

Jan • Feb 1997

CoLaborer

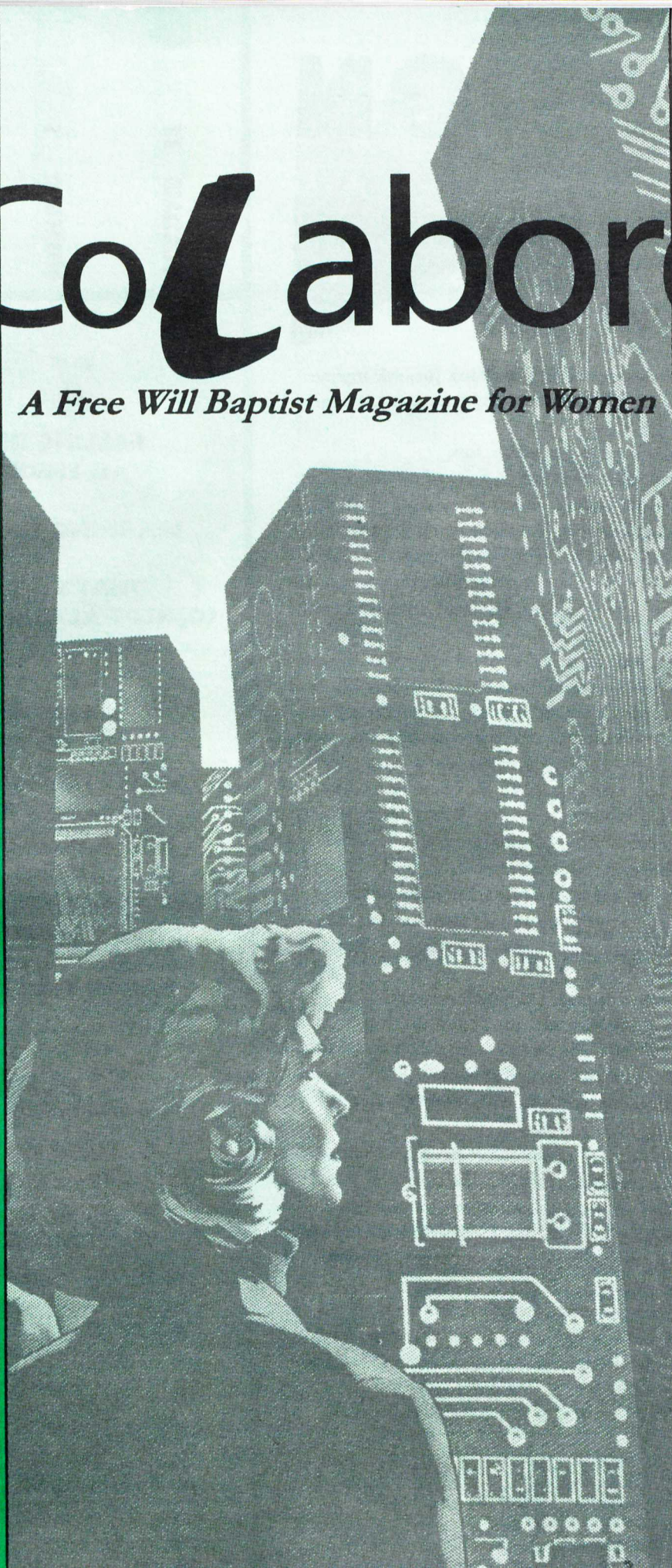
A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

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VISION

SUZANNE FRANKS

Tragedies



Some days are marked by frustration and near chaos. Just ask anyone who works on computers. Or ask a mother. Or better, ask a school teacher.

We've had a few of those days in our office, too.

On a particular day we would rather forget, a cry of distress comes through the door of my office. "Oh no! Oh no! I don't know what to do. It's my computer." As it turns out the hard drive in Yvonne's computer crashed while she was in the middle of sending out the billing for the magazine. PANIC was her understandable response. On a list of the top ten office disasters, a hard drive crash is up there close to a fire in the building. The hard drive could be replaced but would her work be lost?

Jeremiah had many of those days, too. Detained in the courtyard of the guard in the palace is where we find him having one of those days (Jeremiah 32). Blue in the face from prophesying doom and destruction, he's not winning any popularity contests. In spite of his unquestioning obedience to the Lord, dark storm clouds hang over his head.

Then the Lord tells Jeremiah to buy a piece of land. He obeys immediately. "Poor Jeremiah has lost it," perplexed bystanders mutter, "Hasn't he been prophesying that our land will lie in ruin?" Still, faithful Jeremiah obeys and delivers the incredible message of hope to fellow citizens.

"I am about to hand this city over to the Babylonians," says the Lord, the Creator God. "I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety As I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will give them all the prosperity I have promised them."

In the following chapter God reinforces what He has already said with promises of health and healing, peace, security, cleansing from sin, forgiveness, and prosperity. The Lord Jehovah validates His promises with a reminder that He will keep His promise just as He keeps the laws of physics.

Wouldn't you be encouraged with those words of reassurance coming from a Person with the reputation of keeping His promises?

In the mean time Yvonne's computer saga continues. It has a new hard drive and, to Yvonne's amazement, her files were not lost. But the computer is still acting strangely. One hundred percent accuracy is hard to guarantee when a crashed computer and a human operator are involved. However, someday soon, we **hope** (not hope with certainty, more like hope with uncertainty), the bills will go out in almost perfect shape (we hope).

Yvonne's misfortune reminds us not to put our trust in computers, riches, jobs, or any earthly effects. Our **certain hope** must be in the only completely reliable Person around, the Lord Jehovah. Aren't you glad we serve a God with a flawless reputation for reliability (unlike some computers I know)?❖

(*Quotes from NIV)

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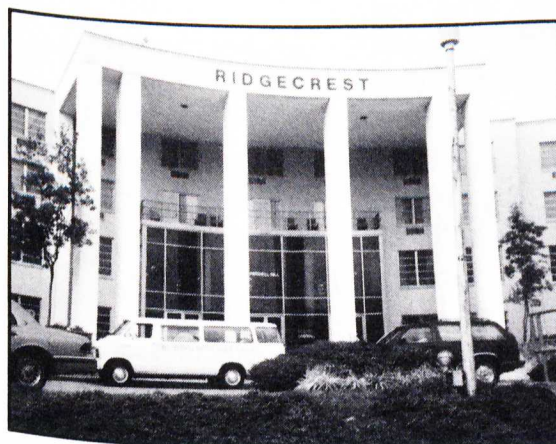
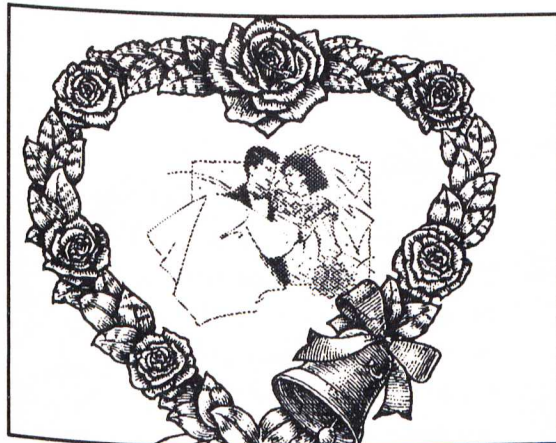
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BUT AT LEAST
I HAVE ROOM TO PUT
THINGS AWAY AND
KNOW
WHERE THEY ARE."**

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**EACH MEETING
YIELDED A HARVEST
OF OPPORTUNITIES
TO WORSHIP AND
LEARN.**

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EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE

BY CAROL REID



Faith is not enough!

Oh, of course faith is enough for salvation. “Forsaking-All-I-Take-Him” is to claim the promise of salvation. But Peter plainly tells Christians in his second epistle that they should diligently **add** to their faith.

Seven ingredients should be added to our faith to produce fruit in our lives. Think of it as nail soup. Remember that folk tale about the man with his nail and pot of water? To make the best soup you ever tasted all he needed was a nail. But as he bragged on his soup, he found neighbors willing to contribute a few other ingredients—cabbage, carrots, onions and the like—to make it even better.

Faith is enough. But to make the end result even better, add a few ingredients to it like virtue (or goodness), knowledge, temperance (or self control), patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity (love). Peter’s list here reminds us of Paul’s list in Galatians 5 of the fruit of the Spirit. Peter, though, focuses on an ingredient Paul doesn’t list—knowledge.

Don’t think for a moment that Paul doesn’t understand about that part of the Spirit’s work in



IN THE HARD TIMES OF YOUR LIFE, STUDY HIS FACE, TRACE HIS HAND, FOLLOW HIS FOOTSTEPS.

our lives! He includes "truth" as a fruit of the Spirit in Ephesians 5:9. He emphasizes often that the truth is part of the Christian's defense against Satan (Ephesians 6:14). Knowing the truth brings men to salvation (1 Timothy 2:4). Paul certainly underlines the importance of the Christian's mind—of developing "the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16, Philippians 2:5) and "renewing . . . your mind" Romans 12:2). He also plainly gives the route to grabbing hold of this knowledge in 2 Timothy 2:15: "study."

Peter isn't at all quiet about the importance of mental exercise. "Gird up the loins of your mind," he tells Christians in 1 Peter 1:13. This "unlearned" disciple of Christ encouraged his fellow believers to know and be established in the truth of Christ (2 Peter 1:12), continually reminding them of what they already know about this truth (2 Peter 1:16, 20; 2:20, 3:1, 2, 3, 8).

"Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," Peter concludes his letter. His last words in his epistle emphasize his theme from the beginning: know and grow. The formula still works for women in 1997!

That building block of knowledge is also a part of the finished product in 2 Peter 1:5–8. Adding knowledge to your faith and virtue

will result in more knowledge; knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Concentrate on that particular ingredient and see now much better it will make your "soup" taste!

Knowledge of the Wonderful

"His name shall be called Wonderful," Isaiah 9:6 proclaims. You have already echoed that truth if you are a believer. Expanding our knowledge means growing in our knowledge of God.

Peter gives a glorious blessing to us in 2 Peter 1:2 and 3: "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord. According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue." Through knowing God, we have grace, peace, and all things that pertain unto life and godliness. Knowing God opens the door to great blessings and treasures for the Christian! Knowing God means experientially knowing His faithfulness (2 Timothy 1:12) and His love (Ephesians 3:19). Knowing God means that knowing anything or everything else is insignificant in comparison (Philippians 3:8).

