

May • June 1995

CoLaborer



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VISION

SUZANNE FRANKS



Kicking the D

When I was in fifth grade, I couldn't read as well as my classmates. My first Reading grade that year was a D. Give up? No way! My parents, the teacher, and a private tutor provided moral support. They helped me kick the D. The task that seemed so difficult for my young mind gradually became a great source of pleasure.

Today, I remember the trouble, but most of all I recall the victory. One among many small victories we win as we grow up. The outcome of most situations is largely influenced by our outlook. If we view the situation as a problem, we become agitated and worried. But if we perceive a situation as a challenge, vigor replaces agitation, caution replaces worry.

What do you see when you view the world? War, famine, spiritual darkness? The world bustles with these. Do you see barriers that must be overcome to get the gospel message to the ends of the earth? Communication, cultural differences, prejudice, cost, distance? These barriers exist in different forms and varying degrees. This is why a clear vision is indispensable.

When I pull up **vision** from the thesaurus in my word processor, a colorful list of words pop up on the screen. (Oh the wonders of the computer world.) Instantly, my screen is filled with these possibilities: view, sight, eyesight, foresight, prescience, discernment, divination, intuition, apocalypse, dream, prophecy, revelation, fantasy, imagination, insight, concept, image, idea. **Vision** stocks other ideas, too. For example, a person with a vision is a leader, an innovator, one who has a goal and knows how to reach it. Do you know anyone like this? The church is built by men and women of vision.

A person with a **vision** for the lost world recognizes that people everywhere need Christ and is aware of the barriers. It means understanding the indispensable role of the Holy Spirit and how God uses His people to take Christ to all nations. And, finally, she (or he) realizes the fundamental part we play in God's plan.

What is our vision? Do we see overwhelming difficulties? Do we see difficulty as prelude to victory? Do we grasp that we have the most powerful ally of all, an ally who has already won the final victory?

What is our response? Action! Praying, studying, giving, speaking, going. Our Lord requires of us a vision. We are called to take part. What a privilege to be part of the plan. What a challenge. What a responsibility.

Fifth grade produced great improvement in Reading. I feel like I'm in fifth grade again, and God just handed out report cards on **vision**. Lord, help me kick up my grade.

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**FOR EVERY JEZEBEL,
THERE'S A JOCHABED
WHO BURIES HERSELF
IN ANONYMITY FOR
THE CAUSE OF GOD
AND FAMILY**

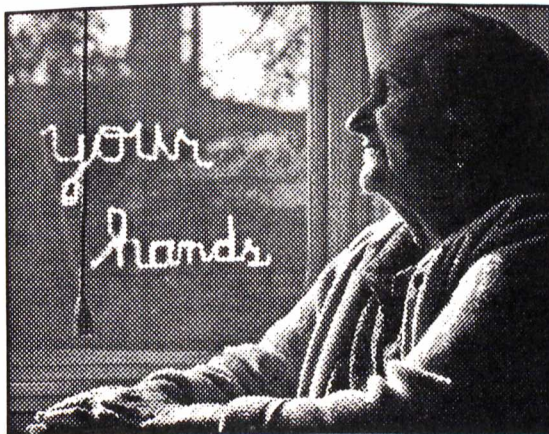
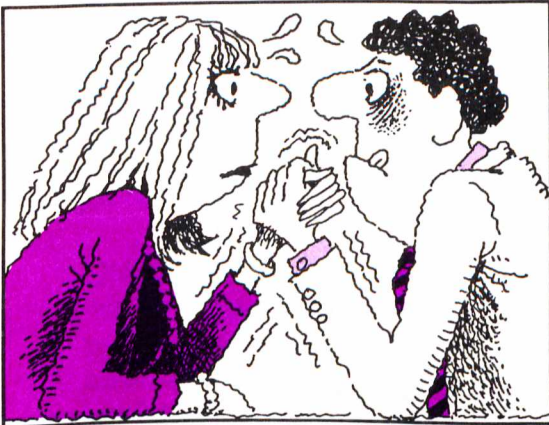
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WHO HAD NEVER
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**ONE
WOULD THINK
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BUT THEY HAVEN'T**

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Aim: To spotlight grandmotherhood, since most mothers become grandmothers

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:5

Introduction

"Grandma, Tell Me Your Memories" is one of the Memory-a-Day series written by Kathleen Lashier. Grandchildren give these spiral bound booklets to their grandmothers and ask them to record their memories. In this way they preserve the memory of one who may not live long enough for them to appreciate. The people, places, dates and stories all form a collection of memories they will cherish for a lifetime.

Memories are priceless commodities—both to make and keep. Let's talk about them as they relate to grandmas.

Grandma, tell a family nickname you had.

Grandmas cannot be stereotyped. They come in all sizes, shapes and fashions. Some are tall, thin, chic and polished. Others are short, plump, bespeckled and aproned. Then there's the medium size variety. If you have a grandma, she's just exactly right for you.

Grandmas dress differently, too. Some wear navy blue suits and white blouses, heels and coifed hair-dos. Others wear sweat suits and tennis shoes. And in between, you have miniskirts and

Grandma, Tell Me your Memories

maxis, sweaters and shawls, pants and skirts, blouses and layered turtle necks, gold chains and thick beads. But on the inside, grandmas are all pretty much the same.

All grandmas don't act the same. Some play and sing in church and teach Sunday school. Others perform best in the kitchen with a mixing bowl and a cookie sheet. Some sit for hours sewing, reading, cross-stitching, or working crossword puzzles. Others must be on the move, doing crafts, shopping, playing bingo, or visiting friends.

Sadly, some grandmas may be pining away in a nursing home or suffering from Alzheimers. Whatever grandma you have, God made her just for you.

"Man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). Surely this applies to grandmas.

Grandma, tell a fond memory of your grandma.

By the time a woman becomes a grandma, she's probably lived 40 or 50 years of her life. (Have you noticed? Grandmas are getting younger all the time!) That's a "heap o' livin'." It's too late to go back and make memories. She's already made them. She can, however, create happy memories with her grandchildren.

Grandmas make memories with grandchildren:

- Take turns inviting them for a meal, an overnight stay, a trip, shopping, or a trip to McDonald's.
- Discover the particular interest or hobby of each one and look for ways to contribute.
- Attend special functions of which they are a part.
- Compliment, build up, encourage, make them feel special. Help them discover their uniqueness.
- Make frequent use of cards, letters, and the telephone, not only on special occasions but "just because."
- Listen. Really listen to what they have to say. Be a confidante.
- Pray for them by name each day. Pray for their choice of college, spouse, career. Occasionally let them know.
- Strive to make pleasant memories that the coming years will not erase.

What do you remember best about your own grandma? What kind of grandma would you like to be?

Grandma, tell of the naughtiest thing you ever did.

Grandmas don't readily 'fess up to the misdeeds of the past. Perhaps her greatest regret is not spending enough time with her children. Alice E. Chase describes it in her poem, "To My Grown-up Son":

My hands were busy through the day, I didn't have the time to play the little games you asked me to. I didn't have much time for you. I'd wash your clothes, I'd sew and cook. But when you'd bring your picture book and ask me please to share your fun, I'd say, 'A little later, son.'

I'd tuck you in all safe at night and hear your prayers, turn out the light and then tiptoe softly to the door. I wish I'd stayed a minute more! For life is short, the years rush past. A little boy grows up so fast. No longer is he at your side his precious secrets to confide.

The picture books are put away, they're no more games to play, no goodnight kiss, no prayer to hear. That all belongs to yesteryear. My hands once busy now lie still. The days are long and hard to fill. I wish I might go back and do the little things you asked me to!

Surely Paul wrote Philippians 4:8 with grandmas in mind: "What-

soever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

As a grandma practices this admonition, she honestly cannot remember all the misdeeds of her past. Time is a filter. And thank God, He erases all the bad memories.

And look up! God is the God of second chances.

Grandma, do you have any advice for me?

Some grandmas are full of advice: Don't do this and don't do that. Do go here and don't go there. Don't wear that and, for goodness sake!, cut your hair!

But when it's all said and done, grandmas realize they are not immortal. "Only one life will soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."

The grandmas we know couldn't give their grandchildren a royal birth, but they can leave them something of more value—a good name. They haven't taken trips around the world, but they can travel there together in picture books. They haven't left them silver and gold, but their faith in God surpasses earthly possessions.

While most footsteps are planted on sand, some are embedded in

concrete. The last chapter of Hebrews is rich with advice any grandma would like to see her grandchildren heed.

Love one another.

Be hospitable.

Be true to your spouse.

Be content with what you have.

Be a good citizen.

Be a positive witness for Christ.

Come to think of it, pretty good advice for us all.

Conclusion

What must you do about this program?

Give your grandma a **Grandma, Tell Me Your Memories** book and ask her to fill it out for you. Aspire to be a grandma one day. It is a worthy calling. Create better memories for your grandchild. Go visit your grandma and tell her how much you love her. Adopt a woman in your church as your grandma. Or become someone's grandma.

Let's all be the generation that passes the Lord's praises on to the next one (Psalm 145:4).

(See Springboard for program suggestion)



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Sharing Jesus

by Loretta Masters

Aim: To learn how we can be better witnesses for the Lord.

Song: "Lift Him Up"

Scripture: Matthew 5:16

For many Christians, one of the most difficult tasks we face is sharing our faith. Some think that we can witness only through a spoken word. The world we live in is proclaiming the glory of the Lord everyday. How much more then should we who are bought by His blood live our lives accordingly. So, let everything we do bring honor to His name.

Love

To be an effective witness, first we must have love for others. The Lord said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

No matter where we are we should always remember that we are the Lord's disciples. If others don't see God's love in His own children, where will they see it?

Have you been guilty of polishing your halo? Do you think as the Pharisee? "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are" (Luke 18:11a).

