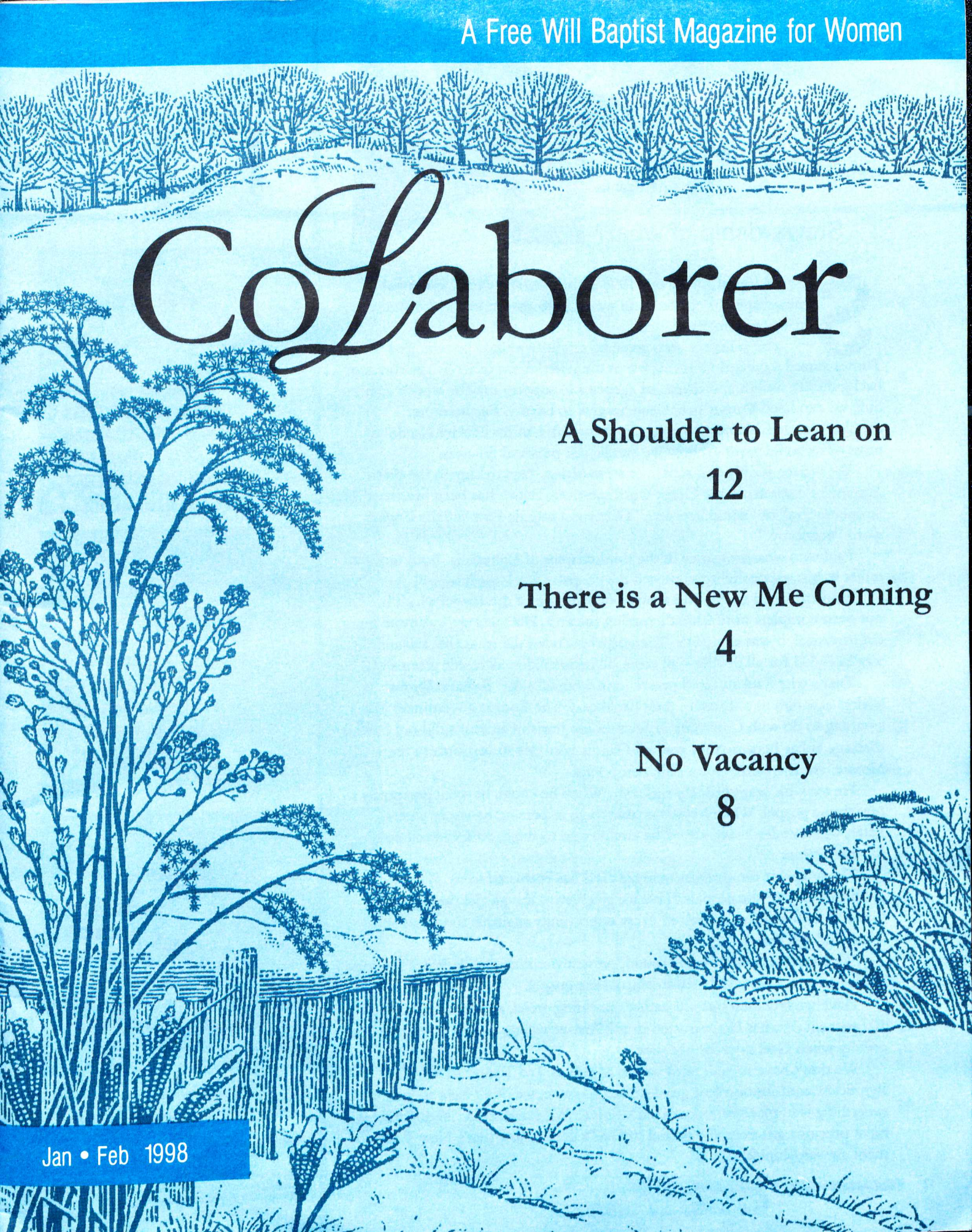




CoLaborer

A Shoulder to Lean on
12

There is a New Me Coming
4

No Vacancy
8

Suzanne Franks



Stewardship of what?

Stewardship of Life is our 1998 emphasis. The word “stewardship” immediately brings to mind words such as—money, tithe, budget, giving, generosity.

The generous sum given by celebrity multibillionaire Ted Turner stirred a great deal of interest in the news media in 1997. His and our backgrounds, wealth and choice of agencies to support may be worlds apart. Still, we can heed Turner’s challenge to give to charity. Furthermore, shouldn’t we heed James’ warnings in chapter five of his epistle? No doubt most of us could work on how we handle our personal finances.

Yet money is only one aspect of stewardship. Stewardship in the New Testament came from the Greek word *oikonomia*, which has been translated as “dispensation” or “administration.” *Oikonomia* sounds a lot like the English word “economy.”

Paul uses *oikonomia* twice in the third chapter of Ephesians. Both times he refers to his responsibility to preach the gospel.

God entrusted to Paul the wonderful message of the gospel which had not been complete until Christ’s coming to earth. His message was more than controversial, it was explosive. The gospel included the truth that salvation was intended for all people—all races, all nationalities, all ethnic groups.

That’s why Paul suffered persecution from all sides. Pagan religious leaders saw him as a threat to their livelihood. The Roman government hated anything to do with Christians or Jews. Some Jewish Christians did not like his message either because they wanted Gentile converts to conform to the Mosaic law. But persecution didn’t stop Paul.

He took his responsibility seriously. When he could, he went personally to preach the gospel. When he was unable to go in person, he wrote letters. Later, when under house arrest, he couldn’t go to them, so they came to him for instruction.

The gospel is the greatest treasure God has entrusted to us. Have we been good stewards of the gospel? Have we given away the gospel through every means possible? Have we seized every opportunity available to tell others what God has done?

We should not allow background, present circumstance, lack of money or education to hinder good stewardship of the gospel.

Have we crucified our old nature, including greed, and returned to God 100 percent of what He entrusted to us? Are we willing to give up our favorite activity when God asks for our time?

We don’t have to wait until we are as rich as Ted Turner to make a significant contribution to a good cause. Likewise, we don’t have to wait until everything is in place to follow God’s orders. We can start by sharing the most precious gift ever, the gospel of God’s grace. Now that’s New Testament stewardship!❖

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**“GOD IS A SPECIALIST
AT MAKING
SOMETHING USEFUL
AND BEAUTIFUL
OUT OF SOMETHING
BROKEN
AND CONFUSED.”**

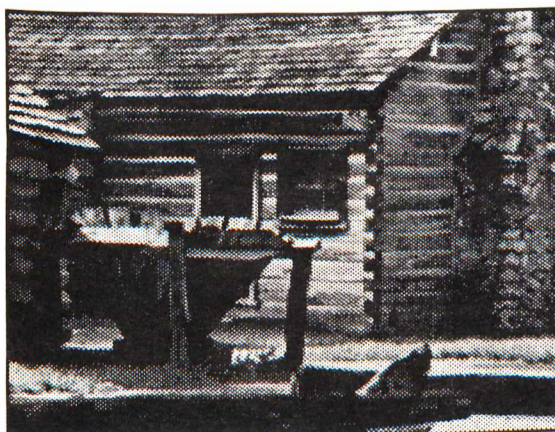
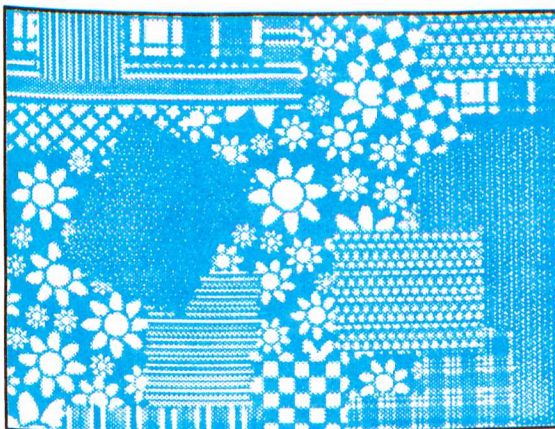
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**ANNE WORTHINGTON
SHOWS
FOUR STEPS
TO MAKING
THE HEART
CHRIST’S THRONE
AND HIS HOME.**

12

**GOD USES
A PASTOR
AND HIS WIFE
TO PROVIDE
COMFORT
THROUGH SORROW.**

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JANUARY PROGRAM

There is a New Me Coming

**How to Follow the
Pattern Given by Christ**



by Dale Edwards

Will you select your pattern, please?

The dawn of a new year is a glorious gift bestowed by God. The most encouraging thing about a new year is the word **new**. It brings to mind something different, unfamiliar.

Refresh yourself, change directions, meet the challenges. We have a chance to try again, and to accomplish ambitions cast aside last year.

A part of our nature wants to live in yesterdays. We would rather relive strifes, heartaches and stumbling steps than face uncertainties. With tenacity the past clings, like barnacles, and hinders us from pushing away from shore to launch into the deep. People can strap memories of past failure onto their backs, allowing the past to obstruct the future, or they can use lessons from past failure, providing motivation for the future.

We must decide to select a new **pattern** for this year or to continue tracing the old **pattern**. Will we repeat the past? "I do not see my way; I do not care to; but I know that He sees His way, and that I see Him." The best part of your life is still to come.

Advance into the new year on your knees. Shining destinies are ahead! Keep your eyes upon Jesus as you face the dawn.