Don't be fooled; the lessons are not always easy. Suffering and

disappointments may teach God's faithfulness and patience. So, study to know Him. In the hard times of your life, study His face, trace His hand, follow His footsteps. Be still before Him and listen to His heart beat. Walk with Him every morning. Speak to Him about the joys and the difficulties of your day. Draw close—cuddle up to learn to think like He thinks and to act like He acts.

A child quickly learns to imitate those around him or her. You've watched the little girl sitting beside her mother in exactly the same pose or the young boy who walks just like his dad. If you'll spend time with the Lord, you'll start acting like Him. And the more you know Him, the more you'll love Him!

Knowledge of the Word

How can you know the Wonderful Lord better? By knowing His Word. The Scriptures "are able to make you wise unto salvation" (2 Timothy 3:15); they provide direction (Psalm 119:105) and protection from sin (Psalm 119:11). They are God's love letter to his bride, and the Heavenly Father's words to His children. The intimacy of the Author's instructions directs us to obey and please Him.

If you read books written by a favorite author, you become able



YOUR PRAYERS CAN REACH AROUND THE WORLD IF YOU KNOW WHAT TO PRAY FOR.

to predict how the characters will act, how the plots will move, how the course of the story will turn. You feel that you know how that author thinks. That's the whole point of reading Scripture—to learn how God thinks and to begin to think as He does.

Study. The Promise Box is great, but not enough. A devotional guide at your breakfast table is a marvelous start for the day, but not enough. Your Sunday school quarterly, your radio preacher, your pastor's good sermons are all important, but not enough.

Study. If you want to grow, you have to cultivate your mind and plant the good seed of the Word of God. You simply must spend time with His word and stamp it on your heart. The benefits are great, Paul tells Timothy: you'll be able to rightly divide the Word of Truth and you'll be approved by God. Know and grow.

Hundreds of ways to learn are available. Bible study courses, books, and helps abound in today's marketplace. Bible study groups may already be in place in your church or neighborhood. Journals and concordances and Bible dictionaries and all sorts of videos and tapes can direct your study and help you make effective use of your time with the Lord. But expect to pay the price in time and effort and energy if you want

to gain the benefits. You may be sorry for time you spent at the shopping mall or on the phone or watching television. But you will never regret even one minute that you spend in the Word of God.

Knowledge of the World

They say the world is getting smaller. E-mail and long distance and satellites confirm that. We can know and see around the world virtually as events happen. We don't wait on any ocean voyages to bring us news from foreign countries—it's on our television set before sundown.

We have access across the ocean and around the globe. But we usually behave as though we were the only ones on the planet. If people don't dress and talk the way we do, we feel that they don't really matter. We are oblivious to the starving, the homeless, the ill, the orphaned, unless they live on our street or maybe unless they live at our address.

How is it that we can know so much and so little at the same time?

Your prayers can reach around the world if you know what to pray for. Know and grow. Pray through your newspaper. Visualize individuals who make the news you read about and pray for God's intervention in their lives. Choose an area or people group and educate yourself about them

at your local library. Keep tabs on them in the news. Report about them to your WNAC group or in your family devotion time or in your Sunday school class.

The world is coming to America. Meet that family in your neighborhood that speaks a different language. Find ways to reach out to the "stranger within your gates" regardless of their skin color, language, or background.

You'll have to pay a price—time and effort and energy, even if no money is involved. The higher cost will be the risk of heartache and concern. Ask the Lord to break your heart for the needs of others—on your block and round the world. Bring the world to Him.

Knowledge of the Work

We have a special interest in and a special responsibility for our own Free Will Baptists who are ministering at home and abroad. You pray better when you know more. Read up on various mission fields; make it a family project to know about a country where Free Will Baptists serve and the ministries they operate there.

If church camping has been an interest of yours, make a point to pray for Free Will Baptist camps and camp directors in the United States and in Foreign Mission fields. If education is your interest, perhaps you will pray for Bible

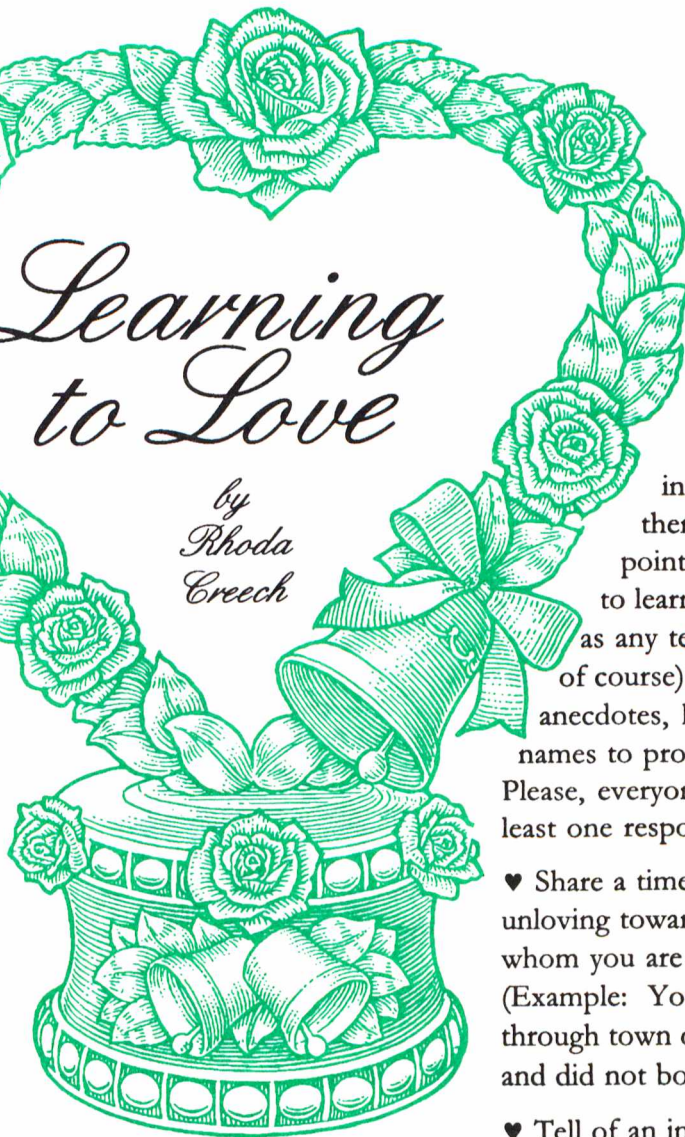
February
fourteenth is
more than our
annual supply of
chocolates and
flowers. Valen-
tines Day serves a
useful purpose. It
boosts not only the
debt-ridden Spirit of
Christmas past, but it gets
Hallmark dealers off the
streets and behind registers.

Falling in love is the stuff
Valentines Day is made of.
Happily, most of us, rather than
being impaled by Cupid's arrow,
are resting in the security of
solid relationships built by years
of stretching and growing. Oh
sure, us commoners know what
it is to fall in love—whether
with a puppy, a baby's laugh, or
a whiskered hug. It's not that
we don't appreciate the concept.
We are definitely entertained by
merchandised sentiment. We
just do not depend on it to
validate our feelings.

Falling in love is effortless,
but learning to love, now that's a
deeper concept altogether. Exit
story book. Enter hours of
dialogue, occasional misunder-
standing, and more "I'm sorry's"
than you can write on the
chalkboard at one time. If falling

Learning to Love

by
Rhoda
Creech



in love is a trip to the Bahamas,
learning to love is a trek across
the Sahara. Falling in love is
being splashed with sunshine;
learning to love can be as subtle
as a lunar eclipse. This world
can be divided into 2 groups of
people: those who are easy to
love and those who are not.
Quite frankly, "Those Who Are
Not" are the responsibility of
God's people. (That's us.)

*"Love one
another."
(And that's an
order!)*

Let us indulge
in a bit of group
therapy. On this
point, we've as much
to learn from each other
as any text (save the Bible,
of course). In recounting
anecdotes, kindly change
names to protect the guilty.
Please, everyone verbalize at
least one response.

♥ Share a time that you felt
unloving toward someone with
whom you are usually close.
(Example: Your cousin came
through town on your birthday
and did not bother to call.)

♥ Tell of an instance when God
could have felt unloving toward
you. (Example: Last Christmas,
you bought Jody's tricycle with
part of your tithe.)

♥ Share the circumstances of a
friend you learned to love.
(Example: Jeremy never called
unless he needed a favor. Unfor-
tunately, he is your step-son.)

♥ Share the Scripture to which
you consistently turn when
loving takes on supernatural
proportions.

♥ In your mind, target an “unlovely” and ask God to love this person through you. (God will supply the love. You simply provide the vessel.) This, of course, is a private moment and should be marked by a time of silent prayer.

*Exit story book.
Enter hours of
dialogue, occasional
misunderstanding
and more “I’m sorry’s”
than you can write
on the chalkboard at
one time.*



As humans, we are still dragging our feet. Bible characters, too, responded sluggishly to individual challenges of love. Imagine, from a 1997 perspective, that some of their tough choices are now yours.

chose to live with you the last 10 years.)

- a) Transfer the deceased’s assets into a Swiss bank account.
- b) Contact a pastor or Christian negotiator to counsel involved parties.
- c) Hire an ambulance-chasing lawyer.
- d) Change your will.

♥ You are 20th century Philemon (Phyllis). Your foster child ran away. A social worker asks you to consider giving her a second chance.

- a) Scream into the phone, “I was her second chance!”
- b) Promptly refuse, citing God’s will and other immutable determinants.
- c) Buy her a one-way ticket to a Siberian boarding school.
- d) Count to “70 x 7” and sincerely promise to consider the request.

We like Jonah, Joseph, and Philemon, must learn to love those who make life difficult for us . . . simple because God says so. Even the rabbis of ancient times found this a difficult pill to swallow. They doctored up Leviticus 19:18 to read, “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself,” adding, “hate thine enemy.” This addendum, of course, is not in the Scripture, but was taught to accommodate hatred for Samaritans and Gentiles.

Jesus directly addressed this falsehood, “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that

♥ Think of the previously-mentioned “unlovely.” Imagine how you would act if you loved her. (Come on, be creative!) Pinpoint a positive action and follow through before the next meeting.

“Because God said so!”

