise, proper nutrition, a time of rejoicing. Sing, laugh, quote a Scripture promise. Learn to say NO. It really is an acceptable word. Know that you can't "do it all." Learn to delete, delegate, and defer. Teach your family to help.

Allow time for beauty in your life, for today is the only day we have. Let's please the Lord with it.

Conclusion

A comedian once said that he thought, "God was going to come down and pull civilization over for

speeding."

An under-busy life is a sin. An over-busy one is destructive. Rely on God for a proper balance. As John Greenleaf Whittier prayed:

Drop Thy still dews of quietness
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.

Diane Mitchell Thomas (Mrs. Ray), writer and popular retreat speaker, lives in Grifton, NC. They have two teenage sons.

Missionettes First FWB Church Albany, Georgia

In 1990, the 18 charter members of this group of second through sixth graders chose the name Missionettes over Junior Actionettes. Martha Everson began the group, but today Juliette Stokes leads it, along with Kathy English and Trudie Nalley. They

quickly point out they could never survive without the wholehearted cooperation of both parents who chauffeur and assist in all their projects.

The girls chose a lavender and white tee-shirt dress as a uniform.

The church had almost no girls of Actionettes age (12-18) when their chapter began. They do today, however, and when a Missionette finishes sixth grade, she is promoted to Actionettes.

The girls are saturated with missions and missionaries. At one meeting Debbie Griffin

served a Japanese meal and gave an interesting program on her work in Japan. Another time Mike Thompson told of his summer missionary work in Africa. Sheila Crabtree, a junior at Baylor studying Russian, shared her burden for the Russian people. An elementary school principal challenged the girls with witnessing at school through consistent Christian standards and morals.

Some recent activities: took Sunshine baskets to the elderly and shut-ins, also to a home for troubled teens, communicated with MK's (missionary's kids), presented programs to shut-ins, and gave gifts to the needy. They enjoy having Secret Pals. For Mother's Day, they wrote poems to their mothers and read them at the Mother-Daughter banquet.

They also have fun—16 at their last skating party.



Back row: Candace Nalley, Kristen Hayes, Arre Barber and Barbara English.

Second row: Gina Morgan, Heidi Beamon, Rebekah Clower, Jamie Gibson and Trish Morgan.

Front row: Rachel Clower and Melinda Vargas.

Not pictured: Gina Hartis, Lia Wafford, Katie Shields, Leah Watson, Tabatha Broome and Danielle Blankenship.

What is a nice, quiet, polite, shy, unassuming girl like me doing in the dog-eat-dog world of employment? I didn't want to go to work. I don't belong in the work place. My constitution can't handle it.

He said I had to go to work. He—that wonderful man I married. That man who said he'd buy me the moon. Who said I'd never want for anything. The one who gave me a home and a house full of children to care for. Alas, that home and those children are the reason I have to go to work. Woe is me. I don't want to go to work.

"Mom." I am not their mother. My children live in an ivy-covered cottage on the outside of town. That's where I want to be.

Someone hands me a letter to type. I can type. I can't read this handwriting, but I can type. I fake it and hope for the best.

Later I do some filing. I hate filing. In the future, I will avoid filing. It gives me too much time to think. To think about my family and how much I miss them.

The phone rings. Am I supposed to answer it? I do. THE BOSS asks me to come take a letter. Take a letter? Take it where? To the mail room? Post office? I

guilty sending them out. He likes them ironed. He looks good when he leaves the house. Sometimes it is midnight before I find the time to iron. The kids are in bed. Hubby is snoring soundly. This is my quiet time. I iron and think. I ponder the events of the day and plan for tomorrow. I think, I ponder, I plan for the day I can be a full-time wife and mother again.

"She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." Soon the younger girls are asking me questions. How do you bake a pie, get out a grass stain, get rid of a pesky suitor? Advice seems to be my middle name.

Yes, I can teach them to bake a pie, get the stain out, shut the door in the face of the pushy beau. But I can also tell them God's Word. They seem interested. I tell them more. I tell them how God helps me. They are surprised that I need help. I laugh. I always need help. He is my ever-present source of help in times of trouble.

Can He help them, they ask? I smile and tell them how He gave His life that we might have life more abundantly. He died for us, He rose again, He ascended to heaven. But He sent a mighty Comforter to live with us. He is with us in the good times and the bad. I couldn't imagine living without Him.

They listen. I pray they will understand.

Today I am no longer working. My children are all grown. I still iron my husband's shirts. Sometimes as I iron, I think about all the people I used to work with and wonder how they are and what they are doing. I pray they have come to know Jesus as I have, in a very personal, committed way.

I still bake chocolate chip cookies. And I still tell people about Jesus.



This article won first place in WNAC's creative arts contest. Mrs. Grant, a retired travel agent, is married to a deacon and they have four grown children and six grandchildren. They attend the Open Door mission church in Lancaster, Ohio.

What's A Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Place Like This?

by Alice Grant

"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." I live by those words. Women belong at home, not out in the carpool, ladder-climbing, stab-in-the-back world of corporate America.

All the women I know stay home, take care of the children, and their technical knowledge does not extend beyond how to bake a loaf of bread. "Women belong in the House—and the Senate" certainly does not apply to me. My world consists of home-cooked meals and dirty laundry.

Okay, so here I am. I don't want to be here, but I have a job. I work for an insurance company. Someone else sits for my children. What good can I be to my family so far away from home? I am doomed!

I look at the women sitting around me, attractive, single and childless. Somebody calls me

pick up a notebook and pencil and head for the big door at the end of the room. I feel like a school child called to the principal's office. I leave the door ajar. Discretion deems it necessary. THE BOSS laughs, but leaves it open.

"She stretcheth out her hand to the poor, yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy." Lord, where are the poor and needy among these affluent women? They don't have bills for braces, school shoes and teddy bears? They save their money while mine goes to mortgages and doctors. One day I surprise my co-workers with a plate of chocolate chip cookies. They disappear in forty-seven seconds. One said it had been ten years since she'd tasted a home-baked cookie. Ten years! Soon I am bringing goodies on a regular basis. They love it. THE BOSS is putting on weight.

"Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land." I still iron my husband's shirts. I would feel

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.

Do You Have it Made?

by Jacqueline Drinnon Buell

I used to wonder why I was so different from the other kids, why I couldn't have two parents and why we had to do without so many things. Now I know. God was going to use these experiences for His honor and glory.

My parents divorced when I was age 4, Matt was 2 and Mike, six months. My grandparents kept us a lot while Mom worked to support us and keep us together.

By the age of 10, I could pretty well take care of my brothers. Mom would awaken me before she left for work. Then I'd get the boys up, make sure they ate breakfast, and see they were off for school. When I got home from school, I fixed supper and did other chores. Mom always left a list of things for us to do until she got home.

All we had were each other and Matt, Mike and I fused together during those years. We were like a puzzle, not complete unless we were together. We were still close even after we were grown and went our separate ways.

Matt would call. "Hey, Sis. What are you up to?" There was never a time we forgot to confirm our love. "Love 'ya!" we'd say and hug each other. Matt always kissed me on the cheek.

Then one night someone put his hand into my heart and turned off a light. A tragic nightmare that only happens to someone else on the news happened to me. Matt committed suicide. I'm sure he would never have taken his life had he known how much we

would hurt and grieve for him. Each day that goes by I long to hear his voice, "Hey, Sis. What are you up to?"

A dark and lonely corner of my heart still grieves for Matt. I remember all the great times we had at Christmas and Thanksgiving and wonder what to get him for his birthday. The laughs and silly stories about our childhood ended on July 2. Tears and heartaches replaced the laughter.

I'm not writing this to be noticed. I want to help someone. I don't want anyone to ever have to go through the hurt our family has gone through. If you're going through a state of mind where you think there isn't anything to live for, please know there is someone who cares—God cares! Also there are people who can help you through whatever it is you are experiencing.

Life is hard and it will take time to get over the bumpy parts of life. Don't ever think it's the end—it's not! I promise you it gets easier.

Look at those around you who love you. You may think they don't care at times, but they do. If

you don't have a family member to turn to, turn to a friend, a teacher, or a co-worker. Give someone a chance to help you.

Tomorrow may be brighter, then again it may take a week. The clouds come and go. I'll never be able to talk to my brother again face to face on this earth, and it hurts! Please don't hurt your family this way. Give them a chance and you won't be sorry.

Don't let bitterness keep your family apart. Please don't let a day go by without telling them you love them. You never know what tomorrow holds.

Parents, keep your families together. Being a family means a lot to your children. Put God first, pray, and try to make your marriages work. Children need both parents living in the same home. They were conceived in love, so raise them in love in a complete home, not a broken one.

I could never have gone through this experience without God. I think of that terrible week of my brother's death and the poem "Footprints in the Sand" comes to mind. God carried me through this hardest time of my life. He still helps me. Not a day passes that I don't long to see him, but one day I know I'll see him face to face. That's the promise of the resurrection.

I can almost hear my brother say again, "Hey, Sis, what've you been up to?"

Jackie is a member of the Shady Grove FWB Church, Whitesburg, TN.



News from The National Office

Communicator ...

by Mary Ruth Wisehart

Have You Helped A Student Recently?

WNAC's Memorial Student Loan Fund is designed to help students at Free Will Baptist Bible College. September is the month for special giving to the fund.

Students who cannot find financial aid from other sources may borrow up to \$4,000 from WNAC at 7% interest.

Have you helped a student recently? Your gift to the Memorial Student Loan Fund can help.

"Tomorrow's Wonders" at Ridgecrest

The seventh national retreat convenes Thursday evening, September 17.

Encourage your women to pray for the attendees, the speakers and those involved with the program.

Nominating Committee Organized

The committee for nominating WNAC's officers in Louisville, Kentucky in 1993 organized in Indianapolis, Monday, July 20.

The committee needs special prayer for wisdom in selecting the officers who will serve from 1993-1995.

Michigan Replenishes Provision Closet

In May a rented truck arrived from the Michigan State Auxiliary Convention filled with provisions for the Closet. Flatware, sheets, towels, crock-pots, blenders, food processors, speed cookers, Corelle ware, Tupperware, blankets, comforters—almost anything a missionary might need came into the Closet on a rainy afternoon.

Some items disappear quickly, and the Closet does need the following:

cotton blankets and sheets, all sizes

spreads and comforters, all sizes

Women Become Involved in New Building Campaign

WNAC's office suite in the National Office Building at 5233 Mt. View Road, Antioch, Tennessee is tastefully furnished and efficiently

arranged for good working conditions.

