

Jan • Feb 1996

CoLaborer

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

1996
theme:
witnessing



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VISION

SUZANNE FRANKS



The Prisoner Who Cared

They are words on a long-forgotten love letter, "I wish I could be with you, see your smiling face ..." People who are in love naturally enjoy spending time in each other's presence sharing thoughts and experiences. When apart, they often try to make up for the beloved's absence with letters. But it's not the same.

The apostle Paul often spoke of his love for the young believers in the churches he started on his missionary journeys. He spoke of his desire to be with them face to face. He wanted to nurture, teach, discipline, and share in worship with his brothers all over Asia Minor, Macedonia, and Achaia.

The great missionary found himself confined—a prisoner in Rome. Did Paul sit around feeling sorry for himself, thinking about what he couldn't do for the Lord because of his confinement? Do you suppose he questioned the Lord, "Why am I kept from visiting my beloved sheep?"

We don't know all of his thoughts and human weaknesses. But we do know the result. His confinement made him take up his writing utensil (or hire a scribe) and get his hands on some parchment. He did whatever it took is his day to write letters right there—in prison. It took more than a thirty-two-cent stamp, envelope, and a piece of paper.

Oh yes, Paul knew his imprisonment was inside God's plan. But suppose he had been a man free to travel around as he pleased. Don't you think he would have spent most of his days on the road, exhorting and teaching? I suppose his loved ones would have benefited from his presence. We are the ones who would not benefit from the **letters**. Aren't you glad God providentially motivated (and the Holy Spirit inspired) him to write? Perhaps Paul didn't realize that **we** would be reading his letters two thousand years later.

Suppose Paul had not been confined. Would he have been compelled to write the same things? Would our Bibles even have Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, II Timothy, Philemon? It's only speculation, of course.

Paul is not the only servant of God who encountered a confinement that no doubt influenced him. Maybe you have heard of John Bunyan, Joni Eareckson Tada, Fannie Crosby. They were confined by different circumstances of life. These are not so much cases of "in spite of" but "because of" their confinement they wrote and their writing has edified many a reader.

May your "confinements" increase your vision. ❖

VOLUME 36

NUMBER 1

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**MORE THAN
A FASHION
STATEMENT, YOUR
PURSE MAKES
A STATEMENT ABOUT
WHERE YOUR REAL
TREASURES ARE.**

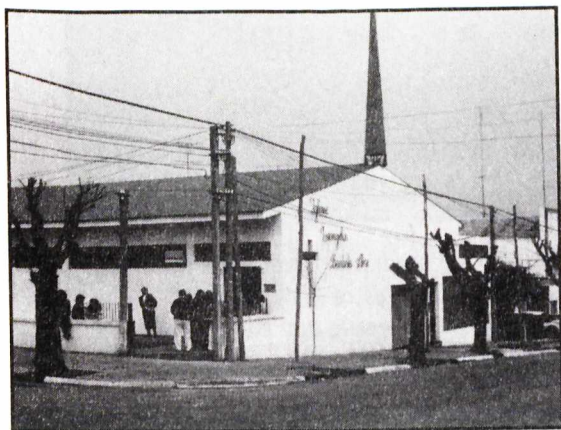
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**THE SPIRE, CROSS
AND THE NAME
WILL BE A TESTIMONY
TO THE WHOLE
TOWN.**

26

**I WAS SURE THEY HAD
NEVER HEARD IT
BEFORE, BUT THEY
LOVED IT AND HAD TO
HEAR IT TWICE.**

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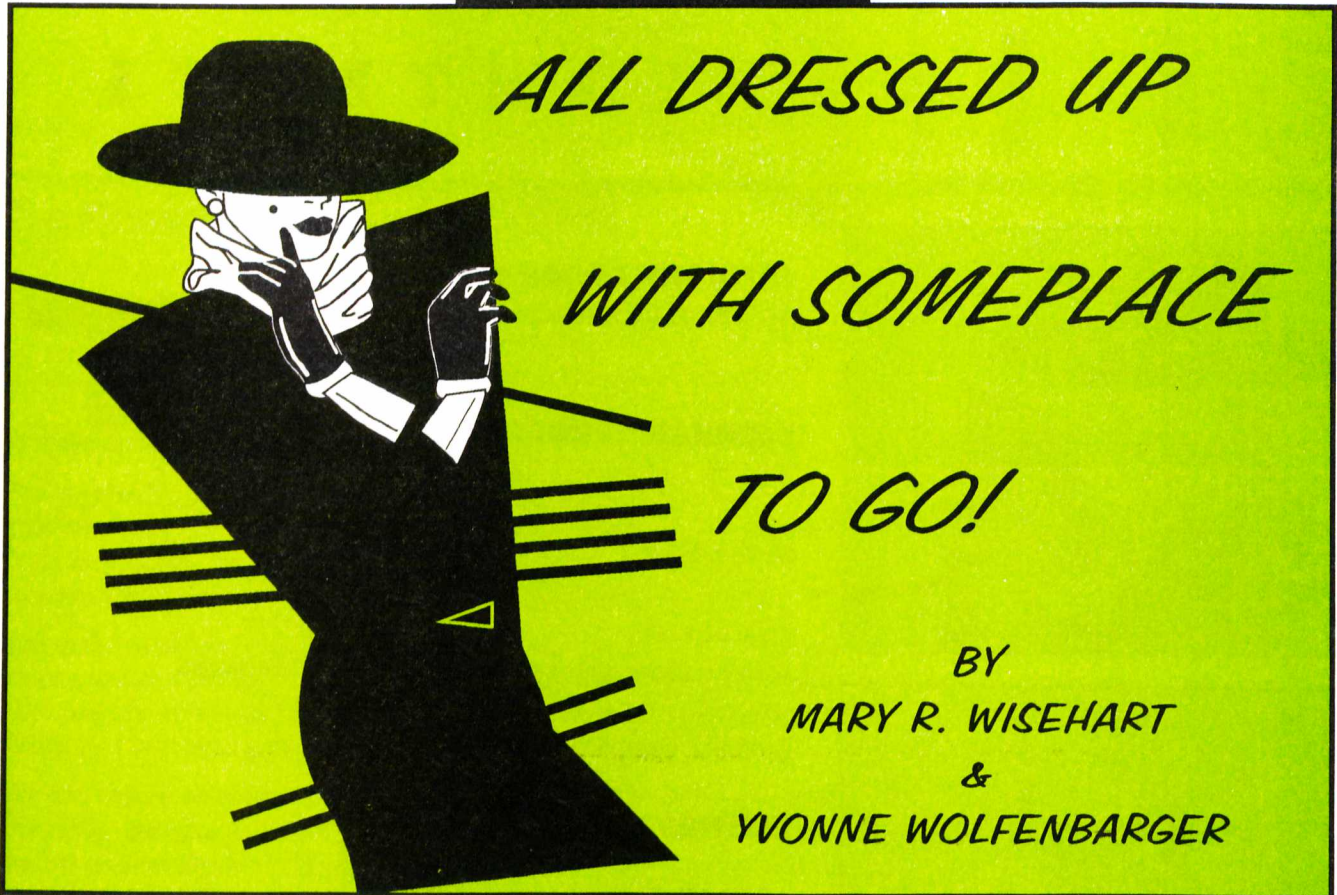
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Before the Program: Select models from among your members. Each model may appear in more than one segment, but you will need at least four models. Check with a local makeup salesperson for samples of lipstick and cologne. Perhaps a local women's shop or department store can provide outfits for your models. Just be sure that you do the script and give proper attention to the outfits provided. Make sure that you have the new publications and books available for the models. Order Prayer Fellowship cards from WNAC.

There's a fresh new look in Free Will Baptist Women's organizations this year. We're all dressed up with some place to go!

WE HAVE A NEW NAME

(Have someone come in carrying a sign with the new name, Women Nationally Active for Christ.)

Once, WNAC stood for Woman's National Auxiliary Convention. We wanted a name that would tell who we are and

what our purpose is. Each local group can choose its own name and still be identified with the national organization. Our group is now called _____.

WE HAVE A NEW SONG

(Have the words available to "People Need the Lord" for the group to sing.)

This new song seems to be more singable and more current. It also suggests what we should be doing to fulfill the great commission.

WE HAVE SOME NEW PUBLICATIONS

(Have someone come in carrying a brief case with the new materials. Have them pull them out and display them as the speaker introduces the new items.)

The new *Yearbook* is designed for officers and women who are involved in planning. It helps leaders plan for the whole year. It

lists the WNAC goals, includes a 1996 calendar of events, a list of missionaries' birthdays as well as program helps and suggestions so that new and exciting programs can be presented each month.

The *Manual* has been revised and enlarged into one convenient volume with officers' guides included. It's in an attractive, three-ring binder so that revisions can be made easily.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's Record books have been revised and updated. WNAC published *First Fruits*, a book of missionary stories compiled by Lorene Miley. *They Deserve a Second Chance*, Shirley Combs' book about the Combs' ministry to Brazilian street children is available from WNAC. Also, WNAC will soon publish a new book of plays.

What Else Is New in WNAC? Let us show you what the fashionable Free Will Baptist woman is wearing this year.

(The speaker introduces the narrator for the fashion show. She should explain and give credit to the store if the outfits are provided for the models. She may also mention the models involved.)