When my children get the because-I-said-so look, they have about 3 seconds to begin obeying, preferably (but not necessarily) with a decent attitude. Jesus has given mankind about 2000 years to respond to “Love one another.”

♥ You are a modern day Jonah (Joan). You feel led to help a friend witness in the housing projects of Chicago. Identify your first impulse:

- a) Shop for a fashionable bullet-proof vest.
- b) Take out an additional \$10,000 in life insurance.
- c) Write a letter to Pam Potete (Free Will Baptist Home Missionary to Chicago) to discuss your impressions.
- d) See a psychiatrist.

♥ You are now Joseph (Josephine). Your siblings left you holding the bag on Father’s funeral expenses. (After all, he

hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you . . . For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? . . . And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others?" (Matthew 5:44-47).

God's love does not expire at midnight on February fourteenth. Neither should our efforts to love the Scrooges of Valentines Day.

The heart of Christianity

It interests me to note that Valentines Day falls between the most significant holidays, Christmas and Easter. God came, loved, and rose that we might live in eternal love. Between the manger and the empty tomb we find the heart of Christianity.

A missionary whom I will call Nicole was returning to the United States for her grandfather's funeral. Budgeting her travel allowance to the penny, Nichole planned to spend her last night in the train station lobby.

However, upon arrival, she learned that the terminal closed after midnight. Through an intriguing set of circumstances, Nicole managed to locate a hotel at the sleepy hour of 2:00 a.m. The next morning was Sunday. Counting her change, Nicole realized that she did not have enough nickels and dimes to make it back to the train station. It was too far to walk; loving family and friends were hours away.

"Sunday morning!" she thought, "I'll call up some churches. Surely someone will help me." Her efforts were met by answering machines and a disinterested pastor. In this case, God overstepped His unwilling servants and used a secular taxi company to transport Nicole to her train connection. (The driver was kind enough not to demand full fare.)

Nicole's story is full of ironies. First, Christians preparing for the Lord's Day could not be bothered with a needy stranger. "Passing by on the other side" was just too tempting . . . as easy as flipping on the answering machine.

(Imagine Nicole's distress when one recording concluded its mechanical platitudes with "Have a nice day!") Those who wouldn't help Nicole probably led a pious prayer in church that morning asking God to bless all the missionaries, somehow forgetting that one was stranded in a hotel on the same street as the church itself! Maybe the morning worship songs challenged Christians to lay down their lives for the regions beyond. (This, of course, is not to be confused with committing one hour to drive God's servant across town.)

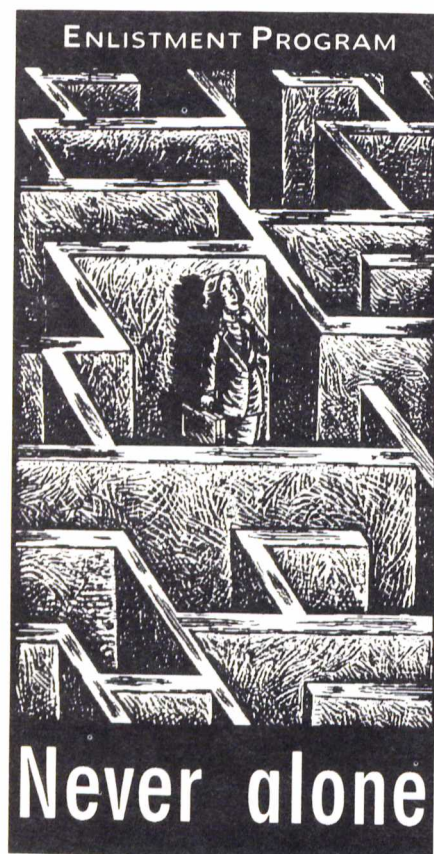
Nicole's drama took place 3 weeks before Valentines Day. Christmas generosity had expired, and "Love your neighbor as yourself" must not have been in vogue for 1996 Valentines Day cards.

Nicole's summary of the story? "God did not let me down, but His people did." What if she had been a spiritual seeker? What if she was a new believer testing the limits of God's family? More importantly, Nicole desperately hoped her unsaved parents would not ask if she had had a good trip!

Sure, there are swindlers out there. No one realized that better than Nicole. Her field of service, Haiti, is swarming with them. Sometimes, however, we as Christians must make ourselves vulnerable to those who need help. Let us not find ourselves at the brink of helping no one to avoid the risk of helping one undeserving opportunist. Assistance could take the form of \$20, a loaf of homemade bread, or a weekly telephone call.

While none of us could match the love-gifts of Christmas and Easter, each woman can offer the friendship-love that Valentines Day represents. Let us replace the superficial emotions often associated with Valentines Day with a desire to implement that great commandment, "Love One Another." ♦

Rhoda (Snow) Creech, Georgia's Missionary to Cote d'Ivoire, and her husband, Paul, are dorm parents at the International Christian Academy.



Introduction

Fire came down from heaven and showed everyone who is the true God. The prophets of Baal were defeated. Elijah had just won the greatest victory of his life. Then for some odd reason, (probably because he was human) fear struck his heart. And he ran for his life. Elijah ended up alone in the desert. He sat down under a juniper (broom) tree and said, "God, let's just get it over with. Go ahead and kill me."

What happened with Elijah, this great man of God? He knew God was with him? Why was he so afraid and despondent? Was it because he was tired, hungry, and lonely? Had he taken his eyes off God and started looking around at his circumstances? Let's see how God encouraged him.

God sent an angel to minister to him. Elijah slept and ate. In a gentle whisper, God spoke to him and

gave him his next assignment. Then, as a bonus, God reminded him of the 7,000 faithful in Israel.

Sometimes we feel alone in our Christian walk. Though we know that God is with us all the time, we crave and need the company of fellow believers with kindred spirits. WNAC provides opportunities for fellowship, encouragement, guidance, as well as opportunities for service.

WNAC (*use the name of your local group anywhere WNAC appears*) is about joining together because two are stronger than one. In WNAC you are never alone to accomplish what God has given you to do. In the next few minutes you will hear several expressions that can describe what kind of assistance you will find in WNAC. As an active member of WNAC you will develop relationships to be cherished.

Secretary or Treasurer

In this age of technology people can write letters, call on the telephone, or talk on electronic mail but nothing will ever replace the of closeness in a **face to face** conversation. WNAC is a place where you can meet other women face to face to share, pray, learn, laugh, and cry. We are more than numbers and dollar signs. Our most important ingredient is people.

We meet at least once a month. We listen and participate to learn about our responsibilities as Christian women. This is how we stay informed and discuss business necessary to keep the organization going. This is usually done face to face with a smile or a hug to say hello and good bye.

So don't miss out on some good ol' face to face chats. Don't be a couch potato. Branch out beyond laundry, kitchen, and work. Get out and mingle with these lovely women

from WNAC. You will develop personal relationships and you will learn more than just who's gone on a diet or who cooks the best chocolate pie. What you learn will be vital to your growth as a godly woman. You will learn and be encouraged to become more involved in God's plan for evangelizing the world.

Our monthly meetings are just the start. We stay in touch many other ways throughout the month. But we hate to miss our times of fellowship and sharing each month. Don't be afraid when a WNAC member makes eye contact with you and invites you to a meeting or get together. We want to help women build strong personal relationships with other women of like minds.

Coordinator

Did you say eye contact? Not only is WNAC concerned with personal contact, face to face; we are a goal-oriented group.

It's hard for two people to **see eye to eye** on everything. Since no two humans are completely alike, you could say seeing eye to eye on everything is impossible.

WNAC members do, however, see eye to eye on some important matters. They know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. These women want to learn more about God and obey God's commandments. Their priority is to serve the Lord. Their reason for existing can be summed up in the Great Commission. (Quote Matthew 28:19-21)

Missions Chairman

When you hear **two by two**, you may think of Noah's ark. I don't. I think of Jesus sending out His disciples **two by two** to preach the good news. WNAC is concerned with evangelizing our community, but we are also partners with the

Free Will Baptist Home and Foreign Missions. We send missionaries to other cities, states, and countries that need the good news. Some countries such as France have less than 1% of the population who consider themselves evangelical.

We take our partnership seriously. Our role in sending includes giving money, praying, and encouraging those who go. Women have often been the staunch supporters and senders in missions even in Jesus' day. Obeying the Great Commission is not an elective. It is a required subject in God's university of Christianity. WNAC will help you remember to do your part in fulfilling this requirement.

Service Chairman

The Great Commission cannot be fulfilled without fulfilling also the Great Commandment. That is the command to love the Lord with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself (Quote Mark 12:30-31). We want to show love to each other in the church and to our neighbors.

Neighbors often live **side by side** on a street. We are a team in WNAC. We have officers to help us keep organized, but no member is more important than the other. We need each of you. Each woman brings with her her own unique talents. Two or three women working side by side, can accomplish more for God's kingdom. Working together as a group we can make a greater impact on the world.

Assistant Coordinator

But there is more to it than just walking side by side. We need to walk **hand in hand**. The person who walks hand in hand is an encourager. Walking hand in hand we share each other's burdens and blessings. We share joys and sorrows.

If a fellow member gets dizzy from the height of success or the depths of depression, someone holding her hand can keep her from losing her balance. A young woman walking on a slippery road can hold onto her friend's hand and keep from falling to the ground. If she falls, the hand is extended to pull her back up. God extends His hand to us. Sometimes His hand is extended through the friendship of a godly woman.

WNAC is all about caring and we all want to be walking hand in hand through this life's journey.

Study Chairman

That's right. Life is a journey where we should walk hand in hand. But we also have to take the journey **step by step**.

Every woman has to start somewhere in her journey. In order to go somewhere, we must have a goal and a plan of how to get there. WNAC is an organization that believes in setting goals and making plans. WNAC publishes *CoLaborer* magazine and a *Yearbook* to help local groups set goals and make plans. The *Manual for Free Will Baptist Women's Organizations* helps each new officer know where she is going and how to get there.

Some steps are harder to take than others. An important step in any ministry is training. We sponsor studies on prayer, missions, and other Bible topics that help us in our Christian growth. Our local group plans studies (*fill in with details according to what your local group has planned.*)

Step by step and hand in hand we learn and teach each other our responsibility toward the lost in this world.

We want to encourage and help every woman grow one step at a time in her Christian walk.

