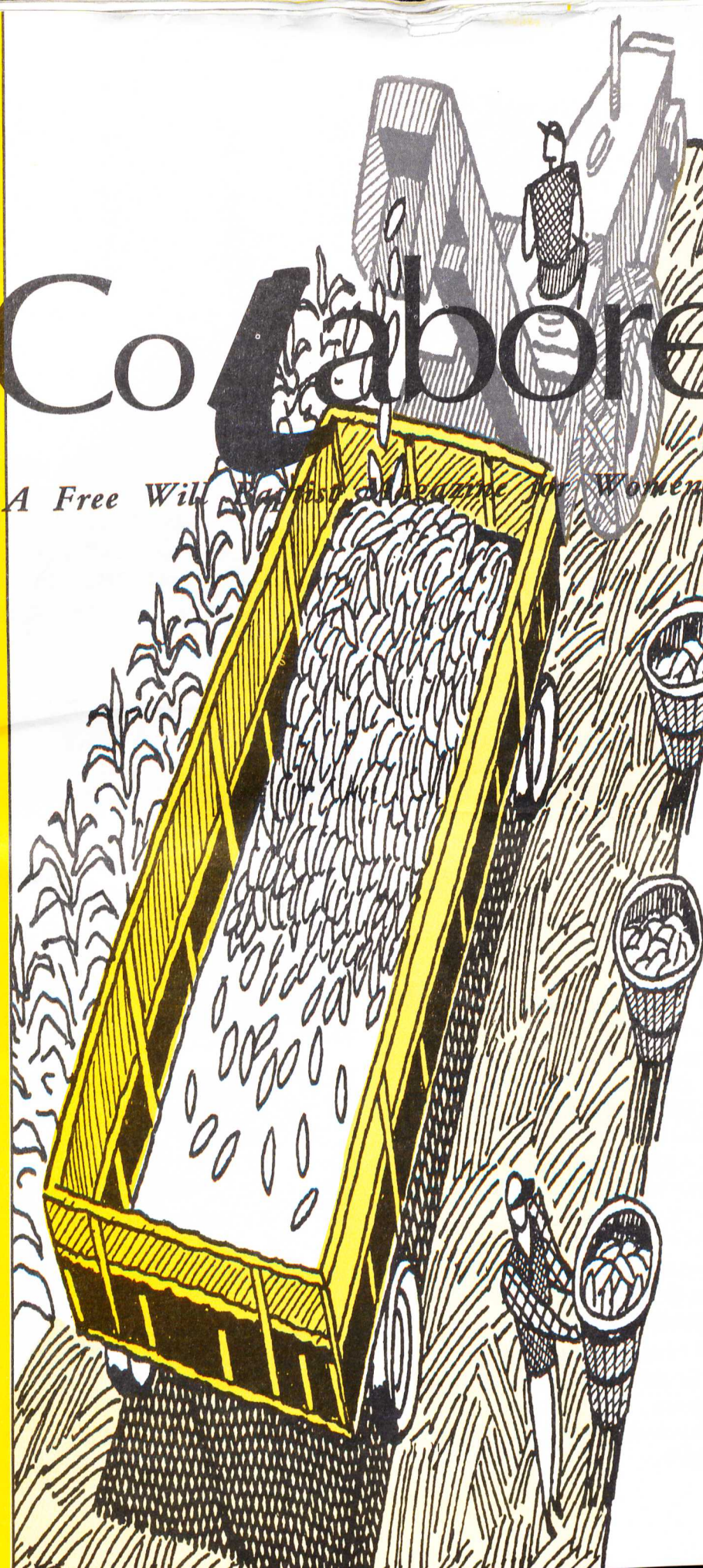


Nov · Dec 1994

Co Laborer

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women



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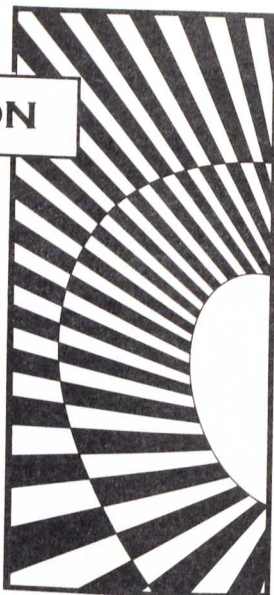
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HORIZON

MELISSA RIDDLE



LIGHTING THE FIRE

If a house was on fire, and you were outside and saw it, would it be better to drop everything and run straight in, perhaps to be a hero, or would it be better to wake up a hundred firefighters sleeping nearby?

Good question. And I'm not sure what my answer would be. I want to think I could be a hero, the one to forge in with no thought for myself. I want to think I'm equipped to handle the danger, to make the sacrifice.

But a better question is: which is the most realistic and effective course of action?

Most of us who understand the importance of taking the gospel to a lost world can not realistically do all it takes to be a missionary on foreign soil. Years of language study, culture studies, and fundraising are just the beginning of years of sacrifice and service. Most of us are tied-up with too many strings just to cut loose. We're not equipped to fight the fire.

But what about lighting a fire under those who are not yet so grounded, those who could be future missionaries?

Laura Belle Barnard's call to missions didn't just happen. Someone lit a fire under her, a tiny spark of world vision that ignited what is now called Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions.

Eddie Payne's call to missions is now a call to light a fire in the hearts of young people seeking a place of service. Through his excitement, insight and energy, many young people at FWBBC are catching a vision for a lost world. He's waking up the firefighters. He's helping build the future.

Someone lit a fire under the youth of Arkansas who raised almost \$100,000 dollars for missions. God only knows how many of these sparks will become the missionaries of tomorrow.

We may not be commissioned missionaries, but we are commissioned. Instead of fulfilling the call of one, we can light the fire that sparks the call of two . . . or ten . . . or one hundred.

The house *is* on fire. There are potential firefighters all around us. Ring the bell, and wake them up! ❖

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**THREE HOME
MISSIONARIES ANSWER
QUESTIONS ABOUT
THE CHALLENGES OF
REACHING THE LOST IN
AMERICA.**

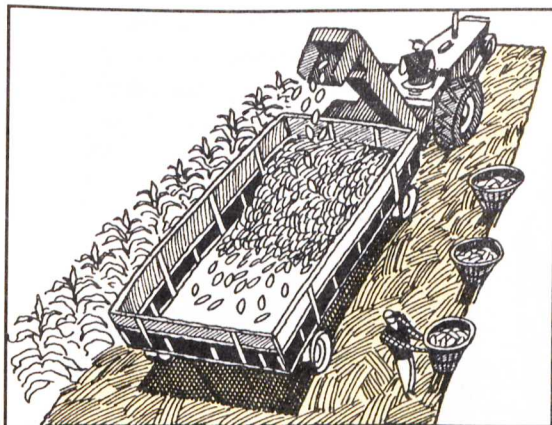
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**"IT WAS EMOTIONAL FOR
ME TO SEE THESE SUPPLIES
AT THE OTHER END OF
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DIDN'T HAVE ROOM FOR
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ONE DAY!"**

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CONVENTION MADE IT
CLEAR, MORE THAN
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FREE WILL BAPTIST
WOMEN ARE READY,
WILLING, AND ABLE TO
FOLLOW GOD'S WORD,
REACHING OUT TO A LOST
WORLD.**

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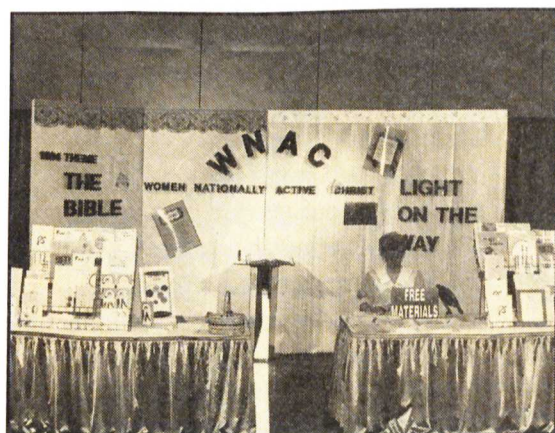
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November Is
Home Missions Month

The Challenge of the Harvest

*Three home missionaries' wives
share their perspective
of ministry in America.*

*Pam Potete, Chicago, IL
Barbara Dail, St. Croix, V.I.
Kathy Coats, Rapid City, SD*

What are the biggest challenges of starting a Home Mission?

Pam Potete: Finding a place to meet. For a year and nine months, we held services in our home. I put undue pressure on myself, always thinking my home had to be spotless. It was very difficult. Now, we are renting a union hall on Sunday mornings. We are so thankful.

Another challenge is making ourselves available to some of the people we are trying to reach. It seems like Chicago never sleeps! Some of those God has put in our path are very streetwise, and we went through a six-month period when our phone rang almost every night after midnight and before 6 AM.

Barbara Dail: As always, one of our biggest challenges is to make as many contacts as possible and present the message of Christ.

But the move itself was very difficult. We had to decide what to take, what to store, what to sell. And also, helping the children adjust to moving, leaving family and friends.

Kathy Coats: Our three biggest challenges have been establishing a core group of committed believers who share our vision of building a strong work for the Lord; our tendency to rely on physical work and not on the work of the Holy Spirit; and the lack of musically inclined people to help in church.

What has been the biggest adjustment for you and your family?

Pam: Probably the fast pace of society here. I grew up in a suburb of Chicago but never lived in the city. Here, people take public transportation to work, to the grocery store, wherever they go. And still with the buses and trains, there is a lot of traffic on the highways. We try to take any opportunity to help our neighbors. People notice when anyone takes time to help.

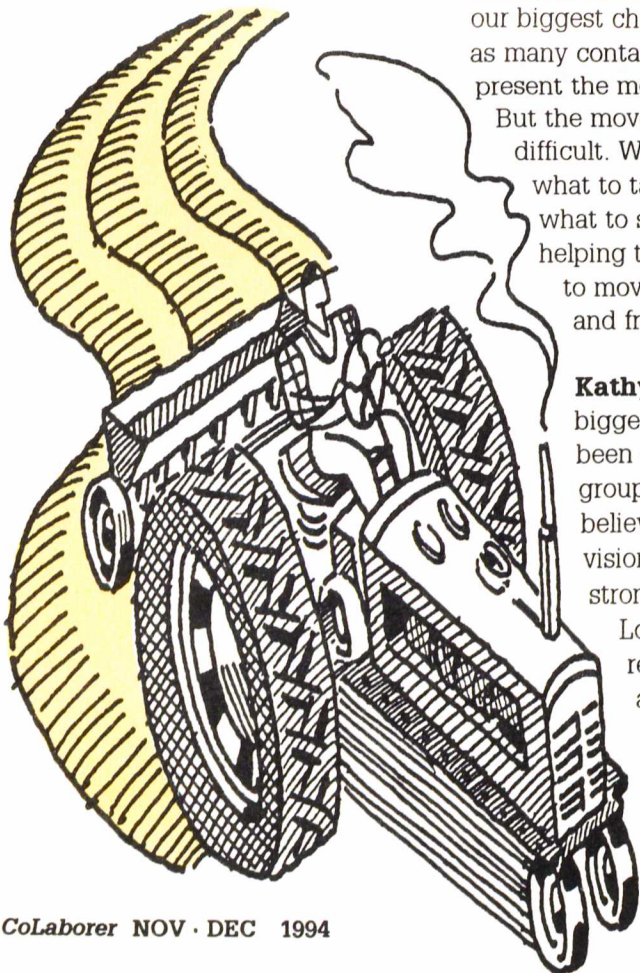
Barbara: The cultural differences were the biggest adjustment: the West Indian foods, Spanish-speaking people, the unbearable heat, the laid-back lifestyle, the high cost of groceries (which includes payment of shipping fees), and driving on the left side of the road. (Yes, these are U.S. Virgin Islands.)

