

CO LABORER

November
December
1992

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

Season's Greetings

Is Your Christmas Christian?
by Gail Fender

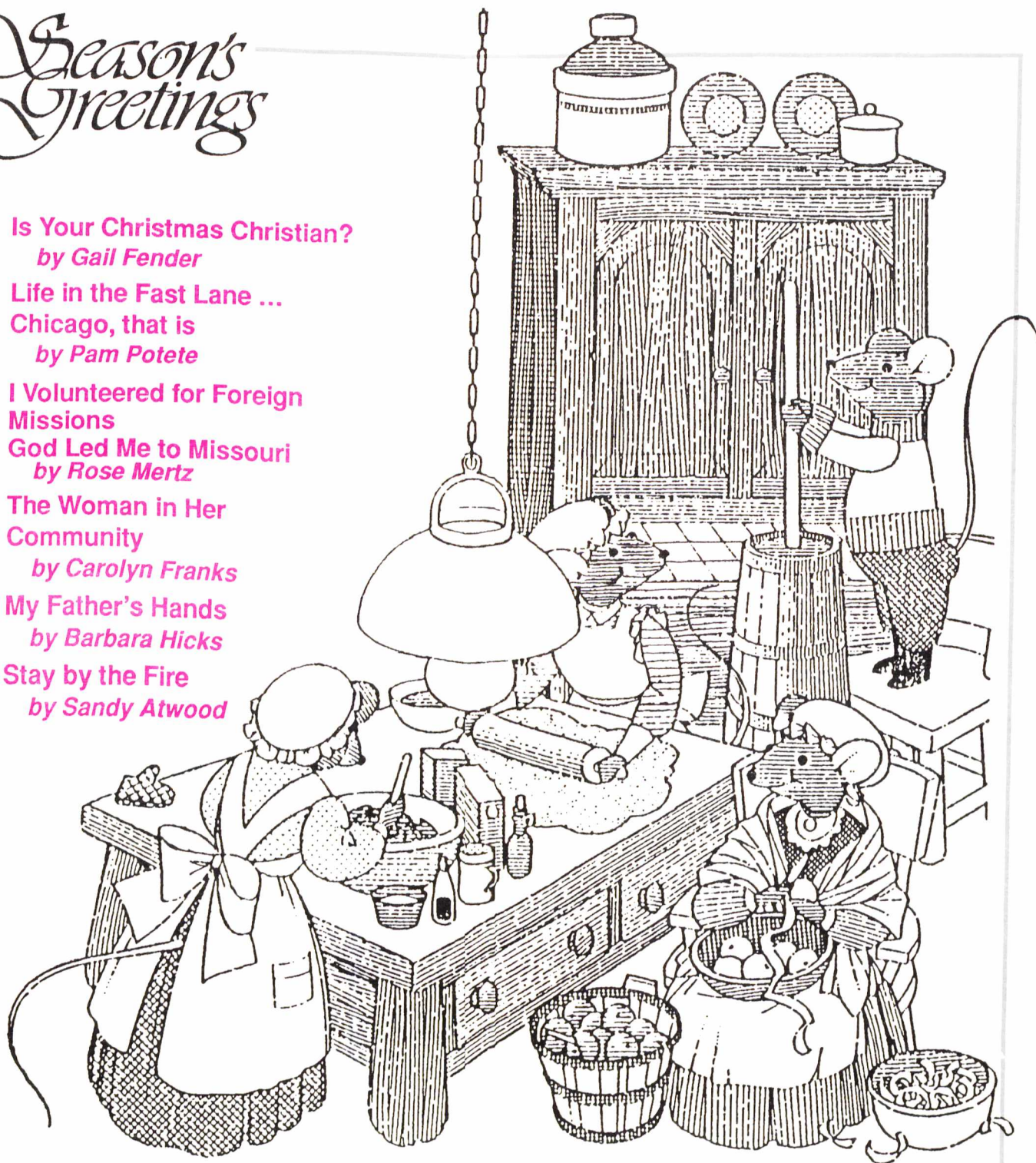
Life in the Fast Lane ...
Chicago, that is
by Pam Potete

I Volunteered for Foreign Missions
God Led Me to Missouri
by Rose Mertz

The Woman in Her Community
by Carolyn Franks

My Father's Hands
by Barbara Hicks

Stay by the Fire
by Sandy Atwood



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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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Our Writers

We're excited about this Home Missions issue with a generous sprinkling of contributions by our home missionaries. How many can you identify?

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| a. Gail Fender | c. Rose Mertz | e. Pat Thomas |
| b. Rebecca Pugh | d. Pam Potete | f. Sandy Atwood |

- ___ 1. She and her husband have just completed a home missions assignment in Millington, Tennessee.
- ___ 2. Her husband pastored a church in Delaware before going across the river and establishing another.
- ___ 3. This FWBBC graduate is helping her husband plant a church in Wentzville, Missouri.
- ___ 4. This busy gal keeps the national office humming. She's also married to the director.
- ___ 5. She and her husband are joint project workers in West Knoxville, Tennessee.
- ___ 6. Her family travels in the fast lane as they begin a church in Chicago, Illinois.



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Women Abounding in the Work of the Lord

A Reflection

by Rebecca Pugh

Therefore, my beloved [sisters], be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58)

This year we have emphasized "Teachers of Good Things—Reaching the Young Woman." I would like to pay tribute to the older women who patiently taught me, not only how to be a pastor's wife but how to live. They taught me by challenging, encouraging, confirming and coaching; through example as well as by pats, hugs, and yes, by even washing my feet.

I want to be like them—abounding in the work of the Lord. They have been consistent ... enthusiastic ... enduring ... godly ... hospitable ... diligent ... persistent ... patient ... attentive ... generous ... sensitive ... determined ... sincere ... flexible ... loving ... creative ... tolerant ... gentle ... resourceful ... thrifty ... content ... serving ... available. Their molding influence has not been in vain. I want to respond not only with this written appreciation, but with a life that enthusiastically follows the Master Teacher.

When I was a little girl, on Sunday afternoons **Norma Baxley** took me home to play with her daughter, Jan. We had such fun. Before returning for the evening service, she kindly washed my chubby legs and feet, hands and face. I'm sure my preacher's wife-mother appreciated that. Now I have four little ones of my own to clean up on Sunday after-

noons—and more often than not, their friends. Thank you, Mrs. Baxley, for one of my first memory pictures of hospitality.

Another woman let me dress-up in her clothes and accessories—all colors of high heels and big earbobs—and play in her make-up, smearing on her good lipstick. She taught me much about personal grooming. She taught me how to roll my hair when I was 7 and bought my first pair of Hanes hose when I was 13. She read her Bible while drinking a cup of coffee, then dressed in a hurry. I watched her. She had not been in too much of a hurry to neglect the most important activity of spiritual grooming. I wanted to grow up to be like Jane.

Sometimes I have been too prissy. But God has graciously supplied my wardrobe needs (and often my wants) through many generous godly women. Thanks especially to **Jane Walters, Julia Hines** and **Dot Polly**. These women hold loosely the material prosperity God has given them.

I want a pearl ring like her's ... hold a black leather Bible as she does ... wear high heels ... and that pretty ruffled pink voile dress." These describe my worldly thoughts during the three years in her Sunday school class. I liked how she held the chalk as she wrote on the small chalk-

*A Woman
God is Using*



Rebecca Pugh

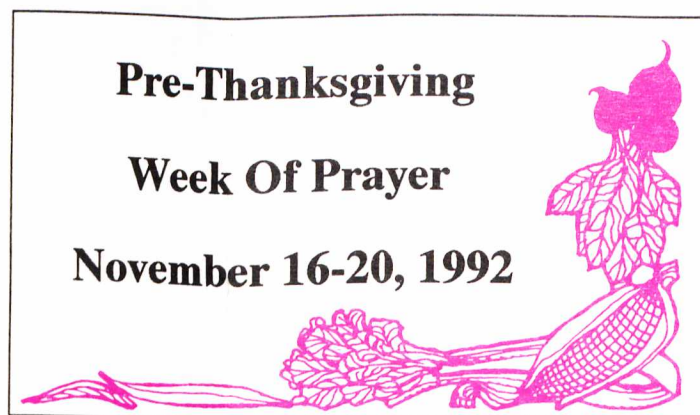
board in our basement corner classroom. She had a neat fountain pen, too. She stood before me a person who modeled Jesus in every sense of the word.

She continued to teach me in college. More than the words of Shakespeare and Milton, or even sentence parts, she lived and spoke Jesus' words. She has been teaching me now for more than 27 years, always a model of a Christian lady. Thank you, **Mary Ruth Wisehart**.

Two ladies drilled us junior-highers in Bible Tic Tac Toe. During those two years of intense Bible study, they taught us more patience and tolerance than we could realize. Not only did they take time to invent countless study questions and plan incen-

(Continued on page 14)

Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for Home Missions



The Woman in Her Community

by Carolyn Franks

Aim: to make us aware of lost people around us and of our responsibility to share God's love.

Scripture: 1 Cor. 15:58

Hymn: "Take My Life and Let it Be"

Introduction

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can seriously help another without helping himself."

Home Missions is reaching out to those in our homeland and sharing Christ. It means keeping our ears and eyes attuned to the needs of others. It means acting without being asked.

That's what this program is about. It shows how the woman ministering in her community is a water pipe bearing living water, a light bulb reflecting the Light of the World, and a chain link forging salvation's story from our generation to the next.

The Water Pipe (John 4:5-30)

The function of the water pipe is to bring water from the source to the user. Similarly, we are God's "water pipes." We lovingly convey through words and deeds the message of the Living Water that satisfies the thirsty sinful soul and supplies its daily needs for cleansing and refreshing.

Water pipes differ in size and shape, yet each one has its place in the process of getting the water from the source to the user. Likewise, God has given each of us varied talents and abilities. Some proclaim the gospel to large audiences while others very simply live their sermons in daily tasks (1 Cor. 7:7).

Note also the pipes work together to fulfill their purpose. We, too, need harmony among ourselves as we convey the good news of salvation (Ps. 133:1).

Water pipes are usually hidden from view, yet they faithfully do

their assigned tasks. We should not have a different standard of conduct for our private and public lives. We should be true and faithful whether or not anyone knows. Our heavenly Father sees (Matt. 6:1-4).

Some pipes are buried underground or even under rivers where the outside comes in contact with many impurities. But inside, the sealed pipes are kept clean by the flowing of the water through them.

Although we often take our plumbing for granted, occasionally something happens to the pipes which creates a break or a hole, allowing impurities to enter the pipe. The water is still the same, but the contaminants which flow from the same pipe make it less effective (James 3:10). We call the plumber to repair the pipe.

