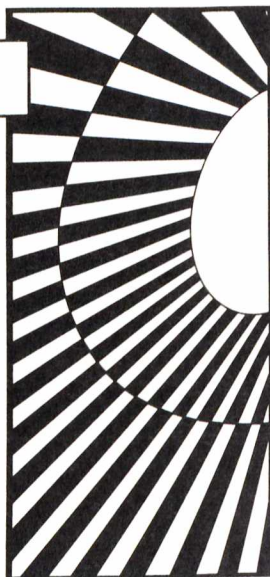


HORIZON

MELISSA RIDDLE



WOMEN IN THE HOUSE

This is my 13th Horizon. It's also my last Horizon because I'm moving across town to take on another deadline at another publication. But there's something I'd like to say before I go.

I've been at WNAC for two years now, and I've learned a big lesson (or two or three). It's a lesson about FWB women. Who they are and what they do. I'm convinced that the FWB House would not be standing if it were not for the good women who inhabit it. The lesson of FWB women cannot be learned in two lifetimes, much less two years, but everything boils down to four major points. The first one is that they love God and want to serve Him well. The second is that they love their families, together or apart, redeemed or wandering, in good times and bad. However, the next two are the ones I want to share.

Free Will Baptist women work hard and long at everything they do.

If you doubt it, go to Michigan and meet Lucille Steward, who travels the state promoting missions between cancer treatments (she's even left the hospital early because she had "work to do"). Or go to Mississippi and meet Eva House, the 80-something year-old who drives hundreds of miles a year encouraging women to get involved in missions. Or go to South Carolina and meet Gwen Hendrix, who pours the creativity of ten people into several well-organized FWB meetings each year. Or what about Peggy Jo McElhinney, who works 70 plus hours a week at FWBBC, but somehow finds the time to be Sunday School Secretary and publisher of the Pinkerton's missionary newsletter.

For each of these women, there are hundreds more (you probably know several in your church) who give all they've got, week after week, to keep the FWB House up and running.

Free Will Baptist women love our missionaries.

FWB women all across this country spend hours every month planning and working at projects to make life on the mission field possible . . . and easier. Gladys Gragg coordinates the TN Walkathon for Foreign Missions. Katy Pinson has kept not only the women's work, but the FWB work alive in New Mexico for years. From a sewing machine for Mabel Willey in 1949 to AV equipment for Dan Cronk in 1955 to a \$2000 dollar tent for Home Missions in 1956 to over \$10,000 for a building at the medical station in Ivory Coast in 1958, FWB women have rallied to meet needs on fields far and near. They've bought cars, houses, medicines, washing machines, plane tickets, food, Bible school materials, land in Uruguay, entire church buildings, and even candy for sweet-toothed doctors in Africa--all gifts of love straight from the heart of FWB women. All for the sake of the gospel.

Free Will Baptist women are not merely the drapery and wallpaper that makes the house beautiful. They are also a big part of the lumber and plaster and nails and yes, even the foundation that keeps the house standing. In all kinds of weather. And I, for one, am truly grateful.

VOLUME 35

NUMBER 2

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**GOD'S ANSWERS
SOMETIMES TAKE US
BY SURPRISE.
WHAT IS THE
PROPER RESPONSE
WHEN GOD SAYS NO!**

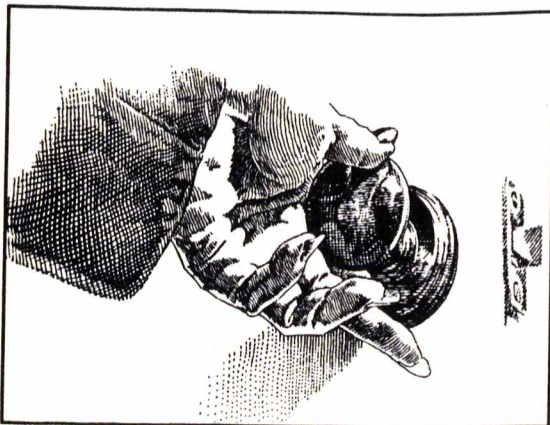
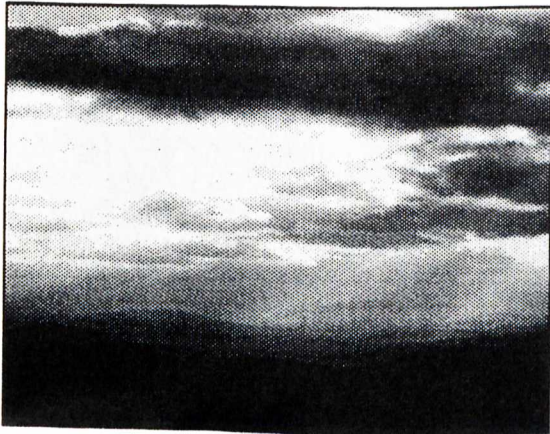
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**WE'RE OFTEN LIKE THE
WOMAN ON THE
SINKING SHIP WHO
ASKED THE CAPTAIN IF
THERE WAS ANYTHING
SHE COULD DO. WHEN
HE SAID "JUST PRAY,"
SHE SAID, "OH NO, HAS
IT COME TO THAT?"**

22

**LIFE HAS PRESENTED
ME WITH ITS BILL,
AND AT TIMES IT HAS
BEEN HARD TO PAY.
DELOIS LOVELESS
SHARES A LIFE FULL
OF SURPRISES.**

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Executive Editor: Mary R. Wischart
Editor: Melissa Riddle
Circulation: Yvonne Wolfenbarger
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When God Says **NO**

by **Faith Poston**

Scripture:

Matthew 6:6, 7:7-8

Song:

"Have Thine Own Way Lord"

Introduction

Have you ever been hurt or disappointed because God answered in a completely different way than you expected? Perhaps He even said "No." You were crushed and couldn't understand why He said "no" to you and "yes," to some of your friends. When God answers our prayers with a "Yes," we rejoice. And we ought to. But what about when He says "No"? Let's look at some examples in Scripture that deal with people who were possibly surprised at the answers they received.

King David: A Man After God's Own Heart

II Samuel 7:1-7

King David wanted to build the temple as an expression of his love for God. If there was ever a noble ambition, this was it. Here was a man who had accomplished great things for God even from his youth. In spite of that, God said that David would not be the one to build the temple. God did tell David that his son would have the honor of building it. David's response to God's answer is absolutely marvelous (II Samuel 7:18-29). He praised the Lord for His greatness. We see no pouting, no argument with the Lord, just praise because David had learned how

to trust God's answers. By that time, he knew that God's answers were always the best.

Zebedee's Wife: Mother of James and John

Matthew 20:20-28

Zebedee's wife petitioned Jesus on behalf of her sons. Of course, her sons were among the closest associates Jesus had on this earth. They were even part of the inner circle. These men were near to the heart of Jesus. But when she asked Jesus for them to have the special privilege of sitting on either side of Him in His Kingdom, He replied "Ye know not what ye ask" (v. 22). We can sympathize with this good mother wanting her boys recognized for their true worth. But Jesus went on to say that if anyone really wanted to be great, that person would have to be a servant. That was a most unusual answer. What a lesson in humility not only for them but for us as well! Many would have left Jesus after this answer, but James and John continued with the Lord. Indeed, they became worthy servants!

The Apostle Paul: Missionary/Church Planter

II Corinthians 12:7-10

Paul makes it clear in this passage that he had some type of physical ailment. Bible scholars are not all in agreement on what this physical

problem might have been. One fact remains, however, Paul brought his need to the Lord at least three times. Strangely enough, God did not choose to heal Paul. But God did respond with the promise that His grace would be sufficient for his need. Paul could have gotten angry with God and refused to continue his ministry. He could have become bitter. He could have possibly blamed his parents or grandparents or even his surroundings. But instead, he chose to accept God's wonderful, matchless grace. He clung ever more closely to the Lord.

Moses: Leader of the Children of Israel

Numbers 20:2-12, Deuteronomy 3:23-27

The situation with Moses was different from the other examples noted. Moses was being chastened by God due to his disobedience. After Moses struck the rock instead of speaking to it as the Lord had instructed him, God commanded that Moses would not enter the Promised Land. Moses asked God to change His mind, but God was firm in His decision. He even told Moses not to pray about the matter anymore. God did graciously allow Moses to view the land before he died, but not to enter it. Because of the frustration of a moment's anger, Moses forfeited a dream that he had cherished for years. He had to train a new man to

take the reins of leadership to finish the task he had begun. Furthermore, he suffered a premature death because of his sin.

Application

There are many lessons to be learned from the people of the Bible. In David's case, we see a loving heart. Zebedee's wife was a proud mother with a selfish prayer. Paul was the suffering servant who did not get exactly what he asked, but who learned to appropriate more of God's strength. Finally, we see a tremendous man of faith who stumbled and though he prayed earnestly, he had to accept God's punishment. May the Lord help us learn to pray forthrightly and to appreciate all of His answers.

How Would You Respond?

