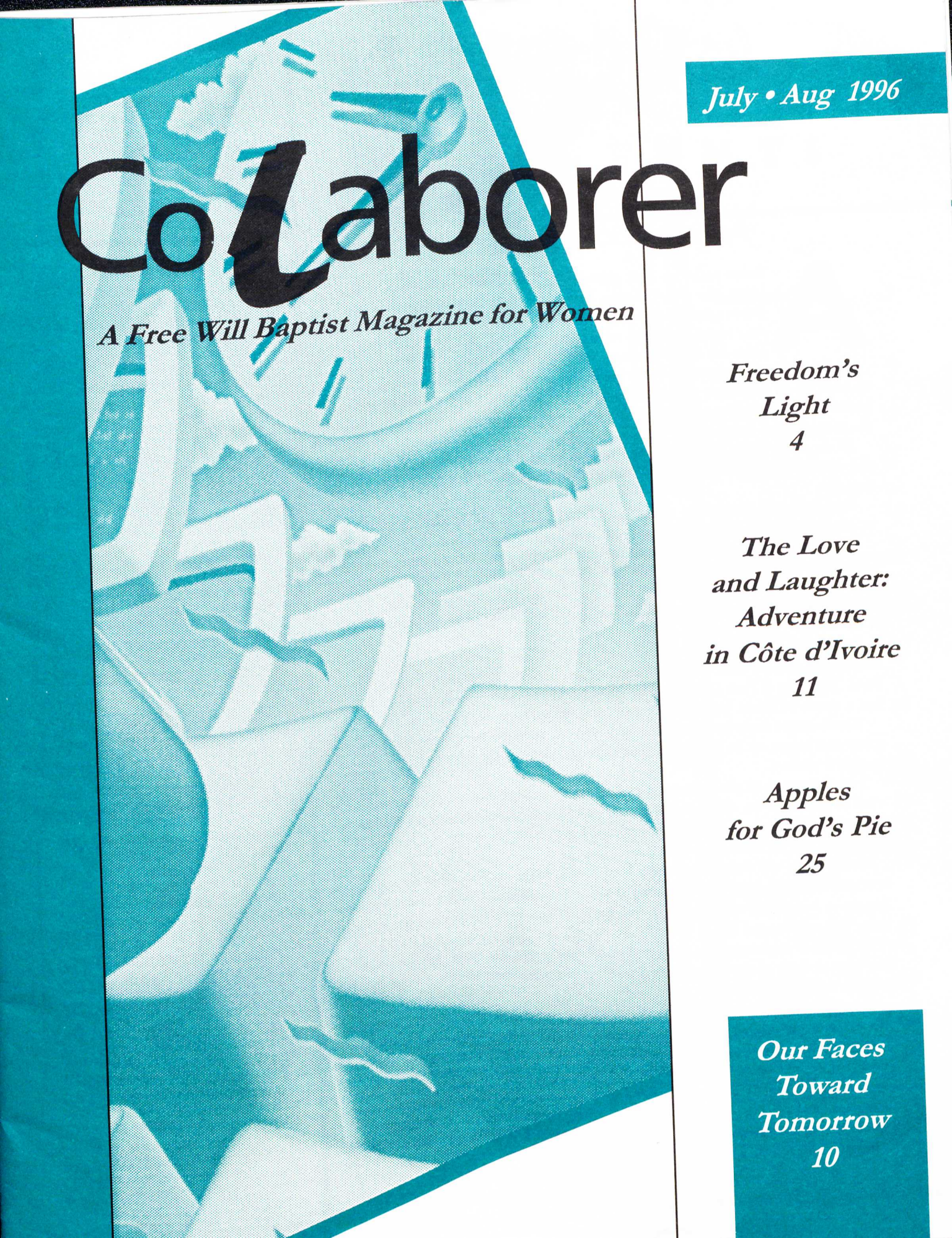




July • Aug 1996

CoLaborer

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

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VISION

SUZANNE FRANKS



Anticipation

A father tucks his little girl in bed. With dreamy eyes and a sleepy voice, she asks, "Daddy, how many days 'til Christmas?" The father answers and helps her count the days on her fingers. The next night, the same routine repeats itself and the father patiently helps his daughter count the days, minus one.

Anticipation. A five-year-old anticipates the day she will be old enough to stay up later, or go next door without an adult. And what child doesn't anticipate her birthday? I don't know which is more exciting to their young minds—the gifts, the party, or just being older?

Much of my early years was spent in anticipation. As a missionary kid, family and friends usually lived far away. Our small mission work had few or no kids our age.

How I looked forward to church camps! The music and speakers were wonderful. But my camp agenda was not solely spiritual.

I couldn't wait to talk to some of my friends who lived several miles away. Like any normal teenager, I checked out the "new boys" from other churches. Making new friends and renewing old acquaintances was my top priority.

Life is different today as an adult. The dynamics change, but the anticipation is the same.

One event I look forward to this year is the WNAC Convention. The 1995 convention was my first working convention with WNAC—one of those scary firsts. This year at Fort Worth will be my second convention with WNAC. I still feel a touch of dread, but mostly I feel excitement.

Youth camps have been replaced with WNAC retreats. As we get older, we sometimes move up in the world. The accommodations are better at our women's retreats.

I look forward to the fellowship at Ridgecrest in September. I didn't know what to expect at the Glorieta retreat last year. I was pleasantly surprised with the warm fellowship and inspiring speakers. I expect to see some old friends at Ridgecrest and to meet new ones.

Today all of my immediate family is in South America. This summer my brother's family returns from Uruguay. How I miss them. It makes me want August to hurry (as I write this it is still April). If you have loved ones living far away, you understand this.

In order to experience the exhilaration of anticipating an event, big or small, you have to look to the future with a positive attitude. Then simply plunge in to prepare for tomorrow.

You may be looking forward to the arrival of a child or grandchild. Or maybe you are anticipating Ridgecrest with as much delight as our staff.

Your list of special events may look different from mine. But there is one event that should be on everyone's list. One word is sufficient here. **Heaven.** No one knows exactly what to expect. But if you have placed your eternal destiny in God's hands, you can take His word. Heaven will be a wonderful experience—far beyond what we could ever imagine. Look toward tomorrow. Anticipate Heaven. ♦

VOLUME 36

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**HE PLACED
A LIGHT WITHIN US,
WE ARE
THE LORD'S
FREEDOM LIGHT.**

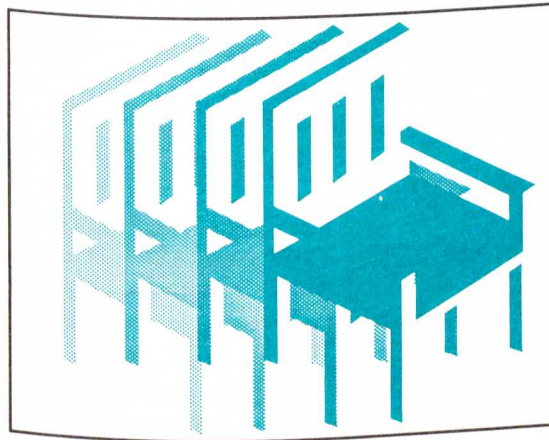
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**I COULD SCARCELY
BELIEVE IT,
BUT
HERE I WAS
AT MY FIRST
AFRICAN
WOMEN'S RETREAT.**

28

**AS WE
STEPPED OUT,
AMY TURNED
TO GINGER
AND ASKED,
"SHOULD
I GO?"**

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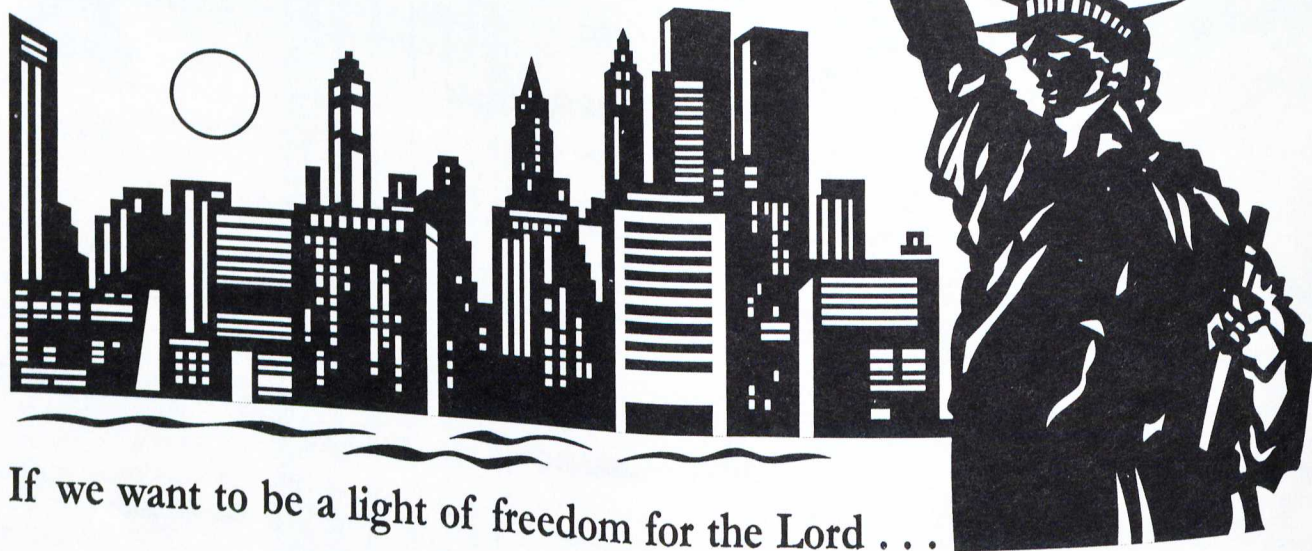
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Freedom's Light



If we want to be a light of freedom for the Lord . . .

we must have a plan.

Scripture: Matthew 5:14 and John 8:36

by LaCrecia McFadden

Introduction

In New York Harbor stands the Statue of Liberty. She is 152 feet tall, is constructed of the hand-hammered cooper plate and stands upon a 142-foot granite pedestal. Her creator and sculptor was Frederick A. Bartholdi who used an iron framework designed by Gustave Eiffel. Engraved upon her pedestal is...

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.

"I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

In Free Will Baptist churches across our nation and foreign countries, women come together to worship. She sings in the choir, teaches Sunday school, works as service chairman and kneels at an altar of prayer. Her creator is God the Father. Engraved upon her life by her Christian service is...

"I will reach out my hand to the needy and gather provision for the poor. Give me your trouble, discouraged and grieving so I can smile and reach out to encourage them. The sin sick, the backslidden, and the cold and indifferent, send these to me and I will lead them to salvation, rededication and a right relationship with the Lord.

"I will let my light of Freedom shine."

