

Nov • Dec 1995

CoLaborer

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women



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and
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VISION

SUZANNE FRANKS

Is it 20/20?



I'm nearsighted. Without my corrective lenses, everything is blurry starting two feet away. If you wear glasses all the time like I do, you can try to imagine living in an era before glasses were invented. Without glasses, I couldn't drive a car, read a chalkboard, watch television, or wave at a friend across the street—unless I waved at every walking object that passes by.

Our selfish human nature causes us to be nearsighted at times. We see only what affects us directly, the situations that are closest to us. Sometimes we need spiritual glasses that allow us to see others in the same perspective. The spiritually nearsighted eyes need to see how the theme of world evangelization flows throughout the Bible from Adam to Revelations.

It is possible to be farsighted, too. This is the condition where one sees the need of a lost world across the ocean, but cannot see the needy neighbor or coworker next to us. At times we don't even look at those in our own church family that need a kind word or gentle rebuke. The farsighted person may even be blind to his or her own need for revival.

As eyes age, some need bifocals to help them see better at more than one distance. The eyes have trouble focusing, especially on close-up objects. We can get so bogged down in programs that we lose sight of the purpose for the program. We spend our days running around trying to do this and that and we don't stop long enough to focus on the real needs.

Some eyes are diseased with glaucoma—the condition where a fluid in the eye (called aqueous humor) does not drain properly. The person who has suffered nerve damage from glaucoma sees what is in front but cannot see well to the side or up and down. Those with spiritual glaucoma are so intent on one good thing, such as enforcing a favorite "rule," that the most important of all, being Christlike, is ignored.

If you are lucky to have 20/20 vision in both eyes, be thankful. Because of our fallen nature, we all need to wear spiritual glasses. The prescription to these glasses is given by the great Physician by consultation through His Word and in prayer.

If you haven't checked your spiritual vision lately, make your appointment right away. You may be missing all kinds of opportunities in every direction. ♦

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**TAKE
EVERYTHING
WITH YOU
WHEN YOU GO**

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**"TAKE THE PLUNGE,"
GOD IS SAYING,
"COME AND KNOW ME
EVEN BETTER AND
MORE FULLY"**

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**ALL SHARED IN THE
CELEBRATION OF
60 YEARS
TOGETHER FOR WNAC
AND MRS. WILLEY'S
60-YEAR LOVE AFFAIR
WITH FREE WILL
BAPTISTS**

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REMEMBER ...

Aim: To take the time to remember and be thankful for the people God has used to influence your Christian life.

Scripture: Matthew 5:16

Hymn: "This Little Light Of Mine"

Have you ever heard someone say, "I remember when life was so easy..."? In today's world, when God looks down on us, I am afraid that He may see many who have forgotten Him. Eyes look at sin and no tears appear. Hands are quick to shed innocent blood and the guilty appear to have no feelings or conscience at all. Lips curse the God Who made us; we hear, and we never think twice about it. Homes are broken in many ways, and our children do not seem to know which way to turn. We, as a nation, have so many things to take our attention away from being the kind of Christian that God would have us be.

I am thankful for being raised in a Christian atmosphere, in a family that sought God's will, and in a good church with many people who really cared about my life and my soul. As I share with you some of my fond memories, take a little time and think of those in your life who held you up to God in prayer and deed helping prepare you for a Christian life.

Remember ...

I was raised in church and saved at an early age. My parents never asked me whether or not I wanted to attend. There were never **any** excuses for missing **any** service—unless, of course, tragedy was involved. So, from the time I was a few days old, one could always find me in church.

I was fairly well behaved as a toddler—well, perhaps with one exception that comes to mind. My mother preferred to keep me with her during the worship service instead of placing me in the nursery. This was a decision she sometimes questioned for reasons such as ...

One Sunday, as she sat there with me by her side, she noticed that the members of the choir were turning and looking at her with expressions of horror and fear on their faces. She finally sensed that something must be wrong and turned to find me standing beside her in the pew, my hand poised over the top of her head, with my chubby little fingers tightly wrapped around a long hat pin retrieved from her hat. I was just about ready to

plunge the pin into her head! We laugh about it now, but then....

Remember ...

As I grow older, I think about all the Christian men and women in my church who took so much time and showed so much patience in helping me to become firmly planted in the will of God. My parents were faithful and served to be good examples in many ways. From time to time I resented having to be in church always. I look back on that now, and I would not exchange those experiences for anything in this world.

I remember my beginner class teacher, the flannelgraph Bible stories, and those tiny chairs that I once was small enough to sit in. I remember being encouraged to pray aloud, and learning to say "I'm sorry" when I misbehaved, or more specifically, got caught.

On through primary class and into the intermediate age I went with sword drills, children's choir, visits to nursing homes to conduct chapel services and distribute those "original" tray favors made by my own hands.

I was introduced to the concept of missions and the importance of both foreign and home mission churches was firmly implanted in my heart. I also had the opportunity to meet and get to know several foreign and home missionaries and enjoyed listening to the stories they would tell.

Bible memorization was always strongly emphasized and required both in my home and in my church. My mother would review each passage with me and give me the information in story form. This made the memorization process much easier for a young mind. God's Word was hidden in my heart at a very early age.

Remember ...

One important lady in my life was my best friend's mother, Mrs. Strange. My friend and I were born three months apart and grew up together in the same church. When she was very young she asked why she had to go to church all the time. (She was not given a choice either.) Her mother explained that she was "going to see Jesus." When she arrived at church one Sunday, she proceeded to run about the church—and coming back to her mother said, "I didn't see Jesus anywhere. I

AND BE THANKFUL!

by Ida Lewis



couldn't find Him!" Wouldn't that make a good sermon? Today she is a minister's wife. She, too, is glad that she had a church with people who cared.

I am aware that we all have our own ways of communicating with God, and each relationship is special in God's sight. Mrs. Strange always seemed to be different in that she honestly never worried about anything. No matter what happened to her or to members of her family, she consistently looked to the Lord for guidance and she was always sure that He had a purpose for everything. She firmly believed that God would take care, and she never seemed to be despondent.

Out of nine children of her own, she outlived all but four. Each time a son or daughter passed away, she always turned it all over to the Lord. It seemed to be easy to her to just let go and let God have His way.

I remember, as a young teen, asking my mother why God talked to her so frequently and clearly, and seemingly only sparingly to the rest of us. But over the years, I have learned that we do have to be still and know that He is God and be willing to give our all to Him. And yes, there is nothing so sweet as knowing that you are in His care, no matter what may come.

The Lord has Mrs. Strange with Him now; she has run her race. We are taught that we need to turn everything over to the Lord and let Him have His way. That can often be a difficult thing to do. Mrs. Strange was a special example to me, especially for her ability to completely trust in the Lord.

Conclusion

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

I could go on and on with fond memories of my time growing up. God teaches us much through parables—earthly stories with Heavenly meaning. Many of us can say that through our memories we can see the hand of God working in our lives. Our earthly experiences can have a heavenly bearing on our lives.

Returning home for visits through the past years, I have gone back to the church where I was raised.

Those people who were there when I was growing up are still there. Their heads, bowed in prayer, have turned to gray or white, and there may be a wrinkle or two. The smiles of joy remain on their faces and the evidence of peace in their lives is unmistakable. They are continuing to serve the Lord and others faithfully. In this seemingly transient and superficial world, it gives my heart joy to see the saints remaining steadfast and unmoveable. One by one, it seems that these saints are being summoned home by the Lord, but the legacy that they leave behind will serve to influence the ones who will follow.

Providing Memories For Others ...

We need to be aware of the influence that our lives, what we say and do, may have on those around us. There are many opportunities for service in our established churches. There is a tremendous challenge in our mission churches to be the faithful example to the new converts, children, and others. I realize now just how many faithful people there were—all working together with God's help to form my Christian life.

My childhood revolved around church, school, and family. Nowadays there are so many things to capture our time and interest. It is all but impossible to attend to everything. While it is good to take advantage of all that is available through advanced technology, etc., we should never allow

anything to take away the unmatched wonders that can be experienced in the simple and beautiful things that God has made available to us.

We must be stewards of our time, talents, tithes, and love offerings—in worship and as an example. Let us pray that God can work through us to plant a seed and to let God's light shine through our own lives so that others may grasp the vision and carry on the work.

Remember. Go and thank those who have touched your life. Strive to be that steadfast and unmoveable Christian influence to those around you. ❖

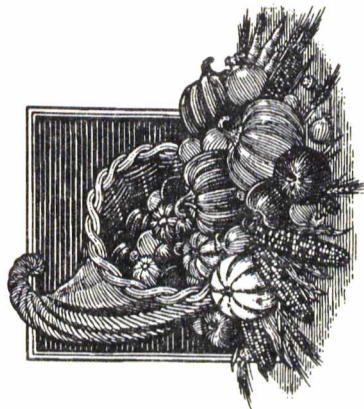
(Ida Lewis is the new publications editor of the Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department in Antioch, TN. She is a member of Richland FWB Church, Nashville, TN.)



Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for National Home Missions

November 13-17, 1995

***This Thanksgiving give to the
Lizzie McAdams Offering
for National Home Missions.***

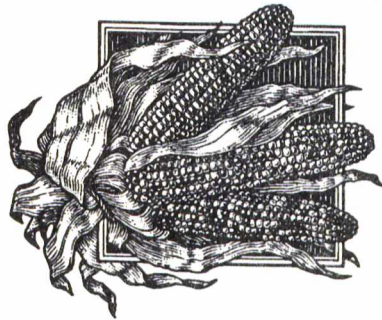


Monday

Pray for the National Home Missions Board which spends many volunteer hours adopting policies and programs for the Department, approving missionaries, and presenting the annual budget to the National Association for approval. Members are: *Don Guthrie, Earl Hendrix, J. D. Norris, Larry Russell, Richard Atwood, Glenn Thomas, Wendell Walley, Milburn Wilson, and Lynn Wood.* Pray for the Executive Staff— *Tymon Messer, General Director and Dr. Richard Adams, Director of Development*—as they labor to promote the work of home missions.

