

May • June 1993

CoLaborer

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

Sarah's Decisions

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**The Day Momma
Shot the Family**

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Convention '93

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**Help!
I've fallen,
and I can't
get up.**

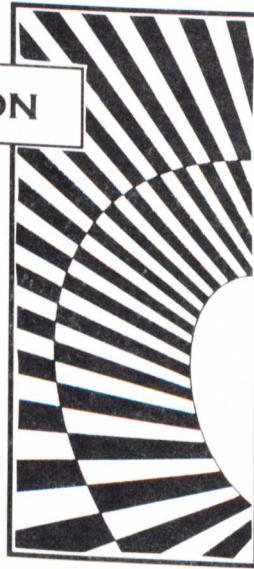
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HORIZON

MELISSA RIDDLE



Music Lesson



Music has always echoed in my ears. As a four-year-old, I would dance around the house singing with the record player: "When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie, that's amore." Our arrangements of Dean Martin, Roger Miller, and Frank Sinatra songs were wonderfully flabbergasting to my mother, but she knew we came by our passion for music quite naturally.

My grandfather had been a well-known gospel quartet singer in Northeast Mississippi throughout the 1940s and '50s, and when we were growing up, he and my grandmother would take us to Sunday morning 'sangins'. I still remember the loud altos, the slightly off-key sopranos, and the tall, skinny Mr. Foote who looked much too thin to sing bass. At least 20 men and women would stand up in front of the church and "lead," everyone waving one hand, side to side, and up and down, not always on the same beat. Stamps-Baxter was the book of choice, and "I'll Fly Away" always seemed to do just that. I was amused by the strangely beautiful sound.

It wasn't until I met Eugene Watkins that I understood the reality behind the beauty of gospel music and how profoundly it could affect my life.

Mr. Watkins had led the singing at Randall Memorial in Memphis for years. Every Sunday he'd stand up on the stage, lead the hymns, turn and lead the choir, nod in approval and smile at the soloist, and then, at just the right time, he'd begin the invitational hymn. I watched him move effortlessly, with purpose, enthusiasm, and with a casual, comfortable grace. The few times he was absent, the congregation's harmony seemed a little strained, but most every Sunday, the singing was as glorious at our church as it could get anywhere.

The last two years of high school, I sang in the adult choir and became even more aware of just how much Mr. Watkins and his music meant to me. Our choir, though relatively small, did it all. The long difficult medley arrangements, the engrossing four-part harmony "formal" hymns, cantatas that would give you goose bumps, right down to good old Stamps-Baxter on Sunday nights. He encouraged all singers, professional, exceptional, mediocre, and shower singers alike, to "sing it out, with feeling." On any musical level, Eugene Watkins could tear through the surface elements and get down to the heart of the message--he made the music live.

The specials he sang were usually from the hymnal--a last minute fill in for the soloist who didn't make it--but his were always my favorites. His version of "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" is the closest thing to musical perfection I've ever heard. And it wasn't so much his vocal performance (his tenor/baritone was a little raspy) that moved me, it was the soul of the singer, the wisdom of the words he revealed as he sang. When he sang, "Thou the spring of all my comfort, more than life to me," (he'd go to a high note on the 'to') I knew it was true, and I knew no truer words would ever be spoken of him.

I've been led by many a music director since then, and I've listened to many a wonderful voice since then, but the purity and honesty of Eugene Watkin's music is incomparable. I know his voice, his life's witness, still echoes in the lives of those who knew him. And it still echoes in my ear, and in my heart. ❖

**"AS BELIEVERS, WE ARE
THE BRIDE OF CHRIST,
PREPARING FOR A GREAT
MARRIAGE SUPPER
WHERE WE WILL BE
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TO CHRIST,
THE LAMB OF GOD."**

**"WHEN SARAH'S FAITH
GAVE WAY TO HER OWN
PLANS, SHE WAS ASKED
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ANYTHING TOO HARD
FOR GOD?"**

**"IF ONLY I
COULD SING THAT SONG
IN SPANISH,"
THOUGHT BESSIE,
NOT EVEN IMAGINING
THAT HER DESIRE
WOULD BE A REALITY IN
JUST A FEW YEARS."**

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SARAH'S DECISIONS LETTING

Purpose: To examine our ways of doing things and to realize the importance of trusting God in everything, big and small.

Opener: See Mini-Play in Springboard section, page 18

Scripture: Genesis 11:29-12:9, 15:1-7, 16:1-18, 21:1-13

Hymn: "Is Your All on the Altar?"

Introduction

In shame, Sarah's eyes looked to the ground. She knew she was conniving to get her way. Only a few hours earlier, this had been a request left completely in the Lord's hands. In the special little corner of the room, she had praised and thanked God for His power and grace, and she had given Him her burden. Knowing that the Lord knows best, she had left the next move up to Him. And now she was making it herself. She was doing it *her* way.

God's Way

Princes and Kings admired Sarah's beauty. She had wealth untold. She had a husband who loved her. And the Lord God gave blessing, protection and met her every need in His divine way. But everything wasn't always rosy. The answers and solutions were often long in coming.

We can learn a valuable lesson from Sarah, whose family served God in the midst of a pagan world. Hebrews 11:11 tells us that Sarah had faith in God. She loved Him and because of her faith, she was strengthened. She was a godly woman, a submissive and helpful wife (1 Peter 3:16). She followed her husband even when he wasn't sure where he was going. Her future was unknown except for the promises of God.

God has given us wonderful promises that are just as real today. Our future, without these promises, would be very dark. The world doesn't meet our needs: it offers very little that satisfies. But, "as for God, His way is perfect." (Ps. 18:30)

Sarah's Way

Sarah thought, as we often do, intentionally and unintentionally, that God needed help in working out His plan. Sarah had to have her own way. Indeed, she had waited a long time for the child that was promised. She had been married for many years, and she was getting older everyday. God had promised the child twice, but how could she be sure He would fulfill his promises? Her faith, her hope was beginning to fade. Sarah began to take her desire for a child into her own hands, allowing alternative plans to roll through her mind. Do we give up on God too quickly?

Following Tradition

The alternative plan was steeped in tradition. It was customary to give a handmaiden to the husband in order to have a child, an heir. Sarah had thought it all out: "It was the natural thing to do. Surely God expects me to follow tradition. And besides, the humiliation of being barren is just too much to bear any longer." She would take Hagar as her handmaiden and have a child through her. It was the only way.

How often do we do this? We want something, so we pray and wait. At the same time, we allow ourselves to think of ways to get the very thing we've prayed about. Our faith and confidence in God's power is less than what is expected of His children. How it must disappoint Him to see us give him our burdens, our desires, just to take them back, saying, "I'll work on this myself." We, then, are working against God.

Tradition often gives us an excuse for ignoring God's power. We are comfortable depending upon ourselves. We are used to the family ties, the personal habits, the "everyday" behavior in our lives so that they become unwritten laws--"the way things are." Whether we call our traditions "old fashioned" or dress them up as righteousness, they affect the way we approach and respond to God.

The Pharisees had a problem with tradition--outward displays of righteousness on an empty shell of religion. They were caught up in trivial matters. Washing their hands was more important than obeying the commandments of God. Eventually, tradition won out with them, and they abandoned the true religion. Tradition is not always wrong. We enjoy having family reunions and passing heirlooms down through the generations, but when we let tradition take precedence over God's guidance in our lives, it is wrong. We need to give the Lord full control of our lives, always looking to him first.

Tragedy Follows

In a short time, Sarah's own way caused her pain. Other people that she involved in her plan were also hurt. Conflicts arose and personalities clashed. She did not know how to handle the situations that arose out of her decision.

We do not always know what is best for us. We can only see today. Our own desires seem to pass everyone else's as we scheme and plot to achieve them. And it is often too late when we see our mistakes. Proverbs 14:12 tells us that tragedy follows when we are determined to have our own way.

*"Great is our Lord, and of
great power:
His understanding
is infinite."
Psalm 147:5*

GO AND

LETTING GOD

Hagar's son, Ishmael, was born, but this was not the heir of God's covenant. From that time, fourteen years passed before His promised child, Isaac, was born to Sarah. She was ninety years old. At last her prayers to God, the ones she had decided to work out herself, had been answered; her reproach and embarrassment had been taken away.

True happiness results when we allow the perfect will and timing of God to be carried out in our lives. We may not always understand how God works, but we can see that it is higher and more wonderful than our own way (Isaiah 55:8,9).

Sarah must have looked back and realized how impatient she had been. Why had she taken things into her own hands? Her efforts had failed, and she would feel the stinging effects of her decisions for years to come. Sarah was very protective of Isaac, and she did not want his spiritual blessings to be shared with Hagar's son. Her feelings were so strong, she refused to call either of them by name. It was hard for her to understand, even in the light of God's kept promises, that He alone decides who receives blessings.

The Remedy

The cure for our anxieties is complete trust in the Lord. Acknowledge that He always knows best and that in His timetable, there is no mistake. When life is smooth sailing, it is easy to rest in Him, but this knowledge is even more calming and assuring when the waters are rough.

Sarah and Abraham must have marveled as they realized God's timing was perfect. They probably pondered the reasons,



accepting the many truths their experience had taught them. No one could doubt the power of God as manifested in their Isaac, their miracle.

God can put our lives in order without our help. Why are we afraid to let Him do what He longs to do for us? In Matthew 8, when the disciples feared for their lives, Jesus showed them who was in control, and he chastised them for their lack of faith.

When Sarah's faith gave way to her own plans, she was asked the question, "Is anything too hard for God?" Such a question should knock some sense in to us all. The promises, the blessings Sarah received were by faith, not by her own might. Her job was not to work out the details but to simply trust God.

Were Sarah's decisions so very different from our own? Not really. Have we learned to give God the "job" of our lives, to rest completely in His care and power? Not if we still find ourselves thinking of ways to make things happen, and not if we aren't going to

Him everyday, saying and believing, "Great is our Lord, and of great power; His understanding is infinite (Psalm 147:5), and everything in my life today is in His hands!" ♦



Janero Stokes and her husband Ed are active in the Maccriline FWB Church in Macclesfield, NC. She stays busy as the mother of three, a teen Sunday School class, and as Mission Study chair of her Auxiliary.

A Marriage Made In Heaven

by Sandra Hollis



Scripture

Revelation 22:17, 19:7-9, Isaiah 61:10

Purpose

To show that just as a physical marriage has responsibilities that bring blessings, so the spiritual marriage (the church as the Bride of Christ) has responsibilities that bring great blessings.

Song

"Whosoever Will May Come" Rejoice Hymnal #236

Introduction

Becoming a bride is one of the most special times in a woman's life. Excitement reigns during the preparations for the wedding ceremony. Choosing patterns for china and crystal, shopping for a gown and trousseau, and hectic, last-minute planning for the ceremony become top priorities. All else fades in comparison. Invitations are ordered, and guest lists are formed.

Showing our love and concern for family and friends, we are careful that no one is overlooked or neglected.

As believers, we are the Bride of Christ, preparing for a great marriage supper where we will be married to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. Until that day, we live for Him through the leading of the Holy Spirit. By His leading and teaching, we realize that the joining of each believer to Christ involves great responsibilities. To receive the blessings of God, we must accept the responsibility of our union.

Responsibilities Accepted

Faithfulness: The foundation of physical marriage is faithfulness. Genesis 2:23-24 shows that God has ordained that a man should leave his parents and be joined with his wife. They are to become one, until death parts them. If this faithfulness is broken, the relationship suffers and may break from the resulting guilt and disappointment. Faithfulness is an act of

the will. We are to leave all outside influences and cling to our marriage partner in order to withstand all the trials ahead.

Likewise, the spiritual foundation of our relationship with Christ is also faithfulness. His Word reveals that it is required we be found faithful (I Corinthians 4:2) and that faithfulness unto death leads to a crown of life (Revelation 2:10). A breach of faithfulness can break our fellowship with Christ. The relationship suffers and may collapse from growing sin and guilt. Spiritual faithfulness is also an act of the will. We are told to leave worldly influences (II Corinthians 6:17) and cling to Christ, our groom. Only then are we able to be strong and true in times of trial.

Communication

Lack of communication has been listed as one of the leading causes of breakdown in marriages. How many times do pastors and their wives hear the complaint, "He/She won't talk about it" or "He/She never talks to me anymore." Communication (someone talking, someone listening) requires both partners keeping the lines open and clear.