Kathy: Not being able to see my parents except once-a-year. My parents are in their seventies and are in poor health. My dad is also unsaved.

What is your ministry as a HM pastor's wife?

Pam: My first and foremost ministry is to stand behind David as he leads our church, but I also fill many different positions in the work. I take my turn in Toddler's church, the nursery, in children's classes. We must be careful not to be overworked. We have to keep our own spiritual lives in order to help others.

Barbara: I try to be supportive of my husband and keep the house-



hold in order, so he will have more time to take care of the needs of our congregation. I do the book-keeping for the school. I also teach our 3-5 year olds and work in the nursery, but we encourage our people to take on leadership roles. It is very important for them to be able to carry on in our absence.

The pastor's wife's most important ministry is the one she has with her children. I am now coping with the "empty nest syndrome," but the years I have had with our children are precious, and we should make the most of them. I also enjoy the ministry of hospitality, cooking and entertaining special guests. Our church women are wonderful at helping with this.

Kathy: My primary ministry is to be a submissive wife (easier said than done). I fill in at church wherever I'm needed. I work a lot with the children and youth, presently teaching a class three times a week.

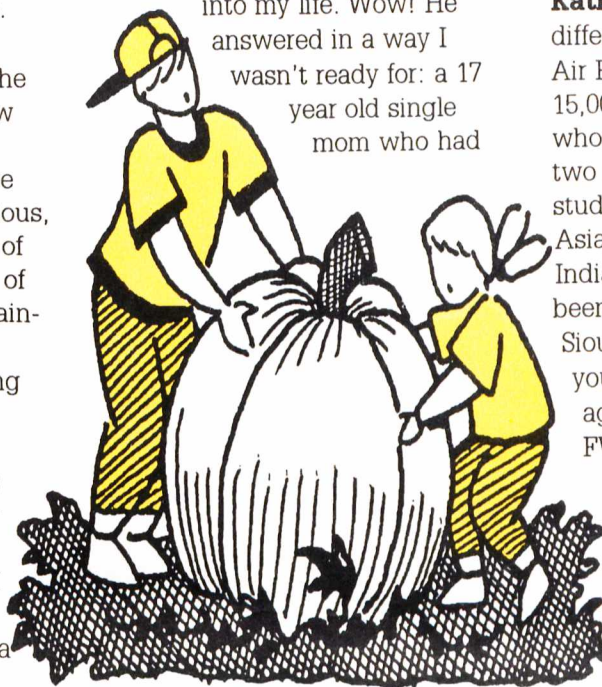
Describe the kind of people to whom you minister.

Pam: Chicago is more like a foreign mission field. People from Poland, India, Italy, Mexico, you name it, they're here. And then of course there is the native Chicagoan who has lived in the same house for forty years. God seems to be opening a door for us to minister to single mothers. They need to see the love of Christ and feel unconditional acceptance. One of them recently told me, "I like your church because it doesn't matter what I look like; you accept me for who I am."

Our church has people from all walks of life--a bus driver, office

worker, some unemployed, and some on public aid. The fast-paced life in the city makes it difficult to establish relationships, to get beyond "Hi, how are you?" It takes going the extra mile.

I remember praying for the Lord to send someone new into my life. Wow! He answered in a way I wasn't ready for: a 17 year old single mom who had



run away from home came into our lives. For about a month, she lived back and forth between us and another couple in our church.

We were quickly exposed to the mentality of the people here, people who don't consider God when making decisions. We also learned more about the system of government agencies. Through helping this one, we have been able to share the gospel with many needy, lost people.

Barbara: Our ministry, like the island, is a "melting pot." We have statesiders and natives of many other Caribbean islands like Antigua, Nevis, St. Kitts, Trinidad, and Puerto Rico. Our church people work for the government, local hospitals, Hess oil refinery,

businesses, and in our Christian school. Many have been laid off due to the poor economy.

We have found the people here to be kind and sincere, with spiritual needs just like those of the U.S. mainland.

Kathy: Rapid City is full of many different kinds of people. Ellsworth Air Force Base is home to about 15,000 military people, many of whom retire here. There are also two colleges here. Many of the students are Arabic, Indian, or Asian. There are also Sioux Indians in this area, and we have been able to work with many Sioux children. One of these, a young lady who was saved at age 11, is now a student at FWBBC.

We minister in nursing homes, and Tim has a ministry to hospice patients. There are also two dear blind ladies in our church who are blessed with wonderful gifts that they joyfully share with others.

What are the financial needs of your mission church?

Pam: Consistent monthly support is the most vital need. Sometimes individuals or groups support a missionary for awhile and then switch to another. But we need our supporters to stay with us until we are self-supporting.

At present, our space is limited, and so are our resources. We need to be able to move easily from one place to another every Sunday. Some of the items on our "wish list" are a walker and a playpen for the nursery, and plants for the pulpit area.

Barbara: We need to finish paying for the fencing that secures our property, as well as purchase an emergency generator. Without warning, we lose power even when the weather is good; the power is rotated for several days due to repair work on outdated electrical equipment.

Also, our school's science lab is ready for furnishings, and we need more monies to complete this project. The lab is required by Virgin Island government for proper accreditation.

Kathy: The church has recently purchased property. We paid \$30,000 in cash and secured a loan for \$45,000, \$15,000 of which is to be used for renovating the existent building on the property. Paying off the loan is one of our biggest financial needs.

Beyond finances, how can WNAC women support your family and your church?

Pam: Beyond, even before, finances, we need your prayers. We can feel when others are praying for us. Pray that God will give us wisdom to work with those He has put in our path, and for new opportunities to meet and serve those in our community. Also, pray that we would not be discouraged. Building a church in Chicago is much different than

building one in a small town. Please pray for us to be encouraged, even in difficult and trying circumstances.

Barbara: Prayer is the best support. Drought conditions here have brought about a water shortage, and people are having to buy expensive desalinated water. Much of the vegetation is lost.

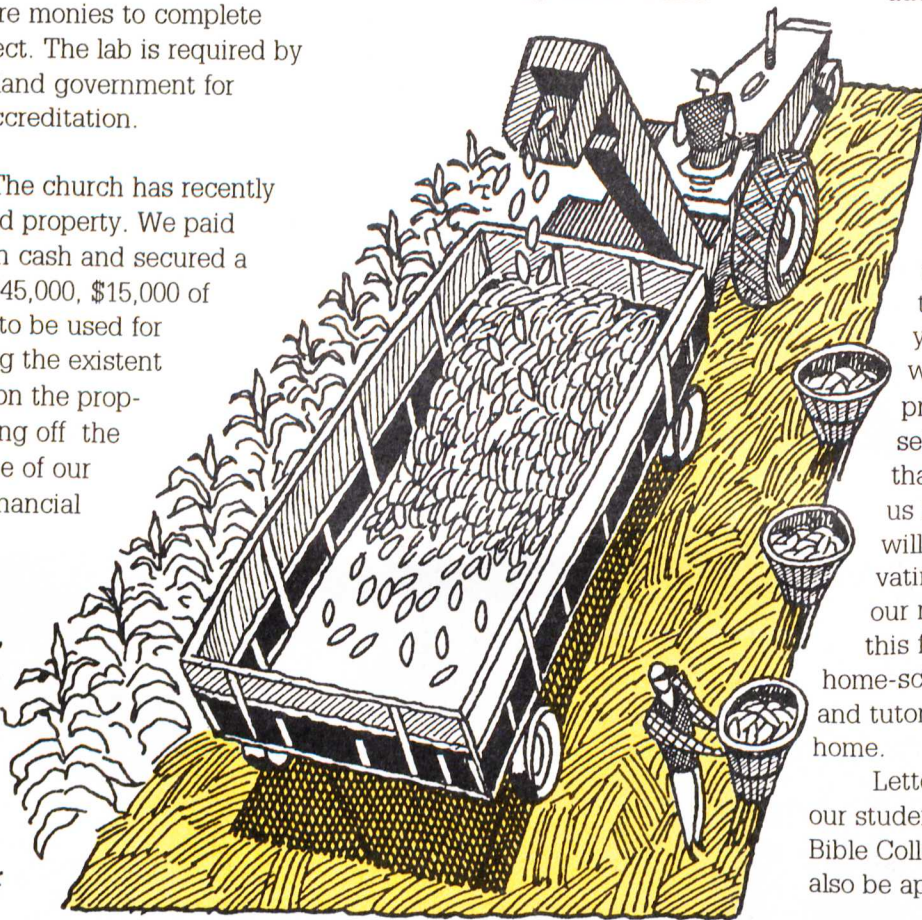
the islanders. God has given us a great opportunity to witness to over 300 children in our school, and to use the school as a tool to reach their parents.

Cards and notes of encouragement are always welcome. Both the church and school staff need this, and we would be glad to supply a list of names and addresses to the women.

Oh, and let me say thanks for the provision closet. It has been such a blessing to us over the years.

Kathy: WNAC has been such a wonderful support to us throughout the years. Thank you! We would ask the women to pray that we will become self-supporting this year, that more laborers will join us in the midwest, that we will have wisdom for renovating the building, and for our new outreach ministries this fall. Pray for me as I home-school our five-year-old and tutor other students in our home.

Letters of encouragement to our student, Kristal Hill, at the Bible College in Nashville, would also be appreciated. ❖



Pray for rain!

Also pray for the health of our church and school workers. Our principal, Joe Postlewaite, is recovering from bypass surgery, and Ron Dail, my husband and the pastor, has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. We are thankful that his last report was good.

And pray for the salvation of

See page 24 for the Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer Calendar.

DECEMBER PROGRAM

It was a night I'll never forget, although it began as usual. I put some figs and bread into my husband's food pouch and filled his ram's horn with fresh water. I kissed him softly and watched him walk out into the dark street, then out to the sheepfold behind our house, sitting high on a Judean hill.

As I stood at the window, I watched him open the gate, calling each sheep by name. Obediently they followed him up the hill. He pulled his mantle up closer as the chilly winds began to whip through the black sky. As I watched him, I became aware of stars above. They were the same stars that we had gazed at many times together. Often my husband had talked about their endless beauty.

Yes, this seemed just like any other night. I turned from the window to check on the children who were sleeping soundly. Little did I know that tonight would be an unforgettable night, a night God had planned before the existence of time. It would not only change our lives, but it would change the lives of all who would come after us. On this holy night, a miracle was unfolding.

