

Mar • Apr 1997

CoLaborer

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

The Pieces Fit
4

*World-Changing
Knowledge*
7

*My Uruguayan
"Mom"*
26

*The
World at my
Front Door*

10



VISION

SUZANNE FRANKS

Unbalanced



What's wrong with this picture?
❧ I own a modest collection of seven Bibles. Millions around the world have none and can't get one.
❧ On my way to work, I can tune my radio to at least four local Christian stations. Bible Broadcasting Network has just started the first Christian radio station in Uruguay.
❧ I pass at least six churches on the way to worship at my church which is in a metropolitan area with hundreds of evangelical churches. Kopeysk, in the Ukraine, has one small church to serve an entire population of over 150,000. What's wrong? This picture looks unbalanced.

Consider this. There are over 4,000 ordained Free Will Baptist ministers within the US borders. Many of them pastor the 2,500 US churches. We currently support 42 missionaries who are ordained ministers (give or take a few) on foreign soil. Free Will Baptist churches overseas make do with 34 national pastors to take care of 212 churches and mission works (excluding Mexico and Canada).*

What can we do to change this imbalance? We can send more people to those parts of the world which are the least evangelized. Here's how.

Intercede. Pray that the Lord will call laborers for the harvest.
Be inclined. Be willing to go yourself and to help your children go if God calls them.

Instruct. Do everything you can to educate your children, youth, and adults at home and in the church with missions conferences, global awareness lessons, and missions stories.

Start immediately and start young. As soon as your children can say their prayers, help them pray for specific missionary requests in personal and family devotions. Ralph Winter, founder of US Center for World Missions said that 80 percent of today's missionaries caught the vision when they were children.

Stay informed. Stay up to date on what is happening with your missionaries' lives and on their fields. Learn their names, the names of the cities where they work, and what kind of work they do. Pay attention to the world news and how it may affect the task of carrying the gospel to unreached peoples.

Invite a missionary into your home, for a meal or an entire week.

Be inspired by attending missions conferences, doing missions Bible studies, reading biographies of great missionaries.

Implement a budget plan that permits thrift in your spending and generosity in your giving to the Lord's work.

Be involved in outreach in your own community.

Try intense exposure. Do short-term missionary work or take a vacation on a mission field.

Be indomitable. World evangelization is costly and consuming, but the Holy Spirit is ever present to help us in our efforts.

Missions is more than praying and sending money. It's a life style. As a Christian, you have already been chosen to live a missions life style. ❖

*Statistics taken from the 1996 Free Will Baptist Yearbook.

VOLUME 37

NUMBER 2

MAR • APR 1997

4

**"THE MORE
YOU LEARN,
THE MORE
YOU SEE TO LEARN."**

7

**GEORGIA HILL INVITES
US TO INCREASE OUR
KNOWLEDGE
OF GOD'S WORD,
HIS PURPOSE,
AND HIS WORK
IN THIS WORLD**

10

**"SOMEHOW I AM NOT
AS COMFORTABLE
NOW WHEN I SHUT
MY DOOR ON THE
WORLD OUTSIDE."**

CONTENTS



MARCH PROGRAM:

The Pieces Fit

—Lorene Miley

4

APRIL PROGRAM:

World-Changing Knowledge

—Georgia Hill

7

MISSIONS PROGRAM:

The World at my Front Door

—Ruthann Hall

10

Wounded Lambs

13

Last in a 6-part series from Shirley Combs' *They Deserve A Second Chance*

Food For Thought / Poet's Corner

14

SPRINGBOARD: Ideas for Officers

15

Empty Shelves, Full Churches

—Marcia Ellison

18

Communicator

19

Women In Action / Letters to WNAC

20

Glorieta Registration Form

22

Pre-Easter Week of Prayer Calendar

23

Help us Help you

25

Mission Call: My Uruguayan "Mom"

—Rebecca Franks

26

Mission Alert: *Evangelism News from Around the World*

29

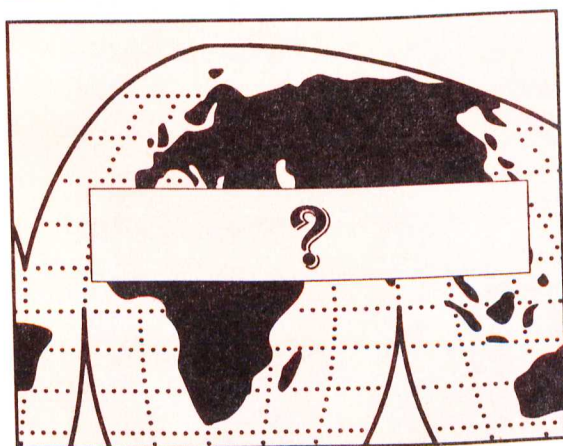
Life!Action: He's all I Need

30

Words for Women

—Mary Ruth Wischart

31



Executive Editor: Mary R. Wischart

Editor: Suzanne Franks

Circulation: Yvonne Hampton

Co-Laborer, (ISSN 0896-0038), is published bimonthly by Women Nationally Active for Christ of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 5233 Mt. View Road, Antioch, TN 37013-2306, (615)-731-6812. Address all correspondence to P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Annual subscription rates: \$6.75 per year, single; \$6.00 per year, 5 or more to one address.

Periodical postage paid at Antioch, TN and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Co-Laborer, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Copyright privileges, reserved © 1997 Member of the Evangelical Press Association.

THE PIECES FIT

BY LORENE MILEY



Introduction

Puzzles are like magnets. They draw you to them with irresistible force. There's nothing like the challenge of fitting that stray piece into the whole. It's a favorite pastime for people of all ages, young and old alike.

Scripture: Jeremiah 15:16

Purpose: How to make Bible study an enjoyable experience

Prayer Chorus: *Open my Eyes, Lord*

Some puzzles are easier to work than others. Take the dozen giant wooden pieces inside a solid

frame. A seasoned puzzler slips them into place with no problem. It's no puzzle to him. But dump a 3000 piece one on the table and watch him groan.

Bible study is like a puzzle. For baby Christians, the puzzle contains a few pieces in sizes easy to handle. Then he graduates to

the 100 piece ones, 300, 500, 1000, and up. Just when he thinks he has mastered the technique, God hands him another puzzle he deems impossible to solve. But he digs in.

That's the way of Bible study. You never arrive. The more you learn, the more you see to learn. And what fun along the way!

Look at the Picture

The technique for working puzzles (Bible study) is the same, whether you have few or many pieces. Study the finished picture. Make space to work. Spread out the pieces and turn them face up. Separate the straight edges and find the corners. Fit them all together.

First things first—preparation. Spiritual preparation. God Him-



self must reside in our hearts in the person of the Holy Spirit. He's our teacher. Unless He removes the veil from our eyes, we can never understand spiritual truths. One's natural I.Q., cleverness or education is of little value in discerning things of the Spirit (Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-4).

Our hearts and minds must be open to truth. A person enclosed in a dark room cannot perceive

the light outside. But when she opens the shutters, pulls back the drapes and flings open the door, light floods the room. We begin Bible study by allowing the light of God's love to fill our being.

Bible study must be habitual and systematic. Make it a priority. Set aside a chunk of each day for study. Arrange a place to study and keep all your study guides, notebooks, colored pencils and paraphernalia together. Build up a library of study materials—Bible dictionary, commentary, concordance, word studies and different versions. (Begin a "gift want list" and distribute to your family.)

Keep your study in focus. The curious person looks for the oddly interesting or controversial. The intelligent man selects a theological or prophetic study. To the

**Study goes
beyond mere
knowledge.
Our lives
must be
changed as a
result.**

ignorant, the Bible is only words on a page. The spiritual man sees Jesus.

"Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see Jesus."

Outline the Puzzle

In working a puzzle, you begin with the obvious—straight edges. So it is in Bible study. Start with what is clearly seen. Answer the classic five W's and one H of journalism. Who wrote the book? When and where was it written? To whom? Why was it written? What is it about? In other words, observation. What does it say?

Observation establishes a framework for our study. Spending time in this first step keeps us from ripping words from their context or stripping them of their original meaning. It also activates spiritual antenna when God's Word is misquoted or misrepresented.

Now that we've observed the obvious, we're ready to fill in what is not so obvious. We start filling in the middle of the puzzle. What does it mean? How does it relate to the whole?

Someone has said, "There are three rules for successful Bible interpretation: context, context, and context." Context is the words, phrases, and sentences surrounding a particular word, phrase or sentence. What did it mean when it was written? What do other commentators say about it?

Finally, make the application. How does it relate to me? Study goes beyond mere knowledge. Our lives must be changed as a result. The pieces are spread on the table. Let's begin!

A Puzzle Goes Together— Piece by Piece

There are no short cuts to working a puzzle. It laboriously comes together piece by piece. However it does help to have a

method. Separate colors, shapes, and detail.

Bible study, too plugs along at a snail's pace. "But I'm too undisciplined to stay with it!" You cry. Aren't we all? This is where fellow believers come in.

When Bible study takes low priority, when your new Year's resolution to study falls apart, when you've lost your study guide, then it's time to call a neighbor.

"Look, I'm planning to study Ephesians for the next 14 weeks. I need someone to hold me accountable. Can you study with me?" Line up two or three others in case one has to be absent. Each has her study guide and does her homework. You meet weekly for an hour's discussion and check-up.

Maybe you prefer larger classes. Avoid those where you attend with no preparation. Sure, it's rewarding to sit under the sound teaching of godly men and women. Graze in their pastures if you will, but don't eat what they have already digested. Predigested food is intolerable in the physical realm, more so in the spiritual.

What about a church Bible study? Perfect!—as long as it is a structured hands-on study. Students enroll for the course, buy their workbook, and prepare for classes. Classes begin and end on time; generally, no food is served.

