

Sept • Oct 1993

# CoLaborer

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

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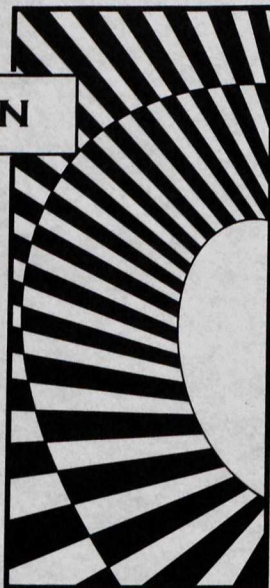
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## HORIZON

MELISSA RIDDLE



### The Missionary In My Field

***I've met a freight car load of missionaries over the years.*** Some were members of my church. Some visited my church while on furlough. Some went to college with me. But I never really knew one up close and personal until I lived with one.

The missionary I lived with was a neatnik. Her clothes, her room, her car, the floors, the kitchen--everything within her control was organized and clean. I'd wake up almost daily to the roar of a vacuum cleaner, knowing full well who was pushing it. Whatever needed doing, she made time to do it, and she did it willingly and cheerfully.

The missionary I lived with was generous. Without asking, she always knew if there was a need. If someone needed grocery money, she did without to provide it. If someone was short on rent money, she paid more than her share. She would go shopping and return with a dress...for someone else. She would eat peanut butter and banana sandwiches for lunch everyday to save money for other missionaries. Whatever she gave away, she never expected in return.

The missionary I lived with was genuinely kind. When someone stole from her, she forgave immediately. When others spoke unkindly, she responded with love. She concerned herself with the safety and comfort of others, and she did something about it.

She was also a disciplined student of the Word, she encouraged other believers, she honored her parents in word and deed, and she spent years in college preparing for service. All this she did before she ever set foot on a foreign field.

She still isn't on the field yet. At least not the one she was headed for. But I'm grateful for the time she spent in mine. ❖

**"Like a broken vessel  
glued back together, our  
lives can be pieced  
together by God. Through  
our weakness, God's strength  
is shown--not just to us  
but to others as well."**

**"Millie Sparkman had never  
opposed anything in public  
before. Now two spots of  
bright red burned in cheeks  
that normally held only a  
little pink powder."**

**"Missionaries are normal  
people just like you who  
need friends just like you do.  
What could a friend do to  
perk you up and make you  
feel special?"**

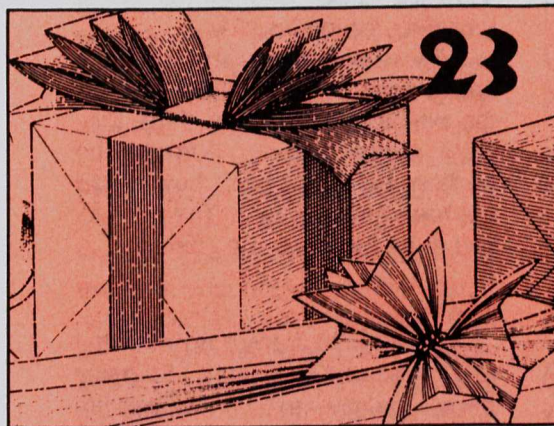
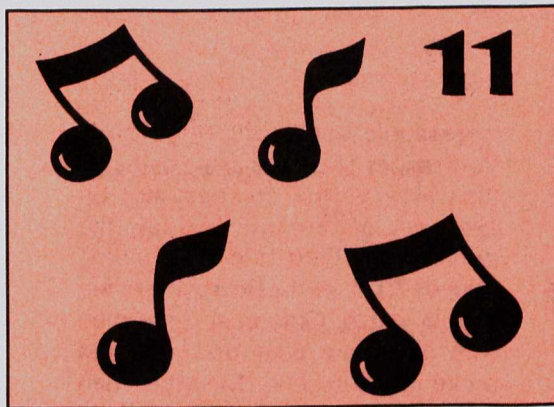
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Executive Editor: Mary R. Wisehart

Editor: Melissa Riddle

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# Broken Things

## How God Uses the Less than Perfect

by Becky Gwarney

### WHO ARE THE BROKEN OR "LESS THAN PERFECT" PEOPLE?

... adult children of divorce?  
... the recently widowed?  
... a battered wife?  
... a wayward son or daughter?  
... those battling depression?  
... those with poor self-esteem?  
... those battling alcoholism?  
... those in sexual sin?  
... a bitter old man?  
... your friend?  
... you?

**Aim:** To give hope to the hurting and broken and to show that God is able to use anyone—no matter what their circumstances.

**Suggested Music:** Solo, *Something Beautiful*

### Are You Broken?

Have there been times in your life when you felt broken, your heart in so many pieces you thought it would never be in one piece again? Have your dreams been shattered? Your hopes dashed? Your emotions crushed?

You may feel your life is so dismembered that you can never be of any use, especially to God and His work. But, did you know that God uses broken things?

### Broken Pitchers

Gideon, with 300 men, went to defeat the Midianites with some very strange weapons. Each man had only a trumpet and a pitcher with a torch inside it. Gideon's orders to his men

were simple, but clear: "When I blow the trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of the camp, and say, 'the sword of the Lord, and of Gideon'" (Judges 7:18). At the beginning of the middle watch, Gideon and the men with him blew their trumpets and broke their pitchers. The other men followed their example, as Gideon had commanded (vs. 19-20). The rest is history, right? The enemy army ran for safety, crying (vs.21).

Why was the enemy army so frightened by only 300 men? The light from the pitchers made them think they were outnumbered. Without the pitchers being broken, they would not have seen the light. The pitchers had to be broken to be effective.

### Broken Roof

In Mark 2:2-12, Jesus is preaching in a house in Capernaum. So many people gathered to hear and see Him that the house was filled to overflowing. Many people couldn't even get in the door. A paralyzed man in the



town couldn't come to Jesus on his own. He had to be carried on his bed by four friends. When these men saw the crowd, they knew it would be impossible to get through. They refused to give up, though. Instead they climbed up on the housetop and broke open the roof of the house to lower their friend down. The hole was large enough for their friend and his bed. How resourceful!

When Jesus saw the man being lowered through the roof, He recognized the faith and ingenuity of the man and his friends. Jesus immediately forgave the man of his sins and healed him (vs. 5,11). The healed man got up, packed away his pallet, and went home, rejoicing. The crowd of people was amazed, and no doubt praised Jesus.

There are a lot of "what ifs" we could ask about this story. But the most important one is this: What if the friends had not broken the roof of that house? The obvious answer: The man would not have reached Jesus, been healed or forgiven. Thank God for good friends, ingenuity, God's forgiveness and healing, and that broken roof.

**Solo (optional):** Broken and Spilled Out

### Broken Alabaster Box

Jesus was in Bethany at Simon's house, eating dinner, when a woman came to Him. She carried one thing with her—a box of perfumed ointment. This was not some cheap perfume she purchased at the local department store. The woman brought something very precious and expensive to anoint her Lord. We know it was valuable, for some of those at the house argued that it could have been sold for more than 300 pence—nearly a year's wages—and the proceeds could have gone to the poor. To them it seemed like a great waste of money.

The woman broke the box and poured the ointment on the head of

Jesus. John's account tells us that the house was filled with the sweet fragrance (John 12:3). Jesus knew that this woman had not wasted anything! He told those around Him that she had done a good thing—in advance. She had anointed His body for burial.

So impressed was Jesus by this woman's display of love and devotion, He declared that a memorial should be spoken of her around the world (Mark 14:9). As a result, the aroma of that perfume not only saturated that house, but also can be enjoyed by believers through the centuries.

### Broken Lives

I've heard it said that "God never uses a man greatly until He hurts him deeply." The Psalmist David is the perfect example of this statement. Over and over again in Psalms, he tells of trouble or sin in his life—to the point of brokenness. He also tells of God's help, strength, and deliverance. In Psalm 31:12, David symbolically raises his hand and says, "add me to the list. . . I am a broken vessel" (my paraphrase). Then he immediately turns around and tells of his complete trust in the Lord (vs. 14). David knew that God was near him always, no matter what his circumstances were.

Again in Psalm 34, David reminds us that the Lord hears us, is near us, but most importantly, delivers us. Of brokenness the Psalmist says, "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart: and saveth such as be of a contrite (crushed) spirit" (vs. 18). David knew what it was to be broken, but he did not lose hope or his trust in the Lord.

Paul was a vessel chosen by God, but God also said that He would show Paul great sufferings for His sake (Acts 9:15,16). Paul tells of being troubled, puzzled, persecuted, cast down, and near death (II Corinthians 4:7). But, in that same passage, Paul says that through it all, he was neither distressed, without help, forsaken, nor destroyed.

Why didn't Paul, like many people

today, shake his fist in God's face and curse God for his brokenness? Paul knew God's strength! He knew well that God's power is made perfect in weakness. And he knew that in dying to self, Christ would shine in his life. When Paul was broken, the hidden treasure of his heart spilled out: hope, trust, obedience, grace, and strength.

### Being Broken is the Beginning

What spills out when we are broken? Is it anger and bitterness, or is it joy and peace? Like a broken vessel that is glued back together, our lives can be pieced together by God. Take a look at a repaired vessel. You can see where it was broken. Our broken lives, once repaired, will never be the same. There is a difference. The vessel will not be better for the break, but we will. Through our weakness, God's strength is shown—not just to us, but to others as well. To those who have witnessed our brokenness and are watching our response. ♦

NOT BY MIGHT.

NOT BY POWER.

BUT BY THY SPIRIT...



*Becky Gwartney and her husband Curt live in Deloge, MO. They have two children and are active members of Fellowship FWB, where Curt is youth pastor.*



# GOD'S HIGH FASHION

By Pearl Mitchell



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**Aim:** To identify biblical fashion essential to a spiritually healthy appearance.

**Scripture:** Isaiah 52:1 and others as listed

**Hymn:** *In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified*, #472 in Rejoice Hymnal

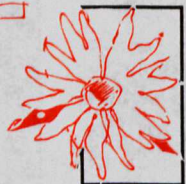
**Suggested Presentation:** Have an announcer present this as a fashion show, standing on stage and describing these garments as models walk down the aisle.



## Introduction:

October is a beautiful, refreshing month. The leaves are at their brightest best, the fall breezes push back the heatwaves of summer... it is a season of change. But before you start putting away those summer clothes and slipping on those cozy sweaters, make sure your spiritual wardrobe is complete.

Throughout God's Word, many different writers remind us that the spiritual clothing we wear is our testimony to the world. In our lives, people not only see and hear what we say and do, they pick up on our attitudes, mannerisms, and habits. We should choose our spiritual wardrobe carefully—keeping it fresh and ready to wear—not only to be pleasing to God, but also to be a witness to nonbelievers, that they might see Christ in us.



## WHITE: A Year-Round Essential (Ecclesiastes 9:8)

[model wears a cool, summery white dress (or blouse and skirt) with white sandals, flowers in her hair]

*White denotes purity and innocence.*

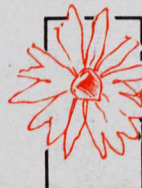
As believers, we should reflect the purity of Christ. After all, the word Christian means "Christ-like." Jesus was perfect even when he faced the

temptations of this world. He does not expect perfection from His children, but we should strive to be upright in every area of our lives.

We are innocent because Jesus paid the price for our sins, and we are no longer in debt to Him. In God's eyes, those who reject the blood of Christ as payment for their sins are debtors, criminals.

By accepting Christ as our Savior, we also accept Him as our lawyer. He pleads to the Father for us. Nonbelievers are left to plead their own cases. Without Jesus to defend them, they are "condemned already."