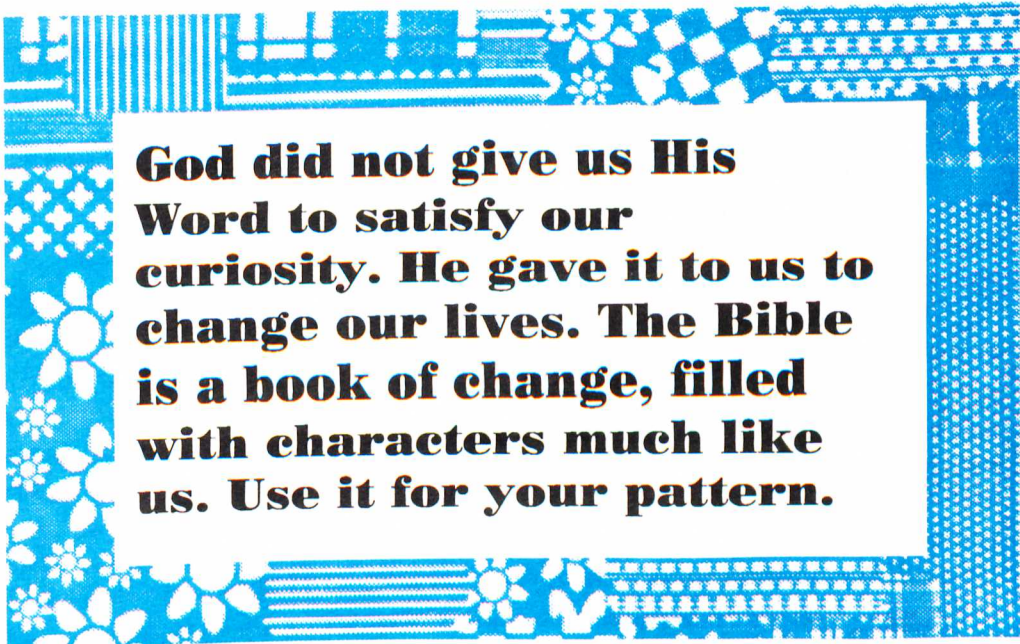
Will it be the pattern of conformity?

According to Romans 12:2, a Christian is not to be conformed to this world. If a woman is conforming to something, she is fashioning herself according to it. Mind and character follow a **pattern**.

The **pattern** we are admonished not to follow is the pattern of this world. You have lessons to learn, changes to make, delights to build on, dreams to

fulfill, sins and harmful habits to shed.

Trace this **pattern**, and you will not be conformed to this world. You will put off the sins of the flesh (Colossians 2:11) and traits of the old man (Colossians 3:8-9). It is wise to examine yourself as admonished in 1 Corinthians 11:28. Examine your thoughts (Philippians 4:8), your tongue (James 3), your time, and your touch. Get rid of feelings of insignificance; **renew your commitment**.



God did not give us His Word to satisfy our curiosity. He gave it to us to change our lives. The Bible is a book of change, filled with characters much like us. Use it for your pattern.

Follow this **pattern**, and you will not be conformed to this world. Unless you begin to execute essential goals, indifference, passivity and procrastination will win another year. Instead of making hard decisions that will initiate beneficial change, you will dread the memory of the way you were.

Don't say, "I'll never be any different; that's just the way I am." Accepting who you are is fine, but accepting where you are in your Christian walk is dangerous. The number one enemy of change is the self-satisfied sin nature in you. That nature leads us to be conformed to this world.

You can break the hold of conformity to this world with Jesus empowering your life. You can avoid many negative situations that develop when life slips out of control. Our motivation is not just to avoid problems. We are motivated to live Spirit-controlled lives. To do so, we must be people of conviction. With deep inner convictions, we can

overcome outer pressures to conform to this world. God-honoring convictions yield God-given rewards, usually later rather than sooner. Daniel is a prime example.

Will it be the pattern of transformation?

Romans 12:2 also says we are to be transformed by God. Transformed means to change into another form, follow a different **pattern** if you will. The same word used for transform in Romans 12:2 is used in the transfiguration of Christ and what a change that was!

To change, you not only put off the old man as instructed in Colossians 3:8–9, but you put on the new man as instructed in Colossians 3:10, 12–14 and Ephesians 4:24.

Change is challenging. Determine where you are in your Christian walk and find your way to where you should be. The process of redirecting your life may be painful and confusing, but you can be transformed. God is a specialist at making something useful and beautiful out of something broken and confused.

Your throat is sore from praying; your eyes burn from crying. You are scared about this transformation, but you know it's right. Others may not understand, and you can't explain it. But if you are convinced it is right, that it will glorify God, that it is supported by Scripture—do it and quit procrastinating. Invite the all-knowing Lord to show you how to make this coming year much better than your past years. It may be in your personal life which will impact your family life, professional life, and church life. It may involve a different area of service or a major relocation to a work God calls you to do. The change may be initiated by another, and you have no control over the situation. Change in any area is always difficult but worth it when God wills it.

When you boil life down to the essentials, the name of the game is change. If you flex with the times, refuse to be rigid, resist the mold, reject the rut, change will be exciting. God will use you.

Stimulating and invigorating change is not easy. It may come slowly, but don't get discouraged and give up. God did not give us His Word to satisfy our

curiosity. **He gave it to us to change our lives.** The Bible is a book of change, filled with characters much like us. Use it for your **pattern**.

Don't limit God for He is limitless. Face the new year with Him, follow on **unafraid**, for you walk not **alone**! That will bring transformation. It brought transformation to the disciples.

The disciples were a handful of misfits who turned the world upside down. What transformation had to come before they did so? Was it a high-powered heavenly drug, a crash course on leadership? No! It was the Holy Spirit, the same change agent at your disposal.

Jesus knows you with your weaknesses and selfish desires. He uses people with weaknesses. Jonah was disobedient, complaining, angry, and depressed; but God used him. God can take human error and turn it to good. He calls you to live a Christ-focused life rather than a self-focused life.

Jesus calls you to live a Christ-dependent life rather than a self-dependent life. He wants to work through you rather than see you trying to produce spiritual results through personal efforts.

God brings four transforming changes to those who have received His Spirit.

First, human frailties are transformed into supernatural abilities. In Acts 2, untrained, monolingual Galilean disciples suddenly communicated in native dialects to people from everywhere. Some touched others so that physical health was restored. That same transforming power lies in you!

Second, fearful reluctance is transformed into bold confidence. The frightened disciples who hid behind closed doors later went street preaching. Thousands were saved. Do you have a fearful reluctance to change? Your biggest task may be to forgive yourself.

Cutting remarks cannot be nullified. Scars cannot be completely removed. Tear stains on the fabric of your emotions may be permanent; but with God in you, you can forgive yourself. Think before you speak. Pause before you act. This can prevent hurt, tears, and scars.

Third, fears and intimidation are transformed into a sense of invincibility. The disciples said they would obey God rather than men.

**The call to deny ourselves
is not to hate ourselves
but to renounce
self-centered living and
replace it with
Christ-centered living.**

Fourth, lonely feelings of abandonment are transformed into joyful perseverance. Remember how alone the disciples felt after Jesus died? This feeling disappeared. Even when they were threatened and flogged, they persevered. God had not forsaken them; He was living in them. He lives in you also. He casts out feelings of loneliness and allows you to joyfully persevere in the work He has for you if you will allow Him to do so. That's the key—allowing Him to transform you, to help you follow the **pattern**.

Will you work on your pattern daily?

Faith does not concern itself with the entire journey but with one step at a time. Life is too short to waste hours in brooding over the past.

With Jesus transforming and empowering our lives, we seek to live Spirit-controlled lives. With our lives under control, we use energy in positive ways rather than having to deal with negative consequences that follow sin. In living Spirit-controlled lives, we become a testimony of the difference Christ makes in everyday people—**daily**. The greatest obstacles can often be overcome by taking one day at a time.

In Luke 9:23, Christ calls us to “deny ourselves.” This is a strange challenge in a world absorbed with self! Contrary to the opinion of some, this does not damage one's self-image. If we love our neighbors as ourselves, we love ourselves. This produces a healthy sense of self-love.

Jesus did expect us to renounce self-centered living and replace it with Christ-centered living. It is a call to live a Christ-dependent life **rather than a self-dependent** life. The call to deny ourselves is not to hate ourselves but to renounce self-centered living and replace it with Christ-centered living.

Christ-centered living means we will give to others. It has been said, “Show me the true ministry of giving

without thought of self. Don't let blows keep me from giving. I don't want to be calloused, calculating. I want to be willing to help anyone who crosses my path needing my help—to give and give without thoughts of what the result may be for me.”

By so doing, we follow the pattern given by Christ.

This transformation is a process involving daily work. Luke 9:23 doesn't just tell us to deny self, take up the cross, and follow Christ. It tells us to do it **daily**. To develop a Christ-centered life, spend time **daily** with God. To deny ourselves and place Christ at the center of our lives, we must add four basic spiritual disciplines to our lives.

First, we must live in the Word. Second, we must pray in faith. Third, we must fellowship with believers. Living for Christ in a secular world is a demanding experience. We need others for Christian support. **Fourth, we must witness to the world.** Our responsibility is to give testimony about what Christ has done in our lives. The final commitment of Luke 9:23, to follow Christ, flows naturally from denying self and taking up our cross **daily**. ❖

