

Sept • Oct 1995

CoLaborer

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women



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VISION

SUZANNE FRANKS

Equipped



VOLUME 35

NUMBER 5

SEPT • OCT 1995

A Bible translator in Papua New Guinea felt the hugeness of his assignment as he was trying to learn an unwritten language and start translation of the Bible into Folopa. His prayer that day went something like this, "Lord, will you tell me that you are going to help me?"

Not immediately, but after reading through most of the New Testament, he came to Hebrews 13:20-21. These verses contained the answer to the question he asked days, (I don't know) maybe months, before. The Lord promises to equip His people to do His will, that is, the work He has given each of us to do.

Sitting here staring at my computer screen, I can relate to this missionary in spite of the air conditioning. Can I do everything that needs to be finished by the various deadlines? Feeling overwhelmed, I look at what I have accomplished so far and what needs to be completed in the next month. Overwhelmed changes to frustrated. "Lord, I don't have the strength to be creative, to write. I know You are my strength, but ..."

How often do we come to the Lord with a need? We pray about our need and ask the Lord for wisdom. We ask the Lord to speak to us through His Word. We read a few verses and nothing. Closing our Bibles, we move on to our daily tasks. The next day settling down for our quiet time, we may pray about the same need, or in some cases, we may have forgotten about the burden altogether.

Do we continue searching earnestly for the answers to the burning questions in our minds? Most of all, do we search in the right place, God's Word? I am convinced that the greatest hindrance to most Christian's spiritual growth is lack of time spent in the Word.

The same message the missionary in Papua New Guinea needed that day is the one I need today to write this editorial and to do many other tasks. I hope this issue encourages you in the same way, to dig into the Word and to keep the line of communication hot between you and the Lord. ❖

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CLOSET OF PRAYER,
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**IF YOU COULD SEE
THE WORLD
BEYOND YOUR OWN,
IT WOULD CHANGE
YOUR LIFE**

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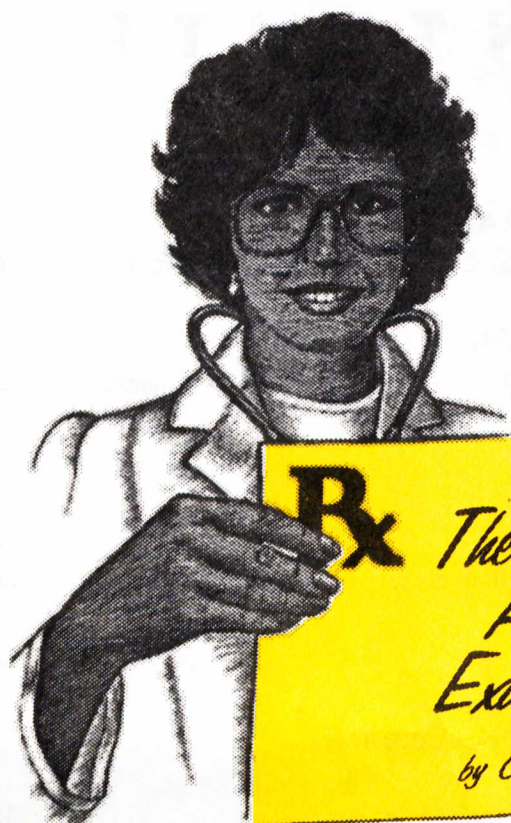
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man; to see where I am and where I'm headed; to make the necessary adjustments and corrections to keep me on the right course.

I must, however, evaluate and examine myself, not someone else. I don't need to compare myself to another person but see myself in the mirror of God's Word. I must remember who I am and try to determine where I am in my Christian walk.

Who Am I?

Psalm 8:3-9

Many theories and explanations are readily available in response to the age old question of "Who am I?" The evolutionist tells me that I evolved over eons of time from a single cell to a rational, intelligent creature. By studying my Id and Ego, the psychologist and the psychiatrist attempt to explain my actions. The scientist can analyze my body's components, their composition and functions, but the Bible gives me a much better answer to this question.

Scripture: Romans 12:3

Song: *Make Me a Channel of Blessings*

Purpose: To show the importance of taking personal inventory (see springboard)

Introduction

Only in the present can I accomplish anything. I can reflect upon the past and make resolutions about the future. I cannot change the past, but I can learn from its mistakes and be encouraged by its triumphs.

I can face the future without fear because of God's love and abundant grace to take care of all my needs, yet as I travel the road of life, I need to pause frequently to reevaluate my attitudes, my motives, and my actions, to reaffirm my faith, my commitment and my love for God and my fellow-

I Am a Sinner Saved by Grace

Ephesians 2:8

According to the creation account (Genesis 1 and 2), God formed Adam's physical body from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life making Adam a living soul (Genesis 2:7). Therefore, as a descendant of Adam, I am a human being created in the image of God made a little lower than the angels (Psalm 8:4-5) and the crown of God's earthly creation.

As Adam's descendant, I also inherited the disease of sin, but God gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16) as a sacrifice/redeemer for my sins and not for mine only but for the myriads of people who have been or ever will be born (I John 2:2). Though a sinner saved by grace, I must never forget that I am a member of the family of God—a new creation.

Could you tell someone
how to be saved?

R Review the plan of salvation.

I am a wise or a foolish builder

Matthew 7:24-27

Each day I work on building my house/life. God has given me the blueprint—His Holy Word. He has also given me the privilege of prayer for communicating with Him, the architect, and the Holy Spirit to be my helper.

If I foolishly build upon perishable products such as wealth, fame, power, possessions, etc. The foundation will not stand and my house will fall. I must build upon Christ, the secure, solid, enduring foundation using blocks of forgiveness and commitment, bricks of patience and trust, woods of peace and harmony, nails of compassion, insulation of faith and prayer, doors of service and stewardship and windows of sharing and sacrifice. Over everything I need a roof of love.

Since my house/life will not be finished until I retire to my eternal abode, I constantly need to repair, remove and change decayed and inappropriate attitudes and motives. I need to add on new opportunities; to keep out the termites of sin that eat away and ultimately destroy; to apply a daily cleansing of the worldly evils that infiltrate my mind; and to guard against temptations that often look so alluring. I must be a wise builder.

Like a house, we are made
up of an inner and outer
structure.

R Discuss how outwardly we reflect
what is in our hearts.

I am ambassador for Christ

II Corinthians 5:19-20

An ambassador is someone usually sent to a foreign land as an official representative or messenger. Being a Christian is definitely a privilege, but as a Christian I have a responsibility to share the gospel both by word and deed.

Before his ascension, Jesus told his disciples to be witnesses for him to the uttermost part of the world beginning at home (Acts 1:8).

I have not been called to a specific mission field as a home or foreign missionary, but I am an ambassador for Christ wherever I am. In the everyday affairs of life I meet people ranging from those I know intimately to those I see only in passing. What kind of message am I conveying by my words and actions?

Also, Jesus referred to his disciples as "the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13) and "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). Have I lost some of my saltiness? Have I allowed worldly things to dim my light? Does my life reflect the true light of the world, Jesus (John 8:12)? I must guard my Christian testimony very carefully.

R What can I do to help
carry out the great com-
mission?

(Matthew 28:18-20?)

Where Am I?

Genesis 3:9

After Adam and Eve's disobedience, they clothed themselves with fig leaves and tried to hide from God's presence, but God called to Adam and inquired of him, "Where art thou?" I need to ask myself "Where am I?"

Am I hiding behind the trees?

Genesis 3:7-8

Am I like Adam and Eve trusting in the fig leaves of man-made theologies to cover my sins? Or am I wearing garments of self-righteousness as I hide among the trees of self-sufficiency?

The rich farmer (Luke 12:16-21) who resolved to build new and bigger barns to hold his prosperity felt very self-sufficient and in need of nothing. Self-righteousness causes me to think too highly of myself distorting my view much like that of the Pharisee who exalted himself to God in prayer (Luke 18:10-14).

God has given each of us talents and abilities—some more than others—to be used in our daily Christian walk with him and our fellowman. If, and when, I allow my perspective of myself to become blurred and warped, excessive pride can creep in causing me to feel “too important,” and self-importance can lead to me seeing everybody else’s faults while overlooking my own little mistakes (Matthew 7:1-5). I must be careful not to be a hypocrite.

Other trees might include good works, possessions, church membership, etc.

R When would these be “bad” trees to hide behind?

Am I running away?

Jonah 1:1-3

Am I like Jonah running away from God’s will for my life? Jonah knew what God wanted him to do, but he choose to flee.

There is a great difference in knowing and in putting that knowledge into practice (Matthew 7:21 and 12:50). What excuses am I using: “I don’t want to get involved,” “I don’t have time,”

or “It may cost me something.” Am I making excuses for not reading my Bible; for not praying; for not attending church; for not giving of my time, talents and possessions; for not reaching out to the lost—family, friends, coworkers—for Christ? Like Jonah, I, too, have to be disciplined and taught.

