

Co-Laborer

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women



Home Missions 101
4

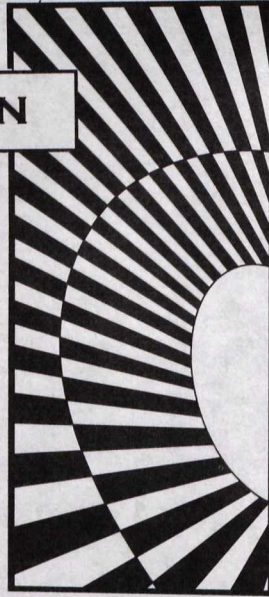
Taking Our Hands
Off God's Money
22

Convention '93
26

Where is
Christmas?
6

HORIZON

MELISSA RIDDLE



Thanks, but No Thanks

"Thanksgiving and Christmas aren't what they used to be,"

The elderly gentleman said in despair.

"People don't share, and people don't care.

There's turkeys and tinsel everywhere,

But no one is content."

His words ring true. November, December, and all year through.

People expect the world for a nickel.

Coming from a long line of garage sale junkies, I can spot a bargain right off. I know the worth of marble dove bookends, vintage linen suits, and parchment lampshades. The object of bargain-hunting is to pay less than what the item is actually worth. It's serious business.

I'm always amazed to watch bargain-hawks circling for the kill, trying to squeeze blood from the retail turnip. Junk for a nickel is one thing. Finery is another. Why do we expect the world for a nickel?

But then I remember the freebies in life. (Yes, there still are some.) Like that Chicago area woman who spends her own money buying bread and lunch meat for men at the VA Hospital. Every week for 20 years, she's rolled her little cart through rooms filled with injured and sick veterans, offering them a sandwich, a smile, an encouraging word. Everything she offers is free. And it means the world to them.

But when some people have the world, they don't appreciate it.

For instance: I went to college with a young woman who had it made. She didn't work because mom and dad paid her tuition. She had a weekly allowance for the "little extras." Her closets bulged with the latest fashions. But all she talked about was how *she didn't have this* or *she really wanted that*. We'd hear her on the phone, complaining to her parents how awful this was or how pitiful that was. Everyone envied her, but no one liked her.

My mother says "Appreciating what you have is often the result of doing without." Most of us don't have to do without much. It's sad that, as young children and teenagers, we don't appreciate the sacrifices of our parents. It's even worse when, as adults, we aren't thankful for what God has given us.

But we can change that. How? Write thank you notes for kindnesses. Call with words of praise and encouragement. Include the less fortunate in our giving. Give more than we expect in return. Do everything we do with integrity and fairness. The proof is in the pudding.

Izaak Walton said, "God has two dwellings: one in heaven and the other in a thankful heart." Thanksgiving is a way of life.

VOLUME 33

NUMBER 6

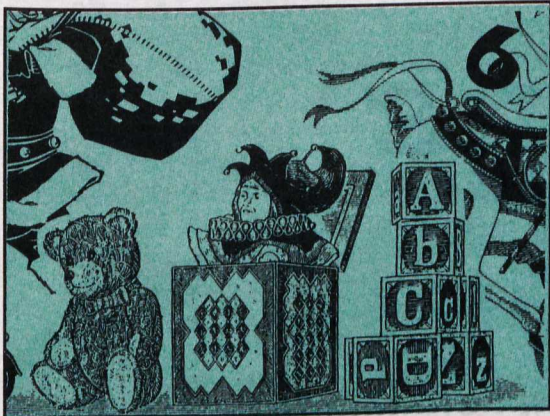
NOV • DEC 1993

**"IF SOMEONE CAME TO
AMERICA FROM A
COUNTRY THAT DOES NOT
CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS,
WHERE WOULD THEY
LOOK FOR ITS TRUE
MEANING?"**

**"THE DOCTOR INFORMED US
THAT OUR BABY MIGHT BE
STILLBORN. IF HE DID LIVE,
MOST DOWNS BABIES DIE
BEFORE THE AGE OF TWO.
SHE SAID WE STILL HAD TIME
FOR AN ABORTION."**

**"1,116 WOMEN
REGISTERED FOR THE
1993 WOMAN'S AUXILIARY
CONVENTION IN LOUISVILLE.
NOW MORE THAN EVER,
WNAC IS SHARPENING ITS
FOCUS."**

CONTENTS



NOVEMBER PROGRAM:

Home Missions 101 --Pat Thomas 4

DECEMBER PROGRAM:

Where is Christmas? --Yvonne Wolfenbarger 6

"What Does Joe Do, Nanny?" --Louisa Godissart McQuillen 8

Crosswinds: Crossing the River --Pauline Bone 9

Living Proof --Beth Lowran 10

Bible Study 12

He Paints With Fire --Glenna Price 13

Poet's Corner 14

SPRINGBOARD: *Helps for Officers* 15

Communicator 19

Women In Action 20

1993 Theme Article: Taking Our Hands Off God's Money 22

--June Critcher

The Minister's Wife 24

Life!Action: *A New Column for Young Readers* 25

Convention 1993 --Melissa Riddle 26

Tender Thoughts --Pearl Mitchell 28

A Woman God is Using 29

Mission Alert: *Evangelism News from Around the World* 30

Words for Women --Mary Ruth Wisehart 31

Executive Editor: Mary R. Wischart

Editor: Melissa Riddle

Circulation: Yvonne Wolfenbarger

Co-Laborer, (ISSN 0896-0038), is published bimonthly by the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 5233 Mt. View Road, Antioch, TN 37011-5002, (615)-731-6812. Address all correspondence to P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Annual subscription rates: \$5.75 per year, single; \$5.00 per year, 5 or more to one address. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Co-Laborer, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Copyright privileges, reserved © 1993 Member of the Evangelical Press Association.

Objective: To know more about the FWB Home Missions effort and how to effectively participate in its ministry

Scripture: John 4:34-38

Song: People Need the Lord

Home

A Review Course

Missions

for a Broader Perspective

101

on FWB Evangelism Efforts at Home

Envisioning the Field: **The Basics**

The Home Missions Department exists for three reasons:

1. to start new churches in areas where there are none in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.
2. as the Evangelism Department for the denomination, responsible for promoting evangelism and church growth among all our churches.
3. as the endorsing agency that approves chaplains for the armed forces.

When did Home Missions begin?

The first Free Will Baptist Home Missions Board was elected at the National Association in 1938. Harry Staires served as the first General Director on a part-time basis, but since there were no funds to speak of, the first home missionary programs consisted of giving \$100 to men who were willing to start new churches.

In 1954 Damon Dodd was employed as the General Director, and in 1955 the first three missionary couples were sent to the field. In 1956 Homer Willis became the Director, and the next few years saw the

Whaleys open the field of Alaska, the Sanders enter Hawaii, the Billows arrive in Mexico, and the Roy Thomas family sent as missionaries to Denver. Robert Shockey served as General Director from 1973 to 1978, and Roy Thomas has served in that position since that time.

How many Home Missions churches are there currently?

Presently 98 churches are sponsored by the Home Missions Department. Of this amount, 55 are pastored by national home missionaries, 30 are pastored by Mexican national pastors, and 13 are pastored by tentmaker pastors.

How many self supporting churches are there currently?

244 churches

What is the average length of time between the starting of a Home Missions work and the work going self supporting?

Self supporting means that a congregation is totally indigenous, is able to pay its own pastor, has its own property and buildings, and is able to carry on its outreach ministries. Most

Home Missions churches are established in two to seven years. However, this depends on the area or field. Some areas are much more fruitful than others, and churches are established more quickly in some areas than others.

The churches in Denver, Colorado, Sacramento, California, Townsend, Delaware, and Newark, Ohio were established in less than two years. Other areas take much longer. For instance, Rapid City, South Dakota is a strong Roman Catholic area, and Phoenix, Arizona is a strong Mormon area. Home Mission churches in these areas have difficulty finding rented facilities where landlords will let them have church services, and the congregations also face many problems in obtaining land on which to build.

On some Home Missions fields it is as difficult to win people to Christ as it is on foreign fields. Some Home Missionaries face difficult problems of cultural and language differences as Foreign Missionaries do, especially those serving in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Canada, and Mexico.

Some workers have served as home missionaries for many years,

but are on their second, third, or fourth projects, such as Bob Lewis who established the churches in Williamsburg, Virginia and Colorado Springs, Colorado, and is now going to Grand Junction, Colorado.

What kind of costs are involved in planting a church?

A Home Missionary is paid a livable salary that would compare to what the average pastor makes. However, he must raise faith promise support that is equal to double his monthly salary so that his account will not go into the red. He must also raise \$10,000 cash for his account to build a good base of support before going to the field. If a missions account drops into the red, the home missionary must leave the field temporarily to raise needed support.

The high costs of land and buildings is one reason it takes longer to establish churches in metropolitan areas than in other areas of the country.

To help solve this problem, the Home Missions Board created the Church Extension Loan Fund to help mission churches purchase land and construct buildings. A total of 75 loans have been made to mission churches from the CELF.

Planting in Fertile Soil:

These are current works and some of their challenges:

In the North/Northeast:

This section of the United States is as void of the gospel as many foreign countries. Many metropolitan areas of New England are strongholds for cold, dead liturgical churches which do not preach the gospel of Christ. Traditional methods of evangelizing are not allowed in many cities of this region, such as door to door visitation, tract distribution, cottage prayer meetings or home Bible studies, as these activities violate existing city ordinances.

Home missionaries laboring in these areas must use other methods

of spreading the gospel, such as "friendship evangelism" or mailing campaigns. Terry Miller in Providence, Rhode Island chose to go as an *associate missionary* rather than a regular missionary so he could work part time at a secular job in order to make contacts with people in the area.

In the South:

The *Bible Belt* is where most of the *Joint Project* workers are laboring. Some people may mistakenly think this area of the United States is "over evangelized." However, these *Joint Project* workers can testify that many people living in their areas have never heard a clear cut presentation of the gospel.

In the Mid-West:

These states are among some of the most heavily populated areas in the United States. David Potete, who is laboring to establish a church in Chicago, searched over a year before he found a rented building where the city would let him conduct church services. Until one was found the Potetes had services in their home.

In the North-West:

Home Missionaries in these states are laboring in the most statistically unchurched region in America. These isolated areas have very few gospel preaching churches.

The Darrell Smiths say, "Please pray for the lost souls in this area. Statistics tell us that there are over 900,000 individuals in the Poland area who do not even claim any type of religious affiliation."

Tim Coats in Rapid City, South Dakota reports, "This is beautiful country here not far from Mt. Rushmore, the 'Shrine of Democracy,' but gospel preaching churches are very scarce in this needy area. We recently had the granddaughter of Sitting Bull attend our worship services. She said she liked it, and that probably other Indian families would come if she did."

In the West:

Missionaries serving in the mountain states are: *Bob and Brenda Lewis*, Grand Junction, Colorado; *Bob and Rosa Lee Thomas*, Ft. Collins, Colorado; *Mark and Donna Thomas*, Greeley, Colorado; *Russell and Vonda Johnson*, Cheyenne, Wyoming; *Mark and Louise Vandivort*, Flagstaff, Arizona, and the Target City, Phoenix, Arizona missionaries, *Howard and Patsy Gwartney*, *George and Linda Harvey*, and *Larry and Sherry Reynolds*.

Large cities such as Phoenix are plagued with modern day problems such as drugs, divorce, drunkenness, and decaying morals. Target City missionary Howard Gwartney reports, "For some reason, the Lord is leading us to young couples who are separated, divorced, or in the process of getting a divorce. I believe that even in the most hopeless situation, God is able to show Himself strong and put broken homes back together. Because you prayed for Mike and Janet Benjamin, they are back together. Mike is our song leader, Janet teaches a children's class on Wednesday nights, and they both work in the Children's Church rotation."

Canada, Mexico, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico:

Workers in these isolated areas are *Bill and Lois Reagan*, Windsor, Ontario, Canada; *James and Mitzi Munsey* and *Fred and Barbara Jones*, Mexico; *Ron and Barbara Dail*, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands; and *Miguel and Adelaida Vera*, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

These missionaries are laboring under conditions similar to those of foreign missionaries. Some of them must learn a foreign language, and all must adjust to different cultures and working outside the United States.

Dry Soil: Where Water is Needed Most

Some Home Missionaries are working in isolated areas and are separated many miles from fellow Free Will Baptists.