HAIR

(Four women should demonstrate different hairstyles. Choose women from your group and use the kind of hairstyles they have. Have each carry a book: one on foreign missions [You may use First Fruits.], one on Home Missions, one on stewardship or some other area of Christian living, and one on prayer.)

Narrator: This season the hairstyles vary from the upswept hairdo, to the page boy, the curly perm and the layered cut. Hairstyles differ according to the features and personalities of the women.

Aren't these women stunning? But, you know, even more important than the hairstyle is what is inside that head. II Corinthians 10:5 says, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." What is going on inside your head? Our women can help you grow with our study and learning groups.

Join us for exciting books on missions—what God is doing in the world today. *(The models display the books on missions.)* Grow with us in studies of Christian living. *(The model displays the book on Christian living.)* And offer up more sweet incense to God by improving your prayer life. *(The model displays the book on prayer.)*

MAKEUP

(Model appears with makeup mirror and sets it on a table so that the audience can still see her face. She carries a basket with lipstick samples. She has on her base and eye makeup and is ready to apply blush and lipstick. When she finishes, she may pass out lipstick samples.)

Narrator: Makeup can change your whole look. This model is applying the latest touches in makeup.

Notice she has chosen the right foundation, eye makeup, and blush. Now she applies the right shade of lipstick for the season.

Our mouths are very important in the work of the Lord. When Isaiah saw the beautiful holiness of God, he cried out, "I am a man of unclean lips" (*Isaiah 6:5*). And God cleansed Isaiah's lips. As women of God we want to have clean lips, mouths that speak out for Him.

You notice that our model did not have any makeup for her tongue. Still we want to have beautiful tongues, right? James tells us that "the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (*James 3:8*). Some of us have





sharp tongues that cut and wound. Some of us have silent tongues that should be speaking. Some of us have tongues quick to speak before we think when we should be silent.

Yet the tongue can be beautiful and shape the world around us for good. The psalmist prayed, "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips" (*Psalm 141:3*). And the wise man wrote, "The tongue of the just is as choice silver" (*Proverbs 10:20*). How beautiful is your tongue?

HANDS

(Have someone display the different types of gloves, or have several models wearing gloves.)

Narrator: Gloves serve many purposes. Our model is wearing work gloves, the kind we use in gardening or house cleaning. Now she switches to wool gloves or mittens strictly for keeping the hands warm in very cold weather. Our next model has on rubber gloves—protection from spreading

disease or harsh chemicals which injure the hands. Now our models show sports gloves, golf gloves and driving gloves. And now you see the stylish leather gloves which not only keep you warm but look nice too.

Matthew 25 tells us we should be using our hands in service for the Lord. "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in" (v. 35). "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (v. 40). WNAC offers many opportunities for serving others. Visiting nursing homes, shut-ins, ministering to the bereaved, making baskets for college students, preparing meals for the elderly, volunteering at the church, taking food to Rescue Missions, helping at Crisis Pregnancy Centers or battered women's shelters, sending food and other items to children's homes. (*Add other opportunities offered by your local group.*) Laura Belle Barnard once wrote "We can all be missionaries in purse, in prayer and **in person.**"

Service is always the fashion in WNAC.

SHOES & PURSE

(First model enters wearing an athletic outfit with tennis shoes and carrying a canvas bag.)

Narrator: Isaiah 52:7 says, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace ... that publisheth salvation." Nothing enhances an outfit more than matching shoes and purses. Are you the relaxed, athletic type who wears tennis shoes and carries a canvas bag like this model? Witnessing can be done at the gym, on the jogging trail or in your neighborhood.

(The next model enters in a dressy outfit with heels and purse.) Or perhaps your lifestyle is more conducive to wearing these sling-back heels with matching leather purse. You could share the gospel with a coworker or a friend over dinner. Our women's group offers many opportunities to spread the gospel in our city and around the world. (*Mention some opportunities for witnessing through your local group.*)

You will also have opportunities to give so that others may go. The Laura Belle Barnard World Missions offering, the Lizzie McAdams offering for Home Missions, the Foreign Student Scholarship offering, the WNAC Emphasis offering, the Rest of The Family offering, and the Alice Lupton state home missions offering are just a few of the opportunities we have for giving to help spread the gospel.

Your purse makes more than a fashion statement. It makes a statement about where your real treasures are. (*Read Matthew 6:19-21.*) Join _____ (*name of your group*) women as we witness and give so that others may come to know Christ.

FRAGRANCE

(Model enters with spray bottle of cologne and basket of cologne samples. She throws samples into the audience as the narrator speaks.)

Narrator: Ummm. Smell that delightful fragrance. Our model here is wearing one of the newest fragrances for this season. Isn't it lovely? Wherever she goes, she will leave behind this fragrance. II Corinthians 2:14-15 reminds us that we are a sweet fragrance to God. "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish." One fragrance we offer up to God is the fragrance of a living sacrifice—ourselves (Romans 12:1).

WNAC also offers up daily the sweet incense of prayer before God (Read Revelation 8:3-4 and Psalm 141:2).

Women across the country who join the Prayer Fellowship are praying every day at 9:00 AM for Free Will Baptist ministries. Also we observe three weeks of special prayer for missions: Pre-Easter week for Foreign Missions, Pre-Thanksgiving for National Home Missions and a week of choice for State Home Missions.

Even shut-ins may become a part of the women's prayer groups. WNAC publishes a pack for these Prayers, including prayer calendars for Home and Foreign Missions and Free Will Baptist Bible College. (Here the narrator may mention special prayer efforts by the local group.)

(If you have ordered Prayer Fellowship cards, you may wish to enlist people to sign up for the 9:00 AM prayer time.)

What is your fragrance? Nothing is more beautiful than the offering up of ourselves before God in prayer.

ORNAMENT

(All the models return with complete outfits, including an ornament of some kind: a pin, ring, bracelet, necklace, or a scarf. At this point each model may have a sign showing what her spiritual counterpart is, for example, Fragrance—Prayer, Purse—Giving, etc.)

Narrator: Now our models return with just the right shoes, bags, hairstyles, dress, and makeup. Each model has added an ornament. (The narrator comments on some ornaments.)

The ornaments add just that special touch to our models this evening.

As Christian women we also have an ornament that should add that special touch to our lives. "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of

putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a **meek and quiet spirit**, which is in the sight of God of great price" (I Peter 3:3-4).

(Narrator leaves the stage and the same speaker that introduced the fashion show concludes the program.)

Well, have you seen anything you would like to try on this evening? We hope that you have. Paul writes about putting off and putting on (Read Colossians 3:9-10; 12-16). How about putting off that old outfit and putting on a new one? How about joining your sisters in the

_____ (name of group) in witnessing, giving, learning, praying, serving, and growing in the knowledge of God?

You'll be glad you put on the new style. You'll be all dressed up with some place to go! ♦



Hold the Light High



in the Workplace

a compilation

Scripture: Colossians 3:23

Introduction

You may think you have the dream job. On the other hand, you may be working just to pay the bills. Think again. "Just to pay the bills" shouldn't exist for the Christian. Whatever your situation, God has placed you at your job and you are called to be a witness (Proverbs 11:30). If you are a woman working in the secular marketplace, you are rich in opportunities to hold the light high for others to see the Way.

Whatever your rank and salary, consider how significant you are. Each person you interact with day by day is someone God has placed

in your care and you have a responsibility to that person. To your brothers and sisters in Christ, your responsibility is to edify. To those who are not in the family of God, you have the honor and obligation to share Jesus.

In today's world of specialization, professionalism is a favorite word. Holding the light high in the workplace means many things to many people. You can start by being professional in all you do.

Professionalism=Character

Proverbs 13:5, 10:16

Your employer pays you to accomplish something. Allowing

socializing to interfere with your work would be detrimental to your witness. Whether you are poorly or well paid, you are under contract. You have agreed to do your job in exchange for your pay. You don't want to cheat your company or your boss.

Down to the smallest thing, your character should be beyond reproach. Always be honest in your dealings. Live out the best example. People won't hear our words if our actions don't match (1 John 3:18).

You shouldn't have to broadcast that you are a Christian. It should be obvious. If a person is observant at all, he should be able to tell that you are different (John 13:35). I'm not against leaving your Bible and other books at your work station so everyone will see them. How effective this will be depends on your environment and how you use it. Is it there in case someone asks you a question? Do you open your Bible during break time?

Professionalism=Excellence

Proverbs 12:26

Be the best professional you can be. Pursue excellence in all you do! Do your work with love, as unto the Lord. When you are doing your job, do it with all your energy. Go the extra mile instead of just doing the bare minimum. "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Colossians 3:23).

Don't settle for mediocrity. Get the best training possible. If you don't have access to training, take the initiative to train yourself. Remember that you are an ambassador. You represent God's Kingdom.

Professionalism=Friendliness

Proverbs 18:24, 27:9

Professionalism is knowing your boundaries and knowing when to

reach out to someone and when not to be intrusive (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). Some people are thrown together and become instant friends. Others are harder to reach. One of the best ways to start a friendship is by being pleasant. How nice it is to be a person that people seek out.

Opportunities to witness sometimes happen quite naturally. Monday morning or Friday afternoon everyone talks about what happened or what will happen on their weekend. Often, church will come up. Be alert to any chance to mention God, church, wholesome lifestyles, or any other topic that can be a witness to God's plan.