Prayer Chairman

We are all in a process of growing and maturing in our daily walk. On an even more personal level, WNAC brings two women together to share **heart to heart**. Some groups like to have secret pals, others have prayer partners. (*Adapt to fit the way your local group plans to function this year.*) A WNAC member prays for her secret pal throughout the year. She sends encouraging notes, cards, or little gifts that say I care. The good secret pal remembers her pal's birthday, anniversary, and other special days in her life.

Unlike secret pals, Prayer partners are not secretive. They pray for each other and with each other. They share burdens that are on each other's heart and hold each other accountable. Some get together to pray; others may pray over the phone.

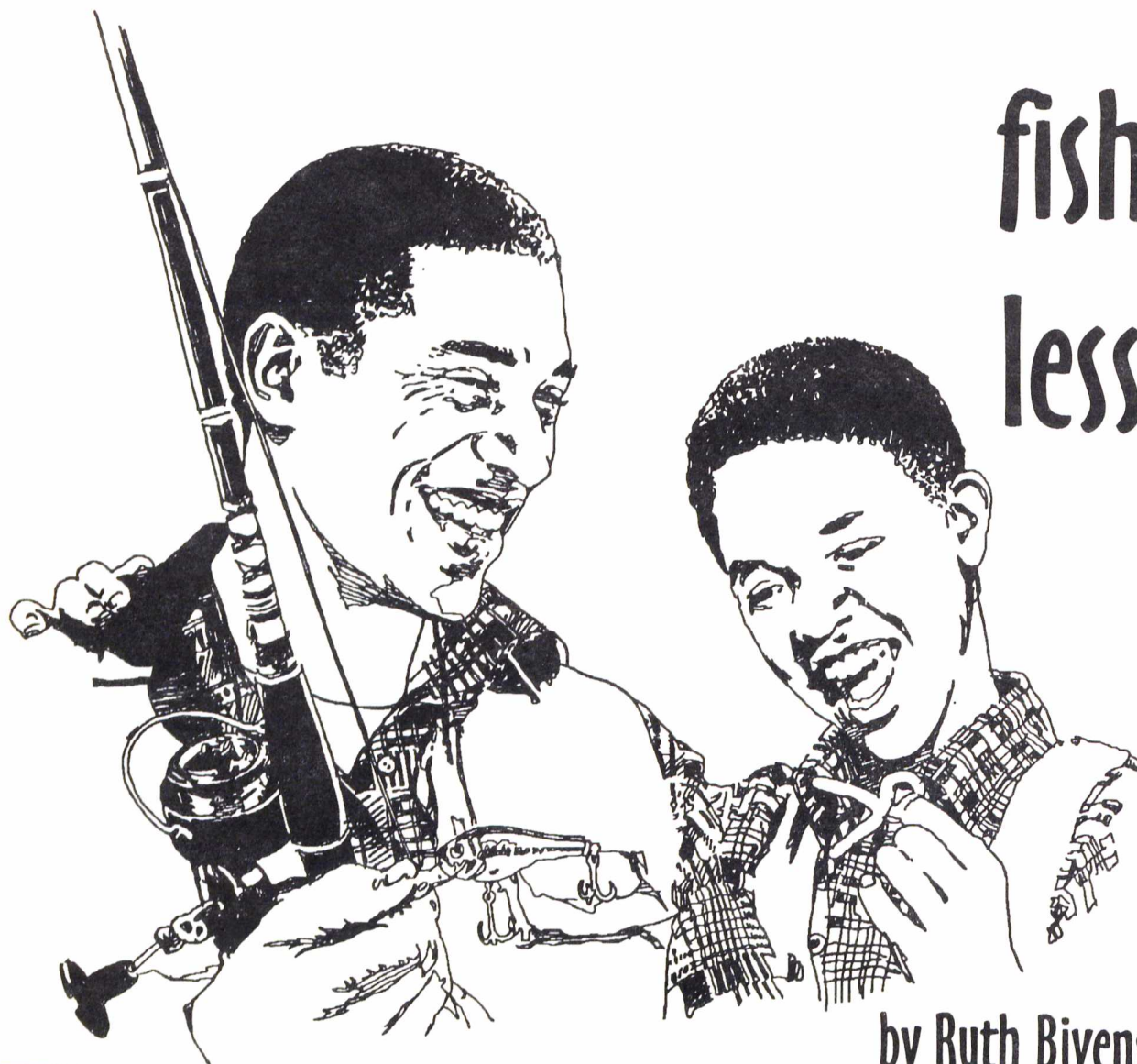
Conclusion

Do you want to strengthen your relationship with God and each other? Do you want to make new friends you know will pray for you? At WNAC there is no excuse for any woman feeling isolated.

No one is perfect. We each have different talents. Each one of you has something to offer. We want to invite you to be a part of our ministry. We need you and we want you to be part of us. ♦

How to present the program:

- ♦ One woman should give the introduction and the conclusion.
- ♦ Each section is subtitled with an office in WNAC. We suggest that each officer present her section. Encourage each officer to ad lib staying within her topic.
- ♦ Use posters, objects, or transparencies as visuals in each section. See Springboard for ideas on visuals.



fishing lessons

by Ruth Bivens

One evening, after the resurrection, Peter and some of the disciples were sitting around considering their situation. "What are we supposed to do now?" someone asked. "Where is Jesus anyhow? He just shows up and disappears. We can't go back home, the priests are looking for us. What does He expect us to do?" Then Peter said, "Well, I've about had it. I'm going fishing." "We'll just go with you," they said. And they did.

As I sit down to write, I am a new missionary on the field. Never mind my graying hair and 100-some trips to Mexico, I'm new at this.

We are moving into a small, old house—the kind advertised as "a handy man's dream."

We bought this place a couple of years ago. A wonderful location just off the main highway, it's only seven miles from the border. We plan to live here until our building account is large enough to build a home at the Bible Institute.

As I prepared for this move I carefully packed about half of my kitchen stuff in well labeled boxes, (the rest remains in Oklahoma because we have to go back there for a while before selling that house.) About half of what came south ended up in the carport under about half a truck load of other stuff. Among those things that are buried are my pots and pans and dishes!

I had hoped to make some major repairs in the kitchen and bathroom before I unpacked. Wrong. A work team from South Carolina arrived the day after we did, and we spent every day with them as they worked on a church

building just across the border in Reynosa, Mexico. The day they left, a group from Tennessee came. A group from Missouri arrives tonight and a group from Tennessee will leave in two days.

The kitchen and bathroom in Pharr, Texas are not top priority when we have builders for the work in Mexico. We rejoice as we see them catch a vision of Mexico and what God can do there.

But I am having trouble trying to fix meals. I finally cooked some oatmeal in a skillet I found at a garage sale. I have to move boxes to open cabinet doors so I can clean the roaches out, then move boxes to find cleaners, then move boxes again to open other boxes so I can put something in the clean cabinet all the while trying to keep a trail open so people can walk through.

In my frustration I sat down and looked at my Bible study for today. It is John 21:1-14. Peter is saying "I'm getting out of here."

Why did these men go fishing? They had walked with the Lord. They had seen Him die. He had visited them after His resurrection. But they went back to their old life. Why? Had they given up? Had they forgotten their call?

At times I have been pretty hard on Peter. I understand him better today. He was in a strange place, with a strange new responsibility, an absentee boss, and no job description. He looked for something familiar, something he knew how to do, something he had succeeded in doing. But, with all of their skill and experience, these experienced seamen fished all night and caught nothing. I feel like Peter today. I looked at the hole in the bathroom wall, felt the kitchen floor give under my feet, struggled to make a simple breakfast for myself. Then I lost the hammer three times while I was looking for a nail. And I said, "Forget this, I'll just go home. Things are a mess there, but at least I have room to put things away and know where they are."

Ah, but the Lord came along in the morning. He said, "Children, have you any meat?" Then He told them "Cast the net on the right side of the ship." And when they did, they were not able to pull in the multitude of fish. They had been hiding out, trying to catch fish—on the wrong side of the boat.

The Lord knew where they were all of the time. He knew that they were tired and hungry. But He let them struggle all night. They had to learn that all of their skill did not count if they were not following His direction. They needed fishing lessons. They were going to a new work, a

Provision Closet Needs:

Pillows

Flannel Sheet sets, all sizes

Sheet sets, all sizes

Mattress covers (full size)

Bedspreads

Electric blankets

Speed cookers (pressure cookers)

Blenders

Baking pans

Cookware

Tupperware® except rolling pins, tumblers, and salt/pepper sets

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

different work. But, If they followed the Lord's directions, they would have results.

So here I sit in my little Pharr house, alone. Boxes are piled up all around me. I have worked and worked but you can't tell it. This new work is different, strange, frustrating. A little scary. It might feel good to just go home and pick up where we were, get a good check, and do the old things.

Not really. I still remember the confident peace we had throughout this decision. It is just buried in a box around here somewhere.

I don't really want to go back home, Lord. But, I don't know how to do this new job. Help me to learn what you are trying to teach me today. Help me, Lord. Teach me how to fish. ❖

Ruth Bivens lives in Pharr, TX with her husband. Bud and Ruth are Associate Home Missionaries to Mexico.



Food For Thought

We can learn some specific lessons about showing kindness from the ninth chapter of second Samuel. This chapter tells about King David's act of kindness to Mephibosheth, Jonathan's only surviving son.

The story of David's love for Jonathan is one of the most beautiful examples of friendship in the Bible. David and Jonathan had formed a covenant to be kind to each other's descendants. Though no man would have held David accountable now that he was king, he did what was right and fulfilled his promise to his beloved friend.

Mephibosheth was probably afraid for his life. David had to go out of his way to find him. This inconvenience did not hinder him from doing good.

Finally, David's act of kindness went against the social conventions of the day. Any time a king from a new line took the throne, it was common practice to exterminate all the descendants from the previous line. Kings naturally feared that one of the descendants of the previous king would try to take over the throne as rightful heirs. David was willing to risk scorn from society and go against worldly wisdom in order to show kindness.

How careful am I to fulfill my promises even when no one is around to hold me accountable? How often do I go out of my way to show kindness to someone? Am I willing to risk scorn to help someone in need? ♦

Poet's Corner

The Crossing

Jennye Lee Hickman, Haywood, OK

We've got to cross the river
To reach the other side
And He will guide us safely
Though the river may be wide.
And the crossing may be rough,
But we don't have to fear.
For Jesus walks beside us
His hand is always near.
Just reach out to Jesus,
And give your fears to Him.

