

Sept • Oct 1996

CoLaborer

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

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VISION

SUZANNE FRANKS

Wait



Israel's hymnbook, Psalms, can tell us a great deal about worship in Old Testament Israel. Their worship was born out of suffering punishment for disobedience and rejoicing over God's forgiveness and provision. Have you noticed how frequently the word "praise" appears in the Psalms? "Weep" is almost non-existent in the 150 Psalms. "Mourn" is another rarity. Sure, they had reason to weep and mourn, but usually they left it out of their music.

As you would expect, "sing" appears over 30 times in the Psalms. As with "Praise," "Rejoice"—though not as frequent—appears over 50 times. How appropriate then that the title for the new Free Will Baptist hymnal is "Rejoice."

To my surprise, "wait" appears over 35 times in Psalms. Out of these 35 times, at least 30 refer to waiting on the Lord. Some translations substitute "wait" for "hope" and sometimes "look," but the meaning in the context is the same.

How much time do we spend in our lives waiting? Waiting for a doctor's appointment. Waiting at the dentist's office. Waiting in the cafeteria line. Waiting for the operator on the phone. You get the picture. I've had my share and more. We all seem to be born with an aversion to waiting. Israel knew about waiting. Forty years in the desert makes an hour spent in the doctor's office seem short.

When I hear the cliché, "Don't pray for patience. The Lord will send trials." I want to disagree. Yet I hold my tongue. Maybe praying for patience is not such a bad idea. But to be on the safe side, I have a better idea. When you need patience, look up all the 30 or more verses in Psalms that contain "wait." You may receive a blessing as I did. Here are just a few examples from Psalm 25, "Let none that wait on thee be ashamed . . . Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. . . . Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee." Also, Psalm 130, "I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his Word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning. . . . Let Israel hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption."

Time spent waiting on the Lord is not wasted time. Next, I think I'll look up those 50-something references to "rejoice." May we all learn to wait gracefully and rejoice in the richness of God's Word! ♦

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**A JUNIOR HIGH
TEACHER GIVES
POINTERS ON HOW WE
CAN HAVE A POSITIVE
INFLUENCE
ON OUR CHILDREN'S
EDUCATION
AND THEIR SCHOOL**

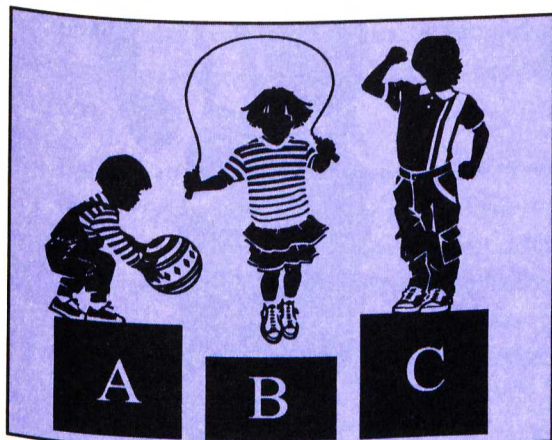
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**SCUFFED SHOES
ARE AN EVERYDAY
REMINDER
OF GOD'S BLESSING
OF HEALTH**

28

**WHEN HE BECAME SO
VERY LONELY, JOE
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OLD FRIEND AND
DECIDED TO LOOK
HIM UP.**

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Executive Editor: Mary R. Wischart
Editor: Suzanne Franks

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A

Attitude



B

Belief



C

Commitment

Holding the Light High in Our Schools

by Patricia Richards

Theme Verse: Acts 13:47
Song: We are an Offering,
Channels Only

Purpose: To show the importance of a Christian influence on the various aspects of education.

Introduction

Acts 13:47-49

There comes a time in every parent's life when they face the question, "What kind of education do I want for my child?" In times past this question has only been posed when a student graduated from high school and entered college. In our times, however, the question often presents itself much earlier in the form of a choice between public or private, Christian or secular education.

Because of finances many parents will never really get to choose what type of education their child will receive. Therefore, it becomes increasingly important in the lives of Christian young people that parents take an active role in their child's school no matter what type it may be. Whether Christian or public, parents can hold the light high in our schools.

Attitude

Romans 15:20-21, I Corinthians 4:1-2

The attitude we present to our children about education can be the foundation of our children's success in school. Unfortunately, our own experience in school will color our attitude and can ultimately determine our child's feelings toward education. It is difficult to put away any negative experiences that we may have had for the sake of our children, but we are called upon throughout parenthood to leave our past behind us and allow our children a clean slate.

The following are some suggestions that will help you show your children a positive attitude toward education:

1. Get to know your children's teachers, and let your children see your support. If you and the teachers present a united front, then your children will not receive mixed messages.
2. Visit your children's classrooms (but please make an appointment) and volunteer to help. Teachers can always use someone to put up bulletin boards, staple papers, or just about anything they can't do with a room full of children.
3. Become active in your parent-teacher organization. You will learn valuable information about your

children's school, and be able to be a testimony to parents who aren't Christians.

4. Be supportive of extra-curricular activities and encourage your children to participate. Many types of activities contribute to the social and physical growth of students and will enhance their overall school experience.
5. Have a designated place and time to go over your children's homework with them. By providing a special place and time they will see the importance you place on what they're doing.
6. Encourage your children to read!! I keep a poster in my classroom that says, "Those who read are the ones who succeed!" Provide reading material for them, take them to the library, and let them see you read.
7. Try to be positive about learning in general, and let your children see you learning new things each day.
8. Praise your children's successes, minimize their failures, and expect them to always do their best. God expects excellence in everything we do. Children need to see this and mirror our behavior.
9. Keep up on current trends in education and know what is being presented in your school.
10. Pray for your children, their teachers, and administrators. Remember, God is concerned about all areas of our lives.

There are many other things that we can do to present a positive attitude toward education, and our efforts will be rewarded by our children's success.

Belief

II Corinthians 4:14-18, Romans 11:33-36

You're probably asking yourself what our belief in anything has to do with holding the light high in our schools? Our belief in God should be our frame of reference for everything we do in our lives. Because we live in a predominately secular society, our faith must be an anchor for our children to hold to during the course of their education.

Regardless of the type of education you choose for your child, there will be times that you disagree with certain

materials or methods a teacher or school has chosen. It is during these times that your light can be held high. We must remember, however, that our light is not to damage or to burn but to be a testimony. Remain open minded in questionable situations, and be ready and willing to defend your concerns from a Biblical standpoint, seasoned with love.

Be careful to save your battles for those things which are completely opposed to Christian principles. If you go to war over everything that doesn't fall in line with your particular views, you run the risk of presenting Christians as argumentative and undermining. It also sends your children a message that the teacher is a person to constantly scrutinize rather than respect.

Most schools, public or private, will allow parents to view curriculum before it is presented to students. The best place to make this request is with the teacher. Particular subjects that might be of concern to parents are science courses, family life courses, and sex education courses. The subjects may have items in them that you, as a family, disagree with, but are for the most part solid. Again, choose your battles carefully.

The appropriate channels to go through to preview curriculum begin, as I said, with the teacher. Always remember that like a doctor or lawyer, the teacher is a professional with a very full schedule. Calling first and scheduling an appointment instead of dropping in unexpectedly will let the teacher know that you respect his/her time. It would also be nice to leave a brief message letting the teacher know what you wish to meet about. If after giving adequate time, you get no response, schedule an appointment to see your child's principal. It is also very helpful to document each

attempt you have made to contact the teacher, so the principal is aware of your efforts.

It is important to realize that curriculum decisions are ultimately made by the school board before school begins each year. You, as a citizen, have the right to attend school board meetings, preview materials, and give input. If decisions are made after these things are done against your wishes, rest assured that you have done your best. From this point, it is up to you to become familiar with what your child is learning and be able to give an answer to pertinent questions from a biblical standpoint.

Realize that you will always have differences of opinion with someone connected with your child, but the teachings of Christ command us to be reasonable in all areas. Ultimately, we must trust that if we have our belief anchored in the God of Romans 11:33-36, and have given our children a faith of their own, we will be able to guide them carefully through difficult situations and remain victorious.

Commitment

II Corinthians 4:1-3, Ephesians 6:13-18

The final element of our ABC's is commitment. I suppose this could be considered the most important of the three, and yet all are so interdependent it would be difficult to separate

them. Commitment to anything we feel strongly about is the key to success in that area. Commitment is that stick-to-it attitude that keeps us going in the face of difficult circumstances. If our children see this character trait in us, it will be easy for them to mirror that in school when they face challenges.

I am reminded of some of my students when I think of this are. A few months ago my 7th and 8th graders (yes,

**Our light
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to damage
or to burn
but to be
a testimony.**

I enjoy teaching junior high . . . if you can believe that!) wanted to come up with a way to raise money. After looking through a multitude of those lovely fund-raising brochures, we finally decided to set up a pencil machine. Students would place a quarter in the slot and receive a brightly colored pencil. Ah, the perfect low-maintenance fund raiser with no fuss and no bother. The students were elated.

When the pencil machine finally arrived, the students couldn't wait to fill it with pencils, place it in the lounge, and watch the money begin rolling in. For the first few days my dedicated student council members faithfully checked the machine, emptying money and adding pencils when necessary. And then the inevitable happened. The excitement wore off, and the commitment wore thin. Soon, the pencil machine was empty, and students were arguing over whose turn it was to fill it and count the money. Before I knew it I was filling and emptying the machine, and the students had nearly forgotten it was even there.

