

Mar • Apr 1996

CoLaborer

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women



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Cultural
Barriers*
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the Light High
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VISION

SUZANNE FRANKS



The True Imitation

As I hang up the phone, I send silent words of praise to God. The just-finished conversation muddles around in my mind. I thought my longtime friend needed encouragement and support. A grandmother herself, Lorene takes care of her own mother. However, she hardly mentioned her mother's ailments, not even a hint of her own troubles.

Instead, she spoke of the blessings in her church. She described how the church is excited and growing. People are being saved and the church has an active youth group that is working for the Lord. Wow! I felt better already. Wait a minute, that was **my** job.

Later, my mind wanders back to my freshman year in college. With no car or driver's license, I was at a loss as to how I would manage. I needed treatment for neck and back pain. My boss—a busy woman—drove me across town to the chiropractor once or twice a week for several months. She wasn't too busy to help a 17-year-old far away from home. Her selfless sacrifice is one thing I'll never forget.

Another flashback takes me to my senior recital. After the recital, friends and family gathered around each celebrity with well-deserved congratulations. One by one, each recitalist left with loved ones to celebrate at their restaurant of choice. Left behind were two lonely stars whose parents couldn't make the long trip.

My parents were in Brazil and Shelley's in California. A thoughtful friend gave Shelley and me a reception at her house. Somehow she knew how lonely we would feel far away from family after such a big event. We had worked hard. Her hospitality meant so much to us.

Two common threads link these three incidents. One thread is service. The encouraging telephone conversation demonstrates that thanksgiving and praise (which are, by the way, contagious) are a form of service. The willing taxi driver shows that service can take time and some gasoline. The thoughtful hostess personifies the sensitivity that recognizes when an act of hospitality can change depression to jubilation.

The second thread is the person. The grandmother, the taxi driver, and the recital hostess are Lorene Francen. She is a true imitator of Christ. We can learn from others' examples as they imitate Christ. Likewise, let us imitate Christ, for others may be imitating us. ❖

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**PAM AND SARAH
ASK,
"HOW WILL YOU
BEGIN TO BREAK
DOWN
THE WALLS IN YOUR
WORLD?"**

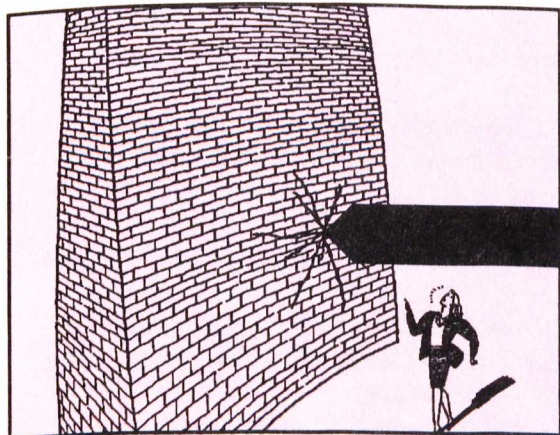
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**THE URGENCY
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**EVEN
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breaking down cultural barriers

by
pam
potete
&
sarah
fletcher

MARCH PROGRAM

scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

song: Bind Us Together

the missionary in reverse

Meet Sarah

"Momimy Po Polska." "Se Hable Espanol." **Not!** We live in Chicagoland. We are missionaries in reverse. We do not go to language school. We do not spend hours researching a culture study; yet living in the third largest American city, we face a language barrier. Twenty-three of them, to be exact. We can't remember a time we've gone to a grocery store or our local Wal-Mart and not heard another language spoken. Most times, it's four or five languages.

As a room mother, I help at school parties. Imagine speaking to a twelve-year-old through an interpreter. For a year, we rented a house from two Irish brothers.

Can we in good faith send our
cultures, if we are not willing



"Aye, that was a cultural experience, don't ya know!" In 1993, at the Christian school where I taught, 10 of my 18 kindergarten students spoke another language in the home.

Meet Pam

I teach in a secular preschool. We have children enrolled who speak no English. It is a challenge to teach them not only language, but character and socialization skills as well. Our neighborhood is mostly Polish and Italian. My husband, David, attempted to learn Polish through some local college classes. He found himself the foreigner, since most of the students already knew Polish and just needed an easy credit hour. No one would help this beginner learn. We have two near neighbors who speak fluent Polish, but only limited English.

"Just make them learn English. After all, this is America—it's our country," you might say. But what would

Jesus say? Can we justify this kind of reasoning? Would this qualify as going out in to the highways and hedges and compelling others to come to Christ? You be the judge.

the foreigner on your turf

Maybe you don't live in a barrage of language barriers. Maybe you don't feel like the foreigner in your own neighborhood. Yet maybe God has sent a foreigner to your community. Do you live in a university or college town? Have you ever considered the cultures represented? My (Sarah's) husband, Keith, recently took a graduate level course. A few students in his class tried to help a Chinese student understand and celebrate his first Thanksgiving. What an opportunity we can seize to share our Christ with those who are so eager to learn our customs.

Is there a foreign family in your community? The early eighties brought countless Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees to America. Many of these were placed in local communities through civic organizations and churches.

between Jew and Gentile, saint and sinner. Paul stated that Jesus "is our peace." He has "broken down the middle wall of partition" in order to "reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby." Prejudice died with Christ on the cross. We have no reason to resurrect it within our churches and our lives.

Even before His death, Christ absolved these cultural barriers through His encounter with the Samaritan woman. The account in John 4 was a three-in-one strike against prejudice. She was a woman (gender barrier), she was a woman of ill-repute (social barrier), and she was a Samaritan (racial barrier).

As followers of Christ, can we do any less? Can we in good faith send our support to missionaries ministering in other cultures if we are not willing to chisel away the barriers here at home?

breaking down the barriers—through servanthood

One way my husband and I (Pam) have been able to

support to missionaries ministering in other to chisel away the barriers here at home?

Are there any in your world? Daily news reports tell of the flood of immigrants. Have any trickled into your town?

not in my world!

But I don't face a cultural barrier, you may be thinking. Think again. Language and foreign customs are not the only cultural barriers. Is there a "black" and "white" side to your town? Is there another "side of the tracks"? Each of us faces barriers. They may be the walls of social class—poor versus middle versus upper. Barriers exist between the world of work and the world of welfare. "Challenges" also make partitions—the mentally challenged, the physically challenged, etc. And what about the rising barrier of AIDS?

the example of Christ

Jesus Christ has broken down the walls! Let us repeat. Jesus Christ came to dissolve the barriers. In Ephesians 2:14-16, Paul describes the conflict which existed

minister cross-culturally is through servanthood or simply doing things for others. David snow blows our neighbors' sidewalks (sometimes a daily winter task in Chicago). We opened our home for several weeks to a young unwed mother. David has offered his automotive expertise (?) to others since driving a "beater" or an old junk car is quite common in the city. He has gone shopping, mowed grass, taxied, and ran errands for others. I have babysat (free, gratis) for single moms. David also volunteers through the local crisis pregnancy center.

Servanthood ministries are yours for the asking. Not everyone can preach or learn a second language. Everyone can be a servant. What servant opportunities exist in your world? How can you begin to break your cultural barrier through servanthood?

breaking down the barriers—through food

This one sounds strange, doesn't it? But wasn't hunger one of the things Jesus mentioned in Matthew 25? Didn't Christ say if we simply give a cup of cold water (or coffee or herbal tea or a soft drink) in His name, we would not lose our reward?

Food is one way I (Sarah) break down the barriers in my world. I remember when our Polish neighbor next door died of cancer. Language barrier made communication difficult. But a meal sent over seemed to communicate our concern. At first, this grieving husband tried to pay me for the food. Only when I insisted "it's our tradition" did he understand and graciously accept.

Pam encountered a similar response when she took a plate of cookies over to a new neighbor; he also took out his wallet. My Puerto Rican neighbors had never eaten squash bread. A warm loaf one afternoon seemed to strengthen the bond of our relationship. Homemade popsicles, in a rainbow of flavors, have been tasted by kids in a rainbow of colors. I try to meet for coffee with three of my neighbors one morning a week. One of these women speaks only Polish.

Several of our foreign missionaries hold cooking classes. Why not in America? It's amazing in this age of quick and convenience foods, how little many women know about cooking. Do you have a dish, a recipe, a cooking hint to share? Can the Lord break down barriers through the walls of your kitchen?

breaking down the barriers—through little things

Maybe the kitchen isn't your niche. Fine. How about clothing? How about taking just a few minutes for a friendly visit? Jesus also mentioned these in Matthew 25. I (Pam) keep a clothesline in our basement. As people give and we outgrow clothing, they go on the line. Anyone is welcome to these.

My husband also makes a point to greet and visit with our neighbors each day. Just two or three minutes spent at the fence or in the alley has opened a communication line with many of our neighbors. Now they speak to us first, and that's quite an accomplishment in this northern city.

Flowers are another little ministry tool. I (Sarah) give bouquets from my backyard flower garden. The Lord often tells me just who needs a mug full of summer flowers on a particular day. Almost all women, regardless of culture, enjoy fresh flowers. What little

things can you give? Garden produce, homemade crafts, a good book, a card—little gifts are limitless. Yet little can accomplish much when it's given in the name of the Lord.

breaking down the barriers—through family

Probably the single most successful means of transcending cultural barriers has been through children. Children attract children; children are honest; children are impressionable. My (Sarah's) daughter ate lunch at a neighbor's house and without any hesitation offered up the prayer. Several of our neighbors have asked about our weekly "family night."