Likewise sin can enter our lives and flaw our Christian testimony (James 1:27, 4:4; 1 John 2:15). We must rely upon the convicting

power of the Holy Spirit and God's grace and forgiveness to repair us.

Just as the pipes cannot quench our physical thirst (only the water they bring can) so we cannot quench the thirsting soul (only God through faith in Christ can), but we can be faithful pipes as we allow Him to flow through us.

Action Ideas

1. *Think of one person you know who needs help of some kind. What can you do to pipe God's love to him?*
2. *Look in the phone book for the number of a shelter, rescue mission or Pregnancy Crisis Center. Call and ask what kind of volunteer help they need.*
3. *Fix a special dessert for a shut-in.*
4. *Become a foster parent or sponsor a child.*
5. *Single moms have unique needs. Ask God to show you how to brighten their day.*

The Light Bulb (Matthew 5:14-16)

How dark and dreary our world would be without lights! The light bulb serves as a vehicle through which electricity can illuminate darkness. We are the vehicles through which the light of Christ can shine in a sin-darkened world.

The bulb has no light of its own and can shine only if it is connected to the source of power. Like the bulb, we have no light of our own and can only reflect the true light, Jesus Christ (John 8:12).

Bulbs come in many sizes and shapes, but they are all made for one purpose—to convey light as they are empowered by a source greater than themselves. Each bulb dispels the darkness around itself, some more than others because of the wattage. Both the

tiny Christmas tree light bulb and the big powerful light bulb in the hospital's operating room shine according to the purpose given them by their creator.

Collectively as more bulbs are lit, light spreads decreasing darkness. In the same way, God has given each of us different abilities but only one purpose (Matt. 5:16).

Bulbs do not choose their place of service but faithfully shine where they are installed until they burn out (death) or until they are disconnected from the power source.

Some bulbs are more decorative than others. Some may adorn a crystal chandelier in a palace while others cast their light in dim, dismal places, often unnoticed and unappreciated. We, too, are to shine where God has placed us.

The light from the bulb can be dimmed because of dust and other things that obstruct the light. Therefore, we must keep the bulb clean in order to get the maximum light. Sins, as jealousy, envy, gossip, unfaithfulness or an unforgiving spirit can dim our light and ruin our testimonies.

Action Ideas

1. *Do you know someone who shines as a light in a dark place? Send a note of appreciation to her.*
2. *Read the Bible to an elderly person who can't see well.*
3. *Spend thirty seconds a day for the next five days asking God to show you specific ways you can be a light to someone.*
4. *If your community has a Love, Inc., program, call the program coordinator and ask how you can help. If you don't have a Love, Inc., program, write to World Vision, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016 and ask for information.*
5. *Invite a widow or widower to dinner.*

The Chain Link (2 Tim. 1:5, 2:1-2, 3:14,15)

The function of a chain link is to connect that which comes before it with that which follows. Each member of this present generation is like a link in the chain of Christianity connecting the past generation to the future one; thus each person contributes to the strength or weakness of this chain.

God established the home as the first institution when He created Adam and Eve and set up the family unit. From one generation to the next, parents pass on to their children what their parents have taught them, both by precept and example. A godly mother is the child's greatest possession since she is the most influential person in his formative years.

In addition to the account of Timothy's mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5), the Bible relates stories of other godly mothers who influenced their children. Jochebed, the mother of Moses, was such a one. The short account in Exodus 2:1-10 does not even give her name, although she is named in Exodus 6:20 and Numbers 26:59. We know nothing of her appearance, but her courage and faith are displayed through her actions.

She must have used the precious time she had with her son to teach and instill in him her faith. When he was older, he chose "to suffer affliction with God's people, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (Heb. 11:23-25).

Jochebed forged a strong link in her chain. The role Moses played in God's divine plan, as well as the part of Aaron and Miriam, is a glowing tribute to her as a devout mother.

The Bible tells of other strong links:

Hannah (1 Sam. 1:1-28) →

The Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:8-37; 8:1-6)
 Ruth (the book)
 Esther (the book)
 Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-45)
 Dorcas (Acts 9:36-42)
 Lydia (Acts 16:13-15, 40)
 Priscilla (Acts 18:1-2, 18, 24-26)

Action Ideas

1. *Strengthen your link. Invite an international to your home for dinner.*
2. *Arrange a rose in a bud vase and take it to a patient in the nursing home. Talk to her about the Lord.*
3. *Pick up a juvenile from a "home" and take her to church with you.*
4. *Provide respite care for a handicapped child.*
5. *Volunteer your services at a home for unwed mothers.*

Conclusion

We are actresses on the stage of life. Everyday we perform before a constantly changing audience. What we say or do influences others, from those who know us best to those we meet casually in passing (Matt. 5:16).

We are fighters in the arena of life. Our warfare is not easy as we face Satan's darts of despondency and despair, the cold winds of sorrow, sickness and tragedy, the heat of anger, jealousy and envy, and the sharp barbs of gossip. Yet with God's help we can be victorious (1 John 4:4).



Carolyn Franks, a long time writer for Co-Laborer from Mantachie, Mississippi, has retired early from teaching college English due to health problems. She is coping with the late effects of polio and scoliosis which require sleeping with oxygen and taking four breathing treatments daily.

"I have some beautiful Christian friends," she writes, "some competent, caring doctors, a wonderful family, and especially a heavenly Father who sends His love every day, often in some special way. I am blessed."

Program for November

Learning to be

CONTENT

Aim: To show that contentment precedes a thankful heart.

Scripture: Phil. 4:11; 1 Tim. 6:6; Heb. 13:5

Hymn: "Wonderful Peace"

Introduction

Each of us lives in one of two tents—content or discontent. Those who inhabit the second are anxious, restless, and seldom satisfied. Those who dwell in the first tent are happy people, accepting whatever life may bring and grateful for even small blessings.

Interestingly, contentment and its opposite are no respecter of persons. Many poor people enjoy deep inner satisfaction, whereas many wealthy people are miserable. On the other hand, many rich people are humble, grateful, and unaffected by their wealth

while many poor people bemoan their plight.

To be contented, says Webster, is "to be satisfied...with one's possessions, status, or situation." This definition raises two important questions: What is the source of lasting satisfaction? And how can we tap into it? The apostle Paul said, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, to be content" (Phil. 4:11). What encouragement in that word "learned"! It implies change, time to grow and genuine hope. It's an open door through which the most disgruntled people can pass—if they really want to.

CONTENTMENT

and Knowing Jesus

Being at peace with God and His world is the basis of lasting contentment. God must become our satisfaction. An early church father said that there is a God-shaped vacuum in every man, and only God can fill it. To find satisfaction in Him, we must know that He is satisfied with us. But this is the problem. By birth we are sinners who enjoy going our own way.

God saw our dilemma and planned a way whereby He Himself could become our great Satisfier. He sent His only begotten Son to bear our sin and guilt. Jesus' death satisfied the demands of God's holy nature, which must punish all sinners. Now He offers us forgiveness, new life, unconditional acceptance, and a place of service.

Our part is to admit our sin and trust Jesus as our Savior. Faith in Christ provides a soul-sufficiency that finds its source in the Creator Himself. And fellowship with Him enhances our self-acceptance and our acceptance of others, the lack of which causes discontentment.

CONTENTMENT

and Material Things

To build contentment into living, we must first recognize that material things do not bring lasting satisfaction. Oh, they can give us comfort and convenience (which isn't wrong). But no physical object can cure restlessness, anxiety or guilt. A new car, a lovely house or a speedboat may add variety and enjoyment to life, but they can also increase worry, responsibility and the fear of loss. We must learn to hold lightly to

the things of earth. Only then can we enjoy them as gifts from God.

We must also learn to modify desire. "It is a great blessing to possess what one wishes," said a man to an ancient philosopher. "It is greater still," came the reply, "not to desire what one does not possess."

Most of us are not content with our lot until it's a lot more. The key is to curb our desires so that they are more in line with our needs. A Spanish proverb puts it like this: "Since we cannot get what we like, let's like what we can get."

Here are some check points to help identify an unhealthy desire for things:

Do I buy on impulse or after thought and prayer?

Do I become overly upset when something is lost or destroyed?

Do I continually need to buy something in order to be happy?

Do my material possessions hinder my testimony for Christ?

Does what I want make it easier for me to serve the Lord?

Remember, contentment is in God, not in things.

CONTENTMENT

and Life's Adversities

We must also learn to be content with our circumstances. When Paul spoke of being content in any state, he was thinking of more than poverty or prosperity. He had in mind a wide range of conditions imposed upon him, often by outside forces. He had learned to live in such straits as hunger, thirst, cold, nakedness, suffering, mental torture and persecution (2 Cor. 11:26,27).

And how did he learn to live under these conditions? Did he practice some mind-over-matter technique that enabled him to

bear adversity with the attitude of a statue? Not at all!

Paul was flesh and blood, deeply conscious of his weakness. He laughed, cried, got angry, and became perplexed. He openly acknowledged fear and despair of life itself (2 Cor. 1:8; 7:5). But through it all, one thing held true—he had been laid hold of by Christ. From his conversion and subsequent trials, he was being drawn closer to Jesus, to His love and His power. He was being made like Him. No wonder he could write, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21).

Circumstances, then, can be the means of conforming us into Christ's likeness. Knowing that our loving Father is in control of everything assures us He is forming us into Christ's likeness. Knowing that our loving Father is in control of everything assures us that disguised advantages can be found in the most devastating adversities. Like Paul, we can be confident of the outcome of our life, and we can be sure that righteousness and truth will triumph in the world.

Why? Because nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:38,39).

Conclusion

How contented we are will be in direct proportion to the vitality of our relationship to Jesus. The more satisfied we are with Him, the less we will seek the stimulating substitutes of earth. The more we draw our strength from Him, the more firmly we'll stand up in the bitter gales of adversity.

Every Christian can learn to be content.



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Is Your Christmas Christian?

Aim: to examine the traditions we observe in order to make our Christmas celebration really Christian.

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6

Hymn: A medley of Christmas carols

Program Helps: Display these various traditions about the room. The speaker stands by it as she gives the topic.

Introduction

Christmas. What a beautiful time of the year. We decorate our homes, trim the tree, bake cookies, make candy and shop for gifts. But do we have time left for our Savior whose birth we are supposed to be observing? Should we accept the superficial, commercialized version of what a Christmas celebration should be?

The answer lies somewhere between the two extremes. Let us examine our traditions and make sure that our Christmas is really a Christian celebration.



Christmas Tree Tradition

Ancient Roman and Egyptian religious ceremonies used green trees, but Christians did not begin the practice until the 16th century when they covered a fir tree with apples in preparation for Christmas. The story ended with a

promise of Christ's second coming.