- . How would you deal with a terminal illness or debilitating disease in your own life or in the life of a family member?
- . How would you cope with the loss of a job or the loss of a friendship?
- . If you receive that long-awaited promotion at work, will you give God the praise?
- . If God were to clearly tell you "No" concerning your forthcoming marriage (or something else you want so much), would you be willing to accept His answer? ❖

Entering the Gate To The Garden

by Eleanor Grindstaff

Scripture: John 19:38-42,
20:10-18

Hymn: "He Arose"

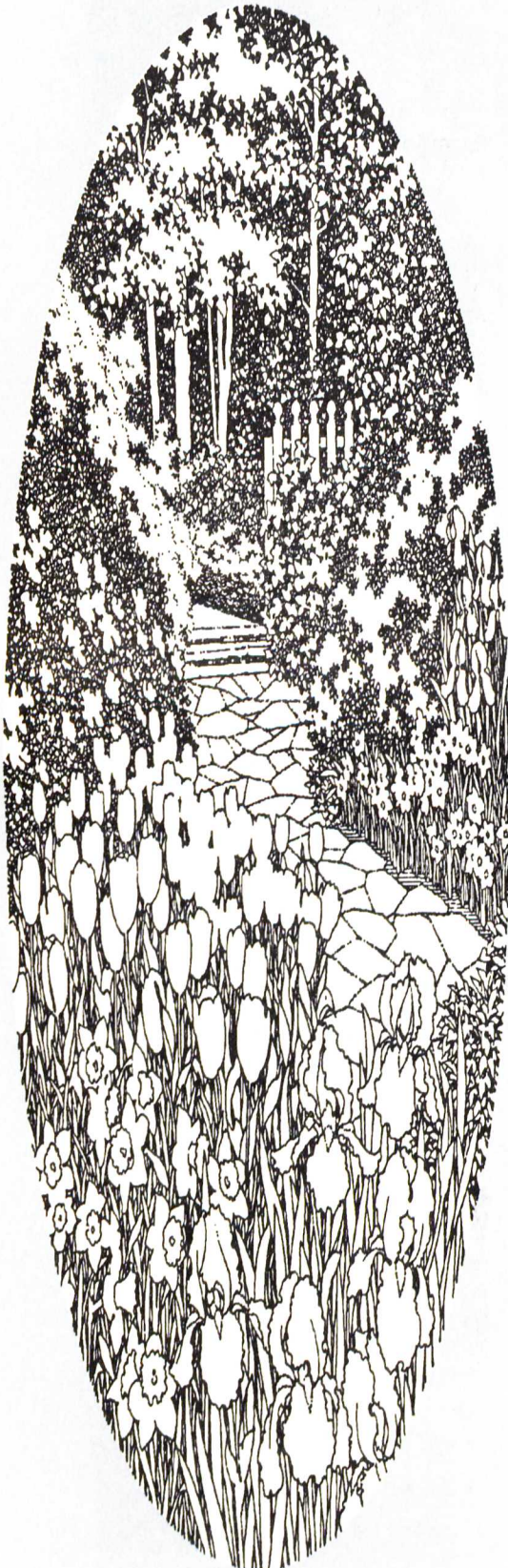
Garden of Beauty

The story of man begins in a garden. A beautiful place. A place where there was nothing defiling or mean. Even the very gravel on the paths was as precious stone. The first Adam dressed this garden. He took care of it. The word "dressed" does not suggest work in taking care of this garden. There the first Adam did not get tired. He did not sweat. Adam enjoyed this garden. The hot sun did not beat down on his brow. He didn't have callouses on his hands from the garden tools, nor scratches from the thorns, nor an aching back from bending over pulling weeds. He didn't worry about drought or flood for the Lord God watered His garden.

He had fellowship with his God in this garden, for at the end of each day, the Master, his Creator, came down to walk with him in this lovely garden--

a garden filled with the fragrances of all the beautiful things made in the beginning by the Creator. A garden filled with the color of majestic flowers and music of exotic birds. Not one growling animal or roaring lion marauded this garden. This garden was filled with life and fellowship. A wonderful life.

But this man, the first Adam, and his mate changed all of this. They listened to the lies told to them by a fallen angel--a beautiful angel of light who presented them with another gospel. Eve believed Satan's lie and when she ate the first bite the lion roared as it leaped on the lamb. Evil was established in Man's heart. And God, the Creator, could not come down at eventide to walk with His creation. His creation had fallen. Life, instead, became one of sweat and toil. There was no gentle garden to dress. It was now backbreaking toil. Death had been introduced, and with it the foul smell of death.



Garden of Toil

For centuries to follow, this pattern took man through garden after garden. Underlying all pretenses of happiness was dark embedded sadness. Man had no answers for his dilemma. Man sought the answers to his questions. How to go back to that wonderful garden? How to restore the fellowship man once had with his Creator?

There was no answer. For man could do nothing to answer these questions. He tried following a rigid law. That didn't work. He tried the slaughter of animals. That wasn't good enough. Man could not bring back this peace. He could not calm this storm within him.

God did what man could not do. God had put within man a garden spot, a place of fellowship within his heart. Sin had shut this door as it had the gate to Eden, that first garden. God wanted back into this fellowship. After all, He had made man and wanted to walk with him and love him. So God, in His love, made a way to get back into this garden. First, there must be another garden.

Garden of Suffering

"Go to dark Gethsemane, ye who feel the tempter's power." See the wormwood and the gall. Hear the cries of the Second Adam as he agonizes among the gnarled olive trees. Look around you, there is no semblance of Eden here. The crushed thorns have cut into the brow of the Son of God. There is no fragrance of

flowers, no singing of birds. There is no gentle dressing of this garden. See the toil, the labor of love, taking place in this garden. See the sweat that falls from His brow. Sweat of the deepest agony. Agony that comes from so deep within the being of the second Adam that it brings forth from Him the very source of life--His blood.

It doesn't end there. The spot just above this garden is covered with death. Death reigns. The Place of the Skull. They saw, felt and heard the stench of death as the sound of metal on metal cut through the flesh of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no translucent light in the cool mist in this garden as the thunder and lightning explode in the afternoon turmoil followed by the deepest darkness ever known by man. A darkness that was felt as well as seen. The stench of death permeated this darkness and this Second Adam fell to the scourge of man. DEATH! But His was death by choice. His choice. He chose to die. He chose to open the door to the beautiful garden of fellowship. A door opened only by death of the Sacrifice--the Lamb of God.

Joseph of Arimathea and his friend, Nicodemus, carried this body to another garden, a garden of tombs. Tombs placed there because of death. Praise God! The door has opened between the garden of man's heart and the garden of God's fellowship.

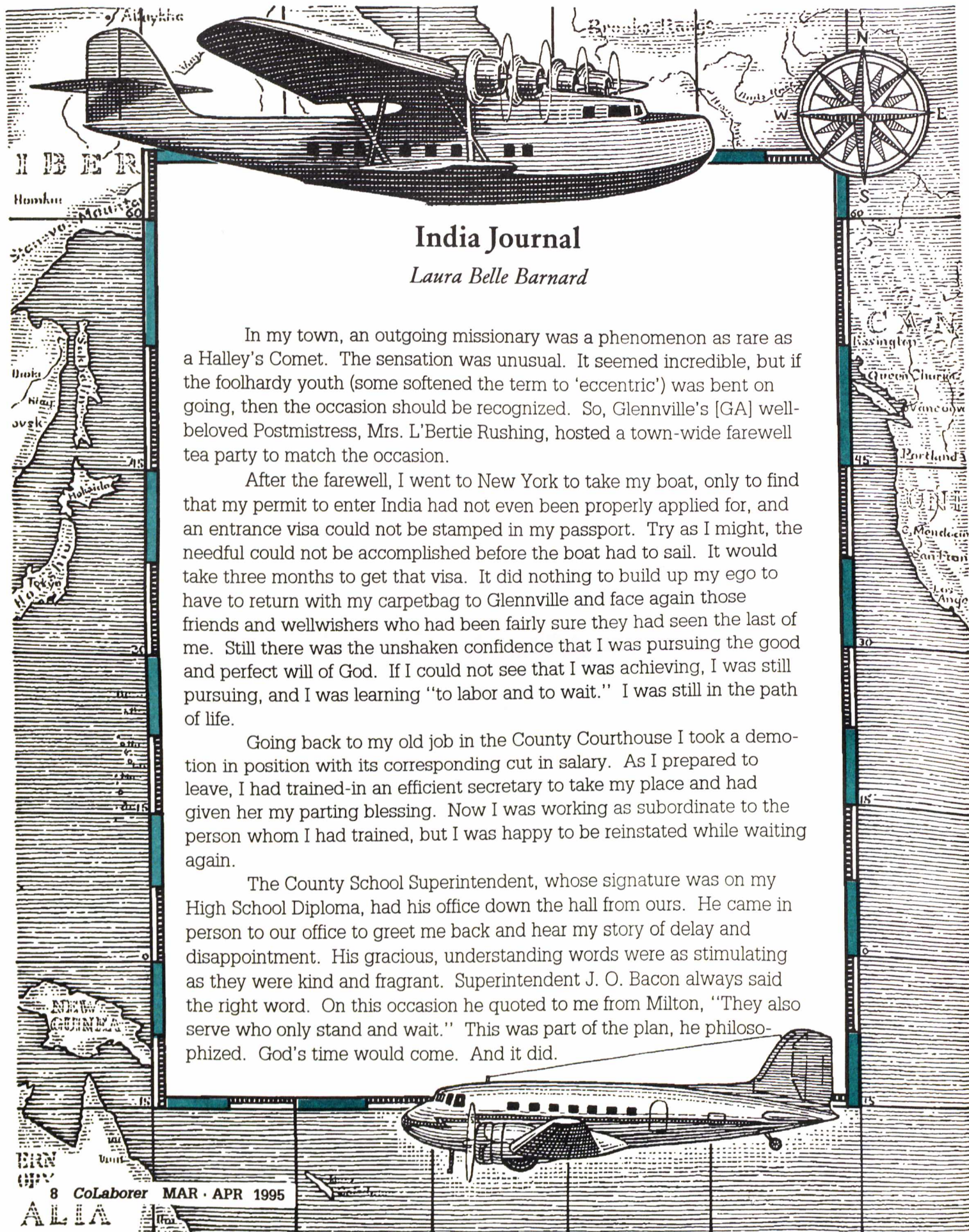
Garden of Redemption

Mary came early that morning. The night was over. The translucent light was shining. She saw a Man. "Dry your tears, Mary," the Gardener of her heart said. "The night is over. No more weeping. Rejoice. No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the garden of your heart. Death is no more. When life on this earth is over, you shall come and live with me in a wonderful fellowship even more wonderful than that in Eden. While you wait, you shall be ALIVE, your life shall be in Mine. I have taken all this darkness. I have given you light. We can walk together. We can laugh and cry as dear friends should and do. You can share your burdens with me. Come unto me and I will give you rest. Yes, I died. But I am alive forevermore. I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me though he were dead yet shall he live. And because I live, you too are alive." ❖

Suggested Songs: "The Light of the World is Jesus"; "Pass Me Not"; "Jesus Paid it All"; "Neath the Old Olive Trees"; "In the Garden"; "Because He Lives."