We really do need each other when it comes to Bible study. That's because Satan knows how important it is and will stop at nothing to get us to chuck it. Perhaps he has a corps of trained anti-Bible study demons that he assigns to us when we become serious about Bible study. Let's determine now to get into His work and stay there—until Jesus comes! ♦

Lorene Miley is a member of Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, TN. She served as editor of CoLaborer 1979–1992.

Letters to God

Dear God,

I like to go to Granny's house. She must be a lot like you. She doesn't care if my mind didn't grow as fast as my body. She likes me just the way I am.

Granny sits down beside me and holds my hand, when I let her. And she talks to me.

Before Grandpa went to be with You, I sat and rubbed his arm. He said I was telling him good-bye, because I knew I would not see him again. I'm happy when people help me by putting into words what I feel but can't say.

Maybe we need more grannies and grandpas.

Love,
Ruth

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

World-Changing Knowledge?

by Georgia B. Hill

"My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge"

—Hosea 4:6 NIV

"Never assume what should be asserted!"

This statement correctly declares that relevant truth must be repeated often and with vigor, and never mind the number of times it may have been said. We are wrong if we assume that an oft-repeated truth has been intrinsically heard, listened to, and learned.

This program will again assert truths you probably have already heard, perhaps many times. Yet, your personal response may have been a mere passive listening experience. Or your interest may have been aroused now and then through a special "missionary" service. This is another opportunity to both assert the truth of God's Word, and to listen to His challenge to join the "world-changers" of this age.

Expand your Knowledge
Scripture reading: 2 Peter 1:5

How privileged we are to live in the Age of Information. All kinds of information is at our fingertips through computers and the channels which flow through these technological wonders. Christian ministries and missionary agencies now make current information available through this medium. Christian bookstores make books, literature, tracts, periodicals, tapes and audio visuals readily available. Some of these may even be used on a rental basis.

Do you read your copies of *Heartbeat* and *MissionGrams*? Have you read the book on Pop Willey's life, *Never Say Can't* or Miss Laura Belle Barnard's book, *Touching the Untouchable*?

My husband is a gerontologist and he has been learning and teaching that the synapses in our brains which carry messages back

and forth, deteriorate with age and die. The result is loss of memory and may lead to Alzheimer's disease. But more importantly, scientists are discovering that these synapses can be kept healthy and even new ones developed through exercise. Exercise for the brain? What is this? It starts with reading, and thinking—learning new things, following directions.

The opportunities for Christians to increase their knowledge of God's Word, His purposes, His work in this world are simply astounding. The potential to be world-changers from our own homes and communities are amazing once we get a look at His big picture.

Expanding your knowledge will doubtlessly lead to a **season of inspiration**. God's message will inspire you. Then He will send along opportunities for **intercession** and **involvement**.

Some years ago, through literature obtained at a local Christian bookstore, we became aware of an international prayer ministry. This group had been especially praying for people in the least evangelized areas around the world. The ministry is called “praying through the 10/40 window.” The 10/40 window refers to those countries which fall between the latitudinal ten line and the longitudinal forty line on a world map.

We felt led to join this prayer concern, and lately we have unprecedented news of the salvation of Muslims in some of these areas.

Don’t allow your potential as a Christian to be destroyed because of lack of knowledge. You can be a world changer through expanding your knowledge.

Hungry for Knowledge

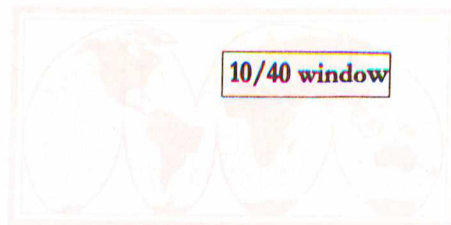
Scripture reading: Colossians 1:9

Almost thirty years ago, through literature picked up at a Christian seminar, our family learned that Christians in Russia, and most local pastors, were being severely persecuted. Indeed, many of these were punished severely in the Siberian slave camps in the coldest regions of the former Soviet Union. We were able to secure the names of several pastors, and we began praying for these pastors and their families.

Eventually, we, and perhaps hundreds more, wrote letters to the Soviet Premier, Mr. Breshnev, his successors, or to whomever was in control at various times. We asked for the release of the pastors and for religious freedom

for the Christians. We never dreamed that beginning in 1992, we would join a crusade team and make seven trips to five large cities forming the Golden Ring around Moscow.

With the fall of Communism a nation lost its very foundation for existence. Like the parable in the New Testament, the floods came and the house Satan had built



came crumbling down. And great was its fall!

Physically, spiritually, and economically—aside from Red Square and the televised portions of Moscow—Russia is a third world country. With no communications to the outside world, the people had no idea what the Western world looked like. Most of the people in Russia will die never having seen any facsimile of a grocery store, or a broom that isn’t handmade with straw and string. Many have never slept in a warm room or even imagine that such a thing exists.

Neither paint brush nor hammer have touched the buildings for seventy years leaving them in a dreadful state of deterioration. More amazing, however, is the country’s deep spiritual darkness and despair—the result of atheism and a godless culture.

With the declaration that Communism was dead with its religion of atheism, the people were left with a huge void—

absolutely nothing to believe. The country is divided. University professors are perplexed. Some teach the old Soviet history upholding the Stalinist regime of persecution. Others condemn it. The result is that history exams are not given since there’s no real consensus on a curriculum.

Thousands of acres of land lie uncultivated because no one knows who owns it—everything was owned by the government under Communist rule. These are only brief examples of the turmoil of this vast nation. So many problems and so many things to fix. So little food and money. What will happen to Russia?

The most profound result of this situation was the tremendous opening for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We found from the first moment in 1992, and in every visit since, outstretched hands and hearts for the Word of Life. We have shared Bible stories for the first time with children in libraries; shared the Gospel in prisons, and in every type of school, college, and university; in hospitals and factories. The truth was preached in evening crusade evangelistic meetings held in drama halls and “palaces of culture.”

And, yes, we have been privileged to worship in the few churches that are left, and with pastors who were imprisoned. Perhaps we worshipped with some of the same pastors for whom we prayed so many years before.

Truly as knowledge is expanded, **inspiration, intercession, and involvement** will follow.

Caring Knowledge

Scripture reading, Matthew 6:33

The year was 1939. James Hudson Taylor II (grandson of the founder of missions in China) and his wife, Alice Hayes Taylor, were serving as missionaries in the province of Honan. Their four children were attending the Christian school founded by their great-grandfather, Hudson Taylor I, in Shantung Province, 1000 miles away.

The Japanese took Honan and the Taylor parents were forced to escape by going further inland—greatly increasing the distance between them and their children. Eventually, as letters from the children stopped coming, the

As Mrs. Taylor knelt by her bed, pleading with God, her mind went back to the days of her youth. She recalled the words of her pastor, who had paraphrased the words of Matthew 6:33 for his teenage audience. “If you will take care of the things that are dear to God, He will take care of things that are dear to you.”

As she pondered those words, she knew that those dear to God were the Chinese He had called her to minister to. And the ones who were dear to her were her children.

Returning to her schedule of Bible studies, sewing classes, ministering to the sick in the now, war-ravaged land, Mrs. Taylor

Liberated by American paratroopers, they had been flown part of the way, put on a train by Taylor friends, and eventually ran and walked the miles back to the compound. Through her various ministries in sharing the Gospel, Alice Taylor had been taking care of the things that were dear to God, and He had been faithful in taking care of the things that were dear to her.

Closing

Yes, the dearest “thing” to God in this world is the souls for whom He died. Are you willing to take the time, spend the money, or whatever it takes, to expand your knowledge and extend your spheres of influence for His sake?

Are you willing to take the time, spend the money, or whatever it takes, to expand your knowledge and extend your spheres of influence for His sake?



parents learned that the Japanese had, indeed, invaded Shantung, murdering and raping citizens, taking prisoners and setting up concentration camps.

Alice Hayes Taylor cried out to God, “Oh dear God, my children, my children!” She writes that as the days passed and her fears penetrated deeper within. She was overcome with wave after wave of anguish as she thought of teenaged Kathleen, and little Jamie, and John and Mary. Were the children even alive?

began to experience the peace of God. She says, “Often, in my duties, I would say, ‘Father this is for you’, and I knew He was caring for my children too.”

The Taylors did not hear from their children for five and a half years. On a September evening in 1944, the voices of children burst in during a faculty meeting on the mission compound. The children were home!

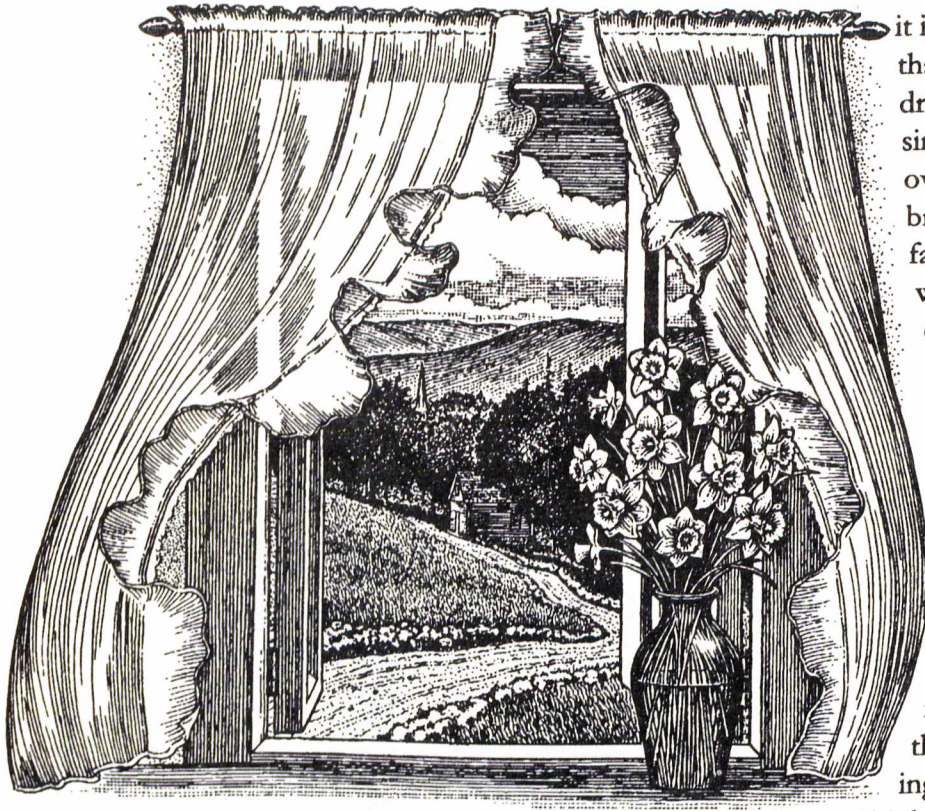
Are you willing to participate with Him as a “world-changer?” His promise remains, “If you will take care of the things that are dear to God, He will take care of the things that are dear to you.”❖

Georgia Hill and her husband, Dr. Robert C., are members of Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, TN. This mother of four and grandmother of 12 has authored five published books.