(continued on page 10)

Where is Christmas?

by Yvonne Wolfenbarger

If someone came to America from a country that didn't celebrate Christmas, how hard do you think it would be for them to find the true meaning of Christmas? Where would they look? What would they look for? What would they listen to?

I've been looking for the Christ of Christmas myself this year, and it isn't easy to find. However, I can tell you where you won't find the Christ of Christmas.

You won't find it at the Mall

You won't find many clues to the real meaning of Christmas at the mall or in shopping centers. They're decorated with trees, bows, balls, bells, lights, reindeer, snowmen, elves, and ribbons. And there's Santa's workshop, where your child can have her picture made with Santa (for a fee, of course). But you won't see nativity scenes or anything religious there. No Star of Bethlehem, no angels. The world has forgotten any religious significance connected with those symbols.

You won't find it in the Music

Someone looking for the meaning of Christmas won't find it listening to "Christmas music." Some radio stations play traditional Christmas hymns, but generally you'll hear: "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus," "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer," Brenda Lee "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," Elvis having a "Blue Christmas," Bing Crosby having a "White Christmas," and Amy Grant having a "Tennessee Christmas." Many small children think Jingle Bells is the only Christmas song.

A Canadian friend of mine said, "The World's Christmas song is off pitch. It moves the feet and the hands,

but not the heart." There really is no hint of the real meaning of this season in Christmas music.

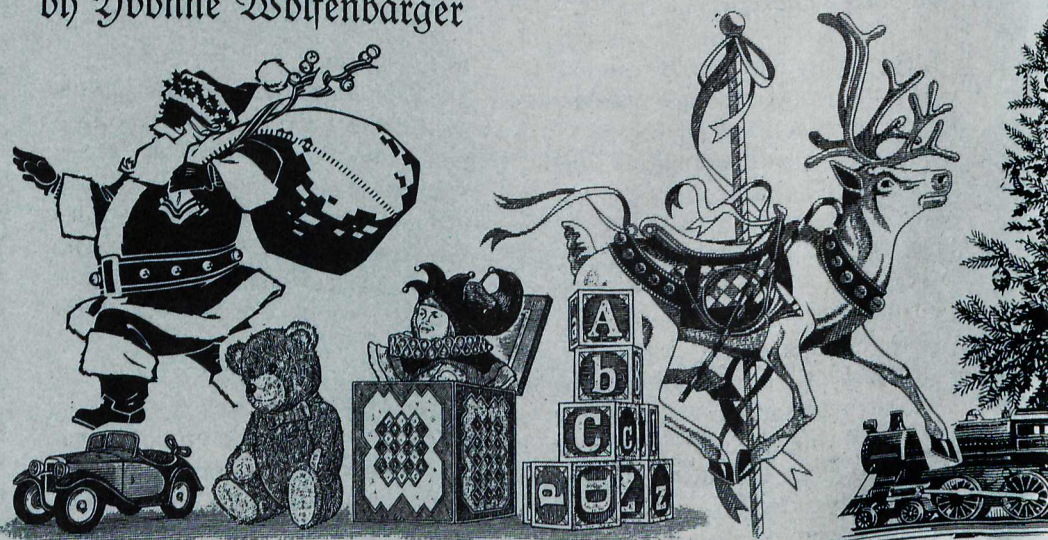
You won't find it in Christmas Cards

Card shops and Christian bookstores offer a wide variety of beautiful, even "religious" cards, but rarely with any hint of true meaning. You'll find cards with Courier and Ives snow scenes, Santa Claus, Christmas trees, poinsettias, wreaths, bears, rabbits, dogs, cats, and redbirds in the snow. And the messages simply say "Happy Holidays" or "Merry Christmas." You may get lucky and find one that mentions "The Joy of the Season," but don't expect an explanation of that joy.

Someone looking for the real meaning of Christmas would certainly be confused by looking in the average Christmas card section. No hint of Christ and His peace and forgiveness there.

You won't find it in School

Sadly, you won't find the Christ of Christmas in the public school. It's against the law to mention the idea of Jesus as a Savior who came to forgive



sin. When I was in school, our Christmas play was about the birth of Christ, and our choir sang the traditional Christmas carols. But now, humanists say we don't need God to save us. We don't need a Savior. Jesus was simply a good person. Kids in school are told that Christmas is a time for family, love, and a time of celebration. But they aren't told why we celebrate.

College campuses don't reflect anything about the Christ of Christmas. For them, Christmas means no school. It's time to party, party, party.

You won't find it in Homes

In the average American home, moms and dads are rushing around decorating, partying, shopping, and basically wearing themselves out. They're short of money and short-tempered. (Unfortunately, the same is true in many Christian homes.) They don't have time for each other or for the kids.

I was told the story of a little girl who kept trying to get her mom's attention during the holiday season. She kept following her mother around, but her mother didn't have time for her. So she



went to her dad, and the same thing happened. Her brother and sisters ignored her too. That night she was overheard praying, "Forgive us our Christmases as we forgive those who Christmas against us."

There's shopping and wrapping, eating and watching the *Charlie Brown Christmas Special*, or a favorite one, *It's A Wonderful Life*, but no time for reading the Christmas story, or talking about the true meaning of Christmas in homes today.

I'm getting weary of looking for the meaning of this Christmas celebration, aren't you? Maybe we've been looking for the Christ of Christmas in the wrong places.

You will find it in the Bible.

The books of Matthew and Mark give us the account of Christ's birth on that first Christmas long ago. Read Luke 1:26--4:32 & Luke 2:1-7. That's the true reason for this season of celebration. Examine the books of Matthew and Luke, and you will find others who were looking for the Christ of Christmas. The shepherds who came looking

for the Christ Child whose birth was announced by the angels on the hillside. Read Luke 2:8-16.

Also in Chapter 2, you will find Simeon who was looking for the Christ of Christmas. God made him a promise, and he was patiently waiting for the fulfillment of that promise. Read Luke 2:25-34. And you'll find Anna. She was also looking for Christ.

There were also wise men looking for the Christ of Christmas. See Matthew 2:1-11.

All those who looked for Christ that first Christmas knew exactly what they were looking for. They didn't know where or when they would find Him. But they knew He was God in the human form.

The shepherds found him through a song. Not the kind we hear today, but the song of the angels. The wise men found Him because of the glittering star. Not like those placed on top of the tree, but the one placed in the sky by God Himself to guide them to Bethlehem. Simeon found the Christ-child through his education in the temple. He knew Christ would come because the sacred books told him so. He just wasn't sure when or where.

Anna found Christ because a voice within told her He would come. Remember how she prayed and fasted (she must have had a very personal relationship with God), and that voice revealed to her that the child in the temple was the Savior of the world. She heard a voice, but it was not like the voices in our society that say there is no God, no peace, no love, no need for redemption.

Their searches for the Christ of Christmas took the shepherds and the wise men away from their daily affairs and familiar surroundings. The shepherds were minding their own business, tending to their sheep on a quiet hillside, when the sky burst open, and a host of angels proclaimed that Christmas was here. The wise men had known for a long time that the Savior was coming. They'd spent their lives studying and preparing for that event. And like the shepherds, the wise men had to go far

away to find the Christ of Christmas.

But Simeon and Anna were simply going about their every day routines, serving in the temple as they had done for years, when the Christ child came to them.

The True Meaning of Christmas

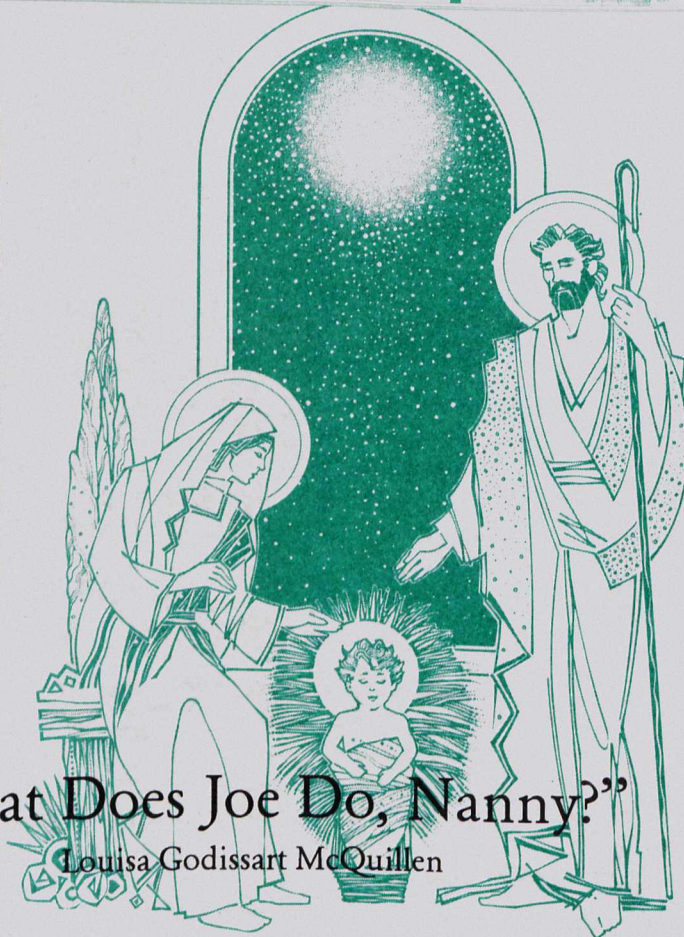
Perhaps we've been looking for the Christ of Christmas in the wrong places. Maybe we've been looking for an angel to burst into our lives--like one did for the shepherds--to show us the meaning of Christmas. Maybe we've looked for obvious signs that the world recognizes the Christ of Christmas. If so, we've been disappointed.

More than likely, Christ will come to us while we go about our everyday routines (like He did for Simeon and Anna), while we serve Him on the job, in our local church, in our communities, or while we are praying and studying. Perhaps as we worship Him, He will come to us and remind us that we are the reason He came. Because He loved us, He left the splendor of Heaven to be with us in our sorrow and suffering, in our humanity. He cares about our financial struggles, our family problems, our loneliness. He walks with us every day, comforting and caring for us. He is sharing in our sorrow, our confusion, our struggles from without and within. He is daily making a way of escape from our temptations, and He has made preparations for our eternity.

When that reality is made known to us, our lives will never be the same. We will have found the true meaning of Christmas--the true meaning of life. And we can then say as Simeon did, "I have seen Thy salvation, which thou hast prepared for all people." ❖



Yvonne Wolfenbarger is the Executive Assistant at WNAC in Nashville, TN. She is an active member of Woodbine FWB Church.



“What Does Joe Do, Nanny?”

Louisa Godissart McQuillen

It was snowing and very cold the night of November 18th—my daughter Erin’s birthday. To celebrate, her husband Tim was taking her to the Penn State-Notre Dame football game at nearby Beaver Stadium. I had the honor that evening of babysitting J.P., their three-year-old son. After his mom and dad left for the game, we bundled up in warm coats and went Christmas “looking.”

Eventually we found ourselves in front of Sellers’ True Value Hardware, gazing at a Nativity display in the center showcase windows. The almost life-sized figures of Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child were behind frosty plate glass, looking almost real enough to speak. I think they overwhelmed J.P., who previously had seen only miniature versions of the familiar Christmas scene. He looked a bit bewildered and starting firing questions at me:

“Who’s that, Nanny?”

“That’s Baby Jesus,” I said. “You’ve seen the Nativity scene before—don’t you remember?” His small eyes moved upward to the Child’s mother kneeling before the manger.

“Who’s that one?”

I smiled. “That’s Mary, Jesus’ mother!” J.P.’s eyes moved higher, paused for a moment on the staunch face of a bearded Joseph, then slowly moved downward past his walking staff and stopped at his sandaled feet. He was quiet for so long that I thought he might be confused. I decided to help him further.

“...And that’s Joseph—Jesus’ father!” I added firmly.

J.P. seemed thoughtful as he stared at the bearded father figure standing protectively over his little family. Suddenly he asked:

“What does Joe do?”

“What?” I asked, startled at his informal naming of Mary’s husband. I wasn’t sure I’d even heard him right! “What?” I dumbly repeated.

He asked again: “What does Joe do, Nanny?”

I laughed. But J.P. was serious—he really wanted to know more about this tall stranger who wore such odd clothing. J.P.’s daddy is tall too, so I don’t think he questioned Joseph’s height. But Tim doesn’t carry a long staff at his side. He wears a gun and holster. Tim is a Pennsylvania State trooper whose tall, black boots and trim gray uniform must

have seemed far removed from Joseph’s flowing robes and sandaled feet. So, standing there in the cold night air, I took time to tell J.P. in simple terms just how Jesus’ daddy, “Joe,” fit into the Christmas story.