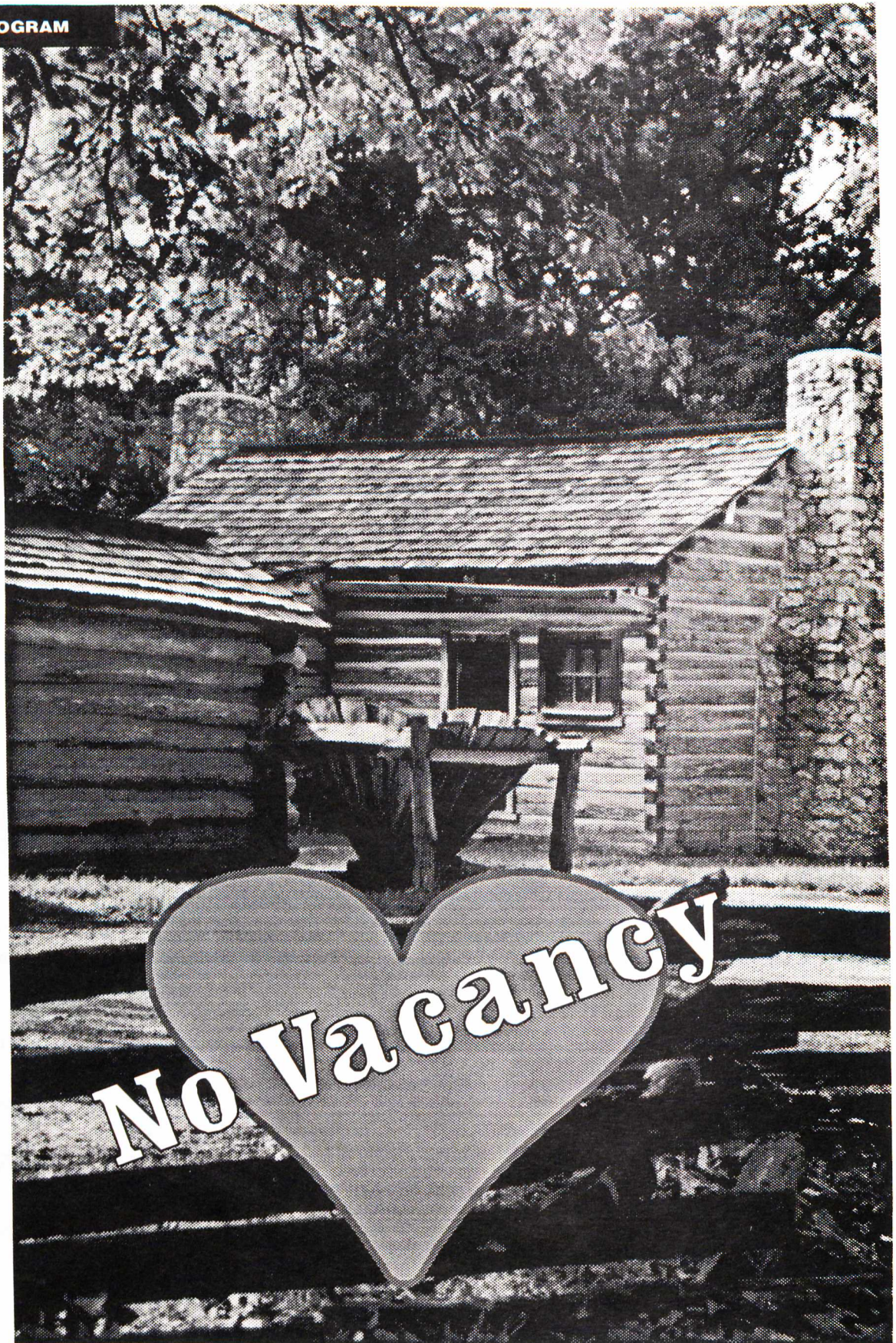
*Dale Edwards lives in Liberty, South Carolina. She is the author of **Founded Upon a Rock**, a book on the life of Henry Oliver.*

by
**Anne
Worthington**

Scripture:
Romans 12:1-2,
Psalm 112

Song:
*Take My Life and
Let It Be*

Aim:
To yield myself to
God for His use,
and trust Him to
keep me holy and
acceptable.



In her song, *Take My Life and Let It Be*, Francis Havergal describes the heart as Christ's royal throne. She writes, "Take my heart, it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne." She no longer wanted Satan's occupancy, but for Christ to reign, rule and cleanse her heart.

That is similar to what author Robert Boyd Munger said in his booklet, "My Heart—Christ's Home," when he called the heart Christ's home—where Christ dwells. He used an allegory to illustrate the process of making his heart Christ's home. After his salvation experience, he invited Christ into every room of his heart.

Christ wants to rule and reign in the heart of every believer, yet all too often Satan stirs a rebellion. How can the heart become Christ's throne, His home? Here are four essential steps.

Open the Door

The first step in making the heart Christ's home/throne is both the easiest and the most difficult—to ask Him in. He stands and knocks at the heart's door. We must open the door and invite Christ in. When He comes in, salvation occurs immediately. At that special moment, He takes up permanent residence in the person of the Holy Spirit. The heart becomes His dwelling place—His temple. Wherever you go, He goes. Have you opened the door?

Put Out the Welcome Mat

The second step is consecration, when we say, "Take my life and let it be consecrated or set apart for Thee." At a specific point in her life, Francis Havergal threw open the door of her heart and invited Christ into every dimension of her life. She realized that if Christ had power to cleanse her from all her sin, He also had power to keep her clean. That's when she gave herself into His keeping power. She surrendered her hands, her feet, her voice, her silver and gold, her time, her will, her heart, her whole self to His use.

Robert Munger said, "Lord, I want this heart of mine to be yours. I want to have you settle down here and be perfectly at home. Everything I have belongs to you."

Touring The House

He then invited Christ into his heart-home. He took Him into the library—the control room of his thought life. He took Him into the dining room of his appetites and desires—his self-centered wants. Then to the living room, a place set aside for fellowship with Christ.

The meager, barren workroom of his talents and service came next. Then the rec room of his friends and activities. And on to the bedroom of sexual purity. Finally, he reluctantly threw open the door of the hall closet containing dead and rotten things.

Both he and Miss Havergal surrendered themselves. They said "take." For some this step is taken at conversion. For others it comes later. Miss Havergal was converted at age 14, but didn't surrender herself until she was 37. That's when she penned the words to "Take My Life and Let It Be."

Free Will Baptist Founder

Benjamin Randall, founder of the northern Free Will Baptist movement had been converted 10 years and an ordained minister when he consecrated himself at age 31. After much anguish of soul, he realized he needed "purifying and refining." He surrendered himself by saying, "Lord, here I am, take me and do with me as Thou wilt."

The word *consecrate* means to set apart as holy, to give up oneself, to surrender, to submit. It is giving oneself entirely to God. There must be a definite time when I say, "Take my whole self, I give it to you voluntarily, unconditionally, unreservedly."

Like marriage, consecration is both an act of a moment, and the work of a lifetime.

Deliberate Surrender

It is like giving yourself in marriage. You surrender your body, will and way to your marriage partner. Like marriage, consecration is both an act of a moment, and the work of a lifetime. The act is definite and complete, yet the slow practical development takes a lifetime. As God reveals unyielded areas of the heart, we surrender them to Him—the work of a lifetime.

When I, by the act of my will, unconditionally surrender myself to God, He takes charge. He takes over my life and sets it apart for His use. This is a once-for-all step, the first step to victorious living. How can I live as victor over sin and have Him reign and rule in my heart? I must give myself to God and His controlling Holy Spirit.

Has there been a definite time in your life when you said, "Lord, here I am, take me and do with me what You will?"

Clean House

When Mr. Munger invited Jesus into each room of his heart, he discovered two claimants for the throne—two who would reign as king and control his heart. One was the old, sinful, fleshly nature, the other, the Holy Spirit.

The flesh with its two helpers, the world and the devil, carry on a raging battle between the old, sinful nature and the indwelling Spirit. The flesh says, "Give *me* the scepter. Live according to the natural desires of your sinful heart." The Holy Spirit says, "Walk in My power and strength, under My control." There is a constant tug-of-war.

Daily Choice

The indwelling Spirit is God at work in the heart. He assists in our daily walk. He has given us a new nature. Now it is up to us just how much room we give Him. That is what Mr. Munger had to do.

The Holy Spirit longs to rule in our hearts, and the only way He can do that is to have the throne. Two rulers cannot occupy the throne at the same time. When the Holy Spirit moves into the yielded heart of a believer, He controls every part. He will convict of sin. He will keep the believer separate from the world and cause him to walk and talk in a Christ-like manner.

He helps us live a new life. He longs to make God's Word real to us. He longs to put sin out of our hearts and keep it out. He longs to help us walk in a way that is pleasing to God. But He cannot help us unless we do our part.

Who Holds the Scepter?

We must believe He lives in our hearts, and count on His help. At the same time we must surrender ourselves to Him. The Holy Spirit will

work in us only as we give Him entire right to rule. **There is no consecration without separation.**

It is up to us whether we hand over the scepter of our hearts to the flesh or to the Holy Spirit. We are the ones to say which ruler will occupy our heart-throne. If we hand over the scepter to the Holy Spirit, He will control our thoughts and acts. If we give the scepter to the flesh, it will control us so completely the Spirit cannot help us. This grieves the Holy Spirit.

It's not easy to keep the flesh from ruling. It's a battleground. Paul said that he had to keep his body in constant subjection in order to fight his evil nature and keep it from ruling. We understand Paul's dilemma. We struggle with the same evil, fleshly desires. We know that we cannot keep our hearts clean and obedient in our own strength. It is only through the power and strength of the Holy Spirit that our hearts are kept for Him.

When the old, sinful, fleshly nature and the indwelling Holy Spirit wage war for your heart-throne, to which do you hand the scepter?

Transfer the Title

Robert Munger found it impossible in his own strength to live his life according to God's standards. So he asked the Lord to take responsibility for keeping his heart how it ought to be and making his life what it ought to be. He transferred the title. He turned over ownership. He said, "Here it is, all that I am and have forever. Now You run the house. I'll just remain with You as houseboy and friend."

So must I turn over ownership. Just as I said, "Take my life," I must also say, "Keep my life and establish it, for I cannot keep it for You and make it secure."

The giving act is a once-for-all accomplished fact. Yet, the keeping is continual. Just as Mr. Munger found he had no power to keep his life, we have no power to keep our lives. Just as we trusted God to take it, we must trust Him to keep it.

Trying to keep our hearts and lives for Him is like trying to nail Jell-O to the wall. It's impossible. Just as He takes the heart and life when offered, He will keep the heart and life entrusted to Him. He will take it, fix it, keep it and make it secure. But He

cannot take until offered, and He cannot keep until entrusted.

As you go about your daily activities, do you ask God to keep that which you have surrendered to him? To keep you for His honor and glory? Kept not for your selfish purposes, but for His sake, His use, His work? Kept for Him so He can have His will and way in your life?