Reality soon set in when a very large bill arrived and the money for the pencils had to come out of the treasury. That really hurt, because the students went in the hole. It was a valuable lesson in commitment and a costly one.

Too often in our lives we learn the same lesson. Unfortunately, the bill is paid by our children. When we bring them into the world we make a commitment to their health, happiness, spiritual upbringing, education, etc. All too soon the newness of parenthood wears off, and our children become a liability rather than an asset. They get lost in the shuffle of careers, money, and social position (even within the church), and are left to attempt to supply themselves with the proper tools to grow and succeed. When they are not equipped to fend for themselves, the world steps in to fill the gap and they are lost to us. When we realize it, we are left standing with gaping mouths and empty hands wondering just what happened.

Commitment is obviously far more than simply making sure our children get up and out the door in time to make it to school. It is a commitment of our time, energy, love, money, and in essence our lives.

Provision Closet Needs:

Flannel Sheet sets, all sizes

Bedspreads

Electric blankets

Travel irons

Speed cookers (pressure cookers)

Blenders

Baking pans

Cookware

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

Conclusion—The High Calling of Education

There are many occasions when I look out over my students and into the face of my own little boy and wonder what they will become. I hope I see potential doctors, lawyers, nurses, pastors, missionaries, or others who will contribute to society. To see this accomplished, however, it is my responsibility to set certain goals and work towards achieving them. We are called of God to be lights in a dark world. By educating our children we are equipping them to carry this light farther than we ever dreamed possible. The task is a never ending one with blessings that will follow us through eternity. ❖

Patricia Richards has taught Speech, English, and Drama for 8 years. She lives in Westland, MI and attends Garden City Free Will Baptist Church.

The Darker the Night The Brighter the Light

by Lois Smallwood

Purpose: To share witnessing experiences as a means of encouraging others

Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:29–37
or Psalm 18:28–36

**“This little light of mine.
I’m gonna let it shine.”** Do you remember singing that as a child? And did you let your light shine? Can you recall specific incidents of witnessing? Probably you didn’t think of it in those terms but was God real to you? Did He answer your childish prayers and did you tell people He did?

The first fourteen years of my life were spent in a log house, forty miles from the nearest town, in flat, somewhat barren country in Wyoming. We were so sheltered as children; not from cold. I’ve wakened many mornings to find snow on my bed because the daubing had loosened and been blown out of the cracks between the logs.

They were depression days. Money was not a problem. There wasn’t any money. We were never quite hungry but we ate some strange meals. (Do you

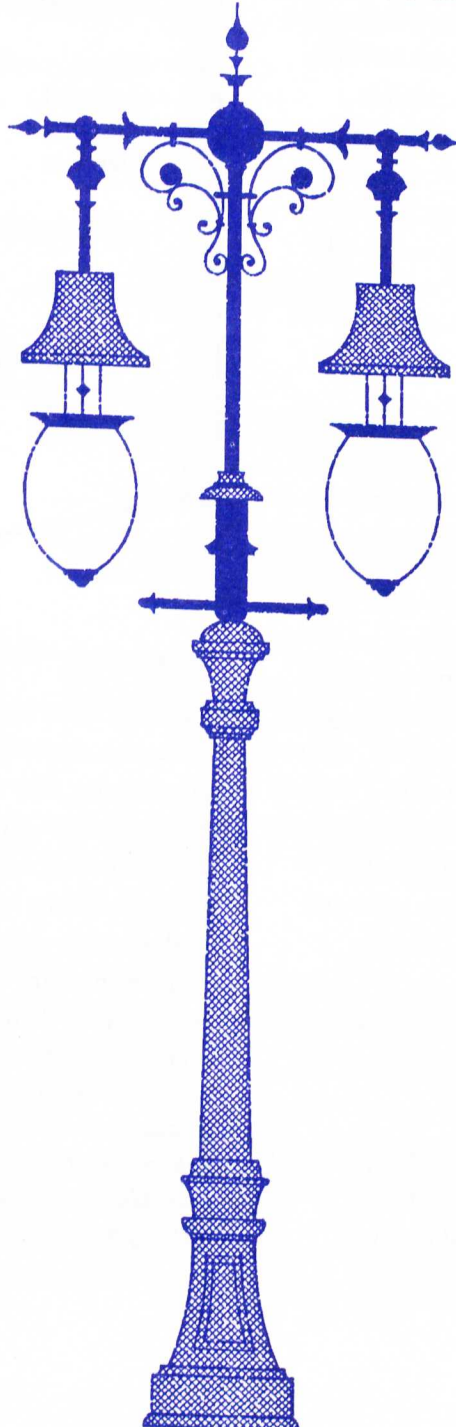
know how good fried corn meal mush can taste?) Nevertheless, we were protected from the wiles of the world.

My mother always had family worship and we took turns asking the blessing at meal times. I thought everybody did. Of course, God was real. He was real to Mama and He was real to me. Daddy didn’t pray out loud but he went along. He took part in the Bible reading and discussions. He got down on his knees when we prayed.

But Mama was the Sunday school superintendent and the song leader; the organizer and “pusher and puller” of the small group that met in the little one-room school house every Sunday.

While coming home from that school house one afternoon, God answered one of my most urgent requests. School had been in session about two weeks. Shortly before school started, I had received in the mail both my first and second year 4H pins.

I was the youngest member of the 4H Club. The county agent had allowed me to be a member, even if I was only nine and the re-



quired age was eleven. I was the only member who completed the necessary book work to earn a pin the first year. Therefore, the 4H leader just waited until the following year to send all the records in at the same time.

I was on cloud nine and teased until Mama told me, yes, I could walk the two miles to Mrs. Shutt's house. She was the 4H leader and I wanted to show her my precious pins. Wyoming prairie was so flat we could see each other's house. Mama warned me to watch for rattle snakes in the tall grass in the pasture.

When I arrived, hot and breathless, at Mrs. Shutt's house and held out the two cards to show her the bright, shiny awards pinned in the center of each card, we both saw it instantly. The second year pin was gone. Only the empty card remained.

The card wasn't nearly as empty as I felt. How I cried and complained to God! How could He let this happen to me?

Both Mrs. Shutt and Mama tried to console me. They told me pride was a sin and God loved me and wanted to teach me not to be proud. I wasn't buying that. I just prayed and prayed and prayed that I could find that tiny pin—no bigger than my fingernail—lost somewhere along the two-mile stretch.

So, as I walked home from school two weeks later the toe of my shoe parted the long grass. As I was looking down, and saw that

I had begun to believe in my faith instead of in God.

tiny, shining pin, I wasn't terribly surprised; just delighted. (I wonder if I witnessed or just bragged.)

The people in my small world were impressed. How could I ever doubt the God who answers children's prayers! And how very important it is to make God real to children by allowing them to know He is real to us.

"Hide it under a bushel—No!" Was there ever a period in your life when you did? Like Peter, did you feel like crawling under the bushel, too?

My husband drank. So did most of his music making, fishing, and fox hunting friends. Mama's daughter was failing our two little girls.

Finally, I announced we would ask the blessing at every meal. It took every ounce of courage. My strong-minded husband was not pleased that I embarrassed his friends by asking the blessing when they ate with us (which was

often).

Then my uncle, Mama's much older brother, came to visit. I hardly know him but Mama had prayed often enough that he'd come back to the Lord. We sat down to eat and I didn't ask the blessing. Afterward, my husband took me severely to task and told me that was the **last** time I'd ever try to force religion on his friends. How could I disagree?

I joined the Secret Service of the Lord's army but I was not a happy camper. Years passed before I felt free to discuss my faith when my husband was present.

"Won't let Satan blow it out." But Satan never stops trying. Have there been times when God was silent in your life? Maybe you didn't stop talking to God. You had nowhere else to go. But, still, nothing seemed to go right.

My husband was an alcoholic. My younger brother, Bud, was missing in action in Korea. One of my heaviest burdens was knowing that my relationship with Bud hadn't been good when he was reported missing.

I prayed. We all did. It was such a hard time. The exchange of war prisoners' names was read at midnight three nights in a row. I was so sure God would have Bud's name on that list. Then it was over, done, finished.

In an year Bud was declared dead and eventually a body was shipped home that Daddy identified as Bud's (by his hair). They

had a funeral but I didn't go. There was no money to make a trip from California to Missouri. Besides, if I went to that funeral it would be agreeing that Bud was dead. Never, **never!** I prayed on.

A couple of years later Daddy died. I did go home then. My husband borrowed money from his brother. I wasn't sure if it was safe to leave my two little girls in his care.

Shortly after I returned to California, my husband, with God's help, quit drinking. He went back to Missouri for six months to quit and I kept working in California.

Later, a son was born to us. Still, I prayed for Bud's return. One day I was driving on the freeway to work, praying frantically for Bud, promising God all sorts of impossible things if he'd only bring Bud home.

God spoke to me then. Yes, in an audible voice. His voice wasn't exactly loud, but it filled all the space in the car and outside the car. He said "Be still and know that I am God." (I didn't realize that was Scripture.) When I heard Psalm 46:10 being discussed in our Sunday school class later I nearly fell out of my chair. The only time God ever spoke to me He told me to be quiet. I knew what He meant. I accepted Bud's death.