With this purity and innocence comes freedom in Christ. There is a gentle breeze of God's grace that surrounds us daily in knowing that our failures are not held against us. We are free to love Him more deeply, to serve Him well.



## EVERYDAY PRAISE: Bold and Beautiful Colors (Isaiah 61:3)

[model wears a casual, very colorful, "happy" outfit with colored tennis shoes, carries a tambourine (or like instrument), and a hymn book (or sings a praise chorus as she walks)]

*Praise is a garment for the world to see.* Webster's Dictionary defines



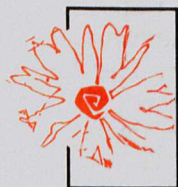
praise as "expressing approval, to commend, or to acknowledge as superior."

We can praise in secret, yes, but we can also praise God openly. Now, we don't have to go around singing or shouting all of the time (although a little of that wouldn't hurt). But we can take an attitude of praise and gratitude with us everywhere we go—to work, to the grocery store, to a neighbor's house—people will know we are Christians if we share how God has blessed us.

When we "enter His courts with praise" in our quiet time with Him, we begin a special intimacy.

Prayer is an opportunity for praise. Jesus tells us in the model prayer to acknowledge God's name as hallowed. If we continually call upon His name, praising Him and His mighty acts of grace in our lives, an outer radiance will shine out from us as a witness to others. Praise is essential to every wardrobe.

[option: model can pause and sing the chorus "Lord, You're Beautiful"]



**NOT READY TO WEAR HUMILITY: It Wears Us Well (1 Peter 5:5)**

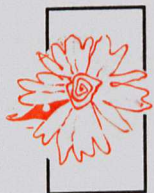
[model wears something made of tweed—a jacket or skirt; the colors should be subtle but beautiful once seen up close]

*Humility is a rarity.* It is foreign to human nature. Our skin does not respond well to humility or modesty because pride is an instinctive part of our sinful nature.

To be clothed in humility, we have to submit all of our desires, our dreams, our goals, our wants, and our needs—our whole being—to God. We have to die to self to be led by the Spirit.

Jesus was humble. He was not full of self-importance but was full of love for others. Heartfelt charity was the essence of Christ's teaching. True

humility weaves into love and a servant's attitude of caring. Those who wear humility show the world the love of Christ.



**ROYALTY-WEAR: A ROBE FIT FOR A KING or QUEEN (Isaiah 61:10)**

[model wears old, dingy "rag like" clothes, and once on stage is given a stunningly beautiful robe (satin or silk) with a belt; once on, the robe should cover all of the rags underneath]

*Only by God's grace can we wear this beautiful robe of righteousness.* Righteousness comes through a relationship with God, not just a profession of faith. God's righteousness is all encompassing, and in it, we conform to His will in word, in deed, and in thought.

Apart from His work of grace in our lives, we have no righteousness, only filthy rags. Even at our best, we have nothing to offer to deserve such a fine garment, but He offers it to us for free when we turn from sin to Him.

Words cannot adequately describe this exceptional garment.



**READY TO WEAR: Our Sunday Go-To-Meetin' Best (Matthew 22:12)**

[model wears her Easter Sunday Best, complete with hat and purse, smiling anxiously, obviously ready to go]

*In Matthew 22, the guest had come to the wedding without wedding garments.* In many different passages of scripture, the rapture of Christians is compared to a formal wedding—Jesus returning for His Bride. Remember the story of the virgins who were not prepared, and while they went to get oil for their lamps, the bridegroom came and left? The bride should always be well dressed because she is

the center of attention

The second coming of Christ is an event for which we must be prepared. We must be ready to travel without a moment's notice. We must live in the spirit of readiness with nothing left undone or out of order, everything crisp and beautiful. To wear this garment of preparation, we must be in one mind and one Spirit with God.



**WRAP-UP AND REVIEW**

[all models return to the stage when called and stand facing the audience; when announcer finishes speaking, the models step into a vertically straight line and exit as if one body]

*It's easy to see how we need the garments of Purity [White] and Righteousness [Silk robe] in our spiritual wardrobes.* Without them, our lives would be filthy and useless. His righteousness identifies us as His children. We should never be caught without our everyday-wear, praise [Colors]. It is a big part of our witness, our relationship with God. Praise is why He made us. [Tweed] Humility . . . well, that's not always "our style," but it was Jesus best garment, and He never went anywhere without it. And of course, we must always be prepared in our [model] Sunday Best, spiritually, to meet our Father.

When you stare into your closet, trying to decide what to wear, let me challenge you women to remember that God's High Fashion is never out of style, worn-out, or inappropriate. It is essential to every season in our lives. ♦



Pearl Mitchell, mother of three and grandmother of two, is a 5th grade teacher at Georgetown Elementary in Columbus, GA. Her feature, "Tender Thoughts," regularly appears in CoLaborer magazine.



# A TIME of TESTING

by Suzy Virden

**W**e squeak through little emergencies everyday, praying for God's will and wisdom, but when it comes to the "impossible situations," we often have to be reminded to trust Him. Why is that?

My husband was an armyman, soon to be discharged, and we excitedly planned for our future as a civilian family. We had three children at the time. We decided to buy a piece of land in a small town--a place to put a new mobile home. The purchase of the land and the home had gone smoothly, and we were eager to move in. The mobile home dealer assured us that it would be set-up and ready for occupancy by the date we had given him.

Moving day came, and we had loaded up all of our belongings in a U-Haul truck, just about to leave, when the phone rang.

"I'm sorry," he said, "we just haven't had the chance to get your home delivered, but I promise it will be there by tomorrow."

The next day it rained. . . hard. The dealer called again and told us as soon as the rain stopped, he would have the mobile home delivered.

My husband had to return to the Army base for three more weeks, so I and my three children, two dogs, and one cat had to stay at a motel in another town seven miles away until the home could be set-up.

I thought, "Well, it's only for a day or two. Somehow we'll manage." Managing meant keeping house in one room and getting my oldest son, Ethan, to school without a car.

Thankfully, the pastor of my church loaned me his car so I could get Ethan to school. The church also gave us some money to help buy food. In the meantime, I shipped my two preschoolers off to grandma's in Indiana.

The rain continued for days, and by the end of the week I was getting frantic. I had called the dealer everyday. He kept apologizing but reminded me that he had no control over the weather.

At week's end, the pastor and his wife had to have their car back, so once again I was without transportation. Then I met Brother Smith.

Brother Smith pastored the other little church in our town, and he also worked at the hotel across the highway from where Ethan and I were staying. When he heard my dilemma, he offered to let me use his car everyday until 3:30.

When he told his wife about our arrangement, she invited me to their home to do laundry or use the phone.

"Our home is your home," she said. The Smiths also invited us over for dinner several times.

Another week passed, everyday it rained. I prayed every night, "Lord, please stop the rain." But I must confess, I was not praying with a thankful heart. Unlike Job, I felt sorry for myself, and with each day, I grew angrier. I was tired, I missed my babies, and most of all, I wanted to live in my own home.

After two and a half weeks, the rain stopped, and our mobile home sat firmly on the lot. . . without water and sewer lines. The backhoe used to dig the lines was broken down, and "it would take a few days" to be up and running. In addition, the dealer had conveniently forgotten to install the plumbing fixtures, and electricity had only been connected in half of the mobile home.

Of course, having been convinced it would only take a day longer, I drove to Indiana and returned with my children in tow. We checked out of the motel, and with our neighbors help, unloaded the U-Haul truck.

The plumbing fixtures arrived, the electricity was fully connected, but there was still no water or sewer lines. The Smiths, when checking in on us, offered to let us use their bathrooms anytime. Our laundry was always welcome, too. And dinner at their house was a twice-a-week



invitation.

One evening at the dinner table, Bro. Smith was talking about all of our bad luck. I made the comment that maybe we should just give up and go away. Then this kind, godly man looked sternly across the table at me and said, "This is the work of Satan, not God! Don't you remember Job? We should never blame God for the bad things that happen to us."

That evening, I thought about what Bro. Smith had said. I got out my Bible and read Job's story. If anyone had a reason to be bitter and angry, it was Job. But through it all, his faith never wavered, and he didn't blame God. I was no longer angry at God, I was angry at myself for having left Him out of my life. I began to pray that God would help me trust Him more. When I finished praying, I went to sleep with peace in my heart--my trust was completely in Him.

A few days later, I was admitted to the hospital with complications from my diabetes. My two youngest children went back to grandmas. Ethan stayed with the Smiths. And my husband was busy finding a backhoe and retrieving the front porch steps that the dealer had "forgotten" to deliver. But through it all, I didn't question God. His peace stayed with me. When I came home from the hospital, I really came home.

Any time life seems to be throwing me curves, I think back to that move. I remember how God saw us through as soon as I put my trust in Him. Through Bro. Smith and Job, I learned that God is always with us. We just have to reach out to Him. ♦

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*Suzy Virden, of Woodlawn, IL, is an active member of the Woman's Auxiliary at Ina FWB Church. Suzy's play, "The Preacher's Wife" won first place in WNAC's 1993 Creative Arts Contest.*

# TOO FAR OUT THERE

BY  
M. Riddle



A

famous person once said: "I always been too far out there, not waving, but drowning."

"Far out" is a term for the misfits, the people outside the mainstream, those who don't fit society's expectation of normalcy. They are the people just opposite from ourselves . . . and just like us.

I know and love several "far out" people. They're not who you might think. They're not long-haired, ear-pierced throwbacks who drive beat-up, dirty cars, wear tie-dyed clothes, and listen to the Grateful Dead. They're not introverted, nerdy wallflowers who'd rather read the dictionary than attend a social gathering. They're not always the oblivious, curious children who, instead of skating at the roller rink, prefer to sprawl in the floor and calculate how the strobe lights blink in rhythm. Although I know and love several people just like these. People like these swim in deeper waters than we suspect.

We see them often and wonder, "How did they get like that? They *have* to know how strange they look." And they do. Some of them, however, are just pretending, hoping someone rescues them from themselves. Many of them, though, are simply *different*, a condition as permanent as their names. They are *who* and *what* we see.

However, some of the most normal people we know are treading water far out and away from the shore. That well-dressed executive at the office whose schedule is relentless. The mild-mannered teenager next door who cuts the grass. That sparkling couple who teaches Sunday school at church. People who from all outward indications are as happy and healthy as can be. They are dangerously far out, swimming for their lives.