Solo: O Holy Night

Later that night, I sat silently gazing out the window. I remember thinking how peaceful and still the night was. The

moon was at its peak. There was something awesome about the dreamy stillness of the night.

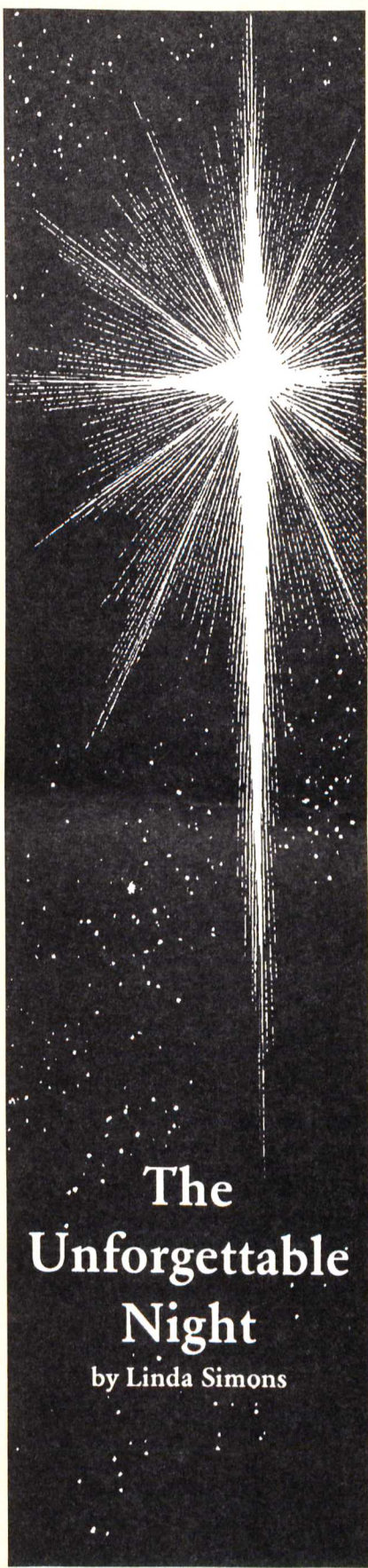
Suddenly, I found myself outside, looking toward Bethlehem, the city of David. A few lights burned in the quiet town, but most of it lay in darkness. Something wasn't quite the same though. It was as if an unseen hand had marked it somehow. I thought about my family and friends who live there. Did they feel it? Were they aware that something is happening?

I thought back over the events of the day. Nothing unusual happened. But oh the night. It was a night like no other. History would record this night in Bethlehem, the place God had chosen for His Son to be born.

Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Sometimes my husband and I would walk out over the hills of Judea and talk with our children about the vastness of God's love. We shared our hopes and dreams with one another and talked about the time when peace would rule our land, instead of the iron hand of the government.

Looking out my window this night, I longed to be free from the persecution of Caesar Augustus, our present ruler. Why just today my family had gone to Bethlehem to pay taxes to those cruel Romans. We had been saving our money to buy cloth for winter clothing. Now we had only a few coins left, just



The Unforgettable Night

by Linda Simons

enough for one small tunic.

Times were difficult for us. Endless dark shadows of hopelessness crowded in—until that night, when the Light from heaven broke through. Our whole world was changed by the sound of ringing bells.

Song (suggested trio):

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I'm not sure when I realized something was different. I was sitting by the fire, wrapped in my cloak, when the night noises grew silent. All I could hear was the children's breathing and the crackling of the fire.

Suddenly, I was vaguely aware of singing. I jumped from my chair and ran outside. Without warning, the darkness was gone! Into my little world, a Light burst forth from the portals of heaven! A multitude of angels came to make an announcement that would shake the foundation of the earth. Omnipotent God was coming to earth, laid gently in the arms of a young virgin girl, a tiny babe—the Son of God!

Song: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

My husband and I just stood there, trying to comprehend the magnificent scene we had witnessed. Then an angel came to us and said, "Fear not; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a

sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger."

Without hesitation, we ran down the slopes of those ancient hills toward Bethlehem, all the while thanking and praising God for His wonderful gift.

Song (suggest a child solo):

O Come All Ye Faithful

The streets were dark and deserted, but high above us in the winter sky, a light beckoned us to a small stable. The smells of cows and sheep and hay were overpowering, but once inside we were greeted by the lovely smile of a young girl, the warm handshake of her gentle young husband. With their eyes, they gestured toward the tiny manger of hay. As our eyes followed theirs, we saw Him. One glimpse of him, and we knew we were standing before royalty. The stable was a glorious palace, and in his newborn face we saw the Savior of the world.

No longer did it matter that our money was almost gone, nor that our clothes were tattered and torn. It didn't matter that we were tired and discouraged, for there before us was God's deliverer, our Savior and Shepherd, the One who would lead us. He had left his heavenly throne for us!

Song:

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

Our lives are different now. Oh, my husband still tends sheep, and I still sit at the

window watching him. But our lives are filled with meaning. No longer do we despair at the cruelty of the Romans or the struggles of life. For He came that we might have life, and life more abundant and free!

Intead of despair, we have hope. Where there was skepticism, now faith. Once hatred, now love. Instead of discord, we have peace. He is our greatest joy. No longer do we wear the rags of worldliness, but His Spirit. He is not only our Savior; He is our Friend. Jesus, that blessed name.

*Song: That Beautiful Name or
Something About that Name*

No longer do we look for an earthly kingdom, but toward that heavenly city where one day we shall see Him again, face to face, as we did that tiny babe in the hay. We will see the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and we will live with Him forever there. Oh the joy awaiting us!

And you too, if you only believe and call up on His Name. He will answer and come to live in your heart for always. Then you too will know the meaning of true joy.

Song (All) : Joy to the World. ❖

Linda Simons lives in New Bern, NC, where she attends Sherwood Forest FWB Church. She has three grown children: Richard, Christy, and April Dawn.



Pretty Paper, Pretty Bows

by Becky Gwartney

When you receive a gift, do you put it on a table and "ooh and aah" over the wrapping? We, as women, do more so than men, don't we? But the wrapping isn't the most important part. It isn't the real gift. The real gift is what's inside!

As we think about Christmas and gifts, we usually think about the wise men and their gifts to baby Jesus. Matthew 2 tells us the story of Jesus' birth and their journey to see Him. Verse 11 says: "When they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts. . . ." The Wise Men gave a gift greater than gold, frankincense, and myrrh, although these were quite valuable. They gave Christ hearts full of worship.

Sometimes we wrap up our lives like a beautiful package and give it to God. I can almost hear Him say, "That's not all I want. I don't want just your 'pretties' - your service, your talents, your family, your money - although these are valuable to Me. I want what's on the inside, the real gift. Your heart . . . full of worship!"

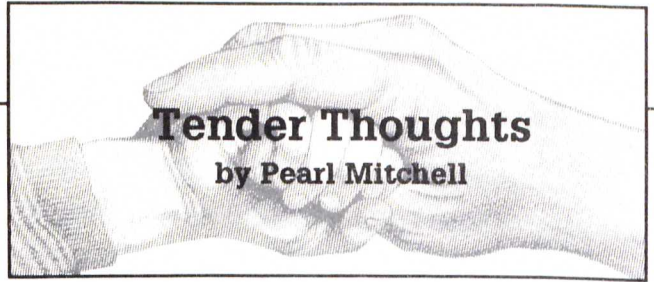
Webster defines heart as: "the seat of emotion, tenderness, affection, love, the capacity for kindness, courage; one's innermost thoughts or feelings; enthusiasm; energy, state of mind; mood; a vital or essential part."

So you see, giving our hearts to Christ has to be more than just giving Him things. It's the gift of our innermost feelings, the most essential part of ourselves. We must be like the Wise Men who came bearing gifts in their hands and the gift of their hearts. Only after giving Him our hearts can we really worship Him.

There is no greater gift we could give this Christmas. ❖



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



Tender Thoughts

by Pearl Mitchell

Thanks for Nothing

Dear God,

Thanks for nothing! Thanks for answering my prayers with nothing. Thanks for giving me nothing when I forgot to pray.

Nothing happened last week, Lord, that you were not overseeing. No major problems arose that we, you and I, couldn't handle. In fact, you went on and took care of most of it without even consulting me. Thanks for nothing.

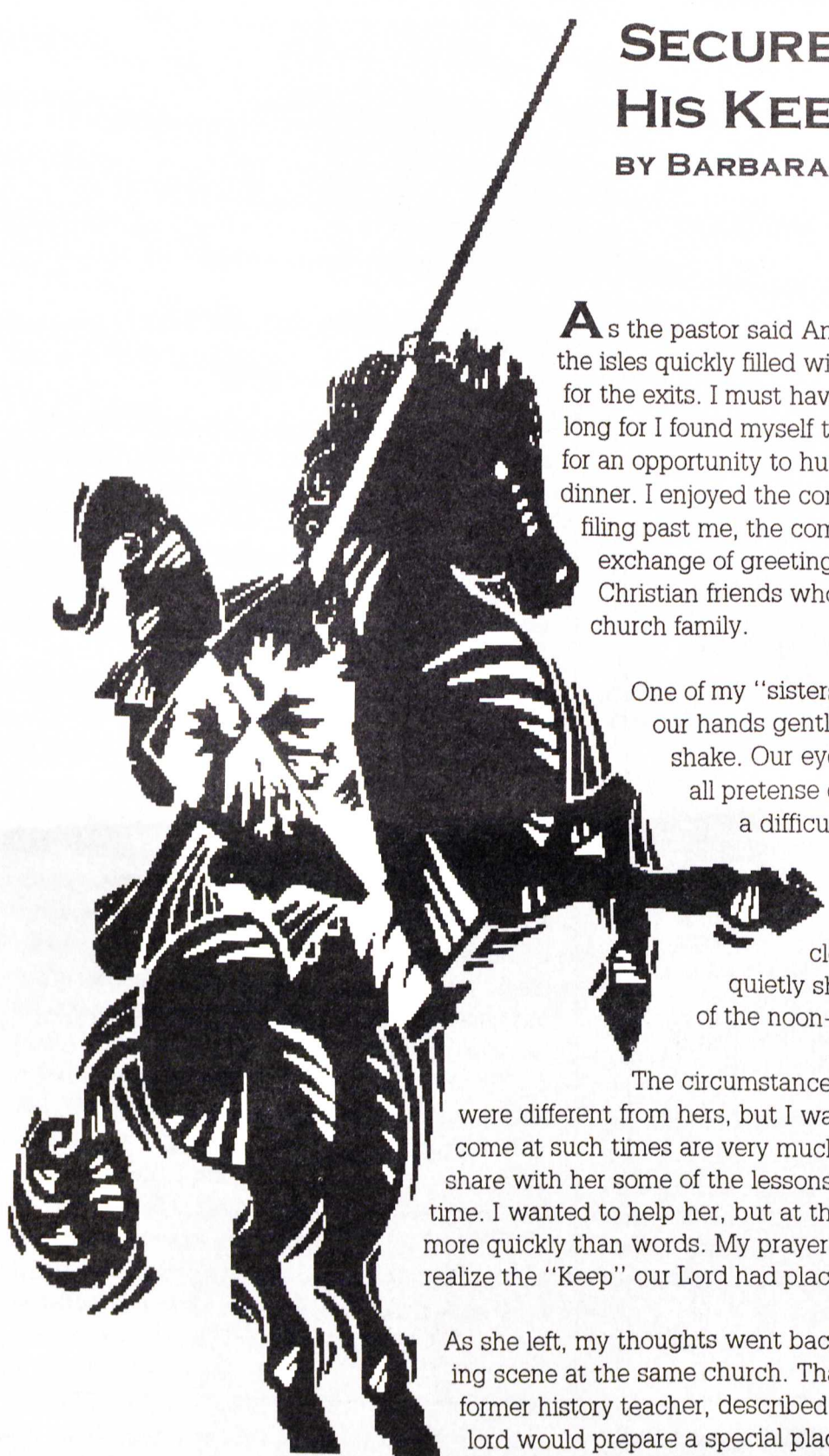
Just think, the train never once caught me on my way to or from work. The traffic lights seemed to be working on my schedule. My car started just fine every morning, and I was on time for work everyday. The computer went down, but I never went with it. And all my files were restored. Thanks for nothing.