Many more complex topics can come up in conversation. For example: Why people go to church. Why people cheat. Reasons for crime on the streets and corruption in government. Remember, if you express an opinion, be willing to hear others' opinions, too.

At times witnessing has to be more deliberate. Take advantage of more relaxed atmosphere away from work to speak of your Lord. Earned respect can give you the liberty to be more direct. If your friendship is more than superficial, people will confide in you. Listen closely, don't gossip, and remember the person's words are coming from a precious yet wounded soul that God wants to heal. Remember, women of God, you "have the best medicine in town" (quotation by Joan Ross at the 1995 WNAC Retreat).

If you have shown yourself a friend, they will call on you in their time of need. This is the best time to point them to the best Friend, Jesus.

Beyond Professionalism

Proverbs 15:28

But you say, "I work for such a mean boss. How could I possibly be

a witness at work? He would probably fire me if he heard me talking about religion." Almost anyone can react well to a benevolent boss. It's the demanding, overbearing, temperamental, unfair (any of these or add your own) boss that will make your light shine brighter in a dark place (Proverbs 15:1).

Try to understand. Remember the boss has problems, too. His boss may be putting pressure on him. Or maybe there was a family conflict that day before work. What if on a slow day or on any given day you said, "What can I do to help?" After he recovers from his shock, he will take notice. An opening for sharing Christ may follow (II Corinthians 12:10).

Dealing with Adversity Creatively

The following true example shows how employees can overcome with prayer. Because of a difficult principal, staff members started an unofficial prayer meeting 15 minutes before school started. People started noticing a change in the principal and in the whole school. Prayer started a chain reaction that was hardly detectable at first. Soon, word came of another group of teachers across town who were meeting to pray. (This time one of the leaders **was** the principal.)

Conclusion

So, be the right kind of person, give your best at work, love and pray for your coworkers (and boss), keep a godly attitude, take advantage of opportunities to speak up. Remember, results are in God's department. Whether we have the privilege of personally leading a co-worker to the Lord, or someone else gets to reap the harvest, may the Lord find us faithful. ♦

Suggestions

(Proverbs 21:26)

- ♦ Keep your co-workers, customers, clients, etc. on your prayer list.
- ♦ Take a co-worker to lunch.
- ♦ Take someone a cup of coffee.
- ♦ Remember birthdays.
- ♦ Put Boss' Day or Secretary's Day (whichever applies) on your calendar, remember it with a card or thoughtful gift.
- ♦ Be a good team player—cooperate.
- ♦ Concentrate on the positive, avoid complaining
- ♦ Invite your coworker to church and special church activities.
- ♦ Have fellow workers in your home for a get together.
- ♦ Ask the Lord for wisdom and boldness (Proverbs 28:1)

Note: If you are a wife and mother and are privileged to stay home and raise your family, count yourself fortunate. You have an extremely important job. You have the opportunity to witness and teach godliness to the people you love most, and at the best time possible: when they are young. Your job as mother also presents you with the opportunity to relate to mothers and other people in your neighborhood, town or city who may not know your Lord. This program is for you too, since you can apply many of the same principles at your post.



his past year a dear friend and church member passed away suddenly. As I visited with the people who had known her, I began to realize the great impact for Christ this woman had made, not just in the church but on her family and co-workers. God then asked me the question, "How will you be remembered? What kind of an imprint are you making every day in this world for Me?" I was then aware that as we live Christ daily, we can touch the lives of others for Him, and we can make a difference and a mark on this world.

Our Families

First of all, making a mark for Christ should start in our families. It never ceases to amaze me how many families go to worship service on Sunday, then forget to say the blessing before a fast-food meal. Then coming home, we watch a favorite less-than-edifying television show. Then, back we go to

church on Sunday night, expecting this to sufficiently teach Christianity to our families.

My friends, if we are to make a mark for Christ, it must start in our families. How often do you open your Bible for family devotions, instead of flipping on the prime-time show? Does your husband, children, mother or father usually hear harsh, bitter words, or do they see restraint as God changes your speech habits?

Do you respond to trials and hardships with complaints or fall on your knees to God? We can touch lives and make a mark on our unsaved family members. But do they hear depression and criticism, or do they hear you giving glory to God for His goodness?

Do you set aside time to nurture your child's spiritual growth, or are you more concerned with their grades at school? As a busy pastor's wife, I

prepare and teach Sunday school or Church Training Service. Then God shows me my children dangling out there wondering why Mom is too busy to teach them.

What about times of Easter and Christmas celebrations? Do you read the stories of the birth and resurrection, or do you just have fun playing Santa and the Easter Bunny? Deuteronomy 6:7 says, "And thou shalt teach diligently (not conveniently) unto thy children and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house (meals, devotions), and when thou walkest by the way (to school or to relatives) and when thou liest down (nighttime), and when thou risest up (morning)" (*emphasis mine*).

God doesn't give us an option to teach His ways to make a mark on our families for Him. Will you **just**

sacrifice our time. Will you give up your routine to attend a women's meeting? Will you give up your extra money when a missionary visits your church or give when it truly hurts your checkbook?

God doesn't ask for leftovers. He asks for complete sacrifice. Romans 12:1 states, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." True sacrifice brings forth fruit. Our Christian fruits make a mark for Christ.

The love-money we can't afford to give reaches the lost. The Sunday school class we teach molds minds for future service to God. The meal we cook or home we clean for the sick makes an imprint for Christ. Christ looks down in love when we hold a



put **your time in** at church? Or will you commit now to stand firm and teach and live absolutes and say with Joshua (who indisputably left a mark on this world), "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Church

As daily family imprints are made, God prepares our lives as vessels for His service in our local church. Many Christians enjoy drinking in the fine worship service, content in their comfort zone. **If we continuously sit and never serve, the only mark we will leave is the place where we sit in the pew.**

Our service is a sacrifice. Service must involve more than just lips or hands. True service begins with the heart. Isaiah 29:13b says, "Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me." Thus, God demands our hearts, and when our hearts are prepared, we are willing to

dirty bus child and wipe the tear-stained eyes.

At times, we do not see instant fruit or marks in a life. But when a four-year-old becomes a mature Christian adult and comes back to say "Thank you, for teaching me Christ," **that** is our mark and our reward this side of Heaven. Will you commit to use your prepared heart to serve Him in your church?

Community

As we walk through the church doors, we then serve and reach our community to make a mark for Christ. Our community is a fertile mission ground. Mark 16:15 says, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." The community (world) starts at our back door or at the local grocery store. We can touch the life of one grocery store clerk by our witness.

What do others see at your local Wal-Mart when you shop in a stressful situation? Do they see Christ?

Can you open up your home to a lone, pregnant teenager to help your local Crisis Pregnancy Center? Are your unsaved neighbors trying you? Do they see love and compassion in response to their mistreatment?

Our working field is an opportunity to make a mark for Christ. Do your co-workers see you separate yourself from the group telling off-color jokes? Do your Bible or devotional books provoke them to learn more of this Christ who gives you such joy?

We can be remembered for our upstanding service in the community, but will we also be remembered for our service "for Christ" in our community? Will you commit to pray to God for your eyes to focus on ways to make a mark in your community?

World

The way we make a mark on our world for Christ begins in our families, church, and community, and radiates outward to touch the world. We may never go down in history as the apostle Paul, or modern-day Martin Luther King, but when God looks down from Heaven, does He see us reaching out to a lost and dying world?

The children to whom we teach absolute Christianity may become missionaries in Florida or Japan or witnessing doctors in the military service. The offering we give to WNAC or the pie we bake for our local women's group fund raisers is used to help our missionaries who are our ambassadors away from home. The co-worker or neighbor with whom we share the gospel—that is, the one we see accept Christ—will then take the gospel to their families, relatives, and co-workers. Thus, the circle is repeated for the gospel of Christ in our world.

My challenge to you and myself is that we will always follow the footsteps of Christ. That we will be remembered for making a mark on this world for Him.

My Christ was one solitary life, born in a small part of this world, but whose life and ministry changed the course of mankind forever. Beginning with His family and in the temple, and then His outlying communities, towns, He always taught the absolute ways of His God and His Father.

His life is forever my example. I am challenged to make a mark, and to be remembered for my service

News for You

The Lord called San Dee Stone to be with Him on October 17, 1995. She spoke at the 1994 WNAC Convention and wrote the book *Don't Say That Name!* which was reviewed in the 1995 Jan/Feb *Co-Laborer*. We offer our sincere condolences to her family.

India Journal *Laura Belle Barnard* (continued from page 13)

"Further, he says that you must confess your sins (I read the verse), and instead of confessing your sins you are saying you haven't any. So there is still another sin of disobedience in addition to the sin of lying." Dear old Appa smiled a benign smile of defeat, just like one who is forced to surrender to right. "Are you a sinner, Appa?" "Ah, yes I see! I am a sinner indeed!"

"And how many sins do you suppose you have done in your 80-odd years? Suppose you had sinned only once a year, that would be nearly 100 sins. But I suspect you have even sinned once every day, and that would be 365 times 80, a number too great to talk about."