Tuesday

Some home missionaries work jointly with a state or district board and the national board. Pray for Joint Project Workers: *Curtis & Laverne Alligood, FL; Ken & Bonnie Doggett, IL; Levan & Vicki Hubbard, AR; Mark & Karon Barber, SC; James & Charlotte Childers, SC; Jim & Kim Fairchild, MD; Danny & Jane Keen, SC; David & Pam Potete, IL; Jose Rodriguez, FL; Jeff & Sherri Sloan, IN.*



Wednesday

Pray for our Associate missionaries including *Bud & Ruth Bivens, MX; Len & Lynda Blanchard, NM; Terry & Tammy Miller, RI; Pete & Petra Maynard, OH; Ron & Sue MacMillan, MA; Roy & Marilyn Wilson, FL.*

Today pray especially for the *Gerald Fender Family, Joint Project Workers with Tennessee, as they continue their labor. Mrs. Gail Fender, mother and spouse, went to be with the Lord on May 24, 1995.*

Thursday

Remember our National Home missionaries including *George & Linda Harvey, AZ; Terry & Ramona VanWinkle, KS; Howard & Patsy Gwartney, AZ; Carlie & Margaret Lloyd, WI; Tommy & Pam Jones, PA; Bob & Brenda Lewis, CO; Bill & Lois Reagan, CN; Joel & Hope Nason, NH.*



Friday

Pray for *Free Will Baptist chaplains serving through the Home Missions Department in the military. They truly are missionaries to men and women serving in the armed forces. These are: CAPT. Terry Austin, LT. COL. James Bishop, COL. Gerald Mangham, and LT. COL. Kerry Steedley, in the U.S. Army; CDR. Robert Cooper, U.S. Navy; and CAPT. Tim Sturgill, U.S. Air Force.*

What is



by Dr. C. Fay Forlines

It is Christmas time. I am wondering what Christmas in Russia is like. As I stuff the family turkey and chill the cranberry salad, I wonder what Russians have to eat at Christmas. I wonder if there is a light dancing in the children's eyes weeks before Christmas. I wonder if there are sleigh bells in the snow. Does snow fall on Christmas Day? Can husbands afford to give their wives gifts? I wonder how widely the Christ Child is remembered and honored. Will people want to hear my story in 1996 and 1997 after we return toward the end of the summer of 1996?

For you see, Leroy and I are going as missionaries to Russia (once USSR, now CIS—Commonwealth of Independent States). We will teach in the seminaries in Odessa, Kiev, Moscow, and St. Petersburg during the spring semester of 1996. Leroy will teach theology, and I will help church leaders and future church leaders improve their English skills.

Christmas

Both his theology book and ethics book will be translated into Russian. He will speak at a pastor's conference in Siberia at Novosibirsk and at a retreat in the Ural Mountains.

We will launch a beachhead for Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions in Russia. Other missionaries will follow, after they go to language school. We will speak through interpreters who are strangers and who are not necessarily believers. (Please pray for both the interpreters and us in this regard. Also pray for wisdom from on high on our part as we speak that we will be a witness to the interpreters.)

What an honor it will be to be associated with people who have spent time in prison under Communism because they were Christians. How humbling it will be to see and speak with the 150 widows of pastors whose husbands died in prison because they preached the gospel. (Pray that we will learn lessons of forgiveness



like in

and endurance from these dear ladies. Pray that we will be a blessing to them.)

A jumble of sentences and sentence fragments that I have recently read about Russia jog through my mind: Russia is the largest country on Earth. There are still KGB agents. It is not what they have that they do not want us to see; it is what they do not have. Abortion is frequently used as the only form of birth control. Communism is still there. Communists are atheists.

Cold, 40 below zero cold. Mud villages and cabbage soup and lust. Rain and wind. Birch forests and brown rivers and existential horror. Tourists searching for concentration camps in Siberia where they grew up as children.

Take everything with you when you go. Do not expect to be able to buy anything, down to toilet tissue. Diet of potatoes, milk, blocks of bread, beet soup and the ever-present cabbage soup. Cold. Cold.



Russia

Freezing cold. Deadly cold. Finally, the exponential growth of organized crime.

Those words fade into insignificance when faced with realizations: Hearts are crying out for an understanding of the deeper truths of God's Word. For the first time in the long history of Russia, there is freedom of religion.

The Russian evangelical church leaders put their fingers on our names and say, "We want them." The leaders of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions say they want us. God affirms in our hearts that we only go through doors that are open to serve Him.

If God's people affirm that we are the only ones to meet a definite need, God works in our hearts to assure us that He is calling. As God is calling us to

go, He is also calling you to give your prayers and money to support us. He will provide our needs through you.

I remember, too, that when I was fifteen on a Wednesday night at the Free Will Baptist National Convention in Detroit, I dedicated my life to missionary service to go to India. The desire to go to India persisted until I married. Earnestly wanting God's will to be done in my life, I could not understand how I had misunderstood God's will. My timing was not God's timing.

On August 30, 1995, I officially retired as an educator. Leroy is retired and teaching part-time at Free Will Baptist Bible College. When out of the blue, we were requested to go to Russia, in time we responded in the affirmative.

Russia is the biggest country on Earth, but we serve the only True God in the entire universe who is everywhere, knows all, and is all-powerful. Perhaps some people in Russia may be able to receive the Christ of Christmas in their hearts because you and we are true to God's call. ❖

(Dr. Fay Forlines and her husband, Leroy Forlines, have been appointed to teach in Russia under the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Department. Both are educators and prolific writers.)

Beside Still Waters

by Bentrena Johnson

"He leadeth me beside still waters." What does Psalm 23:2 make you think about? Let's paint a picture for the mind's eye. Close your physical eyes to the world and look through your other eyes.

You see a flowery meadow with rolling hills, the wind gently blows the tall willowy blades of wheat. Big white billowy clouds fill the skies; they look as if you could step across the sky on them. A clear blue creek is rambling through the fields. I'm running down the slope of the bank to the creek's edge.

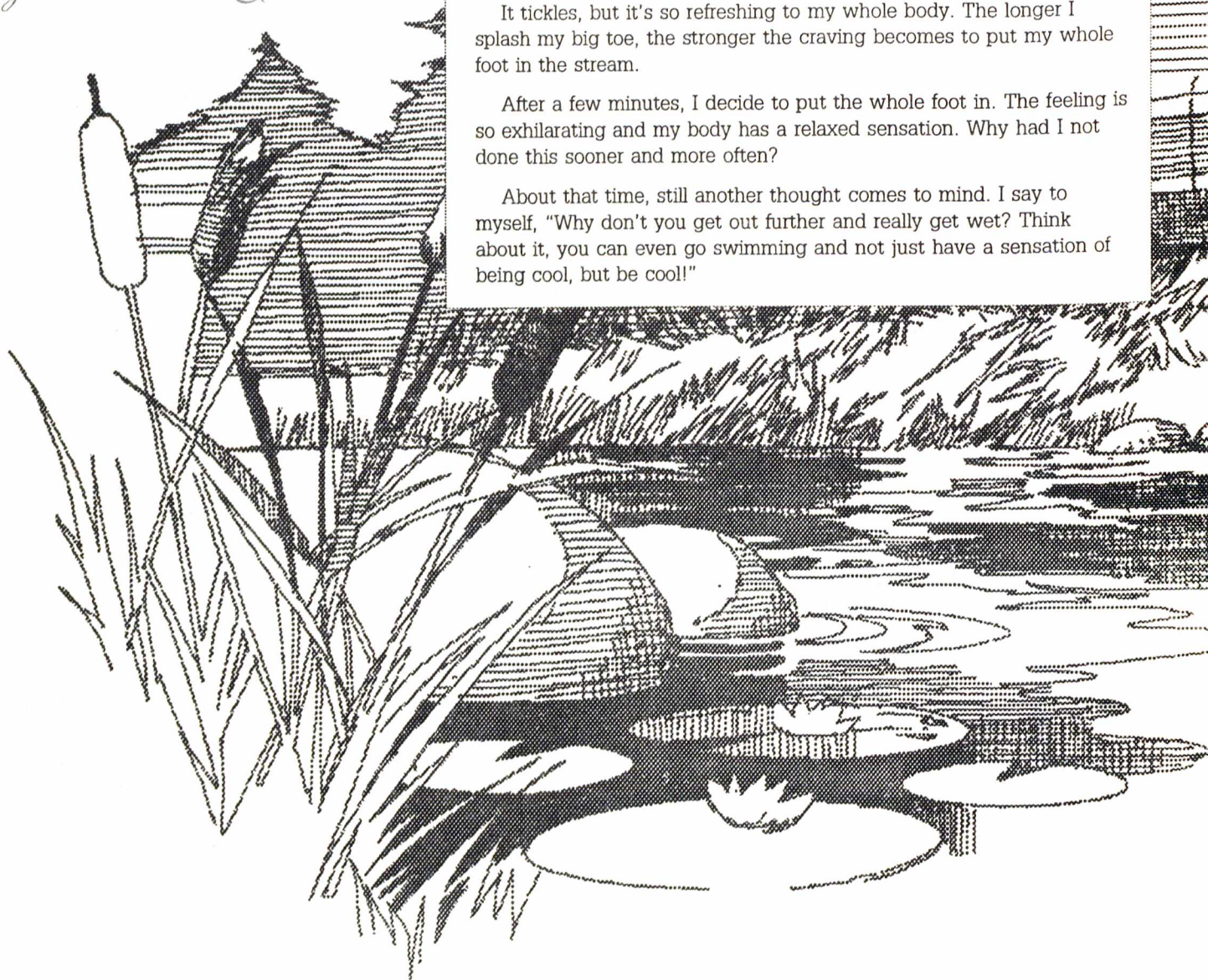
I stand at the edge of the creek and watch it flow ever so quietly over the rocks and pebbles. Oh, it is so clear. I can see all the way to the bottom. Standing there I watch the peacefulness of the creek.