Communication is also a key factor in our spiritual relationship with Christ. Lack of communication causes a breakdown here also. We communicate with Christ through prayer and scripture reading. He has no shortage of words, and His ears are always open to us (Proverbs 15:8,29). However, we fail to open the lines of communication with Him. His word speaks to us, but we are too distracted to listen. He listens intently to us, when we make time to talk to Him. When we are willing to communicate, he is always available (Psalm 5:3, 6:9, James 5:16).

Outreach

There is a great need in marriages for reaching out and showing love and forgiveness. Too many times, partners refuse to forgive and bitterness grows, destroying the love between them. Paul says in I Corinthians, that although we may be eloquent of speech and filled with all wisdom and knowledge, we are nothing without love. Love is so powerful, it can withstand any storm, it can believe

the very best, it is always hopeful, and it is neverending.

Greater by far than any human love, even in a marriage, is Christ's love for his bride (John 15:12-13, Hebrews 13:5-6). His forgiveness is readily available whenever and for whatever we need it (I John 1:9) We have only to ask.

Blessings Received

Joy: The consummation of marriage brings the joy God intended in human relationships. There are many ups and downs in a marriage relationship, but when true love and total commitment form the basis, inner joy remains in spite of outer circumstances. Anger and frustration are overcome by love and forgiveness. Total commitment overrides sorrows and hardships that eventually come to all.

Intimate communion in our spiritual relationship also brings abiding joy (John 15:11, 16:22). In Philippians, Paul's "book of joy," he teaches us that our relationship with Christ allows us to be joyful in spite of people or circumstance problems. Surface happiness, controlled by situations in our lives, may be shattered, but the inner joy will remain if we stay intimately in touch with Christ (Psalm 16:11).

Companionship: The closeness of a marriage relationship is evident in the companionship, the friendship enjoyed by two. It is a fellowship where innermost feelings can be expressed to one who is concerned. We can share our burdens, express our joys, and find calm for our fears. This kind of togetherness is what marriage should be.

Likewise, our relationship with Christ is a growing, thriving fellowship (I John 1:3,7). He is a loving best friend, who is greatly concerned for his bride's well-being. Peter assures believers that they can cast all their worries on Him for He cares deeply (I Peter 5:7). Peter also urged us to continue to grow in the knowledge of Christ (II Peter 3:18). The more we know about Him, the deeper our fellowship becomes, and we become of one mind, the mind of Christ.

Children: The most wonderful result of a couple's physical love is children (Psalm 127:3). The natural desire of a married couple, even in our career-oriented, female-liberated society, is to have a child, a

creation who bears their likeness and grows to acquire many of their traits and qualities. Children are a source of pride, the promise of posterity. If a couple has difficulty in conceiving a child, no effort, expense, or experimentation is spared in trying to solve the problem. The blessings of parenthood far exceed what can be imagined.

As children are the by-product of human marriages, the result of our spiritual union with Christ should be "newborn believers," men and women born into the Kingdom of God. Just as the natural desire to reproduce exists in earthly marriages, so the knowledge of lost souls and their need of rebirth in Christ should exist, even dominate the lives of Christians (John 3:3).

Jesus said that to abide in Him would enable Christians to bring forth much fruit (John 15:4,5,8,16). Christians were born to reproduce. The goal should be to reproduce those in the image of Christ who will grow to acquire His traits and His qualities.

What might the result be if Christians worked and planned as well to reproduce spiritually as they do physically? What would happen if we spared no expense, no effort, and no experimentation to achieve rebirth in others? The blessings of spiritual parenthood will far exceed what can be imagined.

Conclusion

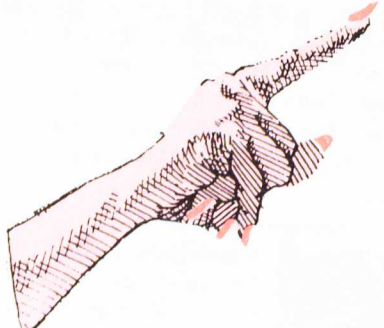
Just as in earthly wedding preparations, anticipation and excitement should be evident in our daily walk with Christ as we await His sure return to take us for our wedding ceremony (John 14:1-3). We should be searching our lists of relatives, friends, and acquaintances to make sure no one is excluded from the marriage celebration. There are no limits for this guest list, no concern for expenses to be paid. Any number may attend this wedding. They need only to accept when we, the Bride, and the Holy Spirit, say, "Come." ❖



Sandra Hollis and her husband Ed have two grown children and are actively involved in Central FWB Church in Royal Oak, Michigan.



THE DAY MOMMA SHOT THE FAMILY



It seemed to happen without warning, something inside of me just seemed to snap. Suddenly I took my weapon and began shooting at my family! The first shots were at my children. I really wasn't aiming at anything then, it was just random firing. Next I shot at a specific target--my husband. Although I often missed the exact mark I was aiming at, I still managed some awful wounds.

The sight of my wounded family didn't shock me into the reality of what I was doing. To me it seemed a case of self-defense. Their stray shots had hurt me and occasionally they had cut me deeply. Now it was *my* turn to do some damage.

Then I realized something awful. My weapon was an automatic, and I didn't have enough strength to turn the switch off! To make matters worse, it seemed to be loaded with a never-ending supply of bullets.

I stopped for a moment, took a deep breath, and tried to collect my thoughts, but with the darkness came a picture of another person I had wounded. I saw Jesus on the cross, dying, bleeding from his head, his hands, his feet. I knew that because of me he suffered.

Even though I am His child, I took things into my own hands instead of giving each situation to the Lord. I let things build up until I snapped and came

out firing in my own defense. As I asked Jesus to forgive me, my weapon stopped firing. I then asked Him to heal my family and give me the strength to be the wife and mother I should be.

Now you shouldn't think that this is unusual or that I am some kind of a maniac. The very same thing could be happening to you. You see, my weapons were my voice, face, and hands. The cutting edge of "face" was the angry, hateful looks I gave while firing bullets from the weapon "voice." These bullets were words, criticism, anger, and impatience. The slow but deadly "poison" deprived my family of the kind deeds, hugs, and encouragement they often deserve.

I still have my weapon, but I try to load them with good things. Occasionally, I get frustrated and grab a batch of bad bullets again. Then I turn back to the Great Physician for healing--for myself and for my family. With time and prayer, the wounds heal, and the scars that are left will become stepping stones to a stronger Christian family. ❖

This article was submitted to the Creative Arts Contest a few years back. The writer's name was not given. If you recognize this piece as yours, let us know, so we can give you proper credit.

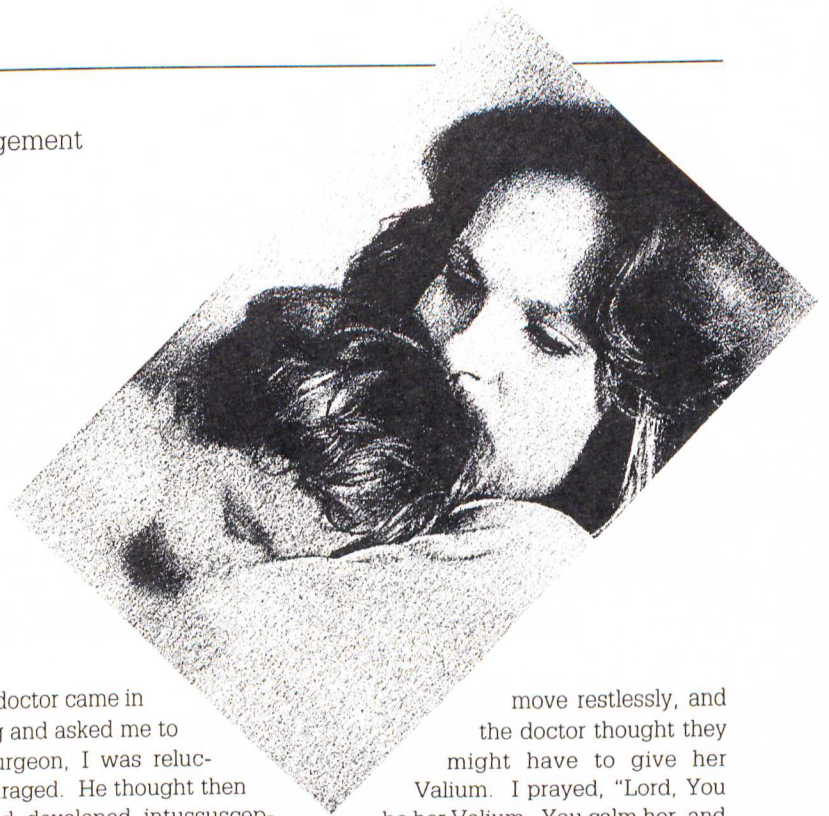


CROSSWINDS:

Facing the everyday currents
that blow defeat and discouragement
into our walk with God.

The Valley

by Barbara Hicks



"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me." I never knew that scripture would have such a personal meaning for me until I saw my three month old daughter walk through that valley.

One of the desires of my heart had always been to have a girl. I had two precious boys but longed for a girl to dress in ruffles and lace. As a nurse, I would always go into the rooms of the new mothers as they dressed their tiny little girls to take them home. I watched them with a growing desire to experience that for myself.

When I entered the hospital to have my third child, we hung a sign on the labor room door which read "Think Pink!" I received a dozen pink roses from my husband long before the arrival of the baby. Katie Marie was born at 3:07am. When I look at her, I often think of that song, "Joy Comes In the Morning." She has been such a joy to us.

When she was three months old, Katie was admitted to the hospital for what we thought was simple dehydration. Her condition worsened quickly, and she began passing bright red blood. My husband was at home with the flu. And I was alone and terrified, waiting at the hospital for some sign of improvement. Days and nights passed with no change in Katie's condition and no sleep for her mother.

When the doctor came in one morning and asked me to choose a surgeon, I was reluctantly encouraged. He thought then that she had developed intussusception, a condition in which part of the bowel telescopes inside another part of the bowel causing a complete obstruction. As a nurse, I knew about this condition, but I turned to medical books to find out more information. The book stated that if the condition was not diagnosed by the third day, the patient usually dies. I realized with horror that we were into the third day of Katie's illness.

The doctor informed me that they would try an X-ray procedure to reduce the intussusception, but if it failed, Katie would have to undergo emergency surgery. I looked at her lifeless body in the crib, and I took her tiny hand. I prayed, "Lord, you didn't give me this precious baby girl to take her away so soon." I called my husband and asked him to call all of our family and friends to ask them to pray for Katie. He asked me if maybe we ought to wait until we found out if she had to have surgery to make the calls. "No," I said, "We need people to pray for her now."

The X-ray procedure was very tedious because Katie was very small. The radiologist put barium up into her bowel in an effort to reduce the blockage. I held her hand as she cried a weak, kitten-like cry. She was beginning to

move restlessly, and the doctor thought they might have to give her Valium. I prayed, "Lord, You be her Valium. You calm her, and give her peace." Later I heard the doctors comment on how still and quiet Katie was throughout the procedure.

I, too, received the Father's peace and the knowledge that He would bring her through the valley of death. The Lord provided the strength and assurance I needed to deal with Katie's ordeal.

Katie's pediatrician cancelled all of his morning appointments and stayed by her side. As the X-ray procedure began to work, he almost danced around the room. He grinned from ear to ear, pointed upward and said, "We had help from the Good Doctor!" Even he knew that a Higher Power was watching over Katie.

The procedure reduced the intussusception, and Katie went home within 24 hours. She has been happy and healthy ever since that time. And I have been happy, enjoying dressing my beautiful little one in ruffles and lace. I am eternally grateful that even during our weakest and most frightening moments, He is with us. There is no need to fear. ❖

Over My Coffee Cup

by Eunice Edwards



Happiness is knowing Jesus Christ as one's personal Savior. He shares our happiness and delights in welcoming us into His family. He further delights in supplying our needs.

It is with joy that I embrace His precious promises because I need His special touch many times. Perhaps you are travelling through the days untroubled, but I find many needs, trials, testing, and temptations crowding my path. It is then that I turn to His Word for the answer to each and every one of these problems because the Word furnishes His solutions. Hebrews 7:25 says, "He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." This verse brings great assurance to my heart—that my Lord is well aware of everything that would take me away from Him. He has provided a remedy for my problems and a refuge for my soul. I thank Him for those things.

There are many Christians today who don't seem to realize that Jesus wants us to succeed in life. We can never be sure just how long we have to live, but while we are living, Jesus wants to be our supplier, our healer, our encourager, and our blessing at every turn of the road. The solution to every problem and the fulfillment of every need is in God's Word. We need to make it *our* promise, our fortress, our help in times of trouble.

