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CoLaborer

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

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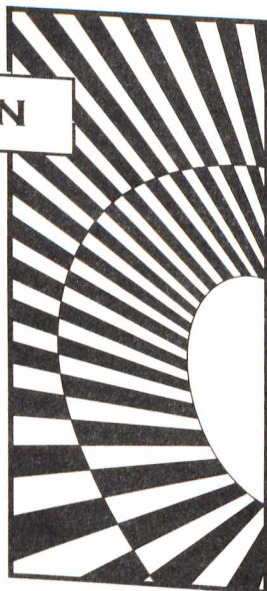
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HORIZON

MELISSA RIDDLE



NO SOLUTION NEEDED

The voice on television said that psychologist Dr. Female So-and-So was going to be discussing her latest book, *Ten Stupid Things Women Do*, next on Donahue. Now, I despise Donahue and make a point to miss him on those rare occasions when I'm home, but the title of the book intrigued me, so I sat down for my daily dose of psycho-babble. This is what I heard:

She said that women call her all the time wanting psychological counseling about their difficult life situations. These women don't want to know how to solve their problems. They just want to know how to be happy in the disasters they've created. They want to know how to make the deep, dark holes they're living in more comfortable, maybe even beautiful.

I laughed at her tell-it-like-it-is approach, especially when women in the audience began getting upset with her. They were ready to stone her when she asserted that reproductive rights begin before pregnancy, not after. And that women already have equal rights, they just don't always take responsibility of ownership.

Her point was that women, too often, make excuses for themselves instead of taking steps to fix the problems. It's always easier to stay put and wallow in self-pity and self-doubt.

Christian women are no less guilty of this mindset, whether it has to do with our relationships with others or our relationship to Christ. Do these sound familiar?

- "It's useless to try to get along with her. So I'll just not participate in auxiliary like I have been."
- "My husband will never learn to pick up after himself. It's a losing battle, so I'll do it myself."
- "My devotions are so blah. Maybe I'm not getting anything out of it because I'm too busy doing other church work."
- "I think I'd be good at ministering to shut-ins, but there's probably someone else who'd be better at it. I'll wait and see if someone asks me."

Are you willing to remain dissatisfied with your present situation/predicament because staying put is easier than facing the problem head-on? Let me tell you--the hole doesn't get more comfortable, and it will never be a beautiful, peaceful place to live.

The hole only gets deeper. Dissatisfaction and self-pity mutates into bitterness, making spiritual growth impossible. No amount of paint in the world will make the hole a pretty place. Sure, you can dust and move the furniture around, but it will never be right. But you can always climb out. ❖

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BEEN SOWN AND
WATERED IN CUBA,
AND THE SPIRIT IS
NOW BRINGING IT
TO FRUITION."**

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**"THE BIBLE SAYS,
'FORGIVE,'
BUT HOW ? BEING
A PASTOR'S WIFE
DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE
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Cuba: An Investment in Freedom

*Compiled from an interview
with Jimmy Aldridge,
FM Overseas Secretary*



In February 1994, Jimmy Aldridge, Overseas Secretary of the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Department, traveled to Cuba for the Cuban FWB Associational Meeting at Pinar Del Rio. While there, he was an eye-witness to what the Spirit of the Lord is doing among the people of Cuba. In this article, adapted from a personal interview, we get a glimpse of Cuban political and economic life, the FWB mission efforts going on there, and the exciting spiritual revolution taking place.

Political Freedom

Cuba has been living under communist rule for 33 years now. Christians, and all organized religion, have struggled to survive under Castro's socialistic regime. Fear

has become a way of life for those who dared to believe in God. Then, when communism crumbled in the Soviet Union, the winds of change blew over Cuba, and Castro, realizing his support system was dwindling, began to loosen the screws.

The story is told of how--three years ago--Castro asked to meet with the representatives of Christian denominations in Cuba. It was decided that the oldest pastor of the largest Protestant church in the country would speak for all the Christians and that, whatever the risk, they would stand and tell the truth. Castro asked them how they saw themselves. Without holding back, the senior pastor began listing, one-by-one, the persecutions against Christians and the church. The meeting lasted for hours. If the pastor had continued to name every evil against the church, it would have lasted for

days. At the end, Castro asked forgiveness.

Since then, Cuban Christians are feeling more open and expressive about their beliefs, no longer afraid to speak aloud, no longer afraid to hold meetings and Bible studies in their homes. For the first time, they are allowed to distribute Christian literature on the street. They can now begin home churches, where they can share the good news of Jesus. They can even have worship services on public property. They are taking every advantage of these new freedoms to influence their culture. In just two short years, people who were once afraid to speak about politics or religion inside their own homes are now able to speak more freely.

The government still exercises a great deal of control, however. All

the house-churches must be registered, and religious crusades and evangelists are not allowed to rent coliseums or auditoriums for mass meetings.

Little Economic Freedom

In spite of the improving political climate, Cuba is still existing under a socialistic government and economic devastation. You can drive down the road in Cuba and see beautiful cattle ranches covered with healthy, valuable cattle, but little to none of it stays in Cuba to feed her people. Most of it is exported to pay for weapons of war. The people have very limited access to goods and food.

Everything is rationed. Each person is permitted one small roll of bread per day. Each person is allowed to buy 1 item of clothing per year. In other words, it would take three years for a man to buy a pair of pants, a shirt, and a pair of shoes . . . if he could find them available when he is allowed to buy. One family in the church in Jaruco had a new baby. The doctor gave them a card which allowed them to buy six diapers, one baby outfit, and a few other things. They were not allowed to buy anything else for the baby for two years.

The Cubans live simply, eating mostly rice, beans, and tomatoes. While at the Associational meeting, we had meat one time. They had gotten two pigs, which meant we had about three pieces of pork, each one a little larger than the pork you'd find in a can of pork-n-beans.

For 33 years, the exchange rate had been 1 peso = 1 dollar. The average worker earns about 140-150 pesos a month. However, just a few months ago when Castro began allowing the Cuban people to use US

dollars, the exchange rate dropped to 100 pesos = 1 dollar. Now, a pound of pork costs three weeks pay (\$1 or 100 pesos). A rooster costs \$6 which equals four months pay. Prices of many things are set up in US dollars, so no one can afford to buy even when supplies are available. The devaluing of the peso has created a society of haves and have-nots.

How do they manage? I am told there is a strong black market, as is common in much of the world. The people are allowed to keep a small percentage of what they grow themselves, and they use those goods to barter for the things they need. The stores are always poorly stocked, but if they come upon something in a store that they can buy with their ration card, they buy it and barter with it for goods they need.

The women play a big role in this game of economic survival. They work in the home, gardening and sewing, contributing to the family income and to the church.

In spite of their hardships, the Cubans are a very generous people, giving out of their poverty to see that the work of the Lord is carried out. Pepe, the treasurer for the Cuban Association of Free Will Baptists, shared with me about the financial support his people have given toward the Willey Memorial Chapel. Out of the 97,000 dollars raised, the Cuban Christians gave \$50,00 of their own money. Think about the enormity of that amount in light of their economy.

Spiritual Freedom

On this trip, we had services in six churches, in addition to the two days and two nights at the convention. I came away with such an excitement about what the Spirit of God is doing among the Cubans.

On Saturday, it had rained heavily, so the evening convention service didn't begin until 8:20 p.m. It began with a few announcements, but once the singing started, it was a worship service. I was amazed at the talented musicians--trumpet players, keyboardist, saxophone players. The music wasn't just to warm us up for the preaching, it was a time of praise.

The preaching began around 10:25 p.m. and ended at 11:45 p.m. No one was anxious to leave. They had looked forward to being there; it had cost them

a lot to come. Not one of the services ran less than two hours.

The invitations were refreshing--people standing to their feet, publicly announcing, "I want to receive Christ!" One night, after having a service at the San Francisco church, we went to San Mateo, a new church started from the San Francisco church in a nearby section of the city. The San Mateo church meets in a car shed belonging to one of the members. When we arrived at 9:30 p.m., there were 106 people crammed into the shed, waiting for the service to begin. Eight people accepted Christ. The spontaneity and enthusiasm there is incredible.

**"Where else
would you
find two
missions works
for every one
Free Will
Baptist
church?"**

God is obviously working in the Cuban churches. For the past two years they have seen tremendous growth which can be attributed in part to a generation of faithful Christians. I think of Pastor Suarez's wife, Barbara, who was put out of a music conservatory because she is a Christian; Pepito, an engineer in the church, whose graduation at the University was held up for seven years because of his faith; or a military man in the church, who because of his faith, was thrown out of the service and labeled a traitor. People like these are one of the reasons the church is thriving.

Their Christianity is not a lot of hoopla or froth. They are serious enough to deal with the problems that arrive in a spirit of love and righteousness. In the past year, they have had to close the seminary because it became impossible to secure the necessary food, supplies, and transportation. Sadly, soon thereafter, they had two leaders involved in moral problems. It was encouraging to see their courage at facing these issues head-on and administering discipline where needed. They are committed to doing what is right, and the unity among them is an example to us all. That is another reason the Spirit is moving among them now.

Yet another reason for the growth there is the increasing discontentment among the people with the communist system. The result has been a renewed spiritual hunger, something to give them hope.

And what kind of growth is the church experiencing? At present we have 15 churches and 29 mission works in Cuba. In 1992, there were

700 new converts. That number has increased to 1145 in 1993, 400 in the last quarter alone. People are hungry for the truth, and Christians are taking advantage of open doors.

Where else would you find 300 people gathered to pray at 7 a.m. for the Sunday service, after having been at a service the night before until midnight?

Where else would you find someone like Angel, a 3-week old



The newly purchased mission church at Guanabo.

babe in Christ, bringing 17 deaf people to church and starting a deaf ministry. Many of those 17 are now Christians.

Where else would you find 40 who have been baptized and 40 who are waiting for baptism in a church that only averaged 50 a few years back?

Where else would you find two mission works for every one FWB church?

Yes, a spiritual awakening is evident in Cuba--right now. The Holy Spirit is moving in hearts, working through His people.

An Investment in Freedom

There is no time like the present to invest in the lives of our Cuban brothers and sisters. Now . . . while the Spirit is moving among the people in such a mighty way. Now . . . while the exceptional strength of the US dollar can see a 1000% return on any investment.