We see them often and think, "Doesn't she have the perfect life? Isn't he a great kid? Aren't they sweet." But *she* doesn't. And *he* doesn't think so. And *they* are falling apart. Some of them flail about desperately in depression. Some spend their lives winning at charades, convincing everyone they're happy but secretly hoping someone will see behind the mask. Most are invisible. They are *who* and *what* we *don't* see. *If we could only see them.*

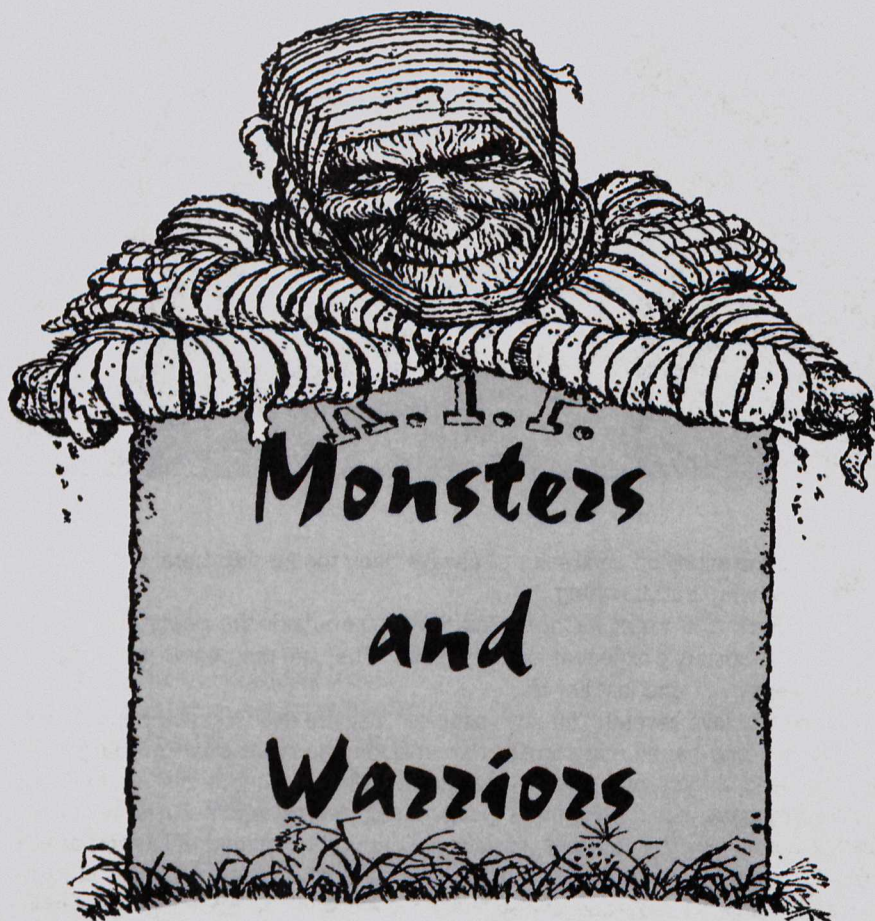
Our eyes strain to see beyond the horizon. We say to ourselves, "What are they doing?" Why would anyone want to be so far out? Why are they waving?" For a second, we think to wave back, maybe even yell a loud "Hello.o.o.o!"

Just then, the wind whisks our straw hats off our heads and down the shoreline, flipping them brim over brim. Without a moment's hesitation, we chase after them with a purposeful stride. The chase goes on for hours, around and around the same stretch of sand, but at last, we catch our hats and fit them squarely on our heads. Then we remember the swimmers from before.

But they aren't out there anymore. The water is peaceful and still. "Oh well, they must have swum back in and gone home," we say to ourselves. "It sure is good to see people having such a good time, splashing around and waving."

And we never realize that . . . *they are not waving, they are drowning.* ♦





"No mommy. Don't go."

"Why?" I replied.

"I'm scared."

"I cared too, mommy," my three-year-old chimed in.

"Scared," I said. "What are you scared of?"

"Monsters!" replied my seven-year-old.

"There are no monsters in here," I assured them.

"No mom, please don't go out!"

"O.K." I said, smiling at their childishness. It seems silly for them to be afraid of monsters, especially since the closet light remains on, with the door open all night. But to these little children, the imagined seems too real—especially at night!

I tucked the kids in and curled up on the foot of the bed ready to rest a while until my little ones fell asleep. Finding enough room to curl up on their bed is quite a chore. You see, quite a while ago my son decided his room was just too scary and he needed to sleep on the twin bed in his sister's room. My husband

and I thought this was just fine since his little sister was still in her crib. As time passed, instead of becoming braver as we thought he would, this little trouser wanted sister to join him in the twin bed. That's what he needed to make him feel safer. So this is the position I found us all in on this particular night. Two children fill up a twin bed, but add one sleepy mom, and it's really cramped quarters.

As I curled up, using my son's leg for a pillow and trying to get comfortable, I thought of the large, comfortable bed I normally slept in. My eyes wanted to close, but I was convinced I was desperately needed to guard my children's room. Just lying down by these little ones had such a calming effect on them. They began to sleep in complete happiness just because I was with them. In spite of my tiredness and longing to be in my own bed, my heart was glad that I could so easily make these little ones feel safe.

I chuckled to myself as I thought of what a funny looking guard and

protector I was. After all, my feet were clothed with footies, and my armor was a warm flannel gown. I had no weapon, for amazingly enough all the monsters seemed to flee when I came into the room.

As I listened to the slower, deepening breathing of the children, I said a prayer of thanks that I could be a comforter to these precious ones. I knew that the day was soon approaching when I would no longer be able to calm their fears by my presence or my words. Only my Lord would be able to stay their fears. I placed their future fears and problems in His hands, asking Him to stay close and comfort them.

Just then my daughter scooted down and put her arm around my neck and placed her tiny hand on my cheek. I prayed that the Lord would hold this hand when I could not. My children are in trustworthy hands when given to the Lord. I know He will guide them during all the dark, fearful times ahead.

How could I know such a thing? I am assured from my past experiences. During my own tearful nights of endless troubles, I stretched out my trembling hand to hold the firm, stabilizing hand of my Savior. At other times, just knowing He is always with me has calmed my fearful heart. After all, He has said: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

I am just like the little ones who lay beside me that night. I, too, have monsters. They just have different names and faces. I need the assurance of a Warrior greater than I.

I am happy to dispel my children's fears while I can. So my Lord is happy when I trust and turn to Him. The big difference is that I will never have a fear or problem so big that He can't solve. My children cannot say that of me.

After sleep had come to the children, and I had stretched out in my own bed, I thanked the Lord for lessons learned even on cramped beds during the night. ♦

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





## Leaving Out the Third Stanza

by Mrs. E.C. Cronk

**J**ane Belmont glanced anxiously at her watch—it was 8:05. At nine o'clock, the cloth store would close, and she simply had to get there in time to find a piece of black silk for the dress she was making. The Auxiliary meeting had lasted longer than expected. As the president, she had tried to hurry it along, but there was so much business to cover, so many missionary needs to share.

"Let's close our meeting by singing Hymn 507, leaving out the third stanza," she announced, in an unsuccessful attempt at not sounding hurried.

Hymn 507 was an Auxiliary favorite, and the women sang heartily:

"Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise."

Jane looked at her watch in between verses.

"Ten after eight. I can still make it," she thought, not referring to the consecration of her moments or days, but to the cloth store.

During the singing of the last verse, she gathered her papers together and was ready to adjourn the meeting when someone spoke.

"Madam President."

A petite woman sitting on the third row, stood up gracefully, but with boldness.

"Madam President," she said, "I'm opposed to leaving out the third stanza."

A murmur of surprise passed

through the Auxiliary. Old and young members alike were amazed to hear the objection. Millie Sparkman had never opposed anything in public before. She was what you might call a "wheel horse." She pulled hard and never balked at anything. Now two spots of bright red burned in cheeks that normally held only a little pink powder. She was sincerely moved to speak.

Almost without thinking, the women opened the hymnbooks they had just closed to see the third stanza. Millie read aloud the words of the omitted verse.

"Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages for thee.  
Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold,  
Not a mite would I withhold."

Her head lifted slowly. Her usually timid eyes, now filled with determination and conviction, spanned the audience. And she said, "I'm opposed to leaving out the third stanza. If it were only left out of our singing, it wouldn't be so bad. Unfortunately, the message of the third stanza is omitted from our lives, and our Auxiliary. The amount of money that has come into our treasury this year is almost embarrassing. If it is a representation of our consecration to spreading the gospel, I'm afraid we don't even come close to the third stanza.

"We sing to the Lord, 'Take my life,' but when it comes to our silver and gold, we give it to everyone but Him. The grocery takes our money. The bank that holds our mortgage

takes our money. The jewelry store takes our money. The department store takes our money. But when we take the monthly offering for our missionaries, gold and silver looks more like copper to me.

"The appeals from our mission fields and from the WNAC national office are read to us. We know there is work to be done, and that the work takes sacrificial giving, but our response is usually a placid, 'what a pity.' We give our spare change half-heartedly, but we continue to leave out the third stanza.

"We try all sorts of fundraisers to build up our treasury, spending hours and hours of time, when we'd have all we need if we'd only leave in and live by the third stanza.

"Now, all of you women know me. You know I'm not an extremist. I don't think a woman has to feel guilty for buying a new dress or a new piece of furniture. But we have dollars for these things, it seems, and only pennies and dimes for the Lord. We have so much, yet we offer Him so little, when it is really His and not ours."

The words she spoke were simple enough, but her earnest conviction made them glide on eloquent wings of truth. Every woman in the room listened. . . and heard. There were no pledges made, no promises spoken, yet the president knew what every woman needed, when, with disregard for the clock, she said,

"Let us sing Hymn 507 again, including the third stanza."

The treasurer's books for the next year bore witness to the sincerity of their singing. ♦





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## I Timothy 5: Part II

### *Caring for Those in Need*

M.M. Daniel

**REVIEW:** The first seven verses of Chapter 5 deal with the responsibility and action of church leaders regarding personal relationships among the laity. Both older and younger believers are referred to in these verses. Leaders should display a genuine concern for the feelings and emotional well-being of members, while trying to meet their spiritual needs. Should one of the number become a "widow indeed," the obligation may also include financial assistance. Paul enlarges on the subject of widowhood in the following verses.

#### WORSE THAN AN INFIDEL

**5:8-** "But if any \_\_\_\_\_ not for his own, and \_\_\_\_\_ for those of his own \_\_\_\_\_, he hath \_\_\_\_\_ the faith, and is \_\_\_\_\_ than an infidel."

Close relatives, as well as immediate family members, are included in this verse. Many ethnic groups place a high value on the total family unit, including all ages, though unbelievers or "infidels" to true faith. And, thankfully, there are still many good, moral people in America who love and provide for their families, rather than shirking duty.

However, we are all aware that the family is under severe attack morally, emotionally, spiritually and often financially. We hear of "dead-beat" fathers being sought by the law, as well as immoral mothers, bearing unloved and uncared for children as a "meal-ticket" from the welfare system.

The above verse tells us that providing for one's family is a prime responsibility and reflects on our testimony. Author Donald Guthrie calls it an "indisputable Christian duty." He further states, "To deny this is to deny the essence of the Christian faith and puts one in a worse position than an infidel who, in the contemporary world generally acknowledged his obligation to parents" (*The Pastoral Epistles*, page 101).

#### SIGNS OF DEDICATION (5:9-10)

**5:9,10-** "Let not \_\_\_\_\_ be taken into the number (financially supported) under \_\_\_\_\_ (60) years old, having been the wife of one man, well reported of for \_\_\_\_\_ works, if she hath brought up \_\_\_\_\_, if she hath \_\_\_\_\_ strangers, if she hath \_\_\_\_\_ the saints' feet, if she hath \_\_\_\_\_ the afflicted, if she hath \_\_\_\_\_ followed every good work."

Age is not the only factor in determining the direction of life taken by a woman who is suddenly widowed. Her life

should also bear evidence of loving child care, hospitality, a humble spirit, genuine sympathy for others and a benevolent attitude. When these qualities were present, they qualified a widow for subsidized care by her church, providing she were a "widow indeed." However, widowed or not, any Christian wife should endeavor to develop these qualities in her life since they are Biblically commanded elsewhere.

#### SIGNS OF DEFICIENCY (5:11-13)

**5:11,12-** "But the \_\_\_\_\_ widows refuse, for when they have begun to wax (grow) wanton (undisciplined) against \_\_\_\_\_, they will marry, having damnation (condemnation) because they have \_\_\_\_\_ off their first faith."

A young widow, even with initially good intentions, may find herself neglecting Christian service while actively seeking another life companion and security following a period of mourning.

**5:13-** "And, withal (besides), they \_\_\_\_\_ to be idle, \_\_\_\_\_ (gadding) about from house to house, and not only idle but \_\_\_\_\_ also, and \_\_\_\_\_, speaking things which they ought not."

