

May • June 1997

CoLaborer

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women



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SUZANNE FRANKS



My Mother, My Teacher

My mother was my teacher in third and fourth grades. But away from the home-school classroom, Mom taught me many more valuable lessons by the way she lived.

Mom practiced self-control. More than once, she found herself in a situation where it seemed that someone she trusted was stealing from her. I remember how once she spoke to the woman gently, "I'm looking for my son's baby quilt. Have you seen it?" When the quilt reappeared in the linen closet, I learned that soft words accomplish more than angry accusations.

Her willingness to give the same woman a second chance taught me patience. I remember her patience while answering my endless stream of questions. I remember how careful she was to answer difficult questions honestly and appropriately according to my age.

One of Mom's most striking talents is her ability to organize and plan. If company was coming, Mom and I would sit down with paper and pencil and plan the menu for each day. From the menu, she made a grocery list. She often cooked what she could beforehand. I grew up feeling proud of Mother's ability to receive company graciously—just the right amount of frills (not overdone) so our guests felt at home and appreciated.

She taught me sacrifice by putting her family's needs before her own. Her unconditional love was never a question when she corrected, encouraged, and complimented her three children. We kids knew she would try to be fair.

She taught me that submission to a husband is not a fretful task but a natural part of loving. (Dad gets some credit here.) The few arguments I heard as a child usually went something like this. "No, honey, do it your way," she would say. Dad would come back, "No, you're probably right." They would banter back and forth until one spouse finally allowed the other to do the pleasing. Both so intent on pleasing the other, they had trouble reaching a consensus.

The year my mother turned 40, she went back to college to finish her bachelor's degree at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Whether it was washing dishes or getting a degree, Mom's example taught persistence. She also taught us the importance of education and a job well done.

She demonstrated humility by being candid about her own shortcomings. How many mothers do you know who admit to their children that she has a temper? I wouldn't have known it if she hadn't told me, because sometime in her life she learned to control that temper.

Her tact and sensitivity are obvious in the question she never asks me: "When are you getting married?"

Mom is the example of a strong-willed woman yielded to God's will. God's call took her to a foreign mission field as a newlywed. Her determination to stay in God's will has kept her there for 34 years. God has given her a special love for the people and the ministry.

In honor of Mother's Day and all mothers, I salute my mother, Pat Franks. I love you, Mom, and honor you as the woman who brought me into this world and raised me to serve our God. ❖

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FOREVER."**

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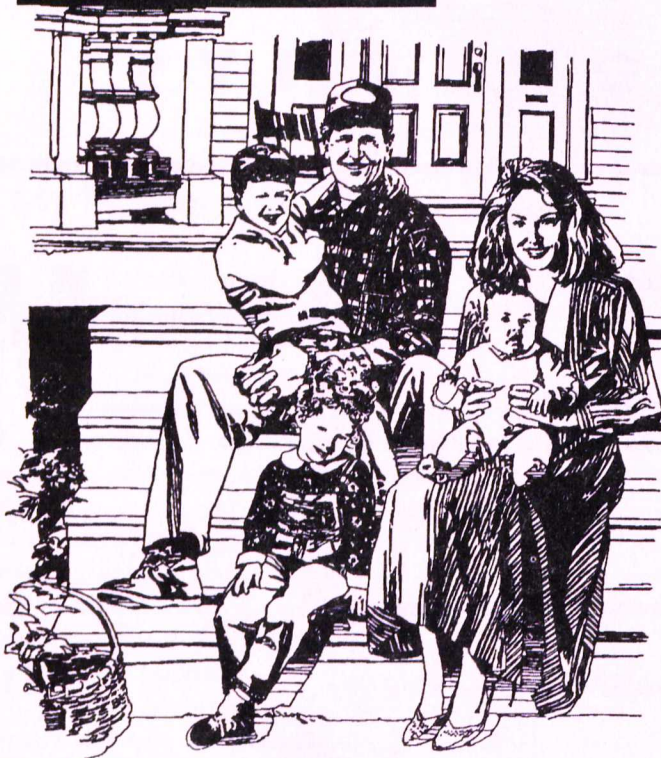
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Life Lessons

by Shirley Combs and Marvis Eagleton

God is Choosing a Frame—A Skit

Characters: school-age girl with hair in pony tail, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother

Props: three phones, three chairs, table and two chairs, plate, glass, book, needle work, and dish towel

The mother wearing an apron is carrying a plate and glass. The girl enters crying and runs to her mother's arms.

Girl: Mommy, I'm never going back to school again!

Mother: Oh, come here, sweetheart. Tell me about it. *(They both sit at the table.)*

Girl: I don't like that school. I'm not going back tomorrow or ever.

Mother: Did you fall down or hurt yourself?

Girl: No. I just don't like school.

Mother: Did your teacher have to call you down for something?

Girl: No.

Mother: Does your teacher know why you are crying?

Girl: No. She didn't hear.

Mother: Did someone say something that made you sad?

Girl: *(She hangs her head and doesn't answer. She takes the elastic from her pony tail and smooths her hair over her ears.)*

Mother: I would like to know what happened that made you so sad. Sometimes I feel better when I talk about it.

Girl: *(Looks up at her mom and sobs)* Jimmy said my ears are big.

Mother: Oh, maybe he was just teasing. Jimmy is your friend.

Girl: Not anymore. He told some boys that I looked like a Volkswagen bug with its doors open. I'll never be his friend again. **Why did God give me such big ears?**

Mother: Here, sweetheart. You sit here and eat these cookies and drink milk. I'll be right back and we'll talk some more. *(The mother leaves and goes to the phone, dials a number.)*

Grandmother: Hello. *(She puts down her book and sits in the chair.)*

Mother: Mama? How are you today?

Grandmother: Why, I am just fine.

Mother: Mama, this has to be fast. Julia is waiting at the table for an answer to her question.

Grandmother: What is her question?

Mother: She is crying and asking why God gave her such big ears. A boy made fun of her today at school.

Grandmother: Wait right by the phone a minute and I'll call you back soon, OK?

Mother: OK. *(She hangs up the phone and bows her head in prayer.)*

Grandmother: *(Dials a number.)*

Great-grandmother: Hello. *(Puts down her needlework and sits in chair.)*

Grandmother: Hello, mother?

Great-grandmother: Yes, dear. How are you?

Grandmother: I'm fine but Cindy called and said that Julia is crying and asked why God gave her such big ears.

Great-grandmother: Oh. Well, do you remember the time you came home crying because the children were teasing you because you didn't have eye brows and you wanted to paint some black ones?

Grandmother: Yes, I do.

Great-grandmother: I told you what my mother told me. Do you remember?

Grandmother: Yes, I do. You said that God is painting my picture and chose a frame for my picture—blond hair and white eye brows. It made me feel a little better, too. And I passed it on to my girls. Thanks, mother. I have to call Cindy back and I'll talk to you later. Love you.

Great-grandmother: I love you too. Good-bye. *(She hangs up the phone and bows her head.)*

Grandmother: *(She hangs up and dials immediately.)* Cindy?

Mother: Yes, Mama.

Grandmother: Do you remember one day you were crying because the children at camp were saying that you were as skinny as a rail?

Mother: Yes. I wish I were that skinny now.

Grandmother: Do you remember what I told you?

Mother: You told me what your mother told you. You said that God was painting my picture and He'd chosen a beautiful thin frame for me. *(pause)* OK, mama. I see what you mean. I'm going to talk to Julia now. Love you.

Grandmother: Love you, bye.

Mother: *(Goes over to the table and sits by Julia and looks her in the eyes.)* Feel better now?

Girl: Yes, may I go now?

Mother: First, I want to tell you something that my mother told me and her mother told her. God is painting your picture and chose a frame for you. For you He chose beautiful hair and blue eyes and nice ears just the right size for you.

Girl: OK, Mommy. May I go now?

Mother: Well, do you feel better now?

Girl: Yes, but I need to go. Jimmy came by and invited me to listen to his new CD. *(She hugs her mother and starts toward the door. Suddenly she goes back to the table and picks up her elastic ribbon and puts her hair in a pony tail again. She gives her mother one last hug.)*

Commentary on skit

Birth and Birthdays

Shirley: That skit takes me back to when my children were small. I'm so glad that young mother was home at that moment to hold her child and to listen to her.

It reminds me we need to teach children that their worth isn't based on what others think about them. God made them, He knows them. He has a special plan for them.

Marvis: That's right. This truth is important for our children to learn. It affects the way they feel about themselves.

One day my son Terry came in brokenhearted and crying because his friend Natal had called him a *mestiço*—a person of mixed race. It hurts any child to be singled out as different by their peers. The playmate was referring to Terry's being both Brazilian and American. After we talked about nice people we knew of different races and some of the advantages of dual citizenship, Terry was ready to go back and play with his friend.

Shirley: Birthday parties are opportunities to teach individual worth to children. Some of our ex-street children at the children's home have never had a birthday cake or party. They usually don't even know their age. We teach them to memorize their birthdates.

At the same time, we teach them that a second, spiritual birth is just as necessary. We have them write the date of their spiritual birth in their Bibles after they have accepted Christ. This "second birthday" can be mentioned at the child's party before the birthday prayer as a witness to others present.

All three of our own children accepted Christ before they started grade school. I believe in child evangelism in the home.

Marvis: I heartily agree. Parents must realize that God has entrusted to them not only the protection and nurturing of their children but their spiritual and intellectual guidance. Though church and schools often play a part, evangelization and education are the **primary** responsibility and privilege of the parents.

There is no retirement from parenting. Did you ever wish your kids would grow up and get out of your hair? How sad it would be for them to grow up to the point they did not want to share their lives with you. One of our greatest joys as grandparents has been to share in the different phases in the lives of our four sons, daughters (in-law) and grandchildren. They are our best friends and we will always need each other.

Shirley: If a mother keeps her ears open, she'll know when it is time to teach children certain truths. Our two-year-old son, Kemper, asked me how our new baby was going to get out of my tummy. (Later, they ask how a baby gets in the tummy!) I was prepared with the lovely story of how God has a special little door that He has created for the baby to come out and only He knows exactly when it is time for the little door to open. He was satisfied and went on his way. Don't give them more information than their curiosity calls for at the moment.