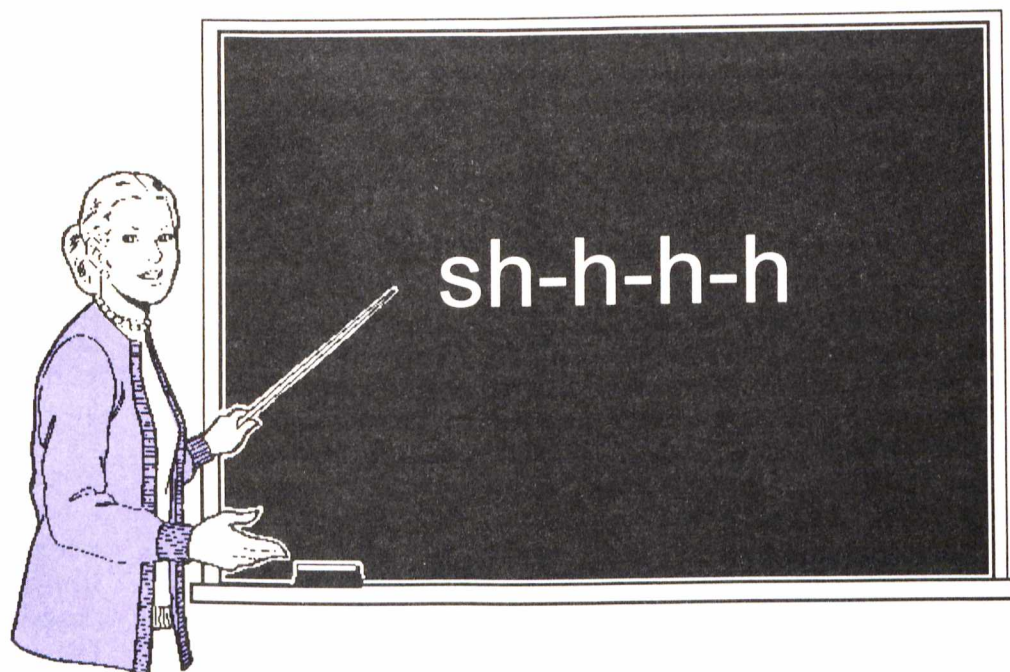
With the money recently sent to Cuba, they were able to purchase a building at Guanabo, right on the Atlantic coast. Through its window, you can see the ocean. The building and the land it sits on was purchased for \$8,339 dollars. That's \$83,390 dollars' worth.

But things are changing rapidly. Foreigners are buying up the land, offering cash, and so prices are rising. The Cuban churches are currently trying to purchase 9 properties for \$25,000. This effort represents their vision of the future--a time when more freedom will allow them to build more churches, reaching more people for Christ. The opportunity to acquire land at reasonable prices will not last long. Neither will this time of openness in the hearts of Cubans toward the gospel.

The seed has been sown and watered, and the Spirit is now bringing it to fruition. We need to "strike while the iron is hot" to enable these Cuban churches to build for the future. It's an investment in freedom, an investment in eternity. One-hundred percent return and more guaranteed. ❖

THE SCHOOL OF QUIET

BY
SARAH
FLETCHER



Scripture: I Thessalonians 4:9-12

Song: Take My Life and Let It Be

Suggestions: See Springboard.

INTRODUCTION

The minister read his text--*"And that ye study to be quiet. . ."* Her mind drifted away. She thought of the usual Sunday "in between service" noise. She heard the clatter of songbooks in the choir. The whispers of women sitting behind her. Her thoughts shifted. She envisioned a school-house. The entire congregation was seated in little desks, their noses stuck in Quietness Manuals. Shhh bulletin boards decorated the room.

"I'm afraid all of us need to go to that school," she thought. "Study is only right, but," she reasoned, "Quiet is a hard subject."

Although the Apostle Paul or the pastor in the church probably didn't have a classroom situation in mind, the truth is that quiet is a difficult subject to master. It is a need, but it is never easy.

"Playing quiet" is one of the most difficult children's games. Even as adults, our lives are not governed by quietness. Paul knew it didn't come naturally. The Thessalonians were to study earnestly to learn to be quiet.

Quietness today is still a study. It involves much more than keeping one's mouth shut. It is more than the absence of clamor and sound. It is a way of life--the life God desires us to have.

Every Christian woman can be quiet. And it isn't just a characteristic found in shy women. A plain ole' loud woman can achieve a quietness about her. Impossible? Seemingly yes, but possible with God through study.

STUDY: A QUIET TIME

A quiet spirit can only come out of a daily quiet time with the Lord. The Bible instructs us to "be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10). *Isaiah 30:15* says that "in

quietness and confidence shall be your strength." The pathway toward a quiet spirit stops first before God. The godly woman realizes this and sets aside a daily time of Bible study, soul-searching, and prayer. Children, job, husband, household duties, and other demands may limit this time, but it is essential for everyday. If she misses just one day, she knows it. The washer breaks down, the children scream louder, and the monthly bills arrive in the mail. And even worse, she loses her "cool"--she is unprepared for the pressure. If a woman wants to lead a quiet life, she has to know the importance of quiet time.

STUDY: A QUIET TONGUE

The subject of the tongue is inevitable in the school of quiet. The tongue is the most unquiet member of the body. James devoted almost half of his book to this unruly little member. The tongue has always been a problem. It is called a fire, an

evil, and a world of iniquity. This one little subject keeps more women from quietness than anything else.

A quiet tongue does not mean a silent tongue. Throughout the Bible, the command is given to speak. "Let His praise be continually in my mouth," the psalmist says. A quiet tongue speaks that "word fitly spoken." A quiet tongue renders "speech--graceful and seasoned with salt." A quiet tongue channels chatter into praise.

A quiet tongue is not a gossipy tongue. Gossip seeks to govern the tongue. For this reason, Paul instructed the Thessalonians to "study to be quiet." Busybodies were everywhere! Paul admonished them to do their own business. They were not to be involved in gossiping.

A quiet tongue is a wise tongue. The virtuous woman of Proverbs opened her mouth with wisdom, and her tongue was the law of kindness. She knew the time to keep silent and the time to speak. She had learned the art of stepping on her tongue without getting her foot caught in her mouth. She did not subscribe to the "if in doubt, shout it out" theory.

How can we have this wise, praising, non-gossipy tongue? Through a daily quiet time. Quietness comes through righteousness (Isaiah 32:17). "Let the words of my mouth . . . be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord" must be a daily prayer. We must also daily evaluate our words. One writer suggests these questions as the litmus test for our speaking: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? Anything that passes those tests is in keeping with a quiet tongue.

STUDY: A QUIET TALENT

Each woman has a talent and a task. Every woman finds a quiet satisfaction in completing the tasks

before her, whether it be housework, office work, or any other work. Paul admonished us to "work with [our] own hands," knowing that a quiet life is one of work.

What kind of "hand-work" do you have to do? Are you able to find satisfaction in even the little, mundane chores of the day. "Idle hands are the devil's workshop," the puritan work ethic declares. Apparently Paul knew this all too well, for he wrote his second letter to the Thessalonians again urging them to work with their hands and live in quietness. Working hands keep a lot of things quiet.

What is more, these quiet talents speak for themselves. The woman of Proverbs 31 was devoted to working with her hands. Although the list of jobs she performed sounds incredible in this modern age, in her day, it was the norm. Those normal, everyday things done with excellency made her the talk of the town. She sought no praise. Her own works praised her.

THE FINAL EXAM: A QUIET TESTIMONY

A quiet life is one that has been tested. A woman who studies and has a daily quiet time, who conscientiously guards her tongue, and who diligently uses her talents to complete the tasks before her will have little problem with her testimony. Paul assured the Thessalonians of that. He told them that all these things--tongue, talent, and time--were for the purpose of influencing others, "that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without. . . ."

A quiet testimony goes a long way in winning unsaved husbands, neighbors, and children to the Lord. Peter confirmed this in I Peter 3:1. A witness by mouth must be accom-

panied by a life-witness.

A quiet testimony is also of great worth. Paul told the Thessalonians a quiet life would be a full life, lacking nothing. By working, witnessing, and walking close to God, the world will be able to see that the Christian life is worth living.

A quiet testimony is beneficial for the home. The psalmist described it as a "desired haven." Husbands and wives love to come home to a family that is not filled with conflict. The home is a peaceful place when quietness is a way of life. Solomon once said, "a dry morsel with quietness is better than a house full of strife." In other words, it is better to have a peaceful home than to have many material possessions. The Apostle Peter said that a meek and quiet spirit is worth more than gold or fine clothes. God blesses the quiet life.

A quiet testimony is a life of obedience to God's will. It is the key to a quiet, peaceful life--a life that is quiet without and within.

Are you in the school of quiet? Enroll today for the education of a lifetime. ❖



Sarah Fletcher, and her husband Keith, live in Chicago, IL, where Keith is the Associate Minister at Northwest FWB Church.

A Recovering Prayer Warrior

KISKA SIFERS



*Dedicated to
Don and Billie Sexton*

A Prayer Warrior is a soldier willing to lose her life that she may gain life for herself, as well as for others. There is a price to be paid when you enlist. Know this. Think on this. Ponder it, and meditate on the words I tell you from personal experience.

A soldier is always ready and willing to be interrupted at the midnight hour, to stop what she is doing at the urgent ringing of the telephone or at the prompting of the Holy Spirit. From there, she finds a closet and retreats in silence to hear God's voice concerning the matter. There He uses what she knows from scripture to instruct, guide and give utterance when she doesn't even know what to pray.

I am a "Recovering Prayer Warrior." For five years I have been missing in action from my post at this church. While I was missing, there were fellow soldiers in the faith shedding tears for me and mine. Fellow soldiers who stood in the gap for me, longing for me to return to the front line with them. They have proved that we are one in the Spirit. When one suffers, we all suffer. These soldiers live I Corinthians 13, bearing the infirmities of my weakness during the storms of my life.

When the enemy came into my camp to steal my children, my fellow prayer warriors' said, "your children are my children." Alcohol and cocaine's prison walls were broken down by the unified, intercessory prayer of the saints. My family is being restored,

growing to love one another unconditionally, even as God loves us.

Yes, it will cost you to be a Prayer Warrior. It will cost you time and daily discipline to absorb the teachings of God's word, to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Him. It will cost in unwarranted attacks of satan, trying to overthrow the work of God in you--strongholds that can only be broken down by fasting and prayer. We must arm ourselves. The mightier we become in Christ, the more we will feel satan's attacks. But we can be of good cheer, for Jesus is always interceding on our behalf. To Him belongs all power. We bring it down from Him through prayer and by the obedience to His will.