The World at My Front Door

by Ruthann Hall

A Creative Arts Contest First Place Winner



it is to think about home and the things that are happening there. Fragrant aromas drift from the kitchen where a pot of soup simmers or an apple pie bakes in the oven. Perhaps the telephone will ring bringing the "latest" from friends or family members. On snowy days there is warmth. On hot sultry days there is the comfort of air conditioning and plenty of something cool to drink. Most of all, there is love and understanding. Outside the world rushes on. My home is on a busy street and I do not know most of the people who live near me. Although I know my neighbors on both sides of me and we call out a greeting as we go to and fro, we never really visit. Just a short distance from my front door is a busy artery of the city. People rushing, rushing, rushing. Many obviously not interested in thinking of God unless it is to take His

Doors. Fancy ones. Plain ones. Screen doors that flap in a country wind. Heavy ones encrusted with iron work to shut out city dangers. With little thought each day we go in and out the doorway of our home.

Even if your home situation is not perfect, there is something special about being able to go to "your space" and shut out the rest of the world. How nice

name in vain.

Some time ago I asked some missionary women to write a short description of what it was like outside their front doors on the mission field. The answers were interesting and, although none knew what the others would write, they each concluded with a common denominator.

I must confess their answers convicted me because I have the same thing at my front door as they have. Somehow I am not as comfortable now when I shut my door on the world outside. Here is how our missionary sisters found the world at their front door:

Purpose: To help us come to a greater realization that each of us has a mission field right at our doorstep; and, though it would be easier to stay on the safe side of the door, our world needs the message of Christ.

Song: *People Need the Lord*

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 16:9

Nancy Hughes, Brazil

Barbed wire atop a nine foot wall with broken glass embedded in concrete describes the prison-like scene I see when looking out my back window. The wall between the six feet separating my neighbors house and mine gives privacy but is built with more thought to protection. Despite the wall and iron bars on the windows, burglary is common. Our home was "visited" twice this past year while we were on furlough.

My front door is another story altogether. It opens to me a vast world of color, sights and sounds. My neighbor's beautiful, spacious home and huge yard full of trees and flowers is a welcome sight for all of us on the "other side of the street" with our postage stamp size yards.

The corner of the neighborhood school is in sight and the young voices can be heard during classes and yelps of glee after the final bell. Six times a day the streets are full of uniformed students coming and going. The school has three shifts a day.

The saddest sight I remember was opening my front door to find a beggar lady sleeping on an old sack containing all her earthly goods. The funniest was when one of the horses that roam freely around the neighborhood, calmly walked around sniffing my carport walls!

We thank the Lord for the **open door** He has given us in Brazil. Many times that door literally opened into our living room. Through it have passed searching hearts who found the answer and went out again children of God. The first Free Will Baptist saved in Uberlandia was saved in our living room. Inside our front door we have seen tears of joy, repentance and sorrow. Young people have met, dated and become engaged. We are grateful for each blessing and opportunity that has come to us through our front door and in the world beyond it.

Molly Barker, Uruguay

Whenever I look out of my house in the front, I can see people and more people. In front of my apartment building is one of the main bus stops for the city of Livramento. People gather all hours of the day and night to wait for their bus or get off a bus. Just about all the busses for the city stop there

several times a day and a few times a night.

In the back of my house are roofs covering houses or big apartment buildings. Everywhere there are people. Constantly I am reminded that there are people waiting to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

Olena McLain, Japan

When I look out my door most times between December and March I see snow falling or at least I see drifts of snow. Many mornings we have to take the snow shovel we leave in our entry way and dig a path from the front door to the car. During this time we also move snow that the snow plow left behind our car. We have a good time visiting with our neighbors as they, too, are moving snow and we all put it on the vacant lot across from our house.

During the few weeks of summer we enjoy seeing the small garden in our back yard. We also see the backs of our neighbors houses. Sometimes I visit the neighbor across the back yard fence, or one passes past our door calling, "It is beginning to rain! Get your clothes off the line!" And, many times they are already beginning to get them in for me.

One can be certain that in this heavily populated country there will be people in abundance.

People with needs. People who need the Lord.

Patsy Vanhook, France

For the past five years I have lived in an apartment complex of six buildings. So, I often see lots of people coming and going. In their cars they drive to and from work. On foot they walk young children across the street to school or go do their daily shopping. A number of people also congregate at the bus stop just below my kitchen window waiting to travel to many parts of the city. There are people walking their dogs. Children going to gymnastics classes just across the street.

Besides the parking lot at my building we also have trees, roses, sand boxes and playground equipment for the children—children who yell and play and ride bicycles around the building with more energy than I can imagine.

But always there are people—going about their business without paying much attention to those

they pass. People who hesitate to be friendly, but who speak pleasantly when spoken to. People who need to hear God loves them and wants them as His own.

Carol Pinkerton, Ivory Coast

From my front door I see—bodies (toddlers to preteens) covered with white bubbles . . . scrubbing, rubbing, then dumping the remaining small bucket of water over the head for the rinse . . . a wiggle, shake and drip dry!

The natural tendency is to pull the door firmly shut and enjoy our cocoon of love and contentment.

Ladies—babies on backs—head covered with huge bundles of limbs for firewood—sometimes it is the trunk of a tree four or five feet long!

Kids—naked—going “wild” in the first rain following dry season, running, shouting and glad to be wet! They run up and down the dirt street playing in the rushing river of water. A child, beating on an empty can with a stick—dreaming of beating a drum.

A man walking along with a portable sewing machine on his head. (Most African tailors are men.)

A papaya tree in our backyard loaded with fruit and neighborhood children waiting to eat.

Goats, roaming at will and roosters that crow 24 hours daily. A small six-year-old boy selling lettuce from a pan on his head.

Lizards crawling along the yard fence.

People—all shapes, sizes and ages—All opportunities!

The Common Denominator

People. Everywhere there are people. In some places there are more than in others, but still they are there and most are without the Lord. Take a look out your front door. Do you see people? Are they all serving the Lord? Are there those in need

who have never had a gospel witness presented to them? The natural tendency is to pull the door firmly shut and enjoy our cocoon of love and contentment. But we must consider what is on the outside of the door. Perhaps this poem best describes our responsibility:

My World*

The world inside of my front door

Is filled with love and care.

How blest I am to just abide

In peace that lingers there.

The world outside can cruel be.

And danger lurks in many a place.

Can I ignore the needs so great,

The longing heart, the tear-stained face?

Lord, I'd abide inside with Thee,

And those I love who love me too.

My days I'd fill with songs of praise

And thus grow in my love for you.

But, even as my praise begins,

The door swings wide. The song must cease.

Outside the door the world awaits.

Men need to know God's love and peace.

I cannot stay inside my door,

Ignore the world that's lost in sin.

His praise I'll sing to those outside

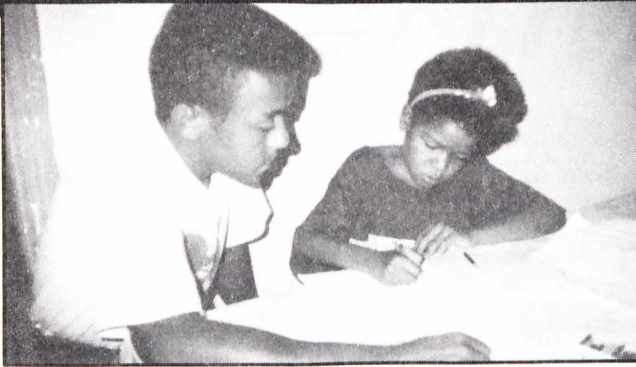
And some, I pray, to Him I'll win.

May each of us be reminded daily that whether we live in Brazil, Uruguay, France, Japan, Africa or the United States of America, we should not hang a “Do Not Disturb” sign on our doors, but should see the golden opportunity we have to tell others the good news that Jesus saves and heals the broken hearted. ♦

Ruthann Hall is a pastor's wife and member of East Nashville FWB Church.

**The poem My World was written by Ruthann Hall.*

Wounded lambs



Marcos helps a child with homework.

Comin' To Get Me

Our ten-year-old Nelson is a special child with special needs. He attends a school for the mentally deficient and we are told that he will never be able to read or write. But in general he is a healthy child. He can feed himself and is learning to dress himself (if it doesn't matter how it is put together).

Psychiatrists haven't decided how much of his condition is trauma and how much can be done for him. Neighbors confirm his repeated story that he helped his mother drag and dump a man's body into a river. He says his father "chops up" like a butcher does a pig. He says he doesn't like pigs. Professionals aren't sure to what memories he might be referring.