Later, I thought about the question that sprang from an inquisitive three-year-old’s heart: “What does Joe do, Nanny?” he wanted to know. His question was as old as Mary and Joseph themselves, and perhaps as confusing to people back then as it was to J.P. on this cold wintry night. I pondered his question in my heart. Besides the fact that family lineage gave him proper credentials, could it be that simple obedience was Joseph’s greatest accomplishment? He could have ignored the voice that urged him to marry the young girl. He could have talked himself out of the marriage since close friends probably questioned his sanity in even considering it. Rumors, you know, indicated Mary was with child already . . .

What would we have said if Joseph was our close friend and told us his intended wife was carrying a child? Perhaps they said it too: “Surely you jest, Joe! Wake up and smell the coffee!”

Joe! Wake up and smell the coffee!"

No doubt Joseph was thoroughly confused. How could Mary possibly be a virgin? (His mind surely mocked him on that one!) Even so, he did as the angel had told him and married the young mother-to-be. Obeying fully, "he had no union with her until after the Child was born."

Joseph had learned without question to obey God's voice. Because he was so tuned in to it, God could quickly convince him that danger was near. Immediately he took his little family to Egypt until it was safe to return home. Time after time, he followed God's leading, straight and true, like an arrow follows an unseen path from the bow that releases it. In fact, that's how I answered J.P.'s question:

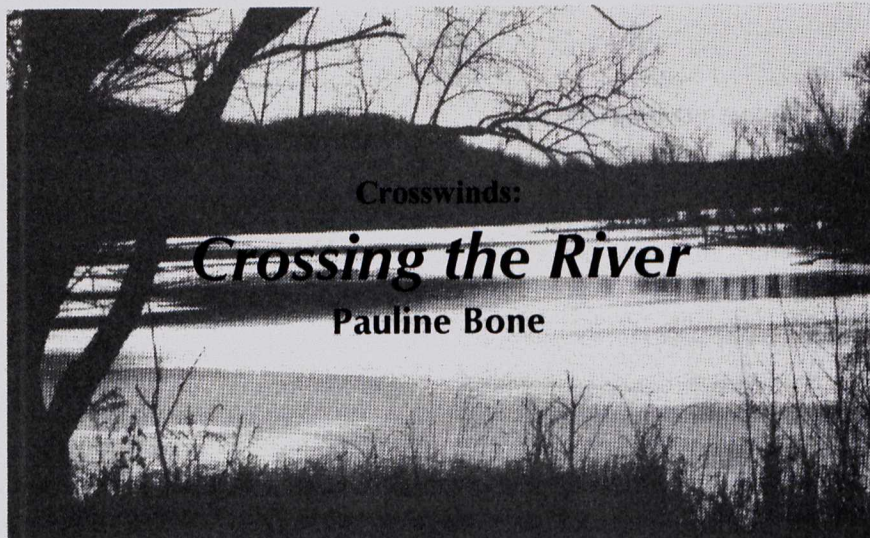
"What does Joe do, J.P.? Joe obeys God—he's a real straight arrow, and all of us should try to be more like him."

My answer must have satisfied the little guy. He stuffed one hand deep in his jacket pocket, and with the other led me into the warmth of the store to find his favorite jeep.❖

Reprint rights from *Woman's Touch*, November 1992.



Louisa Godissart McQuillen is a freelance writer of Christian/inspirational articles from Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. Her goal is to help others come to know Christ as Savior and friend.



Crosswinds:

Crossing the River

Pauline Bone

God gave us Michael, our only child, in April, 1947. He was an answer to our prayers. He was a continuous blessing, brightening our home, and we loved him dearly.

Michael was saved at an early age. He loved to attend Sunday school, V.B.S., and other church activities. He also loved going to school and was an excellent student in high school and college. He married his high school sweetheart, Cheryl.

In August, 1992, all of our lives changed. Cheryl called us from the hospital to say that Michael had gone into cardiac arrest. He was gone before we could get there. There was no time for goodbyes.

We were all numb, plunged into a river of bereavement unlike any we'd known. My husband and I had given up both our mothers, a brother, a sister, and my father, but we had never experienced a grief so overwhelming as this. Giving up our son seemed almost unbearable, and we couldn't understand why he was taken so soon.

Christian friends and loved ones were so faithful, sustaining us in ways too numerous to mention. Their sincere, consistent prayers strengthened us daily. But, I needed comfort that no human could give. I turned to God's precious Word for guidance.

Prior to the funeral, the Lord gave me Romans 14:7-9: "For none of us liveth to him, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die we die unto the Lord: whether

we live, therefore, or we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that He might be the Lord both of the dead and living."

Michael had grown up with an affliction for which there was no cure. Many times during his life I had prayed for his healing, but God's answer wasn't what I had hoped for. Could I still believe His promises, even with Michael gone? Definitely, yes.

Now I am comforted by the words of Mike's boss who said, "Mike was a good Christian." And I know that, as the book of Hebrews says, those who die in faith, "not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers on the earth. They seek a country, . . . a better country, that is an heavenly" (11:13,14,16). I know that God has provided something better for Michael (11:39-40).

Is it any wonder a voice from heaven told John to write, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord" (Rev. 14:13)?

God has given me the heart to go on. The sad tears do not flow as often. The depressing waves of grief do not seem as high and swift. The challenging waters do not seem as chilly and deep. And I will keep walking forward, claiming God's help and strength, and finding renewed courage and grace sufficient for each new day.❖

(Home Missions 101 continued.)

The Home Mission churches in Madison, WI, Plymouth, MA, and Providence, RI, are the only Free Will Baptist churches in those states. Other states have only two or three churches: Oregon; Iowa; Washington; Wyoming; and New Hampshire.

The Dails in the Virgin Islands, the Reagans in Canada, and the Veras in Puerto Rico are the only Free Will Baptist workers on their fields. Many times these workers suffer loneliness and discouragement, and get desperately hungry for just a word of greeting or a short time of fellowship with fellow Free Will Baptists.

Free Will Baptist women can be of immense help to these isolated, lonely home missionaries. A long distance telephone call, a letter with assurance of prayer, a birthday card or cheery balloons, or a gift box would be so encouraging. A vacation visit to an isolated field would thrill the hearts of the missionary family.

IV. Barren Soil, People Overlooked:

Four out of every five Americans now live in the city. People by the millions have joined the trek from the farm to the "asphalt jungle." Five out of six of them will find no Free Will Baptist church to attend, and many will be unable to find a gospel preaching church of any kind.

Home missionaries laboring in metropolitan cities of America face a difficult mission field. They face foreign cultures at our doorsteps, as one out of every five Americans is a member of an ethnic group. They face families shattered by divorce, drugs, and decaying morals. They face college campuses that are closed to the gospel witness. In fact, the number two cause of death among the collegiate crowd is suicide, which is grim proof that young people are perplexed.

Missionaries such as the Potetes in Chicago face crime ridden streets where it is not even safe for them to walk. Only Christ has the answer for this confusion and spiritual hunger.

Only Bible believing churches

can turn the tide of heathenism and humanism that has conquered this nation, and help bring the country back to God. Pray for home missionaries as they face the enormous task of "digging out" a church under these conditions.

However, Free Will Baptist home missionaries are making a difference! They are winning people to Christ, putting homes back together, and helping lonely, hurting people find peace and happiness.

Mark Vandivort in Flagstaff, Arizona has won several college students to the Lord. Howard Gwartney in Mesa, Arizona has won several single or divorced parents, and has been able to help put homes back together. Mark Thomas has won several professional people to the Lord in Greeley, Colorado, and is training them in a program of discipleship. Almost one hundred Home Missions churches are winning people to Christ and making a difference in the lives of people.

V. How Can Free Will Baptist Women Help?

The more Free Will Baptist women know about home missionaries, the more they will pray for them.

Order free home missions materials from the National Home Missions Department to display in your church. Put Home Missions maps on church bulletin boards in each Sunday school classroom and in the church foyer. Create new ways to use missionary prayer cards, so their names and faces will be familiar.

Ask your pastor if your church can include home missionaries in its annual missionary conference. When home missionaries come to your church for an itinerate service or a missions conference, take the time to get to know them.

Free Will Baptist women can do much to help reach the goals stated in the National Home Missions Department's motto: "*Missionaries In Every State For Churches In Every City!*" ♦



Our story begins the Monday before Thanksgiving, 1987. My husband Gary and I were expecting our fourth child, and after having gone for routine tests the week before, we received a frightening call. We were told to come to the doctor's office immediately. When I asked why, the nurse simply said she couldn't discuss it over the phone. The next hour was full of anxiety and fear.

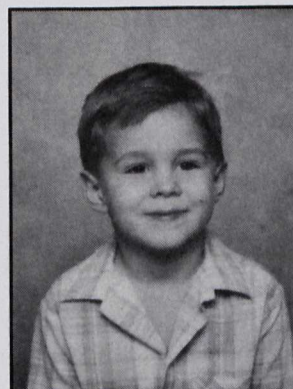
When the doctor finally called us into her office, she told us that my Alpha Fetal Protein test indicated that our baby was a high risk for Downs Syndrome.

We had not been able to find a babysitter on such short notice, and so I sat there, tears streaming down my cheeks, looking at my three precious children: Philip, Sarah, and little Amanda. The doctor continued, informing us that our baby might be stillborn and that if he did live, most Downs babies die before the age of two. She suggested an amniocentesis in the next week and informed us that if the results were negative, we would still have time for an abortion.

Without any discussion, Gary and I knew abortion was not an option. The doctor was surprised when

Living Proof

by Beth Lowran



we told her that if God chose to give us a special needs child, we would not question His judgment. He had already blessed us with three healthy children. We knew He would give us the strength and love needed to raise this child.

We had decided to keep the information about the baby to ourselves because we wanted our families to love him regardless of his condition. And we didn't want them to be over anxious about the pregnancy. When Thursday arrived, the traditional Lowran Thanksgiving dinner was spread. Gary's family numbers almost 30, so we were surrounded with happy, loving people who, although unaware of our news, reaffirmed our belief in the strength of family ties.

Time dragged by so slowly, through the holidays and on into winter. With every movement of the baby, I grew more and more worried. I knew God would help me meet this baby's needs, but I worried about my other children. *How would this affect them?* I worried about the financial strain this might put us in. *How would we pay for everything?* Many days Gary came home to find me crying.

After the November prognosis,

I requested another doctor. In March, an Ultrasound was performed, and the new doctor said, "How nice to have another boy." Gary and I were happy at the thought of a second son, but feelings of guilt at what might be wrong with him clouded my thoughts.

On Psalm Sunday, everything changed. Gary had to work that day, so I got the kids ready, and we went to church. When pastor Gene Norris gave the invitation, it seemed like he spoke directly to me. He said if we had cares in our hearts to come forward. He asked us to imagine our largest problem lying in our hands. Then he said to raise the problem up to the Lord. The next thing I knew, I was at the altar praying with Sharon Kyle, a longtime friend. I asked her to pray with me for my baby. As she prayed, she laid her hand on my stomach, and for the first time in five months, I felt at peace. I knew God was going to bless us no matter what.

I could not wait to tell Gary what had happened at church. We had been married for almost eight years, but after listening to what God had done for me that morning, we prayed together for the very first time. Sometimes growth takes years. I knew one of the purposes for this trial

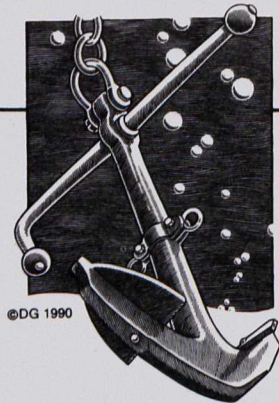
was to bring Gary and me closer together and closer to God.

Three weeks later, on May 4th, Joshua Carl Lowran came into the world as healthy and perfect as can be. Today, Joshua is a typical five year-old, playing with trucks, riding bikes, and trying hard to keep up with his older brother and sisters. When he tied his shoes by himself for the first time, I cried. His life is a testimony to the power and wisdom of God.

My prayers today are for the mothers who, for whatever reasons, choose to abort their babies. Those babies are future preachers, missionaries, doctors—future mommies and daddies. I pray that they will realize that God's gift of life is precious. In spite of all the knowledge of science, my Joshua, scampering around with his puppy, is living proof. ♦



Beth Lowran is a "self-employed Household Executive" who, along with husband, Gary, stays busy with five children, ages 6 mths. to 10 yrs. They attend the Philadelphia FWB Church in Mt. Clemens, MI.