Well, he saw it, and when I asked him if he ever prayed, he said he didn't know how but that he would be glad to pray if he knew how. I gave him the publican's prayer, and this is the way he repeated it: "I am a BIG sinner; Lord, have mercy on me!" He has to be very near eternity now, and I am so glad he has heard the way of salvation at least once. Pray for him. I can still see his face through all the grey beard, the proud, stubborn countenance which softened as it yielded to the power of the Gospel while he heard.

When I next visited the old man, I found him mellow, hungry and receptive. ❖

for Him. Will you commit right now to start service for Him? Will you commit to start where you are in your family? Then, serve in your church and reach out to your community so that your ministry comes full circle to make a mark on this world for Christ?



(Darla Trimble's article won fourth place in the 1995 Creative Arts Contest. She is a member of Dardanelle FWB Church in Arkansas.)

Laura Belle Barnard

(continued on page 12)





FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Penny just had to have it. It was the most beautiful cherry bedroom suit the young mother had ever seen. And everyone had one of those.

The day it was delivered, she thought she would take care of it and always keep it looking new. Then came the scratch from the vacuum cleaner. Penny felt as if the wound had been to her own flesh.

Laura's little hands spilled nail polish on the dresser. Her mother's heart was so glad she had not lost her cool over her little girl's accident. She touched it up as best she could, but her lovely furniture would never be new again.

Then she realized that things are just things. Beautiful things bring pleasure for a short time. The newness fades and the functional takes precedence over the beautiful. Sometimes a cherished object becomes a burden, especially if too much value is placed on it.

Penny decided to take inventory. How could she compare the value of a wooden object to the value of a person made in God's image? She couldn't be so presumptuous as to compare the short lifetime of a piece of furniture with eternity. The feeling of the smooth, hard surface couldn't come close to the warm feeling of her little girl's arms around her neck.

Now it's your turn. Start out 1996 taking inventory of what is most important to you and to God. How do your lists compare? (**Matthew 6:19-21**)❖

Poet's Corner

His Love

by Freeda Lucas, Cromona, KY

His love is in the sunrise
That chases winter's night.
It's rosy hues send forth a glow
That bathes the world in light.

His love is in the raindrops
That make sweet flowers grow.
His hand comes down to touch
each one,
Because He loves them so.

His love is in the mountains,
The deserts and the seas.
His love is in the thunder,
The sudden, summer breeze.

His love is in our children;
Each precious, smiling face.
The young, the old, the rich,
the poor,
Are touched by special Grace.

His love was there at Calvary.
It's been ours from the start.
A love too big for such small
words,
Yet perfect for each heart.

He's All This and More

by Debbi Atwood, Amory, MS

Keeper of my spirit
Savior of my soul
Friend who never leaves me
Love that makes me whole.

Guard against depression
Word that conquers sin
Constant affirmation
When I think I just can't win.

Strength that keeps me going
Wisdom that I seek
Grace that gives me pardon
When I fail throughout the week.

Comfort when I'm grieving
Guidance when I ask
Patience when I'm restless
Courage for the task.

This and more is Jesus
He's been there from the start
I trust Him with my future
I trust Him with my heart.

A Treasure

by Pearl Mitchell, Columbus, GA

I am a priceless commodity
colorless, odorless, tasteless
measured only by the heartbeat
of a grandfather
and unmanicured hands.

Use me or misuse me—
but my character is
unchangeable
my protocol is ageless
and my pulse
signals life.

I was utilized by the Maker
observed and meted
His work and rest
cycled life's existence and end
and I survived.

Call me constant but
not sporadic
for my pulse
has ceased only twice
throughout eons.

I am time!❖



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator

As part of your enlistment push, order extra copies of *CoLaborer* for women on your prospect list (make sure the prospect list is complete). Deliver the magazine to each woman with a small gift or card that says you care. In your own words say what it means to you to be a part of your women's group and invite her to the January (Fashion Show) program.

Since a fashion show will interest all ages, send an invitation to young girls and teenagers as well.

See the 1996 Yearbook for additional enlistment and program ideas.

Assistant Coordinator

You are a key person in the success of the January enlistment. Enlistment involves more than just showing up at the meetings. People are more likely to be faithful if they are making a contribution.

If you are the person in charge of arranging programs and speakers, remember that you can ask women from your church to speak. However, use caution, don't make anyone feel guilty for not doing what you ask. If one person says she can't do one thing, ask her if there is something she would like to do. If she says that she is going through a hard time, look for ways that you can minister to her. Ask her if you can bring it up again in six months. Her situation may change. Ministry is best when it is a two way street.

For **January Program (Enlistment) and February Program** ideas see *1996 Yearbook*. Recommend reading to prepare for the February program: Larry Hampton's article in the November 1995 issue of *Contact*, page 14-15.

Secretary/Treasurer

Do your part in the January enlistment. Make your prospect list available to all who can make contacts. Call and encourage others to call the women who have missed the last meetings.

WNAC has a new Secretary's Record and Report Book and Treasurer's Book. See page (24) for information about ordering.

Missions Chairman

Raising support is one of the hardest jobs a missionary has to face as soon as he is appointed and every furlough. Check *Heartbeat* and *MissionGrams* for current deficit accounts. You could share some of the factors that can make raising support harder:

- ♦ newly appointed missionaries—starting out from scratch
- ♦ missionaries approaching retirement—sometimes their support falters in spite of years of faithfulness

Devotional Outline

Learn and Teach What is Good

Learn

- ✱ from the Lord
(*Matthew 11:29*)
- ✱ about the Shepherd's gentleness
(*Isaiah 40:11*)

Teach

- ✱ what is good
(*Titus 2:3-4*)
- ✱ with great patience and careful instruction
(*II Timothy 4:2-5*)
- ✱ like a mother and father
(*I Thess. 2:7-12*)
- ✱ through examples of kindness and forgiveness
(*II Timothy 4:16, Luke 23:34*)

♦ missionaries who serve on fields with high cost of living—it may cost as much as double what it would take to live at home

Your women might be interested in what comes out of a missionary's account besides a salary. Any of the following may drain an account depending on a missionary's situation.

- ♦ ministry expenses such as rent for meeting place
- ♦ travel expenses on the field and to and from the field
- ♦ extra family expenses such as education of children
- ♦ training such as missionary internship or reentry programs to help foreign missionaries' families adjust to living back in the United States

Encourage your women to continue giving faithfully to the missionaries they already support and the Home and Foreign Missions Departments' general fund. Ask them to consider a special, one-time offering for deficit accounts.

Prayer Chairman

Enlist women to pray for the enlistment program. Remind members to pray for prospects and for opportunities to witness and get others involved in your ministries.

The beginning of the year is a good time to remind everyone to pray for missionaries on their birthdays. Provide a list of missionary's birthdays for each women and encourage everyone to send a card to let them know you are praying. The 1996 Yearbook has a twelve-month birthday calendar.

Ask the person in charge of publicity to put the Missions Hotline number on the bulletin board in January. Offer to help her make an attractive display. If you have access to Compuserve or Internet on a computer modem, Foreign Missions can now send a weekly prayer request update via electronic mail. See page 31 for Hotline telephone number and e-mail address.

Study Chairman

A study of the book in the following review could be a boost to your enlistment this year.

***Ideas for Community Ministries*, Joy Bolton, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Alabama, 1993.**

This book is exactly what the title says it is—ideas for community ministries. It is meant to be a stimulator to get people thinking and a resource to reveal a wide variety of possibilities in ministry. In spite of having some practical advice, the book's intent is not to be a comprehensive "how-to" book. The author states her purpose, "The purpose of this book is to get you thinking and point you in the right direction" (p. 6).

One of Bolton's practical suggestions is to be specific about what you need done and make volunteers feel needed. Another suggestion is to involve new people in the fall when school schedules have been worked out and after the holidays when the new year is getting started.

Bolton also points out some often forgotten truths. "Recognize that community ministry fulfills needs in our own lives even as we are serving others.... Some people need opportunities for personal interaction" (p. 5). Of course, this is stated without forgetting the most important which is the commitment to serving Christ.

A few of the 32 community ministries covered are AIDS ministry, families in crisis, internationals, seamen's ministry, and students. All ministries would not apply to every local group but even the busiest person can find a creative way to minister.

A WNAC Fashion Show



**ALL DRESSED UP WITH
SOMEPLACE TO GO!**

Date_____

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. ❖

Lists of resources at the end of each topic is a plus because many ministries require help from specialized books and organizations. Since it is a book written by a Southern Baptist for Southern Baptists, Bolton repeatedly—but not exclusively—refers to their own denominational resources such as the Home Missions Board. Free Will Baptists have many of the same resources.

Another plus is the helpful index.

In the back of the book there are instructions on how to present the information in the book to a group. The group is encouraged to look in a local newspaper and determine for themselves which ministries are the most needed and the most important in their community.