At the beginning of a new year, I ask God for a special verse to be my refuge when Satan is hounding me, trying to pin me to a wall. In 1992, He gave me Psalm 130:5 which says, "I wait for the Lord; my soul doth wait, and in His Word do I hope." This verse has been a treasure to me. When I didn't have an answer to what was happening in my life, His Word supplied the answer.

I have a refuge. Do you? Do you use your refuge? Do you run to it when danger is near? Do you seek His face? His promises? The answers are all in His Word. His Word will keep us from sin, if we have it in our hearts. Believe in Him without faltering, trust in Him without doubts, for He will do what He promised. "There has not failed one good word of His promise."

Living in the world today is very stressful. There is political stress, financial stress, and stress brought on by exhaustion. Individuals and complete families are falling apart everyday. Now, like never before, we need to learn to trust with our lives—not just once, when we asked Him to be our Savior, but—everyday. The old song says, "Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word. Just to rest upon His promise, just to know thus saith the Lord." What a source of comfort for our weary hearts! ❖



The Weight of a Friend

by Debbie Payne Anderson

There I sat boo-hooing in Sunday school class, unable to stop. Not that there's anything wrong with weeping, even when you are 27 years old, but my mascara isn't waterproof, and besides, our teacher was in the midst of extolling God's incredible love as described in I John. Crying seemed out of place.

Still, she weighed on my mind, my dear friend who lives far away. Tuesday she had called. I could hear the weariness in her voice as she said they were quitting their pastorate. Her husband had worked 70 plus hours a week while trying to pastor the little church; cruel comments from church members multiplied the pain; her third child had just been born; it was too much to bear.

I prayed for her and went on with my life. Five days later, in Sunday school, sorrow overwhelmed my heart and tears gushed down my face. I could not escape my friend's pain, so I fled to the church bathroom to cry and pray.

Little did I know. One month later we spoke again. The very day I was overcome with grief on her behalf, she was descending into the pit. Life wasn't worth living; death was a welcomed thought, a goal to pursue. Oh yes, eventually she chose life but not without many days of debilitating pain.

And so I learn more of my Father's love everyday: a Father who weighs down my heart for a friend, a Father who whispers, "Debbie, feel some of her pain. I am bringing her to you for a reason. Pray, my child, pray." "Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrow" (Isaiah 53:4 NIV). Never has there been one like Him to bear the weight of our sin, of life, but sometimes He calls us to share the burden. ❖

June is the time of year that Woman's Auxiliaries emphasize the work and ministry of Home Missions in their states. Women have always played a tremendous role in the home missions effort. This is the story of one such woman.



BESSIE YELEY: A WOMAN STRONG AND OF GOOD COURAGE

"I was almost twenty years old before I had the privilege of hearing a missionary. One was from China, the other from Puerto Rico. Both missionaries gave challenging messages, but somehow the missionary from Puerto Rico interested me more. Years later, I would understand why. The Lord had planned for me to go to Latin America."

That missions service in a Missionary Baptist church was the beginning of a work that God would perform in Bessie Yeley's life for the next 56 years--a work that yielded a glorious harvest.

After hearing those speakers, a responsive chord echoed inside her each time she learned a missionary was slated to speak near her home. One night, she heard a missionary from Bolivia, South America sing, "Ye Must Be Born Again" in Spanish. "If only I could sing that song in Spanish," thought Bessie, not even imagining that her desire would become reality in just a few years.

In response to the urgent plea of the missionary for more workers in Bolivia, Bessie asked the Lord to raise up those who would be willing to go. She was jolted with His reply: "Why don't you go?" The obstacles, however, seemed unsurmountable. She had to care for her aging mother, and she lacked education. When the Lord called Bessie's mother home that same winter, she took it as a sign that she was supposed to be a missionary.

"After mother's death," Bessie said, "I learned that a night school was to be established at Temple Baptist Church in Portsmouth. I enrolled. Afterward, I spent one year in Faith Bible School in Kansas City, Missouri, where I learned many lessons in faith which were so helpful later."

Her first assignment was in Venezuela, South America. When she arrived, she was denied admission, so she stayed on the island of Barbados for three months and then returned home. God assured her that her field of service was to be Venezuela, so again she sailed for South America in 1936. This time she entered without difficulty.

"In 1942, I left Venezuela for Cuba to help in the newly established Free Will Baptist work," wrote Miss Yeley shortly before her death. She recalled that the twelve years spent in Cuba were happy ones. Teaching Cuban young people in the seminary and taking weekend trips to teach Sunday school classes in different villages were thrilling experiences for the single missionary.

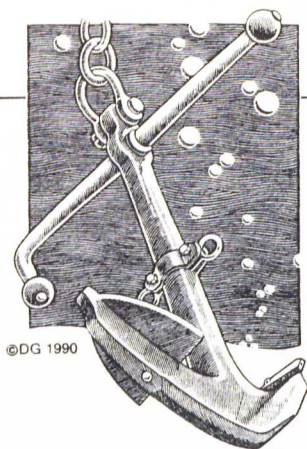
In 1955, Bessie left Cuba to minister on the Texas-Mexico border. From there, she went to Arizona where she spent three years teaching Mexican children. In 1960, she joined the missionary staff in Miami, Florida, again working with Cuban immigrants.

After twenty years of full-time missionary service, Miss Yeley went back to her home state of Ohio. When asked about retirement, she'd always reply, "It's just a change of work--nothing more." She continued to minister at home, teaching Bible classes for senior citizens in her community.

Looking back on all her years of service, Miss Yeley said, "When I went to my first mission field and thought about what it meant to leave home and the security I had always enjoyed, I knew that alone I could not do it. So I asked the Lord for a promise, and He gave me the one he gave Joshua when Joshua had to leave his people and enter a strange land. 'Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest' (Joshua 1:9) This promise has been with me in Venezuela, Cuba, Mexico, Miami, and it is just as good and as precious in retired life."

Bessie Yeley believed in the promises of God. She was confident God would never leave her, that He was always with her. On January 23, 1969, after a massive heart attack, she went to live permanently with the One who promised to be with her always. ❖

This article was reprinted from the April/May 1969 issue of Mission Grams with permission from the FWB Home Missions Department.



I Timothy 4: Part II

Spiritual Discernment

by M. M. Daniel

Review: The underlying teaching in this book is the importance of firmly believing and faithfully practicing "sound doctrine." The first part of Chapter 4 is replete with warnings against falling for Satan's counterpart, which Paul aptly calls "seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." (4:1)

The "Crime" and "Punishment" Verses 9 and 10

"This is a _____ saying and worthy of all _____. For, therefore, we both _____ and suffer _____, because we _____ in the living God, who is the _____ of all men, _____ of those that believe."

In modern vernacular, Paul opens this section by saying, "don't kid yourself." The more Christians get actively involved in witnessing and the work of the Lord in other areas, the more persecution we can expect, though nothing compared to that of the early church. As Donald Guthrie states in his book *The Pastoral Epistles*, "This race of godliness (god-like-ness) demands every ounce of energy man possesses."

The "crime" here is following God completely. The "punishment" is suffering reproach. We must be strong enough to take the flak and keep going. Remind yourself that the punishment is limited, but committing this "crime" brings blessings unlimited. See Matthew 5:10-12.

The Ageless Factor Verses 11 through 13

"These things _____ and teach. Let no man _____ thy youth, but be thou an _____ of the believers, in _____, in _____, in _____, in _____, in _____. Till I come, give _____ to reading, to _____, to _____. Knowing that some in the congregation may look down on more

youthful Timothy, Paul admonishes him to "be an example" in six key areas. Regardless of age, a Christian whose walk, talk, actions, and attitudes reflect those of Christ cannot be faulted. Guthrie puts it this way: "In Christianity, authority is contingent upon character and not age."

Young Timothy is instructed to focus on reading the Word (privately and in public) and explaining it to those in his charge, being careful to teach true doctrine.

Neglect Not. Mediate Upon. Take Heed.

Verse 14

"Neglect not the _____ that is in thee, which was given thee by _____, with the laying on of the hands of the _____."

The "gift" (in the Greek, charisma) would seem to be the spiritual equipment given to Timothy at the time of his ordination to the task. Though it is the Holy Spirit who imparts spiritual gifts, there is a human factor also.

Church leaders are led to appoint personnel for specific responsibilities. (Compare with Acts 13:1-3) Paul took a personal part in the ordination of Timothy (II Timothy 1:6).

Verses 15 and 16

"Meditate upon these things, _____ thyself _____ to them, that thy _____ may _____ to all. Take _____ unto thyself and unto the _____; continue in them; for in _____ thou shalt both save thyself and them that _____ thee."

To "meditate" means to roll a matter over and over again in your mind. The "things" to be meditated upon probably refer back to the six areas of verse 13. A daily, dedicated devotion to principles and practices stated clearly

in the word of God, will allow them to become "second nature," overcoming the old nature.

A real Christian is always under the scrutiny of the unsaved. The world expects us to be different in our actions and attitudes, and we shouldn't disappoint them. See Romans 14:7-8.

Discussion Questions

1. If a believer is meeting no opposition or resistance on the part of the unsaved, what should be questioned? (II Tim. 3:12)
2. Why do some, of varied ages and backgrounds, seem to have an edge on living victorious lives? (Ephesians 4 lists several reasons.)
3. Sadly, what is the focal point of many people today? (Matthew 6:19-21,33)
4. Should believers be concerned with how they are perceived by the unsaved? Why or why not?❖

Note: A series of 10 Basic Bible Studies is available for further individual or group study. Each set contains a study outline in an easy to follow format. Sets are \$2.50 each or \$22.00 for all ten. This includes postage and handling. Currently available:

- "How Did We Get It?" (Bible Background)
- "Airplane View of all 66 Books" (Survey)
- "Foundation of the Faith" (Romans)
- "Walking Worthy" (Ephesians)
- "Joy Under Stress" (Philippians)
- "The King is Coming" (I Thessalonians)
- "Faith in Action" (James)
- "Blessed Assurance" (I John)
- "God's Plan of the Ages" (Revelation)

Order from M.M. Daniel, 5860 Washington Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37129-8327.

REINVENTING EVANGELISM

by Donald C. Posterski
InterVarsity Press 197 pages
Reviewed by Mary R. Wisheart

Can we do anything to make a difference in our world? In a world where 95% say they believe in God and 72% claim to accept the Bible as His Word, yet fewer and fewer seem to live by His word?

Posterski believes that we can make a difference and that as Christians we *must* make a difference.

How? Posterski quotes Lesslie Newbigin as saying Western culture is pagan. This paganism born out of rejection of Christianity is far more resistant to the gospel than other paganism. Christians living in this culture must show the world "what the Christian life looks like."

Three simple principles will work, according to Posterski: pray, care, communicate.

In ten chapters, Posterski suggests practical ways Christians can show the world what Christianity looks like and at the same time, give a word of witness about Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Today is not yesterday, he admits. He forces us to examine some of our assumptions and conceptions about Christianity and our culture, saying, "Too many of God's committed people are of the world but not in the world." Do we tend to adopt the world's values and ways, yet segregate ourselves from those who reject Christ?

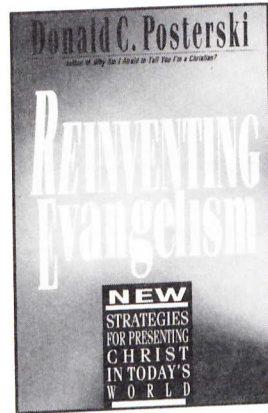
Do we wrongly assume people understand what we mean by salvation, sin, heaven, good, and evil? "Our world is weary of words," he writes. "No one ever called a news conference to formalize the announcement, but there is a prevailing consensus in North American society that God is unnecessary."

Do you want to make a difference in your world, but feel you are somehow missing the boat? Perhaps we need to make sure as Posterski suggests, that "our approaches are connecting with the times."

A confessed culture watcher, Posterski wrote with the Bible in one hand and a computer printout in the other. The "new" strategies he proposes turn out to be a return to the methods Jesus used to win individuals to the truth.

Some may feel he spends too much time with the computer printout. If so, they may skip over those sections and go to the exercises and discussions at the end of the book. This section will lead to practical steps if you are serious about showing others Jesus Christ.

You can make a difference in your world.