God is God and He knows best. Looking back, I suspect Satan was about to blow out the light in my mind. I was trying to impose my will on God. I had begun to

You finally
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of the World.
It is
only natural
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it shine.

believe in my faith instead of in God.

Only after my "sanity" returned was I able to see things in perspective and know how good God had been to me. My husband no longer drank. Our bills were paid. I had a beautiful baby boy plus other blessings beyond measure. Joy returned to my life.

"Let it shine till Jesus comes." How long that seems as a child. But when you've reached three score and ten, and you've walked with God, and He has carried you through so many dark valleys, it isn't long anymore. You finally realize your little light is just a reflection from the Light of the World. It is only natural to let it shine.

There have been deaths of loved ones, painful divorces for two of my children and the loss of a grandchild to adoption. There was drug and alcohol abuse by my beloved son and not knowing where he was or if he was dead or alive for nine months. There was a suicide attempt by a loved one.

Sickness and surgeries have fallen on my children. So many times my husband's life has hung in the balance; heart problems, three lung cancers and many other problems, too.

Have you found, as I have, how close God is when your heart is breaking? Sometimes, when He has said "no," I've had to remind myself to be still and know that He is God.

There is such a fine line dividing earth from heaven for we really are in the Kingdom of God. Isn't life with God marvelous? As I write, my dear husband is taking chemotherapy for his third lung cancer. (The other two only required surgery.) This is no picnic in the park—but it's better. We're aware of God's presence in our lives. Thank you, God, for a wonderful life!

Now, I know when God says "no" and closes a window of prayer in my life that He has also opened a door to greener pastures. All of my children (and my husband) are happily married and serving the Lord. As the hymn says, we don't know what the future holds but we know Who holds the future. ♦

Now widowed, Lois Smallwood lives in Bear City, CA with her daughter.



By God's grace these little lambs have been rescued, but many others remain in the streets. They need prayer and the commitment of those who have the answer—Jesus Christ.

Some of our little ones have arrived at the home with physical problems.

Once, I was at the courthouse and had just left the judge's office when I was called back. A handsome young man, around 25 years of age, stood as I entered.

"Dona Shirley, this young man has come to me with a problem that perhaps you can help me with."

He didn't look like the usual father whose child ends up at the home. The judge continued, "The mother of his child left their year-old baby on his doorstep. She lives in a neighboring city and has been caring for him by herself until now. This young man lives with nine more men and he works.

Wounded lambs

He can't take care of the baby, so he needs a place to leave him until he can arrange a place to live and get a baby-sitter."

After asking the man and the judge a few questions, I agreed to help with the child. I explained that we give the children Christian training and asked if he had any problems with our taking him to our church. He didn't.

"We'll do all we can to help him and we will expect you to visit him on Saturdays."

"I work on Saturdays," he answered apologetically.

"Then we'll expect you on Sundays. You'll need to get acquainted with your son."

The caseworker and I went by to pick up the baby, Miguel, and discovered one thing the father and the judge had failed to tell us. The little boy was paralyzed on his right side. He couldn't sit up, crawl or talk, but his beautiful smile won our hearts. So off we went to present our little wounded lamb to the family.

A physical therapist from our church treated him without charge at a clinic and told us what to do for him at home. Time passed. Nestle company employees donated a special buggy for invalid children, and Miguel learned to feed himself with his one good hand and learned to form a few words.

About a year later, Miguel's father arranged for the boy's grandmother in Bahia [a state to the north] to care for him. He learned and progressed while he was in our care, but we learned so much more from him as he lay stiffly on his little back month after month spreading sunshine in our hearts. ❖

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-place winner in the article category of the 1996 Creative Arts Contest

The sneaker story

by Patricia Collins

A pair of dusty sneakers strewn upon the hall floor cause me to



stop and smile. Stooping to pick them up I notice that the laces are frayed and the toes are as scuffed as the well-worn heels. Further inspection as I deliver them to their natural habitat reveals definite marks of rough usage. In fact, close scrutiny might even discover splits along the seams. And the soles, well, there **used to be** tread visible. But battered though they be, those child-sized shoes give me great pleasure.

Oh, I know the cost of new ones will be outrageous and every wearing brings us closer to the shoe store. Still, kick up your heels, little boy. Run and jump and roll on the ground with your dog. Daddy will moan and sigh at the sight of those sneakers tonight. I will clean off the mud so they are fit for school a few more times. But wear them out; I know you will, long before you outgrow them. Daddy will take you for new shoes and I will be thankful every day for each new mile on them.

For I have seen other little shoes. Little white high top sneakers. Every day as clean as the day before. Never a scuff or a black mark to mar them. In pristine condition they come to me at school each day, but seldom do they touch the floor. A wheelchair guards their purity and the little white shoes stay in their place. Their little owner does no ballerina twirls, no hopscotch, no jump rope.

I see and touch the same little shoes each day on the fragile body I care for as a public school teacher's aide. I will help carry, feed, change, and watch the

precious little life and on a good day be rewarded with smiles, maybe even an outright laugh.

At the end of the day I will push a child-sized wheelchair to a small yellow bus and watch the little shoes lift up, up, up and disappear into the bus. Then through the bus' back door I will watch those snow white sneakers as the bus lumbers and bumps towards the road.

No, I can't be upset about your shoes, my little man. I will do my best to teach you to take care of things, but I will not be sorry for scuffed shoes. They are an everyday reminder of God's blessing of health. Nor will I be sorry for the little white sneakers which have given me great blessings of their own and have taught me how much I take for granted in this life.

So, go ahead, play King of the Mountain, my blond dynamo. Run races, play ball and slide for home. Childhood comes only once. It is brief and, for some children in dainty shoes, even childhood is lived on borrowed time.

God help me to see the blessing of life in whatever manner You have given it to me. For both pairs of sneakers are testimony of Your power and Your love.

Patricia Collins lives in Omaha, Nebraska where she and Larry, her husband, work as home missionaries. Larry Collins pastors Maranatha Free Will Baptist Church. They have three children.



Food For Thought

Have you ever felt like God forgot your address? Or maybe you feel like He doesn't understand what you are going through. Maybe you know in theory that God is all-knowing, but you need the truth confirmed in your heart. God's knowledge of His people is more than theoretical. It is up close and personal.

"I have engraved you on the palms of my hands . . ."—Isaiah 49:16

Both David and Isaiah wrote about God's interest in their lives even before they were born.

"Before I was born the Lord called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name."—Isaiah 49:1

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."—Psalms 139:13

God knows your address, finger prints, favorite songs, and the deepest longings of your heart. And what's best, He cares about your welfare. Most of what we worry about are things we cannot change. Can you entrust to Him all those big and small things we can't do anything about? (*Scripture from NIV*) ♦

Poet's Corner

There is Music

Vicki Turner, Carterville, MO

1st place in the 1996 Creative Arts Contest

Life is a series of rhythm and rhyme
Beat upon beat, patter, design.
There is a subtle blending of time
Body and soul, spirit and mind.
Weave within weave, breath upon breath
Beauty in life, life within death.

There is a rhythm, there is a time
Body and soul, spirit and mind.
There is a music in unwritten song
The crashing of waves, the brilliance of dawn.
The quickening pulse, the kiss of the wind.
The dreaming of dreams, the needing of friend.

There is a moment, a flutter, a sigh
There is a victory in learning to fly
Unspoken passion, unending needs
Life ever lasting to all who believe.
There is a music, patter, design
Body and soul, spirit and mind.

Must They Grow up so Fast?

Laura Mae Ambrister, Strang, OK

2nd place in the 1996 Creative Arts Contest

His little hand too tiny to hold,
curls around my finger
as if to say, "Hold tight Mommie
much too fast I'll be grown."
His big blue eyes that once looked deep
into mine as I wondered just what he
was thinking,
Now hold visions of his future,
of which I may or may not be a part.
Gone will be the days
when he needed to know that
mommie was nearby, and could kiss a
boo-boo and make it stop hurting.
Today a child, tomorrow a young man.

Dear Lord, help me

as I must let go of that man-sized
hand, as each mother must; to hold
tight to the memories of that first
smile, his sweet laugh,
And look with pride
at the person he's become.
The person, that with **your help** and
guidance, we have tried to mold into
the man that you want him to be.
But even then, as now, the question
will remain . . . Must they grow up so
fast?

March on!

Cheryl Akers, Jacksonville, FL

3rd place in the 1996 Creative Arts Contest

Lift the banner, wave the flag, hear the
trumpet's blare.
Feel the drumbeat, look above, see the
rockets' glare.
Watch the patriots proudly stand, hands
across their chests.
Loyalty is everywhere, pride in every
breast.

While bells are rung, the old and young
sing loud the freedom song.
We hail the true red, white, and blue,
Americans, march on!

Raise the standard—Jesus loves
whosoever will.
Shout the message "Jesus saves" over
the vale and hill.

Hear the Savior, stand up proud,
love Him more and more.
Speak His name, and cheer out loud
those who've gone before.

Oh hear His voice, make Him your
choice, join in the Master's throng.
Lift holy hands in all the lands,
Oh, church of God, march on!