We must always, remember but for the blood of Jesus, we are as other men. His precious blood is all that separates us. Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Jesus, the only perfect one, showed that kind of love when He laid down His life for us.

Likewise, if we are to win people for the Lord, we must show that

same kind of love. We must show the kind of love that isn't concerned with what kind of clothes someone is wearing or how much money he or she has. The genuine disciple of God looks past these and straight to the soul keeping in mind that "our righteousness is as filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6).

Looking at Christ, we see Him hanging on the old cross with a heart filled with love. He cries out despite agony and pain, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34a).

The person who can see that same kind of love in us is going to stop and take a closer look. He is going to be drawn as if to a magnet in wonder that any human can have that kind of love for others.

Let the love of Jesus shine through the weakness of our flesh. Let Him be magnified in our lives. Then, we will begin to adequately understand the scripture that says, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32).

Simplicity

The second thing we must always keep in our minds when witnessing is keep it simple. Remember the words of the apostle Paul, "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" (I Corinthians 2:2). We must never forget the way of salvation is by way of the cross. This is the same route that we take when telling others about Jesus.

Many people have never been told in simple terms about the cross of Christ. They are all con-

fused with bits of this and that doctrine. Many people believe that they can become good enough to save themselves. Or that they can only be saved when they understand everything in the Bible. In this day of sophisticated communication, there are still so many people who don't know who Jesus is. They don't really understand that He and He alone is their salvation.

II Corinthians 4:3 reads, "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost." And many of those who are lost are under the influence of Satan. They won't hear the gospel message on television or radio. They wouldn't consider going to church. Unless they come face to face with the simplicity of the love of Jesus through one of His children, they will wander alone, aimless and bewildered. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (I Peter 3:15).

Courage

The Prince of Peace left His palace and came to a world where He would be subjected to every cruelty known to man. This took courage. A courage that meant not calling out to a heavenly Father who would have sent a legion of angels to save Him from the siege. We need the same kind of courage to stand up against the same kind of world today.

Remember that we cannot stand alone. We must always look to Jesus and let His courage that is in us see us through. It isn't easy

to be a peculiar people and not be conformed to the world. It takes a brave person to swallow a biting remark or to stand up for what is right in a world that doesn't know the difference between right and wrong.

It takes the kind of bravery that none of us as humans possess. It takes the kind of bravery that only Jesus had. Only He could say despite the suffering and persecution which lay ahead, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Prayer

Finally, if we are to win others for Christ, we must remember to "pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17). We are to lift up the names of those we have a burden for with hope, never doubting that the Lord can do all that He has promised. "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22).

When we pray, we must ask the Holy Spirit to lead us in our witnessing. Through the leading of the Spirit we can know when the time is right to speak. In like manner, only the Spirit can tell us when our silence will speak more loudly than a thousand words.

We should continually rejoice in our prayers. How wonderful it is that we, His children, can have

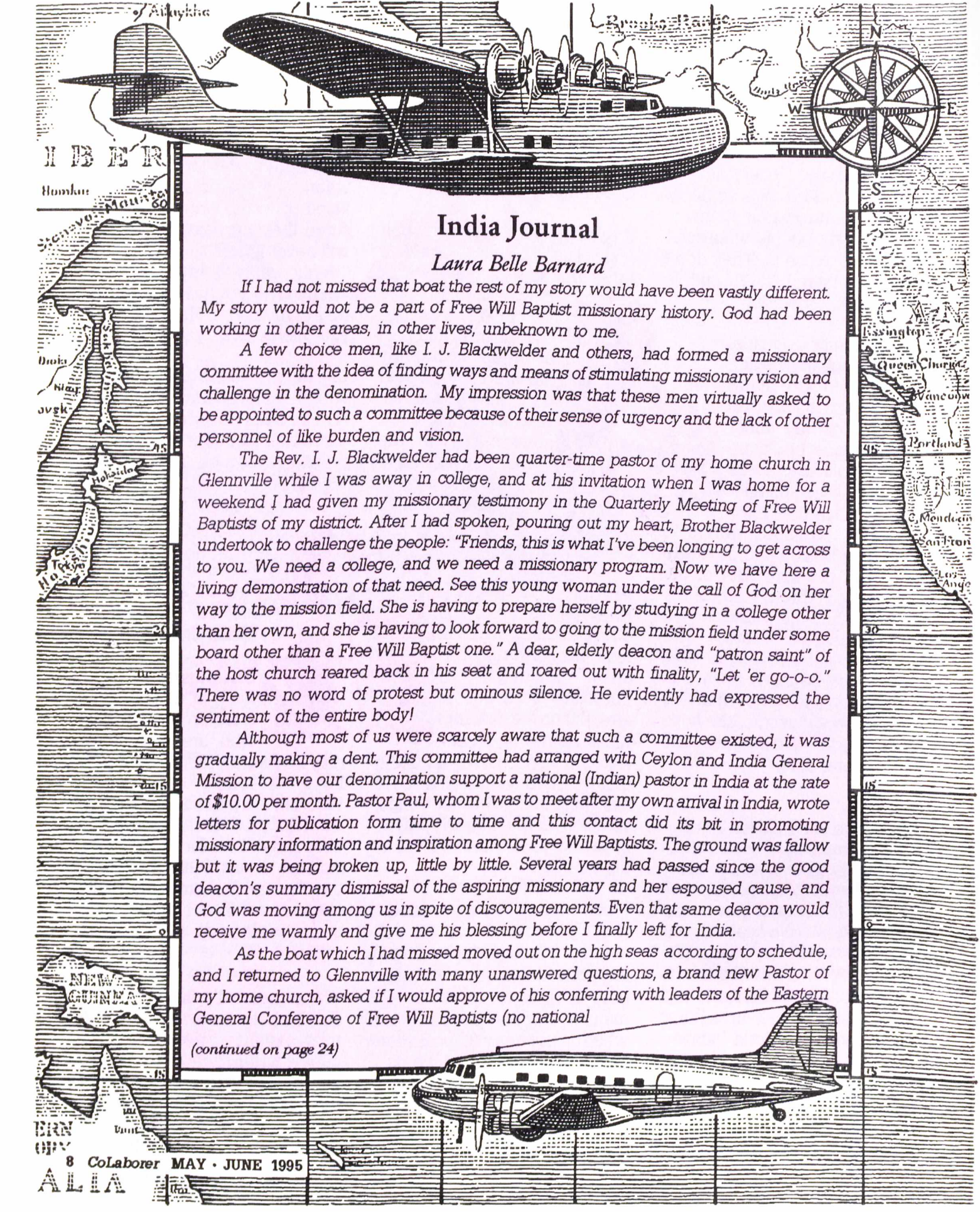
audience with the Almighty God who created heaven and earth. We need never worry or become distressed with the perplexities of this life. We can take our petitions right to the Throne of God when they are signed with the blood of Jesus. We can rest assured that our heavenly Father will never ignore this signature. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you" (John 16:23b).

Let's also go to the throne of God with thankful hearts. Let's thank Him for what He did on the Cross and thank Him that we, though unworthy, can be a part of the building up of His kingdom. "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6).

Conclusion

Each of us comes in contact with people who are lost. They may be friends, relatives, neighbors, or fellow employees. Whether the person is merely an acquaintance or someone we have prayed for for many years isn't important. What matters is that they see the Lord being manifested in our lives and that they see us walking as true disciples of God.

We, as the Lord's disciples, carry His Gospel wherever we go. We must carry it with love and concern, mindful always of the noble name of Christ that we bear. "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8). ❖



India Journal

Laura Belle Barnard

If I had not missed that boat the rest of my story would have been vastly different. My story would not be a part of Free Will Baptist missionary history. God had been working in other areas, in other lives, unbeknown to me.

A few choice men, like I. J. Blackwelder and others, had formed a missionary committee with the idea of finding ways and means of stimulating missionary vision and challenge in the denomination. My impression was that these men virtually asked to be appointed to such a committee because of their sense of urgency and the lack of other personnel of like burden and vision.

The Rev. I. J. Blackwelder had been quarter-time pastor of my home church in Glennville while I was away in college, and at his invitation when I was home for a weekend I had given my missionary testimony in the Quarterly Meeting of Free Will Baptists of my district. After I had spoken, pouring out my heart, Brother Blackwelder undertook to challenge the people: "Friends, this is what I've been longing to get across to you. We need a college, and we need a missionary program. Now we have here a living demonstration of that need. See this young woman under the call of God on her way to the mission field. She is having to prepare herself by studying in a college other than her own, and she is having to look forward to going to the mission field under some board other than a Free Will Baptist one." A dear, elderly deacon and "patron saint" of the host church reared back in his seat and roared out with finality, "Let 'er go-o-o." There was no word of protest but ominous silence. He evidently had expressed the sentiment of the entire body!