A light to the needy

America was once known as the "Land of Plenty" but her own interior is now lined with the poor and needy. Our cities and towns have people living in the streets, searching for food in garbage bins and sleeping under cardboard boxes. We blame the government for wasteful spending and a hand out program that is now supporting a second generation. It is true that our government sometimes is a poor manager of our hard-earned tax dollars. However, their burden to help the poor in this, our free land, is overloaded. Let's accept responsibility and turn our complaining time into action. We can make a difference with our spiritual efforts to help the poor.

As we read Ecclesiastes 5:8, we see that God "regards" the poor and in Proverbs 14:31, those who oppress the poor "reproacheth his maker." God declares a woe to those who show injustice toward the needy in the first two verses of Isaiah 10. Scriptures confirm that the poor and needy have a special place in the heart of God. Because of His regard and protection for the poor, he gives instruction for the Christians in their service toward them. We have a duty and the Bible declares it in the following scriptures: Psalm 41:1; 112:9; Proverbs 28:27; 31:9; Matthew 19:21; Mark 14:7; Galatians 2:10; I John 3:17. *(Read some or all of these, as time permits.)*

? Now that we clearly understand our responsibility to the needy let's ask ourselves three important questions:
Who are the needy? What do they need?
Where can we find them?

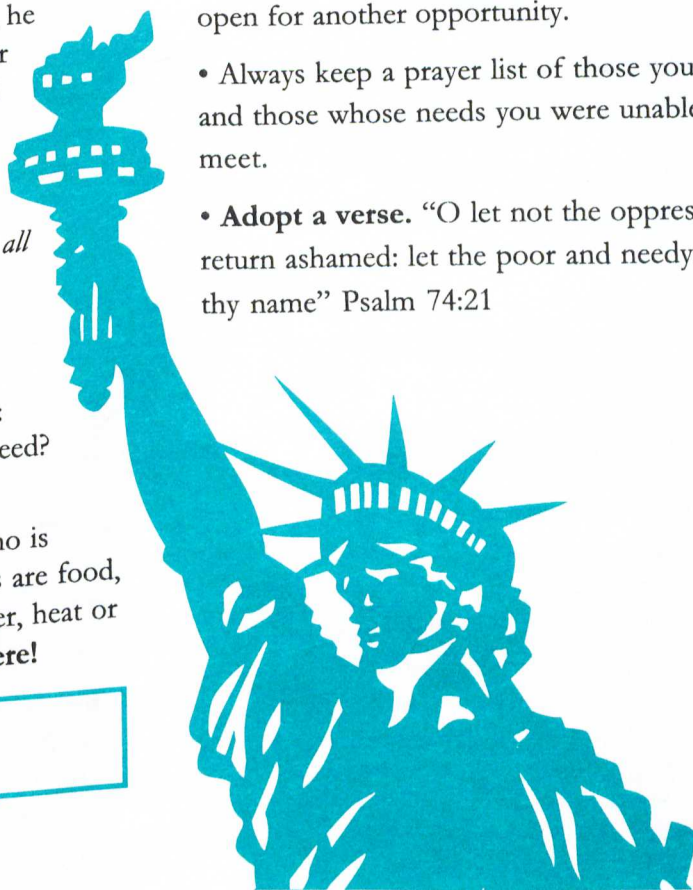
The needy can be classified as anyone who is lacking in physical provision. Their needs are food, clothing, shelter or help with power, water, heat or medical bills. Where are they? **Everywhere!**

Be scripture ready. Read these verses again:
Ecclesiastes 5:8; Proverbs 14:31; Isaiah 10:2

Freedom light's plan . . .

to help the needy

- Make a list of those who appear to have a need. Start with your pastor and family, then reach out to the church family extending your efforts into your community. *(You may know of someone in your church or community facing astronomical medical bills because of a serious illness.)*
- Research to find the specific need(s). There is nothing wrong with asking and you may be surprised at those who have been waiting for someone to ask. *(Christians know that God supplies many needs through other Christians.)*
- Compile a needs list and let each woman initial the need or needs she can fill. Deliver the provision with a humble heart and a sweet spirit. When the receiver feels comfortable with the need being met, the door may be left open for another opportunity.
- Always keep a prayer list of those you help and those whose needs you were unable to meet.
- **Adopt a verse.** "O let not the oppressed return ashamed: let the poor and needy praise thy name" Psalm 74:21



A light to the troubled

America offers freedom to those within her shores. There is a multitude of opportunities available and we have all the ingredients to make us a happy nation. However, we are a very troubled people. So we can better understand the magnitude of this problem please consider this quote from *Happiness is a Choice*, by Frank B. Minirth and Paul D. Meier:

"According to one estimate about 20 million persons in America between the ages of eighteen and seventy-four are currently depressed." They also add "... depression occurs two times more often in females than males..."

Troubled Americans are not only depressed but are lonely, grief stricken, discouraged, frustrated, and continue to struggle with low self-esteem. We are a nation of people daily fighting emotional battles. Christians are not exempt from these troubling problems.

It is quite possible that pastors and missionaries are prime targets for depression and anxiety. In fact, we can detect symptoms from such great men of the Bible as Job, Moses, Joshua, Elijah, David, Jonah, Jeremiah, and two disciples in Luke 24:13-17. God's children are all very special to Him and He gives us the remedy for our despair. Read Psalm 42:5, 11; Isaiah 35:4; I Peter 5:7; Philippians 4:6-7.

? Once again let's ask three important questions to help us understand our responsibility to those who are troubled. How can I recognize them? Can I help them? Where can I find the troubled?

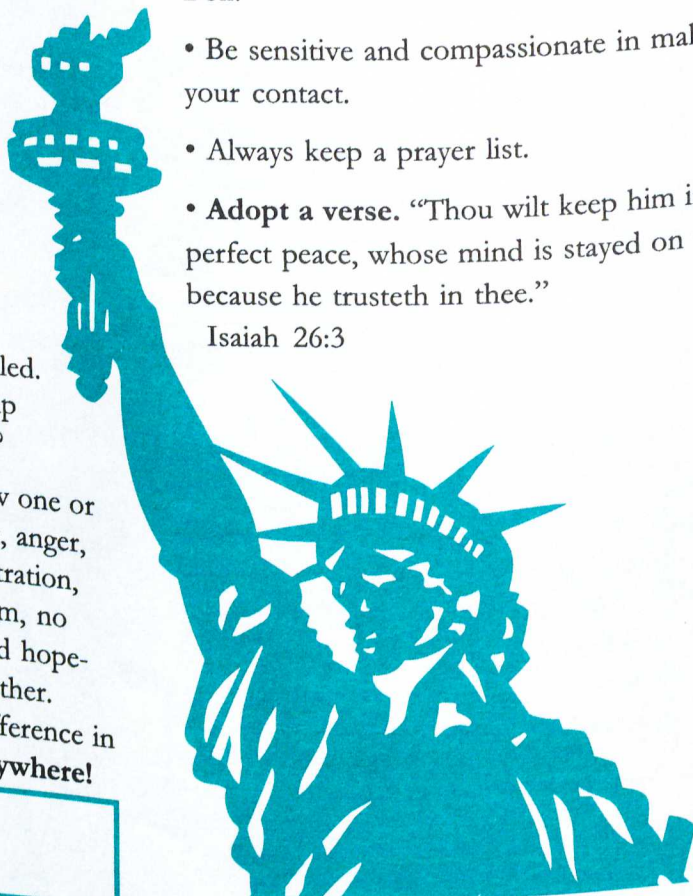
Those who have troubled hearts may show one or more of these symptoms; sadness, despair, anger, hurt, grief, despondency, depression, frustration, discouragement, loneliness, low self-esteem, no motivation, loss of appetite irritability, and hopelessness. We can help in some way or another. Even a small gesture can make a great difference in their hour of need. Where are they? **Everywhere!**

Be Scripture ready. Read these verses again:
Luke 24:13-17; Psalm 42:5, 11; 55:22; Isaiah 35:4, Philippians 4:6-7; I Peter 5:7

Freedom light's plan . . .

to help the troubled

- Discuss with your pastor the possibility of developing a Christian approved list of professionals for those who need in-depth help. (One source is Dr. James Dobson's *Focus on the Family Publications*. They will release a list of those in your area.)
- Organize a Sunshine Program for those who need special encouragement. This will include a Sunshine Box and Sunshine Buddies.
- Gather materials to be used in your Sunshine Box. (Greeting cards, stationary, bookmarks, pamphlets, small gifts, copied poems and articles that are encouraging.)
- Coordinate Sunshine Buddies to write, visit, call, or deliver small gifts from the Sunshine Box.
- Be sensitive and compassionate in making your contact.
- Always keep a prayer list.
- **Adopt a verse.** "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."
Isaiah 26:3



A light to the lost

One of America's most precious freedoms is that of worship. But it is the one that is becoming less protected than all the others. It is a shame that some interpret our constitution in such a way to protect pregnant women who kill their unborn children and yet make it unlawful to carry Bibles to school. Students have been expelled and educators have lost their jobs over prayer and Bible study.

It is a disgrace that filthy publications have rights to infiltrate America with sewage yet it is unlawful for some of our home missionaries to conduct prayer meetings or Bible study in their own homes. We are losing our freedom of worship because the lost are controlling our land. If Christians do not take a stand and make our vote count, we could lose our freedom to witness.

There is an urgency for salvation; "...now is the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2). "Come now and let us reason together saith the Lord" (Isaiah 1:18). "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found" (Isaiah 55:6). "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved" (Jeremiah 8:20). We need to feel the pressing importance to win the lost. Not only the lost but the backslidden and those who are cold and indifferent who need to be brought back into the fold of God. It is a serious matter with the Lord that we let our light shine to the lost and lifeless.

It is our responsibility to witness and bring the lost into the fold. "And He saith unto them follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). "Go ye therefore,..." (Matthew 28:19). "And ye shall be witnesses" (Acts 1:8). "And ye are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:48). "For thou shalt be his witness unto all men..." (Acts 22:15).

? Our last three questions are at hand. Who is lost? What do they need? Where are they?

The lost are all those who have not accepted Christ as Savior and Lord. They need a messenger to bring them the message of salvation for their souls. Where are they? **Everywhere!**

Be Scripture ready. Read these verses again.

II Corinthians 6:2; Isaiah 1:18; 55:6; Jeremiah 8:20, Matthew 4:19; 28:19; Acts 1:8; Luke 24:48; Acts 22:15

Freedom light's plan . . .

to win the lost

- Order tracts and pamphlets for your soul winning program and new convert packs. *(These can be obtained through Home Missions Department.)*
- Memorize key Scriptures such as the Romans Road for the lost and verses in I John and other related verses for the backslidden. Also write down other helpful Scriptures. Be prepared.
- Compile a list of lost men, women, boys, and girls. Go ye!
- Always keep a prayer list of those who you want to see come to the Lord and those you have led to the Lord.
- Be prepared for follow-up with your new convert.
- **Adopt a verse.** "The fruit of the righteousness is a tree of life: and he that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30)

Conclusion

When we accepted Christ as our Savior, He placed a light within us. This light is our testimony. We should let our lights shine for the needy, the troubled, and the lost and backslidden, so they can be drawn to Christ who can free them of their shackles.