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator

September is the month for Together Way's Rest of the Family Offering. This offering is designed to support 10 FWB ministries—that is, all the agencies other than Home Missions, Foreign Missions, and FWBBC. These three agencies have their own month. WNAC is one of the ten that receives a portion of the Rest of the Family Offering. Let's support God's work through Free Will Baptists by giving generously.

Has everyone registered for the WNAC Ninth National Retreat at Ridgecrest? The dates are September 12–14, 1996. See page 30 in the March/April 1996 issue of *CoLaborer* for the registration form or contact WNAC. It is not too late, but hurry! The retreat promises to be a blessing.

Another important event in September is Pastor Appreciation on the 8th.

As the leader of your women's group, encourage your officers and members to attend WNAC district and state meetings whenever possible. It's always good to get a bigger picture of what you are accomplishing as an organization designed to support evangelism and service. And of course your delegates will want to participate with their votes.

Assistant Coordinator

Touched with Delight is WNAC's new book of plays (Volume 12) just off the press. If you wondered what happened to the playbook, WNAC didn't print one last year but now it is back with plays that

Devotional Outline

Faithful unto Him

by Nadine Hood

Read each passage and sing the suggested hymn.

Introduction—I Corinthians 1:9

"Living by Faith"

God is faithful and we should be faithful to Him.

Dependable—I Corinthians 4:1–2

"Is Your All on the Altar?"

We need to be dependable in all areas of our lives: to our Lord, to our families, and to our church.

Trustworthy—Proverbs 3:5

"Trust and Obey"

The Lord, our Christian friends, and those that we come in contact with who are not Christian need to see the trust we have in our Lord.

Committed—Psalm 37:5

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

We need to take our commitment to serve the Lord seriously not just when it is convenient. ♦

See you at Ridgecrest
September 12–14, 1996

will delight your audience. The 7 plays in this volume are listed below:

God's Loving Kindness: Snowbound, by Lorene Miley

Missions: Serving at God's Table, by Pat Franks

Easter: Would You Have Been There?, by Vicki Sturgill

Mother's Day: The Best Mother's Day Gift, by Genny Waddell

Thanksgiving: With a Thankful Heart, by Patricia Richards

Christmas: The Christmas Pity Party, by Rubenia Dobbs

Installation of Officers: Pattern of Service, by Ruth Bivens

Secretary

Check out the supplies order form on page 22 of this issue. The Secretary's Record and Report book can be ordered from WNAC for \$1.50 + shipping and handling. This book will help you keep your records organized in one place. You may also order annual report forms for free.

Treasurer

Don't forget that September is Memorial Student Loan Month. All gifts designated for the Memorial Student Loan Fund enable FWB young people to pursue a Christian education. Someone from your church may benefit from this fund.

Missions Chairman

All the women in your group should have a set of prayer cards. They go great with breakfast, lunch, supper, personal or family devotions. Write to the Foreign Missions and Home Missions Departments and request them.

Prayer Chairman

Encourage your women to be involved in praying for each other, the church, the community, and missions around the world. For the September meeting, make a list of ways to pray for the schools in your community. When possible mention principals, board members, and teachers by name. Contact a school teacher for specific prayer requests on local issues, etc.

Service Chairman

For those who collect postage stamps to send to WNAC, they should be mailed as cheaply as possible. Check with your local post office for the cheapest rates. We receive about 30 cents per pound for domestic and \$3 per pound for foreign stamps. When possible, send them by someone traveling to the Nashville area.

Study Chairman

How much time do you spend in your car? Do you listen to Christian radio? Have you ever listened to a good preacher or talk show you would like to share with your women? You probably love



Come to **Women Active for Christ**

Date _____

Time _____

Place _____

HID IN MY HEART

Romans 12:14-19

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge; I will repay, says the Lord. ♦ (NIV)

books, don't you? But sometimes you have trouble finding time to read them. How about ordering a tape from talk radio? Most Christian radio programs will send you a copy of the show they just aired for a small donation. After you have listened to them yourself, you can tell your women about the tape(s) you ordered and then donate them to the church library or pass them around for everyone's benefit. Videos, though a little more expensive, can also be great resources for study. ♦



Missionary Birthdays

September

- 1 Rhoda Creech, C'I
- 2 Ken Bailey, JPN
- 2 Ken Doggett, Illinois
- 2 MK, Hollie Hubbard, Arkansas
- 3 Sue Aycock, BR
- *3 MK, Megan Snow, JPN
- *3 MK, Melissa Turnbough, SP
- 4 MK, Kendra Bozeman, MS
- 4 Sheila Bozeman, MS
- 5 MK, Jonathan Thomas, CO
- 7 Mirial Gainer, JPN
- *7 Susan Turnbough, SP
- 8 MK, Ruben Eagleton, C'I
- 8 MK, Tody Sturgill, Florida
- *8 Jeff Turnbough, SP
- 9 Nancy Hughes, BR
- 10 Cliff Donoho, Iowa
- 11 Mark Barber, SC
- 11 MK, Bethany Coats, SD
- 11 MK, Matthew Munsey, Mexico
- 12 Joel Nason, NH
- 14 MK, Jeremy Coats, SD
- 14 Carol Teague, FR
- 16 MK, Scott Carlson, KY
- 17 Laverne Alligood, Florida
- *17 MK, Alyssa Bowerman, PAN
- 17 Gail Criswell, Oregon
- 18 MK, Lance Coffman, TX
- *19 MK, Nathan Franks, UR
- *19 Curt Holland, BR
- *19 Nathan Snow, JPN
- 21 MK, John Bivens, Mexico
- 21 MK, Luke Bozeman, MS
- 21 MK, Kari Coffman, TX
- 23 Bob Lewis, Colorado
- 25 George Harvey, Arizona
- 25 Kathryn Wright, WV

- 26 Judy Haygood, AL
- 28 Brenda Bunch, PAN
- 29 Pat Franks, BR
- *29 MK, David Lytle, PAN
- *29 Ruth McDonald, JPN
- 29 MK, Matthew Thomas, CO
- 30 Norman Richards, Louisiana

October

- 1 MK, Amy Johnson, Wyoming
- 2 Danny Keen, SC
- 2 MK, Rachel Lloyd, Wisconsin
- 3 Adelaide Vera, Puerto Rico
- 5 Dave Franks, BR
- *5 MK, Vera Sturgill, BR
- *6 Rebecca Franks, UR
- 6 Carol Pinkerton, C'I
- 8 Clint Morgan, C'I
- 10 Jeff Crabtree, Canada
- 10 MK, Julie Dail, VI
- 11 Paul Creech, C'I
- 12 MK, Regina Franks, BR
- 13 Kathy Coats, SD
- 13 Jerry Gibbs, FR
- 15 MK, Jenna Jones, PA
- 15 MK, Jered Teague, FR
- 17 Geneva Poole, BR
- 17 MK, Larry Williams, Jr., Georgia
- *18 Jalayn Martens, C'I
- 18 Becky Riggs, FR
- *21 MK, Miranda Owen, UR
- 23 Mike Cousineau, C'I
- 23 Gerald Fender, Tennessee
- 23 MK, Merri Hunt, Washington
- 23 Lila Nichols, C'I
- 23 Louise Vandivort, Arizona
- 23 Robert West, C'I
- 24 MK, Jeffrey Ryan Bishop, JPN
- 25 Robert Cooper, Chaplain, CA
- 25 MK, Autumn Morgan, C'I
- 26 Steven Riggs, FR
- 27 MK, Caleb Nason, NH
- 27 Donna Thomas, Colorado
- 28 MK, Rachel Munsey, Mexico
- 31 Earnie Deeds, BR

*Indicates missionary/MK is on furlough/in college. Check with Foreign Missions office for current address.

Lucy & Marge

Forgetful Marge

(Telephone rings at Lucy's house)

Lucy: Hello.

Marge: Hello, Lucy. I was on my second cup of coffee this morning when I remembered I was supposed to call you yesterday.

Lucy: You were?

Marge: Yes, but I don't remember why I was supposed to call you.

Lucy: Was it about the baby shower the day after tomorrow?

Marge: Baby shower? I don't think so.

Lucy: Was it about the women's meeting on Monday?

Marge: Maybe.

Lucy: Were you supposed to remind me to pray for _____
(name of missionaries your women support)?

Marge: I was, but that's not it.

Lucy: There's something else?

Marge: Yes. Do you ever have this fear that you will forget something and you will forget what it was you forgot?

Lucy: I don't know. But when I forgot where I put my wallet, I prayed about it. Why don't we pray right now?

Marge: Would you pray?

Lucy: Lord, help Marge remember what she forgot and give her peace of mind. We know You take

care of us as You do the lily and the sparrow. Amen.

Marge: Thank you Lucy. I'll call you back as soon as I remember.

(Telephone rings again.)

Lucy: Hello.

Marge: Lucy, I remembered! God helped me remember!

Lucy: Good.

Marge: The _____ *(missionary family your women support)* are coming to our church in October. I want to have them over for a meal on Saturday. Would you and your family like to join us? I'll cook the meal. You could bring your famous cheese cake.

Lucy: That sounds like a great idea! I'll write it on my calendar right now. What's the date?

Marge: I guess I'd better write it down, too—after I call Brother _____ *(name of your pastor)*.