Eleanor Grindstaff's program won 1st place in the 1994 Creative Arts Contest. She is the author of Stones of Remembrance, a fictional narrative of the life of Benjamin Randall. Eleanor and husband, Bob, live in Erwin, TN.



India Journal

Laura Belle Barnard

In my town, an outgoing missionary was a phenomenon as rare as a Halley's Comet. The sensation was unusual. It seemed incredible, but if the foolhardy youth (some softened the term to 'eccentric') was bent on going, then the occasion should be recognized. So, Glennville's [GA] well-beloved Postmistress, Mrs. L'Bertie Rushing, hosted a town-wide farewell tea party to match the occasion.

After the farewell, I went to New York to take my boat, only to find that my permit to enter India had not even been properly applied for, and an entrance visa could not be stamped in my passport. Try as I might, the needful could not be accomplished before the boat had to sail. It would take three months to get that visa. It did nothing to build up my ego to have to return with my carpetbag to Glennville and face again those friends and wellwishers who had been fairly sure they had seen the last of me. Still there was the unshaken confidence that I was pursuing the good and perfect will of God. If I could not see that I was achieving, I was still pursuing, and I was learning "to labor and to wait." I was still in the path of life.

Going back to my old job in the County Courthouse I took a demotion in position with its corresponding cut in salary. As I prepared to leave, I had trained-in an efficient secretary to take my place and had given her my parting blessing. Now I was working as subordinate to the person whom I had trained, but I was happy to be reinstated while waiting again.

The County School Superintendent, whose signature was on my High School Diploma, had his office down the hall from ours. He came in person to our office to greet me back and hear my story of delay and disappointment. His gracious, understanding words were as stimulating as they were kind and fragrant. Superintendent J. O. Bacon always said the right word. On this occasion he quoted to me from Milton, "They also serve who only stand and wait." This was part of the plan, he philosophized. God's time would come. And it did.

The BASICS of Prayer

by Pam Wood



1995 WNAC Theme:

*Great
and
Mighty
Things
Through
Prayer*

“Call unto me,
and I will answer thee,
and shew thee great
and mighty things,
which thou
knowest not.”

—Jeremiah 33:3



I haven't met a person yet that was totally satisfied with his or her prayer life. Take heart, you are not the only one with this problem. The men that were hand picked by Jesus, taught by Jesus and walked along side of Jesus needed help. They didn't ask Jesus to teach them to turn water into wine or drive out demons. They didn't ask Him to give them a workshop on calling out more disciples. They wanted to know how to pray (Luke 11:1). I believe they knew where Jesus got his strength--through prayer. They knew that it was of vital importance for Jesus to pray. How much more for them and us?

WHY PRAY?

There are many benefits of prayer. Your **JOY** is complete when you pray. John

16:24 "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, that your joy may be made full."

Not only do you receive complete joy, you will have the **PEACE** of God. Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

The most intimate commun-

ion with God comes only through prayer. Just ask someone who has faced a tragedy or trial, heartbreak or grief, loneliness, failure or defeat. Ask them what happened in their souls when they finally fell on their knees and poured out their hearts to the Lord.

The most intimate communion with God comes only through prayer.



doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord."

There is **POWER** in prayer, just read what happened to the Amalekites in Exodus 17 when Moses prayed. Joshua would rather have Moses' prayer support than his military support. God's prevailing, supernatural power is released in the lives of people who pray.

I was always taught the why to pray, but not the how to pray.

In James 1:5-7, we receive the benefit of **WISDOM**. The Bible says, "If any of you lack wisdom, (God's sense of humor coming out again **IF?**) let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith without any

It must be taught. It is an unnatural activity. From the day we are born we struggle for self-sufficiency. We often treat prayer as our last resort. We are like the women on the sinking ocean liner who asked the captain if there was anything that could save the ship? "There's nothing left to do but pray," he replied. To which she exclaimed, "Oh, no! has it come to that?" Jesus started each day with time spent with his Father. Prayer is not a last resort.

About 8 years ago, I became a student of prayer. I began studying the prayers in the Bible, I began going to prayer seminars and workshops. It seemed the Lord kept putting prayer and prayers all around me. But, that was only the head knowledge. I finally had to do it. I learned that there was a common thread that ran through these prayers of the Bible and the prayers around me. The pattern was the same: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication.

ADORATION

That is, praise. Who God is. Praise puts God in His rightful position. Focuses on His majesty and glory. Recalling His character, His attributes, His love, power, beauty, wisdom, holiness. Psalm 22:3 "God inhabits the praises of His people." You were created to praise God. True praise seeks only to glorify God. Psalm 86:12 "I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will glorify your name for evermore."

Praise time lifts our eyes from the battle to the victor, Jesus Christ. It forces us to get our eyes off ourselves and look up. Hebrews 12:2 "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of

Practical Ways to Apply the Basics of Prayer

1. Set aside a certain time
2. Set aside a specific place
3. Pray with a partner
4. Pray specifically
5. Keep a prayer journal
6. Write out your prayers
7. Write out how God answers
8. Pray scriptures aloud
9. Sing your praises during prayer
10. Call God by His names
11. Be prepared to pray by keeping requests, letters, missionary news, etc. nearby
12. Pray expectantly
13. Pray using simple language
14. Make time for silence and meditation in prayer
15. Begin and end with praise

our faith." Praise results in a peaceful heart, soul and mind. Isaiah 26:3 "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee."

CONFESSION

That is the time before the Lord, seeing our sin as God sees it. This is the part that many Christians just slide right over, yet it is vital and essential. Isaiah 59:2 "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear."

Confession opens the lines of communication. Confession brings healing, cleansing, and deliverance. We must confess before we go any farther. Psalm 66:18 "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."

Ask God to search your heart for any darkness that is there, showing you what needs to be cleaned out. He will. James 5:16 "Therefore, confess your sins one to another," **STOP**, the amplified Bible says "confess your sins to one another therefore your faults-- your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins;" Why God? "So that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man [or woman] can accomplish much."

I asked a Christian woman when the last time she confessed her sins to anyone was? She said never, that she could remember. Why? Because she didn't sin? No. Because of what others would think? Confessing our sins opens us up and makes us vulnerable to each other, but there is a reason that we are told to do this. To bring about healing.

How will you know that I am

having a problem with sin, if I don't tell you? How will you know to pray for me so that I can be healed of that sin if you are unaware of it? How will I know to pray for you? When we confess our sins before one another, we are then held accountable.

Pride in our lives keeps us from confession whether it is publicly or privately to God. Don't allow Satan to feed you the lie that you are sinless so you don't have to make confession. It can be an encouraging thing to others to know that maybe they are not the only ones struggling or having problems. Some should only be confessed to God, and one should never jeopardize a confidence. James 4:17 "Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin."

THANKSGIVING

Just as adoration focuses on Who God is, thanksgiving focuses on what God has done. Psalm 105:1 and I Chronicles 16:8 reads, "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples." Psalms 107:22 "And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing."

This time in prayer is spent in thanking Him only, focusing on giving thanks. Don't be tempted to start mentioning your wants. Thank Him for answering your specific prayer, for protection, and blessings, for His help.

SUPPLICATION

Philippians 4:6 "Don't worry about anything, instead pray about everything. Tell God your

[Continued on page 28]



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Did you read DeLois Loveless' article "Dealing With Life's Surprises"? One of her statements kept coming back to me: "Life has presented me its bill, and at times it has been hard to pay."

Wouldn't it be great to think that when our lives began, the price for all of life's hard-knocks and hurts would be paid in advance. That we could grow from infancy to adulthood to old age never knowing one minute of heart-ache and trial. Wouldn't it be great to always feel safe, secure, and happy?

Unfortunately, the bill of life is not prepaid. In fact, the bill doesn't even come all at once. It comes in installments. We'll have a year or two where life is so sweet, there isn't a cloud on the horizon. Then, we or someone we love will pay dearly with a serious illness, even death. The next year it may be a financial problem or sin in our lives. The bills are hard to live with and hard to pay.

One of my favorite songs is "Too High A Price" recorded by Larnelle Harris. The chorus goes something like this:

*He paid much too high a price for me
The cross, the blood, the pain
To have my heart just stirred at times
But never truly changed.
He deserves a fiery love
That won't ignore His sacrifice
Because He paid much too high a price.*

Yes, life will continue to present us bills. But one bill is already paid in full. The debt of sin is eternally paid through the blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. What a sacrifice was required to pay it! ♦

Poet's Corner

A Woman's Prayer

Denice Petit, Paradis, LA

The only prayer a woman prays
Is to be worthy to serve
in grandeur.

Her only desire
Is to be spiritually loved.

Look upon her protected soul
And see the Craftman's work.

Strength.
Tenderness.
Wisdom.
Beauty.

No one and nothing
Can shatter the eternal love
It holds for her God.

Let Us

Glenda Raymer, Joelton, TN

To our Heavenly Father,
The Giver of Life,
Let us give thanks.

For the bountiful blessings
That He bestows,
Let us give thanks.

To the Maker of the universe,
The great I Am,
Let us give praise.

For His love toward us
And His plan of salvation,
Let us give praise.

He who is holy,
The Name above all names,
Let us worship.

Wait on the Lord

Frances Talley

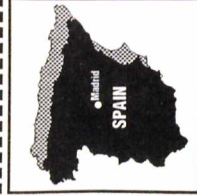
Sometimes,
when I am discouraged,
I grow impatient in my stress,
forgetting that God is in control
and my soul He wants to bless.

He reminds me that He loves me
and proves it everyday,
as I fall upon my knees and ask
His help,
I often hear Him say,

"My child, you must be patient,
for I'll provide a way,
Rest in my strength and trust me,
exercise your faith.
"I know what is best for you,
be patient and just wait,
All your burdens I'll help bear;
just bring them to me each day."