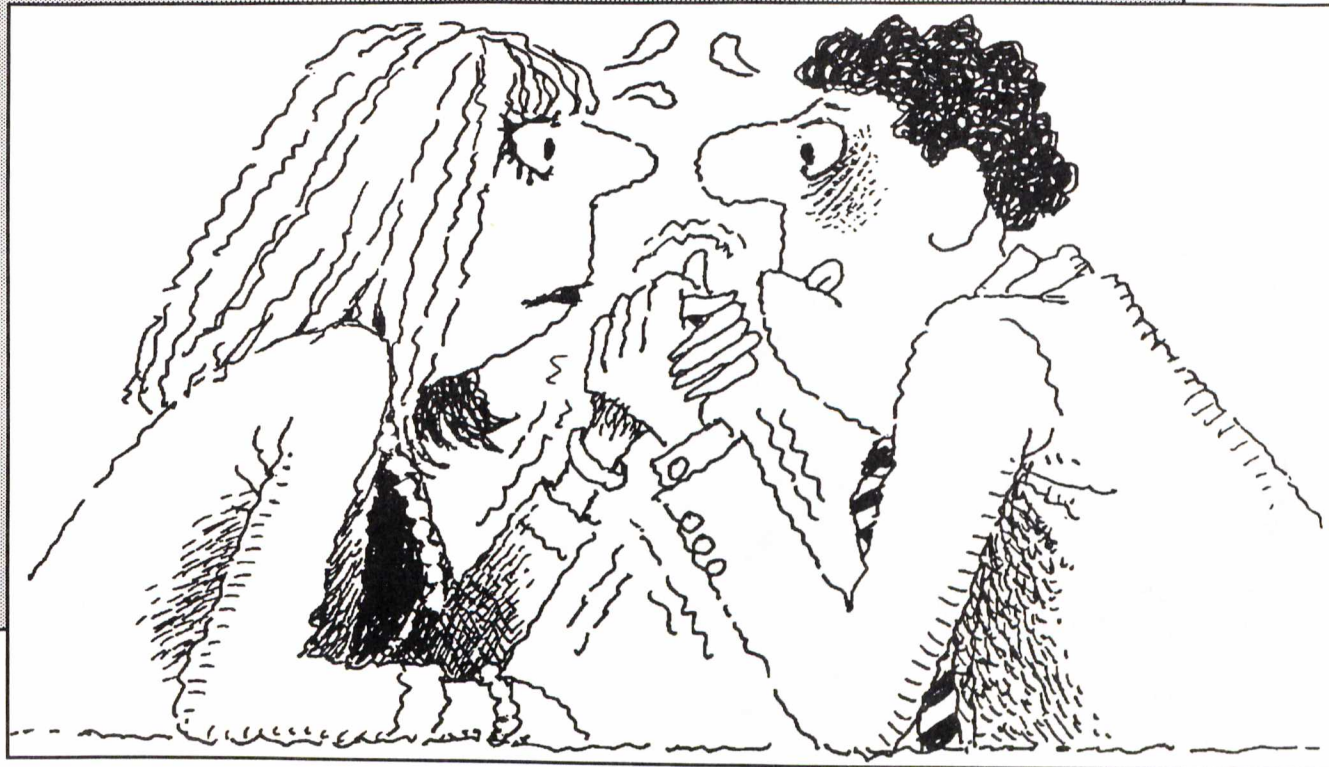
Although most of us were scarcely aware that such a committee existed, it was gradually making a dent. This committee had arranged with Ceylon and India General Mission to have our denomination support a national (Indian) pastor in India at the rate of \$10.00 per month. Pastor Paul, whom I was to meet after my own arrival in India, wrote letters for publication from time to time and this contact did its bit in promoting missionary information and inspiration among Free Will Baptists. The ground was fallow but it was being broken up, little by little. Several years had passed since the good deacon's summary dismissal of the aspiring missionary and her espoused cause, and God was moving among us in spite of discouragements. Even that same deacon would receive me warmly and give me his blessing before I finally left for India.

As the boat which I had missed moved out on the high seas according to schedule, and I returned to Glennville with many unanswered questions, a brand new Pastor of my home church, asked if I would approve of his conferring with leaders of the Eastern General Conference of Free Will Baptists (no national

(continued on page 24)

A WOMAN'S PLACE ...

... Who's Right?



Do you know who usually has the most to say about women? Men, that's who. And that practice didn't just start recently. It's been that way a long time.

Here's a sampling of what some men have to say. You be the judge.

"Do you know that each of you women is an Eve? You are the gate of Hell; you are the temptress of the forbidden fruit; you are the first deserter of the Divine law"—Tertullian (one of the early church fathers).

The Pharisees prayed every morning, "I thank God I am not a Samaritan. I thank God I am not a woman."

"Woman was God's second mistake.—Freidrich Nietzeche

"A wise woman always lets her husband have her way."—R. B. Sheridan

"A man who thinks he is more intelligent than his wife is married to a smart woman."—Oscar Wilde

What God Says About Women

The only place to settle the ever-popular male vs. female power plays is the Bible. What does God say about women? You may be surprised.

The first time women are mentioned in the Bible is in the first chapter of the first book—Genesis 1. Believe it or not, the first statement that God makes about women is that they are to have *dominion* over all the earth (vv. 26, 28)! Dominion with man, that is.

The "dominion" statement occurs before sin when everything and everybody was perfect. God placed a perfect woman in a perfect world with a perfect man and told them *both* to exercise dominion over everything that flew, swam, crawled or walked. Now, that's paradise.

Unfortunately, the story goes downhill from there—for men *and* women. The account in Genesis 1 and 2 implies that woman as the female counterpart to man is essential to complete the image of God in which they were created.

Not only does the account of the Fall in Genesis 3 assign an influential role to woman, but Genesis 2:18 indicates man's incompleteness, and perhaps man's weakness, apart from woman.

Adam did not realize he was incomplete until he saw Eve. She was exactly what he needed. She was

perfect for him. Of course, any woman already knows that.

The subordinate Old Testament role of women seems to be a result of the Fall, *not* the original design of creation. For that matter, man is also assigned a more subordinate role after the Fall also.

And what does all this prove? That neither male chauvinists nor women's libbers can expect to find much comfort in Genesis 3. Both man and woman come off looking rather shabby.

Those who attempt to denigrate women because of the encounter with the serpent in Genesis 3 need to understand that God held Adam accountable for the Fall. That's because Adam was not deceived (I Timothy 2:14). While both sinned, Adam is uniquely responsible.

A Fresh Biblical Perspective

Whenever God spoke about the rights of men, He also guaranteed the rights of women. When Moses climbed down off Sinai with the two tablets of stone, one of them contained these words: "Honor thy father and thy mother. . ." (Exodus 20:12). There it was etched in stone, written by the finger of God. That should settle a lot of arguments.

Child Bearing

In the Old Testament, the woman's most important role was probably that of childbearing. But, ladies, don't let that disturb you. Most men spent their time sheep herding and hauling rocks out of barley fields.

Legal Rights

Women's rights under the Mosaic law always included the right to inherit property. And a powerful right it was. For instance, if a property-owning woman was wooed and

wed by a suitor from another tribe, the husband had to take the wife's family name (Nehemiah 7:63; Numbers 27:1-8, 36:6-9).

In that light, the modern debate over whose name changes at weddings turns out not to be so modern after all. Those land-owning Old Testament women were a special group of people with firm legal rights.

"Honor
thy father
and
thy mother
...."
There it was
etched in stone,
written
by the finger
of God.
That
should settle
a lot of arguments.

Political Involvement

Women were quite evident and highly visible in the political life of Israel. Bathsheba's hand orchestrated events to guide young Solomon's rise to King David's throne (I Kings 1-3). She's typical of those mothers eager to remind God how talented their children are.

Before King Asa could reform Israel politically, he had to oust a particularly tough leader of idolatry—his own mother (I Kings 15:13)!

And just for the record, I suppose that Deborah had all the pizzazz of a George Patton as she prodded the short-sighted men of her day into becoming a formidable military power (Judges 4-5).

Jesus' Ministry

I'd challenge anyone to do a serious study of the important roles women played in the life and ministry of Jesus. They washed His feet when the 12 Apostles would not. Women were last at the cross and first at the empty tomb. They were the first to see Him on the resurrection morning.

Early Church

Read the epistles and mark the names of the holy women who wrapped their arms around the early church—Phoebe, Lois, Eunice, Priscilla, others.

Oh, and remember that the Church, that one perfect organism for whom Christ died, is always referred to as a bride, *never* a groom.

Problems with Bad Women

Most men spend too much time listening to gossip about the wrong women.

Controller

Some men assume that every woman is a Jezebel looking for an Ahab to dominate. Not so!

For every Jezebel, there's a Jochabed who buries herself in anonymity for the cause of God and family.

Seducer

Others suspect that every woman is a Delilah waiting for poor Samson to fall asleep so that she can clip his strength.

I assure you that Brother Samson was not forced to Delilah's bed with a knife at his throat; he got exactly what he deserved. Besides, for every Delilah, there's a Deborah who inspires men to obey God.

Schemer

They're afraid that every woman is a scheming Sapphira (Acts 5) who would keep something for herself, look God in the face and lie about it. They carefully forget that her husband lied and died first. Sapphira only followed his lead.

But for every Sapphira, there's a Sarah whose purity inspires her husband to trust God.

Selfish

Some think all women are like the bloated kine of Bashan (Amos 4:1) who own houses for every season and yet cry for more. But the kine of Bashan pale when compared with those widows who give all they have to the work of God (Mark 12:42-44).

Sure, there's a rogue's gallery of wicked women, if someone wishes to spotlight them. On the other hand, can anyone forget their counterparts—Cain, Judas Iscariot, Balaam, Esau, Core, Hymenaeus, Nero, Herod . . . ?

Principles for Good Women

In contrast to the suspicious-minded, I encourage godly women to continue growing upward toward God, upward in personal fulfillment, upward in relationships. Naturally, growing upward means something different for every

woman. But there are five ways that it's the same for all women.

Accept Self

Accept yourself for what you are and who you are. Accept your areas of strengths as well as your areas of weakness. Even if that means admitting to yourself that your Cadillac mind is stuck with a Volkswagen chassis. Everybody loves Volkswagens! At least the more discerning of us do.

Self-Image

Project a good self-image. Be as kind to yourself as you are to your neighbor. Practice "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." We cannot *hate* ourselves and *love* our neighbors.

Generally speaking, women are harder on themselves than men are. Women constantly berate themselves—too fat, too skinny, unruly hair, bad skin, too tall, too short, nose too large, clumsy feet. Not men! Lighten up, ladies. You're beautiful the way God made you. Paint what needs to be painted and paper over the rest.