Lucy: Why are you calling him?

Marge: I forgot the date.

Lucy: *(laughs)* Just don't forget your name.

Marge: If I do, I'll call you back. ❖

Springboard Illustrated: Stories to Grow By Volume 36/ No. 5

a leaf on a shade tree by Eunice Edwards

Once again the leaves are beginning to fall. I watched as each leaf detached from the tree and floated down to earth. The soft whispering sound spoke of finality, its cycle now complete.

While attached to the tree, the leaf helped provide shade to those who stopped by. Now, separated from its life source, its work is over.

I watched, fascinated by the parallel it presented of God's army of believers. Each person is a part of the whole and a blessing as long as she is attached to Christ. One person, like a single leaf, is unable to accomplish what the leaves can do as a whole. The importance of individuals filling their part in God's plan startles me. Strength manifests itself in numbers.

Believers dismayed with cross-bearing should remember that others in this army stand ready and willing to share the load. This truth assures us "that we are more than conquerors through Him that loves us."

Each leaf that falls has completed its destiny. Not so with the Christian. God gives countless opportunities for continued service.

"Only one life will soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last." This is true, but our gracious Lord offers uncounted "grace" periods as we respond to Him. Bear in mind He gives only one life. We will not pass this way again.

Jesus is coming soon. What we hope to be doing when He comes must be getting done now. I surely don't want to miss heaven. How about you? ❖

Eunice Edwards contributed to CoLaborer in her column, "Over My Cup of Coffee," 1987-1993. This piece appeared in the 1990 Sept/Oct issue of CoLaborer.

Hold the Light High In Our Schools

Place: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Hosted by: _____



COMMUNICATOR

BY MARY RUTH WISEHART

Retreat 1996

You're not too late to register for the Ridgecrest Retreat, September 12-14.

Plans include fun times in small groups, prayer opportunities, missionary speakers, and get acquainted times with missionaries.

A special feature is a candle lighting service Friday evening, emphasizing the 1996 WNAC theme, "Hold the Light High."

The Blue Ridge Mountains furnish a refreshing backdrop. The pace is comfortable with time for fellowship and recreation.

We'll look for you at the ninth retreat.

Creative Arts

Maybe you have never entered the WNAC Creative Arts contest. Give it some consideration.

Do you paint? Write poetry, drama, articles? The WNAC staff is especially happy to find among the entries good programs, programs that are suitable for women to present in their meetings.

We are looking for dramas, brief ones, designed for women.

Everyone writes poetry! Usually the contest has more poetry submissions than any other category. We are looking for a few good poems. Poems that are original, say something, and are consistent in rhythm or cadence. Poems may rhyme or be blank or free verse, but they should be consistently one or the other.

Perhaps you intend to write something—someday. Do it now.

The deadline for 1997 entries is March 1, 1997. You may request guidelines from the WNAC office.

1996 Yearbooks

Did you miss the first instalment of the new WNAC yearbooks?

The 1996 yearbook is available at half price, \$2.50, and postage and handling.

You may want to keep a complete set. Don't miss the first one in the series.

State Officers and Leadership Conference

State presidents and field workers are invited to attend the annual Leadership Conference in Nashville, December 2-3.

The registration fee includes a notebook and meals.

The state convention should see that its women's group is represented at the meeting.

Make the funds available for your president and field worker to attend the meeting.

State presidents and field workers, include the Leadership Conference in your plans. You will receive a packet with information about registration, program and hotel accommodations.

September Is Rest of the Family Month

The last Sunday in September is time for the Rest of the Family Offering.

Remember that this offering includes six agencies and four commissions of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. WNAC is one of the agencies.

WNAC's part of the 1995 offering was \$845.29. That amount almost doubles what it was the year before. Still, it is not nearly enough to substitute for the Emphasis Month Offering.

In 1995 the Emphasis Month Offering was \$11,725.40, about 6% of the WNAC budget for the year.

The Rest of the Family Offering seems to be growing. If more of our churches support it and give during the month of September, these agencies and commissions will be taken care of.

Perhaps WNAC will not need an emphasis month offering. An emphasis program will still be helpful to let the church know what the women are doing as a group. ♦

Women In Action



A-B March Enlistment Program a Huge Success

Eighteen members and guests of the Mobile (Alabama) WNAC gathered at Linda Gray's house to enjoy the program "All Dressed up with Someplace to Go."

Members presenting the program: Lorrie Carey (Coordinator), Linda Gray (Secretary-Treasurer), Diane Weaver (Assistant Coordinator), and Jarma Young (Missions Chairman). Crystal Holifield volunteered as a model. Local merchants contributing to the program included JC Penney, Gayfers, and Mary Kay Cosmetics.

Pictured: (left to right) Diane Weaver, Crystal Holifield, Linda Gray

Pictured: Lorrie Carey demonstrates pretty (clean) lips while Jarma Young narrates.



C-D. 50 Years of Holding the Light High

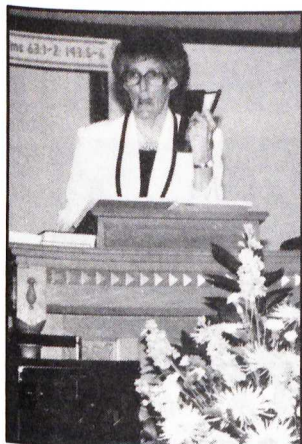
Alabama FWB Women Active for Christ celebrated 50 years as an organization. Dr. Mary R. Wischart, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of WNAC, brought the keynote message. Janie Aldridge brought the morning devotional and in the afternoon Jimmy Aldridge spoke about Russia.

Mrs. Shirley Grice and the women of Unity Church and East Alabama District hosted. Peggy Miller and Mary Kinman brought special music.

Past Presidents and former officers were recognized and were presented with corsages. President Ann Kennedy presided and Elwanda Oaks presented district and local presidents with a booklet called "History of AFWBWAC."

Pictured: Elwanda Oakes presents check to Dr. Mary R. Wischart and Janie and Jimmy Aldridge as President Ann Kennedy looks on.

Pictured: Former state Presidents. (left to right) Laura Hollingshead, Mary Edna Cook, Alice Hood, Paulette Scott, Annette Tomlinson, and current state President Ann Kennedy (back)



E. Pamlico District Meets at Mount Olive

The Pamlico District Free Will Baptist WAC (NC) held their spring meeting on April 12. The theme was "Thirsting for God."

Mary Ellen Rice (pictured above) of Morehead City (NC) spoke. She is former missionary to Brazil and current superintendent of Beaufort Christian Academy.

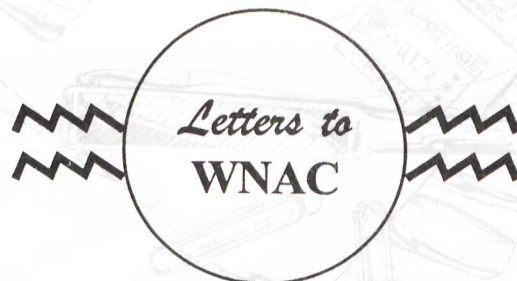
WAC Chairman, Wendy Ramsey, presented the district project report toward the state's fall goal for the Matthews Missions Building Fund.

F. Central Texas District holds Retreat

Twenty-three women from the Fellowship FWB Church of Bryan attended the retreat held at Piney Woods.

G. Hosanna FWB Women Hold Provision Closet Shower

Pictured: (back row, left to right) Dorothy Decker, Margaret Mincee, Audra Fae VanCleave, Ronda Moore, baby Whiney Sisk, Tracie Dorsey, Tammie Sisk, Becky Aldrich (vice president). (front row) Mary Frisbee, Nancy Moore (president), Margie Williams, Diana Leagans, Jessica Aldrich (song leader), Nickey Rogers, Ashley Moore, Lacey Moore (recorder and pianist), Minnie Carr, Nellie Griffith (photographer) ♦



Dear WNAC.

We are so thankful for the staff at WNAC and all the women in our denomination who are faithful in following the Lord's Commandment to "Go ye . . ." Not all are called to go, some are called to send.

God is faithful even when we fail. Thank you for your prayers. God is opening many doors here in Fort Collins. We are getting to know many families in the neighborhood around the church. The children are playing with our children. Many are coming to church. Pray for Moms and Dads to come and get saved so they can have happy homes.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We know that God will bless and supply your every need.

Sandy Raper

Missionary to Fort Collins, CO

Dear WNAC.

Praise the Lord for the women of our denomination who give of themselves through finances, time, and talents to provide for the provision closet, etc. They are such a testimony for the Lord and a blessing to missionaries.

Thank you WNAC!

Nathan, Linda, Daniel, and Megan Snow
Missionaries to Japan

Dear WNAC.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry. We are excited about returning "home" to Côte d'Ivoire [left for field on June 10, 1996].