Then I ask Him to strengthen me,
my faith increase so I won't
stumble,
Gently I am reminded,
God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

I must not feel fainthearted.
I must take Him at His word.
"Wait on the Lord; be of good
courage, and He shall strengthen
thine heart: wait I say on the
Lord." ♦



Pray for Dwain and Debbie Crosby and their family who recently moved to Galapagar, Spain, a suburb of Madrid. This is a fast-growing city which has no Protestant church. Ask God to bless their ministry as they seek to establish a work there while helping the Turnboughs in the work at Villalba.

Pray for the Donnie McDonald family as they prepare to leave Japan for furlough. Ask the Lord to bless them as they wind up their ministry in Ai No Sato. Pray that the Japanese Christians will assume responsibilities in the work while the McDonalds are home on furlough.



Pray for Fred Hersey as he works with churches in Bihoro and Abashiri, Japan. Ask the Lord to give him many new contacts through the English classes. Pray that God will call national workers for the churches in Japan.



Pray that God will supply the funds these missionaries need to return to their ministries in the summer of 1995: Clint and Lynette Morgan and Darrel and Lila Nichols, Côte d'Ivoire; Dennis and Trena Owen, Uruguay; Ken and Judy Bailey and Dale and Sandra Bishop, Japan; and Jerry and Barbara Gibbs, France.

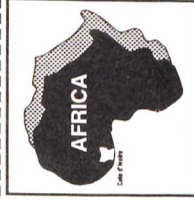


Pray for the foreign missions home office staff as they carry out "behind-the-scenes" tasks that enable the missionaries to fulfill their ministries overseas. Ask God to bless the Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering on April 30. Pray that Free Will Baptists across the country will give sacrificially and generously through this *Together Way* offering on behalf of foreign missions and lost people around the world.

1995 Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for World Missions

Theme:
"Great and Mighty Things Through Prayer"
—Jeremiah 33:3

Women Nationally Active for Christ
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 370115002



1995 Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for World Missions

Theme: **"Great and Mighty Things Through Prayer"**

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."—Jeremiah 33:3

Pray for the ministry among university students in Nantes, France. Ask the Lord to give Charollette Tallent wisdom and to guide her as she seeks to reach these students for Christ.

Pray for the New Life Children's Home in Araras, Brazil. Pray for the Christians in the Araras church who are in charge of this ministry to orphans and homeless children while Jim and Shirley Combs are on furlough. Pray that Jim and Shirley will be able to get back to the field on schedule.

Pray for the many Bible students who are studying at the various Free Will Baptist institutes around the world. Pray that God would call forth laborers from among these students and that they will be equipped to effectively minister the gospel of Christ.

Pray for the evangelistic teams who are traveling to villages in North India to share the gospel of Christ. God has blessed these evangelists who go two-by-two to villages which do not have an opportunity to hear the gospel. Many people have been saved through this effort in the last two years. Pray for Carlisle and Marie Hanna as they minister to these team leaders and to new converts.

Pray for Robert and Judy Bryan in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, as they labor in the Evangelical Publications Center. They are producing Christian literature for French-speaking countries all over

Africa. Ask God to give Robert wisdom as he directs the Center.

Pray for the missionaries and staff at the hospital in Doropo, Côte d'Ivoire, as they labor to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of the Ivorian people. Pray for Dr. Paul and Tammy Gentuso as they will be assuming full responsibility for the work when the Eagletons leave for furlough in the summer.

Pray for the Cuban Christians who have been faithful in their witness in spite of difficult times. Pray that God would continue to give wisdom to the pastors and that He will call forth more laborers into this harvest field which has proven to be ripe.

Pray for the two groups of high school students who will be going out under TEAM '95 this summer. One TEAM is scheduled to go to France and another to Mexico. Also pray for the summer missionaries who will be working on various fields during this summer. Ask the Lord to give them a fruitful ministry and help them to gain insight into missionary work.

Pray for Dave Jr. and Becky Franks who are ministering in a suburb of Montevideo, Uruguay. Praise the Lord for answered prayer on behalf of Becky Franks, who underwent brain surgery near the end of last year. With this successful surgery and quick healing, the Franks are faithfully ministering in Malvin Alto.

Pray for Stan and Brenda Bunch who have just returned to Panama after furlough. Pray for the church at Parita that they will be able to build their building and that God will give them fruit for their labors. Also pray for Steve and Judy Lytle as they are preparing to leave Panama for furlough this summer.





Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator

This issue of *CoLaborer* arrives with just a few days left to enter the WNAC Creative Arts Contest. The deadline is March 1st, so please encourage the women in your group to enter. Announce the contest at your meeting, or better yet, call and encourage those whom you know have talents in this area.

Arrange with your pastor to share some of the life of Laura Belle Barnard with the entire congregation of your church, as a preface to the April 30 Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering. Several different women from your group could read from her journal, or short passages from her journal could be printed in your church bulletin each Sunday in March and April. For information, look back over the India Journal entries from the last several issues of *CoLaborer*, as well as *Touching the Untouchables*, LBB's biography. She was a fascinating woman, a pioneer for FWB Foreign Missions, and her life story will inspire others to give.

Assistant Coordinator

Encourage giving through the Together Way. The Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering is April 30. Set a goal for this offering, and encourage 100% participation.

Talk to your pastor about scheduling a special Easter missions service on a Sunday or Wednesday night. Plan a season of prayer, using the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer Calendar on pp. 13-14 of this issue. Also include the information found in Mission Alert (page 30) in your missions emphasis.

It's not too early to begin planning for Mother's Day, here's a suggestion: using a video camera, record some of the members of your women's group, talking about "their favorite memories of Mother," or "what makes a good mother." (You can do this with several members of your church if your Mother's Day celebration includes the entire membership.) Then, with some soft music playing in the background, play the entire tape at your banquet or even one or two segments at a time in services during May. An

Devotional Outline

A Study in Prayer

Sherry Anderson

Scripture: Proverbs 8:34

I. Words for prayer in the Bible.

—*chalah*: to entreat or beseech

—*paga*: to come betwixt

—*shael*: to inquire or demand

—*siyach*: to ponder, commune

—*deomai*: to petition or beseech

—*parakaleo*: to call for comfort

—*proseuchomai*: to worship

II. Why pray?

—it is commanded (Isaiah 55:6)

—for strength (Matt. 26:41, Lk. 18:1-8)

—in intercession (Eph. 6:18)

—for our needs (Phil. 4:6)

—in thanksgiving (Col. 4:2)

—in praise and worship (Ps. 34:1, 71:14, 119:164)

III. Encouragement and promises

—He hears (Ps. 6:9)

—He responds (Matt. 18:19, 21:22)

—He cares (I Peter 5:7)❖

audio tape will suffice where a video recorder is not available.

Check out the WNAC Volume 11 playbook, *A Piece that Fits*, which contains a Mother's Day play, along with other plays that will meet your dramatic needs throughout the year. You may order Volume 11 from WNAC.

Secretary/Treasurer

Take the opportunity to share with the women (or the church as a whole, for that matter) how God has used your group to give to missions. Gather the facts and figures over the past two or three years. Include totals from special offerings such as the Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering and other missions offerings, funds generated through special projects, provision closet totals, and other financial gifts given through your group. Encourage the women to give by showing them how God has used their giving in the past. You may even quote from missionary letters printed in *CoLaborer* to show how missionaries count on the women to supply certain needs. There is nothing like the accomplishments of the past to inspire us in the present.

Re-commit yourself to keeping accurate records as we approach what is the "dues paying" season for many. Dues must be accounted for on the national level before the FWB Convention in July in order for voting privileges to be in place. Make sure that your group pays dues on time and through the proper channels.

Missions Chairman

Since our theme for 1995 is "Great and Mighty Things Through Prayer" and the theme verse is Jeremiah 33:3, you may want to prepare a bulletin board or display with this title and scripture. You could display prayer cards, along with ten ways to use prayer cards at home. If you want mission-minded families, incorporating missions prayer cards into family life is essential.

Begin thinking now about a special summertime missions project. What can your group do for: home missionaries' kids who are out of school? foreign missionaries on furlough? missionaries on the field? Summer can be especially dry and dusty for our missionaries. How can your women provide a "cool drink" and "plenty of shade"?

Prayer Chairman

The Pre-Easter Week of Prayer Guide is located on pp. 13-14 of this issue. You may copy it or request free copies by writing to FWB Foreign Missions Department, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Allow two weeks for delivery.

It is easy to think of missionaries as being different--more spiritual, more contented, more godly--but the truth is that mis-



HIID IN MY HEART

I Peter 5:6-10

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

Casting all your care upon him: for he careth for you.

Be sober, vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory, by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, and settle you.

To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever, Amen.

sionaries are just like us. They struggle, hurt, face trials and temptations and disappointments just like we do. And because this is true, we should pray for them as we pray for ourselves--for strength, wisdom, patience, good health, and for daily opportunities for outreach and growth. Plan ahead to set up special times of prayer during the Easter season. Discuss and plan with your Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator.

Study Chairman

Here are a few books to consider this year: *Towers to Eternity*, The Story of TransWorld Radio, by Dr. Paul E. Freed (Trans World Radio); *Active Spirituality* by Charles Swindoll (Word Books); and *Where to Focus When Your Life's a Blur* by Cheryl Biehl (Multnomah). If your church has a library, these would be nice additions. Fortunately, there are so many good books on the market today, it is not difficult to find resources for your women's group.

For catalogs and/or book information, these phone numbers will come in handy: Fleming H. Revel/Chosen Books 1-616-676-9573; Crossway Books 1-708-682-4300; Victor Books 1-800-323-2608; Multnomah 1-800-547-5890; Word Publishing 1-800-299-9673; Thomas Nelson 1-800-251-4000; and Bethany House Publishers 1-619-829-2500.

Catalogs will help spark an interest in reading new Christian literature among your women.