He is improving. It has been a while since he has set something on fire or dumped a month's supply of beans into the dirt in the backyard. He is improving (or we are more alert) and he hasn't thrown anymore of our babies in buggies off the high porch and down the stairs and we haven't had to rescue any more two-year-olds from water where he has thrown them.

One day this special child declared dry-eyed, "I want to see my *mamãe e papai*." This is the first time a child has asked to see both parents.

If we tell him to pray to God, will he understand? We know that he loves to sing songs of the church and he sits quietly on the pew during the services. But what about prayer? We just know that

God loves this child as much as the Marias and Cristianos of this world.

"Nelson, we don't know where your parents are, but God knows. Talk to Him about it and if He thinks you need to see your *mamãe e papai*, He can find them and bring them to you."

His eyes held a blank stare and he quietly lay on his bottom bunk in a room full of other little boys—little ears and minds that may have been wondering the same thing as I.

That same week a couple came to the gate looking for their son Nelson. The other children started running and calling for Nelson (you don't need an intercom system at *Lar Nova Vida*).

He proudly came out onto the veranda and hugged his parents and they sat and visited with many of the other little ones gathered around them.

"Son," his dad said, "I have arranged for a house. It is not very big. It's very simple, but it will be okay. In six weeks I'm coming to get you. We are going to be a family again!"

Soon Volunteers and children were repeating what his dad had said. He was preparing a house for them and in six weeks he was coming to get him.

Two years later, Nelson still asks, "Are six weeks up yet?" "Yes sweetheart, they are."

"Cause my daddy is preparing a place and he is coming to get me."

In a few days he had forgotten the answer and asks. "Have six weeks passed yet?"

"Yes Nelson. I'm sorry but they have passed."

"Cause my daddy is preparing a house and he is coming to get me."

Praise God, we know one promise that won't be broken. Our Lord has gone to prepare a place for us and He is coming to get us.

We can make that promise to all of our children, Nelson included, and to any child on this globe, because our Heavenly Father is a promise keeper. ❖

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.



Food For Thought

"The way God loves us reminds me of an actual notice in the lost and found section of the newspaper:

LOST DOG—\$50 REWARD Black and tan poodle and German Shepherd descent. Flea-bitten, left hind leg missing, no hair on rump, blind, and recently neutered. Answers to the name of 'Lucky.'

Most of us are of mixed ancestry, not much to look at, and in pretty bad shape. But still, we answer to the name of Lucky. We are indeed fortunate, for like the dog, we have someone who cares to look for us, pursue us, desire us, and pay to get us back. That dog is lucky, and so are we—lucky that our Master would love us so much."

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

—Romans 8:38-39❖

Note: Pastor Kevin Riggs made this application in a recent sermon. The quote is from *Hot Illustrations for Youth Talks*, Wayne Rice, ed., Zondervan, 1994, p. 148.

Poet's Corner

The Sunshine of His Love *Linda Sligh, Smithville, MS*

Like the Sunshine
Bursting forth
(After countless, dreary days,
of wintery gloom,
of clouds and rain,)
With its light and warming rays—

The love of Jesus
Surrounding us
(Through many trial and test,
So burdened down,
With loads of cares,)
Brings hope and peace and rest.

Listen

by Barbara Jarvis, Sapulpa, OK

Listen,
Can't you hear their cry,
The hurting people
Who ask,
"Why?"

Listen,
Angry voices
Penetrate the air,
As they ask,
"Does anyone care?"

Christian,
Offer hope; not despair,
Show them Christ:
Show them you care,
Listen.

Go For Me *B A. Trammel, Joplin, MO*

O're the land or across the sea,
Child of love, go for Me.

Child of love,
Will you go?
To the lost
Who need to know,

That I died for their sin,
That I rose and live again?
O're the land or across the sea,
Child of love, go for Me.

Child of love,
So send I you
Unto the world,
As I came to do,

To give forth life in My name,
As I have done, so do the same.
O're the land or across the sea,
Child of love, will you go for Me?

John 20:21❖



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator

Prayerfully lead your women as they set a goal for the Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering. Cooperate with your pastor as you promote this offering. The entire congregation should be invited to participate. Encourage giving through the Together Way.

There is still time to mail Creative Arts Contest entries to WNAC. Entries postmarked March 1 and before will be entered in the 1997 Contest.

Assistant Coordinator

As usual, the March and April program ideas are in the 1997 Yearbook on pages 20–26. Make sure the person giving the March program has the list of resources on pages 13–14 of the yearbook.

The special Missions Program on pages 10–12 of this issue can be used for Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for World Missions or to promote the Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering. Different women can represent each missionary in the program. After the program, ask women from the audience to tell what they see from their front doors.

Ask your pastor for a 5-minute slot on Sunday morning. Use **Lucy & Marge** for a skit to promote the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for World Missions. See the **Treasurer** and **Missions Chairman** section for more about the Week of Prayer.

Secretary

Remind your women to pay their dues so they can be sent to the district on time. The only way WNAC can reflect its membership accurately is if everyone pays their dues on time. Dues must be accounted for on the national level before the National Convention in July in order to have voting privileges.

Treasurer

This year you have more time. No, it's not leap year. Your WAC group can launch a Foreign Missions emphasis with the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer (March 24–28) and close it with the Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering (April 27). That gives you more than

Bible Study

Use it with a group or for personal study.

Lazarus Raised from the Dead

John 11

Read the entire chapter then reread each section as you answer the questions. In a group, ask everyone to read the chapter ahead of time.

1–16

Where was Jesus when he heard about Lazarus' sickness? (see 10:40–42)

What did Jesus mean in verse 9–10? Is He trying to tell the disciples that everything will be all right?

If you had been there, would you have said what Thomas did in verse 16?

In your opinion, which of the following describe Thomas? (a) a realist (b) a pessimist (c) committed (d) a blabber mouth (e) skeptic Why?

Put yourself in the disciples' shoes. Would you have gone with Jesus even if you didn't understand what He was doing?

17–44

Why did the writer (John) point out the distance from Jerusalem to Bethany (15 furlongs is less than 2 miles) in verse 18?

(continued on next page)

a month to pray for, ponder over, and promote sacrificial giving and accumulate money to send to your district for the Laura Belle Barnard Offering.

Missions Chairman

The Calendar for the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer is on pages 23–24 of this issue. You may copy these pages or request free copies from FWB Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002, telephone: (615) 731-6812 or 731-4950 ext. 247. Allow two weeks for delivery.

Because of the time it takes the magazine to go to press and get to you, sometimes prayer requests are not as specific and up-to-date as we would like. In order to have up-to-the-minute prayer requests, take it upon yourself to find out other details and requests to add to the ones already listed in the calendar. Call the Missionary Hotline. Do your own research from recent issues of *Heartbeat*, newsletters, etc.

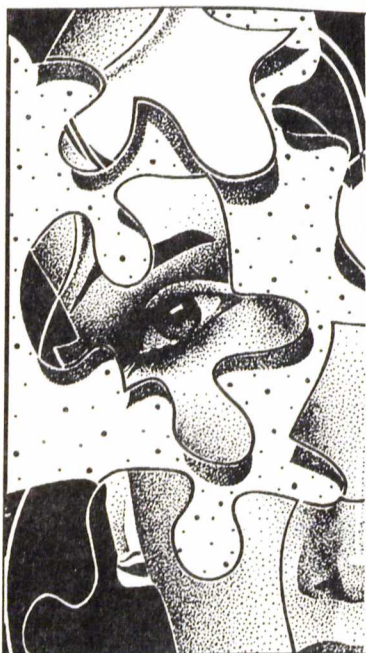
Make each prayer time a geography and missions lesson. Give people a chance to meditate on the suggested passages. Take time for those present to share praise items. A well-organized Pre-Easter Week of Prayer can be reverent, meaningful, and a blessing to all.

Prayer Chairman

Work with the missions chairman to prepare for the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer. One of you could research prayer requests and the other study the passages. Teamwork makes everyone's load lighter.

Service Chairman

The March/April 1995 Springboard suggests placing an Easter tree in each Sunday school class to promote giving to missions. The tree can be decorated with colorful eggs, ribbons, other Easter ornaments,



(Use this piece of art to make an invitation by filling in the necessary information. The 1997 Yearbook also has an invitation idea and a poster idea.)

How do you think Mary and Martha felt when Jesus took so long to get there?

What is different about the way each sister acted over their brother's death?

In a situation like this one, are you more like Mary or Martha? Why?

45–57

Why was the story of Lazarus' resurrection a threat to the Pharisees?

What did Caiaphas say that was prophetic?

What was John's explanation in verses 51–52?

What does the second half of verse 52 mean? How does this statement relate to missions?

Does the truth about Jesus' resurrection pose a threat to people today? Who feels threatened by the gospel? Why? ❖

HID IN MY HEART

Psalm 67

God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause His face to shine upon us; Selah.

That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise Thee, O God; let all the people praise Thee.

O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for Thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah.

Let the people praise Thee, O God; let all the people praise Thee.

Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him. ❖



We don't want to leave anyone out. Add the following names to the birthday list in the 1997 Yearbook:

January

16 Keith Perkins, Ohio

February

26 Chris Clay, Indiana

28 Robert Rozelle, Alaska

April

28 MK, Matthew Crosby, Texas

May

12 MK, Destanie Aycock, BR

29 Jerry Barron, Mexico

31 Ginger Harrison, C'I

June

23 Derek Bell, Tennessee

24 David Aycock, BR

26 MK, Andrew Aycock, BR

July

20 MK, Brecana Aycock, BR

August

28 MK, Michelle Crosby, Texas

September

8 MK, Rachel Perkins, Ohio

11 Martha Rozelle, Alaska

16 Julie Barron, Mexico

20 Debbie Crosby, Texas

23 Annette Aycock, BR

October

5 Sheila Perkins, Ohio

7 MK, Kayla Bell, Tennessee

30 Jan Clay, Indiana

November

14 MK, Celeste Franks, UR

25 MK, Autumn Aycock, BR

30 Dwain Crosby, Texas

December

6 MK, Cody Clay, Indiana

29 Missy Bell, Tennessee

Lucy & Marge

Lucy: I just love spring time, don't you, Marge? It's my favorite time of the year.