Being widowed at a relatively young age is not an impossibility. However, Paul warns that there is a possible snare present and that idleness from the duties of a wife can lead downward. Rather than using free time to serve the Lord in a greater capacity, the young widow instead becomes involved in gossip, nosing into the affairs of others. Read II Thess. and I Pet. 4:15 for God's word to "busybodies" of any age or gender.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the main reason for the break-up of the family today?
2. Why do you believe Paul lists the age of 60 in 5:10?
3. Paul lists four specific descriptive qualities in 5:10, following the one "she hath brought up children." Why do you think this characteristic tops the list?
4. Concerning "young widows," what ambition could easily override a desire to devote one's self to Christian service in the local church? ♦





### CrisisPoints Series for Women

NavPress, 1991.

\$3.95 each

*If I hear one more pat answer, I'll scream!*

*It's no use, I guess I'll always struggle with this problem.*

*Everybody tells me to wait for God, but what should I do in the meantime? I need help now.*

Sound like you? Or women you know? Probably.

NavPress has published a new Bible study series called *CrisisPoints for Women* that abolishes the pat answers and hits the nitty gritty of applying God's Word to your daily struggles.

"Women may have come a long way, but we've drug our personal problems along with us," says Judith Couchman, editor of the series. "More than ever before, we're searching for practical solutions to what's nagging inside us. Christian women want to know how God can make a difference in our daily, hectic, painful lives."

*CrisisPoints for Women* tackles personal problems common to most women. These are studies designed to make you think about yourself, your struggles, and God's solutions. The series titles are:

*Getting a Grip on Guilt*, by Judith Couchman

*Nobody's Perfect, So Why Do I Try To Be?*, by Nancy Groom (#93249)

*So What If You've Failed?*, by Penelope J. Stokes (#93362)

*When You Can't Get Along*, by Gloria Chisolm (#93265)

*When Your Marriage Disappoints You*, by Janet Chester Bly (#93311)

*You're Better Than You Think*, by Madelene Harris (#93273)

One of the best things about this series is that each book is small enough to carry in your purse, yet there's still space to write out Scripture verses and answers to thought-provoking questions. Each study combines a magazine-type article with the step-by-step instructions of personal Bible lessons. They can be used in individual or group study. Each book in the series has four parts:

- \*an introductory article that confronts the problem and its origin in your life
- \*a self-evaluation section to help assess your need for help and healing
- \*four or five Bible studies that lead you toward God's enduring solutions
- \*extra helps for more study, action, or discussion with a small group.

*CrisisPoints* aren't in-depth, time-consuming studies, but they are starting points for dealing with the struggles in your life.



### Secret Passions of the Christian Woman

by Carol Kent

NavPress, 1990.

\$14.95

Every Christian woman longs for fulfillment in some area of her life. And whether she desires security, recognition, love, intimacy, or success, she will experience a certain measure of disappointment when her longings go unfulfilled.

With emphasis on helping women understand what motivates and drives them, *Secret Passions of the Christian Woman* explores ten areas in which Christian women struggle for fulfillment--and shows them how to refocus their disappointment and make the best of their unique gifts and energies.

"Instead of feeling ashamed or threatened by our passions," writes Carol Kent, "we can pass them through a grid of a value system based on the Word of God, so our ultimate actions will be for our good, the good of others, and the good of God's Kingdom."

There is also a group discussion guide: *Secret Passions of the Christian Woman* is designed to get women talking honestly about the areas in their lives in which they struggle for fulfillment. Daringly honest and soundly biblical, this guide helps women discover the source of their deepest longings. And how these longings can become a part of the bedrock of a more honest, focused, fulfilling, and purposeful life in Christ.

The book, by itself or used in a group discussion format, can be a rich encounter with the hidden heartbeat of women today--with the passions that guide their behavior, their attitudes, and their relationships with the One who knows them better than they know themselves. ♦





## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Times are tough. The paychecks are smaller. The benefits are fewer. Future security is mighty hard to come by. If you have a job and medical insurance, you're fortunate. If you don't live paycheck to paycheck, you're extremely fortunate. Is it any wonder that people all around us are putting their trust in lotteries, committing theft and fraud, or giving up hope altogether? Even as Christians, it's difficult not to get caught up in keeping up, whether we are acquiring more things or simply keeping our necks above water. Instead of worrying or becoming bitter, we should aim to do what Peter said in

**1 Peter 5:6-10:**

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's almighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast." (NIV) ❖

## Poet's Corner

### Patterns

by Katy Taylor, Waterford, MI

Life is a series of patterns.  
In each pattern, there are experiences,  
relationships, responsibilities,  
achievements,  
hopes, dreams, and disappointments.  
People we meet, love,  
tolerate, or cherish  
contribute to the grain of our lives.  
A birth or death, new job or home,  
a change in health or wealth  
are reflected in each pattern.  
Our location, attitude, desires, and  
feelings affect each one.  
These patterns change many times  
during our lives.  
Each time a new pattern emerges,  
it contains a thread from the old ones  
before.

The old patterns become memories.  
Memories to enrich the patterns to  
come.

### Lament

by Patricia Collins, Smithville, MS

Cry for the children, who yet unborn  
From under their mother's heart are  
torn.  
Destroyed, discarded, anonymously,  
Their lives extinguished through  
violent means.

Weep for the mother, not to be:  
Barren by choice, resolved to be  
free.

Distraught, disinterested, or maybe  
deceived,  
Can she hope to erase a soul once  
conceived?

Mourn for the nation, yet to reap  
Payment in full for a sin so deep.  
As Rachel in Ramah, weeping sore,  
Grieve for our children who are no  
more.

### The Yellow Bus

by Carol Reid, Nashville, TN

The yellow bus roars down the street,  
And our boys look back to wave;  
They travel off to school and friends,  
But mommy stops to pray.

I can't always go with them,  
They wouldn't want me to--  
But as they leave this morning, Lord,  
I'm trusting them to You.

Help them choose their friends with  
care.  
Help them do their best.  
Help them mirror Jesus Christ  
On every sort of test.

If they are challenged, make them  
strong.  
If they are tempted, keep them true;  
If they are lonely, hold them close  
Just like I might do.

Protect them from bad habits,  
From wrong paths where they might  
stray.  
Build a hedge around them,  
And keep them through the day.

And Lord, help them to remember  
As I send them through the door,  
Though I love them more than I can  
say,  
You still love them more. ❖

**These poems are the 1st, 2nd,  
and 3rd place winners in the  
1993 WNAC Creative Arts  
Contest. Congratulations to  
these writers.**





# Springboard:

Innovative Ideas · Helps for Auxiliary Officers

## DEVOTION OUTLINE

### Two by Two

**Purpose:** To promote the importance of working together—teamwork.

**Scripture:** Luke 10:1

**Suggested Songs:** We'll Work Til Jesus Comes or Bring Them In

**Introduction:** Henry Ford, who invented the Ford automobile, also established the assembly line. He said it was easier to put ten men to work for one than for one man to do the work of ten. Jesus knew the value of sending out workers in pairs instead of sending them out alone. There is strength in numbers. Let's look at the advantages of Christians working together.

**A.** Teamwork assures better prayer power: Matthew 18:20

**B.** Teamwork provides mutual encouragement: Exodus 17:11,12

**C.** Teamwork teaches the sharing of responsibilities: Numbers 11: 14,16,17

**D.** Teamwork compliments your testimony: II Corinthians 13:1

**E.** Teamwork makes it possible to accomplish great things: I Corinthians 12:7-10

**Conclusion:** When two people share a common goal, great things can be done for the Lord. Two people with different strengths and weaknesses can compliment each other. Choose a partner and pray together, witness together, disciple new Christians together, and share the joy of expanding your outreach. Jesus has already sent us into the world: "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" (John 20:21).

*adapted from Leader's Plan II, Oct. 1988.*

## President

Fall is generally a very busy time of year. School is starting back, and the church calendar fills up quickly. Be sure to make time for the following:

September is Student Loan Month, and so we encourage you to make it your special project. All gifts designated for the Memorial Student Loan Fund enable Free Will Baptist young people to train to serve the Lord. Since the fund's beginning in 1957 (the first \$500 was given by Mrs. Agnes Frazier, see page 17 of SB and page 26), thousands of dollars have been used to educate Christian young people at Free Will Baptist Bible College. It is a worthy cause—one that directly affects our denomination's future.

September is also Pastor Appreciation Month. Invite your pastor to attend your Auxiliary meeting and plan to honor him and his wife in a special way. (If the pastor attends your monthly meeting, eliminate as much business as possible, concentrating instead on presenting a challenging program.) Cards, gifts, dinners, and services offered are wonderful ways to express appreciation, but don't forget to tell them, face to face, how much and why you appreciate them.

## Vice President

September is also the beginning of the Auxiliary calendar year in many churches, so begin now to plan a special installation service to induct new officers. WNAC's tenth volume of plays, *Fresh Air*, has a new installation play, as well as new plays for almost every Auxiliary occasion. You can order it by sending \$3 (plus s&h) to WNAC, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN, 37011-5002.

Whether your Auxiliary has brand new officers or "good, old" ones, a Manual Study is a good idea. Plan a special luncheon or get-together to review the manual and brainstorm for new ideas to implement in the coming year.

Fall offers so many wonderful colors. Nature provides "freebies" for making beautiful decorations. Consider having your Installation meeting at a secret place. Meet at the church and carpool, telling only the drivers your destination. See *SpringBoard Extra* for the Mystery Tour Guide's



Narration while in the car. Have the drivers fool the riders by taking them "in circles" before reaching the destination. Use the church van if available.

Wherever you decide to have the meeting--in someone's home, at a restaurant, back at the church--decorate using colorful leaves, pumpkins, winter squashes, acorns, or autumn wreaths. Use brown paper bags with patterns cut on both sides for a candlelight share time.

Advertise the Auxiliary Mystery Tour with either big black or red question marks (with silver or gold glitter) to peak curiosity or use masks attached to posters. Have them say: The Best Kept Secret in Town: Join us for the Auxiliary Mystery Tour (Time, Date, Starting Point).

October is usually a big retreat month. Check with your district and state and get information about any retreats happening within driving distance. "Getting away from it all" for a day can make a world of difference.

### Mission Study Chairman

Mildred Daniel has been contributing her Bible Study Series to *CoLaborer* magazine for many years now. Many women have benefitted from her knowledge and insight.

There are 10 easy-to-follow studies in her series: "How Did We Get It? (Bible Background); a Bible Survey of all 66 books; series on Romans, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, James, I John, and Revelation. Mrs. Daniel is currently finishing up her I Timothy series. See page 12 in this issue and the next.

Each set is \$2.50 (incl. s&h), and all ten are only \$22. Each set comes with an outline and review questions and can be used individually or in groups. You many want to consider ordering these for your Auxiliary.

### Mission Prayer Chairman

For September, instead of making prayer reminders, try assigning prayer partners, exchanging phone numbers, and scheduling 2-3 times weekly for sharing and praying by phone or in person. You might want to cut out the shape of a phone with both partners' names and numbers to give each one. Also, be sure to provide each partnership with 2-3 specific prayer items.

For October: Once you have the latest missionary prayer requests in hand (through the Missions Hotline, Mission Alert on page 28, and other sources), why not prepare an Autumn Leaf reminder? You will need: clear Contact paper, a thin, black felt-tip marker, several sheets of construction paper, and several (1 med. or 2 small per reminder) colorful, fresh leaves. Cut the construction paper in a 2.5"x6" strips,

## Springboard

### Mystery Tour Guide

**Instructions:** The tour guide a car should plan ahead with the where to drive, how long to meet. **This narration should be ad** places in your town. The idea "landmarks" related to your A sharing little bits of fictional or m while on your way to the secret meeting.