According to tradition, Martin Luther began the practice of using lighted trees. One night while walking home he saw stars twinkling through the branches of a fir tree. He cut a small tree and trimmed it with lighted candles to demonstrate what he had seen.

Ralph Morris, a telephone man in Mattapan, Massachusetts, is credited with the first electrically-lit tree. On December 25, 1907, Morris' small son bumped into their tree and singed his hair on one of the candles. Frightened by what could have happened, Morris determined never again to use real candles.

He began working on an idea. He soldered tiny electric lights to two strands of wire. Then he attached little globes of colored paper to each light with a rubber band. When Christmas arrived, he surprised his family with the very first tree decorated with electric lights.

What can the Christmas tree mean to the Christian family? Is it just a symbol of a pagan, commercialized Christmas to be totally rejected by true Christians? Or can it be used to teach Christian principles and values? It can remind us of Jesus' death on a tree to purchase our salvation (Acts 5:30; 1 Pet. 2:24; Acts 10:38-40; Gal. 3:13-14).



The Santa Claus Tradition

Santa is a combination of three gift-givers from the past—St. Nicholas, the real fourth century bishop of Myra who gave his possessions to the poor; Christmas Man, a mythical toymaker from the North Pole; and Father Christmas dressed in red. St. Nick was introduced to America by immigrants from Holland. Dutch children, expecting a visit from St. Nick on December 5, would place their shoes by the fireplace to be filled with gifts.

Many feel that Christmas would not be the same without a visit from Santa. Children are asked, "What is Santa going to bring you for Christmas?" not "Do you know whose birthday we are celebrating?" Some Christians feel no harm will be done in pretending there is a Santa Claus. But realizing his parents have lied about the gift-giving Santa, will a child believe his parents when they tell him about the Lord Jesus Christ and His gift of eternal life? Is it worth the risk of harming your Christian influence?

Santa cannot be ignored. His booth dominates almost every department store, his picture hangs in almost every store window, and numerous television specials featuring him are aimed

directly at our children.

What is the best way for Christian parents to handle Santa Claus? Could Santa be explained as just another fairy tale that people enjoy reading around Christmas time? Perhaps the child's gifts could be gaily wrapped and placed under the tree well before Christmas morning. They are given by parents from hearts full of love. Both the parents and the child are robbed if the imaginary Santa receives all the child's thanks and appreciation instead of the parents.



Gift-Giving Tradition

The greatest, most precious gift this world has ever known was given on that first Christmas almost 2000 years ago. God gave His only Son, Jesus, to come to this sinful world to serve as the perfect sacrifice for the purchase of our salvation. This is what Christmas is really about.

The wise men began the tradition of gift-giving on that first Christmas (Matt. 2:11). Some Christian parents, having rejected the observance of Christmas, do not give their children gifts. Such an extreme position leaves the children feeling mistreated and left out of all the fun their friends are having.

Perhaps instead of going to either extreme, parents could give some gifts at Christmas and wait until a birthday party to give the larger, more expensive toys they wish to give their children.

It would certainly be well to encourage our children to think of a gift they could give to Jesus (as a fruit basket for an elderly friend or a toy for a less fortunate child) rather than thinking only of themselves and what they want Santa Claus to bring them.

by Gail Fender



Manger Scene Tradition

The manger scene originated primarily from the Roman Catholic church. An Italian priest, Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscan Order, set up a manger scene with hay and living animals in Greccio, Italy, around 1224. Manger scenes usually include Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus. Many include the wise men from the East who were not present at the stable when Jesus was born (check Matt. 2:1-18).

Manger scenes today are made of almost anything—plastic, ceramics, glass, paper, or wood. They can be used as object lessons when we teach our children the Christmas story. We need to explain the reason Jesus had to come to earth as the perfect sacrifice for our sins.



Christmas Music Tradition

Some great music has been written in celebration of our Lord's birth. The earliest known Christmas song, "Jesus, Light of All Nations," was composed in 368 by Hilary of Poitiers. One of the best known is the immortal "The Messiah" composed by George Frederick Handel in 1741.

Many of the songs we sing do nothing to help us remember the birth or life of our Savior. Some actually teach unscriptural traditions, as "The Cherry Tree Carol" based on the apocryphal book of pseudo-Matthew. The English folk song, "I Saw Three Ships" is based on a legend about three mystical ships supposed to have carried the holy family.

What type of Christmas music do you play in your home? Parents, which have you taught your children to sing—"Away in the Manger" or "Here Comes Santa Claus?" Music offers an beautiful way to share God's love to all men. Get some good recordings of Christmas music with a spiritual message. Learn the stories of how and when our carols were written. Have carol-sings among your family and friends.

Let's give thanks for beautiful Christmas music and let's use it to witness for Him.



Christmas Card Tradition

Sending Christmas cards is a distinctly American tradition. It is such a normal and accepted custom, it's difficult to realize it has only been practiced for around a hundred years.

Cards are a good way of keeping in touch with friends who live at a distance. Christmas cards can be used to send greetings to our missionaries, young men and women in the military, and others who are far from home.

Have you thought about it? This year instead of sending cards to those we see at every church service, why not put one card on the bulletin board and give the money saved as an offering to Jesus? It could be given as a special project, missions or the Bible College.

If every church member did this, think what a nice offering we'd have to further the work Jesus began on that first Christmas day.

Conclusion

"Let your moderation be known unto all men" (Phil. 4:5). Christmas should be a time of spiritual

(Continued on page 15)

WNAC Convened in Indianapolis

From California to Maryland, women met in Indianapolis for the 58th Woman's National Auxiliary Convention.

The once a year business session heard reports from the executive secretary, the study committee and other appointed committees.

The registration committee reported 1,039 in attendance with a voting delegation of 202.

The delegates adopted the following resolutions:

1. To award a \$1,000 scholarship to Silvestre da Silveira of Brazil.
2. To support the "A Million More by 94" campaign to pay the debt on the national offices building.
3. To plan a retreat at Glorieta Conference center in 1995 and continue the retreat at Ridgecrest in even years.
4. To rescind the 5% administrative fee on all monies and instead ask each local Auxiliary to send a minimum of \$10 a month to support the national office.

Ministers' Wives' Fellowship

An Auxiliary in Indiana sponsored refreshments for the Ministers' Wives' Fellowship held in the Omni Severin Hotel, July 20. About 142 attended.

With JoAnn Wood, secretary of WNAC, presiding, a panel discussed questions and problems posed by ministers' wives.

Women found the fellowship refreshing and the panel helpful. They hope for another one soon.

A Woman's Priorities

"A Woman's Priorities" was June Critcher's topic for the 150 women who met Monday afternoon in the Omni Severin Hotel.

June suggested that we learn to love others by observing and following Jesus' example. He served, listened, touched, healed, accepted. "Love is measured by what it gives."

Nominating Committee Organized

WNAC's Nominating Committee Monday at 9:00 a.m., with vice president, Delois Loveless presiding.

June Rolen was elected as chairman. The committee, consisting of a representative from each state convention, will present a slate of officers at the convention in Louisville, Kentucky, July 20, 1993.



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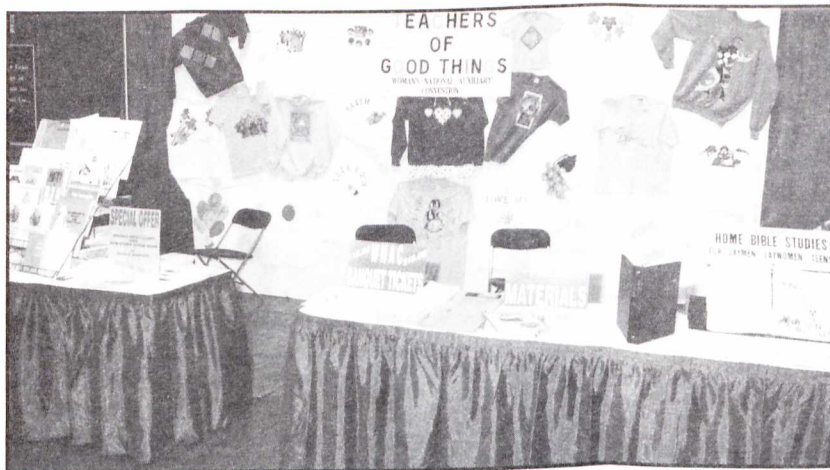
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4.



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7.



8.



9.

1. Pam Woods interviews Sarah Malone.
2. Trula Cronk, Dinner Speaker.
3. JoAnn Wood Leads the Ministers' Wives Fellowship.
4. WNAC's Study Committee.
5. Creative Arts Contest Winners
6. WNAC's Booth.
7. The Randy Riggs Family.
8. WNAC's Nominating Committee.
9. Jean Deeds, Brazil.
10. Loretta Trogdon, State President.



10.

Study Committee Gives Basis for Suggested Changes

The Study Committee met with state leaders on Monday afternoon to discuss suggested changes for WNAC. The committee plans to present a complete report to the convention in Louisville, Kentucky, July 20, 1993.

Trula Cronk Enthralls Dinner Guests

"Trula Cronk is truly amazing," someone said after her message at the Fellowship Dinner in Indianapolis. "You're Only Old Once," she quoted from Dr. Seuss.

Then our golden ager showed her youthful vigor with a message on Christian love and a presentation of I John from memory.

Don and Loretta Trogdon helped the Indiana women provide center pieces of 500 flags and goblets filled with crystal fiber, water and a lighted lavender candle. The person with a race car under her program got the center piece.

The 500 Ballroom at the Convention Center provided a spacious, lovely meeting place for about 650 attendees.

Delegates and Visitors Enjoy Music and Messages

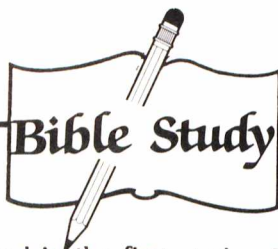
Jean Deeds, missionary to Brazil, opened the convention with practical points on being teachers of good things.

Steve Riggs, missionary to France, challenged the women to pray. A lot of things have changed, he said, but the need for prayer never changes.

Pam Wood, member at large of the Executive Committee, served as hostess for the afternoon program, "Everything You Wanted to Know About Missionaries But were Afraid to Ask." She interviewed Sarah Malone, headed to China as an English teacher; Kim Zegelian, teacher for military children in Germany; David and Pam Potete, home missionaries in Chicago; and Nancy Hughes, missionary in Brazil.

Angie Deel coordinated the music for WNAC, with Susan Forlines at the piano and Carol Reid at the organ. A highlight was the music by Randy and Beverly Riggs and their four children. Three-year-old Janna Deborah sang right along from her perch in her father's arms—she knew all the words. Camille Scott and *Rejoice* from Free Will Baptist Bible College also presented special music.





