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CoLaborer

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

Missions 2000

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and
Study Committee Meets

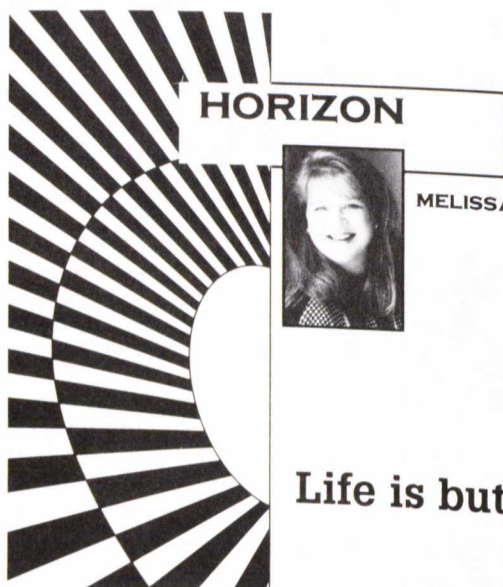
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Are
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MELISSA RIDDLE

Life is but a stage.

The little sign read: "Life is not a dress rehearsal." And I, being an aspiring actress at the time, thought to myself, "how incredibly true!" You see, I was in my sophomore year at FWBCC, and many of my afternoons were spent crawling around on the stage floor in a demon costume trying to get my lines out without "losing character." That year I was a demon, but I lived for the next year, the next stage, when I would have a bigger, better role.

And I did. The next year, the Evangel Players repeated the same play, but I no longer had to be a demon. I actually had a big, fancy costume and more than one line at a time. With this new and improved role, I considered myself more artistic, more stage-worthy, more cultured.

Two years later, when I walked across the stage at graduation, I did so optimistically, knowing that wherever God would lead me, it would be bigger and better than anyplace I had ever been before. And so a year later, I stood on a different stage as a graduate teacher, face to bewildered face with 24 college freshmen who expected their money's worth out of my English class. My afternoons were spent reading and writing and *teaching* reading and writing. I tried to show those state university students the same professionalism, guidance, and love that was shown to me at FWBCC.

There were many days when I questioned why God had placed me there, without my family, without solid Christian friends, without a sense of fulfillment. The stage lights were glaring, and it was hard to see what lay beyond the glare, but I *always knew* that when the time came to leave, God would have something bigger and better for me.

Sometimes I know God must shake His head and think, "Why can't she see the big picture?" We all have the tendency to look at our lives and think that what we are accomplishing is the measuring stick of a successful life. But by thinking that way, we miss the point of II Corinthians 5:14-15. The way we live, not *where we are* or *what we do*, is the ultimate test of God's impact in our lives.

God has put me on a new and very different stage at this point in my life—done—my faithful best. I still see life as a series of stages. But I've come to realize that what we see as bigger and better and what God sees as bigger and better can be two entirely different things. We have to face glaring stage lights wherever we are with a *living, working* faith, knowing that He has his hand on the control panel.

**"The excuses run rampant.
If we simply learn to accept
the responsibility given us
in Acts 1:8 and pray that the
Lord will show us oppor-
tunities everyday to be His
missionary, we will be doing
our part."**

**"I prayed the same
words over and over
again, but my prayers
seemed to be in vain.
Was no one listening?"**

**"Different is Good! Being a
Christian teen demands
that you stay off that
conveyor belt most teens
are sliding down, and be
different."**

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"The Missionary in Your House"

by Annette Dakes

OBJECTIVE: To emphasize that we are all missionaries in God's eyes, and we each have our own mission field to harvest.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 1:8, Matt. 28:18-20

INTRODUCTION: The focus of this program is the reexamining of our personal relationships with Jesus Christ. Without a consistent, daily communication with the Lord, all of our other efforts to advance His kingdom and His cause are in vain. We risk turning our "love" service into "lip" service. Before we can effectively minister in our "mission field," we must first discover the missionary inside us. There are three steps in discovering the "Missionary in Your House": Evaluating [1] your personal prayer life; [2] your Bible study habits; and [3] Evangelizing your mission field.

EVALUATING YOUR PRAYER LIFE:

From the Master Himself, we are given the example to follow as it regards our prayer life (Matthew 6:9-13). Many times Jesus went to be alone to talk with the Father. He understood the importance of constant communication with His Father. Who else knew what Jesus was going through or what His needs were? No one but His Father. Other prayer warriors we can look to as good examples to follow are Daniel, Moses, Elijah, David, and Paul. All of these men were consistent and effectual communicators with God.

If you have listened to many of our foreign and home missionaries speak, you have no doubt heard them talk about the necessity of time spent alone with God in Bible study and prayer.

Their prayer times are times of strength renewing and courage building, weapons with which to face foreign lands, unknown cultures, and often difficult circumstances.

Although we may feel secure in and familiar with our mission fields, prayer is just as essential for us. Maybe even more so because this security often causes us to become lazy and unconcerned with our prayer lives. We have many other people to rely on--family and friends, church fellowship, etc.--so we often neglect our most important relationship. Our prayer fellowship with God must take precedence over other times of fellowship.

The following suggestions will help you to keep the communication line with the Father open and busy: [1] Pray the same time everyday--a quiet time when you will not be disturbed; [2] Keep an ongoing written list of prayer requests; [3] Pray before and after your study time; [4] Praise God for at least one specific thing everyday; [5] Pray when you feel compelled to pray--the urging you sense from the Holy Spirit may be helping someone through trials we know nothing about at the time; [6] Pray anytime, anyplace you want or need to.

EVALUATING YOUR BIBLE STUDY HABITS:

Reading and studying the Bible is another often mentioned element in our missionaries' daily routines. Bible study and prayer work hand-in-hand and are the mainstay of missionaries while on the field and off. In foreign lands, Bible study literature is limited, so they use whatever resources they brought with them to the field.

However, the information and re-

sources available to us are limitless. In almost every town, and in every city, there are bookstores that carry all types of commentaries, concordances, study guides, and self-help and inspirational books. But we wander around wondering why our Bible study practices are lacking excitement; we seem to think the missionaries have something "extra."

***"An effective prayer life
will open the locked
doors of your
neighbors."***

We tend to look at every aspect of missionaries' lives and think they have a certain "specialness" that we "average joes" lack, but in reality, they are sons and daughters, wives and husbands just like the rest of us. The main difference between us is simply that because the missionaries are away from friends, family, and the fellowship of a home church, they see the need to depend wholly on the Lord for both physical and spiritual provisions.

In the comfort (and often craziness) of our homes, we have too many distractions that take us away from this important realization. Regardless, in the Christian life, without a conscious effort to commune with God through His Word, there can be no spiritual growth. II Timothy 2:15 puts it this way: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of God."



EVALUATING THE MISSION FIELD:

The third step in being a missionary is naturally fulfilling the great commission in Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:18-20: "And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"; "Go ye therefore and teach all nations...."

Luke, the writer of Acts, traveled extensively throughout the regions he mentions, and though he called none of them his true homeland (he was from Greece), these lands were home to him at some time. Verse 19 in Matthew 28, Greek translation, reads "And as you go..." teach, suggesting that wherever you *can* share the gospel of Christ, you *should*-- in Africa, in Japan, in Arizona, in Mexico, at your job, with your neighbors, at the grocery store, even on the telephone.

"Homeland" Christians sometimes have the misconception that missionaries preach, teach, start churches, and not much else. The truth of the matter is that missionaries have to cook, clean house, do laundry, and raise their children, along with their "job" as missionaries--and while speaking a second language, dealing with disease, and tearing down cultural barriers. Even the most simple tasks can become almost impossible with those obstacles.

For us, the obstacles are few, but the excuses run rampant. If we simply learn to accept the responsibility given us in Acts 1:8 and pray that the Lord will show us opportunities everyday to be His missionary, we will be doing our part.

The first place to begin, however, is at home. Our loved ones are the most important people in our lives. Setting a good example is the best way to win the

lost in our families. Be sincere in your efforts, but make sure your actions are speaking loudly in the right way. A consistent prayer and Bible study time, and the fruits of it in your life, will show them how Christ works in you.

**"You may be only
a speck of light in the
darkness, but
one speck can help."**

The next place of service and witness is in our neighborhoods. Start with one home at a time, getting to know them. Something as simple as a friendly note or an offer of fresh vegetables from a home garden can do wonders in developing a relationship with your neighbors. Pray for them and the building of these relationships, that the Lord will help you to be the kind of friend they need. An effective prayer life will open the locked doors of your neighbors and open your eyes to the opportunities to share Christ.

From there, the field broadens into the community and the workplace. There are boundless areas of service in our communities that go untapped by Christians. There are state and local agencies that need volunteers, but too often we think, "It isn't a Christian organization; I shouldn't be a part of that."

Exactly: most of them aren't Christian organizations, but we are to represent Jesus wherever we are, and doesn't it make sense to take Jesus where He is not? You may be only a speck of light in the darkness, but one speck can help someone find his way. Everyday, be the kind of worker and citizen Christ would

be. Let unbelievers see in you a reason for seeking out Christ.

CONCLUSION: The apostle Paul gives us the secret of being a missionary in Philippians 4:11: "For I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Some of us dreamed of exotic, faraway lands to conquer for Christ and are having to learn to be content with diapers and a 9 to 5 job. Others are learning to be content in unfamiliar lands with unfamiliar languages and cultures. But when we receive Christ in our lives, we share a common calling with all other Christians: to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those around us. Whether it is here, there, or yonder, we all have the same mission, which makes us all missionaries. Take the time to thank God daily for your calling, and welcome to the mission field! ❖



Annette Dakes, of Newcastle, Oklahoma, is a former kindergarten teacher and mother of two. She, along with husband Larry, are active in the Newcastle FWB Church.



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Purpose: to give an overview of a lost world; to show the future of missions in this lost world; to challenge the women to have a part in reaching this lost world

Narrator 1: Missions 2000. Is this the era of Christ's return? Should He delay His coming, what should we expect God to do in our missions program in the next century?

Narrator 4: What is our part in fulfilling His last Great Commission to go into all the world and make disciples of every creature?

(Five women from audience give one of the great commissions as recorded in Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:48,49; John 20:21; and Acts 1:8.)

Narrator 1: The disciples did go forth to the ends of the earth. Today the gospel is being preached in all nations. And where the church has been planted, it is growing like wildfire, reaching across language, racial and cultural barriers to unreached people everywhere.

Narrator 2: He's sending Navajo missionaries to the Laplanders,

Narrator 3: and European Gypsy believers to Madagascar and Argentina.

Narrator 2: He blasted open the Iron Curtain

Narrator 3: and is riddling China and Latin America with a searing spiritual hunger.

MISSIONS 2000

Compiled and Adapted by Lorene Miley
for the 1992 WNAC Retreat

Narrator 4: God has raised up Surinam missionaries to go to the Muslims of North Africa

Narrator 2: Chinese believers to settle among unreached Tibetans

Narrator 3: thousands of Indian evangelists to target the 2000 unreached ethnic groups within India.

Narrator 1: The Good News is breaking loose worldwide! He is setting the stage for His return.

(offstage voice from audience, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

Narrator 1: Church Planting will continue to take priority on many of our mission fields.

Narrator 1: And the church, whether it be in America or Africa, is charged with the responsibility of making disciples of all peoples.

Narrator 4: The church should be a missionary-sending church.

Narrator 1: Reaching people where they are. Sharing God's love in crowded cities, remote villages, in hospitals and schools.

Narrator 2: Helping them learn to read, to know God, to farm, to help themselves.

Narrator 3: Caring for them. Sharing our love, touching their lives.

Narrator 2: Watching them come to know Jesus Christ personally and become spiritually mature.

Narrator 4: Training them so they can continue reaching people.

Narrator 4: Now they are approaching the missions for help. They ask for Bibles.

Narrator 2: Russia is now printing Bibles when before they wouldn't let them in.

Narrator 4: They are even starting their own missionary sending agencies.

Narrator 2: Romania already has a Romanian Missionary Alliance

Narrator 3: and Far East Broadcasting Company is hoping to set up a Christian radio station inside the country.

Reaching the Women

Narrator 1: Friendship evangelism is the only avenue to the women in many non-Christian nations or the world.