MORNING JAM SESSIONS

by Betty Malz
Chosen Books, Baker Book House
394 pages \$11.95
Reviewed by Yvonne Wolfenbarger



For many, morning is best for a private time with the Lord. Let Betty Malz's *MORNING JAM SESSIONS* help you start your day with nourishing words for the spirit.

Each devotion will help you greet the new day with renewed spiritual vitality. The author guides your thoughts and encourages you to remember that the Lord's mercies are new every morning and each new day is a new beginning.

Devotional titles such as, "Tea Bag Christians," "Open Your Eyes and Close Your Mouth," "Life is Like Licking Honey from a Thorn," and "Fussy Babies Might Be Smarter" let you know that whatever spiritual nourishment the author is offering for the day certainly will not be hard to swallow.

The more sobering thoughts such as "Self Pity is a Sin," "We are All Terminal," "Praying Through," and "The Door to Discipleship is Now," may take longer to digest, but will supply the spiritual vitamins you need for healthy Christian growth.

One of my favorite devotions is entitled "And Suddenly." I was reminded that God *suddenly* created the world and mankind, and he *suddenly* destroyed nearly everyone in a flood. The Savior of the world came *suddenly* and made possible a *sudden* change in our lives when we pass from life to death. It also reminded me that through some drastic event (death of a loved one, divorce, financial upset, sickness, etc.) our lives can quickly change and things will never be the same again. Only through faith in God can we face the "and suddenlies" of life.

I find myself looking eagerly to the day's insights from this thought provoking devotional book. (In fact, sometimes I can't wait until morning, so I read it before bedtime and then again the next day.) Don't wait until the beginning of next year to buy this book. You can enjoy it any day of the year.

WNAC recommends *Reinventing Evangelism* as a study in Christian living, as well as *Morning Jam Sessions* for a devotional guide, in 1993. You may find these books at your local Christian bookstore or order them from Randall Bookstore (P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37211). WNAC does not stock study books. ♦



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There was an elderly couple who tragically froze to death. Apparently the old man was trying to light their little kerosene heater while his wife lay sick in the bed. When the newsman covering the story asked a neighbor if he ever checked in on them or tried to help the poor couple, the neighbor said, "I figured if they needed help, they'd ask for it."

Do we ever ask to help anymore?
We could learn a lesson from the Macedonian churches. Paul says in

1 Corinthians 8:1-5:

"...We want you to know about the grace that God has given our Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will."(NIV)❖

Poet's Corner

Texas Thunderstorm

by Teresa Bureson
Fort Worth, Texas

Voicing a lost world's yearning
A bird seeks shelter.
One heavy cloud hangs almost
low enough to touch.
Then neon streaks scar the sky
As God's warning pounds like
an army
Over the vast darkness.
And we watch without a word.
Children of dust.
Speechless before majesty.

Provision Closet

by Cheryl Akers
Jacksonville, Florida

I am the hands that stretch
across the sea.
I am the hearts filled with
gratitude for our missionary
friends and filled with the
desire to give.
I am the feet who must stay at
home but who march with a
powerful beat.
I am the Provision Closet!

I am the soul of believing women
who think it not enough to end their
prayers with "And God bless the
missionaries wherever they are."
I am the passion of godly women
seeking to help those in The Way.
I am the pride of Auxiliary
women teaming together in
one great giving effort.
I am the Provision Closet!

Oh, let's give and sew and fill
the shelves so full from end
to end.
Til no one doubt our loyalty to
God and our loving commit-
ment to home and foreign missions.

Oh feet, oh hands, oh heart be
true and persevering.
May we keep before this vision
strong—We are the Provision
Closet!

Love Is

by Rose Elliott Chandler
Martinez, Georgia

Love is the link
the blinding force,
Transcending the physical,
even life and death;
Binding man to man
and God to man;
Elevating man to the highest
and noblest of human
experiences,
Nourishing the soul—
Extending beyond this world
and the flesh,
Allowing man but a glimpse of
the glory which shall be
revealed:
For God is love. (1 John 4:8)

Mother's Hands

by Cheryl Riley

When I was born,
she used them to hold me.
When I was four,
she used them to scold me.
When I was six,
they bandaged my knee.
When I was twelve,
they showed sympathy.
When I was fifteen,
they soothed my doubts.
When I was eighteen,
they pushed me out.

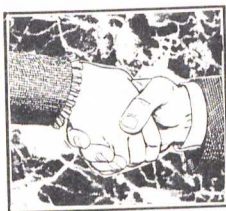
Now I'm a mother with one of
my own.
What will she remember when
she's grown?
Still I cherish the tender touch
Of the hands that time has
changed so much. ❖

Springboard:

Innovative Ideas • Helps for Auxiliary Officers

DEVOTION OUTLINE

This short devotional outline can be used at meetings or at any special activities you may plan. Take it, expand it, add illustrations your audience can relate to, and present practical ways to apply the principles to everyday living.



True Fellowship: Philippians 1:3-11

- I. *I have you in my mind* 1:3-6
 - A. Thoughtfulness v. 3
 - B. Thankfulness v. 5
- II. *I have you in my heart* 1:7-8
 - A. A partnership v. 7
 - B. A passion v. 8
- III. *I have you in my prayers* 1:9-11
 - A. Christian love v. 9,10
 1. Abundant love
 2. Discerning love
 - B. Christian character v. 10b
 1. Uncompromised
 2. Unoffensive
 - C. Christian service v.11
 1. Edifying ourselves
 2. Elevating Christ

PRESIDENT:

Reminders: May and June are busy, event-filled months. There are high school and college graduations to remember. A small gift or a congratulatory card from the Auxiliary to those graduates in your church will be a long-remembered kindness.

Both Mother's Day and Father's Day fall in May and June. This issue of *CoLaborer* includes many ideas for a Mother's Day emphasis. Both programs are suitable for use at luncheons or banquets. And perhaps for the fathers, you could encourage your women to write tributes to their fathers that can be read in church services (one every week during June). Another way to honor fathers would be to compile a list of the older, childless men in your congregation and have each member "adopt a dad." The course of action--gift baskets, lunch in your homes, a wish granted--could be left up to the adoptive daughters, and they can share the blessings received at a later meeting.

In addition, this time of year is when we emphasize the ministry of the provision closet. Currently, the closet is in need of towel sets, mattress covers of all sizes, bedspreads all sizes, flatware sets of eight, Corelleware sets of eight, and 6qt. pressure cookers. May and June is also Home Missions emphasis time, so schedule a time with your officers to discuss a strategy for highlighting this special ministry in your meetings. See "Bessie Yeley" article on page 11 and Mission Alert on page 28. Also, for the June program, you might consider having one or more of the women bring or model her wedding gown.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

See page 17 of Springboard for Mother/Daughter banquet suggestions. Perhaps you will want to inform your members about the *Tightwad Digest*. It is a practical, money-saving newsletter that offers some unique approaches to making ends meet. The digest costs \$12 per year: the address is *Tightwad Digest*, Leeds, Massachusetts, 01053.

For enlistment, perhaps the each-one reach-one approach would be an interesting and effective means of getting more women involved. Here's how it works: compile a list of the non-active women in your church; divide into two teams; assign each Auxiliary member on both teams a person on the list; give them 6 options for reaching out: [1] telephone invitation, [2] special notecard, [3] personal visit (over coffee or a meal, perhaps), [4] singing telegram (self-performed), [5] a special delivery gift (handmade or crafted, hand-delivered with invitation), or [6] provide or arrange a ride to the meeting/special program. Option number 1 is worth 5 points, and each number up from one doubles (#2=10pts., #3=20 pts., #4=40pts., #5=80pts., #6=160pts.). The team with the most success can be rewarded in some manner by the other team, or one or both teams can give a penny per point as an extra special gift to missions through WNAC.

MISSION STUDY CHAIRMAN:

What are the Home Mission Churches in your state? Who is pastoring/church-building there? This is the time of year (along with November's offering emphasis) when we promote awareness and support for Home Missions. The FWB Home Missions Department has tons of **free literature** about the mission works currently underway, biographical information about the families, as well as prayer cards, newsletters, birthday/anniversary calendars, and maps---all for the asking.

Your Auxiliary might consider adopting several home missionaries to encourage and pray for on a regular basis. If every Auxiliary would adopt a home missionary and commit to praying, encouraging, and giving to that family, what a difference it could make. Take the time to order these materials and write to the a home missionary in your state. Then present the new, up-to-date facts about these special servants of God to your Auxiliary.

Discouragement is running rampant in these churches and in the workers. Our women should be made more aware of the stateside ministry of FWBaptists and of how we can help. For free literature and more information write P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002, or call 615-731-6812 and ask for Mrs. Pat Thomas in the Home Missions Department.

MISSION PRAYER CHAIRMAN:

Colossians 4:2 says, "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and faithful" (NIV). It seems these days our prayer list gets longer and longer, and our prayer time gets shorter and shorter. Auxiliary meetings are often too lengthy to spend much time in prayer, so to save time, perhaps you'll want to make an outline of prayer requests to give to each woman as she arrives at the meetings. See Missions Alert on page 28 for missionary news.

Divide a piece of paper into four sections, 1-Missions, 2-Church, 3-Personal, 4-Seasonal. Include in each category the requests you are aware of and the ones you want to emphasize this month (such as home missionaries in your state for the month of June) and leave plenty of blank space for the women to write in requests. Cut the paper into the four different pieces, and during prayer time, divide into category groups and pray specifically for the requests in one of the categories. At the close of the meeting, the women can exchange slips of paper with others to take home some of the requests her group did not pray for.

Don't forget to pray for the high school and college graduates of your church during these months, as well as the FWB summer missionaries. For a complete list of the summer missionaries, see the January/February 1993 *Heartbeat*, a publication of the FWB Foreign Missions Department. If you are not receiving *Heartbeat* and *Mission Grams*, the FWB missions publications, you might want to get on those mailing lists. Both would be very helpful in leading your women in prayer.

MISSION ACTION CHAIRMAN:

Think about the many opportunities for outreach during the summer months. The warmer weather, lack of holiday preparation, and school being out free us up to accomplish more for Christ.

Here are some suggestions for outreach: sponsor a picnic for the young people in your church---cookout at a state park or at someone's house, and share the LifeAction! column with them (see page 25) and their unchurched friends; organize a special mother's day service/activity at a women's prison, providing

!!! MONEY QUIZ !!!

Answer the following questions to find out how disciplined your dollars are.

1. When my dollars leave home
 - a. I ask where did they go
 - b. I tell them where to go
2. My dollars bring home
 - a. more things bought on impulse
 - b. more things planned for
3. My dollars are
 - a. never enough to pay all the bills
 - b. enough to cover my bills
4. My dollars occupy the place
 - a. of an honored guest
 - b. of a servant
5. My dollars get my attention
 - a. before my family, my health, my church, etc.
 - b. but have to take second place to my home, my health, my church
6. My dollars make it to church
 - a. occasionally or when there isn't an emergency
 - b. without fail
7. My dollars go to work for Auxiliary
 - a. when I remember to bring them
 - b. every time they're called

To check your score, count the number of A's and B's you have:

7 B's--Disciplined Dollars
5-6 B's--Moderately Disciplined
4 B's or less--Undisciplined

"Undisciplined money usually spells undisciplined people."

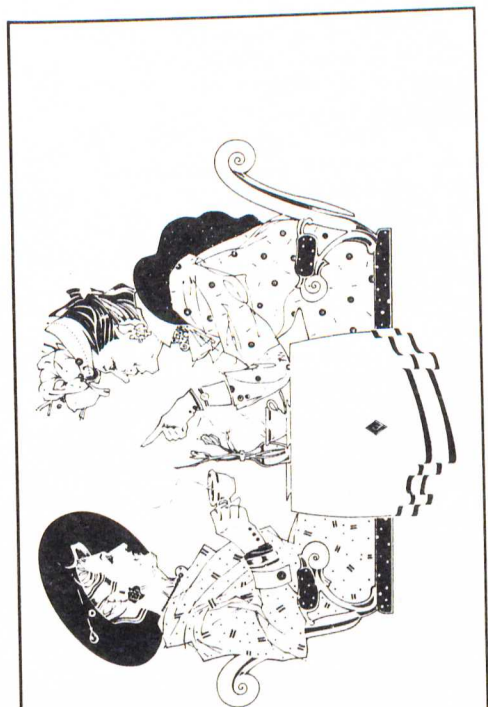
--Robert Hastings

"Money is to be captured, subdued, and used for greater goals."