The new baby arrived and I was soon home with his baby sister after a cesarian section. He commented about "God opening the special door" and I had to explain that God allowed the doctor to open another place. "Oh, yes, a window," he said.

Marvis: As the child grows older, the parent needs to answer honestly and Biblically all of his questions about child birth and life in general. These times are great for teaching that God created the family and has special plans for the father, mother, and children.

Everyday Life

Shirley: Everyday is an adventure story of God involved with our lives and as Christian women we need to remember to pass this on to the children in our care. A walk around the block is a perfect time to teach God as the Creator while you collect different types of leaves and stoop to look at ants. A trip in the car can include Bible number games and "mineral, plant, and animal kingdom" questions based on Bible stories.

In the kitchen preparing a meal, talk about how God provides sun, rain, and good soil so we can have delicious foods. Be natural, be continuous, and be an example.

Prayer is a must for children to get through life. It must be taught and practiced so that each individual in your family prays as naturally as a child asks for a glass of water. They must see that it works!

Once our family was on a trip and discovered that a fuel strike had been called and we had to travel through three Brazilian states that day. The gas gauge was falling and Jim started trying to get gas at several filling stations. All told the same story—"No gas today."

The silence in the car got heavier as we traveled. Suddenly our little Cindy sat up and said, "Daddy, pull into this next station. I've been praying and God said that this next place is going to have gas." Her brother and sister didn't say a word. Jim and I exchanged glances as he turned in and pulled up to the attendant beside a gas tank. "Gas, please." "Yes, sir." The man explained that

his supply was low but he just happened to have enough for one last car. "I knew it. I told you so." Cindy laughed with glee. Five relieved travelers piled out of the car with a special glow of God's care in our lives.

Marvis: After all, teaching principles in theory doesn't do much if our children don't see them in action.

Family devotions is a good time for daily living lessons. An opener we used in our family was, "What was the worst thing that happened to you today?" After everyone has a turn to answer, ask, "What was the best thing that happened to you today?" With natural ease you can comment on any particular item you think needs attention.

Shirley: Our family devotions included our children's friends who were in our home. What a way for children to share with their friends! A run-away child had been brought by police and was at our house one night for family devotions. We sang about Zacheus. The child had never heard the story so I filled him in. Before we sang "Only a Boy Named David" I quickly told this second story. When I told about David facing the giant Goliath, I asked, "Do you know what David did then?" He answered, "No, did he climb a tree?"

Mothers have the joy of sharing so many first-time truths that go with the child through his life. As the child grows older, a mother may have to "take-out" untruths the ungodly world has exposed the child to.

Mothers, just be there. You are important.

Marvis: Just be there. I like that. The best memory of my childhood is that my mother was always there. It is important to give our attention to our child when he talks to us. Don't put him off. Don't be too busy or turn your back when he wants to share. Seize the opportunity—the time he is ready to talk. He should feel that his concerns are important to you and know you want to help him. This lays a foundation for good lifelong communication.

Death and Heaven

Shirley: Again, keep your ears open for opportunities to give God's teaching about death and future life. A family pet dies. "Is there a doggy heaven?" "Did God breathe a soul into animals or just people?" "Do puppets die?" The family must go to the funeral of a friend or family member. "Why doesn't he wake up?" "Will we see her again?" Death is as natural as being born and we should talk about it in the family, teaching God's beautiful provisions for a future life.



Shirley Combs is a missionary to Brazil along with her husband, Jim. She serves as the director of Lar Nova Vida—the home for street children in Araras, Brazil.

Marvis Eagleton is a missionary to Brazil along with her husband, Ken (Sr.). The Eagletons coordinate TEAM (Teens Equipped and Active in Missions) for FWB Foreign Missions.

Even young children can understand the two roads the Bible speaks of. Emphasize his need to cross over to the road that leads to heaven.

Marvis: Our granddaughter Sarah was exposed to several deaths in the family at an early age and she was troubled by it. Since Ken and I are out of the country for long periods she developed a fear that we might die and be buried overseas.

This was a good opportunity to talk about physical death being part of the overall phases of life here on earth. First of all we need to remember that our bodies here are temporary housing referred to as earthen vessels and tents (2 Corinthians 4:7) and they are deteriorating from the very time of birth. They were made for our use on earth. When we don't need them any longer, they are laid aside and we are transported to our heavenly home (2 Corinthians 5:1). That is our real home, not the grave, wherever it might be.

Shirley: "Can grandpa go fishing in heaven?" "Will there be beds in our mansions or will we never get tired?" "Will there be anything to eat in heaven?" Children like to talk about heaven. They may think about it more than we imagine. Once after we had traveled for hours passed banana plantations, our youngest child, Tânia, pulled her face from the car window and sighed, "São Paulo must have enough bananas for everybody in heaven."

She is the same one who declared that "heaven won't be heaven without oranges and tangerines."

Children, as well as teens and adults, need to know that better things will come. They need to learn they were created to honor God in this life and He will help them with their ups and downs. But our goal is to spend eternity in heaven with Him and tell others how they can go too. What a goal!

Just remember to tell both the wonderful things that will be there as well as those negative things that won't be there. I was reminded of this once when I sat with my grandson on a shaded park bench near an ice cream shop in Brazil. Two-year-old Jonathan was tackling his ice cream cone in 90 degree weather (in December) and two dirty little street boys came near us and ordered ice cream. (A delightful setting for street evangelism and a captive audience until the ice cream is gone.)

After learning they lived in near-by slums, I asked them what they knew about Jesus and heaven. "Nothing," they said. "Once on a soap opera, it showed a white angel with a white computer sitting on a white cloud." How thrilling to be the first to fill their little minds with the doctrine of heaven! I watched their eyes widen in wonder at the presence of a wonderful Lord Jesus, and mansions and streets of gold. But suddenly a shadow came into their eyes and one pinched his face in a frown. "There must be lots of thieves there!"

Mothers, teach your little ones that their troubles won't follow them to heaven.

Marvis: The most wonderful thing of all we can tell them is about the eternal home prepared by our Heavenly Father for those who love and trust Him. Yes, this world is full of hurts and bad things. But when we put off our earthly tents we will forever be safe from worldly cares (2 Peter 1:10-11).

Wrap up

Thank you, Marvis and Shirley, for spending this time with us. The mothers, grandmothers, daughters, and granddaughters present have a lot to think about.

We have paper for each of you to write down a prayer request concerning children and young people in your care. Please put it in the decorated container and pass it on to someone else in the room. ♦



Applying God's Word in the Family

by **Rebecca Pugh**

Scripture: Psalm 127:1a; Matthew 7:24-27;
Proverbs 24:3-4, 14:1

Song: Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart
(224, Rejoice, 2nd edition)

Every mother's heart desire is to know her children "walk in truth." This concept of "walking in truth" is taken from 2 John 4 and 3 John 3-4. It describes the reality of God's Word in a person's life. Paul reminded Timothy that he had known the scriptures from childhood. Paul exhorted

him to “continue” in the things he had learned, “knowing of whom thou has learned them.” He rehearsed his heritage of a godly mother and grandmother.

No doubt Daniel’s parents grounded him in the truth of God’s Word revealed at that time, so that when he was forced into a godless culture, he did not defile himself with the king’s meat offered to idols. Thus we see the end results of applying the Bible in the family.

Family on the Go

Nothing can replace integrating, implanting, or grafting God’s Word into the lives of our family members!

But how do we do this today? With schedules hectic, families involved in varied activities, when is there time to get the family together and instruct them in the ways of God and His Word? God’s Word has the most relevant answer to this: Deuteronomy 6. Families have always been busy. These instructions were given to the children of Israel during their journey in the wilderness. Do you think moms had plenty of time to sit around and philosophize about theology (the study of God)? They had **no** automatic washer and dryer, **no** microwave oven, **no** dishwasher. Think about it.

Start with Our Relationship with God

“Love the Lord your God with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul and with **all** your might. And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart” (Deuteronomy 6:5-6, NASB). Have complete love for your Lord and moment by moment communion. Be aware of His presence and conscious of His sovereign authority in all of life. Practice adoration for His person and utter dependence on His help and provision. Sincerely desire His Word.

The Amplified Bible says “And these words ... shall be **first** in your **own** mind and

heart.” We cannot hope to successfully transfer to our families what is missing in ourselves. Obedience is based on knowledge and knowledge comes **only** in spending time with God Himself. No substitute exists.

God’s Word—Our Textbook

I can remember my Dad’s answer to many of my probing questions when I was a teenager. “It doesn’t matter what I think. What does God’s Word say about this?” Then he would **always** point me to a Scripture verse or principle that spoke directly to my situation. He could not have done this had he not known the Scriptures himself. Our families need to confidently know that the Lord is our God (Deuteronomy 6:4).

We instruct our children using God’s Word as our textbook. “And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:7–9).

Be Deliberate

Some call it brainwashing, others indoctrinating. Paul called it **being transformed by the renewing of the mind** (Romans 12:2). Conscious, deliberate, consistent transfer of truth (direct commands or principles) cannot be left to chance, hope so, or the pastor, or Sunday school teacher!

Susannah Wesley took each of her children aside for a full hour every week to discuss spiritual matters. She had seventeen children. (Not all of them lived to adulthood, however.) She taught her children to read from Genesis 1! Each child had to be able to read it well before permitted to read other materials.

We cannot hope to successfully transfer to our families what is missing in ourselves.

Saturate your routines with His presence and awareness of your accountability to Him. Always praise Him, and show gratefulness for whatever He allows.



We cannot neglect faithful, constant repetition of vital truths from God's Word.

Practice God's Word everywhere, anytime, early in the day, before bedtime, at meals, riding in the car, and shopping. Talk about God, His Word, His ways, His purpose, His work, and how we can be like Him. When an event occurs, relate it to our God's holiness, love, or wisdom. Saturate your routines with His presence and awareness of your accountability to Him. Always praise Him and show your gratefulness for whatever He allows. This is to be the topic of your family conversation!

Model Obedience

What do our children see? When we suffer, how do they see us respond? When we are mistreated, how do we react? Are we applying Scripture and living by His revealed Word? Do we deliberately do our own thing when God's Word has clearly spoken to us? And then do we wonder why our children do their own thing instead of obeying us?