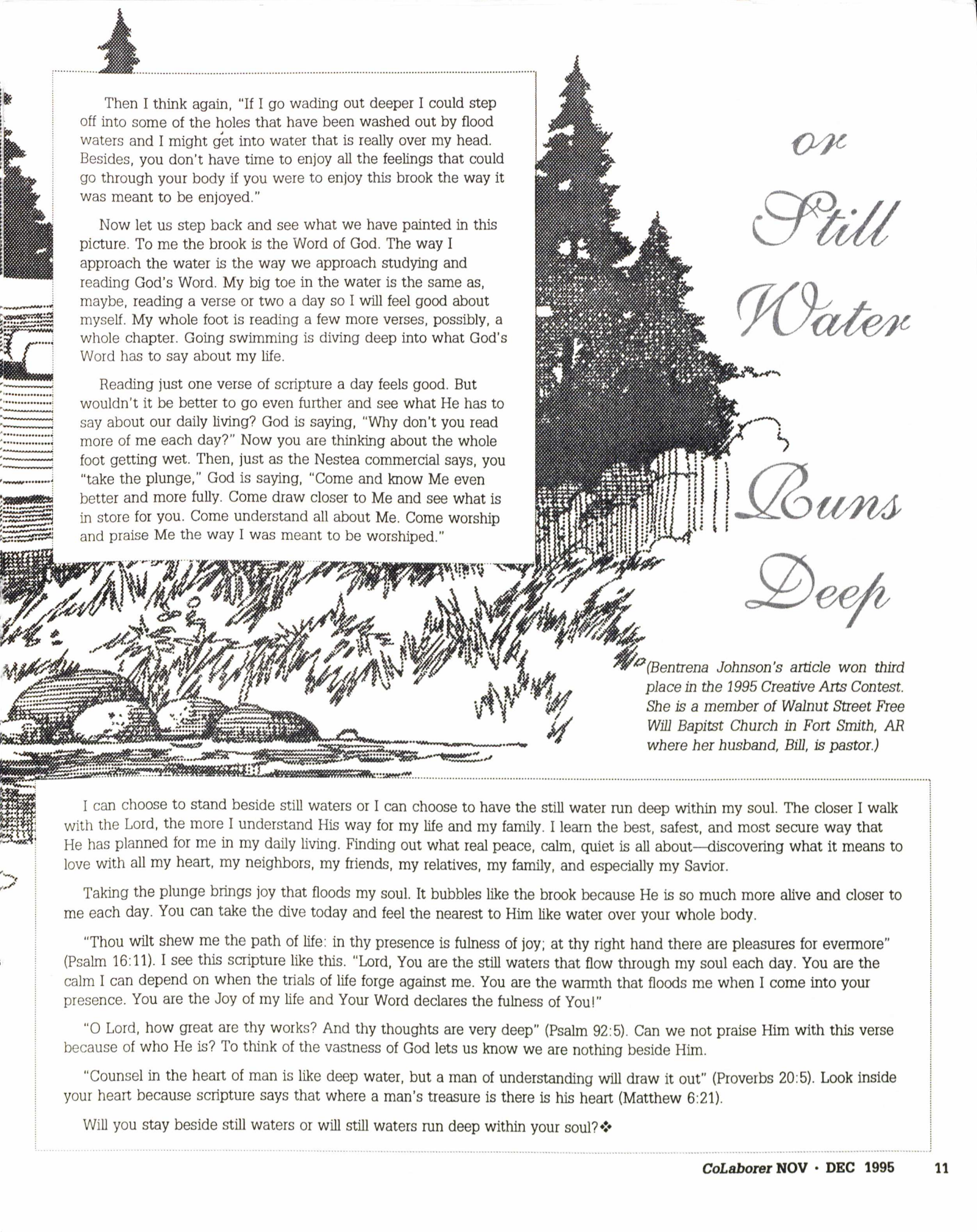
It makes little ripples in the water that are so inviting that the longer I watch the stronger the urge becomes to stick my big toe in and feel the soothing cool of the water. Then, before you know it, off come the shoe and in goes the toe.

It tickles, but it's so refreshing to my whole body. The longer I splash my big toe, the stronger the craving becomes to put my whole foot in the stream.

After a few minutes, I decide to put the whole foot in. The feeling is so exhilarating and my body has a relaxed sensation. Why had I not done this sooner and more often?

About that time, still another thought comes to mind. I say to myself, "Why don't you get out further and really get wet? Think about it, you can even go swimming and not just have a sensation of being cool, but be cool!"





Then I think again, "If I go wading out deeper I could step off into some of the holes that have been washed out by flood waters and I might get into water that is really over my head. Besides, you don't have time to enjoy all the feelings that could go through your body if you were to enjoy this brook the way it was meant to be enjoyed."

Now let us step back and see what we have painted in this picture. To me the brook is the Word of God. The way I approach the water is the way we approach studying and reading God's Word. My big toe in the water is the same as, maybe, reading a verse or two a day so I will feel good about myself. My whole foot is reading a few more verses, possibly, a whole chapter. Going swimming is diving deep into what God's Word has to say about my life.

Reading just one verse of scripture a day feels good. But wouldn't it be better to go even further and see what He has to say about our daily living? God is saying, "Why don't you read more of me each day?" Now you are thinking about the whole foot getting wet. Then, just as the Nestea commercial says, you "take the plunge," God is saying, "Come and know Me even better and more fully. Come draw closer to Me and see what is in store for you. Come understand all about Me. Come worship and praise Me the way I was meant to be worshiped."

or Still Water Runs Deep

(Bentrena Johnson's article won third place in the 1995 Creative Arts Contest. She is a member of Walnut Street Free Will Baptist Church in Fort Smith, AR where her husband, Bill, is pastor.)

I can choose to stand beside still waters or I can choose to have the still water run deep within my soul. The closer I walk with the Lord, the more I understand His way for my life and my family. I learn the best, safest, and most secure way that He has planned for me in my daily living. Finding out what real peace, calm, quiet is all about—discovering what it means to love with all my heart, my neighbors, my friends, my relatives, my family, and especially my Savior.

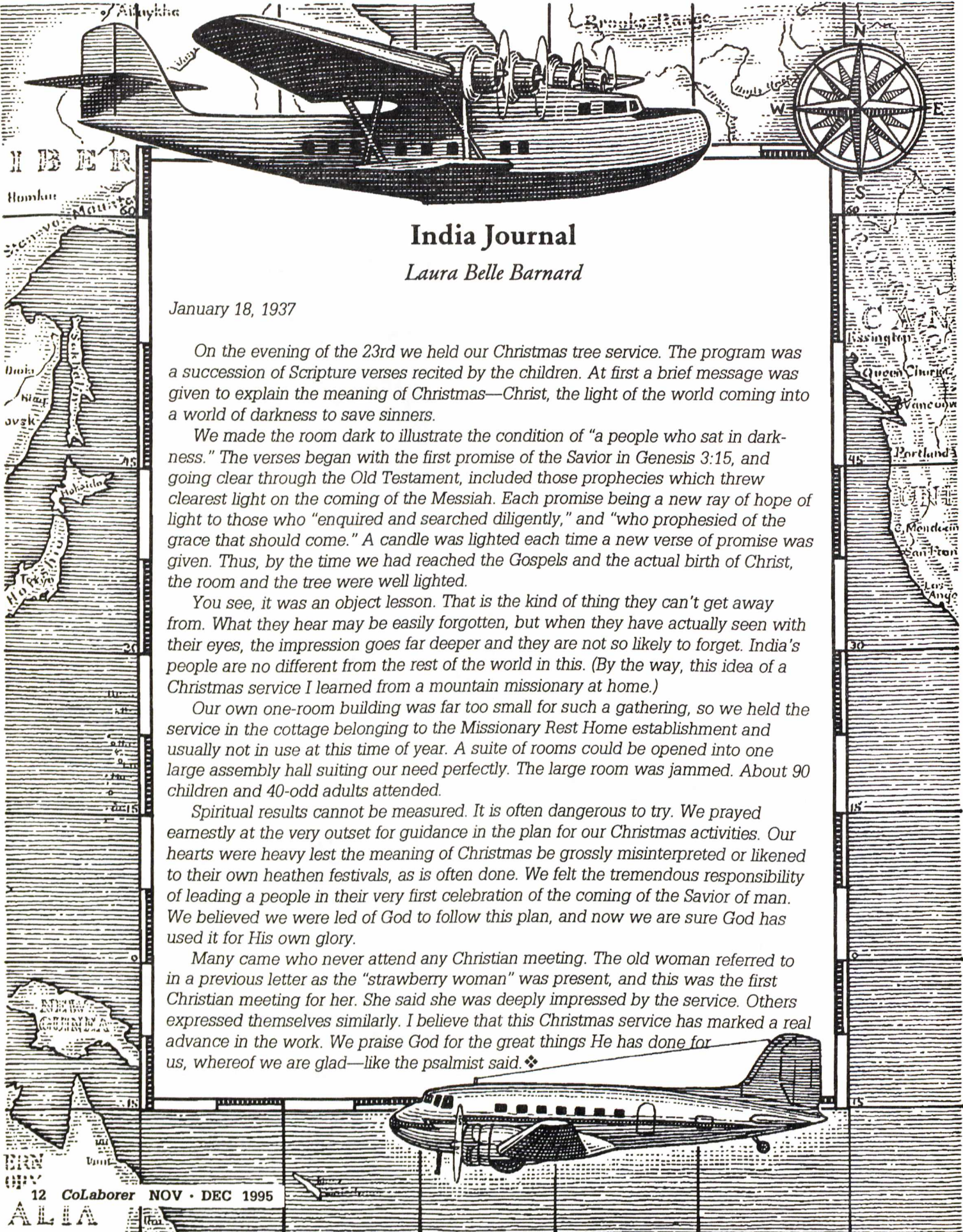
Taking the plunge brings joy that floods my soul. It bubbles like the brook because He is so much more alive and closer to me each day. You can take the dive today and feel the nearest to Him like water over your whole body.

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11). I see this scripture like this. "Lord, You are the still waters that flow through my soul each day. You are the calm I can depend on when the trials of life forge against me. You are the warmth that floods me when I come into your presence. You are the Joy of my life and Your Word declares the fulness of You!"

"O Lord, how great are thy works? And thy thoughts are very deep" (Psalm 92:5). Can we not praise Him with this verse because of who He is? To think of the vastness of God lets us know we are nothing beside Him.

"Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out" (Proverbs 20:5). Look inside your heart because scripture says that where a man's treasure is there is his heart (Matthew 6:21).

Will you stay beside still waters or will still waters run deep within your soul?❖



India Journal

Laura Belle Barnard

January 18, 1937

On the evening of the 23rd we held our Christmas tree service. The program was a succession of Scripture verses recited by the children. At first a brief message was given to explain the meaning of Christmas—Christ, the light of the world coming into a world of darkness to save sinners.