I John 5:14-15 says, "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us; And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him."

We need only to resolve to stay on the firing line. If we are wounded in battle, we have one another to bind us in prayer and love, until we are whole again. We may have to give everything we have to be a Prayer Warrior, but what more honorable thing can be said of a soldier than "killed in the line of duty." ♦

**COME ONE,
COME ALL . . .
TO THE**

MISSIONS FAIR



Do-It-Yourself Missions Fair

Do you remember what it was like to go to the county fair? The smell of hot dogs and popcorn drift through the air, while barkers yell, "Step right up and try your hand at this!" Remember the excitement in the air? Why not relive some of those memories while promoting missions? Why not have a missions fair?

What Is It?

It's a celebration of FWB missions--sharing through activities and exhibits. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for hands-on activity and fellowship. Although some displays should be prepared in advance, most activities will take place during the fair.

When and Where Should It Take Place?

The summer months are an excellent time to have a missions fair. (You could plan it in conjunction with WNAC Emphasis month.) Most churches plan some special fellowship times during the summer, anyway. In two or three hours, perhaps on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, you can "go around the world" right in your own church building.

A church fellowship hall is the ideal place for a missions fair. Booths and tables can be placed around the walls for individual and group presentations, games, and demonstrations.

Who Is In Charge?

The Missions Chairman (or both Mission Study and Mission Action) of your women's group, along with the entire group. The more involvement among the church body, the better the fair will be.

How Can Others Assist?

Take every advantage of volunteers. Any group or individual in the church can be enlisted to organize or serve: Sunday school classes (both young and old), Master's Men, Youth Groups, and the church staff can sponsor booths at the fair. Any foreign missionary on furlough in your area may enjoy participating, as well as any home missionaries in your area. You can contact the FWB Foreign and Home Missions offices for information and material to use, as well as for scheduling special guest speakers to attend the fair.

Enlist people talented in various kinds of drama, those who would dress as clowns, do skits, pantomime, etc. Ask someone to be the barker, announcing events and handing out programs which include a diagram for locating booths. Use the talents of everyone, even those who are not active in your women's group.

Families may enjoy sponsoring a booth about a particular country, working together to plan, design,

build, and run it at the fair. They can be more versatile because of the different ages involved.

Who Can Come?

Everyone in the entire church family and even neighboring church families.

How Will People Find Out About It?

Good publicity is important. Creative ideas invite attention. Attractively designed posters can make attending a must.

Cut out or draw pictures of ring masters, animals, clowns, and other objects usually associated with a fair. Print wording such as, "Come One, Come All . . ." or "Right This Way for the Greatest Show in the Universe."

Spot reminders throughout the church are also effective. Fasten a cluster of balloons (helium filled or construction paper) in high traffic areas. Print information about the fair on the balloons themselves or near the display.

Use the church bulletin for announcements several weeks in advance. A skit cleverly presented in Sunday or Wednesday evening services can arouse interest. Ask group members to wear small tags or lapel buttons that say, "I'm going! Are you?" Have Sunday School teachers make announcements in their classes, and take advantage of any other opportunities to advertise the event (word-of-mouth, by phone, radio, newspaper, church sign, etc.).

What Preparations Should be Made?

The committee chair and secretary are responsible for obtaining materials. They should identify and assign booths to specific locations in the building, then find out the needs for each one. Order free materials and purchase priced supplies. (The women's group should set a cost goal in advance to be considerate of those involved in sponsoring the booths.) The women's group should provide items such as poster board, felt-tip markers, glue, construction paper, balloons, and small prizes for the booths.

Designs, materials, and instructions for making flags should also be provided. Order maps and missionary directories free from the FM and HM departments, and ask for supply forms to see what other materials are available.

Missionaries enlisted should bring curios, pictures, and cassette tapes of the language and music of their area of service. Suggest they dress in native costumes for effectiveness. Arrange for any travel expenses.

Enlist women to prepare traditional, native foods to offer as samples, and offer recipe cards as prizes.

Ask the custodian, if you have one, along with some of the men of the church, to set up any heavy props needed for the fair. Make temporary booths of wood and cardboard or simply set up tables with backdrops. All

basic equipment should be in place when the fair begins, so the stage is set for fun and learning.

What Happens During the Fair?

When people arrive, they can choose an area of interest and join with others to set up a display. As others come by, they can also join in.

Two or three facilitator should be designated to encourage those wandering around to get involved. The fair is to be a hands-on experience where people can get the feeling of being a part of missions.

Booths can feature the following activities:

- draw an outline of a country or state and list on it the names of our missionaries
- locate a missionary with the same birthday and make a Bible bookmark reminder to pray for him/her
- make a flag of that country and display it with others
- collecting items needed by missionaries such as medicines, books, tapes, etc.
- drawing greeting cards for missionaries and missionary children
- a quilt booth, where a missions quilt or a church quilt is auctioned off. Families would pay a certain amount to have their name (or the missionary of choice's name) put on the quilt. Women with this talent would prepare the quilt, and at the end of the fair, the quilt (although not finished) would be auctioned off.

Create games similar to typical fair games that teach and emphasize missions. For example:

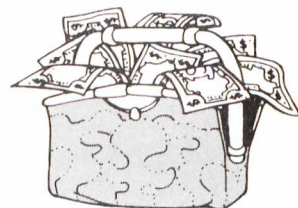
- Go Fish: have poles with strings that fair-goers can toss behind a curtain where they "catch" a missions question. If they answer correctly, they get a prize.
- Ring Toss
- Spin the Wheel
- Guess the Cost? the cost of common everyday things in a foreign culture
- Balloons and Darts: have missionaries' pictures behind balloons, if they unveil it, they win
- Balloon Volley:
- Basketball Toss
- Matching Game: matching missionary kids to their parents
- Coin Toss

Sit down with your women's group and brainstorm about having a missions fair. Delegate each member to create a game or activity to be included in the fair. Work together to make this a fun, exciting, learning experience for all ages. With careful, creative planning and 100% participation, this can be one of the highlights of the year for your church. What an excellent way to help your church be more missions minded!❖

A Stone's Throw Away from Little Rock:

15 Tips on getting the most out of the National Convention

by Yvonne Wolfenbarger



The National Convention is one meeting you shouldn't miss. Why, you ask? Because there's no place like it on earth, and because there is no better way to get back to your Free Will Baptist roots. It's worth the time and effort, even using vacation days to go and be a part of this family reunion. Here are 15 tips to help you get the most out of the convention.

PACK YOUR BAGS:

By all means [1] *bring the children*. There's plenty for them to do. But if you have a reliable sitter, [2] *consider leaving toddlers at home*.

[3] *Pack all your church clothes* and [4] *bring your Bible*. There will be meetings, seminars, workshops and worship services day and night.

[5] *All your shoes should be comfortable ones*. [6] *Don't forget to throw in your well-worn walking shoes*.

Nothing is free at a convention, so [7] *bring plenty of cash*, especially if you bring the kids. I promise it will be worth every penny. Also, you'll want to [8] *bring a offering for the Wednesday night missions service*.

LET'S GET MOVING:

First, [9] *be sure to register*. Then [10] *grab a program and start marking activities* you'll want to attend. [11] *Reserve Monday and Tuesday for WNAC*. You'll meet the Executive

Committee, listen to reports, hear recommendations and resolutions discussed. You'll hear missionaries speak, delight in special programs and enjoy a wonderful banquet. WNAC will make you want to laugh, cry, and shout for joy.

You may want to [12] *attend some of the NYC activities*. Youth meetings are exciting for women, especially if your children are involved.

Maybe you'll even have time to [12] *see the sights*--parks, shopping malls, museums, historic places. Did I mention shopping malls? Come early or stay late...see it all!

GREAT EXPECTATIONS:

[13] *Expect to hear beautiful music* by groups from FWBBC, Hillsdale, Southeastern and CCC.

You'll be inspired and challenged by outstanding speakers. Missionaries will expand your vision of a lost world.

You'll see the denomination at work. Committees "hash-out" their differences then present resolutions to the voting body. Diversity is our middle name...yet we all have the same goal.

SURPRISE! SURPRISE!

The third week in July is not only convention time, it's also time for reunion. You'll [14] *meet old acquaintances* and catch up on who

got married, who had a baby, who answered the call to preach, who finally finished that degree, who gained weight, who moved. You'll laugh about mischief you did in college, and cry for loved ones who passed away.

You'll hear about accomplishments and heartaches of children and grandchildren. And you'll see pictures, lots of pictures.

You'll see former pastors, visit with college professors and enjoy a time of nostalgia with old youth directors.

You can [15] *get personally acquainted with missionaries* you had previously only read about. You'll learn first hand about their needs, and hear about their hopes and dreams. You may even meet a Christian sister from Japan or Cote d'Ivoire.

TOWARD THE MOUNTAINS

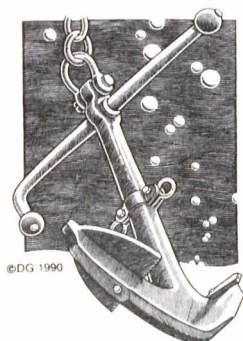
When the convention's over and you round up the kids on Thursday I'll just bet you'll be thinking three things:

"Boy! Am I tired!"

"This has been the best week of the summer."

"I'm going to start saving now for a trip to the Smoky mountains. . . Charlotte, North Carolina to be exact. Let's see, where's my calendar"? That's it July, 1995."❖

Yvonne Wolfenbarger, the Executive Assistant for WNAC, has missed only one National Convention since 1969.



Ruth: A Proverbs 31 Woman

Study Passages: Proverbs 31:10-31; The Book of Ruth

I. Who Is Ruth?

In reading the story of Solomon's own great-great grandmother, Ruth, many of the virtues demonstrated by this Moabite damsel are strikingly similar to those listed in Proverbs 31, the last chapter in Solomon's scrapbook of wisdom. Read Ruth's story again, and then compare her to the woman described in Proverbs 31.

II. Who Found Her?

The Proverbs 31 woman does her husband good, and "his heart doth safely trust in her." Her husband is also "known in the gates," and he praises her.

Discuss how Ruth exemplified a Proverbs 31 woman regarding her relationship to Boaz. [Unscramble the following]

1. She was L I D G N E T I.
2. She was B D E O N T I E.
3. Boaz F V D R A O E and R A P S D E I her.

Consider This: Ruth 2:4 says, "And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem . . ." which suggests that it wasn't typical. Isn't it amazing how God's divine plan works in everyday situations? Did Boaz just happen to be there? Was it coincidence? Unlikely. Also, was Ruth active or passive in her approach to Boaz? Did she propose?