Intellectual Excellence

Assume responsibility for intellectual excellence. "Thou shalt love the lord thy God with all thy . . . *mind*" was not written exclusively for men. I don't mind admitting that I've met any number of godly women who could think circles around me.

Take Responsibility for Who You Are

Rule your body. Take charge of your emotions. Yes, women do have problems with temper, appetite and lust just like men. The biblical admonition to "present your bodies a living sacrifice" includes women.

Some years ago I heard a pastor say, "The trouble with a living sacrifice is that it keeps crawling off the altar."

Spiritual Growth

Admit that spiritually you are a priest with God. God does not conduct business with women through male priests. Every Christian woman is part of the "chosen generation," the "royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9). This means that each woman talks directly to God through the intercession of the Holy Spirit, the same way

**every
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the
royal
priesthood**

that men communicate with God.

Praising the Ideal Woman

No woman has claimed more attention than the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31. While books have been written on this chapter, let's con-

[Continued on page 24]



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Simple, yet powerful. What about the bad habits? What about the scars? God knew His people needed more than instantaneous forgiveness of past sin.

Along with salvation comes a process of healing. The Father is our personal physician that heals the broken heart and mind. Some scars don't go away. They serve as reminders of our own weakness without His strength. Some bad habits may vanish immediately others persist. Grace means that God sees us according to our position in Christ, not our behavior.

Most of all God wants our obedience, but His love is unconditional. No matter what we do, He will always love us. Because of His love, He gives us grace to carry us through the trials and temptations.

Grace gives us the eagerness to do what is right even when doing right seems impossible (Titus 2:14). ❖

Poet's Corner

All in a Night

Eva Bea Wood, Mt Grove, MO

As I lay my head on the pillow,
when the day had drawn to a close,
a myriad of thoughts came to mind.
From wherever and whatever ... who knows.

Before I could let them overtake me,
I knew I had to spend time in prayer.
A prayer of faith and thanksgiving
for the many years of care.

A prayer of supplication
For those who had needs,
With an emphasis on the salvation
Of those who are not redeemed.

The bereaved, the depressed, and the lonely,
The ill with no place to call home
Were petitioned to God for comfort,
For assurance they do not stand alone.

Remembering the men and the women
Manning missions at home and away,
Grace sufficient and lasting endurance
Were implored of the Lord for their sakes.

There is turmoil and strife in high places,
But the power of prayer will bring change.
A prayer for world leaders was offered
So that, once again, world peace might reign.

When prayer time was over, I turned on my pillow.
All thoughts abandoned--sleep would not delay.
But lo, in a moment, my eyes were wide open,
Thoughts of past and future came my way.

One, two, three hours in the darkness,
I mulled over eighty odd years,
Some thoughts were of things ridiculous,
Others almost brought me to tears.

At two o'clock, exhausted, I wondered,
"Will there ever be a time
when finally all thoughts will vanish,
when I won't hear the clock chime?"

Surprised by the light in the window
By the cock crowing out at the dawn,
I realized sleep had embraced me,
Had held me four hours as its pawn.

I groggily moved from the bedroom
To resume tasks unfinished before,
Believing that the forthcoming evening
Would have nothing but sound sleep in store. ❖



A Parable

By Mary Ruth Wischart

Now a believer without a missionary spirit is likened to a man who lived in a country where the rain had ceased to fall. Every day people eagerly scanned the skies, looking for rain; but none came. The grass withered; the flowers died. The trees and the fruits of the field were destroyed. The little streams, the large streams, the rivers and springs became dry. The aged and the young fainted and died of the heat and thirst.

Now this certain man longed with the others for only a drop of water. One day while he was trudging over the dry parched fields searching for some hidden stream of spring that might remain, a strange thing

happened. Something outside the man seemed to be leading him to a certain hill. Wearily he climbed the hill thinking this too might bring disappointment. He had almost reached the end of his strength. Then, suddenly, at the crest of the hill, he saw it! A tree! Its branches and leaves were green with life. A new strength came to him, and he ran up the hill to the tree.

For a moment he stood motionless. A sudden dread that this was only a mirage filled him, for out before him there was a garden. Tall trees with green leaves glistening in the sun stood shielding from the sun's heat the masses of lovely flowers. But most wonderful of all in the midst of the garden there was a spring of water. Oh! how beautiful beyond description was the sight of the fountain, springing up and overflowing to run down its banks and water the whole garden.

Only for a moment did the man stand thus, for the parched lips and dry throat could not long resist the sparking, bubbling, refreshing water. He ran to the source; he knelt. Dipping his fingers in it, he laughed for joy. He tasted; he drank deeply. Bathing his face, his hands, his whole body in the water, he was satisfied. Still the water was not diminished, but continued springing up and overflowing as before. Refreshed, he slept and awakened, finding the spring continuing as before.

A sudden thought came to the man. There was enough water here for everyone who had suffered from the heat and lack of water. What a wonderful thought!

*He clapped
his hands
and shouted into
the air, "Let
everyone come
and drink." The
only answer was
the rustling of the
trees and the
nodding of
the Flowers.
He had
forgotten the
people were too
far away
to hear.*

He clapped his hands and shouted into the air, "Let everyone come and drink." The only answer was the rustling of the trees and the nodding of the flowers. He had forgotten the people were too far away to hear.

Looking about for some use to make of the abundant water, he busied himself carrying water to all the flowers and trees. He watered the grass and every living plant. He kept on carrying the water and watering the plants although the stream which flowed through the garden provided for them adequately.

Now and then he thought of the people at the bottom of the hill. How sorry he was for them! If only they would come and take of the water. It never seemed to occur to him that they hadn't had a chance. Often he would go to a place on the hill where he could see down into the valley. There he could see men, women and children dying of thirst, stretched on the parched ground, hands extended as though begging for aid. Finally one day when he went to look down into the valley, he saw no movement among those below. They had all died with the water so near and never having drunk at the abundant fountain. So stirred was his heart with pity that tears welled up in his eyes and overflowed. He wept for the people who had never drunk at the spring and had never enjoyed the loveliness of the garden.

If only they had listened when he called! If only they had looked up and seen the tree. If only they had climbed the hill as he had done. If only—but wait. How had he come to find the spring? Yes, he remembered that day. Something had brought him here. He had not found this place in his own strength. Then neither could these people have found it by themselves.

As a great realization broke upon the man, he hastened to take a little water with him and go down the hill. A dreadful fear urged him on and he made great haste to reach the valley. When he neared the dreadful scene, he shouted to the people, telling them of the water. But all was still. He raced from one still form to the other, but it was no use. The ears that might have heard had he only come sooner were sealed forever to his cries.

Looking about him in horror, the poor man fell on his knees and sobbed, "Oh, if only I had come sooner! If only I had come." From somewhere it seemed he could hear a voice. "Their blood ... at thine hands."

Thus is the man who obeys not the command of the Lord, "And let him that heareth, say, Come."

Editor's Note: This gem was written in the 1950's for the Free Will Baptist Bible College student paper. ❖.



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator

May and June are filled with a flurry of activities: Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations. Delegate responsibilities to your officers and other faithful members. See to it that work is distributed so that some women don't become overloaded. This might cause some to get discouraged.

Recognize your high school and college graduates. Anything from a shower to a card will be appreciated. A cookbook or devotional book is also appropriate. This is a good time to invite graduating young women to get involved in your group. So, extend a special invitation to them. They may not know what Women Nationally Active for Christ is all about.

Assistant Coordinator

If your group has a good number of grandmothers, the May program can be used in a Mother's Day banquet or luncheon. Gladys Gragg wrote "Your Hands" (see page 28) upon her pastor's request for a Mother's Day program in her church. Encourage your women to write short pieces about their mother or grandmother and have them read what they wrote at your Mother's Day program. Your church family will appreciate hearing about people they know. It's a great way to help people get to know each other.

Consider having a parent/child dinner combining Mother's Day and Father's Day. The same ideas used for a mothers and grandmothers work for fathers and grandfathers.

Secretary/Treasurer

Designated giving made up more than half of the money that went through the WNAC office in 1994. To make our job easier make sure all designated giving is clearly marked. The Free Will Baptist denomination has four colleges and about 170 individual missionaries sponsored by the two National Missions Boards.

Keep up to date on the missionaries so that you are sending money to those who are currently working for the Home or Foreign Missions Departments. Missionaries also retire, resign, and change places of service. One example is Norman and Bessie

Devotional Outline

The Unique Invitation

—unique message

Matt. 11:28, John 3:16-18
meets the need of every life—
invitation to come, believe,
receive pardon and eternal life

—unique sender

Psalms 24:10, John 1:14
a king-only God could offer
His Son

—unique messenger

Matt. 3:17, Isaiah 53:12
the Son-only Jesus could take
our sins

—unique receiver

John 3:16
whosoever—addressed to every
person that has ever been or
will be born

—unique RSVP

Rev. 3:20, 2 Cor. 6:2
has been extended for thou-
sands of years—God's time is
now

—unique PS

Luke 14:23, Acts 1:8
post script—bring as many as
possible with you

❖ adapted from program by Marie
Phillips

Richards who were working in Côte d'Ivoire. Recently, they have been appointed to work in New Orleans, LA.

If you are sending money to a state sponsored home missionary who is not part of a joint project with the National Home Missions Board, send the offerings directly to the state offices. If you are not sure about where to send the money, check with the Home Missions Department.

Watch for similar names. Ernest Holland is in Côte d'Ivoire and Curt Holland in Brazil. Home Missions has more than one family with last names Adams, Gwartney, Jones, Maynard, Nason, Thomas. Pay close attention to the following names that are the same except for a Jr or Sr.: Ken Eagleton Sr., Dr. Kenneth Eagleton Jr., Dave Franks Sr., Dave Franks Jr. To be on the safe side, always use first and last name (and Jr. or Sr. when needed).