One summer our backyard literally became an international soccer field. One girl even wrote a poem about our family.

My (Pam's) girls also have international friends. They join the neighborhood bike brigade in the summer. But all these children are not without inconvenience. A couple of little boys had the habit of coming into the house without knocking. I've looked up more than once to find a new child sitting in my living room.

David often shoots hoops with the neighborhood guys. He also helps out with the art program in the local school. Our house is right on the way home for some of these kids. Several have stopped by to talk or to see where the "holy man" lives.

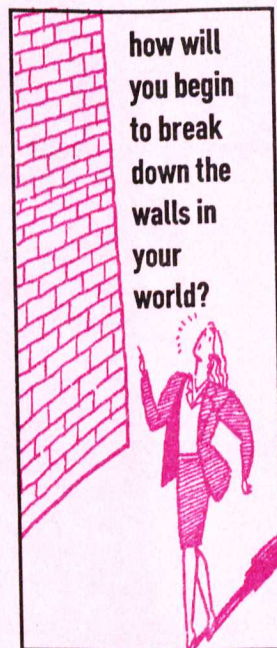
breaking down the barriers—one piece at a time

The process is slow and often unrewarding, for barriers are walls. Walls are solid. Yes, no matter where you live it's hard to break out of the comfort zone and enter a foreign area. Yet Christ commands His followers to go and make disciples—and not just in "Jerusalem."

Sometimes we fail. Some people want to keep those walls intact. Though we've tried, we cannot seem to break the walls necessary to reach certain individuals. But God can do the impossible. Reaching out takes time and faithfulness to the task. And isn't that all our Lord demands of us?

Revelation speaks of a multi-cultural heaven, people from every tribe and nation (Revelation 5:9). Living in the city, we sometimes get a glimpse of that. We

attended a retreat last year with women from an inner-city, multi-cultural (and multiracial) church. What an experience! These women—black, white, rich, poor, educated, uneducated—shared a common bond in the love of Christ. He had redeemed each one. What



blessings do all of us miss because we are not willing to look beyond the walls of race or culture?

We are often asked, "Are there any blacks in your neighborhood?" Actually though Chicago proper is culturally diverse, it is sectioned into cultural neighborhoods. In the near suburbs and fringe edges, though, a hodgepodge community does exist. A relative recently asked one of our children this question about their school. His response was admirable. "What does it matter?" he said. He later confessed, "Mom, I had to really think, I couldn't remember. I had never looked at the color of their skin."

barrier breaking basics

Love. Nothing we do can break the barriers of culture without love. Paul made that clear in I Corinthians 13. Love can be communicated without language and without regard to socioeconomics. It's the hallmark of believers. Is it evident in you?

Respect. Showing respect for another person's culture is a must. Examine your heart. Do you feel you are in some way "better" than the person you wish to reach? All cultures have strengths. Praise these as you communicate.

Not American. Don't preach Americanism. Foreign missionaries know this cardinal rule. Being an American gives us a sense of pride. Wonderful! But we often confuse American customs and traditions, especially in our church services, with biblical truth. A wonderful multi-cultural diversity can exist within the body of Christ.

Not you. Don't preach yourself. If you give things, if you do servant jobs for people, if you give of your time, others will simply remember you as a nice American or a nice person in the community. Even if you are active in your church, and you do these things for the Lord, most unchurched people will not make the connection between your church, your Christ, and your action.

Share the Name. Becky Pippert, author of *Out of the Salt Shaker, Into the World*, urges us to share the name. In every conversation, in all we do, speak the name of Christ. Let others know He is the reason for our life-style. II Corinthians 4:5 articulates it best. "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus our Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

All of us face cultural barriers. All of us are up against a wall—a wall separating us from the overflow of God's blessings upon our lives and His Church. How will you begin to break down the walls in your world? ♦

Pam Potete and her husband, David, are home missionaries in Chicago, IL.

Sarah Fletcher was living in Chicago, but now has moved to the Nashville area, where her husband, Keith, is editor-in-chief at Randall House.

Good Friday Programs Available

*If you choose to close the
Pre-Easter
Week of Prayer
with a Good Friday service,*

or

*if you want another option for
your Easter service, three
programs are available. See
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more information or contact us*

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HOLDING THE LIGHT HIGH AROUND THE GLOBE

Purpose: To help each woman renew her commitment to Christ and to reach the lost with the Gospel.

Songs: *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*

Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16

Introduction

We are living in a small world today. Geographically, the seven continents have not changed location nor diminished in land mass, yet new advances in technology and modern modes of travel and communication have united the nations into a global village.

Jesus gave His followers the command centuries ago, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). The apostles and Christians down through the ages have pressed toward that goal, but have not attained it. Today, we should be excited at the many opportunities available to us making it possible to reach every person with the life-changing Gospel before the end of this century. In our lifetime!

The urgency of the task is evident when we think of the two billion people who have yet to hear the Gospel and the cloud of darkness that is rapidly gaining ground around the world.

Are our eyes growing accustomed to the darkness? "We are not here to get used to the dark but to shine as lights" (Our Daily Bread, March-May 1995).

Shining the Light on the Cities

Did you know that one of the world's most neglected mission fields is within your reach? In the United States more

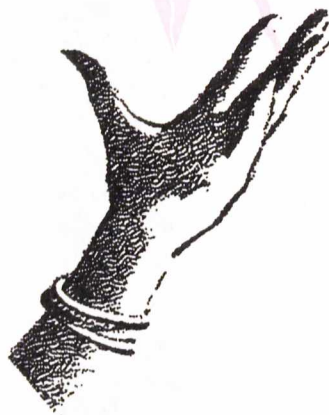
than three-fourths of the nation's people live in or near metropolitan areas. By the end of this century it is predicted that nine out of ten Americans will reside in urban centers, as will half the world's population. The heartbreaking fact is that seventy-five percent of these US city dwellers are unevangelized. The number is even greater in most major foreign cities.

Those are the facts. Now for some questions. Why have the majority of Christians around the globe shunned this segment of God's harvest field? Has the enemy used fear to deter us?

Daily the news media feeds us hair-raising episodes of crime, violence, and moral decay in the cities. We shudder and mutter that something must be done to make our world a safer place in which to live. Yet, we hold the answer. Only Christ can transform a life. As lives change so will society.

Has racial prejudice turned our eyes away from the millions fleeing to the cities out of almost every tribe and nation of the world? We may wholeheartedly give money to send missionaries with the Gospel to foreign lands, but in our hearts we resent the immigrants from these lands living in our country. They have a different skin color, language, lifestyle, and culture than we. Some brought idols and pagan religious practices with them.

The good news is that the foreigner is no longer bound by the expectations of his clan or culture. In our land he is free to explore the teachings of other religions. We must reach them with the true light before the cults bring them a



BY BESSIE RICHARDS

counterfeit gospel camouflaged behind promises of love and belonging.

Jesus exhorted the children of Israel, "But the stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you and you shall love him as yourself..." (Leviticus 19:34).

Our People, Going and Glowing

Hearing the plea of the world's city dwellers, Free Will Baptists and other evangelical religious groups are renewing efforts to reach them with the Gospel. It is no small mission and the workers are few. Do we need to be reminded of Jesus' words, "The laborers are few ... pray the Lord of the harvest, and He will send forth laborers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38)?

Most Free Will Baptist foreign missionaries are serving in cities, with the exception of Côte d'Ivoire. For more than a decade, it has been the goal of the Côte d'Ivoire field council and the Foreign Missions Board to begin church planting efforts in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire's commercial capitol.

Insufficient missionary personnel has hindered these plans, but in recent months a new hope has come through Free Will Baptist university students in Abidjan. Perhaps these young adults, most of whom are leaders in their home churches and well-grounded in the faith, are the ones to reach this needy city for Christ.

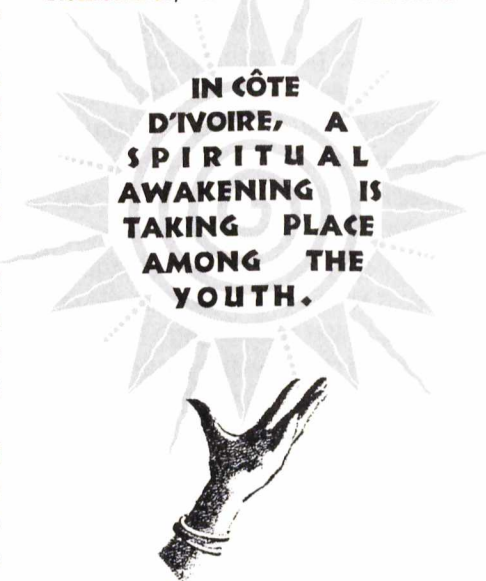
Doors previously barred against the Gospel are now opening in Russia and China as a result of the fall of communism and the sufferings of war.

Over eighty percent of China's population have known only communism and probably 500 million Chinese have never heard the Gospel. Teaching English to Chinese students is offering Free Will Baptists unique privileges of shar-

ing the Gospel. Several Free Will Baptists have traveled to Russia to carry valuable cargo, Bibles, for the spiritually hungry. Recent survey trips done by foreign mission personnel have revealed other possible avenues of ministry in these countries.

On the home front, the number of Free Will Baptist congregations getting involved in a cross-cultural ministry is increasing. The greatest outreach is among the Hispanic people, but efforts are being made to reach other ethnic groups in our country.