### As you leave the c

"Welcome to the \_\_\_\_\_ Mystery Tour. Our tour covers historical sights in (your town). the ride, and if you have any q .don't ask because I'm only read piece of paper--nothing more. destination in approximately \_\_\_\_\_

### 1st landmark--a local resta everyone has eat

"To your left (or right) is \_\_\_\_\_ a place famous for its homem betty. Auxiliary President \_\_\_\_\_ here, "just having coffee," wit her chin. They also make a sc chicken and dumpling' but not very own Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_."

### 2nd landmark--drive thro cemetery:

"We are now entering \_\_\_\_\_ etery, a local favorite hangou plastic flower thieves, rigor some tombstones here date ba the hill to your left lies the bones founder of our town. He die \_\_\_\_\_ . Th like a visit to the cemetery to roots."

### 3rd landmark--drive back

"This place looks \_\_\_\_\_ FWB Church, the most ing church in town. The Auxil is the most beautiful group of w county! Did you know that (give funny anecdotes of happening something totally unique to you else in town can you see that? we've never, ever lost one perso pool!"

### Final Destinat

"To your left (right, s \_\_\_\_\_ . (If it is a hom iary \_\_\_\_\_, a mother of \_\_\_\_\_ and is also known to \_\_\_\_\_ occasion. (If it is some other information about who owns it, what it is known for, etc.) This is \_\_\_\_\_ Mystery Auxiliary Tour. I hope \_\_\_\_\_ and have a wonderful meeting



## Narration:

and the driver of the President to know make the tour, etc. Adapted to fit similar here is to drive by Auxiliary or church, fictional history, destination for your

## Church:

Auxiliary's 1993 some of the most Sit back and enjoy questions, please. ing what is on this We'll reach our minutes."

## Restaurant that most

en at: Restaurant, made apple brown is often caught a few crumbs on sumptuous bowl of half as good as our

## ough the local

cem- t of history buffs, mortis, and moss. ck to \_\_\_\_\_. On of \_\_\_\_\_, d in \_\_\_\_\_ while ere's nothing quite "get back to your

## by the church:

familiar. Ah, its interesting, excit- iary at this church omen in the entire e trivia information, gs over the years, r church)? Where And, on top of that, on in the baptismal

## on:

straight ahead) is e)Kay is the Auxil- , wife of \_\_\_\_\_, on place, give some when it was built, concludes our 1993 you've enjoyed it,

place the leaf(leaves) on the paper, write out specific prayer requests at the bottom of the paper in felt-tip marker, and cover front and back with contact paper, making sure the paper seals on all four sides. Trim the edges neatly.



## Mission Action Chairman

In "Gifts From the Heart" on pages 23-24, there are several practical suggestions on how to give to missionaries. Make one of these suggestions a goal for your Auxiliary--something the women haven't done before and something they would enjoy doing. Write the Foreign and Home Missions Departments for any information you might need. Especially consider adopting an MK who is at college. Your encouragement and hospitality will be remembered long after that student graduates.

Perhaps you'll want to consider making a special effort this season to care for the elderly in your community. The approaching winter many homebound people into depression. Brighten their day with a phone call, a music tape, a bowl of fruit, (considering their dietary restrictions) along with a visit. If your area has a "Meals on Wheels" (or similar program), consider volunteering a few hours to help deliver food to those who are shut-in. ♦

## Agnes Frazier's Years of Service to WNAC:

### A History Worth Remembering

1935-1936, 1944-1945, *Fourth Vice President, responsible for stewardship*  
1939-1944, *First Vice President, responsible for literature and publications*  
1945-1950, *Recording Secretary*

### She also:

- wrote the Manual of Woman's Auxiliary Methods in 1940 and revised the Manual continuously until 1955
- expanded the yearbook in 1940 and contributed to it until 1961
- suggested the 50,000 Co-Laborer Band in 1944
- produced the Monthly Newsletter, 1950-1953
- opened the first WNAC office in 1952
- initiated the Cumberland Ladies' Aid Society Declamation Contests in 1932
- taught a course in Woman's Auxiliary for the Christian Workers Institute, 1942-1947
- served on the committee and contributed the first \$500 to start the Memorial Student Loan Fund ♦

## Lucy and Marge and the Fashion Crisis

**A Mini-Play for Woman's Auxiliary to be used as a "commercial" for the October Program "God's High Fashion."**

**Scene:** Lucy's front porch. She is sweeping when Marge comes up the walkway.

**Lucy:** Well, Marge, what brings you over to the East side?

**Marge:** Oh, you know, a little shopping, a few errands. . . and I'm desperate for your help!

**Lucy:** Again!? If it's not one thing, it's another [shaking her head]. Why didn't you just call?

**Marge:** I couldn't, Lucy: this is a major crisis. You know Rayburn Sr.'s company? Well, their sending us on a trip to Houston.

**Lucy:** So what's the major crisis? I'd love to go to Houston.

**Marge:** I would too, except when we get there, we're having dinner with three of Rayburn's bosses and their wives! [almost hysterical] What am I going to wear?

**Lucy:** You mean to tell me you drove all the way over here to ask me what to wear!? Marge, you've got several nice dresses to wear--any one of them would do.

**Marge:** No they won't. These women will practically be on speaking terms with Gloria, Liz, and Bill!

**Lucy:** Gloria, Liz, and Bill? I have no idea what you're talking about?

**Marge:** Gloria Vanderbilt, Liz Clairborne, and Bill Blass! What am I going to do? I shop at K-mart for heaven's sake!

**Lucy:** Hey, what's wrong with K-mart? [Pauses, changing the subject] Do you



## [Lucy and Marge, continued]

go to Woman's Auxiliary?

**Marge:** [aggravated] How silly! You know I go all the time.

**Lucy:** Well, you definitely have to be there this \_\_\_\_\_ night because the program just might solve your fashion crisis.

**Marge:** Really? Why?

**Lucy:** It's all about God's fashion sense. What's "In Vogue" with God.

**Marge:** I never really thought about God having fashion sense.

**Lucy:** Well, He obviously does. The Bible has all kinds of things to say about what we should be wearing.

**Marge:** Come to think of it, I do remember that verse--"Put on the whole armour of God . . ." but I don't see. . .

**Lucy:** [Interrupting, jokingly] Wouldn't that be a hoot! You in knight's armour having dinner with the Houston BigWigs and their wives. I think I have some silver polish if you need it.

**Marge:** Oh, Lucy, you're not helping at all!

**Lucy:** Sorry, dear. Just be at the Auxiliary meeting \_\_\_\_\_ night. Okay?

**Marge:** Sure, okay, but do you really think it will help me through this crisis?

**Lucy:** [nodding] I suspect that even Gloria, Liz, and Bill could learn a lot about what's really in style at Auxiliary.

**Marge:** Even Bill?

**Lucy:** Especially Bill. ♦

*What do you think of  
Lucy and Marge?  
We'd like your feedback?*

Write: **WNAC P.O. Box 5002**  
**Antioch, TN 37011-5002**

## Springboard Illustrated: Stories to Grow By Volume 33/ No. 5

### The Golden Years

by Beulah McClain, *Russellville, AR*

We have climbed the mountain of life and are now gliding down the other side, down in the valley toward the setting sun. Do we long to turn back the pages of time, erasing the sins and mistakes of the past and writing in things we should have said and done? Do we wish for more time to spend with our loved ones, time to do the little things we never got around to?

Time cannot be recaptured and put in a bottle to cherish at will. But we can profit for having lived thus far and spin our moments into golden threads: a smile, a word of cheer and hope to the disheartened—a cup of cold water in Jesus' name. We can pray for those who've yet to learn the lessons we have. We can trust more completely for having weathered many storms in His care. We can obey freely, having given up youthful rebellion for perfect peace.

Then, there will be no fear of crossing the river at sunset. For death is the golden key that unlocks the palace of eternity, where we will walk on golden streets and dine with the Father of Lights forever. ♦

## MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR

Missionaries supported by both Foreign and Home Missions departments are listed here by birthdays in July and August. Get their addresses, and brighten their special days with your cards and prayers.

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 Grace Williams (MO)  
Rhoda Creech (C'I)\*
- 2 Ken Bailey (Japan)
- 3 Sue Aycock (Brazil)
- 4 Cathey Ramey (SC)
- 7 Susan Turnbough (Spain)  
Mirial Gainer (Japan)
- 8 Jeff Turnbough (Spain)  
Jerry McClary (NE)
- 9 Nancy Hughes (Brazil)\*
- 10 Cliff Donoho (IA)
- 11 Sandra McGowan (OH)
- 12 Joel Nason (NH)
- 14 Carol Teague (France)
- 16 Sherwood Lee (C'I)
- 17 Gail Criswell (OR)  
Laverne Alligood (FL)
- 19 Nathan Snow (Japan)
- 20 Debbie Crosby (Spain)\*  
Danny Ramey (SC)  
Carolyn Hendrix (AL)

- 25 Kathryn Wright (WV)  
George Harvey (AZ)
- 27 Larue Crowson (France)
- 28 Brenda Bunch (Panama)\*
- 29 Pat Franks (Brazil)  
Ruth McDonald (Japan)
- 30 Norman Richards (C'I)  
Earl Hanna (SC)

- 13 Jerry Gibbs (France)  
Kathy Coats (SD)
- 14 Jim Mertz (MO)
- 16 Jim Williams (MO)
- 17 Geneva Poole (Brazil)
- 18 Bob Thomas (CO)  
Jalayn Martens (C'I)  
Becky Riggs (France)
- 23 Gerald Fender (TN)  
Mike Cousineau (C'I)  
Lila Nichols (C'I)\*  
Robert West (C'I)
- 27 Donna Thomas (CO)
- 28 Susan Burgess (IL)
- 31 Dwain Crosby (Spain)\*

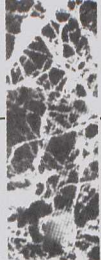
### OCTOBER

- 1 Alyne Maness (NJ)  
Deleen Cousineau (C'I)
- 3 Adelaida Vera (Puerto Rico)
- 5 Dave Franks (Brazil)
- 6 Carol Pinkerton (C'I)  
Rebecca Franks (C'I)
- 8 Clint Morgan (C'I)
- 9 Dot Gore (MS)
- 11 Ivan Ashbury (IN)  
Paul Creech (C'I)

\*INDICATES FURLOUGH

PLEASE DO NOT SEND MAIL TO  
FOREIGN OR HOME MISSIONS  
OFFICES TO BE FORWARDED.





# Communicator

by Mary Ruth Wischart

## Provision Closet Needs:

### September is Memorial Student Loan Month.

In 1992 WNAC made loans totaling \$15,487.44 to eight students at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Let the women of your church know that their giving to the Loan Fund helps Free Will Baptist young people get training for Christian service. Perhaps some women would like to fill quarter folders for the fund. Take up a special offering for the fund at your monthly meeting.

### Magazine Bills Are Mailed in October

Co-Laborer bills are mailed in October to give subscribers time to make changes in their subscriptions before the first issue for 1994 is mailed. Subscriptions are on a continuous basis. No subscription will be changed or canceled without a word from the subscriber.

The January/February 1994 issue will be mailed around November 15. Unless changes are received before that date, subscriptions will be billed for the same number of magazines and sent to the same address as last year.

Please send in any changes to CO-LABORER, P.O. BOX 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Give your account number, name of person or Auxiliary receiving the magazine and then list any changes you wish to make.

### WNAC's Financial Status

At the end of May WNAC had received \$15,393.42 in regular Co-Laborer Offerings to the general fund. That is \$4,592.40 more than in 1992 at this time. Still, if even one half of the 810 Auxiliaries reported sent \$10 per month, we should have over \$20,000 at this time. God bless the faithful few who support the WNAC ministry. Will you join them?