Are we obedient models to God's Word they can observe? We should make it a rule to obey whatever we read in God's Word. Then when our children ask us about the life

we live, we open God's Word and show them this is **God's system of life**. We are simply following His pattern for us.

The Proper Dose

Do our families value God's Word because we do? God's Word **demonstrated** adds strength and reality to God's Word **explained**. Expose our families to as much truth in life as possible. Explain what words mean in a passage of Scripture; then relate that to what it means in daily activities.

When situations arise, use God's Word like medicine. When we apply medicine to a sore, we apply it to the affected area. We have to absorb God's Word at **least daily, and more often if possible**, in order to be healed.

Pass it on

"Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children to another generation" (Joel 1:3). The song "Tell it to Your Children" by Bill Gaither amplifies this verse. Listen to a few lines from the song:

Tell it to your children, and your children's children,
Stamp it on the doors of their hearts,
Fill up their minds with the things of the Lord
And from it they will never depart.
Tell it with your laughter, tell it with your talk,
Tell it when you're working, tell it when you walk.
Tell it to your children and your children's children,
Jesus must be Lord of their lives.

God wanted the children of Israel to pass down to their children His Word, His ways, His work. New Testament preachers told over and over what God had done for His people, and what His promises were. Dr. L. C. Johnson, former president of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, knew the importance of passing on a heritage. In chapel, he regularly rehearsed the history of the college. Repetition is the mother of learning.

This we must do in our families—rehearse God's message written in your family's

history regularly so your children understand their past and desire to be links of the chain for future generations. We share with our children their godly heritage that goes back as far as we know. When children have a sense of destiny, they have a feeling of self-worth. Their security is not in what will pass away, but in our immutable God and His purpose for the ages.

If you find that you do not have a godly heritage, but are the first generation of Christians in your family, then this is also vital to relate to children. They should be aware of the awesome responsibility to continue this new lifestyle of godliness. We cannot neglect faithful, constant repetition of vital truths from God's Word.

Anne Ortlund has a book called, *Children Are Wet Cement*. She says that before children are set we must meticulously, carefully impress God's Word on their minds—so that “when dangers or temptations come, their reflex actions will automatically produce godly responses.”

For the Family's Survival

“And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for **our good always**, that he might preserve us alive” (Deuteronomy 6:24). The New American Standard Bible translates the end of this verse “for our survival.” God Himself tells us these activities are realities we must do. God attaches his prescription of success for our families to this one thing. There is no short cut for instilling God's Word and His eternal, unchanging principles in our families. We must have daily communion with God, and give daily instruction to those who are in our care. **Just do it!** ♦

Rebecca Pugh is a mother of five and pastor's wife. Her husband Gwyn pastors Liberty Free Will Baptist Church in Millington, Tennessee.



WNAC

NATIONAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

62nd Annual Session

Cincinnati, Ohio
July 21–22, 1997

THEME: Expanding Knowledge

MONDAY AFTERNOON
WNAC Seminar: The Importance of Study
Presiding: Everyl Getz

State Officers Meeting
Presiding: Mary R. Wisehart

TUESDAY MORNING
Devotional: Debbie Griffin
Missionary Message: Jeff Crabtree

TUESDAY AFTERNOON
Special Feature:
Parade of Books by Free Will Baptist Women

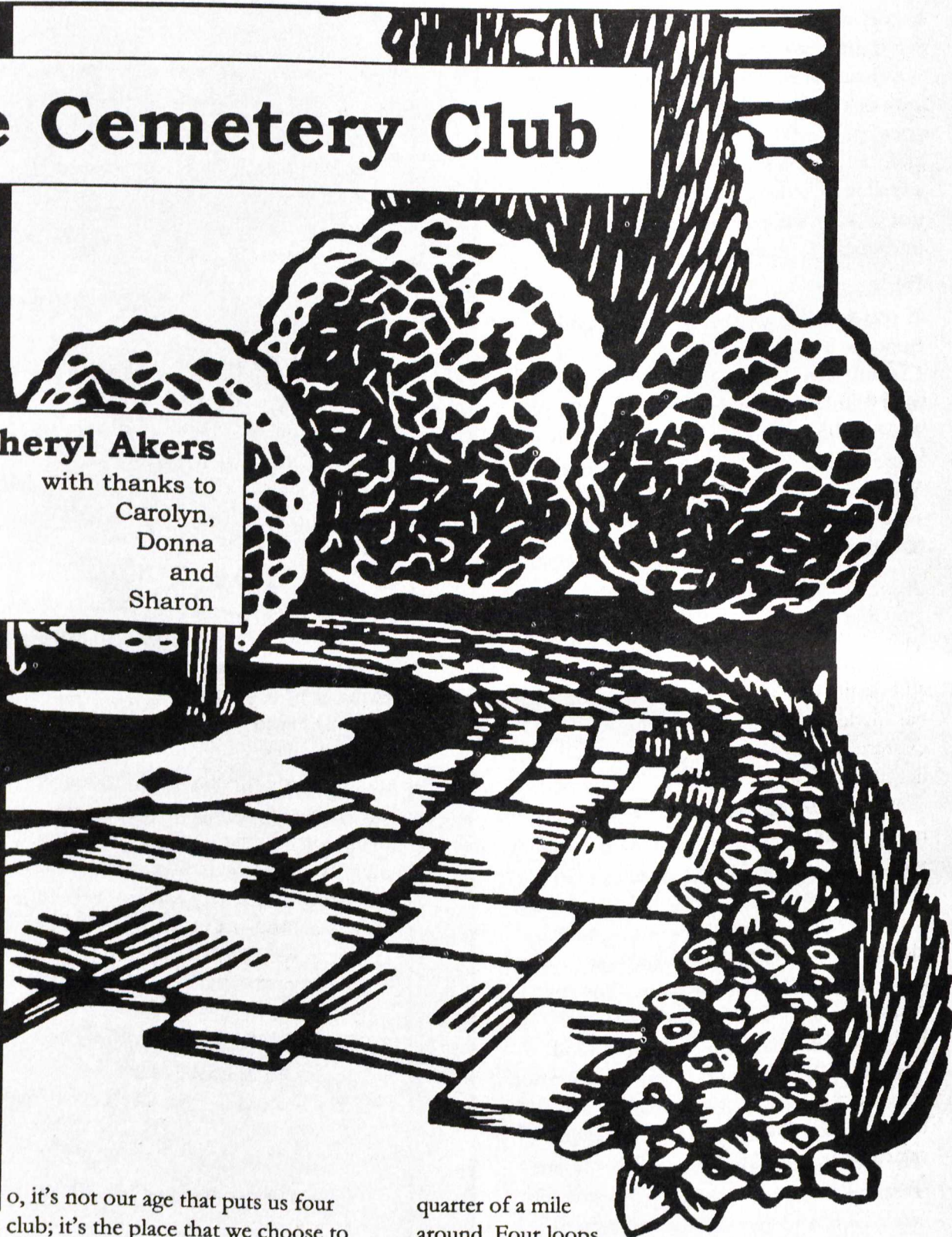
TUESDAY EVENING
Fellowship Dinner Speaker: Mary R. Wisehart



The Cemetery Club

by Cheryl Akers

with thanks to
Carolyn,
Donna
and
Sharon



N

o, it's not our age that puts us four ladies in this club; it's the place that we choose to walk every morning after we drop our children off at school. The cemetery happens to be nearby and is a convenient oval paved "track" that measures one-

quarter of a mile around. Four loops around the cemetery equals one mile.

Our goal is two miles every morning. So, like the old-time coffee klatch, we do our visiting around

the cemetery every school morning from 8:15 a.m. until we're done.

It all started back in the fall when the school regimen had just taken full hold. Two women who had known each other for years decided to meet as soon as they dropped off their children. Unknown to them, two other women (I'm in this group.) would show up in the next few days. All four of us had the same idea. We wanted more exercise, and walking seemed to be the perfect, no-expense, low-impact way to add some physical activity to our lives.

The fringe benefits started almost immediately! Friendships take time to grow, but the makings of some strong bonds soon evidenced. "New friends," I called our group. One woman was new in town, so we clued her in about the city and the school. We've all come to know each other better, and as one of us remarked recently, "This is the only deep conversation I have all week."

Even with our various church affiliations, we find that deep friendships are hard to cultivate. Time is the usual restraint, with church work, regular work, and family vying for our attention. Walking together has made us aware of the needs of others. We express personal interests and burdens, share helpful ideas when possible, and pray for each other.

We also enlarge each other's outlook as we learn more about how other churches and groups worship. "New friends" are a challenge. Yes, we exercise and several of us hope to lose weight in the process, but the bigger interest is in the developing closeness that we feel. One woman said that the Lord had answered her prayer by providing friends for fellowship at a time when a longtime dear friend had become distant. How wonderful to be a part of answered prayer!

Jesus met "new friends" all the time. From His calling of the Twelve to His post-resurrection appearance to 500 brethren, He met new people constantly. He met all kinds of people's needs in all kinds of places. He was approachable. He met groups as well as individuals, and every time He left them with food for thought. In a most unlikely place, Samaria, He met a certain woman and gave

her the most precious gift, eternal life.

We are glad for the opportunity He has given us at a most unexpected time in our lives, and we trust Him to make us into true friends. Perhaps in time others will join us, and then we can show ourselves friendly to them, too.

Since last fall, we have seen several graves dug. Soon fresh mounds of dirt appear followed by sprays of blossoms and the green tents that protected the families during the final services. Each time we have been reminded of the brevity of life, the sureness of death, the promise of heaven for the believer. The changing landscape reminded us to pray for each of the families who lost loved ones. No, the families will never know of our concern and prayers, but our Heavenly Father will surely answer our requests. We count it a privilege to walk where we do, and we make it our responsibility to intercede on the behalf of those bereaved ones.

Though we all know Christ, we have come from four different backgrounds and lifestyles. Each has established her place in life already—wife, parent, Christian worker—but each woman in the group wants to be ready for whatever else the Lord may have for her to do. In our efforts to care for our earthly bodies, God has blessed us with a group friendship we never dreamed possible.