Is there a difference between an excuse and a reason?

R Identify other excuses we sometimes use.

Am I facing a storm?

Matthew 8:23-27

Life is filled with many storms that often leave me feeling helpless, afraid and discouraged. Unforgiveness, wrath, gossip, hatred, envy, jealousy, etc. can cause inner storms to rage if I allow them in and nurture them.

Other storms are external and often seem to arise without warning. Am I facing a storm? The disciples and Jesus left the safe, calm shore to go across the sea when suddenly a furious storm arose. As the storm raged, the fearful disciples called upon Jesus to save them. He calmed the storm and brought them safely through.

I must never forget that as long as I stay in the boat with Jesus, I, too, can face the storms that suddenly happen in my life.

R Relate storms you have faced and share how God brought you through.

Am I facing a giant?

I Samuel 17:32-50

The road of life is filled with circumstances—some good and some bad. Therefore, I, like David, may be facing a Goliath as I meet giants of despair, doubts, disappointments, sickness, tragedy, etc.

Armed with the sling of faith and the stones of God's promises, I have at my disposal the means to overcome any giant I face. I must, however, keep my eyes of faith on Jesus and not look at my circumstances or problems through eyes of fear and worry. My faith can be strengthened as I cope each day with life's trials and temptations.

In addition to David, the Bible tells of many other men (Hebrews 11) and women who possessed active faith. Noah worked for 120 years to build an ark (Genesis 6:9-8:22). Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son when God asked him (Genesis 22:1-14). Paul reminds Timothy of the unfeigned faith of Timothy's grandmother Lois and mother Eunice (II Timothy 1:5). I must put my faith into action (James 2:14-18).

R Tell about people whose faith you have seen in action.

Conclusion

Psalm 139:23-24

No self-examination would be complete without checking my attitudes and motives. This gets to the very center of things because my attitudes determine the way I perceive things and control my responses to situations, circumstances, people, etc.

My motive, which can easily be selfish, is the real reason I do things. Do I need an attitude adjustment and a motive overhaul? I must allow God to change, remove or replace those things in my life that keep me from being my best for Him.

R Comment on this statement:

I am three people

1. who I think I am
2. who you think I am
3. who God knows I really am



Carolyn Franks lives in Mantachie, Mississippi. Her program won first place in the 1995 Creative Arts Contest.

GIVE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION A CHANCE

September is

Memorial
Student
Loan
Month



A Good Connection

by Jean Jenkerson

The telephone—a marvelous invention! A means of communication between people, communication that might otherwise be impossible. Or at least not as convenient. How telephone communication has improved since that first message by Alexander Graham Bell!

For years the only concern was to have a good connection so a caller could carry on a conversation. Today the services offered seem endless.

My telephone company recently sent me a booklet listing all the extra options available to me. As I was reading this booklet, I began to think of our communication with God. We pray, we meditate, we read and study the Scriptures and we are guided by the Holy Spirit. We can reach the very throne of

God, through Jesus Christ the Son, aided by the Holy Spirit.

The booklet urged me to check out all the optional services in order to make my life a little easier, manage my time better and add peace of mind. With that in mind, I made a spiritual application to some of these available options.

What we don't need

An additional line: The telephone company suggests we might need an additional line. If teenagers are part of the family, or if you live with a roommate, this service could be handy. If someone works out of the home, this could be a tremendous asset to the business.

We do not need an additional line to reach our heavenly Father. Indeed, we should remember that there is only **one way** to reach Him as stated in John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Call waiting: With call waiting, I read in the booklet, you don't worry about missing a call because call waiting tells you when you're getting another call. You can put the first caller on hold and answer the second call.

More often than not, any interruption in our communi-

cation with God will come from Satan. We surely want to ignore him and not give him a chance to speak to us. Isaiah 26:3 reads, "thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee"



Call forwarding: This service lets you forward all your calls to another location so you won't miss an important call.

This is an option we won't need to avail ourselves of since our omniscient Heavenly Father knows just where we are at all times. He told Job, "For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings" (Job 34:21).

Call blocker: Call blocker can help stop unwanted calls. If I were to block any calls to my telephone number, I would start with the telemarketers.

On the other hand, we sometimes block out the leading of the Holy Spirit. While it may make us feel more comfortable at the time, it is detrimental to our spiritual health. We are told plainly in I Thessalonians 14:6, "Quench not the Spirit." Don't use call blocker!

Auto Redial: Unlike the redial button on the phone, this service keeps trying your call automatically for up to 30 minutes and signals you when the line is not busy.

There is no need for an option such as that with God. He is never too busy to hear us. We are assured, as He assured Jeremiah, "Thus saith the Lord

... call unto me, and I will answer thee ..." (Jeremiah 33:2, 3).

What we need

Caller ID: Caller ID lets you know who's calling—before you pick up the phone.

I John 4:1 reads, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of

confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God ..." (I John 4:2, 3).

In-line service: The other option we may consider is in-line service. The booklet stated that for a small monthly fee, any repairs needed to our phone line would be made without charge.

The Bible says that sometimes our prayers will not be heard or acknowledged. Some causes of failure mentioned are disobedience, secret sins, iniquity (Isaiah 59:1-2). Until these matters have been taken care of we will have a bad connection and will need in-line repairs. I John 1:9 tell us, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins ..., " and then communication can be restored.

It is essential to our spiritual growth that we have consistent two-way communication with God. Talk to Him often. But be sure to give equal time to listening! Let us say with the Psalmist 85:8, "I will hear what God the Lord will speak." ♦

God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." So if we feel a leading to do something, or hear someone proclaim we should do this or that, we might want to use this caller ID and try the spirits.

How? "Hereby Know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that



The Fisherman

by Vicki Turner

The boy sat and studied the ol' fisherman as he talked of past angling experiences. The weather-beaten scars and the lines of his face seemed to acknowledge the validity of his story as he spoke. His faded blue eyes now seemed to come alive with the passion of his craft as his voice began to dance along the words.

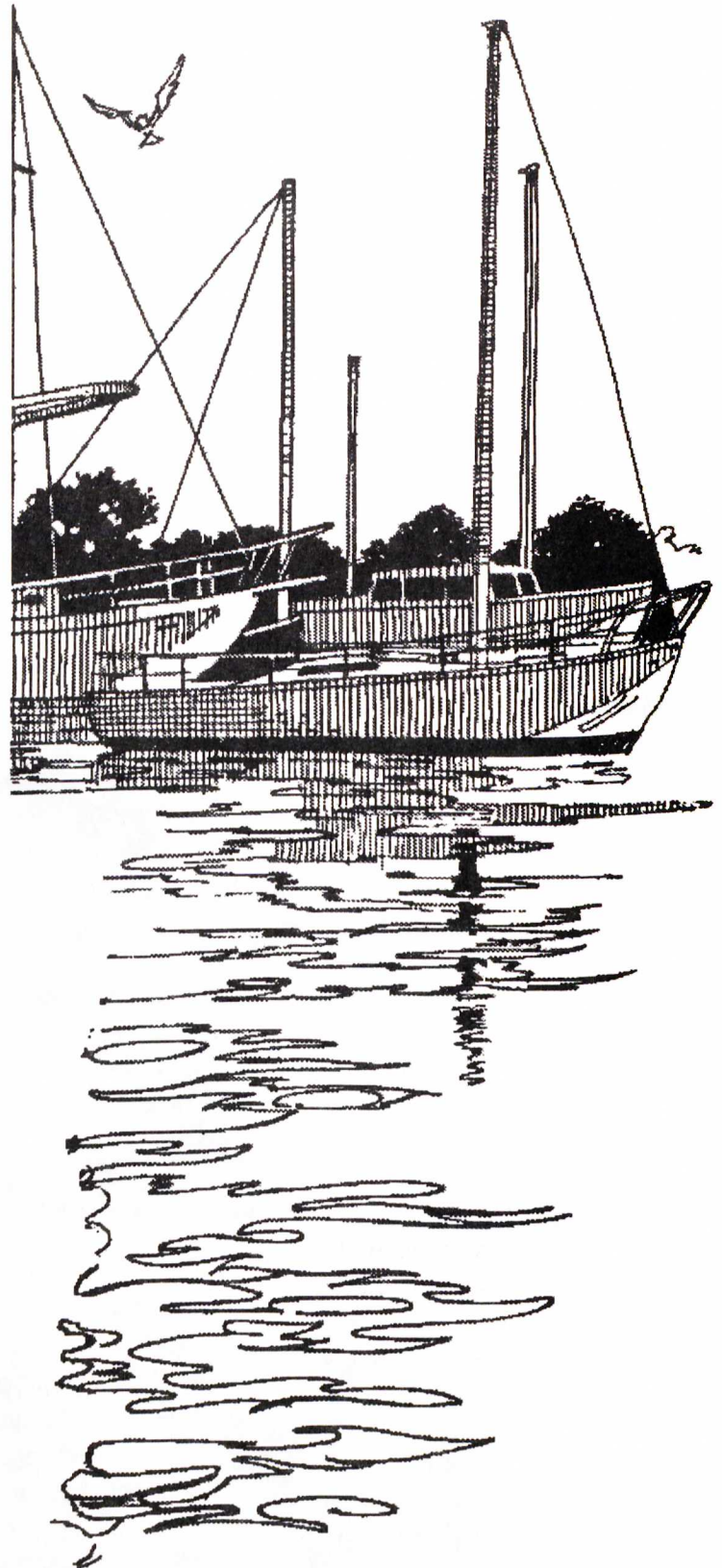
Although the boy had heard stories like these many times before, he was somehow drawn into this one. Like a boat caught within the river's current, he felt himself being pulled along as the ol' fisherman talked. The boy glanced around to see if anyone else was experiencing the same feelings as he. But somehow he knew this was meant only for him that day.