We made the room dark to illustrate the condition of "a people who sat in darkness." The verses began with the first promise of the Savior in Genesis 3:15, and going clear through the Old Testament, included those prophecies which threw clearest light on the coming of the Messiah. Each promise being a new ray of hope of light to those who "enquired and searched diligently," and "who prophesied of the grace that should come." A candle was lighted each time a new verse of promise was given. Thus, by the time we had reached the Gospels and the actual birth of Christ, the room and the tree were well lighted.

You see, it was an object lesson. That is the kind of thing they can't get away from. What they hear may be easily forgotten, but when they have actually seen with their eyes, the impression goes far deeper and they are not so likely to forget. India's people are no different from the rest of the world in this. (By the way, this idea of a Christmas service I learned from a mountain missionary at home.)

Our own one-room building was far too small for such a gathering, so we held the service in the cottage belonging to the Missionary Rest Home establishment and usually not in use at this time of year. A suite of rooms could be opened into one large assembly hall suiting our need perfectly. The large room was jammed. About 90 children and 40-odd adults attended.

Spiritual results cannot be measured. It is often dangerous to try. We prayed earnestly at the very outset for guidance in the plan for our Christmas activities. Our hearts were heavy lest the meaning of Christmas be grossly misinterpreted or likened to their own heathen festivals, as is often done. We felt the tremendous responsibility of leading a people in their very first celebration of the coming of the Savior of man. We believed we were led of God to follow this plan, and now we are sure God has used it for His own glory.

Many came who never attend any Christian meeting. The old woman referred to in a previous letter as the "strawberry woman" was present, and this was the first Christian meeting for her. She said she was deeply impressed by the service. Others expressed themselves similarly. I believe that this Christmas service has marked a real advance in the work. We praise God for the great things He has done for us, whereof we are glad—like the psalmist said. ❖



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

James paints such a violent picture of the evil the tongue can accomplish. Recently, the five verses immediately following this famous passage grabbed my attention (James 3:13-17). The topic, wisdom.

After writing all those dreadful things about the tongue, James tells us to show our wisdom by living a life of **humility**. What a contrast! Heavenly wisdom is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy . . . (verse 17, NIV). Such a gentle picture.

The other contrast is hard to miss—heavenly versus earthly wisdom. The world admires the person with the quickest, dirtiest, smartest answers.

Wouldn't you like to shock someone with a soft response to angry words? It takes more than humility, it takes self-control given by the Holy Spirit along with planning. That is, planning ahead with a strong resolve on your part not to explode before the Holy Spirit has time to speak to you.

Sound familiar? "Breathe deeply and count to ten."

Surely the Holy Spirit had a reason for inspiring James to put the tongue and wisdom back to back in his book—so that the contrast between earthly and heavenly wisdom would be that much more powerful. ❖

Poet's Corner

Missionaries

Freedra Lucas, Cromona, KY

4th place in the 1995 Creative Arts Contest

They give their talents to the Lord.

The Gospel seed they sow.

They give up worldly pleasures as

To foreign lands they go.

They ask no things that others choose,

Just Bibles, food and such.

They ask for love and faith and prayer,

And God's all-seeing touch.

At times, their weary feet just ache

To tread on peaceful sod.

That day will come for them at last

When they're at home with God.

Their eyes reflect their Father's love,

Great faith their souls impart.

God bless the laborers in the field,

And help us do our part.

Not in Splendor

Glenda Raymer, Joelton, TN

In a stable dark and musty,

Long ago on Christmas Day;

Jehovah's long awaited Promise

Slept in a manger filled with hay.

In rags His mother wrapped Him

And placed Him in His manger bed.

The sheep, the cow, the donkey

Saw her kiss His tiny head.

She may have sung a lullaby

To the new born baby King,

While shepherds on the hillside

Heard the host of heaven sing.

Prince of Peace and Lord of Lords,

King of Kings upon that day,

In a barn with sheep and cattle

Slept so sweetly on the hay.

Most special babe of all the ages,

For sin to die was born that day.

God's Precious Gift came not in

splendor

But in a manger filled with hay.

Day Break

Vicki Turner, Cartersville, MO

The purple mist clings and lingers

Along the mountain peaks,

Unwilling to relinquish the morning

To the rising sun.

Overhead the sky is streaked

With orange and softer pinks,

And the silence of the moment

Anticipates the day.

And then a quick catch of breath,

Like the flutter of a heart,

As the wind pays reverence

Just before the dawn.

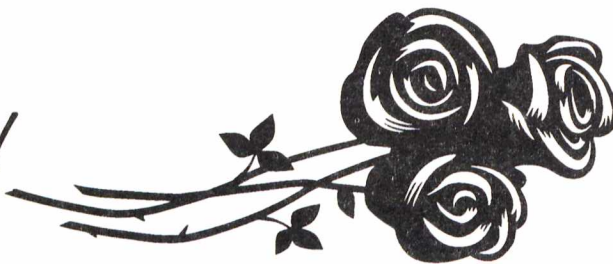
To witness such magnificence

Invigorates the soul.

For nothing is more beautiful,

Than the handiwork of God. ❖

Women God Used



Gail Fender (July 19, 1947-May 24, 1995)

wife and mother of three children, was an elementary school teacher with the Knox County School System. Her husband, Rev. Gerald Fender, is home missionary to Knoxville, TN. The Fenders have been serving as Joint Project workers with the Tennessee State Mission Board and the National Home Missions Board in planting the West Knoxville Free Will Baptist Church.

Gail was a brave, optimistic person who loved children. She directed children's church and taught in Sunday school and Bible school. Active in the WNAC work at local, district and state levels, she served as president for Tennessee women.

The West Knoxville Church is still meeting in rented facilities. Gail's greatest desire was to see the church building erected on the property that has been purchased. ❖

Helen Sanders (December 25, 1927-April 18, 1995) was born in Boldman, KY. Her parents

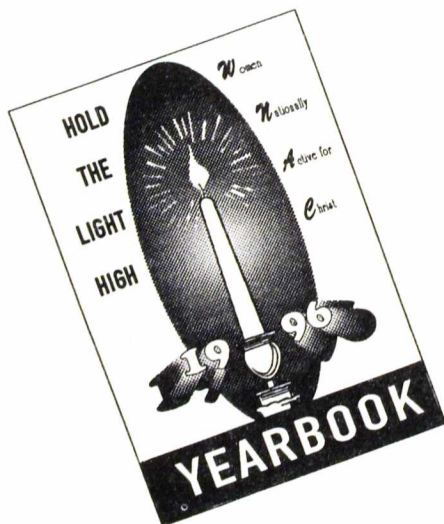
were Carl and Wanda Brown. She was the faithful wife of Rev. Luther Sanders. They worked in FWB churches in Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama, Missouri, North Carolina, Texas and Hawaii. They were home missionaries in Hawaii.

Helen was president of the North Carolina state WNAC, served several years on the executive committee. She also served as the director of the denominational youth activities and wrote the manuals for the same. At the time of her death, she was the state president of the Texas Women Active for Christ.

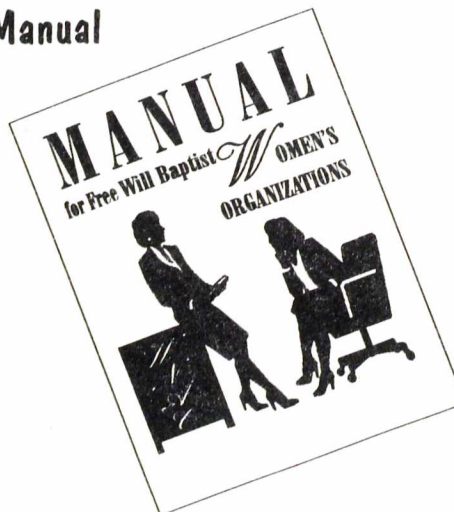
She and her husband celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 8, 1995 in her hospital room. ❖

Attention All Officers!

Planning for the new year? Then you must have the 1996 Yearbook



Are you up to date on the officer changes? Then you need the new Manual



A graphic of a coiled spring with an arrow pointing upwards, positioned to the left of the title.

Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator

If you haven't yet, you should buy the new Manual and the 1996 Yearbook. Planning ahead for next year will be essential for the growth and success of your women's group. A Manual study can be used to train new leaders and to refresh those who have been in leadership roles for a long time.

See the announcement on page 30 about the Leadership Conference. Officers need to know about what is going on in our denomination. If your local officers can't go to the leadership conference, consider sponsoring a district or state officer to go.

Assistant Coordinator

Program Ideas: Read Ida Lewis' November program. Can you relate to her story? Did you grow up in a Christian environment like she did? If your answer is yes to these two questions, think about the blessings you have received from your home church and Christians around you. Emphasize how we are examples for the younger Christians in your own church. If you would rather do something different, consider using Pat Thomas' July program (if it hasn't been used yet). See the July/Aug Springboard for program suggestions. Either program would work well with the Home Missions emphasis for November. It is important to do something you feel comfortable with.

December is usually a time when people become more materialistic. As you present the December program, focus the women's attention on spiritual things. What would help the Russians enjoy Christmas most? Having all the things we have or knowing the One who started Christmas? Read Eugene Waddell's article "Love Your Former Enemies?" in the July/Aug *Heartbeat*. Summarize or ask someone else to summarize the article before the program or as part of the program. Go to your local library and read something about Russia in the present. Find some pictures of Russian landmarks and people to display. If you have a meal, look for Russian recipes, such as, cabbage soup or Russian soup (pureed beets, potatoes, carrots, onions, bouillon, and sour cream).

Secretary/Treasurer

Start preparing for the January enlistment emphasis. Bring your prospect list up to date and start talking to the assistant coordinator about how you can interest those who are not involved. When the executive com-

Devotional Outline

What is True Fellowship? Philippians 1:3-11

1. I have you in my mind (3-6)

- ☛ Thoughtfulness (v. 3)
- ☛ Thankfulness (v. 5)

2. I have you in my heart (7-8)

- ☛ Partnership (v. 7)
- ☛ Passion (v. 8)

3. I have you in my prayers (9-11)

- ☛ Christian Love (vs. 9, 10)
 - abundant love (v. 9)
 - discerning love (vs. 9, 10a)
- ☛ Christian Character (v. 10b)
 - uncompromised (sincere)
 - unoffensive
- ☛ Christian Service (v. 11)
 - edifying ourselves
 - elevating Christ

First Increase since 1987

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

mittee gets together to discuss enlistment, don't be afraid to change what needs to be changed. The gospel message never changes but our methods should change to meet the present needs.