Sure, someday we may change our group's name. Being forty-something hardly constitutes a foot in the grave! For the moment we are thankful to be a part of The Cemetery Club. Look around. New friends may be just around the corner; they could be as near as your local cemetery! ♦

Cheryl Akers lives in Jacksonville, Florida where she is a member of Immanuel Free Will Baptist Church.



Food for Thought

"I've always loved the beauty of the words beginning Psalm 42. "As the hart [deer] panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. . . ."

The poet, probably David, painted a beautiful picture of the deer longing for cool, clear water from the bubbling stream.

One day this psalm exploded with new meaning. While reading David's complaints, I could feel some of the his dark moods and homesickness. I remembered looking south into the horizon trying to see, through an imaginary telescope, the home where I grew up.

I marveled at David's blunt honesty with God when he said, "Why have you forgotten me?"

Then giving himself a pep talk, David writes, "Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him." He says the same thing twice. Once in the middle of the psalm and then at the end.

Going back and forth from complaining to exhorting, David acknowledges God's presence day and night. And he prays, not to any god, but to the very personal God of his life.

So in hard times, we can open our hearts to God and put our hope in our Savior. ♦

Poet's Corner

Fragrance of Mother

*Pamela S. Hackett
Spartanburg, SC*

A Mother,
Is a gift from above
Adorned with the fragrance of love.

Her Arms,
Are like an open rose.
Holding her children ever so close.

Her Hands,
Work diligently and long
Guiding her children from all wrong.

Her Heart,
Is filled with loving care,
A cherished flower beyond compare.

Her Faith,
God uses to beseech
A child, only a Mother can reach.

Relinquishment

*Barbara Mitchell
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*

Oh Lord
if I could
I would keep this child secure forever
within the shelter of my arms
I would harbor only good to shield his days
and innocence would stay his companion

but I know Lord
that he didn't come to live
within the boundaries of my life
and love

he might wish to touch the lives of those
who walk in sun and shade

to do Your will amidst a ravaged world

and so Lord
if he chooses to draw others
into the circle of Your love
if later, he moves to places far away
even then
remind me Lord
he isn't mine
but Yours

and help me to let go ♦

"Relinquishment" appeared in *Time of Singing*, September 1990. Used with permission.



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator

It's not too early to start planning for the National Convention and the WNAC Retreat. The National Convention Pre-Registration Form is in this issue on pages 23-24 and a copy of the delegate card is on page 28 of the March/April issue. A Retreat Reservation Form is printed in the March/April issue on page 22.

We want to thank those who have sent in the surveys printed in the March/April issue. Please announce in your next meeting for those who haven't filled one out yet, to do so. If you hurry we can still get it before we print the results in the July/August issue. The survey sheet did not include a place for your return address. I apologize for the oversight. So if you want to receive the gift, you must include your address somewhere on the page or on the envelope. If you wish to remain anonymous, that is perfectly fine, but obviously we cannot send the gift if we don't know your address. Name or no name, we want to know what our women think. We expect the results to help us better serve our readers.

Assistant Coordinator

The skit in the May Program should work beautifully for a Mother/Daughter Banquet. This type of banquet is a good time to enlist younger women since mothers may bring their daughters. If you think you will have women attending your banquet who do not come to the regular meeting, ask someone to give a 5-10 minute testimony. The woman need not be an officer but she should be involved. Ask her to share what WNAC means to her and what your local group is doing in the church, community, and world. Also, the quiz on page 17 can be used at a banquet.

Secretary/Treasurer

Did you know that the average American household owes \$6000 in credit card debt? Many of us could use some sound financial advice. Talk to your Coordinator about holding a study on finances. Open the study to men and women, married or single. Some topics covered should be, how to prepare a budget, responsible spending, tithing, and giving to the Lord's work. Larry Burkett has written many books on finances for Christians. Whether you use a book as a guide or invite a speaker, make sure the material is biblically and financially sound. Ask for your pastor's help to plan this.

Provision Closet Needs:

Sheet sets, all sizes

Flannel Sheet sets, all sizes

Mattress covers (queen and full size)

Bedspreads

Electric blankets

Speed cookers (pressure cookers)

Blenders

Cookware

Flatware

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

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

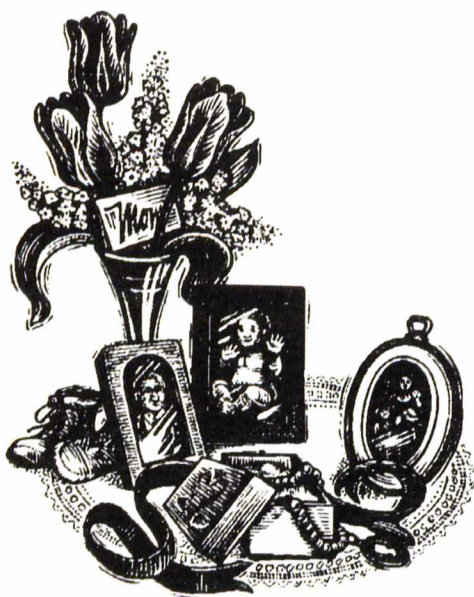


Missionary Apprentices

Rachel Callaway	Spain
Traci Clinger	Côte d'Ivoire
Brian Cooksey	Panama
David Laws	Brazil

Go and Be Team—Côte d'Ivoire

K. C. Kohn	Carla Huff
Charae Jones	Joe Picklesimer II
Deanna Nicholson	Aaron Baker
Liz Razar	Alyssa Hampton
Matthew Price	Wendy Skelley
Heather Rock	Christy Douglas



**Mothers,
teach your children about God.**

WNAC Meeting

Time

Date

Location

Missions Chairman

If you want to do something for any of the missionary kids who are graduating this spring, you may contact Tanya Hart at (919) 746-7322 or 746-2144. If you don't get an answer, just leave a message and she will call you back. Her e-mail address is [thart@postalnet.com]. Tanya will be glad to send you a list of names and ideas of what to do for them.

For information about home missionary kids, contact Pam Anis at the Home Missions Department. Her number is (615) 731-4950 ext. 223.

For some states, June is the time of year for special emphasis on state home missions. If you live in a state which has a state promotional office, get in touch with them for information about missions in your state. The Home Missions Department can also help you with this. You will want to get some of the following information: names and addresses of the home mission churches in your state, names of the pastors, and specifics about each work. Take an offering (Alice Lupton Offering for State Home Missions) after a special prayer service for your state home missionaries. For more about this, see page 97 in the WNAC Manual.

Prayer Chairman

On the left side of this page, you will find a list of Missionary Apprentices (the new term adopted to replace student missionary) and members of this year's Go and Be Team. Remind your women to pray for these people during the summer. You can also use the names of mothers and daughters from the quiz on the next page to make a prayer list. You could have each woman draw names from these lists. Ask them to pray every day during the summer for the people whose name(s) they draw.

Service Chairman

Summer is a good time to reach children with the Good News. Hold a Bible club in a neighborhood or offer to baby sit for a single mother.

Often the first step to bringing someone to the Lord is simply getting to know the person. Get to know your neighbors with a cookout in your backyard or at a state park. Enlist the help of women in your group.

Study Chairman

This issue has two book reviews. The one on page 22 will go well with either the May or the June program. This book presents lots of practical examples of what Shirley Combs, Marvis Eagleton, and Rebecca Pugh talk about in their programs. The other book review in this issue may be harder to find. It's in the Life!Action column on page 25. This book is written specifically for teens. Teens, parents of teens, or anyone who works with teens would benefit from reading this book. It is written to help students in middle school and high school share Christ with their peers. ❖

Missionary Mothers and Daughters

Identify the mothers and daughters below with each other and with a mission field.

1. Two mothers have a daughter named Melissa. One is Karen Cowart, Brazil, the other is _____, missionary to Spain.
2. _____, missionary in Wisconsin, has two daughters, Rachel and _____.
3. A missionary mother, _____, had a daughter, _____, who died during her first term in the country of _____.
4. This mother, _____, is a missionary to Japan and has two daughters, Leah Katherine, named for her two grandmothers, and Amy Hope.
5. This mother, _____ is a missionary to Pennsylvania. She participated in the WNAC special feature at the 1996 National Convention and has three daughters, Bobbie Sue, Jenna, and _____.
6. This missionary mother, _____, has a daughter, _____, who is attending Free Will Baptist Bible College and will go to Spain as a missionary apprentice this summer.
7. Emily is the daughter of a doctor and her mother, _____, is serving in _____.
8. This missionary mother, _____, works in Texas and Mexico, has two daughters, Laura and _____. They all play stringed instruments.
9. This missionary mother, _____, is home on furlough from Brazil and has two daughters, Valerie and _____ at Free Will Baptist Bible College.
10. Autumn is her daughter's name. _____ is a missionary to Côte d'Ivoire and her mother, _____, was editor of *CoLaborer*.

Instructions: Use this quiz for a Mother/Daughter Banquet or make up your own quiz mixing the names of missionaries and mothers and daughters in your church. If you think the quiz is too hard, hand out home and foreign missions directories, and tell everyone they are going to have an open book quiz. Then, tell everyone to take the directories home and put them to good use.

Lucy & Marge

Marge: (*enters singing*) "Love and marriage, love and marriage, go together like a horse and carriage." I just love weddings, don't you, Lucy. They always make me cry.

Lucy: Well, actually, I'm a little weary of all these wedding showers. They cost money and take too much of my time.

Marge: Oh, come on, Lucy, they're fun.

Lucy: Fun? They asked me to help with that wedding shower for Kathy Smith and I don't even know her.

Marge: That's one good thing about these showers. They help you get acquainted.

Lucy: Well, yes, I guess they do help you get acquainted. But, what does it have to do with spreading the gospel, or winning the lost?

Marge: At least we're reaching out to these young women and letting them know we care.

Lucy: Huh, it seems to me that we're just sponsoring social events. Did you see the price of the china Susie Martin picked out? I can't afford to pay those prices.

Marge: Lucy, you know you don't have to buy the china. Her family could afford to buy the whole set. Did you notice, Susie seemed so appreciative of every little gift?

Lucy: Yes, she did seem to appreciate the potholder I gave her. She even sent me an engraved thank-you card.

Marge: Which probably cost more than the potholder.

Lucy: So maybe it does mean something to these young women for us to show we care.

Marge: And that's what the gospel is all about, isn't it? Showing God's love.