Service Chairman

Make an Easter Tree to be displayed in each of the children's Sunday school classes. On the tree should be attached colorful eggs, ribbons, other Easter ornamentation, missionary prayer cards and small offering envelopes. Notify the Sunday school teachers in advance that you are making the trees so the children can be involved in praying for and giving to missions during the Easter season. Then, a few weeks before Easter, have women in your group deliver the trees to the classrooms and talk to the children about the people on the tree. Maybe you could even share an exciting story from Lorene Miley's book *First Fruits* about one of the missionaries on the tree.

Begin planning now for a special summertime community project. Children who attend public schools often are uncared for and hungry in the summer. They are bored and need something fun and exciting. Could your group sponsor a day camp or an outing for less-fortunate children. Perhaps your women's group should get involved in VBS.

There are other possibilities. Nursing homes. Crisis Pregnancy centers. Day care centers. Women's prisons. Visiting the elderly in your church. Home and auto repair services for the elderly.

The old lemonade-stand principle still works. A kind act, especially on a hot day, is well received. Even among adults whose hearts are not as young and tender. ❖

Lucy & Marge "Couch Potato"

[Lucy on the couch in robe, hair in curlers, obviously in "couch potato" mode, when the phone rings]

Marge: Hi Lucy.

Lucy: Oh, hi Marge (keeps on changing the channels with remote)

Marge: You'll never guess who I just got off the phone with!

Lucy: [Preoccupied with the TV, but following]--Who?

Marge: Freda Henrikson.

Lucy: [Still barely listening] Okay . . .

Marge: You know, Freda, "stay-at-home-and-stuff-her face-couch-potato Freda."

Lucy: [whose attention is now grabbed, looks at herself, as if hoping no one can see her] Oh . . . uh . . . yes, well, I think I know Freda.

Marge: Sure you do. Remember, you said that if you ever turned into "a couch-potato-Freda" I could just shoot you and put you out of your misery. Remember that?

Lucy: [somewhat defensive, then ashamed] I didn't say that! Did I?

Marge: You sure did. We had seen her in Smallmarks, and she looked like she had just crawled out of a pile of pizza boxes and potato chip bags--you know that crumpled up look she always had.

Lucy: [notices her crumpled up clothing] Oh . . . yeah, now I remember. But why did she call you?

Marge: Well, she said one of her goals this year was to change her position.

Lucy: You mean, her disposition.

Marge: That too. But mainly her position. She is determined to get up off that couch and make some new friends--get involved at church more. She called to ask me about our women's group.

Lucy: That's great, Marge. Do you think she'll come?

Marge: Yes, now that she knows more about our group, she's excited about coming. The last of the great couch potatoes has succumbed to the need for change. Can you imagine what it was like for her to wallow in that world of TV tabloids and the soap opera cycle? It must feel so good to be out among the living again.

Lucy: I'm sure it does, Marge.
❖

The Field Outside by Diane Mitchell Thomas

The Holy Spirit is so strong here that I feel I could see Him if I turn around. My church has been my second home for over thirty years, and I love being in a service. This is where I met the Lord. It is a comfortable place, with nice, blue carpet and padded pews, yet not too formidable. Sometimes when the sound of the organ blends with the piano, I gaze at the flowers that are at the communion table and whisper, "I love you, Lord."

Today, my sons are sitting with friends behind me, Ray has his arm around my shoulder, and Cindy* slips over to get as close as she can. She is a student in my junior girls Sunday school class. I take her hand and give it a squeeze. This is where I want to be.

The service ends, and Cindy runs outside to wait for me to take her home. I say words of fellowship to my church family. Marie* hugs my neck like she always does. She came to know Christ late in life, and now her burden is for the grown children she never took to church. There are tears on her cheek, and I know that the Holy Spirit has held her today.

This is a good place, and all feels right in my world. I reach for my pastor's hand, and my eyes are caught on the words above his head: "You are about to enter the mission field."

My heart misses a beat, and my breath catches in my throat. I mumble something to Rev. Van and step back, unable to go outside just yet. I read the words again, look out beyond the glass door, and the message of the sign touches a nerve. My mission field.

I see the road in front of the church that leads me to the lost souls that live around me. When was the last time I told them that Jesus loves them? Further down that same road is the place where I work with Margaret. Was it just last week when I wanted to tell her one more time that she needed to be saved, but I held back. What kind of missionary am I?

Cindy waves to me through the glass. In a few minutes I will take her to a home where alcohol reigns, where God is only a curse word. I am her hope, and her eyes look toward me. I do not want her to see me cry, and I turn back to see Marie, whose children live on my mission field. What did Jesus say? "As my father hath sent me, so send I you"?

The church building comes back into focus. This house of blue carpet and sweet music will always be special to me, but my true place of service is beyond these doors. I walked out to where the Father sends me, and where a young girl waits. My mission field. [* names have been changed.]



Do You Know the Basics?

The Basics of Prayer

Come join us for a new look at the fundamentals of communicating with God.

Place:

Time:

COMMUNICATOR

BY MARY RUTH WISEHART

Welcome the New Editor of Co-Laborer

Suzanne Franks came as editor in the WNAC office December 1994. The daughter of Dave and Pat Franks, she grew up in Brazil where her parents serve as missionaries.

She graduated with a B.A. from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1988 and received an M.A. from Southern Illinois University in 1991.

Suzanne comes with rich experience in missions and ministry. She also has editing experience at Southern Illinois University working with the *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages*.

She has taught English and worked in accounts payable and billing for local businesses.

She says her objective is "an opportunity to serve the Lord in a position that will best utilize previous experience."

We're glad to have her join the WNAC staff.

Pre-Easter Week of Prayer

Plan this year to spend time in prayer for the work of God's kingdom around the world.

Use the prayer booklet to pray especially for Free Will Baptist missionaries. Pray also for a broader vision and concern among us for the unreached peoples in our world.

See the program and suggestions elsewhere in this issue.

Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering

Every Free Will Baptist missionary will benefit from the Laura Belle Barnard Offering. Let's give with rejoicing that we can have a part in carrying out the commission our Lord left with us.

In 1993 women gave \$14,580.14 to the World Missions Offering through WNAC. As of October 1994, women have given \$14,678.78 for the 1994 offering.

Set a goal for your group and encourage the women to have a part in reaching people for Christ. The women's offering becomes a part of the April offering for Foreign Missions as a part of the Together Way Plan.

Good Friday Services

Did your group have a good Friday service last year? If you did, let us know. If not, why not try one this year? Some groups plan one during the lunch hour for working women. Some plan one at 3:00 p.m. Some may have a special service on Friday evening. Invite the whole church or the neighborhood.

A program is available from the WNAC office.

Bedspreads, all sizes

King and Queen
SHEET SETS

Food Processors

Tupperware® except
rolling pins, tumblers,
and salt/pepper sets

King and twin-sized
mattress covers

Baking Pans

Please, send no blankets
at this time

Be sure to give participants an opportunity to give to world missions during the service.

WNAC'S Finances in 1994

Let us give thanks for the way God has supplied finances for the WNAC through Free Will Baptist women.

At the end of October 1994 WNAC had received \$51,972.35 more for office expense than in 1993. Most of this increase comes from the higher dues, but \$7,798.35 came as gifts from the women.

During this same period designated giving increased about \$35,000 over 1993.

Let's praise God and keep on giving so that the work may continue.

Plans for the Future

This year we hope to have the new manual with officers guides available. Also, plans are underway for the 1996 yearbook.

Printing these materials will take funds. The sale of them will help to pay for the printing and the work that goes into them.

The demand for materials for teens and girls continues to increase. The WNAC office would like to make these available for our women who wish to work with teens' and girls' organizations. ❖

Women In Action



A: The Fergusons See A Repeat

The Women's Auxiliary at Haymond FWB Church in Whitesburg, KY had such a successful "Dime a Dip" dinner to benefit missionaries Ledgel and Sharon Ferguson in August, that their pastor, Danny Mullins, asked them to do it again. So, on December 4th, they did just that. The dinners raised a total of \$850 for the Fergusons, according to Becky Bates, President. Pictured are those fine repeat performers: Melinda Stevens, Callie Stidham, Linda Rains, Fredias Bailey, Kay Brown, Sue Winchell, Freda Lucas, Loretta Vanover, Ledgel and Sharon Ferguson, Rhonda Rains, Becky Bates, and Opal Preston of the Burdine Auxiliary.

B: First FWB Women of Tulsa Take Aim

On September 23rd, the women's group at First FWB Tulsa held a "County Fair Carnival" in support of the Darrell Nichols family, missionaries to the Ivory Coast. Served up for all were dart games, ring-tosses, a dunking tank, a jail house, and a cake walk. But by



far the most exciting and sought after activity was the pastor's pie throw. Pastor Joe Wilson gave anyone willing to give up \$5 the chance to hit him in the face with a pie. Over \$1600 in monthly support was raised for the Nichols. Shown here is the organizer for the event, Maxine Fletcher, with a direct hit for Pastor Joe.

C: Pretty Water Hosts Missions Fair

The Pretty Water FWB Church in Sapulpa, OK, hosted a Missions Fair for the churches in their area. Booths were set up for the different mission fields. Many dressed in clothes to represent different countries. They even had a clown (Ken Langston) and a Christian ventriloquist, Joyce and Audi. Home missionaries, the Jeff Sloan family, were special



surprise guests, and all the money raised was for FWB Missions. Pictured are: Pat Tuttle, Pretty Water Auxiliary President, and Ken the Clown.

D: FWB Home Missionaries to Ft. Wayne, IN

Pictured are: Jeff and Sherri Sloan with children, Caleb and Christian. (Since this photograph was taken, there was an addition to the family, Joshua, born December 19, 1994.)

E: Blue Bell Auxiliary's Christmas Party

The Blue Bell Auxiliary of Sapulpa, OK, recently held their annual Christmas party, where they enjoyed a special program organized by Vinita Tuttle. It is tradition for them to reveal their prayer partners, draw new ones for the coming year, and enjoy a time of food and fellowship. Fourteen members are active in the group, and each year they sponsor an angel tree to benefit the Alabama Children's Home, as well as other mission and community projects. Pictured here: President, Merrily Robinson; Mission Action Chair, Betty Smoot. ❖

Letters to WNAC

Dear WNAC,

I want to thank you for being a valued partner in my ministry, for your faithful monthly support, and to ask you to be much in prayer about my financial needs.