No one in my family was sick or even felt bad this week, except for a little soreness from playing softball. The weather was a scorcher, but I assume that was a delayed response to last winter's prayers.

No busybodies called with juicy gossip to tell, and none of my checks bounced. I even had thirty-two dollars left in the bank at the end of the month. No emergencies came up to grab that money. Thanks for nothing.

Thank you, Lord, for nothing.

Pearl Mitchell is an elementary school teacher in Columbus, GA. She has two grown children.



SECURE WITHIN HIS KEEP

BY BARBARA EUBANKS

As the pastor said Amen to the closing prayer, the isles quickly filled with people politely hurrying for the exits. I must have hesitated a moment too long for I found myself trapped in the pew, waiting for an opportunity to hurry out and home to Sunday dinner. I enjoyed the constant flow of special friends filing past me, the commotion and neighborly exchange of greetings. I was in the midst of Christian friends who had, by choice, become a church family.

One of my "sisters" moved past my pew, and our hands gently slipped into a soft handshake. Our eyes met, and in that moment, all pretense disappeared. She was facing a difficult time in her life. As I witnessed her pain and sorrow, I felt my own pain slip back over me like a cloud silently descending, quietly shutting out the strong rays of the noon-day sun.

The circumstances that changed my world were different from hers, but I was certain the feelings that come at such times are very much the same. I wanted to share with her some of the lessons I had learned during that time. I wanted to help her, but at that moment, tears came more quickly than words. My prayer for her was that she would realize the "Keep" our Lord had placed around her.

As she left, my thoughts went back in time to a Sunday morning scene at the same church. That morning, the pastor, a former history teacher, described how the typical medieval lord would prepare a special place of retreat in the center of his castle for times when the enemy would attack.

This "Keep," the strongest part of the castle, was stocked with enough supplies to keep the ones the lord had pledged to protect, for months if necessary. The pastor pointed out that the word "keep" was translated from the Greek, meaning "to hedge about or to surround and protect." He used this picture to illustrate what God does for us in times of trouble.

The lesson, with the exception of the spiritual application, was a replay of the 6th grade Social Studies lesson I had started at work the Friday before. I had planned to continue it on Monday. I went home that Sunday astonished at God's timing.

As that Sunday continued, I found myself in the worst of circumstances, the kind my friend was now facing. I had forgotten the message God had placed before me just hours before. I did not see or feel His Keep around me.

When Monday morning came, I was not sure I could go to work, but I did. I began looking over my lesson plans, and there in my 6th grade Social Studies text was "The Keep of the Castle." My Lord, in loving kindness, brought His Keep to my attention again. I was touched by the way He had controlled my circumstances. He was working on my Keep,

stocking it with everything I would need before I needed it.

Again the words of the sermon echoed in my head. This time I began to grasp the truths that had been there all along. He is not just a lord. He is the Lord. He has the power to keep me for eternity. There is no limit to His resources. And He has pledged to protect me because He loves me. I am secure in His Keep.

Since that time, His Keep has been evident in my life most often through people He uses to meet my needs. A pastor who taught history and his wife who listens so well. A friend who helped pay for my daughter's broken glasses. A nurse who came to my house when I was in physical pain. A beautician. A secretary. A parent volunteer in my classroom. Neighbors. Friends. All of them passed through my Keep just when I needed them, bringing just what I needed. When there was no one to help, I knew the Lord thought I could handle the situation.

My thoughts turn now from past to present. I am aware of the empty auditorium and a few faint voices from another part of the church. By now my friend is on her way home. We had not exchanged words, but we did manage to share our hearts. I had just passed through the Keep our Lord had made for her. I am secure, as

once again He reminds me of His Keep.

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.
II Timothy 1:12❖



Barbara Eubanks of Sesser, IL, is the 1st place winner in the 1994 WNAC Creative Arts Contest, Articles category.

The Receiving End

*Veteran missionary,
Marvis Eagleton,
shares the joy of
experiencing the generosity
of WNAC women
... on the receiving end.*

"Where's the new list of needs for the Hospital at Doropo?"

"Gloves and pain relievers and antibiotics are still needed."

"Yeah, and some other things like towels have been added."

"Oh good, I can get this and that where I work!"

These and other similar statements are heard each month all around the country as local FWB women's groups meet and put the "action" in "mission action." They send supplies halfway across the world.



I have always been grateful for this ministry of our women, but never had it been so meaningful until my husband, Ken, and I spent several months helping out at the medical station at Doropo. Anywhere you look in the clinic and hospital, you can see the many different contributions of the women. In the supply room and pharmacy, especially, you can see how generous our FWB women are.

You see, after a patient's consultation, he is given a prescription to be filled at the pharmacy. All the medicines found here are furnished at a fraction of the cost at other pharmacies. Dr. Eagleton often remarks how much money the hospital saves because of the gifts of FWB women, not to mention the supplies on hand that would not otherwise be there.



Top: Dr. Ken and son begin unloading the "bounty via Bouna," from FWB women in the States.

Bottom: A smiling face greets patients at the pharmacy window.

It was emotional for me to see these supplies at the other end of their long trip. One day, especially, when the post office at Bouna sent word that there was too many packages to carry. They didn't have room for all the auxiliary women had sent. So, off we went to pick them up. We had boxes on the baggage rack, boxes in the luggage compartment, boxes covering all the seats. Our grandson, Ruben, was covered with boxes--only his head and arms sticking out from under them.

That day we returned to the station with 111 packages from the States.

Back at the hospital, some of the workers helped unload, while others just looked on with big smiles on their faces. Once unloaded, Dr. Kenneth and Rejane

go through a routine: Ken opens and organizes items to be properly stored; Rejane registers contents, names, and addresses so she can acknowledge receipt of the packages. Ken is often overheard, saying, "I'm glad to see this," or "I used the last one of these today!" or "We really needed this."

Each of his comments made us all say "Thank you, Lord, for the sending women."

Some of them even sent little goodies for our missionaries, along with the needed supplies.

Let me tell you one of the doctor's secrets: There is a jar on his desk that reads, "For Doctors Only." It contains all the Kraft Caramels, Lifesavers, and other candy--just the prescription for his sweet tooth. (Maybe that's why he gets to go through the

packages first!)

May the Lord continue to remind us to "think Doropo" when we see an empty medicine bottle or other supplies so hard to come by in Africa. If you've ever asked yourself, or if the question has ever come up at your women's meeting: "What can we do for our missionaries?" let me encourage you to join in this vital ministry. Words can never describe the blessing those packages bring to our missionaries and to the people served at Doropo. ❖



Marvis Eagleton, and her husband Kenneth, Sr., are career missionaries currently living in Nashville, TN.



Left: Dr. Ken and Rejane organize the packages for opening.

Right: Rejane begins to separate and register the unpacked "goodies."





FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If indeed "the seeds of compassion are sown in our very nature as human beings," where is the evidence?

Clara Burton's seeds sprouted when she convinced the Civil War General that she could save soldier's lives by taking aid to the battlefield, refusing to let thousands die needlessly.

Her seeds grew when, after the war, she worked diligently to find out what happened to missing soldiers and notify their families.

Today, Clara's bloom is the American Red Cross, an organization she founded, which has fed, clothed, and provided shelter for untold thousands of victims for over one-hundred years.

Colossians 3:12:

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

'Tis the season to water the seeds of compassion, to bloom flowers of mercy and kindness, at every opportunity.

Poet's Corner

The Christmas Story

Lois Janes
Berryville, Arkansas

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the town,
Taxpayers had come 'til no room could be found.

Mary and Joseph had answered the call,

But when they arrived, there was no room at all.

So, with no room at the inn, a stable sufficed,

And Mary gave birth to God's Son, the Christ!

To some of the shepherds who watched by night

An angel appeared--a glorious sight!

And said: "Fear ye not, I've tidings of joy,

For in the city of David was born a boy--

A savior for all, and you'll know 'tis He

When a swaddling babe in a manger you see!"

Then joining the angel, a multitude came

All praising God, exalting His name!

So they went to Bethlehem, found it was true,

And told it around, this thing that they knew.

In this day and age, when Christmas rolls 'round

We dress up our homes, our church, our town;

We sometimes go carolling,

sing loud and clear,

Giving our thanks for that birth so dear.

It's time for rejoicing, a time of good cheer,

For the giving of gifts to those we hold dear;

And it's to be hoped that we never lose sight

Of how it all came about on that wonderful night!

Untitled

Mae Fry

God knows your life--He sees your works.

He knows what others cannot see. Your outward gifts may seem so

bright;
Their beauty all but majesty.

You go to church with face aglow, You sing or play a song.

You greet your friends so graciously,
But is there something wrong?

The crowd can't see,
But underneath your "inside self" is frowning.

Man does not know,
But deep inside, God knows you're really clowning.

Your love for Jesus--is it real
And throbbing in your heart?
Does it create a longing to worship with your heart?

Don't wear a wrapping of pretense,

Don't try to clown your way,
But open up your "inside self"
And worship Him today. ❖



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers



Coordinator

Can you believe it's time for Thanksgiving and Christmas again? Some of us still have left-over turkey in the freezer from last year! Don't be caught off guard when it comes to your women's group. Plan early, giving yourself time to make whatever you do special.

The Lizzie McAdams Memorial Offering for Home Missions is the project set for November. Present the program given, and encourage your women to do their part to support missions here in the U.S. The November program is an informative interview with several home missionaries' wives that will help us better understand the challenges of being missionaries here in the States.

Asst. Coordinator

1995 is just around the corner, and many people make life-changes to start the year off fresh. Think about ways to involve more women in your group. You may say, "We've tried everything to get women involved, but they just aren't interested." Perhaps you could try a new approach. Instead of the usual methods, why not focus on why they are needed. What are their talents? What do they enjoy doing? How can they help you reach your goals?

