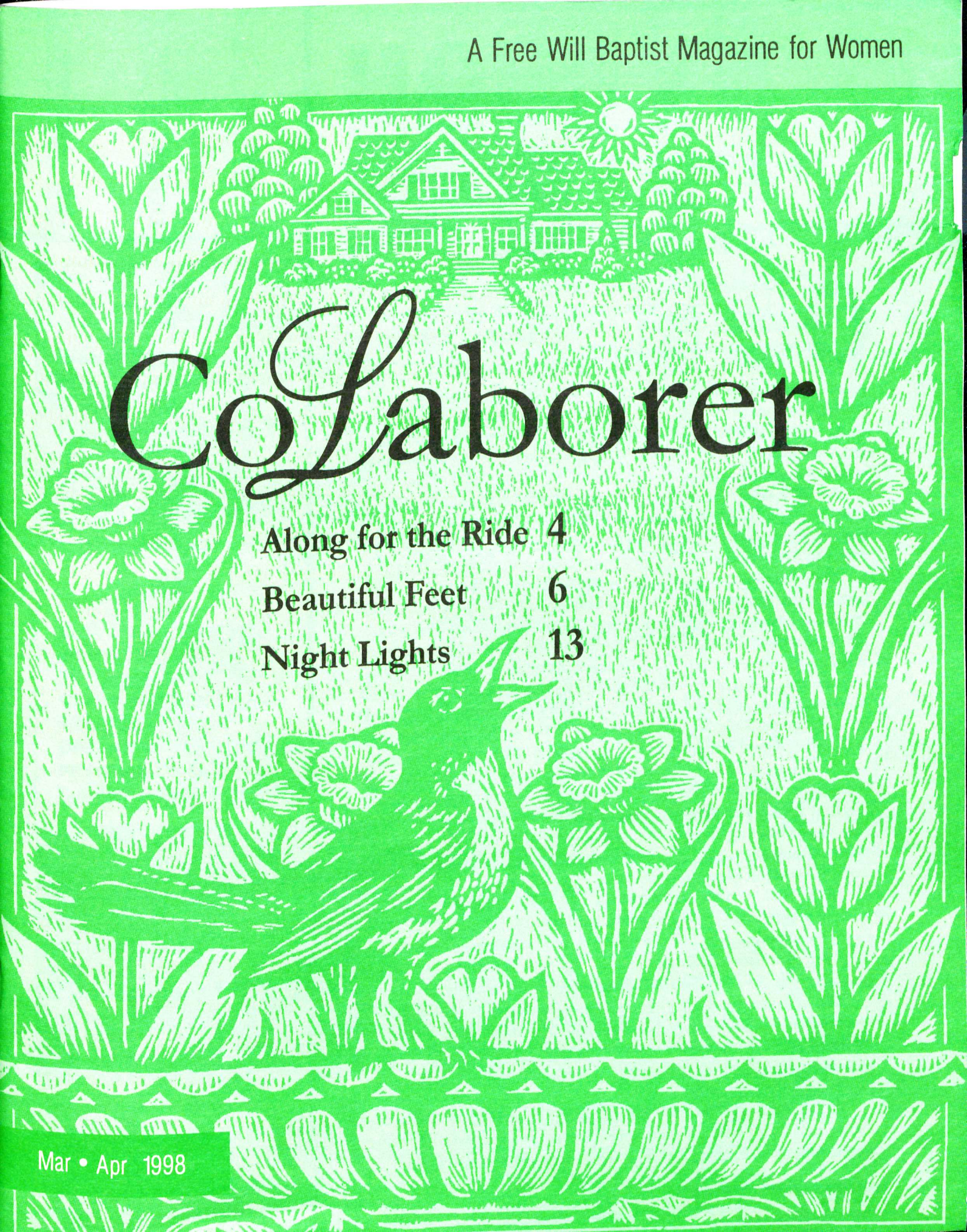




CoLaborer

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VISION

Suzanne Franks

The right tool



On a frosty January morning my apartment mate decides it's time to clean out the ashes in the fireplace. Since she has more experience with fireplaces, I decide to observe. She takes the shovel and scoops the ashes into a trash bag.

All I see is melting plastic and smoke rising from the living room carpet. Before the apartment burns down, I quickly grab her vacuum cleaner and vacuum the ashes and embers. Big mistake! Seconds later the vacuum is smoking and we both realize that the vacuum is about to catch on fire. We quickly unzip the vacuum and yank the bag from the smoldering appliance.

We both sigh with relief as we deposit the smoking bag on the "safe" concrete sidewalk. The incident ends with two crazy apartment dwellers laughing hysterically at their ignorance. (I had an excuse. It was my first winter to have a fireplace.)

The consequences of using the wrong tools for a routine job could have been serious. Fortunately, the damage was minimal. The vacuum still works. A throw rug covered the hole in the carpet. To our surprise, we even got part of the security deposit back when we moved out. Nevertheless, an ordinary metal bucket could have avoided the entire incident.

I do have a reason for telling this slightly far-out, yet true story besides embarrassing myself. Here's my point. As we try to accomplish God's work on earth, are we using the right tools? God, in His sovereignty, chose prayer as the primary tool through which to funnel blessings to His people.

"God's army advances on its knees." Whoever said this first, knew the importance of prayer in building God's kingdom. To our regret, we often forget or neglect that prayer is indispensable for accomplishing the missionary task. No follower of Christ is exempt from this job. If we do not pray for those we send out, we might as well let them stay home. Sure, prayer is hard work, but it ought to be viewed as a privilege, not a chore.

In the book of Acts, prayer is a recurring theme. Early believers waited often in prayer. Peter and Paul received guidance from the Holy Spirit while they were in prayer. Prayer is mentioned at each step of the Church's growth. They prayed at the dedication of the first deacons. Church leaders fasted and prayed as they launched Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey.

The right tool for evangelism is prayer—the right kind of prayer. We must pray in submission to God's Word—God's official instructions. The informed prayer warrior prays more intelligently. Pray with faith, persistence and expectation that God will answer and His name will be glorified in the process.

As we spend concentrated time in prayer during the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, remember that prayer just may be the most important part in fulfilling the Great Commission. ❖

VOLUME 38

NUMBER 2

MAR • APR 1998

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**MISSIONARY
JUDY LYTLE NARRATES
THE EVENTS
OF A SPECIAL WOMEN'S
MEETING
IN CAÑITAS, PANAMA.**

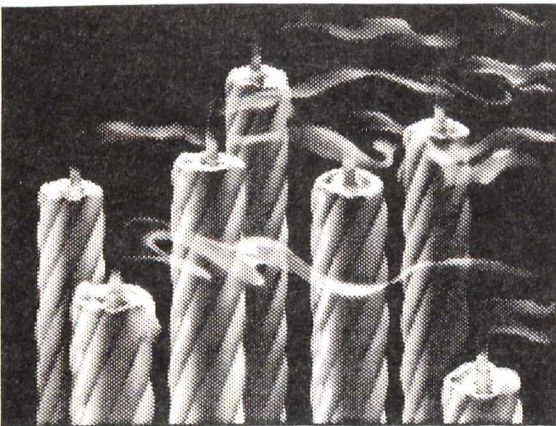
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**"THE SOLDIER'S FEET
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IN THE EYES OF THE
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OUT THE COMMISSION
HE HAS GIVEN THEM."**

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**"A CANDLE
EXTINGUISHED,
A FIELD DARKENED,
LOST SOULS DYING."**

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Editor: Suzanne Franks
Circulation: Yvonne Hampton
Co-Laborer, (ISSN 0896-0038), is published bimonthly by Women Nationally Active for Christ of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 5233 Mt. View Road, Antioch, TN 37013-2306, (615)-731-6812. Address all correspondence to P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Annual subscription rates: \$6.75 per year, single; \$6.00 per year, 5 or more to one address. Periodical postage paid at Antioch, TN and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CoLaborer, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Copyright privileges, reserved © 1998 Member of the Evangelical Press Association.

Along for the Ride

by Judy Lytle



A glimpse at my watch told me it was already 3:30 in the afternoon. We were supposed to be back in Panama City by 2:00, but I knew that wouldn't happen when at 2:00 we weren't even ready to leave Cañitas. Another half hour and we would be back in the city.

I was hot, tired and a bit headachy, but pleased to think back on the day and all that had transpired. Nothing earth shattering happened. Most people would have considered the day long, hot and possibly boring. For me, it was another sign that I was "just along for the ride," and that is the way I wanted it.

Steve and I have served as Free Will Baptist missionaries in Panama for 20 years. Over the years we have seen many changes

in our ministry. My work has been primarily with children, Sunday school and with the women's ministry. As the needs of the churches in Panama change with its growth, I see different doors open for ministry. I marvel at God's wisdom as He always gives us a task to do that blends perfectly with the need of the moment. Wonderfully, He also equips us with the abilities and tools to complete that task.

Our Free Will Baptist churches in Panama have had ladies' groups for several years, but we didn't officially form a national woman's auxiliary (*Sociedad de Damas*) until 1988. Over these years we have had our ups and downs. For too long it seemed I had to be involved in almost everything that happened. Although we had a president and

other officers, much of the planning and the work was left up to a few of us.