Narrator 3: Women are in the minority because from birth they are undervalued.

Narrator 2: In many countries there is a historic preference for boy children. Deliberate, negligent, or accidental death of baby girls is condoned.

Narrator 3: Abortion of female fetuses is a growing phenomenon.

Narrator 4: The woman in most third world countries is "poor, pregnant and powerless."

Narrator 1: These women cannot be reached by male evangelists, nor can they, if illiterate, be reached by the printed word.

Narrator 4: But they can be reached by other women.

Narrator 1: What can you do? Can you go? Can you send your daughter or granddaughter?

Tentmaking

Narrator 1: The population growth of Planet Earth now is skyrocketing as never before.

Narrator 4: Ten billion people have lived on this planet through all history.

Narrator 2: By the year 2000 world population will reach about 6.26 billion.

Narrator 3: It's an incredible time of opportunity for completing the Great Commission!

Narrator 2: They receive all or the greatest portion of their income from a secular source in that country.

Narrator 1: Tentmakers point to two Biblical models and early church history for support.

Narrator 3: According to the Gospels, Jesus was a carpenter.

Narrator 4: Jesus was a tentmaker.

Narrator 2: While the Apostle Paul received some remuneration for his ministry from churches, he also made tents to support himself as he traveled on his missionary journeys. Other early Christian ministers followed suit.

Narrator 4: They were tentmakers.

(Spotlight on four who come out representing occupations that are needed on mission fields today.)

Narrator 4: Tentmakers. They save mission boards money. They make contributions to local churches, and they reach people who might not be reached otherwise. Tentmaking--the wave of the future.

Ministry with Internationals

Narrator 1: Internationals are washing up on our shores in droves.

Narrator 4: As more and more American lands and businesses are being taken over by foreign corporations, more and more of their own people come to run them.

Narrator 2: We live in a shrinking world as nations become more interdependent.

Narrator 1: No longer are cross-cultural relations or missions the domain of those few who cross the ocean; they may be just across the street.

You can be anywhere on the globe in 24 hours. We have the tools. We can evangelize the world.

Narrator 4: If there was ever a time to be alive on this planet called Earth it is today.

Narrator 1: Some parts of the globe, however, are yet closed to conventional means of evangelism. Missionaries are not admitted.

Narrator 4: Forces are in place to resist Christianity.

Narrator 3: Christian witness is almost impossible.

Narrator 2: These countries may be Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, or Communist.

Narrator 1: For these countries tentmaking may be the answer.

Narrator 1: Tentmakers are professionals who go to a country usually not open to the traditional missionary.

A. I represent education—all levels from kindergarten to university teaching, and most classroom subjects, along with vocational training, special education, library science and media. English language teaching is needed everywhere.

B. I represent those involved in health care, agriculture, sciences, engineering and technology. Many foreign countries value our expertise in building, water resources, petroleum, pharmaceuticals, computers and communications.

C. I represent managers, printers, journalists, nutritionists, and those involved in law, music, travel and tourism.

D. I represent those tentmakers who set up their own businesses, construction, electronics, food processing or manufacturing. Tentmakers have access to people through their secular work that other ministers could rarely, if ever, contact.

Narrator 3: We have more than 350,000 citizens temporarily in the United States on educational assignments, representing more than 180 nations and political areas of the world.

Narrator 2: In addition, thousands of other visitors annually participate in one government exchange program or another.

Narrator 4: Many of these students will become leaders in their own countries.

Narrator 2: They will return to positions of strategic importance.

Narrator 3: Some of these international students come from areas which are closed to missionaries.

Narrator 4: What an opportunity we have to evangelize the international in

[cont. on page 23]



Porch Sale

by
Louisa Godissart McQuillen

It was going to be a nice day, the kind one hopes for when they're trying to sell no longer needed items. Just after dawn I tied a yellow poster to the wrought-iron rail: "Porch Sale—90% Goes to Missions. Please Help!"

I stood back and looked at the wording, wondering if it looked like I was trying to blow my own horn. I wasn't; I just thought people might better support the sale if they knew proceeds were going for a worthy cause. Earlier I almost shrank from asking Pastor Ferguson to announce it. Such announcements just aren't given from the pulpit in our church. But this one was different. "Sure!" he exclaimed.

I was filling the coffee butler when my niece came in the back door. "Want some coffee, Deb?" "Not now, but I'll be back," she said, heading for the porch. A true connoisseur of porch/garage/yard sales, she swooped up several items and I realized I'd just made my first sale of the day. Not much of a sale maybe, but enough to cause \$ signs to form in front of my eyes!

Things I never dreamed people would want sold easily. Nickels, dimes, and quarters grew into dollars. By noon I was weary—I needed a break. Since no one was around, I went in to lie on the couch a few minutes, not knowing how long I'd have until the crowd started again. But only several people straggled in all afternoon. Saturday wasn't much better. Almost all the real goodies had sold out in the first four hours.

During the slow periods, I thought about some of my patrons, like the woman with Cleopatra-styled hair dyed a strange shade between black and burnt apple. There was an obvious frailty about her as she sorted through the mint condition clothing pile for blouses. She didn't look well at all, and I suspected she had little income to better herself. I'd just marked everything down to 10 cents before she came. Her timing was perfect.

**"God came through
for all of us.
Doesn't He always?"**

"I had a mastectomy and nothing fits well over my left breast," she explained. Her pride seemed to be as fragile as she was or I'd have just given her whatever she needed. She seemed pleased to be getting real bargains. I was pleased too. "Let me help," I offered, holding up a sleeve as she slipped one arm into it. We were the same size; the blouse fit like it was custom made for her. Reluctantly, I took her dimes and helped carry her things to the car. After she left, I wished we'd talked about more important needs than physical ones. "Do you know, little sister, who I suspect kept those clothes here just for you?" I murmured, my eyes suddenly misting.

Other customers drifted through my mind. Like Tina. She and her mother were looking for a crib for the baby that lay fast asleep in this very

young mother's arms. Tina's eyes lit up. "Here's one, Mom!" she exclaimed to the older woman.

Then she looked at me hopefully. "Is 20 dollars ok?" I asked her, recalling the days when I too had carried my baby son in my arms. I'd been fortunate. Dad bought me a new crib when little Pat and I moved back home after my failed marriage. Tina was fortunate too: "Twenty dollars sounds like a good price," her mother agreed.

Tina had as many needs as I once had. She was trying to pay for a car and all the things a young mother with a baby needs. "Does your husband work at State College?" I asked. Why I mentioned that, I couldn't say; but I had a feeling I'd sell the crib cheaper. "I'm not married—I live with my parents," Tina answered. I sold them the whole crib for 10 dollars. All of it wouldn't fit in the car, so they took the mattress, and Tina's mom came back later for the rest. Puffing and pushing, she battled it. Finally the springs snapped straight out and down in place behind the front seat. Relieved, the older woman was beaming: "There, it went in!" she said. I returned her smile. "Well, we knew it would, didn't we?"

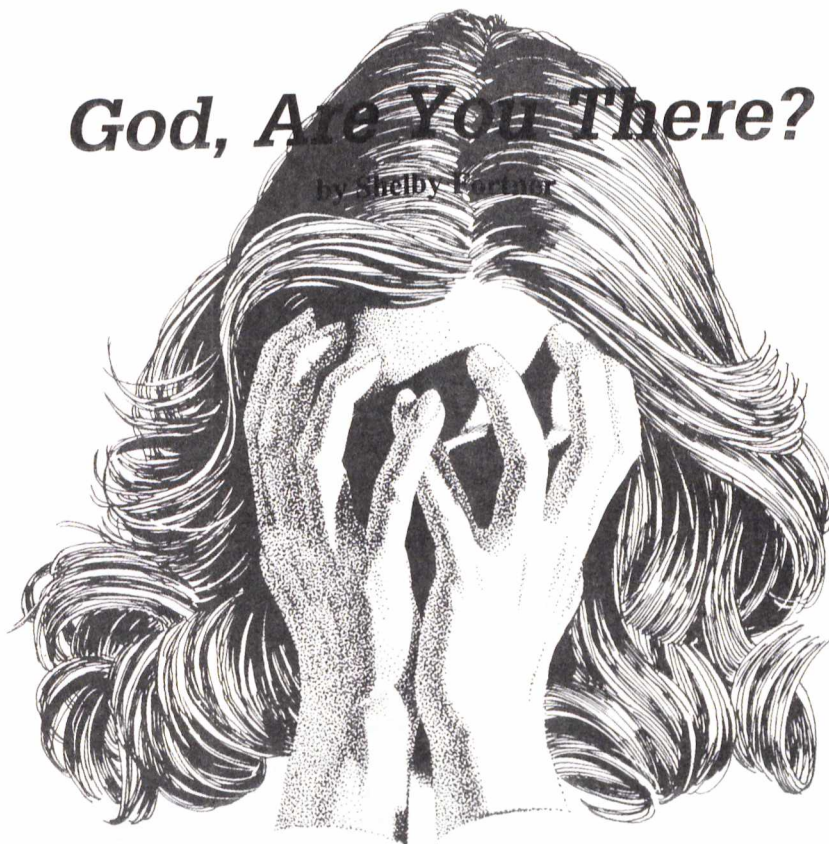
Late Saturday afternoon, time to quit, my missions porch sale got its last customers when a couple named Nettie and John stopped by. Their daughter Susie, 21 and severely handicapped, lay smiling at us from the rear of their station wagon. Bright-eyed and alert,

CROSSWINDS:

Facing the Everyday Currents
that Blow Defeat and Discouragement
Into Our Walk with God.

God, Are You There?

by Shelby Fortner



Often there are times in our lives when we are given an opportunity to re-evaluate our thinking and our priorities. That time came in my life. I looked around at my crumbling world and asked, "God, are you there?"

I had become discouraged with my job of six years. Although I had, for most of that time, enjoyed my job and took pride in my performance, organizational changes had made my situation there unbearable. I was having marital problems at home, and the dissatisfaction on my job compounded the already heavy load I was carrying.

After about a year of trying to cope with the storm clouds surrounding my life, the pressures began to close in on me. My job was more than I could tolerate. Extra duties had been added to my already excessive work load. My marriage was getting worse. Physically and mentally, I was a wreck. I prayed the same prayers over and over, but my prayers seemed to be in vain. Was no one listening?

I sought counseling from my pastor to get an objective opinion as to what was happening to me. The counseling helped, and I be-

gan to evaluate myself, but the problems did not go away. I thought about quitting my job. I thought, "Maybe the Lord has something else in mind for me?" I continued to pray, asking the Lord to show me beyond a shadow of a doubt what He wanted me to do.

On a Thursday in October, I received the answer. I was called into my supervisor's office and after some discussion, it was decided that perhaps I should seek other employment. No, there was no complaint with my work, but things just weren't working out. I

felt this was an answer to prayer: maybe I was on my way to finding God's will for my life.

The "vacation" was very rewarding. I had time to take care of my home and devote more time to my family's needs. I also had the opportunity to do some volunteer work at the church. Still, I worried about our financial situation. How would we make it without a second income?

The worry engulfed me, and the more I prayed, the more depressed and despondent I became. I began to ask, "If there really is a God, where is He? Maybe things just happen, and there is nothing we can do. Maybe life really is controlled by fate. If you are there, God, let me know."

**I prayed the same words
over and over again,
but my prayers
seemed to be in vain.
Was no one listening?**



One week later, as I was driving my 7-year-old Sean to school 10 miles away, God showed me He is not only alive, but also that He is still in control. It was raining. The 8 o'clock work traffic was heavy. The visibility was poor. As we neared the turnoff to the school, a car pulled directly into my path. I saw him come across four lanes of traffic, yet I was helpless to stop what was happening.

It happened so fast, and yet I saw the whole thing in slow motion. I remember trying to reach for Sean who was in the front seat. No seat belt! Why hadn't I remembered to stop and adjust

the seat belt for him? I knew we were going to crash, and there was nothing I could do to prevent it. On impact, I heard Sean scream. I grabbed him, looking for injuries. He was bleeding from the mouth, but a closer examination showed only a small cut in his lip.