Enjoy the Perks

When you give yourself completely to God, every area and every relationship of your life will be affected. Psalm 112 speaks of a fixed and established heart, and describes some evidences of a heart that is kept for God. (Read Psalm 112)

Loves God

First, the heart that is kept for Christ will love God and His Word. "Happy is the man," the psalmist said, "Who fears God and delights in His commandments." Examine yourself. Do you love God and spend time in Bible study and prayer?

Special Family

Second, the family will be affected. The psalmist found the family of the fixed and established heart to have children who were mighty and moral. She can entrust her children to God's keeping power. Have you given your family members into His keeping?

Full Home

The person with a fixed and established heart can expect God's material and spiritual blessings. He will have a "house full of riches and a heart full of righteousness," the psalmist said. He will enjoy God's blessings and will reflect His character.

Good Neighbor

The person with an established heart will look to the needs of others. He is characterized as being gracious, good and godly. He does what is right toward others. Giving graciously is proof of his righteousness. Does gracious giving, goodness and godliness characterize your life?

Sound Business

He will manage his business affairs with discretion. He is compassionate, but also careful, keeping in mind that everything belongs to God. Do you

manage your money and business affairs wisely? Do you give God what is due Him?

Conclusion

When the heart is kept and established as God's royal throne, Satan will no longer occupy and rule. No longer will it be deceitful, rebellious and hard. No longer will it be proud, haughty and foolish. Rather it will be fixed, faithful, honest, generous, contrite, true, tender, pure, wise. It is immovable, never wandering, never fluctuating. No matter how trying the circumstances of life, the heart remains steadfast and secure. It is not shaken. God is in residency. There is no vacancy.

Is there a big "No Vacancy" sign in the front yard of your life to let the devil know that your life is fully occupied . . . with Christ? ❖

(Close the program singing: *Keep My Life and Let It Be*)

Anne Worthington lives in Antioch, TN and is a member of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church.



A shoulder to lean on

by Odessa Ledlow

Sue* assured me from the beginning that God had sent us to comfort her family.

My husband and I have been called to sit alongside many people who have been crushed with deep sorrow. Little did we know the crises Sue and her husband Joe* would face the following months or how they would need the help of a caring church family.

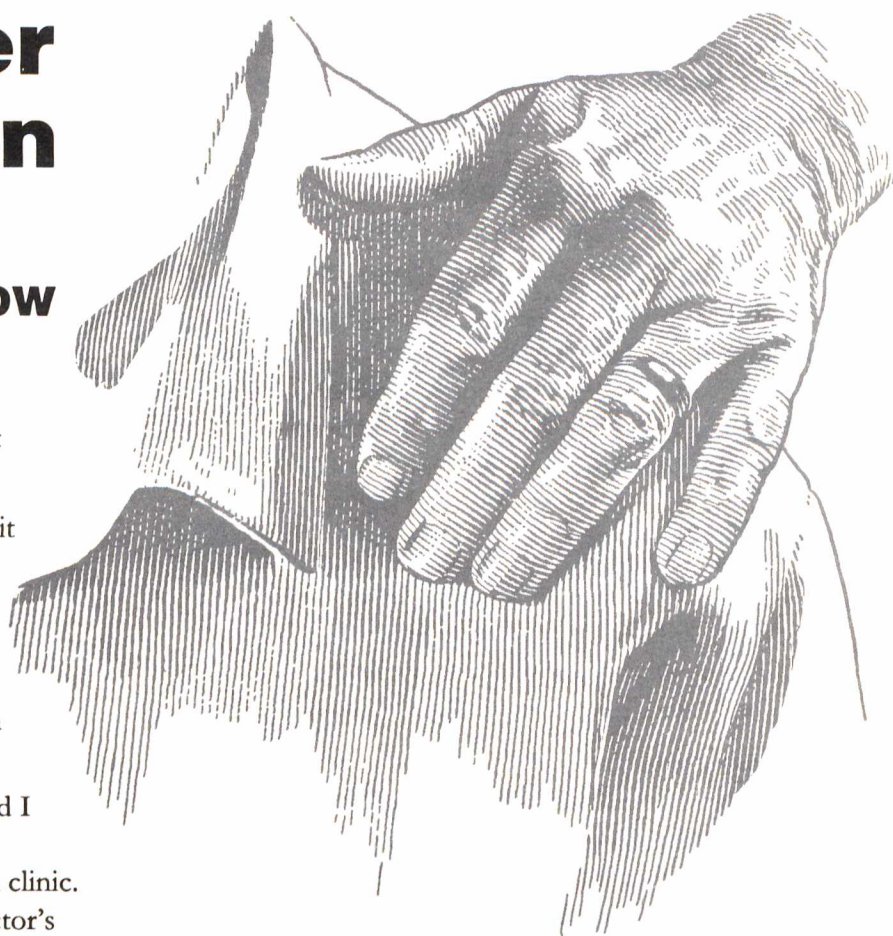
A year had passed since my husband and I came to our new pastorate. We sat in the waiting room of an Air Force Base Hospital clinic. Sue and her husband Joe were there for doctor's appointments, blood work, and chemo for one of them.

The last twelve months had been a nightmare to this couple. Both had been patients here numerous times, and on occasion shared the same room. The hospital became their second home. Both had cancer and it was taking its toll.

Three months into our pastorate, Joe had his right lung removed. Soon the cancer had spread to the liver.

Sue began to experience chest discomfort. The diseased section of one lung was removed to prevent further complications. In a few short months, she developed breast cancer resulting in a mastectomy.

From the human side it seemed they had encountered more suffering than their share. In all this, they kept the faith and leaned heavily upon their Heavenly Father.



Joe had served in the army twenty years and retired a Sergeant Major. Having raised a beautiful family of six, he and Sue were nearing retirement age. Their small farm provided a simple yet secure life for their senior years.

This family had a special place in our hearts. Our friendship reached back many years. When my husband and I started our first mission work, in the mid-sixties, they were there to help us. We were encouraged by their faithful attendance and willingness to support the work wherever and whenever needed. They later moved to another part of the state, but their friendship stayed in our hearts.

After twenty-five years, our paths crossed again. The Lord had brought us together and once again we were their pastor and pastor's wife. Their greatest desire was to help us build another work for the Lord. But unless God intervened, this dream would not come true.

My husband and I sat in the waiting room and watched patients come and go. All were there for the same reason, trying desperately to hold onto the thin thread of life. Most had a friend or relative for moral support. I looked at their ashen faces and thin bodies and groaned inside. Why so much suffering? I knew God was not required to answer. Aware that I could be the one in their situation, I thanked God for my health.

I observed as each patient was called and greeted with a hand shake or gentle touch. Sounds of cheerful conversation between nurse and patient faded as they reached the end of the hall. Their thoughtfulness made me smile inside. Acts of kindness were not overlooked nor would they be forgotten.

We anxiously waited for Sue and Joe's reports. Sue finally came to the waiting room and with a sad countenance told us the prognosis was bleak. All hopes of Joe's survival were shattered. He had two or three weeks to live. With chemotherapy, she had an eighty percent chance of survival.

I stood there looking into her face, not knowing what to say. At that moment, she did not need a lot of advice or consoling words. More than anything, she desperately needed someone to reach out to. I wrapped my arms around her and we wept together.

The trip home seemed twice as far, with little conversation but a lot of deep hurt and mixed emotions. It was a bright sunny day, but darkness seemed to hide the sun from them. They did not even notice the patches of beautiful blue squeezed between the clouds. God was everywhere. But to them, He seemed far away. I had confidence in my Lord for He is present help in time of trouble. He would reveal Himself.

Joe's condition worsened and in just five days, the Lord called him home. Sue underwent another surgery, this time of the thyroid gland. The report was benign. In the days following, we kept this precious family before God's throne in prayer.

The many winds of reality find their way into our lives each day. Some are gentle and pleasant while others are fierce and hard to cope with. We face trials of various kinds—the devastating blow of a broken home, a shattered dream or a terminal illness.

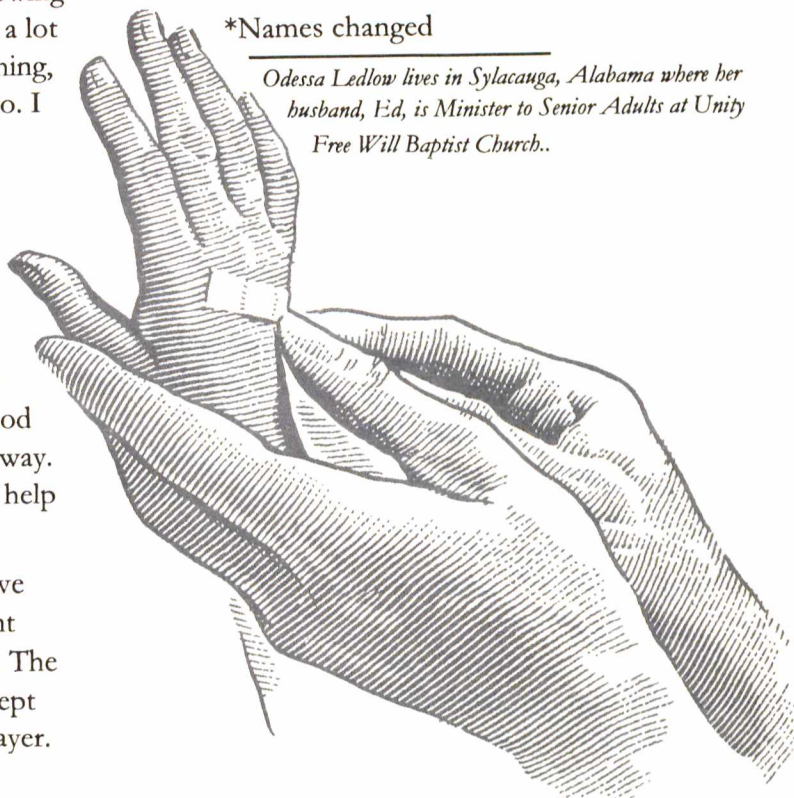
I do not have the answer to why some of God's children suffer more than others. While on earth, we are subject to sickness and death. Sometimes, He chooses to heal a sick body. Other times, He takes a dear saint home.