Maybe you read all of the *CoLaborer* issues cover to cover. Even if you do and have done so for a long time, go back and read some of the Springboard/Helps for Leaders in past issues (especially Jan/Feb) for good enlistment ideas. The 1996 Yearbook has enlistment ideas for each month of the year.

Help promote the Lizzie McAdams Memorial Offering for National Home Missions in November and the Paul Kettelman Memorial Christmas Fund Drive in December.

Prayer Chairman

Work together with the missions chairman in planning for the Pre-Thanksgiving week of prayer. The prayer calendar is printed on page 7.

Let the time of prayer be reverent and one of concern. Select some women to read a different passage on prayer each day of the week. They need not comment on the passage unless they wish to. See the Prayer Chairman section in the new Manual for a list of Bible prayers (pp. 107-108).

In December, remind the women to pray that the Lord will call workers into Christian service. Since the program focuses on Russia, look at the back cover of the July/Aug *Heartbeat* for the list of personnel needs for the Foreign Missions Department. C.I.S. (or Russia) especially needs English teachers and businessmen. Also have a special time of prayer for Free Will Baptist Bible College as they plan to move to a new campus in the future. You can receive a prayer calendar from FWBBC if you request one.

Service Chairman

We all have heard that the holiday season is the worst for depression. Lead your women in doing something special for people in your church and community who are lonely. Everyone experiences loneliness, but the holidays can be especially hard for single people, people who recently lost a loved one, and people who are far away from family and can't go home. You could compile a list of such people and come up with a discreet way to bring them some love and cheer.

Study Chairman

Here's a good idea book for you to check out and share with your women. ***Let's Make a Memory*** by Gloria Gaither and Shirley Dobson is a book full of nifty ideas for parents and grandparents who want to make special memories with their children. The book has a chapter for each of several holidays, each of the seasons, special places (such as vacation), and special people. There is also a chapter called "Making Memories in God's Word" that gives some suggestions for teaching the Bible with games. This book is geared to parents of small children but the can also be helpful for Sunday school teachers and women's groups—that is, if they don't mind being a little childish. The reader may not want to try everything in the book, but there are many great activities that can stimulate your and your children's creativity. It would make a great Christmas



Come pray with us
Pre-Thanksgiving
week of prayer for
National Home Missions

Dates _____

Time _____ Place _____

HID IN MY HEART

I Thessalonians 2: 6-12 (NIV)

But we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. ❖

gift. This book is published by Word Publishing and can be found or ordered at any Christian bookstore.

Missions Chairman

Page 43 in the 1996 Yearbook has a plan sheet you can use for the Pre-Thanksgiving week of prayer.

Decide with the prayer chairman what kind of materials you will need for the Pre-Thanksgiving week of prayer for Home Missions. Someone should contact Home Missions to order materials to inform and help your women pray.

Study the prayer calendar beforehand. Space does not allow for the names of all the missionaries under Home Missions and, of course, you may not have time to talk about every person mentioned on each day. You could pick one person or family for each day. The prayer cards have biographical information on the back. Order these, or even better, get your hands on their most recent news/prayer letter. ❖

How to have a successful Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer

Plan! Order all necessary free Home Missions materials. Start planning early. Publicize the dates and activities of the Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer on your church calendar so you can involve the entire church in the observance.

Promote! by ordering free prayer calendars and other materials. (See sample prayer calendar on page 7.) These prayer calendars are available in quantities upon request from the National Home Missions Department. Other free materials are available to help you sponsor an effective Week of Prayer:

missionary maps, prayer cards, directories, offering envelopes, quarter saver folders

Pray and Give! for a sacrificial Lizzie McAdams Memorial Offering for National Home Missions. Set a goal for your women's group. You may designate your offering to the National Home Missions General Fund. Send offerings through the WNAC channels designated for Lizzie McAdams Memorial Offering for National Home Missions.

Order from:
National Home Missions
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Lucy & Marge

Be Thankful

[Marge is sipping coffee in Lucy's kitchen. The kitchen is a total wreck.]

Lucy: I've made a new year's resolution.

Marge: What? It's only November.

Lucy: Um hum. That's the beauty of it.

Marge: What do you mean?

Lucy: My resolution to go on a diet.

Marge: So?

Lucy: Thanksgiving and Christmas, I won't have to cook.

Marge: How's that?

Lucy: Wait. Let me tell you the rest of the resolution. Everyone in my family will also go on a diet.

Marge: *[sarcastically]* Right.

Lucy: You don't think I'm serious.

Marge: Forget it, It won't work. They'll see right through your scheme.

Lucy: *[with exaggerated indignation]* It's not a scheme. It's a resolution.

Marge: Whatever you call it, it won't work.

Lucy: Or I could start a new tradition. Hear ye, Hear ye. The Sellers now celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with fasting.

Marge: Good try.

Lucy: Okay. I'm not serious. But I'm so tired of cooking and I

haven't even started on the fruitcake.

Marge: You could just cook potatoes and cabbage.

Lucy: I don't think my husband would appreciate that.

Marge: See, it's not so bad to be tired of cooking. What if all you had was potatoes to eat every day.

Lucy: You're right, Marge. We have so much that it's hard to imagine what it's like to live with less.

Marge: Yeah, we have a lot to learn about being thankful.

Lucy: And don't forget the women's meeting this month. The program is called "Remember and Be Thankful." It's going to be at (give time, place, etc.). ♦



reasons to give a **CoLaborer** gift subscription

1. It helps her stay in touch with FWB women and what God is doing through WNAC.
2. It edifies and inspires.
3. It provides ideas for Bible studies and illustrations.
4. It provides hours of fruitful reading enjoyment.
5. It keeps her informed about FWB missions and missionaries.
6. It helps her pray more effectively.
7. It helps her fulfill her place in the Great Commission.
8. She will appreciate it all year round.

Springboard Illustrated: Stories to Grow By Volume 35/ No. 6

judging human beans by Lois Smallwood

I've just finished picking over some white dry beans to soak for cooking tomorrow. I'm still rather particular about which beans make it to my cooking pot, however, not quite as much as when I was a child.

We raised and threshed (by hand) our own dry beans in those days. Since insecticides were no problem, insects were. We ate what they left but Mom wasn't of a mind to share a bean with a bug so picking over beans was a tedious job. To make it more interesting, I appointed myself God and no bean with spot or blemish got by me. The pile going to "hell" was far bigger than the one going to "heaven."

Then Mom stepped in and ruined my game. She pointed out that **only** beans with bug- or worm-eaten holes were undesirable (sinful). Broken beans or those slightly discolored were perfectly all right. Resorting beans is not fun. I learned not to be so judgmental of beans just because their color or shape did not measure up.

I keep trying, and thinking I'm getting better about judging human beings as I grow older. Just because someone is different doesn't mean they are no good. So, why, when I got these snapshots of my eldest grandson in his high school cap and gown yesterday, did I think, "If he'd lose that pony tail, he'd sure pass with a higher grade from me."

Forgive me, Lord—and, please, not as I forgive others. I'd never make it to heaven with my definition of forgiveness. ♦



WNAC presents
Christmas in Russia,
What is it like?

Time _____

Place _____

COMMUNICATOR

BY MARY RUTH WISEHART

November is Home Missions Month

The week before Thanksgiving is set aside as a week of prayer for National Home Missions. Materials are available from the Home Missions Office in Nashville. If you have not received a letter and a list of these materials, request some from the office at P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, Tennessee 37011-5002.

Check this issue for helps with a special program and prayer suggestions.

As you pray, remember to pray that Free Will Baptist individuals and churches will be generous in their support of the national home missions efforts.

The women's offering, Lizzie McAdams Offering, was named in honor of the first WNAC vice president responsible for missions. Her job was to encourage a week of prayer, study courses, special programs and giving to missions. Mrs. McAdams also served as one of the first home missionaries under the National Association of Free Will Baptists and on the home missions board.

A brief biography is available from WNAC.

December is FWBBC Month

The month of December is designated for Free Will Baptist Bible College in the Together Way Plan. For several years students have raised funds during their Christmas vacations.

Paul Kettelman had the idea that students could gain more support than promotional workers. The reports of funds became a highlight as students returned to classes in January.

The offering is now called the Paul Kettelman Memorial Offering in honor of Mr. Kettelman, who served the college for years and died of cancer.

Women may help their churches observe this month and give gifts to the College.

The 1996 Yearbook is Available

Black and gold, that's the color of the newest yearbook. It proclaims the 1996 theme, "Hold the Light High."

Every officer will want one since it has planning pages, directory, calendar, and suggestions for monthly

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

*Whenever possible, leave
prices on items to help the
office keep up with inven-
tory.*

enlistment and publicity. It suggests goals for local groups and includes the supplies leaflet for WNAC.

The yearbook is available from the national office for \$5 plus \$2.50 postage and handling.

Give a Special Gift

This Christmas give a gift that keeps on giving all year long.

Give the *CoLaborer* magazine. The price is \$6.75 for the six issues sent to individuals. Perhaps you want to give some to your church. The price is \$6 for bundles of five or more to the same address.

Please let WNAC know if the subscription is a gift. We will be glad to send a card to the recipient letting her know about the gift.

Help us get more subscriptions to the magazine. We have about 13,000 subscribers. Many Free Will Baptist women do not get the magazine. Let's change that this year so that a Free Will Baptist woman who does not get *CoLaborer* will be the exception. ❖

Women In Action



A: Annual Mother-Daughter Banquet

The Buckatanna Free Will Baptist Church women's group (Buckatunna, MS) carried out the theme—angels—with the devotion and all the decorations.

The register table held a display of angel pictures and a bouquet of fresh flowers. Each table was decorated with angels along with a program at each place setting in the shape of an angel. The door prizes given were cherubs. Each woman who attended received a guardian angel pin to wear on her shoulder.

The program, "The Guardian Angel," was presented. Sherry Reynolds, from Belk FWB Church (Belk, AL), was the guest speaker.

Photograph: Sherry Reynolds (right) is holding the gift from the women's group presented by Zelema Hopkins (left).