Paul, Rhoda, Deborah, and Joseph Creech
Missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire ♦



WNAC SUPPLIES



New

- ☐ MS7 Black Ball Point Pen
with gold WNAC imprint
\$2.00

Plays for Women

- ☐ PB12 *Touched with Delight* (Volume 12)
\$3.00
- ☐ YB2 *1997 Yearbook*
Calendar of events, program suggestions, WNAC goals, plan sheets, and other helpful information for officers.
\$5.00
- ☐ MS8 Video: *A Day at the WNAC Office*
\$10.00

Helps

- ☐ NM1 *Manual for Free Will Baptist Women's Organizations*
The guidebook for organizing and operating Women's Groups.
\$10.00
- ☐ YB1 *On Sale*
1996 Yearbook
\$2.50
- ☐ EN4 *Enlistment Ideas*
\$1.50
- ☐ RF1 Local Treasurer's Report Forms
☐ RF2 District Treasurer's Report Forms
☐ RF3 State Treasurer's Report Forms
12/\$1.00
- ☐ *Annual Report Blanks*
(circle the type you want)
local, district, and state levels.
FREE
- ☐ RB1 *Secretary's Record and Report Book*
Space for membership roll and minutes.
\$1.50
- ☐ RB2 *Treasurer's Record and Report Book*
Space to record receipts and disbursements for a year.
\$1.50

Books

- ☐ GE5 *Sparks Into Flame: A History of WNAC from 1935-1985*
by Mary Ruth Wischart
154pp/\$5.00
- ☐ GE12 Study Guide for *Sparks Into Flame*
\$1.50
- ☐ GE6 *Free Will Baptist Woman's Missionary Society*
Reprint
146pp/\$1.00
- ☐ GE16 *They Deserve ... A Second Chance*
by Shirley Roberts Combs
An unforgettable story of rescuing Brazil's street children.
\$6.50
- ☐ GE15 *First Fruits: Answered Prayer on the Mission Field*
by Lorene Miley
\$5.00
- ☐ GE10 *Treat Yourself to a Retreat* by Donna Carr
Helpful ideas for planning a retreat.
128pp/\$1.00
- ☐ GE11 *Gifts for Missionaries* by Lorene Miley
Suggestions for giving and mailing.
29pp/\$1.25
- ☐ GE7 *Facing Death and Dying* by Cleo Pursell
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- ☐ GE8 *Triumphant Over Suffering* by Cleo Pursell
\$1.25
- ☐ SB8 *Ann, You're Super* by Cleo Pursell
\$1.50

Misc.

- ☐ MS6 Tote bag
Women Nationally Active for Christ printed on the front
\$6.00

Shipping and Handling Charges:
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All other materials:
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\$6 to \$10 .40 per dollar
\$11 to \$20 .35 per dollar
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YOU SUPPORT
US ALL

Letters to God

Dear God,

Maybe you understand me. I try to be helpful, but sometimes people don't appreciate my help. Mommy sometimes gets impatient. I like to make the beds as soon as I get up. If she is not up yet, I make her get out of bed. After I straighten the sheets and bedspread as much as short arms can, I climb up on the middle of the bed to fix the pillows. I don't know why I can't pull the bedspread up. It seems to be hung on something. Mommy helps me finish.

I try to put all my clothes in the drawers or closet where they belong. When I take my bath, she puts my clothes in a straw basket, but I get them out and put them in the drawers where they belong. She grabs my clothes and puts them in a machine full of water. I try to help; but she won't let me!

Could you help Mommy understand?

Love,

Ruth

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

THE REST OF THE FAMILY OFFERING

SEPTEMBER 1996

INCLUDES:

Women Nationally Active for Christ
Executive Office
Retirement and Insurance
FWB Foundation
Master's Men
National Youth Conference
Music Commission
Radio / Television Commission
Historial Commission
Theological Integrity Commission

**Ten ministries
that provide resources
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**The Together Way Plan
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Be a High School Missionary

by Floyd Wolfenbarger

This article, though addressed to high school students, should serve as a reminder for all of us to be missionaries where we are. Also, we should not neglect the training of the youth in our church so that they will be able to do God's will as high school missionaries.

The young pastor, Timothy, eagerly read his first letter from the Apostle Paul. "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers . . . in conversation . . ." To Timothy his church was his field, and Paul had just given him a "commission" to a missionary endeavor.

His youth was not a hindrance and was not despised. He remained steadfast in the exhortations given him. He used his youth to influence others; he was an "example of the believers." The elders looked to him for aid in the battle of life. He did not neglect his church because of his youth.

High school is one of the greatest mission fields in the United States. Yet many Christian young people do not accept this challenge. They are much like Jonah.

The high school student is a prime target of false ideologies and religions. When young people are developing their future, they are subject to rebellion. They want a change from conformity. The newest fad is being different. With theories such as evolution being taught which show that there is no need of God, they seek a "scientific" creation and tend to give credit to accident instead of a creator. They are not taught unbelief, yet they are taught there is no need of a creator.

Young Christians must see their opportunities in school and do something about them. Everyday the Christian high school student has the opportunity of witnessing to others.

In March, 1964, I entered a speech contest sponsored by the Optimist Club. At this time we were given the privilege of saying anything we would like. I then saw that God had given me a time to witness for my Lord Jesus Christ. By giving credit to God for this accomplishment I may have sown the seed of the Word to the 600 people there in the room. This was just one of the opportunities to be a "high school missionary."

After studying the Bible, I cannot see how anyone can keep from being a missionary. Every Christian young person should be a high school missionary. We should use our youth to an advantage and not allow it to be despised. Young people have a greater influence than they realize. Young sinners have a hunger to learn about Christ, but someone must teach them. They rebel against the older generation and many will listen only to those their own age.

The "high school missionary" must be "an example of believers . . . in conversation . . ." Let people know that you are a Christian; then, if they want to talk to someone about Jesus, they will know who to come to.

Second, read your Bible. Know the Scripture to help them with their problems. By reading the Bible, it will help us to live a better life before other students. We won't make so many mistakes. Jesus said, "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures" (Matthew 22:29). This is a major mistake of Christian youth.

NEW!

7

exciting plays for women

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Volume Twelve

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Third, we must pray. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). Paul commanded the Thessalonians to "pray without ceasing" (Thessalonians 5:17). Through prayer we can win students in our school to Christ. Prayer is the way to victory.

Fourth, we must give them a challenge. Tell them that Jesus suffered pain, thirst, mocking, and eventually death for their sins. Show them that young men and women who lived dedicated, Christian lives gained honor and respect. Joseph became a ruler in Egypt. Daniel gained respect in the eyes of the king of Babylon. The three Hebrew children couldn't be burnt in the furnace. Samuel became judge over Israel. David became king and Solomon began to reign at the age of 12. As long as these men led dedicated lives they gained honor. Show them that sin will bring about dishonor, not only on them but their families. Delinquents eventually turn into hardened criminals and many can be helped only while they are young. Our duty is to show Jesus Christ to them.

Invite a friend to church every day. Many will accept the invitation. We cannot comprehend the value of one

soul. For he can work to win others to Christ, but he must be won first.

One Saturday morning, Edward Kimble, a Sunday school teacher, felt compelled to go to a neighborhood shoe store to speak to one of his students about Christ. On that day in the back of the shoe store Dwight L. Moody began a new life in Jesus Christ. That one soul was called to preach, and became the greatest evangelist of his time. Moody preached to Britains and Americans alike. And you, by accepting the challenge of the high school, may lead another D. L. Moody to Jesus. But we must work now, for Christ is soon coming and we have the responsibility of our fellow-students.

You, as a Free Will Baptist youth, can be a high school missionary in one of the greatest fields on earth right now! ♦

Reprinted from the December 1964 issue of *Contact Magazine*.
Used with permission.

Floyd Wolfenbarger wrote this article when he was a 15-year-old high school student. He later became one of the great preachers of the Free Will Baptist denomination. He went to be with the Lord in 1985.

"But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does." James 1:25 (NIV)

a column for young people

Life!Action.

... for everyday life

misconception

"**T**he voice of the people is the voice of God." Sounds popular, but it is untrue. If 80 percent of the population agrees with a statement, it still doesn't make it true. What are some popular beliefs that we need to look out for? Here is one. Can you think of any more?

Education is the key to success. Who wouldn't agree with such a statement? As a former teacher and someone who spent umpteen years in school, I would be the first to say, "Yes, that is a good statement."

Is education the key to success? Really? You can have a Ph.D. in physics and be totally off when it comes to issues of life and death, heaven and hell. What good will a Ph.D. do in eternity?