State treasurers sending reports to the national office need to be consistent. If you group together all gifts that are designated to a specific account make sure that account only appears once on the report. Check and recheck for accuracy.

Missions Chairman

You can help the people in your church stay informed about the new missionaries that have been appointed and what is going on in each missionary's life.

In your meetings, read any prayer letters you or your church receives. If your pastor doesn't already print your adopted missionary's (or missionaries') letters in the bulletin, you might want to copy the letters to give out to those who don't already get the newsletters. Have a sign up list so you won't duplicate what people are already getting.

(See also the Communicator on page 19 for a suggestion regarding state missions emphasis.)

Prayer Chairman

If your church or women's group does not have a prayer chain, consider organizing one. The prayer chain can be for the women in your group or you can sponsor the prayer chain inviting any church member to sign up. Start with an announcement inviting interested people to sign up. When everyone has signed up, make a list with AM and PM telephone numbers. Along with the list, include some procedure guidelines. The following guidelines could be used.

- The person at the top of the list would be the first one to contact when a prayer need arises.
- Each person on the list calls the next person with the request. If someone cannot be reached, skip and call the next one.
- Only give necessary information so pray-er can pray. The prayer chain should not be a telephone gossip session. Be

On the Trail with Him

Let's go

to New Mexico

for the 1995

WNAC Retreat

Glorietta, New Mexico

October 20-22

See the Mar/Apr *CoLaborer*
for the registration form or
contact the WNAC office.

HID IN MY HEART

Titus 2:11-14 (NIV)

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

sensitive as to how much to share.

- Pray as soon as you receive the call and then throughout the day.
- Don't forget to communicate answers to prayer.

Structure the prayer chain to fit your group's needs and size. The person at the top of the list could also act as a secretary by keeping record of requests and answers. Again, be very careful how the information is recorded so as not to compromise anyone's confidentiality. Write us and let us know how your prayer chain works. If you have any other ideas concerning or stories of blessings through the prayer chain, share them with us too.

Study Chairman

Help the coordinator find books that would be appropriate as gifts for graduates. Consider how many will graduate in your church and how much you can spend per person. Check your local Christian book store for titles, such as, "Proverbs for Graduates," "Streams in the Desert," "My Utmost for His Highest."

Watch for a great book that will come out in print later this year by Shirley Combs, missionary to Brazil. This lovely book tells of how God answers prayer in the Brazilian children's home, "Lar Nova Vida." It's impossible to read this book without having your faith strengthened.

Service Chairman

Look around. Who is hurting or needing assistance in your church? Too often people in the congregation have good intentions, but inadvertently someone is overlooked. One way to prevent this is to organize and encourage members to inform you when someone is in need. Women in the group could take turns taking meals to those who have been sick in the hospital or at home. Have a plan on how to take care of the church family and those in your community. Work together with your Coordinator.

Keep your eyes open for visitors. If you have a way to get visitors' telephone numbers, call them. Thank them for coming to your Sunday school class or church service. Extend a special invitation to the women to come to your women's meetings.

If someone has been absent, call them. Let them know you missed them. Show concern, not curiosity.

Suggestion for May Program: Arrange rocking chairs on the platform and invite grandmothers of various ages and personalities to share their memories. You may choose from those given in "Grandma, Tell Me Your Memories," page 4, or compose your own questions. If you need more ideas, involve the children and grandchildren with question making. ❖

Lucy & Marge talk about VBS

Marge: Lucy, remember my neighbor with the two kids. She got a divorce about two years ago?

Lucy: You mean, the one that used to call you all the time?

Marge: um-hum.

Lucy: What about her?

Marge: Well, her car is always in the shop. Lots of times, when I take Jr. to school, her two girls ride with us. The girls were complaining that they had nothing to do in the summer. Their mom never had time to take them anywhere.

Lucy: Their mom works a lot?

Marge: Yeh, she has a new job. It seems like she's always working. I was trying to think of how I could help out the girls. They're a lot younger than Jr. Then I thought, why not invite the girls to come with me to the Vacation Bible School?

Lucy: Oh, yeah.

Marge: Karrie, the younger one, blurted out, "What's that?" I told them all about last year's VBS. They sounded interested.

Lucy: Are they going?

Marge: They said they had to ask mom. You know, I need to find time to call their mom and get to know her better. Maybe she'll let the girls go to church with me if she knows me better.

Lucy: Speaking of VBS, are you doing anything this year?

Marge: I'm just helping with the refreshments. Why?

Lucy: Wanda needs someone to tell the missionary story, I was just trying to think of somebody that would do a good job.

Marge: I think Thelma ought to do it. She can make a story sound so interesting.

Lucy: We need to pray for her, she's still not feeling up to par.

Marge: Really?

Lucy: Yeh, but I'll mention her to Wanda anyway.

Marge: We do need to pray for her and for the VBS, too.

.....

**Is prayer your
steering wheel
or your spare
tire?
—Corrie ten Boom**

Springboard Illustrated: Stories to Grow By Volume 35/ No. 3

I'm Still Here by Teresa Sargent

"Mommy, are you here?"

"Yes, Rachel," I called out to my daughter for the tenth time today, "I'm still here." Since we had moved into our new home, our five year old was in constant need of reassurance that she was not alone. Her anxiety and insecurities were continually fed by the unfamiliar surroundings. My own frustration was building with each failing attempt to convince Rachel that she would not be left alone in the house.

After calling out to me for the eleventh time, I settled her onto my lap for a talk. I silently count to ten and take a deep breath. "Rachel," I begin, "Mommy is going to make a promise to you, and that means you can trust me. Whatever I say, I will do. Do you understand?" She responds with a smile and a nod. I continue, "My promise is that I will never leave you alone in this house. There is no cause to be afraid. Whatever room you play in, I will be close by, and I promise to never, ever, leave this house without you." She accepts my promise wholeheartedly and slides from my lap to rejoin her tea-party. I sigh with relief and rejoin the dirty dishes, until—"Mommy, are you still here?" Exasperated, I answer her call.

As a new day begins, I sit down to my time of morning tea and devotion. My verse for the day is Hebrews 13:5. The words leap from the page into my heart. "... for He hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." I am reminded of the countless times I have claimed that promise as my own, only to forget it all too quickly.

This past year had been filled with many changes as I began my new role as pastor's wife. A new church, new faces, and new friends continually fed my own anxieties and insecurities. I called out to God numerous times, needing constant reassurance that I was not alone. He gave me His word and promise that I would never be left alone, nor forsaken. I wasn't reprimanded or scolded, but lovingly and patiently gathered to Him for the assurance I sought. With a prayer of thankfulness, I began my day. Until—"Mommy, are you still here?"

This time I gently responded, as I had been responded to, "Yes my child, I'm still here." ♦



How do you tell
others about Jesus?
Join us for a special
time of sharing.

Place:

Time:

COMMUNICATOR

BY MARY RUTH WISEHART

Observe A Week of Prayer for State Home Missions

Some women's groups dedicate the month of June to home mission work in the state.

This week should be a week of prayer for the missions and missionaries.

Contact your state home mission board or the clerk of your state association to get information about the work in your state.

Include a special offering for the state work.

A Message for Secretaries and Treasurers

What difference does it make whether your report to the district, state or national convention is accurate?

It makes a difference. The national constitution says that each state must pay national dues (\$10) for each member of the women's group in that state. These dues must be paid in order for the delegates from that state to be seated at the national convention.

The national convention receives one annual report from the secretary of each state. The report includes a space for reporting membership and the amount of dues paid to the National Convention. The amount of dues sent in to the national office should reflect the number of members the secretary reports and should be the same amount as that on the secretary's report.

Please help us get accurate reports by filling out your annual reports carefully, checking with last year's report to make sure that your beginning number of members is the same as that total you reported last year and that the number of members lost and the number of new members are reflected in the total membership for the current year.

Provision Closet Needs:

Bedspreads, all sizes

King, Queen, and Full Size
SHEET SETS

Food Processors

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

King and twin-sized
mattress covers

Baking Pans

Hand towels, wash cloths
and towel sets

Please, send no blankets
at this time

Remember that 50 or 100 years from now only what we have recorded will be preserved and read by those who follow us.

Preregister for the Convention

We are looking forward to the National Convention in the New Convention Center in Charlotte, NC.

It's the year for election of officers. Be sure your delegates are there to vote.

Mrs. Mabel Willey will speak at the Fellowship Dinner. You don't want to miss Mom Willey. She has a special message for all of us.

Watch for other details of the program in the next issue.

Preregister and get those Fellowship Dinner tickets now. ❖

Pre-Register by June 23 and Pick up Your Convention Packet on Saturday!

**Early pick-up available at
Charlotte Convention Center
for those who pre-register:**

**Saturday, July 15
3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, July 16
1:00 p.m.**

Pre-Registration ends June 23, 1995

Meal Information

Children's Banquet / \$7.00
Monday, July 17 / 5:00 p.m.
Convention Center / Ballroom-B

Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon / \$15.00
Tuesday, July 18 / 12:00 noon
Omni Hotel / Charlotte Hall

Youth Banquet / \$12.50
Tuesday, July 18 / 9:00 p.m.
Convention Center / Ballroom B-C
Note: Until June 23, Youth Banquet tickets will be sold only
to those in grades seven to age 24 and youth workers
accompanying their group. Others may purchase available
tickets at the convention.