As God's children we will all have occasions when we share someone's burden of pain or tragedy. We will meet many grieving people who need to feel our love. A listening ear, gentle touch or a hug may mean more than words. If they ask for prayer this may be the opportunity to direct them to the great burden Bearer.

As long as there is sickness and death, heartaches and sorrow, we must offer our help and encouragement to those we meet. We must feel their pain to sorrow with them.

**Names changed*

Odessa Ledlow lives in Sylacauga, Alabama where her husband, Ed, is Minister to Senior Adults at Unity Free Will Baptist Church..



Actionette materials . . . on drawing board

by Patty McCullough



At the close of the WNAC convention in Fort Worth, Texas, I made my way to Mary R. Wischart. She had asked for volunteers who would be willing to write programs for pre-teen and teen girls. I told her I might be willing to help. She thanked me and promised to keep me in mind.

Nine months later our paths crossed again. After exchanging greetings, Dr. Wischart asked me if I was still interested in editing materials for young women. Once again, I replied that I might be willing to help. We arranged a meeting to talk further.

This past July, at the WNAC meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. Wischart announced that I would be the new editor of Actionette

materials. Since that announcement many have congratulated and encouraged me. Both are appreciated. As I see this as an enormous and somewhat formidable undertaking. Allow me to tell you a little about who I am and what I plan to do.

My name is Patty McCullough. My husband, Tom, is presently the missions professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. We served together for fifteen years as missionaries to France. Since returning to the United States for health reasons, the Lord has allowed us to adopt a baby. Ian Ross is now a very active three and a half year old dynamo!

Charity VanWinkle will assist me in this endeavor. As Editorial Assistant for *Heartbeat*, our denomination's foreign missions publication, she takes on this project in her "spare time."

Many have requested program ideas for pre-teen and teen groups already in existence. Others have asked for guidance in establishing new groups. Far too many years have gone by since any new materials were published for these age groups.

I have been employed to edit publications for young women ages 9-13 and 14-19. Charity and

I will update existing materials for these age groups and procure new up-to-date programs. We will then add suggested activities, missionary stories and appropriate prayer requests. We hope to complete the first 12 programs for teen girls by the next WNAC convention to be held in July, 1998.

Our goal is to develop a four-year curriculum for each age group. The first year we plan to examine the biblical basis of missions. The next year we will delve into the history of missions. The following year we will acquaint ourselves with Free Will Baptist missionaries. To conclude our cycle we will develop how girls 9-19 can be actively involved in missions.

In order for these plans to become publications, **we need your help.** We are asking that every woman pray for Charity and me. Many women will have ideas to send along to us. Some may even want to volunteer to write a program. If you would like to help in any of these ways, you may write to me at the WNAC mailing address found on the inside cover of this magazine. Charity and I look forward to helping our younger women become nationally active for Christ, too. ❖

A graphic of a springboard with a coiled spring and a diving board, with the word "Springboard:" written in a large, stylized font.

Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator/Assistant Coordinator

Plan January's enlistment emphasis carefully. Order *Bright Ideas* from WNAC, if you don't have it already. An updated order form is on pages 22-23 in this issue. Lucy & Marge on pages 17-18 makes a great and humorous enlistment program. The January Program could also work for your enlistment. If you don't have enlistment in January, you should have it some other time of the year.

New Year's resolutions for Secretary

I will . . .

- ✓ take accurate minutes.
- ✓ keep an up-to-date prospect list and give the Assistant Coordinator copies of the list.
- ✓ keep an up-to-date membership roll with correct addresses and telephone numbers.
- ✓ help the treasurer see that members pay their dues.
- ✓ give the Coordinator a copy of the minutes and all other pertinent information promptly following each meeting.
- ✓ send the annual secretary's report to the district secretary on schedule.

New Year's Resolutions for Treasurer

I will . . .

- ✓ send monthly treasurer's reports to the district treasurer or appropriate person.
- ✓ keep my WAC group informed and up-to-date on financial matters.
- ✓ take an offering at each meeting .
- ✓ teach good stewardship by word and example.
- ✓ work diligently with the other officers to accomplish our group's goals.
- ✓ remember that August is WNAC Emphasis month.
- ✓ help my group choose worthwhile missions projects.
- ✓ send a separate check to the Memorial Student Loan Fund (state treasurer only).

Missions Chairman

Both Home and Foreign Missions have printed new directories. You may order these through WNAC or the missions departments. If you know of some women who like to write letters, send cards or care packages, give each one a copy of both directories. Some missionaries' jobs call for frequent moves, so it's best to get current addresses. Encourage everyone to share with the group any letters they receive from the missionaries they write.

Service Chairman

Warm some hearts during this winter. If your women's group isn't already active in a local outreach ministry, make a list of suggestions for the officers and your women to consider. Your group can impact lives through even the smallest act of service.

You may copy **Prescription for Love** on page 17 to give to members, visitors or prospects.

Provision Closet Needs:

Queen size sheet sets

Queen and Twin size Bedsreads

Pillows

Electric blankets

Electric skillets

Kitchen knives

Tupperware®
(especially large storage containers and pitchers)

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

FEBRUARY

HEART QUIZ

1. "Man looketh on the _____, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).
2. "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy _____, and with all thy _____" (Mark 12:30).
3. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am _____ and _____ in heart" (Matthew 11:29).
4. "For as he _____ in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).
5. "For with the heart man _____ unto righteousness" (Romans 10:10).
6. "Thy _____ have I hid in mine heart" (Psalm 119:11).
7. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for _____" (Matthew 5:8).
8. "_____, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts" (Psalm 139:23).
9. "For out of the _____ of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34).
10. "Keep thy heart with all diligence: for out of it are the _____" (Proverbs 4:23).
11. "For where your _____ is, there will your heart be also" (Luke 12:34).
12. "I will take the _____ heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of _____" (Ezekiel 11:19).

Prayer Chairman

Tanya Hart prepared the following leaflet to help pray for missionary kids. You may use this at a prayer meeting or give a copy to each woman in your group.

Praying for Missionary Kids

Pre-Field:

1. That the children preparing to leave to live in another culture will have an understanding of the country where they will live.
2. That the parents will be able to help them say "good" good-byes and help them through the grief of leaving family, friends and places.
3. That they will have the joy and anticipation in the new life they will experience in their new country.

MK at Home with Parents:

1. That they will be kept from the attacks of the Evil One.
2. That they will learn early to trust in the Savior. That they will understand that God is a God of LOVE and that they can trust Him.
3. That they will be kept in good health and safety from physical dangers.
4. For a healthy relationship with their parents in their formative years.
5. That they will feel at home in their host country.
6. That they will have an appreciation for the culture around them and have an early understanding of those things in that culture that are not pleasing to God.
7. That God will use them to open doors to share the Gospel.
8. That as they make friends, they can be a witness with their lives.

MK in Boarding School

1. For peace in their hearts about the separation from their parents.
2. That they will understand that this separation is not to keep them away from their parents but for them to receive a good education which could not be provided where their parents live (especially in isolated areas). And, for them to be with friends in the same situation.
3. That they will be surrounded by loving and attentive dorm parents as well as teachers.
4. That God will give them several close, loyal, and influential friends.
5. That they will come to the place where they will understand that the decision to send them to boarding school was probably one of the most difficult choices their parents had to make.

For the Parents of MK in Boarding Schools:

1. That they will have peace in their hearts about the decision they have made to send their children away to school.
2. That the parents will find creative ways to keep communication lines open with their children.
3. That parents will make vacation times special and let the children know they are glad to have them home.
4. That during the times the kids are home, that it will be a time of strengthening and bonding their relationship.
5. Wisdom to know how to handle situations at a distance.

For the Adolescent:

1. For hearts that hunger after God and righteousness.
2. For tolerance of those who are different from themselves.
3. A deep appreciation for the culture they live in.
4. A healthy attitude towards parents' home culture.
5. That they will respect their parents and value their opinions.
6. For good relationships with their peers.

PRESCRIPTION FOR LOVE

by Phyllis Ann Brown

This recipe comes with a lifetime guarantee. It will never expire, go flat or sour for it is by the words of God.

The measurements used in this prescription are to be given individually to the chosen person through the Holy Spirit.

You will need:

1 cup of longsuffering thoroughly washed by the words of God from envy, hypocrisy, malice, hate—all leading to ungodly states

1 beaker filled with the joy of truth

1 spoon of infinity; bearing: all things, all hopes, all pains—that lead to eternal gains

Empty beaker into the cup. Pour till the cup is just running over. Stirring quickly with the spoon of infinity. Try hard to lose none. Minister to all as directed by the Holy Spirit. Love cannot, will not, therefore, shall not fail.

Phyllis Ann Brown lives in St. Louis, MO.

For the Family:

1. For a sense of rootedness when they are on home assignment.
2. That the family unit will remain close when they are together or apart.
3. For prayer to be central in their family life.
4. For the family to understand that they have a more positive over all experience when the MKs are included as part of their parents' ministry especially on field assignment.

For the Caregivers:

1. For hearts full of love and concern for the MKs in their care.
2. For Wisdom to know how to care for the MK's needs.
3. Good relationships between parents and MKs.
4. For skills in communicating with parents.
5. For bonding of trust to be created with the missionary family.

For a list of MKs and their addresses, you may contact Tanya Hart: 801 North Hills Drive, Ayden, NC 28513/Telephone (919) 746-2144.

Study Chairman

See the book reviews on pages 28–29. Both books can be used for studies. *A Time to Pray God's Way* would be especially helpful for a study on prayer. Remember, WAC wants to help women grow in Christ.

Lucy & Marge

Lucy: Marge, don't you get disgusted sometimes with all these women's organizations?

Marge: What do you mean, Lucy? Surely you don't mean you're tired of our women's group here at the church.