What about the foreign ethnic groups living in your area? Are they welcomed as residents of your community? What are you doing to show Christ's love for them? Remember, love is a universal



language and is color-blind. God has brought these people to our land for a purpose: to hear the Gospel, to see Jesus' light through our lives, and to have the opportunity to receive Him as their Savior and Lord.

Are we shining for Him or hiding from Him?

Steady Light for our Youth

Some of us are familiar with Hal Lindsey's book, *Satan is Alive and*

Well on Planet Earth. Although you may not have read the book, you will no doubt agree with its title.

As the twentieth century hurries to a close, Satan (whose final doom is certain and probably soon) is getting all of his evil forces into frontline warfare around the globe. Each of us is his target, but the youth of today seem to be his chief prey. This should not surprise us for several reasons.

Every nation's greatest resource abides in its youth. They constitute a large portion of the world's population, especially in many third-world countries where half of the population is under twenty years of age. In certain areas millions of children and young people under the age of eighteen are forbidden to be exposed to the Gospel. They are obligated to follow the religion of their ancestors or they could face persecution or death.

In the western world, an accelerated lifestyle is subtly robbing families of togetherness, a pillar for strong Christian homes. Starting with Adam and Eve, God's unchanging plan is for the family to be a fortress where each one can find love and acceptance as well as have other basic needs met. It is also to be the spiritual training ground for the children (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

Young people no longer find home to be a haven. Increasing numbers of our youth are being lured by Satan disguised as an angel of light into his kingdom through peer pressure, drugs, alcohol, free sex, suicide, and the occult or religious sects. If the enemy succeeds in drawing this generation away from God, he will have gained the multitudes. He wants nothing more than to destroy them, body and soul.

Will we allow the quest for the temporary things of this world or unconcern to blind us to the urgent spiritual and emotional needs of our youth? Whether they be our own children, grandchildren, neighbors, casual acquaintances or strangers or youth across the seas, we must open our eyes to their needs.

Can we not hear Jesus saying, "Feed my lambs"? What about His warning, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if the millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matthew 18:6, NKJV).

Together We Make a Difference

Lest we become too discouraged and feel that we are fighting a losing battle, let's look at a few of the ways we, as individuals and as a body of believers, are holding the light high for this generation of children and youth.

In each local Free Will Baptist Church, children are considered to be a vital part of the church family. For the most part, a great deal of prayer and planning goes into their outreach and training programs. Many children and youth have received the Lord through the ministry of Sunday school, CTS, children's church, vacation Bible school, and youth camp. Church sponsored sports activities are providing wholesome recreation and helping our youth resist the temptations of worldly amusements. These activities have also been a means of reaching some unsaved/unchurched young people for Christ.

It is encouraging to have Free Will Baptist young people around the globe who are wholeheartedly serving the Lord. Not only are they assuming leadership roles in the church, but they are also minister-

ing through hospital and nursing home visitation and neighborhood Bible classes.

Some youth groups lend a helping hand to home missionaries during the summer. A few of our youth have a privilege of serving on a short-term basis on a foreign mission field. These young people are finding a new joy and depth in their christian life as they exercise their faith and reach out to those around them.

In Côte d'Ivoire, a spiritual awakening is taking place among the youth. Praise the Lord for the freedom of religion which permits missionaries and the African Christians unlimited avenues of ministry.

Youth centers/reading rooms offer unique opportunities to witness to young people. They congregate at the centers to fellowship, play games, and listen to audiocassettes or christian music and messages. A variety of christian literature is available for reading. Occasionally christian videos are shown. A missionary, African pastor, or youth worker is always present to answer any questions or give spiritual counseling. No one leaves the center without a witness.

Government restrictions in the US limit our outreach in the public schools; however, missionaries are

finding a receptive mission field as they teach Bible classes to students in primary and high school and on university campuses in France and Côte d'Ivoire.

Free Will Baptists are caring for needy or homeless children through our children's homes and Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, Inc. In Brazil, Jim and Shirley Combs minister to Brazilian street children. Many of these little ones are hearing about Jesus and feeling His love for the first time.

Having a burden for the children of single parent families, laymen in our Master's Men groups are volunteering to work with the Boy Scouts of America. They want to provide the desperately needed christian male leadership for these boys and reach out to their families.

Yes, if we are going to reach this generation for Christ we must be willing to give of ourselves, our time, and our money. No sacrifice is too great when we remember that the lives of our children are in jeopardy.

Conclusion

Yes, it is true. The world has become a global village which means the world have become a mission field at our doorstep.

"The world's crises will be God's opportunities, the world's pain the opening for showing God's love" (*Operation World*).

We can make a difference in our world as we hold the light high wherever we are. God may not want you to go to a foreign field; he may want you to show christian love and concern to those you encounter here at home. Don't underestimate all that God can do through one life completely yielded to Him. ❖

(Bessie Richards and her husband, Norman, are currently home missionaries in the New Orleans area. They served 28 years as missionaries in Côte d'Ivoire.)



of Christ. She will be coming to the States for furlough this summer. Pray that she can come home with her account in the black.

Pray for the **home staff** as they represent the missionaries stateside. Pray that God will bless the many missions conferences scheduled through the foreign missions office. Ask Him to grant safety for the staff as they travel extensively, encouraging pastors and churches to become more involved in world missions.

Pray for **Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman**, missionary appointees to Panama. The Bowermans are presently in language school preparing for their ministry among the Cuna Indians, a tribe living in the jungles of Panama. Ask the Lord to help them acquire the skills they need to communicate and share the gospel with this tribe.

Pray for **Carlisle and Marie Hanna** as they labor in India. Pray for the evangelistic thrust now in progress. Ask God to give the Hannas a greater measure of health in order to labor more effectively. Pray for God's will to be done as they approach retirement with no prospect for a resident Free Will Baptist missionary in the country.

Pray for **Professors Leroy and Fay Forlines** who are ministering in **Russia and Ukraine** for approximately six months. They are teaching theology and English in seminaries. Pray for their good health, and pray for the effectiveness of their ministry with pastors and seminary students.

Pray for the foreign missions emphasis during the month of April. The goal for the **Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering** on **Sunday, April 28**, is **\$100,000**. Pray that people and churches across the denomination will give joyfully and sacrificially to help missionaries share the gospel around the world.

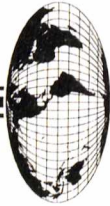


Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for World Missions

April 1-5, 1996

Hold the Light High!
Acts 13:47

Women Nationally Active for Christ
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, Tenn. 37011-5002





Pre-Easter Week of Prayer

April 1-5, 1996

Pray for opportunities to minister in **Russia** in 1996. Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions is co-sponsoring a **Pastor's Conference** for 100 Russian pastors this week, **April 1-5**. Many of these have had no opportunity to formally study the Word of God. Pray that God will use the speakers to share what these pastors need most at this point in time. In June, an evangelistic team, led by Jimmy and Janie Aldridge, is scheduled to go to Russia to saturate a specific area with the gospel. Ask the Lord to bless this outreach campaign.

Pray for the **medical ministry** in **Côte d'Ivoire**. *Dr. Paul Gentuso* presently oversees the work. *Dr. Mark and Kathy Paschall* joined the Gentusos and Wests at the medical station in January. *Dr. Eagleton* and his family are scheduled to return to the work in the summer of 1996, when the Gentusos come home for furlough. Pray for the doctors, their families, and the African workers. Pray that many people will be saved as they are ministered to physically and spiritually at the hospital.

Pray for **Steve and Becky Riggs** as they pastor the First FWB Church in **Nantes, France**. Ask the Lord to give them wisdom as they minister to the people. The church has outgrown its rented facility, so pray that suitable property can be found at a reasonable price. Pray also that God will bless Steve and Becky as they work with their three-year-old daughter, Laura, who is autistic. The Riggs have three other children: Daniel, who is 13; Brian, who is 10; and Johanna, who is 2 years of age.

Pray for **Lloyd and Betty Plunkett** as they complete another year of service as dorm parents at the International Christian Academy in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire. The Plunketts returned for an extra year so Paul and Rhoda Creech could finish language

school. The Creeches were delayed due to Paul's unexpected surgery last spring. Pray that Paul and Rhoda will be able to return to the field in the summer of 1996.

Pray for **building projects** which are either underway or being planned. Praise the Lord that the church building in **Belo Horizonte, Brazil**, is almost finished. The construction of the new church building is underway in **Agnibilékrou, Côte d'Ivoire**. Darrel Nichols is supervising the work. Mike Cousineau and Clint Morgan are raising funds to build **dormitories for single and married students** at the Ivory Coast Bible Institute. Stan Bunch is working with the church at Parita, Panama, as they build their church.

Pray for the **ACTS 1:8 Plan** in Arkansas which is designed to ultimately underwrite the total support of Arkansas missionaries. Pray that this model of support will be adopted or adapted by other states.

Pray for **Nathan and Linda Snow**, missionary appointees to Japan, who are working to raise the necessary funds for their ministry. Ask God to bless as they seek individuals and churches who will support them through the new **Global Link Program**.

Pray that God will call more laborers into a harvest that is plentiful but short of workers. In a few years foreign missions could face a real crisis with so many missionaries retiring. Pray that God will speak to Free Will Baptist college students who must determine the will of God for their lives.