Service Chairman

You should also read the book review in the Study Chairman's section since the book involves service. Community ministry not only gives everyone a chance to serve and witness, but it also helps the people in the community learn more about your church and what the people in your church are like. Contact with people outside your circle can help dispel any false ideas about your church and Christianity in general. We need to go to them because most outsiders, especially nonbelievers, will not walk into a church full of strangers. How can we change this feeling? We can be a friend to them and no longer be strangers. ❖

Missionary Birthdays

A 12-month Missionary Birthday Calendar is now printed in the Yearbook

Reminders and updates will appear in Springboard

January

1	Odis Whitehead, Florida
3	MK, Candace Blanchard, NM
3	MK, Joseph Bryan, C'I
4	MK, Tracey Bailey, JPN
4	MK, Jonathan Bunch, PAN
4	Mark Thomas, Colorado
9	MK, Jennifer Bryan, C'I
9	MK, Joël Gibbs, FR
10	MK, Evan McDonald, JPN
11	Walter Ellison, UR
13	Jim Combs, BR
13	Karen Cowart, BR
14	Shirley Combs, BR
19	Tanya Hart, C'I
22	MK, Joel Teague, FR
24	Jerry Pinkerton, C'I
25	MK, Cindy Harvey, Arizona
25	MK, Jennifer Bailey, JPN
26	Cathy Crawford, FR
26	Jane Keen, SC
27	Linda Harvey, Arizona
31	MK, Michele Wilson, Florida

February

1	LaRhonda Bowerman, PAN
1	MK, Mindy Collins, Nebraska
2	Jim Cowart, BR
4	Mona Austin, GER
5	Judy Bailey, JPN
5	Bill Reagan, Canada
7	Pam West, C'I
7	Larry Williams, Georgia
8	Don McDonald, JPN
9	Ava Cooper, California
9	Carlie Lloyd, Wisconsin
11	MK, Chad Donoho, Iowa
11	Linda Snow, JPN
13	Rejane Eagleton, C'I
13	MK, Kevin Bishop, JPN
14	Mitzi Munsey, Mexico
17	Ron Dail, VI
17	Barbara Gibbs, FR
17	Ron McMillan, Massachusetts
19	MK, Rebecca Blanchard, NM
19	MK, Stephen Gentuso, C'I
19	MK, Josue Vera, PR
20	Tammy Gentuso, C'I
21	Judy Lytle, PAN
23	MK, Miguel Vera, Jr., PR
25	MK, Scott Collins, NE
26	Paul Gentuso, C'I
26	MK, Jonathan Owen, UR

Lucy & Marge

God's Agenda

[Telephone rings, Lucy is wrapped up in a blanket reading a book.]

Lucy: Hello.

Marge: Lucy, you know that origami class, I told you I was going to take?

Lucy: Um hum.

Marge: We've had two classes so far. I must have been insane to think I could ever do that.

Lucy: Why? Is it hard?

Marge: The teacher makes it look so easy. And she's really funny.

Lucy: Well, do you like it.

Marge: Oh, the class is fun, but my fingers don't want to obey.

Lucy: Is the class big?

Marge: About a dozen or so. Yesterday I sat by June. We seem to have the same lack of talent. Anyway, she said she was taking the class just to get out of the house. Her husband travels all the time. I think she gets really lonely.

Lucy: Sounds like she needs a friend.

Marge: She said everybody's so busy these days. No one seems to have time to socialize.

Lucy: She doesn't know the people in our church.

Marge: Hey, maybe I should invite her to our next women's meeting.

Lucy: Why not?

Marge: Yeah, why not? Maybe my temporary insanity was really the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Lucy: Insanity?

Marge: Maybe meeting June was on God's agenda all along. You give such good advice. Thanks for the great idea. I've got to go. Talk to you later.

Lucy: Bye. *[Hangs up the phone and says to herself]* Advice? What did I say? ❖



We invite you to join us and learn about witnessing at work.

Time _____

Place _____

fill in your name and name of your group

Springboard Illustrated: Stories to Grow By Volume 36/ No. 1

a wordless witness by Vicki Sturgill

Sometimes it's a little thing that wins someone to Christ. We all know that even the smallest monetary gift to the account of a missionary can keep him on the field, buy a Bible for a child who learns the books of the Bible, purchase Bible school materials or a story to tell in junior church. The gift may buy a picture for a child to color and show to a parent who in turn comes to church for the first time to hear the Gospel. Would you believe all this has happened in our ministry recently?

Then again, it's not always money that makes the difference. While we were in the United States, a friend in Ohio gave our daughter, Vera, a bracelet using the colors of the Wordless Book—black, white, red, yellow, and green. She wore it several months in the States and only a few people asked about it. But back in Brazil, adults and children alike began to ask questions.

Alert to the opportunity to witness, we taught the Wordless Book lessons to all our children. That made the bracelet even more special. We were thrilled to see even the preschool children pulling at Vera's hand to tell the Gospel story using her bracelet.

Birthdays are very special to Brazilians, and presents are the order of the day. Many children had expressed a desire to have a bracelet like Vera's. We found a store that sold the little beads, so Vera asked for 20 of each of the colors. That made a couple of people in the store curious, so Vera lost no time in witnessing to the two women as she used the bracelet to outline the plan of salvation.

Back at home, Vera began making the first birthday gifts, only to be interrupted by a lonely eight-year-old girl who lives in our apartment building. Soon came the question, "What are you doing?" And for the third time that afternoon Vera had the opportunity to share the Gospel.

That night, four-year-old Jessica cried when she received the gift. She thought Vera was giving away her bracelet and didn't want to accept it. Vera showed a surprised Jessica that she was still wearing her bracelet. The tears dried as she realized that Vera had made her a bracelet. Later, in the classroom, Jessica proudly told the Gospel story with her very own bracelet.

And so the witness of a friend in Ohio goes on and on and on.... ❖

⦿ **Time to start planning for Ridgecrest.**
Check the March/April CoLaborer
for registration information and forms.

COMMUNICATOR

BY MARY RUTH WISEHART

January Is Enlistment Month for WNAC

Where are the women?

According to the 1995 reports, WNAC has 7,423 members in 724 local groups. The November/December issue of *CoLaborer* went to 12,331 subscribers.

Some women have dropped out because of the \$10 dues. These dues help support the national office and the work of WNAC. Women, WNAC is our organization. We are the ones who must support it.

It's a good time to make resolutions. Let's set a goal for 1998. Can we have 10,000 members by then? We need add only 2,577 members to the list.

Stand up and be counted.

Get into your local organization. Pay your annual dues. Then encourage other women to become a part of WNAC. Together we can accomplish much more than we can as separate small groups.

Make a New Year's resolution to invite a visitor to each of your local group meetings this year. Call her on the phone. Offer to give her a ride. Make sure that you have babysitting service for the young mothers in your church.

Check out the enlistment program "All Dressed Up with Some Place to Go" in this issue.

If this program does not fit your group, then design your own. If January is a bad month for you, choose another month. Do have a special enlistment push at least once a year.

The new *Manual* has enlistment suggestions for the year. Also, *Enlistment Ideas* is available from WNAC for \$1.50 plus postage and handling. (Check out the Supplies Leaflet in this issue and in the 1996 *Yearbook*.)

Foreign Student Scholarship Month

In February WNAC suggests that each local group send an offering to the Foreign Student Scholarship Fund.

This fund provides scholarships for students on our mission fields. The student must be recommended by one of the missions departments and by the missionaries on that field.

Scholarships have been awarded to students in Côte d'Ivoire, Panama, Mexico, and Brazil.

No scholarship money has been requested since the last award in 1994 to Pastor Neto in Brazil.

Can You Help WNAC Get More Subscriptions?

WNAC is looking for representatives to help get more subscriptions to the *CoLaborer* magazine.

Do you know groups in your district that are not now getting the magazine? Give them samples and invite them to subscribe.

Are there women in your church who do not get the magazine? Give each a sample and a subscription card.

At \$6.75 (\$6 for each subscription sent in bundles of five or more to the same address) the Free Will Baptist women's magazine is a bargain.

If you can serve as a representative, request a packet, including samples and a subscription card, from WNAC.

Special Notice to Secretaries

The new *Manual* includes report forms for secretaries at the local, district and state levels. Reports are the only pages that should be copied from this copyrighted *Manual*.

Also, included in the *Manual* are reports for the four local and district chairmen. The state secretary may then compile reports from the chairmen and send them to the WNAC office.

Some groups requested that they be able to report activities other than giving money. The reports for chairmen will enable women to give a more accurate account of what they are doing in the way of service, prayer, study, and giving.

Accept the Challenge!

Myrtle Grothe of the Woodward Free Will Baptist Women's Auxiliary in Oklahoma took the challenge. (See the July/August 1995 *CoLaborer*, p. 19, "Consider the Endowment Fund.") She gave \$23 to the Endowment Fund, one dollar for each member of her women's group. Her group will be honored in the Remembrance Book in the WNAC office.

Myrtle wants to challenge **you** to give \$1 to the fund. Or, like her, you may want to give \$1 for each member in honor of your women's group.

Who will be the next group to accept the challenge? ♦

Women In Action



A. Côte d'Ivoire Women Organize

Official authorization was given for the women to organize on a national level at the Côte d'Ivoire National Association in August 1995. Officers will be elected during their February 1996 Retreat.