B: Easter at Victory FWB Church

After reading about the "The Easter Tree Offering" in the *CoLaborer*, the women from Victory FWB Church (East Wanatchee, WA) decorated six small trees. Easter Sunday, they drew children's names and gave away the trees. They adopted Mark & Michelle Swenson as their missionaries and sent them an offering.

Photograph: Seth Frozur, Buzz Biles with Easter tree.



C: Oklahoma First Mission Annual Retreat

Oklahoma First Mission women met August 11, 1995 at the Best Western Hotel in Stillwater, OK. Sixty-four women attended. The theme was "Roadmap to Happiness," and the special speaker was Arilla Wode, former missionary to Cote d'Ivoire. Linda Bigger and Joan Warren gave devotions and Louise Richmond provided music. Skits were given by Sue Jenkins and Helen Geyer.

Photograph: Retreat Committee (left to right): Louise Richmond, Nadine Hood, Robin Haskins.





D: Money for Bibles from Cookbook Sale

The women's group from the First FWB Church, Mobile, AL compiled a cookbook. The objective for the publication and sale of the cookbooks was stipulated in the book: to purchase Bibles for foreign missions. The proceeds which were over one thousand dollars are to go to the most needy FWB foreign fields.

Photograph: Mobile women working on details of putting the cookbook together.

E: United FWB Women Organize

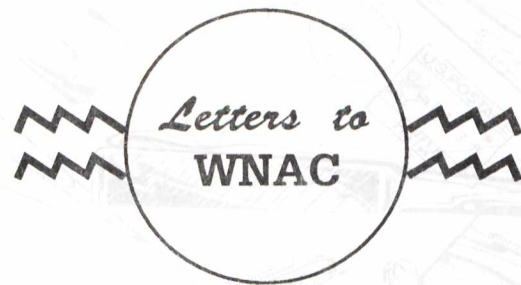
Installation of officers was held May 31, 1994 for the newly organized women's group of United FWB Church in Walnut Ridge, AR. Eugenia Rutherford, Shirley Smith, and Letha Brown were present to help organize and learn more about WNAC. They organized with 20 members; two more joined later.

They have already had a banquet for their graduates, visited and took gifts to nursing homes during Christmas, helped a couple of families who are coping with illnesses, and supported home and foreign missions with prayer and finances.

Photograph: Left to right, front: Jo Ann Williams, Ruby Williams, Anna Lou Shaw, Brenda Poindexter, Bessie Jarrett, Mary Holder, Edwina Gates, Sherry McMillen, Debbie Sullivan, Dorothy Poindexter, Bonnie Deen

Back: Jaqueline Turner, Willene Jarrett, Glenda Marchbanks, Sherlyn Blackwell, Mary Gall, Lorazill Tate, Brenda Jones, Peggy Seatt.

Members not pictured: Rita Bilbrey, Jaunita Zacheis, Evelyn Cooper.



Dear WNAC,

The enclosed stamps are from the dedicated women of the Pioneer Free Will Baptist Church. These women love WNAC and are the most dedicated people I've ever encountered. They are a wonderful example.

In Christ,
Eunice Rhodes, Ontario, Canada

Dear WNAC,

I could never express my thanks for your donation. The Lord blessed my time in Brazil and I saw the need for missions first hand. Special people like you made my dream become a reality.

In His Service,
Linda King, student missionary, Brazil

Dear WNAC,

We have just set up housekeeping in Pittsburgh and I am so thankful for the nice comforters, sheets, towels and other items we were able to get from the Provision Closet. After 15 years of marriage, many things are worn out and it is expensive to move to a metropolitan area. What a tremendous blessing!

Thank you,
Tommy & Pam Jones, missionaries, Pittsburgh

Dear WNAC,

On our way home from the National Convention, we stopped at the National Offices—my first time to see the new building. It is beautiful and we should be proud. I was able to go through the Provision Closet and was reminded of how generous our women are! Thank you so much for these precious gifts.

Pam Potete, missionary, Chicago

Dear WNAC,

Ron, Rachel and I want to thank you for all the household items we were able to pick out at the Provision Closet. Rachel found many items for college—a great help for her. Thank you for all your generosity. It is a special blessing that the women remember our needs.

Servants together,
Ron, Linda & Rachel Callaway, missionaries, Panama

1995

Women Nationally Active for Christ Convention

People gathered for business, worship and fellowship. And they prayed. They prayed to begin and end each meeting. Friends and acquaintances enveloped each speaker in prayer before and during each message. All prayed for missionary requests. The theme, *Great and Mighty Things Through*

confession follows so we will have a clean heart before the Lord. Then comes thanksgiving, that is, thanking God for every good thing. In supplication we take our requests to God. The speaker filled her message with examples and practical suggestions on prayer.

General Assembly

Music coordinator, Pat Zeigler, led the group in worship through music. Carolyn Riddick played the piano and Susan Ervin, the organ. The offertory, played by the Cramerton Ladies Handbell Choir, was a special treat for our souls. Jamie and Lange Patrick blessed us with their special music.



Prayer, permeated each part of the WNAC National Convention. The Registration Committee, chaired by Betty Hill, reported 1,204 registered for the WNAC Convention.

Seminar

More than 300 attended the WNAC seminar. Pam Wood spoke on how Jesus taught the disciples to pray in Luke 11. Jesus didn't teach them the correct posture, place or time to pray. The prayer which the Lord gave as a model has praise, confession, thanksgiving and supplication. Pam Wood expounded on these four.

We begin with praise which is acknowledging who He is. Then



State Officer's Meeting

Executive Secretary, Mary R. Wisheart, presided over the state officer's meeting where she presented some short-term and long-term goals that she would like to see WNAC reach.

Short-Term Goals

- 10,000 WNAC members
- 900 Local groups
- Publish and Update brochures
- Have a new WNAC logo
- Purchase a new copier
- Update computer software

Long-Term Goals

- Four-Color Magazine
- Regional Leadership Training
- Enlist New Members—12,000–15,000

Tanya Hart brought the devotion titled "Things about Prayer." Through prayer every Christian can get involved in world evangelization. Prayer can and will penetrate any area. According to Matthew 24:14 Jesus said that He intends for all the world to hear before the end of the age.

Tanya Hart brought three animals (not live, of course) to illustrate three kinds of missionaries. The **beaver** works in a single location, alone or in a group. They are the senders working in the local church to build a strong base. The **mallard** has a pattern of migration. These are the missionaries that work for a term

then come home for a furlough. Their job involves crossing cultural boundaries to share the gospel. The **eagle** has the keenest eye sight of all animals. Eagles are the visionaries. They swoop down at the time of need. The visionaries she mentioned were Laura Belle Barnard, Mom and Pop Willey, Dr. and Mrs. Miley and WNAC.

Creative Arts Contest Awards

One judge confessed she prayed most of the night before making her final selection of winners for the 1995 Creative Arts Contest. No doubt other judges prayed as well.

Eight of the 16 winners were present (some sent proxies) to receive their

(CA) presented the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the executive secretary research the feasibility of producing a video of the new officers and staff and report back to the executive committee in December 1995. If approved by the executive committee, make the video available for sale during the 1996 national convention for the WNAC emphasis program.

Everyl Getz (TX) was elected to succeed Mary Neal as president of WNAC. The women expressed appreciation for Mary Neal's 12 years of service. The new Vice President elect is Marjorie Workman (TN). Jo Ann Wood (OK) was

impending doom with America's situation today, exhorting us not to give up on America, but to **pray**. He also urged us to have an international perspective in prayer.

God's part is to move. Some answers come only from God through prayer. We must get in tune with the Person and with His plan. We don't pray to get God to do what we want, we pray so we will want what God wants.

Lytle closed in prayer. He asked the Holy Spirit to stir our hearts deeply and passionately with this matter of prayer. He prayed for the FWB people that they would pray.



A: The WNAC Executive Committee in business. Left to right: Everyl Getz, Jo Ann Wood, Dianne Thomas, Mary Neal, Mary R. Wisehart, Marjorie Workman

B: The 1995 WNAC Nominating Committee

C: WNAC Fellowship Dinner speaker, Mabel Willey, with FWB Foreign Missions director, Eugene Waddell, at the Wednesday evening Missions Service.

awards. *CoLaborer* editor, Suzanne Franks, presented awards to the winners. First place winners for the five categories are the following: Carolyn Franks (MS), program, *The Check-up: A Self-Examination*; Vicki Turner (MO), article, *The Fisherman*; Betty Kittle (IN), poetry, *My Child*; Pat Franks (Brazil), play, *Serving at God's Table* and Ruth Bivens (OK/Mexico), art, *Hands at Home*.

Business

Mary Neal presided over the business session. WNAC Executive Secretary, Mary Wisehart, read her report and it was approved. One resolution passed. The resolutions committee chaired by Yvonne Brown

reelected Secretary. Delegates also elected three new Members to the Executive Committee; Annette Aycock (SC), Diana Bryant (FL) and Barbara Chaffin (OH). Welcome!

WNAC Missionary Service

Steve Lytle's message challenged us all to pray for ourselves and to intercede for others. Based on Jeremiah 33:1-3, he spoke of God's invitation to pray and God's affirmation that if we pray He will do great and mighty things.

Nothing we do is more important than praying. Without prayer there is a form of godliness but no power. Steve Lytle compared Israel's

Special Feature: Prayers of the Saints: Incense on the Altar

The Tuesday afternoon meeting featured stories of answered prayer. Lorene Miley introduced the speakers and read Revelation 5:8 that speaks of the golden vials where God preserves the prayers of His people. Laura Thigpen narrated dramatic stories, some taken from *First Fruits: Answered Prayer on the Mission Field* (Miley). All were true stories of Free Will Baptist missionaries.

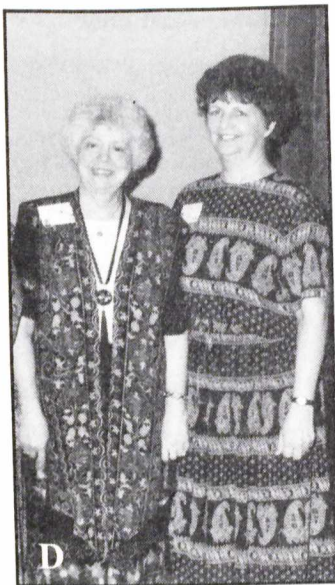
After each of Mrs. Thigpen's presentations, one missionary told a personal experience of answers to prayer.

