

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

CoLaborer

The Gift from God's Heart

10

**Tribute to
Mrs. Eunice Edwards**

13

Nov • Dec 1997

VISION

Suzanne Franks

Designer style



A few years ago when I was attending a training course for a new job, I met an English teacher who was also an interior designer. When he found out my parents were building a home, he asked to meet them. He wanted to see the house in construction. So we arranged a meeting at the construction site.

Right away Mom explained, "We don't plan to buy much furniture. We'll use what we have." He asked Mom what style of furniture she had. She replied, "Early Missionary Style." With a puzzled look he confessed, "I studied interior design for four years and I've never heard of that style." Mom couldn't hide her amusement as she explained that her home was furnished with a mixture of used furniture she bought from missionaries leaving the field and other odds and ends she collected over the years.

My parents' home may not make it into a design magazine, not even *Early Missionary Living*. Yet when I think of home, I think of beauty, comfort, hospitality, and yes, even style. Mom's home has a style of its own.

I feel a mixture of tension and laughter as I remember evenings when we all gathered around the dining room table for supper. At times it was more like a boat than a table. One of us kids would lean against the tabletop until it threatened to spill its contents. Dad warned over and over, "Don't rock the boat." I remember he tried several times to fix that rocking. It still rocks, but at least we learned some manners.

To us, home said, "Welcome, come and rest, you are loved."

Just as a woman dreams of a picture-perfect home, we wish our lives had more of a fairy tale quality instead of that lived-in look. Yet like Mom's home, we must work with what God provides. Our lives may look like a cluttered conglomeration of hard knocks and blessings collected over the years. Take comfort that God is our Designer. When we see chaos, He sees the pattern clearly.

We strive for perfection, but sometimes our view of perfection is quite different from God's. Are you letting Him make you beautiful? He can grant you beauty in the way you open your heart to others. Your style may say, "I'm a dependable friend. When you visit me, you will feel at home and loved."

Flawless perfection may not mean a perfectly matched color scheme, but perfectly matched moods. Maybe God has endowed you with the gift of faith or a spirit that radiates tranquillity in the middle of a crisis. Enthusiasm may be your gift. Are you the cheerleader type? Maybe your most valuable quality is your ability to listen.

The gifts God has given you result in a style uniquely yours. God uses both strength and weakness, joy and suffering. If you will let Him, He will be Master Designer in your life. ❖

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**MISSIONARY
MITZI MUNSEY
TELLS THE STORY
OF THREE
MEXICAN
FREE WILL BAPTIST
WOMEN**

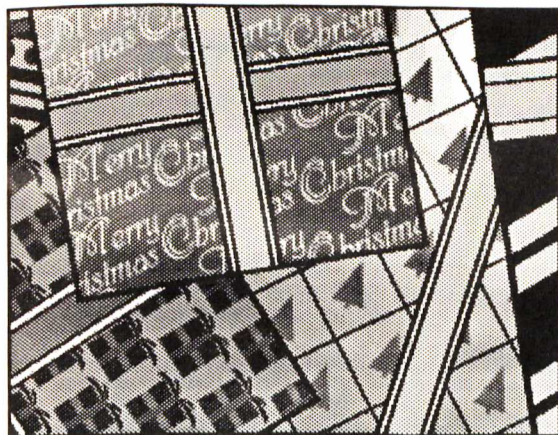
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**GOD'S GIFTS
NEVER
LOSE THEIR RICHNESS
OR THEIR GLORY.**

27

**JULY 1997,
DOWNTOWN
CINCINNATI
EXPANDED TO FIT
THOUSANDS
OF FREE WILL
BAPTIST MEN,
WOMEN
AND CHILDREN.**

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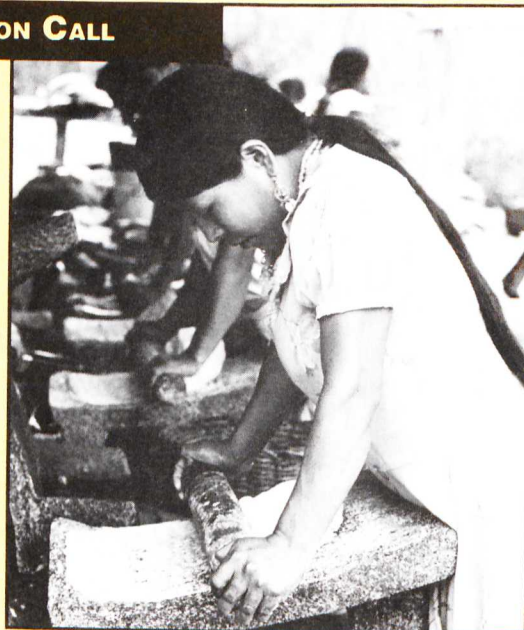
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WONDERFUL DIVERSITY

BY MITZI MUNSEY



Free Will Baptist women in Tecacahuaca grinding corn on metates. They were preparing a meal for volunteers from the US who helped build the church in Tecacahuaca.

Free Will Baptist Women in Mexico

The Bible celebrates the uniqueness of each person. Second Timothy 2:20 says, "In a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth." Free Will Baptist women in Mexico are as diverse as the terrain of the country. Our churches span the entire length of Mexico from the northern state of Tamaulipas on the U.S. border to the southern states of Puebla and Guerrero.

During the summer months, there is usually a Free Will Baptist youth group visiting in one of the eight churches in the border town of Reynosa. The land is flat and the summers are hot, but the warm welcome that is always extended in the churches makes Reynosa a popular place for people to visit. Many of the people who live there speak English or are learning.

Elvira Gonzalez is a pastor's wife in Reynosa. She was born in Torreon, Coahuila, where she accepted the Lord as her Savior at age 12. Later, her family moved to Tampico, Tamaulipas, and they began attending the Free Will Baptist church. One day a young men's quartet from the Free Will Baptist Institute of Gold, located in Monterrey, visited the church. The young man who sang bass in the quartet, Hilarino Gonzalez, eventually became Elvira's husband.

After pastoring in Monterrey, Hilarino moved his family, consisting of Elvira, and four children, to Reynosa and founded the Betel Free Will Baptist Church. That church is now 10 years old.

Elvira is famous for her cooking. She is the one to ask how much food to buy when you need to feed 500 people. It is possible that anyone who has eaten her tortillas will awaken several mornings a month for years afterward with a tremendous craving for more of Elvira's tortillas.

For four years, Elvira had a taco stand in Reynosa. Every day she left home before dawn to begin cooking the tacos for workers passing her stand. In late afternoon, she would close the stand and return home to care for her family and fulfill her duties as a pastor's wife.

In 1994, the church proposed an incredible idea. Why not seek revival by having services every evening of the week? If there was no regular weekly service, they would meet in homes and invite neighbors to come. The idea was a great success and the prayer meetings have continued for three years.

Except for illness, Elvira was always faithful to the evening services. But, the load was heavy and she decided to permanently close the taco stand.

When the seminary was moved to Reynosa, Elvira was the one we knew had to be our cook. To our great joy, she accepted the job. Now, Elvira gets up every morning and goes to the seminary at 9 AM to begin planning the meals. She cooks for students, workers and

any special visitors during the school year, and for the constant stream of youth groups in the summer months. She also supervises the work details for female students at the seminary. The students love her. She is their friend, advisor, and substitute mother.

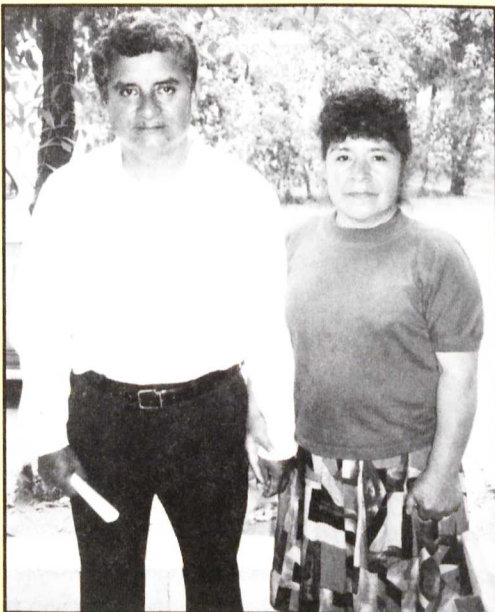
Elvira feels that she is in the environment where she belongs. When she was a teenager, she pleaded with her parents to give her permission to study at the Bible Institute. They never agreed. Now, she feels that she is fulfilling a dream.

During the 1997 meeting of the National Society of Ladies Auxiliaries, Elvira was elected President. She is looking forward to her new responsibilities.

The Free Will Baptist churches in Mexico City are located in the largest city in the world with a population that exceeds 30 million. The historical and cultural aspects of the area make it one of the most fascinating places I have ever visited. Mexico City itself is the Federal District, which includes the government offices. It is very modern and beautiful. Most of the Valley of Mexico, however, is composed of the *barrios* (suburbs) around the Federal District. It is there that the poverty caused by rapid growth is most evident.

Mexico City is located in an enormous valley surrounded by many snow-covered, volcanic mountains. One in particular, Popocatepetl, known as "El Popo" to the residents, is becoming active again after 600 years of silence. There is a genuine fear about the future. Air pollution is a constant problem causing prevalent respiratory illnesses. This is a city where rush hour traffic seems to last all day. Poor air circulation because of the mountains only aggravates the pollution problem.

***José and
Rebecca
Rendon at
the 1997
Mexican
National
Convention***



The shifting terrain makes Mexico City very prone to earthquakes. In September 1985, a powerful earthquake struck Mexico City, killing thousands of people. Our Free Will Baptist churches and people survived the quake, but the church buildings suffered some damage.

Rebecca Rendon is a Free Will Baptist pastor's wife in Mexico City, in the barrio of Ciudad Nezahualcoyotl, a scant 30 miles from "El Popo." She is a gentle lady with a sweet voice that stands in contrast to all the harshness around her. Rebecca was born in Mexico City and has lived there all her life. Her husband, José, was raised by a Christian mother, but, Rebecca's parents were not Christians. When they became engaged, he insisted that she must hear the gospel in an evangelical church, so, he took her to a Pentecostal church. That evening, the very first time she heard the true story of Jesus, she received the Lord as her Savior.

After their marriage, José and Rebecca began attending the Free Will Baptist church in Mexico City. Soon, José realized Rebecca was growing in the Lord while he was not. He admitted that he had never truly been saved. With Rebecca's guidance, he surrendered his life completely to Jesus. Two years later, José accepted the leadership of that same Free Will Baptist church. This year they celebrate 17 years of service at Christ the Only Hope FWB Church in Mexico City.