Pray for **Dennis and Trena Owen** in **Uruguay** as they labor to plant a strong church for the Lord. Pray that the believers in their congregation will be faithful witnesses to their family, friends and coworkers.

Pray for **Debbie Griffin** in **Japan**. Debbie has a burden for people in her English classes. Ask God to use her to lead these people to a saving knowledge





FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Ppractice makes perfect.

On Danny's first piano lesson, the teacher showed him middle C and a few more notes. Then the beginner started playing simple melodies, one note at a time, one hand at a time. Then he started learning to count simple rhythms and to put two hands together.

After hundreds of thousands of hours practicing, he could read several notes and rhythms at once. As he became an accomplished musician his technique was precise and he played with remarkable sensitivity.

Some musicians have a lot of talent. But, for most people, 99% of their expertise was the result of long, hard practice.

Developing character is like learning to play an instrument. It's best to start young. And usually, developing character starts with small things, like saying thank you and smiling.

After lots of practice, actions of complete unselfishness even come naturally. Ultimately, character leads a person to sacrifice some pleasures for more important goals. Eventually, a sacrifice is no longer seen as a sacrifice.

For a better idea on what we should be practicing, see Barbara Eubanks' article, *Keep Practicing*.



Poet's Corner

You Alone

Launa L. Herrmann, Castro Valley, CA

Quiet my body, Lord;
And calm my mind.
Deepen my concentration,
During these moments I've set aside,
To spend with you alone.
Narrow my focus,
So my thoughts rest solely upon you,
And what you want me to see and hear from Your Word.
Help me give you my full attention,
Without distraction.

I desire your will for my life,
And I yearn for wisdom and discernment of truth.
Oh, how I need forgiveness and grace,
Not only for yesterday,
But also for today.
Without your strength I cannot face, let alone endure
tomorrow.
I praise and thank you for my life, for salvation,
And for all you provide and bless me with.
But it is you alone whom I seek;
All else is secondary.

I'll Go

Leslie A. Nieves, Wheaton, IL

I'll go with You, Lord, anywhere
To live in a home or the open-air.
I'll serve You, Lord, whenever You ask
In any place, at any task.
I'll live for you, Lord, in all that I do
And strive to get others to live for You, too.

My life I leave to Your guidance and care,
Happy and willing my cross to bear.
I only pray you will cleanse me through
And fill me with love, dear Lord, for You.



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator

Get together with your officers (especially the prayer chairman and assistant coordinator) to plan a strategy to promote the 1996 Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for World Missions and the Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering.

See Communicator (page 19) for information about ordering Good Friday programs. A Good Friday service has been one way to successfully involve everyone in the community in prayer for World Missions.

The deadline for Creative Arts Contest entries is March 1st. As you will notice in the contest rules printed on the back cover of the Jan/Feb *CoLaborer*, a participant must be a member of a WNAC group and/or attend a Free Will Baptist church. You can be a key person in publicizing this contest. Announce the contest at your meetings. To get the word out to everyone, ask your pastor to announce it in church or in the church bulletin. You can also act as a motivator and encourager by talking to those you know who are interested. Remember that half of the work of writing is having a good idea. If a budding writer feels uncomfortable writing because of spelling and grammar, offer to proofread her work. Finally, a writer must not forget organization.

Call the WNAC office at (615) 731-6812 to ask for as many Creative Arts Contest brochures as you need.

Assistant Coordinator

The dates for the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer are April 1-5, 1996—five days of concentrated prayer for world missions. To emphasize that missions is in the Bible from cover to cover, ask a different person each day to read a missions verse or passage from the Bible. The WNAC theme for 1996 is Hold the Light High and the theme verse (Acts 13:47) is an excellent example of missions in the Bible. The devotional outline on this page has several missions verses. You can choose from these or do some of your own research. In fact, you will find the whole Bible is sprinkled with world missions.

Secretary

If your local group doesn't have a historian, this job may fall in your lap. If you do not keep a scrapbook, consider starting one. One suggestion is to divide the scrapbook into sections, for example: Programs, Outreach (this could be divided into foreign, home and local), Answers to Prayer, Membership, WNAC Emphasis, Special Days.

For the Answers to Prayer section, keep a copy of the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer Calendar. Reserve a page to note when a specific request was answered. This means checking the Missionary Hotline, missionary newsletters, *Heartbeat*, and *MissionGrams*.

Devotional Outline

World Missions — More than Matt. 28:19

God promised to Abraham
Genesis 12:1-4

Israel sang about it
Psalms 2:8

Isaiah predicted that the Messiah would be a light for the Gentiles and bring salvation to the ends of the earth
Isaiah 42:6 & 49:6

Jesus knew and proclaimed that people from around the world would be part of the Kingdom of Heaven
Matthew 8:11 & Luke 13:29

The Holy Spirit enabled Christians to carry out the command of missions
Acts 1:8

The Church's mission will be carried out in the end
Matthew 24:14 ❖

The "Answers to Prayer" idea can include any specific prayer request as long as the request is not too private. Another variation would be to have a separate scrapbook for answers to prayer similar to a personal prayer journal.

Treasurer

Maybe your local group is small and the members feel like what they do is insignificant. Demonstrate to your group how WNAC can accomplish a lot more as a group. One way to do this is to look at your district and/or state annual treasurer's report. Compare the giving of your local group to each ministry with the totals for the district and state. Show how each contribution adds up.

Another way to do this is to find someone who went to the 1995 National Convention and ask them for a copy of the Digest of Reports (or get in touch with the Executive Office, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002). Turn to page 246. On this page you will find a bunch of rows and little numbers you can hardly read. These are the WNAC Receipts for 1994. Get a magnifying glass or blow up the page on a copier. The figures are broken down by state and category. Select a few figures (you don't want to bore them with too many numbers) to share with the women in your group. Emphasize the significance of every dollar given through WNAC. God blesses the giver and the receiver.

Missions Chairman

The following quote from the *Manual* sums up your job as missions chairman. "The missions chairman is responsible to help the women in her group know what is happening in Free Will Baptist missions today. She should challenge the women to be missionaries where they are and to reach out to those who are ministering around the world." The Holy Spirit is in the business of calling people to stay or to go. By keeping the world's need for evangelization before the women in your group and those in your church, you may challenge someone to make a commitment to go to a missions field. Your job is to keep the information flowing to your people, to encourage all to be involved, and to pray that the Lord will call whom He sees fit.

The *Manual* has many suggestions you can use to promote the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer (see pages 92-96). You should also take a look at the suggestions in the 1996 Yearbook. There is a bulletin board idea on page 19 and the plan sheet is on page 42 of the *Yearbook*.

Prayer Chairman

The Pre-Easter Week of Prayer Calendar is located on pages 11-12 of this issue. You may copy it or request free copies by writing to FWB Foreign Missions Department, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002, (615) 731-6812. Allow two weeks for delivery. Your group should receive a Pre-Easter Week of Prayer packet with additional materials. If you do not receive a packet, contact Foreign Missions or WNAC.

Study Chairman

Read the Assistant Coordinator's section. You can help her select passages to read at the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer.

Perhaps your church has a group of people who are interested in an in-depth study on the Biblical basis of missions. Armed with a concordance and study Bible, you could put a study together or ask your pastor to teach a series on this topic. (I would like to recommend a book by Herbert Kane, *Christian Missions in Biblical Perspective*; however, it is out of print. Nevertheless, if you can locate a copy of the book, it is the best book on the topic. It has been used as a college-level missions textbook for many years.)

This issue has the last part of the 10-part series taken from Laura Belle Barnard's Journal (see page 13). Bob and Georgia Hill compiled 575 typed pages of material taken from letters, articles, and diary entries that belonged to

**HOLD
THE LIGHT
HIGH
AROUND
THE GLOBE**



presents
the
Pre-Easter
Week of Prayer
for
World Missions

DATES _____

TIME _____ **PLACE** _____

HID IN MY HEART

Genesis 12:1-4 (KJV)

Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee:
and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. ❖

Miss Barnard. The best parts of her journal appear in *Touching the Untouchables* by Laura Belle Barnard with Georgia Hill. Everyone who is interested in world missions should read this book. Order a copy for yourself, a friend or your church library before they sell out. Contact Foreign Missions at P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

Service Chairman

Your job as service chairman is two-fold. I will call one inreach and the other outreach. Both are important. Inreach is service to your families and church members. Outreach is service to the community, especially to the unsaved and those who need a church home. Everyone should want to see their church grow. However, outreach can be done just for the sake of service because of our Lord's example and love.

When the time comes to take inventory of your group's service activities, ask yourself a few questions. Is there a balance (not necessarily equal) of inreach and outreach? (We hope the outreach side is heavier.) What are the group's motives for their involvement in each activity? How productive has the activity been? Is there something we should be doing that we aren't? Are there any needs in our church or community that are not being met? How have the needs of our church and community changed in the last 2 years, 5 years, 10 years? Is there anything we should discontinue? If yes, for how long?

Of course, your group will want to use their resources wisely. But most importantly, they should be doing something to further the Kingdom of God. ♦

Lucy & Marge

New Neighbors

Lucy: Did you know my neighbors across the street moved out last week?

Marge: You mean the house with the big, old boat in the front yard?

Lucy: Yeah, that's the one.

Marge: Did they take it with them?

Lucy: It's still there. I think they sold it to new people who moved into the house. I don't know what use anyone could get out of that old thing.

Marge: Yeah, you told me the neighbors were complaining about it.