"The difference between a good fisherman and a great fisherman is," the old man spoke slowly, as if every word were unlocking the secret of life.

The boy leaned in closer and unconsciously held his breath as he waited for him to begin speaking again. He was unsure why, but he knew he **must** learn the answer.

"Patience" the old angler finished. "A man without patience is an unhappy soul."

"There are days," the old man smiled. "There are days when your nets end up empty, no matter how long or hard you work at it. Those are the times when discouragement sets in. And, if you're not careful, you end up keeping your boat on shore."



He paused and shook his head, "**That** is the difference between a good fisherman and a great one."

"When I was a younger lad, I would spend weeks at a time out trolling on the waters. A person can't catch all his fish in one hole, don't you know? You gotta move on, stir up the water a bit now and again. Get 'em interested."

He paused as he let his gaze rest upon the boy, "And you must always use only the best of everything you have access to. The best bait, the best netting, the best line and equipment," he counted off on his fingers. "And always, at all times, be well versed on the rules and regulations."

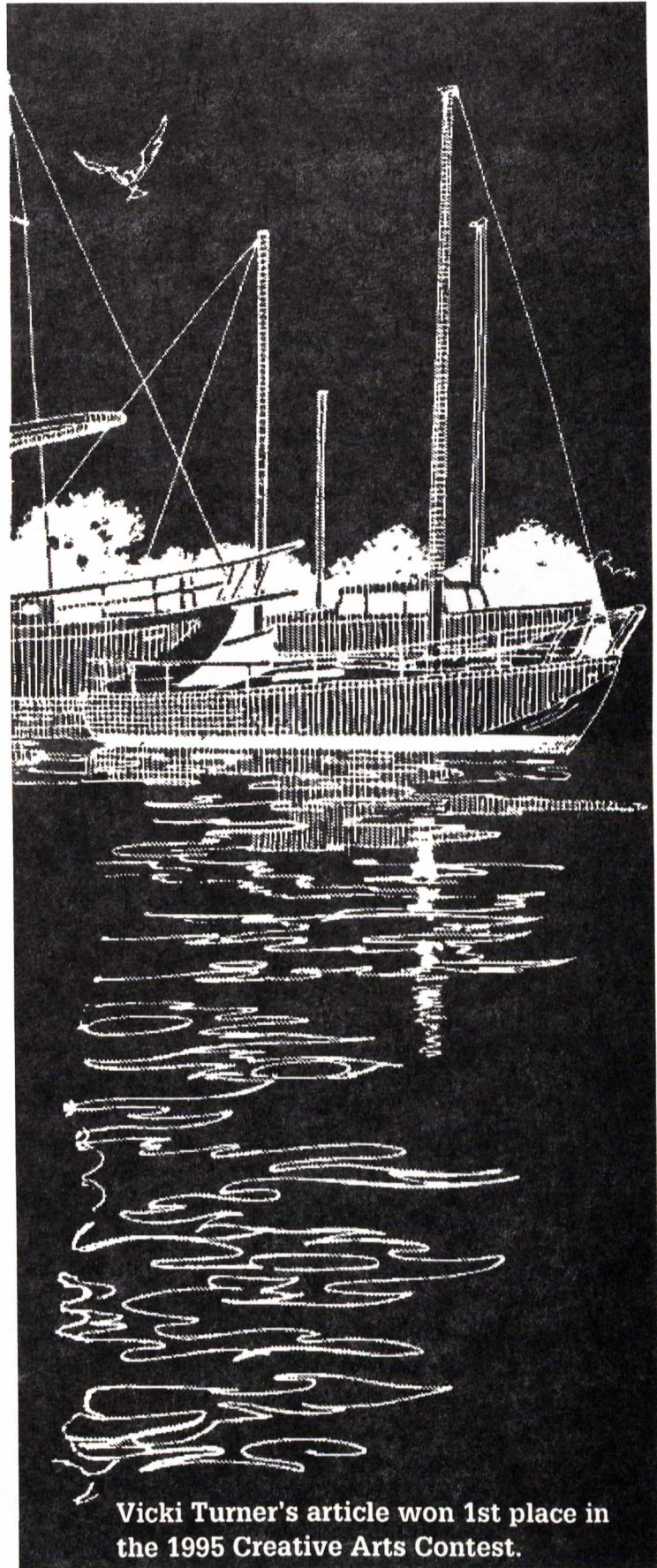
"I remember the time I landed one of the biggest, toughest catches in these here parts. Weren't much older than you there." He pointed to the boy. "He was some fighter? Why, I can still recall the very day," He reminisced, "It was a bright sunny Sunday morning. And I just know somehow that God had a special day planned."

"Oh, he was a cautious one! I baited the hole for weeks trying to pique his interest. He wasn't too enthusiastic about my choice of bait or my knowledge of the rules and regulations. See, he knew I knew he was a keeper and well worth the effort. But when he finally hit, he hit hard! And although he was a fighter, landing him was much easier than keeping him in the boat. That proved to be more of a test of my strength and patience than I thought possible."

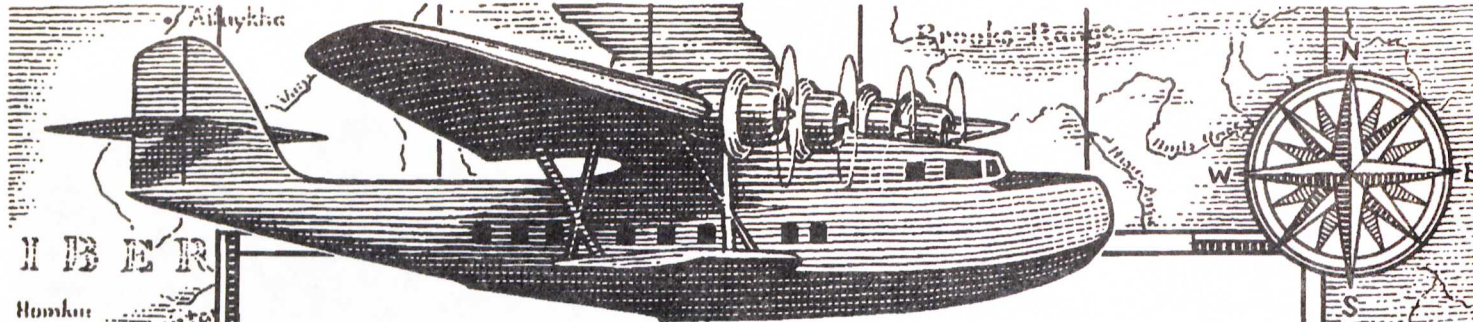
The old fisherman smiled as he looked over the crowd that had gathered to hear his story. Sharing his thoughts of his knowledge with others was perhaps the best possible way to keep his craft alive.

"You know," he began as he held the book in his hands. "Every one of you has access to these rules. There is no reason you can't land a few keepers yourselves!"

Once again he looked over the faces of those around him. Lastly he let his gaze rest knowingly upon the boy. He opened the book in his hand and began to read, "I will make you fishers of men "❖



Vicki Turner's article won 1st place in the 1995 Creative Arts Contest.



India Journal

Laura Belle Barnard

June 17, 1936

The thrill that can come only once in a lifetime touched my life last Sunday. I have written you from time to time of my ludicrous attempts at speaking Tamil, and on Sunday I gave my first Bible message in that language. This was to a group of children from the Sweeper (low) Caste, and I told them the Gospel story of Jesus healing the paralytic brought to Him on a pallet by four men.

I chose this particularly because the Gospel writer took pains to record that Jesus, although deeply concerned and touched by the physical suffering of the man, saw that his first need was the forgiveness of sin, and that only after he had given him a new heart did He remove the sufferer's physical troubles. We, as well as these outcaste Indians, need to learn this, do we not?