III. What of her works?

Consider the following phrases taken from Proverbs 31 in relation to Ruth's care of her mother-in-law, Naomi, in Ruth 1-2:

- "worketh willingly with her hands" Ruth 2:2
- "she considereth a field" Ruth 2:8-9
- "riseth while it is yet night and giveth meat to her household" Ruth 2:7
- her works shall "praise her in the gates" Ruth 3:11

-- "stretcheth out her hand to the poor, reacheth forth her hands to the needy" Ruth 1:14-17

Even after she married Boaz, a man of considerable wealth, it is safe to say this industrious woman never "feared for the snow for her household" because she was always prepared (Proverbs 31:21-22,27).

IV. What of her ability?

Without any male leadership after the death of Elimelech and Mahlon, Ruth assumed the role of provider. She secured the rights to a field, which made her undesirable as a wife. By taking her as a wife, a kinsmen would have to take her field, which would probably mar his own inheritance. But her wise consideration and purchasing of the field revealed her ability to order her affairs. See Proverbs 31 and Ruth 4:1-10.

What of her goodness?

Proverbs 31:26: "She _____ her mouth with _____, and in her tongue is the _____ of _____."

It is the wisdom and kindness of "whither thou goest, I will go . . ." that has engraved these words in our memories. How did this woman, who was raised in worldly Moab, acquire such a wealth of character? No doubt she had the grace of her sister-in-law, Orpah, but there was one main difference. She was willing to risk security to care for Naomi. And what was the result? Her trust in the God of Israel was fully rewarded, and she blessed all those who knew her.

Consider Ruth's other abilities: what were they?

[continued on page 28]



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Have you ever been a victim of that awful disease, "Hoof-n-Mouth"? "H-n-M" occurs when something horrendous (i.e. bitter, angry, malicious, dirty, ungracious, or unkind) falls out of our mouths, due to lack of Spirit-control. A milder form of this disease is "Foot-n-Mouth," which is a lack of sensitivity to the feelings of others. Christians seem to be plagued with these diseases. Perhaps no more often than unbelievers, but "you'd think Christians would know better."

The Apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians, not to discuss some big heretical problem in the church but to give them important, practical advice about how to live. Chapter 4:25-5:2 sets the standard for Christians, eliminating this terrible disease.

Ephesians 4:31-32

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." ❖

Poet's Corner

The Blessing

Debbie Atwood

I searched for it in divers places,
watched for it in people's faces,
sometimes catching little traces
of the Blessing.

Oft times I've wandered
off the path and had to suffer
Jehovah's wrath.
Not knowing all along,
I had the Blessing.

I finally came to understand
that it's not given by mere man.
Only God lays in our hands
the Blessing.

I'll trade it not for soup or bread,
nor downy pillow for my head,
but would forsake it all instead
for the Blessing.

Waited Too Late

Debi Hatton

My heavenly Father
as I humbly pray,
If this is where you want me,
please strengthen me to stay.

To gather your harvest
in its ready state.
Praying, dear Father,
I've not waited too late.

For the harvest is plenty
and the labourers few.
Oh please, sweet Jesus,
show me what to do.

Do I start with the little ones
and work my way up.
Or start with the lonely ones
that sip from your cup.

Now on my knees I ask
and I wait,
Hoping, dear Father,
I've not waited too late.

Zap!

Connie Norwood Stilson

Well, Satan,
You almost got me that time.
I was weak
And you were sly,
But when it came to do or die
I stopped and asked me "Why?"

Am I free to choose?
What do I have to lose?
I knew I'd lost control
As you fought me for my soul.

Oh you know my weakest spot;
You gave it everything you've got.
And I know you'll try again,
But I know you'll never win.

For by His saving grace
I serve the One
who owns first place. ❖



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

COORDINATOR

With the WNAC National Convention just a few days away, be sure to "get in gear" by reading "A Stone's Throw Away from Little Rock" on page 12. You'll want to take every woman in your group with you. [And do we wish you could!] Lorene Miley, former editor of *CoLaborer*, will be our Fellowship Banquet speaker. If you cannot attend, encourage your women to pray about the convention. Many decisions will be made this year.

Also, make plans now to attend the 1994 WNAC Retreat at Ridgecrest, NC, September 15-17. The retreat is always a wonderful time of growth and fellowship--well worth the trip. A registration form is on page 29 of this issue.

ASST. COORDINATOR

July Program: Have a different woman present each section, comparing Cuban freedoms to those in America. The last section should be presented with a challenge to pray and give toward the work in Cuba. Use the prayer list given in SB, and consider making Cuba a special project.

August Program: If possible, have the meeting in a classroom setting, and use the introduction as is or open by talking about what goes on in a rowdy, noisy classroom, transitioning to this introduction. Mention gossip, goofing around, teasing, no work being accomplished, etc. Share anecdotes about the most mischievous/loudest kid in class. Consider giving a short pop-quiz at the end, with fill-in-the-blank questions about scripture verses or "who said what."

Is your church missions-minded? If so, what are the evidences of this? If not, have you thought about what your women's group can do to encourage a world vision in your church family? The Missions Fair may be just the tool needed to open the eyes and hearts of your church people. Read the article in this issue, and begin planning for this incredible Emphasis Month experience for the entire church.

We suggest the Missions Fair as your WNAC Emphasis, but the Emphasis offering is limited to women's groups only (in cooperation with the Together Way plan of support).

DEVOTION OUTLINE

(to be used as an alternate to monthly programs or for other meetings; this is only an outline--add to it to make it individually unique)

Sound the Trumpet

Scripture: I Corinthians 14:8

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

Song: "When We All Get To Heaven"

Introduction: The trumpet is one of the oldest instruments known to man. [Present other facts or interesting tidbits about the trumpet, and discuss different uses of trumpets throughout history] Let's look at references to the trumpet in the Bible.

1. The Voice of God (Study Exodus 19-20 and comment)

2. The Sound of Battle (Tell the story of Judges 7 in your own words)

3. The Sound of Warning (comment on Ezekiel 33: 1-9)

4. The Sound of Christ's Coming (comment on I Corinthians 15:51-58, I Thessalonians 4:13-18)

Conclusion: The greatest announcement ever made will be when Christ comes for His Bride, the Church. See Hebrews 9:28. Christ's coming will be our Independence Day. Close with: "What A Day That Will Be."

SECRETARY/TREASURER

The local, district, and state report forms are currently being redesigned in an effort to simplify the treasurer's job. Once they are available, take the time to look over them, and you'll see just how simple it can be. If you have any questions, call your state treasurer or the national office.

In keeping with the Together Way Plan, the Emphasis Offering regularly received by WNAC's general fund is no longer to be a church-wide offering. Instead, WNAC is to be included in the "Rest of the Family Offering" received in September. This is an effort to keep appeals for financial support to a minimum. Encourage your women to make the Emphasis Offering a priority this year, especially since the majority of these funds are for daily operational expenses. See *Communicator* for more on these offerings.

In the first quarter of 1994, WNAC has given over \$62,000 to Free Will Baptist missions works. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness and for the commitment of our women to world evangelism. Congratulate your women for being a part of this effort.

PRAYER CHAIRMAN (Mission Prayer)

In preparation for the July meeting, and the program on Cuba, write the July requests on stars cut from florescent poster board (you may take other requests from MissionAlert, FM hotline, and the missionary calendar). Then, before the meeting place a star under each chair or hang each one from the ceiling by a string. For prayertime, have each member take a star and pray for that request. Send the stars home as prayer reminders by affixing a stick-on magnet. Everytime a member goes to open the refrigerator door, she will be reminded of the physical and spiritual needs of Cuba and how God is working there.

For August--WNAC Emphasis Month--copy the prayer reminder given on page 17 to hand out to the women in your group. The requests focus on the women of WNAC all across the country who faithfully carry out the great commission by leading FWB women into mission service.

SERVICE CHAIRMAN (Mission Action)

Summer is especially dangerous for the elderly. Many live in homes without adequate cooling systems. Frailness and extreme heat can be a deadly combination. Organize the women in your group, especially those with children who can help, to check up on those shut-ins in your community. Collect or borrow extra fans and distribute them, accurately recording those who donate and those who receive the fans. **Announce in church the need and ask for volunteers to distribute the fans.** The women's group can provide other heat busters like bags of ice, cold watermelon and hand-held fans. Plan to go in groups to deliver these things--and plan to stay for a few minutes at each house just to chat awhile.

Missionary's kids will be starting back to school soon. Plan now to surprise one or two with brand-new school supplies or clothes. Look in



Prayer Focus on Cuba:

Cuban Pastors:

Rev. Vidal Hernandez Diaz,
Rev. Israel Suarez Cruz,
Rev. Ramon Sauchez Cavil,
Rev. Reuben Gineba Costillo,
Pastor Onelio Licor Castillo,
Pastor Rolando Delgado Diaz,
Pastor Bruno Carrion,
Pastor Oslirio Gigato Lazo
Pastor Orlando Gigato Lazo.

Cuban pastors' wives

The Cuban Woman's Auxiliary

Less government control

More economic stability

New Cuban converts

Access to more Bibles

Encouragement and a bold
witness among the Christians

Opportunities to purchase
property

Christian laymen and women
in the churches

Castro's salvation ❖

the Missions directories (foreign or home) and choose your "project kid." (It would be unwise to pick one child unless he or she has no other school age siblings. Otherwise, when you choose a missionary, surprise all the children in that family. We don't want any hurt feelings.) Then write or call the missionary, asking what would be best to buy, clothing sizes, types of supplies, etc. Remember to be age-appropriate. Be sure to remind the parents that this is to be a surprise. Then by mid-August, collect and mail your gifts to the missionaries' kids. Include a card with a happy wish for a successful school year. ❖

August Emphasis Requests

1. Mary R. Wisheart, Exec. Secretary of WNAC: for continued good health
2. Mary Neal, National WNAC President: for wisdom in leadership
3. Everyl Getz, Marjorie Workman, Barbara Fletcher, Diane Thomas, Jo Ann Wood, Executive Committee Members: for discernment and unity in their work
4. WNAC Staff: for joy in service
5. WNAC State Presidents: for vision and organizational skills in leadership
6. State Field Workers: for enthusiasm and opportunity to increase awareness of WNAC
7. State Officers: for understanding and efficiency in keeping records
8. District Officers: for communication skills and cooperative spirit
9. Local Officers: for dedication and commitment to their duties and members
10. All WNAC members: for spiritual growth and a vision for world missions
11. Women in FWB churches who are uninvolved in WNAC: that they would see WNAC as a means of spiritual growth, fellowship, and ministry in their lives
12. Financial Support: for a solid base of operation that meets current and future financial needs ❖

Cuba:

An Investment in Freedom

When: _____

Where: _____

Don't miss out on
the latest word
from our mission
works in Cuba.