For He has told His Father,
"I'll take good care of them."
And very soon we'll find ourselves
Safe in that promised land,
Happy and content with Him
Upon the golden strand.
And then if we should look again
At the river deep and wide,
We'll see it's just a tiny stream
When viewed from the other side.

The Rainbow

Freda Lucas, Cromona, KY

A mountain rainbow stretches forth
As far as eye can see.
Majestic arch across the clouds,
Each end caught in a tree.

I stand here barefoot in the grass.
And watch the colors rise.
The blues and greens and purples
Blaze a trail across the skies.

While clouds that once were dark begin
To vanish from my view;
I lean into the shadows that
Are disappearing, too.

The fading reds and yellows merge
Now with the clearing sky.
And I am left alone to muse and
Ponder how and why.

How does God send His colors forth
When life, itself, grows dim?
Why does He even bother when
We fail to follow Him?

I guess that's just like God; He wants
To drive the clouds away.
The rainbow is His promise that
There'll be a brighter day.

A day when sunshine never fades
And skies are always fair.
A place that needs no rainbow 'cause
There'll be no storm clouds there. ♦



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator

Work with the entire staff to plan a great enlistment month. The program on pages 10–11 should be adapted to fit your local group. Each section in the program should have a visual to represent the expression that is in bold. The following are some ideas.

- ♦ Secretary or Treasurer/face to face: silhouettes or profiles of two women facing each other
- ♦ Coordinator/eye to eye: drawing of two eyes with a large number “2” between the two eyes
- ♦ Missions Chairman/two by two: a picture or toy of Noah’s ark with animals in pairs
- ♦ Service Chairman/side by side: a simple drawing or stick figures of two women walking side by side
- ♦ Assistant Coordinator/hand in hand: drawing or picture of clasping hands
- ♦ Study Chairman/step by step: giant footprints
- ♦ Prayer Chairman/heart to heart: large joining hearts, drawn or made out of wire or some other craft material, the heart should be painted or covered with red cloth

The WNAC office is keeping up with the times when it comes to technology. We can now send and receive electronic mail which is faster and cheaper than regular mail. If you wish to send e-mail to any of our staff, here are our e-mail addresses:

CoLaborer Magazine: CoLaborer@nafwb.org
Mary R. Wischart: Wischart@nafwb.org
Yvonne Hampton: Yvonne@nafwb.org
Suzanne Franks: Suzanne@nafwb.org
Martha Harris: Martha@nafwb.org

If you have access to e-mail, you may place orders, send letters to the editors, or send any type of correspondence you wish. (Although there are safeguards for privacy, I would suggest that you not send any sensitive or confidential information over e-mail.)

Assistant Coordinator

When was the last time your women planned a Valentine’s Banquet? The February program would work quite well to be used at a banquet. Even better would be to invite a missionary to speak at the banquet. If you have a missionary guest, plan ahead to give an offering to go toward the speaker’s account. Do something special ‘out of love’ for your special guest. This could be a gift

Devotional Outline

Service to Our Lord James 1:22, 27

- ♦ serve with love
1 Corinthians 16:14
- ♦ serve with willingness
1 Corinthians 9:17–18
- ♦ serve with humbleness
James 4:10
- ♦ serve with steadfastness
1 Corinthians 16:13
- ♦ serve with knowledge
2 Timothy 2:15
- ♦ serve with fellowship
Hebrews 10:23–24
- ♦ serve with worship
Hebrews 10:25❖

(This devotional outline was adapted from a program submitted to Co-Laborer by Betty K. Goodnough.)



In the month
of hearts have a heart
for students on our foreign
fields. Give an offering to
the Foreign Student
Scholarship
Fund

certificate for a local store or romantic restaurant, a personal shower for her, or books for him. Whether you have a speaker or simply send a missionary a gift package, remember to show them they are loved and appreciated on this Valentine's Day.

Secretary

Although extremely important, being secretary is more than just taking accurate minutes. You should attend all local meetings and executive committee meetings and send copies of minutes to all officers after these meetings. If the coordinator should ask, you should prepare an agenda for meetings and keep an updated attendance and prospect list. You should also make an effort to attend district, state, and national meetings. Your job requires as much dedication as any officer's. For more information on your job, see the *Manual*, which is advertised on page 23.

Treasurer

Your local group may plan your budget for the year in January or another time of the year. Before the budget meeting, check with your district for projects they have proposed. Your local group should participate by giving offerings to these district projects. As the executive committee works on their budget, remind the committee of the following:

Your local group should be a team player. This means participating in district, state, and national projects. It also means following *The Together Way* plan of giving.

The budget should be bathed in prayer and mapped out in faith. What about putting WNAC's Co-Laborer Fund (General Fund) in your budget? In August, we have the WNAC Emphasis Month but expenses weigh heavily year round.

Your group could designate a percentage of your income to go to the General Funds in Home and Foreign Missions. Their offices need to operate, too. Without the central office, many missionaries couldn't go and do their work as effectively.

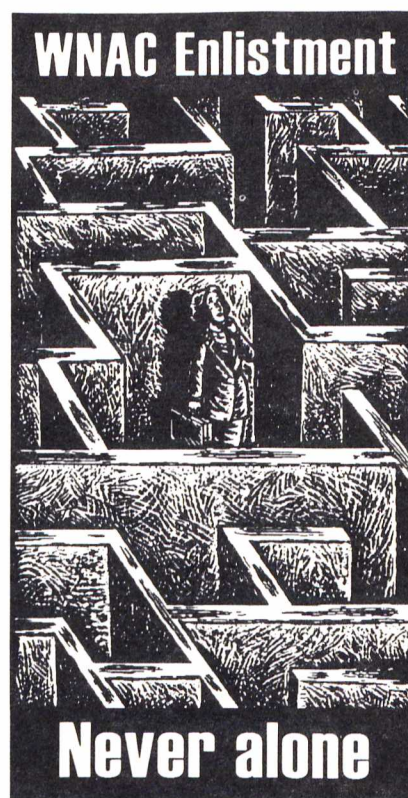
Each member should pay their dues. Remind your women of their financial responsibility to support the Lord's work. Each dollar given goes to an aspect of WNAC's ministry to fulfill the Great Commission.

Missions Chairman

Take full advantage of all the resources you have available to teach and promote missions in your church.

- ♦ a missionary's visit to your church (maybe they could give a short presentation to the children)
- ♦ missionary newsletters (summarize it during a Sunday night service or prayer meeting)
- ♦ missions hotline (check it weekly for up-to-date prayer requests)
- ♦ book review (page 24, get your hands on the book, read it, and share it)
- ♦ Springboard Illustrated (page 18, this story can be summarized and presented)
- ♦ Heartbeat/MissionGrams (encourage everyone to be on their mailing lists)
- ♦ books such as Comb's *They Deserve a Second Chance* and Miley's *First Fruits* (have them in your church library, give them for gifts to graduates, unchurched friends, etc.)

So, do your job of keeping missions before your women. But why not get double mileage out of your preparation by adapting what you have already prepared to present to a Sunday school class, children's church, or Wednesday night children's class? Check with your children's ministry, Sunday school teach, etc. to see if they would let you give a 5-10 minute missions moment periodically. If we are to build missions minded churches we need to teach missions to the young ones, too.



(blow up this art to make a poster or make invitations/fill in necessary information)

HID IN MY HEART

Isaiah 40:28-31

Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

*The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the
earth.*

*He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one
can fathom.*

*He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the
weak.*

*Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall:
but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.*

*They will soar on wings like eagles:
they will run and not grow
weary,
they will walk and not be faint.❖
(NIV)*



*Always
more to learn
about love*

Where: _____

When: _____

Time: _____

Hosted by: _____

At the 1996 National Convention WNAC voted to publish materials for young girls and teen women. This material will be designed to be used with Actionette groups and the like. And, when ready, this material will be invaluable for teaching missions. Until it's ready, let's make the most of what we already have available.

Service Chairman

Winter is the hardest time of year for shut-ins. Do you have a strategy in place to take care of elderly and sick in your church and community? Those who cannot get out in the cold weather appreciate visits and offers to run errands. When someone visits a shut-in they should check to make sure they have enough heat and food to keep them warm and fed.

If you have more volunteers than you do shut-ins, divide into teams. Each team concentrates on helping one person.

Winter is also a good time to prepare sunshine baskets for those who are going through especially hard times. Each woman in your group should bring one or two small gifts wrapped individually. You should have at least 30 gifts for each basket. The gifts are then numbered and the recipient should be instructed to open one for each day of the month. Wouldn't it be wonderful to open a gift each day in the month of January?

This is a good time of year to visit nursing homes to chase away the winter blues. Sometimes a cheerful smile, hug, and good conversation will make their day.

Study Chairman

You will be a busy woman this year since this year's theme is **Study: Expanding Knowledge**. The 1997 *Yearbook* has many suggestions on how to get women involved in study. Several resources are listed on pages 13-14.

Study Chairman, do your part this year. Keep your eyes open to useful books and materials for studies and book reviews that will help the women in your group grow spiritually and in service. Summarize at least one book (tape, video, or another resource) at each meeting. Plan studies on missions and prayer throughout the year.

Read the book review on page 25. Buy the book or ask your local group to purchase it for the church library. This book will change your life and the way you view world missions and sacrifice. Everyone should read this book and pray about her part in world missions. ♦

Missionary birthdays are printed in the 1997 Yearbook.

Lucy & Marge Time Well Spent

Lucy: I give up! (*Flings down her magazine and papers disgustedly.*)

Marge: What's wrong, Lucy? I never knew you to give up.

Lucy: I give up trying to get these women into our Women Active for Christ. Marge, I have invited and called and written and offered rides and babysitting at the church and—

Marge: Have you tried a tall, dark, handsome stranger for the single women?

Lucy: Oh, Marge—

Marge: Just kidding, just kidding. I know how you feel. I have tried too and they say they are busy.

Lucy: Busy? But what are they busy doing? You know they would probably come to an aerobics class or go bowling with us.

Marge: Well, the Bible does say that exercise profits a little. And you—

Lucy: Okay, Marge. That's enough. I know I could use some exercise, but that's not the most important thing in the world.

Marge: Certainly not, Lucy. And we should get our priorities straight. One person told me she didn't have time for clubs.