Gradually we have seen the woman's auxiliary show signs of independence. I am a hands-on type person and NOT getting involved, especially when "they were doing it all wrong" (or so I thought) was almost more than I could stand at times. Little by little I'm learning to let go, even when it hurts, and my, how it hurts! I made mistakes and our Panamanian women made their share as well, but we are learning from those mistakes and working together for God's glory.

Uniting our city women and our rural women in activities and projects in which they both feel comfortable and valuable has been a challenge. The cultural difference between the two groups is great and making everyone happy is close to impossible.

At one of the committee meetings, the officers decided to take a step in the direction of bridging that gap with at least one group of ladies. They decided that on Saturday, November 22, a group from the city would travel up to Cañitas (a rural area) to have a joint service and time of fellowship with the ladies there.

Sounds easy enough, doesn't it? Cañitas is only about an hour and a half from the city. The road conditions are much improved over years past.

The plan was to leave at 8:00 AM, have the service and some fellowship time. After lunch we would start back toward the city. I've lived in Panama long enough to know that nothing ever goes according to plan, and our trip was no exception.

Nine ladies plus several children packed into the non-airconditioned van. Linda Callaway and I joined the group even though we did not have any particular ministry to do there. We arrived and waited patiently as the women from the area began to arrive at their own pace.

Several ladies from the two churches in that area joined us for the service. Each church led a few choruses in their own flavorful style — with a drum for marking the beat. The ladies from both rural churches were in charge of the program and did an excellent job.

What a blessing to hear Sister Nastasia's testimony. Her daughter rose with her and carefully led her to the front of the church. Sister Nastasia is blind.

She testified of God's faithfulness during six years of blindness caused by a disease of the retina. Her husband died a year ago. His death has made life even more difficult because he had been her "eyes" and helper in everything. Though blind and widowed, she has a radiant testimony of God's sustaining

grace and His never failing love and care. She was an inspiration to us all.

Later a young girl sang. The words went something like this, "Not for deeds, not for bread, not for clothing nor for wealth. I serve the Lord because I love Him. I serve Him only because I love Him." I thought, "May that always be her testimony and mine, as well."

When it came time for the Bible study of the day, everyone was ready and eager. Ediana, from the First Free Will Baptist Church in Panama, taught a study on identity and self-esteem. The ladies listened attentively and participated in the discussion times. I could tell that it was a theme the women needed to hear. At times, some of our rural women feel they are not important because of lack of education or social standing.

That day, I think everyone learned that we all have abilities and personality characteristics which are valuable. Before the study, one lady remarked that we are all the same under the precious blood of Christ. I hope everyone present grasped that truth.

Time was marching by much too quickly. Lunch was now ready—rice with "sancocho" (Panamanian chicken soup). It was tasty even though Linda and I discovered that the chicken in the soup had been practicing for the 100 yard dash for several years before becoming part of the soup!

The few minutes of fellowship ended much too quickly and

we realized that we were very late in starting home. As we said our good-byes and thanked our hostesses, "Come back soon," was heard repeatedly. Hopefully, it will be soon.

Yes, something was accomplished with our little visit. The service inspired and enlightened us. The casual fellowship united us. It was worth it!

As the bus bounced down the road and the hot dusty air blew through my hair, I wondered, "What am I doing here?" The Panamanian women planned and carried out the entire day down to the last detail without my help or advice. Why did I go? I wasn't involved in the planning, I wasn't asked to pray, sing or do anything in particular. It occurred to me that I was just "along for the ride." But what a ride it was! As my duties change as missionary in Panama, I'm expecting to be along for the ride on many more occasions. ❖



Panama Missionary Team: (left to right) Ron & Linda Callaway, Judy & Steve Lytle, Stan & Brenda Bunch, LaRonda & Eddie Bowerman, (seated) David Lytle, Amanda Bunch, Brianna Bowerman (in Amanda's lap), Alicia Bunch, Alyssa Bowerman (in Alicia's lap)

Time Marches On

by Sue Patton

"Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

—2 Corinthians 6:2b

The Time is Now

You may have heard preachers quote this passage over and over. Is it still true? Is "now" really the time? Why can't we wait until tomorrow?

"I will call someone to encourage them, as soon as I get around to it." "I will start attending church on Sunday night—OK, even Wednesday nights—just as soon as I . . ."

How many excuses have we heard? How many have we used ourselves? Don't you think God has heard it all? **There are no reasons for excuses!** God has given us a time for everything.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to get, and a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. . . . He hath made everything beautiful in his time, . . . for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work."

—Ecclesiastes 3:1–8, 11, 17

A Time for Everything

The Word of God provides us with **all the answers** to all our questions.

What do we do with all our time? We go to work or work at home, go to school, come home, put a load of clothes in the washer, fix supper, wash dishes, do another load of clothes, bathe the kids, and then it's time for bed. You wonder, "How do we

make time for anything else?"

Have you ever thought about putting your "off-time" on a schedule like your workday? At work, one usually has tasks that need to be accomplished by a particular time or day. Why not apply some business knowledge to the rest of our daily schedules? For example, your week might be scheduled in the following manner:

Monday	pay bills
Tuesday	grocery shopping
Wednesday	Bible study/prayer meeting
Thursday	dusting
Friday	vacuum
Saturday	visits and calls
Sunday	church and relax

Of course, there are many other items that have to be worked into your schedule such as laundry (try to do a least one load a day), doctor's visits, school and sports events with your child. You could make a list as detailed as you want.

Here's another idea. Write down everything that needs to be done and show it to your family. Wow! That might get you some extra help.

Maybe the family would even consider hiring someone to help. Perhaps you know a trustworthy and honest person that needs a little extra spending money. Goodness knows, you sure could use the help, right? Maybe that's no more than wishful thinking for you.

So if a helper's salary doesn't fit into your budget, you just have to make a conscious effort to do one main job each day. This will distribute your workload into a more manageable one that does not seem overwhelming.

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

—Galatians 6:9–10

A Time to do Good

The context of verse 9 is referring to spiritual things, but perhaps we could apply it to the physical aspect as well.

During our busy week, we **must** take time to do good, *"especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*

Do you have anyone in your church who is single, widowed, elderly or sick? Of course, you do. Do you know that at least **one** of these persons is **lonely**, needs someone to listen, needs milk from the grocery store, needs to taste someone else's cooking for a change, or needs a way to get to the store? Those of us who go to the store on a regular basis could pick up another gallon of milk, bake or buy a pie, volunteer to take someone to the store.

Little things such as these mean so much to those who have needs. If Christians cannot count on their own church family to help, it is not a good testimony and doesn't reflect Christ's love within us. It is, indeed, **time to wake up and do some good!**

Another practical suggestion is to make a list of those in your church who need to be called at

least once a week. Start with your women's group and ask for volunteers to call one person per week. Pass the list around and ask them to sign their name next to the name of the person they choose to call. (Refer to page 25 in the 1998 Yearbook for a reproducible form called "A Time to Care").

After the idea has caught on, gradually encourage other church members to participate. We must not forget that old saying, "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today."

"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."

—Colossians 4:5

The Time is Short

Maybe your typical day looks like mine:

- 8:15 drop off kids at school
- 8:30 work
- 12:30 lunch
- 3:15 leave work early for the parent-teacher conference (something about rock throwing)
- 3:35 pick up other child and his friend at middle school at the other end of town
- 4:00 take the youngest child to soccer practice, pick up drinks for the team on the way
- 4:30 take the older child to music lesson
- 5:00 pick up the first child from soccer practice (It's only supposed to be an hour practice, but today it is 1 hour and 15 minutes . . . you volunteer to take two other team members who didn't have a way home)
- 5:30 late picking up you older son from his music lesson. "Mom, you're 30 minutes late. What were you doing, shopping?"

The race continues. . . .

ASAP Deliver everyone home, stop at the bank, the post office, and the grocery store
6:30 home
7:00 be at church, a band concert, and a basketball game all at once

For most young mothers, time resembles a rat race. For others, a number of other activities occupy their time. We think of time only in relation to where we have to be by a certain time and how long we will be there so we can be at another place by an appointed time.

Yesterday has come and gone. Tomorrow never comes. *Today is the day. Only what's done for Christ will last.* Everything is as grass. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isaiah 40:8). We must grasp the opportunity for every moment, for we know not what the morrow may bring.

It seems that God creates a crises to nudge us into reality and remind us that time is running out. We have a tendency to forget God and forget the importance of time when things are going right for us. But we do realize that the time is shorter than it was before (1 Corinthians 7:29a).

"And that, knowing the time, that now is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof."

—Romans 13:11-14

Time—Use it Wisely

God knows everything, understands every situation, and has a pattern and a guideline for us to follow. When we were young children, our parents made a lot of choices for us. They tried to guide us in the right direction. However, as the years passed, we were gradually given more choices until finally, as adults, we made all the choices and decisions. (Now sometimes we would like someone to make decisions for us.)

The best way to use our time wisely may be to heed the Word, "Let us walk honestly . . . and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof."

Conclusion

As each year passes, we understand more and more about time. We know that the time is now, there is a time for everything, especially a time to do good. The time is short, therefore, we must use each moment of time wisely for the Lord.

"A wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment. Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him. For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be."

—Ecclesiastes 8:5-7

"Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."