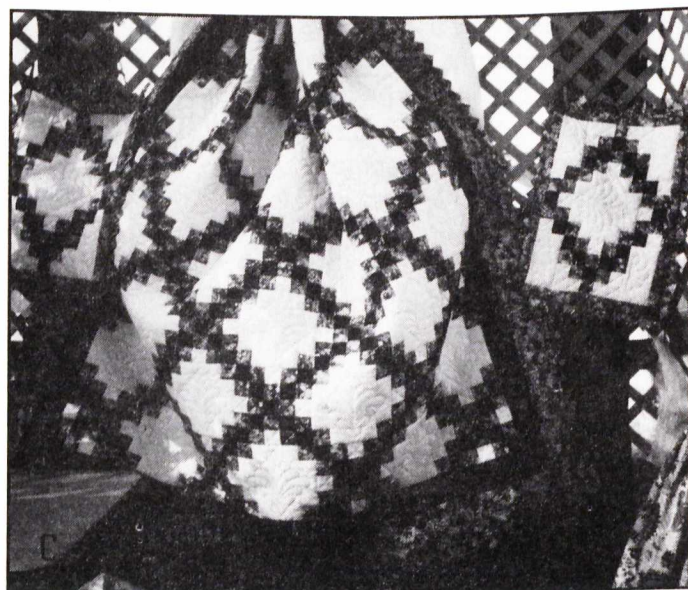
The Agnibilékrou women (a local group) meet each Wednesday for Bible study, prayer, and business. They pay dues of about 50 cents per month. This amount is difficult to come by for most of the women. The dues are used primarily for transportation costs to the Retreat.

During Bro. and Mrs. Waddell's visit to Côte D'Ivoire, the women enjoyed having Genevieve Waddell at their June meeting.

Picture: Front row (left to right): Felicia, Rufene, Ama, Marie-Claire. Second row: Monique, Sylvie, Elizabeth, Kossia. Third row: Yeri, Madame Sonon, Alice Smith, Genevieve Waddell.

B. Faithful Women Honored

Bethel FWB Church in South Roxana, Illinois honored Mrs. Eddie Hollis (left) and Mrs. Laverne Boswell (right) for their faithfulness and examples of dedication to WNAC.



C. Missionary Quilt Sold for \$600

Pleasant Home Auxiliary made a missionary quilt, sold it, and sent the money to a missionary. The whole church participated in the project with generous donations of materials needed for the quilt. The pillow shams were an afterthought because there was extra material. They plan to make a quilt every year and choose a different missionary each time.

Christmas in July (not pictured)

Tabernacle FWB Women for Christ had Christmas in July for the Provision Closet. The women set up a Christmas tree, sang Christmas carols, and brought gift towel sets wrapped in Christmas paper. They received over 40 sets of towels and had 19 women present.



D-E. Alabama Women Active for Christ

One hundred sixty-one women registered for the AFWBWAC convention held at Forrestdale FWB Church. Barbara Jones gave the devotion and Monica White spoke. Rev. Levy Corey, guest speaker, introduced the children from the Alabama FWB Children's Home who sang beautifully. The women of Forrestdale and Cahaba River Districts served a delicious lunch.

The women gave to the Prattville Land Fund, Monica White's account, and the Children's Home.

Pictured: (D) Left to right: Carolyn Hendrix, Vice-President of AFWBWAC, Fred and Barbara Jones, Home missionaries to Prattville, AL, Monica White, teacher in China, Paulette Scott, President (1989-1995), now elected Field Worker.

Pictured: (E) Paulette Scott presenting Rev. Levy Corey from the Children's Home with a love offering. ❖

Letters to WNAC

Dear WNAC,

In a recent board meeting we discussed WNAC celebrating 60 years together as a missionary arm of the local church. Our deacons and trustees submitted the following resolution to our church: "To observe WNAC's 60 Years Together and to honor our local church auxiliary, we propose a gift of \$500 be sent to Nashville [Antioch]." Enclosed you will find the check.

As a pastor and missionary, I appreciate the wonderful work you are doing in our denomination. Thanks for your dedication over the years.

Sherwood Lee
Coward, SC

Dear WNAC,

We have a very active WNAC at Unity FWB Church in Smithfield. We use the CoLaborer and enjoy the programs and features. Keep up the good work!

Patricia Wall
Smithfield, NC

Dear WNAC,

I personally felt the Sept/Oct 1995 issue of CoLaborer is one of the best I've ever read, of course with prize-winning people involved that may be a given. I appreciate Vision, and Words for Women really spoke to my heart. In fact, I read it as a devotional at our women's meeting today.

Lois Smallwood
Cabool, MO

Dear WNAC,

The Rescue FWB Ladies Auxiliary really enjoyed the September lesson, "The Check-up: A Self-examination," by Carolyn Franks. It is a lesson that you could read everyday and enjoy. God sends special blessings to us through other people in His work.

Mrs. Wastina Campbell
Ina, IL ❖

Uruguay Trip

Intreview with Mary R. Wischart



Central Church, Riveira, Uruguay

WNAC Executive Secretary, Mary R. Wischart, went to Uruguay in September 1995. Her own words tell the story for CoLaborer readers.

Q Why did you visit Uruguay?

A I was invited to the dedication of the renovated Central Church in Rivera. They invited me because the women had given over \$8,000 from the Eunice Edwards Loan Fund for Churches Abroad to help in the renovation.

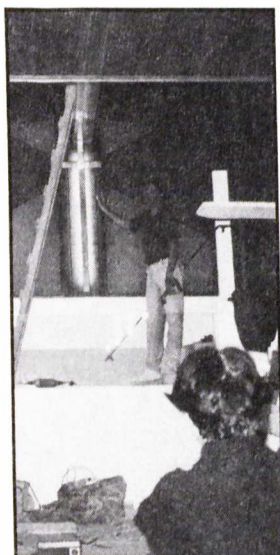
I asked the WNAC Executive Committee about going. They said, "Go, and happy tenth anniversary." I celebrated my tenth anniversary with WNAC August 1, 1995.

How far back can you trace your relationship with the Central Church?

I visited the church in 1976. Then, it was just a plain block building with no Sunday school rooms, no baptistry, and no stained glass windows.

What brought about the need for this renovation?

Growth, of course, the desire to have rooms for teaching. And then, one of the walls was leaning and becoming dangerous. When they decided to repair the wall, they also decided to renovate the church. They didn't have restrooms in the church and they needed those as well as classrooms and a fellowship hall.



Worker Standing in Baptistry

Tell us about the events leading up to the dedication.

There wasn't much time before the dedication. I arrived in Montevideo (capital of Uruguay) on Thursday, about noon. I was met by the Franks family, Dennis Owen, and Marcia Ellison. Dave (Franks Jr.) took me on a tour of the town. I saw where they all lived, and then we went to the institute which is smack downtown. That's also where the Ellisons live. The institute and their apartment are on the 4th floor.

I rested and then had tea with the missionary women—Marcia, Rebecca (Franks), and Trena (Owen). Then on Friday we went up to Rivera, a six-hour bus ride from Montevideo.

On Saturday they worked hard to get the church ready for the service.

Highlight the dedication service for us.

I thought it was nice to have a choir from Calvary Temple, a sister church in town, sing at the dedication. To me, it was great that there was a representative from all our other churches and mission points in Uruguay. Most came on buses. From the newest work in Melo, they came in a car. Each group was represented in the program with music or someone saying how glad they were to be there and be a part of the service. There were also some visitors from Brazil.

It lasted about three hours. Try to imagine someone speaking from each of the churches, having a musical number from each one and two from the Central Church. Then Dave brought the dedication message. It was a good message but not a long one. Dennis prayed the dedicatory prayer. When the service ended, we had refreshments.

What was your part in the service?

I was the foreigner trying to speak their language. They were very kind and said they understood and said it was a beautiful message.

Could you summarize what you said in your speech?

I wanted the people to feel the bond of Christian love between all of us who are part of the body of Christ. I mentioned that the women of WNAC are thankful to have a part



Hurry up, Dennis. The bus is leaving.

in their building. But people are more important than a building. I told them we would join them in praying that the church there would be a light, making a difference in their city, nation and around the world. "For we are laborers together with God."

What impressed you most on your trip?

I guess it was the excitement of the people about having this church and the possibility of having the (Uruguayan FWB) national offices there. The church building also has an apartment they can make into a parsonage if they ever have a full-time pastor. That's their hope. Another thing that impressed me was the fact that they had worked and done it together.

What do you like best about the renovated church building?

The fact it has the name on the street with the lighted stained glass window in the shape of a cross. When the lights are on in the church, you can see it just below the spire. The spire, cross and the name will be a testimony to the whole town.

Rivera is on the boarder of Brazil and Uruguay. It's not a large city, but there's an opportunity to be a witness. This building will help them reach out to other people. The people themselves did much of the work, like the beautiful wooden doors. A man in the church did those. Another man did the fence. People from the other churches came and

helped. So it was a united effort to get the church finished.

Who are some of the people you met that you think our women would like to meet?

They might like to know about Mario, the pastor there. I met him in 1976. He was a teenager then. He strikes you as being a very gentle man. He's dedicated to the Lord's service. He is in charge of two of our churches—the Central Church and the Santa Teresa Church.

Martin is another person the women would enjoy meeting. Many prayed for him when he had his arm caught in a machine at work. They thought the arm might have to be amputated or that he might not be able to use it. The Lord blessed him; the arm is usable. He's a vital part of the church. He recently married one of our FWB girls from Brazil.

What is their greatest need?

The thing the people asked for most frequently was prayer. That may be one of their greatest needs, since they asked for that more than anything else. They didn't ask for material things, but they did ask for prayer.