José and Rebecca have shown a true burden for the lost. They have been instrumental in starting three missions in Mexico City that grew to become Free Will Baptist churches. Presently, they have weekly prayer services in three different homes, expecting to have new churches come from these services also. The Rendon family has accomplished all this work without a vehicle. They have always used public transportation: taxis, buses, and the metro subway.

Rebecca is involved with the women's ministry in all the Mexico City churches. She also served two years as president of the National Ladies Society.

Rebecca awakens every day at 7 AM, says a prayer for the day ahead, then begins the washing, cleaning, and preparing the meals for the day. Rebecca emphasizes that she likes to get chores done early in the day, so she can be free to attend the church activities with her husband. There is something every evening, either in their church or in the home prayer meetings.

Getting chores done is not easy for Rebecca. She washes on a scrub board, runs the clothes through a wringer, and hangs them to dry. The Rendons, like most Mexicans, buy little processed food. It is very expensive and impractical, so, most food is made from scratch.

Rice and beans are the staples. But, Rebecca supplements their meals with chicken and beef, when they can, vegetables, and lots of fresh fruit. They also eat hearty soups, topped with avocados or cheeses.

In the beautiful mountains of the state of Hidalgo, we have two Free Will Baptist churches and two missions among the Huasteca Indians known as the Nahuatl. They speak the language, Nahuatl, one of the 50 Indian languages spoken in Mexico.

These churches are located in isolated areas, not easily accessible by vehicles. Two young pastors, Orlando Bautista Aldana, and Florentino Bautista Hernandez, labor in these works. Both are fluent in the Nahuatl and Spanish languages. Neither is married.

In Tecacahuaco, where Orlando pastors, the homes are simple two room structures of wood or adobe, with dirt floors, thatch roofs, and a loft where corn and beans are stored. Cooking is done in one of the rooms on an earthen hearth. Three large stones are placed on the hearth and the fire is built in the middle. The women place clay pots filled with beans on the stones to cook. They also use a *comal*, which is a flat pottery surface used to cook the tortillas. The smoke from the fire rises up into the loft and prevents insects from getting into the stored food.

Tortillas are made from scratch. The Tecacahuaco women soak the kernels of corn in lime water overnight. Early in the morning they carry the corn in baskets down to the river. There, they wash the corn and rub it repeatedly to remove the husks.

Returning home, they will grind hand fulls of the soft kernels on a stone *metate* which consists of a stone hand-carved base and a stone rolling pin.

The corn dough that results will be used to make the thick tortillas they eat everyday. All through the village, one hears the familiar pat-pat of women making their own tortillas by hand. The soft murmur of their conversation and their gentle laughter are the reassuring hallmarks of social life.

In Tecacahuaco, the harsh conditions the women face truly makes life a daily struggle. Women leave out early with their machetes to cut firewood in the surrounding woodlands. Once sufficient wood has been cut, they return home carrying the huge bundles of firewood in a sling on their backs, their heads tilted low to counteract the pressure of the strap slung across their foreheads supporting their burden.

In spite of their austere existence, our Free will Baptist women in Tecacahuaco, eagerly attend the worship services. The church services are conducted

mainly in the Nahuatl language, although many Spanish words are incorporated in the language. They use the Spanish Bible and the Nahuatl New Testament which has existed since the mid 1980's. Everyone walks to the church. When they enter, the women will sit on one side of the building and the men on the other side.

Orlando's mother, Maria Teresa, is not yet 40 years old. Yet, her face is heavily lined from years of hard work. She understands spoken Spanish, but she will answer in Nahuatl. Her life is difficult and primitive by our standards, but full of joy because she knows Jesus. She has served Him faithfully for 13 years.

Maria only has one son, yet she was pleased when he left home to study three years in the Free Will Baptist Seminary of the Cross. She welcomed him back when he returned to pastor her church. Her greatest joy is taking care of Orlando so he is able to expand the witness of the gospel.

Free Will Baptist women in Mexico are all vessels in a great house, gold, silver, wood and earth, loving God and serving Him in their own way. ❖

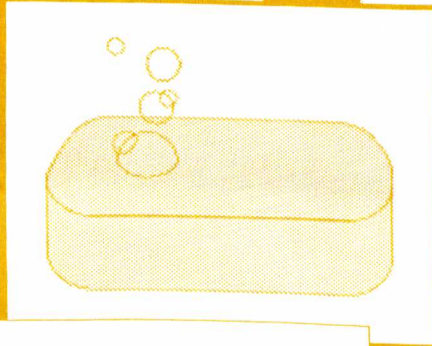
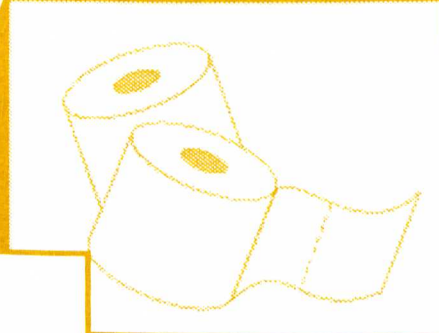
Since 1980, Mitzi Munsey and James, her husband, have served as home missionaries in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. In addition to their work with the Seminary of the Cross, they have helped build Free Will Baptist churches in Mexico since 1983.



The National Society of Ladies Auxiliaries in Mexico elected new officers at their 37th annual meeting in August 1997. Pictured (left to right): Edelmira Zuniga (Treasurer), Luz Zuniga (Assistant to the Treasurer), Elvira Gonzalez (President), Berta de la Rosa (Assistant to the President), Elena Escobar (Assistant to the Secretary), Fabiola Hernandez (Secretary)

Learning an Attitude of Gratitude

by Ruth Bivens



Hymn: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:15

Learning an attitude of Gratitude, what a strange title! Isn't "thank you" about the third thing we teach our children to say—right behind "Dada" and Mama"? Yet we see ingratitude all around us, from the wealthiest citizens right down to the most humble—including members of our own families.

Paul warns us in 2 Timothy 3:1–3 that in the last days perilous times shall come. "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful,

unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." Is ingratitude the underlying problem here? Would simple gratitude head off most of these problems?

In a large survey of men's opinions, taken about ten years ago, the thing listed by the majority of respondents as most likely to turn them away from a relationship was "an attitude of ingratitude." Is ingratitude a problem at my house, or in my own heart?

Topic 1

Learning to give thanks for simple things

(Draw the first number for a door prize.) On a hot summer day, does anything taste as good as a cool glass of water?

When one begins to plan a trip to Mexico the first advice they receive is "Don't drink the water." When we made our first trip to Mexico in 1966, we were careful to drink only hot coffee or cola from the bottle, without ice. Even with that extreme caution, all four of us took a turn suffering with Montezuma's Revenge. Conditions are improving but as we travel into the interior today we still check out the source before we have a cool glass of water.

Our brothers and sisters in Mexico buy drinking water if they have any money at all. The *Gringos* are not the only ones who get sick.

Have you ever been thirsty? Have you considered the blessing of safe drinking water?

Exercise: Speaker should share personal experience of some time when she suffered great thirst. Have one person stand and offer a sentence prayer of thanksgiving for our safe drinking water.

Topic 2

Learning to give thanks for conveniences

(Draw the number for the second door prize.) After a long, hot day working in a mission clinic in rural Honduras, my skin cried for a good bath. The pastor was proud to show us the shower they had built for us at the end of the school building. It was a small roofless structure about the size of an outdoor toilet. Daylight shone through cracks between the boards of the walls. The bottom edge of the wall missed the ground by about 12 inches. A shower head hanging over one wall promised a cool bath. We women were given the evening shift since the darkness would provide more privacy.

I stood in line and, by the time I reached the door, the ground inside the stall was a mud puddle. Someone had placed two bricks in the mud to get their feet up out of the worst. I latched the rickety

door behind me and balancing on the bricks, took off my clothes and threw them over the top of the wall. I turned on the shower and waited. Five drops of water came out. Nothing more. The pastor had failed to tell us that we had only one hour of water in the evening and one hour in the morning. One hour was up.

Doing a balancing act on the bricks, as they slipped and turned in the mud, I managed to dress again without falling or dropping anything. I borrowed a bucket from the cook, dipped up a bucket of water out of the horse trough, and went back to the school room where my foam mattress lay on the floor. I sat down on the edge of my bed and in the darkness took a sponge bath. It felt wonderful.

Have you struggled with inconveniences? Have you realized how many conveniences we actually take for granted?

Exercise: Speaker should share some event when she encountered personal inconvenience. Choose one person to stand and offer a sentence prayer of thanksgiving for one convenience she enjoys in her home.

Topic 3

Learning gratitude for specific necessities

(Draw another number for a door prize.) Throughout Mexico the plumbing is bad. One of the indelicate topics we are forced to discuss with visitors to our field is the fact that one **never** flushes toilet paper. No matter how elegant the home, there is a waste basket or cardboard box beside the commode for soiled toilet paper.

In public rest rooms, there may only be a pile of trash in the floor. This is appalling to most of our visitors, but flushing the toilet paper would stop up the plumbing and create worse problems.

Even in the large Mexican cities, many of our Free Will Baptist people live in areas where they do not have indoor plumbing. We have become accustomed to this style of life. Frequently, public facilities have no paper. I always travel with a roll of toilet paper in the car and a small pack of tissue in my pocket for emergencies.

What are your minimum necessities? Have you ever had to do without what you considered to be necessary?

Exercise: Speaker should share an event in her life when some necessary item was not available. Choose one person to stand and offer a sentence prayer of thanksgiving for one specific necessary item in her home that she appreciates.

Topic 4

Learning gratitude in abundance

(Draw a number for the last door prize.) Most of the homes in Mexico that have running water are constructed with a cement rub board attached to the wall outside the back door.

Hand laundry is not some elegant thing that one does to care for her delicates. It is a daily chore required for everything that the family wears.

A wringer-type washing machine is a luxury only a few can afford. An automatic washing machine is wonderful! A pastor in Reynosa was given an automatic clothes dryer for his wife and he decided they did not need it! After all, the sun shines nearly every day. He had bought her a washing machine when electricity reached their addition in 1994. They already had more than others have.

Do you have more than you need? Have you found the Lord of plenty? Has he provided you with luxuries that you now consider necessities? Or have our luxuries and abundance made us arrogant and indifferent to the needs of others?

Our greatest need is for the abundant pardon of our Lord and Savior. "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:17).