Women want to feel needed. There isn't a need to go sit and listen at a meeting in which you have no part. But if there is a special project, activity, or emphasis to which she can play a vital role, she is more likely to get involved.

Leaders, work on planning your projects and events early; then take your needs "to market," expressing how much you need their involvement to accomplish these goals. The conversation could go something like: "Sylvia, I know you're not involved in our women's group, but I'm calling to tell you about our upcoming Christmas dinner. We could really use your input and creativity. I am in charge of decorations, and I remembered that you can make those lovely . . . I could use you help."

Lighting a Fire

1. Teach missions in every youth Sunday school class.
2. Have missionaries speak at church regularly.
3. "Overuse" missionary prayer cards, calendars, and maps.
4. Introduce other cultures.
5. Get to know our missionaries personally.
6. Take young people on missions trips regularly.
7. Make missions a regular part of every service, prayer meeting, activity, and project.
8. Make missions resources and books available to the church.
9. Look for creative, exciting ways to support missions financially.
10. Earnestly pray that people from your church will be called to be missionaries.

Secretary-Treasurer

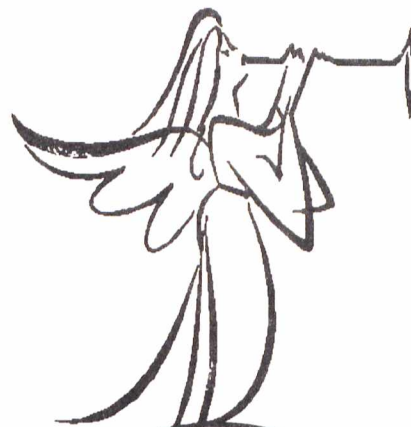
Did you know?

- Used stamps should be sent to WNAC by 3rd class mail, or preferably by someone traveling to Nashville.
- Your annual secretary's report is important to the history of WNAC; in 100 years, the statistics you have written will be all that is known about this organization. Strive for accuracy.
- The *CoLaborer Fund* is just a name for the General Fund, which is the general operating expense fund for WNAC.
- Local treasurer's forms are available from WNAC for 12/\$1.
- It is better to leave price tags on gifts to the provision closet and/or write out an inventory with the value of items, so we can keep an inventory. That saves WNAC a lot of time.
- Checks sent direct to WNAC should be made out to WNAC, even if the funds are designated to various accounts, except for the Student Loan Fund--send separate checks for it.
- Secretary's report of actual membership should match with the number of women who have paid dues according to the Treasurer's report.
- The Provision Closet accepts monetary gifts which go in to a fund to purchase needed items out of stock in the Closet.
- Treasurers should send dues once a year to the district to pay district, state, and national dues for each member.
- But, designated monies should be sent once a month to district treasurers, including monies designated for the WNAC general fund.
- You are billed only once a year for *CoLaborer Magazine*, and subscriptions run continuously, unless you notify us of a change or cancellation.
- Local treasurers should send reports to District Treasurers each month so District Treasurers can report to State Treasurers each month, and State Treasurers can send in their reports monthly to the WNAC National Office. One missing link puts a kink in the fence.

Service Chairman

It's not too late to donate magazine subscriptions or purchase books for the Welch Library at FWBCC. This has been a nationwide project for WNAC during 1994, so if you have waited to participate, now is the time to send in your gift.

Check with local agencies in your community to find out how your women's group might participate in holiday projects. Angel Trees and Toys for Tots are just two of the many special Christmas drives to brighten the season for those in need. Perhaps your group could host a community-wide pounding, collecting canned and dry goods for the hungry. A few phone calls, a few posters, a drop-off/pick-up point, and a little effort can go a long way in feeding a lot of people. You might want to combine the food-drive with your Christmas banquet by making one canned good the "ticket" for entrance. Think about that--that's a lot of food.



**Come for an
Unforgettable Night**

time:

place:

HID IN MY HEART

PSALM 107: 1-2, 5-6, 8-9

*Oh give thanks unto the Lord,
for he is good: for his mercy
endureth for ever.*

*Let the redeemed of the Lord
say so, whom he hath re-
deemed from the hand of the
enemy.*

*Hungry and thirsty, their soul
fainted in them.*

*Then they cried unto the Lord
in their trouble, and he deliv-
ered them out of their dis-
tresses.*

*Oh that men would praise the
Lord for his goodness, and for
his wonderful works to the
children of men!*

*For he satisfieth the longing
soul, and filleth the hungry
soul with goodness.*

Missions Chairman

Someone remarked the other day, "I don't know when I've seen more missionaries on furlough than right now!" And it's true. FWB missionaries are criss-crossing the continent raising money to return to the field. If your church hasn't scheduled a service, talk with your pastor about inviting a missionary to speak. When they come, shower them with your love and hospitality. Make a point to spoil them, to see that they have a time of rest and relaxation. Open your hearts and learn as much as you can about the people they minister to.

If you've had a missionary visit lately, discuss the ways your women could make furlough easier for a missionary family. Our missionaries serve God and us by sacrificing to share the gospel, to build FWB churches overseas. Furlough is an opportunity for us to serve them. Find out if they have special needs.

Prayer Chairman

Use the prayer calendar on page 24 to pray for our missionaries. The Home Missions department will be glad to send you any information you need for HM emphasis month. Write to them: FWB Home Missions Department, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

Springboard Illustrated: Stories to Grow By Volume 34/ No. 6

A Chance Meeting? by Katy Taylor

Last year, my husband and I witnessed the mighty power of God. It is amazing how God places people in our lives in special ways. Here is how it happened.

In July, we attended the Master's Men banquet at the National Convention. As we sat visiting with our friends, waiting for the meal, a man approached our table. He was looking for a seat and asked if one at our table was available. We welcomed him, and he introduced himself as Rev. George Harvey, from Phoenix. We spent about an hour together that night and parted.

Not quite six months later, my husband and I went on vacation to Phoenix, not thinking of the banquet or Brother Harvey. After arriving, we checked the phone book for a church to attend, and there it was: North Valley FWB Church, the church where Brother Harvey pastored.

That evening we walked in to the building and shook his hand. He knew he had seen us before, and after a few seconds, he remembered the banquet. It was such a pleasure to meet and worship with the people there.

We had no idea what God had in store for us, but we took pictures on our trip. We use them to remind us of the Harveys and the North Valley church. We also use the pictures in our teen Sunday school class to teach about missions.

A chance meeting? No. God has more blessings for us than we can imagine.

Now, we pray differently for our missionary in Phoenix. ❖

Lucy & Marge and the Gift



[Lucy and Marge are having coffee. Marge goes out to get the mail. She comes in with several letters, including a Christmas gift from her sister, Millie. With great excitement, she begins unwrapping it.]

Marge: Oh, what perfect timing, Lucy. Millie's gift is here! I can't wait to see what she got me this year. She always picks out the most wonderful things!

Lucy: I remember last year--she got you that antique onyx brooch with the rhinestones. Absolutely lovely!

Marge: *[Unwrapping carefully, she gets the mailing paper off]* Oh, what exquisite wrapping. I remember seeing some like this at Smallmark's, but it was so expensive!

Lucy: And that bow! It's one of those big, specialty bows--not like the ones that come 20 to a bag. Be careful not to tear the wrapping.

Marge: This is just so exciting! I've never had such a beautifully wrapped present before in all my life!

Lucy: Oh look! *[the box is from Macy's or other expensive department store]*

[continued]

Both: [in whispered wonder]
Macy's!

Marge: [opens the box, digging through tissue paper] If I know Millie, she'll outdo herself again this year. [Keeps digging] She always gives something bigger and better . . .

Lucy: What is it? What is it!

Marge: [Not finding anything wrapped in the tissue paper] I can't believe this!. There is no gift in here.

Lucy: There must be some mistake. All that beautiful wrapping! No one would take the time to do that and leave the box empty!

Marge: [very disappointed] Yes, there must be some mistake. Millie is always so particular with her gifts.

Lucy: It could be worse. Some people's entire lives are like this gift--pretty paper, pretty bows, but nothing inside.

Marge: I can't think of anything more sad.

Binding Up the Brokenhearted by Dawn Sweeney

Q: Who now has the capacity to serve 60 children in seven houses?

A: Free Will Baptist Home for Children in Greeneville, TN.

Since 1939, the Home has been ministering to hurting children in need of Jesus Christ. Many of the children have gone on to be preachers or missionaries, such as Trula Gunter Cronk, the very first child at the Home 55 years ago.

Today the Home continues to meet the needs of children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. Jesus said in His Word that He came to "bind up the brokenhearted," and clearly He is doing that at the Home for Children. Young people, who previously had no hope for a bright future, are now growing up to be well-rounded Christians. They are a testimony to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

If you would like to have an active role in the particular mission field, here is how:

1. Pray daily for the staff and the children.
2. Give financially to meet the growing needs of the Home. For example, put the Home in your monthly budget.
3. Be informed about the ministry by subscribing to our monthly newsletter, "The Home News" or by having a Home representative visit your church or women's group.
4. Come for a visit to see firsthand how God is changing the lives of children for His glory.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Write or call, FWB Home for Children,
90 Stanley Lane, Greeneville, TN 37743, 615-639-9449.



Look for the 1995 Birthday Calendar in the Jan/Feb Co-Laborer Magazine. It will include the entire year at a glance, as well as suggestions for making our missionaries' birthdays special.

MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR

Missionaries supported by both Foreign and Home Missions departments are listed here by birthdays in November and December. Missionaries on furlough are indicated by *.

NOVEMBER

- 14 Marcia Ellison (Uruguay)
- 14 Patsy VanHook (France)
- 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 Rex Lynn (GA)
- 24 Mary Nell Whitehead (FL)
- 27 Patsy Gwartney (AZ)
- 27 Dave Franks, Jr. (Urugua)
- 29 Mark Paschall (C'I)
- 31 Carol Keen (SC)

COMMUNICATOR

BY MARY RUTH WISEHART

Missionaries, Missionaries

In August the missionaries on furlough came to the missions retreat held at the Bible College.

One of their stops was the Provision Closet. It was generally well-stocked, lacking queen and king size sheets.

After their visits, even the Tupperware shelves are looking bare. The closet does not need rolling pins, salt and pepper shakers, or tumblers. Other Tupperware items need to be replenished.

Linens--especially queen and king size sheet sets--and other basic stocked items need to be replenished.

November Is Home Missions Month

The Together Way Plan calls for special offerings in November for National Home Missions. WNAC's Lizzie McAdams Offering goes into the Home Missions offering in November.

See the other articles, prayer suggestions, and helps in this issue.

December Is Free Will Baptist Bible College Month

December is the month to give special offerings to FWBBC. This special offering is the Paul Kettelman Memorial Offering.

Any group or individual that has not given a special gift to the Welch Library this year still has time to get it in. The gift may be counted as part of the special December offering.

Gifts from women to the Welch Library at the end of June 1994 amounted to \$5,712.50.

A New WNAC Logo

WNAC is looking for a new logo. With a change of name the organization needs a logo that expresses the name and the purpose.