--Richard Foster



ART FOR BANQUET OPTION 1



ART FOR BANQUET OPTION 2

care packages and devotional materials for the women; sponsor a Super Salad Sunday Nite at your church, the proceeds of which can go toward a home missionary's account that has a deficit; have a "Girls Night Out" at the home of one of the members. Provide babysitting services elsewhere, and gather for an allnight "slumber-share" time. Be sure to have a theme, and plan well in advance. This would be wonderful as a mother-daughter activity. Be sure to include in whatever plans you make a special card or acknowledgment for a home missionary. Confer with the Mission Study Chairman to plan out how to encourage these denominational workers. ❖

BANQUET IDEAS FOR MAY / JUNE:

If you have a bookstore nearby, it probably has several different books with ideas for banquets, but here are two sure banquet winners. But first, remember the cardinal rules/suggestions for banquet/activity planning: [1] plan well in advance with as much help as possible (in other words, delegate!), [2] expect problems, so be prepared with alternatives and solutions, [3] advertise in advance with posters, invitations, announcements--make the advertising eye-catching, [4] get the entertainment together early--perhaps even 'dangling the carrot' (giving a preview of the wonderful things to come) in church on a Sunday night, [5] organize a clean-up crew---husbands or teens work well---and be sure to thank them individually and publicly, and [6] though by all means not the least important, PRAY about the event---you never know when a seed may be planted.

OPTION ONE: FAMOUS DUOS. Mothers and daughters dress up as famous duos. Use your imagination here. You could be anyone from biblical characters (Abraham and Sarah) to fairy tale/story characters (Dorothy and TinMan) to real live famous (or not so famous) people (Antony and Cleopatra or someone in your church). You could even be two halves of a character (Humpty Dumpty) or a combination of two different characters (half cowgirl, half ballerina). Have awards for the most creative or the most outlandish costumes. The following suggestions will go along well with this enjoyable banquet experience:

COLORS: Bright blue, red, yellow, and green

DECORATION THEME: Try to achieve the feel and look of a circus--balloons, big banners, little popcorn bags with take home remembrance at each place setting, confetti on the tables. Hang streamers from ceiling center out to corners of the room.

PROGRAM: mini-plays "You Be the Judge" and "The Virtuous Woman" would work well for this type of banquet. You can order them and program covers for \$3.00 (incl. p&h) by writing WNAC.

MUSIC: Have some cheerful songs ("Wherever we go, whatever we do, we're gonna go through it together....") or hymns ("All That Thrills My Soul is Jesus") at the beginning of the program, and have a song dedicated to the mothers during a time of recognition. Encourage different ages to sing appropriate songs from their generations.

FOOD: Lasagne, a very colorful Salad, Bread, Pie or Cake, and Punch

DEVOTIONAL: "The Virtuous Woman" based on Proverbs 31

RECOGNITION: Honor mothers of all ages, but give special recognition to a "Mother of the Year" who exemplifies what Christian love and commitment should be. You'll want to have the Auxiliary nominate 3-5 women for this award, and have some system of voting to reach a conclusion.

OPTION TWO: MEMORY LANE. This banquet is to be a very old-fashioned, genteel experience where the women dress in their Sunday best (hats and parasols and white gloves would be a nice, ladylike touch) and enjoy a walk through the past while the melodies of soft (classical?) music play in the background--except during the program, of course. Here are some suggestions for strolling down memory lane:

COLORS: Pastels

DECORATION THEME: Victorian, antique like, with old frames that have pictures of the mothers and daughters, old perfume bottles, old reading glasses, old hats, netting, lacy handkerchiefs and doilies, and lots and varied candlesticks. Dried flowers would add to the atmosphere also. If possible, use china, silverware, cloth napkins, and real glasses.

PROGRAM: Two mini-plays, "Precious Moments" and "Then and Now" would work well for this type of banquet. You can order 2 plays and and program covers for \$3.00 by writing WNAC.

MUSIC: Try to find some older sheet music from the 1930s or 1940s and have someone learn one or two songs (the older women in your church can give some suggestions here)

FOOD: Dainty finger foods would be nice--cucumber sandwiches, fruit pastries, fruit teas, etc.

DEVOTIONAL: "The Wonderful Walk of Life" based on Psalm 71:5-9, 17,18

RECOGNITION: See Option One above. ❖

Springboard Illustrated: Stories to Grow By Volume 33/ No. 2 "Mistake or Miracle" by Mable Purviance

When 16 missions-minded men and women from Missoula, Montana, journeyed to Romania, they saw God's hand at work among them. The group made the lengthy trip to help construct a church in Cluj, Romania's second largest city.

One happening the visitors considered a miracle occurred when some of the team visited a Cluj apartment house on a Saturday afternoon. An elderly woman, known as 'babushka' or grandmother, had sat for hours by the window of her tiny apartment watching the coming and going at the church under construction. The Americans felt led to call upon the woman and invite her to Sunday services.

When the visitors knocked upon the door, they were cordially welcomed by several occupants, though the elderly woman was not among them. Because of the language differences, the visitors did not learn the whereabouts of the one they had set out to call upon. Perhaps she was out shopping, they decided.

Nevertheless, the invitation was extended, and all showed up for worship the following morning. All accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

Only after the services did the American visitors learn they had made a "mistake." The babushka occupied the apartment next door. God had turned a mistake into a miracle! ❖

MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR

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

MAY

- 4 Ron Moore [C'I]*
- 10 Delores Burns [GA]
- 11 Elaine Holland [C'I]
- 15 Mark Riggs [Spain]
- 16 Dale Bishop [Japan]
- 16 Susan Bumpus [Uruguay]
- 16 Elaine Parker [LA]
- 17 Ora Booth [OH]
- 17 Steve Reeves [Spain]*
- 21 Ernest Holland [C'I]
- 25 Lynn Midgett [Spain]
- 26 Kenneth Eagleton [C'I]
- 30 Alice Smith [C'I]*

*indicates furlough

JUNE

- 2 Jean Deeds [Brazil]
- 2 Levan Hubbard [AR]
- 6 Stan Bunch [Panama]
- 11 Kathy Donoho [IA]
- 13 Vicki Hubbard [AR]
- 14 Steve Lytle [Panama]
- 22 Bernice Hanna [SC]
- 24 Jim McLain [Japan]
- 28 Ron Parker [LA]
- 29 Steve Riggs [France]*

In the March-April prayer calendar, there was an error: Evelyn Hersey was listed as retired, but the Herseys are not retired; they are currently stateside due to health problems. We apologize for the misprint.

Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (KJV)

Lucy and Margie Give Their Burdens to the Lord

A Mini-Play for Woman's Auxiliary to be used in conjunction with the May Program "Sarah's Decisions"

Scene: Margie's living room

Margie: [praying with confidence] And so Lord, we give this burden to you to work out the way you see fit. We know you are all powerful and that you control everything that goes on in our lives and the lives of our children. You know that Lucy should get on that auxiliary committee, and you know how much I want my son Rayburn to date that sweet girl down the street. So we just leave it all up to you, knowing that your will is best. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Lucy: Amen! [Takes a sip of coffee] Well, I feel so much better now that we've prayed.

Margie: Me too. Anyway, I've been thinking that maybe if I planted a bug in Mary Lou's ear about you and all of your wonderful ideas, she'd get on the horn and spread the word. What Mary Lou wants, Mary Lou gets.

Lucy: I don't know. Sounds a bit too pushy. She's bound to think I put you up to it. Besides, not everyone likes Mary Lou.

Margie: Yeah, you're right. [Pauses to think] Hm.m.m. I could just kind of mention it to Gayle Miller in passing. Everyone respects her opinion.

Lucy: Well, maybe. [changes subject] So, tell me again why Rayburn hasn't asked Karen...

Margie: [Interrupts] It's Kristen, Kristen Flowers. [sounding excited] Even her name is sweet.

Lucy: OK Kristen. Why do you think he hasn't asked her out yet. He thinks she's nice, doesn't he?

Margie: I guess so. When he met her, he was so rude. I was so upset. As soon as she left, I hunted that boy down and gave him a piece of my mind.

Lucy: How long ago was that?

Margie: About a month.

Lucy: Surely there is a way to get them to run into each other. Have you tried the old standards?

Margie: Yes, I tried the "go borrow some sugar" one and the "take these cookies I baked to Mrs. Flowers" routine and the "ah, look, there's an empty spot on the pew next to the Flowers" bit, but he seemed really irritated that I would stoop so low. You've got to help me do this Lucy! If we don't come up with a plan to get them together, I'm afraid it just won't happen. ❖

Communicator

by Mary Ruth Wischart

Convention '93

WNAC's annual meeting is set for Tuesday, July 20 in the Commonwealth Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

Delegates will select officers for the next two years. The nominating committee meets Monday, July 19 at 9:00 a.m. in the Keeneland Suite at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The nominating committee organized in 1992, and any substitutions for members should have a signed slip from their state president for June Rolen, chairman, showing that they are proxies.

The business session includes consideration of the report from the study committee. (See below for correction of the report in the March/April issue.)

Fellowship Dinner

Darlene Spangler, popular retreat and seminar speaker from Los Gatos, California, will speak to the Fellowship Dinner attendees. She is with Equipping for Excellence, a Christian education consultant ministry, has served as an education director in the local church, spoken at seminars and retreats, and taught in the Billy Graham School of Evangelism. She now teaches at the San Jose Christian College in the Christian Education Department.

Meals are guaranteed for 650 people. Tickets should be purchased early to insure a seat. See the pre-registration form in this issue.

Missionary Speakers

Women will have a chance to hear Susan Turnbough report on the church building in Spain. The Eunice Edwards Loan Fund for Churches Abroad contributed \$35,000 to the building in Villalba.

Ron Moore, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, is the speaker for the eleven o'clock message.

Pre-Convention Meetings

On Monday, July 19, the Executive Committee will meet to complete plans for the 1994 retreat at Ridgecrest. They will also look ahead to the retreat at Glorieta in 1995 and make other plans for the work of WNAC.

Monday afternoon at 3:00, the national officers will meet with state officers for a time of information and inspiration led by the executive secretary, Mary R. Wischart. State officers will meet in Regency South of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

For early arrivals, WNAC plans mini-seminars on Monday afternoon. The 1993 seminar in Regency South of the Hyatt Regency Hotel utilizes the year's theme "The Grace of Giving," based on Acts 20:35. Two speakers will discuss what women have to give and how they can give it. June Wilkinson will give practical suggestions for sharing a very valuable possession—time. Gladys Gragg will challenge women to check their resources. They may be surprised at what they have to give.

The pre-registration form for the
1993 Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, to be held
July 19-20 in Louisville, Kentucky, can be found on pages 29-30
of this issue of *CoLaborer*.

Housing forms for the convention will be published in the March, April, and May issues of
Contact magazine as well as in your state's Free Will Baptist paper.
We look forward to seeing you at the convention.

Our Apology

In the March/April issue in the "Communicator" something is missing. From page 19 to page 24 some lines were omitted from #4 and #5 of the Study Committee's suggested changes. The correction follows. 4. Song: "People Need the Lord." Some think the old song is not "singable." The suggested song is more singable and more current. It also suggests what we should be doing to fulfill the great commission. 5. Local Officers: coordinator, assistant coordinator, secretary-treasurer, missions chairman, study chairman, prayer chairman, service chairman. (This section is then complete on page 24 of the March/April issue.) We apologize for any inconvenience or misunderstanding this may have caused.

Calling All Secretaries

Secretaries should send in reports as soon as possible after their annual meetings for the annual report at the Convention. According to WNAC's records, 57 new Woman's Auxiliaries formed in 1992. Reports should reflect this increase.

Accurate reports demand reminders and persistence. Local secretaries should help the district secretaries, and the district secretaries should cooperate with the state secretaries.

Make sure all the locals in the district and all districts in the state report. The WNAC office needs all reports by July 1st, 1993 in order to prepare the annual report for the Convention.

Provision Closet Needs:

Towel sets, full-size mattress covers, sheet sets of all sizes--especially king and queen, pressure cookers--6 quart preferred, and flatware sets of 8 ♦

Women In Action



A. Richmond Virginia Auxiliary Reveals Secrets

The Auxiliary women of the First FWB Church in Richmond posed for a group shot at their December 1992 Christmas/Secret Pal Revealing Party. They are: (front row) Linda Markland, Rachel Smith, Rhonda Edmonds, Joann Magnani; (middle row) Linda Fonseca, Margaret Merkh, Carolyn Tyler, Irene Dolan, Gertrude Dickey, Margaret Lilly; (back row) Brenda McPeak, Paula Munn, Glenna Steele, Jean Clowse, Cheryl Reed, Yvonne Roberts, and Katie Amick. What a lovely group!