Marge: Me too, Lucy. The flowers, the robins flying back from their winter vacations, new life with new grass and trees budding. It makes me think of new **beginnings**.

Lucy: Oh yes, new beginnings. I'm **beginning** a new diet to shed these extra pounds I gained during the holidays.

Marge: I was thinking of new beginnings with God. We can start all over again, wipe out our past mistakes and begin again. And there's the **hope** of new life in Christ.

Lucy: **Hope!** I just hope I can lose those extra pounds.

Marge: I love it when those gray days go and the **sun** comes out. God's beauty is all around us.

Lucy: Just wait till you see me after I've been out there in the **sunshine** getting rid of this pasty white skin and getting some color in my cheeks. I'll be nice and tan by Easter.

Marge: **Easter** time! It's such a happy time, a time to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

Lucy: A great time to get a new outfit. I love showing off my new outfit on Easter Sunday. And, of course, I want my kids to look their best too.

Marge: Lucy, you know it's not necessary to have new clothes for Easter! God's interested in what we look like on the inside.

Lucy: Sure, but people judge you by what they see on the outside. Remember that verse, "Man looketh on the outward appearance"?

Be a World Changer

WAC will meet at



prayer cards, and small offering envelopes. Ask the missions chairman to order a good supply of missionary prayer cards. The 1993 March/April *CoLaborer* also has some great Easter craft ideas. We will be glad to send you a copy of these ideas, just contact WNAC.

Study Chairman

Each officer should have a 1997 Yearbook, but you, especially, should have one. Because of the 1997 emphasis on study, the yearbook is chock full of things you can use. The March section has many great ideas to go with Lorene Miley's program.

Help your women get excited about Bible study. Call Randall House's toll free number (800) 877-7030, or check your local Christian bookstore for available Bible study helps.

Encourage your women to submit their original Bible Studies to *CoLaborer*. ❖

Marge: But what does the rest of the verse say, Lucy?

Lucy: Okay, okay. "But God looketh on the heart." You're right, Marge. It's more important to be beautiful from the inside out. I should be thinking about what Easter has to do with me—on the inside.

Marge: Now you see the light, Lucy. Remember, this next week is the Pre-Easter week of prayer. Are you planning to come?

Lucy: You know I am, Marge. I never miss a WAC meeting.

Marge: I'm saving money for our sacrificial offering—you know, the Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering.

Lucy: Oh, that's right. Tell you what, I forgot about those quarter folders, but I can give the money I was planning to spend for that new outfit.

Marge: But what about Easter, Lucy?

Lucy: Well, my husband says I have a closet full of clothes. I can wear that outfit I wore two years ago. It's been on vacation since then. I **was** planning to get a matching purse and shoes too. And think of the money I can give if I don't buy those earrings, get a manicure, get my hair styled, and—Goodness, that's a lot of money.

Marge: Oh, Lucy, you make me want to add some more to my offering.

Lucy: Good, Marge. Maybe we can get the other women to join us and give something extra, something they might spend for themselves.

Marge: And, Lucy, I'm sure you will look just beautiful in that outfit.

Lucy: Oh, Marge, don't tell me you remember that pink suit!

Marge: I thought it was blue! See, it'll look like new to me. And, Lucy, I think you are beautiful—from the inside out. ♦

Springboard Illustrated: Stories to Grow By *Volume 37/ No. 2*

empty shelves, full churches by Marcia Ellison

Dear Mom Willey,

This year I have found that Free Will Baptist women are alive and well in the United States. Our sisters in Cuba are alive, but barely well. Many of them are ill due to lack of proper diet. (I remember the elderly man who came to the door offering his day's ration of milk, another with bread, so that Amy Robinson and I could have that "delicacy" in our mornings, on our visit last May. Children 7 and older can have milk no longer in Cuba.)

Today, in the United States, we will linger before our closets, making those life decisions: "What will we wear today?" In Cuba, my sisters share what they have, and "make-do" with what they can get, and with grateful hearts. Their shoes are worn out from walking to shops and stores, whose shelves are ninety percent bare.

Today, many of us will go to a restaurant to eat. My sisters in Cuba can never go; but their black beans and rice, with an occasional piece of meat or chicken, will do just fine. Then, there are fruits which the Dear Lord has placed within their reach, direct from Him.

One pastor's wife was called in to the police station, to explain why she and her husband had been making lye soap. (Its sale helped buy the bricks for the church building.) Fifteen or so nearby houses have been bulldozed down, because their owners had been making lye soap recently. She escaped with just a warning.

I will never forget her eyes, when I opened up my suitcase and gave her the lotion, toilet tissue, and "little things" I had thrown into my suitcase to take up empty space. When I apologized for the "littleness" of my gifts, she wept, and said they were not little but great, in her eyes.

Not one of their churches had room for another person. There were people standing in the doorways, in the windows. Even one of Castro's police, smoking his cigarette in the main doorway got an earful, when I told him, over the heads of the congregation, that we do not look to any man for our help, that our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Never heard a complaint. Never saw so much Christian-energizing-other-Christian. I am sure I helped no one. I left blessed.

I went into the "inner-sanctuary," where Pop [Tom Willey] had his office. Your photograph still graces the desk. Only one couple has the key. It's kept clean. They are waiting still. While they wait, they are as busy as bees, doing and being what you taught them to do and be: faithful, even in the midst of suffering. ♦

Marcia Ellison is a missionary to Uruguay where she works with her husband, Walter. She wrote this the day before she left to go back to Uruguay after their furlough. Marcia and Amy Robinson visited Cuba in May 1996.

COMMUNICATOR

BY MARY RUTH WISEHART



Meet the WNAC Recording Secretary

Jo Ann Wood was elected secretary for WNAC in 1991. She has served faithfully for the past five years.

Jo Ann was born in Ada, Oklahoma, but her marriage to a minister has taken her to California, Missouri, and Texas.

When she was fourteen, Jo Ann's dad and mother rededicated their lives to the Lord. At the same time she accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as her personal Savior.

President of the local group is one position Jo Ann has filled in Free Will Baptist women's work.

With her husband, Lynn, she now serves in Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Bryan, Texas.

The Woods have four sons, all active in the Lord's service in Oklahoma.

Jo Ann enjoys crafts and hand work. But if you ask her right now about sewing something for you or making you one of her handmade purses, she will probably say, "Well, right now I'm working on something for my grandchildren."

She has four grandsons and four granddaughters, from nineteen to five years of age.

Jo Ann has worked outside the home as a dental assistant, but chiefly she has been a homemaker and a partner with her husband in the ministry.

In spite of her pacemaker and heart problems, she stays active with the women of her church, in the district, across the state of Texas and in WNAC.

Check Materials Available for the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer

Since Easter comes in March this year, the week of March 24-28 is the week of prayer for Foreign Missions.

God has opened doors for Free Will Baptists to minister in new areas. He has called some of our young people to service in various countries.

We should thank the Lord for these victories and pray for more laborers in the harvest.

Time is short. What we do to win others to the Lord Jesus Christ must be done quickly.

Let's pray and give as never before.

The Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering

April is Foreign Missions month according to the Together Way plan. Women have traditionally asked for sacrificial offerings during the week of prayer. These offerings may still come in during March, but they will be counted toward the Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering.

You will notice on the WNAC report that the World Missions offerings are reported separately so that we can have a record of the amount women give during the week of prayer.

In 1995, women gave \$21,837.58 to the World Missions offering. Through November 1996 the World Mission offering totals \$18,047.84. A bit more may come in before the end of the year. No doubt some women send this offering directly to the Foreign Missions Office. If the funds do not come through the women's treasurers to the WNAC office, however, they will not show up on the WNAC report.

Let's surpass what we've done in the past in 1997.

MK's Receive Special Help

At the Executive Committee meeting in December, the committee noted Tanya Hart's volunteer work for MK's from Free Will Baptist mission fields.

The WNAC Provision Closet is available to MK's, both home and foreign, when they come with their parents. When they leave home for school or college, they may select from what is available in the Provision Closet items they may need for dorm or apartment life.

Seven bins in the Closet hold table games, travel games, toys, stuffed animals, and dolls. Right now the bins are low in these items and some stuffed animals and dolls are getting worn from being examined by many little hands.

One standing cabinet contains school supplies, children's books and puzzles.

While we cannot expand the Provision Closet (until we get that Missionary Mall dreamed about in last year's Emphasis program!) we should keep these items current and well stocked. We have a good amount of space for the items. We just need more regular contributions to them.

Praise the Lord for more young couples going to the mission fields. These families will give women opportunity to minister to more children and young people.

WNAC will design a special card for MK's. We will also list on this page items that will be helpful to them.

Tanya worked at the Côte d'Ivoire Institute until her health required her return to the United States. She wants to continue a ministry to Free Will Baptist MK's.

The Executive Committee voted to encourage her in the work. You may want to send her a personal note of encouragement.

Tanya Hart, 801 North Hills Drive, Ayden, NC 28513. ❖

Women In Action



105 Attend Banquet at Plaster Rock

The FWB Church in Plaster Rock, New Brunswick, Canada held their third annual Mother and Daughter Banquet on May 13, 1996. Decorations and devotions were around the theme angels. Laverne Hanson spoke. Everyone enjoyed a puppet show, too.

The Women's Missionary Auxiliary presented a homemade quilt to Sarah Parish—a high school graduate and their youngest member. Each member embroidered a square on the quilt and signed it.