I Timothy Chapter 3, Part 1

REVIEW: The outline noted in the first study of this important epistle listed chapter 3 as referring to "the Offices of the Assembly." Chapter 1 placed emphasis on the teaching of "sound doctrine", while chapter 2 detailed "church order." Chapter 3 lists the qualifications for specific leadership positions.

SPIRIT MOTIVATED DESIRE (3:1)

3:1—"This is a _____ saying; If a man _____ the office of a bishop, he desireth a _____ work."

The NIV replaces the word "bishop" with the word "overseer." Whether called bishop, overseer or pastor, this man is God's leader in the local church. Note that the gaining of this position should be motivated by a sincere desire to serve God and others, rather than a desire for power or prestige.

THE RESUME, Part 1 (3:2)

3:2—"A bishop then must be _____, the _____ of one wife, _____ (on guard in all areas), sober (serious-minded), of _____ behaviour, given to _____, apt to teach." The list of requirements will continue through verse 7—16 in all.

God's leader in the church should be totally dedicated to his Master and exemplify what God can do with a yielded individual. (1) Being "blameless" isn't sinless perfection, but it does denote being "above reproach" and deserving of a good name and respect. (2) One area that can bring reproach is in the area of marriage. Another is in contact with the opposite sex, through counseling, etc. (3) Hence the need for extreme care and vigilance so as not to make shipwreck of the ministry. (4) Being "serious-minded" does not exclude the joys of salvation or the good times experienced in Christian fellowship. It does mean that God's business is serious business and not to be entered into lightly. (5) Observers should be able to commend the leaders' daily conduct (behaviour) and attitude towards those they serve. (6) Within good taste and reason, hospitality is always in vogue. A leader will receive others in a friendly manner, as guests, not as intruders. (7) An "apt to teach" leader will be quick, likely and competent to teach Biblical truth and principles. He will pay the price to be a student of the Word and not settle on serving light and entertaining sermonettes to his congregation.

THE RESUME, Part 2 (3:3)

3:3—"Not given to _____, no _____ (non-violent), not _____ of filthy lucre (money), but patient, not a

_____, not covetous."

In addition to the seven qualifications in verse 2, six more are added here. (1) Though some interpret "not given to wine" to mean excessive drinking or drunkenness, the safest path to follow is total abstinence (see Prov. 20:1 and 23:29-33). (2) Violence, in action or word, can quickly kill a testimony and close the door to future influence. (3) The laborer is certainly worthy of his hire. However, a consuming greed for money will trip a leader and cripple his ministry. (4) Extreme patience is required in a leadership position. Someone has aptly said, "To live above with saints we love, Oh, that will be glory! To live below with saints we know, Well, that's another story." (5) "No brawler" requires one not to be contentious, combative or quarrelsome. (6) The 10th commandment forbade covetousness (Ex. 20:17). Satan slipped this one over on Eve and hasn't given up on the tactic yet.

THE RESUME, Part 3 (4-6)

3:4,5—"One that _____ well his own _____, having his _____ in subjection with all _____ (for if a _____ know not how to rule his _____ house, how shall he take _____ of the church of God?)" This is a good question and one that needs no amplification.

3:6—"Not a _____ (recent convert), lest being lifted up with _____ he fall into the condemnation of the _____." An elevated or prestigious position can become a snare to a recent convert. (See Prov. 16:18 and 6:16-19).

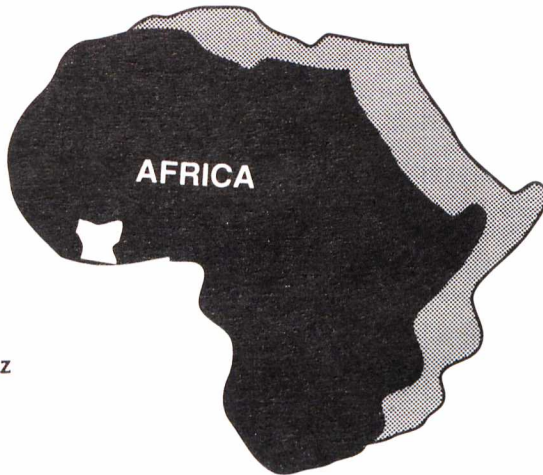
THE RESUME, Part 4 (3:7)

3:7—"Moreover, he must have a good report of them who are _____ (unsaved) lest he fall into _____ and the _____ of the devil." A snared leader affects the whole church as well as being a laughingstock in the media. A good name is priceless but must be earned and deserved. (See Prov. 22:1-3)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Count the masculine pronouns and terms signifying a male being in this leadership position. Should a woman seek this office?
2. How can words as well as actions cripple a testimony?
3. Does being a "novice" go beyond being a recent convert? (See 2 Tim. 2:15 and Heb. 5:12-14)
4. Many of the 16 qualifications in verses 2-7 would be desirable for any believer. Can you find one or more that would NOT apply?

I Volunteered for



by Rose Mertz

Thirty-three years ago, at age 9, in Wabash, Indiana, I gave my heart to Jesus Christ.

From the beginning, everyone knew I would be a missionary. I remember my friends signing my year books with things like, "Good luck in Africa!"

I delighted in our missionary services. My heart quickened as I listened to the missionaries tell stories of the regions beyond. I was drawn like a magnet to each mission field.

Following graduation, I entered Free Will Baptist Bible College and enrolled in every missions course available. I sat under the inspirational teaching and influence of Laura Belle Barnard and she made the God of missions real in my life. I religiously attended Prayer Band, Foreign Missions Fellowship, missions retreats and conferences. Surely I was destined to wind up on a foreign mission field one day.

Then God brought a wonderful man into my life who shared my vision for missions. Jim and I committed our love and our lives to His perfect will and continued our preparations for the mission field. We were married in August, 1970.

The first inkling we might not cross the ocean with the gospel was a remark from my father not long before his fatal accident. A few months before our marriage, we discussed with him our plans to go to the mission field. "I don't think you will go, Son. I really do not think you will go."

"Oh yes," we told him. "We must go."

The longer we continued in school, the greater grew a vision for the homefront. The burden for foreign missions did not lessen; He merely sharpened our eyes to the needs in America. Since then we have ministered in several churches and six years ago moved to Wentzville, Missouri to establish a new church.

During these 20 years of full-time ministry, I understand the Great Commission in a fuller light. I agree with my husband who believes the lifeline of Foreign Missions lies in the home churches who "hold the ropes." We want to build a strong missions-minded church.

Yes, I would still like to go afar with the gospel. Probably we never will. But missions is a task involving both goers and senders. We are laborers together. I feel content in God's will to stay and send. My husband says doing God's will is as simple as doing your best with what you have where you are for God.

This summer, our daughter, Angel, fulfilled our dream for missions as she traveled to Brazil with the very first Teen Mission Team. As God personally uses our children, in a sense we ourselves are going to the regions beyond.

The old song I used to sing, and still do, says it best: "Ready to go, ready to stay, ready my place to fill...ready to do His will." After 33 years, my desire is still to please Him in all things. The lesson He seems to be teaching me is this: Do I love Him not only enough to go, but do I love Him enough to stay?

In His perfect will, I have no regrets.



Women Abounding in the Work of the Lord ... (continued from page 3)

tive parties to encourage us to study and grasp the facts, they tolerated our sibling rivalry, jokes, teasing and moodiness. They kept their cool and kept laughing no matter what. These women still contribute to my laughter. Thank you, **Katy Chasteen** and **Peggy Overby**.

Hard-working, never lazy, industrious, resourceful ... and a great cook! This lady helped initiate me to the ministry of camping through two summers of feeding hungry juniors and teens, washing dishes and just loving children. Thank you, **Jane Johnson**.

She listened attentively with bright eyes in her neat, neat living room (even when I interrupted her schedule) and acted thrilled about my silly stories. This woman took time—she still takes time—to send a note, a card, a book. Thank you, **June Critcher**, for showing me that schedules balance with interruptions.

"Well, Precious, how are *you*?" She is another busy person, but one who was never too busy for me. I loved going to Aunt Lolly's house to play with Laura and Ann. Now I love to visit. She certainly had plenty to do—married to a college professor/ preacher/ dean/president and a college professor herself and mother of four children. She can always sit down and chat. Flexible, loving, kind and generous, she makes me feel precious. Thank you, **Laura Jane Thigpen**.

"**T**here will be a way," are the gentle words of my ever-supportive mother-in-law. Her faith in our big God continues to inspire me. She first encouraged me with those words when we moved to the St. Louis area for three years of seminary without a sure place to live or even jobs that would provide sufficient funds. She was

right. We did find a cozy apartment and rewarding ministry jobs.

When we began ministering in a Home Missions work, many wondered if we'd survive. Her theme words have reinforced us over these last five years. Today Liberty Free Will Baptist Church is debt-free and self-supporting. When I wonder about the future, I know there's a lady who for more than 15 years has echoed a blessed truth—"There will be a way." Thank you, **Audra Pugh**.

Another who abounds is unassuming, timid, quiet, meek and humble. She is extremely generous, not because she has a lot, but because of what she has left over. She receives the lowest monthly income of anyone I have ever known, yet she gives dollars—not coins—in addition to her tithe. When my daughters were toddlers, she began giving them dollars to put into their Sunday school offering. What a profound lesson for this preacher's wife. God's work won't survive on nickels, dimes and quarters. Thank you, **Estelle Blackwell**, for demonstrating a generous spirit.

The most influential woman in my life is my mother. Mother is a people person, loves them genuinely and delights in helping, caring, and keeping them in her home, even for extended visits. She feeds crowds, or individuals, royally with cheerfulness. No one enjoyed a meal anywhere more than around the table in the home in which I grew up. She even made getting the house prepared for guests a pleasure—and kindly enlisted my volunteer help.

Her day begins with God's Word. Always has. She has notebooks and notebooks full of notes. She diligently studies God's Word whether for a special meeting, or just for living. Mother is a praying woman. We have been prayer

partners for years. I know she walks with God and I want her praying for me. I remember her as a master of alternatives, especially when I was a teenager. She thought of creative ways to help me have fun and still be a Christian. She has never grudgingly served the Lord either. The ministry was not drudgery. She was a part of the team, Daddy's loyal co-worker.

Mother became bookkeeper when our family moved to Nashville. It wasn't always easy to juggle finances to meet the demands of a family on limited funds, but this never stopped consistent support of missions. Because of this example, it has been easy to incorporate missions in our budget.

There has never been a question Who reigns in her life. In my daily routine, I want to keep the priorities I have seen in her life. Thank you, **Maude Coffey**.