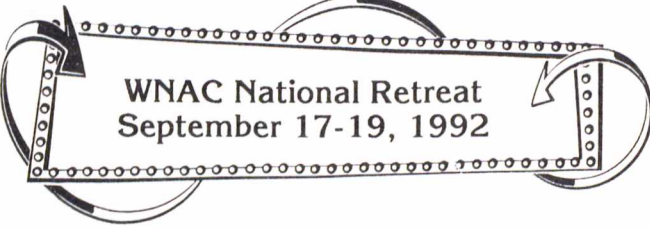
The staff is grateful for the facilities and for Free Will Baptist people who make the national office building possible.

May 20, 1992, marked the closing on the sale of the building at Murfreesboro Road. The National Association is financing the buyer, and the payments will be complete in five years. All proceeds realized from this sale will go toward the principal of the loan on the building.

About \$1 million dollars is needed to finish paying for the building. The National Convention in Indianapolis launched in earnest the campaign to retire the debt.

State leaders and national personnel hope that the complete indebtedness will be erased by 1994.

Check with your pastor and state leaders. Find out how you can have a part in helping with the national ministries by retiring the debt.



WNAC National Retreat
September 17-19, 1992

This installation goes along with the Emphasis '92 program, "Pandora's Box: A Collection of Good Things" (July-August issue of CO-LABORER). Many Auxiliaries have an installation of their officers in connection with their Emphasis program.



Guardians of Good Things

An Installation of Auxiliary Officers

by Betty Johnson

Preparation: prepare a large gift-wrapped box with an open top. Fill the box with various sizes of attractively wrapped gift boxes, one for each officer. Make the gifts so the lid raises easily.

Duties of the officers should be printed on 4x6 index cards and placed inside the appropriate boxes.

Seat the officers on the front pew. Call them to the front one by one to receive their gifts. She opens her box and reads her card.

President: I have the gift of *leadership*. I will try to follow my Savior as I lead our Woman's Auxiliary. My church expects me to walk and talk an exemplary Christian life.

Part of my job is organizing and planning our meetings. I will try to be faithful, tactful, and understanding as I work with my fellow officers and members.

Leader: Do you accept this gift of leadership?

President: Yes, I do.

Leader: Would the vice president please come forward to receive

her gift? (She receives it, stands next to the president, removes her card from the gift and reads.)

Vice President: Mine is the gift of *helps*. I, too, must imitate my Master in attitude, actions, and conversation. I will be available for any help the president might request. I will especially try to keep the members interested and try to enlist those who are not involved in Auxiliary.

Leader: Do you accept this gift of helps?

Vice President: Yes, I do.

Leader: Would the secretary-treasurer come forward please?

Secretary/Treasurer: My gift is *accuracy*. Records are very important. Historians depend on them. Thus I will keep an account of all proceedings of our Auxiliary. I will also keep accurate records of our incoming money and expenses.

Mission Prayer Chairman: My gift is *intercession*. I am aware that my office is a serious responsibility since I must lead our women to praying diligently for missions

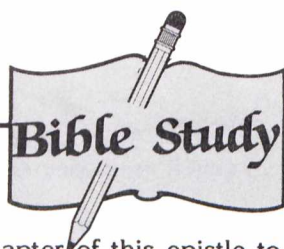
overseas and here at home. I will try to bring current prayer requests to our meetings and do everything to make them remember them in prayer at home.

Mission Study Chairman: My gift is *perseverance*, or the ability to keep on keeping on. We need this gift when it comes to study for many women never read for pleasure. Books open up a world to us and through the printed page we can travel to far away places and experience another culture. I will try to interest our women to become women who study God's Word, books on missions, and other books to help us live better Christian lives.

Mission Action Chairman: My gift is *compassion*. People all around are longing for what we can give them in the name of Jesus. I will be alert for opportunities to serve and try to involve each of our women in some type of mission action service.

(Add other gifts as you have officers.)

Betty leads her Auxiliary in the Philadelphia FWB Church, Mt. Clemens, MI.



1 Timothy Chapter 2

REVIEW: The first chapter of this epistle to Paul's "son in the faith", dealt primarily with a charge. Some had already swerved from sound doctrine and were teaching others this heresy (1:6,7). Paul explicitly instructs Timothy to "charge some that they teach NO other doctrine" and to ignore questions that tend to divide or confuse rather than leading to "godly edifying" (1:3,4).

FIRST THINGS FIRST (2:1-6)

2:1—"I exhort, therefore, that _____ of all, supplications, _____, intercessions, and _____ of thanks be made for _____ men..."

All believers are exhorted to pray and all prayer should include the four elements cited by Paul. Someone described the word "supplications" as "self-depreciation." A supplicant should humbly and earnestly approach God in prayer. This attitude sets the mood for sincere prayer. Intercessions (petitions) follow, and the prayer is capped by a heart full of thanksgiving and gratitude to God for His mercy, care and great grace.

2:2—"For kings, and for _____ that are in _____ that we may lead a _____ and _____ life in godliness and _____." Beginning with the highest civil authority and extending to all authority, we are admonished to pray.

2:3-6—"For this (manner and extent of prayer) is good and _____ in the sight of God, our Saviour, who will have all men to be _____, and to come to the _____ of the truth."

How concerned are we? "For there is one God and one _____ between God and man, the man, Christ Jesus, who gave himself a _____ for all, to be testified in due time." This is a cardinal truth never to be compromised. Our concern for the lost is founded in the fact that there is only one mediator between God and man. Sincere prayer will reflect that concern.

HOLY HANDS (2:7,8)

2:7—"For this I am _____ a preacher, and an _____ (I speak the truth in Christ and lie not), a _____ of the Gentiles in _____ and verity (truth)."

Paul spoke with a God-given authority. He had been ordained (set aside for a specific purpose). He was a preacher, apostle and teacher. His message was salvation, free to all, by grace through faith in the atoning blood of Christ. This message has not changed though some preach an easy believism or a religion of works. Both are an amalgamation of truth and error, therefore, to be condemned and rejected.

2:8—"I will, therefore, that men _____ everywhere, lifting up _____ hands, without wrath and _____."

In the following verses, Paul will address himself to women. But note that this verse specifically states that MEN should pray. They should be leaders in prayer as well as examples in sincerity and concern. The lifestyle of the person praying should exemplify holiness. All hands, lifted in prayer are not necessarily

"holy hands." The heart must not harbor anger or doubt.

WOMEN IN PUBLIC (2:9)

2:9—"In like manner, also, that women _____ themselves in _____ apparel, with shame-facedness (godly fear), and sobriety, not with broided (braided) hair, or gold, or pearls, or _____ array..."

This verse tells women what not to be caught in, regardless of the changes in fashion. It is never out of style for women of any age to dress modestly. A mirror doesn't lie. If an outfit calls particular attention—in length, fabric, design or fit—to her anatomy, it is best not worn. A woman with a godly fear will care that her testimony is not compromised by her appearance.

Webster wisely defines "sobriety" as a gravity or sedateness of manner. A woman who calls attention to herself, either by voice or appearance lacks this quality of sobriety. Modesty in dress outwardly and a gravity of spirit inwardly become a Christian woman.

ONE SIZE FITS ALL (2:10-15)

2:10—"But, (which _____ women _____ godliness) with good works." Some colors and styles are more becoming to a woman than others. But good works performed by a godly woman are always becoming.

2:11, 12—"Let the woman learn in _____ with all _____. But, I suffer (permit) not a woman to _____, not to usurp _____ over the man, but to be in silence."

Note that being female does not exempt or excuse a woman from Bible study. However, in a mixed congregation, that learning should be in "quietness and full submission" (NIV). She is not to assume an authoritative position over men though there are numerous areas of service available to her in the church.

2:13-15—"For Adam was _____ formed, then Eve. And Adam was not _____, but the _____, being deceived, was in the transgression. Notwithstanding, she shall be saved in _____, if they continue in _____ and charity (love) and _____ with sobriety."

We have to admit that it was Eve who, because of vanity and disobedience, first sinned, followed closely by her husband. One consequence of her sin was the pain of childbirth (Gen. 3:16). Note the fourfold admonition to women following the promise of verse 15: she is to 1) continue in faith, 2) sincerely love others, 3) be holy within (thought life and practices) and 4) know and show "propriety"—that which is proper and God-honoring in manner, appearance and deportment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Compare the Lord's model prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 with the admonition in 1 Timothy 2:1. Is the order of prayer the same in both passages?
2. Why is verse 5 so important doctrinally?
3. Discuss public prayer in a mixed congregation. Should Christian men take a leadership role? What about in the home?
4. Do verses 9-12 cause problems for you? Was Paul a "male chauvinist?" Turn to Romans 16:1-6 and note Paul's words of appreciation and commendation concerning several named women who served with him in the Lord's work.



Ten Ways to Help Your Pastor's Wife

September is Pastor Appreciation Month. Make it a memorable time for both the pastor and his wife by heeding these suggestions.

1. **Keep her informed.** Your pastor will forget to tell his wife things, just as other husbands do. Don't assume she knows about the dinner invitation you offered as you shook his hand after the service. Drop her a note or phone briefly so she knows to show up next Friday evening.

2. **Update her on past events.** Spend an evening sharing the traditions and history of your church, as well as humorous incidents which occurred before she and her husband arrived.

3. **Give her a personalized church calendar.** Find out important church events for the year from church departments and groups, and also birthdays or anniversaries of church leaders and officers. Mark these for her on a decorative calendar.

4. **Don't assume her presence** at church or social functions. Extend a personal invitation to her, especially for weddings or social events at which her husband officiates.

5. **Honor her family times** as much as she does. Make phone calls during the dinner hour and in the evening only if there's an emergency. Allow her family to have time alone during the holidays.

6. **Remember that your church hired her husband, not her.** She is not automatically the official church hostess, Sunday school superintendent, or nursery supervisor. Allow her service to be a matter of the Lord's leading, not the church's expectations.