Arizona District Prayer Retreat

Grace FWB church in Chandler hosted the Arizona District WAC Prayer Retreat, October 4–5, 1996. Forty-two women and children came from Flagstaff, Tucson, Sierra Vista, and Phoenix and shared in the program titled "Women of Prayer."



1,000 Bibles for Russians

Pastor James Pierce, Women Active for Christ of Beulah, and members of Beulah FWB Church in Pamplico, South Carolina raised \$500 to buy Bibles for Russia. Two church members, Grace Eaddy and Shannon Bazen, went to Russia in October 1996 to help deliver over 49,000 Bibles, visit orphans, hospitals, schools, and hold crusades. Hungry for the gospel, few people refused a Bible.

Pictured: Ruth Pierce (far right) and Pansy Bazen (far left) presenting Shannon Bazen (right center) and Grace Eaddy (left center) a check.



WAC Outreach in Rudy, Arkansas

Kenner Chapel WAC met in the church kitchen on Saturday, November 16, 1996. They made pies, brownies, cookies, and candy which they passed out to all the neighbors up and down the roads near the church. The Kenner Chapel Women Active for Christ want their neighbors to know they are loved.



Surprise "Molly Barker Day" at Davis

The Davis FWB Church (Davis, North Carolina) honored missionary Molly Barker for her work for the Lord in Uruguay.

After Molly Barker shared slides and stories of her work, the church had dinner on the grounds. Pastor Tim Osborn presented her with a celebration plate and a biographical video recording of her life and work.

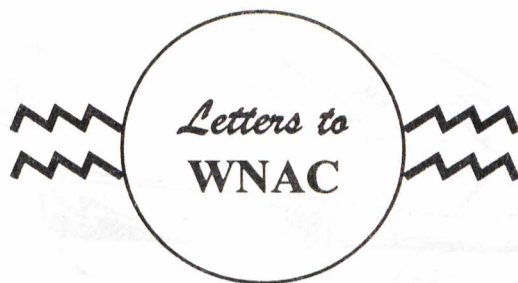
A special offering for the Molly Barker missionary account netted \$1,279.32 which was added to the \$303.88 raised during the Children's Bible School. Executive Secretary Mary R. Wischart was present to share this occasion.

Missouri Willing Feet Hold Fashion Show of Shoes (Not Pictured)

Willing Feet Laboring for God's Harvest of Souls was the theme for the semiannual St. Francois District Association meeting hosted by the Fredericktown FWB Church. Forty-seven women attended.

The district project received \$355 which was designated for home missionary Cliff Donoho and family. The offering was presented in a "Fashion Show of Shoes" as women displayed penny loafers, running shoes, and white patents trimmed with dollar bows.

Guest speaker Yvonne Neil challenged the women to use their feet for the Master's walk. After a lunch served by the host WAC group, 94 feet left ready to be used. ❖



Dear WNAC.

I certainly enjoyed the WNAC Retreat at Ridgecrest. It refreshed me both spiritually and physically.

Please thank all the women for us. Their prayers for our ministry and for us personally keep us on the field. Their financial gifts help maintain our mission account. The provision closet meets household needs. Also, the letters and cards we receive from women across the country are like water to a thirsty soul.

We appreciate our women and thank God for them! May God continue to bless.

Judy Lytle
Missionary to Panama

Dear WNAC.

Praise the Lord! We are almost there (Salt Lake City) because of your love and prayers.

Bill and Kay Phillips
Missionaries to Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear WNAC.

Our daughter, Rachel, is in her second year at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Her major is English and Missions. She was approved as an apprentice missionary, and will work this summer in the First FWB Church of Alcalá de Henares, Spain.

We are grateful for the prayers of our sisters in Christ and for the \$937.68 channeled through WNAC for our account during the last quarter of 1996.

Ron, Linda, and Rachel Callaway
Missionaries to Panama and Cuba ❖



Reservation Form

Free Will Baptist WNAC National Retreat

Glorieta Conference Center
Glorieta, New Mexico

Theme: God's School House
October 10-12, 1997
Attend and earn a certificate.

ACCOMMODATIONS

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

Please indicate the # of rooms requested:

CHAPARRAL INN (hotel): Large room with private bath,
two queen-size beds

- ☐ 1 per room: \$194.00
☐ 2 per room: \$136.00
☐ 3 per room: \$122.00
☐ 4 per room: \$112.00

THUNDERBIRD (motel): Large room with private bath,
two queen-size beds

- ☐ 1 per room: \$168.00
☐ 2 per room: \$122.00
☐ 3 per room: \$112.00
☐ 4 per room: \$104.00

FIRST CLASS (hotel): Standard size room with private
bath, two beds

- ☐ 1 per room: \$154.00
☐ 2 per room: \$118.00
☐ 3 per room: \$106.00

HOW TO PAY: Enclose deposit of \$35.00 per person.
Reservations will not be processed without deposit. Deposit
will be credited to your account at check-in.

SEND TO: Glorieta Conference Center, Box 8, Glorieta,
NM 87535. Fax. (505) 757-6149 Tel. (800) 797-4222

NO REFUNDS after September 15, 1997.

DAYTIME ONLY Participants: \$35 per adult plus meal
costs. Breakfast: \$4.85; Lunch or dinner: \$7.50.

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

(Make additional copies if needed):

Your Name: _____

Group/Church Name (if applicable): _____

Home Telephone: _____

Work Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Special Needs: ☐ Disabled access ☐ First floor required

GROUP RESERVATIONS:

Total number of rooms needed _____

Number of persons in group _____

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

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

Arrival date: _____ First meal: _____

Departure date: _____ Last meal: _____

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

☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Discover Signature: _____

Cardholder's Name (print clearly): _____

Card Acct#: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Use of Glorieta for this conference does not imply alignment with or endorsement by the Southern Baptists.

Thursday

Read John 17:20-26

According to this passage, pray that each missionary on today's list will . . .

1. be one in the body of Christ.
2. be in Christ.
3. see God's glory.
4. have God's love in them.

Pray for foreign missions during the month of April. Traditionally, April has been "Foreign Missions Month," with a special offering taken on the last Sunday. In 1997 the Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering will be received on Sunday, April 27. The goal is \$100,000. Pray that people and churches across the denomination will give joyfully and sacrificially to help missionaries share the gospel around the world.

Pray for Jeff and Susan Turnbough as they seek to win people to Christ in the Las Rozas/Majadahonda area of Madrid, Spain. They are concentrating on home Bible studies with people in their neighborhood and other means of outreach. They are also assisting the Villalba church which is under national leadership.

Pray for the Russian missionary pastors who are laboring in the town of Kopeysk, Kurgan, and Ekaterinburg. People are being reached with the gospel through special evangelistic campaigns. Ask God to guide these ministers as they disciple new converts and continue their witness to the people in their towns.

Friday

Read Ephesians 6:10-20

According to this passage, pray that each missionary on today's list will . . .

1. put on the whole armor of God (may break this down into parts).
2. have boldness in preaching the gospel.

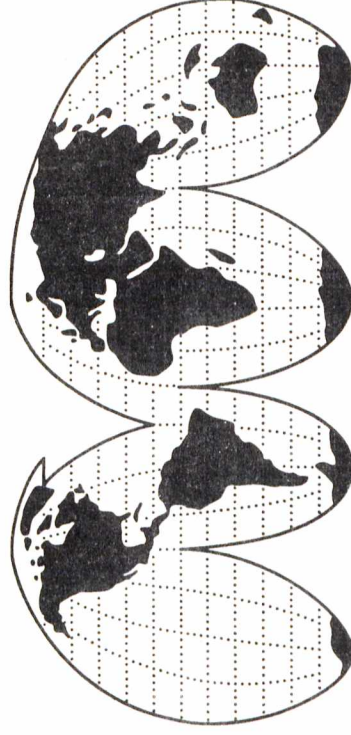
Pray for our missionary children throughout the world. Ask God to guard their health—spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Pray that the parents will have wisdom regarding their children's education. Ask the Lord to be near those who are separated from their parents because of schooling.

Pray for students currently enrolled in the pastoral training program at the Bible Institute at Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire. Mike Cousineau and Clint Morgan are the coordinators of this program. Ask the Lord to bless the students as they go through this three-year program to prepare for leadership roles in the Ivorian churches. Pray for Mike and Clint and others who teach at the Bible institute.

Pray for the group of Christians in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, as they work to establish a church in this capital city. Their plan is to build the church through cell groups. Presently, the group has divided into five cell groups in four different sections of the city. Robert and Judy Bryan and Jerry and Carol Pinkerton are working closely with the groups.

Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for World Missions

March 24-28, 1997



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

Monday

Read Colossians 4:2-6

According to this passage, pray that each missionary on today's list will . . .

1. have a flourishing prayer life.
2. have thankful hearts.
3. recognize and take advantage of opportunities to speak the gospel.
4. communicate the message clearly in spite of language barriers.
5. be able to demonstrate God's love to the lost.
6. use time wisely.

Pray for missionary appointees as they work to raise their support needs to go to the field. In 1996 Sam and June McVay of Nashville, Tenn., were appointed to go to Spain; David and Annette Aycock of Greeneville, Tenn., were appointed to go to Brazil for a two-year term; Ginger Harrison of Park Hills, Mo., who is a nurse, was appointed to serve at the medical station in Doropo, Côte d'Ivoire; and Traci Epps of Moore, Okla., was appointed as a career teacher at the school for MK's in Bouake, Côte d'Ivoire.

Pray for Dennis and Carol Teague in St. Sebastian, France. Ask the Lord to move in the hearts of people as the Teagues build friendships and minister to them. Pray, also, that the Teagues' account will build up and become stable.

Pray for Dennis and Trena Owen who are on a short furlough from Uruguay. Ask God to give them new prayer and faith promise partners who will stand by them and their ministry. They have started planting a church in Montevideo through one-on-one Bible studies and personal witnessing. Pray that those who have been saved will grow strong in their faith and be willing to witness for Christ.