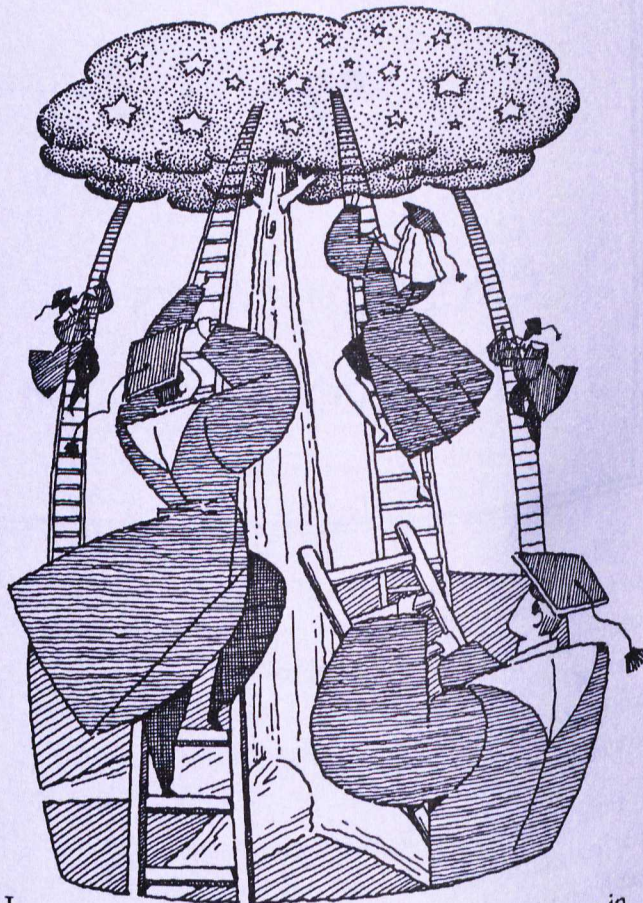
Let me climb onto my teacher's soap box for a few minutes. Listen, young woman, please, get all the education you can. It is extremely important in today's world. Study hard. Study things you want to know about. Study subjects you have to even if you hate them. Your classroom days will come back to haunt you. You will either think, "I wish I had paid attention in that class." Or you will breathe a sigh of relief and say to yourself, "Am I glad I took notes in that class!" You disagree? Okay, maybe you won't use every single fact you learn, but you will be surprised at what does become useful—more than you would expect. So, be on the safe side. Study every chance you get. Whew! I'm getting dizzy. Please, help me get off my soap box.

Now, that's better. Education is **not** the secret to success. The real secret to success is to obey God, to do what is good. So, study. But study with the right motivation. Then you will experience success because when you study everything in the light of God's Word, you are learning how to serve God. You are becoming a suitable vessel to do His work. What you accomplish for God will mean eternal success.

The secret to success is obedience to God's law. ♦

(Continued in the next issue. If you think of other popular beliefs that are not true, why not write CoLaborer about it? See the address below.)

A Note From the Editor: Hey Actionettes (or any teenage readers), this page is for you—to help you grow in Christ and to let readers of *CoLaborer* know about the great ways you serve God. I invite you to send in material or topics you want to see talked about on this page, and pictures—we love seeing your fabulous smiles! Mail your ideas, etc., to *CoLaborer* Magazine, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, Tennessee, 37011-5002 ♦





MISSION ALERT:

Evangelism News from Around the World

Phoenix, Arizona

When the North Valley FWB Church obtained the building permit, they were required to dedicate 25 feet along one side of the property for a street and they were told they would have to pave it. A developer who is building a new subdivision around the church has promised to pave the street for the church. This is an answer to prayer. Another answer to prayer was funds that were supplied to buy a new permanent sign for the church.

The George Harveys request prayer for someone to start a Spanish ministry and someone to help with the youth ministry.

Madison, Wisconsin

Five new converts were baptized as a testimony of their new found faith in Jesus Christ on April 28. All five are adults who were contacted on door-to-door visitation and after some contact welcomed the Carlie Lloyds into their homes for Bible studies. The Lloyds also report that they have started Bible studies with two new families.

Laconia, New Hampshire

Three new families have been added to Heritage FWB Church recently. Missionary Joel Nason was discipling as many as six families, one each night of the week. After he ran out of nights to meet with people, he started a new converts class. Three-fourths of the new converts in this work had never heard the gospel before.

The Nasons request prayer for boldness to preach the gospel to the citizens of Laconia, for the growth of new converts as they face many obstacles in their new life for Christ, and for more souls to be added to Christ's Kingdom through their outreach.

Kopeysk, Russia

Free Will Baptists are helping a Russian missionary plant a church in Kopeysk. The city of 80,000 people has no evangelical church of any kind. As of June 26, the evangelistic team who went to Kopeysk for a two-weeks evangelistic campaign reported 68 public confessions of Christ and 48 who had signed up for Bible studies. The team was lead by Jimmy and Janie Aldridge who stayed on for six weeks after the team left to help follow up on contacts. Pray for the success of the gospel in Kopeysk and for the Russian pastor.

Montevideo, Uruguay

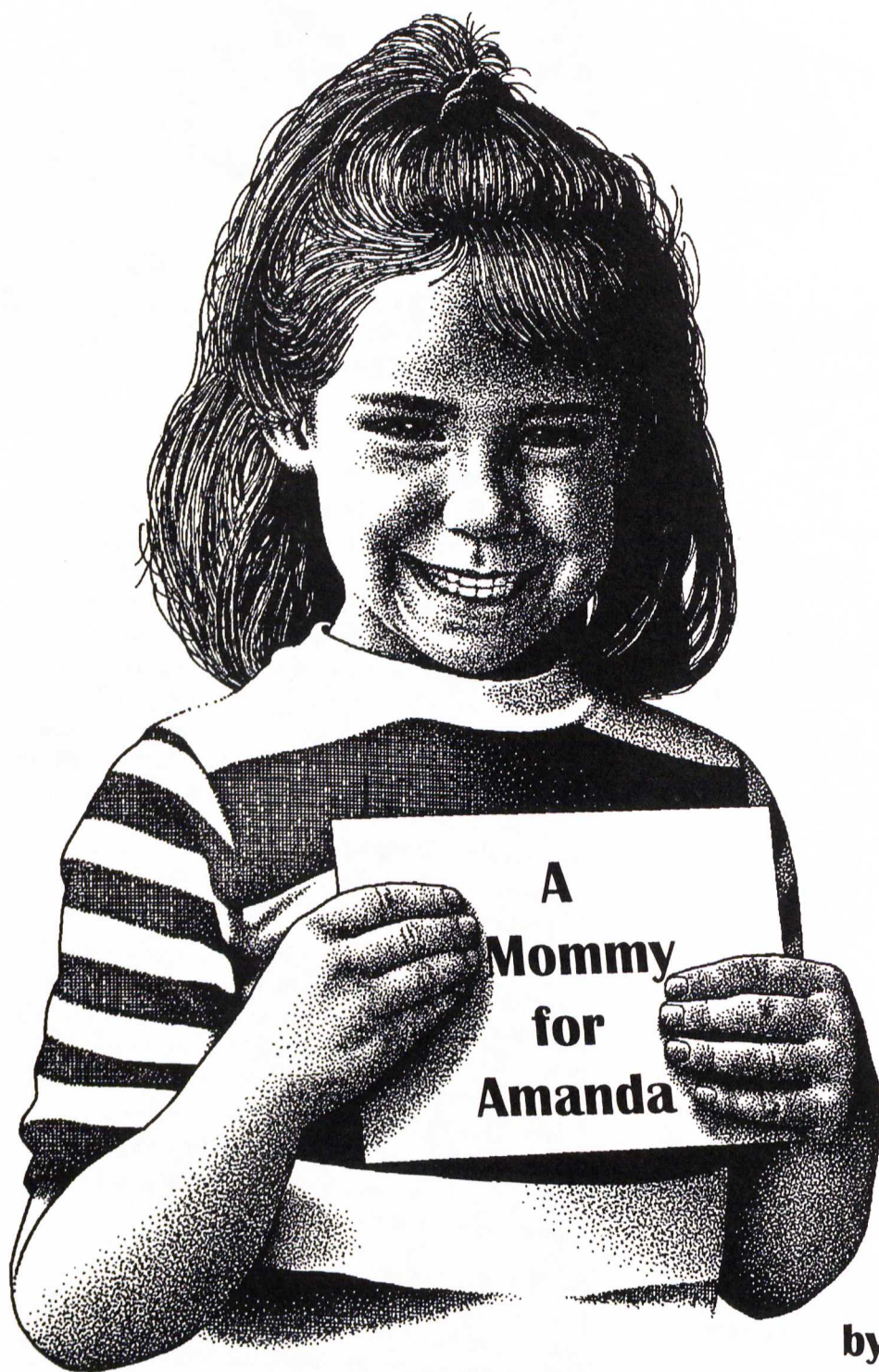
Vacation Bible School at Malvin Alto was a **bang** with 50 people packed into the church on the peak day.

Dave and Becky Franks (Jr.) request prayer for the church at Malvin Alto while they are on furlough. They are grateful that lay-pastor Ruben Figueroa has stepped in to lead the church during their absence. Ruben and Doña Mercedes are teaching the Sunday school classes. Edilva (Ruben's wife) is teaching the Sunday night children's class and the Wednesday women's Bible study. As of June, two people were waiting to be baptized as soon as the weather permitted.

St. Nazaire, France

Jerry and Barbara Gibbs are praising the Lord for a youth-led service held at the St. Nazaire church on May 5. The young people conducted the entire worship service. They gave reports on the youth retreat which was held in April, presented testimonies, read Scripture, led the singing, and had special music. Praise the Lord for the spiritual growth of these young people.

The Gibbs request prayer for the unsaved family of Anne Concard, a member of the church who died as a result of complications from an accident. ❖



by Wanda J. King

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Amanda. Amanda was a pretty girl with bright eyes and winning smile. She liked to swim with her cousins in her Grandmother's pool and sometimes she liked going to school at East Cheatham Elementary.

Amanda loved her daddy, Joe, very much. She went to work with him when she could and slept on a pallet while he painted all around her. He was pretty good at shopping for new tights and hairbows and most of the time he did whatever she asked him to do.