We are not just his wife, or her mother, or their Sunday school teacher. We are the Lord's **Freedom light.**

LaCrecia McFadden lives in Madisonville, TN where her husband, Herman, pastors a Free Will Baptist Church.



A ready light

by Joan Gardner

Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

There were ten virgins who wanted to be at the wedding feast and to see the bride groom but they were not all ready for the great celebration. Today there are many professing Christians who want to be a witness and let their light

shine in the dark world but they are not ready. We will now spend some time to get our light ready to shine forth in a world where many cannot see the right way to go.

Song: "Give Me Oil In My Lamp"

Clean the Globe

For the light to shine forth the globe must be clear so anyone can see through it. For a Christian's testimony to shine forth his life must be clean, not smudged by hate, pride, jealousy.

The globe of a lamp naturally gets dirty with use if not cleaned from time to time. Our hearts tend to get dirty simply from living if we do not come back to the Savior for cleaning. We need to ask God for constant cleaning.

Right now we are going to stop for a time of silent prayer. As you pray name some of the sins and faults that you want God to clean away from your life.

*(Stop for silent prayer. When a few minutes have passed you may say Amen or pray a **short** ending prayer.)*

Trim the Wick

When the wick burns, a blackend stub is left and if it is not trimmed it will smoke. There are things that we need to trim from our lives, waste that hinders our light shining. We need to trim wasted time (time spent in gossip or watching television or reading worldly books). We need to trim wasted effort (effort to promote pride or selfishness). We need to trim wasted spending (for self and needless worldly things).

Song: "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning" *(sing the verse that says 'Trim your feeble lamp my brother')*

We will now divide into groups of 3 or 4 women and pray together. Don't spend time with requests and talking but pray that God will trim from your lives all waste. After you have prayed turn your chairs back to the front and wait quietly for every group to finish.

Fill your lamps

The oil represents the Holy Spirit. The five foolish virgins in our scripture had failed to have a good supply of oil. As Christians our light does not shine without the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit moves our emotions and teaches us to have love and concern for others. Philippians 2:5 says, "Let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We need the love for souls that Jesus felt. His love was so great He gave Himself for the salvation of every person—to persons living in all eras.

As women we need to be concerned for our family. Women spend much time feeding and clothing and even educating their family but sometimes we fail to have concern that our families have a right relationship with God.

This is a very personal concern so we will team into twos. Get with someone you can share with about your concern for your family and pray together for each other's families.

(Allow a few minutes for prayer.)

We also need the oil of concern for the world and those serving on the mission fields of the world both in the United States and abroad.

(You may use a few, not over three, special requests from missionaries at this time.)

Call on one or two people to lead the entire group in prayer for missions.

Now we need the oil of concern for those to whom we need to be witnessing—our neighbors, our co-workers, our Sunday school students, and people who are attending our church or who we would like to attend.

Have a time of prayer for these requests. You may want to divide into groups—Sunday school teachers, deacons wives, WAC officers. *(Be sure you do not leave anyone out.)*

Light the Fire

When your lamp is all ready you must still start the fire. We try to light the fire of our hearts by activities and promotions and big days and contests. These may be usable tools to excite a congregation and increase attendance but no matter how much effort we put forth it is of no avail unless God lights the fire and sends His conviction for those we are trying to win.

Do you have trouble getting in touch with God? Maybe your lamp is not ready for His light.

God is always waiting for His children to come to Him in prayer. He never turns anyone away who earnestly seeks Him. *(An invitation could be given at this point.)* We will now ask God to bless our lights as we try to shine forth and to prepare the hearts of those to whom we will witness.

Song: "Set my Soul Afire"

(This can be read as a poem or sung by the group. It is hymn number 377 in the REJOICE Hymn book.)

(Have several people pray.)

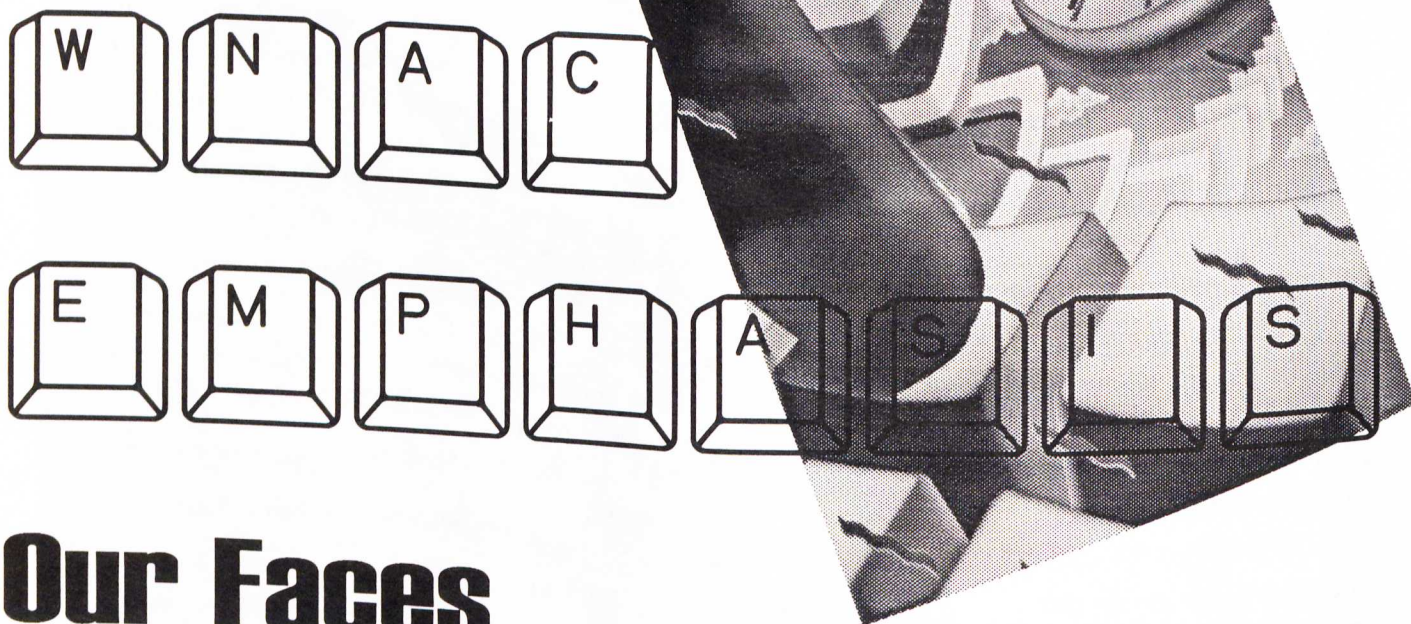
Set your Light up High

Now that your lamp is clean and filled with oil and there is a good light in the lamp, what are you going to do with it? If you put it in a corner or a closet it will do very little good.

The scripture says we should put our light on a high place so it can be seen by all. If you never take the effort to tell others about Jesus you will be hiding your light. For your witness to do any good it must be seen by other people. This may not always be easy and sometimes we would like to hide in the closet but we need to ask God to give us the courage to use our witness in the place where we live. ♦

Joan Gardner lives in Antioch, TN. She is a member of Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church where her husband, Bill, is pastor. She has three grown children.

1996



W N A C

E M P H A S I S

Our Faces Toward Tomorrow

The 1996 Emphasis packet is designed to help make your WNAC emphasis a success.

The packet contains the exciting drama: *Our Faces Toward Tomorrow: Light on the Way.*

You will laugh with delight and be challenged by women from three different eras.

Meet the characters:

- A pioneer.
- Not afraid of sacrifice.
- A woman with a vision for Free Will Baptists.
- A woman of prayer and faith.
- She trusted; God supplied.
- She looked to the future.

She is WNAC Woman of the
PAST.

- Her goals are on target.
- Uses technological advances to accomplish God's work.
- Has a heart for missions.
- Not afraid of innovative ideas.
- She looks to the future.

She is WNAC Woman of the
PRESENT.

- She has much to offer—the possibilities are endless.
- Exciting.
- Efficient.
- Full of energy with a mind to work.
- She will make your head spin.

She is WNAC Woman of the
FUTURE.

Look for your packet in the mail or pick one up at the WNAC booth at the National Convention or contact WNAC at (615) 731-6812 or (615) 731-4950 ext. 211.

The Love and Laughter

Adventure in Côte d'Ivoire

by Mary R. Wisheart

Splashes of bright color—yellow, red, blue, green—African women delight in beautiful, colorful fabrics. A murmur of French, Lobi, and Kulango. Bursts of laughter, handshakes. The women were registering for the sixth annual retreat in Côte d'Ivoire. Much like the women at a Ridgecrest retreat, they greeted old friends they hadn't seen for a year and met new ones. They paid their fees and got ready for the evening meal.

Wednesday, February 21. I could scarcely believe it, but here I was at my first African women's retreat. The sun was hot, probably 110 degrees, according to Alice Smith. At least no one was telling us about the heat index. We sat outside on benches or on the ground as women registered and waited for the food.

The food was prepared in large pots over open fires. We ate rice with a meat sauce and yams with peanut or meat sauce. Imagine how the women worked to prepare the meals. Everything the African woman must do is hard.

Unlike American women at retreat, these women had to bring their sleeping mats, clothes, eating utensils, toiletries, Bibles and several carried babies on their backs. Yet they came. Seven women from



Registration

Appimadoun walked four hours with those burdens to a town where they got a ride on a truck. They thanked the Lord that they made it to camp, as they call retreat in Côte d'Ivoire.

Tanda church was the meeting place. Women of Agnibilekrou and Tanda worked together as retreat planners and hostesses. The fees each woman paid helped with the food and other necessary supplies.

They registered 108 women from 18 towns and villages, including one from the USA.

"Agnibilekrou." Everything in order. They called the women to eat by the churches they represented. (USA got to go among the first.)

After the meal someone rang a bell and we all gathered in the church. I've always loved hearing women sing, but listen to those African women! They sing with abandon, in joyful praise to the



Time to eat

Lord. I couldn't resist joining in, although I didn't know the words in French.

Sometimes I sang in English, sometimes I just joined the orchestra and helped with the accompaniment (clapping hands). And sometimes I couldn't quite capture the rhythm, especially the Lobi rhythm. The orchestra included drums, a tambourine, sticks, and shakers.

I had opportunity to greet the women that evening. My greeting was short, but stretched out, translated first into French, then into Kulango and finally into Lobi.

The theme was *Christ en Nous*, Christ in us. We wore name tags of four colors with smiley faces and the words "*Jesus Vit En Moi*," Jesus lives

in me. The colors on the tags divided us into prayer groups.

That first night many women were very tired—most of them, I think. After greetings from the speakers, a welcome from the Tanda

Kuadio Lydie made suggestions about witnessing by word of mouth and by daily living.