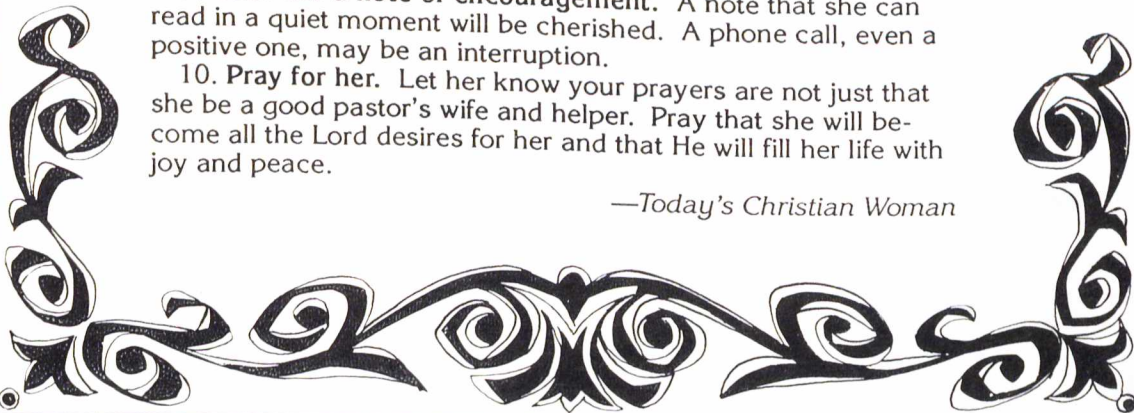
7. **Provide her with resources.** Scan magazines and copy articles she might enjoy. Inform her about the good sales in town. Let her know the schedules for free concerts and other events.

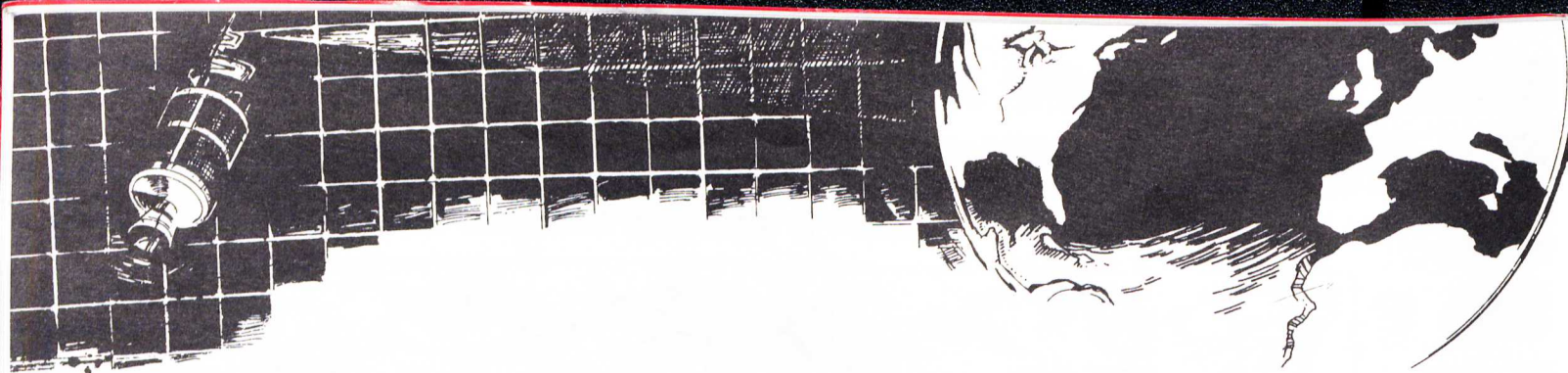
8. **Treat her as a friend.** Take her to lunch, to an art gallery, to a play, to the beach, and never mention church business.

9. **Write her a note of encouragement.** A note that she can read in a quiet moment will be cherished. A phone call, even a positive one, may be an interruption.

10. **Pray for her.** Let her know your prayers are not just that she be a good pastor's wife and helper. Pray that she will become all the Lord desires for her and that He will fill her life with joy and peace.

—Today's Christian Woman



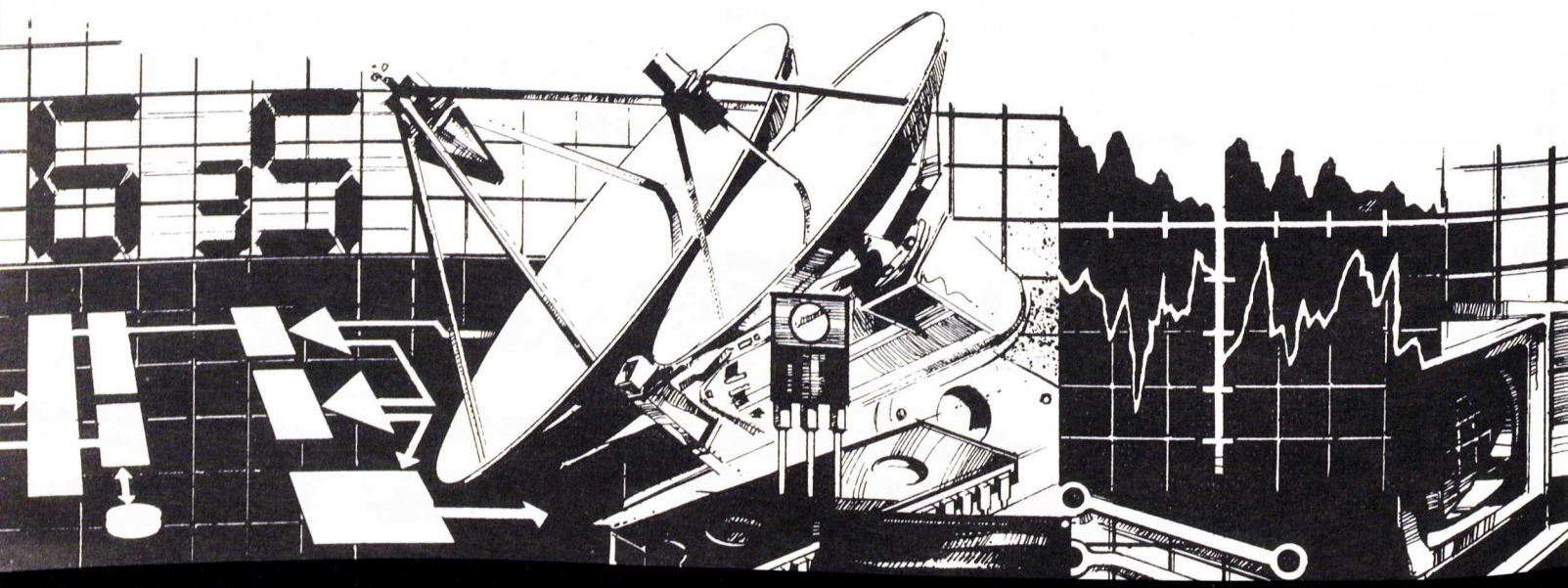


WE BRING THE WORLD TO YOU
AT

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

DATE:

TIME:



HELPS for LEADERS

PRECIDENT VICE PRESIDENT PRECIDENT SEPTEMBER

Memorial Student Loan Month

September is Memorial Student Loan Fund month. This project supports worthy students at Free Will Baptist Bible College. This fund has helped a multitude of men and women prepare for full-time Christian service, both at home and around the world.

Officers' Planning Session

A new year begins in September for many Auxiliaries. New officers begin their duties and new plans and projects are instituted. We strongly recommend a planning session with your new officers. Here are some suggestions to guide you:

- ✓ Select a time when the majority of your officers can attend.
- ✓ Make it a special time by choosing a special location with a degree of privacy—a home, conference room, restaurant, club house...
- ✓ Plan to serve a light snack or refreshments.
- ✓ Give a brief devotional, or ask another to do it.

✓ Distribute working calendars from which you will plan and jot down important dates. Bring with you your district, state and national minutes. Contact the pastor ahead of time for any dates you need in helping you plan, as revivals, missionary conference, DVBS and youth activities.

✓ Consider especially your monthly meetings. How will they be made special? How will you observe the Pre-Thanksgiving and Pre-Easter weeks of prayer? Emphasis Program? Will you have a Mother-Daughter banquet? A picnic? When? What will you do about Enlistment? And Christmas?

✓ Equip each officer with a guide and any other materials to help her do her job. Ask her to be prepared to share how she plans to develop her area of work over the year (or quarter, or how often you meet.)

✓ Your state probably suggests a plan of work based on WNAC's calendar. This provides a schedule for undergirding the entire program of work. Decide on your financial plan of support. Don't forget the Co-Laborer Offering Plan, WNAC's lifeline.

✓ Be enthusiastic. Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm.

✓ Join hands and close in a circle of prayer.



Introduce your meeting with this Halloween quiz.

1. In the Old Testament what did God say should be done to witches? (Exodus 22:18)
2. What kind of people did God say should not be found among the children of Israel? Name one. (Deuteronomy 18:10, 11).
3. Which king of Israel consulted a witch? (1 Samuel 28:7)
4. What dead person did the king want the witch to contact? (1 Samuel 28:11)

5. Before God could bless the reign of Josiah, "he put away the _____ of familiar spirits, and the _____, and the images and the idols and all the abominations in the land of Judah." (2 Kings 23:24)

6. Which prophet saw a vision of bones which came to life? (Ezekiel 37:1)

7. When did Jesus' disciples think they saw a ghost? (Matthew 14:26)

8. When did the disciples think Peter was a spirit or angel? (Acts 12:15)

9. When those who used "curious arts" were saved in Ephesus, what did they do with their books? What was the value? (Acts 19:18, 19)

10. Which sin does the Bible compare to witchcraft? (1 Samuel 15:23)

MISSION STUDY

In addition to the books reviewed in "Book Highlights", a regular feature of CO-LABORER, the following books are also recommended for study. WNAC no longer handles study books. Please purchase them from your state's denominational book store or order from Randall House, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37211.

Missions:

MISSIONS NOW

by John E. Kyle and Donald A. McGavran with Timothy S. Penning
Baker Book House, 126pp

Billy Graham says of this book, "I recommend this volume to every young person in whose heart the Spirit of God is placing a call to Christian service. This book will challenge you to go to tough places of the world, to grapple

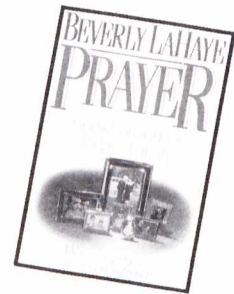
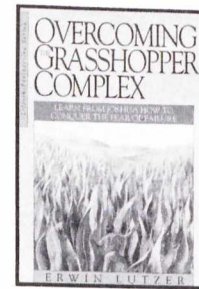
with the issues that are highest on God's agenda, and to explore the supreme satisfaction of being on the cutting edge of God's plan and purpose through time."

Christian Living:

OVERCOMING THE GRASSHOPPER COMPLEX

by Erwin Lutzer
Victor Books, 155pp

The book is based on the book of Joshua, but is not a commentary. Neither is it a devotional book. It is rather a handbook guiding us through the pitfalls of spiritual growth, capturing territory from



Recommended study books

Satan and using it for the glory of God.