Neither of us was seriously injured that day—just the car suffered real damage. The other vehicle involved was totaled, the driver requiring several stitches. Sean's head had struck the windshield and shattered it. The paramedics couldn't believe he was not hurt and shook their heads in unbelief when they found in the front seat of the car a baseball hard hat that Sean had been wearing at the time of the accident. He had never worn that hat to school before, but because it was raining that morning, he had asked permission to wear it. It was the one thing that kept him from being seriously injured or perhaps even killed. Sean went to school that morning, but I went back home.

Alone and badly shaken, I had time to think. I took my Bible down and turned to Psalm 46. There I read, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Yes, He had been there. He had felt the outcry of my heart. He had felt the need for assurance of an everpresent God. He had felt the crash and had kept both Sean and me from danger. But most importantly, through the crash, a shattered windshield, and a little boy's baseball hat, He had shown me that He was God, and He was still in control.

Sean came to me that night, put his arms around me, and with the wisdom of a 7-year-old child said, "Mama, God told me to wear that hat this morning, and I don't ever disobey God." Did God really speak to Sean? I believe He did—through the subconscious of an obedient child

who had the time to listen. Where does it say, "...except ye become as little children"? How many times has God used this small servant to minister to me? But then again, the Bible does tell us that "a little child shall lead them." The lessons of God are often best taught by those too young to be bogged down with the world and its chaos.

That lesson in the presence and power of God was learned more than ten years ago. I have learned to listen as well as to ask. I know now that God wanted me to be out of work for several months, so He could teach me to rely on Him for my needs. He wanted and He wants us to "be still and know that [He] is God." Since then, God has provided a new job, new challenges, and new opportunities to minister to others.

And Sean? He is still God's messenger. He graduates from Inman Christian Academy this year and will attend Bob Jones University in the fall. The Lord is using him in special ways to reach others with the gospel. Praise His Name! ❖



Shelby Fortner and her husband Clarence live in Inman, SC, and attend the First FWB Church there. She is a secretary for Beverage-Air Corporate office in Spartanburg.

Appointed to Pray

The following questions were asked at the Fall Retreat in Ridgecrest, North Carolina. While on furlough, Bessie Richards, missionary to Africa, was gracious enough to answer them. The Richards returned to Cote d' Ivoire in January of this year. These answers will give you a better idea of how to pray for and give to our missionaries. Consider these issues during your Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions.

Q: What are your most depressing times of the year?

A: For me personally, dry season in Africa is the most depressing. From November to March, no rain falls, and a heavy cloud of dust hangs in the air.

In spite of our attempts at good housekeeping, dust remains a constant, unwanted guest. There is a lot of illness during this time, especially respiratory infections and meningitis. Even the Africans are depressed during this time.

Q: How do you deal with disease?

A: Africa is a land of many diseases and limited medical facilities. We missionaries use certain hygienic measures such as filtering drinking water, soaking fruits and vegetables in a bleach solution, and washing hands frequently to help us avoid some tropical parasites. Malaria is a constant threat, but anti-malaria drugs taken regularly give us some protection.

In recent years, AIDS has reached epidemic proportions in Cote d' Ivoire. We have to be extremely cautious when caring for the sick or receiving medical help from public medical facilities.

All of the missionaries in Africa keep a supply of basic medicines in their homes and have learned to diagnose and treat most common diseases.

Q: Do you have a dream of how we could support our missionaries without them having to go on deputation while on furlough?

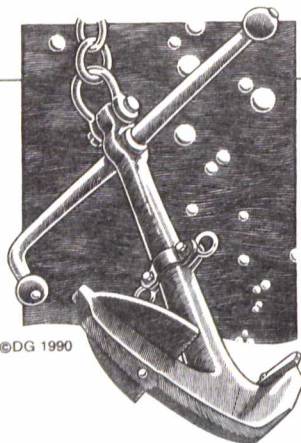
A: It would be wonderful to come home without the burden of fundraising. We want to share with supporters all that God is doing on the field, but the 30-40,000 miles we have to travel to raise money is very difficult. What is the solution? Perhaps some of the plans used by other denominations would be effective. I know that if we followed God's plan of giving—each Christian giving a tithe of all God has given him/her—funds would be sufficient for both foreign and home missionaries.

Even though 1.7 billion dollars is given to various missionary organizations yearly in the U.S., people still spend twice that amount on cat food. If our supporters could visit the field and meet those who have come to know Christ as a result of their giving, they would know that every cent of their investment reaps heavenly treasures.

Q: We know you need our prayers and finances, but outside of these, what are the two most needed things we can do for you?

A: First, the provision closet is very important to all of us. Also, the personal showers given to us while on furlough have met many of our needs. Your cards and letters are so encouraging, and they remind us that you care. Often our mailbox would be empty except for the mail from you Auxiliary ladies.

I want to take this opportunity to express our love and appreciation for those with whom we correspond, those whom we've met on furlough, as well as those whom we've never met. Through your letters, gifts, and the provision closet, you have clothed and fed our family for the 26 years we've been with the Foreign Missions Department. Some of you "adopted" our sons when they returned to the States for college. The list is endless of all you've done. So please do not feel that your role in missions is small and unimportant. We need you!❖



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I Timothy 4: Part I

Spiritual Discernment

Review: Chapter 1 presented the charge given to Timothy by Paul. This charge was to allow only the teaching of "sound doctrine." Chapter 2 stressed the woman's role in church order and gave identifying characteristics in church life. Chapter 3 listed the qualifications needed by candidates for the office of bishop, elder, and deacon.

4:1 "Now the _____ speaketh expressly that, in the _____ times, some shall _____ from the faith, giving heed to _____ spirits, and doctrines of _____." Apostasy, or the falling away of a professed believer, is predicted often in the New Testament, by Jesus as well as Paul and others. This verse describes the teachers as "seducing spirits." By cunning, guile, duplicity and deception, they lure men and women, young and old, away from the truth of the gospel as taught in Scripture. These teachers then teach their disciples "doctrines of devils." Satan always counterfeits God's truth and has a host of demons to help carry out his deception.

Operation Opposition:

4:2,3 "Speaking lies in _____, having their conscience _____ with a hot iron, forbidding to _____, and commanding to _____ from meats (foods), which God hath created to be received with _____ by them who believe and know the truth." As instruments of Satan, these teachers have dedicated themselves to heresy. They are hypocritical liars with no sense of the wrongness of their actions,

their minds having been "seared" to exclude truth. Ephesians 4:19 characterizes them as being "past feeling." Forbidding marriage and certain foods are two of the anti-Scriptural creeds taught.

4:4,5 "For every _____ of God is good, and _____ to be refused, if it is received with _____: for it is _____ by the word of God and _____." The phrase "with thanksgiving" is important because all God's gifts are good and should be received in this manner.

Remind Them!

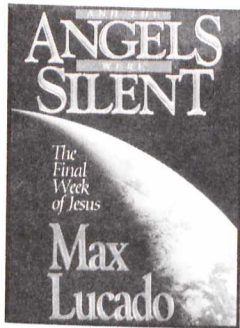
4:6 "If thou put the brethren in _____ of these things, thou shalt be a good _____ of Jesus Christ, _____ up in the words of faith and of _____ doctrine, unto which thou hast attained." This is a personal directive to Timothy by Paul but is equally applicable to all ministers as overseers of flocks. We all need to be "reminded" of the words of faith and good doctrine. They are spiritual nourishment. Peter addressed this need and its alternative in 1 Peter 1:4-10. The neglect of God's word in a progressive spiritual growth pattern can lead to apathy.

4:7,8 "But _____ profane and old wives _____, and _____ thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth _____, but _____ is profitable unto all things, having _____ of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." Fables are fictitious stories. False teaching is certainly fictitious and becomes more deadly when

administered with a smidgen of truth. Spiritual discernment is required. Paul uses the illustration of bodily exercise to make a comparison between physical and spiritual discipline. The physical side does have some profit but is limited to the lifespan. However, spiritual exercise profits the believer both here and hereafter. All exercise, to be profitable, cannot be a one time shot or a hit-and-miss attempt. This is true also of exercise unto godliness (God-like-ness). Review the "add-to's" in I Peter 1:5-8. Sorry—there is no shortcut.

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss backsliding to the point of apostasy. What factors contribute to this deadly downward slide? Why is it extremely difficult and unlikely that such a one will return to full fellowship with the Lord?
2. Are there any religious creeds taught for truth that you know to be anti-Scriptural? How about misquoting verses, taking them out of context, or quoting an old adage and assigning it to the Bible because it sounds good?
3. Name some ways we can be reminded of Biblical principles we have previously studied. Have you ever had the experience of being reminded by the Holy Spirit of a verse at just the right time for a particular situation?
4. How does a believer acquire "spiritual discernment"?
5. Share your particular plan for personal Bible reading and Bible study. Are these the same thing? If not, what is the difference? ❖



And the Angels Were Silent

by Max Lucado
Multnomah
Portland, Oregon
1992 260 pages

Reviewer: Gladys Gragg

"Ever feel like you're racing downhill on a runaway bike, and you don't remember how to brake? Ever feel the wheels of your life racing faster and faster as your speed past the people you love? Could you use a reminder on how to slow it all down? If so, read what Jesus did during the last Sabbath of His life."

Just when I thought Max Lucado had written his best book ever, he came out with *And the Angels Were Silent*. This book describes the events that take place during the last week in the life of Christ. A study guide at the end of the book makes it ideal for individual or group study.

Max Lucado begins each chapter with a human interest story and then relates the events preceding the crucifixion. He closes each chapter with a spiritual emphasis that enhances the stories he began with. The stories he tells about circumstances in the lives of his family, his friends, and his church make his writing more personal.

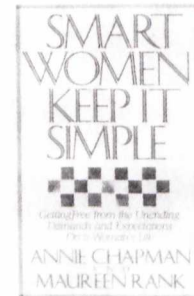
Once you start reading *And the Angels Were Silent*, it is very difficult to put it down. Even Lucado's writing style—his use of short, choppy sentences—makes you think in ways you never have before. The chapter titles reach out and grab the reader's attention: "Ugly Religion"; "Risky Love"; "Uncluttered Faith"; and "I Recons I Will Always Remember That Walk".

Lucado sets the stage for understanding the crucifixion: "No, the journey to Jerusalem didn't begin in Jericho. It didn't begin in Galilee. It didn't begin in Nazareth. It didn't even begin in Bethlehem. The journey to the cross began long before. As the echo of the crunching of the fruit was still sounding in the garden, Jesus was leaving for Calvary." In the chapter "Ugly Religion," he discusses how the church loses sight of what is important: "[Ugly religion] happens when a church spends more time discussing the style of its sanctuary than it does the needs of the hungry. It happens when the brightest minds of the church occupy themselves with dull controversies rather than majestic truths. It happens when a church is known more for its stance on an issue than its reliance upon God."

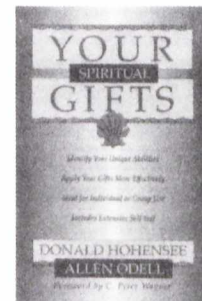
This book transports the reader to Jerusalem to walk with Jesus during his final days, pausing along the way to apply the events happening there to our modern-day existence. Through this walk, we learn why the angels were silenced. It was not because they wanted to be but because Jesus chose not to enlist their help. He did not call them because He chose to die for you and me. Often, we lose sight of His sacrifice's significance in our lives. This book can help us find that again.

I had the privilege of hearing Max Lucado speak at a local college campus in November of 1992. After hearing his lecture and talking with him in person, I can recommend this and all of his books without reservation. Through his talents and his understanding of truth, we can be awakened to a deeper realization of what Christ did for us when the angels were silent. ♦

Gladys Gragg, of Nashville, is an avid reader of books and the mother of two grown children.



Smart Women Keep It Simple
by Annie Chapman
& Maureen Rank
Bethany House Publishers
\$7.99pb



Your Spiritual Gifts
by Donald Hohnessee
& Allen Odell
Victor Books
\$8.99pb



Women in Neighborhood Evangelism
by Marjorie Stewart
Gospel Publishing
\$1.50pb

You can purchase these books at your local Christian bookstore or through Randall House, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37211.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

During this Easter season, it is especially important to remember the sacrifice Christ made for us on the cross and what an act of LOVE His death and resurrection was and is for us as believers. This love is beyond human understanding, but during this time, and throughout the year, we can cherish His precious gift of love. Paul's prayer for the Ephesian church is one worth knowing by heart.