Lucy: People were complaining, but when we heard the Comptons were moving, everyone just let it go. And now the boat's still here. I don't know what we're going to do now.

Marge: Well, have you met your new neighbors?

Lucy: I've seen them and heard them, but I can't talk to them.

Marge: You can't?

Missionary Birthdays

April



*A 12-month
Missionary Birth-
day Calendar is
printed in the 1996
Yearbook.*

March

- 1 MK, Asa Whitehead, FL
- 3 MK, Joseph Creech, C'I
- 5 MK, Courtney Fairchild, MD
- 5 Vonda Johnson, Wyoming
- 6 MK, Ethan Paschall, C'I
- 8 MK, Michael Lytle, PAN
- 9 MK, Kristina Cousineau, C'I
- 12 MK, Melody Coats, SD
- 15 Lynda Hunt, Washington
- 16 MK, Bryan Miller, RI
- 16 MK, Julia Potete, Illinois
- 20 Trena Owen, UR
- 21 David Potete, Illinois
- 23 Margaret Lloyd, Wisconsin
- 25 Howard Gwartney, Arizona
- 25 Pamela Potete, Illinois
- 26 Tom Hunt, Washington
- 26 MK, Jonathan Lewis, Colorado
- 29 Lois Reagan, Canada

- 1 Bobby Aycock, BR
- 2 James Childers, Jr., SC
- 2 MK, Ryan Gibbs, FR
- 3 Larry Collins, Nebraska
- 5 MK, Tabitha Austin, GER
- 8 Karon Barber, SC
- 9 Betty Bishop, GER
- 9 Marie Hanna, India
- 9 MK, Christina Sloan, Indiana
- 10 MK, Krista VanWinkle, Kansas
- 12 MK, Rachel VanWinkle, Kansas
- 13 Charlotte Tallent, FR
- 14 MK, Amy McDonald, JPN
- 14 MK, Sarah Nichols, C'I
- 18 Ramona VanWinkle, Kansas
- 18 Miguel Vera, Puerto Rico
- 20 MK, Caleb Sloan, Indiana
- 21 MK, Kerri Hunt, Washington
- 21 MK, Rebekah Lloyd, Wisconsin
- 22 MK, David Eagleton, C'I
- 22 MK, Brooklin Holland, BR
- 23 Pam Jones, PA
- 24 Tim Coats, SD
- 25 Jim Fairchild, MD
- 27 Mike Criswell, Oregon
- 27 Marvis Eagleton, BR
- 27 MK, Brett Fender, Tennessee
- 28 MK, Matthew Crosby, SP
- 29 Traci Epps, C'I
- 29 Petra Maynard, Ohio
- 30 MK, Leah Holland, C'I

Lucy: No. They don't speak English. How am I supposed to talk to them? You see, I've even been praying for opportunities to witness to my neighbors. And then, God sends me neighbors I can't talk to.

Marge: Maybe you can't talk to them, but that doesn't mean you can't communicate.

Lucy: Hey, yeah. I could take the older woman some flowers from my garden.

Marge: That's a great idea. Have you read the March program?

Lucy: Not yet. Why?

Marge: It's called *Breaking Down Cultural Barriers*. One of the women that wrote the program said she takes flowers to her neighbors, too.

Lucy: Hey, great minds think alike. I've got to go.

Marge: What's the hurry all of a sudden?

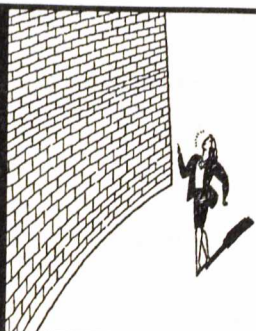
Lucy: I'm gonna read that program and pick some flowers. Bye. ❖

Springboard Illustrated: Stories to Grow By Volume 36/ No. 2

we all can hold the rope by Ruthann Hall

The precipice was wide and deep,	As others did the rope let go,
Dark dangers lurked on every side.	And no one came to take their place;
Someone was trapped down in its depths	The weight was greater for the few
And on and on he faintly cried.	Who stayed the battle there to face.
"Please help me! Help, or I shall die!"	They pulled and tugged with all their might.
A curious crowd stood round the rim.	The task was great, but they stayed there.
"We'd save him," said one standing near,	Not once did they desert their post,
"If we could get a rope to him."	And to the top they brought the pair.
Without delay the rope was brought.	Into the night a cry was heard,
One end dropped to the depth below.	For he who did the fallen save.
But the poor soul down in the place	He shook his head and then he said,
Had grown too weak to care or know.	"I gave no more than you here gave."
"I'll go and bring him up!" cried one,	"For you did hold the rope for me,
"But I will need your help, you see;	It took us all the task to do.
For you must all hold to the rope,	True, I went down, but you were here
And pull us up, both him and me."	To hold the rope and see me through."
The task that started out so well	Today the cry comes from the lost.
Soon met with trouble in its way;	They need the Lord; they have no hope.
For some had other things to do,	While some go down to bring them up,
To hold the rope they would not stay.	We all through prayer can hold the rope. ❖

breaking
down
cultural
barriers



because you have an extraordinary mission, you are invited to a
special women's meeting at

place _____

time _____

COMMUNICATOR

BY MARY RUTH WISEHART

Do We Really Believe?

Do we really believe in prayer? Of course we do, we say. This year as never before we need to pray for those working in ministry around the world.

Notice the prayer suggestions for the week of prayer in this issue. The Foreign Missions Department has given several specific requests. Let's pray for these until we see the results that God wants to give in each case.

One two-minute prayer may not do the job. Some of these requests need consistent, continuing prayer.

This year in the pre-Easter Week of Prayer take some extra hours for praying. Spread these special requests out before God and seek His will for the answers.

Involve your whole church in praying for Free Will Baptist work around the world.

Be a Missionary in Purse

Put feet to your prayers by giving to the Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering.

The goal this year for the total April offering is \$100,000. In 1994 WNAC women gave \$14,793.58 to the World Missions offering.

Set a goal for your group this year. Set a goal for yourself. Let's surpass what we have done in the past.

You can be a missionary in prayer, in purse and in person.

Have You Tried A Good Friday Service?

WNAC now has three program suggestions available. See the list below.

- ✧ The Coming Brightness (*Scripture reading with the spiritual "Were You There."*)
- ✧ His Last Words (*Responsive reading with monologs by Bible characters*)
- ✧ The Brightness of His Coming (*New for 1996, looking forward to His coming again*)

Order these programs from WNAC, \$3 including postage and handling.

Check Out the New Manual

At the State Officers' Meeting, Monday, July 22 in Fort Worth, state officers will have the opportunity to hear the new *Manual* explained.

The new *Manual* contains report forms for mis-

sions, prayer, service, and study chairmen. The local chairman reports to the district chairman. The district chairman compiles the local reports and sends a report to the state secretary. The state secretary then compiles the district reports and sends them to the national office. These reports of the chairmen are an addition to the annual membership report sent in by the state secretary.

All these forms are available in Part 3 of the *Manual*.

If officers have questions or suggestions, they may present them Monday afternoon.

Encourage the officers from your state to attend the afternoon meeting in the Radisson Hotel, Grand Crystal Ballroom, Section A, from 3:00-4:00.

Pastor Neto Writes

Last year WNAC sent \$1,000 from the Foreign Student Scholarship Fund to Silvestre da Silveira Pinto Neto, a Free Will Baptist pastor in Brazil. Pastor Neto is studying in a seminary.

He attended the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists in Brazil as an observer. While there, he wrote a letter to the women of WNAC.

Of the international meeting, he says, "It's been a great communion with Free Will Baptist brethren throughout the world."

To the women of WNAC, he says, "Thank you for the scholarship. The money will help me meet monthly payments, make trips to the seminary, and buy some books to help me in the course of study. I request your prayers for me, my family, my studies and ministry, that God will continue to give wisdom and discernment to do His work better. May God continue to bless the ministry of WNAC."

Ridgecrest Retreat

The regularly scheduled WNAC retreat at Ridgecrest is September 12-14, 1996.

The theme for this retreat is "Brighten Your Corner." The program will encourage women to let their lights shine for God in their daily routines, wherever they find themselves.

Check page 30 in this issue for a reservation form. Or write WNAC, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002 to request information and reservation forms. ❖

Women In Action



A. Actionettes Give to Provision Closet

The Woodward (Oklahoma) FWB Actionettes hosted a shower for the provision closet on October 15, 1995. The young women in the picture range in age from eight to 13 years.

Pictured: Front Row: Jennifer Reed, Marissa Beavers, Nicole Drinnon, Jane Turner. Back Row: Miranda Elder, Kristy Parker, Nikki Falls, Keesha Parker.

B. Alabama Retreat: Prayer Changes Me

One hundred forty-three women attended the Alabama WNAC Prayer Retreat on September 22-23, 1995.