I Timothy in Review

M.M. Daniel

Review: The theme of this book can be summed up as a "treatise on church order." The six chapters cover problems in order, doctrine and discipline that arose in the early church. Human nature hasn't changed. Therefore, its instruction is still as relevant as it was over 1900 years ago. Church leaders must still follow "sound doctrine" (Chapter 1); men and women need to find and fulfill their places in church work (Chapter 2); careful guidelines must be followed in choosing church leaders (Chapter 3); false teachers must be recognized and prevented from spreading heresy (Chapter 4); and, in Chapter 5, laypersons, of any age or gender, are to be treated with respect and honor. The chapter closes with further instructions for elders (pastors). Chapter 6 wraps up this church manual with pertinent advice to all who strive to be good ministers.

Warned or Worthy (5:14-25)

5:14-16 Younger widows are advised to "_____ bear _____ the house, give no occasion to the _____ to speak _____" (5:14). Why? Because their youth and circumstances make them so vulnerable to Satan's attacks (5:15). Again, believers are admonished to care for widowed family members rather than dumping the responsibility on the church (5:16). Needs may be financial, emotional, or require time and labor to maintain home and property.

5:17-18 Elders are "_____ of _____ honor" (5:17). Laboring, they have earned their "_____" (5:18). Remuneration should adequately meet the needs of the family, as well as the living standard of the congregation.

5:19-22 Gossip was, and still is, a deadly weapon. At least "_____ or _____" witnesses must be forthcoming before an accusation is made or

investigated against a church leader (5:19). His reputation and ministry must be safeguarded against malicious intent. However, if accusations are proved true, disciplinary action is required. Why? So "that _____ also may fear" (5:20). Sin can be contagious and will multiply if allowed to go unchecked in the church. Timothy is personally charged that he do "_____ by _____" (5:21), and not be "_____ of other men's sins." He is to keep himself "_____" (5:22).

5:23 This verse is parenthetical and personal to Timothy, as "a father" to a "beloved son in the faith." Even with today's highly scientific filtering devices, we cannot be perfectly sure we have been provided with pure water. We can assume that some water contamination had caused Timothy's digestive problem.

5:24,25 The problem of sin in 5:22 is resumed in these verses. Some sins are "_____" (evident), while some "_____ after" (5:24). The same can be said of "_____ works" (5:25).

Miscellaneous Instruction (Chapter 6)

1. Honor is due employers by employees, particularly those who are believers. (vss. 1-2)
2. False teachers are described as proud of their ignorance, stirring up controversy and division. (vss. 3-5)
3. Money motivates false teachers. (vss. 6-10)
4. The "man of _____" warned to flee from a lust for money. Rather, he is to pursue "righteousness, _____, faith, _____, patience, _____." (vs.11)
5. The Christian life is characterized as a military battle or an athletic race. The Greek word "fight" in verse 12 literally means "contend for the prize." Jesus was the example that we should remain pure and true to Him until His return. (vs.12-16).

6. A warning is given to wealthy believers in vs. 17-19. They are to remain humble in spirit, trusting not in "_____ riches, but in the _____ of God."
7. Paul's concluding personal instruction to Timothy encourages him to avoid "profane and vain _____" and to disassociate himself from false teachers who "have _____ concerning the _____." (vss. 20-21)

Discussion Questions

1. Many of the truths of I Timothy apply to believers in general, instead of the church leaders exclusively. Can you find them?
2. What three things should the laity extend to church leaders? (5:17-19)
3. What reason is given in 6:6-9 for being content with having our daily needs met?
4. How are the words of 6:10 often misquoted?
5. Ephesians lists the armor needed to "fight" Satan and evil. Can you locate these verses?
6. T or F "One has to be wealthy to be rich in good works." ❖

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

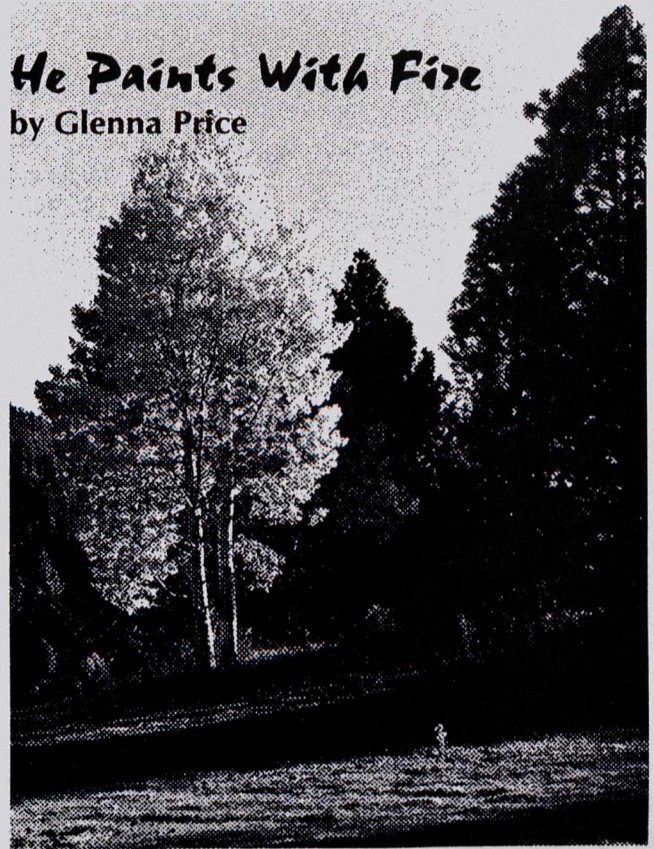
"How Did We Get It?" (Bible Background)
 "Airplane View of all 66 Books" (Survey)
 "Foundation of the Faith" (Romans)
 "Walking Worthy" (Ephesians)
 "Joy Under Stress" (Philippians)
 A Study on Colossians
 "The King is Coming" (I Thessalonians)
 "Faith in Action" (James)
 "Blessed Assurance" (I John)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

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

**Give Co-Laborer Magazine to a friend.
 Only \$5.75 for a one-year subscription.**

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

He Paints With Fire by Glenna Price



The hills are ablaze with the bold colors of Autumn. The maples are flames of red and orange against the backdrop of golden hickories. The burnished tufts of beech are nestled gently amid the ruby boughs of stalwart oaks. Our Father is at work!

The stately mountains are His canvas. The only quenching of the roaring fire of color will come when the Father blows cool north winds that chill the air with promise that frost will soon return. The pines, indifferent to the temporal splendor around them, stand unmoved as prophets of old, pointing their fingers toward heaven. As the flames of Autumn devour the green mountains, only these emerald pines are left to tell the story of Summer's fading memory.

Soon Father will blow the North winds stronger and louder, and they'll carry with them more than just a promise. Slowly, quietly, Father will send white winter to spread its icy robe upon the barren shoulders of the mountains, snuffing out their sizzling Autumn flames. His trees will remain at rest, but standing at attention, awaiting the Master's next command.

Finally, His call sent forth, the tiny blooms of spring will begin to burst into a kindling flame of welcome beauty. His life, His touch, His call brings His mountains and His people through a timeless cycle of birth and death. Oh, those hands that paint with fire are able to cradle me, shelter me, lead me, and keep me through all eternity.





FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*M*isery is everywhere. So many needy people are reaching out for help . . . and hope. They stand outside our closed doors. Their eyes are burning. Their hearts, longing. How can we reach them if we only see them through human eyes? We must see them the way God sees them and open our doors, our hearts, our hands.

Matthew 25:37-40:

" Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these my brethren, you did for me.'" (NIV) ❖

Poet's Corner

Poet's Corner The Super Salesman

by Cheryl Akers
Fourth place in the
1993 Creative Arts Contest

The super salesman shakes your hand
and guides you through the door.
The super salesman
shows you all the models on the floor.

The super salesman, using savvy,
Details all his wares.
The customer does not suspect
The guarantees are snares.

The super salesman's smooth as silk
And silver-tongued to boot.
"Don't worry 'bout the payment plan;
We'll find one that will suit."

The super salesman seldom misses.
He seems to be so wise.
Yet could it be that super salesman's
wearing a disguise?

Who is this salesman?
Why, ol' Satan, slick as he can be.
He sells his wares
by sabotaging simple minds, you see.

He offers deals so hot they sizzle.
Shamelessly he speaks.
Like saccharine are his promises
When sabotage he seeks.

The super salesman makes you think
that you are number one,
But in reality he knows that
once the deal is done,

He owns you, and the guilt of sinning
just won't go away.
The pleasure of the sinning goes
and yet the payments stay.

But is there good news?
What about these seeds of sin we've
sown?
Well, Jesus takes in trade all kinds,
Buying back His own.

So in the showroom
When you're tempted by Satan
and his sort,
Just remember, the super salesman
will always sell you short.

The Table is Spread by Linda Sligh

The table is spread,
with good things to eat.
The Host invites you
to come take a seat.
The guests make you welcome,
as you take your place.
You anxiously await
a glimpse of His face.

The banquet's delightful,
a sumptuous feast.
Everyone's filled
from the greatest to the least.
The fellowship's warm,
the love overflows.
The joy and the peace
all around you glows.

You're wholly enveloped
in God's saving grace.
In heaven with Jesus
throughout time and space.

The Reason for the Season by Lois Janes

'Tis the season to be jolly,
So hang your mistletoe and holly;
Eat your fill of nuts and candy.
'Tis the time to have some handy.
But don't forget that Jesus is the
reason for the season.

Enjoy the lights adorning houses;
Savor the thrill the sight arouses.
Listen to the Christmas bells ring.
Join in as the carolers sing
That Jesus is the reason for the
season.

All in all, it's a pretty sight.
Our celebration of Christmas night
And Jesus is the reason for the
season. ❖



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas · Helps for Auxiliary Officers

DEVOTION OUTLINE

What Keeps Us from Reaching Out

Scripture: Jude 22 and Matthew 25:31-40

Introduction:

"Love thy neighbor. Do unto others. To have friends a man must show himself friendly." There are many stories in the Bible about reaching out to others. There's the Good Samaritan. Jesus Welcoming the Children. The Woman at the Well. It should be so easy to make a difference in others' lives, but it isn't.

Why aren't we reaching out?

1. *Possessiveness:* We are selfish with our time, with ourselves, with our "stuff." Possessiveness results in apathy: "It's not my responsibility."
2. *Prejudice:* We are suspicious of anyone in need, quick to judge someone by outward appearances, against those who differ in opinion from us, and biased against anyone different from us. Prejudice results in avoidance: "Them vs. Us."
3. *Pride:* Pride is thinking or acting as if you deserve anything more than someone else, including family, health, wealth, salvation, even life itself. It is being more concerned with the standards of others than God's standard.

Conclusion:

How long will possessiveness, prejudice, and pride keep us from reaching out in love to others, from sharing Christ with those lost? How long will these things prohibit the Great Commission?

When we have the right perspective of Christ's life, His sacrifice, and His ministry on Earth—when we fully realize that our service to others is service to Him—reaching out will be a top priority.

President

November and December are perhaps the busiest months of the year. Some obligations might overshadow Auxiliary during this time, so remember to plan ahead and keep your women informed.

November is Home Missions month. The program in this issue is designed to be an overview of what Home Missions is accomplishing for the Kingdom of Christ and how Auxiliary women can be a part of the work. Make it as informative as possible by writing the Home Missions department in advance and getting the most current materials they offer. The address is: FWB Home Missions Department, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002, 615-731-6812.

Publicize your meeting through church newsletters and bulletins. Adapt the program to suit your group. And pray. A prayer reminder is given in SB. Have your women cut it out and keep it handy for daily prayer times.

For the December program, "Where is Christmas?", we suggest props be used for each section: decorations for the mall; examples of typical Christmas music; and typical seasonal greeting cards. For the last section, we suggest you read passages from Luke and discuss ways to make Christmas more Christ-centered.

Vice-President

The holiday season is a wonderful time to encourage the women in your church. Plan a "Twelve Days of Christmas" encouragement campaign. Give each member of your Auxiliary one or more names of women in your church who are not in Auxiliary. Then, have each one send an encouraging scripture verse for each of the twelve days. On the last verse, they can reveal themselves and invite the non-Auxiliary women to join them for special January meeting--a new resolution for the new year: involvement in Auxiliary.