A picture is worth a thousand words.

We here at WNAC want to see what you've been up to. Not only will your smiling faces smile out at over 13,000 readers, but other Auxiliaries will benefit from seeing your ideas and activities! Be sure to include the necessary [who? what? when? where? and why?] information along with good, clear photos (with the return address on each photo) of the event.



B. Auxiliary Pies Underwrite All Night Prayer Meeting
Jeanette Dalton reports that over 115 pies were baked by the Mountain Grove, Missouri women and sold to a local businessman. The proceeds paid for an "All Night Prayer Meeting" held at the church on April 30. The meeting provided dinner, breakfast, and a wonderful time of prayer, praise, and fellowship.

C. Baby McFall is Given Shower

Three churches in the Little Rock, Arkansas area recently gave a baby shower for Norman, Laura, and little Samuel McFall, missionaries to Brazil. The North Little Rock Auxiliary, Jacksonville Auxiliary, Oak Park Auxiliary, and Capitol City Auxiliary all participated, and the McFalls received many nice and needed baby supplies.



D. First Mission Auxiliaries Meeting: "Unbounded Love"
On February 13th, the Oklahoma First Mission District Auxiliaries met and listened to Louise Richmond speak from Romans 8:35-39 on "Unbounded Love." There were 33 in attendance. First Mission has a total of 15 Auxiliaries and has a total membership of 140. Pictured here are the officers: (front) Nita Tuttle, Asst. Clerk; Nadine Hood, Clerk; (back) Linda Biggers, Treasurer; Tracy Payne,

New Auxiliaries in 1992

WNAC is excited about the 57! new Auxiliaries begun this year. A new group was started in 21 states, Tennessee leading the way with 9, followed by 5 in Oklahoma, 4 in Alabama, Arkansas, and Ohio. California, Florida, Missouri, South Carolina, and West Virginia had 3 new Auxiliaries each. And Illinois, Kansas, North Carolina, and Virginia started 2 new groups this year. There were 7 Auxiliaries that disbanded this year, but overall, we are excited how involved our women are in this effort for Christ's Kingdom.

Letters to **WNAC**

Dear WNAC,
Our Auxiliary at Watauga Valley was moved by Lois Smallwood's letter concerning support for the WNAC office. We want to do our part. We decided to send 10% of each month's offering to help with expenses.

Robin E. Williams
Elizabethton, TN

Dear WNAC,
The Study Committee has done an excellent job in trying to get everyone's opinion. I admire and respect that, and I believe they have followed the Lord's leading. Thank you for helping lead our next generations into a relevant ministry continuing our Lord's work.

Joyce Little
Russellville, AR

Dear WNAC,
We send a special thanks to all the Auxiliary women for their gifts to our account last year, totaling \$3,015.67. Continue to pray for those here who have not yet given their hearts to Christ. Pray that we will be able to share a clear testimony for Him.

Dale and Sandra Bishop
Nopporo, Japan

Dear WNAC,
Our Auxiliary is growing, and we need 30 magazines instead of 25. The CoLaborer has been such a blessing to us. May God continue to bless you and the wonderful work you are doing.

Carol Harvey
Inez, Kentucky

We live in a time when it is hard to find a good balance. Sometimes it seems that we must be expert jugglers to be able to balance all the elements in our lives--the spiritual, physical, emotional, social, and financial elements, just to name a few. We try to be good wives, mothers, grandmothers, neighbors, coworkers, friends, but often the juggling gets the better of us: we're caught off-balance. In these hurried, hectic, difficult days, it is important to get back to the basics, to regain and maintain our balance.

B--Be yourself. I tried to please everyone when we started out. My wise husband used to say, "Honey, please the Lord, and you will please me." Could I accept that? No. I put so many demands on myself, trying to blame church members for my load. I thought they held great expectations over me, but they really didn't. There was never any pressure to be anything other than myself. God wants us to be ourselves. Give yourself completely and daily to God. Let Him use you and change you, where and when He wants to.

A--Ask. James 1:5 says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God...." Balance is impossible without asking Him daily for wisdom to be the kind of women we need to be. Don't let anyone's expectations overwhelm you and cause you to become bitter because God knew what you were capable of when He called you to be a minister's wife. Ask God to meet your needs and don't be afraid to ask others as well. Some of my best friends through the years have been those whose help I needed. Most of your church members want to help you but don't know how. Give them the opportunity to help.

L--Learn to love. We need to get our love

priorities in order. The Lord should be the first recipient of our love and devotion, followed by our husbands, children, and all people. We need to look for ways to show love to those who will love us back and even to those who will not. Our witness for Christ depends on our ability to love the lost to Him. It's all too easy to get this confused today, but we are to love people and use things, not love things and use people. When our vertical love (for God) is out of sync, our horizontal love relationships (with our family, friends, and with the lost) suffer.

A--Acceptance. There is a saying, "In acceptance lieth peace." We need to accept the power, the wisdom, and the sovereignty of God. We will save ourselves a lot of time and worry if we simply let God control our every move. If we want to be conformed to His image, like Romans 8:29 says, we need to quit resisting what He is doing in us. Many of the very things we fight are things that, when looking back, we see

were for our growth in Christ. We also need to accept people for who and what they are, not for who we think they should be. Our desire should be to see the best in others.

N--No. "No" definitely needs to be in the vocabulary of the minister's wife. Dedication is not measured by exhaustion. J. Grant Howard expresses it well in his book *Balancing Life's Demands*: "Are you bombarded with requests? Learn to say no. Already over-committed? Cut back! See something else that needs to be done? Delegate it! That's what leaders of the early church did." If it worked for them, it can for us.

C--Contentment. 1 Timothy 6:6 says, "Godliness with contentment is great gain." As pastors' wives, we need to be content with what we have and where we are. Ours is a world of discontent, but the Christian can be at peace, knowing that whatever comes into her life enters only by the Father's permission (Job 1:8-12) and will result in our ultimate good (Romans 8:28). This truth is life-changing if applied everyday. For me, this truth became reality only after I had been on a plane that caught on fire. It took a real scare for me to realize God is in control. Everything can change with one phone call, overnight, or in the blink of an eye. All He asks is that we trust Him and be content.

E--Evaluate. We need to take long, hard looks at ourselves according to God's Word. Until we are measuring up to His standards, no other measurement stick counts. His Word covers every imaginable life-principle, and in it are the instructions for the use of our time, our talents, our money, as

well as how to pattern our relationships. We should ask ourselves often: Are there areas of needed improvement? Do we need to change anything? Do I have a good balance?

There is a prayer I pray every morning to help me keep perspective in my life: "Lord, I commit my day to You. I trust in You, and You will bring it to pass." After I have added all of my praise and requests to that prayer, I leave my day in His hands. Some days, I lose sight of His plan in my life. I lose the peace He promises. But He does His part every day. If we study His example, His perfection, His balanced life, and work to follow it, we can have that balance too. ❖



Getting Your Balance

by Eleanor Hart



Eleanor Hart grew up in Tupelo, MS. She and husband Gordon have been in the pastorate for over 24 years and currently minister at the Living Water FWB Church in Bethel, NC. Eleanor is a teacher, an insurance agent, treasurer of her local Auxiliary, and field worker for the Palmer District.

*F*or my God shall supply all your need, according to His riches in glory, by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

In a land of plenty and prosperity I was hungry. And I was penniless. On a long journey, I had crossed one state line since breakfast, and I must still cross two other state lines before reaching my destination and a home where I could sit down to a meal without money! Everyone around me seemed well fed.

At a bus stop even my three fellow workers, with whom I had spent the past two weeks in a Christian Workers' Institute, filed out with the other passengers and enjoyed a good meal in the station restaurant.

They assumed I would come along and naturally asked why when I didn't. I made some excuse without telling the big whopper it would have been if I had said I wasn't hungry. To tell the truth, I was beginning to have a headache because I was hungry.

The previous night, the closing night of the Institute, was the usual evangelistic and call-for-volunteers night; the meeting had been a stirring one. Home in U. S. A. after five years in India, I longed and worked for awakened interest and personnel for the unevangelized world.

L. R. Ennis, director of that Institute, had made a special appeal when offering time came along. My pocketbook contained one coin, a half dollar. Into the offering plate it went, my only regret being that it wasn't more. I knew I could not persuade others to give money nor life for God's service if I withheld my own.

Now I had a reputable looking pocketbook holding passport and other valuable papers, but billfold and coin purse were gloriously empty. Jesus had said, had He not? "Take no thought for tomorrow!" Now it was tomorrow, and I was en route homeward.

Ere my party returned to the bus

along with most other passengers, my head was literally pounding so that it was difficult to think. My seat mate had brought her lunch, had opened it up and attempted to eat it. I looked the other way, but the smell was torturesome to an empty, gnawing stomach.

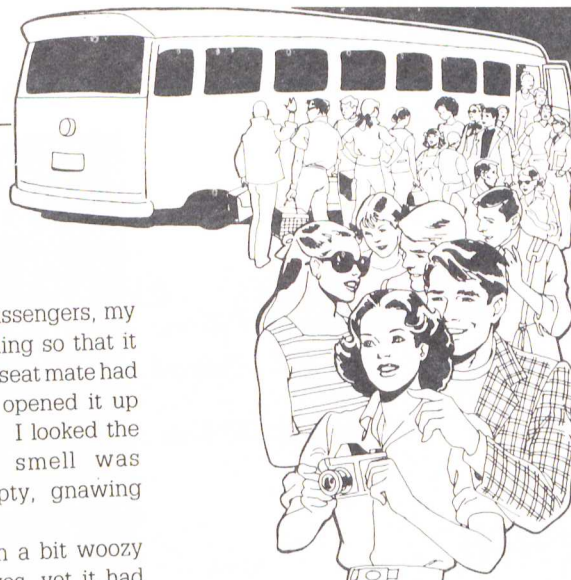
I knew she had been a bit woozy from the mountain curves, yet it had not occurred to me she was incapable of food intake. But after several unsuccessful attempts, she lifted her lunch box and handed it to me almost pleadingly, "Couldn't you use this? I can't!"

I actually believed a bit of food would have helped her, but she was no longer capable of trying. She leaned her head back, closed her eyes and relaxed, glad in the thought that her delectable lunch would not be confiscated, though out of her sight.

Fifty cents was exactly the price of a good lunch, plus dessert in our setting, but this little box on my lap would rate \$1.50 by comparison. With food in my tummy, my headache subsided, and I could think again.

I had made a safe and profitable investment the night before. And it is always so. God will never let mortal man out give Him.

(Note: In going through some of Miss Barnard's files, I found this gem. I'm not sure when she wrote it, but the incident must have taken place in 1940 or '41. It is just as she wrote it with a few minor corrections.—mrw)❖



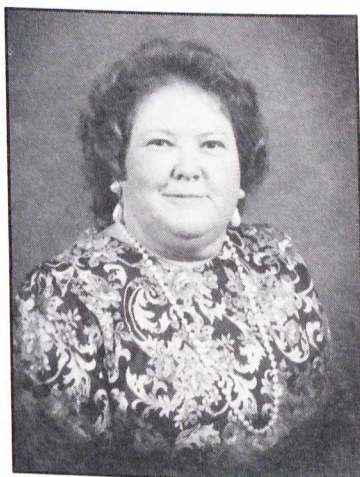
Gloriously EMPTY

by Laura Belle Barnard

A Woman God Has Used

Mary C. "Susie" Elliott: A Life Shared

by Shelia Williams



II Timothy 2:2 "So my [daughter], be strong in the grace that Christ gives. Everything that you have heard me teach in public you should in turn entrust to reliable [women], who will be able to pass it on to others." (Phillips trans. of New Testament)

As a small child of six or seven, Susie enjoyed climbing into tall chairs to sing gospel music with Dad and Mom and the family. She was the youngest and shortest, but her tiny voice blended well with the others. Her musical talents were sharpened early, playing the piano alongside her mother, and she eventually became pianist and regular soloist at her home church, Bradley Free Will Baptist in Kilsyth, West Virginia.

Her work for the Lord didn't end there. She taught Sunday school, directed CTS, was the church music coordinator and president of the Woman's Auxiliary. She later became the West Virginia State Auxiliary president, as well as youth coordinator at Bradley church for the National FWB Music and Arts Festival. She also served on the Steering Committee at the 1991 National Convention.