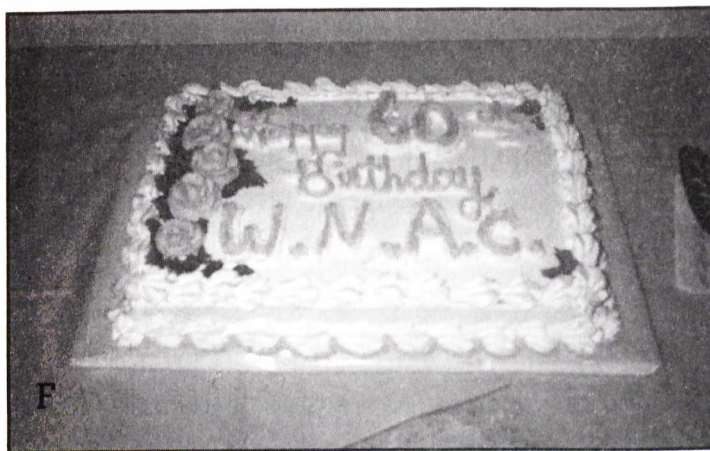
Jo Ann King and Pam Jagers Flannagin were guest speakers. Linda Kincer brought the devotion. Carolyn Michale and Pam Flannagin sang solos. Cathy Corley shared her plans to go to Russia with her husband, Mike, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hendrix next year.

Pictured: Pam Jagers Flannagin, Jo Ann King, Carolyn Hendrix (Vice-President and program chairman), and Ann Kennedy (President).

C-D. Mississippi State Meeting

Mississippi State women met at the First FWB Church in Booneville on November 3, 1995. The Theme, God's Grace is Sufficient, was carried out in the prayer time, messages, and devotionals.

Pictured: (C) Elizabeth Gibson leading the installation of state officers using parts of Magnolia tree to describe each officer's job.



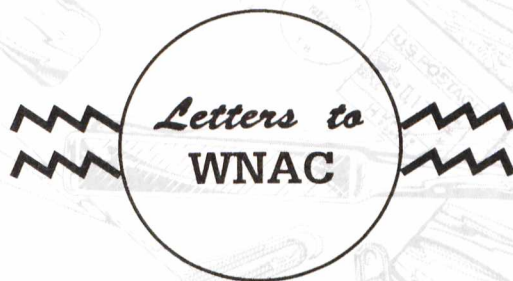
Pictured: (D) (left to right, against the side wall) Eva House (Field Worker), Oree Henderson (Mission Study Chairman), Ann Walden (Mission Action Chairman), Dot Gore (Mission Prayer Chairman) Tina Wright (Secretary), Amy Hargett (Treasurer), Alice White (Vice-President), and Shirley Dykes (President).

E-F. Happy 60th Birthday WNAC

When the women of Owasso FWB Church (Oklahoma) arrived for their September meeting, they found the room decorated for a birthday party. Birthday cake and ice cream was served to the party guests and a birthday gift offering was received for the national office. Two women presented the interview of Mary R. Wisheart on her book *Sparks into Flame: A History of the WNAC*.

Pictured: (E) During the party, the women played "Pin the Missionary on Their Field of Service."

Pictured: (F) Birthday Cake for WNAC's 60 Years❖



Dear WNAC,

The *Manual* is beautiful. I know we will use them for a long time. They are just the right size to carry. Thank you for all the good information you put in them. And please thank the dedicated people who wrote them. We are well pleased.

Joyce E. Taylor
Brunswick, GA

Dear WNAC,

Thank you so much for the new *Manual*. It explains everything so clearly and thoroughly. We hope that each local women's group will get copies and have study courses on the *Manual* because there are many people who do not understand what WNAC is all about. God bless all who had a part in compiling this *Manual*.

Bessie Simmons
Pleasant Hill FWB Auxiliary, Cordele, GA

Dear WNAC,

What a nice surprise while I was in Nashville last week!

Robert and I have arrived in Battle Creek, MI to plant a FWB Church. There is no FWB church in this city of approximately 90,000 including the surrounding areas.

I never thought that I would be on the receiving end to go into the Provision Closet and get some of the things I needed. What a blessing! Robert and I really appreciate the women who contribute to the closet. It surely ministers to our physical needs. Thanks to all of our Women Active for Christ groups who are so faithful to support this cause for our missionaries.

Bob and Nancy Trimble
Missionaries to Battle Creek Michigan

On the Trail with Him

Western Retreat

On the Nature Trail

Three hundred women took a journey to the cold, dry, sunny mountains of New Mexico. They met in the Glorieta Conference Center Chapel for the WNAC Western Retreat held October 20-22, 1995.



A. Janice Little

B. Debe Taylor

C. Joan Ross



This many women together on top of a beautiful mountain in northeastern New Mexico can mean many different things. It means walking in the brisk morning air, gazing at the incredible aspens. However, if a vote were taken, conferees would likely agree that the messages, singing and fellowship were the best part of being on the mountain.

A Trail of Music and Fellowship

Debbie Burden, music coordinator, led all in singing choruses and hymns to the Lord. Brenda Webb accompanied on the piano and Sue Wilcox on the organ. Soloists included Becky Lee, Sue Wilcox, Brenda Webb, and LaWona Hamrick. The Ladies Ensemble from the El Sobrante FWB Church (California) brought a special message in music.

Free time Saturday afternoon allowed conferees to rest, shop, and sightsee in the surrounding towns. Judging by the luggage going home, shopping would seem to be the favorite of the three.

A Trail of Tears

Each speaker walked listeners through the theme: "On the Trail with Him." Tears flowed freely as speakers poured out their hearts and touched listeners' hearts.

Through the Valley

The Retreat opened Friday evening with keynote speaker, Ruth Bivens (missionary to Mexico). She narrated her personal walk through her valleys of physical and emotional pain. Through the long and dark valleys, she continued walking with a Friend by her side. When



the valley became most unbearable, she walked, but walked on her knees.

The message left hearers with three principles for valley walking: God is present, He has a purpose, and He gave a promise—the valley will end in victory.

Saturday morning, Ruth Bivens continued her account of her walk through the valley. She shared how God gives victory in the valley. Though she was close to throwing in the towel, God brought her through and out of the valley with tremendous joy. Based on Psalm 23, she encouraged the audience to hold on and not to rush through the valley.

Through Crises

Janice Little (Fresno, California) spoke on various facets of her ministry with families of inmates. She told of tragedies in her life that led her to get involved in the ministry. Her message emphasized that God is so good, **all the time**—which became a second theme for the rest of the retreat.

Through divorce, a house fire, single motherhood and serious illness of a daughter, Joan Ross (Ada, OK) shared what she learned about God's grace in suffering. She offers the best medicine in town to single

mothers through her ministry at the Crisis Pregnancy Center.

Saturday evening, women of all ages from states spreading from Georgia to Ohio to California



D. Lake Reflecting the beauty of the Chapel and Auditorium



E. Glorieta abounds with nature trails and aspens



F. Debbie Burden, directing music



G. Ruth Bivens, keynote speaker

gathered around the campfire to sing acapella and listen to Louise Vandivort, home missionary to Phoenix, Arizona.

As people stood or sat around the campfire, the speaker warmed hearts with her message, "Deeper with Him in the Desert." She compared Christian qualities with traits belonging to the saguaro cactus. A Christian can thrive in spite of harsh conditions because of God's provision. Speaking from

the heart, she told of her experience with cancer, the loss of a grandchild, and God's grace that brought her through.

now teaching ethics and theology in Russian Baptist seminaries. Dr. (Fay) Forlines is teaching English to seminary students and pastors' wives.



H. Adobe house off the beaten trail

The missionary offering totaled \$2,748 which was divided evenly among the six missionaries present. Each account received \$458.

Follow the Trail to Ridgecrest

The next WNAC retreat is scheduled September 12-14, 1996 at Ridgecrest Conference Center. Because of an overwhelming positive response to Glorieta,

another western retreat is in the planning stages for 1997. Stay tuned for more information. ❖

A Trail on the Mountain

The Sunday morning message, titled "Moments on the Mountain with Him," wrapped up all the retreat messages. Debe Taylor took listeners on a journey through Biblical accounts of mountain top experience.

The journey started with Abraham's obedience and God's provision for his sacrifice (Genesis 22). One highlight was Elijah's confrontation with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. The journey ended gloriously on Mount Zion.

Missionary Trails

Five home missionaries were able to attend: Ruth Bivens (Mexico), Lynda Blanchard (New Mexico), Nelda Gwartney (Oklahoma), Linda Harvey (Arizona), and Louise Vandivort (Arizona).

Sunday morning, Fay Forlines (short-term missionary to Russia) challenged us with an account of God's leading in her life. Her husband, Leroy Forlines, is

Provision Closet Needs:

Sheet sets, all sizes
Twin-sized mattress covers
Pillows
Bedspreads
Towel sets, hand towels and wash cloths
Irons
Electric can openers
Drinking glasses
Baking pans
Cookware
Flatware
Correllware

Whenever possible, leave prices on items to help the office keep up with inventory.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Psalms 119:105 (NIV)

a column for young people

Life!Action.

... for everyday life

running in the dark

My left arm has a faint scar—a thin stripe running from my wrist, stopping about two inches from my elbow. This scar endures as a permanent reminder of the fun that comes with childhood energy and playmates. A lot of the energy is gone. The playmates have grown up. Most have children of their own.

The night when it happened, we were playing cops and robbers, probably boys against girls. (If this sounds childish, let me add that we were somewhere between the ages of 7 and 12.) Behind the building that served as the jailhouse stood a grand old rubber tree blocking out all the starlight. It was pitch dark.

Something distracted the warden, so I escaped. Whatever the distraction, it didn't last. The warden, in hot pursuit, was gaining ground. Before he could catch me, a barbed-wire fence stopped me. "Aaaaah!" I screamed. The cruel warden suddenly became John, the friend. My arm was bleeding and my sleeve was caught on the fence.