This story would help them to see two things which my heart longs to make known in India: That Jesus Christ, God's Son and man's only Savior, gives a new heart and cleanses from sin; and that He cares about the troubles of those who trust Him. They are interested in hearing of other people's troubles. They always have plenty of "kashtums" of their own (very real ones). And since they do not know a God who is interested in bearing their burdens, their attention can be grasped by emphasizing this point. Perhaps later I can send you a snapshot of this group of children. Meanwhile, you will keep us before the throne of grace in your prayers.

I think I can say with a degree of certainty, that this was the first Bible message these children had ever heard, as well as the first I had ever attempted to give in a language other than my mother tongue. A first for them and a first for me, it was an experience I'll never forget! My Tamil vocabulary was pitifully limited, with possibly only about a dozen dependable words which I could confidently relate to this lesson. My understanding of Tamil grammar was also yet very hampering. But I have learned to mimic, and this is a vital factor in language learning. I assure you my gestures and my dramatics figured largely in this lesson.

But then the children repeated the story back to me, with appropriate gestures, and this gave me confidence that they had reasonably understood. And through the years, as those children became adults, they have given me evidence of the success in communicating on that occasion, though I am the first to acknowledge it was the Holy Spirit overruling, in His own desire to communicate. ♦



Why



Intercede?

by Anne Worthington

Iwonder, are you as apathetic and haphazard about praying as I am? What a disaster if I approached all my daily activities with the same apathy I approach prayer.

Yet prayer is our most important work as a Christian—a valuable and powerful tool. It is our lifeline to God—the weapon that changes ourselves and the world. It is our means by which we can participate in what God is doing in our world today.

In the unseen closet of prayer, the real work of God is forged. He moves behind the scenes, acting in response to our daily prayers. James 5:16 says that “the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

Prayer is hard work, but a holy, vital and indispensable work. It's the greatest thing any one can do for God and man. It's the greatest agency put into man's hands. One writer noted “that in order to adequately define prayer one must use war language. Peace language is not equal to the situation.” The same writer defined prayer “as communication between God and His allies in the enemy's country.”

One aspect of prayer that should permeate our lives is intercession. True prayer reaches out for others. It is standing between God and someone else. It is the outward movement of prayer.

(continued on page 22)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

All humans like to express their point of view on one topic or another. A favorite topic seems to be others. That is, the neighbor, the pastor, the relative, the politician; the list goes on and on. Some say, "I think she should do this or that." or "Those people are just like that (thinking: since they are not like us something's wrong)."

We all entertain ourselves and each other with our "I-think-ologies." Sometimes we need to stop and listen to ourselves and examine the basis for our opinions. Would Christ say the same things?

Our goal is to become Christlike, to think like Him (have the mind of Christ). This means to regard others as God sees them (2 Cor. 5:16). Those people—whoever they are—are good enough to die for. When we start viewing people as God sees them, we are on our way to becoming peacemakers. We start thinking not in terms of *them* and *us*, but *all of us*. ❖

Poet's Corner

My Child

by Betty Kittle, Moores Hill, IN
1st place in the 1995 Creative Arts Contest

As I passed his bedroom door
I saw my child kneeling on the floor.
I paused to hear what he had to say,

*Thank you God for today.
I went to church
but Mama wasn't there
I guess you didn't
hear my prayer.
I prayed that somehow you
would make her see
She needs to be
in church with me.*

The tears I didn't try to hide
as I walked over and knelt by
his side.

*Lord forgive me,
I began to pray,
and yes, I'll be
in church come Sunday.*

He Walks with Me

by Lita Gorrell, South Roxana, IL
2nd place in the 1995 Creative Arts Contest

I used to walk in darkness
'til Jesus came to me
And with the fullness of His love,
I found that I could see.

And now I walk in sunshine
no shadows follow me
And as I walk with Jesus,
I see eternity.

I used to walk in silence
'til Jesus called my name
And with the fullness of His grace
the song of angels came.

And now I walk with music and
singing fills my soul
And as I walk with Jesus,
I find that I am whole.

I used to walk in sorrow
'til Jesus lifted me
And with the fullness of His faith
I watched my burdens flee.

And now I walk with gladness
His Spirit carries me
And as I walk with Jesus,
I find that I am free!

My Arms Long to Hold

by Cindy Weaver, Campobello, SC
3rd place in the 1995 Creative Arts Contest

My arms long to hold,
the child I once carried,
but I was too young
and not even married.

I was so scared,
and felt so alone.
He said, "Just end it's life
and you can go on."

That's not how it was,
when I finished the act.
Now I was hurting,
with guilt I was racked.

The pain never leaves me,
I remember each day,
the child I once carried,
but then threw away.

I know God forgave me,
and remembers no more,
but I can't forget,
the life that I tore.

One day in heaven
I will come face to face
to the child I once carried,
and now can embrace. ❖

A graphic of a hand holding a springboard, with a curved line representing the path of a jumper.

Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator

If you haven't already, mark Pastor Appreciation Sunday, September 10, 1995 on your calendar. Talk to the women about what they would like to do for your pastor and his family. If you have more than one minister working in your church, try to include all whether they are full-time, part-time or laymen.

Currently, over 20 students are paying back their student loan through WNAC. Many others have been able to pursue a Christian education through the Memorial Student Loan Fund since its beginning in 1957. Share this information with your group when you take up the offering for this in September. If your church has any college students that need a school loan and are at least in their second year at Free Will Baptist Bible College, they may apply for a loan through the Memorial Student Loan Fund. Get the word out.

Most of you have heard about the Together Way. It is a stewardship plan to help Free Will Baptists support all the national agencies. According to the Together Way plan, the last Sunday in September is designated for the Rest of the Family Offering. Encourage your women to give generously to this offering because a portion of this offering goes to support the WNAC general fund. One day we hope that the Rest of the Family Offering will take the place of the August WNAC emphasis. By contributing to the Rest of the Family Offering you are not only supporting the WNAC office but nine other agencies. See the back cover for more information on this offering.

WNAC's Western Retreat at Glorieta, New Mexico is just around the corner. Remind everyone that is going to register if they haven't yet. It's not too late, but hurry!

Assistant Coordinator

Encourage maximum participation by the audience in the September program. The program in this issue has several subtopics under the

Devotional Outline

Have the Mind of Christ

Philippians 2:1-11

- He thinks of others, not himself v. 5-6
- He serves v. 7
- He sacrifices v. 8
- He glorifies God v. 9-11



two questions "Who am I?" and "Where am I?" Think of other subtopics to discuss if you want to. Supply paper and pencil for everyone to take notes and write down ideas. Tell the women that they will have a chance to talk so they need to take notes. At the end of the program, have the audience give their opinions and share what they have learned about themselves from the program.

The October program, A Good Connection, is a clever comparison of features offered by telephone companies and our communication with the Holy Spirit. When preparing the program, read about all the different features offered in your local telephone directory. You may come up with even more ideas. To introduce the topic, ask the women what kind of features they have on their phone lines at home or at work. Ask what is their favorite. Ask the women if they really need these conveniences. Then talk about what we don't need and what we need with the Holy Spirit. Aren't you glad we don't need a telephone to reach the Lord?

Secretary/Treasurer

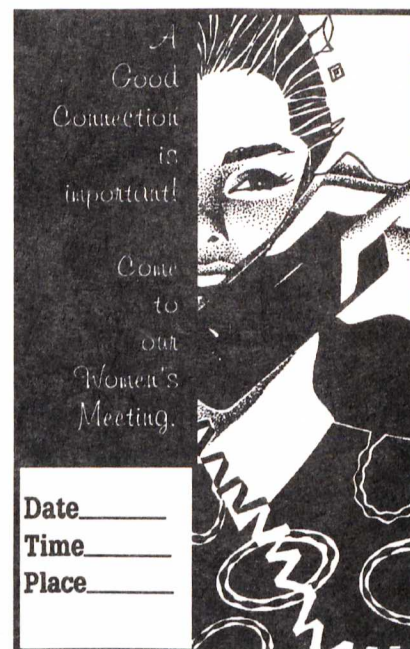
Your work may often go unnoticed and unappreciated. Keep up the good work! Local, district and state secretary/treasurers send in your reports regularly and on time. Besides keeping records accurate and up-to-date, this will make everyone's job easier. Thank you for your hard work.

Prayer Chairman

Anne Worthington's article about intercession (page 13) and Terry Poore's Springboard Illustrated go well with the 1995 theme, "Great and Might Things Through Prayer." Make prayer reminders on note cards with an Rx on the left upper corner. Write a prayer verse on the front of the card and a specific prayer request on the back. Use prayer requests from the Missions Hotline, Mission Alert, *Heartbeat*, *MissionGrams* and your own congregation.