Plan ahead with your President, Mission Study, and Mission Action officers for the Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer and the Lizzie

Mission Study Chairman

January is just around the corner, so now is a good time to begin planning a reading/study group. You may be thinking, "our women just do not have time to read." But, women do read, and you can provide them with the motivation and encouragement to read and discuss together Christian literature that will help them grow.

Discuss the possibilities with your women during the November and December meetings. Bring suggested books or Bible studies with you, and be enthusiastic. We make time for the things that are important to us. Individual spiritual growth is important.

Consider the needs of your women and which of these topics would be beneficial to them: Strengthening Marriages, Dealing with Crises, Winning Family Members to Christ, Childrearing, Doubt and Depression, Stress and Burn-Out, Spiritual Gifts. Or you might consider doing a study on women of the Bible. *CoLaborer* will be printing six of these during 1994.

Mission Action

To meet the needs of others, we must first know what they are. But how do we know how to help? Begin now to accumulate names and addresses of those who can inform you, so that you can lead the charge. Whenever you read an article, if the address of the agency who is helping is listed, write it down. Call the local Chamber of Commerce and ask for names and addresses of charitable organizations. Call and/or write for information. Present it to your women. Here are a few to get you started:

Bread for the World, 802 Rhode Island Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20018; (202) 269-0200. A nationwide Christian organization that lobbies Congress on behalf of the world's hungry people. Write for their newsletter and other information.

Eternal Perspectives Ministry, 2229 East Burnside #23, Gresham, Oregon 97030; (503) 663-6481. Pro-Life Movement information.

Mail Preference Service, c/o Direct Mail Association, 11 West 42nd Street, P.O. Box 3861, New York, NY, 10163-3861. To stop receiving junk mail, list the names to which the junk mail is addressed, and send it to them. It makes environmental sense.

Project Mercy, 7011 Ardmore Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN, 46809. This agency provides patterns for those who would volunteer to sew clothes for refugees. They can provide you with information about refugee needs.

Mission Prayer

The Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer should be your top priority for Auxiliary during November. See the Prayer List in this edition of *SpringBoard*, and encourage the women to use it daily.

Lucy and Marge and the Christmas Marathon

Lucy: [yelling toward offstage] Hey! I've got to run out to the store for a minute. Can you manage to start dinner? [Buck grunts] Offstage; Lucy sits in chair and looks at clock. Car. Stops and honks at Marge's car.

Marge: [mimes opening car door, gets out, sits in chair next to Lucy] Thanks for stopping me. The thought of doing this myself was just too much! So, wait.

Lucy: [miming driving] Well, I'll go to the K-mart first. I've got to get socks and undies for the little one. Buck, a wrench set, a bathrobe, running shoes.

Marge: Running shoes, for who?

Lucy: For me! I'll never be able to get my Christmas errands finished if I run. Even so, it'll take me at least a couple of hours to do the cooking alone.

Marge: I know what you mean, I've been in a race from the 1st of November to the 1st of December. Rayburn says I already look like my weight is about to blow.

Lucy: Yeah, and to think, in the end of this, we've got Auxiliary to go to.

Marge: [sarcastically] Don't sound so excited, Lucy. Your excitement might be contagious.

Lucy: Oh, you're right, that sounds like a good idea. It's just that we're always so busy. I'm on a treadmill all the time and in November, it speeds up. It would be a good idea to not have meetings during the month.

Marge: I know what you mean. I've been thinking about quitting or postponing it. He who loses his life shall find it again. We can eliminate the things that make us marathon runners. Work is important. It's rewards are important.

Lucy: We do manage to find time for the things that are important to us. Marathon.

Marge: [Getting out of the car] Well, I'll go get those running shoes first thing!

Start a prayer chain or prayer partnerships among the women, and make this week a special feature in your Pre-Thanksgiving worship services (talk to your pastor about how to do this). Write the Home Missions department (address is under President's section) for prayer cards--they will send you enough sets for all your members.

In December, pray specifically for Free Will Baptist Bible College and the Paul Kettelman Memorial Fund drive. Write to the college for prayer calendars to start your year off in prayer for the faculty, staff and students of the college.

Also, the holiday season is the perfect time to especially remember our single missionaries: Lynn Midgett in Spain, Debbie Griffin in Japan, Susan Bumpus (Uruguay), Molly Barker in Uruguay, Cathy Crawford in France, Alice Smith in Ivory Coast, Jalayn Martens in Ivory Coast, Charolette Talent in France, Mirial Gainer (Japan), Patsy VanHook in France, Glennda Leatherbury in Ivory Coast, Cathy Crawford in France, Kim Zegelian in Germany, and Sarah Malone in China. They face unique struggles in their ministries, and your prayers and encouragement mean so much. ❖



© DG 1992

10 EASY WAYS FWB WOMEN HAVE A PART IN HOME MISSIONS

1. Using the Home Missions Birthday Calendar, send cards direct to missionaries. Your notes of encouragement mean so much.
2. Adopt a missionary's kid who is away at Bible College and remember him or her with cards, letters, and gifts.
3. In February send valentines to Home Missionary "kids," encouraging them.
4. Purchase "back to school" clothes for home missionary "kids" who may be living on an isolated field and on a very limited budget.
5. Pay a missionary's kid to go to youth camp. Or better still, visit a mission church and assist in a back yard Bible club, vacation Bible school, or youth camp.
6. Plan your family vacation to one of the following: the Grand Canyon, Mt. Rushmore, Rocky Mountain National Park, Yellowstone National Park, and the Smoky Mountain National Park. While there, visit a home mission church.
7. Purchase Easter clothes for an entire home missionary family. This could be an Auxiliary or church project.
8. Mail a Sunday School supplies box to a mission church. Items may include scissors, glue, crayons, pencils, chalk, construction paper, magic markers, thumb tacks, New Testaments, etc.
9. Sew smocks for the nursery workers in a mission church.
10. Purchase the latest Jeannette Oke book or other Christian books from Randall Bookstore and mail it to a home missionary wife.



**How will you be an example of
the true spirit of Christmas?**

Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer November 15-19, 1993

Free Will Baptist women are reminded to give sacrificially to the Lizzie McAdams offering for Home Missions.

Monday:

Tom and Lynda Hunt, Washington; Mike and Gail Criswell, Eugene, Oregon; Darrell and Sandy Smith, Portland, Oregon; and Tim and Kathy Coats, Rapid City, South Dakota.

Tuesday:

Howard and Patsy Gwartney in Mesa, Arizona; George and Linda Harvey in Phoenix; and Larry and Sherry Reynolds in Chandler. Also pray for Mark and Louise Vandivort, serving in the mountain city of Flagstaff, Arizona.

Wednesday:

Russell and Vonda Johnson in Cheyenne, WY; Bob and Brenda Lewis in Grande Junction, CO; Bob and Rosa Lee Thomas in Ft. Collins, CO; Mark and Donna Thompson in Greeley, CO; and Terry and Ramona VanWinkle in Overland Park, KS.

Thursday:

James and Mitzi Munsey, Coordinators for the work in Mexico; Fred and Barbara Jones, who head up the Bible Institute in Altamira, Mexico; Bill and Lois Reagan, Windsor, Ontario, Canada; Ron and Barbara Dail, St. Croix, Virgin Islands; and Miguel and Adelaida Vera, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Also, pray for the San Juan church's building program.

Friday:

Vergel and Alyne Maness, Vineland, NJ; Terry and Tammy Miller, near Providence, RI; Jim and Pat Nason, New Durham, New Hampshire; Joel and Hope Nason, Laconia, New Hampshire; Frank and LaDonna Owens, Waldorf, Maryland, near Washington, D.C.

November 15-19, 1993

Missions Home

Pre-Thanksgiving
Week
of
Prayer
for

clip from page and fold here

Pray:

For members of home mission churches
who face illness and financial problems

That missionaries' marriages would be
strengthened

For the Home Missions Board as they
make decisions

That home missionary wives would have
patience, contentment, and strength for
their part in the ministry

That closed doors of city officials would
open and give easier access to building
and land permits for these mission
churches

For our FWB chaplains who face long
hours and tense situations in dealing
with service men and women

For opportunities to share Christ with
Mormons, Buddhists, Catholics, Jews,
and Islamic peoples

That home missions churches will nur-
ture mature believers to help with the
work

Springboard Illustrated: Stories to Grow By Volume 33/ No. 6

WINTER THOUGHTS by Pam Hollis

One cold, snowy January morning, my husband built a fire before taking our boys to school. After our devotional time, they were off, and I settled in close to the warmth of the fire. Those logs, bundled together with kindling, produced a glorious blaze that changed the atmosphere of the room to a cheery, homelike glow.

As I watched, one of the smaller pieces of kindling fell to the side away from the center of the fire. For a few moments it burned brightly, but after a little while, the flame went lower and lower until it finally burned out.

It was then the Lord impressed upon me that the logs bundled together could be the church--God's people. Together with the kindling of the Holy Spirit, the church can produce a bright, warm light--a fire that can change the hearts of the world.

We tend to forget that our small group can have a big influence on those around us. The brighter we burn, the warmer we glow with love for them, the more they will want to be one of us.

But my heart was saddened for those in the church who fall away to the side and burnout like the blackened sticks lying near the fire in my fire-place. Like the wood, they may have remained Christians after abandoning the church, but apart from the Holy Spirit, their flames burned out. They also need the fellowship of other believers for comfort and encouragement.

As I prayed that morning, I asked God to show me how to be a better witness and how to love and encourage those in my church family who have drifted or fallen away.

MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR

Missionaries supported by both Foreign and Home Missions departments are listed here by birthdays in November/December. Brighten their special days with your cards and prayers. Missionaries on furlough are indicated by *.

NOVEMBER

- 2 Laura McFall (Brazil)
- 14 Marcia Ellison (Uruguay)
- 22 Jim Nason (NH)
- 23 Linda Osbourne (VA)
- 27 Bessie Richards (C'I)
- 28 Bobby Poole (Brazil)
- 30 Dwain Crosby (Spain)*

DECEMBER

- 1 Rose Mertz (MO)
- 2 Sandra Atwood (DE)
- 2 J. L. Gore (MS)

- 6 Vergel Maness (NJ)
- 8 Russell Johnson (WY)
- 9 Debbie Griffin (Japan)
- 11 Fred Jones (Mexico)
- 12 Richard Atwood (DE)
- 14 Rosa Lee Thomas (CO)
- 18 Tom Hughes (Brazil)
- 19 Molly Barker (Uruguay)
- 21 Tammy Miller (RI)
- 22 Tom McCullough (France)*
- 24 Louis Coscia (Ret. in NC)
- 24 Rex Lynn (GA)
- 24 Mary Nell Whitehead (FL)
- 27 Patsy Gwartney (AZ)
- 27 Dave Franks, Jr. (Uruguay)*
- 31 Carol Keen (SC)

Luke 2: 16-18

And they came with haste and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.



Communicator

by Mary Ruth Wischart

Pray for Home Missions

November is Home Missions month. The week before Thanksgiving women should saturate the Free Will Baptist Home Mission program with prayer. Prayer booklets and other helps are available from the Home Missions Office, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

Remember the special Lizzie McAdams Offering for Home Missions during this week. The women's offering honors one of the first home missionaries to serve under the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Give with willing hearts and open hands to help send the gospel to those who need it in the United States.

December Is the Month for Free Will Baptist Bible College

The Together Way Plan recognizes December as a special offering month for our national college. For several years, the students have helped with the December offering, named in memory of Paul Ketteman. Students home for Christmas vacation will be asking for special offerings and gifts. Cooperate with the students from your church or send gifts to Free Will Baptist Bible College, P. O. Box 50117, Nashville, TN 37205. Perhaps December will be a good time for you to make gifts to the book fund at the Welch Library. Resolution #1 asks that women give special attention to purchasing books during this school year.

Note the Changes Made at the July Convention

The resolutions passed at the convention are on pages 26 of this issue. Special attention should be paid to Resolution #2. National dues go up from \$2 to \$10, beginning in January, 1994.

Sounds like a big jump in dues, right? Remember \$10 is less than \$1 a month. Can we not afford to give at least \$1 a month to see the work of WNAC go forward? The national office must have support if it is to remain open and offer services to Free Will Baptist women.

Also note that the delegates representing local groups at the National Convention will pay \$5 in 1994 instead of \$3.

The changes suggested by the Study Committee were accepted by the delegates at the Convention. The only changes were some changes in the wording. Write to the WNAC office for a copy of the changes and the resolutions.