Music Ministries Breakfast / \$9.50
Wednesday, July 20 / 7:00 a.m.
Convention Center / Room 210 A-B

Youth Workers Reception / \$6.00
Monday, July 17 / 9:00 p.m.
Convention Center / Room 213

WNAC Fellowship Dinner / \$15.00
Tuesday, July 18 / 5:00 p.m.
Convention Center / Ballroom-C

FWBBC Luncheon / \$11.50
Wednesday, July 19 / 12:00 Noon
Convention Center / Ballroom-B

Master's Men Dinner / \$18.00 (\$20 at convention)
Wednesday, July 19 / 4:45 p.m.
Convention Center / Ballroom-B

Only one person per form.
Make additional
copies if needed.

Pre-Registration Form

for
National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Charlotte, NC / July 16 - 20, 1995

By completing the Pre-Registration Form, you will save **valuable** time at the convention. If you pre-register, proceed to a special registration area where you will receive a packet containing your pre-printed name tag, tickets and materials.

Please Print

Name: _____
First or Name Desired on Badge Last
Address: _____
City: _____
Church: _____
Pastor's Name: _____
Hotel (if known): _____

Phone #: (_____) _____ - _____
Area Code

☐ Male ☐ Female

State: _____ Zip: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Completed form(s) and fees must be mailed to

Convention Registration

P. O. Box 5002

Antioch, TN 37011-5002

and received on or before **June 23, 1995.**

You may register for all three conventions on this form.

I If you want to register for the **National Association**, complete Section I.

District Association: _____

Minister: ☐ Ordained ☐ Licensed ☐ Pastor
(I certify that I am a member in good standing with the above named church and association which belong to the National Association.)

Missionary: ☐ Foreign (Country) _____

Delegate: ☐ Home
☐ Ordained Deacon
☐ State
☐ Local Church (\$25.00)
☐ National Board Member
☐ National Officer
Visitor: ☐ [Visitors can not vote]

Meal Tickets:

Quantity

Youth Workers Reception _____ x \$6.00 = \$_____

Music Ministries Breakfast _____ x \$9.50 = \$_____

Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon _____ x \$15.00 = \$_____

FWBBC Alumni Luncheon _____ x \$11.50 = \$_____

Master's Men Dinner (before conv.) _____ x \$18.00 = \$_____
(\$20 at convention)

If Local Church Delegate _____ → \$25.00 = \$_____

(Must enclose signed credentials card.)

SUBTOTAL \$_____

II If you want to register for **WNAC**, complete Section II. (Check only one of the following:)

DELEGATE: ☐ Local (\$5.00)
☐ State
☐ State President or Field Worker
☐ National Officer
VISITOR: ☐ [Visitors can not vote]

Meal Tickets:

Quantity

WNAC Fellowship Dinner _____ x \$15.00 = \$_____

If Local WNAC Delegate _____ → \$5.00 = \$_____

SUBTOTAL \$_____

III If you want to register for the **National Youth Conference**, complete Section III. (All those in 1st grade through age 24 must register to attend NYC.)

Are you a youth worker? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Grade completed Spring 1995: _____ Age: _____
Birthdate: _____ / _____ / _____
Parent's (or Guardian's) name: _____
Youth Leader's name: _____

Registration Fee

Pre-Registration Fee \$13.00 = \$_____

On-site registration fee is \$15.00

Adults over 24 do not pay NYC fees. Competitors pay separate entry fees.

You MUST register for NYC to purchase meal tickets/attend banquets (unless age 25 and up).

Meal Tickets:

Quantity

Children's Banquet (grades 1-6) _____ x \$7.00 = \$_____

Youth Banquet (must be in grade 7 to _____ x \$12.50 = \$_____

age 24 or an accompanying youth worker)
limited - 1 ticket per form)

SUBTOTAL \$_____

For Office Use Only

Rec: _____ Ck/MO # _____ AMT \$ _____
CK _____

Make ALL checks payable
to FWB Convention.
**No refunds mailed after
June 23, 1995.**

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Check/Money Order MUST accompany this form.
Enclose ONE check to pay all fees and tickets.

Women In Action



A. Gorgeous gifts and fabulous food provoke smiles

The women at New Lebanon Free Will Baptist Church (Tishomingo, MS) met for their annual Christmas party in December 1994. With fourteen present, they had a scrumptious meal and exchanged gifts. Madrid Richardson reports that this one was an especially good time of fellowship for the group. Sitting left to right: Brenda Lambert, Sue McNiel. Standing middle: Ireda Burcham, Paula Gilbert, Jewel Nixon. Back row: Cindy Lambert, Gay Nell Williams, Peggy Hendrix, Louise Brown, Ann Halder, Beverly Hendrix, Madrid Richardson, Jackie Lambert and Jeene Skinner.

Dear photographer: Thank you for sharing your pictures with us. WNAC women want to see one another's faces and the activities other groups are having. Your pictures and letters can be a source of ideas for others. Be sure to include names, places, dates, activities and the best possible quality photos.



B. Craft bazaar raises \$1400

Bethel Free Will Baptist Church (Cullman, AL) had their third annual craft bazaar at a local community center. In spite of the stormy night, thirty-five people attended. They had a good time auctioning the items. They had baked goods, tools and a wide variety of crafts made by men and women in the church.

God lead them to choose the Franks Jr. family as their missionaries for their bazaar before they knew about Becky's need for surgery. The final tally for the auction was \$1400. Those present showed excitement and cried tears of joy. Lucy Cox expressed praise to God for using their church and thanksgiving for Becky's quick recovery. They can't wait to see what God is going to do next.

C. Home again, for a few days

While Debbie Griffin (missionary to Japan) was in the US for a few days, she spoke for the WNAC group at Bellview Free Will Baptist Church in Colquitt, GA. Debbie gave a report of her work. Afterwards, the women had a time for questions, refreshments and fellowship. Debbie appears in the front center of the picture.



D. Staying up with the stars

The St. Louis district WNAC held an all night prayer retreat at Calvary Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Fenton, MO. Forty-seven ladies were present. Their special guest speaker was Diane Thomas from North Carolina. The mini-retreat started on a Friday evening with a potluck dinner and continued through the night with several messages from Diane, humorous skits and games. The retreat culminated with a special candlelight prayer and song service at midnight. According to Kim Dixon, the meeting was a special time to draw new strength as Diane Thomas spoke on women's roles in marriage, motherhood and everyday Christian living. Pictured from left to right: Frances Combs, district vice-president; Kim Dixon, district secretary/treasurer; Shirley Jackson, district president, Diane Thomas, guest speaker.

Letters to WNAC

Dear WNAC,

The new actionettes at White Rock Free Will Baptist Church have been meeting for about one month with about 17 girls on roll. We meet every Wednesday night and, so far, all have really been faithful about coming. The first Wednesday of every month, we have a business meeting. On the other Wednesdays, we have different activities. We have been talking about the family and how different things affect us. I was really surprised how much some of the girls opened up to us. We try to keep it interesting for them and encourage them as much as we can to open up. I feel that this will help them later in life.

Janice Wells, Phenix City, AL

Dear WNAC,

As with many things in Spain, speed is not all-important, instead a more leisurely pace is maintained. This is often frustrating, especially when dealing with government clerks or waiting for an individual to accept the truth of the Gospel. Statistics show that it takes an average of seven years of **consistent** exposure to the Word for a Spanish man over the age of 30 to come to Christ. This makes every day you can spend with someone in Bible study or personal witness very important. Being away for any length of time means either a person takes longer coming to the Lord or loses interest altogether.

I deeply appreciate your generosity and faithfulness. What I ask now is your prayers that more individuals and churches would see just how vital and needed their prayers and finances are to the work of evangelism in Spain.

Lynn Midgett, missionary to Spain

Dear WNAC,

Thanks for all you do for WNAC through the *CoLaborer* magazine. We truly appreciate you.

Kim Dixon, St Louis, MO

(continued from page 8)

organization at that time) to see if some kind of working relationship between myself and the denomination could be arranged. Brother Davidson, too, desired a missionary vision for the church, and this should prove to be a helpful move. Well! Dr. McQuilkin had often reminded us (quoting some one else or not, I don't know) that "disappointment" should be spelled "His-appointment." This was beginning to look like a case in point. So, in answer to Pastor Davidson's question, I replied somewhat excitedly, "Would I approve? I had no reason to imagine there was such a possibility.

By all means, try!" Frankly, I felt pretty much alone, humanly speaking, in the task I had undertaken. Give him a chance, I thought. The General Conference would meet in June near Greenville, North Carolina, and it was to be a kind of joint meeting with representatives from the conference of Free Will Baptists west of the Mississippi attending. Together they would be discussing the projected union of the two large bodies of Free

Will Baptists into a National Association. It would be a strategic meeting, and so it seemed right to postpone sailing until after that meeting, waiting six months more instead of three.

This gave opportunity to visit practically all of the churches in South Georgia, on weekends and Wednesday nights, and occasionally on a week-night when the church was near enough. Perhaps this, too, was a part of the serving-while-waiting that the County School Superintendent reminded me of. In any case, it was a rich experience for me, as truly pioneering as it would be in India. And J. R. Davidson worked faithfully in arranging itineraries and transportation. We need a revival of his breed.

Meanwhile this man of God, man of vision, had been touching the leadership of the General Conference, and I received an invitation to appear before that assembly in historic Black Jack Church, near Greenville. That would be en route as I went again to New York to sail for India.

(continued from page 11)

sider three things the Proverbs 31 woman has going for her.

Business Woman

She's a *shrewd* business woman. This woman is comfortable matching wits in the marketplace. She loses none of her femininity because she carries a briefcase.

Verse 16 indicates that she knows how to negotiate skillfully, has the resources to act on her negotiations and understands the value of real estate. She's informed.

Verse 24 reveals her ability to market her products. When she speaks, men listen (v. 26). That's because she knows what she's talking about.

But one word of caution here. While she is a *shrewd* business woman, beware of removing the "d" from *shrewd*. We all know what that leaves.