After the messages, the women asked questions. Sometimes they were only permitted to ask two or

three because of the time. Their questions were difficult ones. For example, one asked Madame Bleukewa, "What if the woman has many, many children and she does not want any more?" This after Madame Bleukewa said that a woman should never refuse her husband.

"What do I do when I try to witness

qualifications and duties of officers. Alice Smith and Pam West represent the missionary women on the committee. The women chose two representatives from the South and two from the North: Sylvie Kambou, Agnibilekrou; Abenan Yeboua, Bondoukou; Madame Martin, Bouna and Esther Kambou, Doropo. The committee will report at the national convention this summer.

Friday evening is a special time for the women at retreat. They stay together until midnight. Alice assured me that if I got tired, we could leave. The evening was too exciting to notice tiredness or the heat.

It was my turn to speak. I used the theme and talked about what is ours because Christ lives in us. Again it was short because it had to be translated three times.

The women sang a lot and laughed a lot. Several women sang solos, duets, or in small groups. The missionary women decided that we should sing together. We sang "When We All Get to Heaven" and "This Little Light of Mine"—in English. I took that opportunity to wear my African dress purchased at Cocody Market in



Translators and speaker: (left to right) Madame Abenan (Kulango), Alice Smith (French), Mary Wischart (speaker), Madame Christophe (Lobi)

pastor and his wife, we all prayed together. Then we were ready for rest.

The women walked to a nearby school, arranged for their sleeping quarters. There they spread their mats, prepared for sleep and got ready the next morning without benefit of electricity and water. They did have candles for light.

The "white women" stayed in a "hotel." We did have electricity and water—no hot water, but water. Suffice it to say that it was not the Hyatt Regency.

Two speakers from Abidjan gave practical instructions for Christian living. Madame Bleukewa treated the topics of the Christian woman relating to her husband, teaching her children and being a living testimony of the power of Christ. Madame



One of the prayer groups singing

to this older woman and she says, "What can you tell me? I was born long before you?" Should I witness only to women in my age group?" was a question for Madame Lydie.

Friday afternoon the women elected a committee to draw up



Singing praises with abandon



Dramatization of the parable of the 10 virgins

Abidjan. Madame Elizabeth fixed my headpiece—and later made me do it according to her instructions. Alice introduced me as “a new African lady.” The women were delighted.

After the first part of the service, came the lighter parts. The four prayer groups were challenged to write lyrics, compose the music and sing their song based on the retreat theme.

The two speakers and I were asked to judge the contest since—as Carol Pinkerton said—we didn’t live there. They all did a great job and received prizes. I had the privilege of awarding first prize. The women asked the first place winners to sing their song again. Once on stage, they got confused. Amid a great burst of laughter and cries for recalling the prize, the group regained control and sang the song perfectly.

African women are natural-born actresses. They presented two dramas that night. The women from Bondoukou presented the parable of the five wise and five foolish virgins

from Matthew 25. We had given each woman a candle earlier. At the end of that drama, the cast came into the audience with lighted candles. After each woman had a lighted candle, we held them high to signal that we are ready and waiting for the coming of Christ.

The second drama was

that blank with something Jesus Christ has done for them. “He washed me,” “He loves me,” “He’s my friend,” “He’s coming to get me.” I wish you could see them singing an action song.

We sang until their transportation arrived.

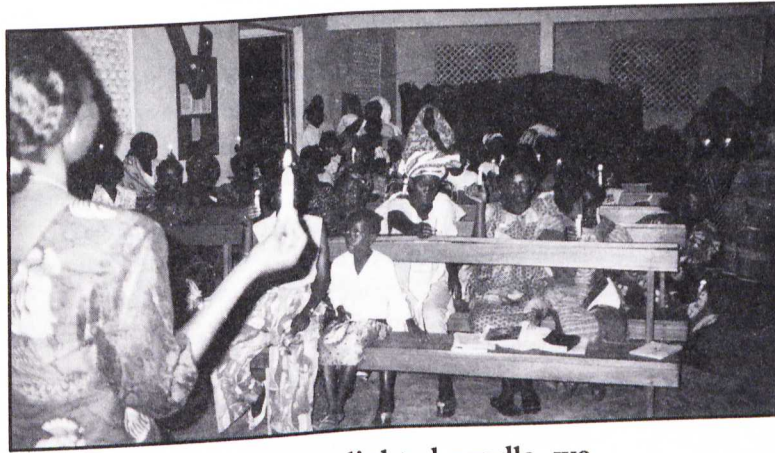
They didn’t want to part, but they are looking forward to gathering at Doropo in 1997.

I wish you could hear the testimonies women gave during the meeting. Every woman seems to have a story of her salvation, persecution and triumphs in Christ. I hope to get some of these testimonies recorded, translated and published.

The women

took an offering for the two speakers and they gave me a gift. They are a giving group, though they have very little to give. My gift was 15,000 francs, about \$30. It came with instructions. “Go to the market in Bondoukou and buy fabric. Go to the tailor and pick out a pattern and let him measure you. Then when the tailor completes it, send us a picture of you in the outfit.” Carol Pinkerton helped me pick out the fabric. I had a hard time deciding, finally selecting a brick red one. Carol insisted on making a picture of the tailor taking my measurements. As his helper recorded my measurements, she said, “Now you are in the book.” We saw the tailor Saturday afternoon. Tuesday the dress was finished and it was a perfect fit.

I wanted to weep when the
(continued on page 30)



After each woman had a lighted candle, we held them high to signal that we are ready and waiting for the coming of Christ.

the story of the talents from Matthew 25, presented by the women from Goumère. My favorite actress was the fellow who buried his talent. These women played the men’s parts without the slightest inhibition. I couldn’t understand the words, but I could follow the story line. No doubt I missed most of the humor, but apparently the cast wanted the audience to laugh at times.

By midnight we were all ready to rest.

The women met Saturday morning for the closing session. They sang several songs. I wish you could hear their song, “When I remember that _____.” Women filled



Food For Thought

At eighty-something she had outlived three husbands. She knew little more than hard work and poverty. Yet every Sunday she stood up and testified of God's goodness and encouraged everyone to have faith. Everywhere she went she told others about her God.

A visit to the shack where she lived always meant cheerful conversation and the best coffee I've ever had.

From the moment I met her, I knew she was an unusual woman. I often pondered the source of her exuberance. How could this woman praise God every time I saw her? I thought, maybe her constant flow of praise was a result of senility.

Years later I ponder the same questions. This time one possible answer comes to mind. It was her eyesight. Oh, she had little use for glasses; she couldn't read.

The troubles in her life were as real as anyone's and she didn't close her eyes to pain. Yet her eyesight was so exceptional because she could see beyond the bereavement of the day, beyond the pain. Her mature eyes could see into the future when wounds have healed, pain has vanished.

Not a result of senility, her constant flow of praise and witnessing was a result of a mature outlook. Her happiness was not based on circumstances. Happiness came from knowing she was obeying God. ♦

Poet's Corner

The Answer

Vicki Turner, Carterville, MO

She asks, "Son, will I see you in heaven?
I've got my soul set for that goal,
And it's breaking my heart into pieces
To think that you won't get to go."

He said, "There's really still plenty of time, Mom.
I'm young yet, there's so much to do!
Someday I'll come back to your Jesus,
And I'll make it to heaven with you."

"There's a whole world out there to explore, Mom.
So many new things yet to see,
And if I gave it all up for your Jesus,
Now, what would my friends think of me?"

"I'm just now tasting the good life,
And the freedom of being a man.
Church was all right as a youngster,
But now it doesn't fit in with my plans."

The headlines in yesterday's paper
Doesn't even begin to explain,
The loss of a life that was taken
Without time to find Jesus again.

As she kneels at the grave side in mourning,
She asks him the question again.
"Son, will I see you in heaven?"
But the answer is always the same.

In This Hour with You

B. A. Trammel, Joplin, MO

In this hour with You,
May my heart be still,
That I may know Your way,
And to know Your will.

In this hour with You,
May my heart have peace,
That I may find freedom,
And my burdens eased.

In this hour with You,
May I be conformed
To the image of Christ,
And my life transformed.

In this hour with You,
May my heart speak praise,
Unto You, Lord of all,
And Your wondrous ways.

In this hour with You,
May my life be blessed,
By the touch of Your hand,
And the Spirit's rest.

Matthew 26:40-41

Untitled

Ann McCord, Anderson, IN

Dear God, I'm here to say a prayer
For those who took the time to care—
Pats on the shoulder, hugs so dear
Holding our hands to help calm fear,
Warm food brought by friends to our door
To save us work and our strength restore,
Flowers sent, their beauty bright,
A spot of sunshine our day to light,
A phone call, a visit, to show their love,
And prayers for our health to God above.

So, with grateful heart, God,
Please hear this prayer—
Send special blessings
On those who care.

A graphic of a springboard with a coiled spring and a curved board, with an arrow pointing upwards from the end.

Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator

In the last Springboard we published our staff members' extension numbers. Those extension numbers remain the same. But the telephone system underwent one change. In order to serve you better we have given you a choice. You can still call (615) 731-6812 and talk to an operator who will place your call to WNAC. On the other hand, if you know who you want to talk to, you can bypass the operator by dialing (615) 731-4950 and following the directions in the recording. You can still leave a message after hours by dialing either number.

We are excited about the emphasis drama and packet we have prepared for you to use for your August WNAC emphasis program. If you have not received your emphasis packet by the beginning of July, contact WNAC or come by the booth at the National Convention.

Assistant Coordinator

The July Program is full of practical suggestions for ministry to the needy, the troubled, and the unsaved. The person in charge of this program should look at these lists well ahead of time so materials can be obtained. Publicity ideas for July and August can be found in the 1996 Yearbook.

Secretary

You have an important deadline facing you. Check with your district or state secretary to see when you need to get your reports to her. She will probably say, "Yesterday." See Communicator on page 19 for more about reports.

Treasurer

Most of the money we handle is designated and therefore passed on to appropriate destinations. We still have costs to take care of in the day-to-day operation of our office. This why the August Emphasis Offering is so important. Another way to help WNAC as a whole is by sending a gift to the WNAC Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is maintained in the Free Will Baptist Foundation with interest paid to WNAC for national office expenses.

The "Rest of the Family Offering" is coming up in September. This offering helps the denomination as a whole. A small percentage, propor-

Devotional Outline

A lighthouse for God

(a comparison)

Psalms 37:5-6

- ☛ It needs a solid foundation.
- ☛ **We need salvation.**
I Peter 2:9
- ☛ It is built to be a tall, solid structure.
- ☛ **We need to learn how to evangelize from the Master.**
Matthew 8 & 9
- ☛ It is built on rough terrain.
- ☛ **We continue shining in difficult spots.**
II Cor. 1:3-4
- ☛ It's purpose is to shine on trouble spots as a warning.
- ☛ **Our examples shed light on darkness.**
Matthew 5:14-15
- ☛ Lighthouses are built in strategic places where needed most.
- ☛ **God puts us in strategic places.**
Matt. 9:38 ❖

tional to our budget, goes to the WNAC general fund. Unlike the Emphasis Offering, this offering is church-wide.