It's impossible to commend all the many who have touched my life, motivated and steered me. It's good to reflect over the past and smile at those individuals who have participated in the fellowship of the gospel in a particular way from my perspective. These women serve the Lord with style.

The truth is, every Christian woman is serving with a style, whether abounding or grumbling, in the work of the Lord. Women to women, generation after generation, abounding in the work of the Lord—little girls watching, teenage girls following, young mothers imitating. This is God's system, and it works! 

Last year Gwyn and Rebecca completed a home missions assignment in Millington, Tennessee with the Liberty FWB Church. They have four children: Carmen, 10, Khristina, 8, Karyn, 4 and Daniel, almost 2. Rebecca serves as vice president of her state convention.

HELPS for LEADERS

DECEMBER VICE PRESIDENT NOVEMBER



Feasting and Fasting

Prepare large individual letters of F-E-A-S-T. Display in front of the room on a flannel or chalkboard. Write the Scriptures on slips of paper and assign to different ones beforehand.

Thanksgiving is usually a time of feasting and fellowshiping with family and friends. This year let's feast on the riches of His grace and hunger for the good things of life.

Feast on: Psalm 34:8
Proverbs 15:15b
John 6:35
John 11:25
Ephesians 2:5-7
Luke 6:38
Psalm 33:1
Philippians 4:19

Remove the E and move the F over.

To fast means to do without food. Here are some things we should fast from, some habits that lead to poverty of the soul.

Fast from: Galatians 5:15
James 3:16
Exodus 20:16
1 John 1:8
Psalm 66:18
1 John 4:18b
2 Timothy 3:2a
Jude 16, 17

December



Decorate your room with displays of various Christmas traditions. Or assign the different officers to be responsible for a display.

Or if you have a dinner meeting with individual tables, plan a centerpiece representative of each tradition.

Send out individual invitations. Invite every woman in the church.

Christmas Warm-Up

Give everyone a pencil and a slip of paper on which is printed C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S. See how many three or more letter words they can form from that word in a specified time, say three minutes. No letter may be used more than is found in the word.

The one who has the most reads her words while those who have the same words check them off. The one who has the most words uniquely hers wins the prize.

Is Your Christmas Christian?

(continued from page 9)

strengthening and blessing for the Christian family. Let's examine each of our traditions and determine if they should be observed in our homes. Answer these questions concerning each tradition:

1. Is the tradition unbiblical? Does it harm the Christian testimony in your home?
2. Can the tradition help teach biblical lessons and strengthen true Christian values?
3. Does the tradition draw you closer to your Lord and Savior?

If you have decided not to use some of the traditions, be sure you know the reason why. Make sure your children know and understand the reason why it is not an acceptable practice for a Christian family.

Practice the good traditions to the fullest extent possible. We can have no real love, peace, joy, home, or even Christmas, without Christ. Make this the happiest Christmas you've ever had by making your Christmas Christian.

Gail and her husband, Gerald, are planting a church in West Knoxville, Tennessee. Both graduates of FWBBC, they have three children: Michelle, 19, Brett, 16, and Darren, 6.

In addition to being an ideal pastor's wife, Gail is doing student teaching to complete her degree in elementary education.

MISSION STUDY

Encourage your women to read the Bible through this next year. At your December meeting, have available reading schedules for those who desire them. Suggest alternate plans according to the individual tastes of each.

1. Plan to read at the same time, from the same Bible and in the same place each day. Put this on your schedule just as surely as you rise and retire each day.

2. Place the reading schedule in your Bible and refer to it each day. Check off when you have completed the reading.

3. Use a One-Year Bible with the Bible conveniently divided up into 365 days. A Daily Devotional Bible is also available with the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs interspersed with the Old Testament.

4. Listen to the Bible read on cassette tapes.

5. You won't need a printed

schedule if you remember to read three chapters each day with five on Sunday. That will take you through the Bible in a year.

6. Read so many pages each day. Divide the number of pages in your Bible into 365. That's how many pages you'll read each day.

7. Choose a new version. That will make your reading more exciting.

8. For a change, start with the New Testament and finish up with the Old. (This way, if you get behind, Revelation will be completed before you begin Genesis the next year!)

9. Read five psalms and one chapter in Proverbs each day. There are 31 chapters so read each on the corresponding day. For example, on the 15th day of each month, you'll read Psalms 75-80 and the 15th chapter of Proverbs.

10. Read with a highlighter or colored pencils and mark passages that speak to you.

It helps to be accountable. Each month check up on your ladies to see if they're on schedule. Encourage the drop-outs to pick-up.

Home Mission Study Courses

Double in a Decade

In connection with our Home Missions emphasis, consider these two study courses. Based on the "Double in a Decade" campaign adopted by the National Association to double its membership by the year 2000, these two volumes define and develop the goal.

Volume 1 by Roy Thomas
(24pp, \$2)

Contains seven lessons on information, materials and tools, staff, advertisement and services.

Volume 2 by Trymon Messer
(28pp, \$2)

Contains 15 lessons on organizing, launching out, involving, discipling and evaluating.

(Order these booklets from the National Home Missions Department, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.)

WEEK OF PRAYER

Thanksgiving

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

PROMOTE! by ordering free prayer booklets and other materials. (See sample prayer booklet in this issue of CO-LABORER.) These prayer booklets are available in quantities upon request from the National Home Missions Department. Other free materials available to help you sponsor an effective Week of Prayer are: Missionary Maps, Prayer Cards, Directories, Bulletin Inserts, Prayer Booklets, Home Missions Study Courses, Offering Envelopes, and Quarter Saver Folders. Order from National Home Missions, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

PRAY AND GIVE! for a sacrificial *Lizzie McAdams Memorial Offering for National Home Missions*. Set a goal for your auxiliary to reach in the special offering. Your auxiliary may designate your offering for National Home Missions General Fund or for particular Home Missionaries. Contact the National Home Missions Department for a list of deficit missionary accounts. Send offerings through the WNAC channels designated for "*Lizzie McAdams Memorial Offering for National Home Missions*."

Prayer Booklet

**Thanksgiving Week of Prayer
November 16-20, 1992**

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

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



WEDNESDAY

Pray for national home missionaries serving in isolated areas in the far West and also in the Northeast. They labor alone in some areas without the benefits of fellowship with other Free Will Baptist churches. Some of these are: *Tom & Lynda Hunt*, Tri-Cities, Washington; *Tim & Kathy Coats*, Rapid City, South Dakota; *Jim & Pat Nason*, New Durham, New Hampshire; *Terry & Tammy Miller*, Providence, Rhode Island.

MONDAY

Pray for the National Home Missions Board which spends many volunteer hours adopting policies and programs for the Department, approving missionaries, and presenting the annual budget to the National Association for approval. Members are: *Fred Hanson, Earl Hendrix, J. D. Norris, Larry Russell, Rue Dell Smith, Glenn Thomas, Wendell Walley, Milburn Wilson, and Lynn Wood.*

THURSDAY

Pray for the Executive Staff of the Home Missions Department as the labor long hours to promote the work of home missions, church extension, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. owned islands of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. These are: *Roy Thomas*, General Director; *Trymon Messer*, Associate Director; and *Richard Adams*, Director of Development.

TUESDAY

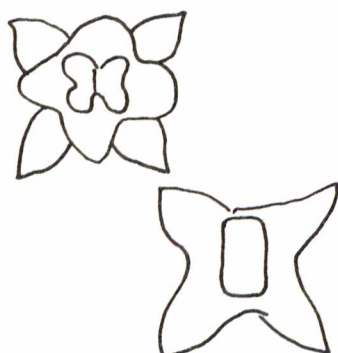
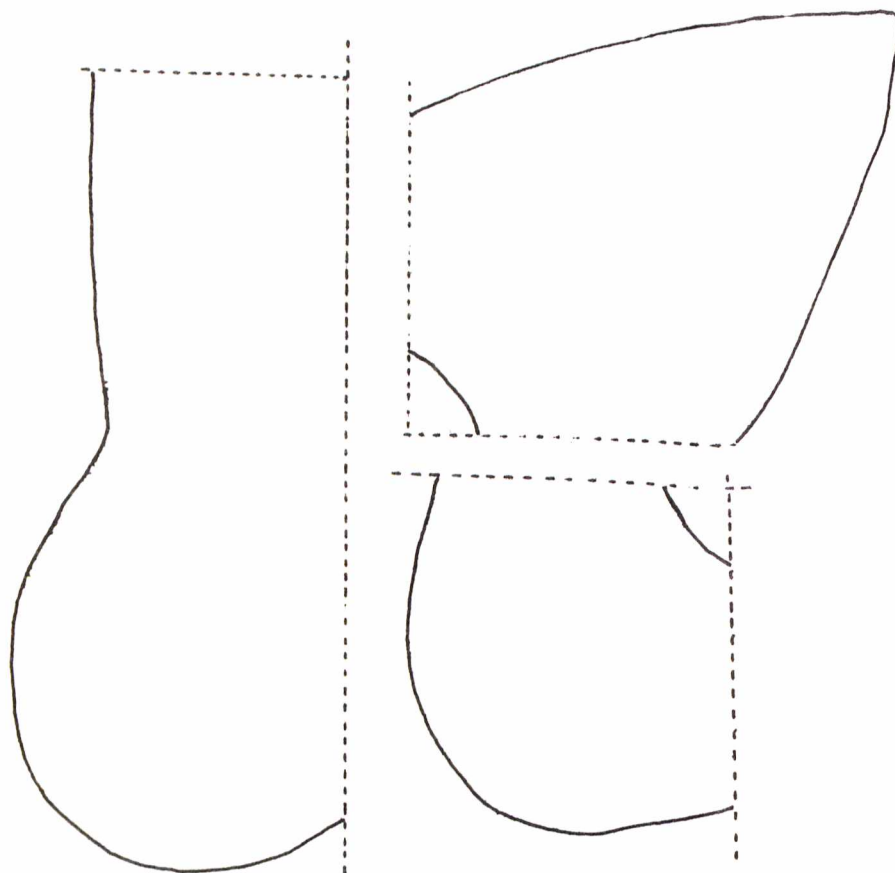
Some home missionaries work solely under the National Home Missions Board, while others work *jointly* with a state or district board and the national board. Pray for Joint Project Workers such as *Curtis & Laverne Alligood*, St. Petersburg, FL; *Ivan & Theresa Asbury*, Bloomington, IN; *Ken & Bonnie Doggett*, Springfield, IL; *J. L. & Dot Gore*, Southaven, MS; *Levan & Vicki Hubbard*, Maumelle, AR; *Rex & Debbie Lynn*, Rome, GA; and *Willis & Linda Osborne*, Abingdon, VA;

FRIDAY

Pray for Free Will Baptist chaplains serving through the Home Missions Department in the military. They truly are missionaries to men and women serving in the armed forces. These are: *CAPT. Terry Austin, MAJOR James Bishop, CAPT. Bill Conlon, MAJOR Larry Langford, COL. Gerald Mangham, and MAJOR Kerry Steedley*, in the U.S. Army; *CDR. Robert Cooper*, U.S. Navy; and *CAPT. Tim Sturgill*, U.S. Air Force.