Ephesians 3:14-19

"For this reason I kneel before the Father from whom his whole family in heaven and earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches, he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell richly in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."❖

Poet's Corner

"Africa On His Mind"

Louisa Godissart McQuillen

The land of Africa is in my blood,
Its people and its creatures in my heart;
To speak to me about the land of Africa
Commands my rapt attention from the start.

For whether drought or rains or hunger come,
The culture and the land remains the same;
And I am sent to point toward the One
Who also through the years remains the same.

This love I feel is not of my own will,
But His who chose to send me here in kind;
For when he bled and died upon that cross
I know Africa was on His mind.

"Questions"

Mary Alice Bridgeman

Questions, questions, questions.
There are things I'd like to know.
How did you part the water for Moses long ago?
How did you win the battle with Gideon and his lamp?
How did you start the fire when Elijah made it so damp?
How did you shut the jaws of lions for Daniel in the den?
And in the fiery furnace, Lord, just how did you get in?
When David fought the huge old bear,

I know that you were there.
When Job lost everything he had, he knew you really cared.
Lord, when I've had trials, and it seems I can't go on,
You speak to me with love, and give to me a song.
Oh yes, I still have questions, 'though I don't know why I do.
And with the faith I have Lord, I know you'll see me through each trial and each sorrow, every heartache and each tear.
I know within my heart, Lord, You always will be near.

"Power"

Kathryn Christy

We see great things in this world today as we travel along great highways.
Tall buildings reaching toward the sky,
People living up so high, Automobiles rushing to and fro, Hurrying to places they need to go.
Mighty ariplanes roar so loud as they fly above the snow white clouds.
Massive ships sail the oceans wide,
Fearing neither wind nor tide. Long trains rattle along the rails,
Over the mountains, through the vales.
Great power lines crisscross our land
Bringing electric lights and equipment grand.
But no power on earth can ever compare
To the love of Jesus and the power of prayer.❖



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas • Helps for Auxiliary Officers

Devotion Outline: "Countdown to Calvary"

Purpose:

To review the steps leading to the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.

Scripture:

Hebrews 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Suggested Songs: At the Cross, I Know that My Redeemer Liveth

I. Introduction

If you have ever watched a countdown prior to the launch of a missile or space shuttle, you are familiar with the term "T-minus" and then a number.

When an event is scheduled for a specific time, the counting begins backward and goes to zero--the exact time the event is to take place. Today we want to recall the events leading to the sacrifice for our salvation--the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. To help us remember, let's have a "Countdown to Calvary."

II. Outline: [This can be explored in groups, instead of in a lecture type setting; divide into groups of 2 or more, discuss the material, and present it to the group]

- A. T-minus 6: His birth (study Matthew 1:18-25 and briefly tell the story)
- B. T-minus 5: His ministry (recall some of the miracles/compassions of Christ from scripture and from life)
- C. T-minus 4: His prayer (read Luke 22:39-41)
- D. T-minus 3: His submission (read Luke 22:42-44)
- E. T-minus 2: His trial (read Matthew 27 and tell the story in your

[cont. on next page]

PRESIDENT:

Reminders: March 1st is the deadline for WNAC's Creative Arts Contest. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase the talents of your ladies, so encourage them to enter. Also, plan ahead with your MissionPrayer chairperson for the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer. Talk to your pastor about scheduling it on a Sunday or Wednesday night, and make it a time of involvement for the entire church. Set a goal for your Easter offering, and encourage 100% participation. For resources, see the Week of Prayer material in this issue of *Co-Laborer* (pages 11, 29-30).

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Consider these questions as you think about enlistment: Does your Auxiliary include women of all ages? Are young women involved in your activities? Are senior adult women made to feel welcome? If the answer to any of these questions is "no," you made need to begin bridging the generation gap. Here are some suggestions for beginning this necessary process:

1. Ask current members to suggest ways they can interest all women to become involved (new activities; how to add variety; changing time and place of meetings; how to use the talents of younger women; providing babysitting without charge; new ideas for ministry in the community).
2. Survey younger and older women who do not come to Auxiliary to find out what activities/ministries appeal to them.
3. Be positive, even excited, in your presentation of enlistment ideas to make the women more comfortable with the prospect of change. With the input of new members (young or old), the routine will probably be less routine. Ah, growing pains.
4. Work hard at blending the activities of women of all ages--using women of various ages to lead/take part in your meetings and activities.
5. Compliment publicly the accomplishments, both in church and out, of your women. Recognize all efforts, great and small.
6. Make enlistment a matter of prayer, remembering that it takes time and effort and wisdom which God gives generously to those who ask for it (James 5:1).

MISSION STUDY CHAIRMAN:

The Easter season is an excellent time for beginning a study group using Max Lucado's book *And the Angels Were Silent*. You will find the book review of this work in Book Highlights on page 22. Each chapter has a study guide, and if the price of the book is prohibitive, purchase one book, and the group could read a chapter at a time together and then work through the study guide.

Also, if you or someone in your Auxiliary or church is a "reading fanatic," the type of person to read everything she can get her hands on, perhaps you should begin a Reading Chain or Roundtable. Spread the word to see how many would be interested, compose a list of books that your women own and that would be suitable for growing Christians, and then devise a plan for circulating these

[Mission Study cont.]

books among your women.

Another idea you may want to present to your Auxiliary is the "Missionary Circulating Library." There are many resources available through the Foreign Missions office. A plan for this circulating library was published in the March/April 1990 issue of *Co-Laborer*, and if you would like a copy, just write or call the WNAC office.

MISSION PRAYER CHAIRMAN:

Use the prayer calendar on pages 29-30 or order them from the Foreign Missions office to guide your Auxiliary through the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer. Some ways to implement these calendars are: set up a prayer partner system, pairing together women in your group, to meet together (in person or by phone) and pray specifically for the needs listed; start a missions prayer group that will meet regularly to continue this prayer emphasis. Set up groups of 2-3 women and give specific prayer assignments--missionaries by name (home and foreign), mission works by country, new workers, foreign governments, national workers, and mission church outreach.

Also, using a FWB Foreign Missions map, you and your women can pray geographically: pray for countries alphabetically, according to the colors on the map, according to latitude and longitude. Whatever method of praying for missions you choose to lead your women in, encourage all to pray specifically, using scriptures that speak about the importance and power of prayer and including as many individuals and mission works as possible.

Pray for the missionaries that they might have: contentment--Philippians 4:11; discipline--II Timothy 1:7; serenity--Psalm 131:2; the qualities in Colossians 3:12; godly counsel--Psalm 1:1; and quiet trust--Isaiah 30:15.

In the monthly meeting, you may want to use the mini-play *Lucy and Margie Talk About Prayer* on page D of the Springboard (Helps) section. In it, there is a humorous and all too often true lesson about how and what to pray.

MISSION ACTION CHAIRMAN:

Are the women in your Auxiliary ACTIVELY looking for ways to serve? Laura Belle Barnard once said, "We have no right to the 'Come Ye' unless we are ready to obey the 'Go Ye.'" Every Christian can be a missionary in prayer, in purse, and in person. The field is the world.... And all too often we forget that "the world" begins out our own back door. Volunteerism has received a lot of press attention over the past few years due to the President Bush's emphasis on "A Thousand Points of Light." For Christians, the great commission can begin with volunteerism. In your Auxiliary meeting, discuss volunteerism: what it is and how it fulfills the great commission. Make a few phone calls and find out what the needs are in your church, in your community. Present your findings along with ideas of how to get involved. It is time to get past the rut of "making and taking" things to various people in need. People need us to spend our time, to give of ourselves--time is irreplaceable and therefore is priceless. How many priceless gifts can we give? Share with your women the three C's of Mission Action: Compassion to care. Courage to reach out. Conviction that unless we ACT, people will be unreached with the message and love of Christ.

Here are some practical ways to venture into the "backyard mission field":

1. Regularly call the elderly/sick in your church to see if they need any errands run or just to chat.
2. Collect canned goods through food drives to give to needy families or local food banks.
3. Be an encourager: write or call one person a week with an encouraging word or scripture.
4. Volunteer to read/visit with those in nursing homes; call in advance for information.
5. Teach reading for a literacy organization in your area--yes, if you can read well, you can teach someone to read.
6. Check in to serving at homeless shelters and crisis pregnancy centers.
7. Start a clothing drive, and donate all that is collected to a shelter for the homeless or have a missions yard/porch sale and give the proceeds to missions (see the article "Porch Sale" on page 26).
8. Reach out to

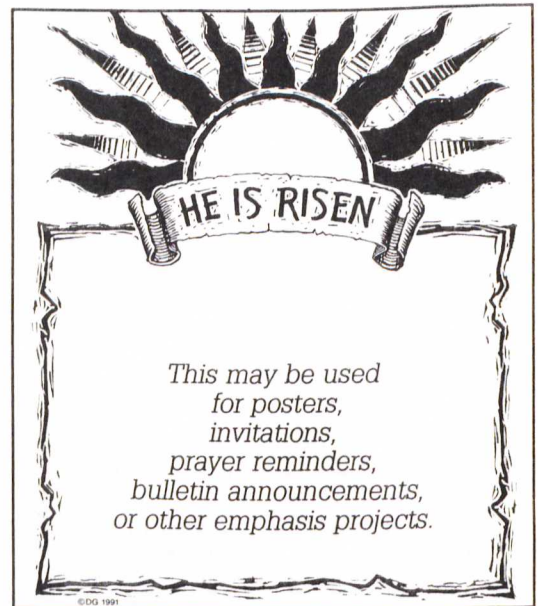
[cont. on next page]

[Devotion Outline cont.]

- F. T-minus 1: His cross (examine John 19:13-42 and tell the story in your own words)
- G. Zero (Launch): "It Is Finished" (read Mark 15:34-38)

III. Conclusion

The sacrifice was made, but that is not the end of the story. Christ taught His Resurrection and yet His followers did not fully understand it until He revealed Himself to them in person. Tell the story of the Resurrection in Luke 24 and rejoice together by singing "Because He Lives." ❖



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Ways to Usher in Spring

Spring is just around the corner and we wait impatiently for its arrival. Here are some ways to make spring seem closer.

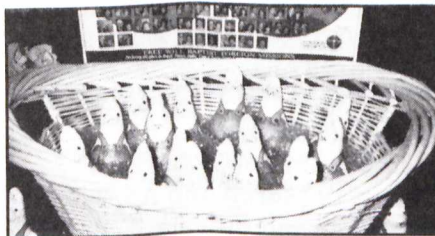
1. Look up into the western sky about mid-evening. Authorities indicate Venus is at its most brilliant as an evening star on March 1st.
2. Clean out your wallet, makeup case, and pocketbook. Discard old tissues, dirty scraps of paper, and leaky or empty pens.
3. Collect the winter clothes you didn't wear this year (and probably never will). Give them to your church clothing fund or some other good cause.
4. Change the perfume you've been wearing.
5. Spray your windows with a water and ammonia solution, then wipe them clean and dry.
6. Keep a bulletin board in your kitchen with schedules and reminders of all you need/plan to do this spring.
7. Choose a different kind of sandwich or salad for lunch.
8. Sit on a park bench with a friend and watch the clouds change formations. Decide what their shapes remind you of.
9. Get something repaired that is broken.
10. Visit someone you haven't seen in a long time.
11. If you are a poor letter writer, send your friends notes on postcards.
12. Get a new pair of sunglasses.
13. Take a child to the zoo.
14. Wear a ribbon in your hair or a bright new scarf.
15. Consider a new hairstyle or variation of your present style.
16. Call on an elderly person who lives near you.
17. Treat your favorite person to an ice-cream soda.
18. Wear a bright outfit.
19. Change the station on your clock radio, so you'll wake up to something different in the morning.
20. Plan a vacation.
21. Buy a new plant.
22. Read a psalm or chapter in Proverbs with your Bible study.
23. Set your wake up alarm 30 minutes earlier and enjoy the morning quiet.
24. Volunteer to help with the Actionettes, children's church, or nursery during the spring and summer months.