Missions Chairman

Ask for volunteers to send birthday cards to missionaries who have birthdays in July and August. If each member in your group can send a card to 5–10 missionaries, your group can probably cover all the birthdays on the list on page 17. Make sure that letters going overseas have proper postage and are clearly marked “Air Mail.” Allow 2–3 weeks for delivery. Remind each card sender to pray for their birthday folks throughout the Summer.

Prayer Chairman

Remind your group to pray for WNAC Emphasis (see the requests below).

Rev. David Williams writes, “many churches which have a strong prayer ministry have achieved it through perseverance and creative approaches.” This quote was taken from a column in *TransWorld Radio Magazine* called “The Church Corner.” The Weeks of Prayer in November and April are a great way to help your people concentrate on prayer for missions. But we must work at it all year round. We can all use some reminders and encouragement to pray. The following are some suggestions.

- In conjunction with your study chairman do a study on prayer.
- Conduct a concert of prayer.
- Decorate a bulletin board on the theme of prayer.
- Make refrigerator decorations with magnets. Write specific requests on them.
- Always have the latest missionary requests ready to share at your meetings.
- Overuse prayer cards and prayer calendars.
- Print prayer requests in bulletins and newsletters.
- Use your own creativity.

WNAC Emphasis Prayer Requests

1. Mary R. Wischart, Executive Secretary of WNAC: wisdom, health, safety in travel
2. Every Getz, National WNAC President: wisdom in leadership
3. Marjorie Workman, Jo Ann Wood, Barbara Chaffin, Diana Bryant, Annette Aycock, Executive Committee Members: vision and unity in their work
4. WNAC Staff: health and joy in service
5. State Presidents: discernment and leadership skills
6. State Field Workers: enthusiasm and opportunity to start new women's groups
7. State Officers: patience, understanding, and efficiency
8. District Officers: patience, communication skills, and cooperative spirit
9. Local Officers: dedication and love for the ministry
10. All WNAC members: spiritual growth, willingness to work, and burden for world missions
11. Financial Support: for a solid base of operation to meet current and future financial needs
12. Future Leaders in WNAC: for God to prepare and call women to lead WNAC into the 21st century
13. Young Women in Local Church: spiritual growth and guidance in their lives



Come to Women Active for Christ

Date _____

Time _____

Place _____

HID IN MY HEART

Psalms 37:3–6

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. (KJV)❖

Service Chairman

Your job is to find, encourage, and organize ministries in your church and community. Show your appreciation for all those who participate in your inreach and outreach ministries. When results are slow, people get discouraged. You will need patience, persistence, creativity, and optimism to keep the work going. People are so busy today, but those who take time out of their schedules to serve others will receive their rewards.

September 8 is Pastor Appreciation Day. Mark it on your calendar. Do something to show your pastor(s) they are appreciated.

Study Chairman

Read the book review on *Risk the Journey: Answering God's Call to Proclaim the Word* in this issue (page 22). Use it for a missions study, review it in your meeting, purchase it for your church library, and/or pass it around for everyone to read. There is always more to learn about God's work in world missions. ♦

Lucy & Marge

No warning label on tulips

(Telephone rings at Marge's house)

Marge: Hello

Lucy: Hello, Marge.

Marge: Hi, Lucy. You sound like you're in a good mood.

Lucy: (laughing) I had to call you. I just have to tell you.

Marge: What do you have to tell me?

Lucy: (laughing) Molly had to call the poison control last week.

Marge: What happened?

Lucy: Someone left some tulip bulbs on her doorstep.

Marge: Who?

Lucy: I don't know who.

Marge: (still not understanding) So?

Lucy: Molly's husband—you know, James—he asked her to chop one up to put in his salad. He thought they were scallions.

Marge: How could he confuse tulips with scallions?

Lucy: Beats me. Maybe he can't smell.



Missionary Birthdays

July

1	Ken Eagleton, Sr., BR
3	Mark Vandivort, Arizona
4	MK, Adam Austin, GER
5	Jeff Sloan, Indiana
6	Ellen Carmack, Tennessee
8	MK, Darren Fender, Tennessee
*8	Mary Holland, BR
9	Luther Burns, Georgia
10	MK, Jonathan Collins, Nebraska
11	Barbara Jones, Alabama
13	MK, Benjamin Bailey, JPN
15	Sandra Raper, Alabama
16	Len Blanchard, NM
19	MK, Jeremy Phillips, Idaho
20	Robert Bryan, C'I
20	Marc Gibbs, C'I
20	Fred Hersey, JPN
21	Bonnie Doggett, Illinois
*22	MK, Amber Holland, BR
23	MK, Justin Teague, FR
24	MK, Laura Riggs, FR
27	Lynette Morgan, C'I
*27	Ron Callaway, PAN
29	MK, Janice Donoho, Iowa
29	MK, Adam Morgan, C'I
29	Maj. Kerry Steedley, Georgia
29	Dennis Teague, FR
30	Brenda Steedley, Georgia

August

1	Deleen Cousineau, C'I
1	Alyne Maness, PA
2	Judy Bryan, C'I
3	Carlisle Hanna, India
5	Dennis Owen, UR
6	Darrell Nichols, C'I
7	MK, Amanda Bunch, PAN
7	Sandy Smith, Oregon
8	MK, Heath Hubbard, Arkansas
8	MK, Stephen Lloyd, Wisconsin
*8	Vicki Sturgill, BR
10	James Munsey, Mexico
10	Capt. Tim Sturgill, Florida
*11	MK, Paulo Eagleton, C'I
11	MK, Laura Munsey, Mexico
12	Pat Nason, NH
13	MK, Deborah Creech, C'I
14	Kay Phillips, Utah
15	MK, Anna Lee Childers, SC
15	MK, Rachel Spears, NC
16	MK, Ruben Vera Jr., Puerto Rico
*17	Jim Sturgill, BR
*18	MK, Joshua Holland, C'I
18	MK, Timothy Lloyd, Wisconsin
19	MK, Brian Riggs, FR
20	MK, Lauren Barber, SC
20	MK, Johanna Riggs, FR
*23	MK, John Gentuso, C'I
27	Sandra Bishop, JPN
27	MK, Aaron Criswell, Oregon
28	Donna Crabtree, Canada
28	MK, Michelle Crosby, SP
*29	Linda Callaway, PAN
30	Capt. Terry Austin, GER
31	Curtis Alligood, FL

*Indicates missionary is on furlough. Check with Foreign Missions office for furlough address.

Marge: And?

Lucy: He ate them and he got deathly sick.

Marge: Oh, no!

Lucy: Yes, and then the woman on the phone asked Molly. "How old is your boy?" She said, "He's 53."

Marge: (laughs)

Lucy: I know the story is funny. But think about it. Lot's of people are eating tulips thinking they are scallions.

Marge: I probably couldn't tell the difference if I had a bad cold.

Lucy: Right, they look alike.

Marge: What's your point?

Lucy: Some people can't tell the difference from right and wrong. Their conscience isn't working, like James' sense of smell.

Marge: (nodding her head) Ah, and when they make the wrong choice, they get deathly sick.

Lucy: Um, hum. And they have no idea of the danger.❖

alt-ctrl-del by Arlene Branum

Computer users everywhere know what "alt-control-delete" means. It's a reboot. A way to restart your computer when everything else fails. It gives the computer a fresh start. It's only done as a last resort like when your computer locks up and ceases to perform the function it was engaged in. Why? Because these keystrokes can cause information to be lost, never to be seen again. What a great illustration for forgiveness!

Wouldn't it be great if we had a "delete key" within our hearts and minds? When those long-ago sins come back to haunt us making us feel guilty all over again, we could just tap our delete key. In a micro-second, they would be zapped away never to be found again. Or when those old familiar resentments pop back into our lives like they never left, you guessed it. They'd be out of here in a flash.

The good news is that when we confess our sin and ask God for forgiveness and turn from our sin, "He is faithful and just to forgive us." And He puts our sin into the "Sea of Forgetfulness," never to be seen again. God has beaten all those computer programmers by cons.

When we go back to God a second time (or third, or fourth), asking for His forgiveness for yesterday's sin, do you ever wonder if He might be asking Himself, "What sin?" You see, God has already thrown it away. He remembers no more.

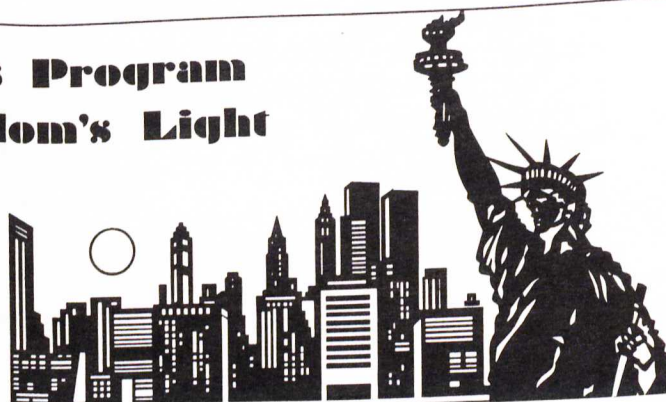
Perhaps the next time we are anxious about a forgiven sin, we should imagine a huge delete key on God's great computer and instead offer up a prayer of thanksgiving for His love, mercy, and grace.❖

"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." Hebrews 8:12

Arlene Branum is a member of Purcell Free Will Baptist Church in Purcell, Oklahoma.

Dear _____,
You are invited
to a special meeting
Place: _____
Date: _____
Time: _____
Hosted by: _____

**July's Program
Freedom's Light**



COMMUNICATOR

BY MARY RUTH WISEHART

A Time for Reports

By July 1, 1996, all secretaries for states, districts and local groups associated with the WNAC national convention should have annual reports to the national office.

These reports should contain the following information:

- ♦ Number of local groups
- ♦ Number of districts
- ♦ Total membership from last year
- ♦ New members added
- ♦ Members lost
- ♦ Total membership this year
- ♦ Total national dues paid (\$10 per member)
- ♦ Number of Actionette groups and their membership

When these reports are not completed, WNAC history is not complete.

The secretary is also responsible for sending the names of delegates to the convention. The name of the member for the nominating committee from her state is very important. The nominating committee will be organizing this year and making its report in 1997.

It is helpful to have the time and place of the next state meeting and state retreat. The office keeps this information on hand and finds it valuable in answering questions and in making plans for representation to the state meetings.

State secretaries, see that all the districts in your state report.

District secretaries, get a report from each local group in your state.

Sometimes you may have to call or visit to get these reports. Do your best to make your report complete.

Officers' Workshop at the Pre-Convention Meeting

Monday, July 22 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. all local, district, and state officers are invited to meet in Grand Crystal Ballroom A of the Radisson Hotel.

The workshop will cover the new *Manual*, especially the changes in officers and in the reports.