A leader's guide with reproducible response sheets accompany this study book.

Prayer:

PRAYER: God's Comfort for Today's Family
by Beverly LaHaye
Thomas Nelson Publishers, 220pp

Based on her thirty years of practice and on the Scriptures, Mrs. LaHaye not only introduces eleven principles for effective prayer, she offers specific suggestions we can apply to improve our own prayer lives. Then along the way, she shows us people who dared to speak boldly and "put feet to their prayers." Finally she challenges us to become women of prayer.

The author is the founder and president of Concerned Women for America, so naturally the book has a strong CWA flavor. This group represents 700,000 citizens in more than 1200 prayer/action chapters across the nation.

Missionary Name Play

Wynell Brown (instead of Black), Slocomb, Alabama, made up this name play on missionary names and asked her women to solve it. Rhett Butler (instead of Baker) writes, "It helps establish the names of the missionaries in our minds." Change the underlined word to the correct name. How many can you answer correctly?

1. Not Fred and Evelyn Nestle, but _____.
2. Not Dave and Pat Wieners, but _____.
3. Not Darrel and Lila Pennies, but _____.
4. Not Carlisle and Marie Foota, but _____.
5. Not Nathan and Linda Sleet, but _____.
6. Not Ernest and Elaine Switzerland, but _____.
7. Not Don and Ruth McWendy, but _____.
8. Not Steve and Judy Big, but _____.
9. Not Bobby and Geneva Pond, but _____.
10. Not Ron and Linda Less, but _____.
11. Not Jim and Shirley Brushes, but _____.
12. Not Lynn Giant, but _____.
13. Not Molly Shouter, but _____.
14. Not Stan and Brenda Stalk, but _____.
15. Not Robert and Pam East, but _____.
16. Not Jim and Karen Brave, but _____.
17. Not Dale and Sandra Pawn, but _____.
18. Not Steve and Becky Outfits, but _____.
19. Not Lonnie and Anita Flames, but _____.
20. Not Earnie and Jean Acts, but _____.

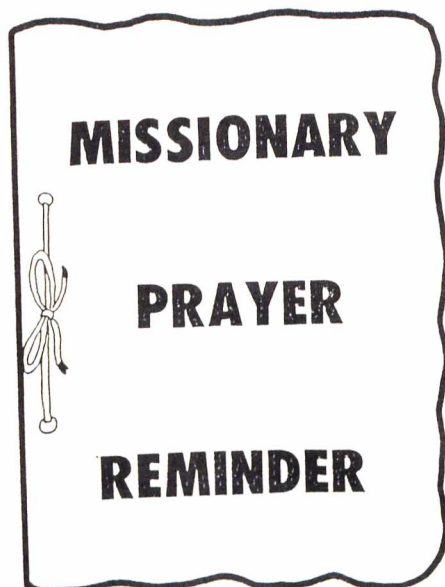
MISSION PRAYER

September

The Auxiliary's mission prayer chairman keeps current prayer requests before her women. One way she does this is by distributing prayer reminders at each meeting. The women display

them in a prominent place during the month and each time they see them, they pause to remember that request in prayer.

Another way to do this is by



preparing a missionary prayer reminder booklet for each woman. Each booklet has twelve pages (one page a month) and is covered with a colored cover. The women paste or tape the reminder to a page each month.

You may prefer to make pockets to hold the reminders. Before the pages are assembled, fold up each sheet a couple of inches and glue the sides.

Missionary Prayer Wheel

An effective visual for missionary prayer is the Missionary Prayer Wheel.

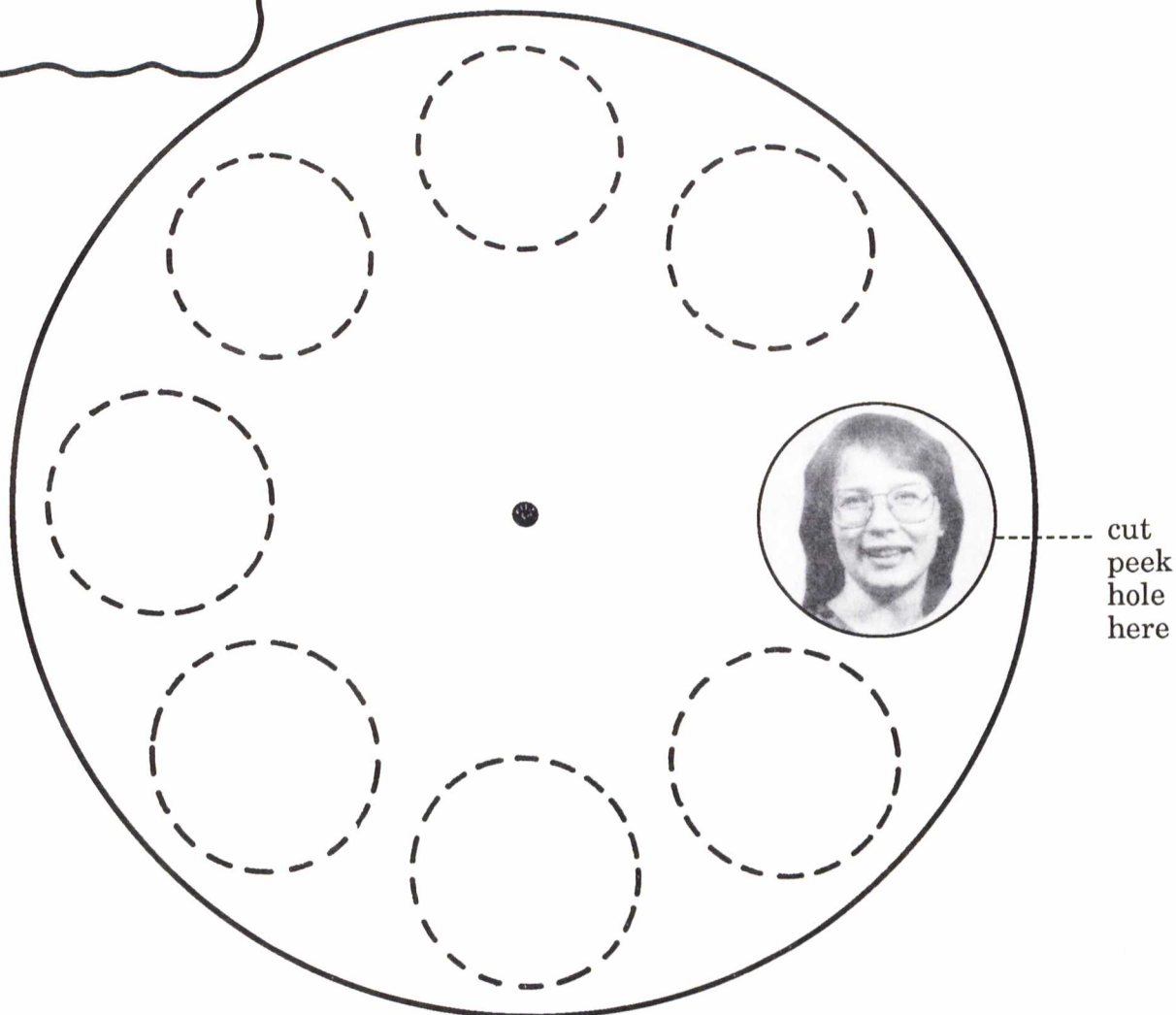
Cut two circles from three sheets of heavy poster board, preferably colored. These form

your front and back covers. Cut a peek hole in the front cover (as illustrated).

Cut another circle the same size from lighter weight cardboard. Glue on eight missionary prayer cards in the sections marked by the broken circles.

Assemble the three circles with a brad fastener in the center.

At each Auxiliary meeting, spin the prayer wheel to determine your "Missionary of the Month." Ask each one to share one thing they know about the missionary chosen. Have a special prayer. The cards may be changed after all have been featured. Missionary Prayer Cards are available upon request from Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.



MISSIONARY of the MONTH

MISSION ACTION MISSION

Cheryl Anne Day, mission prayer and action chairman of the mission church in St. Petersburg, Florida, is a pro at making crafts and giving them a missionary flavor. Each month she reports to her Auxiliary by suggesting a project, distributing craft prayer reminders and encouraging her women with a little pep talk.

In case you're a new mission action chairman or need help in getting the new year started off, here's what Cheryl Anne did last year.

January — Our Goal

Make scrolls from scraps of parchment paper. Leave about an inch on either end for rolling. Draw flowers at the top. Write Psalm 90:12 underneath. Roll top and bottom and glue in place.

Thread a piece of spaghetti ribbon through the upper roll. Tie. Hide the tied ends inside the roll.

talk: That we make this year count for eternity.

February — Bows of Love

Drop a dollop of glue on a tie tack flat.

Make a bow from a length of 4 mm pearl beads. Put on top of glue.

Glue a tiny flower in the center.

For reminders, write prayer requests on the backs of paper hearts. Fasten a bow of love to each heart.

talk: Demonstrate the love of Jesus.

March — Drawstring Bags

Use scraps of material and cut to desired size. Fold in half (bottom will be on the fold.) Hem both sides. Fold tops down and stitch. Sew another seam about 1/4" from the top. This allows a path for the drawstring.

Sew side seams to the first hemline. Secure thread.

Cut two pieces of colorful cord and work one to the left and the other to the right. Tie ends.

Carry your Bible in these bags, or may be used to carry Auxiliary supplies.

talk: Read God's Word. We walk by faith.

April — Seeds of Faith

Save seeds from your fall flowers or buy in bulk from a nursery. Put about a T. in small zip lock bags (available in craft shops). Type or print Zechariah 8:12 on small cards and slip inside the bag.

Fill plastic oleo containers with potting soil and take these with the seeds to nursing home patients.

talk: We reap what we sow.

May — Sow for Yourselves Needle Holder

From white yarn and using a H crochet hook, chain 3, slip stitch to make a loop. Chain 3, make 19 double crochets in circle. Slip stitch to top of chain 3.

Second row: chain 3, 2 double crochets in 1 loop, 1 double crochet in next loop and alternate every other one until completely around. Slip stitch to top of chain 3.

Chain 4, skip 1 double crochet, then slip stitch in next loop. Repeat all around. Finish off.

Glue flower in center.

Cut circles of white paper and white felt the size of the crocheted part of the circle, or about 3". Print Hosea 10:12 on the paper and glue to the back of the crocheted circle.

Make a tab of the felt by gluing the top part to the circle. Lift the tab to insert needles.

These make good gifts for Mother's Day.

talk: God's love protects us from the sharp points of life.