Yours in Christ,

Lynn Midgett

[Editor's Note--Lynn has been raising money to return to Spain since May of 1993. Her departure time has been postponed three times due to lack of support.]

Dear WNAC,

I want to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, letters, and phone calls concerning the passing of my father and Glennda. Each one of you was a great encouragement during the stressful weeks following their deaths.

Although I am grieving their loss, I am also faced with the reality that my mission budget will increase. Glennda and I shared many expenses. In figuring my new budget, there is an overall 50% increase in expenses. Many have doubled. Because of these changes, I ask you to consider transferring Glennda's support to my account.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Jalayn Martens

Dear WNAC,

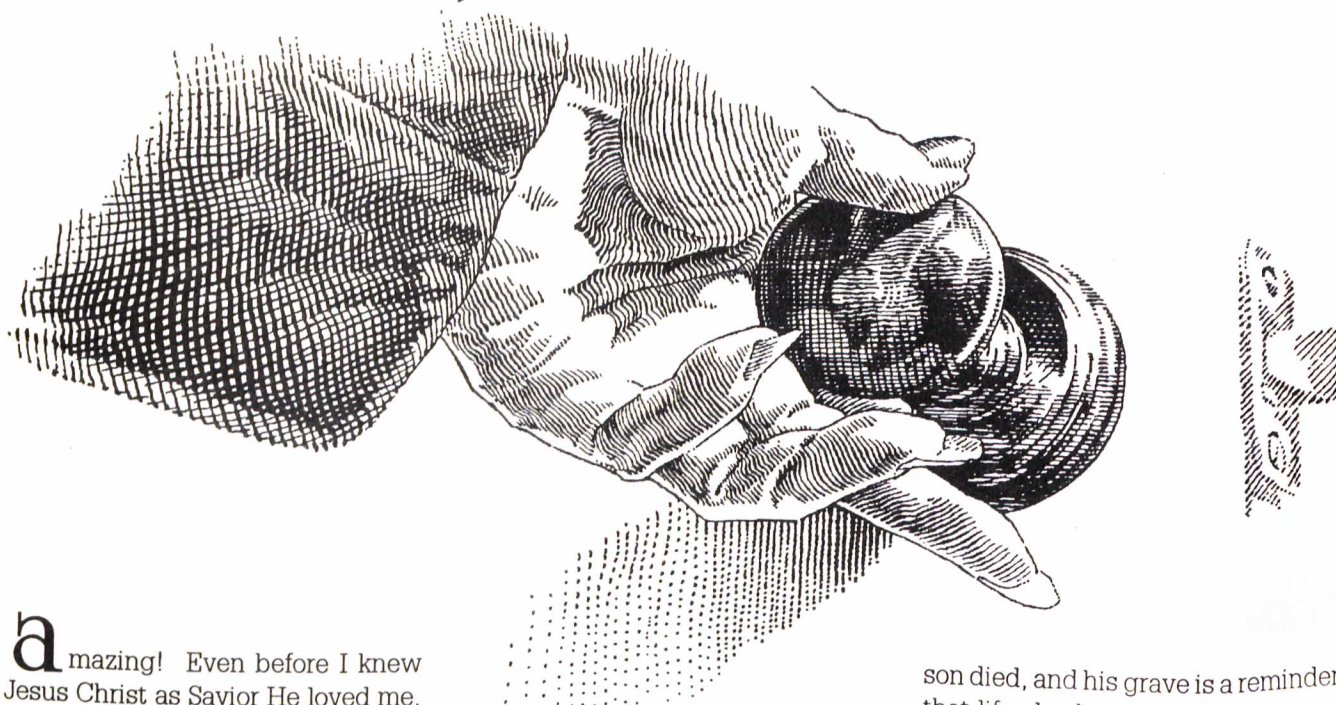
Special greetings from Uruguay! We celebrate Christmas here on the 25th and on the 6th of January. The children open their presents on the 6th remembering the wisemen. On the 24th, all the families try to get together for a big midnight meal. The main dish is usually grilled lamb. Good! A lot of work--scenery, clothes, practices in different churches--goes into the plays we present in December.

Although distance separates us at Christmas, God's love unites us.

Molly Barker ❖

dealing with life's surprises

by delois loveless



amazing! Even before I knew Jesus Christ as Savior He loved me. I knew nothing of the Christian life. None of my family went to church. The Lord directed me to Pocahontas FWB Church in Arkansas, and I was saved at age 13. That church loved me and adopted me into their family. I could never repay them for the Christian values they taught me.

When I was young, I felt that the Lord wanted to use my life. I wanted to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College, but I couldn't. However, I determined in my heart to do my best in whatever I did.

Because we were poor and I lacked a formal education, I was surprised when God sent a young preacher into my life. Even as I prayed for guidance, it seemed that the Lord answered my questions. Within six months that preacher and I were married. The marriage has lasted through 36 years of joy,

sadness, tough and good times. I'm proud to be a preacher's wife.

Many of life's surprises have come my way. Maybe you can identify with some of them. Life has presented me its bill, and at times it has been hard to pay.

The Children

Soon after Alton and I married, we began to plan for a family. I went to several doctors who all gave the same diagnosis--no children. Exploratory surgery discovered a tumor. Now two sons, Randy and Steven, are my living blessings. The Lord gave them to us, and they were given back to Him when they were born. We learned early that we can't live for them.

While pastoring First FWB Church in Joplin, Mo., in 1966 we were expecting our third child. This

son died, and his grave is a reminder that life also has its hurts.

It was a bleak period in my life. I had many physical problems--the loss of my hair, jaundice, the loss of teeth on an entire side because of poison in my body. But there were blessings. One was a couple (the husband wasn't a Christian) who paid all my dental bills. He now is a believer in Christ. Another was our church that loved and cared for us.

The Necklace

My husband went to work for Scripture Press Publications. The moving van came and trucked us to Atlanta, Ga. During this move all our jewelry was taken, including my precious wedding rings.

Shortly thereafter, Scripture Press invited the wives to come along to their annual sales conference in Colorado Springs. We were travelling somewhere close to New

Mexico when we stopped at a small gas station.

While Alton got gas, I went to the restroom and saw a necklace on the sink. When I took it to the old unshaven gentleman who was the owner, he returned it to me saying he didn't know whose it was. "Probably some little girl's. Just take it," he said. So I put it in my purse and forgot it. Years passed.

We moved to Columbus, Ohio, and Alton wanted to get me a new ring to replace the one taken years before. He decided to examine closely the necklace I had found. He asked a jeweler who attended our church to examine it. I couldn't believe the surprise he found!

The large stone was a full carat, flawless, European-cut diamond set in a platinum mount and valued at several thousand dollars. Today I have a beautiful solitaire ring. Some ask how we can afford a ring like mine. I tell them we can't; it was a gift.

The Surgery

Sometimes, it's difficult to praise God when tragedy stalks our lives. We forget His goodness when bad times come.

We lived in Columbus almost 15 years, working side by side. On the very day of our first relocation of the Ohio State Office/Bookstore, I went into the hospital for major surgery. I felt I was not doing my part.

In less than two years doctors ordered more major surgery. I asked the question, "Where are the things for which we are to be thankful?" I claimed I Thessalonians 5:18: "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God." I concluded that the Lord knew what I needed, and He wouldn't let anything happen to me without a reason or purpose. The devastating circumstances of my life

became stepping stones to greater and more precious experiences with the Lord. Contentment descended again.

Then in 1980 doctors thought I had a heart attack. Every symptom pointed to that. However, they couldn't understand why the pain wouldn't go away. I was in and out of the hospital undergoing many tests, therapy, and still they couldn't find the problem. I had heart catheterizations, E.K.G.'s, echograms, nerve testings, the works. They concluded I had increased mitral valve prolapse, a problem I'd had since birth. The pain continued. Cardiologists tried different medications, pain pills, and anything else they could think of, but nothing helped.

After three years and thousands of dollars, my specialist said I needed stronger pain medicine. We asked him to do new testing. He refused, said I would have to live with the pain and take the tranquilizers. Frustration and depression again set in.

The New Doctors

Then the Lord directed us to a Christian medical professor at Ohio State University who taught cardiology. Normally it takes months to get an appointment with him, but within a few days I was in his office. The Lord had prepared the way.

The doctor found the problem in the first series of tests--a pinched nerve between the fifth and sixth vertebrae. Something the other specialists had not found or failed to consider. He also thought therapy might help. But it didn't, so after six

weeks he sent me to a neurosurgeon.

Again the Lord went before me. This doctor, also a Christian, agreed that surgery was needed. He wanted to do it immediately. I refused since we had been invited by the European field council to come for the France-Spain retreat and were to leave in a few days. I was to teach missionary children in Vacation Bible School, so their parents could attend seminars. The doctor understood and scheduled surgery after our return.

We were with the Callaways in Spain a few days. Then with the Sparks for a revival over Easter. By the time we arrived at the France retreat after a day and a half of traveling, my pain was so severe I had to stay in bed.

The Lord taught me a lesson. He doesn't always go by our schedules. I prayed, cried and asked the Lord to help me teach those children. He had other

plans. He wanted the missionary wives to conduct VBS, and I was in the way.

The Woman With No Hair

We arrived home Saturday, and I entered the hospital Sunday for spinal surgery. I was in the hospital 11 days. Things went well and I felt great. In fact, I became somewhat of a counselor for my surgeon friend. One case in point: My doctor had performed surgery on a young woman with a brain tumor. He had to shave her head. She was de-

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at the
same time.

pressed. He asked me to speak with her as soon as I could get out of bed. Before I could visit her, she came to me.

The Lord gave guidance in answer to my prayers. As she sat by my bed, crying, she told me about herself. She had two children, was divorced, in her 30's, and had a new job. She didn't know what to do. She found out about the tumor just days before the surgery. She felt ugly because she had no hair. The doctor had told her who I was and that she should talk with me.