D: Mary R. Wisheart, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and Marjorie Workman, Vice-President.

E: Evryl Getz, President, and Jo Ann Wood, Secretary.

Not pictured: Members at Large: Annette Aycock, Diana Bryant, Barbara Chaffin.

F: Martha Burttram Harris, WNAC bookkeeper, selling tote bags at the booth (you can still order one).



Judy Lytle's car was ushered into safety after she found herself in an anti-gringo (anti-American) demonstration just before the US invasion of Panama.

The Lord provided a way for Lynette Morgan's family to live in Columbia, SC and for her husband and son to attend Columbia International University for a year.

Ruth McDonald spoke of their dependence on the Lord for financial support in the most expensive country in the world. The same Lord that provides dollars, answered Katie McDonald's prayer to save her classmates. One of Katie's classmates accepted the Lord (and her classmate's mother, too).

Ruth Bivens told the gripping story

Carolina women. All shared in the celebration of 60 years together for WNAC and Mrs. Mabel Willey's 60-year love affair with Free Will Baptists.

As Mrs. (Mom) Willey approached the microphone, the crowd of almost 800 people gave her a standing ovation. In Mom Willey's message from chapter 17 of John, she enumerated seven definite things Jesus asked His Father for in His High Priestly Prayer.

Jesus asked ...

that He may be glorified as His Son, for restoration to the eternal glory, for safety of believers from the world, for sanctification of believers, for spiritual unity of believers, that the world may believe, and that believers



of God's transforming power to save a Mexican woman and her abusive husband.

Mrs. Miley concluded stating, "These are a few of the prayers that God has preserved in golden vials." Then all read Psalm 103 in response.

Fellowship Dinner

Two days of blessings culminated with the events at the Fellowship Dinner. North Carolina women under the leadership of Joan King, president, provided beautifully cross-stitched book markers and prayer journals for each guest to take home. One person at each table got to take home a centerpiece adorned with magnolias, compliments of North

may be with Him in heaven to behold and share His glory.

Mom Willey concluded her message with stories demonstrating God's love and power to transform people in Panama and Cuba where she and Pop Willey worked.

Every part of the 1995 WNAC Convention pointed women toward prayer. WNAC was founded in prayer. FWB men and women sent and still send missionaries in prayer. Workers are kept afloat through prayer. Evangelism and discipleship are accomplished only when backed with prayer. Steve Lytle's words could well sum up this year's meeting, "Prayer: that's where the power is." ♦

"Because the Lord disciplines those He loves, as a father the son he delights in."

Proverbs 3:12 (NIV)

a column for young people

Life!Action.

... for everyday life

barefoot on an anthill

To my child's eyes this place was better than Disneyland. Evangelândia, in Jaboticabal (Brazil), is my favorite place in the whole wide world. It's the place where I lived my fondest childhood memories and climbed many trees.

This was the place where I rolled down a slope right into the anthill. I can still remember the stinging, itching redness all over my body. I was quite young then. As if that wasn't enough, a few years later when posing for a group picture, the photographer told me to sit in the very same spot. (At least I think it was the same spot.) Before he could snap the second picture, I was covered in quarter-sized whelps, running to my room to find some kind of relief. Calamine lotion wasn't strong enough. If you need proof of the incident, ask my mother for the picture snapped before I made my dramatic exit.

I can't remember exactly, but I think I had several barefoot encounters with the same anthill. Do you think it taught me to wear shoes and watch for anthills? Kind of.

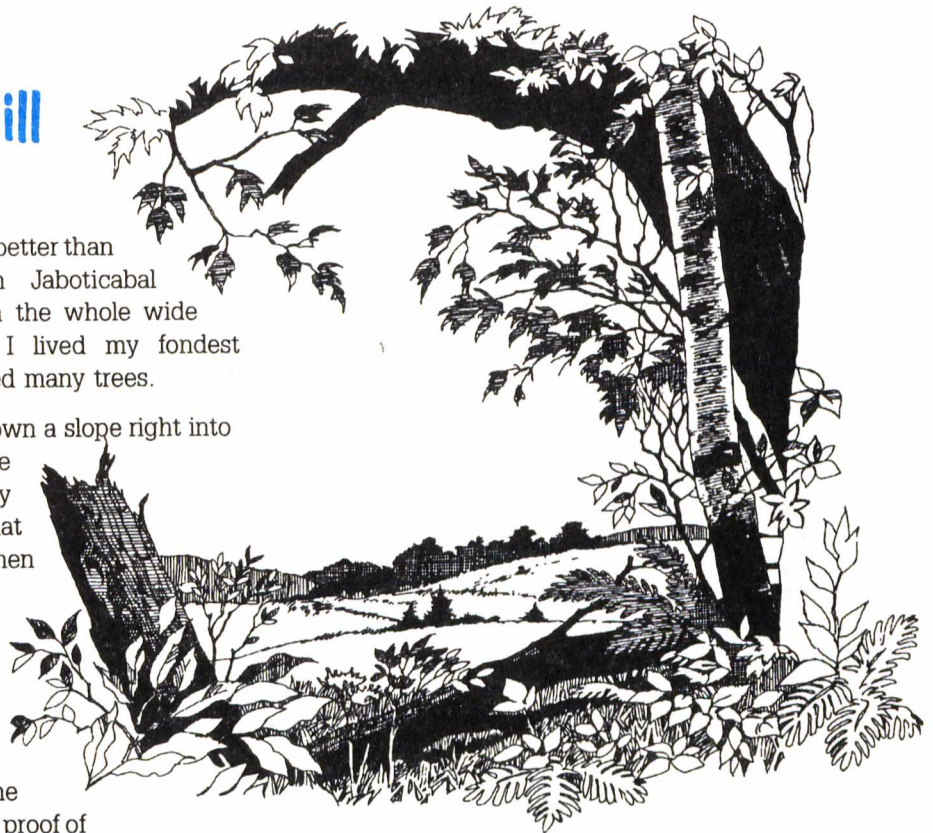
Can you see yourself in this story? How many times have you repeated the same sin and suffered painful consequences for your actions? Does it take a zillion times to teach you how to avoid the same mistakes?

You may not be as allergic to insects as I am, but you may have some spiritual anthills to avoid. Your anthill may be keeping the wrong company, going to the wrong places, watching the wrong television show. Learn your weaknesses and find a way to avoid them. It may be as simple as wearing shoes or in some cases it may be more complicated. This is why we need to depend on the Lord. "He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear ... He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" (1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV).

The Lord is patient with us but He doesn't take away the sting. He disciplines us because he delights in us. Can you be thankful for His discipline?

If you have felt the sting of the Lord's discipline lately, ask the Lord to forgive you and to help you resist temptation. And please, whatever you do, don't be caught barefoot on an anthill. ❖

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 ❖



The Desire of My Heart

by Pam Jones

"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." —Psalm 37:4

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anuary 11, 1987 was the coldest day I can ever remember. We were chilled to the bone on top of Mt. Nebo. As the freezing North wind blew across the mountain, I felt a sad, barren wind blow across my heart. That day we were laying to rest one of the dearest people that had ever

touched my life, my grandma Christman.

She was saved in a special revival meeting that was held in Pittsburgh two years before she died, but there was no solid church for her to attend. I am truly thankful that someone reached her with the gospel.

We started at the small township in Pennsylvania where she had spent most of her life and moved on to the top of the mountain where her body would rest. The

distance was too short, it seemed, as I sorted through the memories that flooded my mind.

My Heart's Desire

Growing up in Northwest Arkansas was wonderful, but every year in May we traveled to Western Pennsylvania to visit my dad's side of the family. The Christman clan was very close knit and I enjoyed all the hugging and love that everyone in the family showed.

My heart's desire was to move to Pennsylvania. As a little girl I became keenly aware of the lack of Bible-preaching churches in those beautiful mountains. Western Pennsylvania, for the most part, is comprised of small mining communities and the towering smoke stacks of the steel mills dominating the city of Pittsburgh.

The life of the average person was basically the same. They worked long, hard hours in those dark,

dreary coal mines or stifling hot steel mills, only to return the next day, and the next with no hope of a better life with Jesus Christ. Ignorant of even the smallest promises in God's Word, they did not understand that one day they would stand before God in judgment.

As a small child, I decided in my heart that one day, with the Lord's help, I would make a difference in that state I loved. With no idea of the many steps reaching my goal would involve, I promised God that someday I would get there.

Tommy's Desire

Even though my desire lay dormant in the back of my mind, God remembered. He sent a special fellow to me when I was only fifteen.

Tommy Jones was different from everyone else in our high school. He didn't care if everyone else in school partied, he wasn't going to get involved. It had been his desire to live in Arkansas since he was a little boy in Excelsior Springs, Missouri. At the time He did not realize there was a young girl that desperately needed him.

We dated for two years and were married on August 1, 1980.

Tommy had been saved the summer before and I had rededicated my life in February 1980. He answered the call to preach and was pastoring a church by the time

he was nineteen. We would have been content to stay in Arkansas close to our parents, but God sent some people to open our eyes.

The Home Mission's traveling team came to our association. They told us of churches all across the United States that were closing their doors because they couldn't get a pastor. They also told us of cities and states where no single Free Will Baptist church existed.

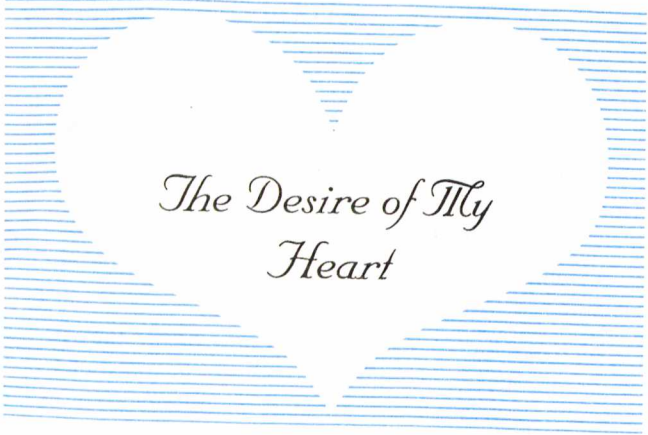
As these men of God spoke, a new desire burned within our hearts. Tommy surrendered to that burden and promised God that he would go wherever He wanted him to go and do whatever He bid. We knew that someday we would be working with the FWB Home Missions Department. We didn't know when or where.