Lucy: And to be politically correct, I think you are supposed to say woman's group. No, I don't mean our group.

Marge: Well, then what are you thinking of?

Lucy: Why, Marge, we have the mad mothers, the MITH mothers, the million woman march (just because there's a million man march), the women for equal rights, the women against equal rights, the women for unequal rights, the women against men..

Marge: Wait a minute, Lucy. I don't recognize that organization, Women Against Men.

Lucy: WAM? They don't call themselves that, but it seems to me that's what they intend. Some of them would just like to wam all the men off the earth.

Marge: Oh, Lucy, surely not.

Lucy: I don't know, Marge. They're pretty brutal. I like men myself. After all I married one.

Marge: Of course, we all like men here, don't we? Our women's group—excuse me, woman's group cooperates with the Master's Men and they cooperate and help us.

Lucy: That's true and that's the way it ought to be. That's why I like our group and I think all the women of the church should be a part and supporting Women Active for Christ. It's our woman's organization, uniting Free Will Baptist women all over the world.

Marge: Yes, we have women's groups, excuse me, woman's groups—

Lucy: Marge, if you say excuse me one more time, I'm going to scream. Just spit it out—woman, women, females. It's our group for all Free Will Baptist women.

Marge: Okay, Lucy. I was going to say we have—uh—women's groups in Cuba, Mexico, Panama, Brazil, and Côte d'Ivoire.

Lucy: That's exciting to think about the women we've had a part in winning to Christ organizing to serve and win others to Him.

Marge: But some people have the wrong idea about WNAC.

Lucy: I don't know why. It's as plain as the nose on your face—and yours is pretty plain, Marge. Women Nationally Active for Christ. We're not one of those feminist groups.

Marge: We are women of the Word. Our goal is to make Christ known through our service in the home, the church, our communities and around the world.

Lucy: I can't understand why any woman wouldn't want to be a part of WNAC.

Marge: Yes, I like being identified with these women serving Christ in the United States and around the world.

Lucy: Me, too, Marge. How about you out there? Come on, get in the swing of things. This is one women's, I mean woman's, organization you'll feel glad to belong to.

Marge: Right. Join us and we will do you good.

Lucy: Do you think we're prejudiced, Marge?

Marge: Now, what are you thinking of, Lucy?

Lucy: We don't have any men at our meetings. You know they make for more excitement. Hey, all you men out there. Our next meeting is

_____ If you get bored with Master's Men, just come on over—

Marge: (*dragging Lucy away*) Shh. Come on, Lucy, you've said enough. I thought you liked men's organization's.

Lucy: To the women's meeting. I do, I do. I just don't want them to think we're prejudiced. (*As Marge drags her off stage she has to get in a last word.*) The program is good and the fellowship is great. ❖

Springboard Illustrated Stories to Grow By

Volume 38/ No. 1

a prayer exercise by Ruth Bivens

Sometimes I find myself struggling with a problem after I have prayed and "turned it over to the Lord." I go back and pick it up again and carry it around and worry about it. Then I sense that the Lord probably cannot work there because I don't keep my hands out of the way.

I have learned one sure way to turn a problem over to the Lord. Write Him a letter. In that letter clearly state exactly what the problem is. Tell Him what you have done about it or how helpless you feel in the face of it. Then clearly write your promise to give it to Him. Date the letter, sign it, and seal it in an envelope. Hide the envelope in a safe place where no one will accidentally find or read it. You are sending this letter to the One True Problem Solver.

Now, write Him a thank you note. Select a lovely card, and simply write the date and time on the inside. Keep this card in your Bible or study book where you will frequently run across it.

When this worrisome problem comes to mind, look for that card and read the date. Tell Satan to take a hike because on this date at this hour you committed this problem to the Lord and He is going to handle it for you. And give the Lord thanks and praise for what He is doing.

When you happen to notice the card in your Bible, open it and give thanks that the Lord is dealing with that problem. Do not return to pray about it except in thanksgiving.

If someone else asks you about the card, tell them, "The Lord and I are working on something." No more explanation is necessary.

Keep that card and on the day that you realize the problem is solved, write the new date and a statement of thanks to the Lord. Sometimes it takes time, a year or two. But the Lord always answers His mail. Praise and thank Him for what He is accomplishing. This exercise keeps your heart from worry and your hands from picking up your problem again. ❖

Ruth Bivens and her husband, Bud, are missionaries to Mexico.

COMMUNICATOR

by MARY RUTH WISEHART

Enlist Women Active for Christ

January is enlistment month for WNAC. *Bright Ideas*, a booklet filled with suggestions for reaching women in January and every month of the year, is available from the WNAC office for \$1.50.

Every woman in your church should read the Free Will Baptist magazine for women and be a part of the women's organization.

Every church in your district should have a woman's group. Contact the field worker nearest you. WNAC provides a complimentary kit for new groups, including a *Manual*, a *Yearbook*, and as many magazines as the group needs.

Let's reach out in 1998 and encourage all Free Will Baptist women to be active for Christ.

February Is

Foreign Student Scholarship Fund Month

Last year the WNAC Foreign Student Scholarship Fund helped Silas in Côte d'Ivoire with his training at the CMA Bible Institute in Yamassukro. Below is a recent note from Silas.

My family and I are happy to give you all our thanks for the help you have sent us for a second time to pay our cost at the institute.

Please receive our heartfelt thanks. The Lord has done great things for us all the time we've been in school. We think that it is also a challenge that He has prepared for us.

Pray for us that we will take up this challenge in a way worthy of His Name.

We pray that WNAC will work effectively for the progress of the gospel.

Our affectionate greetings in Christ,
Yao Kouassi N'Guettio Silas
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Your gift to the fund insures continuing help for students in training in their own language, in their own countries.

Furnishing the Guest House in Abidjan

Several of you took a project to provide for a room in the guest house in Côte d'Ivoire.

Just a reminder that these need to be in by June 1 so that we can send the items with a group going to Côte d'Ivoire.

If you cannot meet the requirements by this deadline, please return your page to the WNAC office so that some other group can complete the project.

Please remember to return the identification with your items so that we can be sure we furnish all the rooms.

Funds for WNAC Expenses

Below is a report of support for WNAC expenses during the third quarter of 1997.

The total amount given to WNAC through these months was \$41,390.50. That total includes cash gifts to the Provision Closet, gifts to the Endowment Fund, literature sales, magazine subscription payments and the convention offering.

Expenses for the WNAC office average about \$15,000 a month.

Perhaps some state, district and local treasurers are not sending in funds every month. Even if the amount seems small, funds coming together every month will make a difference for WNAC and other agencies also.

Women, please support your own organization. It merits your support and no one else is going to support it.

Alabama	\$379.00
Arkansas	257.73
California	2012.00
	(includes \$1,950.00 dues)
Georgia	1103.94
	(includes \$400 dues)
Illinois	267.00
Iowa	40.00
Kansas	115.00
	(includes \$70 dues)
Kentucky	215.50
	(includes \$30 dues)
Michigan	70.00
Mississippi	357.00
	(includes \$310 dues)
Maryland	120.00
Missouri	880.53
New Mexico	18.70
North Carolina	25.00
Oklahoma	487.00
Ohio	7297.23
	(includes \$7000 convention gift)
South Carolina	110.50
Tennessee	5687.68
Texas	594.10
Virginia	218.99
Total	\$20,186.90

Thank you to all treasurers who send funds regularly. Thank you to all groups that give regular support for WNAC expenses. ❖

Women In Action

Goodies for Walkers in Mongolia

The Woman's Auxiliary from 1st Free Will Baptist, Russellville, AR, met recently in the home of Ted Henry. After a meal, the group boxed up miscellaneous goodies which had been given by Auxiliary members. Each box was weighed carefully and prepared to be sent to English teachers in Mongolia, Terry and JaNelda Walker. JaNelda is Ted Henry's daughter. One box will be mailed each month!



Back row: Ted Henry, Patsy Vanhook, Bonita Hill, Jimmie Lo Trusty, Ina Sanders, Carol Lane

Front row: Brenda Hale, Faye Westerman, Marilyn Wilson, Jannine Hunnicutt, Michele Cooksey, Cindy Ellis (behind Michele)



Joint Effort for Mexico Missions

Airport Auxiliary of Tulsa, OK and Faith Auxiliary of Springdale, AR gave over 75 blankets to be used in the Mexican Mission work. Airport Auxiliary also gave 100 pounds of wrapped candy for the church on the Canal Road.

South Mississippi District sends gifts to pastors' wives in Mexico

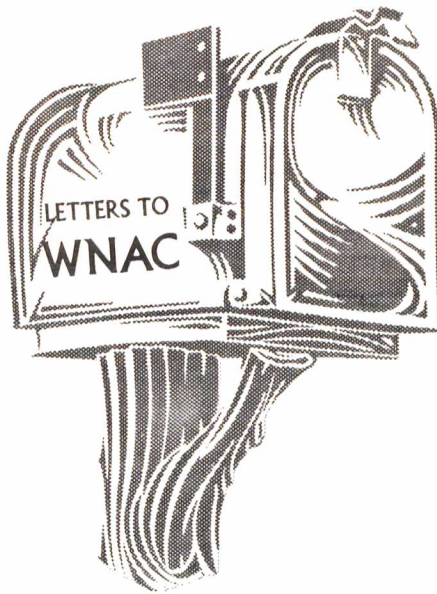
Each wife was presented with a book and a set of kitchen towels during the National Ladies' Auxiliary meeting August 2, 1997. There are 24 wives who labor with their husbands in Mexico.



Mitzi Munsey made the presentation and is pictured with the pastors' wives who were present.



Bud and Ruth Bivens in a mountain of blankets.



Enjoy Lucy & Marge

Our women's group enjoys Lucy & Marge's column in each issue of *CoLaborer*.

Nora Didway Fellowship

Pleasant Valley FWB Church, Poteau, OK

We love the Lucy & Marge skits. Please have more of them. We have two women in our group who play the parts and we all enjoy them so much. Sometimes they perform the skits for the church on Sunday nights.