### The Endowment Trust

WNAC's endowment fund in the Free Will Baptist Foundation now has a total of \$5,673.48. Some gifts have been received in memory of Agnes B. Frazier. (See her tribute on page 26 in this issue.) Perhaps you or your Auxiliary would like to honor her memory with a gift.

Send gifts in memory or in honor to WNAC Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. You may also send them through regular Auxiliary channels. Make sure your treasurer has sufficient information for the gift. The names of those so honored and those who gave are entered in the Book of Remembrance displayed in the WNAC office suite.

### Provision Closet Needs

Cordle Ware, sheet sets, pressure cookers, towels, tools, toasters—the Michigan truck pulled in with a load of supplies for the Provision Closet in May. By the first of June, the shelves looked well stocked.

A number of missionaries will be visiting the Closet in the next few months. Some shelves will again look empty, and the Closet can use any of the items regularly stocked.

The Closet is well stocked with crock pots. We do not need crock pots or slow cookers. The Closet is also well stocked with blankets. The only need there is for the lighter cotton blankets. Check the list above for current needs.

Towel sets

Hand towels

Sheet sets, all sizes

Mattress covers, all sizes

8-piece flatware sets

Cotton blankets

### WRITERS... WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Have you written programs, articles, poems or plays for *Co-Laborer* magazine?

We are trying to update our writer files, and we need your help.

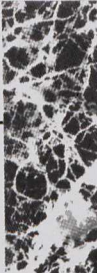
If you have, or plan to in the future, take a minute to send in your current address, phone number church, and other information you would want readers to know about you.

If possible, send a recent picture of yourself—the 1973 ones in our files don't reflect today's you.

Thanks for your help.



# Women In Action



## A. Sherwood Forest Peanut Brittle Benefits Teagues

The Sherwood Forest Woman's Auxiliary went all out in a recent fundraiser. They make peanut brittle twice a year, asking church members for advance orders. This year they encouraged their people to really support this effort, as the proceeds would benefit Dennis and Carol Teague. The goal was to sell 200 pounds of brittle, but the congregation must of had a peanut brittle craving--326 pounds were sold netting the Teague account \$1,209.98. Pictured are: Brigette Lopez, Denise Shaw, Zonna Thomas, Ruth Gilbert, Bertha Griffin, Janet Nerenberg, Eileen Busch, Denise Altman, Doreen Beecher, LeWana Hamrick, Sonjia Wilson, Leota Wilson, Sue MacGill, Joan Johnson, Vicki Dallen, and Jeanette Tobey.

## B. Hats Off to the West Tulsa Auxiliary

In April 1993, the West Tulsa Woman's Auxiliary held an Easter Hat Parade to raise money for their missions project. Seventeen women designed and modeled their own hat creations. They also wrote descriptions and directions for how to use these hats. The hats were judged on appearance, and awards were given in several categories, including "Most Useful," and "Most Spiritual." The hat that garnered the most money (votes) was dubbed "The West Tulsa Hat of the Year." Pictured is the winner, Rhonda Rogers, modeling her "Magic Care Hat for Mothers" complete with crayons, toys, bandaids, and tylenol (for mom).



## C. Back to the Basics

Nadine Hood of the Blue Bell FWB Woman's Auxiliary of Sapulpa, OK, and Sue Jenkins of the Liberty FWB Auxiliary recently combined their efforts to direct a manual study. The study reviewed the basic components of Auxiliary, as well as the responsibilities of officers. A special emphasis was given to the principles of commitment and faithfulness. Blue Bell has 17 members and is active at local, district, and national levels.

## D. Friendship Quilted for Tom and Linda Hunt

The Auxiliary of Norwalk, California decided to surprise the Hunts, home missionaries to Washington, with a quilt for their birthdays. Esther Dexter, program chairman, pieced the blocks and quilted them together. The other members embroidered their names on the blocks. Pictured are (clockwise from left): Gloria Griggs, Cindy Chapin, Gertrude Cantrell, Esther Dexter, Dee Roetzel, Louise Riddle, and Leah Taylor.





#### **F. There's No Hole in This Bucket**

The Auxiliary at New Hope FWB Church in Ina, IL, collected over a gallon of coins to give to missions. Laverne Bernard, Gladys Fowler, Karen Droll, Brenda Fowler, Jackie Capps, and Martha Payne are pictured here with their gallon of love.



#### **E. Actionettes Become Actresses for Mother/Daughter Banquet**

The Actionettes at Garner FWB Church in Garner, NC, presented the skit "In Search of the Mother of the Year" in May 1993 for the Auxiliary's Mother/Daughter banquet. Led by Debbie Payne and Becky Godwin, these nine young women are a very active, excited group with tons of potential. Pictured left to right are: Serena Payne, Patti Fishel, Amy Forester, Cassie Adams, Becky Katz, Tara Forester, Jessica Turnbough, and Debbie Payne. (Not pictured: Lori Shepherd and Candace Lee.)

#### **G. Sparta Women Purchase Lighted Cross**

The Macedonia FWB Auxiliary of Sparta, NC are pictured standing proudly in front of the 6 ft. lighted cross they purchased for their church. The \$750 was raised by selling cookbooks they put together. Front row: Betty Shelton, Betty



Guynn, Deana Billings, Nancy Pratt, Millie Pratt, and Wanda Choate. Second row: Pat McMillin, Carol Murphy, Inez Reeves, Lois Billings, Bev Pruitt, Debbie Foster, Laura Gilliam, and Joy Francis.

#### **One Step Ahead of the Rest**

Mt. Olive FWB Church in Reynolds, GA is a small congregation with an even smaller Auxiliary, but one thing is certain: when the call is given, these women know what to do! And they don't waste any time. In a letter to Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington, Auxiliary President Ruby Poole writes: "We are small in number, but we work on many different projects to raise money for whatever is needed. We are sending [the National Ass'n] a check for \$500 dollars for the National Building Fund. We saw the video, and instead of waiting until July, we voted to send it on now. We hope this check will start a chain reaction" of support. It's women like these who "get the ball rolling," so that God's Kingdom can flourish. ❖





## The Day I Met Kathy

by Odessa Ledlow

I was up at the break of dawn. The sun, peeping through the trees, was ushering in a beautiful day. The aroma of fresh-brewed coffee lingered in the house. I had managed to locate the coffee maker and the frying pan. That's about all. I had not made much progress unpacking. Most every room contained unopened boxes stacked half way to the ceiling. Being in a new neighborhood brought mixed feelings. I wondered what my neighbors would be like and how they would accept a new family.

I pushed the curtain aside and looked out the den window. Cars were parked on both sides of the street. I wasn't expecting visitors. This couldn't be the Welcome Wagon. We had been there only three days. A second look surprisingly revealed a yard sale near-by. I had always loved yard sales, so without much thought I decided to go. It didn't matter if our house was in chaos. Surely I could spare a little time. After all, what better way to meet a neighbor than at a yard sale. Closing the door behind me, I set out to make a friend.

As I crossed the street I wondered what to say. Who would I approach? Everyone would be a stranger. Slowly I entered the yard. Chattering women were everywhere. I singled out a person. Walking up to her I introduced myself. She smiled and said, "My name is Kathy." She welcomed me with open arms. That's all it took. I soon felt at ease with a new found friend. She made me feel at home. She introduced me to some of the neighbors who came by. They had already heard that a minister and his family were moving in.

So here we were. We had moved here to a new pastorate. With a new church family and my neighborhood acquaintances, I now had more friends to add to my list. What a list! Through the years it has grown as have many of my friendships. Even though some friends are miles away, I still hold them in my heart.

At times I get sentimental thinking of times spent with dear friends. Sometimes I chuckle, whisper a prayer, or shed

a tear. Each friend is unique and very special. During lonely times, my heart yearns for their fellowship.

Some have shared with me their victories. Others have come to me with broken hearts. I have listened attentively and prayed, being careful not to betray their trust.

I often think of the encouragement they have given me. There were times when I needed someone to confide in, and a dear sister would pray for me and let me know she cared. By sharing our spiritual struggles, we are drawn closer together in a circle of love.

Friends are so important. I could never make it without them. We need each other. God has made us this way. He wants us to share our lives with others. Whether it be companionship, encouragement or a word of comfort. With so many hurting people in the world, someone is always in need of our love and concern.

We could share a little more of our time. I know time is a precious element. But if we are not careful, it is easy to be too absorbed in work, not making good use of our spare time. Time we could use to make a friend.

Do we make friends easily? For some it is difficult to go next door or down the street to meet a neighbor. But if we are to have friends, we must show ourselves friendly. This often means leaving the four walls of our home and getting out there where the people are. It can also mean conquering fear and building confidence in one's self. Sometimes just making a start is all that is needed. Take that first step, you will be glad you did.

Let's determine to go out and make new friends. But keep your old ones. It is important that we show a warm heart and genuine interest in people. Be sensitive to their needs. Be willing to listen. Look for the good in them. Let them know we are available when needed. Share our faith in God. Friendships can last forever.

I'm glad I went to Kathy's yard sale. She is such a wonderful friend. We enjoy each other's fellowship. We share the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. This makes our friendship special. Kathy has taught me the value of doing little things for others. She is always giving herself to others, in small ways.

Where would we be without friends? They are more precious than wealth or fame. Real friends will be there through good times and bad. You can count on them. We all need friends. At times we may not think so. But if we should ever feel that we don't need a friend, remember someone, somewhere needs you. Someone needs me. ❖



After almost 40 years in the pastorate, Odessa and husband, E.B., retired. They are now ministering to senior citizens in First FWB Church, Sylacouga, AL. She is a writer, speaker, gifted composer of songs, and vice-president of Alabama State Auxiliary. She has two grown daughters and likes to entertain, bake and listen to other people's problems.

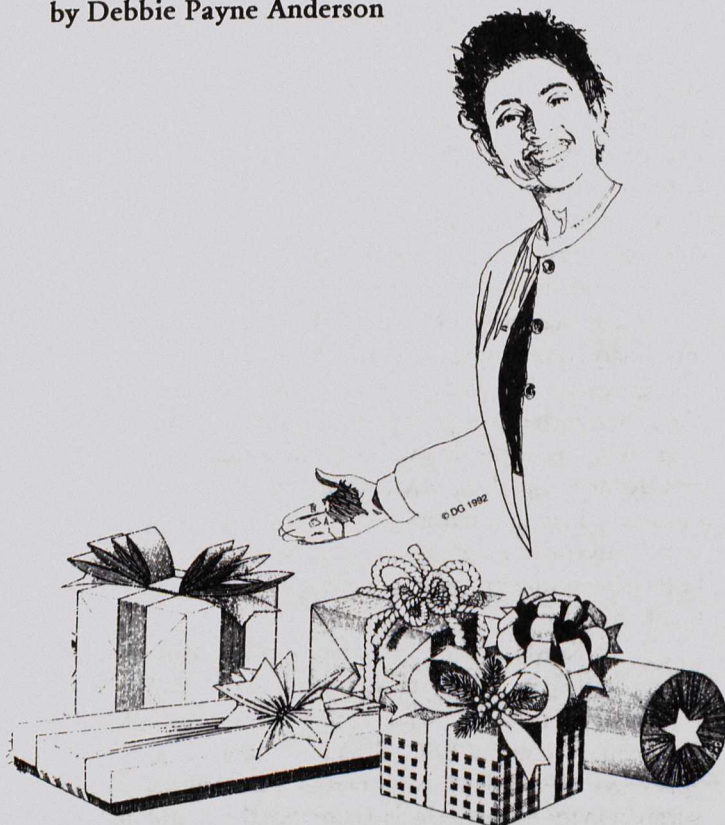




## *Gifts from the Heart:*

### Showing a Missionary Family You Care

by Debbie Payne Anderson



**T**here they are: the foreign and home missionaries. You know they are carrying out the Lord's command to share the good news with all the world, and you want to show them you care. But how?