Which ones are you ready to try? ❖

the divorced/single mothers/parents in your church and neighborhood. 9. Offer 'mother's day out' services to mothers of young children who never have a day free from the children. 10. Now that Spring is here, this is a great time to assist the homebound with window, yard, and closet cleaning and to check on their cooling equipment.

Emphasize to the women that some of these are not as time-consuming as one might think. Taking 2 or 3 hours of t.v. time or even housecleaning time to reach out to those who need our help is not a lot to invest in what can reap heavenly rewards. For food and clothes drives, you can even engage the spirit of competition, dividing into teams and having the least successful (no one loses in this endeavor) team cook dinner for the most successful team. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40❖

March/April Craft Ideas:

**Bring out the Easter Bunnies!**

When the Amory First FWB Women's Auxiliary hosted an Easter celebration for the Christian FWB Auxiliary, each lady was given a special prayer reminder. This herd(?) of rabbits is made from used light bulbs, and cellulose clay which is then painted.

Have you ever seen eggs that can grow hair? Well, it is possible. You will need: 1. eggs 2. tempora paint and brushes 3. tissues or paper towels 4. straight pins 5. alfalfa seeds. All you do is take the number of eggs you want to experiment on, and poke a hole in the ends with a straight pin to drain the egg out (save for cooking--plan to make a huge omelet). Rinse the egg shell through the hole. Then paint the eggs with various faces--you can trace a pattern from just about everywhere--and bows and bowties (optional). Once they are dry, remove the top of the egg--about 1/2 to 3/4 inch from top--ever so gently. Place a wet paper towel or tissue inside the shell, and sprinkle a few alfalfa seeds on top of that. Within a matter of days, the egghead will begin to grow alfalfa hair!

Jello, It's Not Just for Kids. If your Auxiliary group is having a special time of food with its fellowship, jello eggs make a colorful, edible addition to your table. Here is how it is done: Make a small hole at each end of the egg shell and shake the egg out (save eggs for cooking). Rinse shell with cold water and drain. When dry, cover one hole with tape and fill egg shell with one of the following gelatin mixtures. Refrigerate upright. Flavor One: dissolve 1 package of strawberry gelatin with 2/3 cup hot water, add 1 cup hot water and 1 cup pineapple juice. Flavor Two: dissolve 1 package lemon gelatin in 2/3 cup hot water, add 1 cup hot water and 1 cup orange juice. Flavor Three: dissolve 1 package lime gelatin in 2/3 cup hot water, add 1 cup hot water and 1 cup gingerale. Each flavor recipe will fill 7 eggs.

L'eggs Eggs to Become Extinct. They're tucked away in shoe boxes, hidden away in closets or stuck in the back of your hosiery drawer, but very soon, they may be antiques: L'eggs Egg containers. The silver, black, blue, and pink eggs that for many years have housed our pantyhose are a thing of the past. What for so long has been a staple of Easter craft-making is now becoming a rarity. Of course, we can feel good about contributing less to the landfill waste problem, now that our nylons come in cardboard "egg boxes," but we'll miss the free craft eggs. So ladies, if you have those wonderfully big, shiny eggs hidden anywhere, get them out and use them. In any given craft book, you can find dozens of ways to create eggscellent works of art.❖

David Martin was invited to speak at the high school in Kanazawa, Japan on "Differences between Eastern and Western Marriages." He chose the marriage of Jacob and Rachel to represent the Western way.

At the close of the lecture a young man in the group, the judo champion of the school, said, "I hear your Westerners believe the fable that there was a certain man who died and rose again. Do you really believe that?"

The students snickered.

Mr. Martin explained that this is exactly what all true Christians believe--Westerners or Orientals. He was not permitted to go into detail in the classroom but invited the student to his house for a full explanation.

The young man and two of his friends came to his home the next afternoon. For three afternoons, David Martin carefully explained God's way of salvation. The judo champion, Orito San, became a Christian.

Then Orito San asked Mr. Martin to go to the hospital with him. When they reached the women's ward, it was clear why he had asked the question about the resurrection. His mother, dying of cancer, was not expected to live more than a few days. The way of salvation was explained to her, and she nodded that she believed. (Because of the cancer, she could not speak.)

A few days later at the Buddhist funeral, David Martin realized that only he and Orito San had the hope of seeing Orito San's mother again.

The Easter message, "Because I live, ye shall live also," has new significance for those who suffer the loss of a loved one. [rpt. by permission, *Contact*]

MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR

Missionaries supported by both Foreign and Home Missions departments are listed here by birthdays in March and April. Brighten their special days with your cards and prayers.

March

2-Evelyn Hersey (ret. Japan)
5-Willie Booth (OH)
13-Charlotte Tallent (France)
5-Vonda Johnson (WY)
7-Patty McCullough (France)
13-Vada Lee (C'I)
14-Allan Crowson (France)
15-Lynda Hunt (WA)
15-Linda Moore (C'I)
19-Melba Hibbard (CA)
20-Trina Owens (Spain)
21-David Potete (IL)
24-James Sasser (MD)
25-Howard Gwartney (AZ)
25-Pam Potete (IL)
26-Tom Hunt (WA)
27-Olena McClain (Japan)
29-Lois Reagan (Canada)

April

9-Marie Hanna (India)
9-Betty Bishop (OK)
13-Miguel Vera (Puerto Rico)
15-Donna Nix (HI)
24-Tim Coats (SD)
25-Bill Johnson (KY)
27-Marvis Eagleton (Brazil)
29-Mike Criswell (OR)

Please send all mail to
P.O.Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37211
Allow time for forwarding.

II Corinthians 5:14-15: "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead. And that He died for all, that they which live should not hence live unto themselves, but unto Him who died for them, and rose again."

Lucy and Margie Talk About Prayer

A Mini-Play for Women's Auxiliary

Stage Directions: If possible, have the two players sitting facing away from each other. You can either use real phones or imaginary phones. The scene opens with the phone call in progress, players mouthing words.

Lucy: Margie, Oh, I heard about your mother. How horrible! Has she been able to get that fender fixed?

Margie: No, not yet. The insurance company is giving her fits.

Lucy: Well, I'll sure be praying that it will all be straightened out.

Margie: I've been praying all week long about it--I just worry so much about her.

Lucy: Yeh, there's so much to pray about these days: the kid's braces, Joanne's hernia operation, these vet bills, and Larry's constant battle with hangnails...I spend at least 20 minutes every morning.

Margie: I know what you mean. Mom's accident, Charlie's car is on the blink, Tommy's grades are slipping, and then there's this problem with my neighbor.

Lucy: What problem?

Margie: Well, she's this lady about my age--think she just got divorced--she has a couple of kids. Its obvious she's wanting us to get to know each other better, but I just don't have the time or energy. She calls at least everyday--wants to chat about everything. Why she even sends me little encouraging notes!

Lucy: Some people just have too much time on their hands.

Margie: You are so right! Maybe I should pray that God will send someone her way who has time to spare.

Lucy: Hmmm. Like a missionary?

Margie: Exactly! I'll pray for a missionary!

Communicator

by Mary Ruth Wisehart

Executive and Study Committees Meet

The Study Committee met December 7, 1992 in a joint session with the Executive Committee of WNAC. After hearing reactions from several women and weighing carefully the responses, the two committees agreed to recommend the following changes to the Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, July 20, 1993. In addition to the revised changes, the Committee asked that the CO-LABORER include the explanations following each change.

1. Name of the national organization: Women Nationally Active for Christ (an auxiliary to the National Association of Free Will Baptists). Some women feel that Woman's National Auxiliary Convention does not say "what we are about." "Women Nationally Active for Christ" does suggest what we are about, yet keeps the familiar initials. As you perhaps know, some locals are already changing names. Some think Auxiliary is old fashioned or already used by too many community organizations. In 1935 some women thought auxiliary "too worldly."

2. WNAC is an umbrella name for Free Will Baptist women's organizations. Local, district, and state groups should choose their own names and identify themselves with the national organization. Many of our women's groups already have chosen different names. The name should not disassociate them from the national organization.

3. Purpose: The purpose of this organization is to provide opportunities for women to understand and fulfill the Great Commission through their responsibilities in the family, in the church, in the community, and around the world. This purpose is not a change. It comes from the Associational Manual, page 20. It is a variation of the purpose stated by Mrs. Fannie Polston when WNAC was organized in 1935. (See Sparks into Flame, page 42.)

We need to ask ourselves, how do we define missions? Is our part in the Great Commission fulfilled when we give our money to the Foreign Missions Department? Review the ideas of the study committee, pages 118-124 in SPARKS INTO FLAME: A HISTORY OF WNAC, 1935-1985. Woman's Auxiliary was never intended to be only a money-raising organization. Fulfilling the Great Commission requires us not only to give of our means, but to give of ourselves, in prayer, in study, and in reaching those about us for Christ. The definition of the local Auxiliary is "A missionary service of the church." The church itself must be God's "missionary arm" for reaching a lost world. Laura Belle Barnard says it well, "Missions is the normal expression of vital Christianity. Every Christian can be a missionary in prayer, in purse and in person. Missions and the existence of the church are indistinguishable. The church is the product of missions and exists to promote it. The field is the world." We are a woman's organization, especially responsible to women. If we do not reach out where we are, win more, encourage more, how is the work to continue? As Christian women, do we not have a responsibility to women around the world, especially those on our mission fields and including those in our corner?

4. Song: "People Need the Lord." Some think the old song is not

[Continued on page 24]

[Porch Sale cont. from page 8]

Susie seemed to have an awesome Presence around her, as if angels might well be keeping her company while her parents and I chatted. The visit was one of the nicest of the two days, and once again my eyes felt damp as I walked back to the porch. I wondered who had been more blessed through this porch sale. . . needy missionaries or me?

I didn't have all that much to sell, so I was quite pleased when my porch sale netted 100 dollars for missions. Glory to God for putting the thought in my heart and for selling most of the items in the first four hours

At this same time, two of our church's missionaries to Africa (Chuck and Sara) found themselves in financial stress. When the pastor announced their need, I knew exactly where my proceeds should go. Chuck and Sara needed up-front cash and God know His child, Louisa, needed a spiritual blessing. God came through for all of us. Doesn't He always?

In a way, I wish it was that weekend all over again, and the thin woman with burnt apple-colored hair was hunting through the box for blouses to fit her sunken chest. If I could do it over again, I'd offer her a cup of hot tea and talk to her about her mastectomy. Maybe we'd even talk about God's plan for her life. I wish I'd hugged her before she left—I think she needed a hug that day.

And I think maybe later this afternoon I might wander up to the attic to see what's lying around up there. Who knows, maybe there's enough of an assortment to start thinking about having another missions porch sale—next year.



Louisa Goddisart McQuillen is a free-lance writer from Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. Employed at Penn State, Louisa is a mother of two grown children and grandmother of one, whose goal is to "help others come to know Christ."

Women In Action

A. Southern Mississippi Ladies Try New Approach:

The idea seemed so right--and the results proved it was right. We encouraged our ladies to bring their teenage daughters to this year's retreat at Laurel, MS. The young ladies were a blessing to us, and the teaching of God's Word, as well as the



fellowship, enriched their lives. Guest speaker, June Critcher, of Nashville, Tennessee, challenged us to "Celebrate God's Love for Us" and to "Celebrate Our Love for One Another." Over 45 women attended, many agreeing that this was the "best retreat ever."

B. Hats! Hats! Hats! And More Hats!

The ladies of Macedonia FWB Church in Colquitt, Georgia, reveal their sense of hat fashion during a special "Ladies Night Out."



C. A First for Central Florida Women

In September 1992, the Auxiliary of the First FWB Church in Winter Haven, Florida hosted the 1st Annual Central Florida District Auxiliary meeting. Five churches participated: Lake Hamilton FWB, New Hope FWB of Plant City, Emmanuel FWB of Lakeland, Hains City FWB, and the host church. Martha Hamm presided, and the group enjoyed special music by LaVonne McCrumb and Cynthia Hampton. Pat Culp of Plant City was the featured speaker. The play, "Women of the Bible," was presented, and a wonderful time was had by all.