MISSION PRAYER MISSION

Poinsettia Napkin Holder/
Prayer Reminder



Cut leaves from green and red felt according to the pattern. Cut slits.

Fold the long red strip crosswise and slip the fold through the hole until half is on one side and half the other. Flatten. Place a napkin in the back half. Make petals in front.

Glue pictures of missionaries on the bottom red petal, preferably in the top quarter. For couples, glue the husband on one and the wife on another. Let them find their mates and sit together during the meal.

MISSION ACTION MISSION

This is not a project of Free Will Baptist Missions, but one worth supporting.

Project Mercy

Life in refugee camps is filled with difficulty. One of the many hardships is having little or nothing to wear. Often the garment on their backs is the only thing they have and when this wears out, what then? Project Mercy began and developed a clothing ministry to help in this area of critical need.

They want to send you at no charge simple patterns for African-styled garments in both adult and children sizes. You supply the time, sewing talent and fabric.

If sewing isn't one of your talents, they ask for school kits assembled using large plastic ziplock bags. Include the same amount of supplies in each so all children are treated equally. Each kit should consist of at least 2 pencils, 2 pens, a ruler, eraser, crayons, small scissors, a notebook, and whatever else might be useful. Send extra supplies in bulk.

A very easy sewing project is making cloth bags from sturdy cloth. They recommend 16" wide by 18" long with handles. "These bags can be a real source of joy to refugee students who will now have something of their own."

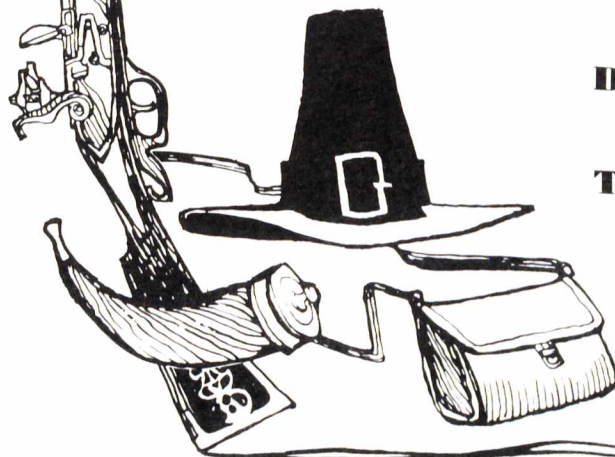
For information write: Project Mercy, 7011 Ardmore Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46809

Give thanks

Woman's Auxiliary

Date

Time



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Please Come!



time
date
Place

The Minister's Wife

Newsletter

Compiled By Cleo Pursell



Volume 12, number 6

Life in the Fast Lane... Chicago, that is

by Pam Potete

What do you say when your husband says, "Honey, I think the Lord is leading us to move to Nashville, Tennessee to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College?"

I was afraid to say no. I knew God sometimes uses drastic measures to conform our will to His. So I prayed a lot. Oh my, this would be a major change—for all of us. We were in our first pastorate and David loved standing behind the pulpit preaching the Word of God. I loved being a pastor's wife. And what about our two daughters, Becky, 7, and Julie, 4? How would they adjust? How would we make it financially? Talk about twenty questions, I had hundreds!

We had committed our lives to the Lord's service and when we were confident of His leading, we had to go. It wasn't easy to say goodbye to our friends at the Immanuel FWB Church in Joliet, Illinois, but we left with their blessings. Little did we know what the next three years would hold, but God did. We placed our hand in His and trusted the future to Him.

Our household underwent major changes. I changed roles from homemaker to working mother. Like the widow and her pot of oil, God kept filling our pot and meeting our needs daily. Not only financially, but He supplied spiritual needs. Sylvan Park FWB Church gave us opportunities for service and helped prepare us for the special work ahead.

He met our social needs. Christians need fellowship, and we established friendships during those years which will last for eternity. All the time He was teaching us to depend completely on Him.

Amid the hectic schedule of studies, we tried to determine where the Lord would ultimately lead us. We told the Lord we were willing to go anywhere He led. We had always had a burden for Chicago, and Home Missions was becoming a regular topic in our home. Would we be accepted as home missionaries? Could we build a church from scratch? And what about the children? Now ages 6 and 9, they joined the discussion. Their zeal and enthusiasm overwhelmed us. "What can we do to help?" they wanted to know. Becky was taking piano lessons and said, "I can be the piano player."

Six months before graduation, David approached the Home Missions board and shared with them his burden for Chicago. The board assured us of their desire to open a work in Chicago, but they wanted to send three missionaries at a time. So we waited. During those six months before a final decision was made we emptied ourselves out before God. God had something else He wanted to teach us, something He knew we would need, and that was patience. When the board gave their final approval, we fell on our knees and thanked God for this great opportunity.

We both loved deputation. I challenged myself to go with him as much as possible as we visited the churches. Each church seemed to be different from the others, but they all had the same

love for missions. We were so blessed.

Finally we had the green light from the mission board and proceeded to make preparations to move. David had lived in Chicago and I'm a native of Desplaines, a suburb, so we explored an area we felt ideal for a church. We asked God for a two-bedroom home with an office and checked the classifieds. Nothing.

"Lord," David prayed, "I'm here in the area I feel You have led us to, but I can't seem to find a home."

David loves to fish, so—while he just happened to have the classified section open—he casually scanned the Boats and Accessories column. Lo and behold, a misplaced ad caught his attention. "For sale: two bedroom home with an office." That was the house God had for us. He just wanted us to look a little harder.

A feeling of the unknown gripped me as THE DAY came closer. I was scared and excited all at once. We were going to an area with no established church, building, parsonage, or congregation. Just the four of us—and the backing of the Home Missions board and the Free Will Baptist people.

I had almost forgotten that only an arm's length separated one house from the next. And people! Three million souls in this city of Chicago. Talk about a mission field!

God has been with us each step of the way. Looking back on my early life, I can see how all along He was preparing me to be the wife of a home missionary. I pray I will always be faithful. 

Pam teaches pre-school at the Desplaines Christian Academy. Crafts are her hobby.

A Glossary of Terms for Use by a Minister's Wife

by Joan Warren
pastor's wife from Carbon Hill, Alabama

- Husband: I'll just be gone a few minutes.
Meaning: Back in three hours flat.
Husband: My sermon won't be very long today.
Meaning: The roast will be burned to a crisp by the time we get home from church.
Husband: That new family isn't asked out very much.
Meaning: Buy extra groceries. The new family is coming to dinner.
Husband: Someone sure needs to visit Mrs. Doe this week.
Meaning: When are you going?
Husband: I'll keep the kids tonight if you want to go somewhere.
Meaning: There's a TV special he wants to see—go away!
Husband: Have you made any plans for tonight?
Meaning: Someone is coming or we are going.
Husband: Such-and-such church is without a pastor now. It has a wonderful potential. Of course, the salary isn't so much ...
Meaning: Start packing. We're moving again.

A Teacher of Good Things



by Brenda Shores

I first became acquainted with Eulima Gentry when my husband pastored the 88 Lone Elm FWB Church, Rudy, Arkansas. This tall, stately woman with big hands, big smile and a bigger heart extended a standing invitation: "If no one else invites you home for Sunday dinner, you are always welcome at our table." And she meant it.

Sister Gentry is the daughter of a preacher (Ben Pixley), the sister of preachers (Gilbert and Rupert Pixley), the wife of a preacher (Earl Gentry), and the mother of a preacher (Billie Joe Gentry). Her experience in the joys and trials of parsonage living qualified her to teach others.

I delighted to hear her tell about Fifth Sunday meetings when people came from miles away and bedded down in their barn. She told how women rose before dawn to prepare breakfast and kill

and dress chickens for dinner. When she later married and had ten chil-

dren of her own, she often kept the home fires burning while her husband walked miles across the Ozark hills to his preaching appointments.

Sister Gentry is an inspiration because of her patience in suffering. She has suffered for years with asthma. Even as she struggled for breath, she could tilt her head back and flash me a smile. Now she is fighting cancer, and still her faith and courage remain strong.

God didn't gift Sister Gentry with a showy talent like playing the piano, singing, or public speaking. He blessed her with a kind and generous heart. She has always done what she could, faithfully and cheerfully, as unto the Lord. She is a woman God has used.

WOMEN in ACTION



Venita Tuttle, right, gives the program at the Blue Bell Auxillary, Sapulpa, Oklahoma. Alta Tuttle, left, is president.



First Auxiliary ladies, New Durham, New Hampshire, make Christmas gifts for a local nursing home.



These ladies also sponsored a shower for the Missionary Provision Closet. Pictured are: Elsie Day; Pat Nason, pastor's wife and Auxillary president; Kelly Bilodeau, Joyce Waterhouse, Marjorie Stevenson, Vicki Fabbri, Evelyn Portique and Dorothy Lynds.



First Auxiliary, Mobile, Alabama, donates gifts of Tupperware to the Missionary Provision Closet. Patti Hollifield is the pastor's wife.



The 12 member Victory Auxiliary, Pineville, Louisiana, netted over \$600 preparing and selling 400 jars of Mayhaw Jelly, a local favorite. Proceeds supported missions, youth activities and nursing home projects.

Sheila Nichols cooks the jelly while Deloris Sinclair attaches labels to the jars.



by Barbara Hicks

My Father's Hands

When I was five, my father's company had a Christmas party. I looked forward to it with great anticipation because I knew Santa would be there. At age 5, I still believed in Santa Claus.

I patiently waited in line to sit on Santa's knee. When my turn finally came, I gazed up in awe into his twinkling eyes and snowy white beard. The desire of my heart that year was for a new bicycle. As I looked down to concentrate on how to express my wish, my eyes focused on Santa's hands. I blinked in disbelief as I saw he had a small chunk missing from one of his fingers.

Those were my father's hands! My dad had been a meatcutter in the Navy and had lost a small part of his finger. How could Santa wear a red suit and a white beard and yet have the hands of my father?

My dad knew what I wanted even before I mumbled my request and ran off to my mother. Our heavenly Father knows our needs and desires before we ask. "Delight thyself in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Ps. 37:4).

Just as I recognized my father that day, I will some day know my Savior. I have never seen His face, but I will know Him. As Fanny Crosby, that blind poet, wrote, "I shall know Him by the print of the nails in His hands."