Lucy: Oh, don't be so preachy, Marge! But, you made your point.

Marge: And who knows? Maybe some of these young brides will come to our women's meetings.

Lucy: Yes, maybe they'll join, and then they'll have to do the showers themselves.

Marge: Oh, Lucy! I know you care about these young women just as much as I do. I really want to see them a part of our group and serving the Lord.

Lucy: You're right, Marge. We want to see them establish Christian homes and bring up their children the right way.

Marge: You know, that's a part of what our WAC tries to do ... encourage the young women. The group helped me begin a family altar and taught me how to be a better wife and mother.

Lucy: Marge, maybe giving these showers is a part of our service for Christ.

Marge: Right now we're inviting all the new brides to our next meeting. I expect they'll come just out of appreciation for what we've done.

Lucy: I think I'll go buy Judy Johnson a piece of her china pattern for the next shower. ♦

Springboard Illustrated: Stories to Grow By Volume 37/ No. 3
the bird feeder by Judy Delong

As I sit looking out my window, waiting for God to speak in some way to me, I watch as a small bird lands on our bird feeder and begins to eat the seed we have put out. There is a small opening at the top and suddenly the bird finds himself inside the bird feeder. He flutters around, hitting the top and sides of the small box trying to escape.

As I sit watching, God speaks to me. We provide seed for the bird in the feeder. As he is enjoying the taste, he fails to watch what he is doing and becomes trapped in man's handiwork.

Just outside God has created the whole world where the bird can fly. Within nature God has made provision for his life. Yet, he can no longer enjoy these things.

Am I like this bird? Am I so anxious to have what the world offers that I am giving up what God has for me? Do I give up my freedom to fly to consume the seeds that the world plants around me?

I don't want to be trapped. I want to soar as the eagles. I pray that I will recognize the places where I may become entangled and avoid them, lest I become a prisoner.

I watch as the small bird finally finds his way out again. How quickly he flies away, going higher and higher. I'm reminded of the phrase "free as a bird." This phrase reminds me of Jesus' words "And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free . . . If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:32, 36). Perhaps the psalmist had this freedom in mind when he wrote, "Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped" (Psalm 124:7). ♦

Judy Delong lives in Hager Hill, Kentucky and she is a member of Tom's Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Nippa.



**The Bible . . .
apply generously
to your family**

WAC Meets

at _____

on _____

COMMUNICATOR

BY MARY RUTH WISEHART



Introducing Members of the Executive Committee

The WNAC Manual provides for an executive committee composed of the president, vice president, recording secretary, executive secretary-treasurer and "three members elected from the body at large."

In the past three issues you have been introduced to the president, Everyl Getz; the vice president, Marjorie Workman; and the recording secretary, Jo Ann Wood.

The three elected members will be introduced in alphabetical order, beginning with Annette Aycock.

Meet Annette Aycock

Annette was elected to the Executive Committee in 1995. Before her election to the national committee she had served at the local level, as district mission study chairman, and as secretary of the South Carolina state convention.

The mountains of East Tennessee served as a background for Annette. She was born in Greeneville, Tennessee to Hal and Rose Carter. When she was 15 years old, she attended camp and accepted Christ as her Savior.

Annette graduated from Greeneville High School and attended Free Will Baptist Bible College, graduating with a B.S. in Bible and Elementary Education. There she met David Aycock, who became her husband.

Most recently she served with her husband at the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Florence, South Carolina. At the church she filled roles as teacher, nursery worker and choir member.

Annette and David enjoy schooling Autumn Danaé, seven, and Breeana Summer, six, at home. No doubt Andrew David, four, and Destanie Spring, two, are learning along with them.

In August 1996 the Free Will Baptist Foreign Mission Board officially appointed Annette and David as missionaries to Brazil. The Aycocks now live in Greeneville and are beginning work to raise funds for their mission to Brazil.

Did You Notice?

The March/April issue of *CoLaborer* had an official form for registering your local delegate to the WNAC convention at Cincinnati, Ohio in July.

Please make sure that the delegate from your women's group gets one of these forms and sends it in with her preregistration form. Remember that with a \$5 registration fee and this form, the delegate from your group will have a vote at the convention.

With local and state delegates, the convention should have 1,500 voting members. Let's have as many delegates as we can.

Did You Know?

Did you know that we have at least thirteen women who have published books? Maybe we have missed some writers. If you know a woman who has a book published, submit her name. If she is not on the list, we'll be glad to include her.

The 1997 convention will give you a chance to meet these women and learn something about their books.

Join the WNAC members and delegates Tuesday, July 22, at 1:30 p.m. in the Convention Center. Diana Bryant and Barbara Chaffin are planning this special feature.

Officers Meet in Cincinnati

Monday afternoon, July 20, state and district officers are invited to attend the WNAC Leaders meeting at 3:00 p.m. Check the program for the place. Expect to receive some new ideas and hear how others enlist, start new groups, and plan better programs.

Every state convention and every district organization without a state convention should see that someone representing their group is at the meeting Monday afternoon.

It's Encouraging to Know. . .

From January to December 1996, WNAC had 56 requests from new or reorganizing women's groups. Some of these may not organize and join WNAC, but most of them will.

It's encouraging to know that we have new groups of women forming. The largest number of requests came from Georgia.

Thank the Lord for Free Will Baptist women. ❖

Women In Action



Ashland Women Promote Mexico Missions

The women of the Second Free Will Baptist Church in Ashland, KY had Mexican Night for their October 1996 meeting. They served Mexican Food and broke a piñata. The money they made was sent to FWB missionaries in Mexico.

Lap Quilts for Nursing Home Residents

The Women Active for Christ of O'Kean Free Will Baptist Church made 36 lap quilts for residents at Lawrence Hall Nursing Home in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. Pastor Jarvis Reed, his wife Sister Kelly, and members of the church conduct a visitation program at the Nursing Home.

On the first Tuesday night of each month, the patients who can go to the center take part in the service.

Mrs. Inez Getson, who is confined to home due to ill health, donated part of the material for the quilts and cut most of the pieces out. The women then met and completed the quilts. A volunteer wrapped them in Christmas paper and they were distributed to residents during the December service.

Agape Meal of Rice, Yams, Millet

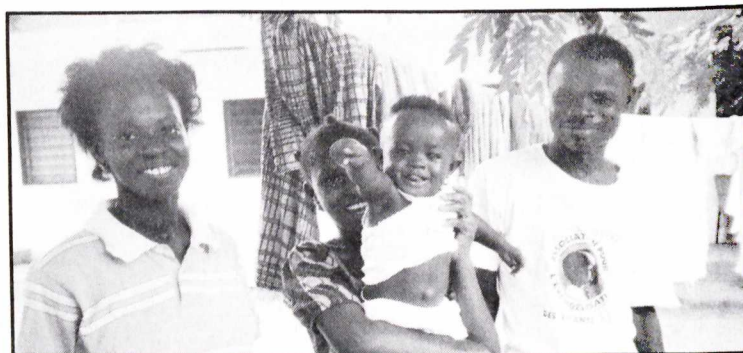
The women at the church in Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire are excited about their Saturday afternoon meetings. They recently had an "Agape" meal where each woman brought a dish of rice, yams, millet, or whatever they could, shared each other's food, and had a time of fellowship.



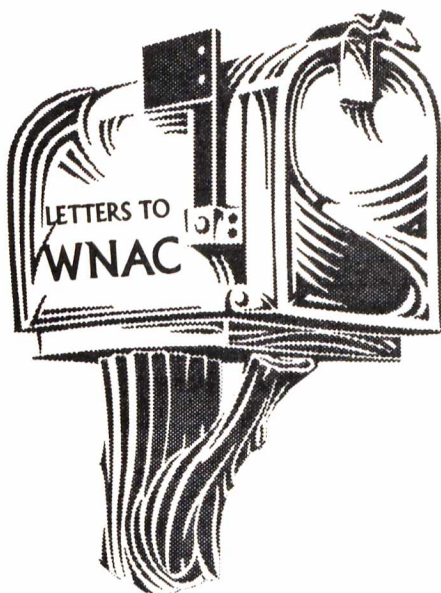
Bouna women eat and fellowship



Bouna WAC Officers: (left to right) Madame Martin (Vice-President), Madame Palé (Treasurer), Deleen Cousineau (Assistant Treasurer), Madame Paul (President), Lynette Morgan (Counselor), Madame Jean (Secretary)



Yao Kouassi Silas (right), Love (baby), François (left), babysitter (holding baby)



Foreign Student Scholarship Recipient Writes

I am happy to send you this letter to give you my news.

My wife, our eleven month old child and I are doing well by the grace of God. [See the photograph of the family on the previous page.] My studies are going well.

My prayer for you is the one Paul addressed to the Ephesians (1:15-22).

Thank you again for your help.

Yao Kouassi Silas, Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire

Note from Carol Pinkerton: Silas asked us to thank you [Mary R. Wischart] and all WNAC for your generous help. His school bill was raised quite a bit from last year without notice given. The scholarship from WNAC was received as from the Lord—with much praise and thankfulness.

Silas and his wife François both attend class Monday through Friday. (François audits the classes so she does not have to pay.) Silas says it is hard but good and he is learning a great deal. He requests your prayers that he will learn well so he can be all God desires of him and that he'll be able to teach others, too.

Andersons in Doropo

Some things never change in Africa. Once again, the dust-laden winds of dry season have blown into Doropo with full force, bringing with it more case of measles, meningitis, and pneumonia. Children are often the casualties of all the diseases. It was difficult last week to lose two young children to cerebral malaria. Their families did not bring them in during the crucial first twelve hours of illness, when medication might have helped.

Just as was true 25 years ago when I was growing up as an MK [missionary kid] here in Doropo, funeral rites still bring in horrible gunshot wounds, and men still beat up their wives with machetes after drinking too much homemade beer. Life apart from Christ is fraught with many extra physical dangers, as well as eventual spiritual death.

Some things do change in Africa, though. Electricity is coming to Doropo! The light poles are up, and the generators have been delivered. Any day could mark Doropo's grand entrance into the 20th century. Then again, it could take months or years to become reality.

The missionaries will be grateful for constant hot water, electric refrigerators, and fans that don't go off at 9:30 p.m. The clinic will be able to function at a more efficient level.