God's Desire for Us

Our family still made yearly trips to Pennsylvania to see the Christman clan. Tommy began to notice that there were no Free Will Baptist churches in the area and hardly any Bible-teaching churches. In the large city of Pittsburgh, we realized the few churches we saw were Catholic. God began to burn a desire into Tommy's heart to build a Free Will Baptist church in Pittsburgh.

Tommy, by this time, had pastored several years in Northwest Arkansas and we had three children. The





The Desire of My Heart

Lord started dealing with us to make a change. We decided to move to Nashville, Tennessee so Tommy could attend Free Will Baptist Bible College. When he completed the classes he needed, Pittsburgh would be the next stop.

We attended Woodbine FWB church in Nashville for two and one-half years and came to love the people there dearly. But the Lord stirred our hearts again and we felt ready to go and do what we had committed to do over eight years before.

We have a burden to see a great work for God in the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I just realized a few months ago (Why did it take me so long?) that God is giving me the desire of my heart—a desire I have had since I was a little girl.

While traveling around, visiting churches many people have asked us, "Why in the world would anyone want to go to Pittsburgh?" Everyone—Yankee, Southerner—deserves to hear the story of Jesus Christ and His redeeming love.

Pittsburgh has blossomed into a beautiful city. It is no longer full of pollution from the steel mills. Over two million people live in the metro area of Pittsburgh. These people are searching for a better way of life.

So, if you ask, "Why Pittsburgh?" We can answer, "It's because God loved a little girl from Arkansas enough to give her the desire of her heart and because **Pittsburgh needs the Lord!**"♥



(Pam Jones is mother of three girls and home missionary to Pittsburgh alongside her husband, Tommy.)

Plan ahead for the



Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for National Home Missions

November 13-17, 1995



*see suggestions in
Springboard*



MISSION ALERT:

Evangelism News from Around the World

Chesnee, South Carolina

James (Jr.), Charlotte, and Anna Childers praise the Lord for many good things. They averaged 80 plus in their morning services. The work had an attendance record of 115 on July 16. Fifty-one first-time visitors came during the month of July. A family was saved in the same month. After three years of praying about a pianist, the Lord sent one. Their greatest need is more room for Sunday school and worship services.

Waldorf, Maryland

Jim and Kim Fairchild have seen four new families start attending services regularly in their Washington, D.C. mission church. They are pleased to describe how Valli and Audre came forward for salvation one Sunday (mother and daughter). The next Sunday Audre's father, Bill, eagerly walked down the same aisle. The Fairchilds are expecting another addition to their family around February 4.

Overland Park, Kansas

A lot of excitement and activity went on at the Heartland Free Will Baptist Church this summer. Terry and Ramona VanWinkle write in their newsletter that two youth groups visited this mission church to help in the summer ministry programs. One youth group was from New Home FWB (Tulsa, OK) and the other from First FWB (Russellville, AR). Both youth groups helped in canvassing and promotion of Kids Clubs. The New Home FWB youth group hosted a Kids Carnival on Saturday morning where about 75

children attended. The Russellville youth group passed out almost one thousand brochures in the area.

Villalba, Spain

The city of Galapagar has approved the Villalba church's petition to put a book table in the local market on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Dwain and Debbie Crosby and the church members are excited over the opportunity to present a witness to the several hundred people who come to the market. Their last report at press time indicated that they gave away over 100 copies of the Gospel of John and handed out many gospel tracts and brochures inviting people to home Bible studies. Volunteer church members are helping man the book table and several people have begun coming by regularly.

St. Nazaire, France

According to Patsy Vanhook (who was the only full-time resident missionary in St. Nazaire while the Gibbs were on furlough) the church there has reached an "adolescent" stage. Some of the present needs among the church people are, in her words, "spiritual maturity, greater acceptance of church responsibility and new direction from the Holy Spirit for the future of the church." The Lord has blessed the St. Nazaire church and they were able to purchase an adjoining parcel of land. A few of Patsy's specific requests are for new directives for reaching and teaching the youth and a special emphasis on the Christian couple and family.

(continued on next page)

News for You

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SET FOR DECEMBER

Antioch, TN—The annual Leadership Conference will meet December 4–6 at Nashville's Maxwell House Hotel, according to Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington. Dr. Worthington said he expects 150 state leaders and probably another 300 or so visitors at the 1995 meeting.

The Leadership Conference is usually restricted to state leaders, but will be broadened this year because of three resolutions referred by National Convention Delegates to the conference. The conference format is an open discussion of philosophical differences among Free Will Baptists.

The conference will begin with registration Monday, December 4, from 3:00 P.M.–5:30 P.M. There will be no opening dinner as usual, but leaders and visitors will go directly into a general session at 5:30 P.M. There will be a \$25 registration fee. All participants will be required to register.

The Leadership Conference will conclude Wednesday evening at 9:00 P.M. Several national boards and commissions will meet separately on Thursday and Friday to conduct the business of each agency.

Contact the WNAC office for more information.❖

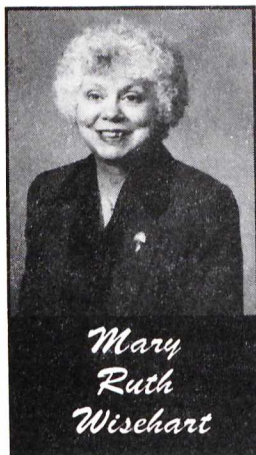
MISSION ALERT

(continued from page 29)

Hokkaido, Japan

Because of an overlap in furlough scheduling, it was decided that Debbie Griffin should stay in Japan for a fifth year. If her term had ended on schedule, her account would have been in the black for the beginning of her furlough. This is quite a blessing since Japan is the most expensive of the Free Will Baptist foreign fields. However, as she begins her fifth year her account has dropped into the red. Debbie commends her supporters for their faithfulness.

Fred and June Hersey are staying busy traveling to various churches who are without pastors. For some time Fred had been preaching at a different church about each week of the month. Now he is spending more time at the Kita-Hiroshima Church. Besides the Sunday services, this church has a Thursday morning prayer meeting and Bible study. June is trying to learn Japanese language conversation and is teaching three English conversation classes each week.❖



Words for Women

"Joy to the world!" The song rang out in my friends' house and it was July. "Dan," I said, "Christmas music in July?"

"Why not?" Dan answered. "Christmas music is some of the most beautiful in the world. Why shouldn't we listen to it all year round?"

Why not indeed. It is always time to celebrate the coming of the Savior. It is always time to praise God for His indescribable gift. Music is one way we can use to celebrate and praise God for the coming of His son into the world as a baby. First, He identified with us from the cradle to the grave. And then He sacrificed Himself, the sinless one for the sinner, to become our Savior.

Many songs ring out at this time of year. Some of them are celebrating the wrong things. We have presented a Christmas play called "Sing Me a True Song." While songs about Santa Claus, reindeer, sleigh rides and bells may have catchy tunes and even lift our spirits at times, the true songs of Christmas go straight to the heart.

While shepherds watched their flocks. Away in a manger. O come let us adore Him. He shall feed His flock. Joy to the world! They are the true songs. They present a message the weary old world needs to hear. A message of joy and delight. A message that warms the heart. For

preview

Jan/Feb 96

- ◆ Hold the Light High in the Workplace
- ◆ A WNAC Fashion Show
- ◆ Ridgecrest Registration Form

the songs remind us that the great God of heaven cared about us. He cared so much that He did something about the pain and the sorrow and the suffering. Love came down at Christmas.

Love is still the message of Christmas and it brings joy to our hearts.

Music! How it lifts the spirits and makes the heart merry. A proverb says, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine" (Proverbs 17:22). Perhaps that is why Paul wrote "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19).

How wonderful that we can sing the true songs of Christmas. If not aloud, then in our hearts. ❖

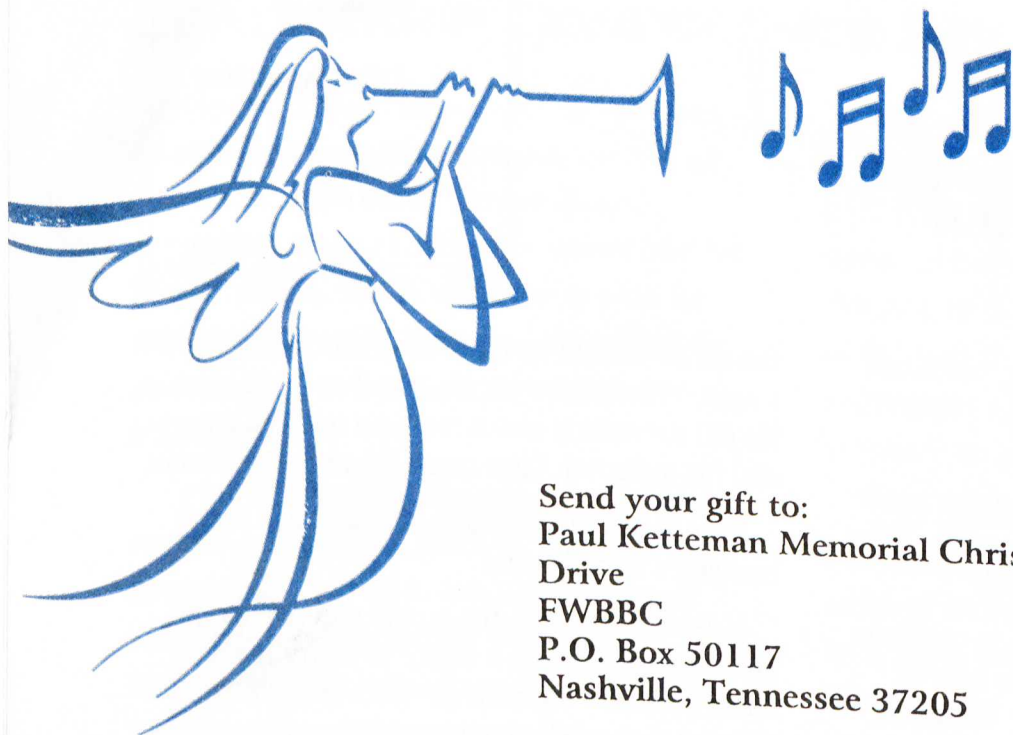


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