Tuesday

Read Philipians 1:9-14

According to this passage, pray that each missionary on today's list will . . .

1. have a growing love for the people to whom they minister.
2. keep hearts pure and focused on doing God's will.
3. bear fruit in their lives and the fruit will bring glory to God.
4. face trials in perspective recognizing them as part of God's plan.
5. have a contagious boldness in preaching the gospel.

Pray for student missionaries and TEAM '97 members who are raising funds for their summer ministries. Pray that they will be effective in their ministry during their short time overseas. Ask the Lord to use this experience to call some of the young people into missionary service.

Wednesday

Read Colossians 1:9-12

According to this passage, pray that each missionary on today's list will . . .

1. be filled with the knowledge of His will.
2. have wisdom and understanding.
3. please the Lord with their actions.
4. produce good fruit.
5. increase in the knowledge of God.
6. be strengthened with a special measure of patience and joy.

Pray for the state plans which have been adopted to underwrite missionary support. The Arkansas ACTS 1:8 Plan of Support was extremely successful during 1995. Missouri adopted a similar plan called the "Show Me" Plan. Other states are considering this type of effort. Pray that God will give state leaders guidance and wisdom as they lay groundwork for more effective methods of missionary support.

Earnie and Jean Deeds in Brazil desire prayer regarding the need for a national pastor for the church at Conselheiro Lafaiete. The Deeds plan to retire sometime in the next year or so, and the church is in a transition stage as more and more responsibilities are being assumed by the people. Pray that God will provide the leader of His choice.

Pray for the children's home in Araras, Brazil. Jim and Shirley Combs work closely with the children's home, which is an outreach ministry of the Araras FWB Church. In the fall of 1996 lawsuits were filed against the home by two former employees. The plaintiffs claimed they had not been registered properly with the government as to their work status and therefore did not receive proper remuneration and benefits when they quit work. Laws in Brazil are geared toward the worker rather than the employer. The cases are expected to go to court in the spring of 1997. Please pray that the Lord will intervene on behalf of the children's home and that His name will be glorified through this.

HELP US HELP YOU.

We value your opinion!

Fill out the survey on this page, mail it today, and WNAC will send you a gift. Include a separate sheet if more space is needed.

About You

Name (optional): _____

Your age: ☐ under 12 ☐ 13-19 ☐ 20-29
☐ 30-39 ☐ 40-49 ☐ 50-59
☐ over 60

Marital status: ☐ single ☐ married
☐ divorced ☐ widowed

Profession: _____

I am a member of a Free Will Baptist church. ☐ yes ☐ no

I am a member of a local WAC group. ☐ yes ☐ no

Your opinion about *CoLaborer*

Please check one:

- ☐ I read the *CoLaborer* cover to cover
☐ I only read some sections of *CoLaborer*

My favorite part of the magazine is _____

My least favorite part of the magazine is _____

In my opinion, the most valuable part of the magazine is _____

In my opinion, the least valuable part of the magazine is _____

I would like to see more of the following in *CoLaborer*:

- ☐ human interest stories ☐ Bible studies
☐ helps for Christian growth ☐ others (please list)

List any specific topics you would like to see covered.

List the name of one or more women writers you would like to see published. _____

Rate the following categories in the magazine:

	excellent	very good	good	average	poor
Programs:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Articles:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Words for Women:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Life!Action:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Communicator:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Vision:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Food for Thought:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Poet's Corner:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Springboard:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Springboard Illustrated:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mission Call: (not in every issue)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mission Alert:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lucy & Marge:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Women in Action:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Letters to WNAC:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please give name of piece):	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Comments: _____

Thank you! The July/August 1997 *CoLaborer* will give results of survey.

My Uruguayan “Mom”

by Rebecca Franks



Considering all the red tape, fund raising, customs, lost mail, I suppose the greatest frustration for foreign missionaries is still separation from family and loved ones. Maybe that is why we were counseled to find a Uruguayan substitute family as soon as possible. This substitute could never replace our real parents. Yet, having someone to love us through the hard times (language school, culture differences, mistakes) would make adjustment much easier.

With that clear, let me introduce you to my Uruguayan “Mom”—Doña Amalia Abreu.

My first year in Uruguay, we did not understand each other very well. I guess her Spanish is just about as country as my English is Southern. Once I finished language school and was “ready” to minister, I still could not understand her—even though I was her pastor’s wife. This called for drastic measures! I decided to visit and visit and visit her until I could understand her—or die in the process of trying.

Doña Amalia loves music. I love her crocheted afghans. We decided I would teach her keyboard while she taught me to crochet. It seemed like a perfect trade, and maybe I would learn her dialect in the process.

But Doña Amalia preferred creating her own music over playing scales. As for my crocheting, how is it possible to start off with 20 stitches in a row and three rows later only have ten?

Doña Amalia never learned to play the keyboard. I

never learned to crochet. But we did find love and acceptance and true friendship in spite of the language barrier.

In this time together, Doña Amalia shared her story. She had grown up in Minas, a small town in the interior of Uruguay. She was uneducated and poor, but her dreams came true when she married her “blue prince” (Prince Charming).

Over time Prince Charming turned out to be not so charming or, as she would say, blue. He left her and the babies for another woman. Doña Amalia raised her children alone with little help. This had happened over 20 years earlier.

A Baptist preacher in Minas showed Doña Amalia the way to real life. He gave her a Bible, which she could not read. Because of her stubbornness and strong desire to learn about God, she taught herself to read using her Bible. Now she reads as well, if not better, than the other ladies in our church.

Later she moved in with her daughter, Teresa, who lived in Montevideo. Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, has a population of one and a half million. After trying a Pentecostal church in the neighborhood and not being satisfied, she found her church home at the Malvin Alto Free Will Baptist Church.

In the past three years at Malvin, Doña Amalia has taught my husband, Dave (Jr.), and me a lot about true Christianity. When Dave taught an evangelistic Bible study on Sunday night, Doña Amalia took copies home to do with her daughter and sister. She has

counseled and pleaded with them to come to church for years now.

When Dave saw her interest in music, he bought her a hymn book for her birthday. Our hymn books contain no music, only the words. She would sing at home, making up the music if she did not know the song.

She would then come to church and sing the song to teach it to us. Often the song was one of her creations. I have never heard a more sincere soloist who sings with her whole heart. I'm sure God lowers his head a little closer to earth to hear her words and see her joy while she sings.

When Dave asked for helpers in Sunday school, Doña Amalia was the first to volunteer. Even though the Uruguayan winter is long and bitter (Dave wears long johns from March to October), she came. She had to walk five blocks to church and stop every once in a while to take a heart pill. She was faithful even when those with more ability and better health were not.

The past three years have resulted in a decline in her health. It started with her vision about three years ago. She could not see the numbers on the bus to know which bus to take—which is a big problem if buses are your means of transportation. Dave and I took her to see eye doctors, but they could not offer much hope.

We knew she was weakening because she was missing church, which is something Doña Amalia just does not do. Normally she would never ask for a ride to church, but she started allowing Dave to look for her so she could come.

In September 1993, she was put in the hospital. When her treatment was radiation, we could only guess at what that really meant. The doctors told her she had an *bongo* (fungus). The belief in Uruguay is that if a patient knows she has a serious disease, she will die from the emotional trauma.

While we were worried about her, she was thinking of others. She witnessed more in the hospital than the rest of the church outside the hospital. She witnessed to her doctors, her nurses, her roommates. Dave gave her some New Testaments to distribute and she had to ask for more. We are thankful the Lord decided to give her a few more years and to give us a few more years to learn from her.

Last year, God has again shown us true faithfulness in the life of His servant. One day, Doña Amalia came to talk to us. Dave had preached on family relationships. She shared with us that she was under convic-

Provision Closet Needs:

Flannel Sheet sets, all sizes

Sheet sets, all sizes

Mattress covers (full size)

Bedspreads

Electric blankets

Travel irons

Speed cookers (pressure cookers)

Blenders

Cookware

Tupperware (except rolling pins)

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

tion about trying to make things right with her estranged husband, Luciano.

She had heard that he and his latest had broken up. She felt she should try to reconcile with him so she could show him the Lord. Realizing she had also made mistakes in the marriage, she thought she should try to be a godly wife who witnesses not by words but by actions (1 Peter 3:1). We encouraged her to pray and do as God led her.

Just about the time they were planning a reconciliation, Don Luciano was told he had leukemia and very little time to live. Doña Amalia was able to make I Peter 3:1 real to him. She was at his side through the trials and hospital stays, even though he hadn't been with her through the long years raising the children. She showed us what true love and forgiveness is all about.

I would love to say that Don Luciano accepted Christ and is now in heaven. It would make a beautiful ending to this story, but not all stories have happy endings. Don Luciano, like all of us, had to make his

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (PS Form 3526, U.S.C. 3685)

1. Publication Title: **CO-LABORER** 2. Issue Frequency: **Quarterly** 3. Issue Date: **11/26/94**

4. Issue Frequency: **Quarterly** 5. No. of Issues Published Annually: **4** 6. Annual Subscription Price: **\$6.75**

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, City, County, State, and ZIP+4) (Not Printer):
5233 N. View Road, Antioch TN (Davidson Co) 37013-1306

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not Printer):
Same as above

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do Not Leave Blank):
 Publisher Name and Complete Mailing Address:
WOMEN NATIONALLY ACTIVE FOR CHRIST (same address as above)
 Editor Name and Complete Mailing Address:
Rebecca Franks, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch TN 37011-5002
 Managing Editor Name and Complete Mailing Address:
Nancy E. Vinkhuet, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch TN 37011-5002

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If the publication is published by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a proprietor, his name and address must be stated.) (Do Not Leave Blank.)