As we talked, she complimented my hair, commenting how nice it looked. I thanked her and told her I wore a wig. She didn't believe me, so I showed her and told her how I had lost my hair. I told her where to buy a wig and what kind to buy. She was so excited, her eyes were shining as she left to call her sister. A few hours later she came by to show me her hair. Her depression lifted. She didn't accept the Lord, but I had shared Christ with her. God had again showed me the meaning in my suffering. I thank the Lord for the opportunity to share with women who have suffered hair loss.

The Lessons

My health problems have helped me grow. I have more compassion for those who hurt. I better understand how they feel and can pray more effectively. I am constantly learning the boundaries of my ability, but I am grateful for every opportunity.

Thankfulness in the Christian life produces happiness. It is impossible to focus on those things for which you are thankful and to express that gratefulness to God and be gloomy at the same time. The Lord wants us as Christians to be

joyful, full of unceasing prayer and constant thanksgiving. Romans 8:28 promises that the rocks of life can become stepping stones to greater maturity and blessings of God.

Suffering will always be part of life, so one has to prepare spiritually to accept it when it comes. I'm learning to take life one day at a time. When I look around I see that so many suffer more than I. Sometimes I can help with words of comfort or even advice. Sometimes I just hug them and promise to pray. Sometimes a smile will do. I ask the Lord to allow me the privilege to minister to someone each day.

Suffering is not something I look forward to, but something I have learned to appreciate because of His will. With more than 15 surgeries and other medical problems, I have had plenty of opportunities to draw nearer to Christ. I have tested Christ and Christianity, and I know He is real and that Christianity works. He satisfies my longings and meets my needs. I know that I am unique and important and that I have a precious, immortal soul and can live with joy and assurance no matter what the circumstances.

Just as in the past, my remaining years will involve a continuing conflict between my body and my spirit, but the Victor will be no surprise. That is settled! ♦



Mrs. Delois Loveless is a member of Woodbine Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tn.

[This article was reprinted from the October 1988 issue of *Contact* magazine. Used with permission.]

*The
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of
New Mexico
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calling
you . . .*

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mountains
with
WNAC
for the
1995 Retreat
at
Glorieta,
New Mexico.*

October 20-22

**Start planning now.
See the registration
form on page 29.**

"And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord."
1 Chronicles 29: 5b

a column for young people

Life!Action.

... for everyday life

Service
with
a Smile



If you plan to buy a bicycle, several different places in town can sell you one. If you want to buy a CD player, the price is about the same wherever you go. If you enjoy a big, juicy steak with a hearty baked potato on the side, just about any good restaurant can fill the order. Finding what you want and someone who'll sell it to you is as easy as tying your shoes. Keeping them tied--good customer service--is the problem. It's every bit as difficult to find as the product is easy.

Good customer service is difficult to find for three reasons:

1. Weak work-ethic: "I'll just do what I have to to get by. They don't pay me enough to do more than that."
2. Weaker management: "It's almost impossible to get fired these days because the company doesn't want to get sued, so if there's a problem, it's the boss' problem."

3. Weakening personal integrity: "You haven't done anything for me, so I don't owe you a thing."

Why talk about good customer service? Obviously I haven't gotten any lately. For instance, in one weekend a postal worker threw a box back across the counter at me, insisting that "return postage guaranteed" didn't mean "return postage guaranteed"; a fast-food worker handled both my food and my money at the same time, with hands so greasy and an apron so filthy the health department would shudder; and then a clothing store clerk had the nerve to suggest that the damaged item I was returning wasn't damaged when I bought it.

Believe me, I was not a happy consumer. Not even close. My gut response was to say, "I am the customer. You are the service. So where is the customer service?" But I knew that wouldn't make the situation more pleasant. If I had said, "You know, I really appreciate all your hard work, but the imitation jerk you're wearing isn't very flattering," the results wouldn't have been more favorable.

The point is that no matter which side of the counter you're standing, service is the important thing. The customer has the right to expect good service, and the business has the opportunity to give that good service. If the product is great, but the service is lousy, the customer will buy where the quality of the service matches the quality of the product. This is what keeps 'em coming back.

Think about your life. Your work. How's your customer service? Do you see the opportunities around you to serve others? When you do serve, do you serve joyfully? It's not always easy--giving good customer service. Some days are just plain drudgery. But how we serve, on good days and bad, reflects the work God has done in us. Whether a seasoned servant or a new trainee, we are all called to serve with a smile in His name.

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 ❖

Firstfruits

A corrected version of the death of
Sheila Marie Hanna which first appeared in
First Fruits: Answered Prayer on the Mission Field,
compiled by Lorene Miley
and published by WNAC, 1994.

Among Carlisle and Marie Hanna's cherished possessions is a pair of bronzed baby shoes. They belonged to their firstborn daughter, Sheila Marie, who died in India on March 17, 1953, at the age of 8 1/2 months.

Five months previously, the new missionaries had joined 80 other missionaries on the compound of the Allahabad Winter Language School on the plains of the U.P. province in North India. In addition to the intensive schedule--four classes each morning with two hour private sessions in the afternoon--the school arranged for ayahs (baby sitters) to care for the children.

Classes were held in the open courtyard, so the ayahs were never far away. Marie studied with split attention, one to her studies and the other ever alert to the familiar cry of her baby.

Marie skipped classes that fateful day. What had begun as mild diarrhea for baby Sheila had developed into fullblown dysentery.

A Western doctor operated a small medical facility in their town, and it was here the frantic couple rushed their baby. The doctor didn't seem too concerned. "We see a lot of dysentery in this country," she reminded them. "It often disappears as quickly as it comes." For the first time the parents began to relax a little.

"We'll do everything we can to snap her out of this," the doctor assured them. Marie snuggled her child in her arms and prepared for the night. Carlisle returned home to sleep. He would relieve her the next morning.

Sheila's condition had improved somewhat by the next morning, so Carlisle persuaded Marie to go home and rest. How they needed prayer support in this bleakest hour of their lives. They were unable to send SOS to the States, but the Holy Spirit did it for them. At least one dear saint kept watch with them in prayer.

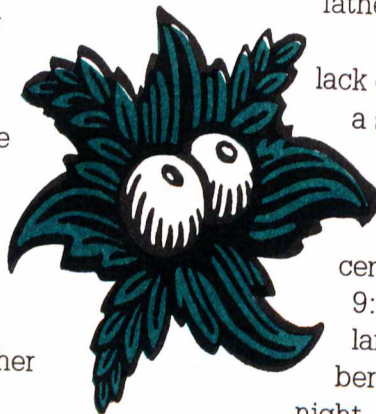
The next time Marie saw her baby she was safe in the arms of Jesus. She died in her father's arms at 4 o'clock that afternoon.

Tropical heat coupled with the total lack of embalming facilities necessitated a speedy burial. Carlisle walked in a dazed stupor as he bought wood and ordered the simple burial box. He purchased a lot in the Christian cemetery and scheduled the funeral for 9:00 the next morning. Friends from language school walked with the bereaving couple during their long night.

"Honor the Lord with...the firstfruits of all thine increase," writes the sage of Proverbs. Carlisle and Marie had given their lives to the Lord at a young age and had always tried to honor Him in all they did. But this! Their firstborn? At last, they willingly offered the firstfruits of her womb.

God honored their act of worship. By the next year another daughter, Brenda Kay, blessed their home. And before their second term ended, two sons, Don and Mark, completed their family.

Prayer brought peace in times of turmoil, encouragement in service and served as an outlet for simple praise and adoration. ❖



Join Us for the
1995 Pre-Easter
Week of Prayer
for World Missions

Come celebrate
the risen Christ
and renew your vision
for a lost world

Date:

Time:

Preaching Or Pork Chops?

by Yvonne Wolfenbarger

The story is told of a pastor who went to visit an avowed atheist who was ill. The man received him coldly and hardly looked at the pastor as he spoke of God's love.

The pastor noticed that the house was bare and cold and suspected that provisions had run low. On his way home, he stopped and had a load of coal sent to the man's house.

On his next visit, the pastor was received much more warmly though the man still didn't receive Christ. This time the pastor stopped by the meat market on his way home and ordered several pounds of pork chops sent to the sick man's home.

The pastor was then called out of town for a few days. Upon

his return, he found that the atheist had died. Before passing on, the man left a message for the pastor saying, "Tell the preacher I made peace with God . . . and that I'm going to live in heaven. Be sure to tell him it wasn't the preaching that won me over, it was the pork chops."

Jesus set an example for us when He died on the cross to prove his love. God tells us to prove our love to Him by *showing* our love to others.

I John 3:17-18 gives us this example. "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in

tongue; but in deed and in truth."

We cannot expect to win our neighbor by simply telling them we love them and God loves them. They're waiting for proof of that love. Perhaps they're waiting on a few pork chops.

The next time you go witnessing, by all means take along your Bible; but also take along a loaf of homemade bread, a cake, some cookies, or some fresh garden vegetables. And while you're there, look around and see if there's a need that you might fill for that person.

After they're saved, you might hear them say, "It wasn't the preaching, but the pork chops that won me over." ❖

Reprinted with permission from Contact magazine, July 1985.

[Continued from page 11]

needs, and don't forget to thank Him for His answers." (Living Bible) We don't have because we don't ask.

I wonder how often God is in heaven saying, "I have that answer for you if you would just ask." We must cast all our cares and concerns on Him. He already knows them. He knows everything! He is big enough to handle them. He carried all the weight of sin to the cross. He can fight our battles. He won the battles over death and the grave and arose. He can handle your biggest problem. Nothing is impossible for Him.

During this time stop and listen. Silence is okay. In the March (1994) issue of *Discipleship*



**Allow God to set
your agenda.**

Journal, a survey on prayer was taken. Listening to God was the greatest difficulty in prayer. Many times the answer to a problem will come during my prayer.