—Luke 12:40 ♦

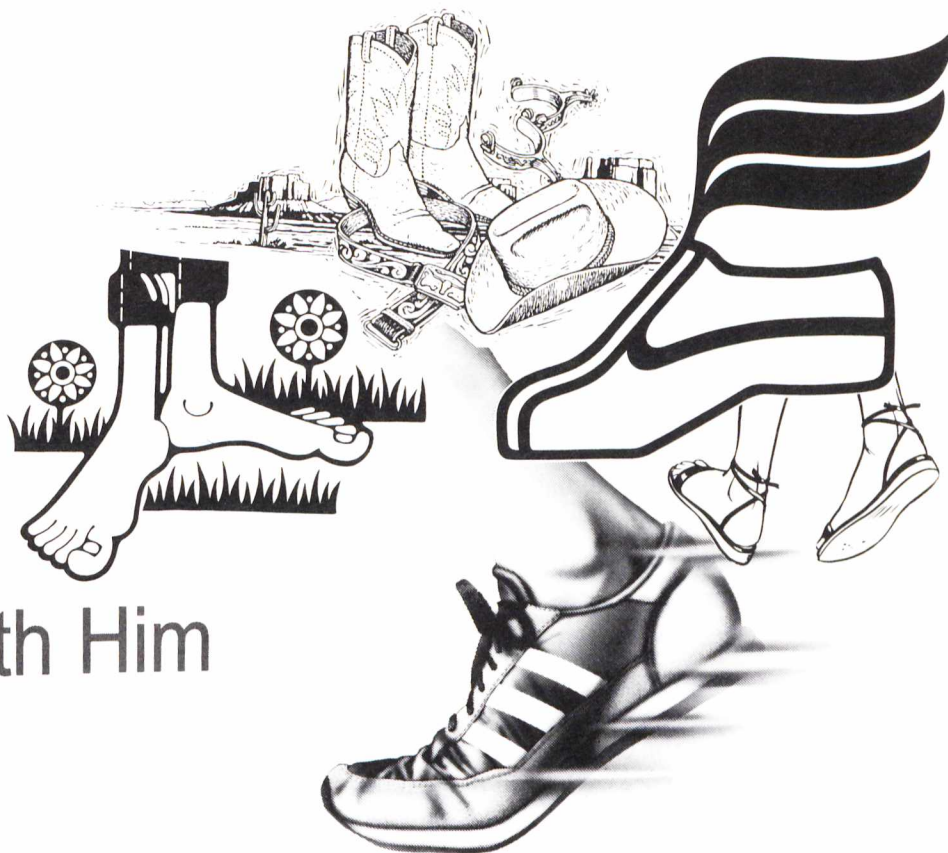


Sue Patton is a member of Mt. Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, in Conway, Arkansas. She serves as treasurer for her local woman's group and is Junior Sunday school teacher. She is office manager for the state headquarters for Arkansas Free Will Baptists. Her immediate family includes husband, Paul, and son, John Paul.

Beautiful Feet

Identified with Him

by Ruth McDonald



Introduction

Many a spouse or lover has gazed into the eyes of his beloved and declared her beauty, listing her most attractive features as he sees them. Songwriters have immortalized the beautiful eyes, hair, lips and figure of the beloved. But we seldom—indeed never—hear a tribute to the FEET of the adored.

Never, that is, except in the Book of all Books, the Bible. Surprisingly, there are several references in Scripture to the beauty of the believer's feet. We may wonder what would cause the writers of God's Word to focus on so unlovely a body part? And what criteria do they use to declare this part beautiful?

Ready Feet

Ephesians 6:15; 2 Corinthians 5:18–21;
Romans 10:15

In Romans 10:15, Paul quotes the prophet Isaiah who wrote "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news." Isaiah was

undoubtedly thinking of the runner who came from the battlefield to the homeland with news of the army's victory in battle. He brought the news "Your God reigns!"

What better news could any believer bring to a world held captive by Satan's power than the news that God has fought and won the battle over sin and death!

Even though the feet that bring the news are dusty and unbecoming in the eyes of the fashion industry, soldier's feet are beautiful in the eyes of the commanding officer because they are carrying out the commission he has given them.

Few of us will shop for our Easter footwear at the local army surplus store this season. And yet, according to the Bible, we are all to be enlisted as soldiers in the ongoing spiritual war of the ages. We are to be Christian women in combat boots! In Ephesians 6:15 we are told to have "feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace." As we strive to daily clothe ourselves in the full armor of

Few of us will shop
for our Easter
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army surplus store
this season.

God, we will have feet that are always ready to move out at the command of Christ. Our feet, while they may or may not be stylish, must always be ready for engaging in the peace-keeping and peace-making task He has called us to.

As our Commander-in-Chief, He may give the orders to move out at any time.

Our assignment may take us to distant battlefields, or it may call us to spiritual skirmishes closer to home. It is certain that we all have a duty to discharge if the mission is to be successfully completed. The location of our assignment is not so important as our state of readiness to follow His command—wherever it may lead. Are you enlisted in the army and always in a state of readiness to carry out whatever assignment He calls you to do? Are you wearing your spiritual combat boots?

Faithful Feet

Hebrews 12:1–3

Our service to Christ is not a sprint but a marathon. The Christians who finished the race before us did not reach the goal line wearing beautiful new shoes with unscuffed soles and unworn heels. Likewise we are encouraged to “run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

Even though our shoes become worn—and our bodies and spirits with them—the race is not finished until we have completed the course marked out for us. Only Jesus knows just where our personal finish line is. It is

interesting that we are not admonished to look toward the goal line, but rather to “fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2, NIV)

Yes, we will at times feel tired of running. Sometimes just putting one foot in front of the other requires tremendous effort and our breathing becomes labored. We may even encounter a booing crowd as we run in the often unpopular direction Christ has pointed out.

The writer of Hebrews had all of this in mind when He disclosed the secret of finishing the race well. How will we keep going for the long haul? We are to cast aside anything that hinders our spiritual progress and strive to stay untangled from the traps of sin. And most importantly, we are to “consider him (Jesus) who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart” (Hebrews 12:3, NIV).

In our weary moments, the experiences of other runners may help us to look to Jesus and keep on serving faithfully. We may be spurred on by testimonies such as the one told by Mabel Willey about her first days as a young missionary wife in Panama. Shocked and disgusted by her rough living conditions, she wondered how she could possibly care for her children in a dirty, insect-ridden tent (hut). Indeed, she told the Lord in an outburst of emotion that she just couldn’t do this! But she was answered by an inner voice which said, “Mabel, I went to the cross for you? Can you not do this for Me?”

Have you grown weary in the race that is the Christian life? Are your shoes wearing out for Him? Don’t quit, dear runner! Those worn-out shoes are beautiful to the One who waits for you at the finish line!

Our service to Christ
is not a sprint
but a marathon.

Servant's Feet

John 13:1-17

One of the Bible's most beautiful passages details the object lesson Christ gave the disciples using dirty, smelly feet. If we truly desire to have beautiful feet, we must have feet that resemble those of Jesus.

The disciples wanted to be good followers of Christ. As a matter of fact, they each wanted to be the BEST follower of Christ. We, like them, can fall into the trap of wanting to somehow distinguish ourselves as a great Christian, one who is noticed by others as having done something glamorous or unusual for the cause. Certainly, we would all jump at the chance to serve Him, to wash His feet with our tears and dry them with our hair as did Mary. Or would we?

In the upper room on the night before Jesus' death, the disciples were probably complaining that they had not been provided with a servant to wash their feet after the long, dusty journey. And yet not one of them, even though they had been eye-witnesses to Mary's loving act a few days earlier, thought to get the basin and the towel and wash their Master's feet. It was the Master Himself who took the opportunity to serve those who claimed they wanted to be His servants.

After this act of humility and love was completed, the disciples might have expected Jesus to say: "Now, I've washed your feet—so you ought to wash mine too." What an honor to repay Jesus' kindness by washing His feet! But those were not His instructions. Instead, He told them (and us), "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet" (John 13:14). What?! Me?! Wash his nasty, stinking feet?! Exactly! For "no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him" (John 13:16).

Jesus, who deserved all the praise of heaven and earth, was willing to lay His rights aside and come to earth as a servant. If we truly desire to be His servants and walk in His

footsteps, we will look for ways to serve Him by serving the ones He loves. And He loves everyone we meet, even those who don't act, look or smell lovable to us. Not exactly a glamorous assignment, is it?

We often find God's greatest servants doing humble jobs. They are the Christians who are not "too good" to clean the church, change diapers in the nursery, care for the terminally ill or cook for the local rescue mission. And they are always looking for opportunities to serve those closest to them, including spouses, children, pastors and teachers.

I encountered one of my life's most humbling experiences while still a student in Japanese language school. (Actually, that whole process was humbling!) I was expecting our first baby and having trouble with all of the assorted aches and pains of late pregnancy, including uncomfortably swollen feet and ankles.

After church one Sunday we were invited to the Tokyo home of a dear believing family. This lovely Japanese lady insisted that I prop up my swollen feet and let her massage them for me! That act of loving service not only soothed my feet and touched my heart, but its memory continues to serve as a wonderful example of Biblical servanthood.

We often think of the Upper Room as a beautiful picture of the love between Christ and His disciples. But within hours of this first feet washing service, one of those very disciples betrayed Jesus and sold Him out. The next day after His beautiful act of humility, Jesus' feet were pierced with heavy Roman nails. Now blood flowed from the same feet and hands that had served the night before. Perhaps the disciples stood at the foot of the cross and remembered His words "I have set

We often find
God's greatest servants doing
humble jobs.

you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:15, NIV).