Make sure your group is represented at this meeting.

Emphasis Offering

August is emphasis month for WNAC.

Perhaps some women think that the Rest of the Family Offering in September takes care of an offering for WNAC.

WNAC is included in the Rest of the Family Offering. The hope is that some day the Rest of the Family Offering will replace the emphasis offering. It does not at this time. Usually the WNAC office receives about \$14,000 from the emphasis offering. In 1995 the emphasis offering was more than \$2,000 short of that amount. The Rest of the Family Offering contributed only \$845.29 to WNAC.

Until that offering can contribute more than \$14,000 to WNAC, women should continue giving to the emphasis offering.

Get Your Emphasis Packet

If your group has not received the 1996 emphasis packet, pick up one at the WNAC booth in Fort Worth. You may also ask for one from the WNAC office.

The program this year is "Our Faces Toward Tomorrow: Light on the Way."

The staff at the national office prepared the program with the hope that it will help the women inform the whole church about the work of WNAC. We think you will enjoy a glimpse of the past, an account of the present, and a peek into the future.

Check Out These New Items

Look for some new publications at the national convention in July.

- ♦ *Touched with Delight*, the newest play book with seven plays
- ♦ A new folder with free materials
- ♦ New look treasurers' monthly report forms
- ♦ Bookmark calendar key
- ♦ Yearbook, 1997
- ♦ Pray-ers folder
- ♦ Study guide for the new *Manual*
- ♦ Treasurer's Record and Report Book
- ♦ Secretary's Record and Report Book ♦

Women In Action

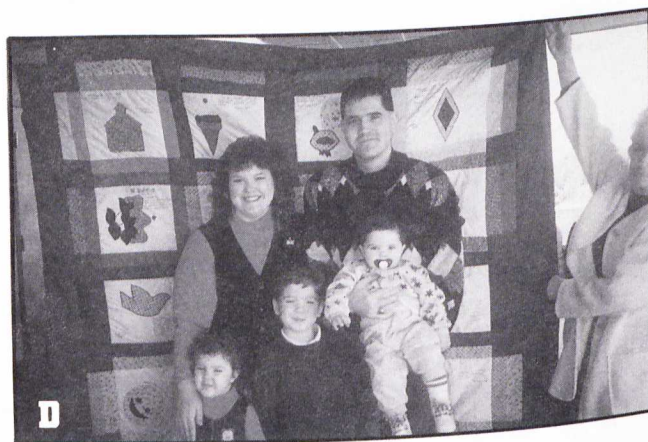


A. A Heart for Hillsdale

Felker FWB Church has a heart for Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. In fact, a quilt of them. Felker Women Active for Christ pieced and quilted a quilt of red hearts with every family's name embroidered on a heart.

On February 11 the Hillsdale Drama Team was in the services and drew names of the winner of the quilt. \$200 was raised for Hillsdale FWB College through this project.

Pictured: Cindy Hicks, Kathy Vaughn, Edna Box, Jo Nell DeWitt



B-C. Missions Banquet in Alabama

Alabama FWB Women Active for Christ Missions Banquet was held at the Madison FWB Church, November 10, 1995. Approximately 85 people enjoyed the meal prepared by Vice-President Carolyn Hendrix and the Madison Auxiliary members and husbands.

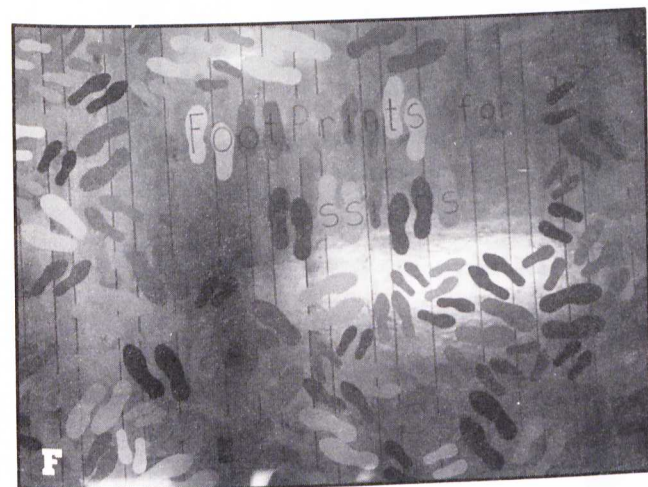
Susan Turnbough, missionary to Spain, spoke. Other missionary guests were Janie and Jimmy Aldridge and Fred and Barbara Jones.

Pictured: Ann Kennedy (left) presented Susan Turnbough with a check for \$500.

Pictured: Fred Jones, missionary to Prattville, Alabama

D. Quilt presented to Sloans

Westgate Woman's Auxiliary made a quilt to give to Jeff and Sherrie Sloan, missionaries to Ft. Wayne, IN. Each of the sixteen members of Westgate Woman's Auxiliary (Shawnee, OK) contributed a square with a verse and shape.



Pictured: Sherrie, Jeff, Christian Joy, Caleb, Joshua

E. Tupperware for Provision Closet

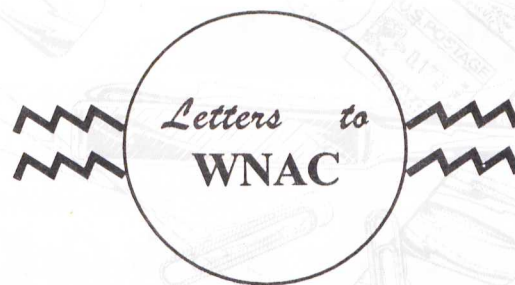
The women of Bay Branch Free Will Baptist WNAC (Timmonsville, SC) sent Tupperware to the Provision Closet.

Pictured: Back row (left to right): Millie Cashwell, Sue Carter, Kenda Ward, Annie Ruth Ward

Front row: Mamie Folsom Louise Saverance, Ruby Hickson, Gloria McKay (picture taken by Brenda Dennis)

F. Footprints for Missions

The women of Ina FWB Church (Ina, IL) held a campaign and raised a total of \$3,185 which was presented at the Loyal Workers District Meeting held at the same church on March 9, 1996. ❖



Dear WNAC.

The *CoLaborer* is great. Our ladies enjoy it a great deal.

Nancy Moore
Charleston, AR

Dear WNAC.

Thank you for the inspirational stories and programs provided in the *CoLaborer*. I look forward to our monthly women's meetings.

Patricia Ramsey
Albany, GA

Dear WNAC.

The first two issues of the 1996 *CoLaborer* arrived in Côte d'Ivoire on April 15. Wow! I appreciate the '96 theme. The articles and programs are practical and thought provoking.

I'm glad MK's are getting their birthdays published too. I'm glad we honor the memory of Women God has Used. How about another one to honor the living so they can smell the roses of thanks? Thank you for *Holding the Rope*. Ruthann Hall's poem was super.

Jerry and Carol Pinkerton
Missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire

Dear WNAC.

Thank you for your prayers and support. I'm looking forward to the great things God is going to do this summer in Africa. May God bless you.

Donna Pennington
Student Missionary to Côte d'Ivoire ❖

Risk the Journey: Answering God's Call to Proclaim His Word

Bill J. Leonard

Woman's Missionary Union, Southern
Baptist Convention, 1995.

Reviewed by Mary R. Wischart

"To follow Christ is to embark on a journey. It is to set out on a way of life that transforms and informs every facet of our experience. It is to open the door to growth, change and rebirth, not simply in one spiritual event but in the journey of a lifetime."

Bill Leonard designed this book as a study of those who risked the journey and went before us in the work of spreading the gospel. These pioneers have left us a heritage. "What timeless elements," he asks, "should we retain and promote to our children?"

He writes of missionaries not so well known, such as Harriet Winslow, missionary to India, Ramabai, an India woman, a missionary to her own people. He includes some well-known pioneers, such as Hudson Taylor, William Carey and Lottie Moon. All these risked the journey.

For them the journey involved the loss of a companion, children, their own health and sometimes their lives. What made the risk worth it for them? You will find the answer in the pages of this book.

Leonard includes many women missionaries, making the book especially suitable for a study by

Provision Closet Needs:

Sheet Sets, all sizes

(fitted sheets should be deep pocket sheets)

King and twin-sized
mattress covers

Bedspreads

Towel Sets, hand towels
and wash cloths

Small appliances

Cookware

Pressure cookers

Corelleware

Flatware

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

women's groups. Each chapter is followed by questions for discussion. A teaching guide is included at the end of the book, including suggestions for large groups, small groups, partners and individual study.❖

WNAC does not stock this book. It may be available from a Christian bookstore near you or you may order it from Randall Bookstore, P. O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.



Thursday / September 12

- 3:00 Registration and check-in
- 5:30 Supper
- 7:20 General Session
 - Congregational Singing: Camille Scott
 - Prayer
 - Welcome: Mary Wischart
 - Speaker: Marjorie Workman, *My Corner—My Family*
- 11:30 Quiet Time

Friday / September 13

- 7:30 Breakfast
- 8:30 General Session
 - Congregational Singing
 - Prayer
- 9:00 Kathy Coats, *My Corner—The Church*
- 10:00 A Bright Spot
 - Executive Committee & Staff
- 11:00 General Session
 - Congregational Singing
 - Prayer
 - Speaker—Tammy Gentuso, *My Corner—The Workplace*

12:00 Lunch

- 1:00 Your Choice
 - Rooms open for prayer
 - Missionary Displays and WNAC literature room
 - Recreation
 - Sightseeing

5:30 Supper

- 7:00 General Session
 - Congregation Singing
 - Prayer
 - Missionary Offering
 - Speaker: Patsy VanHook, *My Corner of the World*

Candlelight Service, Evelyn Getz

Saturday / September 14

- 7:30 Breakfast
- 8:30 General Session
 - Congregational Singing
 - Speaker: Angie Outlaw, *My Corner—the Community*

⇒ see the March/April *CoLaborer* (page 30) for reservation form



Wounded lambs

"Miracles are not the foundation for the household of faith but they are the path that leads to the door."

When children learn about God, they get down to the basics.

Is He alive? Does He know me?
Does He answer my prayer?

This was important to remember when teaching faith to street children. It's difficult for them to trust anyone. The children were suspicious of movements toward them. They were used to fending for themselves . . . in the streets.

They had two means of survival: begging and stealing. Of course, when we took them into the Children's Home, we did not permit them to use these means. It was frustrating to them. Even though they had their basic needs met as never before in their young lives, if they wanted quick money or a certain object, they couldn't beg for it or steal it anymore.

This piece is taken from Shirley Combs' book, *They Deserve A Second Chance*. Used by permission. To order this book from WNAC, write P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002 or call (615)731-6812. The cost is \$6.50 + s&h. For more information about this work with street children in Brazil, write: Rejoice Ministries International, P.O. Box 50, Owasso, OK 74055.

First, they had to consult someone about it. They were usually told the home didn't have funds for such things. Or, they could be told that God can supply their needs and they should pray about it. Either way, it was frustrating.