The Ladies' Auxiliary

Rocky Pass FWB Church, Nebo, NC

Tom's Creek Women Appreciate *CoLaborer*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank WNAC and *CoLaborer* for giving women an avenue for sharing their writing.

I also compliment you on the quality of the programs. I have seen women whom I thought would never volunteer to give a lesson do so, simply knowing they could rely on the message. I've also observed how personal stories in *CoLaborer* have propelled women to testify with words of their own. Our devotional time has been a true gift from God.

Karen S. Daniel

Tom's Creek Woman's Auxiliary, Wittensville, KY

Our Missionaries Write

Stateside assignment is a time to share personally what God is doing in Spain. Between now and my return in January '98, I hope to be able to see you and thank you for your generous faithful support of the work of the Lord in Spain.

Lynn Midgett, Missionary to Spain

I would like to thank our WNAC women for their material assistance, especially through the provision closet. It surely made our lives easier as we moved back and forth through these 34 years. Each one who gave has also served our Lord on the mission fields of Free Will Baptist works.

Jean Deeds, Missionary to Brazil

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1998 WNAC Order Form



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Empty Heart Hotel by Sara Kilgore

Tell Me About Missions by Patricia Sanders

The Spirit of Christmas by Jackie Utley

What Shall We Do About Grandma? by Dorothy Hamilton

Victims or Victors by Sue Winchester

Total this page \$ _____

Life!Action.

a column for teens compiled by Patty McCullough and Charity VanWinkle

MEET

Cross Timbers

Actionettes

As the new editors of

pre-teen and teen publications for WNAC (See our article on page 14 for further details.), we are responsible for writing this bimonthly column, currently known as Life!Action. For our first assignment we decided to interview the newly formed Actionettes group at Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. We join their second meeting already in progress.

What is Actionettes?

A mini-auxiliary. We do the same stuff as the women only it is geared to girls.

Why did you organize?

To get involved with our church and its outreach program.

How do you intend to achieve your purpose?

We are planning to provide babysitting during a parents' night-out for the purpose of Christmas shopping. All our proceeds will go to missions accounts.

Have you elected officers?

Yes, a president, a vice-president, a secretary-treasurer, and a missions chairman. Two women from the auxiliary are our sponsors.

What does your average meeting consist of?

Tonight we began with prayer, then our president conducted the meeting. We all received a packet of missionary prayer cards and a prayer calendar to help us pray for MK Autumn Morgan. A guest speaker concluded with devotions.

Do you report to WNAC?

No, but we would like shared or simultaneous meetings, news of

other groups, and perhaps even shared retreats.

How can WNAC help you?

Provide a monthly program guide that would include ideas for programs and projects we can do, examples of things that have worked in the past, information about MK's and their needs, and a forum for our letters, poems, photos, etc..

Would you like to know more about other Actionettes groups?

Yes, and we would like to meet them.

What do you hope to learn in Actionettes?

How to be Godly women.

What do you have to offer the Actionettes?

Service.

Should Actionettes include BOYS?

NO! ❖



A note from Patty and Charity: We would like this column to be written about you, by you, and for you! To accomplish this goal, WE NEED YOUR HELP. Please send us your ideas and suggestions. (Tell us your suggestions for a different name for this column!) Perhaps you have written an article or poem that you would like to share with other girls your age. Maybe you would like to write a letter telling of your group's latest activity. Be sure to include photos!

We hope to soon visit your Actionettes meeting and report to our readers what your group is doing to be Nationally Active for Christ!

Mail your ideas, etc., to CoLaborer Magazine, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, Tennessee, 37011-5002 ❖

God's Schoolhouse

Second WNAC Western Retreat



October 10–12, 1997, approximately 130 women from Arizona to Virginia trekked to

Glorieta, New Mexico for WNAC's Second Western



Pupils take notes in Lorene Miley's class.

Retreat. Participants landed back in school at "God's Schoolhouse." Each session or class period wove a pattern around Psalm 25:4-5, the theme scripture.

Focus on the Teacher

The retreat opened Friday night with a praise and worship service lead by Mary Neal, former WNAC president and longtime

piano teacher. The women worshipped through songs and hymns, special music, and Scripture reading.

Throughout the retreat Mary Neal coordinated the music with Carol Reid accompanying on the organ and Sue Patton on the piano.

A choir, groups from Oklahoma and Arizona, two mother-daughter duets and various solos provided a

variety of special music throughout the retreat.

Focus on the Textbook

God's Word, our textbook, is never out of date. Saturday morning Lorene Miley led a class on Inductive Bible Study. Using overhead transparencies, she gave instructions on how to study a book, chapter, verse, word, topic, character, doctrine and devo-

tional. Pupils took notes furiously.

Mrs. Miley taught more than a simple "how to" class. Revealing her love for God's Word, she encour-

aged women to persist in Bible study.

Laboratory Work

Pupils were assigned to one of seven groups for hands-on experience. Each group practiced one of the ways to study the Bible mentioned in Mrs. Miley's class. The following Lab Instructors led Bible study groups: Diana Cox (book), Betty Ferguson (chapter), Karen Ferguson (verse), Lynda Blanchard (word), Linda Harvey (topic), Dixie Guild (character), Gloria Outlaw (doctrine). Each study came from Philippians.

After small group sessions, the instructor or a pupil from each group reported to the whole "class."

Recess and Electives

Joan Ann Wood helped pupils enjoy recess before they were dismissed for lunch. Upperclassmen probably felt younger after laughing so hard.

Many elected to take an informal field trip to Santa Fe for an indepth look at tourism and shopping. I think some attended the elective called *Siesta*.

Object Lesson at Camp Fire

Around the camp fire, women spent a special time singing. WNAC President Everyl



Lab group studies chapter 3 of Philippians.

Getz instructed each person at the campfire to turn over a burden to the Master Teacher and place a leaf in the fire. The burning of the leaf is a symbol of leaving a prayer need with the Lord. One cannot retrieve the leaf, neither should she carry her burden home with her.



Janice Banks talks to Lynn Midgett, missionary to Spain

How God Taught Me

Executive Secretary-Treasurer Mary Wisheart introduced the two speakers for the Saturday evening service. Fay Forlines, a retired teacher, went with her husband to the Former Soviet Union. Janice Banks is missions professor at Hillsdale and worked twenty years in Japan with her husband under Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions. Each gave her testimony on the topic: "How God is teaching me."

School Days for Fay

Fay Forlines gave her testimony in the form of a parable. She is the student striving to be more like the Master Teacher. Graduation will be when the Teacher says, "Well done. Enter

into the joys of the Lord." Her diploma will be a crown of life. Her graduation present will be a mansion which will be in the best neighborhood with no potholes, pollu-

tion or acid rain. Instead of sending out graduation invitations, she has received an invitation to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

God encourages her with 66 books in His library and many tutors—preachers, Sunday school teachers, missionaries and folks who loved the Lord.

The big bully in God's school has demons and even fellow human beings to help him. "He runs to God, the Superintendent," she explained, "to tattle tale on me to try to get me kicked out of the school."

God took her on a field trip. Leroy and Fay Forlines went to Ukraine, Russia, Philippines, Japan, and Hawaii to minister for Him. The field trip was a time of ministry and of learning. They met people who had remained

true to their faith in spite of the threat of beating and imprisonment. When the men were in Siberia in prison, the women kept the church alive. God taught her the importance of women doing His work.

God has shown the Forlines that a life committed to Him is all He asks. He taught her to look ahead to the gathering of His bride from all nations, peoples, tongues and tribes to eat the wedding cake of the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Her conclusion pointed out that heaven will be an eternal summer break.

God's Lesson in Waco

Janice Banks spoke on three methods God has used to teach her. She also pointed out that God knows that people have different learning styles. "God is trying to teach me some lessons" she says, "and He's still working on me." God knows when His students need repetition.

The three methods God is using to teach her are His Word, the way He works in the world and her experiences. She emphasized that God teaches primarily through His Word.

She has a brother who is homeless. With a burden for the homeless on her heart, she asked the Lord to show her what to do about the homeless. God showed her Matthew 25. "When you did it unto the least of these, you did it to me," was part of her paraphrase.

She shared with the audience about her weekend in Waco last April. She and some students



Choir

experienced a poverty simulation. They were allowed to keep five things and one person in her group got to keep nothing. They wore clothes and shoes from the thrift shop. Then they spent the night under the clouds. After breakfast they roamed the streets all day. They were told, "If you eat, it is only because someone is kind to you."

In Waco, they worshipped with a church of homeless and



Mary Neal leads music around campfire

poor under an overpass of Interstate 35. This church under the bridge supports five missionaries in India and other places.

Through the experience, they learned what it means to be homeless and to do without. The following day she saw a homeless person who looked like her brother. But he wasn't her blood brother. Jesus spoke to her, "In as much as you haven't done it to the least of these children, you haven't done it for me."

"Jesus gave it all up to come here to show us what it means to have love." She challenged by asking if we really want Him to show us His ways so that we can walk in them.

Take Home Assignment

Sunday's snow and wind chill of 15 degrees Fahrenheit did not interfere with instruction at God's Schoolhouse. Carol Reid, who is librarian at Free Will Baptist Bible College, delivered and explained the take home assignment. She exhorted us to do our homework reminding us we are not on our own, for the Holy Spirit is our constant guide.

Her message included six steps to aid in making applications from God's Word: pray, peruse, principalize, ponder, plan, practice. She showed, through verse by verse applications from

Titus 2:3-5, how God's word speaks directly to lives and sometimes steps on toes.

God will evaluate us. We will

be held accountable for the way we study and obey His Word.

Offering

A missions offering of \$1,168.57 is to be divided among eight Free Will Baptist missionaries who attended the retreat. Present were missionaries Ruth Bivens (Mexico), Lynda Blanchard (New Mexico), Fay Forlines (Russia), Pat Franks (Brazil), Linda Harvey (Arizona), Lynn Midgett (Spain), Carol Pinkerton (Côte d'Ivoire), Brenda Rayburn (Arizona).