We are inviting women to submit their ideas for a logo that captures the name and the purpose: to help women fulfill the Great Commission in the home, the church, their community and around the world.

If you wish to submit a suggestion, artist drawing, or sketch, send it to WNAC, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

Bedspreads, all sizes

King and Queen
SHEET SETS

Food Processors

Tupperware®

Pillows

Baking Pans

Pots

Please, send no blankets
at this time

Eunice Edwards Loan Fund Closed

The Eunice Edwards Loan Fund for Churches Abroad began in 1987 as a 5-year project for WNAC. Funds for the project reached \$43,386.23, including interest.

In August the last of these funds, \$8,386.23 went to the renovating of the church in Rivera, Uruguay. The church will repay the funds in dollars, and the money will then be available for other church groups in Uruguay.

This loan closes the Eunice Edwards account here in the WNAC office.

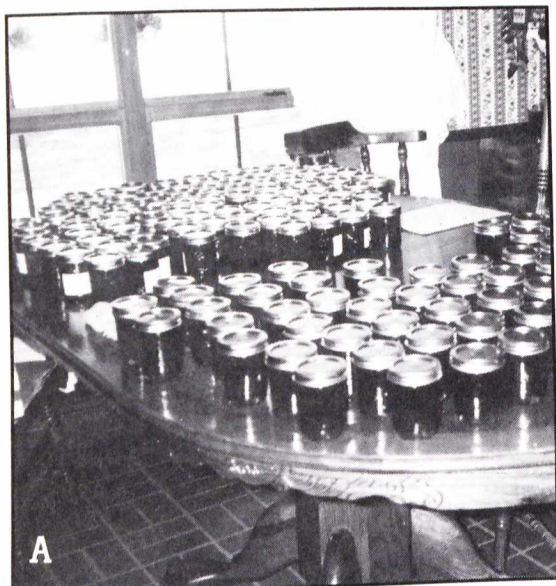
Any funds coming in after July designated for the Eunice Edwards Loan Fund will be placed in the WNAC general fund.

Executive Committee Meets in December

The WNAC Executive Committee meets December 5-7 in Nashville for the Leadership Conference and for a planning meeting.

Plans will be made for the Glorieta retreat and the 1995 convention. The Committee will approve a budget for 1996 to be presented to the Convention July 1995. ❖

Women In Action



A. Little is Much in Pineville, LA

Ten years ago, *CoLaborer* Magazine published a picture of the Victory FWB Auxiliary and their jelly making project. Today, they're going stronger than ever. In 1992, they sold 356 jars; in 1993, 657 jars; and in 1994, they sold almost all the 1,046 jars of jelly they made for a profit of \$1,116--all to help FWB missionaries Ron Parker and Earnie Deeds. Debbie Jones writes, "Seven ladies accomplished this! We may be small and few down here, but we're mighty in the Lord! The jelly is Mayhall Jelly, made from a native tree here in Louisiana."

B. Provision Closet Quilt

The women of Piney Grove Auxiliary in Bristol, GA made this beautiful wedding-ring quilt in March of 1994 as a gift for the Provision Closet. A great time of fellowship was enjoyed by the women as they worked on it. Seated are: Daphne Tyre, Louise Harris, Mildred Tyre, Lizzie Carter, Mary Lou Dixon, and Tyrus Dixon. Standing are: Geneva Lightsey, Denise Wheling, Lee Grooms, Naomi Holcomb, Wanda Sikes, Nadean Stephens, Janice Bush, Donna Cassida, Wannie Metts, Diane Metts, and Denise Brannen.



C. Indiana: Land O' Lakes

The Indiana State Women's Meeting was held at Anderson University on May 20-21, with guest speaker Neil Gilliland, FWBBC Promotional Director. New officers were elected, and a special surprise shower was given for Ginger Lake, a pastor's wife from Elkhart. The Lakes had recently returned to pastor in Indiana, and the State Auxiliary wanted to welcome her back. Ginger is pictured here with many of the women who attended the meeting.

D. Each One Reach One

For Membership Emphasis Month, the Laura Belle Barnard Woman's Auxiliary decided to send personal invitations to every woman in First FWB of Newport News, VA. The results were overwhelming as 50 women attended the monthly meeting. Some said perhaps it was the chili and all the trimmings that brought them out, but what a success! Look at all these smiling faces!



E: District Comes Together for Missions

On December 14, 1993, approximately 200 women attended the banquet at the Trinity Free Will Baptist Church in Ypsilanti. Special guests included Michigan missionaries Patti McCullough, Kathy Paschall, Becky Riggs (represented by her mother, Nell Thomas), Margaret Lloyd (represented by her mother, Edna Sutherland), and Lucille Steward, Michigan State Field Worker.

As a part of her program Linda Hunt (Garden City FWB) displayed food, clothing and household items from the countries of France and Ivory Coast and the state of Wisconsin. She gave the background and history of these locations as well.

The women enjoyed a gourmet dinner of roast beef and home made chicken pie with all the trimmings. All decorations and prizes were donated by the Auxiliary women. Gifts of gingerbread houses and Christmas ornaments, along with other beautiful gifts, were given to those present. The "Twelve Days of Christmas" and a story of the "Wright Family" were part of the fun time.

A \$250 check was presented to each of the four missionaries (See picture). Also a love offering for WNAC of \$385 was presented to Lucille Steward. ❖

Letters to WNAC

Dear WNAC,

With thankful hearts, we announce the adoption of Ian Ross McCullough, born February 14, 1994, placed into our loving arms on June 20, 1994. Birth weight 7 lbs. 12 oz., Birth length 20.75 in. Share this blessing with us!

*Tom and Patty McCullough
Berkley, MI*

Dear WNAC,

We want to express our appreciation for the Provision Closet. Being newly appointed home missionaries to Fort Wayne, IN, it was an encouragement to see firsthand what our FWB women are doing. The confidence we have in the people of our denomination is enlarged by the generosity of the Provision Closet.

*Jeff and Sherri Sloan
Ft. Wayne, IN*

Dear WNAC,

Your many prayers and support has enabled us to arrive at this point of departure. All the wonderful things we received from the Provision Closet are in our barrels. Your dollars have purchased our tickets, and your prayers have resulted in softening the heart of a consulate official who granted our visas. We expect to leave for France August 24 to begin language school. We'll see you in four years!

Mark and Kathy Paschall

Dear WNAC,

Thank you to all the ladies at WNAC who have worked so hard. May God bless as you continue to labor for Him.

Fellowship Ladies' Auxiliary ❖

Those Who Comfort and Encourage

By Yvonne Wolfenbarger



Some years ago, F.B. Meyer said, "If I had my life to live over again, I would spend more time in the ministry of comfort and encouragement."

Most of us are looking for a ministry in the Lord's work, a place of service uniquely ours that fits our gifts, personalities, and interests. In a well-balanced church, many avenues of service are available. But how do we determine the area in which we will serve?

Some of us are geared toward the senior-saints ministry while others prefer a more lively group such as children's church or the nursery. God gifted some with musical abilities, while others best express themselves through teaching or women's groups.

If you're confused about your role in church, I suggest the ministry of comfort and encouragement. It's listed with other spiritual gifts in I Corinthians 12:28 as the gift of "helps." No age limit, no educational requirement is necessary to perform this neglected work.

The choir always needs another voice, and there's no end to the call for teachers. But let me

assure you that no area is more deserving of your time and effort than that of encouragement and comfort.

In fact, if you comfort and encourage others, they may join the choir or teach that class! Maybe all Brother Joe needs is a word of encouragement, and he'd go on visitation with the pastor. Your comforting words, "I care and am praying for you," may be all Widow Smith needs to kick her depression and think about others.

A minister friend once told me, "I believe the work of the local church could be revolutionized if more people developed the ministry of encouragement."

How Do I Begin?

First, ask God for guidance and direction. Plan so that your week includes time to send cards,

write notes, make phone calls, and do some visiting. If you don't make time, you won't have time.

You're probably wondering, "What could I say that would comfort and encourage someone?" Remember, it need not be profound. Begin by sending cards: let Hallmark say it for you.

Then start adding your own postscript. Though it may not be as poetic as the card, it will mean more to the receiver. Now you're getting the hang of it.

Next, try writing your own notes and letters. Say it from the heart. Don't be afraid to express your emotions.

I know what you're thinking, "I never know what to say to someone who has lost a loved one." That's all right, your presence is comfort enough. A hand extended or a hug can bring peace

to someone in the midst of emotional turmoil.

Who Needs My Comfort?

The Lonely: A widow, a mother whose child has left for college, a wife whose husband is out of town, a man or woman whose spouse has left, a grandmother alone in a nursing home. They all need comfort.

The Bereaved: Death is the king of terrors. There is no time in a person's life when she needs more comfort and encouragement than when she is grieving over the loss of a loved one.

The Anxious: Impending surgery, family crisis, loss of a job, marital problems . . . the list could go on. Stress can be handled if people know they have the love and support of friends.

The Sick: A large percentage of adults will experience some type of illness this year. Whether it's a tonsillectomy or a critical, even terminal, illness, a call to let them know you are praying or a visit to share God's love can brighten their day.

The Happy: This area is often overlooked. Most of us only respond to critical situations. We're anxious to weep with those who weep, but not so eager to rejoice with those who rejoice. If someone in your Sunday School class gets a job promotion, a card saying, "Congratulations, I knew you could do it!" could cheer him on to do his best. A new baby, golden anniversary, spiritual rededication, graduation, weight loss—anytime you see a brother rejoicing, rejoice with him.

Make your own list. The opportunities for sharing comfort and encouragement are endless.

Keep your eyes and ears open.

Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit who will direct you to those in need. Carry a note pad with you at all times. When you see an opportunity for service, write it down.

Prayer meeting is a great place to become aware of needs. Write down prayer requests. Then check the ones whom you feel need a card, a letter, a call, or a visit. Pray for those in need, and let them know you are praying.

Call the church office or talk with the pastor. He'd be happy to share with you those who need an encouraging word or a comforting visit.

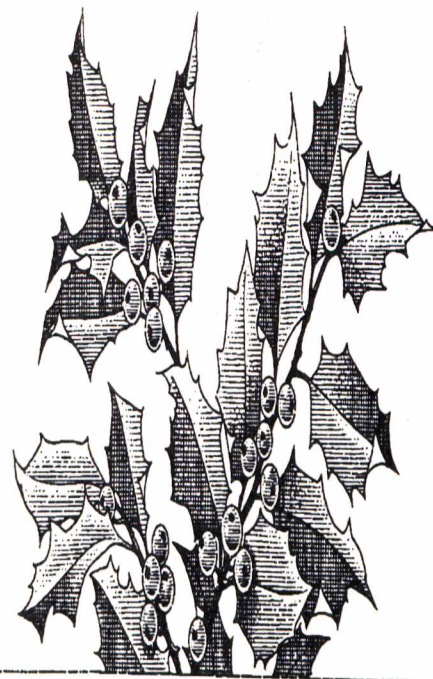
Consider it your responsibility, your ministry. Realize that if you don't give comfort or encouragement, perhaps no one will. Remember others feel as David did, "Reproach hath broken my heart, and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none, and for comfort, but I found none" (Ps. 69:20).