Lucy and Marge Sizzle



[Lucy sits in a lawn chair, with a portable fan blowing on her, iced drink in her hand, obviously smouldering in the heat]

Lucy: [to herself] I don't know when I've seen a more miserable summer. If the temperature doesn't drop soon, I'll just have to move to Alaska.

Marge: [sneaks up on her, also looking overheated] What's this about Alaska, Lucy?

Lucy: Oh, just talking to myself again. Anything to get my mind off the heat.

Marge: I know just how you feel--this heat makes me want to just crawl inside my refrigerator and close the door.

Lucy: I've seen the inside of your refrigerator, Marge. Don't do it.

Marge: Yeah, you're right. [Pauses] I wonder what the temperature is in Cuba?

Lucy: Cuba! How did you get Cuba on your mind?

Marge: Well, Roberta Williams and I are working on our July Program called "Cuba: An Investment in Freedom." You wouldn't believe how the Spirit of God is working among the Cubans. People are coming to the Lord in droves down there!

[continued on next page]

Lucy: Really? How do you know what's happening down there?

Marge: The interview with Jimmy Aldridge of the Foreign Missions Department in *CoLaborer* Magazine. I can't wait to share it with our women's group.

Lucy: Then I guess you'd say the temperature in Cuba is hot.

Marge: It certainly is--flaming hot. And we have the opportunity to fan the flames higher.

Lucy: [acting pitifully hot] Can we fan the flames from inside an air-conditioned fellowship hall?

Marge: [Looking somewhat aggravated] Sure, Lucy, sure. [Now, in fun, grabbing her tea and running off with it; Lucy chases after her] Now, give me that iced-tea, you spoiled, whiny thing! ♦

HID IN MY HEART

Psalm 46:1-5 (KJV)

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early." ♦

Are You a Carrier of "Go Ye Fever"?

Symptoms of "Go Ye Fever"

1. Immediate, noticeable positive attitude.
2. Overwhelming urge to give money, time, and talent (In extreme cases, is willing to give up his/her way of life to be a servant)
3. Ears in need of latest missionary information, prayer needs
4. Magnified vision of a lost and dying world
5. Frequent bending of both knees, lifting eyes toward heaven
6. Mouth has uncontrollable urge to share the good news of Christ
7. Continuously moving feet--on the go, ministering wherever there is need
8. Definite heartbeat for missions

Chances of Contracting the Fever

Quite small, but its effect has caused many to seek the lost and bring them to Christ. There is evidence that the fever can last a lifetime, but most contract it only for a short time. It is most common in missionaries, especially those waiting to return to their fields of service.

Self-Examination

A self-examination is necessary to determine whether you have "Go Ye Fever." It is not contagious, but longterm exposure to those who carry the fever increases your chances of contracting it. Some things that contribute to "Go Ye Fever": a solid understanding of the Great Commission; a daily devotional life; a solid prayer life; a heart in tune with the needs of others; the desire to serve; and participation in a missions group or women's auxiliary.

Rx: Matthew 28:19 ♦



MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR

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

July

- 3 Mark Vandivort [AZ]
- 6 Hope Nason [NH]
- 8 Mary Holland [Brazil]
- 9 Luther Burns [GA]
- 11 Barbara Jones [AL]
- 13 Dennis Heath [Germany]***
- 14 Willis Osborne [VA]
- 19 Gail Fender [TN]
- 20 Robert Bryan [CI]*
- 20 Fred Hersey [Japan]*
- 21 Bonnie Doggett [IL]
- 21 Deborah Vandivort [AZ]
- 26 Sharon Ferguson [CI]**
- 27 Lynette Morgan [CI]*
- 22 Roy Roach [OH]
- 27 Ron Callaway [Spain]
- 29 Maj. Kerry Steedley [GA]
- 30 Brenda Steedley [GA]

August

- 1 Alyne Maness [NJ]
- 1 Deleen Cousineau [CI]*
- 2 Judy Bryan [CI]*
- 3 Carlisle Hanna [India]*
- 5 Dennis Owen [Uruguay]*
- 6 Darrell Nichols [CI]*
- 7 Vicki Sturgill [Brazil]*
- 7 Sandy Smith [OR]
- 7 Sandra Bishop [Japan]*
- 10 James Munsey [Mexico]
- 12 Pat Nason [NH]
- 17 Jim Sturgill [Brazil]*
- 29 Linda Callaway [Spain]
- 30 Capt. Terry Austin [Germany]
- 31 Curtis Alligood [FL]

**medical leave

***status unknown

COMMUNICATOR

BY MARY RUTH WISEHART

We're Off to the Convention

Preparation for the WNAC convention begins at the executive committee meeting in July. There, the executive committee selects the fellowship dinner speaker.

In September the executive secretary, along with other meeting planners and the state steering committee, goes to the site of the convention for preliminary planning. Meeting rooms are selected and agreed upon so that the National Association, WNAC, and the Youth Convention can meet at the same site with reasonable accommodations for each.

At the December meeting, the committee firms up plans, selects other speakers and the music coordinator.

In the WNAC office, workers write each program participant. The program is prepared for printing in *Contact* and in the *Co-Laborer*.

Meeting planners meet again in January with the state steering committee and with convention center and hotel personnel and other representatives.

In February hotel reservations are made for the staff and any special speakers who may need that service.

Tickets for the Fellowship Dinner must be designed and printed. In March they go to those who are working on preregistration to be placed in packets.

The staff prepares the display for the WNAC booth. They also must prepare financial reports for the Digest of Reports—due May 19. Then the annual report, lists of delegates from state, district and local groups, materials for the state officers meeting, and for the executive committee must be prepared.

In May the meeting planners make the third trip to the site for further planning and meeting with the state steering committee.

Someone must select materials to take to the convention for the WNAC booth. These must be packed in boxes and marked for delivery the week before the convention.

The week before the convention begins, the planners arrive in the city to give a final check to the arrangements. By Saturday before the convention, everything is ready to roll.

On Monday and Tuesday, women are busy with meetings and the Fellowship Dinner. In the meantime the staff sets up the booth in the exhibit hall and mans it for the duration of the convention. They must also help with meeting details, sell dinner tickets and take care of the Tuesday offering.

When you enjoy a smooth running convention, remember that a lot of planning and work were done before hand and behind the scenes during the convention.

Why a 1994 WNAC Emphasis Month

As a part of the Together Way Plan, WNAC is included in the Rest of the Family Offering in September.

The committee working on the Together Way Plan, however, agreed that WNAC should continue its emphasis month offering for a few years at least. The Rest of the Family Offering may take a while to build enough funds to take care of the family needs. In 1993 WNAC received \$59.27 from the September offering. The Emphasis Month offering totaled \$16,912.36 in 1993.

The 1994 budget calls for \$26,000 in the Emphasis Offering.

What Funds Keep WNAC Operating?

In the last issue of the magazine, this column listed a month's expenses for the WNAC national office. In the column to the right is a list showing the average income for the first three months of 1994.

In the first three months magazine subscriptions are up, since some are just paying for the 1994 subscriptions. These funds will decrease in the summer months.

The Co-Laborer Offering, named by Agnes Frazier in 1944, is the general fund for WNAC. Originally it was conceived as 50,000 people giving a dollar a month. ❖

Provision Closet Needs:

Bedspreads, all sizes

SHEET SETS, all sizes
(we are out of king
and queen sheet sets)

Food Processors

Blenders

Irons

Baking Pans

Pots

Co-Laborer Offering	\$ 4,362.83
Dues	524.00
Emphasis Offering	1,020.28
Interest Income	143.22
Literature Sales	251.29
Magazine Subscriptions	5,720.85
Miscellaneous Income	12.16
Postage on Sales	177.01
Stamp Money	17.00

\$12,228.64

Women In Action

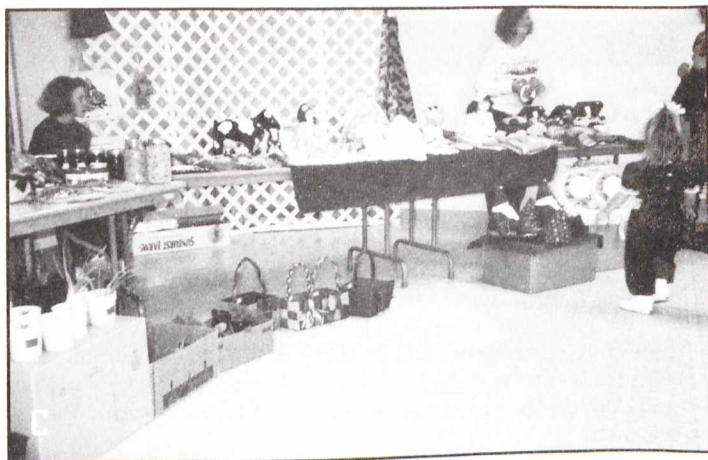


A. Planting Seeds in Pretty Water

Pretty Water FWB Women's Auxiliary, of Sapulpa, OK, participated in a manual study led by Vanita Tuttle. She likened the Auxiliary to planting seeds, and emphasized the need to prepare, plant, pray, have patience, and reap the harvest. Eleven women attended, learning more about the duties and roles of auxiliary officers. Pictured is Vanita Tuttle, speaker.

B. Zion Hope's Bunches

Thirty-six women attended the Zion Hope #2 District Auxiliary meeting in Arkansas, where Stan and Brenda Bunch, missionaries to Panama were the featured guests. Kenner Chapel Auxiliary presented the program, and \$202 crowned the money tree set up for the Bunches. Several pledged to give monthly, according to Vivian Jeffcoat, Auxiliary President. Pictured are Stan and Brenda Bunch.