Exercise: Speaker should share some personal experience of doing without some luxury. Choose someone to stand and offer a sentence prayer of thanksgiving for some luxury in her home.

Conclusion

Appreciating the Body of Christ

Of all that God has given us, the most important and probably least appreciated are those around us who touch our lives every day. An expression of gratitude and appreciation is the most encouraging thing one can receive.

There is an old joke: "How do you get rid of a pastor you don't like? Pat

him on the back and tell him what a fine job he is doing and he will work himself to death." No one hears "I appreciate you" enough. Learn an attitude of gratitude, to the Lord for all that He has done and for those around us who bless us every day.

Ruth Bivens and Bud, her husband, are missionaries on the Mexico boarder. Before going under the Home Mission Board, they worked in several Latin American countries with the Peace Corps.

Our greatest
need is for the
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pardon
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and Savior.

The Gift from God's Heart

by Diane
Mitchell Thomas

Scripture: James 1:17
Purpose: To be reminded of the gift
of God's Word
Song: *Thy Word Will I
Hide in My
Heart*

Introduction—Ecclesiastes 3:14

It's so nice to receive gifts that last well beyond the occasion, such as a magazine subscription, a book, a rose bush or a garden bench. It allows us to remember the giver, the event and the joy of the gift itself.

So it is with the gifts of God, His love, His Son, His Word and our salvation. As long as we stay focused on His gifts, they never lose their richness, their glory and our thankfulness.

As the year closes and we put away our emphasis on study, let us set aside this time in the holiday

season to focus on our God and the wonderful gift of His Word. It is from His very heart.

Opening the gift of His Word— Colossians 3:16

The Bible must seem just a book of no-no's, do-not's and thou-shalt-not's to some. It must seem to be just a book of negative connotations to those who cannot embrace it. But a heart that God has changed can read it with breath-taking anticipation and receive it with wondrous revelation.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance lists hundreds of locations to find how God blesses, how we are blessed, and what His blessings are to us. The Bible is a book of instructions for our benefit and protection. It is a book of wisdom to guide us to see His very best for our lives.

It is truly a never ending gift. His Word is brand new every day (Lamentations 3:21–23). It is a gift of unmatched quality. 2 Samuel 22:31 says, “As for God, his way is perfect; the Word of the Lord is tried: He is a buckler to all them that trust in Him.” God’s Word is a gift that can be relied on with our life.

It is a personal gift—Psalm 119:11

A counselor had the opportunity to open her Bible and lead a young woman to the Lord, and to help her with answers to hurtful circumstances in her life. The convert noticed that every passage shown to her was highlighted in the book before her. She commented, “You must have known I was coming. You’ve marked everything I needed.” The older woman laughed and explained, “These verses are not marked because I knew you would come. They are marked because I needed them first.”

God’s Word is universal, but yet so personal. While reading Psalm 119 you can sense the intimacy David feels with the Scriptures. They are dear to him and his soul thrives on them (Psalm 119:15–16).

Paul’s life was preaching the Word. He knew its power (Hebrews 4:12). For those not willing to use this gift he says, “ye are dull of hearing . . . unskillful in the Word . . . a babe.” To those who use it, they “have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:11–14).

The gift has been given. How precious is it to you?

Using the gift—Psalm 119:15

It makes headline news. A miser dies in a cold, unheated and debris-filled house, where he existed on a diet of cat food. Upon his death authorities discover he has hidden a fortune. He could have lived in comfort. His life may have been extended. He could have even helped others with his hoarded savings. We would label him insane.

How do we explain the wealth of God’s Word set aside for a more convenient time? How can we justify the neglect of studying the Word in the lives of so many Christians? What does Satan use to distract us from God’s life-saving gift to us?

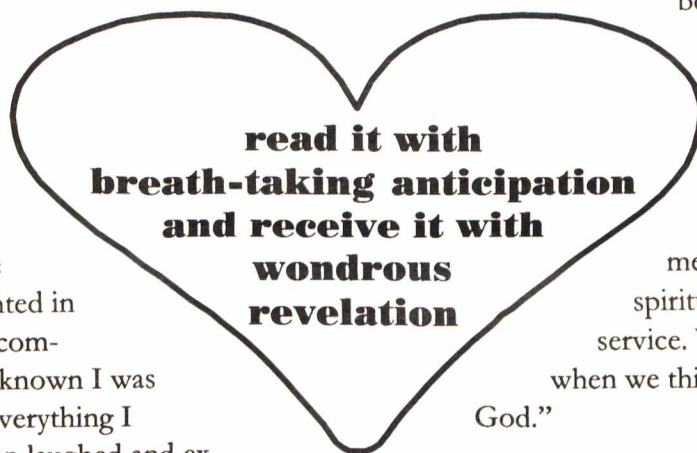
Spurgeon said, “There are times solitude is better than company and silence is wiser than speech. We would be better Christians if we were alone more often, waiting on God and gathering, through meditation on His Word, spiritual strength for His service. We are spiritually fed when we think on the things of God.”

Oh, Christian, reach for the precious book and meditate on words that satisfy the soul.

It is a no-exchange gift—Luke 4:30–32

Another search in Strong’s Concordance reveals a lengthy reference to the fact that God’s Word is here to stay, especially when committed to memory. Over and over we find in the Bible where God’s Word “came to him,” “the Word of the Lord came unto me.” It is conversation with power and it cannot be changed.

A young husband gave his new bride a sweater for Christmas. He had picked it out visualizing how pretty she would be as she wore it. It was the right size, he had checked and made sure. He wrapped it himself and hoped she could look past the clumsy package and feel the love he had put into his gift to her. On Christmas morning he pulled it from



beneath the tree and watched in anticipation as she opened it. He was watching her so closely that he could not miss the fleeting look of disappointment that crossed her face. She had not liked the color.

Her wise mother was with her as she returned it to the store, relaying the reason for exchanging it. The mother gave her this advice, "Daughter, never reject a gift that is given to you in love." The daughter looked at the sweater again and remembered the hurt on her husband's face as he realized she would not accept his gift. This sweater had been a gift of his love and she had rejected it. She took it from the clerk and slipped her arms into it and pulled the front close together. She chose to let it protect her from the cold after all.

God's Word is a gift of such great love. Daughters, do not reject it, but wrap yourselves in it and warm your heart to its fire.

The gift of the Savior— John 3:16

The stories of the Bible cannot be equaled.

A teenage girl was becoming caught up in romantic novels. Her mother encouraged her to put down the unhealthy fare and read the Bible instead. "It's boring and I don't understand it!" She retorted. The mother glanced at the cover of the book the girl had been reading and she asked, "Did you know the Bible has some of the best love stories ever written?" The daughter shot her mother a doubting glance which the mother ignored and told her the story of Isaac and Rebekah's love at first sight.

It gained the girl's attention and she began to read this book she had rejected. The more she read, the more she understood. She finally opened the pages to a love story so great she could not even imagine it. God loved her so much that He sent His Son to die for her. His resurrection gave her the hope of eternal life. The fictional love stories dimmed in comparison to this new book that she

accepted into her heart. Another life was changed because of the gift of God's Word.

What can we give in return? Matthew 22:36-37

What do we give in return for such treasure? Written on those pages between the front and back cover of the Bible, God asks us over and over to love and serve Him with all of our hearts, and all of our soul, and with all of our might. To do so is still of great value to us, for He tells us in Isaiah 26:3, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee . . ."

The world searches for peace and it is ours for the taking. How? We must keep

our minds stayed on Christ. This is done through the power of His Word. At the 1986 Ridgecrest retreat, June Critcher asked this question, "Why do we want to spend eternity with God when we are not willing to spend time with Him each day?"

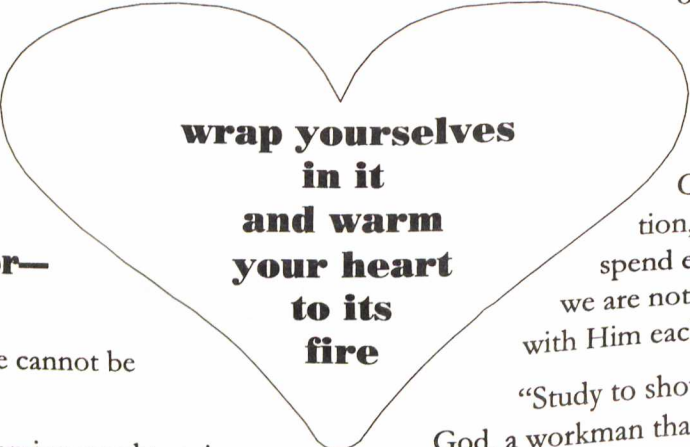
"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

Closing

It is so easy to miss a blessing in the midst of the holiday season because we have become distracted from the true meaning. We are also quick to be drawn away from the vital need to meditate on His Word because our mind is in another place. As we close this year on the subject of study, we must ask the question, "How dear is God's Word to me?"

Daughters, do not reject the gift of His love. ❖

Diane Mitchell Thomas is a published writer and lives in Grifton, North Carolina with her husband Ray. They are members of Grifton FWB Church.



**wrap yourselves
in it
and warm
your heart
to its
fire**

Tribute To Mrs. Eunice Edwards

Adapted from the Eulogy at her funeral by Mary R. Wisehart, August 1, 1997

Mrs. Eunice Edwards—*Her price is far above rubies.* She was loved and respected by many people.

I met her first at the Missouri Youth Camp when I was a teenager. She became my mentor, counselor, prayer partner and friend. She exacted a promise from me to go to Free Will Baptist Bible College, at least one year. I graduated after four years, worked there thirty, twenty-nine of them in the classroom and still teach a class there.



remember her delightful sense of humor. She found something to laugh about even in her last months when she often fell. She said to me on the phone, "Well, I had a battle with the floor, and the floor won." I visited her in the rehabilitation unit after a stroke, and she told me, "I asked them, 'How can I be rehabilitated when I haven't been habilitated yet?'"

She perceiveth that her merchandise is good. Mrs. Edwards had a message. Since it was God's message, she knew it was good. She gave that message in pulpits,

As long as I knew her, Mrs. Edwards was active in the Free Will Baptist women's work. She credited her conversion to Christ to a woman's group from the Park View Free Will Baptist Church. They came to her home in 1937 and led her to Christ. Thank God for that woman's group.

Eunice Edwards was just the kind of person we'd like to keep around, to know that she was there for us.