Lucy: Clubs? Who said anything about a club?

Marge: Maybe that's one of our problems, Lucy. Maybe we haven't let our women know exactly what WAC is and what it stands for.

Lucy: Hey, maybe you're right, Marge. Maybe they don't know that the purpose of WNAC is to help all of us fulfill the Great Commission. What's more important than that?

Marge: And maybe we should let them know just what our group is doing to accomplish that purpose.

Lucy: Marge, I think you have got a great idea there. Let's try it. I was just on my way to help with the program for the children at _____. (*Some children's home or juvenile center near you.*)

Marge: And I am going right now to meet with the Missions Committee to make plans for our missionary conference next month. But at our next meeting, let's talk about letting all the women of our church know how they can get in on these projects.

Lucy: We need all the help we can get to get the Gospel message to the world. Speaking of bowling, Marge, did you hear that I bowled 298 last week?

Marge: (*very impressed*) No, Lucy, you didn't?

Lucy: No, Marge, it was 98, but I can dream, can't I? ♦♦

Springboard Illustrated: Stories to Grow By *Volume 37/ No. 1*

riding a white mule by Jim Sturgill

One thing I find curious about Belo Horizonte is the number of horses that are left to roam the streets in this city of over three and a half million residents. The horses belong to the people who live in the *favelas* (shanty towns) not far from here. Since there isn't enough pasture available, the horses are left to eat the grass in the median strips and on the sides of the streets.

Then one day I bought a white mule. It isn't left to wander the streets. In fact, it couldn't because my white mule is a Korean-made van called *Besta* which is mule in Portuguese. I bought it so we could bring people to church.

Mateus (Matthew) started riding the *Besta* to church with his sister Marina. Neither had attended an evangelical church before.

Mateus is an active adolescent. We watch for the unexpected from him, and often get it. One evening he was more active than usual and I kept having to correct him with, "Mateus, please sit down and listen." After correcting him repeatedly, I noticed he finally sat down and bent over hugging his knees to his chest and stayed there. To my amazement he sat there without moving. He looked like an angel except for a grin on his face that let me know he felt he'd had the last word.

When it was time to go to Sunday school classes, Mateus called me over to help him. "Help you with what?" I asked. Mateus knew he couldn't sit still without help, so he had tied his shoe strings to his chair leg so he wouldn't move until the proper time came. In that way he would listen to what we were saying about God's love.

He listened and the seed bore fruit. A few months later, Mateus came out of his Sunday school class and whispered in my ear, "I want to be saved." Since I was acting as Sunday school superintendent, I asked the other missionary to talk with him. As a result, he found the Lord on that Sunday morning.

Last year Mateus and Marina participated in the Christmas program. Proud parents, Marta and Marcondes, came to see their boy and girl perform. They started attending two or three times a month. Suddenly, one day Mateus and Marina's parents quit coming or sending the kids to church. Our hearts ached for these two precious children and for their parents who needed to know the truth about God's Word. In spite of opposition God prevailed. Brother and sister were once again allowed to come to church.

Almost two years after the shoe string incident, Marina, his sister, said that she wanted to go into a room for counseling. Her Sunday school teacher counseled her and she made a decision.

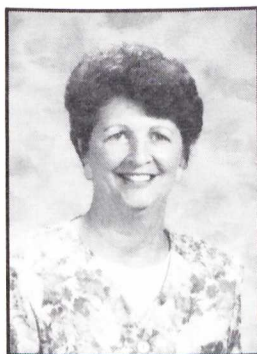
Just a few weeks after Marina's decision, Marta and Marcondes showed up for service. After service the couple went to the preacher and said they were ready to accept the Lord.

Praise God because an entire family of four knows the Lord because two children started riding a "white mule" to church. ♦♦

Jim and Vicki Sturgill are missionaries to Belo Horizonte, Brazil currently on furlough.

COMMUNICATOR

BY MARY RUTH WISEHART



Meet the WNAC Vice President

Marjorie Workman, vice president of WNAC, was born at home in Bailey, North Carolina, to Oscar and Sitha Hinton.

When she was eight, her pastor's daughter convinced her to go to the altar and "join the church." Marjorie

didn't think a child could join the church, but the young woman persuaded her to go. Afterward, Marjorie's father talked with her about forgiveness of sin, salvation and the commitment a follower of Christ must have. When he asked if that was what she wanted, she said yes. She was the first person under 12 to be saved at her church and she led the way for many others.

Marjorie attended Free Will Baptist Bible College, where she received a B.A. degree in 1964. In 1986 she earned a master's degree at Tennessee State University.

Free Will Baptist Bible College students know her as Dean of Women. They have also known Marjorie on campus for her athletic ability and enjoyment of sports as well as for counseling women.

At Woodbine Free Will Baptist Church, where she has belonged for 25 years, she has served as WAC president, Sunday school teacher, and a member of the Advisory Board.

Before she was elected vice president of WNAC in 1995, she served as Tennessee state president, as a WNAC member at large of the Executive Committee and in various other local and state positions.

She and her husband, Eugene, have two married daughters and one grandson.

Marjorie especially enjoys grandparenting. She also enjoys traveling, shopping and talking.

January Is Time to Enlist Those Women

January is the official enlistment month for WNAC. If January is an inconvenient month for any group, however, any month will do. Just be sure to have a special time to enlist members sometime during the year.

Enlistment ideas for every month of the year are available in an enlistment booklet from the WNAC office. The *Yearbook* also contains enlistment ideas for each month.

Check out the enlistment program in this issue. If you need other helps for prospective members, order them from WNAC.

Brochures, membership cards, Prayer fellowship cards, and complimentary magazines are available for use in enlistment.

One Group Enlists New Members for A Total of 119!

One woman's group reported an enlistment campaign that resulted in 84 new members. These new members brought the total membership to 119 women. Isn't that great?

That was the Ladies' Aid Society at Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee in 1922.

With all the means available to us today, can we top that campaign?

Foreign Student Scholarship Acknowledged

February is the month for a special offering to the Foreign Student Scholarship.

In July the delegates voted to give a \$1,000 scholarship to Yao Kouassi N'Guettia—Silas—in Côte d'Ivoire. Silas is presently enrolled in a Bible Institute provided by CMA at Yamoussoukrou.

He writes:

It is with unending gratefulness that we think of all who, by many varied means, have granted us financial assistance to cover the cost for this 1996-97 school year at the Bible Institute. May God be praised!

I especially thank Dr. Mary Ruth Wischart, the Women Nationally Active for Christ, and the families of Jimmy Aldridge and Jerry Pinkerton.

Please continue to pray each time the Holy Spirit reminds you of us, so that at the end of our studies Christ will have made us into true men and women of God.

"My food [strength] is to do the will of God and to accomplish His work."

May God grant you His unlimited blessings in all you do. This is my humble prayer for each of you. Amen.

Your gift to the Foreign Student Scholarship Fund in February will enable WNAC to help other worthy students as they train to serve God among their own people. ❖

Women In Action



A. St. Croix Women Enjoy Special Days
The women of the Free Will Baptist Church in St. Croix, Virgin Islands sponsored a Father's Day Reception last June. The women who gave the reception appear in the photograph.

On Mother's Day they like to meet for breakfast and bring along either a child or a friend. Home missionaries Ron and Barbara Dail work at this church.



B. Missionary guest speaker at Lakehills WAC
Jalayn Martens spoke at the Lakehills Free Will Baptist Church in Austin, Texas. Following the meeting, the women of this local group surprised their speaker with a personal shower. Jalayn Martens is a missionary to Côte d'Ivoire currently on furlough.

What's Cooking at Cofer's Chapel?

Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee has an active WAC.



C. (Left to right) Sheila Sass (Past), Jodi Young (Future), Karen Hampton (Present) are the cast members of "Our Faces Toward Tomorrow: Light on the Way" at the Emphasis Program in August 1996.



D. Lilly Duncan, secretary, presents a storage box of school supplies and personal items to college student, Amy Pate.



E. Missouri WNAC Hold Annual Retreat
Over 350 Missouri women met at Stonecroft Con-

ference Center, Branson, Missouri, August 16–17. Sister Lillian Carson, song evangelist from St. Peter's, Missouri, challenged everyone with the theme taken from Philippians 3:10. Sister Lillian used singing and scripture from God's Word to show God's purpose is for us to know Him better and to worship Him.

The Friday evening service resulted in filled altars and changed lives. Over \$850 raised was sent to the Provision Closet.

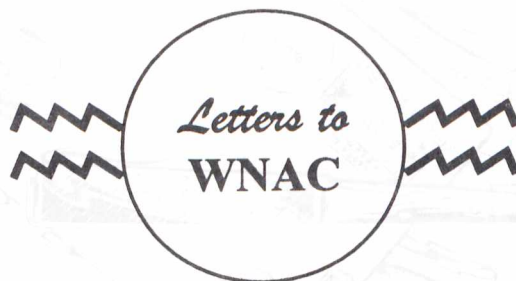
Pictured: Front Row: Shirley Jackson (President), Lillian Carson, Bonnie Maxwell, (Member at Large) Back Row: Becky Gwartney (Vice-President), Reva Baker (Treasurer), Kay Reiter (Secretary), Maureen Hocker (Member at Large)



F. Tree for the Crabtrees

The Ladies Missionary Circle at First Dayton Free Will Baptist Church (Dayton, Ohio) planted a maple tree and erected a plaque in front of the church and dedicated them to Jeff and Donna Crabtree. June 14 (1996) the Crabtrees held an itinerary service in preparation for starting a church in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. The Ladies Missionary Circle and the church gave an offering of \$1,350 plus several pledges for monthly support.

Pictured: (left to right) Jeff Crabtree, Alan Barnes, Hobert Ashby❖



Dear WNAC.

When we returned from our last trip to Africa, several asked, "Did you see Suzanne?" to which we replied, "No, we tried, but couldn't find her." According to custom, her husband did not have the bridal price, so they eloped "down south."

For seven years she remained out of touch.

Last week we received a letter from Suzanne. She learned we had been there and searched for her.

Instead of the customary first child to cancel the dowry, Suzanne returned with three—two boys and a girl. Just think! Three more grandchildren!

Lorene Miley, former editor of *CoLaborer* and missionary to Côte d'Ivoire

Editor's note: Suzanne is the Miley's adopted daughter in Africa.