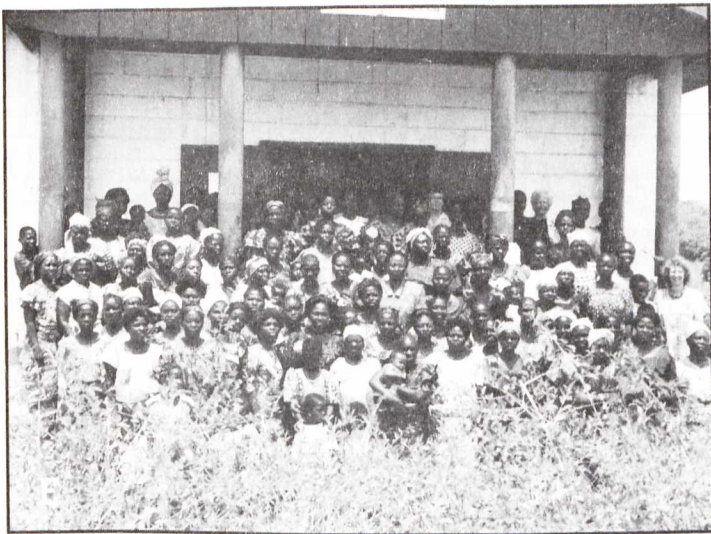


C. Bethel Auxiliary Hosts Auction

The Women's Auxiliary of Bethel FWB in Cullman, AL went all out to raise money for missions. After months of work on crafts and other goodies, they rented the community center and sponsored a craft and bake sale. Some of the men even donated tools to auction off. The auction was open only to the church family, and with 30 in attendance, they raised \$726.38. All the proceeds went to the Dave Franks, Sr. account.

D. Your Sisters, "Les Femmes"

The "Les Femmes" of the Bouna FWB church gather each Saturday afternoon about 4pm and before the session ends, they may sing and pray in seven different languages, according to missionary Lynette Miley ("Madam Clint"). An average of 28 women meet weekly, and over 50 women have joined this African Auxiliary. The "bureau" consists of the president (Lynette), vice-president, a meeting leader, two song leaders, a secretary and her assistant, and a treasurer, who also has an assistant. All officers are baptised believers. Be sure to read more about these faithful women in "Woman's Auxiliary: African Style," in the September/October issue of *CoLaborer* Magazine.



E. African Nat'l Camp Held at Goumere

Missionary Carol Pinkerton writes: The request was denied for two years, but finally Goumere was approved for the big meeting in 1994.

Immediately things began going wrong. The area Chief died. His funeral could not be held until the President could attend, and the President was sick. Later, the President died. The date for Camp 94 was postponed for a month. Meanwhile, the value of our money was cut in half. Transportation costs, as well as food for the camp, would be twice as high! Would anyone have the necessary money to come? The outlook was not good, but many were praying.

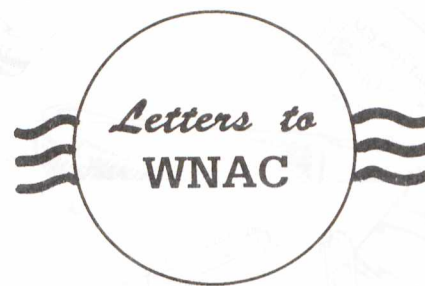
The day finally came, along with fifteen women and children crammed like sardines into one car. Others came in borrowed or rented trucks and cars. Women from two villages walked. One group said, "It wasn't far . . . only 5 and a half hours."

The women at Goumere worked feverishly from before the sun came up well into the night. They not only prepared all the meals, but participated in the meetings as well. Their organization and hard work made the camp possible.

103 women attended, paying the \$2 participation fee and bringing \$100 worth of medicine. They also paid the guest speaker \$100, which is about a third of the average yearly income in this region.

The days were hot, the nights short. The wooden, backless benches were tiring and hard, but the women sang, prayed, and learned. Many said they wished camp could continue, and yet they were eager to return to their villages to put into practice what they had heard.

We sang, 'Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.' The women sang from their hearts, their faces reflecting the joy of serving God in this place."❖



Dear WNAC,

We are enjoying CoLaborer very much. All the programs are good, but recently we enjoyed the one on housecleaning. We did it at our meeting and again for our Wednesday night prayer service. It was enjoyed by all. Thanks.

Juanita McClerren
Mt. Vernon, IL

Dear WNAC,

I would like to see a section for short missions emphasis articles in CoLaborer.

Pat Smith
Ceres, CA

Ed. Note: We are always looking for short "fillers," and try to include those, especially missions-related ones, in the Springboard Illustrated section on page 18. Also, Pat's article, "Clothes Make the Person" is on page 23.

Dear WNAC,

Thank you for the \$5289.81 given to our account last year. I am sure some of the women encouraged their churches to give and kept them informed about missions. Thank you for all you do. The CoLaborer is a blessing to me. Thank you for making it possible.

Brenda Bunch
Missionary to Spain

Dear WNAC,

Sisters, you share with us in each of our victories in the Lord. You have been a most needed, appreciated, and LOYAL supporter of the work here in Paducah. Without the strong support of our women, many of our churches would fail. A heartfelt thankyou.

Jim and Shirley Garrett
Paducah, KY

Hurt Feelings

by Julie Thomas



All pastor's wives have hurt feelings at one time or another. Often, because of our position in the church, we are the unfortunate recipient of a lot of criticism. The intentional action of another, or simply a negative word in passing, hurts us deeply. No matter how we try to shrug it off, we wind up mulling over it.

Hurt feelings are especially difficult to get over especially when the ones who injure us are fellow Christians. It is hard to understand why people who are supposed to know the Bible, who are supposed to be kind and loving, manage to wound with words and actions. But Christians are simply sinners who are saved. In other words, Christians are still human.

The Bible says, "Forgive," but how? Being pastors' wives doesn't mean we're superhuman. So what can we do to overcome our hurt feelings?

First, I believe we should pray. It seems like such a simple thing to do, but when our feelings are hurt, the

last thing on our minds is praying about the problem. I Peter 3:9 says, "Say not thou, 'I will recompense evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing: knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.'"

God does not want us to respond to a negative comment or criticism with negative or malicious thoughts; Proverbs 20:22 tells us God will save us from that, but we have to give the problem to Him. Often I find myself whispering, "God, please help me," when I feel myself holding on to angry or aggravated thoughts. The simplest prayer invites His power to take control of the situation.

Secondly, once we've prayed and given it to the Lord, we shouldn't take it back throughout the day to dwell on, analyze, and get angry or upset over again. Because women generally have a more tender, sensitive spirit than do men, we tend to carry our hurt feelings around with us.

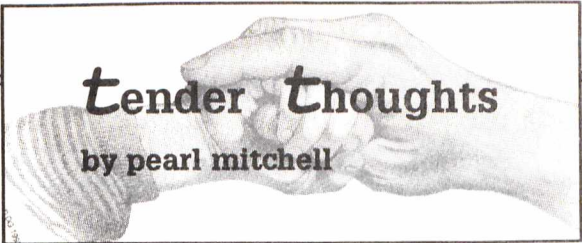
Satan uses the silences of the day to take those thoughts we've pushed away and run with them. We begin to think of things we could have said back to them or start to feel sorry for ourselves.

To remedy this, we need to try to fill up the silence with spiritual noise. I have found when I am listening to spiritual songs, singing hymns or choruses or reading the Bible, Satan cannot use negative thoughts to hinder us. The Bible is our sword against Satan's attacks, so we need to stay grounded in the Word. Our devotions can give us food for thought to chew on all day.

Finally, to overcome hurt feelings we have to earnestly try to love the people who have hurt us. Ephesians 4:2 admonishes us to act "with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love." Colossians 3:13 tells us to forgive one another as Christ forgave us. Forgiveness is not an option for the true Christian. When we forgive, we are twice blessed: blessed by the forgiveness of God in our lives, and blessed by the restoration of the relationship with the one who wronged us. Whether spoken or settled in one's own heart, forgiveness is a spirit given to us by God and through His power. His strength and not ours.

As pastors' wives, we should set the example regarding hurt feelings and be quick to ask for God's help and forgiveness and for the maturity to forget the hurt. With the words "Please Lord, help me," the healing begins. ♦

Mrs. Julia Thomas lives in Smithfield, NC, where her husband, David, pastors the Unity FWB Church.



tender thoughts

by pearl mitchell

Pearl Mitchell is an elementary school teacher living in Columbus, GA, and the mother of three grown children.

i read a bumper sticker the other day: "Jesus is coming soon, and boy, is He mad!" At first I found it humorous, but it also has some profound implications for Christians today.

Have you ever asked a trusted friend for a favor, left a child to do a task, or hired someone to do a job only to return later to feel betrayed, find the job undone, unfinished, or not even started? I have to wonder if this is how Jesus will feel when He returns to find the results of His Great Commission.

Jesus' words in Matthew 28:19, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations" were the beginning of the divine plan to spread the good news of salvation. As Jesus worked among the people, not only did He try to make them see that He was the Christ, but He fulfilled their spiritual and physical needs as well. He fed the hungry and healed the sick.

The example set by Jesus Himself is the whole basis for church missions. The ultimate goal is to bring the salvation of a loving God to the masses, and to follow the example Christ set by meeting their needs. But missions should not only exist through a church program. Missions is an act of everyday life--reaching out to the neglected child next door, the hungry man on the corner, the fallen or weary Christian brother or sister who needs a friend.

Yes, Jesus is coming again, and can you imagine His heartache (maybe even anger) when He sees so many people ignoring His Great Commission? Are you going about your life without a thought for His command to win others?

When Jesus left His heavenly throne to die for our salvation, His was the ultimate sacrifice. Is His command so impossible that He should return to find it undone?❖

👍 cLothEs make the peRson 👍

by pAt SMITH

a few months ago, our great grandson was approaching his 3rd birthday. We asked, "Blake, what do you want for your birthday?" His emphatic response was "Wranglers!"

We live in a clothes-conscious society. The right label has taken priority over the price tag. Women fancy Liz Claiborne and Anne Kline. Men go for Stafford suits, and Florsheim shoes. Teens are partial to Guess, Nikes, Bugle Boys, and Esprit.

Certain types of clothing indicate responsibility, authority, and identification. Nurses, policemen, and military personnel are all identified by the uniforms they wear. It is often true, as the old adage goes, "Clothes make the man."

The Old Testament presents

long discourses about priestly garments and the symbols of each piece of attire, and how they foreshadow Christ, imparting truths of His life, death, and second coming.

But Jesus put the subject of clothes in perspective for us in the Sermon on the Mount when He said, in essence, "Do not be overly concerned with clothes, but seek Him and His righteousness, and He will supply our needs."