She . . . worketh willingly with her hands. She was not afraid of hard work. Whatever she did, she threw heart and soul into it. She had served as president of the WNAC, 1943–1947. In 1956, she came to Nashville, Tennessee as the first full-time executive secretary-treasurer of WNAC. Free Will Baptists had just acquired the building at 3801 Richland Avenue as the National Offices building. It was just two blocks down the street from Free Will Baptist Bible College, where I was teaching. I worked in the office with Mrs. Edwards for a few months.

She considereth a field and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. Mrs. Edwards was an administrator. In the WNAC office she led the women in giving funds for buildings in Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, a church in Mexico and medical supplies for the hospital in Côte d'Ivoire. Under her supervision the Provision Closet opened, providing thousands of dollars worth of goods for home and foreign missionaries. She started the quarterly publication of the *CoLaborer* magazine, which continues as a bimonthly. She won the love and friendship of men and women everywhere. That vineyard still bears fruit today.

She shall rejoice in time to come. One translation has this, *She shall laugh at the days to come.* If you knew her, you

at women's meetings and retreats, in her writings, in the column, "Over My Coffee Cup," and in her letters to family, friends and especially, as she called them "my missionaries." As long as she could, she delivered the message.

She stretcheth out her hands to the poor; yea she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. Mrs. Edwards was a woman who gave of what she had. She gave freely to the Lord's work whenever she could with whatever the Lord gave her. She was not afraid to give herself, her time and energy to others.

She openeth her mouth with wisdom and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She was a wise counselor. Mrs. Edwards knew that you don't have to be harsh or cruel in dispensing good and godly counsel. Many of us benefited from her godly wisdom.

She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. Mrs. Edwards was a woman who loved. She covered her family members—mother, father, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren—with her love and prayers. She loved her church and those who ministered there; she loved Free Will Baptists everywhere. She loved missionaries and gave, encouraged and prayed for them.

She loved WNAC and Free Will Baptist women. Her granddaughter Teri tells me that even in her last hours she asked her to take her to the WNAC convention in Cincinnati. I spoke with her just before I left for the convention. She said, "Ask the women to pray for me." Oh, how she loved us! Remember in the days ahead that is a following love and a continuing love. We

Mrs. Eunice Edwards

January 5, 1912–August 30, 1997

December 1937	saved
Summer, 1942	attended Christian Worker's Institute
1946–1948, 1949–1956	pastor at Leasington FWB Church
Served as local, district, and state president of women's groups	
1943–1947	President of WNAC
1951–1953	First Vice President, in charge of enlistment and promotion
1953–1955	Personal Service Chairman
1955–1957	Literature Chairman
1956–1963	Executive Secretary-Treasurer, combining literature and promotional chairman under her title

may all embrace it again completely in the Light and Love that is eternal. That is her prayer and hope for each of you.

She riseth also while it is yet night. . . her candle goeth not out by night. Eunice Edwards was a woman of prayer. Morning, evening, and all in between she met her Lord at the throne of grace. Many of us depended on her prayers.

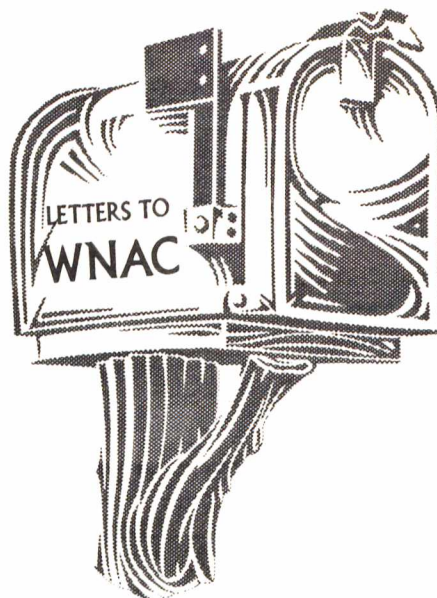
When I was asked to consider the executive secretary's position at WNAC, I struggled with the decision. I love teaching and I had spent years in preparation. I decided to call my spiritual advisor. When I told Mrs. Edwards my dilemma, she began to praise the Lord. "Oh, how sweet," she said. "How precious. I hadn't told anyone, but you remember a few years ago I told you God had something special for you. This is it."

A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Mrs. Edwards was a godly woman, a woman of faith. She loved her Lord supremely and knew Him intimately. Hers was not a casual, "man upstairs" kind of relationship. She recognized Him for who He is, high and holy, yet her Lord and her Lover.

Give her of the fruit of her hands and let her own works praise her in the gates. Only the Lord's records will reveal what Eunice Edwards has contributed to His work and to the lives of thousands around the world. She longed to see her Lord face to face. I'd like to catch a glimpse of that first meeting. Maybe they will describe it for me when I arrive.

But I'm certain she is rejoicing in His presence, for the Word tells us, *Absent from the body, present with the Lord.* Even through our tears, we may celebrate and rejoice today. For this dear one has what she longed for. She would say to us, "Come, join me here." ❖

The family requests that memorial gifts be given to the WNAC Endowment Fund.



Full Color Cover

The cover on the July/Aug issue was truly awesome. Those ladies resemble "Flowers in God's Bouquet."

Janice Shipley, Jonesborough, TN

Lucy & Marge

I wanted to let you know how much I enjoy the Lucy & Marge skits. Please don't take them out of the *CoLaborer*. We perform them in our meetings each month. Both fun and informative, they give me a lift and insight into attitudes. Hope to see them for years to come.

Rachel Salter, Stacy, NC

New Subscriber

I would like to receive a subscription to *CoLaborer*. I think it is a wonderful, spiritually uplifting publication for all who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Teresa Adkins, Shelbyana, KY

WNAC Convention

The WNAC Convention encouraged and challenged me. Sister Wischart's message at the WNAC Fellowship Dinner enthused me about what God can do at different intervals of my life.

I felt my faith increase as I realized there are people who still love the Lord, who are willing to give their lives to get the Gospel message to the lost. Upon the Lord's return, I believe He will find faith for it still exists in the hearts of Free Will Baptists.

My thanks to all those who worked so hard to make our National Convention such a blessing.

Judy Delong, Hager Hill, KY ❖

A graphic of a springboard with a curved line representing the spring and a small figure jumping. The word "Springboard:" is written in a large, stylized font.

Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator

Please announce the following information to your women and church:

The Free Will Baptist National agencies will be on satellite television. The program will feature the heads of the Departments providing information about the various services and the organization of Free Will Baptists. It will show the various buildings and some of the personnel employed in the National Offices, Randall House, and Free Will Baptist Bible College. Every Free Will Baptist is urged to find a satellite receiver and view this first-of-a-kind production by Free Will Baptists.

If you do not have a satellite receiver at home or at a friend's home, you may contact a local public library, local hotel or motel, local community college or other commercial enterprise in order to view the program. Viewers will need to know the satellite and transponder number to receive the program.

The program will air on October 18, 1997 at 11 AM Eastern Standard Time. The transmission will be on C-Band. It will be on Galaxy 3, transponder 21. The audio will be at 6.2 and 6.8 MHz. The Free Will Baptist Logo will be transmitted 15 minutes early so that people may find the signal prior to the start of the program.

Assistant Coordinator (Program Chairman)

Get a copy of the 1998 Yearbook to help you and the other officers in your WAC plan the year.

The person presenting the November Program will need to give out door prizes in each of the four sections of the program. We suggest the following prizes:

- Topic 1: a bottle of water
- Topic 2: a bar of soap
- Topic 3: toilette paper
- Topic 4: laundry detergent

Provision Closet Needs:

Queen size sheet sets

Twin size sheet sets
(especially extra-long
fitted sheets)

Queen and Twin size
Bedspreads

Pillows

Electric blankets

Electric skillet

Kitchen knives

Thank you cards

Tupperware®
(especially large
storage containers
and pitchers)

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

Bible Study

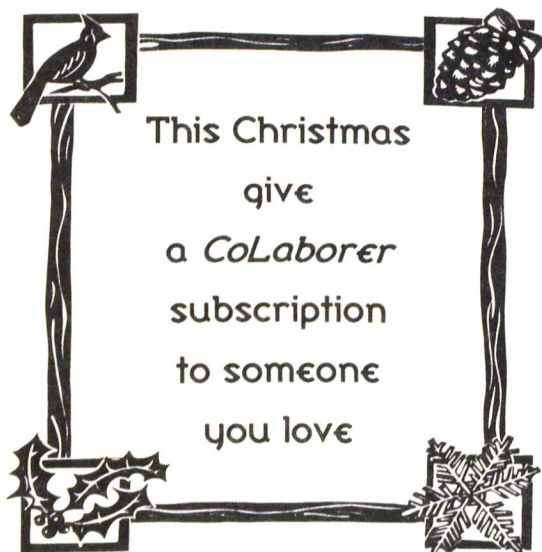
Gifts from God

A short list of gifts from God

1. Life
Isaiah 42:5
2. The Savior
John 6:32-33
3. The Holy Spirit
John 14:16-17
4. Gladness
Psalms 4:7
5. Protection and grace
Psalms 84:11
6. Peace and rest
Leviticus 26:6
Matthew 11:28
7. Faith and suffering
Philippians 1:29-30
1 Peter 4:12-19
8. Add some of your own

Why God blesses with so many gifts

1. God wants us to recognize where our blessings come from
Deuteronomy 8:17-18
2. God gives gifts so we can use them to bless others
1 Peter 4:10 ❖



Secretary/Treasurer

Encourage your WAC group to support National Home Missions in November and Free Will Baptist Bible College in December. Many of us have been abundantly blessed with material things. We need to be good stewards of what God has entrusted us. Instead of buying another gadget that will end up in a yard sale in a few years, invest in eternity.

The end of the year is a good time to update your list of prospective members in preparation for January enlistment. Page 75 in the 1998 Yearbook has a Prospective Member Contact Form which may be copied as many times as needed. Use this form or devise your own follow-up system. The most important thing to remember with follow-up is that each prospect is an individual who could use a true friend. Perhaps someone in your group can be that friend.

Missions Chairman

Help the Prayer Chairman promote the Lizzie McAdams Offering for National Home Missions in November.

In the last issue, we listed the names of several newly appointed missionaries. Please add the following family to your prayer list.

Uruguay: Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster

The Lancasters will be raising prayer and financial support and preparing for language study.

Your women may be planning to ship packages at this time of year. The following are some instructions to help your packages arrive in good shape.