Dear WNAC.

Just a note to let you know we really appreciate your ministry. The *CoLaborer* is the best ever. We pray God's special blessings for all of you.

WROCS (*Women reaching Out in Christian Service*), Smyrna, TN

Dear WNAC.

My wife, Betty, certainly does enjoy reading the *CoLaborer*. So does her husband. You produce an informative, challenging magazine. Thank you for your devotion to this task.

Dennis Wiggs, New Bern, NC

Dear WNAC.

I want to say how much I have enjoyed the *CoLaborer* over the years. I still enjoy reading the magazines, but I must confess, it is the older ones I go to for ideas and helps for our meetings. Is it possible to return some of the things to the *CoLaborer* that used to be there, such as, Bible Studies, a page used to announce meetings, ideas for Mother-Daughter Banquets, and etc.?

Rosaline Johnston, Plaster Rack, New Brunswick, Canada

Editor's note: The helps for the monthly meetings are now published in our Yearbook which can be purchased from WNAC (see page 23). Thank you for writing. We love to hear what you think. ❖

Wounded lambs

Six Foot, Ten Inches of Obedience

One month a large financial responsibility was facing the Children's Home. The regular cake sales and special drives were all needed to meet the monthly expenses. This was a greater need than any idea we could come up with in our staff meeting.

About that time, Jim, my husband, received a phone call asking about the Children's Home. The caller was speaking English.

"My name is Anthony White," he offered, "and I am professional basketball player with the Blue Life Team in Rio Claro. I heard about your work with street children in Araras and I would like to talk with you folks."

Anthony arrived with a box of canned goods for the home collected by the Atletas de Cristo (Athletes of Christ). He is a Baptist from Texas. He, his wife and two children had been in Brazil for several months and were touched by the assassinations of street children and the great need for a ministry to address this problem.

He visited the children at the home. As they all sat on the floor around him, he talked with them using the Portuguese phrases he had learned. However, when he gave his testimony he wanted to be sure his message got across to the children and asked me to interpret for him.

One little boy, Alex, asked, "*Porque ele é tão alto?*"

"God created Anthony that way—all six feet and ten inches," I replied in Portuguese.

"What did the boy ask you?" Tony questioned.

"Why are you so tall?" I smiled at him seated on the floor.

"Help me talk to him," Tony said. "I want to answer that for him."

Anthony stood up and looked down on the little children seated on the floor. He began, "God created me extra tall so that I could play professional basketball and be invited to play on teams that travel all over the world. In every country, wherever I go, I look for boys and girls so I can tell them Jesus loves them. I grew tall physically but I must also grow spiritually, just like you. It is important for you to have healthy bodies and to love God by knowing Jesus as your Savior."

What a role model for those children seated there! Most of



The children are big soccer fans!

the men in their families were addicts, criminals, or unemployed and illiterate. They beat and abused their neighbors, wives and children and the only religion they practiced was black magic and voodoo to put curses on their enemies.

Benefit Game

Anthony took a personal interest in the Children's Home and offered to arrange a benefit basketball game. He talked with the Brazilian Athletes for Christ and

the Christian members of the Blue Life Team and asked them to play against All Star Players from various teams in Brazil.

It was to be a novelty for the city. If a sporting event were volleyball or the national sport of soccer, it would almost be guaranteed to be a success. At that time, not many people knew much about basketball, so advertisement was to prove important.

Good things started happening. The city sports arena was offered at no cost. Tickets were printed at no charge and many volunteers began selling pre-game tickets. Local newspapers printed articles, the radio called us for live interviews and even a little television coverage was given. Friends from other churches offered to help us with the snack shop and prepared hundreds of *pasteis* (fried meat pies), *brigadeiros* (chocolate candy) and soft drinks. Local businesses donated nice sports gifts for door prizes. The competing teams did not charge for their services, and they showed up! We were ready to open the gates for game time.

And in they came. There was a better turn-out than anyone expected and the teams put on a great night of entertainment.

The children from the Children's Home ate their fill of *pasties* and *brigadeiros* and clapped and laughed at the tallest men they had ever seen in their lives. Best of all, they and others saw male role models giving their testimonies of salvation in Jesus Christ and giving away Bibles right along with other cherished prizes.

Remember the large financial responsibility I told you we were facing before all this happened? God used a tall, young Texan, far from home, to supply a need in a little church in Brazil. The financial need was a tall order and God used a tall ambassador for Christ to bless our lives. ❖

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.

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Evidence Not Seen: A Woman's Miraculous Faith in the Jungles of World War II

Darlene Deibler Rose

Harper San Francisco, 1988, \$11.00

Reviewed by Carole Ragan

Evidence Not Seen is the gripping story of Darlene Deibler, a young American missionary who survived four years in a Japanese prison camp during World War II.

Darlene gave her heart to the Lord at the age of nine. She had an unusual spiritual sensitivity for her age, and the following year she made a heartfelt commitment to God to go wherever He wanted her to go. Later, while at college preparing for missions service, Darlene met Russell Deibler, a missionary to the Netherlands East Indies. Believing God had brought them together, they were married in 1937. After completing language study in Holland, they arrived in Indonesia on August 18, 1938, their first wedding anniversary.

The Deiblers had begun work with a tribal group in New Guinea when World War II broke out in Europe in 1940. For safety reasons the Dutch government would not allow them to stay in New Guinea, so they returned to the island where their mission had a Bible school. Over the next several months they worked at the school while keeping up with the disturbing news of the war.

The Japanese army had made a successful scourge of large portions of Asia and the Pacific, and it became apparent they would invade the East Indies islands. The Deiblers and their missionary co-workers were given the opportunity to leave, but after a night of prayer, no one felt the Lord would have them go. Three days later they learned a ship on which they would have sailed had been sunk.

As the Japanese surged over the islands, they imprisoned all civilians, separating the women and children from the men. As Russell was being taken away, he spoke quietly to Darlene: "Remember one thing, dear:

God said that He would never leave us nor forsake us." At the time of their separation, Darlene and Russell had been married for five years.

Darlene was taken to a camp which housed hundreds of women and children. Despite her youth, she was placed in charge of her barracks, which the women eventually nicknamed Barracks Heinz because nearly 57 nationalities were living there. The first evening in camp Darlene instituted a time of Scripture reading and prayer. Years later she wrote, "I am convinced the harmony we experienced in Barracks 8 was due to the spiritual shelter beneath which we all hid when there was no other refuge."

This highly personal and heart-wrenching testimony reveals God's power in the life of a woman who was a faithful, obedient servant. It will challenge readers to reexamine their own faith and commitment to the Lord.

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

Letters to God

Dear God,

Thank you for my brother, Rob,
and sister, Anne.

Rob is tall and strong. He is a
little shy; but I enjoy it when he
hugs me and tells me he loves me.
He is kind and patient with me.
He fixes my broken machines so
I can hear music about Jesus.

Anne is different. She wraps me
in a bubble of love and fun. She
makes me laugh. She enjoys me
more than anyone else. She loves
me because I'm me.

I'm glad you put me in this family.

Love,
Ruth

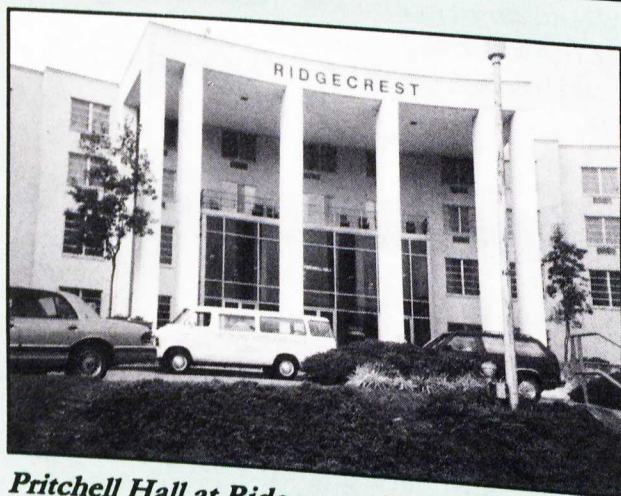
*Letters to God: A seven-part series of letters
from a special needs child.*



1996

WNAC Retreat

Brighten Your Corner



Pritchell Hall at Ridgecrest Conference Center

The staff at Ridgecrest Conference Center welcomed 501 women from 18 states on September 12, 1996. The Blue Ridge mountains of North Carolina were wet and cool that weekend but there were many bright and warm spots to find at Ridgecrest.

Each meeting yielded a harvest of opportunities to worship and learn. Eyes, ears, and souls feasted on quality videos of nature scenes, music, and scripture at the opening of three services.

Messages

Five speakers brought messages focused around the theme, "Brighten Your Corner."

Marjorie Workman, Dean of Women at Free

Will Baptist Bible College, addressed the topic: My Corner—My Family. Mrs. Workman spoke on the importance of holding the light high in our homes and teaching our children about God. It is more important that our children walk in truth than that they have a great career or be rich. She emphasized the importance of having a family altar.

My Corner—The Church was Kathy Coats' topic. This home missionary and mother of five spoke from Hebrews 12:1. She shared how a neighbor woman picked her up and took her to Sunday school every Sunday. Saved at six years of age, her church became a haven from problems at home. Mrs. Coats charged godly women with the job of being teachers and surrogate mothers to children and young women who don't receive Bible teaching at home.

Tammy Gentuso has a story to tell about



Everyl Getz (left), Mary Neal, Camille Scott, Tammy Gentuso



Angie Outlaw makes a point with two lamps



Carol Reid at the organ



Debbie Mouser at the piano, Betsy Karounos playing the flute

meeting a young intern at the hospital where she worked and leading him to the Lord. Later this young doctor became her husband and medical missionary in Côte d'Ivoire. Tammy shared some principles of witnessing in the workplace according to her topic: My Corner—The Workplace.

Patsy Vanhook went from My Corner—The World to My Corner of the World, St. Nazaire, France where she works as a missionary. From 700,000 people who live in St. Nazaire, 150 are evangelical Christians. Many ask, "Why France? Isn't France a Christian nation?" She affirmed, "We cannot mistake modern for spiritually enlightened. . . [But] even in darkness we have the light of the world."

Angie Outlaw spoke on My Corner—The

Community. She used two lamps to illustrate her message. One lamp was beautiful but didn't work. The other lamp was not as attractive but it worked. In order to brighten our community we have to be plugged into the source though salvation. Then we must be turned on to the power. Finally we can shine in the darkness so others can see the Father's salvation.