At the 1994 Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, delegates will examine the changes needed in the Constitution and By-Laws and in the manuals. In the meantime, we have a new-old name: WNAC-WOMEN NATIONALLY ACTIVE for CHRIST.

WNAC Cuts Staff

Friday, August 6th, was Sue Hayes last day as bookkeeper for WNAC. The books are now on computer. The three full-time staff members will take on extra duties and try to keep up with the day to day details. However, part-time help will be essential to closing the books and getting reports at the end of the month. The staff is willing to try this method to reduce costs in the WNAC office. Remember to pray for your workers in the national office.

What About the \$10 Per Month?

In 1993 the income indicates that not even one half of the local groups are cooperating with the resolution passed last year at the convention. Income has gone up slightly, but not enough to cover expenses adequately.

The Resolutions Committee felt that the \$10 dues should be added to the monthly giving. At least through 1994, WNAC needs the \$10 per month because the increase in dues will not reach the National Office until late in 1994. Some of the larger states that meet in the fall will not be remitting the \$10 dues until 1995. ❖

Provision Closet Needs:

Twin Sheet Sets

Double Sheet Sets

Food Processors

10cup Coffeemakers

Merry Christmas



Women In Action



A. Mother-Daughter [and Goose] Banquet

The Buckatunna [MS] FWB Woman's Auxiliary held their annual Mother-Daughter Banquet with all their feathers intact. Their theme was "Mother Goose," complete with story books, goose planters, and ceramic geese as favors. President Linda McCaa reports that both young and old enjoyed the banquet. Pictured are: President Linda McCaa and Lisa Taylor, one of the daughters who attended.



B. Renewed Vision for Missions in Ohio

June is Missions Emphasis month for the Auxiliary women of Dailyville FWB Church in Waverly, OH. President Sharon Daniels reports that the Auxiliary meeting resulted in a renewed burden for missions and commitment to prayer and giving. Following the meeting, a Provision Closet Shower revealed over \$350 in Tupperware and linens for our missionaries. Pictured are those who participated in the shower.

C. Bondoukou Auxiliary Example of Dedication

Missionary Carol Pinkerton writes, "We are a happy, growing group. We meet each Friday. Usually about 15-20 women come—most walk, some even 2-4 miles to be with us. This picture was taken in the dry season." Pictured are the officers, left to right: Daniel, Asst. Treasurer; Theophile, Treasurer; Carol, Vice Pres.; Appia, President; Mary Holland, Asst. Secretary; Yeboua, Secretary. WNAC is at work around the globe.

D. Adams Become Backyard Missionaries

Heritage Temple FWB Auxiliary in Ashland, KY, recently hosted a Backyard Missionary Meeting to present Rev. Sandy Adams and his wife, Phyllis, with a check for \$800. The money was raised to help the Adams begin a new mission church in the Louisville, KY, area. Rev. Adams is the former pastor of Heritage Temple.

E. They Do Things Big in Texas

On June 10th, the Texas State FWB Woman's Auxiliary in McAllen, TX proved that BIG is typical in the Lone Star State. On that day, they presented Ken and Marvis Eagleton, retiring missionaries to Brazil, with a check for \$10,109.25 (See picture). Texas Pres. Everyl Gets (presenter), writes, "Our goal was to be able to present them with



\$10,000 for retirement to express our appreciation and love. How exciting to go over our goal! Maybe other women will be encouraged by seeing what a few women can accomplish." The money was raised as part of their 1992 project and as the sole project of 1993.

F. Local Auxiliary Growing Stronger

The Woman's Auxiliary at the Liberty FWB Church in Millington, TN, is growing stronger, according to President Betty Mutchler. Look at these smiling faces: Rebecca Pugh, Bessie Taylor, Beth Massey (Vice Pres.), Wanda Spears, Carolyn Mauldin, Sharon Vincent, Melanie Vincent, Janice Archer, Betty Mutchler, Sue Bass, Jennifer Massey, Tishanna Mauldin, and Khristi and Carmen Pugh. Mary Walkley, the Secretary/Treasurer, was the photographer.

G. Waynesville Auxiliary Installation

On May 16, the Auxiliary of the First FWB Church in Waynesville, MO, held their installation service. Ann Livingston, of the North Five FWB Church in Lebanon, MO, presented the program. The officers are pictured, left to right: Effie Bales, Mission Action Asst.; Sharon Parker, Mission Prayer; Kay Gan, Treasurer; Sharon Greer, President; Donna Shoemaker, Member; Lou Gordon, Mission Study; and Juanita Collier, Mission Action. Helen Bales, Secretary, is not pictured. ❖

Over My Coffee Cup

by Eunice Edwards



Galatians 6:2,5

In Galatians, Paul reminds us that Christians compose a brotherhood of faith. They are, therefore, to develop a sense of mutual responsibility among all believers with the aim of spiritual maturity.

Paul makes it abundantly clear that no man lives to himself. We influence each other whether we realize it or not. We share a mutual need for each other. Also, Christ's law of love makes it possible for our influence on others to be truly helpful. He points out that we will be motivated to live on a higher level if we remind ourselves that we will give an account for every thought, motive, intention, and act in this life.

The Galatians were disputing about Judaic teaching and practices that were lowering Christ's standard. They were bringing Christian brotherhood down to a low level of legalism. Pride, carnality, and insincerity were reaping a sorry crop.

They were forgetting that Christ was crucified to deliver them from just such actions.

A cowbird is a deadbeat. She lays her eggs in another bird's nest. The other bird sits on her eggs, watching over them and seeing them through the hatching process. The cowbird is free to roam wherever she pleases without responsibility.

Many parents today are a lot like cowbirds. They are more than willing to let someone else care for their children. By shirking their responsibilities, they are cheating their children and themselves.

Paul emphatically reminds us that each member of this great brotherhood of faith has responsibilities. Sharing in the growth and ministry of the church is a priceless privilege. Praying for others, teaching Sunday school, being the confidant of a troubled teen, telephoning shut-ins, visiting the sick—all of these privileges bring great rewards.

This is what Paul meant when he said, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the Law of Christ." This is growing in grace. ♦

Taking Our

by June Critcher



It's impossible for Christians to separate faith from finances. But with the media as persuasive as it is today, it's sometimes difficult for us to stay focused on God's principles concerning money. *What significance does God attach to money?* Consider the following:

- *There are more than 500 references to prayer, almost 500 to faith, but there are more than 2000 references to money and possessions.*
- *Of the 38 parables Jesus told, 16 focus on how we handle our money.*
- *One of every ten verses in the Gospels deals with money or possessions. There are 288 verses total.*

While the world shouts, "You must have money to be happy!" the Bible says, "the love of money is the root of all evil" (I Timothy 6:10). The love of money really boils down to a love of self. Materialism is an obsession, a passion, a preoccupation with things money can buy. It isn't determined by how much or how little we have: It is a matter of the heart. The book of Luke teaches that the way we handle our money is closely associated with our ability to handle spiritual matters (16:11). Jesus himself showed how life is not about accumulating money or things but about being a servant, ministering to people in need.

If we ever get a grip on our finances, we must:

Recognize God's Ownership

In Deuteronomy 8:10-20, God tells His people that when they had eaten and were satisfied, they were not to forget Him nor His commandments. He reminded them that their wealth was not the result of their own strength.

King David, in I Chronicles 29:11,14, praised God for an offering the people had given, saying: "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is yours. But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this?"

When we recognize, as David did, that God is the owner of all things, the way we handle our finances, even our attitude toward money, will change. As the owner, God has a right to whatever He wants, whenever He wants

Hands Off God's Money



it. We as His stewards have the responsibility to do with it what He wants.

Look at Psalm 24:1, 50:10-12, and Haggai 2:8.

Everything belongs to God. And we should use everything God gives us as He would use it.

Manage God's Money

A steward is one who manages, or oversees another's resources. As good and faithful stewards (I Corinthians 4:2), we use God's money for God's purposes, not for ours. We honor God with the first fruits of our labors (Proverbs 3:9), and we enjoy giving to God's work before anything else. Good stewards would rather serve God than serve mammon (riches). Money is just a tool to accomplish the things that please God. When it becomes more than a tool, we begin serving it instead of managing it for the Lord.

The major hindrance that keeps us from properly managing God's money is debt. This simple principle is sure: If you want to stay out of debt, you have to spend less than you earn. The minute we spend more than we earn, or the minute we charge what we cannot pay cash for, we lose a little more of our financial freedom. As Proverbs 22:7 says, "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."

A person with credit cards spend almost 40% more than those without credit cards. We should learn to trust God for what we need, even what we desire, instead of letting credit cards shape our spending.

Getting out of debt is much more difficult than getting in debt (as many of us know first hand). While there are no quick fixes for debt, we can begin the climb out of the pit if we learn to look for ways to increase cash flow. A few good examples are:

- part-time, temporary employment
- learn to repair instead of replace
- learn to separate needs from wants
- resist impulse buying
- buy for usefulness, not status
- sell what you are not using
- refuse to take on new debts
- if you can't control credit card spending, cut them up
- set up a spending plan (a budget) and go by it

Budgeting your income is simply deciding where your money goes. A budget controls how much money goes where. It tells your money where to go, instead of asking where it went.

Setting up a spending plan is to free you, not to confine you. "The mind of a man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps" (Proverbs 16:9). Take a step of self-discipline and set up a budget. And as you make the commitment to reshape your finances into what God would have them be, your spiritual priorities will be refocused on what He can accomplish through us.

Contentment is the result of living within our means. We learn to appreciate the income God has provided us with instead of mortgaging our futures by working ourselves to death in order to have more and better things. Our confidence in His faithfulness to provide will grow as He teaches us to be content. God will honor a proper attitude toward spending.

Bighearted Giving

Perhaps the best financial goal we can ever set is to give away more than we spend on ourselves. Luke 6:38 tells us that God's blessing is proportionate to our giving. Give a little, and God multiplies it. Give more, and God multiplies it more. What we sow, we reap.

As we give to others, God gives to us so we can keep giving to others. What we give represents the tangible fruit of our time, energy, gifts and talents. God's Word instructs us in how to give. We are to:

- Meet the needs of the family, including parents (I Tim. 5:8).
- Meet the material needs of those who have ministered to us spiritually (Galatians 6:6).
- Give to fellow believers in need (Proverbs 19:17, 28:27; James 2:15,16; I John 3:13-18, 4:20,21). This is a ministry in itself, a genuine demonstration of our love for God.
- Meet the needs of widows and orphans (James 1:27).
- Help support those who have given their lives to preach the Gospel (I Cor. 9:14).

(continued on page 29)



Teaching By Example

by Barbara Dunbar

My desire to please God did not begin in 1955 when I married a Free Will Baptist Bible College graduate. It began much earlier.

As I was growing up, I was very involved in the activities of my church. The first really tough choice I faced as a teenager was whether to go to a revival service or the biggest football game of the season. My godly mother saw my dilemma and gave me *In His Steps*, a book by Charles Sheldon. Throughout the book, Christians were advised to ask themselves, "What would Jesus do?" I made the decision to go to church that night and play the organ as usual. God gave me a special blessing that night, as I witnessed an entire family accept Christ. We had been praying for them for a long time. Since then, I have asked myself, "What would Jesus do?" many times.

When I became a preacher's wife, I searched for books or someone to tell me what was expected of me. I wanted to know how involved to be in my husband's ministry. There were no books with easy answers, so I turned to God's Word. Still, I could find no passages entitled "Pastor's Wives." But I did find passages listing the qualifications of ministers, and I figured that many of these would also apply to me.

Two passages, in particular, are useful for pastor's wives: I Timothy 4:12-13 and Titus 2:3-5. I Timothy admonishes us to be an example of the believer in all we do. Titus gives us an outline for being good pastor's wives when he says to show "behavior as becometh holiness ... that the word of God be not blasphemed." From this

passage, I learn that if anything in my life is contrary to what God's Word teaches, then my husband's ministry is contradicted. Titus also speaks about issues of dress, how to treat our spouses, and raising children.

The minister's wife's main responsibility is the children. Children learn by example. When our children were small, it would have been easier to have stayed at home at night and put them to bed early. But we wanted to teach them that prayer meeting, revivals, missionary conferences—that *church* is important. They knew we always went to church, and that influence is still with them today. They are all involved in their local churches.

We also instilled in our children the importance of respect, good manners, kindness, and the power of prayer. They could not succeed in the Kingdom of Christ if we fail to love and guide them in His law. Family devotions have provided some of our most wonderful memories.