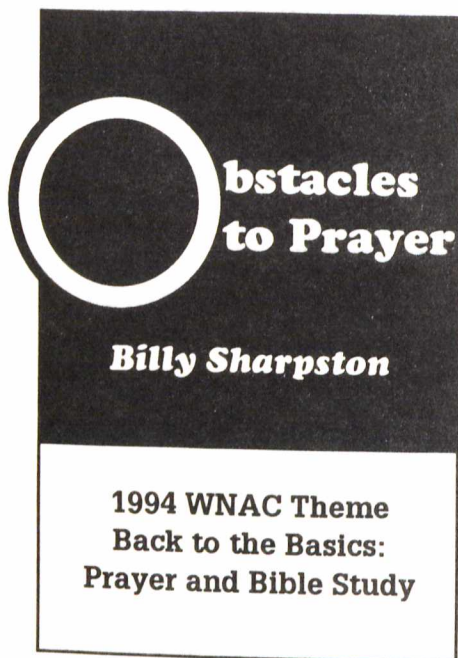
Today, as back then, too much emphasis is put on our outward appearance. God looks on the heart, but too often we neglect the inward in favor of an impressive outside. Robes of righteousness are to be the clothing of the Christian, obtained only after receiving a clean heart

through faith and repentance.

Our missionaries are spending their lives to bring this cleansing Agent to people who have never heard of Reeboks, Nikes, Guess, and Liz Claiborne. Robes of righteousness are issued the moment a sinner repents and accepts Jesus as Savior.

Perhaps we should take a moment next time we go shopping for a new outfit to see if it is really necessary or if it is just another outward cover-up. Let's consider giving the price of the garment to a missionary's account and be a partaker in clothing the unsaved with the righteousness of Christ.

Pat Smith, and her husband, Bob, are members of the Village Chapel FWB Church in Ceres, CA.



Communion with God meets a need in life that can be met in no other way. While many Bible verses urge people to pray, none is more pungent than James 5:16, "... The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

If we believe this verse to be true, then why do we take prayer so lightly? Why do we do so little praying? Why do we allow obstacles to hinder our praying, and how do we overcome them?

Why We Do Not Pray

Health and Wealth Theology

The reason many Christians take prayer lightly is the widespread "health and wealth" theology. Some regard prayer as a kind of magic; just because we make a request, God must grant it. Others see God as a generous benefactor who hands out gifts right and left. Because there are so many requests given in spoken prayer, others believe that asking is all there is to praying.

Coffee Break Mentality

Some approach praying like they

do a coffee break. They give God five minutes or so, then rush back to important things like visiting, work, teaching, preaching, fellowship, committee meetings and such. While these things are important, the fact remains that we are more interested in doing than praying.

Shallow Outlook on Life

Some, of course, are just too unconcerned and lazy to be faithful in their prayer lives. These same people are not faithful in reading their Bibles, much less praying. They are shallow in their relationship to God, and if they do pray, it is an afterthought. By their actions, they declare that prayer is a waste of time, therefore, they seldom see God work in their lives.

The person who takes prayer lightly lacks consecration. When we neglect prayer, we cut ourselves off from His power. Small wonder that nothing seems to go right for us.

Wrong Priorities

One major reason we do so little praying is that we have our priorities wrong. While many Christians faithfully attend every church service and participate in tithing and visiting, they do not see prayer as a necessity. It is not that people get so bogged down with other commitments that there is no time to pray. Rather, they are not motivated to pray. It has been my experience that praying churches produce praying people.

Self-Importance

Some have weak prayer lives simply because they are puffed up with their own self-knowledge, self-sufficiency, and self-ability. They know it all, can do it all, so why pray? But apart from Christ, we are nothing, and can do nothing, as Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Examining the Obstacles

Prayer is a spiritual exercise that moves us closer to God. We know the Bible has much to say about prayer. The prayer lives of Abraham, Moses, Christ, Paul, and others are held up as examples for today's Christian. It is not uncommon for a great gulf to develop between us and God when prayer grows stagnant. So why do we allow so many obstacles to hinder our praying?

Lack of Faith

A lack of faith is high on the list of obstacles to an effective prayer life. Too much focus on this world reduces the intensity of our faith. Faith is essential to answered prayer, "... If ye have faith, and doubt not ..." (Mt. 21:21).

Faith is the means of communication with the invisible God, and it is essential to the offering and answering of prayer (see Hebrews 11:6, James 1:6-7).

William Proctor said, "Many of our prayers fail to enter heaven for the same reason that a whole generation of Israelites failed to enter Canaan, 'because of unbelief.'"

The reasoning of some is, "My faith did not get me what I desired, so why pray?" They come to believe that their prayers are unimportant, "After all, God cannot be interested in me."

Selfishness

Another obstacle to prayer is selfishness. We often ask God for things that will benefit only us. Such a selfish attitude tends to dry up our prayer lives because those prayers are usually not granted.

A man expressed considerable anger when asked if he has sought an answer to his problem in prayer. Seems he wanted a particular position within his company. He prayed

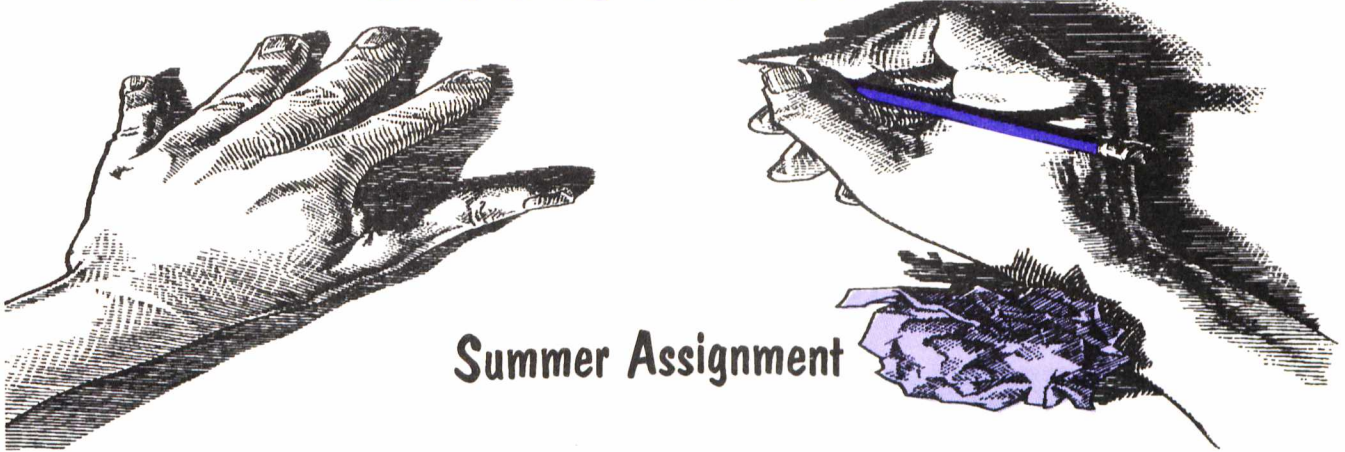
[continued on page 27]

"But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was;
and when he saw him, he took pity on him. . . . Go and do likewise."

a column for young people

Life!Action.

. . . for everyday life



Summer Assignment

I imagine yourself in heaven, seated at a table with several thousand others. The angels have passed out these beautiful, crisp sheets of pearly white paper, and at the top is printed, "What I Did With My Summers Off." God wants you to write a report, similar to the ones you wrote for countless teachers in school.

Will you tell Him about summer jobs or extra chores around the house? Will you tiptoe around your tendency to sleep late and watch T.V? Will you tell Him all about that vacation to DisneyWorld? Will you spend a paragraph or two describing the Coppertone tan of 1994? Will there be anything of eternal consequence in your report?

Several teens in a local Free Will Baptist church had been given the opportunity to go overseas as summer missionaries. At the end of their trip, they were asked to share their mission experience during the Sunday evening service. Betsy stood to tell her story. The congregation was a little confused. "Betsy didn't go anywhere," one whispered. With a lump in her throat, she said, "My mission field this summer was the Oakley Trailer Park. . . ."

Whether you realize it or not, your summer assignment has been on the desk for a long time. As a Christian, you have been commanded to reach out in love to others, to be a servant and an example of the believer in word and in spirit. The question is are you ignoring your assignment.

Read the story of The Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37. Did he find the needy in a faraway land? The Bible says he found him "as he traveled."

You don't have to go overseas to be a summer missionary. You'll find opportunities within reach. Here are just a few ways to "act eternally" this summer:

- Call or go door to door collecting clothes and canned goods to help the poor in your community.
- Visit an elderly person in your church "just to chat."
- Volunteer a few hours babysitting to parents who rarely get out by themselves.
- Call a Sunday school preschool teacher, and volunteer to help decorate her classroom.
- Work on a church bus route.

If you or your Actionette group would like a complete list of "52 Ways to Show You Care," write to us here at the address below. We'd love to hear about your missionary adventure! ❖

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 ❖

Adja,

Former Female Witch Doctor

by Carol Pinkerton



Adja and daughter, January 1994

It was a Tuesday, April 1993. Jerry went to Kinkua for Leadership Training Teaching. When he returned home on the cycle, he said it had been a good class. After class, a group of people had wanted to talk to him. It seemed the female witch doctor, Adja, was tired of the old way. She wanted to follow the "Jesus path."

The voices began to grow louder to the point of shouting. Her immediate family, along with the villagers, were not one bit happy about Adja's decision. But she was determined not to go back. Her own mother said, "If you do not return to the fetish, I will go hang myself." At last, the people said, "Okay, if you will not go back, we want nothing more to do with you. We are giving you to the white pastor. Now you are his problem."

Jerry and some Christian men from the village brought Adja back to Bondoukou. She stayed with a Christian family here for several days. When her husband came to town, he said he would stand by her, even though he did not agree with her decision. He didn't want to join her on the "Jesus path" until he was sure the trouble was over.

They returned to the village only to find that Adja's pots and pans had been stolen. Her family and others hurled insults at her. When that didn't move her, they tried being nice to her, attempting to win her back. Regardless of their motives and actions, Adja was always polite, but as the threats became more real, Adja and her husband

had to travel back to the city to see the police. Days passed--no action.

Adja's younger sister made an appointment to meet her on the outskirts of the village. In reality, she planned to kill Adja, but through God's providence, was unable to keep her appointment. The following day, Adja's younger sister died.