D. Christmas in August for the Calloways

On August 2nd, the Women's Auxiliary of Tippet's Chapel in Clayton, NC, sponsored a "Christmas in August" party for their members, the Ron Callaway family. Dinner was served, and afterwards they received many personal gifts, as well as a



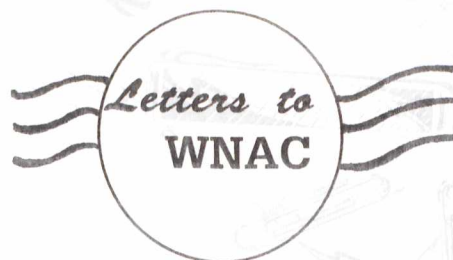
generous pounding of items not so easily available in Spain. The entire church participated in this missions celebration.

E. Call the Auxiliary and Take Two Aspirin

Recently the Women's Auxiliary of the First FWB Church in Russellville, Arkansas, held a Tylenol drive for the Doropo Clinic in Cote d'Ivoire. Over 14,000 Tylenol were donated to help the medical ministry in Africa.

F. Traveler's Rest Auxiliary Aids Provision Closet

Over several months time, these smiling ladies collected a large box full of goodies for the provision closet. They write, "Our Auxiliary is growing, and we praise the Lord. We are keeping this box and filling it up during the year. Everytime it is full, we will send the gifts to you." Thanks ladies, we appreciate your efforts.



G. 20th Anniversary Celebrated by Auxiliary

The Tom's Creek Woman's Auxiliary in Hager Hill, KY celebrated its 20th anniversary on September 1, 1992 with sixty-three women in attendance. The 28 charter members were honored at the celebration, along with the 17 past presidents who were present. Evelyn McClure and Tom's Creek Auxiliary President Betty Trimble presented a Bible to Erie Brown for 20 years perfect attendance at Auxiliary meetings. Judy Delong presented a devotion on "Forgetting, Reaching Forth, and Pressing On" from Phil.3:13,14. She writes, "[Our Auxiliary] has seen its ups and downs, but God has blessed us, and we want to serve Him faithfully in the coming years."

Dream Comes True for Brazilian Auxiliaries

The National Women's Auxiliary of the Association of Free Will Baptist Churches of Brazil was started about two years ago. Many of the women dreamed of having a women's retreat. It takes time to begin a new organization, and it took time to get to the point where we could have such a retreat.

After Vicki Sturgill was elected president, an Executive Committee meeting was called and plans were made for a retreat on November 1-2, 1992 at Evangelandia, the campsite for Brazilian FWB churches. I Timothy 4:12b was chosen as the theme. In Portuguese, that verse reads, "Turn yourself into a pattern of the faithful, in word, in walk, in love, in faith, and in purity."

Cidneia E.R.S. Pinto, Vice-President, and Geneva Poole, program director, worked closely to plan the 24 hour meeting which consisted of a banquet, Bible studies, plays, a chalk talk, food, and lots of wonderful fellowship.

Even though a terrible spring storm arrived just as the meeting opened, all 74 women in attendance were in high spirits and all are anxious for the next Auxiliary retreat. ❖

Dear WNAC,
Just a quick note of thanks. The offices look great, and the provision closet is so much nicer. It was so easy to find things. Thank you for what you do for us missionaries.

Linda Reeves
Spain

Dear WNAC,
I appreciate the recommendation to replace the 5% fee on all donations through WNAC with the \$10 [in monthly support] for WNAC. We were among those who were much opposes to the 5% fee, so I felt we should let you know what we have done about the new recommendation.

Betty T. Hill
Candler, NC

Dear WNAC,
Thank God for people like all of you who labor so tirelessly to provide us with the very best.

Willia Bullard Auxiliary
Myrtle Beach, SC

Dear WNAC,
Thank you for giving to our account. We appreciate your work for the Lord which affects all of the missionaries. Nathan is doing well in Japanese. We miss you all.

Linda Snow
Japan

Dear WNAC,
We were disappointed that there was not a speaker for the general sessions [at the fall retreat]. We were hoping to hear a good/dynamic speaker as we have in the past. The music was great! The fellowship was good.

Janet Kerns
Wise, Virginia

Compiled by Cleo Pursell



Where Could I Go?

by Myrtle Reeds

As newlyweds, my husband and I loaded our few belongings in a U-haul and headed for Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville. We came with a borrowed \$100 that was too soon gone. Within one month, God had provided a church for my husband to pastor, and I began my experience as a pastor's wife. After my husband finished his training at FWBBC, we left the Bethlehem church and headed for Davis, North Carolina; we arrived by boat because a hurricane had washed out the only bridge into town. While there, we worked with three churches part-time. Many times in our early years, we would go to the mailbox and find an envelope with money, but no name. Later we learned that it was from some dear friends who felt impressed to help us through college. In every church we've been in, we've known precious people who left an impression on our lives. Some of these have gone to be with the Lord. One day I'd like to thank them for the blessing and encouragement they were to us.

It is an encouragement today to see those who were children and teenagers then involved now in Christian service. Some are ministers, missionaries, and ministers' wives. Unfortunately, these are the exception. So many are discouraged today. And to share one another's burdens, helping through difficult times, is one of our primary concerns. A kind word may be all it takes to encourage someone. A poem from *Knight's Master Book of New Illustrations* says it perfectly:

Wouldn't it be splendid,
If each handshake good and true,
Carried with it this assurance:
"I know something good about you?"
Wouldn't our days be sweeter,
If we praised the good we see,
For there is a lot of goodness,
In the worst of you and me.

Have you been discouraged and someone spoke a kind word to you? This may have changed your whole outlook on life. I once heard a professor say that his wife could

always find something good to say about people. Can that be said of me and you?

In today's age, it is so difficult for young ministers' wives as well as young mothers to cope with the fast pace of living. There doesn't seem to be enough time to accomplish all that needs to be done, especially if one works outside the home. We have to have our priorities fixed and straight.

What are the most important things that need doing today? Your children's lives are being molded in their early years. Taking the time to enjoy and teach them is a privilege that is too soon gone. The housework and other tasks will always be there, but the children will soon be grown. As a young minister's wife, I felt that I should never say no when asked to do something in the church. I realize now that with four young children, I could have helped my husband more by saying no at times. The wife and mother's first priority is in the home and then in the church. It is important that you and your husband work together in order to accomplish all that needs to be done each day.

When it comes to being an effective minister's wife, being an encourager is the place to start. The Bible reminds us that the older women can be teachers of the younger women. You can take the time to encourage those in the church and in your neighborhood. Perhaps you can lend a listening ear and a compassionate shoulder. Perhaps you can invite someone out to an "encouragement" lunch or a trip to the mall. Perhaps just a little note of praise and encouragement would be a tremendous blessing. Are there single mothers in your congregation or in your neighborhood who need a helping hand? Perhaps you can give them an hour or two of freedom.

Teenagers also need encouragement. They are facing many temptations, and many do not have Christian parents to love and guide them. Many are from broken homes and need attention and concern. Whether you have teens of your own or not, you can make your home a place where they feel warm and welcome, and eventually, they may share their confidences with you. Many young people feel that no one cares for them. You can build a bridge of love to them, possibly changing their lives forever.

Another wonderful opportunity to encourage can be found in the nursing home. Many of these dear people never have visitors or letters. You can organize other women in your church to befriend these lonely people. Yet another encouragement ministry you can have is with our missionaries. Churches and Auxiliary groups give money and gifts to our missionaries, but individual cards and care packages can mean so much to those so far away from home. Being a prayer warrior can be a real ministry. Perhaps God will give you a burden to pray regularly and specifically for our missionaries. Whatever you ask in His name, he will give it to you.

There are many who are in need of your encouragement, but to whom can you go when you need it for yourself? Perhaps you don't want to burden your pastor/husband since he has the cares of the whole church to be concerned with. And it is not always wise to confide in the

[cont. on page 26]

Over My Coffee Cup

by Eunice Edwards



"Ambassadors for Christ"

II Corinthians 5:20: "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we beg you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

Webster defines an ambassador as one who is the highest ranking representative appointed by one country or government to represent it in another. An official ambassador is one with a special mission. And I feel that II Corinthians 5:20 tells us plainly that Christians are special ambassadors for Christ.

Christ was an ambassador to us. He came from Heaven to another country—Earth. He came with a mission—to seek and to save those who are lost. He accomplished that mission and was triumphant in returning to His Father to see us fulfill our roles as ambassadors. He is coming again for all who look for His appearing and will reward accordingly.

An ambassador cannot speak for herself. She cannot represent some object for her own honor, but everything she does is dictated by the country that has sent her to serve. Her message is not her own. A Christian's message is not her own. It is God's Word. It is God's plan. It is God's work. And that is the sum and substance of what are to do as witnesses, as ambassadors. We are to give to the world the message of hope in Christ. Trusting in Him to use that word, that witness to reconcile the hearer to an acceptable position with God in Christ Jesus. God's plan includes Christ's example and Word in order to make known, to urge, to explain the terms of which God will accept her.

Frances Havergal once said, "There is no bondage in consecration." Those words are very true. There is no bondage when one is yielded to Christ. There is, instead, absolute freedom.

Sometimes an ambassador is sent out with a special message for the people to who she is going. Christians have this special message, it is a special honor to carry it, and a special blessing is promised to those who accept the challenge. When one leaves her own country (neighborhood or house, even) with the special message of Christ, she is to go with a sense of urgency. There are no sealed orders in this community of servants. All is above-board, all is in the open, all is free, and all are welcome to participate.

Today, it seems as though many believers have their priorities confused. They say, "We want to have fun; we need to be entertained." Very few recognize and obey the challenge of being ambassadors for Christ. But for those who do heed the call, the rewards for their faithfulness are priceless, the anticipation for His coming, joyous. ♦

[Mission 2000, continued]

our midst. Indeed many have come to know Him and returned home determined to be a true witness for their Lord.

What Can You Do?

Narrator 1: Only half of the world's individuals have a church within their cultures while the other half do not.

Narrator 3: If you were God, where would you send your best laborers—to the reached half of the world's population or to the unreached half?

Narrator 2: These are exciting days as God is pouring out His spirit and giving us fresh insights into His purpose for world evangelization.

Narrator 4: Why us? Why now?

Narrator 1: God has now entrusted us with the technology

Narrator 2: the transportation

Narrator 3: the communications

Narrator 2: the finances

Narrator 4: and the power to finish the Great Commission.

Narrator 1: God has provided everything so that we can accomplish His task in a more concentrated time-frame than was ever previously possible.

Narrator 4: For example, in the past few years it has become possible to codify whole languages into computerized translation programs to produce Bible translations and church-planting tools, all in a fraction of the time it required just twenty years go.

Narrator 1: Resources are available that the good news of Jesus Christ could be broadcast virtually to the entire world in the next 24 hours using the present 2000 languages of Christian broadcasting.

Narrator 2: You can be anywhere on the globe in twenty four hours.

Narrator 3: We have the tools. We can do it.

Narrator 4: We can evangelize the world.

Narrator 1: Someone has suggested that in the year 2000 we should present Jesus a birthday gift—the gift of an evangelized world.

[cont. on page 26]



A Woman God Is Using

Tillie Lenox: A Grandmother for God

"Once in a while, you meet someone who impacts your life for God."