In January 1996, the Dr. Paschall family arrived in Doropo for their first term, while in the summer the Dr. Gentuso family ended their first term. The Dr. Eagleton family began their third term in the fall. In December, Miss Ginger Harrison, RN, was approved by the Foreign Missions Board for service at Doropo.

My husband, Verlin, who is a nurse, my three children, and I have almost completed a five week stay at Doropo, trying to discern if family health will enable us to return as missionaries. We are applying for full-time, career missionary service with Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions. With the Doropo team expanding so, much more can be done in community outreach and in training African workers.

Some things never change. Jesus Christ transforms lives no matter what the cultural surroundings. For many patients, the clinic is still their first exposure to a gospel witness. And, like the first days of the clinic in the early 1960s, the work here revolves around the prayers and generosity of faithful believers like you. All of the Doropo staff is deeply grateful for you help. Thank you.

Debbie Payne Anderson for the Doropo team, Côte d'Ivoire

Bivens Express Thanks

We appreciate the support that comes in each month from WNAC. We have no way of thanking each woman. Your support and faithful prayers keep us here.

Bud and Ruth Bivens, Missionaries to Reynosa, Mexico

Enjoys CoLaborer

Enclosed you will find my submission to the Creative Arts Contest. I enjoy reading the *CoLaborer*, and I appreciate your ministry through WNAC.

Sherry Nix, Cisne, IL

Appreciates National Office Staff

Keep up the good work. We appreciate all of the time and love spent in running our national office.

Janice Drake, Moore, OK ♦

Let's Hide the Word

Gloria Gaither and Shirley Dobson

Word Publishing, 1994, \$15.99

Reviewed by Suzanne Franks

Would you like to know where the pretzel came from and how it relates to prayer? Have you ever wondered how the children of Israel wore God's Word on their clothes? Do you need fun ideas for a party? Do you want to teach the Bible in your home? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you need to check out *Let's Hide the Word*.

As you might expect from a book carrying the Gaither name, it has about 10 songs scattered throughout the chapters. Two of the songs are designed to teach the 10 commandments. One of these songs is sung to the tune of "Do-Re-Mi" from *The Sound of Music*. "One, don't worship other gods. Two . . ." Music is a great way to memorize Scripture and learn Bible truths.

Maybe you can't carry a tune but you enjoy crafts. This book has craft ideas suitable for different ages that can be used to teach biblical truth. For example: Bible verse gift cards, "God's covering" quilt, 10 commandments paper chain.

Are you short on party ideas? How about a "God's Word is" party or a Bible Costume Race? If you're looking for some games to play together as a family, try playing Bible Scramble or Who-said-it Bingo.

Do you plan to pop popcorn tonight? Then, teach the object lesson using popcorn in Chapter Three. Yummy.

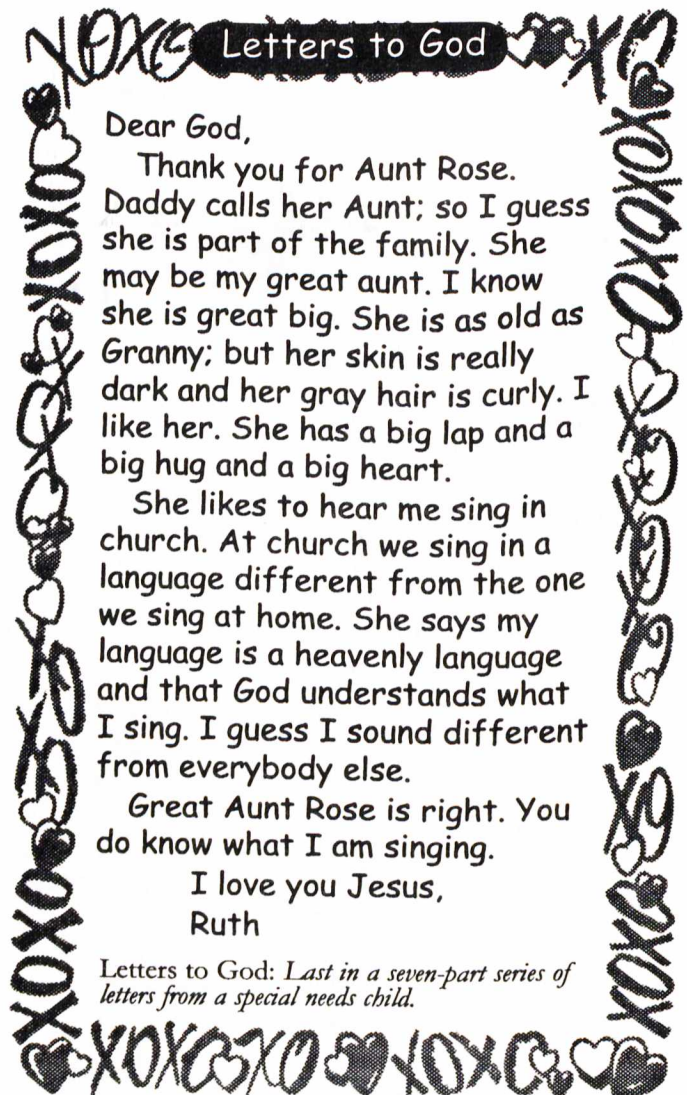
Throughout, the book has ideas for teaching God's word in everyday situations. There is a chapter dedicated to bedtime and another to waking up in the morning. Another chapter talks about traveling. Have you every thought about building a car survival kit—not just for emergencies

such as bad weather—but to help the family spend the hours in the car learning God's truth?

Every mother, grandmother, and Sunday school teacher could use this book. It's full of fun ideas designed to help parents build biblical principles into children's lives.

I recommend this book not only for its creative ideas and variety but also because the content is biblically sound. There may be some ideas in the book that would not work for you and your family, but most will enjoy and learn something worthwhile from doing the activities. ❖

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



Pre-Register by June 20 and Pick up Your Convention Packet on Saturday!

Early pick-up available at
Cincinnati Convention Center
for those who pre-register:

Saturday, July 19
3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 20
1:00 p.m.

Pre-Registration ends June 20, 1997

Meal Information

Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner \$20.00
Monday, July 21/ 4:45 - 6:30 p.m.
Hyatt Regency / Regency Ballroom D-E-F-G

Children's Banquet \$8.00
Monday, July 21 / 5:00 p.m.
Regal Hotel / Bronze Ballroom-A

Tweeners' Banquet \$8.00
Monday, July 21 / 5:00 p.m.
Regal Hotel / Bronze Ballroom-B

Hillsdale FWB College Lunch \$15.00
Tuesday, July 22 / 12:00 noon
Hyatt Regency / Regency Ballroom F-G

Youth Banquet \$18.00
Tuesday, July 22 / 9:00 p.m.
Convention Center / Ballroom A-B

Music Fellowship Breakfast \$12.00
Wednesday, July 23 / 7:00 a.m.
Regal Hotel / Colonnade Room

Youth Workers Reception \$7.50
Monday, July 21 / 9:00 p.m.
Regal Hotel / Colonnade Room

WNAC Fellowship Dinner \$15.00
Tuesday, July 22 / 5:00 p.m.
Hyatt Regency / Regency Ballroom

FWBBC Luncheon \$15.00
Wednesday, July 23 / 12:00 Noon
Hyatt Regency / Regency Ballroom A-B-C

Master's Men Dinner \$18.00
Wednesday, July 23 / 4:45 p.m. (\$20 at convention)
Regal Hotel / Bronze Ballroom-A

Only one person per form.
Make additional
copies if needed.

Pre-Registration Form

for
National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Cincinnati, Ohio / July 20 - 24, 1997

By completing the Pre-Registration Form, you will save **valuable** time at the convention. If you pre-register, proceed to a special registration area where you will receive a packet containing your pre-printed name tag, tickets and materials.

Please Print

Name: _____
First or Name Desired on Badge _____ Last _____ Phone #: (____) _____ - _____
City and State desired on badge: _____
Home Address: _____
Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Church: _____
Church Name _____ Church City _____ Church Zip _____
Pastor's Name: _____
Hotel (if known): _____

Mail completed form(s) and fees to:

Convention Registration
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

You may register for all three conventions on this form.

Must be postmarked on or before **June 20, 1997.**

I If you want to register for the *National Association*, complete Section I.

District Association: _____

Minister: ☐ Ordained ☐ Licensed ☐ Pastor

(I certify that I am a member in good standing with the above named church and association which belong to the National Association.)

MISSIONARY: ☐ Foreign (Country) _____
☐ Home (State) _____

DELEGATE: ☐ Ordained Deacon
☐ State
☐ Local Church (\$25.00)
☐ National Board Member
☐ National Officer

VISITOR: ☐ [Visitors can not vote]

Meal Tickets:	Quantity	
Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner	_____ x \$20.00	= \$ _____
Youth Workers Reception	_____ x \$7.50	= \$ _____
Music Fellowship Breakfast	_____ x \$12.00	= \$ _____
Hillsdale FWB College Lunch	_____ x \$15.00	= \$ _____
FWBBC Alumni Luncheon	_____ x \$15.00	= \$ _____
Master's Men Dinner (before conv.) (\$20 at convention)	_____ x \$18.00	= \$ _____

If Local Church Delegate $\longrightarrow$ **\$25.00** = \$ _____
Signed credentials card enclosed **Yes!** ☐

II If you want to register for *WNAC*, complete Section II.

(Check only one of the following:)

DELEGATE: ☐ Local (\$5.00)
☐ State
☐ State President or Field Worker
☐ National Officer

VISITOR: ☐ [Visitors can not vote]

Meal Tickets:	Quantity	
WNAC Fellowship Dinner	_____ x \$15.00	= \$ _____

If Local WNAC Delegate $\longrightarrow$ **\$5.00** = \$ _____
(with signed local delegate form)

III If you want to register for the *National Youth Conference*, complete all of Section III.

(ALL those in 1st grade through age 24 **must** register to attend NYC.)
(Ages 3-5 **must** register if attending Preschool Worship.)