June — Love is a Rose

Put a dot of glue on the head of a stick pin. Apply a ceramic or silk rose. Hold for about 15-20 seconds. Glue a tiny iridescent rhinestone to the center. Pin to a card on which you have written a prayer request.

talk: Life is fragile, handle it with prayer.

July — Pray for the USA

Glue a home missionary prayer card to the back of a small grapevine wreath. Be sure the faces are clearly visible in the center of the wreath. Trim. Glue a toothpick US flag to the top. Make a bow from red, white and blue spaghetti ribbon and glue to the bottom.

talk: It's time for all America to pray.

August — The Light of the World

Purchase small birthday cake candles. Cut 4" circles from white heavy paper. Write "Our Missionaries Light up the World" on one side. Write missionary prayer requests on the other. Insert the candle through the circle and give one to each woman.

talk: We are the light of the world.

September — A Savor of His Love

Cut 8" squares from lace. Place about 1/2 cup potpourri in the center. Bring edges together and fasten tightly with a purple ribbon. Write missionary requests on slips of paper and thread through the ribbon.

These make good table favors or gift package decorations by using names or Scripture verses instead of the requests.

talk: Our lives should give an odor of His death.

October — Picture This

Trim missionary prayer cards to fit any kind of frame, either purchased or made. Attach a magnet to the back.

talk: Send birthday cards to our missionaries. Show them we care.

November — Good Cookie

Crochet oreo cookies from black and white yarn. Make 1 circle by chaining 4 slip stitches, then 20 double crochets. Fasten off. Make one white and two black circles. Sandwich the white between the black and glue. Glue a magnet to the back.

Distribute missionary prayer cards or missionary request cards. Use the magnets to hold them to the refrigerator.

talk: Practice Thanksliving.

December — Mean a Mint to Missions

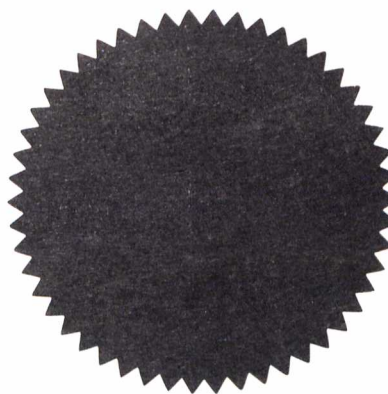
Fill baby food jars with red, green and white mints. Cut circles from Christmas fabric and sew on an edging of lace. Glue to the lid of the baby food jar. Use a rubber band on the edge to keep it secure until dry. Tie a ribbon around it.

Prepare decorative cards imprinted "Mean a Mint to Missions" and thread through the ribbon. On the other side, glue pictures of missionaries.

talk: Missionaries count on us to pray and give.



Certificate of Adoption



I/We _____
hereby agree to become partners of the Gospel
with
FREE WILL BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSIONS
to
KNOW, ESTEEM, EDIFY, and EXHORT
my/our adopted missionary family
(signed) _____

Program Helps for
"Missions Explosion"

1. Use the poster on page 20 as an idea for a program cover.
2. Enlarge the poster to a large poster board size and use as a visual during the program.

3. Reproduce the certificate of adoption on pastel tinted heavy paper and issue to all those willing to adopt a missionary.

4. Invite Miss Hart to come for a Missions Explosion seminar. Write her at 801 N. Hills drive, Ayden, NC 28513.

India

Hanna

W

1

○

France

West

Smith

Côte d'Ivoire

Japan

The Minister's Wife

Newsletter

Compiled By Cleo Pursell



volume 12, number 5, 1992

Advice for the Pastor's Wife

by Judy Puckett

When a young lady marries, she promises to love, honor and cherish her husband. But when your groom is a pastor (or a future pastor), you must in effect promise to love, honor and cherish his church as well.

One day you'll wake up and realize, "That woman in the parsonage is me!" It can be quite a jolt for a new bride, but equally as shocking to a woman whose husband changes occupations to pastor.

You will get lots of advice and lots of sympathy. You will be chided because you have special privileges. But your happiness as a pastor's wife will depend on you, and like most of life's situations, your attitude will determine your contentment. Consider these suggestions:

Accept God's leading in your husband's life, and follow his direction. Accept the challenge of being completely surrendered to his call to the ministry, the place you'll live, and the people God has given you to serve.

Treat your congregation as you would like to be treated. View them as individuals, brothers and sisters in Christ, and friends, not as a conglomerate enemy.

Accept yourself and your abilities. Also accept the fact that you, like everyone else, have limitations. Don't be ashamed to admit that there are things you cannot do.

Use the gifts God has given you and don't worry about those you don't have. Choose areas in which you can use your gifts to serve, then trust God to supply through other Christians the additional gifts the church needs.

Pace yourself. Decide what responsibilities you can handle and be prepared to politely decline those tasks you can't do. You will be tempted to go overboard in your involvement, possibly to the neglect of your home, family and health.

Don't pamper yourself, but use common sense. You cannot do it all! Part of a church's growth is learning to function without depending on the pastor (and his wife) to do all the major things.



Don't try to impress the church. Be the kind of person you truly are, not what you think they want you to be. If you are genuine, they will love and accept you, despite many shortcomings, provided you love and accept them as they are.

Never exclude anyone. You may have friendships within or outside the church, but you must never give the impression that you are excluding someone from your circle of friends. Draw in new ones, needy ones, and shy ones. Be a friend to all and give an example of the love shown in the New Testament church.

You will be a leader by virtue of your position. The congregation will follow the example set by the pastor's family. Don't strive to be a pacesetter in trivialities, but rather choose to lead in spiritual matters.

One of the greatest contributions is your example of piety, or as Titus says, "in behavior, as becometh holiness."

Set priorities and expend your time and energies in those areas. Your relationship to God is paramount, your husband and children second, then your church. God doesn't expect more of you than you are able to give. Seek to please Him and follow His leadership in your life.

Earnestly pray for the church. People will make requests of you and your husband, so don't take them lightly or forget them. They depend on you as a prayer warrior.

Squelch gossip or backbiting. People will not talk to you about others in a derogatory way if you praise that person to them. You can encourage or discourage unity among the membership by your reaction to conflict. One of the sins God hates is "he that soweth discord among brethren" (Prov. 6:19).

Prepare and train your children to love and serve God. Teach them to do what is right because it is right. Never make them feel they must do something just because they are the pastor's children.

Prepare them for situations where they will be forced to choose right or wrong and teach them the consequences. Pour your time and influence into their lives and make them faithful Christians "who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2).

Support and uphold your husband. Never speak negatively of him, but tell his faults to God alone. Encourage and praise him. Let criticism of him personally be constructive and rare.

A positive attitude about your position will enable you to be used of God to build His church. If you are unhappy, your husband will be in a dilemma between pleasing God or making you happy.

Accept the good and enjoy it. Take the bad and live with it. Every occupation has its advantages and disadvantages. Yours is a chosen ministry and can be a most fulfilling and rewarding one.

—Reprinted from *CONTACT*, August, 1984. Used by permission.

Judy, daughter of a minister, is married to James Puckett who pastors the Harrah FWB Church, Harrah, Oklahoma. They have three grown children, two of whom are married.

Need something to spice up your Pastor Appreciation Day?

Pastor's Wife's Lament

(Sing to the tune of "Sixteen Tons")

1. I was born one mornin', heard the church bells ring;
I picked up a hymnal and started to sing;
Got a preacher for a husband, and my-o-me,
I got sixteen jobs plus a fam-i-ly.

Chorus

You get sixteen jobs and what do you get?
Another day older and more troubles yet;
St. Peter, don't you call me 'cause I can't go—
Gotta stand on Sunday at the church front do'.

3. Gotta lead prayer meeting, take a class to teach,
Gotta play the organ or the people will screech
How the last preacher's wife did this and mo'
And when I do it, say I'm runnin' the show.

Chorus

You try so hard and what do ya get?
Hearing other people's troubles 'til you fuss and fret;
St. Peter, don't you call me 'cause I can't go
Got a covered dish supper and a whole lot mo'.

4. My clothes are the subject for a lot of talk,
I buy a fancy outfit and the members all gawk;
I wear last year's and the people all say
I oughta do better on what they pay!

Chorus

Gotta please everybody, watch what I say,
Gotta be on my toes every hour of the day;
St. Peter, don't you call me 'cause I can't go
Got a fellowship meeting this evenin' at fo'.

5. Gotta be on call every day and night,
The worst things happen when I look a fright;
The chairman of the board will decide to come by
When my hair is in curlers and my girdle ain't dry.

Chorus

Got no life of my own, it seems
I never have an hour of privacy;
St. Peter, don't you call me 'cause I can't go
Sister Jones is a-knocking at my back do'.

6. Shake hands with the elders and smile at the wives,
The last one that leaves and the first that arrives;
Got a preacher for a husband but never see him 'til
The dead is buried and the sick gets well.

Chorus

Be a preacher's wife and what do ya get?
A host of friends and the fullest life yet;
St. Peter, don't you call me 'cause I can't go,
Want to stand on Sunday at the church front do'.

—Author Unknown



Chelma Hall, a fairly new Christian and the mother of three sons, holds her award for being selected as Mother of the year. The First Auxiliary, Morehead, Kentucky, bestowed this honor.

The men of the church made Mother's Day special by cooking and cleaning up for the Mother-Daughter fellowship.

WOMEN in ACTION



Officers of the Waynesville Auxiliary, Waynesville, MO: front row: Norma Smith, Kay Ban, and Helen Bales; back row: Debbie Laymon, Sharon Parker, and Sharon Greer, president.

Mrs. Bales writes, "We are a growing Auxiliary with ten active members. We are also a busy Auxiliary." They sponsor a missionary each month, sponsor a child at the FWB Home for Children, Greeneville, TN, and send medical supplies to Ivory Coast. They recently held a Spring Fashion Show. (below) One model was Sharon Parker, wife of Pastor Gary. Sharon wears a floral dress with balloon sleeves and cancan.



Connie Dean, Ypsilanti, MI, is installed as president of the newly organized Fellowship District Woman's Auxiliary Convention consisting of five local Auxiliaries. The installation, "Chains of Service", helped unite the new officers.





Dorothy Atkins, Emmanuel Auxiliary, Washington, NC, installs officers in the Pamlico District. front row: Marion Swanner, Laurie Horne, president, Priscilla Hardison, Joyce Baker; back row: Lillie Woolard, Barbara Walls, Kathy Massey, Faye Corey, Betty Whitley and Brenda Boyd.