Being a pastor's wife also demands sacrifice. Often we simply have to make do. I'll never forget the first weekend revival we had at our little country church. Although we lived in a tiny four room house, we invited the evangelist to bring his wife and two small children to spend the weekend. My husband and I had two children of our own. With only two kitchen chairs, we had to bring in two wooden apple crates to the table. It didn't matter, though. We had a wonderful time together. Preacher's wives are to be "given to hospitality."

Jesus asked His disciples to give up the dearest things to their hearts and follow Him. He promised He would give a hundred fold in this life and the life to come. God's will may require a lot of us, but the rewards are rich.

Not long ago, someone asked me which of the places I have lived is my favorite. I couldn't choose one. God has placed precious people in each of the churches we have served, people who will always have a special place in our hearts. Each time we were called to a new place of service, we left a little of ourselves behind.

Yes, the pastor's wife has many responsibilities. She must be an example of the believer at home, at church, in all her attitudes and actions. Would I choose this life again if I had to start over? Yes, because I know of no greater joy than having a part in leading others to Christ. ♦



Barbara Dunbar is a Sunday School teacher, choir member, and Auxiliary secretary at Ebenezer FWB Church near Glennville, GA, where her husband, Galen, pastors. They have three grown children—all FWBBC graduates.

Life!Action

*a new column for Actionettes



Last-Minute Shopping

Hi, my name is Melissa, and I'm a procrastinator. I used to think it was just a phase, but now I see it for what it is: a disease.

It's especially rampant this time of year. I'd like to say I'm simply mesmerized by all of the Christmas lights and music, but that's just an excuse. And so, I'll wait until Christmas Eve day, about noon, to run out with my scribbled list of names and question marks, to shop for everything, and find very little. I'll undoubtedly return home disappointed.

I admit it. This problem of putting off decisions (last-minute shopping) has become a way of life. Birthday and other presents are always bought the day or hour before I have to have them. I keep nothing in stock, nothing in bulk, nothing frozen to be unthawed later, and very little on hand for emergencies. I'm a "run out and get it" kind of person.

Ever since I became a procrastinator (I've put off trying to remember exactly when that was), I've developed several reasonable excuses for my last-minute approach to life:

- ... Other people manage to do it, why not me?
- ... I'm far too busy to shop in advance.
- ... I'm not like others, I can think fast.
- ... I was waiting for inspiration--to buy the perfect gift.
- ... If you wait it out, the decisions will be easier to make.

Being a last-minute shopper can be serious. Many young women think that certain decisions can wait. That they have plenty of time to set their standards. That they will be able to handle the last minute rush of excitement, and do the right thing. That somehow, the decision to stay pure will be easier to make later. None of these rationalizations are true.

Any decision you are going to make regarding purity must be made well in advance.

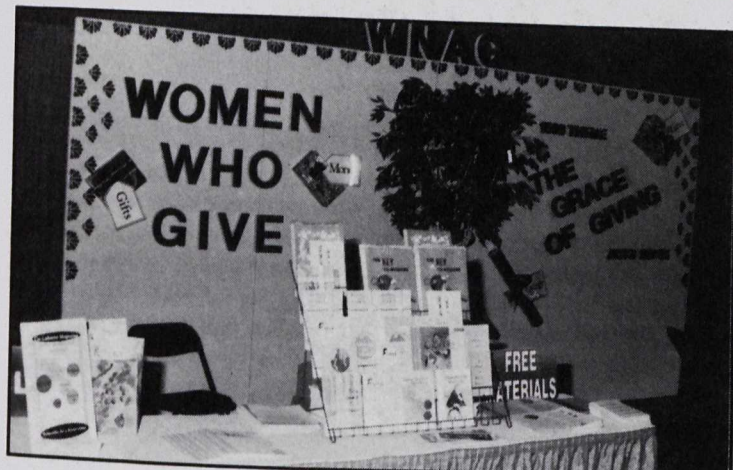
Make a list today of what you will and will not buy. Don't buy the idea that you have to give in because he wants you to. Don't buy the idea that you're not normal if you don't. Don't buy the idea that it's okay because....

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 says, "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him."

Being a last-minute shopper for purity does not work. You'll only go home disappointed. ❖

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 ❖

1993 WNAC Convention: A Time of Grace, A Time of Giving



WNAC 1993 Booth: "Women Who Give"



Fellowship Banquet speaker, Darlene Spangler

The 1993 WNAC Theme was "The Grace of Giving," and it echoed in every service, seminar, banquet, and business meeting of the 1993 Woman's National Auxiliary Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. 1,116 women registered for the convention, and they responded with renewed support and dedication to WNAC and its mission.

General Assembly

Susan Turnbough, missionary to Spain, presented the Tuesday morning devotional on "The Grace of Giving," jumpstarting the WNAC convention with a spirit of willingness and encouragement.

Executive Committee President, Mary Neal, presided over the business session wherein the committee reports were presented for approval. The Resolutions Committee presented four resolutions:

1. to encourage each local Auxiliary to donate one or more books to the Welch Library at FWBBC during 1993-1994.
2. to raise representation fees (dues) from \$2 to \$10 per member per year to

WNAC and delegate fees from \$3 to \$5, effective in January, 1994.

3. to amend Article IV, Section II of the Woman's Auxiliary Constitution and By-Laws to read that all officers and delegates of Auxiliary on national, state, district, or local levels be members in good standing of a Free Will Baptist Church in good standing with the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

4. to request that Home and Foreign Missions Departments share with WNAC the rent of the provision closet, each in the amount of one-third the total cost.

Seminars

An almost capacity crowd attended the Monday afternoon seminars on "Giving Yourself."

--Gladys Gragg, a Nashville businesswoman, presented practical suggestions about how to give to missions.

--June Wilkinson, veteran missionary to Brazil and Foreign Missions Department staffmember, challenged women to "make giving an attitude toward life," allowing it to become a priority in every facet of our lives.

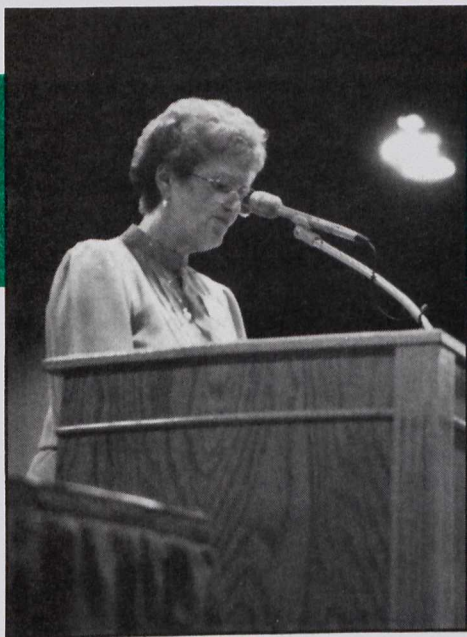
State Officers' Meeting

--Mary R. Wisehart, Executive Secretary for WNAC spoke on "The Pearl of Great Price" from Matthew 13, relating the parable and the pricelessness of pearls to WNAC's need for sacrificial giving. True discipleship does cost everything we are and everything we have.

--Lucille Steward, Michigan Auxiliary field worker, challenged the women to remain faithful in and increase their support of WNAC. She emphasized the need for older women to look toward a "New Era" for WNAC and be willing to accept positive change.

Creative Arts Contest Winners

Co-Laborer editor, Melissa Riddle, presented awards to seventeen winners in the 1993 Creative Arts Contest. There were over 200 entries in five different categories. This year's 1st place winners were Diane Mitchell Thomas (NC) for her program "Spending the Gift"; Barb Eubanks (IL) for her article "Keep Practicing"; Suzy Virden (IL) for her play *The Preacher's Wife*; Katy Taylor (MI) for her poem *Patterns*; and Terri Cooper (MI) won with artwork entitled *Calla Lily*.



WNAC President, Mary Neal

Honoring Mrs. Miley

Mrs. Lorene Miley was not at the National Convention this year, but during the Tuesday afternoon session, Mary R. Wisehart read a tribute to her.

It read: "Mother, wife, grandmother, missionary, nurse, writer, and editor of *Co-Laborer* magazine for 14 years, and president of WNAC from 1955-1959, Mrs. Miley is an example of one who serves and who gives her best to the Lord. She loves, showing that love through sacrifice, missions, missionaries, and the cause of Christ, and we thank her. Thank you, Lorene, for walking among us. Thank you for your example of love and dedication to our Lord, His work, and to Free Will Baptist women."

This tribute to such a dear lady prompted another. The entire audience stood to its feet in a rousing ovation for Mrs. Miley.

Ron Moore Speaks at Missionary Service

One of the highlights of this year's conference was the Tuesday morning missions service. Ron Moore, missionary to Cote d'Ivoire, continued the theme of giving. He encouraged us to give ourselves first to God and then commit ourselves to both being and sending missionaries to share the gospel. He



Seminar speaker, June Wilkinson, captivates the crowd.

emphasized the importance of individual and church involvement in missions and challenged Free Will Baptists to produce more fruit for the kingdom of Christ.

Tuesday Afternoon Business

The WNAC Study Committee, elected in 1990 to reevaluate Woman's Auxiliary, presented seven recommended changes, and all were passed.

These changes include changing WNAC's name to Women Nationally Active for Christ; making WNAC an umbrella name for local, district, and state Auxiliaries that can choose their own names; refocusing WNAC's purpose as a missionary service of the church; changing the theme song to "People Need the Lord"; changing the officer's titles; publishing a yearbook to supplement the magazine; and revising the current manuals to include all officers' guides.

All of these changes reflect a vision for even greater service from our denominational women, now and in the future.

WNAC Fellowship Dinner

It was a sellout crowd that gathered at the Hyatt Regency, with over 720 guests attending WNAC's Fellowship Dinner on Tuesday night. The tables were

beautifully decorated with handmade crafts provided by the Kentucky Auxiliary women, and Louisville's favorite pie added to the ambiance of the evening.

Christian Educator and Consultant, Darlene Spangler, challenged the crowd to give out of love for God's Son—His gift of love to us. She said, "Giving and serving are actions of faith and worship. Giving should include the weak and needy, serving the church, and worship itself." She also emphasized the need to reach our children for Christ before they become engulfed in apathy, with no concern for the things of God. From the Amens in the audience, from both men and women, it is safe to say her message was inspiring.

Renewed Vision

Now, more than ever before, WNAC is changing to redefine and sharpen its focus on ministering, serving, and giving, around the corner and around the world. These are exciting times, and we anticipate God's continued blessing on us and our work for Him.

Now is the time to get involved, to get on with the Lord's work. Women, join us. We want to see even more of you next year at the convention in Little Rock, Arkansas. ❖

tender thoughts

by pearl mitchell



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

Conflict in the church is an age-old problem that's been around since Paul's time. Since Paul helped to establish the first churches, addressing conflict in his early Epistles, it's obvious that the problem has been around since the first church began. Unfortunately, it shows no signs of dying out. In fact, it is getting worse.

Most conflicts could be solved by reading and applying I Corinthians 12. Think about what Paul is saying: "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular . . . For the body is not one member, but many . . . , but members should have the same care one for another . . . and whether one member suffer, all the members suffer . . . or one member be honored, all the members rejoice."

Think about how your own body works together. You stand at the sink and attempt to wash your hands. A simple task, right? But it takes the cooperation of the whole body. One hand washes the other, the eyes provide the sight, muscles and arms provide movement and extension, the wrist allows a pivot point, feet and legs give support to hold the body erect, the heart beats and circulates blood to keep the body alive, the toes support the feet and give

balance, and the brain coordinates the whole activity.

What would happen if the legs and feet got together and tried to walk away or if the heart decided to take a rest? What would happen if the muscles took unpaid leave or if your blood boycotted and stopped flowing because it wasn't getting enough iron? What would happen if your brain refused to send messages because it thought the nervous system was usurping its authority? Or what if the inner ear abandoned its "body balance" job to go to another, better body?

Each part of the body must do its part—not for itself—but for the body. And in doing so, it doesn't lose its identity but actually strengthens it. The entire body functions better because of one member's cooperation, and one member's own gifts are improved and enhanced for continuing to do its job.