The best place to start is to realize that *you* can do something meaningful for a missionary. No matter what your age, background, education, or income is, you can make a difference. Next, try to expand your focus by remembering that giving does not always refer to money. From there, the sky and your imagination are the limits.

Let the following ideas serve as a stimulus to help you create a pattern of caring for missionaries, a unique blend of time and talent that will bring joy and delight to those who receive it.

#### On The Field

When a missionary is on the field, any word or surprise from "back home" is a pure joy.

**Regular Letters:** If the missionary is from your home church, they will love hearing who has married, the latest church happenings, as well as news about our country and the latest trends, etc. Of course, birthday cards and anniversary cards are always a blessing.

**Phone Calls:** Are your missionaries going through a difficult or joyous time? Spend ten or fifteen dollars to call and let them know you care. Be sure to consider the time differential, though. Some churches call during services and have the missionary share on a speaker phone, so the whole congregation can hear.

**Pray, Pray, Pray:** Nothing will mean more to your missionaries than knowing you are consistently praying for them. Choose one time daily or weekly to pray, and let them know what time. Once in awhile, write out your prayers for them, and send them a copy. Also, be a constant reminder of their needs in your Sunday school class, prayer meeting, and in Auxiliary.

**Magazines:** Many magazines can be sent directly overseas. Missionaries gobble these up with pleasure. If overseas delivery is not available, save half a year's subscription, and send them in bulk. Our missionaries automatically receive the denominational publications, so write and ask them what magazines they'd like to receive, and let them choose. And don't forget, their children enjoy magazines too.

**Sermon Series:** Every missionary has times of feeling spiritually dried up: they give and give and, at times, have little to fill their own empty tanks. They cannot turn on the radio and hear good preaching. You can send them encouraging, strength-building sermon tapes to meet that need. If the pastor of their home church is recorded, send his tapes. Also, find out what other preachers your missionary



enjoys, and send those.

**Care Packages:** Once a year, or as often as possible, work with your Auxiliary to send care packages. A few simple suggestions for these are: [1]include at least one item for each member of the family [2]do not send breakables or meltables [3]include items that are hard to find or are too expensive overseas, such as: Jello mix, Hershey's chocolate powder, Koolaid, cake mixes, camera film, chewing gum and hard candy, videos, music tapes, craft kits, computer games, stationery, garden seeds, soaps, shampoos, perfumes, powders, books, and socks.

**School Supplies:** Many missionaries home school their children, and school supplies are always in demand. They will need an encyclopedia set, an atlas, a globe, scientific and historical resources, learning games, Bible memory helps, craft supplies, and classic novels for all ages. Find out the educational level of the children, and send items to spice up the learning process.

**Service Gifts:** You may have a talent or resource that could save a missionary family time and worry. If you have a computer, you could offer to print their newsletters and mail it. You could keep a list of their equipment and buy parts when parts or supplies need replacing. If you sew, you could whip up three play clothes sets for their growing children. Once when my mother was especially weary, she received some wonderful little cotton dresses a lady in our home church had made. She felt like a little bit of heaven had come in the mail.

For Missionary  
addresses, furlough and  
"Adopt an MK"  
information, write or  
call the  
FWB Foreign Missions  
and Home Missions  
departments:

P.O. Box 5001  
Antioch, TN 37011  
615 • 731 • 6812

### On Furlough

Missionaries on furlough have some special needs that differ from those on the field. They still depend on prayers and financial support for their account, but they also need rest and understanding hearts when it comes to their schedules. On furlough, they especially need:

**Consideration:** Avoid last minute requests to speak. Missionary furlough schedules are planned in advance, and these families need time to relax and be together. The children need extra attention. Understand if they must say no.

**Support:** If a missionary from your church is home on furlough, do what you can to make them feel at home. Sit with the wife when her husband is gone for services. Ask the missionaries how they would like to be involved while on

furlough. Have special fund drives to purchase the big ticket items they need: housing, car, furniture, or maybe a computer. And by the way, you can do this for any missionary home on furlough.

**Clothing:** Due to climate changes, many missionary families have to replace entire wardrobes when coming home. Buying winter coats can be expensive; perhaps you could give toward that. Encourage families in the church to save good used items for missionaries. Of course, never give clothing that you or your children would be embarrassed to wear. And be sure to tell them about all the good discount places in town for buying clothes, food, and other items.

**Service Gifts:** When on furlough, the missionary is within arm's reach. There are many practical ways to show you care. Can you give their children free piano lessons? Can you cut, style, or perm their hair? Can you do maintenance work on the car of a single woman missionary or repair it for the cost of parts? Can you tutor their child in a school subject that needs brushing up? Can you keep the children for a few days, so Dad and Mom can have a romantic weekend away?

**Understanding for the Kids:** Nothing concerns a missionary couple more than their children. If their children have grown up in a foreign culture, the States are a strange place. Furlough can be trying time for them. Make sure that your children, or the young people you can influence, are prepared to accept these MKs, making friends with them and including them in activities. And do not put them "on the spot." MKs often prefer to stay in the background—they may be too shy to sing or speak in a foreign language—so be sure to ask them first.

MKs who are in college face special challenges, too. Where do they go during the summer and on breaks? What if they get in trouble? What if they get seriously ill? My freshman year at FWBBC, I had to have an emergency appendectomy. Since I was a minor, I needed my parent's permission for surgery. I had to convince the doctor to let me sign the papers myself, since my parents were thousands of miles away in Africa. Find out which MKs in college need a "home away from home." Nothing will make you a friend to missionaries faster than your acts of kindness to their children.

### Just Like You

Missionaries are normal people who need friends, just like you do. What could a friend do that would perk you up and make you feel special? Whatever that is, the same would do wonders for a missionary, or a pastor's wife, or that neighbor who doesn't know the God you serve. Let us love, not just in word, but in deed. ❖

**About the writer:** *Debbie Payne Anderson, a member of Donelson FWB in Nashville, is a busy wife and mom. Part of her will always belong to the people of Ivory Coast, Africa, where she grew up as an MK.*



# Life!Action <sup>\*</sup>a new column for Actionettes



## The Teacher in You

**M**y mother used to say to me, "There's only one thing tougher than being a student. Being a teacher." I never gave it much thought until I became one. No matter how long the school day seems, no matter how many extra activities there are to attend, no matter how much English homework you've been given, your teachers have you beat. Their hours are longer. Their schedules are tighter. Their homework is harder. Not to mention grading the tons of homework they've given you! Teachers have to come to school ready to be everything from nurses, to drill sergeants, to teammates, to counselors and referees.

Now that you're back in school, think about your teachers--the fun ones, the boring ones, the interesting ones, the uninterested ones. What makes them good or not-so-good teachers? How can you tell they enjoy being teachers? Do they get and keep your attention? Do they make you want to know more? How do they communicate their knowledge to you?

**However well they do their jobs, teachers all have one thing in common: They are responsible for introducing important things people need to know.**

Did you know that YOU are a teacher? Yes, you. Others are watching you to see what you'll introduce them to. Will you introduce them to subtraction--a selfish spirit that leaves out those who need a friend--or addition--including "outsiders" in your circle of friends? Will you introduce them to division--gossip and lies that hurt others? Or will you show them how to multiply by helping those in need?

Will you teach them that History doesn't have to repeat itself, showing how God is changing you day by day? Will you introduce them to Language and Grammar--the kind that encourages and shows affection? Will the Music lesson you give show them what the Christian life is about? Will your Health class introduce them to what the Bible says about purity and self-control?

It's tough being a teacher. Teaching takes a lot of preparation--time alone with God, praying, **"Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me. . ."**(Ps. 25:4-5a,NIV). The hours are long, the lessons often frustrating, and your students may not seem interested, but they are watching you. . .the teacher.

**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 CoLaborer 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 CoLaborer Magazine, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, Tennessee, 37011-5002 ♦



# A TRIBUTE TO AGNES BRINKLEY FRAZIER

NOVEMBER 2, 1897 - MAY 15, 1993

*"I have longed for thy  
salvation, O Lord;  
and thy law is my  
delight."  
Psalm 119:174*



**F**rom the day Agnes B. Frazier experienced salvation on August 1912 at Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church, she delighted in the Lord. Psalm 119:74 became her life's verse.

She delighted in service for Him.

## TEACHER.

She attended Peabody College and Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville. Mrs. Frazier taught in public schools for 33 years. In the summers of 1942-1947, she taught in the Free Will Baptist Christian Workers' Institutes. For 28 years she taught a Sunday school class.

## SERVANT.

She served Free Will Baptists in local, district, state, and national positions. Clerk, treasurer, secretary, choir member, pianist, organist, superintendent of the intermediate Sunday school department, president of the state Woman's Auxiliary Convention—all showed her dedication to her Lord.

## PROLIFIC WRITER.

During her lifetime, Mrs. Frazier con-

tributed to League, Sunday school and Woman's Auxiliary materials.

In 1940 she gave WNAC its first *Manual of Woman's Auxiliary Methods*. She continued to revise and update the Manual until 1955. Mrs. Frazier edited and wrote for the yearbooks, published the monthly *Newsletter*, and wrote countless other materials for WNAC.

## GENEROUS GIVER.

She and James Emmett Frazier were married in 1917 and lived together until his death in 1980. On his death, she moved into a Nashville retirement center and directed Free Will Baptist Bible College to sell their home and put the money into the endowment fund.

She was a member of the committee for WNAC's Memorial Student Loan Fund and gave \$500 to begin the fund.

One of her last handwritten notes came to WNAC April 17, 1992 with a check enclosed. "Recently," she wrote, "I received a check I had not even expected to have so I am sharing it with FWB ministries."

## PIONEER WITH FAITH AND COURAGE.

She served as secretary for the first Home Mission Board of the National Association.

When she joined East Nashville Free Will Baptist Church in 1925, she became active locally and in the Cumberland District Ladies' Aid.

While she was superintendent of stewardship for the Cumberland District in 1932, she held a stewardship declamation contest for young people. Declamation contests became a feature of WNAC, and the stewardship theme continued until 1955.

When WNAC organized in 1935, she was third vice president, responsible for stewardship.

In 1950 the Convention elected her executive secretary-treasurer of WNAC and gave her \$50 a month, but no office and no equipment. She reported, "Thousands of letters, . . . and other promotional materials go out . . . from our office where there is neither adding machine, typewriter, Addressograph, mimeograph, etc." She pled with the women for an office and equipment. In



1952 Mrs. Frazier opened the first of WNAC's national offices in a small room provided by the Bible College.

In 1929 she wrote her first book for the women, *Stewardship and Missions*. Later she wrote: "Women [once] had to resort to box-suppers, quilt sales, bazaars, etc. . . . to get money to give to missions, Christian education, and orphanages; but a new day has dawned. As a result of our stewardship study courses, women are learning to give as good stewards."

Agnes Frazier saw a great future and dreamed big dreams for Free Will Baptists. She originated WNAC's Co-Laborer Fund in 1944 with the idea of 50,000 people giving \$1 a month to WNAC. Ten percent of the money would go to WNAC, 90% to the Unified Program of the National Association for the support of other national agencies.

In 1944 she proposed that WNAC start a monthly magazine and hire a full time editor. Although the Convention approved the proposal, the magazine did not materialize until 1961, as a quarterly magazine.

We're still reaching for her dreams and goals.