Study Chairman

If you have never read Corrie Ten Boom's book *The Hiding Place*, you should read it. The Ten Boom family protected Jews trying to escape the World War II Holocaust. Corrie and her sister, Betsy, went to prison because of this. There, Betsy is a constant light shining to the other women. She teaches about forgiveness where prisoners are expected to hate. Betsy's words sum what this story is all about. She says, "there is no pit that is too deep that God's love is not deeper."



HID IN MY HEART

Micah 6:6-8 (NIV)

*With what shall I come before
the Lord and bow down
before the exalted God?*

*Shall I come before Him with
burnt offerings, with calves
a year old?*

*Will the Lord be pleased with
thousands of rams, with ten
thousand rivers of oil?*

*Shall I offer my firstborn for my
transgression, the fruit of
my body for the sin of my
soul?*

*He has showed you, O man,
what is good. And what
does the Lord require of
you?*

*To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with
you God.*

Mission Chairman

Read Mary Holland's article *What's the Hurry?* (page 24). Try to imagine what it would be like to be a missionary. You might share a summary of one chapter from *Firstfruits* (Miley) or *A Second Chance* (Combs) before you mention the prayer requests at your meeting. This issue's Lucy & Marge also deals with learning about missions. The best way you can keep missions before the women in your church is to be well informed and share what you learned every chance you get.

Service Chairman

The 1994 Sept/Oct *CoLaborer* had several good suggestions for student ministries women could be involved in. Did you try any? What kind of success did you have? Has your service continued throughout the school year?

Ministries can range from tutoring to babysitting, from neighborhood Bible clubs to having students over for a meal. College students who are away from home especially appreciate some attention. But even if your area doesn't have a college or university, Christian and public schools frequently use volunteers. Contact the schools to see what kind of help they could use. ❖



Join us...

Rx *The Check-up:
A Self
Examination*

for a time of reflection and evaluation.

Time: _____

Place: _____

Lucy & Marge

Excited About Learning

[Lucy is sitting at the kitchen table writing a letter and the telephone rings.]

Lucy: Hello.

Marge: Hey, what are you doing?

Lucy: I'm working on a letter to Tammy Gentuso. You know she had another baby boy?

Marge: Wow! that's the third boy, isn't it?

Lucy: Um, hum, Marge, how do you spell pacifier?

Marge: p-a-c-i-f-i-e-r, or is it p-a-s-i-f-i-e-r?

Lucy: I don't know, that's why I asked you.

Marge: *[sarcastically]* Do you have a dictionary?

Lucy: Yeah, I'll look it up later.

Marge: *[chuckles]* It seems like such a long time since I went to school, I can't remember how to spell anything.

Lucy: Me either. Well, I don't really miss school, but, you know, you can keep learning. Since I've been Mission's Chairman, I've learned more geography than I every knew in junior high and high school

God answers prayer by Terry Poore

combined. I go to the library and read about the countries where we have missionaries. And I read everything I can get my hands on. Did you know that ten national workers just graduated from the Ivory Coast Institute?

Marge: Really? That's great!

Lucy: There's more too. But I'll save it for the women's meeting.

Marge: That's what I called you about, the September meeting.

Lucy: Yes?

Marge: Where is it going to be?

Lucy: At Freda Henrikson's house.

Marge: Do you have her phone number?

Lucy: Yes, It's 458-2273.

Marge: OK, 458-2273.

Lucy: Right.

Marge: Your memory's better than mine.

Lucy: But that doesn't help me write a letter.

Marge: Lucy, I've gotta go. See you at Freda's. I can't wait to hear what you have to tell us about the mission work in Africa. ❖

Our prayer chain involves the entire church congregation. The prayer chain is broken down into several small prayer circles with six to ten people in each. Prayer requests are called into our prayer chairman. She calls the lead-off person for each circle, who then starts their prayer chain.

I want to give God the glory for answered prayers time and time again. One situation really stands out in my mind because I know that a person's life was spared due to prayers. In July 1994 as our family was preparing for bed we noticed an ambulance at our neighbor's house. I walked down the driveway so I could see what was going on when they brought my neighbor out on a stretcher and put her in the ambulance. She was moaning, "Lord, have mercy."

Imagine my shock when an emergency worker ran out of the house, knocked on the door of the ambulance and shouted, "Shot-gun." She had been shot by her husband. As the ambulance left we noticed that one of the EMS workers was our friend and we asked him how seriously she was injured. He told us that she had been shot at close range in the chest, her lung was virtually destroyed and that there was very little if any hope for her survival. Shock and terror caused my heart to pound nearly out of my chest as I ran for the house, thinking all the time, **pray, pray!**

In attempting to call my sisters in Christ I couldn't even come up with their names or phone numbers, which I know so well. I was trembling so that I couldn't use the phone book either. I just kept repeating, "Lord Jesus, help us!"

My daughter found the phone number I needed and I called our prayer chairman. As she answered the phone I cried out, "Judy, this is Terry. My neighbor has been shot in the chest. It's really bad, she needs prayer. Please pray! Hurry, have everyone pray!"

Tears come to my eyes as I rejoice to tell you that she survived. I know, without a doubt, that God heard our prayers and intervened. As I watch her busily at work in her yard I just stop and say, "Thank you, Lord." We have such an awesome resource, not only in emergency situations but in everyday decisions.

As our family joins hands in our morning prayers we still call out our neighbor's name, praying for her to have a right relationship with the Lord. You pray too! God answers prayer! ❖

Editor's note: The following letter was sent to us and we wanted to share its contents with our readers. We have not given the name of the church in order to protect the victim's privacy.

COMMUNICATOR

BY MARY RUTH WISEHART

Did You Know?

The emphasis packet for August reported WNAC giving to some agencies over the past 60 years. Before the 1970's women reported service activities also. Below are some highlights of those reports.

The women were concerned about being and training good stewards.

- 1937 14 stewardship classes
32 observed week of prayer
273 subscribing to denominational papers
- 1938 30 missions and stewardship classes
- 1940 65 stewardship classes
114 tithers

The women were concerned about getting out the gospel.

- 1944 1,515 women participating in personal witnessing (out of 3,229 reported membership)
- 1946 28 souls won through personal witness
- 1948 840 tithers
(Stewardship classes must have helped.)

The women were concerned about the young people.

- 1952 1,437 tithers
424 souls won
- 1955 3,040 youth in 105 groups

Prayer has always been a vital part of WNAC. Our women's groups have always been service oriented.

- 1958 3,751 youth in 623 groups
6,379 women participating in community missions
1,796 family altars

Provision Closet Needs:

Sheet Sets, all sizes

King and twin-sized
mattress covers

Towel Sets, hand towels
and wash cloths

Kitchen Towels

Cookware

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

Please, send no blankets
at this time

- 1964 5,109 youth (the last report for youth organizations)
2,739 soul winning efforts, 520 won
- 1971 1,451 in Prayer Fellowship
1,565 family altars
2,949 soul winning efforts, 599 won
1,696 contributing to the Provision Closet
(This 1971 report is the last of its kind.)

The Memorial Student Loan

The student loan now has \$55,000 in the bank. Add to this loans due and interest and the amount is about \$100,000.

We will not collect all the loans. Sadly, even Bible College students default on loans sometimes.

September is the month for making a special gift to the Memorial Student Loan Fund. Since it was established in 1957, women have given \$112,279.48 to the fund.

See page 23 for Western (Glorieta) Retreat Program. ❖

Women In Action



A Alabama Executive Board Meets

Alabama Women Active for Christ Executive Board met at Quincy's to plan the state WAC convention. The Executive Board also began preparations for the fall prayer retreat at Shocco Springs, September 22-23, 1995 and for the missions banquet at Madison Free Will Baptist Church, November 10, 1995. Alabama women are also making plans to celebrate their 50-year anniversary in 1996.

Pictured (left to right): front row: Carolyn Hendrix (Vice-president), Paulette Scott (President), Brenda Purser (Secretary), Elwanda Oakes (Treasurer).

Back row: Ann Kennedy (Member-at-large), Clara Cobb (President, Progressive District), Nancy Mayhall (Member-at-large), Willie Mae Barfield (State Line District), Linda Silas (President, Jasper District), Jean Dubose (President, Vernon District), Dot Reeves (Field Worker).



B Enlistment Campaign at Calvary Fellowship

The women's group at Calvary Fellowship FWB Church in Fenton, MO gathered for an enlistment campaign, early in 1995. At the gathering they had a brunch. They saw good results from their effort. Nearly 30 women attended the June meeting.