In every task she performed, every position she held, Susie's desire was to share God's love with the world. She enthusiastically planned ways to save money for missions and other church ministries. Her leadership inspired many to greater service, especially the young people she worked with so diligently hour after hour.

Susie loved life, loved God supremely, and loved sharing the gospel. She gave all of her hopes and dreams to the Lord: some He granted, some He withheld, but she was content and fulfilled in His perfect plan. On September 29th, 1992, Mary Carol Elliott slipped away from family and friends into the arms of her dear Savior. Although she is gone, her witness, her work lives on. There are many vacancies in the state and local work since her passing, but we rejoice that she is with the Father. ❖

*Make your Mother/Daughter Banquet
a Huge Success!*

See the banquet ideas on page 17 of Springboard
and order plays and program covers (\$3.00 incl. s&h)
from WNAC, P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, Tennessee, 37011-5002.



THIS
IS
THE
DAY

by Becky Gwartney
Flat River, Missouri

Every morning, during my high school years, my Dad would gently open my bedroom door and try to awaken me from a peaceful night's rest. I've never been a morning person, so 5 am always came too early. As I would grunt, groan, and cover my head, my Dad quoted one verse from God's Word: Psalm 118:24: "This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

How I dreaded that verse! It always brought me great anguish as I crawled out from under my comfortable covers. I was to rejoice at 5 am? Be glad? Ha! I thought dad was just rubbing salt in the wound when he quoted it. Did he really feel that way at 5 am?

The psalmist David is telling us that, no matter the time, the circumstances, our condition, the pain . . . to rejoice! God made the day just the way it is. He has prepared it for us, for our growth and His glory. We should be thankful and "glad in it."

I remember the morning of my Mom's funeral. I walked into the kitchen to find my Dad standing at the sink, deep in thought. "How are you doing, Dad?" I asked with much concern. A gentle smile swept across his face as he said, "This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Yes, my dad agrees wholeheartedly with the psalmist David.

No matter what day, we should rejoice and be glad. ❖

"He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire;
Psalm 40:2

he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand."
(NIV)

Life!Action * a new column for Actionettes



Help! I've fallen, and I can't get up.

There was this young woman I knew in college who was always falling down. Every year she hobbled her way through classes and chapel, to ballgames, to the cafeteria. Well, to be exact, if she made it anywhere, she hobbled. The first year it was a broken ankle. The second, a broken leg. The third year, I guess she was looking for variety, so she wore a cast on her arm along with a lovely neckbrace. The fourth year, she broke the other leg.

Everyone wondered from day to day which stairwell she'd fall down in or if she'd make it through the snow without doing further damage. We were too immature to realize that "but for the grace of God go us," so we laughed a lot at her expense. It really wasn't funny to her.

The truth is we humans are all clumsy, klutzy, goofballs stumbling our way through life. We fall often and hard. Sometimes, we're actually smart enough to *know* we're falling *when* we're falling. Most times, though, we're face down in the dirt before we even see the hole. Life is full of holes to fall in. But there are three major kinds of holes.

We're walking along, humming a tune, and WHAM! We've fallen into **the pothole of Neglect**. "But I forgot. I didn't have time. It can wait. I'll catch up later," we say. Before long, it has been weeks, months since we've talked to God, read His letters, shared Him with a friend or neighbor. We've neglected the most important things in life, and although it's easy to hide our bruises, they are there.

Unless the potholes are filled and covered, they get bigger and bigger. Neglect grows into **the ditch of Temptation**. Our communication with God is the only thing that keeps us our spiritual senses alert. If we've fallen into Neglect, He can't lead us around the ditches. AR-R-R-R-R-GH! KA-BOOM! UG-GGGG-H! We're covered with mud and grass, weak and vulnerable to all the terrible unhealthy habits--lying, cheating, swearing--that damage our minds, and ultimately, our bodies.

A day or two in the ditch, no rescue in sight, and AH-H-H-H-H-h-h-h-h-h-h-h-h-h(h-fading)! We've fallen head over feet into the cold, black **pit of Sin**. We're no longer just looking at the possibilities swirling around in the ditch, we are trapped in a life-threatening, desperate dilemma. Our minds are filled with darkness, our bodies shaking in decay. We can scream, but we're so far down, no one hears.

We can pull ourselves out of the pothole with very little effort and bruises that heal rather quickly. The ditches take determination and struggling, but if we ask God for mercy and strength, He gives us what we need to drag ourselves up to the side of the road where He'll provide healing. In time. And yes, He can even hear and rescue us from the pit, if we sincerely want out. The scars from that fall last a lifetime. But we can never fall too far down that He cannot find us, lift us up, brush us off, forgive us, and go with us...around the holes.

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 God. 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 ❖

tender thoughts

by pearl mitchell

my daddy was handicapped, but he didn't know it.

Some folks tried to tell him, but he wouldn't believe it. He shouldn't have been able to do many of the things he did, but you couldn't convince him of that. At age 30, he lost his left arm right below the joint, leaving him with only a nub. But a strong faith in God kept him living his life, continuing on, with hope of tomorrow.

His outlook on life is epitomized by an event that happened at a church singing. Another one-armed man had commented to the pastor after the service that he had enjoyed the singing immensely, but there was one thing he wanted to do that he couldn't--clap with the music.

The pastor replied, "I have the solution. Get with Mr. Watley over there (my father), and the two of you can work together." A perfect solution! And daddy would have been more than willing because that was the way he looked at life.

He refused to park in handicapped parking spaces, because after all, he could walk fine, and someone with bad legs might need it worse than he did.

His philosophy in life was to help the less fortunate. Even with nine children in the house, there was always an extra one or two "less fortunates" temporarily boarding with us. We didn't have much, but my father always shared what we did

have with those who had nothing.

He continued to drive with his one good arm and the nub, generally more carefully than a two-handed person. He could perform an array of tasks that most "regular" people find impossible.

Most times, we didn't even see him as handicapped because that's the way he wanted it. Like the year I gave him an expensive pair of gloves for Christmas. He commented that it was okay because to him, there were two pairs of gloves instead of just one pair.

He had no special talents, but this man whose two favorites were "God and Krystal's coffee" made his "joyful noise." And when I hear that old saying, "I felt sorry for myself because I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet," I always see my father. He lived that saying, always looking for ways to help others, never thinking of his own losses.

I thought about you today, Daddy, when we sang, "I am what you made me, Lord, and I will not be ashamed." The world would be such a better place to live if we all could follow your example. ❖



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

Sweet Peace

by
Margaret Lloyd
Altha, Florida



I awoke to find Rachel standing by my bed in the dark. "I had a bad dream, Mama. I'm afraid," she whispered. "Okay sweetheart," I answered and held her hand as we walked back to the her bedroom. While I sat on the end of her bed, she crawled back in and peacefully drifted off to sleep. She felt safe and secure while Mom watched over her.

As I sat on guard duty, I remembered some times when I've felt the Lord just as close and just as comforting to me as my presence was to Rachel that fearful night.

I've prayed and rocked a fevered baby in the night. Tearfully, I've reminded the Lord that we gave Him this child before it was born and asked wouldn't He please help. I've felt the Spirit calm my fears and bring peace to my heart.

I remembered the apprehension I felt as I drove to a job interview one day. On the way, the Lord reminded me that because I truly wanted His will for my life, I couldn't mess up the interview unless He allowed it. What a relief! With a song in my heart, I entered the office and got the job.

I recalled the butterflies in my stomach as the time approached for my part in the program. How frightening to stand before a room full of people! "Oh, dear Lord," I breathed, "please use me to help these people." A sudden calmness and assurance of His help relaxed me and carried me through.

Jesus can calm our fears and bring peace to our hearts. Are you troubled? Fearful? Ask the Lord to help, surrender to His will, and receive His peace.

"Peace I leave with you . . . let not your heart be troubled, neither be afraid." John 14:27 ❖

*Fannie Polston, WNAC's first field secretary,
wrote this article before 1950,
but the message is just as relevant today.*

Give Until Our Soul's Rejoice

by Fannie Polston



When we discuss stewardship, there are two handicaps at the very outset: one, in the vastness of the subject; and two, everything that could be said has been said. The best I can do is to say in my own way what I consider the most important aspects of stewardship.

The first and perhaps most important part of stewardship is **the giving of self**. The apostle Paul knew *that* was the heart of the matter when he wrote to the Corinthian Christians concerning the Macedonian saints. He said, "they first gave themselves." If we are ever to understand the meaning of stewardship, we must first invest ourselves.

Our lives are gifts of God. He puts us here and keeps us here until he is ready for us to leave. What, then, are we to do with these lives of ours? Are we to live without any reference to God's plan for us? The sinner does that. He feels himself under no obligation to please God. But, we who have been redeemed by Christ should realize that we belong to Him, that we are to live according to His direction. Paul asks this searching question, "Know ye not that ye are not your own? You are bought with a price."

The second part of stewardship is **the giving of substance**, the material things we accumulate. God's word tells us that "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof" and that "it is He who giveth thee power to get wealth." We might acknowledge that God has blessed us with possessions, but are we willing to take that a step further and say "all we have is yours Lord"?

The rich young ruler undoubtedly would have said that his possessions belonged to God, but when God's Son told him what to do with them, he did not respond. In Malachi 3:10-12, God asks us to prove His faithfulness: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me herewith. If I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Since we are commanded to give a tithe of our possessions,

we should have a systematic plan of doing so. I Corinthians 16:2 instructs us to give weekly on the first day of the week, as God has provided for us. The storehouse in Malachi 3 is His church. When we join in the service of His church, we are to assume the responsibility of supporting the church and its work. If we fail to do our part, as God has blessed us to do, we hinder the work and put an unnecessary burden on others who give. If all the members of your church give to its ministry as you do, what would happen to your church?

We honor God when we accept His promise and tithe, and God blesses us when we honor Him. Our tithes are only a portion of the blessings He has given us. Is it not reasonable to believe that God, who made possible our redemption and eternal life, would also make possible financial blessings and rest from care while living on earth?

Tithing is God's rule for our financial success. But we must keep our covenant with Him. He tells us that if we give one out of every ten dollars to His work, He will make sure that the other nine go farther and produce greater results than the original ten. God wants us to prove Him. Will we do it?

The cause of Christ has been held back because the love of so many professed Christians has been poorly expressed. We'll sing of our love, talk about our love and gratitude, but so few of us remember that love is measured by sacrifice, sacrificial gifts of self and substance. Our love for Christ can be no greater than our gift. Remembering the measure of God's love, seeing the need of the lost world and God's desire that "all men everywhere should be saved," we must give until our soul's rejoice.

The Christian who has poured out her wealth in sacrificial devotion so that the gospel of Christ might find the heart of every soul in God's creation can look and say with gladness, "take my silver and my gold."

"For God so loved the world that He gave." It is his message of devotion. It must be ours. ❖



MISSION ALERT: Evangelism News from Around the World

FWB Home Missions

Davenport, IA: The Cliff Donoho family reports that after three months of services in the new mission church, they have seen three conversions and six rededications to Christ. Cliff writes, "It is not the will of God for our churches to be weak, anemic, and barely hanging on. We are to be a vibrant army, marching on for Jesus. [We want to] make 1993 the year of 'going and growing for Jesus Christ.'" The work there is in need of stamps and another microphone. The cost is around \$135. If you can help, contact the Home Missions Department.

Vineland, NJ: Finally, "a goal every missionary strives for has been reached!" writes an excited Vergel Maness, pastor of the Thompson Memorial Free Will Baptist Church. The church is now self-supporting. His plans are to help the church find a new pastor, and "move on to the next step in the will of the Lord." Vergel and Alyne ask for your prayers and continued financial support (his account has a deficit) as they consider starting a new church in the state of New Jersey.

Abingdon, VA: The home mission work started by Willis and Linda Osborne has completed its first full year, and they write: "The Lord has brought us a long way and blessed us with some wonderful people and hard workers, but there is still a long way to go." At a recent Church Appreciation Day, the new congregation gave thanks for generous prayer and financial supporters. Willis adds, "We could not have witnessed souls being saved, folks rededicating themselves to the Lord, or our young converts' spiritual growth if it had not been for your sharing with us" in this ministry.