We are told to bear one another's burdens. When interceding for someone, allow God to show you what to pray for. Pray specifically. Often prayer will lead to action, if you listen. God may show you how to help the person you are praying for. Allow Him to set your agenda when you pray.

Most important of all, **PRAY**. Speak to Him. Listen to Him. Pray according to His will. And His will will be done. ❖

Pam Wood and her husband, Tim, live in Campbell, CA, with their two children. This article was adapted from her presentation at the 1994

Free Will Baptist WNAC National Retreat
October 20-22, 1995
Glorieta Conference Center
Glorieta, New Mexico

THEME:

"On the Trail with Him" Psalm 37:23

RESERVATION FORM

NAME: _____

❖ Group/Church Name (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (work) _____

Name of Roommate(s): (if applicable) _____

Special Needs: ☐ Disabled access ☐ First floor required

❖ GROUP RESERVATIONS: Total number of rooms needed _____ Number of persons in group _____
Attach list of participants, grouped by roommates. Indicate special needs (disabled access; first floor required). Group should plan to pay with one check, if possible; if not, please notify Glorieta in advance.

ACCOMMODATIONS (Meals are included): Per Person, based on the number of adults/youth per room; includes two nights' lodging (Oct. 20&21), 5 meals (dinner 10/20 thru breakfast 10/22), and a Program Fee of \$15.

Please indicate the # of rooms requested:

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☐ 3 per room: \$98.50

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DAYTIME ONLY Participants: \$33.00 per adult plus meal costs. Breakfast: \$4.70; Lunch or dinner: \$7.25.

HOW TO PAY: Enclose deposit of \$32.00 per person. Reservations will not be processed without deposit. Deposit will be credited to your account at check-in. Glorieta does accept credit cards.

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CANCELLATIONS must be postmarked or telephoned by September 20, 1995 to receive refund.



Bondoukou, Côte d'Ivoire

Ernest and Elaine Holland are thankful for those who accepted Christ as personal Savior in 1994. The Bondoukou missionaries—Jerry Pinkerton, Ron Moore and Ernest—baptized over 60 new converts last year. These new Christians heard the Gospel in different ways: some in the church, others at the Youth Center, and others in their village ministries. Ernest has also been meeting once a month with a group in the capital city of Abidjan. This group is made up of mostly young students from various Free Will Baptist churches who attend the university. Pray for a much-needed Free Will Baptist Church in Abidjan. The Hollands also request prayer for Joshua (9) and Leah (7) who are being home schooled and sometimes find it hard to have their Mom as teacher.

Lafayette, Brazil

Earnie and Jean Deeds write thanking those who prayed for Manoel and his wife, Lourdes, who lost their son last year. Out of their sorrow has come a ministry. Manoel is president of the neighborhood association and is well-known in the community. Neighbors noticed the difference in the way he handled his loss at the funeral service and the support of other Christians. They began to ask questions. Now, on Monday and Friday evenings, Manoel and Lourdes open their home and share from God's Word with these seekers. One lady, Dona Isabel, has already indicated her desire to become a Christian. The Deeds request prayer for those who are showing interest, including the Manoel and Lourdes' other two sons.

Montevideo, Uruguay

An inspiring service was held to celebrate Andrea Adriana Oliveira's graduation from the Bible Institute. Paul and Amy Robinson, who were responsible for winning Adriana to the Lord years ago, were present along with a "full house." Paul brought the message, encouraging Adriana to continue in faith and ministry. Adriana has taught Sunday School in the Malvin Alto work. She plans to enter

the police academy in Montevideo next year. Pray for God's direction in her life and future ministries.

Flagstaff, Arizona

In the midst of sorrow over the loss of Louise's mother and a baby granddaughter, Mark and Louise Vandivort send us news of why they can rejoice. They continue to see spiritual growth and some numerical growth in spite of people moving away. They praise God for the \$9,000 received toward their \$60,000 goal in order to begin the first unit of the church building. The church property, which is paid in full, is strategically located next to a new subdivision where beautiful homes continue to be built. The Vandivorts also rejoice over faithful friends and supporters who have shared in their ministry; some have backed them since 1960.

Greeley, Colorado

Mark and Donna Thomas are building a mission church in Greeley. The congregation, along with the missionary builder and volunteer workers, added a beautiful educational wing to their building. The Thomas family also expresses thanksgiving for their precious children: Jonathan (4), who has cerebral palsy, has learned to walk and Matthew (7) has accepted Christ as his Savior and has been baptized.

Omaha, Nebraska

Larry and Patricia Collins have been appointed by the National Home Missions Board to serve as Associate Missionaries to Omaha, Nebraska. They began deputation work in November and plan to leave for Omaha as soon as their support is raised. They will be working in the only Free Will Baptist church in Nebraska. Omaha is a metropolitan city of more than 500,000 people where there are few Bible believing churches. The church is located in the southwest area known as Millard, one of the most popular areas to live in Omaha. ❖



Words for Women

A new thing is a special delight. A new outfit, new hat, new shoes, new furniture, a new book—I am excited by new things.

Spring brings a lot of new surprises. That fresh green look against an egg-shell blue sky. A nest full of new baby birds. Budding leaves and flowers. A new burst of life all around.

It's a time that reminds us to thank God for the new things He has given us.

A new song. He puts a song of praise in our hearts. We feel joy in the warmth of knowing we are loved, special. Psalms 40:1, "And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord."

A new name. God says in Isaiah 62:4, "Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land be termed Desolate. Instead, the name will be Hephzibah, the delight of the Lord. And your land shall be Beulah, that is no longer desolate, but married." One day we will receive our true name according to Revelation 2:17, "To him that overcometh . . . I . . . will give a new name . . . which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." The Scottish preacher, George MacDonald, suggests that name will be the one we most want to be called.

New joy. Deep down joy is a gift of God. John 15:11, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." It's a joy no outward circumstance and no other person can destroy.

John 16:22, "Your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you."

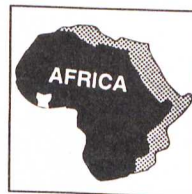
New creatures. God didn't say turn over a new leaf, patch us up, clean up the outside. No, when we came in confession and repentance to Him, He made us new. II Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

All things new! One of these days, God has promised to erase all this ugliness, injustice, unfairness, pain, and suffering. He is going to change this whole mess. Revelation 21:5, "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful." ❖



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1995 Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for World Missions



**“Great and Mighty Things
Through Prayer”**



**“Call unto me, and I will answer thee,
and shew thee great and mighty things
thou knowest not.” –Jeremiah 33:3**

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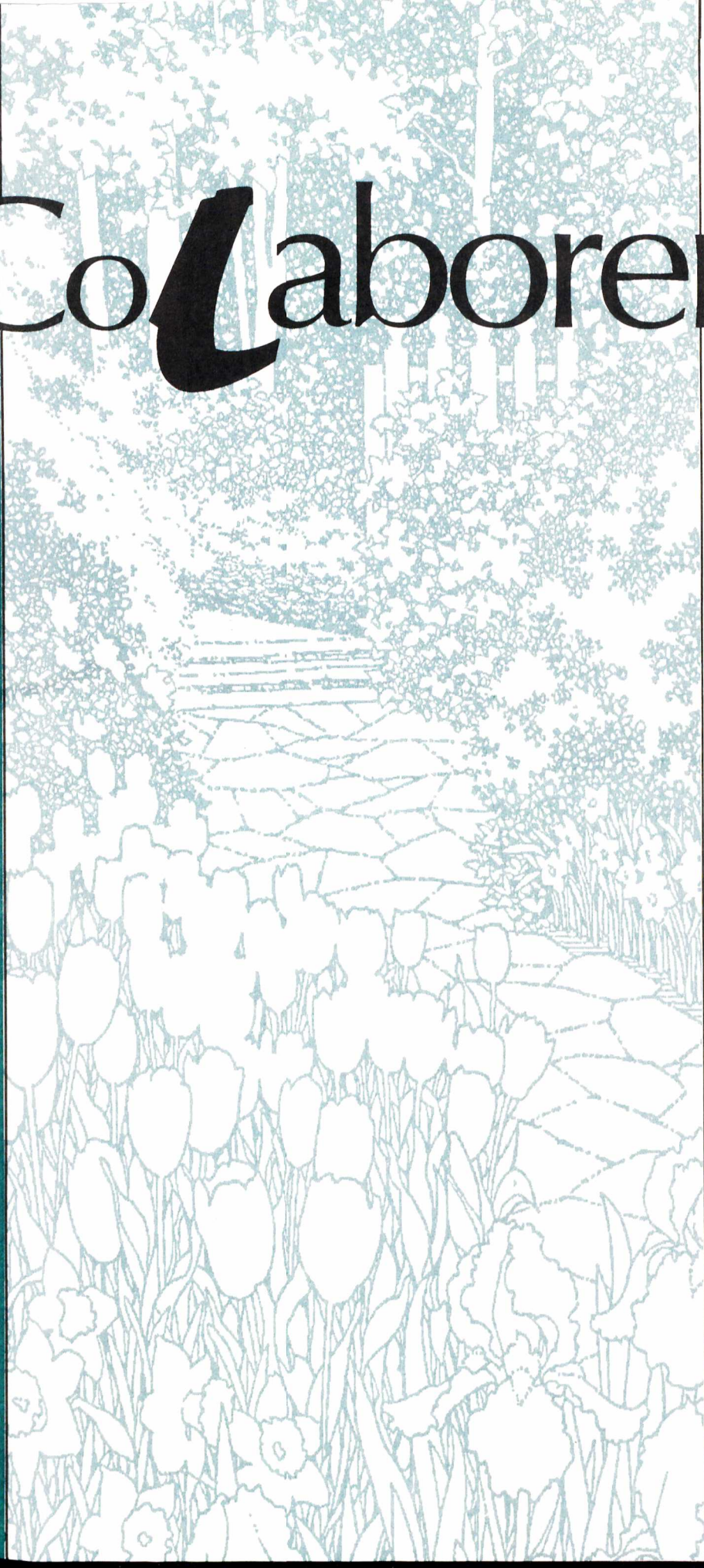
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