Are you a youth worker? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, are you over 24? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grade completed Spring 1997: _____ Age: _____

Birthdate: _____ / _____ / _____

Parent's (or Guardian's) name: _____

Youth Leader's name: _____

Registration Fee
Pre-Registration Fee **\$18.00** = \$ _____
On-site registration fee is \$20.

Adults over 24 do not pay NYC fees. Competitors **also pay separate entry fees.**

You MUST register for NYC to purchase meal tickets/attend banquets (unless age 25 and up).

Meal Tickets:	Quantity	
Children's Banquet (grades 1-6)	_____ x \$8.00	= \$ _____
Tweeners' Banquet (grades)	_____ x \$8.00	= \$ _____
Youth Banquet (must be in grade 7 to age 24 or an accompanying youth worker)	_____ x \$18.00	= \$ _____

For Office Use Only

Rec _____ CK/MO # _____ AMT \$ _____
CK _____

Make ALL checks payable
to FWB Convention.
**No refunds mailed after
June 20, 1997.**

TOTAL \$ _____

Check/Money Order **MUST** accompany this form.
Enclose **ONE** check to pay all fees and tickets.

Life!Action.

a column for young people for everyday life

a great book!

Hey, read any good books lately? I did and I'm dying to tell you about it. *Keeping Your Cool While Sharing Your Faith* has fast-paced chapters that are easy to read and down to earth.

Two neat people wrote the book. Greg Johnson reminds me of a great youth leader I know. He edits *Breakaway*, a magazine for teen guys published by Focus on the Family.

You'll like Susie Shellenberger, the other writer. She edits *Brio*, a magazine for teen girls also published by (you guessed it) Focus on the Family.

Reading the book is like having a conversation with Greg and Susie. They seem to know the facts about life in middle school and high school. I think it's because they are around teens all the time.

This book will make you laugh but it covers a bunch of important stuff about sharing your faith. Greg and Susie use conversations and stories. They help you know what kinds of questions to ask and what to say in different situations.

They keep you on your toes. Between some chapters, there's a section called "Choose Your Own Break." It's a list of suggestions on how to take a break from reading. Example: Gargle peanut butter. All suggestions are not as outrageous as that one.

Susie and Greg tell you to skip the chapters that aren't for you. If you're not shy, skip the chapter "But I'm Too Shy!" But you won't want to skip the quiz "How Good a Friend Are You?" One of the main ideas in the book is that the best kind of friend you can be is one who helps others get to know God. ❖

If you want to get your eyes on this book, call Randall Bookstore (1-800-877-7030) or check with your local Christian bookstore.

***Keeping Your Cool While Sharing Your Faith*, by Greg Johnson and Susie Shellenberger, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois, \$9.99.**

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 ❖



MEET katie anderson

age 18

hometown Nashville, Tennessee

senior at Martin Luther King Magnet School

freshman at Free Will Baptist Bible College (*both at once!*)

favorite food Chinese and Mexican

What did you do last summer? I was on the YET Team.

Why? I got 2nd place for a duet at National Youth Conference.

What was it like? For 4 days we rehearsed our music over and over from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. Tour lasted 1 ½ weeks. We got to know each other quite well traveling in a 15 passenger van with 14 people.

Share something you learned while you were on the YET Team. I learned the importance of working together. It is a blessing to work side-by-side with other Christians, to pray, and hear each other pray. We can accomplish so much together.

How did this experience affect your life? My prayer life changed. We spent a lot of time praying together and alone. We learned a lot about each other and we remembered a lot of the prayer requests we shared with each other. We stay in touch with each other.

What are your future plans? God called me to missionary work. Right now, I'm going to school to prepare.

The National Youth Evangelistic Team

What is it? Each summer, during the National Youth Conference, the National Youth Evangelistic Team, or YET Team, is announced. Six boys and six girls are selected from winners and top scorers in the annual Music and Arts Festival of the National Youth Conference. This program is a way of giving special recognition to the top scorers and to encourage ministry through talents rather than just competition.



A woman God has used

by Delois Loveless

Joan Sizemore was one of the first women I met when I moved to Ohio more than twenty years ago. She was friendly and had a beautiful smile. Joan was a busy lady caring for her young family, working in her church and at a full-time job, and holding countless WNAC offices.

Wherever she was needed, Joan served with a willing heart. She held many different offices on the local, district and state level in Ohio, including state president.

Her home was open to all visiting missionaries and preachers. She possessed the gift of hospitality and taught her children that it was a blessing to help others.

Joan and her husband Tom have three beautiful daughters, Tenie, Debbie and Elisabeth.

Tenie and Elisabeth both attended Free Will Baptist Bible College. Tenie married Reverend Norman Heath, who pastors Valley View Free Will Baptist Church in Loudon, Tennessee. They have one son, Andrew, who was his grandmother's pride and joy.

Their special daughter Debbie has Down's Syndrome. She is active in Special Olympics

and other community programs where she has won many awards.

Elisabeth, a graduate of Cedarville Bible College, has a beautiful voice and her mother's lovely smile.

In 1982, Joan was diagnosed with cancer. She never complained about her condition. At times she might ask "why?" then answer her own question with, "Better me than someone who doesn't know the Lord." Throughout her illness, Joan continued to serve the Lord through WNAC.

She always had a smile and a word of encouragement for others. When my husband and I left Ohio, Joan came by our office to say good-bye. She told us her cancer was back and she wasn't doing well.

She wished us God's blessings and hugged us with tears in her eyes. "I'll see you in heaven," she said.

In May 1996 Joan's suffering ended and her joy began with the Heavenly Father she loved.

Her family misses her. I miss her as a dear friend. I am looking forward to a reunion with this wonderful woman God has used.

Delois Loveless lives in Antioch, Tennessee and is a member of Woodbine FWB Church.



BIBLE STUDY

BY BARBARA S. CHAFFIN

EXPANDING ON 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

Expanding knowledge can be illustrated with a balloon. It starts out small and empty and expands as air (or knowledge) is put into it. We are all at different levels of knowledge in our education and experience, but each of us has a need to expand our knowledge in some areas of our lives.

Timothy, who was taught by his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice, expands on the word "study" in 2 Timothy 2:15. We are instructed to read the Bible. In reading the Word we will know what God's will is and will have God's approval on our lives. We can only have God's approval as we study and enlarge our knowledge of His truth in us.

1. Stretch the Balloon (Psalms 25:4)

"Study . . ." Start out by reading a verse, then a chapter, then a book of the Bible. Get an overview of what God's Word is saying. Take it into your mind, then your heart. What's it saying to you or about you? Let the Bible make changes in your thinking.

2. Put air in the Balloon (2 Corinthians 6:1-10)

" . . . to show yourself approved unto God. . . " You'll find it when your motives are to please Him and not yourself. God's word can point you to the exact spot where you need His touch. You'll start losing air if your balloon has even a tiny pinhole. The leak could develop because of pride or some other sin that no one else sees, but God does.

3. Committed to Expansion (James 2:14-18)

" . . . a workman [for God] . . . " We need to be committed to using the air God gives us. Women have the opportunity to show God's love to their family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, business associates, etc. There's no limit to the opportunities you have to expand the knowledge of Christ in your world. It doesn't take much effort to bake a cake, send a card, speak a kind word, or smile in a world where these are so lacking. Workers are

needed in our churches. Does your life have room for expansion in these areas?

4. Deflated or Inflated (Psalms 25:2-3)

" . . . that need not be ashamed. . . " Are you ashamed? Have you deflated for lack of interest in spiritual things? Take a deep breath, get up, and start fresh in God's service through your local church. Sunday school can come alive if you participate and study ahead of time. You will increase your knowledge by taking in some new material through your local WNAC group. Your new knowledge can be useful for ministry to others.

5. Increase Your Dimensions (Colossians 4:4-6)

" . . . rightly dividing the word of truth. " We are instructed to use the Word of Truth properly as a tool to expand God's Kingdom.

Whether we use our mouth, a hand pump, or a helium tank to blow up a balloon, all three will get the job done. But to reach the world, we need to use all the tools God provides.

Expand knowledge of Jesus Christ beyond yourselves and be inclusive in your lifestyles. We need to reach people from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Balloons are most beautiful when they are full and tied to a string. Christians are most beautiful when they are full of the Holy Spirit and controlled by God's will in their lives. ♦

Ask Yourself

1. What can I do to increase my knowledge?
2. Does God give His approval of my daily activities?
3. How can I serve God in my community?
4. What do I need to ask God to help me work on so I will not be ashamed of my testimony?
5. When can I discuss God's plan for humanity with my friends? In my conversation with friends or coworkers this week, did I take advantage of opportunities to share what God is doing in my life?

For Group Bible Study

If you are giving this study to a group of women, give each person a balloon before you start. At the end of the first section, have everyone stretch their balloon. Then ask every woman to blow some air into her balloon at the end of each section. In section 4, everyone should let a small amount of air leak out and then resume blowing. At the end of the study, everyone's balloon should be big and beautiful.

Barbara Chaffin lives in Orient, Ohio and is a member of Heritage Temple FWB Church. She is a Member at Large of WNAC's Executive Committee.

Flowers of Hope

by Laura L. Herrmann



**"Whatever happens
to you in life,
never lose your
faith in God or your
tender heart,"**

Grandma told me before I headed back to San Francisco from her Nebraska home. I now realize she had eyes of faith that clearly saw God's purpose in life. She trusted God's sovereignty in her life—rain or shine. But I was 21 then, confident life

would go as I'd planned, unaware her words would change me forever.

Throughout the surprises and struggles of living—accepting my daughter's learning disability, adjusting to back injury, working in spite of carpal tunnel syndrome in my right wrist—I drew strength remembering my grandmother. Recalling her words helped me survive the biggest crisis in my life: my husband walking away from our 22-year marriage.

Devastated. I became just another overwhelmed single working mom raising my daughter alone.

"Whatever . . . never lose your tender heart" pointed me toward forgiveness instead of bitterness.

Eventually I moved past the searing rejection into healing acceptance.

"Whatever . . . never lose your faith in God." Was I angry with God about the divorce? Yes. I questioned the purpose veiled behind my pain. Turning to the Lord during my evening devotions, I needed to believe God had plans for me. I prayed for those eyes of faith to see "a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

I often picture Grandma kneeling on the rough concrete walkway outside her room at a nursing home two years before she died. Scooping damp earth from the flower bed into a soup bowl, she told my 10-year-old, "This chrysanthemum you two brought me needs repotting." Her fingers, stained by the dirt, lovingly patted and pressed the soil around the plant. "You know, don't you? I'm ready to go home to Jesus," she said. "But the Lord must have one more thing left for me to do, because I'm still here." She chuckled.