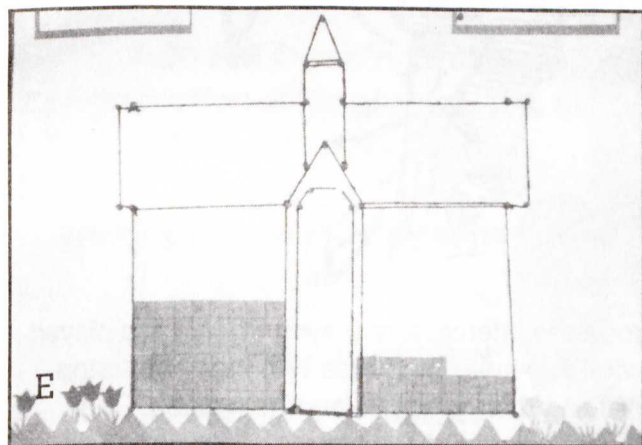
C A Trip Down Memory Lane

Heritage Temple FWB Church women's group sponsored a Mother/Daughter Banquet, May 1, 1995. About 100 attended. Pictured (center front wearing the hat) is Mrs. Lucille Neely from the Graham FWB Church who spoke on *A Trip Down Memory Lane*.



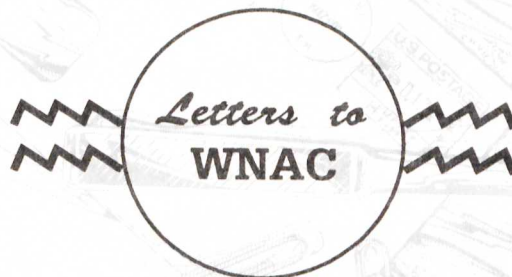
D. Central Ohio District Meets

About 85 women attended the Central Ohio District Auxiliary meeting at Heritage Temple on May 1, 1995. The Theme, *Spring Roundup*, was carried out in the food decorations and program. The women came dressed in Western attire.



E. East Nashville Raises Money for Fender Church

East Nashville FWB Church women's group "built" a church of yarn, push pins and construction paper. The money is for the West Knoxville FWB Church building where Gerald Fender is working. For each \$5 raised, they placed a paper block on the bulletin-board church until the church was full. At press time they had almost reached their \$600 goal. ❖



Dear WNAC.

Just a note to tell you how much we appreciate your ministry. Each month we see money given through WNAC for our account. How we appreciate that. Also, each day we use something that was provided for us from the Provision Closet—from towels to my pressure cooker. I use them each day and am thankful to have these things. You have made our life nicer and easier. Please continue to pray for us. May God continue to bless your ministry. Let's continue together for Him.

Mary Holland
Brazil

Dear WNAC.

Thanks again for providing that wonderful room called "The Provision Closet." Our family was delighted to choose so many wonderful and helpful items—and no cashier waiting for us at the door! What a humbling experience to think of our Free Will Baptist women who did stand in the check-out line and did give their hard-earned money to provide these things for the missionary's families!

Margaret Lloyd
Madison, WI

Dear WNAC.

We want to thank each lady who made our shopping in the "Missionary Mall" possible. How many times through the years you have met these and other needs for missionaries throughout the world. Thank you for being a part of our lives and missions.

Tom and Nancy Hughes
Brazil

Editor's note: This is just a sample of thank you notes we receive every month from missionaries who have been to the provision closet. The WNAC staff would also like to express our thanks to all of the women's groups who have given generously to make this ministry such a blessing to the missionaries.

(continued from page 13)

Our prayers do influence the actions of God and change things. That's why it's important that we intercede for others.

The account of Moses' prayer life in Deuteronomy 9:12 caught my interest and at the same time brought conviction to my heart. He said that on two occasions he fasted and prayed 40 days and nights for Israel because he was afraid God would destroy them because of their sin. What a picture of genuine intercession!

Many of my prayers are "on the run." That's okay. Often the Lord brings to mind a person or issue at the oddest times. Seize every moment to offer short, specific prayers. However, there must be time for unhurried daily prayer in a quiet place shut in alone with God and His Word. It's not so important how we pray, but that we pray. Those who pray best are those who pray most.

WNAC recognizes the importance and power of prayer. Its aim is to help the church teach and support world missions. A vital part of that

**Prayer is
our lifeline
to God—
the weapon
that changes
ourselves and
the world.**



process is intercessory prayer. WNAC has played a vital role in keeping Free Will Baptist missionaries and their needs before the women. Only eternity will reveal the impact our prayers have had on God's work throughout the world.

Can we afford not to pray? I think not. That's where the battles are won. Samuel said, "As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you" (1 Samuel 12:23). ♦



(Anne Worthington is secretary for Tennessee Women Active for Christ and a member of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, TN.)

PROGRAM

Women Nationally Active for Christ

Western Retreat

Glorieta, New Mexico / October 20-22, 1995

Theme: On the Trail with Him

Scripture: Psalm 37:23

Music Coordinator: Debbie Burden

Friday, October 20

5:30 PM Supper

7:00 PM Opening Session

Congregational Singing: Debbie Burden

Welcome: Mary Wisehart

Speaker: Ruth Bivens

Walking with Him Through the Valleys

12:00 Lunch

Afternoon free

5:30 PM Supper

6:30 PM Evening Service / Campfire

Speaker: Louise Vandivort

Deeper with Him in the Desert

Saturday, October 21

7:00 AM Breakfast

8:30 AM Worship Service

Congregational Singing

Ministering along the Trails

Speaker: Janice Little

Ministering to Wives and Children of Prisoners

Speaker: Joan Ross

Crisis Pregnancy Services Speaker

Break

Speaker: Ruth Bivens

Victory with Him in the Valleys

Sunday, October 22

7:00 AM Breakfast

8:30 AM Worship Service

Offering

Speaker: Debe Taylor

Moments on the Mountain with Him



WHAT'S THE HURRY?

Missionaries seem to always be in a hurry. They hurry to get to the field. Hurry to begin a church. Hurry to raise the needed funds. Hurry on deputation. And hurry to get back to their field. The only time missionaries seem not to be in a hurry is during their slide presentaaatiitiion!

Hurry, hurry, hurry. "Why can't they relax?" I often puzzled—that is—until I became a missionary.

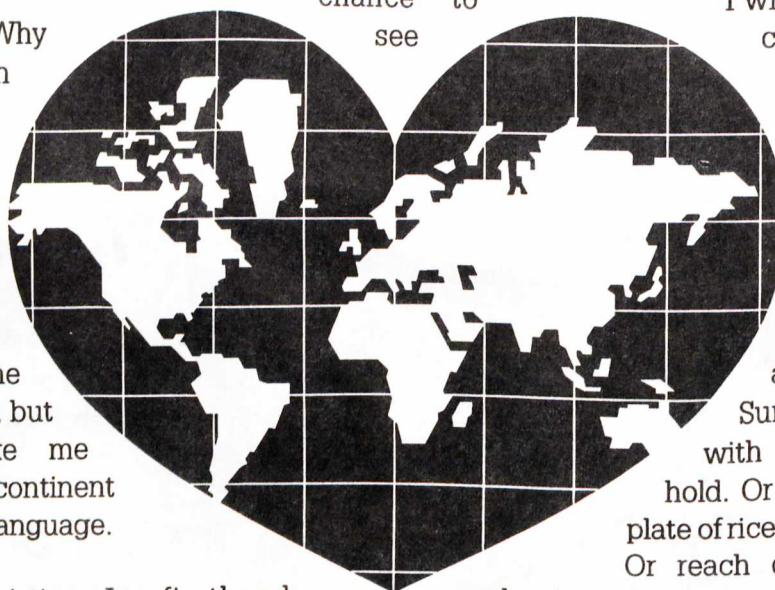
As a kid, I thought that what I saw of the world must be all that existed. I could imagine men going to the moon, but not another kid like me existing on another continent and speaking another language.

After I became a Christian, I realized there was another world far beyond what I could see and where I had ever been. Then I learned the Bible spoke of others across the seas and in foreign lands. Still, I found it hard to imagine faces and places that I had never seen. It was hard to pray, support and have an interest in people I had never seen.

How I would like to take you across the seas to a distant land.

Let you step on unfamiliar soil. I wish (as I'm sure other missionaries wish also) that you—Christians, pastors' wives, Sunday school teachers, mothers, teenagers and children—could see firsthand the needs outside the world where you live.

Most of you are probably like I was. You've never had the chance to see



firsthand what is beyond your boundaries. Some of you do know what I'm talking about because you have been there. Some of you have been there because of the military, jobs, short term mission trips or vacations. You have been exposed to a broader scope of the world. But for the rest of you, you may be asking, "What is it that you want me to see?"

My answer is simple—people. There are lots of them too! They

come in all sizes, shapes, ages and colors. They speak many different languages, eat many different foods and live in many different types of homes. They work different jobs, have different schools and unfamiliar names. They live all over the world. From continent to continent you will find them. They are everywhere.

I wish you could see the children. I want you to see their runny noses, their sores, their empty eyes and their nakedness. But I also want you to see their smiles, their big, beautiful smiles as they sit in their Sunday school class with their own paper to hold. Or as you hand them a plate of rice. Or give them a shirt. Or reach down and embrace them.