June Critcher, Nashville, TN, teaches a Sunday afternoon study at the First FWB Church, Booneville, MS, according to Patsy Cosby, study chairman. Forty-five ladies benefitted from the book *BUILDING UP ONE ANOTHER* by Gene Getz. "This study made a tremendous impact on our lives," writes Patsy.



Wautauga Valley Auxiliary, Elizabethton, TN, hosts a surprise shower of needs for Jim and Karen Cowart before their departure for Brazil.



Ladies from the Christian Auxiliary met with the First Auxiliary (both from Amory, MS) to observe their Pre-Easter Week of Prayer program for Foreign Missions. "It was the first time we have united for a program, but it will not be the last," writes Janice Wilkerson, mission prayer chairman.

Piney Grove Auxiliary, Chipley, Florida, shower Dave and Becky Franks, Jr., with a personal shower. Festivities included a time of fun, feast, fellowship and a devotional by Becky.



Pleasant Home Auxiliary, Mountain Grove, MO, of which Lois Smallwood is a member (see her open letter on page 30). Their goals are to help their church teach and support missions and to be home missionaries in their community.

front row: Myra Douglas, Francis Harvey, Wanda Simpson and Lucille Fogerson. Back row: Lucille Harden, Doshie Brill and Lois Smallwood. Picture insert: Pat Loomis and Eva Wood. Wilma Rich is not pictured.



National Student Scholarship

WNAC's National Student Fund helps train future leaders on our mission fields.

Current funds go to the nine students enrolled in the Bible Institute of Côté d'Ivoire. (below) The students with their families. WNAC's funds actually help the entire family.

A new project will be approved during the July convention.



Books to stimulate spiritual growth

Book Highlights ...

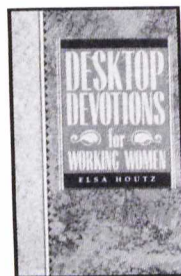
STRESS FRACTURES: Biblical Splints for Everyday Pressures
by Charles R. Swindoll
Multnomah, paperback, \$10.95



This book, a compilation of thirteen of the author's best-selling booklets, gives Biblical perspective and relief for many of the pressure-related injuries of the heart, mind and spirit.

If you've listened to Insight for Living, Swindoll's daily radio program, or read any of his many published books, you will want to read this one dealing with the pressures of our fast-paced lifestyles.

DESKTOP DEVOTIONS FOR WORKING WOMEN
by Elsa Houtz
Navpress, hardback, 210 pp., \$10.95



The author states, "In our full, busy lives, it's so easy to feel pushed and pulled and yanked and pressured to do and go and be and nurture and create and accomplish. We lose sight of

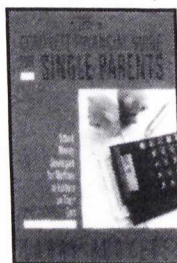
where we're going and what we really want our lives to be like. Sud-

denly we are racing headlong toward a destination we never wanted, and we find ourselves becoming someone we don't want to be instead of the women of God we truly desire to be.

God calls us to lives of serenity and inner peace. We can have these things only if we are willing to slow down and listen for His voice."

These devotionals help women reclaim those precious breathing spaces where we can refocus our attention, reorient our agendas and reflect on the challenges God has given us.

THE COMPLETE FINANCIAL GUIDE FOR SINGLE PARENTS
by Larry Burkett
Victor Books, 228 pp., \$8.99



Raising a family and earning the income to support them is stressful even under the best of circumstances. Going it alone is even more intimidating.

Financial expert and best-selling author Larry Burkett speaks to the needs of this financially needy group by consolidating 20 years of financial counseling. He gives practical advice on handling all areas of personal finance including budgets, alimony, wills and insurance.

Whether you are a divorcee or a widow(er), 25 or 55, this financial guide is a valuable resource as you seek to keep your children on a firm financial foundation.

A companion book, *The Complete Financial Guide for Young Couples*, lays out a lifetime approach to spending, saving, and investing, geared especially to young people just married or about to be married.

FORTYSOMETHING AND SINGLE
by Harold Ivan Smith
Victor Books, 1991, \$7.99



Can it be that some people consider 40—or even 30—the "year of mourning the loss of my youth"?

That's one way of looking at aging. The author, however, suggests a more positive, optimistic way for the Christian who may be fortysomething and single. He gives a means of evaluating life by having goals, such as acceptance, knowing God, stretching boundaries and maturing spiritually.

According to Smith, a healthy fortysomething will face and accept changes, physically, emotionally and spiritually. He will have flexibility, be involved in a variety of activi-

ties, and show concern for others.

The reader will find ten profiles of singles who have made a difference. The book also includes a set of questions after each of the 11 chapters which may be used for individual or group study.

"Each birthday calls for a reexamination," Smith says. Whether you are a 30, 40, or 50 single or 60 and married, something in Smith's book may speak to you about taking control of your life and making it count for God.

FAITHFULLY FIT

by Claire Clonger and Laura Barr
Word Publishing Co, \$8.99
companion devotional/exercise
cassette \$8.99



Never has America been so health conscious, yet never have there been so many eating disorders. You or someone you know probably has a weight problem. This book isn't a quick-fix, but it does concentrate on getting to the root of the problem.

The authors are convinced eating disorders basically stem from spiritual problems. We need to take a God-directed approach, they say, — restore our self-image, focus on Christ, and return to His design for our lives.

Faithfully Fit is not a diet or exercise plan, although they do outline how to eat sensibly. It is rather a six-week program of motivation, encouragement and inspiration for those who are ready for God to change them from the inside out.

The strength of this program is the workbook which suggests daily meditations, prayer suggestions, Scripture references and practical "how-to" assignments.

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.

The POET'S CORNER



Ode to Those in the Work Place

by Pearl Mitchell

Newspaper Editor's Prayer

Lord, classify me in Your love,
editorialize my thoughts into Your will
and feature me in Your goodness.

Set the margins of my actions and emotions
and paginate the direction of my life.
Put Your by-line on my testimony and
edit my headlines thrice.

Retract sin from me, Oh Lord, and program
Your righteousness into me.
Legalize my salvation and advertise
the end of my plight.

Proof me with Your loving eyes,
sentence me with Your Word, and type-
set
my name onto the Front Page of
Your Book of Life forever.

Housekeeper's Prayer

Lord, air me out,
wipe the walls of my heart!
Mop my inner being with the bleach of
Your Word.

Scrub me, Lord,
wash my filthy garment of self-righteousness
and fumigate the stench of sin.

Sweep the cobwebs of my soul
and dust my desires,
vacuum my muddy love, Lord,
and disinfect my testimony.

Open my curtains clearly to the Son-
light
of Your love and fill me
with the cool breeze of
Your salvation.

Computer Operator's Prayer

Lord, turn me on!
Boot up my heart with the dos of Your
Word,
search my inner files and purge them,
reformat and delete my worldly desires,
fill me daily with Your commands
And program me with Your love.

Interface my life to You, Lord,
justify my ways in Your sight,
key me in to Your faith and trust
and document me in Your light.

Edit me, Lord, to walk in the Son
and print my name in Your Book of
Life.

Engineer's Prayer

Lord, design a blueprint for my life.
Fillet the angles of my character and
temper
the steel of my tolerance.

Mold me, Lord, into Your image
and burn Your love into the flanges
of my soul.

Construct me tangent to the needs of
others
and lay out a template for my path.
Ink in the rough areas of my character
and
dimension my parameters to Your will.

Log my name into a slot in Your book,
Lord,
and arc me into Your circle
that I may be continuous in Your grace,
an origin for Your blessings
and parallel to Your love.

Be a Prayer Missionary

Appointed to Pray ...

What makes a missionary different from the "average" Christian? One reason may be that he lives the exchanged life. He has been crucified with Christ (death to self) and Christ now lives His life through Him (risen with Christ).

Where Are God's Laborers?

by Anne Worthington

Do you find the news disturbing? Everything bad seems to be on the increase. More people are killed by bullets than in traffic accidents. Some cities report more abortions than live births, more divorces than marriages. Crime and violence are on the rise with drug and alcohol abuse as direct contributing factors.

Fractured marriages and broken homes are commonplace. Child abuse is at a record high. Teenage pregnancies are alarmingly high with girls becoming pregnant at earlier ages. Suicide, abortion and AIDS are rampant. With 1.3 women raped each minute, the possibility of rape is a daily concern for many women.

There are also cancer, heart disease and other dreaded diseases. Consider also our failing economy, abused environment, the threat of war, and natural disasters. The list goes on. Our na-

tion is sick and teetering on the brink of disaster.

Should we be surprised? What else can we expect from people who are dead in trespasses and sin? Remember what Paul says in Galatians 5:19-21 about the works or deeds of the flesh? He lists 17 obvious practices of the flesh:

- sexual sins of adultery, fornication, impurity and indecency.
- spiritual sins of worshipping false gods, or anything that replaces God in our lives
- witchcraft, sorcery, black magic, spiritualism, astrology and seances.
- sins committed against our fellowman, such as hatred, strife, jealousy, wrath, divisions, schisms, envy and murders.
- sins of excess—drunkenness and revelings, or the extreme indulgence of one's appetites.

This sounds like my city, my neighborhood! Paul's description

of the Galatians could just as easily apply to modern America or Spain or France or Africa. Un-saved mankind is separated from God. He can live no other way. He is doing what comes naturally.

Instead of surprise, we should be aroused. Aroused because such describes our status before conversion, and apart from God's grace we could still be in that condition. Aroused because with conversion comes responsibility and with responsibility comes accountability.

It hurts to admit it, but the fact is—we aren't aroused. We don't take our responsibility seriously. We aren't convinced nor do we care that mankind without God is doomed to hell. Paul said that those who practice the works of the flesh will not inherit the kingdom of God. Shouldn't the plight of the lost spur us to action?

Jesus tells us in Luke 10:2 that the harvest is great but the labor-

ers few. Where are the laborers? We ask God to send them, but where are they? Is it God's fault that so few respond?

Perhaps Luke 9:57-62 holds the key. In this passage, three men acknowledge their desire to follow Jesus.

The first, a scribe, vowed to follow Jesus wherever He went. But he didn't. When he counted the cost, he decided the price was too high. Like the rich young ruler, he couldn't let go of his riches to follow Jesus.

The second man was unwilling to die to self. He put love of home and family before love for Christ. Love for Christ must be supreme, even more than love for one's own flesh and blood. Luke 14:26 strongly states that our love for Christ should be so great that our love for family would seem as hatred in comparison.

The third man was rejected because he kept looking back. He was unwilling to forsake all. He offered half-hearted service.