- **Protect** the contents of your package. Cushion all sides and use filling to limit internal shifting.
- **Seal** your cartons with heavy-duty, nylon-reinforced tape, not masking or cellophane tape. Do not wrap cartons in paper or tie them with string.
- **Label** packages clearly with the receiver's and the sender's complete addresses, including ZIP Codes. If you must ship to a P.O. box number, include a phone number on the label. Do not place the label over the seam or closure of the package. As an extra precaution, you should enclose another mailing label inside your package.
- **Ship early!** Extra holiday volume may affect transit time. If shipping overseas, you may need to mail several months in advance.

WNAC has a helpful booklet, *Gift for Missionaries*, price \$1.25. The effectiveness of the postal system in each country varies widely, so it's best to check with the receiver before mailing overseas.

Prayer Chairman

The prayer calendar for the Lizzie McAdams Offering for National Home Missions is located on pages 25–26. This prayer calendar may be copied or you may order them in quantities from Home Missions.

Service Chairman

Thanksgiving and Christmas is a wonderful time for outreach. Perhaps service groups should concentrate on reaching out to neighbors and people who are lonely, needy or shut-in. Some women in your group may want to open their homes for Christmas parties. These gatherings need not be elaborate. In fact, the simpler the better. Invite friends and neighbors. Plan a way to tell the Christmas story with a simple salvation message. Make it informal and nonthreatening.

Study Chairman

This issues contains reviews of four books that would make great gifts.

At your planning meeting for next year, remember to plan a Manual study, study on prayer, and a study on missions.❖



Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for

National Home Missions

Plan and Promote

The following materials are available at no cost to you.

- prayer calendars
- missionary maps
- prayer cards
- directories
- offering envelopes
- quarter saver folders

Pray

Spend concentrated time in prayer during the week prior to Thanksgiving.

Give

Offerings should be sent through WNAC channels designated for Lizzie McAdams Offering for National Home Missions.

National Home Missions
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Lucy & Marge

Marge: I just love the holiday season, don't you Lucy? Decorating my house is so much fun.

Lucy: The stores seem to decorate earlier and earlier for the holidays. Why, they actually had Halloween and Christmas items all mixed up together at the mall! Christmas is a long way off and I'm already tired of hearing *I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas*. Even the Christmas carols run together when you hear them over and over.

Marge: I never noticed, really, Lucy. But come to think of it, I couldn't find a single Thanksgiving decoration for my table. The stores seem to skip over Thanksgiving and go right to Christmas. It's as if there is no such special day set aside to give thanks.

Lucy: The merchants are just concerned about getting all of our money. They just want to hear that cash register jingle.

Marge: You know, Lucy, if we're not careful we'll do the same thing.

Lucy: What do you mean?

Marge: We spend so much time shopping and so much money buying Christmas gifts, that we don't have time for the things that really matter.

Lucy: Such as?

Marge: I was thinking about our Pre-Thanksgiving week of prayer and our special offering for Home Missions and the December offering for Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Lucy: Well, I was planning to attend the Pre-Thanksgiving week of prayer meeting, and I had actually set aside some money for the

offering. But I got invited to that special party at work and I really want to go. And well, Marge, you saw the great sale in the paper. I just couldn't pass it up. My Christmas list is a mile long. The other day I got so caught up in shopping that before I knew it, I spent my Thanksgiving and Christmas offering on that power tool George has been asking for.

Marge: Lucy, I can't believe you did that! I've been saving since April for these offerings.

Lucy: (sarcastically) Well, Marge, I just can't be as sacrificial as you are. You know I have more children to buy for than you do. And besides, well, Marge, you're making me feel guilty.

Marge: I don't mean to make you feel guilty, Lucy, but we all might examine a bit more how we spend our money in these two months.

Lucy: I can't be involved in the WAC meetings anyway, because I have so many other invitations. Christmas is a time for fun and celebrations, isn't it?

Marge: It is a time for celebrating the coming of Christ. And it is a time for giving to Him because He has so freely given to us.

Lucy: Oh Marge, you're right as usual. I believe I'll take time to go to the meeting. And you know that outfit I wanted to buy for the holidays? I put money aside for that, but I don't really need a new dress. I could give that money to the two offerings. And of course, there's always time to pray.

Marge: Good for you, Lucy. Our pre-Thanksgiving service is _____. I'll expect to see you there.

Lucy: I'll be there, Marge, wearing the same old dress. ❖

Springboard Illustrated: Stories to Grow By Volume 37/ No. 6

the stable by Pamela Ham

In the Christmas story Joseph and Mary wander through the city of David in the middle of the night. They are looking for a place to spend the night and for Mary to give birth.

I can hear Mary saying, "Joseph, I don't have much longer. We really need to stop someplace soon."

He worries, "Oh, no, I need to help her do this." In the next second, excitement dawns on him, "Wow, I get to be part of this! The birth of God's Son." What an awesome thought.

As they wonder farther, they begin to search for a place, but none is available. Until a man tells them, "I have a stable. It's not much." It is not the castle on a hillside or an elaborate place of splendor. It is a stable. Basic and easy.

To Mary it is good. At last, a place to rest. She can finally get off that ride. She and Joseph probably settle down and just relax for a moment. Then her pains begin. The stable is there surrounding her. The stable does not take away her pain, but it protects her from enduring her labor out in the wild openness of the night. The stable equips her with a haven to help her through this temporary agony. Then when her anguish is all over, the stable remains steadfast to comfort her and allows her rest.

We are like Mary and Joseph. We are searching for the stable. We are looking all over for a place of refuge. We often search in vain. There is only one place we belong. It is a stable. It is in God's refuge. God is our stable. The place where we can go to be equipped to face our anguish. God does not take away the pains of life, but He provides a refuge to sustain us as we pass through it. Then when it is all over, He sends needful gifts to help us carry on. ❖

—Luke 2:4-7

WNAC's newest book of plays

Volume 13: Mother's Day Medley

*A collection of dramas
suitable for
Mother's Day celebrations.*

COMMUNICATOR

by MARY RUTH WISEHART

The 1997 Convention in Cincinnati

The reports from states to the convention showed 7,138 women paying dues as members of WNAC, 660 local groups and 15 Actionette groups with 93 members. Twenty-five states and the Virgin Islands were represented in the reports.

From July 1996 through June 1997, we had 46 requests from new or reorganizing women's groups.

Patti McCullough has agreed to coordinate materials for teens and younger women. Her first goal will be materials for teens. We hope to have these ready for sale at the 1998 convention. Materials for the younger women will come later, perhaps in 1999.

The delegates passed two resolutions. One gave the Foreign Student Scholarship of \$1,000 to Silas in Côte d'Ivoire. The other resolution reads, "That we publicize in the magazine lists of items suitable for MK's and encourage the women to send these items to the Provision Closet and that we encourage the women to give to the MK Account through regular WNAC channels. That we design, with Tanya Hart's help, a Provision Closet card for MK's. That we understand MK's to mean both Home and Foreign missionary children."

Tanya Hart has recently started a ministry to MK's. WNAC wants to support her in anyway that we can. The Foreign Missions Office has set up an account called the MK Account.

The funds in this account will support Tanya's ministry.

Anyone who wishes further information about this ministry may contact Tanya or the WNAC office.

Financial Report

WNAC has no debts. As an occupant in the National Offices Building, WNAC is responsible for helping to pay the indebtedness on the building. Any fund coming in marked "WNAC Indebtedness" goes toward that indebtedness.

The staff noticed that in the past few months

women's groups have sent more funds directly to the Foreign Missions Office than they have sent through WNAC channels. We cannot report these funds in the financial reports from WNAC.

Sending through the regular WNAC channels helps keep the records on women's giving and contributions to missions and other agencies.

If anyone has a question about designated gifts sent through WNAC, rest assured, all designated funds go directly to the agencies designated by the donors. We send these funds regularly every month.

Regular monthly reports from state treasurers help the WNAC office, the missions offices, colleges, children's homes and any other projects the women support.

The WNAC Endowment Fund now has almost \$10,000. Large gifts to the fund would be great, but even a dollar per member each year would soon build the fund so that the interest will make a great contribution to the WNAC general fund.

Search for Next Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The president announced that the WNAC Executive Committee is searching for someone to replace Mary R. Wisehart since she plans to retire from office December 1998. The committee asked delegates to submit names for consideration.

The committee plans to have a nomination ready for the convention in July 1998.

For further details on the 1997 convention, see the report in this issue.

New Year's Resolution

Are you into making New Year's resolutions? How about instead setting a goal for giving to support the WNAC office? Gifts to the General Fund were about \$5,000 short of last year's giving by June 1997.

Your organization needs regular, consistent giving in order to publish materials, keep records, attend meetings and plan conventions and retreats.

Remember, what was once called The Co-Laborer Offering is now the WNAC General Fund. This fund pays salaries, rent and other building costs, printing, postage and other expenses.

Check the WNAC budget in the Digest of Reports or in the 1998 Yearbook with the WNAC Minutes. ❖

Women In Action



Blue Bell FWB Honor Pastor

The women of Blue Bell presented Pastor Glen Hood and Sister Nadine (center) with a quilt embroidered by various members of the church. Vinita Tuttle (far right) and Elizabeth Frazier (far left) did most of the quilting. The Hoods celebrated their anniversary and Sister Nadine's birthday.

Annual First Mission District Retreat

The Oklahoma First Mission WNAC District Auxiliary met in Stillwater on August 8-9 for their annual retreat.

The theme of the meeting was "Let us Consider one Another" (Hebrews 10:24-25). Special speaker was Mary Bullard, Pastor's wife from Wewoka, OK. The Allen Auxiliary gave a skit on how not to have a Bible Study.

First Mission President Joan Warren presided over a short business session. Leslie Banks gave a mission update and five women led special prayer groups.

Tupperware Parties Benefit Provision Closet

The Poteau River Valley Women's Auxiliary in Oklahoma had a Tupperware® party at their district meeting. They sent \$876 worth of Tupperware to the Provision Closet. Afterward, they had a salad supper.

The Stigler FWB Women's Auxiliary also had a Tupperware party and sent over \$400 worth of Tupperware to the Provision Closet.

District Secretary-Treasurer and Local Assistant Coordinator Deborah Honeycutt reports that the women enjoyed both parties and hope the items will be useful to the missionaries.



Retreat Committee: (left to right) Louise Richmond, Robin Haskins, Nadine Hood

In Two Armies

by Bertie Mangham

“C haplain Mangham reporting for duty, sir.” Gerald repeated those words many times during the 30 years we represented Free Will Baptists in the Army Chaplaincy. We reported to numerous duty stations; consequently, we moved 19 times, traveled many parts of the world, and worshipped with Christians from Moscow to Jerusalem. We took communion with privates in the field, and at the altar with some of the most powerful military men in the world. We reared three children in the faith who have been blessings to us. Now, when I look back on those years, I always whisper a thank-you to our heavenly Father for allowing us to serve in this special vineyard.