About six years before her death, she wrote, "God has wonderfully blessed my life and I . . . have endeavored to share His blessings with others as I have traveled through these 76 years [82 at her death] with Him—many of whom I am looking forward to greeting again in God's Heaven—maybe soon!" ❖

## tender thoughts

by pearl mitchell

**S**ometimes we try to limit God. We have problems, and we don't mind going to God to ask for strength and power and other intangibles. But usually we don't think that God can really answer prayer for a physical need. We put God on a spiritual pedestal, way off in the distance, without allowing Him to work in our everyday lives. We have so much to learn about His power. I'm reminded of a story:

There was a woman, a member of the local church, who had a small mountain on her property. For several years, she whined around and wished that she could see the nice green valley on the other side of the mountain.

One day she decided that God could move her mountain. She went to her pastor and asked him to pray for the Lord to remove her mountain. The preacher assumed hers was a "spiritual mountain," and began to pray everyday that it would be removed. He prayed for her at every church service.

Weeks later, the pastor went by the woman's house. She took him to the kitchen window and showed him the mountain. The preacher's mouth hung open in surprise. He almost laughed out loud. He could not believe that the woman had asked him to pray for a real dirt and rock mountain to be moved. After seeing the real mountain, he began to doubt the woman's mental condition, but he continued to half-heartedly pray for the mountain . . . and the woman.

Months later, the preacher went by the woman's house. Was he ever surprised to see heavy rock quarry trucks hauling away the mountain little by little! The woman ran out to greet him in the driveway, saying, "Can you believe it?! An expressway is going to be built just beyond the edge of my property! The mountain is being moved . . . and they're even paying me for the dirt!" When they went into her house, the woman showed him the view from her kitchen window. She could see the entire green valley beyond the construction site. And the expressway was not going to affect it.

The woman thanked the preacher for his prayers, and the preacher repented for his doubts.

We should never try to limit God. ❖



Pearl Mitchell teaches 5th grade in Columbus, GA. She is the mother of three grown children and grandmother to two.





*Mrs. Birdie Gage:*

An Example of Faithfulness

The year was 1900. The place was Pryor Oklahoma, Indian territory. It was the beginning of life for one who would serve God and others mightily.

Ninety-three years later, Birdie Card is still reaching out to others and supporting missions across the globe.

Farm life, two children, and an alcoholic husband took a lot of determination and perseverance. She cared for her family well, yet always made time to give something back to her community. She has worked with 4-H girls and was a "Grey Lady" volunteer at Pryor Hospital for 13 years.

But much of her time and energy was spent serving the Lord at the Greenbrier Free Will Baptist Church in Adair, Oklahoma. As a charter member of the church, Mrs. Cage was very active, teaching in Sunday school, vacation Bible school, and League (C.T.S.).

Many considered her the right arm of the Woman's Auxiliary, dubbing her "Miss Missions" for her years of faithful stewardship. She made it her concern every year to organize and present programs to raise money for missionary accounts in the red.

Even today, Birdie Cage continues giving faithfully to missions. She has moved to California to live with her daughter, Maxie, spending her time listening to church service tapes and writing to missionaries.

Birdie, the Greenbrier Woman's Auxiliary thanks you for your example of faithfulness and all your years of service.❖

## Over My Coffee Cup



by Eunice Edwards

**Angels have a place in God's work.**

He gave them their place when He created them. They can be described as "messengers" or "couriers" for God's Kingdom. They hold an important position in the Kingdom.

Be that as it may, God's Son has been given a place "far above all principalities, and powers, and might, and dominion, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come" (Ephesians 1:21). The Lord Jesus was given the ultimate supremacy. Angels were not.

Jesus might not have been as beautiful in appearance as are the angels. His beauty was hidden while on earth. Isaiah says, "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (53:3a). While on earth, Jesus was a poor man, looked down upon by society. But his final exaltation, yet to come, will be higher than any angel or any society.

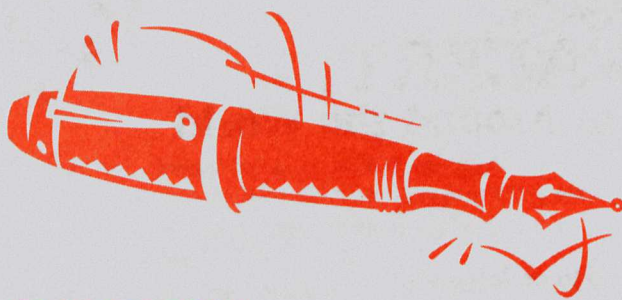
God intended for man to have complete, supreme dominion over the world, but in Eden, man failed to prove His worthiness for this honor. So, what God could not entrust to man, He gave to His Son, the God-man, Jesus Christ.

We can, with confidence, look forward to the day when Jesus will rule the world, His glory revealed to all. My prayer is that it might be soon.❖



# 1993

## Creative Arts Contest Winners



### PROGRAMS

- 1st place: "Spending the Gift"  
 2nd place: "Let's Bake an Auxiliary Cake"  
 3rd place: "Autumn's Falling Leaves"  
 4th place: "Why Me, Lord . . ."

Diane Mitchell Thomas, Grifton, NC  
 Maizie Sevits, Kirksville, MO  
 Betty Payne, Arlington, VA  
 Eleanor Grindstaff, Erwin, TN

### ARTICLES:

- 1st place: "Keep Practicing"  
 2nd place: "Irregular Worship"  
 3rd place: "They Will Follow in Our Steps"  
 4th place: "My Time in Judgment"

Barb Eubanks, Sesser, IL  
 Cheryl Akers, Jacksonville, FL  
 Deniece Hammonds, Moore, OK  
 Glenna Price, Leroy, WV

### PLAYS:

- 1st place: *The Preacher's Wife*  
 2nd place: *A New Heart*  
 3rd place: *Gone Forever*  
 4th place: *Living by Grace*

Suzy Virden, Woodlawn, IL  
 Sara Kilgore, Limestone, TN  
 Lavonda Carswell, Morganton, NC  
 Carolyn Lane, Antioch, TN

### POETRY:

- 1st place: *Patterns*  
 2nd place: *The Yellow Bus*  
 3rd place: *Lament*  
 4th place: *The Super Salesman*

Katy Taylor, Waterford, MI  
 Carol Reid, Nashville, TN  
 Patricia Collins, Smithville, MS  
 Cheryl Akers, Jacksonville, FL

### ART

- 1st place: *Calla Lily*

Terri Cooper, Southgate, MI





## **MISSION ALERT:**

### **Evangelism News from Around the World**

#### **Foreign Missions**

##### **Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa**

Ron and Linda Moore write: "The Gospel is the power of God to everyone that believeth," even to a village witch doctor! A witch doctor in the village of Kinkua turned from her idols, fetishes, and sacrifices to follow, as she put it, 'the Jesus path.' What a testimony to the power of the Gospel! Please pray for her as she faces persecution from her family and village." Ron and Linda have spent the summer in Missouri, traveling and speaking in services across the country. They are planning to return to Cote d'Ivoire in September.

##### **Abashiri/Bihoro, Japan**

Mirial Gainer has been approved by the Foreign Missions Board to be a full-time missionary. She will be ministering in two different Japanese churches, as well as teaching Bible, English, and cooking classes, and establishing outreach ministries to businesses and service organizations in the area. Her departure date is set for January of 1994, but until then she will be completing her Studies here in the states. Remember her in your prayers.

##### **Tokyo, Japan**

After ten years on the field, Ken and Judy Bailey may have to return to the states due to a \$15,000 account deficit. In their June newsletter, they write: "If we are asked to leave the field, there is no one to assume the leadership of the church, no one to preach to the unsaved who attend every service." This need is a special and urgent one: without your help, this ministry could lose its momentum. If you can help, please contact the Foreign Missions office.

##### **Eldorado, Panama**

Twelve people made decisions for Christ at a recent revival at the First FWB Church in Panama, according to Steve and Judy Lytle. Brother Alex Mercado and his people worked hard to get their unsaved friends and relatives under the sound of the Gospel during the four night revival. The Lytles also request special prayer for a faithful member of their church, a 68 year-old man, who is battling glaucoma and is in need of surgery.

#### **Home Missions**

##### **Rapid City, SD**

There is a resounding "Land Ho!" being heard in Rapid City. Tim and Kathy Coats are rejoicing that their offer of \$60,000 was accepted for a 2700 sq. ft. building on 2 acres of land. The landowners were asking for \$97,000. Tim writes, "I believe God will move in His people to help us retire the \$45,000 balance of the loan." Kathy is personally adding a new member to the church this November—baby Coats will join sisters Bethany and Melody.

##### **Chesnee, SC**

Great things are happening at the mission work in Chesnee. Within the past several months, six people accepted Christ, three joined the church, and seven rededicated their lives to Christ. Pastor James Childers writes, "We are seeing some tremendous spiritual growth in the lives of our members: tithing, witnessing, faithfulness, involvement. We are in the process of organizing a youth group. For our first meeting, we had 13 young people. We have a long way to go, but we're on our way!"

##### **Springfield, IL**

Ken and Bonnie Doggett report that the Lord is working in Springfield. They report several new regular attenders—Art Hoven, a neighbor who mows the church grass, and Nancy Mendenhall, a talented vocalist who has been attending almost from the beginning. They request prayer for several families who are yet to be won to Christ and rejoice in the recent conversion of 70 year-old Harry Mester.

##### **Mission, TX**

The Bible Institute in Mexico graduated four students on June 12th, according to Fred Jones, Director. He writes, "Pray that God will send more young ambitious students and for our married couples' study courses. We are really busy, but we have a lot of married couples interested" in the courses. Also, at the youth services in Altamira, 20 decisions were made for Christ. Many of these young people are interested in the Bible Institute. Keep the Joneses in your prayers. ♦



## Words for *Women*

by Mary Ruth Wischart



"What do you know for sure this morning?"

I walked into a semantics class one morning for a test. The test was written on the chalkboard, and "What do you know for sure this morning" was the first question.

We struggled with that one, and the professor informed us that we wrote down many things we really did not know for sure, like "Today is Tuesday."

That test made me think. What things are "for sure"? What are the real things? Things we can count on, things we can hang on to? And am I more concerned about the real things or the unreal?

### WHAT ARE THE REAL THINGS, THE "FOR SURE" THINGS?

Suppose someone came to you today and said, "Of all the things you have surrounded yourself with, you may keep only one thing. I am taking all the rest away from you." What would you choose to keep? Honest, now, what do you value most? The real things or the unreal?

What values motivate me? Is it love of this world? The things I have surrounded myself with? Or is it love of God and what is "for sure," eternal, and real?

We can easily list the unreal, those things that easily slip from our grasp. Our houses, clothes, jewelry, furniture, photograph albums and TV may go up in a moment's blaze. We may lose wealth and position almost overnight. Even friends and family change. What in the world is there that you can rest on for sure?

What about the real things, things that cannot be destroyed, things that will go on forever? What is there that will not change? Try listing those.

I challenge you to make your list. Then ask yourself if you are more concerned with the things that pass or with the real things, the lasting and sure things. What do you know for sure today?



**MISSIONS  
HOTLINE**

**615-  
731-3839**

## Letters to WNAC

Dear WNAC,

Thank you for your many gifts to our ministry. God is at work in West Africa, and you are a part of it.

Paul and Rhoda Creech  
Ivory Coast, West Africa

Dear WNAC,

A special thanks for your love, prayers and support. Our account is healthy and in the black. We appreciate all WNAC does for us.

Carlie Lloyd Family  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear WNAC,

Thanks to your help, we were able to spread the gospel in many places of Panama this year. During our Women's Retreat this year, we used the Spanish version of "Challenge of the Cross," and our women were really blessed by it. Thank you for the *CoLaborer*. It is very encouraging and gives us many helpful ideas.

The Stan Bunch Family  
Panama

Dear WNAC,

I would like to subscribe to your women's magazine. I first saw your publication in a doctor's office and was quite impressed.

Carolyn Plewes  
Toledo, Ohio ❖





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