People who would serve others will not escape wounds and scars. Like Jesus, they will even be betrayed by some of those whom they serve. True servanthood will at times lead to being used and abused for the sake of the gospel. If we learn to truly serve—to love and be loved—we will resemble the "Velveteen Rabbit" of children's folklore. Our fur may be worn thin and our stuffing falling out. But oh what a priceless thing to have served and loved as Christ told us to!

Conclusion

Do you desire to be beautiful in the eyes of your Lord? As Christ looks at your feet, does

He see uncalledoused, fashion-conscious feet, stepping on thick carpeted floors and enjoying the comforts of life? Or does He see TRULY beautiful feet—feet that are weary, wounded and well-worn in the ongoing battle to tell and show His gospel to others? May we all be able to sing from the heart, "Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee." May our feet be running to share the news of redemption. And may we validate that message by loving and serving the unlovely. ❖



Ruth McDonald is a missionary in Hokkaido, the northern most island of Japan. She works alongside her husband, Don. Along with her ministry responsibilities, she homeschools daughter, Katherine, and son, Evan. Their youngest child, Amy, is a preschooler.



food for thought

by Kathy Thebeau

I saw him as I stopped at the stop sign. Sudden fear struck! He was in a squad car. I hadn't heard his siren nor seen his flashing lights. (My daughter, Amy, and I had been singing along with a gospel tape.) He had been hiding on a side road watching motorists. As he approached my window, he said, "Where are you going?"

Sheepishly, I answered, "to piano lessons." The speed limit on this road is 30," he informed.

I managed to mumble, "I know."

"Ma'am," he continued, "I clocked you at 62 miles per hour."

My mouth dropped! I had no idea I was driving that fast.

He dutifully lectured about the danger to me and my passengers if a deer should jump into my path.

I hadn't intentionally done anything wrong. I wasn't even in a hurry. I simply had not been paying attention. I didn't get a ticket, but, I deserved one. Driving laws are made for our safety.

Later as I thought about it, I could imagine myself coming to the stop sign of my life. I would not face a policeman. I would face God. Would fear strike my heart? Would He have to point out to me that I had gone along in my life not paying attention to His laws?

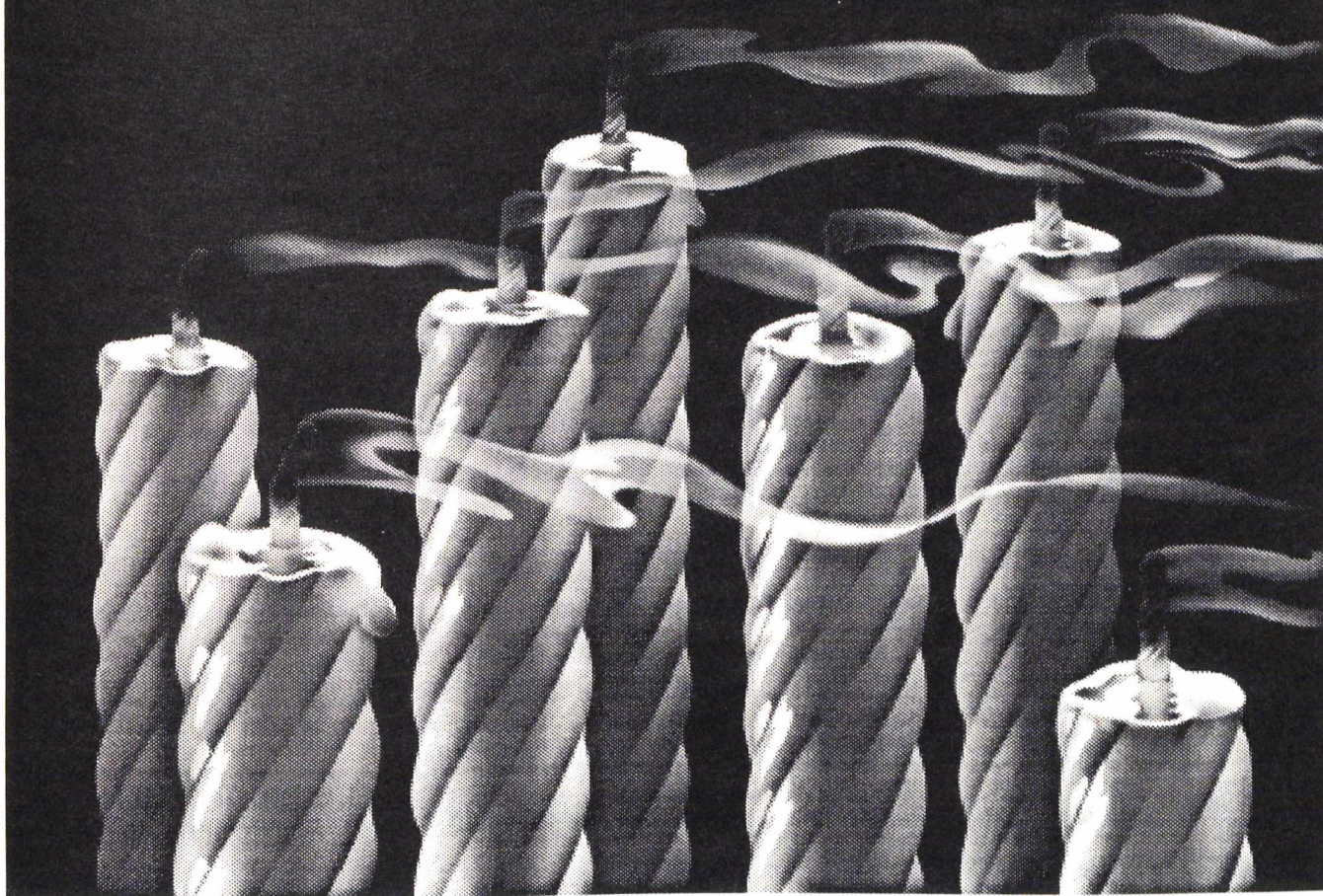
I don't intentionally do wrong. But, I can recall many times when I was not conscious of my Christianity and how I was affecting others. We have a built in radar—the Holy Spirit. But, we often ignore the warning signs. I could find myself running into something Satan placed in my path. If I'm not alert, I could crash spiritually. Even worse would be the fact that I could be harming someone else's Christianity.

God doesn't hide out waiting for us to do something wrong. But, He does see us. He has given us guidelines for our own good. Let's pay heed to them so we won't fear meeting God. ❖

Kathy Thebeau lives in DeSoto, Missouri, where she is a member of the First Free Will Baptist Church. Her husband, Bob, is her pastor.

Night Lights

by Diane Mitchell Thomas



A rare storm holds our portion of the state captive. Sleet still beats against the window panes. Power lines could not stand the weight and yielded to the ice hours ago. The sun never pierced the thick, low, gray clouds and now leaves for the

day. We will soon be in total darkness.

"Mom, when are you going to cook dinner?" Brian asks. He is thirteen and hungry all the time.

"Beeps," I shrug, "you'll have to fix a sandwich. The electricity is off."

"Well," he has a genius idea, "fix it in the microwave."

Quickly, he remembers, and adds, "oh," and reaches for the bread.

I smile and walk to the door to peer out. The cold penetrates the glass and I shiver. A pine branch

falls at the patio, sending an explosion of ice crystals and I jump. Brian runs to see, too. Limbs have been snapping all day and the yard is littered.

"I'm doomed. I'll never get all that up." He moans, knowing it is his responsibility to keep the yard clean. He chomps into his peanut butter sandwich.

Darkness comes, and I feel my way down to the hallway closet for candles. It is so quiet. No traffic outside. Electrical appliances are silent. My husband and other son, bored with Scrabble, are asleep in the living room floor. As I come into the kitchen, the only sound I hear is the plastic wrapping from the loaf of bread as Brian makes another sandwich. A teenage boy's stomach does not slow down for storm nor darkness.

I fumble through a drawer in search of matches, and hold the candle up to light it. With a steady hand, I bring the flame to the wick. Immediately, light softly dances into the room. My eyes focus on the refrigerator and the picture that is taped there. It is a missionary couple that I am praying for. They have a financial need so threatening that the missions board may have no choice but to bring them home.

A candle extinguished, a field darkened, lost souls dying. Troubled by the thought, I do not hear the noise outside.

"Mom, help is here! Look!" It is the utility company. They are clearing the branches from the power lines. They sacrifice



TOP 10 REASONS TO GO TO THE WNAC RETREAT AT RIDGECREST

- 10 Take a vacation from cooking.
- 9 Have loads of fun while someone cleans your room.
- 8 Eat Ridgecrest's famous ice cream.
- 7 Breathe Western North Carolina's fresh mountain air.
- 6 Enjoy the best fellowship in the world.
- 5 Hear from the next Executive Secretary-Treasurer of WNAC.
- 4 Energize your spiritual batteries.
- 3 Sing praises to the Lord with hundreds of other women.
- 2 Hear wonderful speakers.
- 1 Strengthen your walk with the Lord.

(See page 24 for reservation form.)



comfort and safety for us. Light fills the room, Ray and Chris rise.

"Lights." My sleepy husband acknowledges.

"Yep. We've been rescued," I assure him.

"Now we can eat." says Brian.