Let's have that same anticipation of a five-year-old awaiting her first visit to Santa.



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.

God Gave Me The Victory

I sat in the doctor's office and listened to his grim diagnosis. Scleroderma! What in the world was that?

As kindly as he knew how, my doctor described my illness as a very rare disease, a hardening of the layers of the skin for which there is no known cure. He added the crushing blow: "You will never be well again."

I clung tightly to my husband's arm as we left the office, the doctor's prophetic diagnosis ringing in my ears. Never be well!

The following months were as difficult as any I have ever known. Each check-up confirmed another disease ravaging my system—rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, Raynaud's, and finally polymyositis. My weight dropped 22 pounds which I could not afford to lose.

One night when I was critically ill, I drifted off to sleep. "Lord, I surrender all. I'm ready to go home if this is Your will for me," I prayed. "But Lord, if You have tasks for me to accomplish, I will gladly share with others the certainty of Your saving grace."

As I prayed, His Presence flooded my room. He spoke—whether audibly I do not know—but His exact words engraved for all time upon my memory. "I am greater than scleroderma. In my name you have the victory."

by Mable Purviance

Through deep soul-searching and spending much time with God's Word, I gained the assurance that His promises are true. Hebrews 13:5 was a constant companion: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Never! God, who has always been and always will be, promises never to forsake us. If He said it, I believe it!

As I constantly repeated this promise, I discovered I could not honestly repeat His promises and continue to question Him. I did not always understand why, but is it necessary we do? All things will be explained to us someday and that should satisfy us for now.

I took a long-range view of my adversities. Tragedies hurt deeply and often appear unbearable. Trials weighed down the Apostle Paul so heavily that on one occasion he broke down and admitted he was overpowered. But he assures his readers that affliction is "but for a moment" (2 Cor. 4:17). The anguish eases with the passing of time and a renewal of our

trust in God. His assurance to Paul—and to us—is this: "My grace is sufficient...my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9).

The illness which at first seemed utterly unbearable has led me to commit myself wholly to Him. And now, after nine years of complete trust in God, He gives me strength to carry on a full, active life. He provides opportunities for me to share my story with groups or on a one-to-one witness. Although no one is exempt from affliction, I tell them, our trials and troubles are stepping stones to a closer walk with God. His mercies are beyond our comprehension.

The writer of Proverbs admonishes us to "trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (3:5,6). Jesus' final promise before His ascension is this: "...and lo, I am with you always."

His Word is powerful and it is true. His love overshadows our illnesses. How can anyone harbor ill will against a God like that?



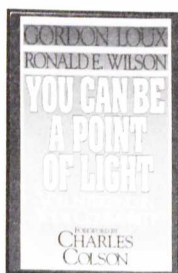
The author and her husband, Edwin, were missionaries in northern Alaska for nine years before settling in Missoula, Montana and establishing World's Children, Inc., an operation which cares for 2600 homeless children in ten countries.

Books to stimulate spiritual growth

Book Highlights ...

The Woman in Her Community

YOU CAN BE A POINT OF LIGHT
Volunteering in Your Community
by Gordon Loux and Ronald E. Wilson
Multnomah, 143 pages

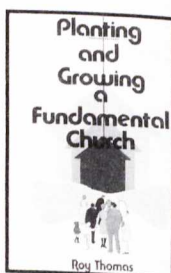


In his inaugural address, president Bush said, "I have spoken of a thousand points of light—of all the community organizations that are spread like stars throughout the nation, doing good."

This book is a collection of stories, experiences of those who reached out to serve those in need. Whether it's the woman who sends post cards to a lonely girl, the hairdresser who assists handicapped friends, or the retiree with pen pals on death row, they all have a common desire to keep the courage to risk reaching out to others.

Each of the twelve chapters closes with a section of practical suggestions which encourage us to "go and do thou likewise."

**PLANTING AND GROWING A
FUNDAMENTAL CHURCH**
by Roy Thomas
Home Missions Department,
270pp, \$5.00



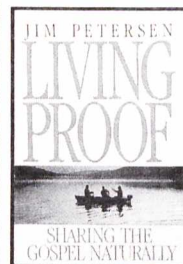
This official handbook discusses the Scriptural reasons for church planting and reviews the neglected areas in North America. It covers the philosophy of those missions, church

growth, call, burden, and vision of the missionary.

The book teaches a step by step methodology of witnessing, follow-up discipleship, and church growth. It lays a foundation for strong indigenous churches and deals with such subjects as finances, staff, publicity, and organization.

The author has dedicated his life to planting and growing Free Will Baptist churches. His book encourages us to do the same.

LIVING PROOF
by Jim Petersen
Navpress, \$9.95



The author has combined and revised two of his previous books (*Evangelism as a Lifestyle* and *Evangelism for our Generation*) and come up with practical guidance for

reaching the unchurched.

These real-life dramas show us how to develop relationships with nonChristians, model the Christian message in our lives, and how to present the Bible's claims in a non-threatening manner.

The book is also available in two 90 minute video cassettes, each containing twelve sessions for small groups.

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 Sanctuary Michelle Langenberg

I gave some money (not a lot
but as much as I could send)
I also gave a little time
(as much as I could spend)
to the City Mission house
that serves as the poor man's
friend.
Oh yes, it's the poor man's friend.

It sets before these hungry
mouths
a good hot meal—and more,
It gives unto the hungry soul
a gentle helping of God's Word.
And in each face of these beaten
men
I see the eyes of the Lord.
Oh yes, I see the eyes of the Lord.

Some are grey with weariness,
Some gaunt with poverty;
others show the ruins
of a silent agony.
But I read in even the most
bleary-eyed
that God loves you and me,
Oh yes, God loves you and me.

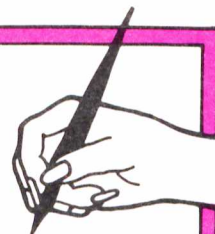
Partners by Sharon Dyer

God bless those who journey to
other lands,
Who go and share at Your com-
mand;
Those who have left friends and
family
To share the good news of Cal-
vary.

Help me to hold them up in
prayer
For a common bond in Christ we
share;
And while they are on the battle
line
May I remember the task that is
mine.

Should I cease to intercede and
pray
A need may go unmet that day;
The battle for them will not be won
Until the warfare in prayer is
done.

The poet's CORNER



So although their mission is over-
seas
And mine is in the homeland on
my knees,
Help me to realize the call to pray
Is as clear as the call to go and
obey.

Seasons of My Heart Heather van Dam

Age 10:

Oh Lord, see my heart!
Here beside this campfire
I pledge to go wherever You send
me.
Africa? Asia? Europe?
Just say the word,
I'm Yours.
Study and passing time are my
world...

Age 20:

Oh Lord, see my heart
I'm newly married.
Will you send my husband and
me
Across an ocean?
South America? India? New
Zealand?
Just say the word,
We're Yours.
Graduate school and passing time
are my world...

Age 30:

Oh Lord, see my heart!
I'm the mother of three
Beautiful children who need Your
love,
Your truth lived before them.
I don't see across oceans any-
more,
(Perhaps one of our children will?)
But I'm still Yours.
My world is baseball bats and

music lessons... More school
for me...

Age 40:

Oh Lord, see this teacher's heart!
I show the children in my classes
How to listen for Your voice,
How to heed Your call.
All one little girl talks about is
India.
I encourage her with Amy
Carmichael books.
I believe that she really will go.

What?
A call for me to go to Russia?
I'm willing, eager.
My missionary heart leaps at the
opportunity.
Two weeks before my departure,
A car crash.
I'm hurt and recuperating
And cannot go.
The delegation leaves without me.

Do what I've always done?
Yes!
I send a letter to 40 neighbors
Telling them in simple terms
How to make Jesus their own.
Later, children come to my door,
Weeping.
"We read your letter...May we
come in?"

Oh Lord, see my heart!
You are so faithful.
Thank You for using me.
I thought it would be away,
But it's at home instead.
Even though I've never crossed
an ocean
I can look across my kitchen table
At my family and friends who are
hurting,
And across my front yard
To a sea of hungry people.
I must be about my Father's
business.



Be a Prayer Missionary

Appointed to Pray ...

This pastor's wife reaches down into her own heart and shares feelings typical of so many of us. Use her words as a guide in praying for our missionaries today.

Stay Close to the Fire

by Sandy Atwood

I feel pulled—pulled by my children, pulled by Junior Choir, pulled by this dirty house, pulled by my own tired body, pulled by the new Bible study to start on Tuesday...the list could go on and on."

So records an entry from my journal which could be—and was—repeated over and over. How do you keep from being pulled and torn in so many directions that you are of no use to anyone? How do you keep going when your mind and body scream with weariness? How do you give to others when you have nothing left to give? How do you love others when your own love—for them and for God—is waning? How can we share the warmth of God's love when our own hearts have

grown cold and brittle?

In Gail McDonald's book, *High Call, High Privilege*, she quotes an almost 80-year-old missionary: "Untended fires soon die and become just a pile of ashes." I must take care to tend the fire in my own life. Jesus is the great "Fire-Starter." He does not ask us to give out to others without first filling us. He invites women, like ourselves, to the place of warmth in the same way He invited His confused disciples to an early morning campfire on the shores of Galilee (John 21). Here they were fed, affirmed, instructed and commissioned to ministry.

The fire is the inner place of meeting with Him. I must stay close to the fire. It sounds easy, but it is here I face the most difficult battle of my life. Oh, I love it

when I move near the fire and He warms my cold heart. How could I ever think of neglecting Him?

Too often other things shout louder than He and claim my attention—my children, for example. The demands of children, husband, work, phone, and church activities are only a few of the distractions that can drown out His quiet invitation to join Him at the fire. I have a choice.

I know that when I neglect or put Him off, it usually results in exhaustion (both physical and emotional), loss of perspective, self-pity, and a total absence of joy. I cannot give to others when I am empty myself. Gail McDonald says that in order to serve others we must "disengage" from them. Disengagement means silence before God. Silence means soli-

tude. It requires going to the fire.

Oswald Chambers wrote, "Our Lord's first obedience was to the will of the Father, not to the needs of men: His obedience brought the outcome of the saving of men. If I am devoted to the cause of humanity only, I will soon be exhausted and come to the place where my love will falter; but if I love Jesus Christ personally and passionately, I can serve humanity though man treat me as a doormat."

For me, it boils down to this: Do I make going to the fire a priority? There are no easy answers or shortcuts. It takes time and self-denial.

- Getting up earlier when I want to sleep those extra minutes.
- Yielding myself to Him instead of following my own agenda.
- Filling my life with His words of encouragement, reproof and

instruction.