Recently, the Auxiliary women of the Bayshore Free Will Baptist Church in Petersburg, Florida honored Tillie Lenox, their oldest member, on her 92nd birthday. Here is part of their tribute to her:

"When I don't feel like going on, I remember Sister Lenox, still going at 92! She gets lonely at times, having been a widow for 20 years and her only son killed in World War II, but she says, 'Now Lord, you know I'm all alone, so you'll have to help me.' She gets discouraged when she can't go out on visitation, but just go with her to the grocery or to the doctor—everyone hears her talk about the Lord as her constant friend and companion. She even cuts out used stamps for Missions. 'That's something I can do,' she says." --Kathy Dye

"I love and appreciate Mrs. Lenox for her faithfulness to God and her wonderful attitude."--Laverne Alligood

"She is incredibly wise, and her heart is always full of love for others."--Leona Campbell

"She always has time to encourage, and she shows love to the little children." --Mrs. Sebastian

"Her walk with the Lord has been a blessing and example to me."--Sister Pat

"Mrs. Lenox always has a smile and a cheerful thought to give. She is an inspiration to us all. I hope at 92 I'll be as energetic and have the testimony that she has." --Dana Alligood

"She is never afraid to speak her mind. Her eyes glisten as she listens to every word you say." --Mitzi Dye

"Once in a while, you meet someone who impacts your life for God. Grandma Lenox is such a one. She is a grandmother for God, and though words could never say how much you mean to us, these things represent how special you are to us:

Grandma L is for Love

'And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart....' Mark 12:30

E is for Encouragement

'And [s]he encouraged them for the service of the house of the Lord.' II Chronicles 35:2

N is for the Need

'...a worker who need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.' II Timothy 2:15

O is for Overcomer

'And this is the victory that has overcome, our faith.' I John 5:4

X is for Xpiotavog,

the Greek word for Christian

'... if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God.'

I Peter 4:16

May God bless you, Mrs. Lenox, and may you continue to be the light for Christ you have been for so many years to so many people. ❖

missions chairman, study chairman, prayer chairman, service chairman. The change in officers reflects an attempt to update titles and also to put more emphasis on our involvement in missions in our own corner of the world. The hope is that women involved in mission action in any form, in service in the church, etc. could consider themselves members of the women's group, and the coordinators would be responsible for bringing the women together and keeping them informed about opportunities for service and accomplishments.

6. A yearbook to include calendar of events, ideas for promoting the work, program helps, goals, directory, catalog of materials, and planning sheets. A yearbook will not replace the magazine, but simply will be a supplement to it. Each local Auxiliary will have to decide how many yearbooks to buy. Perhaps each officer will want one. Already some changes need to be made in current manuals, but we are waiting for the final vote before making any changes.

7. Current manuals revised into one enlarged edition with officers' guides included. An enlarged version of the manuals will give the officers what they need to know in one convenient volume. Of course a new plan will call for lots of writing and updating of materials. The committee will suggest gradual change so that expense will be only replacement of materials rather than having a great deal of expense all at once. Materials have to be replaced anyway, and we have been holding off on some, waiting to see what changes will have to be made in them before we reprint.

Now more than ever before, Free Will Baptist women need a united front against Satan and his forces in our world. Women need to support and encourage one another in the work of Christ. WNAC belongs to Free Will Baptist women. Delegates at the Convention in July can vote their sentiments, they can effect change or they can reject change. The Study Committee wants only the good of WNAC and the Free Will Baptist women's work today and tomorrow.

Women, let's get on with fulfilling the commission Christ left for us. ❖

Life!Action

*a new column for Actionettes

"Different is Good!"



I Corinthians 16:13 "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love."(NIV)

There is a popular fast food commercial flying over the airwaves that caught my eye recently. It was fast and furious and filled with 12 inch long sandwiches that looked so scrumptious, I instantly became hungry. But the real zinger of the whole commercial was its jingle: "Same, same, same, same, [this food chain] is different!" During the jingle, I watched what looked like several hundred pea-sized "other people's burgers" slide down this huge conveyor belt and into a giant microwave. Ugh! And as much as I hate to admit it, I thought just what those marketing experts and commercial artists wanted me to: "Yeh, I'm tired of the same old hamburger." Then, all of a sudden, there appeared on the screen, gargantuan, thick and juicy turkey, ham, and roast beef supremes (the word sandwich doesn't do them justice). I knew all over again what I've always known: **DIFFERENT IS GOOD.**

Being a Christian teenager is harder today than it has ever been before. Issues and dilemmas you face everyday were unheard of back when your grandparents were teens and barely whispered about when your parents were your age. But one person is always the same—sixty years ago, thirty years ago, when you were born, and today. Jesus. He knows what you face everyday—the pressure and the temptation. Being a Christian teen demands that you stay off that conveyor belt most teens are sliding down, and be different. You are to be recognizably different.

The good news is that being different doesn't mean you are less important or less intelligent than others. In fact, when a Christian stands up for what is right and fair and shows kindness and concern for those in need, people notice her and come to see her as a person of integrity. Just take a look at Esther's story in the Old Testament. Teenagers (well, everyone is) are drawn to people who are honest and sincere because those who stand out are the ones who will stand firm when the going gets rough. When the apostle Paul wrote two letters to the church in Corinth, he encouraged them to "stand firm in the faith" (I Cor. 16:13) and to continue "excel[ling] in...love" (I Cor. 8:7). These actions are exactly what being different is all about. Let everything you do, at home, church, school, or hanging out with your friends, be excellent in God's sight. 

A Note From the Editor: Hey Actionettes (or any teenage readers), this page is for you—to help you grow in Christ and to let readers of Co-Laborer know about the great ways you serve the Lord. I invite you to send in material or topics you want to see talked about on this page, and pictures—we love seeing your fabulous smiles! Mail your ideas, etc., to Co-Laborer Magazine, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, Tennessee, 37011-5002 ❖

[The Minister's Wife, continued]

members of your church. Of course the first one to whom we should turn is the One who made us and knows all about us. He knows our every need, and He never tires of listening. God's Word is our source of comfort, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will find just the right Scriptures we need. When you feel discouraged, always remember that someone is praying for you. No doubt many of your members are holding you up in prayer each day. Another resource for encouragement can be found in other ministers' wives. Perhaps you can schedule a regular fellowship time with other women who understand your position and the burdens that come with it.

God has given you a wonderful opportunity for ministry. He has not promised that each day will be filled with roses. But He has promised to give strength for each day. May you be a blessing to your family, church, and community. If we ministers' wives will exemplify the Lord everyday, we set the stage for encouraging other women to do the same. ❖



Myrtle is Children's Editor at Randall House Publishers and a Member-at-Large of the Tennessee State Auxiliary. She and her husband Roger have four grown children and four grandchildren. Roger is the director at Randall House

[Mission 2000, cont. from page 23]

Narrator 2: That's why many young people are giving up top-line focused careers.

Narrator 3: Retired couples are giving up “the good life” and joining teams overseas.

Narrator 4: Thousands of young and older believers are rearranging their priorities. They're saying, "Lord I want to be used strategically by you to see this world evangelized and I'm going to work for it toward the year 2000."

Narrator 2: Our current missionary family is aging and retiring at an alarming rate.

Narrator 4: Thousands of young and older believers are rearranging their priorities. They're saying, "Lord I want to be used strategically by you to see this world evangelized and I'm going to work for it toward the year 2000."

Narrator 2: Our current missionary family is aging and retiring at an alarming rate.

Narrator 3: In the last few months, the Eagletons, Coscias and Robinsons have retired from foreign service.

Narrator 2: In the next five or six years, they will be followed by the Hannas, Herseys, Deeds, Franks, and McLains.

Narrator 4: Who will replace them?

Narrator 1: And you—what about you? What part will you play in giving to Jesus His gift of an evangelized world by the year 2000?❖



tender thoughts

by pearl mitchell

now is the time for spring cleaning. The weather is warming, thoughts of summer are here, and the body begins to have bursts of energy. Men and women habitually get into houses, closets, shops, and utility houses and begin to separate the rubbish from that worth keeping. They clean corners and ceilings and cubby holes that only get cleaned once a year. Stores have "spring cleaning" sales and drastically reduce or give away merchandise which has little or no value.

A unique idea would be to have a spring cleaning in our hearts. Wouldn't it be great if we cleaned our hearts the way we clean closets and kitchens in the spring? What if we took a broom and disinfectant and cleaned out all the rubbish from our hearts?

We could start with the “selfishness” in our hearts. The nature of human beings is to think of oneself first. If we really examine our hearts for pride and self-importance, what surprises might we find? You might say, “so what’s wrong with thinking of yourself? If you don’t look out for yourself, no one else will.” Maybe. But the satisfaction that comes from helping someone in need is a feeling you can’t describe. It has to be felt to be appreciated. Other items that we could trash are those garbage bags full of idle words and gossip. Remember the old cliché, “If you can’t say something good, don’t say anything”? It has been so overused, it passes in and out with no meaning, but think about how true it really is. Just think, if every person in the world followed this advice, what a different world it would be.

We could also throw out those unwholesome thoughts that cause us to do and say things that are regretted later. Even if the thoughts do not result in action, they affect attitudes and habits, preventing peace of mind. Junking unholly thoughts can bring a sweet serenity that fosters forgiveness and tolerance.

A deep search into the closet of our hearts can bring out other trash such as cravings for unwholesome amusements and trashy literature. Good, clean entertainment can leave us with a feeling of exuberance and excitement. Feeling renewed and refreshed with a good self-concept is like a salve for healing tired and abused emotions.

Yes, there is a lot of trash and rubbish that we could clean from our hearts if we had a good spring cleaning. You might be surprised if you try it. Spring cleaning—a good scrubbing and disposing of trash, a little paint, some new curtains—helps to increase the value of your property. In the same way, spring cleaning in our hearts can help increase the value of “our temples” and create a totally restored, renewed person. ❖



Pearl Mitchell is an elementary school teacher in Phenix City, Alabama and the mother of three grown children.



Consistently Blessing

Anonymous

As the offering plate was passed around at our monthly auxiliary meeting, I just remembered I had used my last quarter for the afternoon newspaper. My mind went back to other meetings and other times the offering was taken: There were no one dollar bills in my wallet, I'd left my purse in the car, the groceries were more than expected—I'll just put extra in next month.

"The Lord is as
consistent in
His blessing
as I am
consistent
in my giving."

Does this sound familiar? For years I was quite good at passing the offering plate. One day the Lord spoke to me about my inconsistency in giving to my Auxiliary, so I began to look for ways I could give to the Auxiliary on a regular basis. Several methods were tried: some good, some not so good. For awhile I didn't drink that cup of coffee on my afternoon break. But there were days when I really wanted that coffee, and besides, it was hard keeping up with how many days I did without and how many days I gave into the urge. Then I tried saving loose change in a jar, but I'd forget the jar on Auxiliary night or I would need its contents before our next meeting. I knew there had to be a better way for me to contribute to the Auxiliary. Why was it so difficult to be consistent?

Tithing had never been a problem for me. When I got paid, the first check written was my tithe check to my local church, on the gross amount. As I was writing out my check, an idea began churning in my mind: "Since I am getting a regular paycheck, why not tithe on my tithe?" I decided to give it a try. My tithe of ten percent was written to my church, and then ten percent of that amount was written to my Auxiliary. I chose to designate half of that amount to the general fund and the other half to whatever project we were working on that month. The amount might not seem like a lot, but when it is multiplied over twelve months, it is surprisingly large—and at least better than a quarter or nothing at all.

I am sure some of you are wondering, "Doesn't she give to missions? After all, Woman's Auxiliary is the missions arm of the church." Indeed, I do, but I have a totally different plan for that. Even more money is given in this plan, and none of it comes out of my salary. It takes a little time and effort, but the dividends are priceless. (For more information, write to Co-Laborer magazine.)

I have used these methods of giving for many years now, and the Lord has been and is as consistent in His blessings as I am in my giving. When raises come or when I get overtime hours, it is exciting to write that check for a larger amount (my Auxiliary treasurer must wonder what is going on!). Obviously, this type of giving will not work for some. Many women do not work outside the home, some are students, and others already have a systematic method of giving. But, I encourage all of us, regardless of our particular situations, to find a method of giving that works and be consistent. Without the contributions of Free Will Baptist women, the work and ministry of the Auxiliary would no longer exist. ❖



MISSION ALERT: Evangelism News from Around the World

FWB Home Missions:

Fort Bragg, NC: Chaplain (Capt.) *Terry W. Austin*, who has served as U.S. Army chaplain at Ft. Bragg, NC for three years, reported for a three year tour of duty in Vilseck, Germany, fifty miles northeast of Nuremberg on January 8th. His wife, Mona, and their three children will be joining him there as soon as possible. He writes, "We are all looking forward to the challenge of the ministry in Germany. It is a great privilege to minister in the military representing Free Will Baptists."