Finally, Adja said she wanted to take the fetishes back. The villagers were elated until they understood she only wanted them back to burn them. Her witness was strong. She told them that she had been the one to bring the fetish into being, believing it to be a good way to make money. And therefore, it was her right to do with it as she pleased. She wanted to destroy it permanently. They refused.

When Adja became pregnant with her 6th child, the villagers said the child would be die before coming to term. It didn't. They said the delivery would be difficult. It wasn't. They said the child would die immediately after birth. It didn't. Villagers used fear, but they didn't sway Adja. Praise God for I John 4:4.

Adja isn't what you'd think of when you hear the words "witch doctor." There are no bones sticking out of her nose. She is a soft-spoken, small-framed woman with a very sweet smile. She is a woman with a heart changed by God and a backbone of solid determination.

Another Tuesday in January of 1994. Another teaching day at Kinkua. Some there want to talk. Adja's husband, who has been watching her throughout her trials, has decided to follow Jesus. Praise God for faithful women who remain firm in their choice to be one of Jesus' followers.

Adja's 6th child is a healthy girl, whose name is a reminder of what God has done for this family. She is called Grace. ♦



Carol Pinkerton,
and her husband
Jerry, are missionaries
to Ivory Coast,
West Africa.

[Obstacles to Prayer, cont.]

long and hard about it, but someone else received it. "Why should I think my prayers will be heard this time?" he wanted to know.

Unforgiving Spirit

An unforgiving spirit is a deadly attitude for one's prayer life. It is unfortunate that Christians sometimes develop a "holier than thou" attitude toward others. Such an attitude gives a sense of righteousness that judges and condemns, more than loves and forgives. Prayer is difficult where an unforgiving or self-righteous spirit prevails.

Laundry List

There's a laundry list of other obstacles to effective praying: impatience, dishonesty, ignorance, indo-

lence, pride, formality, idols of the heart, jealousy, and ruptured relationships. Prayer is a battlefield littered with the careless and unconcerned.

Overcoming Obstacles

The final question is, how do we overcome it all? If we really want to know the Lord, we must spend time with Him. That is the key to a successful prayer life. If we are to have it, we must first want it, and then work at it.

Leonard Ravenhill says, "In this rush age we resent the time element in prayer and the time needed to wait for the answer, but God says, 'wait on the Lord . . . and He shall strengthen thine heart.'"

Have you forsaken the altar of prayer? Have success, love, business, home, or the cares of life crowded prayer out of your days? Have you become prayerless?

"We will never pray as we should until we see it as a necessity," said Norman Harrison, "indispensable to the life we have undertaken to live." ♦

Dr. Billy Sharpston pastors Heritage Temple Free Will Baptist Church in Columbus, OH.

Reprinted from *Contact*, OCT 1989.
Used with permission.

OVER MY COFFEE CUP

BY EUNICE EDWARDS



Recently, a friend said to me, "I'm really down. Please pray for me." I assured her it would be a privilege to pray for her, but it set me to thinking. I remember how many other Christians had made similar remarks. Surely the club of discouragement is being used with increasing vigor in these last days.

Remember the story of the fearful disciples in Mark 4? Verse 37 says, "... and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full." Then they asked Jesus for help. Have you ever wondered why they waited so long to make their needs known to the Lord? He was in the boat with them. But it wasn't until they were in danger of sinking that they turned to the One who could save them.

Could it be that we delay asking for help until we are in over our heads? The disciples were getting along well until the sea got into the boat. As long as the boat was in the sea, they were fine. I suspect this is our problem too. The sea gets into our ship of faith, and discouragement grips us.

The cry of the disciples was almost an accusation, "Carest thou not that we perish?" Does He care? Oh yes, He cares.

Do you suppose they didn't call on Him sooner because they were too busy dipping water? Sometimes we get so busy trying to keep our boats afloat that we forget this journey is by faith. All human efforts to save ourselves are in vain. How quick is His response when we call upon Him--"Peace be still."

The disciples asked, "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and sea obey him?" This is Jesus, Prince of Peace! If we could only learn to look up when we are down. Throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity we will still be thanking Him for stilling our storms. ❖

Reprinted from CoLaborer Magazine, Oct/Nov/Dec 1985.

[Bible Study, continued]

V. What of her influence?

Read Proverbs 31:31; Ruth 4:11-12
The diligent works of Ruth's hands were inspired by her kind heart. From the toil of her days, she reaped a bountiful harvest of earthly praise and eternal blessedness. Whatever natural favor or beauty Ruth may have possessed was not comparable to the glow of goodness in her soul. She was wholly committed to God. In Him, she found the sustenance for real living.

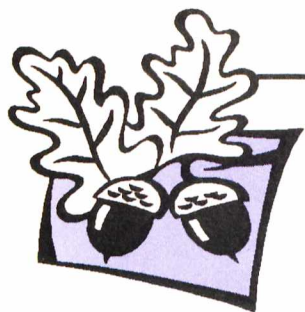
Read Proverbs 31:29; Ruth 4:14-15
Ruth's descendants live on for generations to testify of her blessedness: Obed, Jesse, David, Solomon . . . even Jesus Christ. Ruth's son became the nourisher of old age and restorer of life to Naomi, and because of this, she was considered "most excellent."

Consider This: 1. What did Ruth's influence accomplish in Naomi? 2. Doesn't it seem almost anti-climactic for a genealogy list to end the exciting story of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz? Why do you think it ends this way?

Summary:

- God provided b_____d through Ruth's gleaning.
- God provided s_____y through Ruth's marriage to Boaz.
- God provided p_____y for Elimelech and Naomi.
- God provided a great k_____ for Israel through Ruth.

Ruth made a choice on the road between Bethlehem and Moab. She chose to give her loyalty to God and His people. That choice may have seemed insignificant, but it changed Naomi, and it changed history. ❖



WNAC's National Retreat

at Ridgecrest, North Carolina

September 15-17, 1994

Ridgecrest Conference Center



1994 Theme:

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Uberlandia, Brazil

Jim Cowart reports that fourteen have accepted Christ in the past few months, eleven at VBS held in January. Most of these eleven are children from spiritists backgrounds. Jim asks, "Please remember to pray for them and their families. And pray for us as we disciple them." The VBS averaged 120, many of whom had never attended an evangelical church. Also, Bible Institute classes began on March 9th, with five different courses being offered. Continue to remember the Cowarts in your prayers.

Mostoles, Spain

Ron and Linda Calloway are seeing numerous opportunities to share Christ with young people who gather at the church on Saturdays to play ping-pong and talk. Roberto, Martin, Antonio, Vanesa, and Dario all come regularly and are in need of salvation. Recently, a young father has started coming to play. They are praying that he will be open to the true gospel. Recently, Linda had a 30-minute conversation with a scientist who believes in reincarnation. Pray that the Holy Spirit will draw this man unto Himself. Also, begin praying for Rachel Calloway, who is preparing to enter the University of Madrid this Fall.

Nashville, TN

Fred Hersey, senior missionary to Japan, has been on the road--in seventeen different states and three provinces of Canada--holding services in churches to raise money for his return to Japan. He will be leaving on June 22 with a group of 11 American teenagers to minister in Japan through July 13th. Then, after the National Convention in Little Rock, AR, he plans to return to Japan to work with several churches in Sapporo. Pray for him as he prepares for these missions trips and for the young people he will be supervising.

Rapid City, South Dakota

Roll Call Sunday found the mission church in South Dakota with an all-time high attendance of 71, according to missionary Tim Coats. Fourteen first-time visitors were included in that total. Six people rededicated themselves to Christ. The church recently observed a special day of prayer and fasting for National Day of Prayer on May 5th. Continue to pray for the Coats throughout the summer months as they are remodeling their building, holding VBS and youth camp, and traveling to the National Convention.

O'Fallon, MO

Rose Mertz, missionary wife of Jim Mertz, is currently undergoing treatment for secondary stage glaucoma. Initially, her physician thought she needed laser surgery to repair the optic nerve, but he has since reversed his decision after further testing and much prayer. Jim writes, "To God be the glory; great things He hath done!" The Wentzville church, although still a mission church, has adopted the mission work in Grand Junction, CO, as its missionary project. A church that happily receives, happily gives to the cause of Christ.

Laconia, New Hampshire

Joel and Hope Nason were caught off guard, recently, when the manager of a storage facility where their church furniture is being stored, said, "I have always wanted to ask someone what the Bible says about how to be saved?" Joel replied, "You have come to the right place!" Joel writes, "This is why Free Will Baptists sent us to Laconia. Pray that we might see a great harvest in His Kingdom." Joel and Hope, are expecting their second child.

Oregon City, Oregon

On March 20th, the Oregon Trail FWB Church held it's formal building dedication service. 136 attended, and eleven were baptized. In March, eighteen people followed the Lord in believer's baptism. And the need is so apparent, according to missionary Darrell Smith. A recent survey of the Portland (OR) area indicates that only 3% of the population attend church on a regular basis, and only 30% claim any religious affiliation at all. ❖



Words for Women

I went to prison. As the doors slipped silently shut behind me, I felt a cold chill. I knew I could not open them. Someone would have to open them for me before I could go out again.

On a Wednesday, I joined Ethel Whaley, who ministers regularly one on one to women in the Tennessee Women's Prison.

The chaplain ushered us into the tiny chapel there. A baptistry, above the floor, a speakers stand, chairs, and original decorations done by some of the women made up the chapel.

And then of course there were the women. Sally, who attended a Christian college, majored in music, and played the piano beautifully. Polly with severe emotional problems. Delia, young, brittle, hostile, emotionally insecure.*

Women like you and me, they wanted to look attractive, have something to do. They wanted attention, love, and freedom.

But some of them are in prison for years to come or for the rest of their lives. Some of them have accepted Christ, but they have struggles trying to live in this place and maintain Christian growth and testimony.

I went to prison, and I came away remembering Jesus words, "I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

What are we doing to minister to women in our communities? Are there women in need of ministry around you? Women in the city jail, in the state prisons who need your ministry?

Will we do something about these women or will we hear Jesus sadly say, Matthew 25:43, "I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not"?

Remember, He said, "Inasmuch as ye have done [it] unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done [it] unto me."❖

*Not their real names.

PREVIEW

sept/oct 94

- ◆ Experiencing the Grace of God
- ◆ Woman's Auxiliary: African Style
- ◆ MissionCall: Uruguay
- ◆ Mentoring Young Women

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**National Retreat
in Ridgecrest, NC**



September 15 - 17

**See the
Registration Form
on page 29**



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September 15-17, 1994

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1994 Theme

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