- Being quiet instead of always talking.

It's not a one-time decision. I struggle daily. No one forces me. I choose to go to the fire—just as the disciples did. Then am I filled. My strength is renewed. My perspective is refocused. My heart is warmed. I am ready to minister to others. I am ready to follow the command He gave to Peter that day by the fire, "Feed my sheep."

Lord, if I struggle to stay by the fire in the midst of a so-called Christian environment, what about our missionaries who labor in pagan lands? No loving church family. No Christian TV or radio. No Christian magazines. No prayer chain. The forces of darkness join together to put out their fire.

Kindle our love today, Father, as we draw near to Your fire.



WNAC's Prayer Bookmark

Week of November 1-7

Pray for missionaries battling physical problems: Evelyn Hersey, Japan, and Patty McCullough, France, cancer; Nancy Hughes, Brazil, rheumatoid arthritis; Norman Richards, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ken Bailey, Japan, diabetes; and Molly Barker, Uruguay.

Birthday this week: 2—Laura McFall (Brazil)

Week of November 8-14

Pray for missionaries in language study.

- Paul and Tammy Gentuso, Côte d'Ivoire, in Albertville, France
- Dave and Becky Franks, Uruguay, in Montevideo
- Curt and Mary Holland, Brazil, in Campinas

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

Week of November 15-21

Follow the prayer guide (see page 17) distributed by the Home Missions department as part of the Pre-Thanksgiving week of prayer observance.

No birthdays this week

Week of November 22-28

Pray for TEAM Panama '93. Ask God for ten choice high school students to minister for three weeks next summer.

Birthdays this week: 22—James Nason (NH); 27—Bessie Richards (C'I); 28—Bobby Poole (Brazil)

Week of November 29-December 5

WNAC's study committee meets next week to finalize their three-year study. Ask God to:

- grant them divine wisdom
- unite them in love

Birthdays this week: 30—Kim Zegelian (Germany) and Dwain Crosby (Spain); 1—Rose Mertz (MO); 2—J.L. Gore (MS); 4—Theresa Asbury (IN)

Missions Hotline
615-731-3829



Our Mission Field

Michael Griffiths in his book, *Cinderella with Amnesia*, quotes statistics to show that around the average city church there are:

"...2,000 houses with 10,000 people who could walk to the church within 10-15 minutes. You can reckon that there are 500 households needing a neighborly hand of friendship; 20 unmarried mothers; 100 elderly housebound people, living alone; 10 discharged prisoners; 100 deprived children; 10 homeless; 100 broken marriages; 20 families in debt; 100 juvenile delinquents who have been before the courts in the last three years; 80 persons in the hospital; 80 alcoholics."

And yet, most of these are being ignored by the church of Jesus Christ, although they are people for whom Christ died.

—FWBBC Bulletin

Week of December 6-12

Pray for both the home and foreign missions boards as they meet this week. Ask God to:

- direct in choosing summer student missionaries and interviewing candidates

- help them in making wise decisions
- give wisdom to the new Foreign Missions board member, David Shores

Birthdays this week: 6—Juli Riggs (Spain) and Vergel Maness (NJ); 7—Russell Wright (WV); 8—Russell Johnson (WY) and Barbara Dail (VI); 9—Debbie Griffin (Japan); 11—Fred Jones (Mexico)

Week of December 13-19

Christmas provides an excellent opportunity to reach the lost with the gospel. Pray for:

- each field as plans are completed for special programs

- the missionaries involved in these activities

- decisions for Christ

Birthdays this week: 14—Rosa Lee Thomas (CO) and Lonnie Sparks (Spain); 18—Tom Hughes (Brazil); 19—Molly Barker (Uruguay)

Week of December 20-26

Pray for missionaries who long to be with family over the holidays. Remember MK's separated from home.

Birthdays this week: 22—Tom McCullough (France); 24—Mary Heath (Germany); 26—Darrell Smith (OR)

Week of December 27-31

Pray for the WNAC staff as they begin a new year:

- Mary Ruth Wisheart, executive secretary-treasurer

- Yvonne Wolfenbarger, executive assistant

- Sue Hayes, bookkeeper

- Melissa Riddle, editor

Birthdays this week: 27—Patsy Gwartney (AZ) and Dave Franks, Jr. (Uruguay)

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

My First Trip to the Provision Closet

by Mary Holland, Brazil

We were packing for Brazil at the same time we packed for Candidate School in Nashville, Tennessee. We still needed many things for Brazil which I was hoping I would find in the Provision Closet. I didn't know what to expect.

We borrowed a small trailer to pull behind our car. When we reached the national offices, I hurriedly got out of the car and headed for the Provision Closet. I put my hand on the door...it was locked! We would have to wait until break from candidate school to check again.

What seemed like forever, our ten minute break finally came. Tammy Gentuso (a new missionary but a veteran to the closet) and I headed for Dream Land. I put my hand on the door...and it opened!

Wow! What an overwhelming feeling you experience as you step into the Missionary Provision Closet for the first time! Where

do I look first? What color should I pick? What type should I choose? Decisions, decisions, decisions! Wonderful decisions!

I am so grateful for the provisions you ladies have provided for me as a missionary. It was so nice to find so many things I needed. I would not have been able to purchase them all, neither did the expense have to come from our missions account.

I just want to say a big THANK YOU to all you who have provided for your missionaries. As I use these things in our home in Brazil, I'll remember that there are devoted ladies praying for me and loving me. Thanks for making the Provision Closet the blessing that it is.

We began shopping in earnest for our move, first to France and then on to Côte d'Ivoire...After one evening with fussy babies and frightful price tags, I came



home and cried—literally! The next morning I went to the Provision Closet...After several shopping sprees, I'd found so many things on my "need" list and even a few from my "want" list...PTL! Again, thank you to all of our dear ladies.

*Paul and Tammy Gentuso,
Côte d'Ivoire*

During Candidate School I visited the Provision Closet in the new office building. You have it so neat and pretty. I found so many nice things to take to Uruguay with us. Thank the Lord for the generosity of our women.

Becky Franks, Uruguay

Thanks for allowing us to visit the Provision Closet...we found a black and white polka dotted sheet set to match our bedspread. Only God could have put them there for us.

*Levan and Vicki Hubbard
Maumelle, Arkansas*

Enclosed find twelve hand towels for our missionaries donated by our Actionettes.

*Donna Kesterson and Lee Sawyer,
sponsors
Pine Bluff, Arkansas*

Thanks for sending us CO-LABORER. We do enjoy the programs and Bible study. It would be nice to add a recipe in each issue.

*Wanda Ray
Sylacauga, Alabama*

Our Missionaries Write

Each week we meet for Thursday Kids. We sing, pray, have a Bible story, learn Bible verses...and have quizzes. One day I gave a piece of bubble gum for a correct answer and a cold, cooked green bean for an incorrect answer. You might be a bit surprised at how a green bean can stimulate clear thinking!

*Jerry and Carol Pinkerton
Côte d'Ivoire*

Words for Women

Could I have the star?" one sister asked as we sorted through the household things. It wasn't fancy. It didn't light up. It was just a piece of tinsel with a gold background—the star that topped our tree for who knows how many Christmases. But it was a part of our Christmas celebration. It was our star, reminding us of The Star. And that star held our Christmases past.

Christmas was a special time for us on the farm. It was homecoming. It was feasting. Time for that special orange date nut cake, nuts and fruit. It was gift giving—a red wagon or a baby doll, rabbit fur mittens or a string of pearls. It was singing Christmas carols and participating in the Christmas play at the church, wearing somebody's chenille bathrobe. We looked forward all year to the Christmas celebration.

And we do have cause for celebrating.

The Old Testament mentions several celebrations which God gave to His people. One especially reminds me of our Christmas. It is the feast of Purim, the celebration of Esther's victory over the enemy, Haman, and the salvation of her people.

The statement is "the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor."

Suppose He had not come. Suppose we had a god who did not care, but simply created us and then ignored us. Imagine that we lived in a gray, desperate world, a world without love, without hope, without any ray of light.

Suppose—but, no, it's too awful to think about, isn't it?

Rejoice, for He has turned our sorrow into joy. Any ray of hope, any word of kindness, any touch of love comes to us because God is, holy and righteous, but a God of love.

Who has more cause to celebrate than those of us who look back to the birth of a Savior? Back to a cross? Back to a forsaken tomb? And ahead to a coming King?

How do you celebrate? Some traditions may be dear to you and your family. Maybe you need to start some of your own. Just remember, you have cause for celebrating. You may claim Jesus' victory over the enemy and rejoice in your salvation.

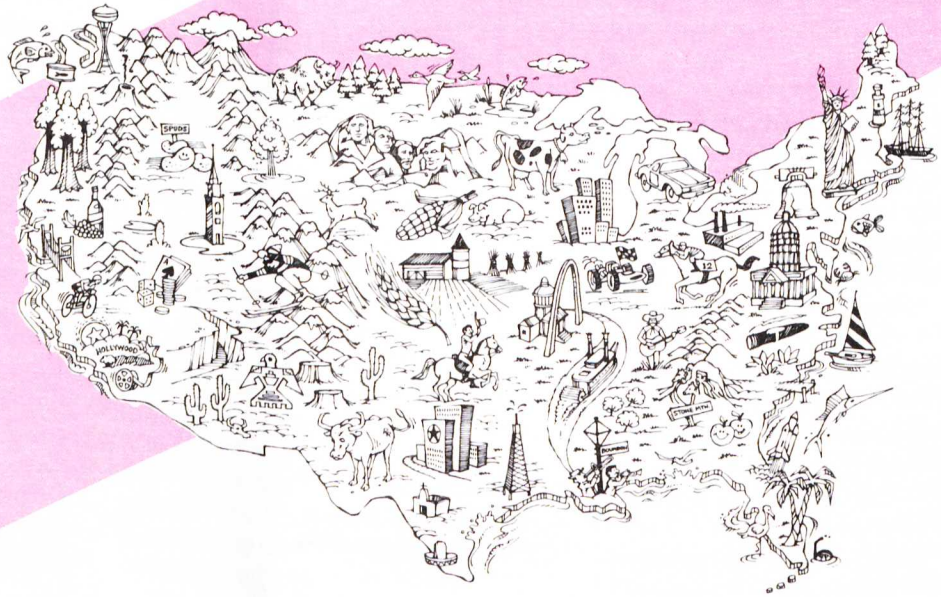
He is a God who cares. He has given us joy, a good day, something to celebrate, something to share.

Merry Christmas!



Mary Ruth Wisehart

I Spell Missions A-M-E-R-I-C-A



Pre-Thanksgiving
Week of Prayer
for
National Home Missions
November 16-20, 1992



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