What can FWB women do to help the Uruguayan church?

Well, of course, pray. Pray for the church, for our people there. That's true of any of our people in the many different places. Pray for the missionaries and support them in every way we can. Contribute to the building itself. There could still be some money contributed to the building to repay some of the funds. The people of the church have taken on the loan and they will pay that back.❖



Pastor Mario looks so happy and pleased.

specific prayer requests

•**Mario**—health and strength, wisdom and blessing while he preaches the Word.

•**Casildo**—he needs surgery badly and the Uruguayan health system tends to delay. Pray that somehow it will be worked out so that he can get surgery.

•**People** who were dedicated and serving the Lord in 1976 who now are not working for the Lord as they should. •**Thank** the Lord for the work in Melo. It seems to be really growing and they have reached a lot of children.



Martin with his wife

WNAC Supplies

Helps

- ☐ NM1 *Manual for Free Will Baptist Women's Organizations*
The guidebook for organizing and operating Women's Groups.
\$10.00
- ☐ YB1 *1996 Yearbook*
Calendar of events, program suggestions, WNAC goals, plan sheets, and other helpful information for officers.
\$5.00
- ☐ EN4 *Enlistment Ideas*
\$1.50
- ☐ RF1 Local Treasurer's Report Forms
- ☐ RF2 District Treasurer's Report Forms
- ☐ RF3 State Treasurer's Report Forms
12/\$1.00
- ☐ *Annual Report Blanks*
(circle the type you want)
local, district, and state levels.
FREE
- ☐ RB1 *Secretary's Record and Report Book*
Space for membership roll and minutes.
\$1.50
- ☐ RB2 *Treasurer's Record and Report Book*
Space to record receipts and disbursements for a year.
\$1.00

Do you have
too much
to carry
to your
meetings?



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"I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry."

Psalms 40:1 (NIV)

a column  young people

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the patience formula

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} MC^2 = \sum p_1 + p_2 + p_3 = (\text{Patience} + p^\heartsuit) - p_4 \\ ? \quad a + b = c \quad ? \\ \pi r^2 \quad a(b + c) = ab + ac \end{array} \right.$$

H

ours and hours of waiting, sometimes for nothing. Canceled appointments. Five years of weekly visits to the orthodontist. You see, my orthodontist was the best around but he was notorious for not showing up. (If this seems odd, remember it happened in Brazil.)

Braces. I wore them from sixth grade through ninth and then I had to wear a retainer for one more year. If you have ever worn braces, you know that five years with something in your mouth seems like an eternity.

If braces didn't make my teeth any straighter or my smile more attractive, they did accomplish one thing. I learned a lesson about being patient. Sure, I couldn't wait to get rid of that metallic smile (that was before the time of invisible braces), but I actually enjoyed those hours in the dentist's waiting room. Really!

I learned that it doesn't help to get uptight about something you can't control. Getting upset doesn't accomplish anything positive. It just makes everyone around uncomfortable. Although sometimes your friends put up with you in spite of your behavior because they care.

Looking back, I wasn't the type to complain because I was so grateful the dentist could straighten my teeth. But there are some things I would like to change. I could have used a lot of that time more wisely. I wish I had been more outgoing and had witnessed to others in the waiting room. I could have done more homework, too.

Holding onto your patience takes a kind of a mental discipline. If you have to wait, occupy your mind (even better, your hands and mind) with something positive and productive.

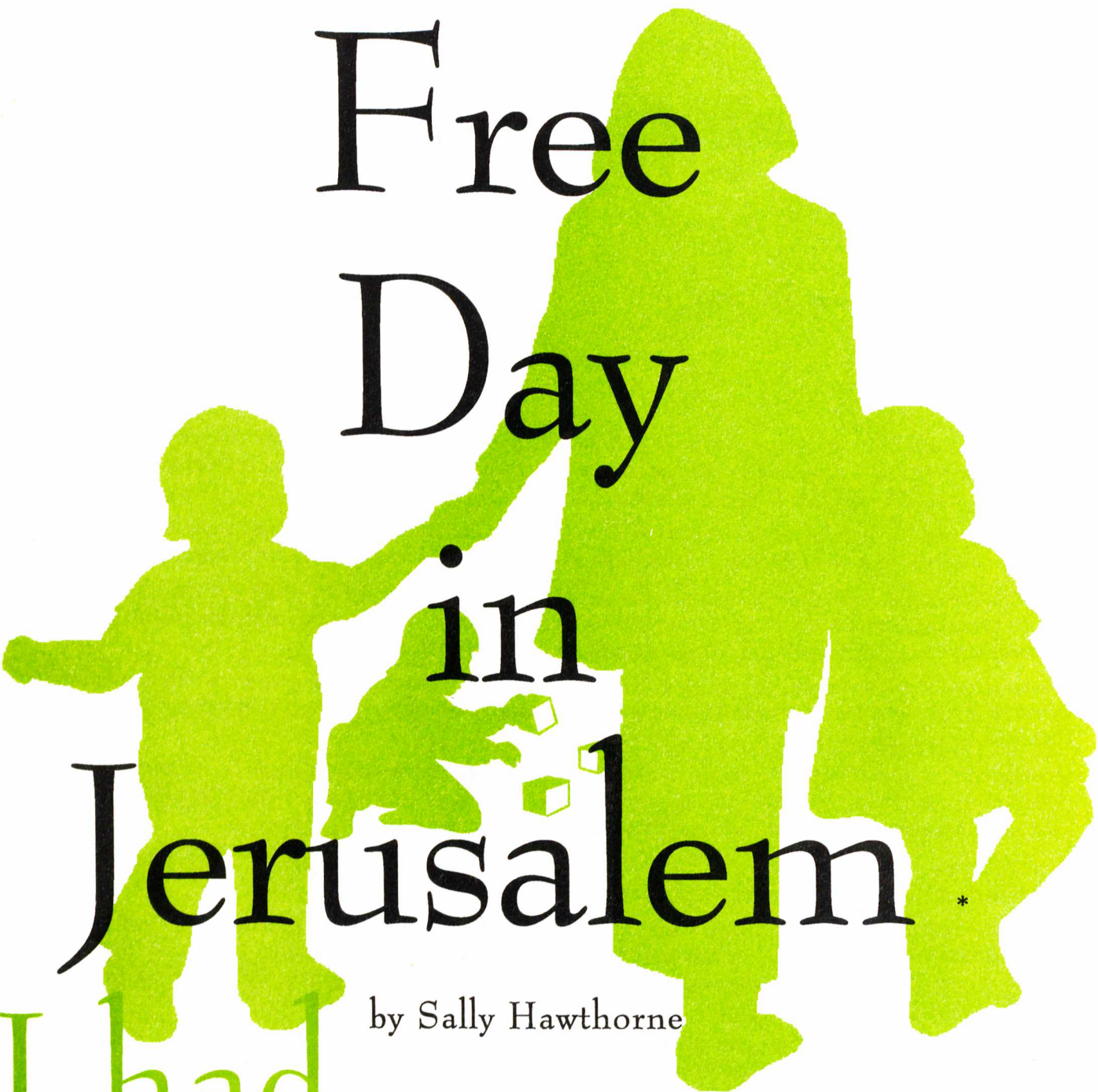
How do you occupy yourself in the waiting room of life? Here is a formula for patience. See if it works for you. First, have **peace about your purpose**. There is purpose in waiting, purpose even in suffering and pain. Those braces didn't always feel good. You don't have to have the details of the purpose spelled out. God has a purpose and your part is to trust Him with it.

Got that one down? Now add the second element—**persistence through problems**. When you experience frustration over setbacks, don't give up. Sometimes just to keep going is a witness to God's work in your life.

Now that you have peace and perseverance, we need to address attitude. The third element is **practice in praise**. When you stop to count God's blessings, they will outnumber the problems. Come on, just try it. While you are busy counting your blessings, the time passes and you might have a good time, too. Someone might think you're crazy. Who knows, you might have a chance to explain why you're different.

The result to this equation is **patience with passion minus passiveness**. You see, **patience** is something you shouldn't lose **passively** like a gum wrapper in a messy locker. It's something you hold onto with **passion**. Some of us need more patience than others. Who is more blessed? Of course, the patient one. ❖

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 ❖



Free Day in Jerusalem*

by Sally Hawthorne

I had great plans for an unexpected, free day—until an urgent knock on my apartment door changed everything.

"I'm on my way to the hospital, Miss Martin," my neighbor said. Her expression was tense and she carried a suitcase.

"Oh, oh. The new baby?"

"Yes, and I'm desperate. My

sitter has the flu and I need someone to stay with the kids until Mark's flight from New Mexico gets in. Please, could you do it?"

I stared at Jenny. How could I tell her that I couldn't help because I wanted to serve the Lord in "my" Jerusalem today?

I'd never been called to go to Judea or Samaria or the uttermost

part of the world, but I had been challenged to witness to my fellow tenants. On the back of Gospel tracts, I'd added a warm welcome to attend my church in downtown Phoenix and I was itching to begin knocking on doors.

Reluctantly, I saw Jenny to the elevator, then headed for her apartment, where I found her three



little ones still in their pajamas. Expecting to see their father walk in at any moment, I raced to get them into their clothes and then to whip the apartment into shape.