It didn't take them long, however, to observe that putting their request on a prayer list was a pretty super deal!

One special afternoon we were in the kitchen squeezing crates of oranges donated by a citrus company. Children and volunteers were singing, squeezing and filling up pitchers and tummies with the delicious juice.

One small boy, Eduardo, piped up, "Tia (aunt), we need one of these things with a motor on it."

"You mean an electric juicer?" I smiled.

"Sim, senhora [yes, ma'am], and I know they have them because I've seen them in the store windows."

"Oh sweetheart, that would be nice, but we don't have funds right now. Someone donated these hand squeezers but since God is your Father now, you can ask Him for one. If He thinks you need one, He can send it."

"Nã, nã. If God told someone to donate a simple little juicer, I guess they would obey. But nobody would obey if God told them to give us an

electric one."

Wow! That did sound familiar and it may happen many times. I was tempted to wonder if I were putting God on the spot. Was I going to be embarrassed, or hinder someone's faith?

No, I had already learned that God was faithful and would supply our needs. It was very important to teach this to our little ones and to our volunteers. So, once again I reminded him, and all the other little ears listening, that God was their Father and He could supply their needs—without begging and stealing.

The very next day, a young woman clapped at the gate. Luciana, a nurse, shyly said, "For some reason I felt impressed to stop by and offer you this." She held out a box. "I actually have two *espremidores electricos* and hope you can use it."

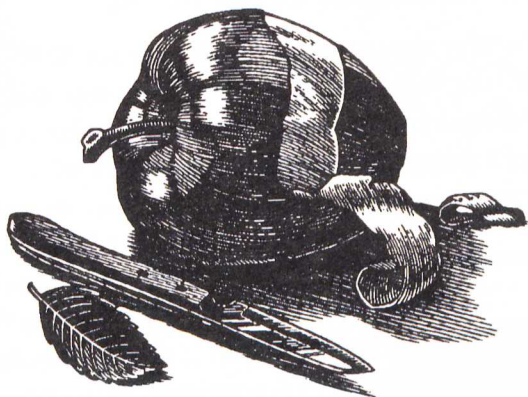
You can guess what it was. An electric juicer! We called Eduardo out and presented him to the lady. She was really touched to hear the story and realize that God had used her.

Eduardo's faith soared. And the faith of all the children and volunteers was increased as they witnessed the amazing outcome of the conversation in the kitchen the day before. All of us involved were reminded of how sweet it is to "walk by faith." ♦

"Search me, O God, and know my heart... See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."
Psalms 139:23, 24 (NIV)

a column for young people

Life!Action. ...for everyday life



apples for God's pie

My fingers tap away at the keyboard. I'm typing my interview with Mr. Rohr.

"Thanks for picking me up at the airport, Mr. Rohr. The reason I'm here is to write about your life as a missionary."

Mr. Rohr drives down Highway 17 right into the town of Samantha. At the stoplight in Samantha you have to either turn right or left or you end up in the creek. He goes right. "This is Main Street." Known as a talker, he begins to warm up. I see a row of two-story buildings on the right side of the street that remind me of the old west. The street lights look more like old lanterns. A creek and a railroad run parallel to the street on the left. Three or four houses pop out of the trees across the creek.

His beat up Chevette creeps at the 25 mile per hour speed limit. We are still on Main Street. "That used to be the elementary school. It was turned into a school for troubled teens." We pass the Methodist Church. Two more blocks, and we turn up the hill. The street curves to the left and then right. No need for a speed limit sign on this street.

Oops, someone is coming down the hill toward us. Mr. Rohr pulls over to let them by. "Our house is the yellow one with the little porch."

As we walk toward the porch, he calls out, "Honey, I'm back. We'll be out here on the porch." The phone rings inside the house and his wife answers.

Mr. Rohr tells stories of when he was overseas. "We

were gone three years that time."

I smell the grass—someone just finished mowing. "We left the house empty." He pauses, then continues, "My nephews took care of the lawn in the summer so the house wouldn't look abandoned. The neighbors checked on the house now and then."

He points to an apple tree near the side of the house. "Before we left, I told the women from our church to pick the apples to use in their fried pies. We wouldn't be here to enjoy them. So they did. The money from the fried pies went to WNAC." I nod in agreement. I knew about the women in his church. "The third year, before we came back, the women picked the apples as usual but they couldn't use them. They were not fit to eat. Full of worms and hard. They couldn't even use them to cook."

"Our daughter conveyed the message, 'They said the tree needs to be pruned and sprayed if it's to bear any decent apples next year.' It had been too long. We hadn't thought to arrange for someone to take care of the tree."

A knock on my door jars me back to the computer. A light comes on inside. We are like that apple tree. In order to bear good fruit, we need maintenance. A tree needs pruning, spraying for pests; it also needs water and good soil. If we don't rid ourselves of excess baggage and pests, water and soil won't do much good. Our words and actions become hard and tasteless.

I bow my head and pray. "Father, forgive me for those wormy apples in my life. Prune me and feed me from Your Word. Amen." I reach for my Bible. ❖

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 ❖

Howdy, from Texas! Texas is the place to be this summer. That's where it's all happening. So, make your plans (hope you have preregistered), pack your bags, and head on out to Fort Worth, Texas to attend the Women Nationally Active for Christ Convention, 1996. Those dates are Monday and Tuesday, July 22-23. They say that everything is **BIGGER** and **BETTER** in Texas; so this should be a great meeting.

Since Texas is so **BIG**, we have a **BIG** variety of places to go and things to see and do. Therefore, it is not recommended that you try to see all of Texas in one trip. We do

hope that "Ya'll" will take advantage of this opportunity to see some of Texas. Take a few extra days and enjoy some of the sights and interesting places in the Lone Star state. You may choose from the White Sand Dunes in west Texas to the Gulf of Mexico in the south; or maybe Six Flags Over Texas in the Dallas / Fort Worth area or the Alamo in San

Antonio. Austin, being our capital, is full of history. Plus, there are lots and lots of good shopping places, just about anywhere you go.

The Texas Women Active for Christ extend a hearty and friendly **BIG** welcome to all of ya'll. They want to make your stay enjoyable and one you will remember for a long time.

We hope you will make an extra **BIG** effort to get in on **all** that's going on. Both WNAC seminars will

be helpful for every woman. Check out the topics: "How Can I Help my Pastor's Wife?" and "Privileges and Responsibilities of Holding the Light in the Parsonage." They will both be at 1:30 Monday afternoon at the Radisson Hotel. At 3:00 Mary R. Wischart will give a seminar for all state officers. She will introduce the new manual.

Tuesday always marks a **BIG** day for WNAC. Starting at 9:00 a.m. and going through our WNAC Fellowship Dinner at 5:30 p.m., the day is packed with noteworthy and godly speakers who challenge, encourage, and inspire us to continue to unite our

efforts to further the work of the Lord as Women Active for Christ. You are also given an opportunity to see and meet many of our missionaries, plus enjoy sweet fellowship with old friends, as well as new ones.

I am personally looking forward to meeting many of our women from around the country. I am anticipating a time of spiritual enrichment,

renewal, and challenge, as we meet together. Please make our WNAC Convention, 1996, a matter of

consistent prayer.

"Ya'll come! And see us in Texas!" Come, experience God's Word speaking to you. **Come**, with a desire to move forward in His work. **Come**, with a determination to yield your will to His ways and to walk in them. **Come**, anticipating a great time! ♦

Everyl Getz, president of WNAC, lives in McAllen, Texas.



by Everyl Getz



MISSION ALERT:

Evangelism News from Around the World

Sierra Vista, AZ

Desert Springs Free Will Baptist Church celebrated its first anniversary on March 3, 1996. During March the church averaged twenty-three people in Sunday morning services. Home missionary Jerry Rayburn reports they had a new convert study on Monday evenings. Four new converts and three young Christians attended the study.

Grand Junction, CO

March 31, 1996 was "Friend and Family Day" at the home mission church in Grand Junction. According to Bob and Brenda Lewis, they encouraged everyone to bring at least one friend or family member on that day. Many did much more. One family brought eighteen people! Another brought thirteen. They had a total of 78 people present for the morning service—about double their usual attendance. Perhaps some heard the gospel for the first time on that day. Many of the visitors stayed and enjoyed the pot luck picnic lunch.

Waldorf, MD

According to Jim Fairchild the work in Waldorf prepared all month for March 31, 1996—Roll Call Sunday. Their goal was to have 200 people and to see people saved. They had cottage prayer meetings, special prayer services, and visitation. When the big day came 225 people attended service at the home mission church. During the invitation sixteen people gathered around the altar. One person was saved in his seat and two were saved in their Sunday school class. All are rejoicing over the total of twenty-one people saved throughout the month of March.

Nantes, France

Charolette Tallent is praising the Lord that new people continue to come to the weekly university Bible studies in her home. Approximately ten unsaved students who began the academic year with the studies are still attending. Pray that they will receive Christ as Savior. The Christian students have all experienced spiritual growth during the year. Some have had to make hard decisions as they have moved further in identifying with Christ in their daily lives. Ask God to continue to bless and guide Charolette as she works with the university students.