I often refer to Gerald's military duty as “our” duty. The children were an important part of this ministry and when Gerald received orders, they were also our orders. He felt strongly that military orders were secondary to the Lord's leading, and the next assignment was issued because of the Lord's penmanship.

Sometimes those orders took a while to accept. Although the children rarely complained, at times, they were just making friends at one duty station and we were already packing for the next.

I remember only one time that our son's eyes filled with tears after we received orders. He had already attended three different high schools, and now with his senior year approaching, we received orders for Germany.

We were living at Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island where Gerald was attending the Chaplain's Advanced Course. Most of the chaplains received orders the same day and began posting signs outside their houses to let others know where they would be going. We talked with the children about our new assignment, trying to remember all the good things we had heard about overseas tours.

Before long, Steven was the one making the sign and posting it outside the house.

Steven will tell you that it was one of the best

years of his life. Just a few weeks into his senior year, he was off to one of the North Sea Islands studying seals. He spent time in Egypt with his class; skied with church friends and family in Bavaria; visited Italy, Greece and France. He ran cross-country and was an honor student. The Lord sprinkled his pathway with wonderful experiences and opportunities that year.

Our daughters had it a little easier with their school schedules. Marci was able to spend three years in the same high school and Traci four years. They agree with Steven that the years overseas hold some of their fondest memories. They both were able to travel and make lasting friendships. Marci played the piano for her dad's services and Traci kept the family penny poor by running to local shops for German candy and *pommes frites*.

Gerald and I have fond memories of ladies in our denomination who have been a part of our ministry—like Irene West who sent us cards and poems to let us know we were in her thoughts and prayers. We appreciated the birthday and Christmas cards that other women sent over the years. Those cards met a need in our lives. They reminded us that we were never alone, and that our ministry had a firm foundation in our denomination and in Jesus Christ.

Gerald often spoke to his congregations about working in the Lord's vineyard. Now we are looking forward to another vineyard the Lord has prepared for us.

The new National Airport in our nation's capital opened this summer and Gerald has been asked to be the airport's first chaplain. The ministry again will be among people of many faiths.

We know we will have your support and prayers. May our Lord bless you for the many “cups of water” you have given on His behalf. ❖

Bertie Mangham's husband is Retired Colonel Chaplain Gerald Mangham. They currently live in Springfield, Virginia.



ON THE SHELF

Love's Little Recipes for Friendship

Love's Little Recipes for Life

Linda Shepherd

Multnomah, 1997

Price: \$9.99 each

Reviewed by Genny Waddell

My first thought when I saw Linda Shepherd's books was, "Wow. What cute books! They'd make perfect gifts."

The covers, which look like old cloth kitchen print, and the word "Recipes" captured my attention. At first, just thumbing through each book gave me the impression that it was easy to read and not deep enough to create many provoking thoughts.

Then, I took time to read the books and discovered many "recipes" that spoke to my heart

and soul. The books aren't meant to be as deep as Francis Schaeffer's writings, but Shepherd's "advice recipes," actual recipes, scripture and poetry are interesting, even intriguing at times. Some of the poems are old friends, but many of them were written by the author just for these books.

I have learned from reading her books and chatting with Linda Shepherd via e-mail that she specializes in helping her readers build better interpersonal relationships with God, family and friends. By her own admission, she loves combining "messages with rhythm and rhyme." She says:

The 'advice recipe' has been around for ages. My mother and I collected a few over the years. As I wrote these books, it was a delight to pass along some of my favorite oldies, like *How to Prepare Husbands*, as well as my own recipes like, *How to Defrost Your Child Who's Frozen in Front of the TV*.

I wondered how the ideas for these two books germinated. Linda explains:

I wrote *Love's Little Recipes for Life* and *Love's Little Recipes for Friendship* as a way to mentor others with a blend of advice stirred with humor. Much of the wisdom in these books was gleaned from discovering God, even in the valleys of my life, like when my daughter was severely disabled in a car accident.

After reading and pondering these two books, I finally concluded that *Love's Little Recipes for Friendship* is my favorite. But I

also concluded, "Both of these books really would make wonderful gifts. I'm going to buy a bunch of them for Christmas presents."

I think that Linda Shepherd's books can best be described by the word she uses to close her e-mails: "Blessings."

Jesus, Be In My Christmas

Morning and Evening Meditations for Every Day of Advent

Compiled by
Sarah Hornsby

Chosen Books
Paperback edition 1997
Price: \$9.99

Reviewed by Yvonne Hampton

In the midst of the hustle and bustle of Christmas do you find yourself unconsciously leaving Christ out of your thoughts, plans, giving, and celebrating? Perhaps we need a daily reminder of what the season is really all about. It's so nice to find a book that directs our thoughts toward the real reason for the season.

A friend said to me, "Advent, isn't that for Catholics or Jews?" Many are unfamiliar with Advent which simply means the four Sundays or four weeks prior to Christmas. We consider liturgy too ritualistic and formal to be of

any spiritual value. The advent calendar could be a blessing to anyone who longs to keep Christ in Christmas.

In her advent book *Jesus, Be In My Christmas*, Sarah Hornsby guides us through daily morning and evening devotions directing our thoughts toward the events leading up to the birth of our Lord. This book invites Jesus into our everyday world.

The author helps us center our holiday thoughts and activities around the Person of Christ with such topics as Jesus be in my searching . . . my testing . . . my chaos . . . my plans . . . my giving . . . my obedience, and much more.

This book is beautifully illustrated by the author and can be useful for personal devotions or as a gift.

Patchwork of Love

Creating Friendships Piece by Piece

Compiled by
Heather Harpham Kopp

Questar Publishers, 1997
Price: \$9.99

Reviewed by Pat Franks

Just as a quilt is made from small pieces of fabric carefully stitched together, our lives are made up of moments, events and memories. To form lasting

friendships we must reach out to others in faith and carefully invest time and loving care in their lives.

How can we cultivate friendships that will last? The author skillfully compares the art of making quilts to the art of building friendships. The comparison is illustrated with exquisitely beautiful and intricately detailed quilts from internationally known quilters.

This book will be a treasured companion for any person who enjoys quilts and poetry. It is reminiscent of the time of quilting bees and the ladies sewing circle. It provides historical information about customs such as neighbors helping the family prepare the casket for a loved one who has died.

One disappointing comment described a friend who helped collect scraps for quilts as "my favorite partner in gossip." The author could have used an illustration of conversations on a higher level of sharing God's Word or His blessings instead of gossiping.

This book makes a lovely keepsake to give a grandmother, mother, special aunt or the one the book is about—that person you want to be your lasting friend. ❖

Poet's Corner

Today She's Not
Darla Jacks Trimble, Greeneville, TN
Fourth Place Winner
in the 1997 Creative Arts Contest

I know one day she'll be too big to hold.
I'm aware she'll grow older, more mature,
I am told.
But today she's not.

I know one day
she'll want rid of her sweet baby curls.
She'll be "much too grown" to turn
and to twirl.
But today she's not.

Her small chubby hands will grow
slender and long.
She might play the piano
or write a new song.
She'll outgrow pink ribbons,
and her cute baby face.
She'll be a young woman
full of wisdom and grace.
But today she's not.

There won't always be time
for a nap and a book.
For soon she'll be out the door
with a departing look.
But today she's not.

She might go through a stage
when she'll think we don't know,
Just how she feels,
when she won't let it show.
She'll soon be too shy to sing
loudly in church.
But she'll be at the altar with deep,
grown-up hurts.
But today she's not.

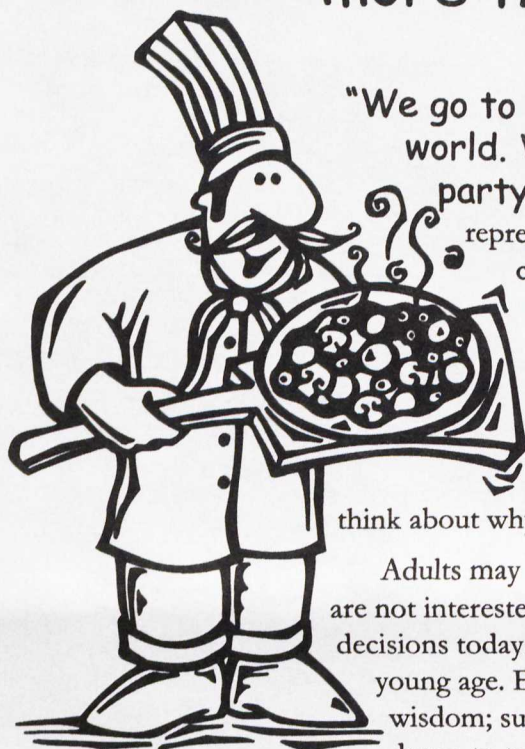
So I'll cherish today.
Thank God for today.
Teacher her today
Mold her today.
Pray hard today

For one day she'll be
independent and grown.
I know one day she'll be too big to hold.
But, I thank God, today she's not.

Life!Action.

a column for young people for everyday life

more than a pizza party



"We go to school and they challenge us to change the world. We go to church and they invite us to a pizza party." I heard this Wednesday morning when Larry Hampton, a representative from the Nashville Union Mission, quoted a teenager. I couldn't ignore the significance of his words. Is pizza all we have to offer our youth?

What about the thrill of doing something meaningful, something to change the world?

I have a good feeling, that teenager's statement is not one hundred percent accurate. But his statement does make you think about why Actionettes exist.

Adults may stereotype you. They may think that because you are young, you are not interested in serious matters. More than ever before, you face critical decisions today. Eighty percent of missionaries receive the call to the ministry at a young age. Each day you are faced with huge decisions requiring lots of wisdom; such as, the decision to stay pure until marriage, to stay away from drugs, to tell the truth even when you've goofed.

Some youth leaders may think they have to offer the most entertaining program so they can have the largest youth group. Whether or not this is true at your church, **you** can radically change this image.

Have you thought about doing short term mission work? Foreign missions offers opportunities to spend two weeks ministering overseas through TEAM. Other opportunities turn up inside and outside the United States. How about getting a group together to volunteer at the local shelter for battered women or crisis pregnancy center? Show them you care. Show them you can use some elbow grease.