Feigning disgust, I pull his hair and he laughs. I pull him to me.

"Beeps, we'll help you in the yard," I tell him. "It really is too

much for one person." I place the candle in the center of the table and set our plates around it. "Let's eat by candlelight tonight."



Diane Mitchell Thomas lives in Grifton, North Carolina where she is an active member of Grifton Free Will Baptist Church. Both her sons are in their 20's now.



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator/Assistant Coordinator

Be on the lookout for the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for World Missions resource packet. The dates for the week of prayer are April 6–10. The Laura Belle Barnard Offering for World Missions is received in April. This offering is designed to take care of the financial needs of the general fund at the Foreign Missions Department. Wouldn't it be wonderful if this offering could cover the cost for the entire missions endeavor of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions? Give sacrificially. Give joyfully. Give with thanksgiving for what the Lord will do through the offering!

As you plan your meetings, remember that the Yearbook and *CoLaborer* magazine are great resources for planning meetings. If a monthly program doesn't fit your group, you may find an article or filler that will work for an illustration in a presentation. For example: Diane Mitchell Thomas' article on pages 13–14 reminds us of the need to support missionaries and their work. Judy Lytle's article on pages 4–5 reminds us of why missionaries spend a lifetime working in a place regardless of results. *Mission Alert* on page 30 gives us tidbits of news from around the world. You may have read some of this news in a newsletter or in one of the missions publications. But, remember that some of us read and forget. So, it never hurts to repeat and remind your women to pray.

Secretary/Treasurer

Read the Communicator on pages 19–20. Share the expense figures with your women as you encourage them to pay their dues and support the WNAC office general fund.

Keep accurate minutes and books. Your group will want to show how you are using God's resources for His kingdom. If your minutes and books do not record your accomplishments and projects, the following generation will not know what you did.

Missions Chairman

This is a good time to refresh your memory by studying the Manual. Pay close attention to your duties as Missions Chairman and

Provision Closet Needs:

Bath towel sets

Wash cloths

Queen size sheet sets

Queen and twin size
bedspreads

Pillows

Electric blankets

Electric skillets

Tupperware®
(especially large
storage containers
and pitchers)

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

Why Spread the Gospel?

1. All are doomed without the Gospel.

Romans 3:23, 6:23

2. There is one true Gospel.

Galatians 1:11-12

1 John 5:19-20

3. The Gospel is the only hope for a lost world.

John 14:6

4. The Gospel is good news and a great treasure.

Matthew 13:44-46

5. We are commanded to spread the Gospel.

Matthew 28:18-20

Acts 1:8

(This Bible study can be used in conjunction with the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer Calendar on pages 27-28.)

to the suggestions on how to promote the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for World Missions.

Also, it's not too early to do something for the missionary apprentices going out this summer. Watch for their names in *Heartbeat*. Most apprentices are in their 20's and in college. The experiences they have overseas will change the way they view missions. Some will return as career missionaries. Others will go on to be ministers and laymen who stay deeply involved with missionary support the rest of their lives. Maybe some of these young men and women are from your state or area. What can your group do to show them you care?

- ♦ Send a one-time offering to their account.
- ♦ Write them during the summer.
- ♦ Give them slide or print film to take with them.
- ♦ Give a personal gift to pay for film developing.

Prayer Chairman

Remind your women of the importance of prayer as you prepare for and promote the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for World Missions. No doubt the most important thing we do as senders is to pray. Make good use of the Prayer Calendar on pages 27-28 and seek to educate your church about missions. The outline on the left may help you. Print verses on prayer reminders or invitations.

Study Chairman

This issue contains three book reviews. Mary R. Wischart reviews a book by Corrie ten Boom. This book might make a good study for your group to go with our WNAC theme: Living Sacrifices. Few women have matched ten Boom's level of

WNAC Local Delegate Credentials

This certifies that _____ is an authorized delegate to the WNAC Convention of Free Will Baptists from the _____ women's group of _____ (Group Name) Free Will Baptist Church, _____ (Church Name)

(Church Address)

Signed _____
(Local Coordinator)

or _____
(Local Secretary)

Date _____

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

Clip and attach to Convention Pre-Registration (found in Contact magazine or your state paper) or bring to the WNAC Convention.

commitment. Arlene Branum reviews *Intimacy with Jesus*. This book may also work for a Christian growth study.

Service Chairman

A WAC missions program is incomplete without some type of service to your community. WAC emphasizes missions outreach and sending, but we cannot expect women to care about world missions if they are not involved with local evangelistic outreach. Community outreach takes many forms according to needs and available talents. This spring, spread enthusiasm for missions by offering many opportunities for women to be involved in outreach through your local WAC. Invite nonmembers to participate, as well.

See page 20, Women in Action, for an example of what one group did. Kirby Free Will Baptist investigated the organization before becoming involved. They took on a project to help the organization after they made sure it was solid. They felt their contribution would afford them opportunities to reach people for Christ and help families in the community. ❖



Happy Birthday!

We don't want to leave anyone out. Add the following names to the birthday list in the 1998 Yearbook:

January

4 Kerry Gandy, AR
10 Faith Anderson, NC
22 Tim Osborn, TN
29 Betty Plunkett, C'I

February

6 Jaimie Lancaster, UR
13 MK, Buddy Gandy, AR
23 MK, Micah Osborn, TN

March

2 MK, Jackie Robinson, AZ
16 Lloyd Plunkett, C'I

April

15 Sarah Rubio, TN
27 Patricia Collins, VA

May

13 MK, Kelsey Gandy, AR

June

2 MK, John William Lancaster, UR

July

1 MK, Jeremiah Robinson, AZ
12 MK, Emma Osborn, TN

August

8 Tammy Lancaster, UR
17 Mike Corley, Russia
26 MK, Josiah Rubio, TN
27 Paul Collins, VA
28 MK, Jordan Osborn, TN

September

16 MK, Tyler Fairchild, MD

October

2 Capt. Richard Anderson, NC
2 Janet Gandy, AR
2 MK, Joshua Robinson, AZ
4 MK, Hannah Collins, VA
23 MK, Daniel Plunkett, C'I
28 MK, Megan Gandy, AR

November

3 Carlos Rubio, TN
4 MK, Rachel Collins, VA
4 Robyn Osborn, TN
11 Susie Robinson, AZ

December

3 Cathy Corley, Russia
9 MK, Benjamin Plunkett, C'I
12 MK, Jonathan Lancaster, UR
13 Stephen Robinson, AZ
29 MK, Joshua Collins, VA

Lucy & Marge

Marge: What's wrong, Lucy? You look down in the dumps.

Lucy: Oh, Marge, I think I must have spring fever.

Marge: This early?

Lucy: Well, you know me, Marge. I can have spring fever in the middle of winter.

Marge: Of course, it will soon be spring time.

Lucy: I'm ready for it. I'm tired of winter clothes and gray days.

Marge: Me too. In the spring time I have the urge to just get in the car and drive away.

Lucy: That sounds like a good idea. I feel like the poet who wrote, "Sometimes I'm as unsocial as a stone and sorta suffocate to be alone." I'd like to drive off somewhere a long ways a way and just sit and stare.

Marge: I was thinking more of visiting some of our missionaries.

Lucy: You mean in Africa or Brazil or Russia or some place like that?

Marge: Sure, that be would exciting and would take us out of our usual routine, wouldn't it?

Lucy: Yes, it certainly would. But Russia or Africa sounds a little too far out for me.

Marge: Come on, Lucy. Wouldn't you like to visit the hospital in Africa or meet some Baptist women in Russia?

Lucy: That would be interesting all right, but I think we're dreaming. Who has the time or money to make such a trip? I certainly don't. Do you?

Marge: You know I don't either, Lucy, but maybe someday. In the meantime, we can give through the women's group to the Pre-Easter Offering. You know, it goes for world missions.

Lucy: That's right. It's the Laura Belle Barnard World Missions offering, isn't it?

Marge: Yes, and I believe God will bless my offering just as much as if I went in person.

Lucy: That reminds me of what Miss Barnard used to say. We can all be missionaries in prayer, in purse and in person.

Marge: Right now God is giving us the privilege of being missionaries in purse, right?

Lucy: Of course and the privilege of prayer, too.

Marge: Yes, be sure to join us for our special prayer times (fill in the prayer times for your group).

Lucy: Now about that trip to Africa. Do you think the lions would welcome us if we went?

Marge: Oh, Lucy, don't be silly. I don't think you would have to deal with lions.

Lucy: But what about the snakes? I don't think the Lord expects me to go to Africa. I'm afraid of snakes.

Marge: Well, there are lots of snakes, and that should remind you to pray harder for the missionaries and their children in Africa.

Lucy: Umm. Yes, I'll certainly pray for them that the Lord will protect them from those man-eating snakes.

Marge: Man-eating snakes? I think that's tigers you thinking of.

Lucy: Well, whichever. I know we need to pray especially for our missionaries everywhere.

Marge: Our week of prayer just before Easter concentrates on our missionaries abroad. Join us.