To help offset WNAC's retreat expenses, another offering was taken which totaled \$802.95.

Diplomas

Some cheered and others snapped pictures as the retreat concluded with *Pomp and Circumstance*. Each woman received a diploma from WNAC for attending "God's Schoolhouse."

The next WNAC retreat will be at Ridgecrest, North Carolina, September 24-26, 1998. ❖

Tape Order—1997 WNAC Retreat, Glorieta, NM

You may place an order for any of the tapes below: Please check the ones you want. Each tape is \$4.00, which includes postage and handling.

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ON THE SHELF

Spiritual Mothering

The Titus 2 Model for Women Mentoring Women

Susan Hunt

Crossway Books, A division of
Good News Publishers, 1993

Reviewed by Pamela Ham

Susan Hunt writes an insightful book about mentoring based on the second chapter of Titus. The book is divided into three sections: The Mandate, The Model, The Method.

The Mandate is in verses 1–5 of the chapter. It serves as a reminder that at any age we can be a teacher or we can be taught.

The Model is the example. Hunt explores the relationship of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist.

The Method is how we go about fulfilling the mandate—

not as a teacher but a lover, encourager and friend. She also points out that the younger woman should approach the older woman whom she (the younger woman) would like to be her mentor.

Each chapter begins with a letter or story from a different woman. She prefaces her book with the statement that a woman doesn't have to be a wife or a mother to be a spiritual mother. God gave the ability to nurture when He made women.

Hunt's definition for spiritual mothering is, "When a woman of faith and spiritual maturity enters into a nurturing relationship with a younger woman in order to encourage and equip her to live for God's glory."

The author acknowledges that a woman may be spiritually mature without being old. However, she does not deny the benefits of being nurtured by someone older. The older woman has been through more of life's journey.

This book oozes with practical tips, suggestions and Scripture to help the reader understand her relationships with other women. A pastor's wife can relate well to this book.

Many Christian women are searching not just for someone to lead them to Christ but to lead them to be more Christ-like.

I really enjoyed this book. The end of each chapter has a devotional thought designed to drive home the truths in the chapter. The book also reminds us of our accountability to other women in our church and Christian community.

A Time to Pray God's Way

Evelyn Christenson

Harvest House Publishers, 1996
Price \$9.99

A Study Guide for Evangelism Praying

Price \$ 5.99

Reviewed by Mary R. Wischart

You are perhaps familiar with Evelyn Christenson's *What Happens When Women Pray*. *A time to Pray God's Way* was written to expand her *A Study Guide for Evangelism Praying*.

The author thinks that the richest benefit comes from using the two books together.

Christenson uses 1 Timothy 2:1–3 as a basis for this book. We pray realizing that God "desires all man to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth."

The burden of this book is prayer for evangelism. She deals with what we Christians sometimes substitute for winning souls, feeding, teaching, even sitting in classes learning about evangelism. The purpose of all

these should be to bring someone to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 4—"Reaching the Whole World—Now!" expresses the urgency for getting the gospel out to all people everywhere.

She makes a case for the people in the 10/40 window—people groups unreached with the gospel. "Our motive," she writes, "is the return of Jesus Christ."

What does God require for answered prayer? Christenson deals with the Biblical principles of obedience and repentance in this section. Why are prayers not answered? Perhaps it's a matter of confessing sin and receiving cleansing. She provides a list of scriptures pointing out sins that should be dealt with in a Christian's life.

Are we ready for revival? "God can use a small vessel, but He will not use a dirty one."

In order to win people to Christ, we must have the power of the Holy Spirit. This power comes through prayer. The power of the Holy Spirit gives fruit, boldness, courage in persecution. He provides memories when we need them, guidance and power over Satan.

Christenson deals in a very specific way with our attitude toward the Holy Spirit. Our efforts will fail without the power of the Holy Spirit.

Section 4 deals with praying for the lost. She points out that we need to realize Satan's

power to steal seed (Luke 8:11–12) and blind eyes (2 Corinthians 4:3–4). Our authority lies in the name and blood of Jesus.

Do we really care about the lost in our church and family? Do we care about the stranger and those far away? Do we care enough to pray?

In this book Christenson introduces the idea of triplet praying, based on Matthew 18:20. Three people may pray regularly once a week for three people they know who haven't accepted Christ as Savior. Knowing and interacting with these nine people is important. Focusing on them during the regular time of prayer is essential. Spend the 15 minutes in prayer, not chatting or having refreshments.

How can 15 minutes be effective praying for these nine? She suggests the 6s method.

Christenson includes 6 dimensions she feels must be a part of triplet praying.

Section 5 is about praying for each other. She suggests a prayer chain and gives rules for its operation. She also discusses what we should pray, when we pray for one another, such as boldness, alertness, and protection.

The last section is concerned with how to reach the lost. She presents a simple method of evangelism and scriptures for use in the process. Just do it—NOW!

Evangelism is not an option. It is a command and a privilege.



Poet's Corner

Valentine for Others

Linda Sligh, Smithville, MS

Love for our family,
Love for our friends,
All too often,
That's where it ends.

We seem very satisfied,
To love only our own,
Love for others
Rarely is shown.

But the love of the Father,
And Jesus, His Son,
Ought to remind us
Of what must be done.

Love for our enemies,
Love for "the lost,"
Should be our goal,
Whatever the cost.

The Master's Hand

Arlene Branum, Purcell, OK

The Lord is my Teacher.
My goal is to learn.
He calms my pulse and soothes my nerves
So I might listen.

When I follow,
He leads me down the right paths.
His knowledge is far superior
To my own.

His ways are above any I have known,
His thoughts beyond my understanding.
In Him I find peace.
Rejoicing fills my days.

Continually, I am drawn to the light of His love,
Basking in His forgiveness
Longing to be with Him
Forever. ❖



MISSION ALERT:

Evangelism News from Around the World

Waldorf, Maryland

Last Easter, Shannon took her boss, Kristen, to Waldorf Free Will Baptist Church. As a result, Kristen met the Lord. A few months later, Kristen's dad, Tom, went to church with her and was saved. Later on Kristen took her boyfriend, James, with her, and he was saved.

Then, Kristen started taking her sister Suzanne to church. Another church member had also been witnessing to Suzanne which produced an opportunity for missionary-pastor Jim Fairchild to deal with her in her home. That evening in her home, Suzanne turned her life over to the Lord. Praise God for the times when witnessing has a snowball effect.

Carlsbad, New Mexico

Missionary Len Blanchard reports that all five members of a family turned their lives over to the Savior during a visit in their home.

Reynosa, Mexico

Twenty-four students were enrolled in the Seminary of the Cross for the fall semester. Besides on-campus enrollment, Pastor Ramon taught an extension class on Cults and Sects at the old college campus in Alta Mira. Twenty-six took this class.

St. Nazaire, France

Gilles, the church guitarist at St. Nazaire, led his mother to the Lord in October 1997, reports missionary Jerry Gibbs. Pray for this mother as she grows in the Lord.

Ekaterinburg, Russia

Dr. Mark Braisher of Oklahoma and missionary Jimmy Aldridge conducted a pastor's conference on principles of church growth, October 13-17, 1997. Forty-six pastors attended.

Siberia, Russia

Overseas secretary Jimmy Aldridge surveyed Uria, a city of 60,000 people in Northern Siberia. Free Will Baptists in partnership with Russian Baptists are impacting the Nenets and the Khanti people groups with the gospel. These Eskimo-like peoples live in and near the Arctic Circle. Few Christians are among them, and no churches have services in their languages. Free Will Baptists are also targeting another Siberian ethnic group, the Mansi.

Montevideo, Uruguay

Missionary Dave Franks Jr. reports that the rented house where the Malvin Norte church has been meeting is not going to be available after March or April. The owner's son is getting married and needs the house. This leaves the church with few alternatives. They would like to buy a permanent place for the work to meet, but they don't see how at present. The other option would be to meet in homes since they do not expect to find another place to rent in the neighborhood. Pray that God will open the right door. ❖



Words for Women

*Mary Ruth
Wisehart*

I don't know why, but somehow it feels so good to start on 1998.

Guess what? I had a very important birthday November 2, 1997. I completed my 65th year of life!

Do you remember when you were a child? You thought the sixty-five year olds were very ancient indeed. And you thought you would never reach that old age. At least that it was light years away.

But the years slip by, and before we know it, we're asking, "Where did the years go? When did I get this gray hair and wrinkles? What happened to that girlish figure? And what is wrong with my knees?"

Ah! The life of man—or woman, if you prefer. It is short and like smoke in the wind, it soon disappears from this earth. Samuel Clemens once wrote that man never learns anything from his past experience. Now that's a cynic's way of looking at it. I think life has taught me a number of things.

People are more important than things, even though sometimes we seem to go after things as though they were really valuable.

Life is very fragile. We are even now walking through the valley of the shadow of death. The shadow could envelop us at any moment. Death often comes to the young, apparently healthy, as well as to the old and infirm.

So we're getting old. Let's not fool ourselves. I am old, and I've enjoyed and am enjoying the years. The loss of this physical house is preparation for entering into the spiritual. When something so much better awaits us, why should we mourn this dwelling?

Laugh a lot, life says to me. Laugh often at yourself and always with others.

Enjoy this moment, for it is all we can be sure of in the measures of life.

Seek to know God intimately. He is the one unchanging, steadfast, and faithful One. The stock market may crash. The bank may fail. Inflation may nibble away your savings. But God remains. He assures us, "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."

One day, one day, we will be delivered from these aching joints, dim eyes, and weak bodies. In the meantime, learn some more lessons.

And here's a lesson I learned from the man whose car went down a ten foot embankment in Mexico. Don't fight with a bee or any other intruder in your car as you drive down the highway. If the intruder will not go out the window, stop the car until he leaves. If the intruder will not leave, then you leave. ♦



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