Maybe you're thinking, "I live in a small town. We have no rescue mission. We don't even have a Wal-Mart." Can you visit a nursing home? Have you thought about adopting a grandmother who doesn't get to see her own family? Check out hospitals, fire departments, children's homes.

Let your Actionette sponsor know that you are more than a pampered Generation X-er. Show her you are eager to work and do your part in spreading the Good News of God's plan. She will be thrilled to help you find those opportunities.

Most of all, get involved in ministry because you love God and want to obey Him.

You can turn your world upside down. Your first step may seem small, but it can take you a long way. The path may be rocky, but don't let obstacles discourage you. If one idea doesn't work, keep trying. Getting started may require some creativity. So put your heads together, roll up your sleeves, and turn the world upside down for Jesus. ♦

30 years in the Army, has recently been tapped to be the first chaplain for the new airport in Washington, D.C.

A number of ministers are also joining the ranks as volunteer chaplains for the police departments in their areas. Training is required for all of these positions, qualifications have to be met, and dedication to the tasks is essential.

The chaplaincy is a wide-open field of ministry. Chaplains have opportunities to meet and minister to people from every walk of life, nationality, race and creed.

☐ Read and meditate on 2 Timothy 2:7 as you pray for the following requests.

Pray for those who are serving as chaplains in the military, civil air patrol, national guard, police departments, and hospital and prison ministries.

Pray that these chaplains may be the example God would have them be and that the Lord will give them wisdom to carry out their ministry.

Friday—Mexico

The ministry in Mexico is experiencing change and expansion. The Seminary of the Cross Bible Institute in Reynosa was dedicated to the service of the Lord on May 20, 1997. Construction on the 25 acre campus began in the winter of 1995 and is just about complete. The seminary offers a three-year Bible diploma and a four-year program of study equal to a Bachelors Degree. Currently the seminary has students from Mexico and Cuba. In May 1997, the first cross-cultural extension program, conducted by Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College faculty, was held with 30 students present.

☐ Read and meditate on Hebrews 13:20–21 as you pray for the following requests.

Pray for the seminary students as they prepare to do God's will.

Pray for those who are working directly with the ministry in Mexico.

- James Munsey is the superintendent of the work there.
- Ramon Zuniga is the president of the seminary.
- Bud and Ruth Bivens are now on staff teaching evangelism and English respectively.

• *Thirty Mexican pastors are working in their own established churches throughout the country.*

- *Many more people work unselfishly to promote and aid the work in Mexico.*



Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for Home Missions

November 17–21, 1997

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

Monday—Lizzie McAdams Offering for Home Missions
WNAC honored our first pioneer home missionary by naming the Pre-Thanksgiving offering after Lizzie McAdams. She was an ardent supporter of missions, a prayer warrior and a charter member of the National Home Missions board.

The Home Missions Department is committed to the work of missionaries and chaplains, church planting and church growth, and cross-cultural ministry. The Lizzie McAdams Offering becomes part of the Benjamin Randall Offering which goes to the Home Missions general fund. These funds are used to provide numerous services for the missionaries.

☞ Read and meditate on 1 Thessalonians 5:23–25 as you pray for the following requests.

Pray that many will give with a joyful heart to support the ministries of the National Home Missions Department.

Pray about your part in this year's Lizzie McAdams Offering for Home Missions.

Pray for the Home Missions staff and board members.

Tuesday—Home Missionaries in Isolated Areas
Carlie Lloyd pastors the only Free Will Baptist church in the state of Wisconsin. He and his wife and four children labor daily to establish relationships with the people in that area. Their desire is to see a strong Free Will Baptist church established in the greater Madison area. They are trying to locate land where they can build a church building.

Tim and Kathy Coats and their five children are building a Free Will Baptist church in Rapid City, South Dakota. The winters can be harsh in this beautiful mid-western state. The Coats family has established themselves as a family who wants to share the gospel with others. They've had numerous opportunities to minister to families of other cultures and have a growing youth ministry.

Bill and Kay Phillips moved to the Salt Lake City, Utah area to establish a Free Will Baptist church. They have been holding services for just a short time and report having 44 in a recent Sunday morning service.

☞ Read and meditate on 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17 as you pray for the following requests.

Pray that the Lord will lead the Lloyds to the area where they are most needed and open the doors.

Remember the Lloyds and the Coats as they have many opportunities to minister to people of other cultures located in their areas.

Pray that the Phillips will be able to reach the lost for Christ in this Mormon stronghold.

Pray for comfort and steadfastness for these three families as they plant churches in difficult areas.

Wednesday—Cross-Cultural Ministry

The National Home Missions Department has been given the responsibility to implement, direct and supervise the Free Will Baptist Cross-Cultural Ministry. This is a tremendous challenge as there are more than fifty-eight million ethnic groups in America and the number is growing daily.

Many of our missionaries throughout the United States are excited about the salvation prospects among those they encounter from other nations and cultures and they are using the opportunities offered to work with them. God is bringing people from all over the world and placing them at our doorsteps.

Ten percent of the world's Spanish-speaking people live in the United States, representing approximately six percent of our population. The Hispanic population of approximately 25 million plus will become the largest minority group in the United States by the year 2000.

In Chicago, where home missionary David Potete ministers, there are over 57 identifiable people groups speaking over 26 different languages, with hundreds of nations represented.

☞ Read and meditate on Deuteronomy 10:19 as you pray for the following requests.

Pray for our missionaries as they minister to these various ethnic groups.

Pray for God's leadership for the Home Missions Department as they lead the ministry to the strangers among us.

Pray for opportunities to reach the newcomers and internationals in your hometown.

Thursday—Chaplains

The chaplaincy is an important part of the ministries of the Home Missions Department. Six chaplains represent Free Will Baptists in the United States Army, one in the United States Navy and one in the United States Air Force at the present time. Retired Chaplain Colonel Gerald Mangham, who served for

1997 WNAC Convention

Expanding Knowledge

July 1997, downtown Cincinnati expanded to fit thousands of FWB men, women, and children. According to the Convention News, 836 registered for the WNAC convention. These and thousands of others came. Traffic jammed as streets were blocked off Saturday afternoon for a parade. Three days later and two blocks away, another parade took place inside the Cincinnati Convention Center. It was a parade of books written by Free Will Baptist women.



WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Mary R. Wisheart speaks at the Fellowship Dinner

Parade of Books

Barbara Chaffin and Diana Bryant organized the Tuesday afternoon parade. Marilyn Weidner decorated the "stationary" float to look like a WNAC library.

Nine out of 15 Free Will Baptist women authors made live appearances to review some 21 books. Authors who were not present sent a friend, a daughter, or a sister-in-law.

The librarian, played by Diana Bryant, spread excitement about the books new and old. Marianne Waddell played the part of the eager library patron begging to check out each book.

They also got sneak previews of three books in the making: books by Genevieve Waddell, Mary R. Wisheart, and Eleanor Grindstaff.

After the parade of books, traffic jammed the exhibit area around the WNAC booth. Several of the books were available for sale at the WNAC booth.

Books in Parade

Touching the Untouchables
Laura Belle Barnard with Georgia Hill

Ann, You're Super
Triumphant Over Suffering
Facing Death and Dying
Cleo Pursell

I Looked for a Man and Found One
First Fruits
Lorene Miley

Safari Servant
Linda's Song
Genevieve Waddell

Founded Upon a Rock
Dale Edwards

The Journal of Benjamin Randall
David Marks...What a Preacher, What a Man
The Man From Idaho
Pat Thomas

Stones of Remembrance
Forever and Ever, Amen
Eleanor Grindstaff

Sparks Into Flame
Mary R. Wisheart

Bologna From Winona
Winona Riggs

Aunt Ruth's Puppet Scripts
Ruth Bivens

Better to Get Wisdom
Diane Worthington

The Jewel of Consistency
Elsie Staten

Battling Anorexia
Anita Haney

They Deserve a Second Chance
Shirley Combs



Ruth Bivens, with the help of a friend, tells about Aunt Ruth's Puppet Scripts



Ohio WAC officers with Mary R. Wisheart: (left to right) Shirley Frye, Shirley Sharpston, Barbara Chaffin, Rhonda Mounts, Mary R. Wisheart, Sandy Mounts, Marty Bussey, Pat Justice, Geri Baker

WNAC Fellowship Dinner

Around 4:30 the same afternoon, another traffic jam brooded on the way to the third floor of the Hyatt Regency. The crowd filed into the lavish ballroom for the WNAC Fellowship Dinner.

Tables were decorated with centerpieces made of golden bags filled with goodies donated by Ohio businesses. Barb Cordle of Westerville Free Will Baptist Church arranged flowers and centerpieces. Women from all over Ohio made thousands of mouth-watering buckeyes. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rapp of the Daileyville Free Will Baptist church carved over 800 stacks of books to set at each place. The Daileyville Woman's Auxiliary helped stain and tie the books.

Mary R. Wisheart furnished the highlight of the convention as she traced her journey from a farm in southern Missouri to the totally unexpected destination as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of WNAC.

Her purpose for tracing the journey was to give thanks and



Jeff Crabtree

honor to God. "My hope is that as I recount my journey," she continues, "it will cause you to remember the work of God's grace in your life. And you will be able to give thanks and honor to Him."

"My folks taught us we should put into practice the principles taught in the Bible," Mary R. Wisheart said of her family. She also learned from her family that spiritual things are more important than material things like the crops in the field.

Her home church had a major influence on her life. "Aunt Ollie Wisheart taught my first Sunday school class. She taught us to memorize Scripture and gave us rewards when we could recite a whole chapter."

She also told how God went ahead of her. Work in the business office, summer work, and a cow helped her get through college. Her dad gave each daughter a cow. "When I needed money dad would buy my cow," she chuckles. "When her next calf came he would ask, 'Do you want the calf or the cow back?' I always

took the cow because I knew I could sell her back at the end of the semester."

After 29 years at FWBBC, the



Debbie Griffin

Lord seemed to say, "Lift your foot and I will tell you where to place it." She was referring to her new adventure in 1985 as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of WNAC.

With considerable emotion, she spoke of the privilege of knowing so many beautiful people, God's choice servants.

Worship

Ohio WAC President Sandy Mounts delivered the official welcomed to WNAC participants.

Music

Music Coordinator Clara Widdig led congregational singing. Deena Armstrong and Brenda Collins accompanied on the piano and organ.

Two missionary duets provided special music. Missionaries to France Steve and Becky Riggs sang "There is a Savior." Home missionaries Sherri Sloan and Jan Clay sang "Jesus Saves."