Chicago, IL: *David and Pamela Potete* report they are still having difficulty in securing a place for their mission church to worship. David writes, "The only reason I can think of for this is Satan. It is unbelievable to have checked as many places as I have and not found one." City government has rejected every plan, thus far, for leasing a building, saying the payment arrangements were in violation of "church and state separation" and has made other attempts at leasing impossible with excessive permit fees and mandated remodeling costs. They have searched the city for a place to worship to no avail, but the Northwest FWB congregation of 30 has not lost faith: "We will persevere. Our church is encouraged even though circumstances are difficult."

Manomet, MA: *Ron and Sue MacMillan* report that God is doing great things at the Manomet Bible Church: "In 1992, we have seen our membership grow from ten to thirty four, averaging forty-two on Sunday mornings, and having a record Sunday of sixty-eight. Souls are being saved, our people are beginning to witness and are learning to pray effectively. The church God planted in Plymouth is beginning to take root!"

Maumelle, AR: *Levan Hubbard*, Home Missionary to the Little Rock, Arkansas area, announced the grand opening services of the Rolling Oaks FWB Church held on December 6th. Rolling Oaks had the rare blessing of having their first service ever in a brand new building built through the volunteer efforts of many across the denomination. He writes, "Please pray that our efforts will be blessed and that we can gain momentum that will accelerate until Jesus comes."

Madison, WI: After six and a half months of services, *Carlie Lloyd and family* report that a solid nucleus in the West Madison FWB family. Two new families have recently visited, setting the record attendance at 28. One of the visiting fathers restored his relationship with the Lord that day. "The wind chill here was six degrees," they write, but this new church is just warming up.

FWB Foreign Missions:

Sappora, Japan: "Fall in Japan has brought a bountiful harvest, spiritually speaking," according to *Donnie and Ruth McDonald*. They report the recent conversions of Mrs. Amano, a 40 year-old widow, Mrs. Sato, who has been attending with her 2nd grade son, Eri Takahashi, high school girl, and Mr. Yachi, a church member's 58 year-old uncle who had suffered a major heart attack. Shortly after receiving Christ, Mr. Yachi was put on total life support systems. The McDonald's also praise the Lord for the increase in Sunday School: their average attendance has shot up from ten to twenty-five in the past year. The children who come represent twenty unsaved families!

Kusel, Germany: *The Heaths and Kim Zegelian* send news of a new Youth Center that opened in November. This center will include ping-pong, foosball, the Christian media center, and a devotion from the Word. "God has allowed us to have an increase number of contacts with young people, and we believe God has sent them our way for a reason," says the mission team, and this "Friday Night Alternative" is a means of reaching out to help these young people deal with everyday problems.

Villalba, Spain: The Nehemiah Project has been put on hold, according to *Jeff and Susan Turnbough*, because the city government in Villalba will not issue a permit: "Our petition has been in their hands since July, and all of our papers are in order. We feel they are discriminating against us since this is

[continued on page 31]

Use the following Scripture passages to pray more effectively for our missionaries' spiritual growth:

Ephesians 6:18: that they will be the type of prayer warriors described here

Daniel 1:8: that they will resolve not to compromise their convictions

Luke 24:49: that they will wait to act until the Holy Spirit empowers them

Colossians 4:2-6: that they will find open doors, be wise toward outsiders, have conversation seasoned with grace, and that they will proclaim the message of Christ with clarity

Ephesians 3:17-19: that they might know and feel the love and power and fullness of God

Colossians 1:9-14: that they will be strengthened with endurance and patience and have knowledge of His will

2 Corinthians 11:3: that they will remain pure and sincere in their motives

Romans 12:20: that they will show compassion toward those who are hostile

Joshua 1:9: that they will be strong and courageous

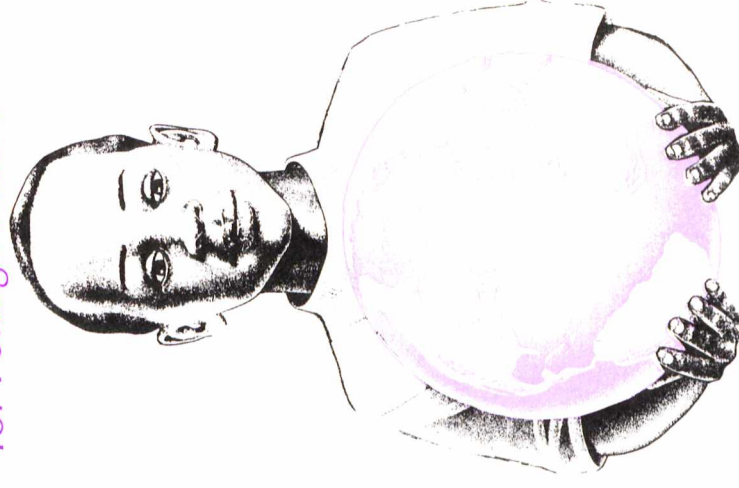
Psalms 25:4: that God will instruct them in His ways

Isaiah 30:15: that they will be able to face life with quiet trust

Daniel 9:3: that they will seek God as intensely as Daniel

March 22-26, 1992

WNAC Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions



My personal strategy for involvement in missions:

- ☐ I will pray regularly.
- ☐ I will participate in sending others.
- ☐ I will give financial support.
- ☐ I will go myself as God directs.

Please Cut this page out for convenience.

22 MONDAY

- Pray for **Jim and Vicki Sturgill** as they oversee the campground activities at Jaboticabal, Brazil. Pray, also, for their ministry with the new group of Christians at Araraquara, Brazil. Ask the Lord to bless this outreach effort of the church at Jaboticabal.
- Pray for **Joe and Tanya Dudley**, short term missionaries to France. Pray that the Lord will bless them as they study the French language and as they witness and minister to the students at the University of Nantes.
- Pray for **Sarah Malone** as she teaches English in Beijing, China. Pray that the Lord will give her many opportunities to witness for Him. Pray for her safety and good health.
- Pray for our **Christian brothers and sisters in Cuba**. Ask the Lord to bless them as they remain faithful to serve Him in spite of the hardships they endure. They suffer severe shortages of food and a rationing of other basic needs.

23 TUESDAY

- Ask the Lord to undergird **Dr. Kenneth Eagleton**, who is serving at the hospital and clinic in Ivory Coast. Because all other medical missionaries are in various stages of preparation for the field, Dr. Kenneth has little relief from the responsibilities of the work. Pray for his health and his physical and spiritual strength.
- Pray for **Dale and Sandra Bishop**, who pastor the Koinonia church in Nopporo, Japan. Pray for the Lord to work in the hearts of several unsaved people who are regular attenders.
- Pray for three missionary couples who are in language school: **Curt and Mary Holland** in Brazil; **Dave Jr. and Becky Franks** in Uruguay; and **Dr. Paul and Tammy Gentuso** in Canada. Ask the Lord to help them to master the languages they need for their ministries.
- Pray for **Nathan and Linda Snow**, who teach at the school for missionary children in Japan. Pray for Linda as she teaches nine students in four elementary grades and supervises two older boys who are studying by correspondence. Nathan teaches music and P.E. to the students and assists Dale Bishop at the Koinonia church.

24 WEDNESDAY

- Pray for missionaries who are working at raising their funds to return to the field. Ask the Lord to supply the needs of **Norman and Laura McFall**, Brazil; **Ron and Linda Moore**, Ivory Coast; **Steve and Becky Riggs**,

France; and **Norman and Bessie Richards**, Ivory Coast.

- Pray for **Ken and Marvis Eagleton** as they work with the groups of teenagers who will go to Latin America this summer under the TEAM Panama/Uruguay program. Ask the Lord to guide Ken as he selects the team members and works out the other details of the trip.
- Pray for missionaries **Evelyn Hersey and Patty McCullough**, who are battling cancer. Ask the Lord to give them strength for each day, and ask for His hand of healing to be upon them.
- Pray for **Dwain and Debbie Crosby** in Spain. The Crosbys are working to start a church in Majadahonda, a suburb of Madrid. Ask the Lord to bless their witness in this new region.

25 THURSDAY

- Pray for **Jerry and Carol Pinkerton** as they work with the Youth Outreach/Training Center at Bondoukou, Ivory Coast. The new facility, which was built with the help of Master's Men, will reach out to the thousands of young people who come to know Christ as Savior through this center.
- Pray for our **Free Will Baptist churches overseas**. Ask the Lord to hinder Satan from causing strife or division in any of them. Pray for faithful church leaders in each country where our missionaries have planted churches.
- Pray for missionary appointees who are raising support so they can get to the field: **Susan Bumpus**, Uruguay; **Dr. Mark and Kathy Paschall**, Ivory Coast; **Lloyd and Betty Plunkett**, Ivory Coast (dorm parents at Bouake).
- Pray for **Steve Lytle** in Panama as he teaches Bible Institute extension courses in the interior and encourages and counsels Panamanian pastors and lay leaders.

26 FRIDAY

- Pray for **Carlisle and Marie Hanna** as they work with pastors in North and South India. Pray for health and strength as they carry out this ministry for the Lord.
- Pray for **Dennis and Carol Teague** as they work in St. Sebastien, France. Pray for Dennis and his many contacts in the community.
- Pray for **Patsy VanHook** as she ministers through a monthly ladies Bible study in the St. Sebastien church. Pray for the salvation of those under conviction.
- Pray for the **Foreign Missions office staff** as they serve the missionaries and Free Will Baptists at home and abroad. ❖

Words for Women

by Mary Ruth Wischart



I almost became the owner of a hermit crab. "Brent has a gift for you," his father said, as I met them in the driveway.

"It's a hermit crab," Joseph explained, "and the instructions for its feeding and care are in the box. Brent picked it out at the store and wanted to bring it to you."

I wasn't too sure about the feeding and care of a hermit crab. I'm too much of a free spirit to have pets, I thought. I noticed Brent was unusually quiet, and intent on the hermit crab he was holding. "Did you pick this out for me?" I tried to sound enthusiastic about the gift.

"He's really mine," three-year-old Brent choked out. When I heard that tear-filled voice, I knew I needn't worry about the care and feeding of a hermit crab.

His dad tried to shame him into giving the crab away, but he insisted that they had become friends.

"He's really mine," three year old Brent choked out.

"Then you take the hermit crab right back home with you," I said. And he did just that.

Now isn't that just like we often give to God. Maybe you, like Hannah gave your child to the Lord, but now you are reclaiming the child. You want to choose for him. You want him to be "successful." You don't want him to have to suffer or do without anything. "I know. I gave him to You at birth, but he's really mine."

"My tithe and all my material possessions belong to you, Lord," we say. Then we want to claim them, to hug them close, to spend for ourselves. "After all, they're really mine."

At one time we gave our lives to Him, fully, completely for His service. Now we want to live our own way, walk in our paths, do our own thing. "Wait a minute. I'll choose for myself. My life is really mine, you know."

What do we really have that is ours? What can we do, but give back to God what He has given us?

Even though we may not say them, how often we act on Brent's childish words. Perhaps this is why God's word says, "Bind the sacrifice to the altar." To give to God means relinquishing all claims, never to lay hold on the item again. Never to say, "It's really mine." ❖

[Mission Alert, cont.]

the first evangelical church ever to request a building permit." In addition to this obstacle and in spite of being a solid "risk" for a loan, no bank of Spain will consider this church for a loan. Three bank directors have approved this effort, but the central commission refuses to consider granting a loan for a "religious institution." The need is for \$150,000.

Bondoukou, Cote d'Ivoire: The Pinkertons report that the highest government official, along with six regional directors recently visited the new Youth Training Center and were so impressed, they promised two more lots free with city water free of charge! Jerry writes, "We praise the Lord for their interest. It isn't even an election year." Also, at a recent showing of the JESUS film, over 150 teens came to the Center. As the film ended, Silas, the Youth President, gave a clear-cut Gospel message and invitation, resulting in seven souls for Christ. ❖

**MISSIONS
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**"Many years had gone by,
but she had not missed
a single day praying for me.**

**My heart melted."
-Laura Belle Barnard**

**PRE-EASTER
WEEK OF PRAYER**

April 22-26, 1993

A Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions

**Give Sacrificially to the
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Our Goal: \$40,000**





HE IS RISEN

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