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office. So we being many are one body in Christ. If it be possible, as much lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" Romans 12:4-5, 18. ♦

A Tribute to Shirley Kennedy: A True and Faithful Servant



Shirley Kennedy, of Ashford, Alabama, lost her battle with cancer August 23, 1992. She had been active in Woman's Auxiliary on local, district, and state levels for almost 30 years. She was clerk for the Florida State Line Association in southeast Alabama for 25 years and church secretary at First Free Will Baptist of Dothan for 27 years. She was also Sunday School Superintendent and Registration Coordinator for the 1987 FWB National Convention in Birmingham.

At the Alabama State Woman's Auxiliary Convention in May of 1993, a special tribute was paid to Mrs. Kennedy for her years of faithful service and example of love and devotion. The following are excerpts from that tribute:

"Shirley was my friend. I've called her so many times at work, asking, 'Are you too busy to talk?' Her answer was always, 'Never too busy for you.' Shirley was a friend to Free Will Baptists. I didn't believe church could begin without Shirley. She served loyally and was an example and inspiration to all of us."—Glenda Johnson

"When I remember Shirley, I think of her faithfulness. No matter what the task, the office, or responsibility given to her, she was faithful. Today, I believe the Crown of Life is hers."—Alice Hood

"Shirley had determination and was committed. Although she was pretty weak, as President of our Night Group, she conducted the meeting. I will always remember her faithfulness and dedication to our Woman's Auxiliary." —Emma Jean Mallory

I never attended an Association where she was not there. I never attended a meeting of Free Will Baptists where she was not there. Shirley was one of the most godly women I have ever known."

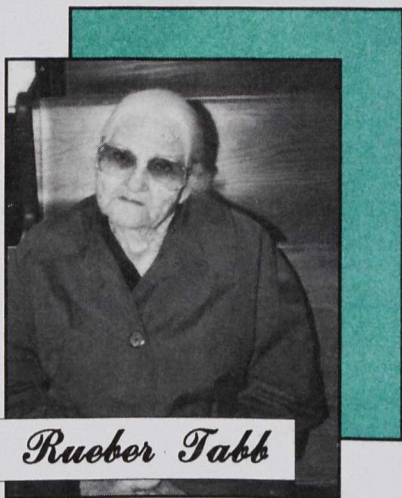
—Ann Jones

"Shirley showed us all how to serve the Lord with gladness."—Jean McCraney

"Shirley exemplified the Lord everyday and set the stage for other women to do the same."

—Martha Clements

Shirley Kennedy leaves her husband, Bob, a daughter, Tami Clements, and her husband, Greg, one granddaughter, Courtney, and two sisters. Pray for them and for the Lord to raise up more faithful servants like Sister Shirley. ♦



Mrs. Rueber Tabb

A a-maa-zing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me." If you came upon Rueber Tabb suddenly at her work, you might hear her singing that song. It was one of her favorites, and she liked to sing while she worked.

Those who came to love and admire her called her "Miss Rueber."

Born in Blackton, Arkansas in 1902, she moved as a youth to Georgia.

She and her five teenaged children found themselves alone on a small farm in Georgia. The farm was their only means of support, but they all worked hard, and all five children graduated from high school.

Miss Rueber held open house for missionaries, evangelists and friends. She always had something to share. One of her favorite things for sharing was a scripture verse that had just spoken to her as she read her daily passage from the Bible.

People learned to rely on Miss Rueber. She was always willing to work in her Auxiliary and in her church. She is a prayer warrior, and her church and friends depend on her prayers.

One wish Miss Rueber never got—she longed to drive a car so that she could visit the sick and shut-ins. She never learned to drive, but she still visits by telephone. A telephone conversation with her is like a healing touch, a spiritual uplift, a prayer that brings you before God's throne.

In the early 1980's the women of Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church, Colquitt, Georgia, named their group the Rueber Tabb Woman's Auxiliary in her honor.

At 91 Miss Rueber is still faithful. When she is able, she attends Auxiliary and church. She loves seeing and talking with her friends. In her twilight days, this godly woman looks forward with anticipation to meeting her Lord and hearing His, "Well done, good and faithful servant." ❖

OOPS, WE GOOFED.

In the Sept/Oct issue, there were several errors in the "Woman God Is Using" column. The following is correct:

Birdie Card Smith has served the Lord faithfully in the Greenbrier Free Will Baptist Church near Adair, Oklahoma for many years. Although she is living in California now with her daughter, Maxine, she still takes the time to write to missionaries. Her example of faithfulness is an inspiration to all who know her.

We apologize for any misunderstanding caused by the incorrect information.

(Taking Our Hands Off God's Money, cont.)

—Give to ministries around the world (I Cor 9:6,7; I John 3:17).

As we give to meet the needs of others, we are investing in eternity. Matthew 6:19-21 has been paraphrased this way: "You can't take it with you, but you can send it on ahead!" The treasures we lay up in heaven are people, not money or possessions.

God wants His people to abound in their giving (2 Cor. 8:7). Generosity should be one of the outstanding characteristics of all believers. God's grace is poured out to us in abundance so that we may pour out its abundance on others.

F.B. Myer put it this way: "He is the richest man in the esteem of the world who has gotten most, but he is the richest man in the esteem of heaven who has given most."

The True Indicator

How we use money is a true indicator of the depth of our spiritual maturity. Jesus said, "If you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?" (Luke 16:11) What is in our hearts will be revealed by what we give with our hands.

Let's determine to make money a servant for the sake of Christ's kingdom. ❖



MISSION ALERT: Evangelism News from Around the World

HOME MISSIONS

Mesa, Arizona

The Howard Gwartneys write: "We are in our new building, and it is absolutely wonderful! It is energy efficient due to its design and urethane foam roof. We've already used our new baptistry! Thank you for your prayers and financial support, and thank you, Helping Hands, for all your hard work." They also request that you pray about the additional \$40,000 required to obtain a certificate of occupancy. This money is necessary to complete the parking lot and street improvements required by the city.

Shreveport, LA

The Ron Parker family is rejoicing for the way God is working in their mission church. The attendance is up--52 during the July 4th weekend--and lives are being changed. Pray for people like James and Sandra, who rededicated their lives to God, and for Bruce, a new Christian, and for Marty and Sonya, that they will soon accept Christ. Also, they ask that you continue to support them financially. The Parker account is seeing a steady drop in support. Make this an item of prayer.

Oregon City, OR

The Oregon Trail FWB Church now has a solid core of believers working and growing together. In the past eight weeks, four have accepted Christ, and sixteen have been baptized. Ten have completed an 18week discipleship program, and 11 are currently enrolled. Darrell and Sandy Smith ask that you continue to pray for this home mission church, specifically, for needed church furnishings, a church van, and the over 900,000 lost souls in the area.

Davenport, IA

"Greetings from Flood City, USA! I now know why they call it the mighty Mississippi!" writes missionary Cliff Donoho. "But God is still in control, and He can do anything He wants." On August 2nd, work began on the church building.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Montevideo, Uruguay

Bible Institute classes have begun again, and the Ellisons request prayer for Casildo Trindade who is preparing for the ministry, for Sonia, a churchmember who is just coming out of a coma, and for Raquel Ricaldi, an expectant mother with serious physical problems. The Ellisons also send a glowing report of the 10 TEAM Uruguay members who worked with them from June 24 to July 6th: "We tried to wear them out, but they would not break! They were such a blessing to us and to our people. They were so special. God bless our young folks and you as you help prepare them for serving the Lord."

Barbacena, Minas Gerais, Brazil

Bobby and Sue Aycock write: "We are rejoicing in the Lord's blessings--a good VBS in July with an average attendance of 68. Two young people and a junior boy made decisions for the Lord. We have seen ten people make salvation decisions in the past six weeks. Pray for these new Christians. Evangelist Mario Ribeiro da Silva will be heading up a new work in Antonio Carlos. Pray that the Lord will continue to open doors for witness."

Nashville, Tennessee

After months of challenging discipline problems in the men's dorm at ICA, shots for a hepatitis outbreak, catching rats with pizza, and weeks of packing, Paul, Rhoda, and little Deborah Creech have returned to the States for furlough. For the next year, they will be living in Nashville and scheduling deputational services. They are also anticipating the arrival of twin Creeches. Pray for them during this transitional time.

Mostoles, Spain

Ron and Linda Calloway share these prayer requests: Miquel and Paloma, struggling believers in the church; Fall outreach efforts; and for Spain, that the Lord would pour out His power of conviction and that men and women will desire to know of His true salvation. The Calloways also send word of the recent conversion of a Venezuelan lawyer and his wife during the Alcala church retreat. They write: "Who knows, perhaps the Lord of Harvest may some day want a FWB church in Venezuela." ❖

Words for *W o m e n*

by Mary Ruth Wischart



"One small child," my friend June and her daughter Stephanie sang that morning. It was the Christmas season. The skies were gray, the windows dark.

But as they sang that morning suddenly across the stage where they stood, a ray of light came through the stained glass windows. Just one small ray extending across the carpet for one second. Then it was gone.

How like our God to remind us of light that morning. He sent light into our dark world in the person of His Son.

The prophets knew the light was coming. Isaiah wrote, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

We are the light of the world:

Zachariah recognized that the light was coming. He exclaimed, "The dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and [in] the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

One small child, but Simeon recognized Him as the Light. "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation," he cried out in praise to God, "A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."

He held in his arms that day the Light of the world. Jesus announced Himself as the Light, "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness."

For one brief time He shone, a light in our dark world as the small child grew to manhood and entered His ministry.

And He said, "Ye are the light of the world." One small child, a ray of light in our darkness. A light we can share to light men everywhere.

Paul bids us, "Shine as lights in the world." ❖



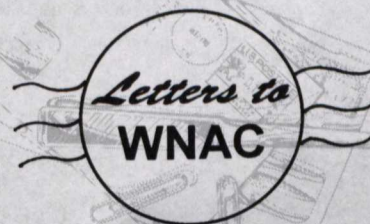
**MISSIONS
HOTLINE**

**615•
731-3839**

PREVIEW

Jan/Feb 94

- ◆ 1994 Theme:
The Bible: Light on the Way
- ◆ Creative Arts Contest
Rules and Info.
- ◆ Real Resolutions
- ◆ Missions Profile: Murial Gaynor &
Debbie Griffin, Japan

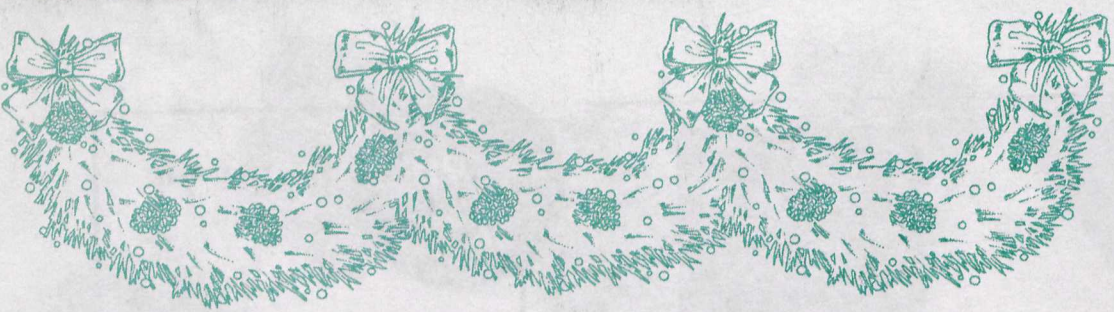


Dear WNAC,
Thank you for this fine magazine. I enjoy presenting the programs to my Auxiliary at Sherwood Forest. I wish to thank Cleo Pursell and those of your staff who have guided me through the years. I've just published my first book of poetry, "Christ's Light Along Life's Path." I praise the Lord for His gifts. God bless you all.

Linda Hoff Simons
New Bern, NC

Dear WNAC,
During the early 30's, [the] days of the depression. . . the Ladies' Aid of St. Paul FWB in Elizabeth City, NC, managed, time and again, to make the difference [in our lives]. I will never forget them or the Women's Mission of Oklahoma. Enclosed is a check for \$25 from Nettie Lou and me on your "Emphasis Project." You have our prayers.

Wade Jernigan
Lexington, OK ❖



'Tis the Season . . .

**Paul Kettelman Memorial
Christmas Fund Drive**

All gifts received during the month of December will be counted toward the
Paul Kettelman Christmas Drive goal.

Send your gift to:

***Paul Kettelman Memorial
Christmas Drive***
**Free Will Baptist College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205**

CoLaborer Magazine
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002
Second class postage paid at Antioch, Tennessee

2
FWBBC LIBRARY
3606 WEST END AVENUE
NASHVILLE TN 37205

x