Araras, Brazil

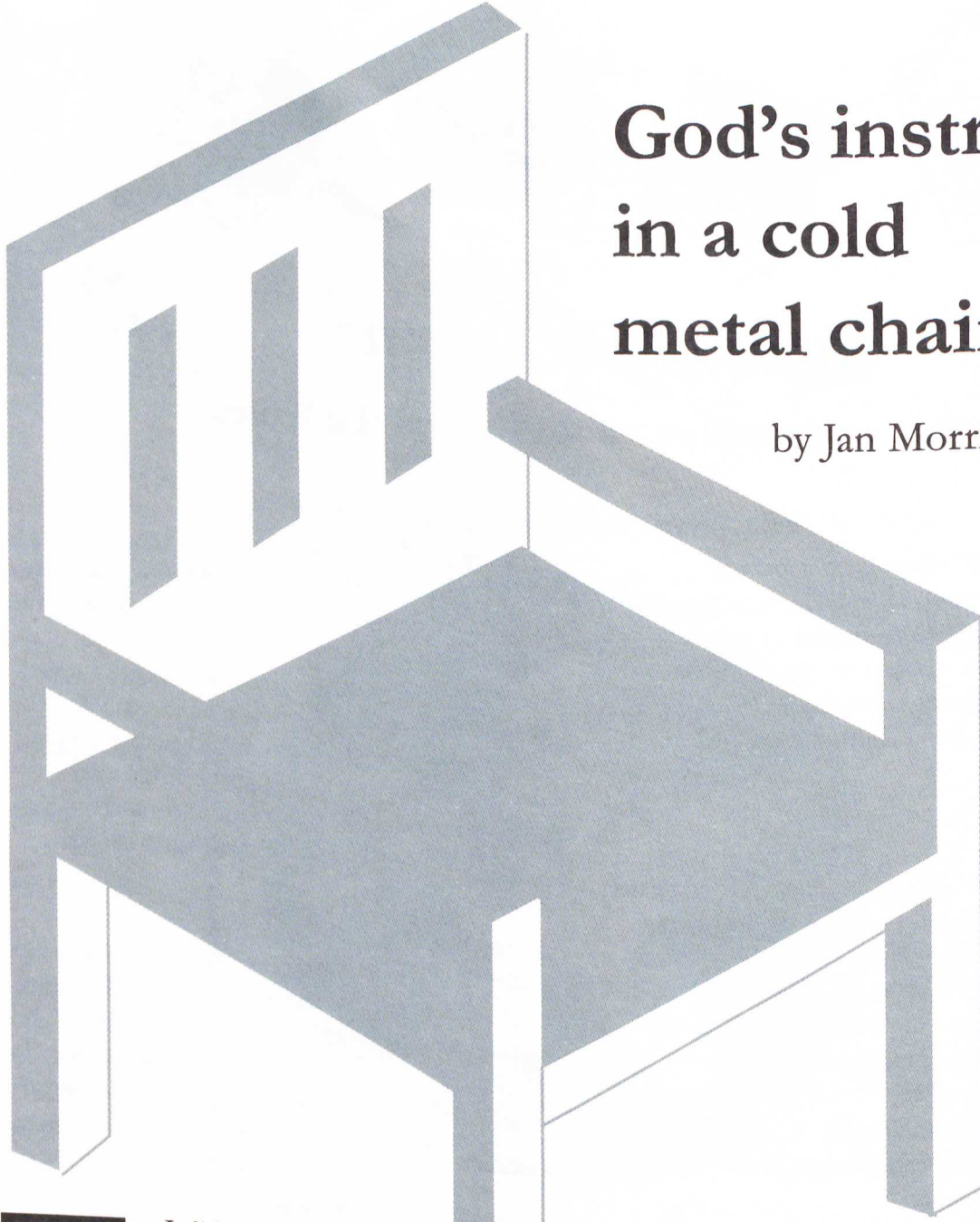
Shirley Combs—missionary and president of Brazil's FWB children's home—writes, "New Life Children's Home is now in its fifth year of rescuing children. We now have a total of 24 precious 'lambs' who depend upon us (March 1996) and we have taken care of many more who have been placed somewhere by the judge. In our Home, they are safe, healthy, happy, learning and getting to know a loving Father/God."

Sonapurhat, India

Carlisle and Marie Hanna rejoice that more than 1,200 people attended the Forty-fifth Annual Free Will Baptist Conference in late February. Sixty groups were represented by letter, and many of these are ready to be formed into churches.

The Hannas have also received encouraging reports from South India. They are building a new church in the town of Wellington (close to Kotagiri).

(continued on page 30)



God's instrument in a cold metal chair

by Jan Morrison

A

s I slid into the cold metal chair, a nervous tingle penetrated my body. This was it. I had been in training for this very moment for 23 years. Quickly, I prayed, "Help me, Lord, I don't know where to start!"

Actually, the events culminated on this momentous Sunday morning were quite ordinary yet miraculous. It is natural that children, with the Holy Spirit's prompting, will receive Christ as their personal Savior when their parents, pastor, and teachers diligently present the gospel message

each week. So when this natural and supernatural event occurred, I should have been ready to be that instrument used by God to lead confidently instead of shifting nervously in my cold chair.

"Would you baptize me?" When Amy, age 8, and Sydney, age 7, approached my pastor-husband with their questions, he responded by speaking with each sister separately. Pulling me aside, he quietly confided in me. "Jan, Sydney is sure about her decision to follow Christ, she is ready to make a public profession of faith. Amy is uncertain and afraid to make her private decision public. I am confident of her decision as well. Maybe you

should talk to her and see if you can help her feel more comfortable."

The events that followed led to my nervous tingle-metal chair experience. I sat looking at two precious faces. I had been with them for four years full of growth, both physical and spiritual.

Another girl, Ginger, sat with us. She was 10 years old and had been a Christian several years. She also realized the magnitude of this Sunday Morning. This was no ordinary class. No silly giggles. No small talk for filler. Every word was valuable. Each phrase judged by these girls on the brink of a life of knowing and serving God.

Where to begin? Out of the corner of my eyes, I caught the yellow flash card with the verse we had been memorizing. Romans 3:23, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." After reading this verse, we talked about its meaning. Then words began to tumble out of my mouth.

"Do you know how old Miss Jan was when I asked Jesus to come into my heart?" Heads shook to indicate the answer was "no" and eyes showed they were interested in knowing. "I was five." I said, continuing with my story. "I had been to a revival service and heard a song called 'Sheltered in the Arms of God.'" I knew that night that I was not in God's arms because I had sin in my heart. I began to cry and my parents asked me to explain what was wrong. Then they led me to Christ." I explained in detail this salvation experience. I could read those little faces. Each of these three girls knew exactly what I was talking about. I **knew** their knowledge came from experiencing salvation themselves.

I talked about making our profession of faith public, so everyone could know that we had decided to follow Christ. I mentioned how all our friends at church would be so happy for us. And then we could be just like brothers and sisters because God was our Father. Then I spoke of following Jesus' example by being baptized in obedience to His command.

Sydney was eager. Ginger shared her own salvation and baptismal memories. I could tell that Amy was nervous and unsure. In my most confident voice, I said, "Sydney wants to make a

profession of faith today and this is great. Amy has asked Jesus to take away her sins and live in her heart. I'm proud of all three of you for making this decision. It is the most important decision we can ever make in life. Amy, if you want to wait awhile, until you are ready to make a public profession and be baptized, that's fine." She replied that she'd rather wait.

As I looked into Amy's face, I recalled the scared five-year-old in my past. One more time, I shared the fear I remembered so vividly. I didn't want to be baptized. I might drown. My supportive parents assured me I could wait until I was ready. But one day a thought came to my mind as I looked at a picture of Jesus hanging on the cross. If Jesus loved me so much—enough to die for me—I could be baptized for Him. And I was.

That was how we left class and entered the sanctuary that morning. Sydney and I would make the walk up the aisle together when the invitation was given. As we stepped out, Amy turned to Ginger and asked, "Should I go?" With wisdom beyond her years, Ginger responded, "**You** have to make that decision." I felt a presence move beside me as Amy decided for herself to follow Jesus in complete obedience just as I had nearly a quarter of a century earlier.

How blessed we felt that day to add these sisters in Christ to our church family and more importantly to the family of God. It was just the beginning of their Christian walk and training for Christian service still lay ahead. One week later, we cried with joy as each child was baptized.

Miraculous. How God can use each one of us. Sharing God's Word and personal testimony opened up the door to meet a need and reach someone for Christ. My prayer is that someday each of these three girls will be a teacher in a cold metal chair and receive the blessing of being used as an instrument of God to win others to Him.

Jan Morrison lives in Rose Bud, AR. She is a member of Friendship Free Will Baptist Church where Mike, her husband, is pastor.

The Love and Laughter: Adventure in Côte d'Ivoire

(continued from page 13)

women gave me the gift, but I didn't see any woman weep at the meeting. Carol says that Africans rarely weep. Some testimonies made me want to weep, but the women were rejoicing and praising the Lord.

I must give special thanks to the women who translated for me. The Kulango and Lobi translators were good and had to work very hard. Alice Smith

translated my messages into French. Alice, Pam West, Carol Pinkerton, and Madame Lydie (She teaches English.) helped me understand the messages, testimonies, and prayer requests. Translating for me kept them from simply enjoying the retreat, but their help meant a great deal to me. I must learn French before I go to Côte d'Ivoire again! ❖

MISSION ALERT

(continued from page 27)

Doropo, Côte d'Ivoire

Dr. Mark Paschall and family have finally

arrived safely to work in the hospital at Doropo. All baggage, barrels, and crates have also arrived intact in Doropo. The Paschalls write, "We can

certainly see the needs of the people here, both physical and spiritual and we can better understand why God wanted our family here. Our prayer now is to do the work He has here for us, with a view to bringing people to the Greatest of all Physicians—the Healer of Souls, Jesus Christ."

According to Dr. Paschall, the caseload is tremendous at the hospital. The government requires huge amounts of paperwork which keeps him and Dr. Gentuso extremely busy. Both doctors continue their involvement with evangelical outreach into the community. Fatigue, disappointment, and stress are key areas Satan can easily use to attack them. Death is not uncommon, as people arrive daily with advanced illnesses. Pray for all of the personnel working at Doropo. They need physical and emotional strength and God's empowerment to carry the responsibilities of ministering to the people. ❖

Letters to God

Dear God,

Maybe you understand me. Sometimes, nobody else does. I can't tell Mommy what I want; so she doesn't always know. She tries, Lord. But sometimes my heart hurts and she thinks I have a tummy ache.

Things don't work right, either. My right leg goes crooked and makes my walk funny. Mommy and teacher think I should walk as far as they do, but my back hurts because I can't walk straight.

Someday, you will make me better. Mommy says that you will give me a new body . . . one that is straight and everything works just right. I get tired of waiting. Hurry up.

Ruth

Letters to God: A seven-part series of letters from a special needs child.



WORDS FOR WOMEN

One memory I have from childhood is a picture in a magazine advertisement. The picture showed a woman spread out face down on the floor with one of the old flat irons on top of her. I'm sure it was an advertisement for a more modern iron, but as a child I thought that irons really might jump on a woman and get her down. Imagine what it was like to heat the iron on a wood burning stove, carry it to the ironing board and iron until it grew too cold to do any good. How much time would it take to do the family ironing? Remember. They had no wash and wear clothes. Everything had to be ironed.

Compare that with what we do today. We can have spray starch, an iron with steam, an iron that turns itself off, a cordless iron. We can use the touch-up cycle on the dryer. Besides, most of our clothes do not have to be ironed. If they do, we simply plug in the iron and iron away.

Isn't it strange then that we seem to have less time than our mothers and grandmothers? We say, "I'm too busy. I don't have time for WAC." Yet we have all the timesaving devices our grandmothers never even dreamed of.

What are we busy doing? It's easy to become involved in frivolous things that don't amount to, as my mother would say, "a hill of beans." It's easy to fritter the time away in meaningless activities. It's easy to cram our schedule full of plans that will not matter a hundred years from now or even tomorrow perhaps.

What is really important in life? Time is valuable and we have only so much of it in our lifetime.

Someone said recently that if you are 35 and your life span reaches the 72 age mark, you have only 500 days left to do just what you want to do. The other days are taken up with sleeping, eating, making a living and doing the essential things that life demands.

Suppose you have only those 500 days to do something really meaningful and significant.

What activities will you choose?

Perhaps we should examine our schedules. What meaningless or insignificant activities and plans can I scrap from my schedule? How can I tell the difference between the significant and the insignificant activities I am involved in?

What activities am I involved in that will make a difference in my world? Are people more important than things to me? What am I doing today that will count for eternity? ❖



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