Yesterday as I tucked flowers into a wicker basket for a friend depressed over her third miscarriage, I snipped off sprigs of feverfew grown from seed plucked from my grandmother's garden. Influenced by her example, I knew what I needed to say to my friend:

Dear Kathy,

The flowers in this little basket are from my patio garden. They come to brighten a corner in your home and heart today.

In a few days, they will drop their petals and you'll throw them out. But meanwhile, you'll savor their color and admire their beauty. They speak a lot about life . . .

. . . about how short it is, but how we all have a purpose, even when we're picked and plucked—or even pickled.

. . . about how varied life is: light and dark, sweet and sour, joy and sorrow, beginnings and endings, black and white, and the murky gray in between that we don't understand.

. . . about God the Creator, who intimately knows us, our frame when we were "knit

together" in our mother's womb, and our days "before one of them came to be" (Psalms 139), our thoughts before we speak them.

When the times comes to toss out the wilted flowers, remember they didn't live in vain or without purpose and neither do you.

Embrace sorrow; then let it go. On the other side is joy.

Embrace the darkness; then toss it out. On the other side is light. Just as the sun goes down each evening, it also comes back up in the morning. You may not always see it, however, through the clouds.

Embrace your husband, Jim. He loves you.

Embrace yourself. God made you so special. You're one terrific lady!

Embrace life despite the rainstorms. They provide water so the flowers grow!

Love from your friend.

P.S. Always remember: Never lose your faith in God or your tender heart!



Launa L. Herrmann is a freelance writer who lives in Dublin, CA.

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MISSION ALERT: Evangelism News from Around the World

Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

After mailing fliers, advertising in the local newspaper and local cable classified TV, lots of visitation, and tons of paperwork, the Fredericton home mission work held their first regular Sunday morning worship service. This historic event occurred on February 16, and 18 people came. Praise God for new beginnings and new life in Christ! A fifteen-year-old girl made a decision to follow Christ on February 23—only their second Sunday service.

Weslaco, Texas/Reynosa, Mexico

James and Mitzi Munsey report that in 1996 four new missions were started in the Reynosa and Tampico areas. The Munseys rejoice over Rachel, their six-year-old daughter, who asked the Lord to save her. Rachel's doctors say she will need a kidney transplant by the end of this year. Pray for the Munsey family as they face the challenge of missions work and family responsibilities in 1997.

Reynosa, Mexico

Bid and Ruth Bivens rejoice over good health and opportunities to share the good news in the Rio Grande Valley. In addition to their job of promoting the Seminary of the Cross in Reynosa, the Bivens are working with a new mission along the canal road at the entrance to the Seminary. Seminary student Fermin Sanchez serves as pastor for the work. One man has donated land for the church! This is one of the four new missions mentioned above.

Rapid City, South Dakota

Tim and Kathy Coats report that their Christmas program was held at the rescue mission where a lot of lost people were held captive by the weather.

Majadahonda (Madrid) Spain

After arriving in Spain following their stateside assignment, Jeff and Susan Turnbough moved to a new city located on the Northwest side of Madrid (about 15 minutes from downtown Madrid). Though several groups have attempted to establish works in this fast growing city of 40,000, currently there are no evangelical churches in Majadahonda. The population is expected to double in the next fifteen years.

Three adult converts who came to the Lord under the Turnbough's ministry on their last term live in this area and are excited about the new work. Their names are Alejandro (or Alex), Marisol, and Yolanda.

The Turnboughs request prayer for Sam and June McVay as they finish raising their support and prepare to join them in Spain.

Bouake, Côte d'Ivoire

Never a dull moment is how Kim Zegelian describes life at the International Christian Academy. In her first trimester she taught seven physical education classes and one Biology class. She also assists in the intramural program and works as dorm assistant in one of the high school girls' dorms.

St. Sebastian, France

Cathy Crawford is rejoicing over the salvation of Andree. She called the church last September inquiring about baptism. In talking to her, Cathy learned that Andree didn't know the Lord and had had no religious instruction of any kind. So, they began meeting to study the Gospel of John. Through the study, Andree came to a saving knowledge of Christ and asked Him to come into her life. Pray for Andree's spiritual growth and that her husband will want to know about Christ. ♦



WORDS FOR WOMEN

Do you like cemeteries? I like to go in the old ones with the varied and large stones. I enjoy reading the inscriptions and trying to imagine what this person was like in life. Some messages are so interesting that I record them.

One special epitaph I discovered in a Methodist churchyard on Oracoke Island off the coast of North Carolina. The stone records her name, Elnora O'Neal Ballance. She was born April 14, 1882 and died July 11, 1969. Nothing unusual about that. Most stones will have names and dates on them. What struck me was the verse inscribed on her stone.

**She was as good as goodness is,
Her acts and all her words were kind,
And high above all memories
I hold the beauty of her mind.**

What a tribute, I thought. All her acts, all her words, kind? Surely she didn't live and work in the same environment I do!

Anyway, it's already too late for me. I can't go back and make those two phrases true.

What does it take to have a beautiful mind? Would that be the best memory to leave? I'm not sure.

What would you choose to go on your stone? Maybe you have already written an epitaph. But even more important is what will those who know you best remember about you.

If you could choose their memories, what would you choose? A clean house? Delightful

meals? Stunning style? Slender figure? Honest now, what are you concentrating on day by day?

Right now you are making those memories. In a sense you are choosing what those who know you best will remember. Even unaware, we are creating those traditions, habits, traits that will follow us and live in memories after we have gone to the grave.

Paul wrote to Timothy, "Be an example of the believers, in word, in spirit, in faith, in purity." He was speaking to Timothy as a youth and he wrote, "Let no man despise your youth."

But we must also say, "Let no man despise your middle age. And let no man despise your old age." An example of the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I remember reading a comment on one of the New England preachers, "He is the most Christ like man I have ever known." Now, if I could choose, I'd like to be remembered like that.

Then I'd better get at it, right?

All the way through life we are writing the memories, carved not on stones, but on the hearts and minds of those nearest and dearest to us.

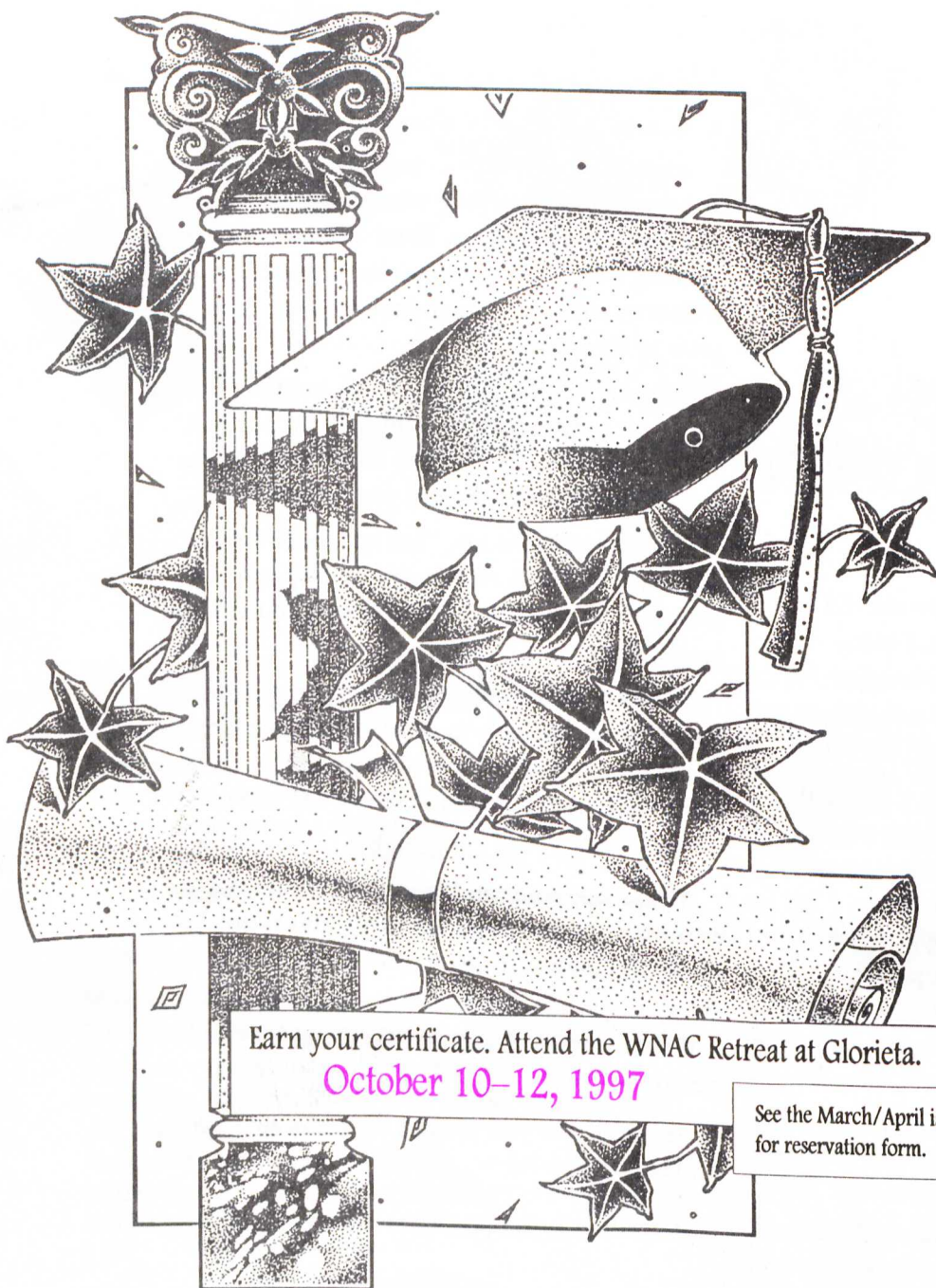
What will your dearest hold "above all memories"? ❖



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