Lucy: I plan to, Marge. And I'm going to ask the women to pray that if the Lord calls me to a mission field, He will send me where all the animals, insects and people are gentle and friendly. ❖

Springboard Illustrated Stories to Grow By

Volume 38/ No. 2

in defense of Peter by Judy Delong

Peter is often criticized for sinking in the water and denying Jesus. But, I, on the other hand, admire him. Why? **Because every time he failed, he was trying to get closer to the Lord.** Where were the others when he tried to walk on the water? They were content to sit in the boat. But Peter wanted to walk closer to Him, so he got out of the boat and walked on the water. Then human emotion, fear, set in and he began to sink. That probably would have been the last of a lot of Christians. But, not for Peter! The Lord picked him up and Peter went on to learn a lesson in faith.

Next, Peter is criticized for denying the Lord. Only one other disciple went to *Pilate's Hall* with Jesus. That left nine (after Judas' betrayal). Where were they? Somewhere safe, I'm sure. Peter was afraid for his life, yet he tried to stay close to the Lord . . . a lot closer than the others, at least. I believe he really wanted to stand up for Jesus (remember when he struck the soldier and cut off his ear?) . . . but again, the human side took over. Fear and doubt ruled and he denied knowing the Lord.

What about the other disciples? Though Peter **voiced** a denial of Jesus, the others also betrayed Him by **not speaking** for Him. They said, as had Peter (Mark 14:31) that they would die before they would deny Him. Then, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Mark tells us that they all forsook Jesus and fled (14:50).

You don't hear much about the other disciples . . . but we know that Peter became a great preacher. He may have failed along the way but he kept going. Peter, even in his denial of Christ, was closer to the Lord than the others were.

Yes, Peter denied Christ. But haven't we all? As a young Christian, I many times did not defend my belief in Christ. Yet by my silence, I denied His very existence in my life. We have all made mistakes along the way. What's important is not what we were but what we are becoming. I think Peter's record stands for itself.

I see myself in Peter's actions. I want to be closer to the Lord. But it seems that every time I try, I fail. Most of the time, a human emotion is responsible for failure—fear, pride, anger. But I never want to quit. I want to continue trying, even if I fail.

If Jesus called Peter "O thou of little faith" when Peter had climbed out of the boat **in the middle of a storm** to go to Him, what would He call me? ❖

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

COMMUNICATOR

by MARY RUTH WISEHART

Celebrate with Prayer and an Offering

Good Friday is April 10. If you are observing the week of prayer, you should be especially aware of what happened on that cross the day Jesus was crucified. We can all give thanks that it was for us. Then give thanks that it was for the whole world. No one is left out, and we can have a part in getting the good news to the world.

WNAC has three programs available for Good Friday services.

- ♦ *The Coming Brightness* (scripture and the spiritual "Were You There?")
- ♦ *His Last Words* (responsive reading and monologs by Bible characters)
- ♦ *The Brightness of His Coming* (emphasizing His coming again)

The programs are \$3 each, including postage and handling.

Realizing what happened on that day should prepare us to celebrate the power of the resurrection and the resurrected Christ.

Celebrate by spending time praying for world missions and giving generously to the Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering.

Make your offering a kind of celebration. We have reason to celebrate because of Good Friday and because of the "first day of the week." What the women found as they approached the tomb and what they heard when the risen Lord spoke to them is cause for rejoicing.

Your offerings to the Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering help care for the missionaries who are going and giving the message.

If you did not receive a Pre-Easter Week of Prayer packet, you may request one from the WNAC office.

Plan Now for the Ridgecrest Retreat

The WNAC retreat at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Ridgecrest, North Carolina, promises something special for every woman who attends.

The theme is "Order My Steps, Lord," based on Psalm 119:133.

Glenda Revell from Smithfield, Virginia is the featured speaker. Her book, *Glenda's Story: Led by Grace*, tells the story of her triumph over childhood abuse. Elisabeth Elliott says of her, she is "a real 'trophy of grace' and my dear friend."

Susan Forlines will coordinate the music for the retreat.

Besides a fun time for all participants, Friday afternoon will provide a chance to relax, use the recreational activities on or off campus, rest or do some sightseeing.

Friday evening, participants will hear some testimonies to answered prayer from home and foreign missionaries. They will learn of some opportunities to join the missionaries in their ministry through prayer and through contributions to the missionary offering.

In the exhibit hall, WNAC materials will be for sale. Missionaries attending will also have the privilege of setting up display tables for a chance to meet the women and answer questions about their ministries.

See page 24 for a registration form and other information.

WNAC Expenses

Some women ask what happens to the money that comes into WNAC for dues, Emphasis Offering, General Fund, magazine payments and literature sales.

The WNAC office has always operated very frugally. To maintain an office, however, publish materials, send out mail, answer telephones, maintain the Provision Closet, and buy the supplies necessary to doing all these tasks takes money.

Below I've listed the expenses that we have regularly and every other month when we publish a magazine.

Salaries.....	\$7,279.21
Payroll Taxes.....	549.80
Employees' Retirement.....	326.76
Employees' Insurance.....	873.15
Rent.....	2,050.00
Postage.....	389.67
Telephone.....	139.81
Service Contracts.....	425.02
Magazine Expense (every other month)	
Postage.....	500.00
Mailing.....	472.00

Printing.....	4,143.00
TOTAL.....	\$17,148.42

The amounts above are regular expenses. WNAC must pay them to continue services to missionaries and the women.

In addition, there are other expenses each month, such as stationery, envelopes, paper, supplies for mailing orders, ribbons and cartridges for printers, computer updates, executive committee expense and travel expense. Expenses for WNAC averaged for eleven months in 1997 about \$20,000 a month.

Women, remember this is your organization. It has a great history. You have a great heritage. The women have always supported their own organization and I believe you will continue to support it in the future. Right now we need regular, monthly support.

Encourage the incoming executive secretary-treasurer with support that gives her a good feeling about you and about the organization.

Need a Project?

Patty McCullough and Charity VanWinkle are working hard on materials for teen women. We want to pay them something for their work.

Eventually these materials will pay for themselves, but WNAC must have funds to pay for the printing right up front.

Do you want to help train and encourage Free Will Baptist young women? Give a gift for the new publications. Mark it for "publications for YWAC," (Young Women Active for Christ). ❖

Poet's Corner

The Mountain
Freeda Lucas, Cromona, KY

Once a mountain rose before me
Looming larger with each day.
Like a stain, its brown spot spreading
Taking peace and rest away.

Though God promised He'd remove it,
Every morning it was there.
Stalking, stealing precious moments,
Sneaking into nightly prayer.

Then one night there were so many
Needing healing more than I;
That the mountain was forgotten
As I lifted others high.

In the morning it had vanished,
Leaving nothing, not a trace;
But a fountain of rejoicing
In my God's Amazing Grace.

Women In Action



Pastor Jerome Prays for Transportation

God answers through West Virginia State Woman's Auxiliary. For their state project, they raised enough money to purchase a motorcycle, insurance and a spare tire.

Pastor Jerome W. Kambou is a graduate of the Free Will Baptist Bible Institute at Bouna. He pastors the Agnibilekrou Free Will Baptist Church, and is President of the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Côte d'Ivoire. Pastor Jerome and wife, Pema, have four children. West Virginia native Alice Smith, who ministers in Agnibilekrou, adds that the church has evangelistic outreach in two bush villages.

Kirby WAC Helps Community

The women of Kirby Free Will Baptist Church in Taylor, Michigan, made a cash donation to the "WrapaRound" program. Before making the decision to help the program, WAC officers investigated the community based program which supports families through different Human Service Organization and community people. Though the program cannot promote any particular church, WAC members are allowed to work individually with families and share Christ personally.



Pictured: Jill Daniels (Mission Action Chairman), Jan Reynolds (Coordinator of Wraparound Services), Brenda Stav, and Karen Landis.



Surprise Wedding Ceremony for Pastor Appreciation

Shiloh Free Will Baptist Church in Columbia, Alabama, surprised Pastor Thomas Coxwell and his wife, Betty, with a wedding ceremony and reception. The Woman's Auxiliary decorated the church with candles and flowers and prepared food for the reception. On October 26, 1997, the Coxwells renewed their vows after 43 years of marriage. Their son, Gary, gave away the bride. Son-in-law, Dave Franks Jr., performed the ceremony. ❖





ON THE SHELF

The Children's Daily Devotional Bible

by Robert J. Morgan

Thomas Nelson Publishers

Reviewed by Angela Outlaw

It's 8:00 PM, baths have been taken, p.j.'s are on, and it's time for family devotions. Godly parents often struggle over what to do during this sacred time. A wonderful answer for this dilemma lies in Robert Morgan's *Children's Daily Devotional Bible*.

Here are five reasons this devotional works as a great tool for parents.

1. Its **biblical content**. Cinderella, Snow White, and Peter Pan pale in comparison to the Biblical accounts of Noah, Samson, and Daniel. Unlike most children's devotionals, the reading for each day is actually scriptural text.

2. Its **captivating language**. Excerpts from the *Contemporary English Version* provide easily understood passages for young readers. And the CEV is especially geared for reading aloud, so even the younger children will be blessed as they listen.

3. Its **unique format**. The daily format begins with a selected portion of scripture, which includes brief study notes to explain any difficult words or phrases. This is followed by a prayer starter that helps children learn to talk to God about what they have just read in His Word and apply it to their lives. Morgan also includes a memory verse and other suggested scripture that would coincide with the reading for the day.

4. Its **focus on scripture memory**. Many times children are frustrated as they try to learn a memory verse that goes along with each lesson. But this devotional provides a phrase for each day that builds upon the day before, so that the children learn the verse over the course of the week. This method allows children to review each day, and parents to reiterate the principles in the scripture.