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box.
☒ None

12. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of the organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes. (Check one)
☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

13. Publication Title: **CO-LABORER** 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: **November-December**

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)	13,420	12,950
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation (1) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales (Not Mailed)	204	165
(2) Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions (Include Advertisers' Proof Copies/Exchange Copies)	11,555	11,421
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b(1) and 15b(2))	11,759	11,586
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Sample Copies, and Other Free)	169	115
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or Other Means)	124	228
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e)	293	343
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)	12,052	11,929
h. Copies Not Distributed (1) Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled	1,368	1,021
(2) Return from News Agents	N/A	N/A
i. Total (Sum of 15g, 15h(1), and 15h(2))	13,420	12,950
j. Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15b + 15c + 15d)	982	972

16. This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the **JAN/FEB '97** issue of this publication. ☐ Check box if not required to publish.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: **Nancy E. Vinkhuet, Secretary** Date: **11/26/94**

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

own decision about life and he chose the way of death. I can say, however, that he was shown the way to true life and joy. He had his opportunity and I doubt there is a greater witness in the world than Doña Amalia.

There are some people in God's church who shine out as beacons. They can sing and bring tears to your eyes. They can preach and their eloquence is like music that touches the soul. They can pray and we all think, "I wish I'd said that."

Then there are others who are a little rough on the outside. Maybe they are not beautiful to behold. Or they sing and are not quite on the right note. Maybe they're illiterate, yet they're faithful. In their sickness, they shine. With their lack of ability, they shine. In the trials of their life, they shine. Maybe this is why Paul said, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10).

Lord, help me to shine—to really shine. Not just from the outside, because that's not enough. Help me to shine from the inside. Let the source of the light be from my heart that has been changed by You, not from my abilities or resources. When they see me shine, help them to say, "Look at what God is doing," not "Look at what she can do." Teach me true humility, love, and forgiveness—like I've seen in my friend Doña Amalia. And when I grow up, Lord, I want to be just like her. ❖

Rebecca Franks is a missionary to Montevideo, Uruguay along with her husband, Dave Jr, and 3 children. They are currently on furlough.

WNAC Local Delegate Credentials

This certifies that _____ is an authorized delegate to the WNAC

Convention of Free Will Baptists from the _____
 (Group Name)

women's group of _____ Free Will Baptist Church, _____
 (Church Name) (Church Address)

Signed _____ or _____ Date _____
 (Local Coordinator) (Local Secretary)

Important: This form properly signed and accompanied by a \$5 registration fee entitles a local delegate to register for voting privileges in the WNAC convention. Only one delegate allowed per church.

Clip and attach to Convention Pre-Registration or bring to the WNAC Convention.



MISSION ALERT:

Evangelism News from Around the World

Ebetsu-Shi, Japan

Christmas 1996 was Maki Igarashi's first time to celebrate Christ's birth as a child of God. She had been attending services for over four years when she made her decision to follow Christ at Dale and Sandra Bishop's home. She tells everyone who will listen that she is now a Christian.

Panama City, Panama

The First FWB Church of Panama celebrated its 25th anniversary on November 9, 1996, report missionaries Steve and Judy Lytle. Also, the Panama Annual Convention met January 11-12.

The Lytles are currently assisting Panamanian preacher Arsenio González in the Nueva Esperanza work. They are also involved in the work at the Bible Institute. A new school term starts in March.

Barbacena, Brazil

In the last few years, God has called Flávio, Mário Lúcio, and Carlos Lúcio to preach. God is using Bobby and Sue Aycock and Ken and Marvis Eagleton to train these and others in the Bible Institute at the Barbacena FWB church. The youth are holding church-wide Saturday-night services once a month. All three student preachers have preached at these services.

Overland Park, Kansas

The Heartland FWB Church, under the leadership of missionary Terry Van Winkle, has recently secured an 8.5 acre tract of land in the southern

part of Overland Park. Located near several new housing developments, this hilltop corner lot is easily accessible and visible from the highway. This home missions work needs partners to support them with prayer and finances.

Shreveport, Louisiana

Missionaries Ron and Elaine Parker write about October 13, 1996 which was an extraordinary day for Heritage FWB Church. They inaugurated a new addition to the church building, three new Sunday school classes, and a youth church. Children came to Sunday school and church on a recently purchased used van. Thirteen first-time visitors came and returned later. The altar filled and two made commitments to Christ. To top off the excitement, the congregation surprised the Parkers with Pastor Appreciation Day.

Chicago, Illinois

When new convert Pam Owen was baptized, missionary David Potete and congregation had to drive 50 miles to a church with a baptistry. This FWB work in Chicago longs for the day when they will have their own church building—complete with baptistry.

Fort Wayne, Indiana

October 27, 1996 was Harvest Sunday at Heritage FWB Church in Fort Wayne. According to missionaries Jeff and Sherri Sloan, 29 first-time visitors made a total of 83 present. As a result, Kirk Sprague, a college student, accepted Christ on November 2. ❖

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights . . ." —James 1:17

Life!Action.

a column for young people for everyday life

He's all I need

The phone rings. Someone wants to talk to me. Though we've never met, we compare notes on similar life experiences—Christian home, parents in the ministry, salvation experience. He feels like he had an unfortunate life because his parents were in the ministry.

Trying to encourage, I say, "God has helped me through many bad experiences. He helps me overcome many of life's problems."

A bitter voice on the other end of the phone line returns with, "I don't want to sound sacrilegious, but God alone is not enough." I swallow hard as I try to think of how to answer his statement. "Yeah, we all need friends." Before I can finish formulating an intelligent response, the conversation moves on. A little irritated at myself for not saying enough, I tuck his statement in the back of my mind to think about later.

The next day, I ponder on the seemingly cliché statement that God is the solution to life's problems. The conversation on the phone keeps coming back to me.

Is there anything we need besides God? Well, the body needs food and shelter. We also have emotional needs such as love and security.

How, then, can we say, "God alone is all we need"? Okay, we need food. But God made the earth that grows our food. Shelter's important, especially in the winter. But God causes the trees to grow so man can build houses. What about emotional needs? Well, God placed us in families and communities. He gives life to moms, dads, aunts, and uncles. Spiritual needs? God calls men and women to teach us and pray for us.

I realize life is not always that neat. But just as God created us with needs, He supplies the means for fulfilling those physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. He knows what those needs are and how to fulfill them.

With greater conviction than before I can say to myself and to anyone who will listen. God alone **is** enough! Yes, He is! I have to disagree with my friend. How I wish I could have said more to soften the bitterness in this man's soul.

a history lesson

Let's not make the same mistake Israel made in the Old Testament. The Israelites repeatedly failed to recognize God as the Source. They murmured in the wilderness and turned deaf ears to God's instructions—suffering tragic consequences.

When we fail to recognize God as the Source of our life and blessings, we take away from Him the honor and glory which He deserves. As with the Israelites, our memory is often short.

Read Psalm 105. This 91-line psalm recounts in detail Israel's move to Egypt and back. Have you ever wondered why the Old Testament repeats these stories so many times? Maybe it's because the people needed a history lesson to remind them of how the Shepherd provides for His sheep. When we forget to thank God for His loving care, we sin by neglecting to give Him the glory and praise He deserves.

Sometimes we need to give ourselves a history lesson. We need to stop and give Him thanks and praise by recognizing Him as the only all-sufficient God in our lives. Yes, God alone is enough!❖

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

*C*hasing a sunset! That's what I found myself doing one evening last week.

As I drove home from work, the sky became simply spectacular.

At first the clouds were gold, deepening in the hollows to bronze. Then they became a rosy gold with lavender and purple tints. The rosy touches continued all the way to the eastern horizon.

I was heading west toward home, but I didn't want to go in. I didn't want to miss that sunset and kept driving west. Up and down hills, sometimes losing sight for a moment, but coming upon it again as I crested a hill.

But, you know, in a few minutes the glow was gone from the West. Although some rosy touches remained for a while, they too disappeared. What was left were gray, colorless clouds, with the dark closing in.

As I turned back toward home, I couldn't help thinking of the things we chase in life. What are we after?

Prettier clothes? A slender figure? A different husband? A more powerful car, a bigger house? More things!

Some things of this world may seem very beautiful. For a time, we may find pleasure in them. Yet, sooner or later, the excitement wears off, the color fades, the fascination has gone. Instead we are faced with ashes of a dull gray.

How transitory are the things of this world!

While they may hold our attention for a time, they are really just passing things. Like the lines of the hymn reminds us, "Change and decay in all around I see."

But thank the Lord, some values are eternal, things that will never lose that rosy glow, but will become brighter and more beautiful as we approach the last horizon.

Have you discovered some of these eternal values?

Pleasing God is more important than pleasing man. A good name is better than silver or gold. People are more important than things. Loving and forgiving make life worth living. Pointing the soul of a child toward God is one of the highest works. Serving with a joyful spirit is more rewarding than being served. Giving is more blessed than receiving. Knowing and obeying God is the most important thing in life.

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."
(1 John 2:16-17)

These things that have attracted us in this world are after all but shadows, clouds that vanish away. One day our Father will be pleased to give us the real, the treasures of eternity that will never dim, vanish like clouds or turn to ashes in our hands. ❖



MISSIONS HOTLINE

615-731-3839

E-MAIL: CAROLE@NAFWB.ORG

HE IS RISEN

March 24-28, 1997

Pre-Easter
Week of Prayer
for World Missions

Give Sacrificially to the **Laura Belle Barnard**
World Missions Offering

Our Goal: \$100,000



CoLaborer Magazine

P.O. Box 5002

Antioch, TN 37011-5002

*Periodical postage paid at Antioch, Tennessee
and additional mailing offices*

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to above
address.

*****FIRM 37205
COPIES = 2 591 1 2
FWBCC LIBRARY
3606 W END AVE
NASHVILLE TN 37205-2403