When you look at these people, you see and feel many things: prayers they offer to idols, demons and the dead; the spiritual darkness in which they live; the grip that Satan holds over these people through ignorance, fear, substance abuse and superstitions.

In some of these people you will observe the new life that Christ gives. Feel the chains of spiritual

darkness broken because of a resurrected Christ. See hope given through eternal life. See the Light that shines in this very dark world.

If you could see the world beyond your own, it would change your life. Change the way you think. Change your

opportunity to go. So we are left with the job to help you to see through our experiences, through our words and letters, through our tears, and yes, even through our slide presentations!

I pray that you will pray that God will give you a vision of the whole world, the world for which

heaven's splendor that God is preparing for His people.

You can be different. Visit a mission field. You can pray, give, promote, educate yourself and others, witness and work (Luke 13:11, 12). Not to be involved in world missions means you are not in God's will. World missions

BUT IF OUR GOSPEL BE HID, IT IS HID TO THEM THAT ARE LOST: IN WHOM THE GOD OF THIS WORLD HATH BLINDED THE MINDS OF THEM WHICH BELIEVE NOT, LEST THE LIGHT OF THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF CHRIST, WHO IS THE IMAGE OF GOD, SHOULD SHINE UNTO THEM. FOR WE PREACH NOT OURSELVES, BUT CHRIST JESUS THE LORD; AND OURSELVES YOUR SERVANTS FOR JESUS' SAKE. FOR GOD, WHO COMMANDED THE LIGHT TO SHINE OUT OF DARKNESS, HATH SHINED IN OUR HEARTS, TO GIVE THE LIGHT OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST.

-2 CORINTHIANS 4:3 - 6

priorities. Change the way you eat. Make you aware of Satan's power. Make you a believer in Christ and His resurrection. Change the way you pray for world evangelism and missionaries. It may even change the amount of money you give to missions! And yes, you would feel the urgency of the task, the big hurry.

We as missionaries wish you could see firsthand the faces, the needs and the places where God has taken us. Unfortunately, many of you will not have the

He died. How I want God to stir and break your heart for the people you have never seen. Some day you will see the faces. The faces of those who had the chance to accept Christ and did. The beautiful smiles of the children. In heaven there will be people—all sizes, shapes, ages and colors. So what is the big hurry?

The big hurry is the reality that is always in front of us. We win some but we lose many. The darkness is real and so is hell. But the light is also real and all of

is God's will and the purpose of His Son coming to earth, to seek and save that which is lost. He has given you many ways that you can or could be involved.

The time is drawing nearer. The work is great and the reward is tremendous—**people** of all sizes, shapes, ages and colors.❖

(Mary Holland is mother of three girls and missionary to Brazil.)

"What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6:8 (NIV)

a column for young people

Life!Action.

... for everyday life

Religion

Inside

Out



After mixing alcohol
wrecked the car.
1,296 hours in the
Steven could spend as
stepped in.

and prescription drugs, Steven
Sherry, the victim he hit, spent
hospital and six months in traction.
many as 16 years in prison. Then God

Charles Colson (Prison Fellowship) tells this true story in his book, *A Dangerous Grace*. He writes, "Sherry suggested [to the judge] four years of probation, medical treatment, revocation of Steven's driving license and ... 1,296 hours of community service in a hospital." In Colorado the crime victim is allowed to recommend a punishment for the offender.

The judge had to choose between a traditional prison sentence or Sherry's recommendation. Should he give the man a second chance? Maybe, but he needed to pay for what he had done. Sherry's demonstration of forgiveness touched the judge. He decided to honor her recommendation.

God gave Sherry the ability to forgive in spite of her suffering. Forgiving isn't always easy. The reason she could forgive was that Jesus had already given an example of forgiveness and mercy. The rest of the story shows how forgiveness can bring healing to the people involved.

Steven served his sentence. The best part of his sentence was probably the hospital. The patients he helped showed him how grateful they were. Steven had a change of heart and learned new confidence by doing good. While serving his sentence, he wrote to Sherry often, "Thank you for giving me a second chance." He went on to have a career in a hospital.

Sherry also benefited from her forgiveness. Instead of becoming bitter and complaining about her suffering, she felt joy to see a difference in Steven's life. She learned what true religion is all about. Things like going to church and carrying a Bible are good. But most of all, God wants us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with Him. It's religion starting from the inside spilling out to the outside. Sherry had all three ingredients.

Justice: Sherry realized we all make mistakes and have to pay for them.

Mercy: Through her compassion, Sherry suggested a punishment that would give Steven a chance to do better next time.

Humility: Leaving behind her own sense of fairness, she forgave Steven just as God had forgiven her. No sign of arrogance.

Religion on the inside is harder to live than religion on the outside. But the rewards are greatest when we practice religion inside ⇌ out. ❖

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 ❖



MISSION ALERT:

Evangelism News from Around the World

Doropo, Côte d'Ivoire

Work is abundant and personnel insufficient at the *Centre Médical de la Mission Baptiste Libre à Doropo* (Free Will Baptist Mission Hospital). Dr. Kenneth Eagleton and his family have arrived in the United States for furlough. Right now Dr. Paul Gentuso is the only doctor in Doropo.

Besides treating over 1,000 patients a month, the hospital staff is also responsible for the supervision of the Bible institute property in Bouna and student interns in 10 different churches, baptisms, church association and mission committee meetings, trips to buy medicines and supplies and other duties. Dr. Gentuso is the only ordained minister presently on the field in the northern half of Côte d'Ivoire. Robert and Pam West returned to the field in May and they have a long list of repairs to take care of around the hospital.

Barbacena, Brazil

One hundred and twenty-two people came to witness the baptism of ten people in the Barbacena church. Praise the Lord! Ken and Marvis Eagleton spent over two months in Barbacena helping the Bobby and Sue Aycock in the work, mainly teaching.

The Aycocks request prayer for several women who have come to Christ who still have unsaved husbands. The Barbacena FWB Church supports

evangelist Mario Ribeiro who is starting a church in the neighboring city Antônio Carlos. The work there is difficult. Mario and his family appreciate your prayers, too.

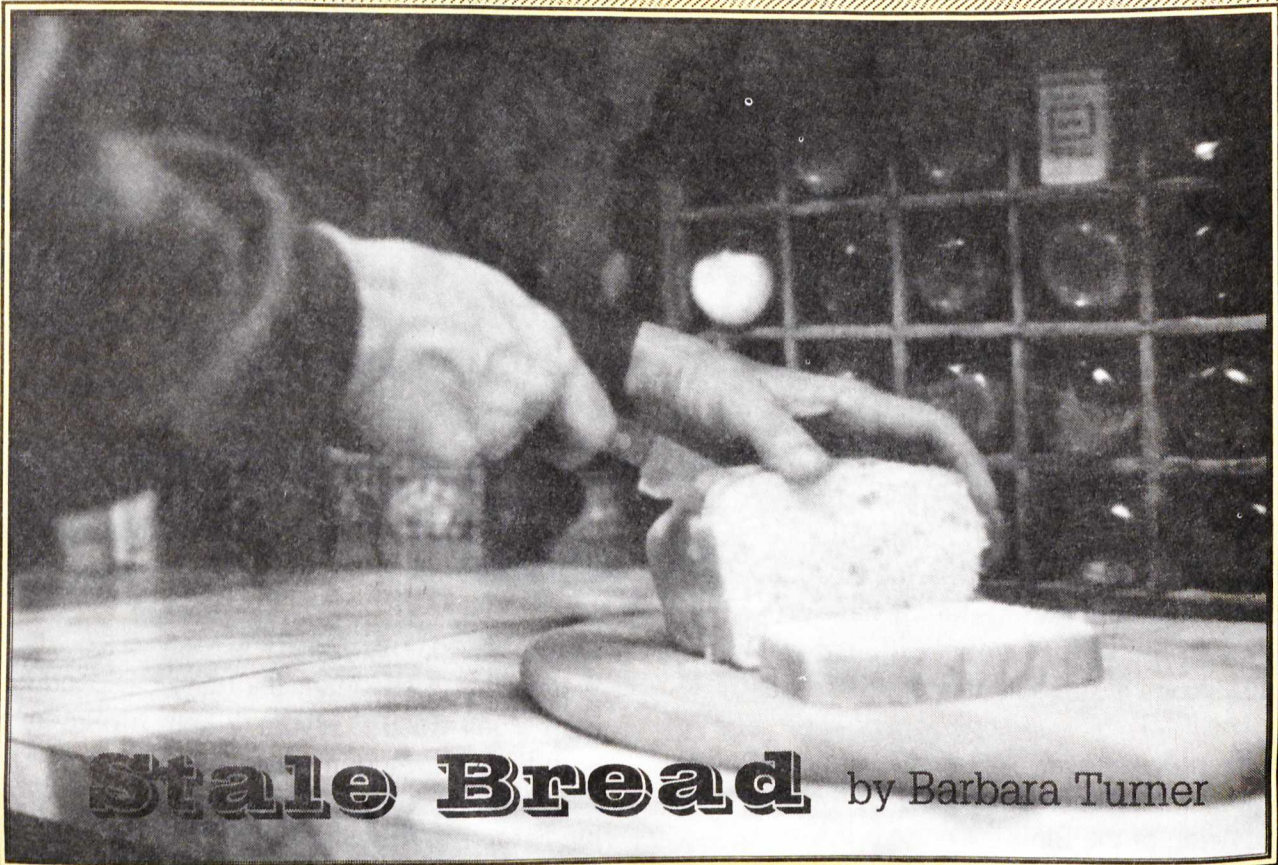
Montevideo, Uruguay

Walter Ellison continues shuttling back and forth from Montevideo to Rivera (7-hour trip) to help with the construction of the Rivera church. The *Barrio Recreo* church (Montevideo) is raising funds to send their pastor and two lay workers to the International Free Will Baptist Fellowship in October. Pray for a successful international meeting in Jaboticabal, Brazil.