It's not a high-profile ministry. You won't get many public pats on the back, but God sees everything we do in His service. I believe He is pleased with those who labor in the background or who stand in the balcony saying, "Bravo!"

You can be one of those of the whom the prophet wrote, "They helped every one his neighbor; and everyone said to his brother, 'Be of good courage!'" (Is. 41:6). ♦



Yvonne Wolfenbarger lives in Nashville, TN, where she is the Executive Assistant for WNAC. She is a member of Woodbine FWB Church.



Looking for a great gift?

Lorene Miley's book,

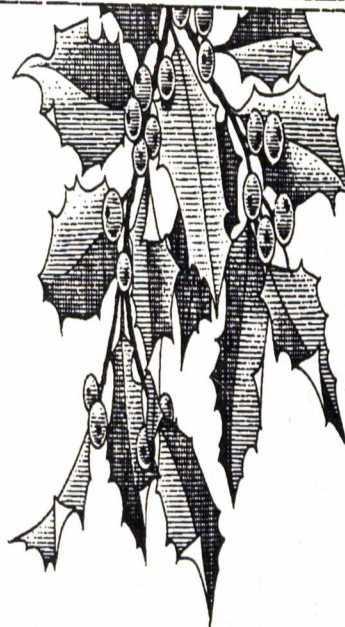
First Fruits

is perfect for . . .

**people who love missions,
people who love Free Will Baptists,
people who love to read.**

\$5

Order a copy today!





Lord, Teach Us To Pray

Use the following verses to pray more effectively for our Home Missionaries.

Pray Isaiah 40:29-31, asking God to give inner strength when their wills are weak.

Pray Luke 18:1, that they will learn to pray and never give up.

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, asking the Lord to encourage their hearts in every good word and deed.

Read 1 Corinthians 14:15, and pray that they will follow the Lord's direction in all things.

Ask God to inspire them to pray the prayer in 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 for friends who will enrich their lives.

Other Prayer Suggestions

Monday: Focus on the missionary children: their needs, their spiritual growth, their adjustment to life on the field.

Tuesday: Focus on their mission outreach ministries: Bible clubs, visitation, door-to-door witnessing, nursing homes, relationship-building, etc.

Wednesday: Focus on their marriages: that they will be strengthened in the Lord.

Thursday: Focus on the lost: the lonely, the hurting, the searching, the poor, the troubled—all over the country.

Friday: Focus on the financial needs of these missions: building funds, transportation, parking lots, electric bills, contractors, facilities with adequate space, etc.

Week of Prayer materials can be ordered from the Home Missions Department, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for Home Missions

These prayer requests feature
Home Missionaries serving in isolated areas.

Monday

Terry and Tammy Miller are establishing a new church near Providence, Rhode Island. Pray that the mission church will soon find property to buy.

Tuesday

Pray for Tim and Kathy Coats as they labor in a cross-cultural ministry, reaching Anglos and Native Americans in the beautiful Black Hills of SD.

Wednesday

The Carlie Lloyd family is planting the only FWB church in the growing city of Madison, WI. Pray for them as they conduct services in their home.

Thursday

Ron Dail, missionary to St. Croix, Virgin Islands, is facing some health problems. He and wife Barbara have led the mission church and Christian school on this U.S. island for many years.

Friday

Pray for Miguel and Adelaida Vera as they lead the mission church near San Juan, Puerto Rico in purchasing land and building new facilities.



Psalm 19:14 "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

a column for young people

Life!Action.

. . . for everyday life



Walkin' the Dog

T

here was an old butler whose job it was to walk his boss' dog, Patrick, every day. When the boss died, his will stated that the butler would continue to be paid a certain amount each month to walk the dog. And so the butler did just that every day, and he was paid every month.

A few years later, Patrick the dog died. The butler, an honest man, went straightaway to the estate lawyer and said, "You can stop paying me now because Patrick is dead." The lawyer looked astonished and replied, "What do you mean? How could he be? I see him right there on the carpet." [In other words, "If you won't tell, I won't."]

Twenty years pass, and, without fail, the old butler leaves the house every morning around seven. Up and down the street he walks, looking over his shoulder, speaking into thin air, "Come on, Patrick."

Most of us don't get paid for pretending. But we do it anyway. And we're very good at it. There is often a big difference between what we pretend to be and what we really are. Some say, "It's all in how you look at it." But the reality is: "It's all in how God looks at it."

Young people are always trying to "find themselves." It's as common as flies at a picnic for kids to wonder, "Who Am I?" But it's quite simple, really: **You are who you are when nobody's looking.** The thoughts in your head and the desires of your heart make up the real you. There's only One whose eyes can read and understand the real you.

Ugh, that's a hard pill to swallow. Because a lot of us pretend to be so much better, so much more spiritual than we are. We take great pains to do and say the right things when others are watching. And what's the payoff? The acceptance and respect of friends and adults.

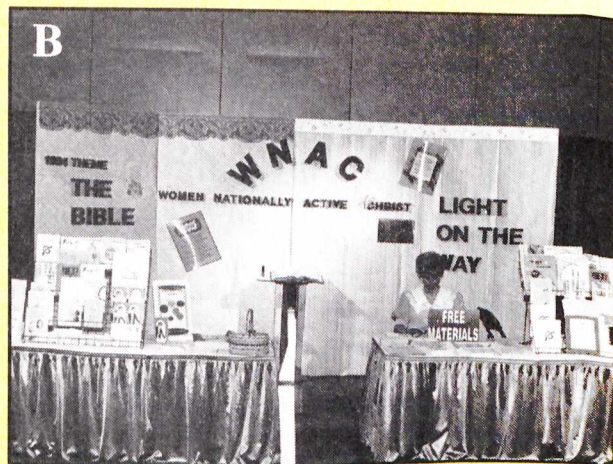
It's so much easier to play the game because there is no visible scoreboard. No one who is checking out the gameplan. No obvious time limit. People in the stands think you're the finest, most upstanding young person they've ever met.

Pretending works! It really works . . . at least for a while.

But God knows you're just walkin' the dog.

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 ❖

1994 WNAC Convention: *Guided by the Light*



The 1994 WNAC Theme was "The Bible: Light on the Way," and it echoed in every service, seminar, banquet, and business meeting of the 1994 Woman's National Auxiliary Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas. 1,175 registered for the convention, and they responded with overwhelming support for WNAC, its staff, and its mission.

General Assembly

In the Tuesday morning devotional, Deleen Cousineau, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, shared the story of Kikua, an African convert won through the sacrificial giving of Free Will Baptists. His faith and obedience led to the salvation of his family. That missionary work continues today. Deleen emphasized the important role each one plays in reaching those who've never heard the gospel, and she encouraged us to keep supporting Free Will Baptist missions.

WNAC President, Mary Neal, presided over the business session wherein the committee reports were presented for approval. The Resolutions Committee, chaired by Brenda Evans of TN, presented three resolutions:

1. *Whereas Pastor Neto of Brazil is still in graduate school and is still in need of funds, be it resolved that the Foreign Student Scholarship of \$1000 be given to help him with his expenses.*

2. *Whereas the Eunice Edwards Loan for Churches Abroad was a five-year project and whereas the funds are*

now being used in other countries, be it resolved that any funds designated to that project after July 1994 go into the WNAC Co-Laborer Fund (general fund).

3. *Whereas unjust personal attacks and criticism of job performance have been made against Dr. Mary Ruth Wisehart, Melissa Riddle and Yvonne Wolfenbarger, be it resolved that this body give a standing vote of support for these women.*

The resolutions were passed.

The Nominating Committee

The following women have been elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for next year's convention: Shirley Sharpston (OH), chairman; Annette Aycok (SC); Sheila Harris (IN); Dawn Sweeney (TN); Bettie Ferguson (TX); Lottie Horton (VA); Betty Hill (NC); Janis Russell (VA); Fredda Davis (OK); Elwanda Oakes (AL); Becky Gwartney (MO); Shirley Sawrie (AR); Hope Van Winkle (MS); Sammie Montgomery (FL); Frances Varney (KY); and Sandy Mounts (OH).

Seminars

281 women attended WNAC Seminars on Monday, July 18th.

Winona Riggs, a FWB pastor's wife from Alligood, TN, presented "Questions for Pastor's Wife." In a style and humor uniquely her own, Mrs. Riggs discussed the importance of work, service, patience, and sharing in the life of the pastor's wife.

Lila Fay Morgan, pastor's wife from Tulsa, OK,



A: The 1994 WNAC Nominating Committee.
 B: The WNAC Booth, featuring the year's theme.
 C: Missionary Robert Bryan enlightens the crowd with a dramatic demonstration of the Bible as a Light.
 D: The WNAC Executive Committee gets down to business. L to R: Diane Thomas, JoAnn Wood, Mary R. Wisheart, Mary Neal, Everyl Getz, and Marjorie Workman. Not pictured: Barbara Fletcher.

spoke on "Methods of Bible Study" from Joshua 1:8: She presented many resources for studying the Bible but encouraged us to "look in the Book first."

Dawn Sweeney, Tennessee State WNAC President and Field Representative for the Tennessee FWB Children's Home, shared six reasons to have personal devotions. She encouraged us to revere the Bible as divine, personal, and essential to knowing God.

Carol Reid, FWBBC Librarian, spoke on "Applying Biblical Principles." Using directions from consumer products, she aptly demonstrated how God's word is to be used: "Apply generously to painful areas and repeat as necessary." She emphasized that to apply it, you have to know it.

State Officers' Meeting

With 53 in attendance, Mary R. Wisheart, Executive Secretary for WNAC, spoke on "The Christian's Fragrance," from the book of Proverbs. She also introduced a new chorus written especially for WNAC by Beverly Welch, entitled "Women Nationally Active for Christ" and announced the publication of Lorene Miley's book of missionary stories, entitled "First Fruits: Answered Prayer on the Mission Field."

Changes in the Constitution and By-laws were reviewed by the officers, and copies are available from the WNAC office.

Creative Arts Contest Winners

Co-Laborer editor, Melissa Riddle, presented awards to seventeen winners in the 1994 Creative Arts Contest. There were over 220 entries in five different categories. This year's 1st place winners were Eleanor Grindstaff (TN) for her program "Entering the Gates"; Barb Eubanks (IL) for her article "Secure Within His Keep"; Annette Aycock (SC) for her play *A Tear In Your Eye*; Mary Ann Hays (AR) for her poem "A Gentle Reminder"; and Barbara McLeary (OK) won with artwork entitled *Thy Word*.

Robert Bryan Speaks at Missionary Service

One of the highlights of this year's conference was the Tuesday morning missions service. Robert Bryan, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, used various kinds of light to dramatically demonstrate this year's theme. He opened with an emotional word of thanks to Free Will Baptist women for their generosity, particularly the Provision Closet: "You're not just giving coffeemakers. You're giving us your heart, and it makes all the difference."

Expanding on Psalm 119:105-106, Bryan shared how the true light of the Bible shows us "where the trail is, the next step, and every step" of our lives.