Homemaker/Mother

She's a *loving mother* and a *good homemaker*. Verses 15 and 27 point to a woman who plans ahead, starts early, provides tasty meals for her family, oversees the domestic scene and gets 60 minutes out of every hour. She can never be accused of wasting time in gossip or idle chatter.

Contented Wife

This woman's husband loves her and it shows (vv. 11-12). He has learned to treat her as a friend, a wife and

a member of the community (v. 23). Her children brag on her chocolate brownies and her husband thinks she hung the moon (v. 28).

When she's calling on clients, her uniform of the day is strength and honor (v. 25). When she gets home at night, she speaks with kindness (v. 26), even when hubby spills coffee on the carpet.

Do such exalted creatures exist anywhere? Of course! And some of them are reading this article right now. Proverbs 31 describes you. And if it doesn't, it could. The virtuous woman is what she is by choice. So are you.

Think About It

Do women know something that men do not? Probably. Do women understand life differently than men? Oh, absolutely.

My friend, Mary Wisehart, surprised me with an observation some months ago. She said, "I've always felt sorry for men, because they couldn't be women."

Wow! This woman knows her place!



(Jack Williams is editor of *Contact*, the official publication of Free Will Baptists, and convention coordinator for the annual meeting of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.)

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God ..."
Ephesians 6: 17

a column for young people

Life!Action.

... for everyday life

Wear your helmet

"Don't forget to wear your helmet." Could be words to the kid headed out the door to ride his new bike. This was Paul's advice ages before Gottlieb Daimler invented the original motorcycle in Germany.

Paul knew that lies and false doctrines can invade and influence the mind. These are some of the latest trends. **Beware!**

1. The public school system welcomed ecology textbooks the wisdom of goddess Earth (p. 24, Woman's

2. A Michigan high speak to students.

3. Television and gov-tolerant toward pa-Age than Biblical

4. Attitudes toward homosexuality reflect attitude toward God's

kicked out Christianity and that encourage "trusting Gaia," the spirit of Mother Touch July/August 1994).

school invited a witch to

ernment are more gan religions like New Christianity.

abortion, euthanasia and society's total don't-care Word.

Those are obvious attacks from just as dangerous are the attacks helps place a thought in your mind yours originally. Sneaky. It's a warfare Niel T. Anderson in "Breaking Through to Spiritual Satan's strategies to make believers feel defeated. This writer wants to remind you of your identity and the power you possess in Christ. Asserting your position in Christ is one step toward freedom.

the outside world. More subtle and from inside the mind. Satan's and want you to think the idea was tactic to catch the enemy unaware. Maturity," tells readers to recognize

Take precautions, since you cannot lock yourself in a germ-free bubble. Be selective and alert when reading secular or Christian literature. Test everything against the Bible. Fill your mind with God's Word so you can know what is right and wrong. Be around godly people as often as you can. Go to church every chance you get. And don't forget to ask God to protect your mind from ungodly influences. ❖

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 ❖





Tall Fathers and Renegade Roosters

by Louisa Godissart McQuillen

Fathers come in an assortment of sizes. Some are short so children can look them in the eye. Some are medium height--better to communicate with a kid on their own level. And some fathers are tall, all the easier to lift up and rescue a small child from renegade roosters.

My father, Albert Joseph Godissart, was one of the tall, long-legged variety. He stood well over six feet and there was little if any fat on him. Had there been, he might have been slower reaching me the day the rooster attacked.

My family had chickens so I knew roosters were to be respected, but I'd never actually feared one. On that particular day I wandered a bit too close to a neighbor's flock. Immediately, the big white rooster sought me out, furious at my invasion of his domain. He

attacked--feet first. Only a small child at the time, I could do little more than scream in terror. And scream I did, piercing screams that quickly got my father's attention.

No doubt my father was well used to my crying patterns over the years. Like any good parent, he knew them well: the "hungry" cry; the "wants attention" wail; the crabby, "not-enough-sleep" whine; and, finally, the "for real" scream! It was to the "for real" pattern that he now paid full attention, alerted by a type of hysterics that were not of my own volition.

Sensing that I was in an out-of-control situation, his long legs quickly covered the distance between the four properties. Then, with no fear for himself, my father headed straight for child and rooster. Somehow I know he would have done the same had the creature been a bear or mountain lion instead of a surly barnyard rooster that disliked little girls.

Lifting me high in his arms, my father fiercely kicked the leaping ball of fury that was bent on punishing me with razor-sharp claws and flogging wings. By this time, horror had completely engulfed me at the sight of those slashing yellow talons. I thought my small bones would shake apart! But above my fear I knew that Daddy was holding me up so I would be safe. And I was. Soon he carried me home in his strong arms.

Though I still remember that experience, the passing years have pushed it far back in my mind. Now I don't dream of a big white rooster pecking me to pieces.

Instead, I see a distinct comparison between my earthly father's reaction that day and those of my heavenly Father every day. When my earthly father heard my cry, he acted immediately. I was his child, to love and protect at all cost. When I needed him, he was there; when I was afraid, he lifted me up and carried me to safety.

When I think of the many times my heavenly Father has protected, lifted, and carried me over the years, adoration bubbles up within me until I want to sing! I'm overwhelmed with love for a Father who loves me so unconditionally--simply because I am His child!

Most earthly fathers are good at caring for their children. But, sad to say, earthly fathers someday die and leave us. How wonderful to know that, if we commit ourselves to our heavenly Father, He will never leave us! Psalm 91:12 reads "They [His angels] shall bear thee up ... lest thou dash thy foot against a stone." What a comforting promise for those who fully commit their lives to God and really know their heavenly Father!

God never promised that all our days would be rosy. Living will always have its fears and heartaches. But one thing the Christian knows: When the renegade roosters attack, our heavenly Father will be there to lift us up!

Louisa Goddisart McCillen is a free-lance writer from Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. Employed at Penn State, Louisa's goal is to "help others come to know Christ."

**Don't miss
a blessing!**

**Pre-Register now
to attend the**

**1995
WNAC
National
Convention
Charlotte, NC**

July 17-18, 1994

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

Banquet Speaker:
Mabel Willey

**Pre-Registration
information
on pp. 20-21**

Mama, when I think of you, I think of your hands. I remember as a little girl watching you peel potatoes. It seemed that with two or three strokes of the knife you would have a potato peeled. When I would try to imitate you, my small hands just couldn't do what your strong hands did.

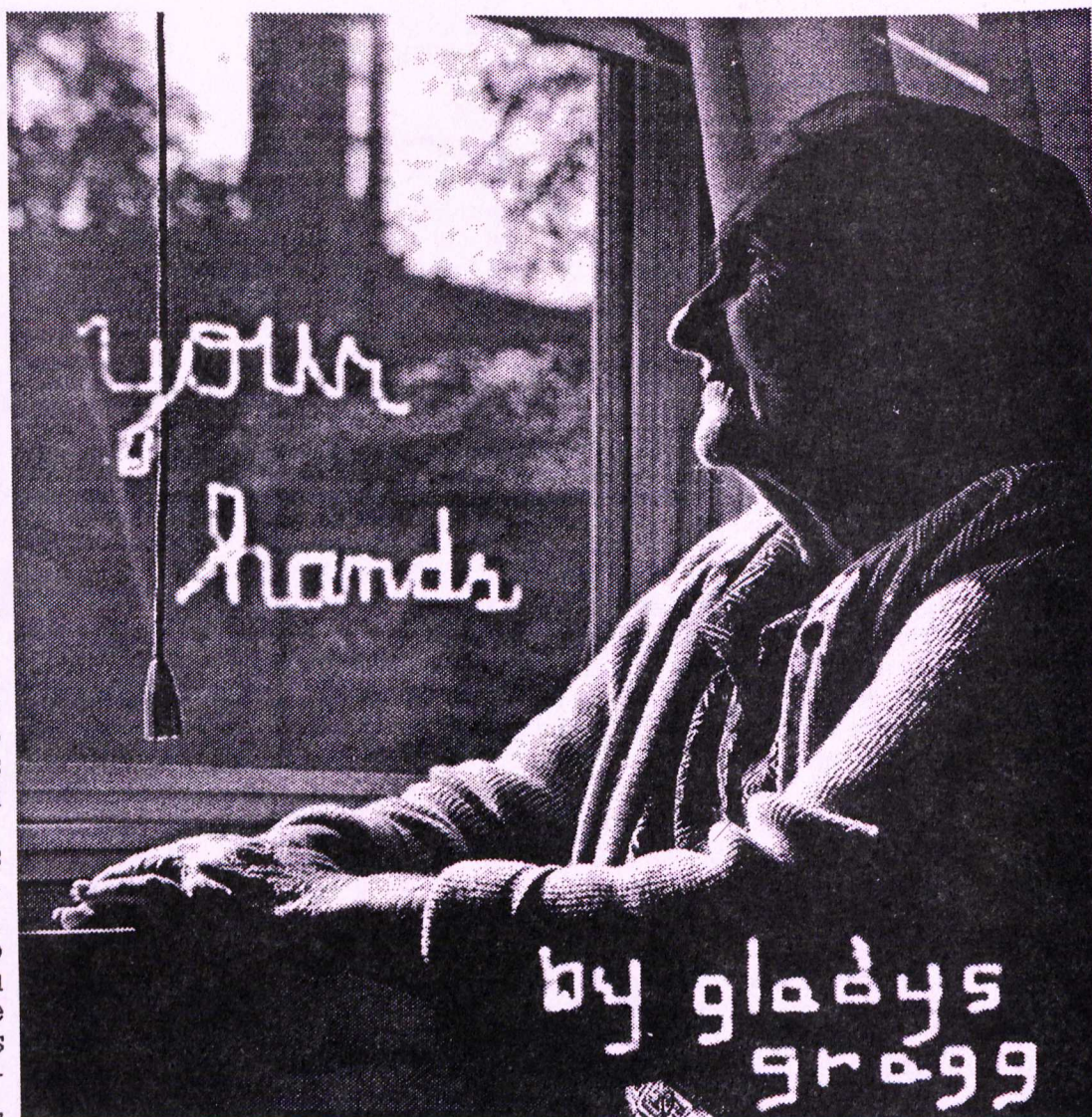
I've seen those hands hoe in the garden, carry water from the spring, chop wood, do the laundry on a scrub board, wash dishes in a dish pan and sweep the floors.