But, Amanda had a problem that bothered her very much. She talked about it sometimes with some of her friends and once she talked to her daddy about it. It made her daddy's face very sad-looking so she mostly kept it to herself.

Amanda wanted a mommy. A year ago she had a really good mommy named Stephanie and a step-brother named Michael. (He was a good brother—for a boy.) But, there were problems between her daddy and mommy and one day Stephanie and Michael went to live in Nashville. At first, Amanda liked having her daddy all to herself. But, he wasn't as much fun to play with as Michael.

There was another special friend of daddy's that he had not seen in a while—a Friend they say is closer than a brother; someone who knows how many hairs are on your head; someone who loves you enough to **die** in your place. And when Joe became so very lonely, he remembered that old Friend and decided to look Him up. Joe decided to go to New Hope Free Will Baptist Church. He knew some people there who were friends of his Friend and felt certain he would find Him there. And you know what? He did!

Then, on a regular basis, Joe and Amanda began to visit this Friend at New Hope. Joe also began carrying Him with him wherever he went.

Still, Amanda wanted a mommy. So she talked to her daddy again and he smiled and told her to keep her eyes open for a good candidate. Amanda began looking.

She thought about her neighbor and part-time sitter, Mrs. Francen. She was kind, warm, loving and an excellent cook. But, she had her own grandchildren to love, a mother to care for and besides, she couldn't live with Amanda because she was already married!

She checked out her daddy's Sunday school teacher, Mrs. Wanda. She took Amanda to a fun Mexican restaurant and made good pony tails, but, she made Amanda take too many baths and her husband, Mr. Sonny, made her sit up straight at the

dinner table **and** when she stayed overnight, she had to sleep with their teenager. **Yuck!**

So Amanda decided to check around the church; and, we can't tell you everything, but once she even asked someone to marry her dad!

Nothing was working—that Amanda could see. Yet, deep in the hearts of many of Joe's friends were prayers for God's divine intervention.

And one day, Stephanie called!

And one day, they saw each other.

And one day, Stephanie came to New Hope Free Will Baptist Church to meet Joe's friends and she was introduced to his Best Friend.

"My mommy's here," Amanda beamed proudly as she told everyone she saw.

Soon Stephanie went to Joe's **best** Friend and asked Him to be real in her life, too.

Joe and Stephanie realized that this one Friend would make a difference in a marriage and one day, Joe and Stephanie got married again.

Now, Amanda has a mommy and a stepbrother named Michael. (He is a good brother for a boy.)

We hope before long Amanda and Michael will come to know Joe and Stephanie's wonderful Friend. With a lot of prayer and in the will of God, they will all live happily ever after. ❖

Names used with permission.

Wanda King is a member of New Hope Free Will Baptist Church in Ashland City, TN.

Announcing!

1996 CREATIVE ARTS CONTEST WINNERS

Programs

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 st place: | "The World at My Front Door" | Ruthann Hall, Nashville, TN |
| 2 nd place: | "Harvesting the Garden of Your Soul" | Judy Delong, Hager Hill, KY |
| 3 rd place: | "Pass it on" | Carolyn Franks, Mantachie, MS |
| 4 th place: | "Word Garden" | Arlene Branum, Purcell, OK |

Articles

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 st place: | "The Sneaker Story" | Patricia Collins, Omaha, NE |
| 2 nd place: | "Sweeter than Honey" | Teresa Sergent, Wise, VA |
| 3 rd place: | "Learning to Fish Right" | Ruth Bivens, Pharr, TX |
| 4 th place: | "The Cemetery Club" | Cheryl Akers, Jacksonville, FL |

Poetry

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 st place: | <i>There is Music</i> | Vicki Turner, Cartersville, MO |
| 2 nd place: | <i>Must They Grow up so Fast?</i> | Laura Mae Armbrister, Strang, OK |
| 3 rd place: | <i>March On!</i> | Cheryl Akers, Jacksonville, FL |
| 4 th place: | <i>God Wants our Days to Go Well</i> | Ruby June Pickering, Dardanelle, AR |

Plays

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1 st place: | <i>The Birth of Baby Jesus—According to the Animals</i> | Linda Key, Auburndale, FL |
| 2 nd place: | <i>Anything is Possible Through God</i> | Suzy Virden, Woodlawn, IL |
| 3 rd place: | <i>I Only Wish</i> | Ruth Bivens, Pharr, TX |

Art

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 st place: | "Faithful Post" | Carolyn Franks, Mantachie, MS |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|



Mary
Ruth
Wischart

WORDS FOR WOMEN

"Why isn't she involved in the Lord's service? She could do a lot of things."

"But of course she has such a poor self-image."

Is a poor self-image getting you down? You're not alone. Some of God's choice servants had problems, and God offered solutions.

Moses had a problem.

When God approached him about returning to Egypt to rescue the people, I suppose he thought about the failure he had been. He tried to help the people, remember? And his people did not appreciate it. His attempts only got him into trouble with Pharaoh. Better quit, he must have thought, and get out of here while I still have my head. Surely God would not expect such a failure to do a job for Him.

But God said, "Come and I will send you to bring the people out."

First, Moses exclaimed, "Who am I that I should go?" God answered this question with, "I will go with you."

Next Moses claimed that he did not know God's name and couldn't tell the people who had sent him. God answered that claim with, "Tell them I AM has sent me to you."

"Well," Moses said, "They will not listen to me." God answered this by showing Moses all that He asked was for Moses to use what he had—the rod in his hand, the hand itself.

"Oh, no, not me," Moses cried, "I am not a good speaker. I can't speak in front of people." God met this excuse with a question, "Who made your tongue? I will be with your mouth and teach you."

"Please, Lord, just send somebody else." Now who could ask for more help than God promised Moses?

Jeremiah had a problem. When God called him to speak to his people, Jeremiah said, "I can't do it, Lord. I'm too young." "Don't let their faces bother you," God replied. "I will be with you to deliver you."

"I'm sure someone can do a better job than I can."

"I'm too young—or too old."

"I can't do that. I don't speak well enough."

"I can't be a leader. I'm a nobody. Why should anyone listen to me?"

"Get somebody else." Have you heard these excuses? Maybe you even used some of these when you were asked about filling a position, speaking to your women's group, teaching a Sunday school class.

How about God's presence and power? Or God as your speech teacher?

"Oh," you say, "But I am not Moses." Certainly not. You have even more than Moses.

God has identified Himself with you in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. He has sent the Holy Spirit as your teacher and guide. The written word is complete and easily available to you.

His presence to guide, His power to aid you, His wisdom at your command—these are all yours for the asking.

Now, what was your excuse? ♦



MISSIONS HOTLINE

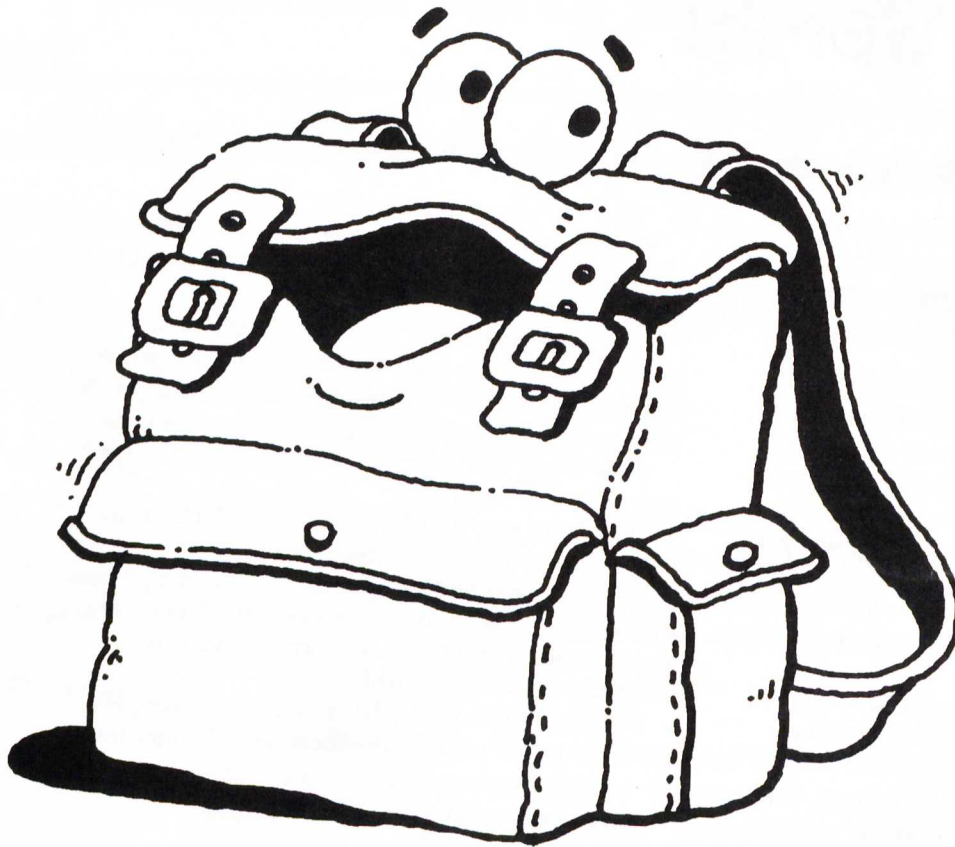
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