How relevant this passage is with its great harvest and alarmingly few laborers. What is the problem? Has God stopped calling? Have men stopped heeding? Are men heeding but being rejected?

Church pews overflow with those called and trained—but there they

sit. Perhaps the lure of the easy, good life of the "American Dream" sways them. Could it be they're unwilling to deny themselves and their dreams and agendas for God's dreams and God's agenda? Perhaps the comfort and security of family ties stand in the way. Half-heartedness and apathy characterize their attitude toward God's work.

Where are the laborers? Are they sitting in the shade sipping iced tea, complaining that it's too hot, too hard, and the pay too little? God seeks laborers willing to pay any price. He is more interested in quality than quantity. He calls those to carry the cross and follow Jesus. Discipleship is not to be taken lightly.

The cross identifies us with Christ in shame, suffering and surrender to God's will. It means death to self, to our plans and ambitions, and a willingness to serve God as He directs.

Why does God make such costly demands on His followers? Because the harvest truly is plentiful. Rise up, fellow laborer! The harvest will go unreaped unless we do something about it.



Anne (Mrs. Melvin) works at the national offices in Nashville, Tennessee. She loves homemaking and is anticipating her first grandchild in July.

Missions Hotline

615-731-3829



ENLARGE YOUR VISION

Prayer Book Mark

Week of September 1-5

Pray for students enrolled in Free Will Baptist colleges. Ask God to:

- make the missionary challenge clear and personal
- call many from our ranks for missionary service
- give direction to student missionary organizations on campus

Birthdays this week: 1—Rhoda Creech (C'I) and Grace Williams (MO); 2—Ken Bailey—pray for Ken's diabetic condition (Japan); 3—Sue Aycock (Brazil); 4—Cathy Ramey (SC)

Week of September 6-12

Pray for new missionaries beginning language study. Ask God to give them the ability to learn well and quickly:

- Curt and Mary Holland, Brazil
- Paul and Tammy Gentuso, in Albertville, France, for Cote d'Ivoire
- Dave, Jr. and Becky Franks, Uruguay

Birthdays this week: 7—Susan Turnbough (Spain); 8—Jeff Turnbough (Spain) and Jerry McClary (NE); 9—Nancy Hughes (Brazil); 10—Cliff Donoho (IA); 11—Sandra McGowan (OH)

Week of September 13-19

WNAC's biannual retreat meets at Ridgecrest, NC, this week end. Pray for:

- God's anointing in the music, speaking and workshops.
- a time of rich fellowship
- His direction in Missions 2000, a missionary participation and presentation.

Birthdays this week: 14—Carol Teague (France); 16—Sherwood Lee (C'I); 17—Gail Criswell (OR) and Laverne Allgood (FL); 19—Nathan Snow (C'I)

Week of September 20-26

Pray for workers in our International Christian Schools:

- Paul and Rhoda Creech, dorm parents in Cote d'Ivoire, Africa
- Nathan and Linda Snow, teachers at the Hokkaido Christian Learning Center in Japan.

Birthdays this week: 20—Debbie Crosby (Spain), Carolyn Hendrix (AL), and Danny Ramey (SC); 25—George Harvey (AZ) and Kathryn Wright (WV)

Week of September 27-October 3

Pray for newly appointed home missionaries on deputation. Pray they will quickly meet their itinerate goals.

- Joel and Hope Nason to Laconia, New Hampshire
- Terry and Ramona Van Winkle to Overland Park, Kansas
- Ken and Bonnie Doggett to Springfield, Illinois

Birthdays this week: 27—LaRue Crowson (France); 28—Brenda Bunch (Panama); 29—Pat Franks (Brazil) and Ruth McDonald (Japan); 30—Norman Richards (C'I) and Earl Hanna (SC); 1—Paula Roach (OH); 2—Dennis Keen (SC); 3—Adelaida Vera (PR)

Week of October 4-10

Steve and Judy Lytle have returned to their field in Panama. Pray for:

- expansion of the Bible Institute
- comprehensive day classes
- extension classes in the interior for pastors and lay leaders

Birthdays this week: 5—Dave Franks (Brazil); 6—Carol Pinkerton (C'I) and Rebecca Franks (Uruguay); 8—Clint Morgan (C'I); 9—Dot Gore (MS)

Week of October 11-17

Ron and Elaine Parker are establishing a church in Shreveport, Louisiana. Pray for an effective witness in this strong Catholic city.

Birthdays this week: 11—Paul Creech (C'I) and Ivan Asbury (IN); 13—Jerry Gibbs (France) and Kathy Coats (SD); 14—Jim Mertz (MO); 16—Jim Williams (MO); 17—Geneva Poole (Brazil)

Week of October 18-24

Pray for missionaries with severe health needs:

- Evelyn Hersey recovering from cancer and hepatitis
- Patty McCullough from cancer
- Vada Lee, undergoing treatment for lupus

Birthdays this week: 18—Jalayn Martins (C'I), Becky Riggs (France) and Bob Thomas (CO); 23—Gerald Fender (TN), also Mike Cousineau, Lila Nichols, and Robert West (C'I)

Week of October 25-31

Mike and Gail Criswell need prayer in Eugene, Oregon. Pray for:

- the completion of their building program
- a strong nucleus of believers

Birthdays this week: 27—Donna Thomas (CO); 28—Susan Burgess (IL); 31—Earnie Deeds (Brazil)

Underlining indicates missionaries on furlough. Please address those cards to: P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Unless the missionary is on furlough send cards directly to the field.

Letters

An Open Letter to my Sisters-in-Christ

Dear Co-Laborers, Dear You-All,

I'm so mad I could chew nails!
And what set me off? A compliment to our Auxiliaries!

Last night at our district meeting we honored Clarence Burton, our state promotional man, and his wife, Vivian. He complimented each department, then added he felt the Woman's Auxiliary was the most active, worked the hardest and did their job best.

Hear! Hear! Aren't we wonderful, marvelous and all that stuff!

So then why am I ticked off? Well, an organization is only as good as its leaders. The staff at WNAC is the glue that holds us together, encourages us to do and be our best. They pray for us and

Beloved sisters-in-Christ—you jerks! Paul said a workman was worthy of his hire. Any of these people could undoubtedly get a better paying job in a much nicer, better-equipped office. I didn't see the old office. I haven't seen the new one. It's been many years since I've worked in any office, but I have worked many years. Poor equipment does not bring out the best in any employee. One typewriter key that sticks can rob you of an hour's work. I know computers and modern equipment are very expensive. So are a lot of other things, but that's the way it is. Power lawn mowers cost money, but it's cheaper in the long run to buy one than to hire someone to cut your lawn with a pocket knife.

I am no judge of what is or isn't necessary to run an office most efficiently, but I trust these girls. Their real employer is God and they are co-laborers with Him. I believe they discuss the matter thoroughly with Him before they spend one penny and I believe they have done well.

So why are we punishing them, trying to shame them and making them beg for money to keep the department going? It's OUR department, isn't it? One of our Auxiliaries said last night they are having two Emphasis programs a year in an effort to help. That's fine if it works, but it's a bit like asking the rest of the church to pay for our supper.

What works for us is a straight 10% of every penny we take in sent straight to the Co-Laborer Offering Fund. It doesn't hurt a bit. God has blessed us mightily and we even manage to send a special offering now and then.

I'm sure the WNAC office is nicer than my home and I'm GLAD! I want God to have the best. I don't want His work strug-

*Let's do
ourselves proud
and care
for our own!*

search constantly for the most inspiring materials to offer us. They promote our missionary program, and do countless "unseen" jobs that don't even get honorable mention—you know, like housework. No one notices unless you don't do it.

Okay, okay. I'm coming to it. Why am I mad? Well, I think we should throw the bums out and get a better crew in there. We can't trust these we have. They're picking our pockets. They demand we send our hard-earned cash to our missionaries. They're selfish and self-centered and use very poor judgment. They spend too much money, especially on a new office and new office equipment when the old one was perfectly good enough.

gling along in a little hole in the wall. Didn't He object once to His people living in houses of cedar and neglecting His house? This is a room in His house and don't you forget it. We are His people. He'll take care of us. Let's continue to be good co-laborers and be worthy of Bro. Burton's compliment.

Oh yes, Sisters, I do love you, but no one can shame you like a member of your own family and I'm a little ashamed of us. Let's do ourselves proud and take care of our own.

Sincerely,
Lois Smallwood
(Cabool, Missouri)

P.S. I'm also ticked off and doing a slow simmer about our missionaries having to spend their time at home begging for money to go back to the field. Are you-all ready?

Move to New Offices

I trust your move is over and things have smoothed out. We enjoyed the photos in CO-LABORER. It looks really nice and convenient.

Eula Mae Edwards
Washington, North Carolina

Minister's Wife

Just a few lines to say a great big "Thank You" to all the pastor's wives who have shared with us in "The Minister's Wife Newsletter." I have just finished teaching a course entitled "The Pastor's Wife" here at the seminary. Few books are available (I found two), so I pulled all my back issues of CO-LABORER and found an abundance of material. Best of all, so much of the material was so practical. Jim wonders why I save everything sometimes, but those back issues saved throughout the years helped.

I am associational prayer chairman and have used various formats for our prayer calendars. This time I copied your format.

Vicki Sturgill, Brazil

Provision Closet

Thank you, dear ladies. We were in need of new towels, washcloths,

Words for Women

What shall I give my children who are poor?
Who are adjudged the leastwise of the land
Who are my sweetest lepers who demand
No velvet and no velvety velour.

Gwendolyn Brooks posed a question in her poem, and we may well ask ourselves today, "What shall we give our children?"

A novel from Spain tells the story of a woman among the ragpickers of the city. Ragpickers sifted through the trash, looking for anything of value. Neighborhood gossips spread the word that this woman had hidden away a great treasure. Rubies, diamonds and pearls, some said. Others thought she had gold and silver. All believed she had discovered something precious in her search through the trash.

Her grandson fell into desperate financial trouble. Finally he decided to seek out his grandmother and ask about her treasure. She was happy to see him and learn of his interest in her treasure. They went together to the secret hiding place. Imagine his dismay when he saw only pieces of colored glass, cheap necklaces and bracelets that the owners had tired of and thrown into the trash. His grandmother had carefully collected and valued through the years gaudy trinkets, worthless trash. She had nothing to offer her grandson in his desperate need.

What of our children? What will they find among the things we have collected and valued through our years?

We laugh at the sign often seen on motor homes headed for Florida, "We're spending our children's inheritance." What if we do use all the money, the stocks and bonds, the CD'S, houses and lands? All these things are but for a moment.