He continued by explaining that we need the light of the Bible, but it has to be the right kind of light. All too often, people mistake culture and



E: Lorene Miley enchants the capacity crowd with her allegory, "A String of Pearls."

F: Missionaries Nathan and Linda Snow and Paul and Rhoda Creech enjoy some family fellowship at the WNAC Fellowship Banquet.



tradition as the light. Culture is ineffective, even dangerous, as a light to live by.

He finished by emphasizing the importance of using the Light the right way: "Shine it on your feet, on the path. Don't shine it on others in judgment. The spotlight should not be turned on others except in loving direction and help. The Light is worthless is if is not applied to our lives." He challenged us to stay true to the light of God's Word and to let it be the true guiding light in our lives.

Tuesday Afternoon

Sandee Stone, Gideon Representative shared her testimony of coming to accept Christ. With a Gideon Bible in hand, in a Las Vegas hotel room, she read the New Testament and, for the first time at age 19, understood Jesus' sacrifice for her. Later she would meet Lester Arnold who placed that Bible in the Freemont Hotel. Now, she is a minister's wife, mother of six, and grandmother of fourteen, all strong Christians. Sandee's testimony inspired and confirmed the importance of making the Bible accessible.

WNAC Fellowship Dinner

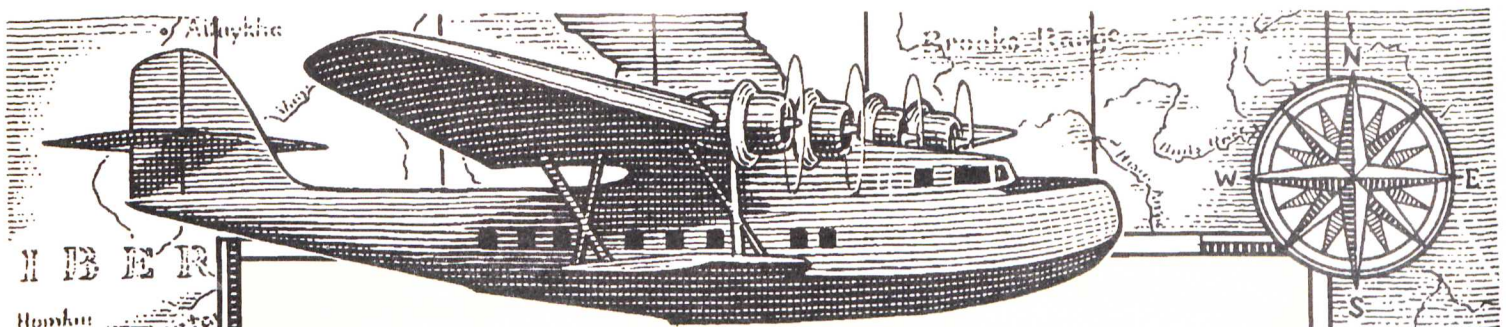
It was a sellout crowd that gathered at the Excelsior Hotel Grand Ballroom with over 740 guests attending WNAC's Fellowship Dinner on Tuesday night. The tables were beautifully decorated with handcrafted wooden Bibles and oil lamps provided by the Arkansas women. The Fellowship Dinner is often the highlight of our Convention, and this year was no exception.

Retired missionary and *Co-Laborer* Magazine editor, Lorene Miley, shared "A String of Pearls," an allegory she had written to demonstrate the essential and beneficial qualities of God's Word in our lives. The audience was intrigued by the story of the King's subjects in search of the lost pearls.

Mrs. Miley's special ability to evoke both laughter and tears, while challenging us to treasure God's Word, made for a memorable evening. No one walked away empty-handed.

Moving Ahead

More than anything else, this year's WNAC Convention made it clear that Free Will Baptist women are ready, willing, and able to follow God's Word and reach out to a lost world. They are ready to move on and get busy in His work, following the light on the way. ❖



India Journal

Laura Belle Barnard

1928

I was sent from my church to a youth conference in Florida, where for a week I sat under the teaching of R. C. McQuilkin of Columbia Bible College. Nothing ever fell on my ears and upon my heart with such meaning as the words of that wonderful man of God. I saw the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Savior of the world. Though I already had assurance of salvation, something new happened to me. He captured me, and a new relationship was established through the Word that changed my life completely.

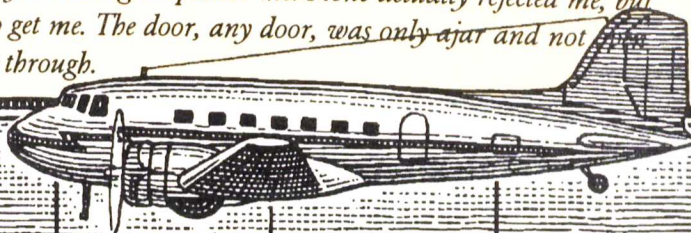
I was impelled to write a word of appreciation to the conference Bible teacher. In my letter I confirmed my desire to be used of the Lord in a definite way, and undoubtedly I must have said more between the lines than on the lines. Some weeks later, an unexpected answer came from President McQuilkin himself, with the pointed question: "What, besides finances, would hinder your coming to Columbia Bible College as a student?" What indeed! There was absolutely nothing as far as I could see, and I lost no time in replying.

Within a very short time—for it was the end of summer—a paid-reply telegram reached me inviting me to come, and assuring me that the college family would stand with me in faith on the promises of Philippians 4:19. A letter followed offering stenographic work in the college office, and the Lord provided a room off campus in a hostel for young business women. Although the work was assured for only a few weeks, like the widow's oil and meal, God stretched it out, and it lasted four years.

For four years I worked directly for Dr. McQuilken, doing his correspondence and transcribing his articles and books. I felt that part of my education was what I learned as his scribe.

The intensive Bible study acquainted me with God's plan for the spread of His gospel. As missionaries visited from every land, the constraining love of Christ brought me again into a crisis—this time to offer myself for the cause of missions abroad. Though at graduation in 1932, I did not know where the Lord would send me, I had with my whole heart said, "Here am I, Lord, send me."

After college, I found myself quite alone in a big, big world. I had no church board with open arms eagerly awaiting to sponsor me. None actually rejected me, but none seemed over-anxious to get me. The door, any door, was only ajar and not wide enough for me to press through.





MISSION ALERT:

Evangelism News from Around the World

Mission Alert

Bondoukou, Ivory Coast

Jerry and Carol Pinkerton are scheduled to return to the Ivory Coast after the Christmas holidays. They report from furlough: "It is great spending time with family and friends. Carol has been with the "grands" in OK and NM, her mom in MO, while Jerry has been in SC taking a six-week class at Columbia International University. This year 50 students will be attending the Bible Institute, so remember to pray for Ron Moore and Ernest Holland as they work in Bondoukou.

Sapporo, Japan

Jim and Olena McLain send greetings from Japan and report that great things are happening there. The new building is complete, a beginner's Bible study has started, and several parents of kindergartners are beginning to attend services. Attendance in two special services was double the usual total. Please pray and give as God leads you regarding the McLains. Their account is in the red for the first time in many years due to the steady decline of the Japanese yen.

Uberlandia, Brazil

Jim and Karen Cowart are praising the Lord for His provision. After 18 months of waiting, they were finally granted permanent visas. They send a special thank you for those who have prayed about this matter. Their mission church has recently begun a ministry to the deaf. Karina, Suzie, and Vincente, all deaf, have been converted in the past several months. Pray for Alessandra and Simone who are helping in this special area, and pray that other deaf people will come to know Christ as a result.

Madison, Wisconsin

The FWB Mission church in Madison is excited about the recent arrival of a new family. Sonny and Christie Southerland and their two sons, Johnny and Jesse, moved from Mississippi, purposely settling near the mission church. Pastor Carlie Lloyd and family are rejoicing in this new addition to the ministry. In addition, God has answered their prayer for a reliable church van. A special financial gift provided a sizeable down payment on the van. The Lloyds say, "Thanks for praying and for caring."

Grand Junction, Colorado

Home missionary Bob Lewis is right in the middle of a "Miracle in the Mountains." This is a building fund for the new mission work in the most popular relocation city (under 100,000 people) in America: Grand Junction, CO. They are praying that 50 churches will take on the challenge of raising \$1,000 for this fund, following the example of the Grant Avenue FWB Church in Springfield, MO. By faith, Mike and Kathy Giles have relocated to join the Lewises as "tentmaker" missionaries. Please pray that they will secure jobs and housing. Continue to remember this new mission.

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Jeff and Sherri Sloan, new home missionary appointees to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, are looking to 1995 with anticipation. Through the support of states like Oklahoma and Indiana, the Sloans are nearing their goal of support for the new mission work. Five-year-old Caleb, who has been skeptical about his dad being a missionary, now says, "Daddy, if you will get me a hammer, I'll help you build that church!" Jeff says, "I'm getting my boy a hammer!" The Sloans are expecting a child in early December. Pray for them as they finish deputation and for other couples to join them in the work in Ft. Wayne. ❖



Words for Women

Disillusionment! Sometimes it hits us hard. A friend we trusted, a Christian we respected. A role model we held up for others to follow.

And then--Wham! Betrayed, disappointed, discouraged.

"Teach your children never to believe a person, never to trust. Trusting can only hurt," said a character in a TV drama.

Is that what we must do? No, of course not. To love means to trust and sometimes to be hurt. But life without love cannot be tolerated. It's true. Sometimes our trust will be violated. Sometimes we will be betrayed, disappointed, let down.

Amy Carmichael asks in *His Thoughts Said...His Father Said...*, "Didst thou ask sand to be rock? Iron to be steel?"

God Himself remembers that we are dust. Psalm 103:14, "For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust."

Should we not also remember that friends, family, and even leaders are human beings, subject to lapses, failures, and sin?

Matthew Henry comments on Colossians 3:13, "We have all of us something which needs to be borne with." Shouldn't we, therefore, be ready to bear with others?

Forgive to trust again. "Love covers a multitude of sins."

I have a mental action I take with another's lapses, sins or failures--and sometimes I have to use it with my own. I make a grave, bury it deep, and cover it with red and white roses, pansies, orchids--some flower fitting the offense or the

personality. Then I walk away from the grave. This is not to say that sometimes I find myself there beside it without even realizing how I came. Or that sometimes there is not a brief resurrection from under the flower mat.

Yet it helps to know I have buried the sin, the lapse, the failure. Even though it may still be recorded in the recesses of my brain, I will not bring it up against the person again.

How can I forget? we cry. Again, Amy Carmichael says we act "as though the God, who twice a day washes all the sands on all the shores of all the world, could not wash such memories from my mind."

Surely He can.

Disappointed? Disillusioned? Where did you pin your hopes and expectations?

Psalm 34:5, "They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed." That is, their faces glowed, but not with the blush of shame, with the joy of knowing One who is never a disappointment.

There is One who never changes, one who cannot fail. "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever"(Hebrews 13:8). ❖



MISSIONS
HOTLINE

615-731-3839

'Tis the Season. . .

The Paul Kettelman Memorial Christmas Fund Drive

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

Send your gift to:

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