John freed me from the fence and took me to my parents. Though my tetanus shot was up-to-date, my ever-cautious mom thought I needed a booster. So they took me to the emergency room. Though superficial, the cut took a long time to heal. Most of us soon outgrew that game.

Running into a barbed-wire fence seems like a pretty foolish thing to do. Yet, people do foolish things every day.

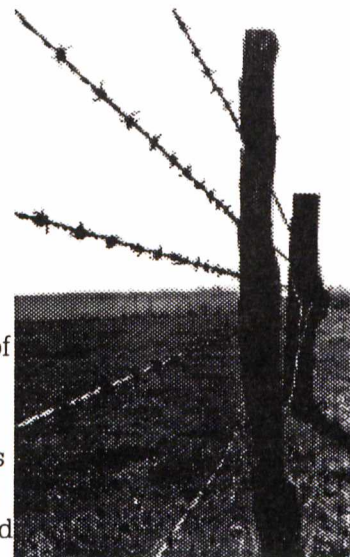
Have you ever caught yourself running scared? I have. Problems are gaining ground. Running out of breath, I can't go any faster. Panic takes over. I forget to take the Lamp with me. Or, the Lamp is there and I forget to turn it on. In the dark, the mind grows confused. Disoriented, I run right into the trap. Snagged. Ouch! I knew better. How foolish of me!

When we get snagged on those barbed-wire fences, the spiritual emergency room costs a lot. Not in dollars, but in suffering. While there, the Shepherd cleans the wounds and rubs ointment to help them heal. The pain will stay for a while.

People run into foolish traps all the time, especially in the dark. Even the faintest light would have revealed the danger of the barbed wire. Carry the light of God's Word with you in your heart and mind. To do this you must read the Bible every day and think about what it teaches. What you know about God's Word is like a light that follows you around. It can help you spot the barbed-wire fences.

Your words and your life shine for those around you who don't have God's Word in their lives. They need to see your light. If they do, they can avoid some traps, too. ❖

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 ❖



Keep Practicing

by Barbara Eubanks

Heads were turning. People were watching and listening. I felt embarrassed for the two elderly women in the checkout lane in front of me. They did not seem to be aware of the scene they were creating.

As they waited, their voices grew louder with what seemed to be an endless list of complaints. The day was too hot and the air conditioner was inadequate. The dyes from the bolts of fabric were burning their eyes. Such slow and disrespectful "help" behind the counter made the 50% off sale hardly worth their trouble. They were being forced to wait in a long line of rude customers.

As I listened, I came to the conclusion that they had a lot of experience at complaining and fault finding. They could make a long list of complaints within any circumstance.

When they turned to me and began trying to pull me into their complaining, I felt trapped. I said a quiet prayer for help, turned away, and went through the motions of looking at a display of buttons. Still, they tried to pull me into their fault finding. I did not want to be part of the scene they were creating. But I could not see a way out short of leaving my place in the long checkout line. I desperately wanted another way of escape.

When an older woman behind me came to my rescue, I felt so relieved and thankful for the answered prayer. She seemed to know I was trying to politely escape. With a beautiful, warm smile and kind words, she led me into a

pleasant conversation that took us across time and space to share stories of family and friends. She was so gracious. Feeling secure, I thanked God again for this sweet companion He had sent to answer my prayer.

The contrast between the two women in front of me and this sweet woman behind me amazed me. The clothes and mannerisms of the first two inferred a high social position. But they did not seem content. They were so self-absorbed. They were arrogant and rude, demanding preferential treatment from others. Their references to God seemed empty.

In contrast, this sweet woman seemed cheerful. Her aged dark face, gray hair, plain clothes and mannerisms came together like puzzle pieces to reveal a picture of a hard but content life. She was so perceptive and caring. Giving seemed to be a joy for her. When she spoke of God, I felt her sincere devotion. I knew I was in the presence of a great woman.

The awkward feelings faded away and I was left feeling her kindness and goodness. I commented on how sweet she was being. She smiled warm sunshine and said, "That's what my daughter says. She says, Mama, how can you be so sweet with all you've been through?" And I just laugh and say, "It takes practice. If you want to be sweet when you are old, you have to practice being sweet when you are young. You have to practice in your 20's, 30's, 40's, and 50's. It takes practice,



practice, and more practice. I had to practice being sweet all my life, and if I want to keep being sweet, I have to keep practicing."

Then, as if in reply to my thoughts of contrast, she added, "Some older people were not careful what they practiced when they were young and now it is really hard for them to change." She did not put them down. She offered them understanding.

I took to heart her words—this great wisdom disguised as small talk. On that

day, ten years ago, I decided to start practicing, so some day I too can be a sweet old lady. Although I don't always make it, my goal is to be sweet in whatever circumstances God might send my way. Often my thoughts go back to a scene from a crowded fabric store where God used a sweet old lady to teach me a lesson about becoming one myself.

(Barbara Eubanks' article won first place in the article category in the 1993 Creative Arts Contest. She lives in Sesser, IL.)

Help Fulfill
the Great
Commission
by praying for

FREE WILL BAPTIST FAMILY MINISTRIES

- The Trula Cronk Home for Children
- The P.A.T.H. Shelter
- The Stanley Foster Care Program
- The OAKS Family Conference Center and Camp

♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡

90 Stanley Lane
Greeneville, TN 37743
(423)639-9449

A Christ-centered ministry dedicated to meeting the needs of children and families, including children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned.



"Jesus called them unto him and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16

WANTED

Prayer Warriors

Every work of God that is not saturated with the prayers of God's people will fail. On an individual level, we have experienced this very thing, haven't we? When we fail in our personal walk with Christ, it can usually be attributed in part to our lack of prayer. And so, this same principle can be applied to every Christian ministry that is seeking to do God's will . . . prayer is the key to being successful in the eyes of the Lord.

Pray for the four divisions of the Free Will Baptist Family Ministries: *The Trula Cronk Home for Children, The P.A.T.H. Shelter, The Stanley Foster Care Program, The OAKS Family Conference Center and Camp.* Every aspect of this vital work is Christ-centered and dedicated to meeting the individual needs of children and families, including children that have been abused, neglected or abandoned.

Here's How to Pray:

■ Over 50 children have been saved in the last 12 months, pray earnestly for their spiritual growth. Pray that many more children will accept Christ as their savior in the coming months and year.

■ Pray for God's protection to surround this ministry. As our houseparents are on the "front lines" of this spiritual battlefield (for the souls of these children)—Satan is also hard at work to bring discouragement and defeat.

■ Pray that God will supply abundant resources to meet all the financial need of this ministry.

■ Pray for the Lord's continued guidance as FWB Family Ministries considers future expansion to better meet the needs of children and families. ♦

For more information on how you can be a part of this work, call (423)639-9449 or write FWB Family Ministries, 90 Stanley Lane, Greeneville, TN 37743.

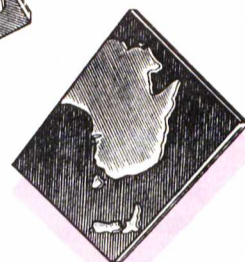
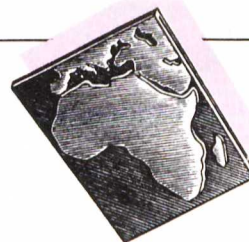
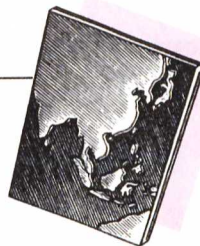
A Woman God Used

Katie Bell Pinson (born, September 16, 1922) of Carlsbad, New Mexico died November 13, 1995. Missionary/Pastor Len Blanchard of Faith Memorial FWB Church officiated the funeral.

She was born in Dublin, Texas, grew up in West Texas, and moved to Carlsbad in 1950. Preceded in death by her husband, Rev. L. C. Pinson, in 1963 and her son, Gary Don Pinson, in 1994, she is survived by her daughter, Pam Dawkins of Lubbock, Texas.

Mrs. Pinson worked for Jerry Smith of Farmer's Insurance Agency for more than 19 years. She and her husband helped begin the FWB work in New Mexico. They started the Faith Chapel FWB church in Carlsbad, First FWB Church in Carlsbad, and First FWB Church in Hobbs (NM).

Involved and outgoing could describe her. Active in WNAC on the local, district, and state levels, she held various offices within the WNAC ranks. Holding district and state offices in the FWB denomination, she also served as president for Church Women United and ABWA. Other organizations in which she was involved include Business and Professional Women and the Pilot Club. ♦



MISSION ALERT: Evangelism News from Around the World

Parita, Panama

God has graciously given the Parita congregation an excellent location and large building (still in construction). As funds permit they plan to add doors, windows, and other fixtures.

Stan and Brenda Bunch's newsletter gives a glimpse of their work and life in Panama.

"New people are being added to the church and people are maturing. Our family is fine. The children are in A-Beka video school and are doing well. Brenda is trying to maintain her sanity by being wife, mom, teacher, Sunday school teacher, sewing class instructor and general receptionist to all the visitors who pass through our doors (and the rest of the house). Stan is involved in the work on the church building, discipleship, family evangelism, teaching and preaching."

Jaboticabal, Brazil

Delegates and observers from Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, France, Japan, Panama, Spain, United States, and Uruguay met on October 16-21, 1995 to organize the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches. The delegates elected three officers to the International Fellowship:

President: John Poole (Brazil)

Vice-President: Ramon Sanchez (Cuba)

Secretary/Treasurer: Melvin Worthington (USA)

The International Fellowship adopted the following mission statement:

"The International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches is a community of Bible-believing churches which seeks to unite Free Will Baptist churches around the world for the purpose of identification, communion, mutual edification and encouragement, in order to better fulfill the Great Commission of evangelism and the establishing of churches among all peoples."