Devotion

Missionary Debbie Griffin took us on a visit to Japan through her devotion. She told of a mother desperate to help her son who asked, "Would you be willing to teach me the Bible?" Together, they read the words in Psalm 139. In the psalm she learned that God knows her completely, even from conception. At the end, the mother said, "I didn't know there was a God who knows me."



Resolution Committee: (left to right) Sammy Montgomery, Paulette Scott, Peggy Outland, Debbie Burden, Phyllis York

Through this knowledge, she met Jesus.

Debbie Griffin loves expanding the Japanese people's knowledge of who Jesus is. She made her point, "I know. You know. But they don't."

Missionary Service

Ohio native and missionary to Canada Jeff Crabtree brought the message on expanding knowledge in the Word of truth. He spoke



State Leaders Meeting Speakers: (left to right) Diana Bryant, Wanda Powell, Delois Loveless, Gwen Hendrix

from 2 Peter 3:17-18 on why and how we should study. He brought out that the Greek word for study in 2 Timothy 2:15 (WNAC's 1997 theme verse) is to do diligently or do your best.

Our Lord commands that we grow in knowledge. Society in general is growing in knowledge, God's people need to do the same. People who don't read, don't grow, and have few fresh thoughts. Yesterday's material becomes less powerful.

We are to study the Word in order to guard ourselves from falling.

We should make room for and encourage our best young people to dedicate themselves to God.

Crabtree exhorted us to go beyond feelings and to get into

knowledge. "We honor God when we expand our knowledge of Jesus' person and work."

WNAC Seminar

Estimates indicate around 300 women expanded their knowledge concerning Bible study at the Monday afternoon seminars.

WNAC President Everyl Getz presided at the first seminar which focused on Bible Study. Lorene Miley presented a challenge to study the Bible. Debe Taylor presented and explained various Bible study methods.

Carol Reid reviewed four biographies on Amy Carmichael's life elaborating on the pros and cons of each one. Shirley Sharpston reviewed *Simplicity: Kingdom Living for a Child of God* by Betty Malz.

State Leaders' Meeting

Mary R. Wischart presided at the State Leaders' Meeting. WNAC provided state presidents and field workers with packets containing various reports and informative brochures.

Diana Bryant spoke from her experience as Florida WAC President on how to plan and make state meetings interesting. Florida's state meeting sponsors a reception and invites all women (not just WAC). The reception is a time to promote WAC and to give

WNAC Officers—1997-1999

President	Everyl Getz (TX)
Vice President	Marjorie Workman (TN)
Secretary	Diana Bryant (FL)
Members at Large	Debbie Burden (OK)
	Joan King (NC)
	Debe Taylor (AZ)

everyone a chance to meet missionary speakers. A state meeting provides a great opportunity to be visible and to promote what WAC is doing.

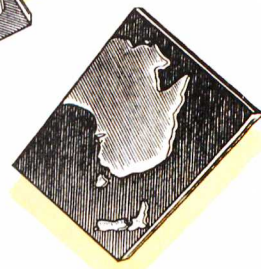
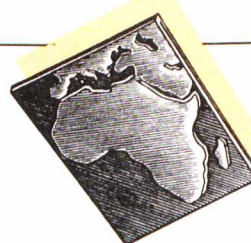
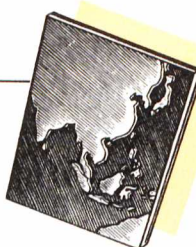
Faces lit up as Wanda Powell (GA) gave tips on how to deliver great programs. A great program requires planning and study. The woman who will give a good program must do her homework and someone must advertise. One teaching tip she gave was to aid learning and create interest by involving the five senses.

Gwen Hendrix (SC) spoke on how to keep business meetings interesting. "Keep it short," she emphasized.

Delois Loveless (TN), who was field worker in Ohio for 18 years, encouraged field workers to read the *Manual*, Yearbooks and *CoLaborer*. A field worker must be familiar with WNAC's work and stay in touch with district field workers.

Keep Expanding

When it was all over, downtown Cincinnati shrank to its usual size. We hope, however, that WNAC participants will continue to expand their knowledge of God's Word. ❖



MISSION ALERT:

Evangelism News from Around the World

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

After weeks of searching for an apartment, Robert Bryan reports that Silas has found one for his family. Silas is the seminary student receiving WNAC's Foreign Student Scholarship to help pay for his seminary studies. He is completing a year's internship at the Abidjan work as part of his training.

The Bryans request prayer about their need to purchase land for a church building. The property they would like to buy belongs to a village. Pray for this young group of believers as they impact this important Ivorian city with the gospel.

Piñar del Rio, Cuba

August 1997, eight people from Panama including the Bunches and Lytles spent two weeks in Cuba. They taught classes on sexual purity at two youth camps. A total of 455 young people attended the camps. According to missionary Stan Bunch, this was the first time this issue has been addressed in this manner, and God touched a needy area in many lives. Bunch reports most campers signed the pledge to sexual purity. Panama team members also had opportunities to speak in churches, teach a class on mime, and a class for pastor's wives. Pray that God will undergird these Cuban young people with spiritual strength as they live for Christ before others.

Mahadajonda (Madrid), Spain

Jeff and Susan Turnbough are rejoicing that Neli, the daughter of their friend Yolanda, made a decision to follow Christ at youth camp. Pray for her as she begins her walk with the Lord.

Cheyenne, Wyoming

A group of men from Batesville, AR, went to Cheyenne to take a Dodge van for this Wyoming mission church. The van holds 15 passengers and already had the church name painted on it. Missionary Russell Johnson is thankful for all the First Free Will Baptist Church in Batesville has done for the work in Cheyenne.

Huntsville, Alabama

Missionary Dennis Haygood rejoices as they have found a rental property for Southpark Free Will Baptist Church to hold services. He writes, "Normally when you rent a shopping/office type building there is much work and expense to make it suitable as a place of worship. However, five months before, a church group divided the space into classrooms, a sanctuary, and restrooms. They did the carpentry, painting, carpeting, etc., and now we will get to reap the blessing. God truly does work in mysterious ways!"

They have 3,840 square feet of space and the church sign will face the busiest street in Huntsville. The landlord also gave them a break on rent.

Battle Creek, Michigan

July 1997, Brian & Kim Hurst and nine teenagers from Oakridge, TN, went to help missionaries Robert and Nancy Trimble with outreach ministries. The group conducted two three-day backyard Bible Clubs and knocked on 750 doors. The teens also ministered through singing, skits and speeches. Many good prospects resulted and some have attended services since then. ❖



WORDS FOR WOMEN

*Mary Ruth
Wischert*

Endings and beginnings. I like them both. Time flies by and here is the end of another year on our calendars. Good times, bad times, happy moments, sad—they are all a part of the past now. I write finished at the end of 1997 and look toward 1998.

The new year promises to be a period of transition for me. At the 1998 convention, we should have a nominee for the office of Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

One year from now I'll be throwing away, clearing out, deciding what goes and what stays in this office.

Endings often bring a certain amount of relief and a certain amount of nostalgia and sadness. I think about the things I will miss—with relief. Budgets, reports, meetings, financial crunches. I think also about the things I will miss—with regret. My staff, women's meetings, retreats, interacting with the executive committee and other women, making new friends, moments of knowing we have met the need of even one woman, awarding scholarships, writing "Paid in Full" on student loans, adding to the WNAC Endowment Fund.

Beginnings bring a certain amount of excitement and anxiety. What does the future hold? Will I be able to make it financially? What ministry does God have for me next?

I don't know about the future, but I know that God has led and provided abundantly in the past. Why should I doubt now?

I remember once again my swimming instructor, Mrs. Virginia Forte's, words as I stood anticipating on the diving board. "Mary, get those feet off that board," she would yell. Of course once my feet were off the board, I was headed for the water with no more options.

So, I take the plunge into a new and different adventure. A new beginning, but an assurance that the same God who says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths," is with me now. He has promised, "And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you."

What more could I ask? That promise is better than IRA's, retirement funds, mutual funds or being "especially selected" to enter The Reader's Digest Sweepstakes!

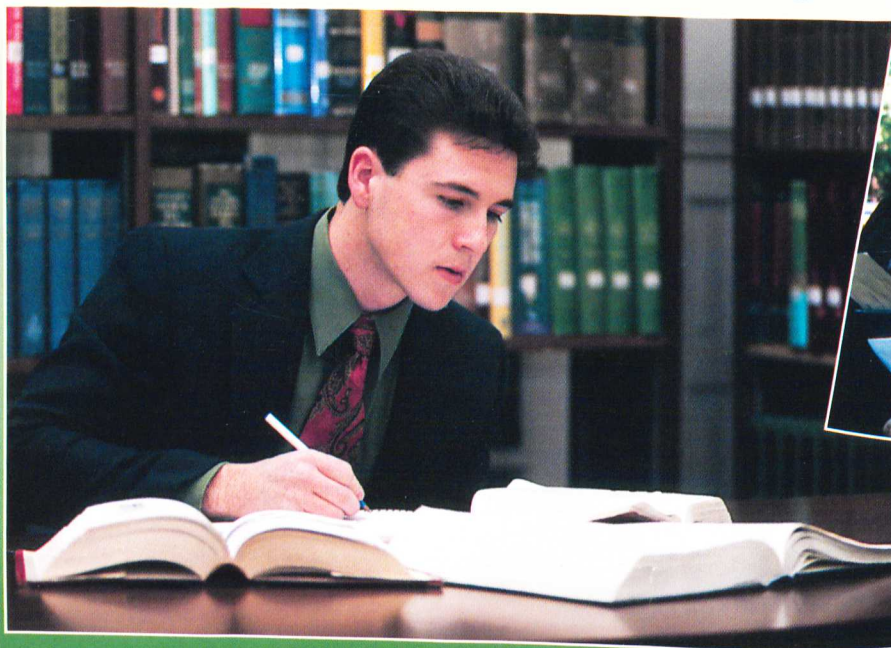
Life changes. I expect retirement will bring a new perspective for me. I hope that, like the woman described in Proverbs 31, I can "rejoice in time to come."

What shall I do? Well, first, I want to clean out my garage, my closet and my part of the attic. As a friend said, that may take the rest of my life. ❖



PAUL J. KETTEMAN MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS DRIVE

for Free Will Baptist Bible College



Support quality, Bible-based education. Send your gift through the usual WNAC channels designated to the Paul Ketteman Memorial Christmas Drive.

Goal: \$300,000



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