5. Its **versatility**. The Children's Daily Devotional Bible is so versatile that you could use it for many years with the same child. In the front of the book, Morgan introduces all the characters they will meet in the Bible which would be a great tool to use for character studies. There is also a topical index that would provide an easy reference for parents to help children deal with issues that arise at various times in

their lives. The author has provided so many Bible study options.

As a parent, I appreciate the pages used for suggesting how parents could get the most out of this devotional book. The author stresses the importance of a parent's personal relationship with Christ, and spells out the gospel message, which makes this book a great gift to children who come from non-Christian homes. It's a great gift for **any** family!

"Read the Bible book, Daddy!" proclaims my two-year-old son, as he points to our copy of the *Children's Daily Devotional Bible*. What a precious time for us as we use this book to teach our children about His Word!

Not I, But Christ

Corrie ten Boom

Fleming H. Revell, 1997

Reviewed by Mary R. Wischart

"Every human being is either a missionary or a mission field," Corrie ten Boom announces in the third devotional thought in this book. Later in the twenty-eighth section she quotes 2 Corinthians 5:20 and John 17:18 as evidence that all believers are missionaries—stewards of the mysteries of God.

This little book is composed of 35 brief messages. Most of

them are from messages she delivered on the radio in Dutch over Trans World Radio in the 1960's. Others are taken from the magazine, *The Hiding Place*.

A co-worker, Lotte Reimeringer, translated them from Dutch into English. Perhaps this is why the English seems to stumble at times. Still, these messages are as fresh, as relevant in the 1990's as they were in the 60's. They might have been written especially for us today.

She begins with a question, "In what kind of world are we living?" Reading the newspaper, watching TV and hearing the news could make us feel desperate and hopeless. But Corrie ten Boom reminds us that these are signs of the times. They remind us that Jesus is coming soon.

She treats surrender, "Lord, will you make me willing to be made willing to surrender completely?" The act of surrender, "Instead of thinking of myself, I will throw myself into the ocean of love." (From a German hymn.)

The book contains sections on fear and love, sleep, angels and retirement—"but don't call it retirement! I must tell you that it is more like getting 'new tires.'" (The devil has not retired.)

The section on demon possession and how to combat demons is especially pertinent. She warns against fortune telling, spiritualism and other questionable activities that invite Satan's control. She suggests the Bible gives us three powerful weapons against demons: the

blood of Jesus Christ (Revelation 12:11), His name (Mark 16:17) and the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). The believer must be very careful and must learn to recognize the enemy. Two errors she points out: believing demons do not exist and having an unhealthy interest in them.

All 35 sections are permeated with anticipation of Christ's second coming. We know how the battle will end, she reminds us. Therefore, we have no reason to fear, even when "many mountains around us are falling" (Psalm 46:2). The best is yet to be. Each of these thoughts are followed by prayers. They may be used as devotional thoughts to begin a meeting or close with the thoughts and a prayer.

The Love Every Woman Needs: Intimacy with Jesus

by Jan McCray

Chosen Books, 1997

Price: \$12.99

Reviewed by Arlene Brantum

You will first be drawn to this book by the beautiful roses illustrated on its cover along with its meaningful title. This

book is everything the name implies.

Starting with salvation, McCray's teachings become stronger as you stroll through each chapter. It is liberally dotted with scripture and many other self help books are mentioned.

As the title suggests, each woman has an intimate need that can only be filled by our Creator. If you've longed for a deep relationship with Jesus and wished you knew how to draw into a closer walk with Him, this book offers many suggestions for working on such a relationship.

While I enjoyed this text and learned much from its content, I continued to feel some discomfort in the term "lover" being used to describe my relationship with Jesus. This may be something I have to work on. ❖

Reservation Form

Free Will Baptist WNAC National Retreat

Ridgecrest Conference Center
Ridgecrest, North Carolina

Theme: Order My Steps, Lord
September 24-26, 1998

ACCOMMODATIONS

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

Please indicate the # of rooms requested:

- ☐ 1 per room: \$165.75
☐ 2 per room: \$115.25
☐ 3 per room: \$104.25
☐ 4 per room: \$98.25

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

(Make additional copies if needed):

Your Name: _____

Group/Church Name (if applicable): _____

Home Telephone: _____

Work Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Special Needs: ☐ Disabled access ☐ First floor required

GROUP RESERVATIONS:

Total number of rooms needed _____

Number of persons in group _____

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

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

Arrival date: _____ First meal: _____

Departure date: _____ Last meal: _____

HOW TO PAY: Enclose deposit of \$19.75 per person. Reservations will not be processed without deposit. Deposit will be credited to your account at check-in.

SEND TO: Ridgecrest Conference Center, P. O.
Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770. Fax. (704) 669-9721
Tel. (704) 669-8022

NO REFUNDS after August 23, 1998.

Daytime only participants: \$34.75 per adult plus meal costs. Breakfast: \$5.50; Lunch or dinner: \$7.50.

Transportation

Ridgecrest is located 17 miles east of Asheville, NC, on Interstate, 40, exit 66. At the top of the ramp, turn left. At the first junction, turn right onto Old U. S. 70. The Ridgecrest entrance is on the left.

The Asheville Regional Airport is serviced by the following airlines: Delta, American, US Air and United.

A Few Ridgecrest Guidelines

Ridgecrest is a Christian conference center. Guests are expected to dress reflecting a Christian example.

Ridgecrest facilities and grounds are designated as a tobacco-free environment.

No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are permitted on the conference center campus.

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

☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Discover

Signature: _____

Cardholder's Name (print clearly): _____

Card Acct #: _____

Exp. Date: _____



Life!Action

a column for teens

top ten secrets for preventing bad hair days

by Charity VanWinkle

in the checkout line at the grocery store, I find myself enticed by the headlines of women's magazines. The magazines tempt me to take them home through offers of preventive medicine for bad hair days and the 101 best places to meet Mr. Right. Although I never succumb and actually *purchase* the magazines, the bold teasers on the covers do stir up my curiosity—okay, I gave in once. *Everyone* needs to know 25 new ways to wear a white t-shirt.

Those publications promise a gold mine of the juiciest information—information I think I “need.” And as I stand in line scanning the blurbs, I think, “If that article really shows how to buy 25 new outfits for under \$25, life will never be the same. Someone has the answers to life’s crucial questions!”

Even though those magazines deal only with superficial problems and provide unbiblical counsel, I still find myself captivated by trivial matters. How sad when I strive to improve only the external features of my life and use the world’s wisdom in the process. Yet I do know how to turn away from my worldliness . . . if I just will.

Although its layout design may not be as flashy as that of *Mademoiselle* or *Glamour*, the Bible still provides the supreme Expert’s advice. God’s Word shines light on those areas of our lives that need improving. That’s a little more important than this season’s hottest lipstick shades.

But I’m sure we know this already. The difficult part comes when we’d rather watch T.V. while our Bibles gather dust on the nightstand. The Bible can’t help us if we don’t pick it up and read it. We have to ask ourselves, “What’s more important: Talking on the phone with friends for hours or letting God talk to us?”

Another problem comes when we read the Bible but have trouble understanding and applying the message.

Though not the only good way to study the Bible, the following method works for me: I pick a short book in the New Testament, perhaps 1 John. Then, through trial and error, I decide on a length of Scripture that I can read daily without it being overwhelming or unchallenging. For me that’s about five chapters a day in the New Testament. Each person can set the length that’s best for her—maybe two chapters daily.

I then read those same chapters

every day (yes, every day!) for 30 days. I place an index card in my Bible and keep track of how many days I’ve read and jot down what I’m learning. At the same time, every day I read a different portion from the Old Testament so that I can read through that at least once a year.

When I’ve finished reading a short book in the New Testament, I alternate with a lengthier book (like the Gospel of John) using the same method. Sure, it takes a while to finish that one, but I figure it’s better to learn slowly than to forget quickly.

I thought I’d grow bored of reading the same chapters day after day, but I am always surprised at how interesting the passages become through repetition. Scriptures I once couldn’t understand have become clearer. After a while I’m even able to outline portions from memory.

Just keep reading and rereading. In time anyone can be an expert on lots of important matters—matters even more important than how to prevent bad hair. ♦

Charity VanWinkle is a twenty-six-year-old single gal, living in Nashville, TN. She works at the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions office as the editorial assistant for Heartbeat and is planning to depart for cross-cultural service in Central Asia in 1999.

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!

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

A Woman God Used

by Rachel Beckon



Elsie Marie Bolin Morris was born March 16, 1929, in Slocomb, Alabama. Reared in a Christian home, she was saved and baptized at 12 years of age. Except for a short time when her family lived in Georgia, Elsie attended Union Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Slocomb all her life. This precious lady was suddenly taken from her family, church and community on June 3, 1994.

A consistent Christian life and the fruit of the Spirit exemplified her life. In her devotion to God, she was loving, joyful, and peaceful. With her family and peers, aged and young, her longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness will long be remembered. Her faith, meekness and temperance stand out as examples to all.

She always welcomed others into her home and enjoyed cooking for them. She ministered to the elderly, sick and shut-ins through prayer, telephone calls, and taking food. Her physical condition never interfered with her celebration of life. Never satisfied with the ordinary, she and her husband, Sam, desired to give God their best.