Shreveport, LA: The Ron Parker family reports that the Heritage Free Will Baptist Church has been blessed recently with two new families. However, Satan is finding new ways to discourage. Recently, the church was told it would have to pave the entire parking lot to meet city codes (even though the church is outside city limits). After some negotiating, the city approved allowing Heritage FWB two years to pave the lot. But one-third of it must be paved by June 14, 1993 at a cost of \$20,000, otherwise their certificate of occupancy will not be

renewed for the property. The Parkers ask for your prayers and support in this matter. Donations may be sent to the Home Missions Department, marked "Shreveport Parking Lot."

Madison, AL: The Madison FWB Church is growing, according to pastor Richard Hendrix: "God is using our church to shape and mold young people's lives for eternity!" When Richard was doing itinerate work, he told FWB congregations across the country that young people would be moving to Madison after college and would need a FWB church to join. Apparently he was right because the church recently added a young professional couple and have, within the past two years, seen the marriage of two in the church youth group. The Hendrix account is over \$3,000 dollars in the red, and they need your help erasing the debt as they work toward being self-supporting.

FWB Foreign Missions

Doropo, Cote d'Ivoire: Supplies are still needed for the Doropo Hospital: medicine bottles; bottles with screw on caps for liquids; pill bottles without child-proof caps--only small to medium size; empty 35mm film containers; sterile surgical gloves--sizes 7 or 7 and a half, latex exam gloves; medium size syringes: 5cc, 3cc, insulin; hypodermic needles: 20g, 22g, 25g; IV placement catheters; and cotton balls. The following medicines are also needed: any antibiotics: injectables--tablets, liquids, and creams; non-aspirin pain relievers--500mg, 80mg, or liquid; decongestants and cold medicines such as Dimetapp, Sudafed, and Contac. To ship these, please divide and place them in small boxes and ship by SURFACE MAIL to: Centre Medical de Doropo. B.P. 20, Bouna, Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa. Please DO NOT SEND TO the foreign missions office in Nashville. They do not have the personnel to handle these items. Also, DO NOT SEND them via sea freight or air freight.

Lafayette, MG, Brazil: It took an additional five months to raise the support needed to return to Brazil, but the Deeds were finally able to leave on January 7th. Back on the field,

[continued on pg. 31]

INSTRUCTIONS for Pre-Registration Form

By completing the Pre-Registration Form you will save **valuable** time at the convention. If you pre-register, proceed to a special registration area. There you receive a packet containing your name tag (pre-printed), meal tickets you have purchased, a *Digest of Reports* and a program.

Filling Out the Form

1. Fill out the top portion of the form. Please complete *all* of the information. You may register for one, two or all three conventions. You need to fill out only **one** form even if you register for more than one convention (National Association, WNAC, NYC). **Fill out one form for each person.**
2. Fill out the first block if you are registering for the **National Association**. Fill in your *District Association*. Check only *one* of the choices. Indicate the number of meal tickets you wish to purchase (Enclose check payable to **FWB Convention**).
3. Fill out the second block if you are registering for the **Woman's National Auxiliary Convention**. Check only *one* of the choices. Indicate the number of meal tickets you wish to purchase (Enclose check payable to **FWB Convention**).
4. Fill out the last block if you are registering for the **National Youth Conference**. *Only those in first grade up to age 24 need to complete this section!* The fees are:
\$11.00 per person, or
\$12.00 if registering on-site.
Adults over 24 do not pay NYC fees.

Indicate the number of meal tickets you wish to purchase (Enclose check for registration and tickets payable to **FWB Convention**). **NOTE:** Before July 19, Youth Banquet tickets will be sold only to those in grades seven to age 24 and youthworkers accompanying their group. Others may purchase tickets at the convention after this date.

Additional Information

1. Completed forms must be mailed to **Convention Registration~P.O. Box 5002~Antioch, TN~37011-5002** and received on or before **June 18, 1993**.
2. Enclose **one check** to cover all fees and tickets.
3. Make additional copies of the Pre-Registration Form if they are needed. **Only one person per form please.**
4. No refunds mailed after **June 18, 1993**.

Children's Banquet/\$7.00

Monday, July 19/5:00 PM
Convention Center/Room 117

Music Ministries Breakfast/\$9.50

Tuesday, July 20/7:00 AM
Convention Center/Room 208

WNAC Fellowship Dinner/\$15.00

Tuesday, July 20/5:00 PM
Hyatt Regency/Regency Ballroom

FWBBC Luncheon/\$13.00

Wednesday, July 21/12:00 Noon
Galt House East/Weatherby Room

Youth Workers Reception/\$5.00

Monday, July 19/9:00 PM
Convention Center/Room 116

Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon/\$12.00

Tuesday, July 20/12:00 Noon
Convention Center/Rooms 207-208

Youth Banquet/\$12.50

Tuesday, July 20/9:00 PM
Galt House East/Grand Ballroom

Master's Men Dinner/\$18.00 (\$20.00 on-site)

Wednesday, July 21/4:45 PM
Hyatt Regency/Regency Ballroom

Pre-Registration Form

for
National Association of Free Will Baptists
Woman's National Auxiliary Convention
National Youth Conference
Louisville, KY / July 18 - 22, 1993

Only one person per form.

Please Print

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ / _____
FIRST or NAME DESIRED ON BADGE LAST
 Address: _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Church: _____ City: _____
 Hotel (if known): _____

You may register for all three conventions on this form.
 Check the appropriate boxes.

Completed form(s) must be mailed to
Convention Registration
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002
 and received on or before **June 18, 1993.**

☐ Register me for the **National Association**. I have completed the following information.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATION: _____
 (Check only one of the following:)
 MINISTER: ☐ Ordained(M/O) ☐ Licensed(MIL)
(I certify that I am a member in good standing with the above named church and association which belong to the National Association.)
 MISSIONARY: ☐ Foreign(MIF) (Country) _____
☐ Home(MIH)
 DELEGATE: ☐ Ordained Deacon(ORD)
☐ State(STD)
☐ Local Church (\$10.00)(LCD)
☐ National Board Member(NBM)
☐ National Officer(NTO)
 VISITOR: ☐ (VIS)

Meal Tickets: Quantity
 Youth Workers Reception _____ x \$5.00 = _____
 Music Ministries Breakfast _____ x \$9.50 = _____
 Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon _____ x \$12.00 = _____
 FWBBC Alumni Luncheon _____ x \$13.00 = _____
 Master's Men Dinner _____ x \$18.00 = _____
Delegate Fee
 Local Church Delegate _____ 1 x \$10.00 = _____
SUBTOTAL _____

☐ Register me for **WNAC**. I have completed the following information.

(Check only one of the following:)
 DELEGATE: ☐ Local (\$3.00)(WLD)
☐ State(WSD)
☐ State President or Field Worker(WPF)
☐ National Officer(WNO)
 VISITOR: ☐ (WVI)

Meal Tickets: Quantity
 WNAC Fellowship Dinner _____ x \$15.00 = _____
Delegate Fee
 Local Delegate _____ 1 x \$3.00 = _____
SUBTOTAL _____

☐ Register me for the **National Youth Conference**. I have completed the following information.
(Only those in 1st grade to age 24 need to register for NYC.)

Grade just completed: _____ Age: _____
 Birthdate: ____/____/____
 Parent's (or Guardian's) name: _____
 Youth Leader's name: _____
 Are you a youthworker? ☐ yes ☐ no

Registration Fee
 Pre-Registration Fee _____ 1 x \$11.00 = _____
 On-site registration fee is \$12.00.
 Adults over 24 do not pay NYC fees.
 You must register for NYC to purchase meal tickets (unless age 25 and up).
Meal Tickets: Quantity
 Children's Banquet (grades 1-6) _____ x \$7.00 = _____
 Youth Banquet (must be in grade 7 to age 24 or an accompanying youthworker) _____ x \$12.50 = _____
SUBTOTAL _____

For Office Use Only
 Date _____
 Rec'd _____ CK/MO # _____ AMT \$ _____
 CK _____

Make Checks payable to
 FWB Convention.
 No refunds mailed after
 June 18, 1993.

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____
 Check/Money Order MUST accompany this form.

Words for *Women*

by Mary Ruth Wischart



Ummmm. She swept through the room and every head turned. Not because of her beauty or the designer dress she was wearing. It was the lovely fragrance she left behind.

I wanted to follow her and say, "What fragrance are you wearing? I want some of that for myself."

Perfume and sweet smelling incense are frequently mentioned in the Bible. Proverbs 27:9 reminds us that ointment and perfume rejoice the heart. Every day people brush past us. We pass through the rooms of many lives. Even though it may be a moment only, I wonder, do we leave behind a sweet perfume?

Does anyone ever look after us and say, "That's a lovely fragrance. I'd like to have some of that for myself"?

II Corinthians 2:15 says that we are "a sweet savour of Christ."

That's a lovely fragrance. I'd like to have some of that for myself.

The fragrance may be as simple as the peace and poise that comes from knowing Christ. A smile, a helping hand, a willingness to serve, a word of encouragement—these leave a fragrance.

But there must be more to our fragrance than merely those outward things. The Holy Spirit must be in us, producing the fragrance of Christ. We can't manufacture it ourselves, acquire it by positive thinking or self-help seminars. Only the Spirit can produce the fruit and fragrance of Christ.

One of my favorite colognes is Beautiful. I have to wait for a gift to enjoy it for myself. But some days, even though it is right there on the vanity, I don't put it on. I was too rushed. I forgot my fragrance. I left home without it.

Do people ever miss that sweet fragrance in our lives? Do we sometimes forget to let the beauty of Christ flow out to those we pass as we move through the day?

The world has a lot of bad odors, but we can be that perfume that rejoices the heart.

So, are you wearing your fragrance? Don't leave home without it. ❖

[Missions Alert cont.]

they write, "As we begin our seventh term on this field, we want share our goals with you. We believe God would have us: complete construction on the church building; build up the body of believers and provide additional institute classes; win more people to Christ; encourage believers to begin a new work in another area; and leave the work with national leadership." Pray with them to this end.

Eldorado, Panama: Steve and Judy Lytle send news of the annual convention of the Panamanian Free Will Baptists, which was held January 9-10 in Parita. The newly purchased facility there proved to be ideal for the 150 in attendance, and delegates elected a new executive committee, approved a new set of by-laws, and received reports from all the Panamanian works. The news that 85 souls were won to Christ in 1992 greatly encouraged the missionaries there. After the convention, many of those participating drove 40 minutes to witness the dedication of the new building at Las Tablas. Over 300 people attended the special service. The Lytles ask you to continue in prayer for Judy's mother, Lillian Hovis, who has liver and pancreatic cancer, for the Bible Institute which began March 16th, and for TEAM PANAMA and Catalina Barquero who will be working with them this summer. ❖

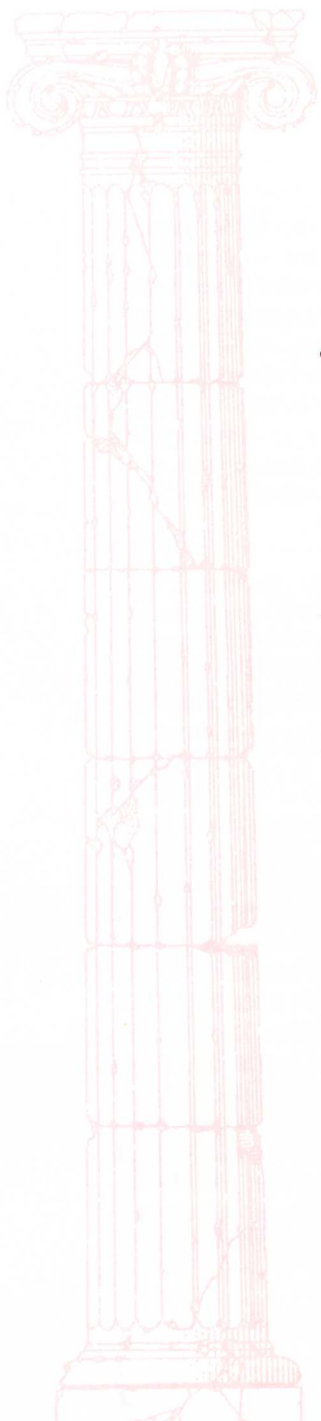
*"We make a living by what we
get, but we make a life
by what we give."*

--Winston Churchill

**MISSIONS
HOTLINE**

**615•
731•
3839**





"The memory of the just is blessed." Proverbs 10:7

Honor your *M*other or *F*ather
with a *gift of remembrance*
to the
WNAC Endowment Fund

Donations may be made in memory of or in honor of a loved one. The names of the person honored and the donor will be entered in the Book of Remembrance on display at the WNAC office. Notification cards will be sent to confirm your gift.

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