Portland Oregon

The church in the Greater Portland area is excited about the Lord's work. Since the beginning of the year, they have seen nine individuals complete discipleship training. Seven more individuals are still in training. The Darrell Smiths report that they have actually completed all the requirements of the building codes for the building itself and the church has been meeting in its own building. However, they have not completed all the landscaping and parking required by law. They are working on completing these requirements as money is available. Until everything is completed, the church has to pay tax on the land as though it were privately owned.

(continued on page 29)



Stale Bread by Barbara Turner

Photograph by Ruth Bivens: first place winner in the art category for the 1995 Creative Arts Contest.



ow many times have you desired a fresh slice of bread but when you opened the bread, you noticed it no longer had that fresh aroma and it wasn't soft and good to the taste? You left it setting on your counter top or in the bread box for two or three days. Meanwhile, it had gone stale.

God sent manna from Heaven to feed the children of Israel when they were in the wilderness. He sent them fresh manna daily. They were told to gather it every morning for when the sun was hot it would melt. Some gathered it and left it in their tents until the next morning and found it had worms and began to smell because it had lost its freshness.

I don't think anyone wants to eat stale bread. Sometimes we may have to eat it because it is all that is available but it isn't what we would usually choose.

If you have ever gone into your kitchen and baked fresh loaves, you know nothing smells as good as fresh bread baking in the oven. You just can't wait to slice into it. When you sit down to eat it, the first thing you think about is sharing it with someone. If we have something delicious, we usually want someone to enjoy it also.

Let's compare our spiritual lives to stale and fresh bread. If we don't feed on the Word of God each morning or spend time praying, our spiritual lives become stale. We may have learned something good from the Lord a week or a month ago and shared it with someone, but it could become stale.

Not that God's Word ever becomes stale. It is the Word in our lives that becomes stale.

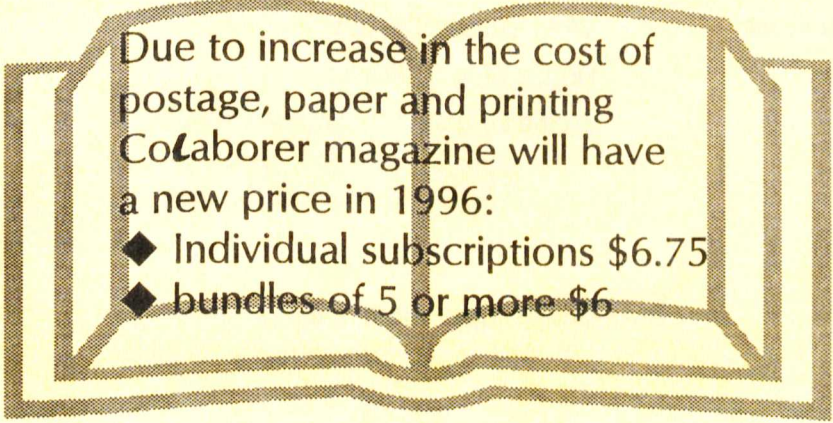
That's why we need that fresh bread daily. We need to spend time reading God's Word daily, so that we can experience a fresh slice of bread in our spiritual lives in order to have something fresh and new to share.

Staleness prevents us from having something good to share with those that are around us. If you get up each morning, go to God's "bakery" and get a fresh loaf to slice into, that fresh bread you receive from reading His Word is going to find its way down inside you.

Then you will have a freshness about you. You will have gladness of heart and joy will abide within. You will have peace. When Satan comes around to steal that from you, it will be fresh and not stale. You won't be so quick tempered or let little things get to you. Satan isn't going to hang around someone that's just been to God's bakery.

Choose which you want: a slice of the fresh or the stale. When you sit down to a meal in the morning and take that nourishment for your physical body, I hope you will think about feeding your spiritual life as well. ♦

(Barbara Turner is a member of Tom's Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Nippa, Kentucky.)



Due to increase in the cost of postage, paper and printing CoLaborer magazine will have a new price in 1996:

- ◆ Individual subscriptions \$6.75
- ◆ bundles of 5 or more \$6

(continued from page 27)

Louisville, Kentucky

Rev. and Mrs. Sandy Adams are working in the Abundant Grace Free Will Baptist Church. They face various difficulties in reaching people. Some barriers they have to overcome are religious, social, racial and indifference. Six men from the Free Will Baptist Bible College went to Louisville to help the Adamses knock on 1,000 doors. The students are gone and the Adams are following up on some 20 or more prospects that resulted.

Reynosa, Mexico

Rev. Hilarino (Lalo) Gonzalez has pastored Bethel FWB Church in Reynosa, Tamaulipas since 1987. He is one of the Mexican National workers supported through National Home Missions Department. In spite of the poverty in the neighborhood, the church is growing. Services have been held either in the church or in homes every night of the week for the last year. ♦

1995 *Creative Arts Contest Winners*

PROGRAMS

1st place:	"The Check-up: A Self-Examination"	Carolyn Franks, Mantachie, MS
2nd place:	"Installation of Officers"	Ruth Bivens, Claremore, OK
3rd place:	"The Easter Story—A Different View"	Jean Jenkerson, Farmington, MO
4th place:	"What Makes a Good Soldier"	Judy Delong, Hager Hill, KY
4th place:	"The Bride of Christ"	Brenda Shores, Alma, AR

ARTICLES

1st place:	"The Fisherman"	Vicki Turner, Carterville, MO
2nd place:	"The Love Chapter According to Motherhood"	Annette Aycock, Florence, SC
3rd place:	"Beside Still Waters"	Bentrena Johnson, Van Buren, AR
4th place:	"Make a Mark"	Darla Trimble, Dardanelle, AR

POETRY

1st place:	<i>My Child</i>	Betty Kittle, Moores Hill, IN
2nd place:	<i>He Walks with Me</i>	Lita Gorrell, South Roxana, IL
3rd place:	<i>My Arms Long to Hold</i>	Cindy Weaver, Campobello, SC
4th place:	<i>Missionaries</i>	Freedra Lucas, Cromona, KY

PLAYS

1st place:	<i>Serving at God's Table</i>	Pat Franks, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
2nd place:	<i>Just a Little of Me's Stuck</i>	Vicki Turner, Carterville, MO
3rd place:	<i>Stages in Our Lives</i>	Dottie Wright, Fresno, CA
4th place:	<i>Shoes</i>	Jackie L. Utley, Oklahoma City, OK

ART

1st place:	"Hands at Home"	Ruth Bivens, Claremore, OK
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Words for Women

Does time fly fast for you? Sometimes I'd like to stop the world, freeze the moment and examine it for an hour, a day, a week. Sometimes the plans I've made and the hours I have do not match at all. I'm all out of hours and I still have left over plans.

"If only," I say, "If only I had more time." Now really. Suppose God said, "Okay, today I'm going to grant your wish. Instead of 24 hours in the day, I'll make it 48 for you."

What would I do with 48 hours, 24 of daylight, 24 of night time?

First, I would tire before the 24 hours of daylight ended. And even 16 hours would likely be too much for sleep. I'd lie awake, tossing and turning.

And would the whole world have a 48-hour day or would I only have it?

Really, there are things I want to do—visit an elderly friend, make a meal for the needy, write those notes and letters. I just don't get them done. Could I do it if God gave me a 48-hour day? I doubt it.

What's the problem here? I am the problem, of course. I need to adjust my schedule. First, I

need to be realistic. What can I reasonably get done in the hours I have?

Then I need to decide what the most important things are for the time that I have. I need to remind myself that people are more important than things. Giving myself is more important than giving gifts.

After all, God made the day and the night. And He made me as well. He knows what I need—24 hour days.

I want to do what needs to be done in the time I have. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). I hope that I can live each day as though it may be the last one for me or someone dear to me. ❖



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