As the hours began to pass, however, a burgeoning exasperation against Jenny's hubby gave me a throbbing headache. His ETA at Sky Harbor had been 9:00 AM, so why hadn't Mark called? I'd heard rumors about his drinking; what if he'd stopped off at a bar and forgotten all about his family?

At noon I said, "Your mommy's refrigerator is as bare as Mother Hubbard's cupboard, so let's go over to my place for lunch." I should have known it would be a mistake to open the door! The munchkins tumbled out like so many frisky puppies and I sagged against the wall, envisioning how my own super-neat abode might look an hour from now.

Lunch was fish sticks, a big hit because they looked just like lemon

popsicles when smeared all over with yummy Cheez Whiz. Had I not been so irked with their truant father, I might have felt real joy in playing the role of grandmother.

The trouble was, I could not forget for an instant the Gospel tracts burning a hole in my pocket.

My charges refused to take a nap until I told them a story and, since we'd just dined on fish sticks, the one about Jesus' miracle with the loaves and fishes seemed appropriate. I was sure they had never heard it before, but they loved it and had to hear it twice. As soon as they drifted off, I perched on the sofa, wishing I had realized sooner that ministering to Jenny's family had—evidently—been God's plan for this not-so-free day in my Jerusalem. It wasn't too late to turn the rest of it over to Him and I had never felt so relieved.

I jumped as the telephone shrilled. It was Mark. "There was this bomb scare in Albuquerque and I just got in and decided to check the hospital, and guess what? Jenny's in the delivery room!" I could hear him swallowing hard. "Miss Martin, I'd sure like to stay with her, but ..."

"Relax, Mark. Not to worry. Everything here is under control." It really was. Finally.

"Jenny and I owe you one," he said. "Anything. Just name it."

Mark and Jenny had never expressed any interest in things of the Lord, but ... "Well, Mark, when things get squared away, how about visiting my church with me? I'd really like that."

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"You got it. It's a done deal."

The call ended and I leaned back, grateful that God had shown me that **He** is Lord of the harvest. **"My" Jerusalem belongs to Him, and I'm not going to forget it when another "free" day comes along.❖**

**Free Day in Jerusalem first appeared in the August 1994 issue of Live.*

(Sally Hawthorne is a free lance writer and retired missionary who lives in Phoenix, Arizona.)

Women God Used

Marguerite LaDell Kern (October 24, 1930–June 26, 1995) married Dennis Kern on May 3, 1951 in Locust Grove, OK. She devoted much of her life to her God through the First Free Will Baptist Church in Locust Grove where she was a charter member. Her activities included teaching Sunday school, coordinating and directing Vacation Bible School, teaching child evangelism classes and coordinating the Pioneer Club in the church.

When she walked among us she ministered in many different capacities. Those included officer on the local, district, state and national level of WNAC, speaker at many conventions and retreats, and trustee for Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.

In addition to her hobbies of gardening and sewing, she was a member of the Locust Grove Trio. She had a beautiful singing voice.

(The family requests that memorial gifts be given to Hillsdale FWB College, P. O. Box 7208, Moore, OK 73153.)

Alice Woolsey (died June 18, 1995) was an active member of Harris Memorial Free Will Baptist Church. She participated in the Free Will Baptist Women's organizations on the local, district and state levels. She was a liberal supporter of all phases of the Free Will Baptist denomination.

Miss. Woolsey worked in a children's home in Miami, FL for eight years and taught school in the Greene County School System for 33 years. After her retirement, she did volunteer teaching for two years.

(Memorial contributions may be made to the Gale Fender Memorial Church Building Fund c/o Vicki Hood, treasurer, Harris Memorial FWB Church, 803 Ricker Road, Greeneville, TN 37743.)



MISSION ALERT:

Evangelism News from Around the World

Madison, Wisconsin

The following letter appeared in the Carlie Lloyd newsletter:

"We want to extend our thanks and gratitude to the Lord for sending the Lloyd family to Southern Wisconsin. We can see God's divine hand at work to establish West Madison Free Will Baptist Church. We know that they are an extension of your loving hands to reach the lost souls for whom Christ died. Bless you, and thank you for your giving and sacrifice to keep the Lloyds on the missions field." Signed—The George Lemelin Family.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

God has blessed the Tommy Jones family with a nice neighborhood in which to live. Their house is located approximately 15 minutes north of downtown Pittsburgh in a suburb known as Cranberry Township. The day they closed on their house, they discovered that Cranberry is the third fastest growing area in the United States. Although they were not aware of that when they chose the house, they felt that this is where God wanted them. The Joneses have already met some prospects for the new Free Will Baptist church and they believe there is an open door to reach people for Christ.

New Orleans, Louisiana

Norman and Bessie Richards write that the neighbors on their block gave them a warm southern welcome. Although they are a hodge-podge of different nationalities and religious backgrounds, the Richards mention that they feel at home among them. They are working hard to make as many contacts as possible. So far, approximately two thousand homes have been contacted. New Hope FWB Church (Joelton, TN) sent their youth pastor and family and youth group down to help them. The Richards express their joy for the tremendous help they were.

New Hope FWB Church officially began services on August 20 in the Richards' home. Twelve people were present. They are looking for a meeting place. In spite of very high rent, they reason that a public meeting place would be more favorably accepted.

Eastern Panhandle, West Virginia

The Russell Wright Family reports that their first Vacation Bible School was a great success. They averaged 38 students and had 20 workers. Nighty-four people attended the Sunday night program following the VBS. Rev. Wright spoke on the responsibility of parents.

West Bengal, India

Carlisle and Marie Hanna inform us that at least 50,000 people saw the evangelical film *Ocean of Mercy* between the months of April and June 1995. Several hundred New Testaments and many gospel packets were sold and thousands of gospel tracts were distributed. The Hannas believe there are many secret believers besides the ones who have openly accepted Christ as Savior.

Free Will Baptists in India completed and dedicated three church buildings in the first eight months of 1995. Church members join the Hannas in expressing their thanks to those who gave to enable these to be built. The Lord has greatly blessed the Hanna's ministry. They ask that we pray that several more churches will be built, land secured, and government permission given. Pray, also, for the new believers and those who are teaching them.

Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire

Fall 1995, Tanya Hart started teaching Bible, world history, and physical education at the International Christian Academy (ICA) where approximately 230 students from twelve countries study. Several Côte d'Ivoire FWB missionary kids live and study there. With the help of fellow missionaries, a wonderful staff at ICA, and Ellen Bailey (roommate), Tanya has started learning about and adjusting to life in Africa.

(Before the semester was complete, Tanya Hart had to return to the United States for medical reasons. At press time, she was awaiting doctor's clearance to go back to Côte d'Ivoire. Pray for her health.)

(continued on next page)

preview

MAY/APR 96

- Holding the Light High Around the Globe
- Pre-Easter Week of Prayer Calendar
- Breaking the Cultural Barrier
- Ridgecrest Retreat Registration Form

(continued from page 29)

Belo Horizonte, Brazil

The Norman Invasion Arkansas Team spent the last week in July 1995 helping in the construction of the Belo Horizonte church. They brought some excitement to the large corner of Belo Horizonte called Buritis as they cleaned windows, painted walls, cleaned the yard, and held special services.

The young congregation in Buritis is experiencing blessings and growth. Two women and five junior-age children have recently prayed to accept Christ. Besides regular services, a Women's Bible study meets on Tuesday. The Jim Sturgill and Dave Franks families request prayer for these new believers and the salvation of several husbands of women attending church. ❖

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PS Form 3526, October 1994 (Revised)



Words for Women

My friend gave me a loofa. I had wanted one, but never got around to buying it. The loofa is just a dried out gourd from the garden. It, however, is known as a natural sponge for bathing. Its fibers are praised as freshening and invigorating the skin, softening damaged or rough skin and effectively cleaning the pores.

The first time I used my new loofa, I expected it to become as soft as a sea sponge when I soaked it in water. Not so. It retained its strong fibers. How else could it slough off damaged, dead skin that needed to be removed? It felt a bit harsh at first. Perhaps that's why the instructions said to begin with the soles of the feet.

My friend included with the gift a message applying the comments on the sponge to our spiritual growth. The Word becomes a loofa for the soul.

Sometimes God has to use some abrasion to get to the spiritual skin that needs to be sloughed off so that He can cleanse and form us more into the image of Christ. All of us may have some spiritual pores that need cleansing.

It isn't always easy or pleasant when the Holy Spirit speaks to us about our need for spiritual freshening and invigorating. We'd rather just go on with the dead skin and the clogged pores. We don't want to scrub until it hurts.

Maybe there are some old resentments, stored up anger, an unforgiving spirit. Maybe there is a tongue that needs the sharp edge rubbed away.

Jesus said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray

for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). Ouch! That rubs a bit hard.

"Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?" (James 3:10-11). Wow! My tongue needs some work.

"If you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:15). The Word doesn't soften the sponge, does it?

"Whoso hateth his brother is a murderer:... But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar" (1 John 3:15, 17; 4:20). A murderer? Wait a minute—scrub, scrub.

The cleansing of the Word will freshen and invigorate if we submit to the cleansing. It will wash away the dead skin of our own desires and weaknesses so that God may conform us to the image of His Son. "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well. . . though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (Isaiah 1:16,17,18).

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-34). ❖



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