Are you laying up for your children and grandchildren something unique and priceless? When they check out the treasures you leave behind will they find things more precious than silver and gold?

What shall we give our children? We can give them riches that they cannot use up or exhaust. Proverbs 15:6, "In the house of the righteous is much treasure."

You can give them the testimony of life lived in faith toward God. A sense of true values will give them a basis for living. Adherence to the principles of the Word of God will provide them a road map for living. You can give them the peace and joy that comes from knowing God, the assurance of eternal life. All these are treasures that can't even compare with gold and silver, houses and lands.

Many families keep a list of all the valuable items they own. A good idea for insurance purposes and for evaluating the estate.

What about the valuables in your family? I challenge you to make a list of the treasures that you plan to leave. Be sure to include the treasures that thieves cannot steal, that will not decay and cannot be exhausted.



Mary Ruth Wisehart

A Woman God is Using



Tanya Hart grew up in a parsonage so often changed locations. Born in Amory, Mississippi, she also lived in Joelton, Tennessee, Townley, Alabama, and Grifton, North Carolina. She considers Grifton home and Trinity FWB Church, Greenville, her home church.

Tanya's list of accomplishments is impressive:

- graduated with honors from Bethel Christian Academy, Kinston, NC, where she won many academic and sports awards.
- graduated magna cum laude from Lenoir Community College, Kinston
- graduated magna cum laude from Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA, with a BS in Physical Education and a concentration in Christian counseling.
- chosen for Who's Who among High School and College Teachers

•teaches history to grades 7-11; K-5 through 9th grade Physical Education

Tanya began her walk with the Lord at age five. She dedicated her life to full-time Christian service some ten years later and has maintained a consistent walk. Her life verse is Philippians 4:13, but Isaiah 40:31 has taken on special significance since her teens.

Her life is characterized by the fruits of the spirit. She is an outgoing, even-tempered young woman with a quiet disposition and gentle spirit. She is loyal, dependable and extremely conscientious, giving 100% to everything she does. She has perfectionist tendencies but uses them well. If you want something done precise and exact, assign it to Tanya.

Tanya has many interests. She enjoys traveling, reading, bowling, watching sports of any kind, outdoor activities and photography. Her main interest, however, is people. She has a keen perception of the needs of people and reaches out to them in love and compassion. She is blessed with the gift of encouragement.

Those from among both the very young and the very old claim Tanya as their friend. She relates well to all ages. She has only one sister, but has always been most devoted. She would take Cindy's punishment or do her work if it meant keeping her little sister out of trouble.

Tanya had always had an interest in our missionaries, prayed for them and enjoyed them in their home. Not until she actually visited the mission field did she become personally responsible. The passage in John 12:24, 25 impressed her with becoming a grain of wheat in the Master's hand and being thrown into the soil of this world. Since then she has immersed herself into the program of missions, more specifically the idea of missionary adoption.

This teacher is salaried for 12 months so chooses to use her summers on the mission fields teaching MK's. The extra money she needs to finance her trips comes from free will offerings and donations. Her theme, "Have Board, Will Travel," has led her to many Auxiliary functions and the idea is catching on.

One who follows Christ often comes to crossroads in his life. Tanya has faced many, and now she faces another. But she has learned to place her hand in His and together they walk confidently toward the future.

etc...I believe you have kept me in electric can openers for 17 years!
*Vergel and Alyne Maness
Vineland, New Jersey*

Auxiliary Growth

We have organized an evening group for those who are employed during the day. CO-LABORER is an outstanding magazine.

*Faye Stiles
Kirksville, Missouri*

Our Auxiliary has grown from three faithful women to nine. Isn't that wonderful? We need five additional subscriptions.

*Shirley Dykes
Gulfport, Mississippi*

A Word from our Missionaries

Our hearts were uplifted to attend the 30th year celebration of the FWB work in this city. Now well over 200 people attend regularly each week.

Bobby and Geneva Poole, Brazil

A cablegram has just come: MISS BARNARD WITH THE LORD. Many of our prayer partners are now with the Lord. We feel keenly the need of some younger ones who will accept the responsibility to take the place of these who have completed their task and pray for us and India.

Carlisle and Marie Hanna, India

We want to express our immense appreciation for your part in getting us out of a J-A-M. We were in great need back before the year ended. We should call it the BIG SCARE OF CHRISTMAS 1991. (ed. note: The mission board threatened to recall them from the field due to lack of funds.) You have helped us continue here in Montevideo.

Dennis and Trena Owen, Uruguay

We marvel at the way God used you to bring our account from \$11,000 in the red to the black!...The hospital construction is coming along well.

*Robert and Pam West,
Cotê d'Ivoire*



Creative Arts Contest

1991-92

111 women from 23 states submitted 283 entries.

*Indicates a first-time winner

Articles

First



What's a Nice Girl Like You
Doing in a Place Like This?
Alice Grant
Lancaster, OH

Second



Raggs
*Sharon Theis
Grand Blac, MI

Third



God's Gentle Whisper
Pam Jones
Harrison, AR



Satan's Homecoming
*Glenna Price
Leroy, WV

Fourth



Conflict in the Church
*Pearl Mitchell
Phenix City, AL

Plays

First



Victims or Victors
Sue Winchester
St.Louis, MO

Second



Why Missions?
*Patricia Sanders
Cordova, AL

Third



Empty Heart Hotel
*Sara Kilgore
Limestone, TN

Fourth



What Can I Tell Them?
*LaCrecia McFaddin
Sweetwater, TN

Programs

First



Bruised Believers
*Barbara Eubanks
Sesser, IL

Second



Teach Them to Pray
*Connie Crum
Ashland, KY

Third



Broken Things
*Becky Gwartney
Flat River, MO

Fourth



Teach the Younger Women
Odessa Ledlow
Detroit, AL

Poetry

First



Submissive Wife
*Judy Ridgway
Pine Bluff, AR

Second



God—Beginning and End
Linda Sligh
Smithville, MS

Third

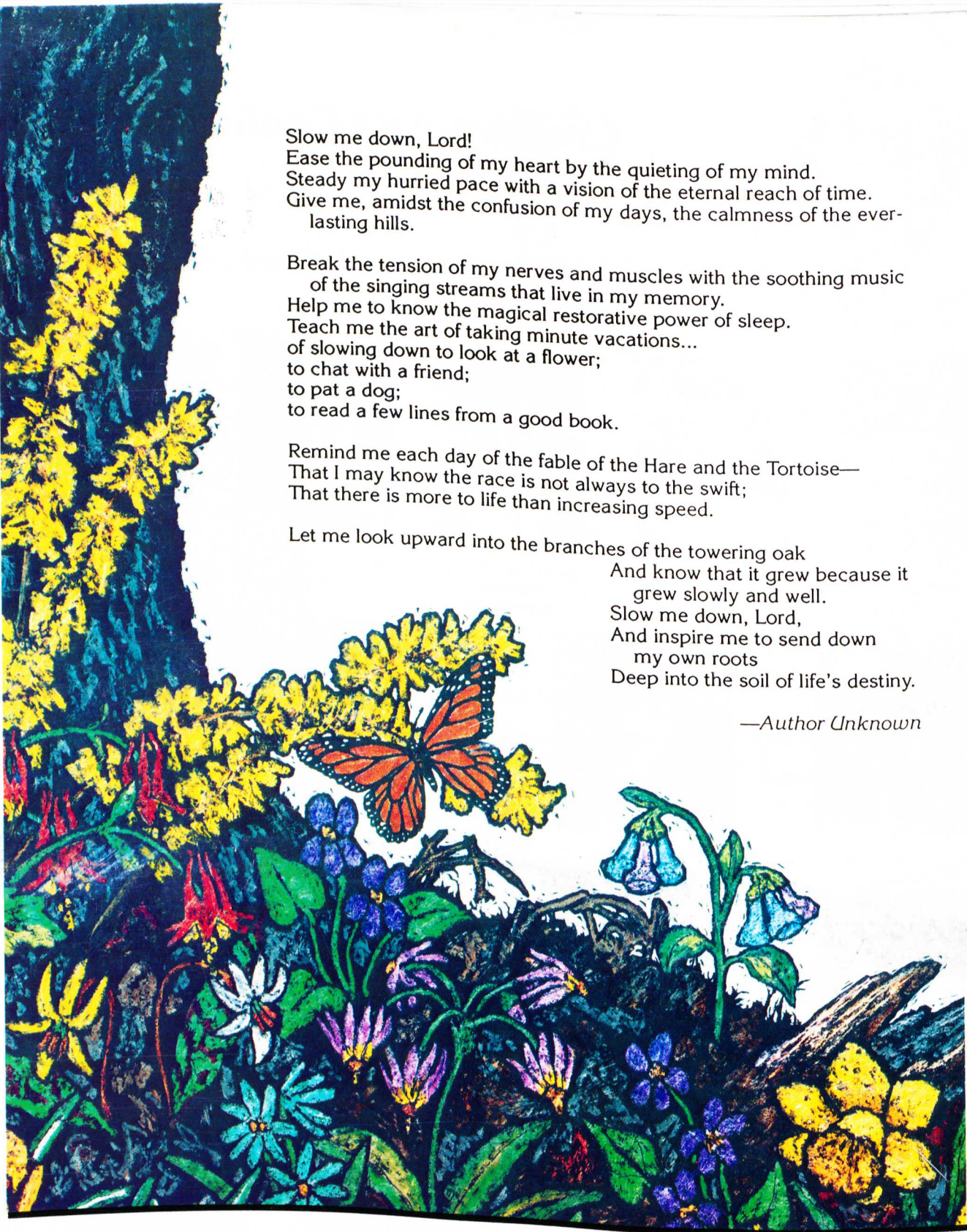


Broken Glass
*Teresa Sargent
Wise, VA

Fourth



The Deceiver
Vicki Turner
Cartersville, MO



Slow me down, Lord!
Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind.
Steady my hurried pace with a vision of the eternal reach of time.
Give me, amidst the confusion of my days, the calmness of the ever-
lasting hills.

Break the tension of my nerves and muscles with the soothing music
of the singing streams that live in my memory.
Help me to know the magical restorative power of sleep.
Teach me the art of taking minute vacations...
of slowing down to look at a flower;
to chat with a friend;
to pat a dog;
to read a few lines from a good book.

Remind me each day of the fable of the Hare and the Tortoise—
That I may know the race is not always to the swift;
That there is more to life than increasing speed.

Let me look upward into the branches of the towering oak
And know that it grew because it
grew slowly and well.
Slow me down, Lord,
And inspire me to send down
my own roots
Deep into the soil of life's destiny.

—Author Unknown

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