Nopporo, Japan

Dr. and Mrs. Mishiya have been attending the *Koinonia* Church where the Bishops work. The wife has asked for prayer that she could believe and accept

Jesus into her heart. The Mishiymas have two kindergarten children.

Dale and Sandra Bishop have also been working with *Cornerstone*, a new group started by Jim and Olena McLain. *Cornerstone's* average attendance is about 15-17. Five families participate in the Tuesday Bible study and three unsaved husbands are attending the worship service.

Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Jeff and Sherri Sloan report that two new families began coming to their mission church in the fall of 1995. Jeff had been praying and talking to his barber, Ron Leach, since March 1995. In October, Ron rededicated his life. Since then, Ron and his wife, Linda, have been attending church.

The Coopers are Free Will Baptists who moved from Michigan. They helped missionary Tim Coats when the Rapid City, South Dakota mission project was getting started. The Sloans are thankful for both families and they request prayer for several unsaved families.

Lewisburg, Tennessee

Charley and Ellen Carmack have been approved as joint project associate missionaries to work in the New Life Free Will Baptist Church in Lewisburg. The church reorganized on October 8, 1995 and the Carmacks have set goals to buy property in a better location. Brother and Mrs. Carmack will transfer their jobs from Joelton (TN) to Lewisburg. They are also trying to sell their home so they can move closer to the work.

Wentzville, Missouri

The Jim Mertz Family reports that God is moving in a positive way in their work. Two young men have answered the call to preach. They will soon begin college training. Two other young people have felt God calling them to the mission field. Yet another young pilot, who is attending college, answered the call to be a missionary aviator. To add to this, Steve and Terry Smith have gone to Haiti to do medical mission work there. The mission church in Wentzville is developing a "world vision" and becoming a sending church! ♦

RESERVATION FORM

Ridgecrest Conference Center

FREE WILL BAPTIST WNAC NATIONAL RETREAT

THEME:
"BRIGHTEN YOUR
CORNER"
MATT. 5:14-15

SEPTEMBER 12-14, 1996
RIDGECREST, NORTH CAROLINA

RATES

(per person for 2 nights plus 5 meals, including program fee):

Please indicate the # of rooms requested:

OPTION 1: Deluxe

2 Double Beds

- ☐ 1 per room: \$153.50
☐ 2 per room: \$109.00
☐ 3 per room: \$99.00
☐ 4 per room: \$93.00

OPTION 2: Deluxe

1 Single Bed, 1 Double Bed

- ☐ 1 per room: \$153.50
☐ 2 per room: \$109.00
☐ 3 per room: \$99.00

OPTION 3: Standard

2 Double/Queen Beds

- ☐ 1 per room: \$147.50
☐ 2 per room: \$105.00
☐ 3 per room: \$94.50
☐ 4 per room: \$89.00

HOW TO PAY: Enclose deposit of \$19.00 per person.
 Reservations will not be processed without deposit.
 Deposit will be credited to your account at check-in.

SEND TO: Ridgecrest Conference Center, P.O. Box
 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770. Fax. (704) 669-9721 Tel.
 (704) 669-8022 or (800) 588-7222 (toll free for
 reservations only)

NO REFUNDS after August 12, 1996.

Commuters' total cost is \$32.00 plus meal costs.
 Breakfast: \$5.00; Lunch or dinner: \$7.50.

We accept personal checks, Visa, MC, and Discover cards. If using a credit card, please complete the following information (credit card users may fax or phone in reservations):

Card Type: _____ Signature: _____
 Cardholder's Name (print clearly): _____
 Card Acct#: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Please list all names and addresses
 of those staying in your room

(Make additional copies if needed):

Your Name: _____

Group/Church Name (if applicable): _____

Home Telephone: _____

Work Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Special Needs: ☐ Disabled access ☐ First floor required

GROUP RESERVATIONS:

Total number of rooms needed _____

Number of persons in group _____

Attach list of participants, grouped by roommates. Indicate special needs for each room (disabled access; first floor required). Group should plan to pay with one check, if possible; if not, please notify Ridgecrest in advance.

If planning to arrive or depart early, please indicate below:

Arrival date: _____ Departure date: _____



Words for Women

preview

may/june 96

- Hold the Light High in the Trenches of Society
- WNAC Pre-Registration
- Lighting the Way for Women

"You can never again use a razor blade under your right arm," the doctor said sternly.

I felt under the arm, and I could tell why. Numb! I couldn't feel in that spot. I was completely numb. The surgery had destroyed the nerves in that area. I could no longer feel pain. Isn't it good not to feel pain? No. "You could cut yourself severely," he said, "And you wouldn't even know it." Pain is a gift from God to protect us from greater harm and danger.

Do you recall when you were first saved? Remember your tenderness to the voice of the Holy Spirit, correcting, instructing and sometimes rebuking? Do you still respond the same way to the gentle tones of the Spirit? The correction of the Holy Spirit is a gift from God. He wants to protect us from sin and Satan.

I wonder. Do we ever get numb spiritually? A recent article in a news magazine asked the question "Whatever happened to sin?" In society we seem to have lost the sense of right and wrong. Do whatever comes naturally. If it feels good, it's all right. I'll break the rules, and it's all right as long as I don't get caught. What do you mean it's wrong? Maybe to you, but not to me. Nobody tells me what to do.

Surely, as Christians we do not have such attitudes. Do we? Society around us affects all of us. We have to put up a shield of protection to keep from absorbing the attitude of the world. Ephesians 6 suggests we have that protection in the spiritual armor God has provided for us.

We have the truth and the righteousness of Christ. God has given us the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—the Word of God. But we have to keep this armor in place to experience its benefits.

We may indulge in sin until we become numb to it. Anger, jealousy, worry, discontent, self-pity, selfishness. If we indulge in any of those sins of the spirit, then we may feel no one knows and it's all right. I daresay such

indulgence becomes apparent to those around us in a short time, but God is aware of them all the time.

We may neglect the Bible. We may neglect prayer. When we do, we are numbing ourselves to those sins and even grosser ones.

A person doesn't fall into the sin of adultery while she is praying or studying the Word. She follows the steps suggested in James 1. She is tempted when drawn away by her own lust and enticed. Like Eve she listens to the voice of Satan. She desires what she should not have.

How lightly we allow the numbness to set in. Then it grows and grows. Before we know it, sin is just a step away. If we hear the gentle voice of the Holy Spirit, it is easy to ignore it, to turn away to our own desires. Just enjoy the attention, the pleasure of being noticed and sought out. Just a harmless flirtation. No problem.

Little by little Satan is getting power in our lives, and we aren't even aware of it.

Lust brings forth sin. How delighted Satan is that we are numb to the danger of sin. And sin, when it is finished, brings forth death. How easily we forget. ❖



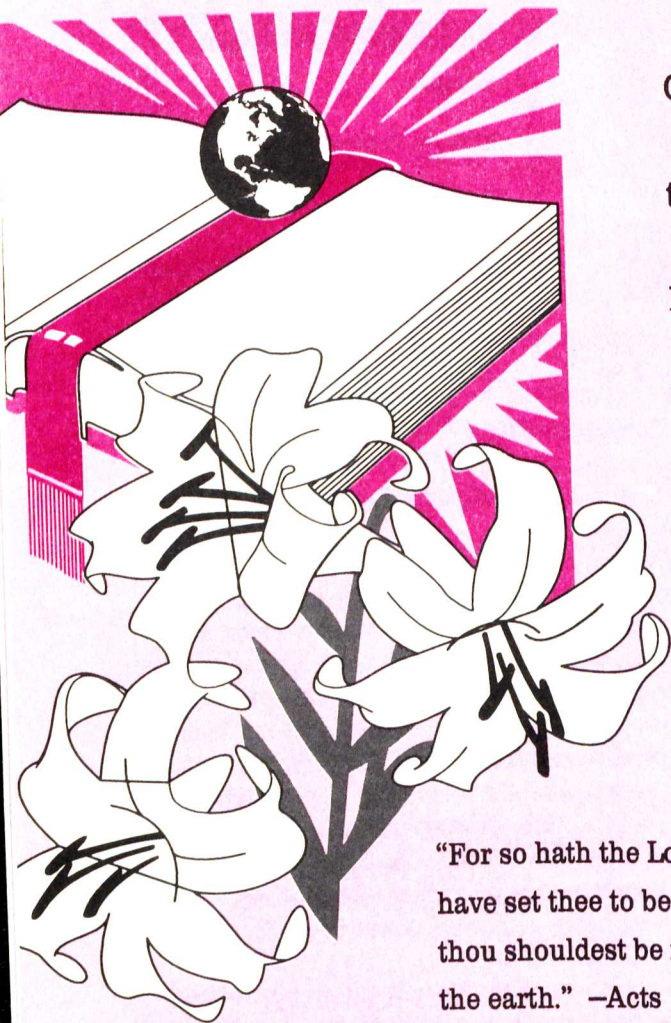
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615-731-3839

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MHS:carole@fwb fm.mhs.compuserve.com

The Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for World Missions



Give Sacrificially

to the

Laura Belle Barnard

World Missions Offering

"For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth." —Acts 13:47

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