It was years before I could understand why, when you had to sign your name, you always just made an 'X'. Your hands never played a musical instrument, never set a formal

dinner table, never displayed manicured fingernails, but they taught me much more.

I've seen your hands fill up a flour sack with potatoes and apples from the cellar and, along with a dozen jars of home canned vegetable, send it to a neighbor when their food supply was low. They had not prepared as well as you. I've seen your hands work lovingly in your flowers, touching them so gently.

These same hands provided a home for an 18-month-old baby girl whose mother had died and the father was going to put the child in an orphanage. This happened when your hands were



already over 40 years old. You had already cared for two daughters who were grown and married.

Your hands didn't start serving Jesus until they were over 70 years old but that did not keep them from always having my Sunday clothes ready for Sunday school.

Your hands are now twisted and contorted from age and illness. They haven't been able to open up fully for several years. Your long fingers are curled up in your palms. One would think they have ceased functioning, but they haven't. Sometimes when I peel potatoes or wash dishes, I find

my hands performing the task the same way yours did when I was a little girl.

Thank you, Mama, for showing me how to use my hands. Someday we will join hands and work together in Heaven. Perhaps God will have a garden for us to work in. Mama, I love you and wish I had told you these things while you could still understand the words—but perhaps you do understand.

(Gladys Gragg is a member of East Nashville Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, TN.)

A Woman God Has Used

Mary Alice Bridgman, Oklahoma State WNAC President (1989-1995) and one of my dearest friends, broke a promise Friday. For more that 20 years Mary Alice has been my prayer partner, support group, resource center, cheerleader, fan club, shoulder to cry on, proper-upper, faithful and true friend.

I relied on her hugs and her listening heart to get me through the tough times ... her laughter and beautiful music to make the good times better. A couple of years ago she promised me that she would never leave me to deal with this life alone. She broke her promise.

She didn't mean to. A sudden illness took her from us. When I learned that she was ill it was already too late to talk to her. I prayed for her throughout the day and thought of Dorcas. I reminded the Lord of all the beautiful things she had done, how much I relied on her and how badly we needed her ... but her work was already finished.

There is no room to list the hundreds of things she accomplished in her life. And, each thing, whether large of small, received her total attention. Each detail was finished to perfection.

In the memorial service Reverend E. B. Condit spoke of her in terms of "three B's," busy, bright, and beautiful. He said that Mary Alice wanted to be busy. She was always looking for things to do. If he needed something done, she was the first to volunteer. He spoke of the brightness of her witness, shining and attracting people to Christ; and the beauty of her life of service, glorifying God in all that she did. He compared her to a honey bee, busily gathering things from here and there and then serving up honey from what she had put together.

The day after she died, I sat in the pre-dawn darkness of the morning, looking out the living room window, remembering my dear friend. I remembered one day in 1973. We were looking for a house to buy when a lady I had just met at church called. She said, "Ruth, I just found out that our neighbors down the street are going to sell their house. Wouldn't it be nice for you to be my neighbor?" We bought the house.

As I wept in the darkness I thought I could hear her call to me once more. It almost seemed that her hand was outstretched to me in the breaking dawn. "Ruth," she said, "There is an empty house right down the street from me. Wouldn't it be great for you to be my neighbor!"

She broke her promise to me, but she never meant to. Her last months were full of suffering. Even after repeated back surgeries the pain was once again extreme. But she never allowed it to stop her. She stayed active, serving others when lesser people would have gone to bed. No one would wish to bring her back, although we miss her terribly.

I'm not sure how many people it will take to fill her shoes. Somehow we will figure out a way to go on. We will make it, although things will never be quite the same. And as for me, I know things will never be quite as much fun. I'm thankful that the Lord gave me that wonderful friend.

—*Ruth Bivens*



MISSION ALERT:

Evangelism News from Around the World

Rapid City, South Dakota

"Four adults and one child have come to Christ!" report Tim and Kathy Coats. **Mike** received the Lord in the Coats' kitchen. Mike's wife, **Anna**, rededicated her life to God, too. **Brian** and his wife, **Tracey**, called Tim about a week later asking for help with their life. Both trusted Christ as Tim led them to the Lord over the phone. Kathy led their 8-year-old daughter, **Jennifer**, to Jesus one night after prayer meeting. A 19-year-old young man, **Scott**, who was staying with Brian and Tracey, came forward on Sunday and was saved. The Coats give God the praise for giving the increase! They also ask you to pray for these babes in Christ to grow, and be faithful and fruitful for the Lord.

Phoenix, Arizona

Reverend George Harvey reports that the building program has moved very slowly due to delays in preliminary site plan meetings required by the city. According to him, the city seems to do all they can to delay the building program and charge more money.

Madison, Wisconsin

The Carlie Lloyd Family are excited about their new West Madison Free Will Baptist Church location. The Grand Opening Service was January 8 at the newly rented Fire Hall. Three newspaper ads, a 4' by 8' sign, thousands of church tracts and flyers, and a whole lot of door-knocking and telephoning informed the Madison area of the church's new location. Faithful laborers in Madison have sent numerous "prospect" letters and conducted various home Bible studies. The Lloyds are thankful for the 21 people who have made professions of faith and 7 who have been baptized since they arrived in Madison.

St. Nazaire, France

Patsy Vanhook requests prayer as she ministers to women four days a week through Bible studies and teaches the children's Bible club on Wednesday mornings. The St. Nazaire church is in the middle of a project to buy the lot adjacent to the church for future expansion. Pray for wisdom and direction for the church leaders and that Patsy will have wisdom, love and patience as she witnesses, encourages, and sometimes serves as trouble-shooter.

Uberlândia, Brazil

According to tradition, the church family in Uberlândia ended 1994 together with a time of worship and fellowship. The service included an early dinner, a surprise wedding shower, music, testimonies and prayer. The old year ended and the new began in prayer followed by hugs and wishes for 1995. The congregation read Genesis 1 together and was encouraged to read the rest of the Bible during the year. 1994 saw 17 people baptized in the Hughes' work. Some wanted to be baptized in the river, others were baptized in the baptistry in the First Free Will Baptist Church in Uberlândia. Tom and Nancy Hughes work in the youngest of two churches in this populous city.

Bondoukou, Côte d'Ivoire

Jerry and Carol Pinkerton arrived in Bondoukou December 31, 1994. The following day, 171 people held a welcoming service including special songs and poems, handshakes and rib-breaking hugs. The Pinkertons are glad to see their African family in Christ again. Jalayn Martens also joined the Bondoukou team in the latter part of January. ❖



Words for Women

"I won't count this time." Maybe you said that when you went off your diet, broke your vow not to exceed the speed limit, overspent on your credit card.

William James in his discussion of habit says, "He may not count it, and a kind Heaven may not count it; but it is being counted none the less." Every experience we have is affecting us in some way. In a sense none of these experiences are ever lost or erased. What use then should we make of our experiences? How should we count them?

All the experiences of our lives, even those we wish had never happened, can be used for good. Some counseling material suggests that we need to use all of our past in planning for our future. "If you don't accept part of your past, you are wasting or throwing away much of your valuable know-how."

Paul called himself a persecutor, blasphemer, injurious, the chief of sinners. "I," he wrote, "am not fit to be called an apostle." But he acknowledges that by the grace of God he used that experience from his past. "But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me

was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all."

We do not have to go with our heads hanging down because of our past. We simply accept it and let it be a catalyst to move us forward in our worship of and service to God.

Do you have something in your past that you don't even want to remember, to think about? Accept it and bring it to Him.

He is the One who gives beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. He says gently to us, "I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten." And He adds, "My great army that I sent among you." ❖



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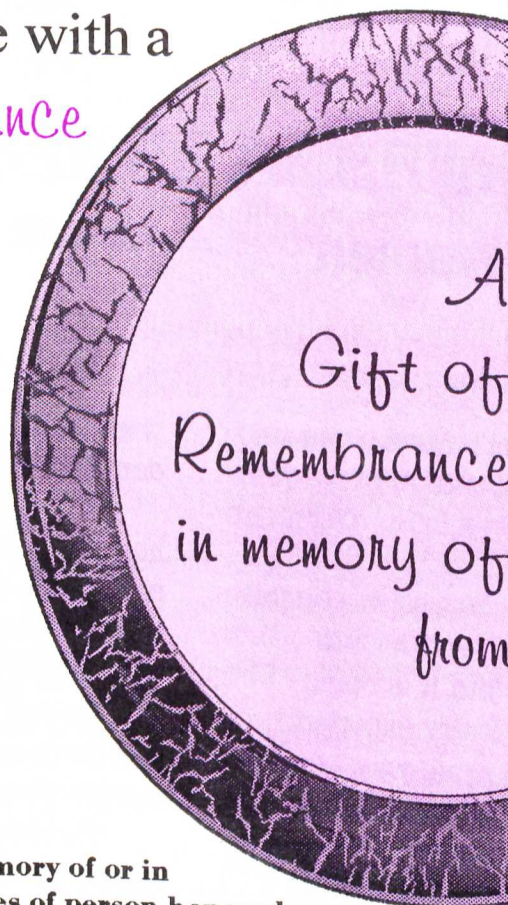
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