Music

Camille Scott, music coordinator, with Carol Reid at the organ and Debbie Mouser at the piano, led the music for the retreat. Beverly Riggs, Mary Neal, Camille Scott, the Cross Timbers Sextet and a choir provided a variety of special music. Number one on the top ten music hits for the retreat was Beverly Welch's song *We Will Shine* composed for the 1996 retreat.

A Bright Spot

Friday afternoon the WNAC executive committee and staff led ten smaller groups of women in a get-acquainted/fun time.

Offering

The missionary offering taken on Friday evening totaled \$3,636.60 which was divided equally among the twelve missionaries who attended the retreat. Betsy Karounos played an arrangement of *Holy, Holy, Holy* on the flute for the offertory.



Mass choir

Candlelight Service

The candlelight service on Friday evening, led by WNAC President Everyl Getz, afforded everyone a time of earnest reflection on how we are lights in a dark world.

More to Come

The next WNAC retreat will be at Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico, October 10-12, 1997. The next retreat at Ridgecrest will meet September 17-19, 1998. ♦

1996 WNAC Retreat Tape Order

You may place an order for any of the tapes below. Please check the ones you would like.

Each tape is \$4.00, which includes postage and handling.

Qty.

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- ☐ Tammy Gentuso
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- ☐ Angie Outlaw

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EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE

(continued from page 6)

institutes in our missions works and the Free Will Baptist colleges here in the US. If you are a mother, pray for home and foreign missionary moms. If you're a grandmother, pray for missionary grandmothers. If your child is two-years-old, pray for a missionary's child who is that age also (and for his mother!).

Make a link between your knees and the needs out there. Pray specific prayers—prayers for the same things you need in your life. Inquire (with short letters) about other needs on the fields. Keep up with newsletters and publications for more information. Learn all you can to better prepare you for your ministry of support.

Go. Hook up with a short-term missions project. Ask for information about how your gifts and talents can be used in God's work. Volunteer in your state or on the national level or overseas.

Or help someone else go. Send your pastor to visit a mission field. His increased vision will inspire your entire congregation—and perhaps your district and state works as well. Encourage a teenager to travel with a youth missions group during the summer, and help them raise support. He or she will never think the same about the world, missions, and the work of Christ.

Give generously so that God's work is not hampered by lack of funds. Give so that our furloughing missionaries don't have to spend hours on the road and days away from their families asking you to give. Give so that they won't return to their fields or service more tired and discouraged than when they came home. Encourage your church to write missionary giving into its budget. Sacrificially, cheerfully give. Grow and know and go and give your dough.

Expand your knowledge to impact the whole world. Our God is big enough! ♦

Carol Reid is a member of Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, TN. She is the librarian at Free Will Baptist Bible College.



MISSION ALERT:

Evangelism News from Around the World

Miami, Florida

A joint revival of all four Spanish-speaking churches in the Miami area was held at the Renacer Free Will Baptist Church, September 12–15. Home Mission's Director of Missionary Assistance, David Crowe, preached the revival and José Rodrigues, home missionary and pastor of the Renacer church, interpreted. Many brought friends and family to the revival meetings and several made salvation decisions.

A young man from the Renacer church named Omar Alfarro has started a new church in his brother's Karate studio. Praise God for the Cuban and Latin American Free Will Baptists who are working to spread the good news in the Miami area!

Waldorf, Maryland

Home Missionary Jim Fairchild's church in Waldorf has been setting records and welcoming many first-time visitors. Director of Development, Richard Adams, held a revival September 29 through October 1, 1996. During the revival meetings six people made salvation decisions.

Reynosa, Mexico

The school year at the Mexican Bible Institute started with a record 33 full-time students enrolled. Although still in construction, the new, more convenient location has helped increase enrollment. Local men have continued working steadily on the construction throughout the year. Various groups of pastors and laymen from the U.S. have also made trips to Reynosa to help with construction.

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Last summer Robert Bryan officially handed over the leadership of CPE (Centre de Publications Evangeliques) to its first African director, Jules Ouoba. Since then Robert and Judy Bryan have been working more closely with the emerging Free Will Baptist church in Abidjan. For over two years a group has been meeting twice a month for fellowship and worship meetings. When the new rented meeting hall became available they started weekly meetings. They were already averaging 30–35 people in the meetings when university classes are in session.

Montevideo, Uruguay

Dennis and Trena Owen write, "The Lord has been good to give ten people who have been faithful. Ten others have been discouraged . . ." The Owens are starting a church that is currently meeting in the Bible Institute Building downtown. They hope to obtain their own property in the near future in order to build a church.

Jorge Abella, a young Christian, and his son, Steban, have started a soccer team with the church as sponsor. They formed the team of 20+ friends in an effort to represent the hope they have in Christ and reach out to others.

Nantes, France

Missionary Steve Riggs reports that the Nantes church is looking for a building for their church. He also requests that we ask the Lord to work in the hearts of several unsaved people who attend the Nantes church.

Life!Action. for young people for everyday life

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"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."
Ephesians 4:16 (NIV)

Individuality has been glorified to cult status in our society. People say, "Do your own thing." "The most important thing is to be true to yourself. Who cares what others think?"

It's true that you don't want to worry about what other are thinking 24/7. (The first time I heard 24/7 from a younger friend, she had to explain that it meant 24 hours/7 days a week.) It's also true that we should be most concerned about what God thinks. But for whatever it's worth, we must realize that our mistakes affect those around us. We hurt our parents and friends.

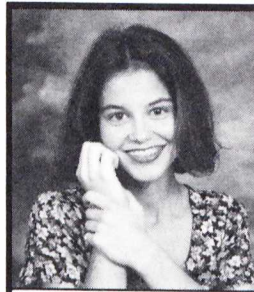
On the other hand, the good choices we make also affect the people around us, in a positive way.

If you think it is nobody's business what you do with your life, that nobody is affected by your mistakes, just remember that you are part of a community. If you do your part by making the right decisions and using your God-given abilities, you are making a positive contribution to your community. This community could be your family, your school, or the church—the body of Christ. ❖

TEAMS in Missions

- ☐ Teens with a desire to serve
- ☐ Teens with talent
- ☐ Teens interested in going overseas
- ☐ Teens ready to serve God

If you are a teen with the above qualities and you want to be used by God, send your request for information to: Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002



MEET kimberlee scott

age 18

hometown Johnsonville, South Carolina

freshman at Free Will Baptist Bible College

hobby playing the piano

favorite food Mexican

summer 1996 Went on Team Brazil

How long did TEAM last? 4 weeks, 1 in Nashville for training, 3 in Brazil.

Did you get homesick? No.

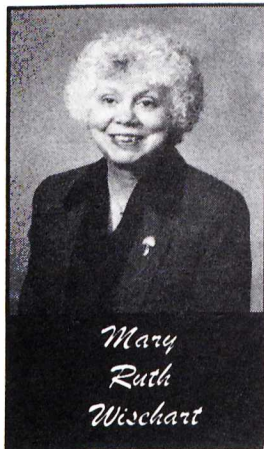
Share one thing you learned from the trip. In Ephesians 6 it says we are not battling against flesh and blood. I gained a general love for humans realizing we are all victims of evil powers.

What's one thing you will never forget?

I learned that material things are not very important. One home I stayed in had no hot water. I took a cold shower and it was okay. I realized this family always took cold showers. Then I thought, "Who am I to say I **need** hot water?"

What would you like to tell other young women? If you feel like God is dealing with you about missions at all, try to make a trip to one of our mission fields to see what God is doing there. It will change your life. It's probably the best way to find out if God wants you to go. My trip was wonderful! I grew closer to God and it was an eye opener.

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 ❖



WORDS FOR WOMEN

"I don't want to hear that," my four-year-old friend said. Safely fastened in the back seat of my car, she had just applied some "makeup." Her Granny and I told her she was looking pretty.

Nevertheless, soon after she was acting ugly by making ugly statements.

I said, "You can be pretty on the outside, but the most important thing is to be beautiful from the inside out. Those words make you sound ugly on the inside."

"I don't want to hear that," she said, almost under her breath, but loud enough for me to hear.

Whether she wanted to hear the words or not, they were true words.

I thought how often we "don't want to hear that."

It's hard to take, isn't it, when someone points out to us a slip, a fault, an unchristian spirit. We tend to think, "I'm not like that."

Still, we should be ready to hear and accept even those statements we think are unfair and not true at all.

Sometimes it's good for us to see ourselves through another's eyes, from a different perspective.

I well remember when I came to the South to go to college. After several weeks, one student finally confessed that the Southern coeds thought I was a snob. I was horrified. Me, a snob? I'm not like that!

"Why?" I asked.

They all seemed to have more than I had. It never occurred to me that these coeds with their pretty clothes and soft speech were sharecroppers' daughters. It wouldn't have changed my attitude if I had been aware of it.

"Because," they said, "your family owns land."

Now, what, I thought, was I doing to make them feel that I was a snob. They didn't realize that I was very shy and very limited in my contacts with others. I was quiet and reserved, thinking no one would be interested in me.

Eventually I did make friends and erase (I think) that image.

I didn't like hearing that I was a snob. Still, it did me good to see myself from the view point of the other students.

Even more important is seeing ourselves from the Holy Spirit's point of view. He may speak to us about our attitudes, our desires, our words and actions. Does the Word speak to us about loving out enemies, forgiving those who treat us with disdain, doing good to those who mistreat us? Do we want to hear? Probably not.

Don't you hate hearing from a friend that you need to be more faithful, sing in the choir, teach a class, have a better attitude, make up with a friend you have offended?

Of course if it's from an enemy, you can just ignore it, or can you? Even those who despise us may speak some words that we need to hear. When we think the criticism is unjust and untrue, we may need to ask ourselves the question, "Now, why do they feel that I am---?" We may need to correct an attitude or an action.

If we are to be true followers of Christ in this year of 1997, we must listen to the reproof and correction of the Spirit of God. He may speak to us through the Word, through a friend—even through an enemy!

Be careful about turning a deaf ear to His words. We may not say right out loud, "I don't want to hear that." Yet if we refuse to accept reproof and correction, we are saying it, even if under our breath. Believe me, He can hear it, spoken or unspoken.

"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Hebrews 12:11 ♦



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