In her last few years she walked with the help of a cane after going through several operations on both knees and her back.

Though she suffered from severe arthritis for years, her faith in God kept her strong. God used Elsie many times to comfort others—a job she did well because of all she had been through.

When God called one of her sons home, church members rallied around Elsie and Sam to comfort them. The church family felt it a privilege to give back what the Morrisses had imparted to others so often.

Elsie's persevering spirit enabled her to view her problems as God's "molding the clay" or "smoothing the stones" of her life.

Elsie is remembered for her faithfulness to the church. Whether it was leading VBS, teaching Sunday school, holding offices in local or district WAC, she was ready to work. From church cleaning to church clerking, and all in between, if it needed to be done and no one else was available, Elsie would do it. She was a faithful deacon's wife and a committed prayer warrior. Besides all this, she sang beautifully.

Through her example many have learned to cook, raise a family, set right priorities and make wise decisions. Elsie treasured the knowledge that her three children and all her grandchildren had made commitments to the Lord. ❖

Rachel Beckon is a member of Susan Moss WNAC and Union Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Slocomb, Alabama.

Twelve young Cuban pastors finished their last semester at the Seminary *Las Cedras de Lebano* in Pinar del Rio, Cuba. Pray that God's Spirit will do a mighty work in these young men's lives and that many Cuban hearts will turn towards Christ because of them.

Tanya Hart, former missionary in Côte d'Ivoire, has been developing a



Friday

Many states have adopted missionary support plans which underwrite their missionaries' financial support. The Arkansas 1:8 Plan of Support has been very successful, as has Missouri's "Show Me" Plan. Other states, such as Oklahoma, Florida, Alabama and Georgia, have adopted similar plans. Pray that God will give state leaders guidance and wisdom as they lay groundwork for more effective methods of missionary support.

Russian missionary pastors are seeing a spiritual harvest in many Russian cities. Some of the cities in which works have been started are Vetania, Kurgan, Ekaterinburg, Kopeysk, Pyshnan, Chelyabinsk, and Kamyshlov. Pray for pastors Nikolai Novikov, Anatoly Cherkasov, and Nikolai Sobolev as

ministry for our missionary kids (MKs). Pray for her continued vision and planning for this ministry. Also, ask God to bless our MKs' spiritual, emotional, and physical needs. Pray that the parents will have wisdom regarding their children's education.

Ask the Lord to be near and to comfort those who are separated from their parents because of schooling.



April 10

they disciple young Christians and work under heavy loads. Pray especially for the new works in the Siberian towns of Surgut and Uria. People from the unreached ethnic group, the Khantis, are being saved. Pray for the Russian missionary families who are working in this difficult area.

Fred and June Hersey recently retired from 42 years of ministry in Japan. Pray for them during this transition in their lives. Also, pray for another missionary couple in Japan, Ken and Judy Bailey. Ask for a faithful national pastor to lead their Tokyo work so that the Baileys can begin a new church in another area of Tokyo. In addition, pray for the Baileys' son-in-law, Jeremy Delamarter, who has been fighting another bout with Hodgkin's disease. ❖

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

Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for World Missions

April 6-10, 1998



Monday

April 6

The Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Board is in the process of nominating the next General Director of Foreign Missions. Pray for the Board to understand God's guidance and wisdom in this important decision.

Also, remember to lift up Bro. Waddell in prayer as he works to complete the ministry God has given him before his retirement in December 1998.

Two of our Brazilian missionary couples, Jim and Shirley Combs in Arraras and Dave Sr. and Pat Franks in Belo Horizonte, need our prayer and financial support. The Combs minister in a children's home, showing Christ's love to street children. They also assist at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Arraras. The Franks returned to Belo Horizonte this winter after a time of stateside assignment. Pray that the



Tuesday

April 7

Ask the Lord to open the eyes and hearts of the friends of Dennis and Carol Teague in St. Sebastien, France. The Teagues also need stateside partners who will give to their deficit account so that they can continue to witness for Christ in France.

Pray for the following missionary appointees as they prepare for their fields of service: Two couples heading

ministries of both couples will be greatly blessed by the Spirit of God and that they will be faithfully supported with prayers and finances by their partners in the States.

Praise the Lord for the mass people movement to Christianity in India! A great harvest is being reaped after many years of labor. However, our FWB national pastors are suffering many physical trials. Pastor Philip Das has been in the hospital; Pastor Ronen Guha has intense back pain; Pastor Devon Marendi no longer can see to read and is very frail; Pastor Saifal Das has been having severe respiratory problems. Pray that these leaders will be healed and enabled to carry on God's work. Pray also for the 25 evangelists as they disciple new believers.



for service in Spain, Anthony and Lea Edgmon and Tim and Kristi Johnson, are currently on deputation; Ginger Harrison is in Quebec, Canada, studying French before she leaves for Côte d'Ivoire; Jaime and Tammy Lancaster are on deputation as they prepare to serve in Uruguay; Kevin Stacy is raising his funds and spiritual support before he leaves for central Asia.

Dennis and Trena Owen and Dave Jr. and Becky Franks are striving to be Christ's witnesses in Uruguay through one-on-one Bible studies and other methods of outreach. Pray that more converts will be won and young

Christians will be effectively disciplined. Also pray for the solid financial support of these two missionary families and for the new church building which is in the works in Montevideo, Uruguay.



Wednesday

April 8

Pray for overseas apprentices and TEAM '98 members who are raising funds for their summer ministries. Pray that they will be effective in their ministry during their short times overseas. Ask the Lord to use this experience to call some of the young people into missionary service.

Two of our Panamanian missionary couples have been on the move lately. Ron and Linda Callaway ministered in Cuba during February and March. As they return to the work in Panama, ask the Lord to bless their ministry of training church leaders. Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman finished language school in Costa Rica in

December and have recently moved to the Kuna Indian villages in the jungles of Panama. Pray for their continued physical and spiritual wellbeing as they are living in this rustic setting.

Robert and Judy Bryan and Jerry and Carol Pinkerton, veteran missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire, are concentrating their efforts on planting a church in Abidjan, the capital city. Presently, the believers there have formed five Neighborhood Outreach cell groups in four different sections of the city. Pray for new converts, for their discipleship, and for land for the future church building. Ask the Lord to bless this work financially.

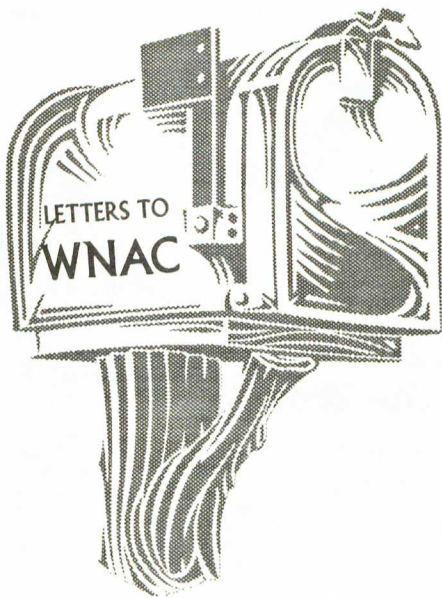


Thursday

April 9

Pray for Lynn Midgett, Sam and June McVay, and Jeff and Susan Turnbough, our missionary team in Spain. Ask God to bless their home Bible studies and other means of outreach to their neighbors in the Las Rozas/Majadahonda area of Madrid.

These missionaries are also assisting the Villalba church which is under national leadership. Pray for this church, for the McVays who are in language study, and for Lynn Midgett's financial support.



MK Ministry

Please accept our gratitude for your recent contribution to this new and exciting ministry of the FWB Foreign Missions Department. What a blessing you are to us as you support the work of reaching out to our MKs.

Please pray for us as we work to establish this essential ministry. Beginning a new aspect of any ministry takes time to confirm the validity of the program. You have been among the first to respond by your donations.

The purpose of the MK ministry is to provide a multiphase and relevant program to minister to every MK.

The overall ministry has been designed to help and encourage our MKs by trying to understand the individuality of each MK. They are all precious as well as a vital link to the future of FWBs. They have unlimited potential and resources to share, if we will listen to them.

Your investment in the MK ministry not only will continue to benefit the MKs but will help to achieve world evangelism as they touch the young lives with whom they come in contact on a daily basis.

*With a heart for MKs,
Tanya Hart, Coordinator of MK Ministries*

Enjoyed Retreat

I appreciate so much all the effort and planning that WNAC put forth to make the retreat at Glorieta a blessing. I feel like the retreat was just for me. I came away with such a good feeling in my heart and thankfulness to have been blessed and to be in such a wonderful place. My knowledge was increased and I was able to seek God's face and recommit my works and family to God.

Judith Goble, Paintsville, KY

Enjoys Yearbook

I have enjoyed using my 1997 Yearbook. It was a big help to me in planning our meetings.

Linda B. McCaa, Buckatunna, MS

Appreciates Provision Closet

Thank you! I recently was able to take my first trip through the provision closet. I made my selections and piled them on a table. My children came into the room, their eyes wide in disbelief. "Mommy, are you going to buy all that?!" I explained that FWB women have given these items for missionaries to use and that I did not have to buy them. "Wow!" they exclaimed, "that's neat!" I agree. Thanks to all of you who make this possible!

Annette Aycock, Missionary to Brazil

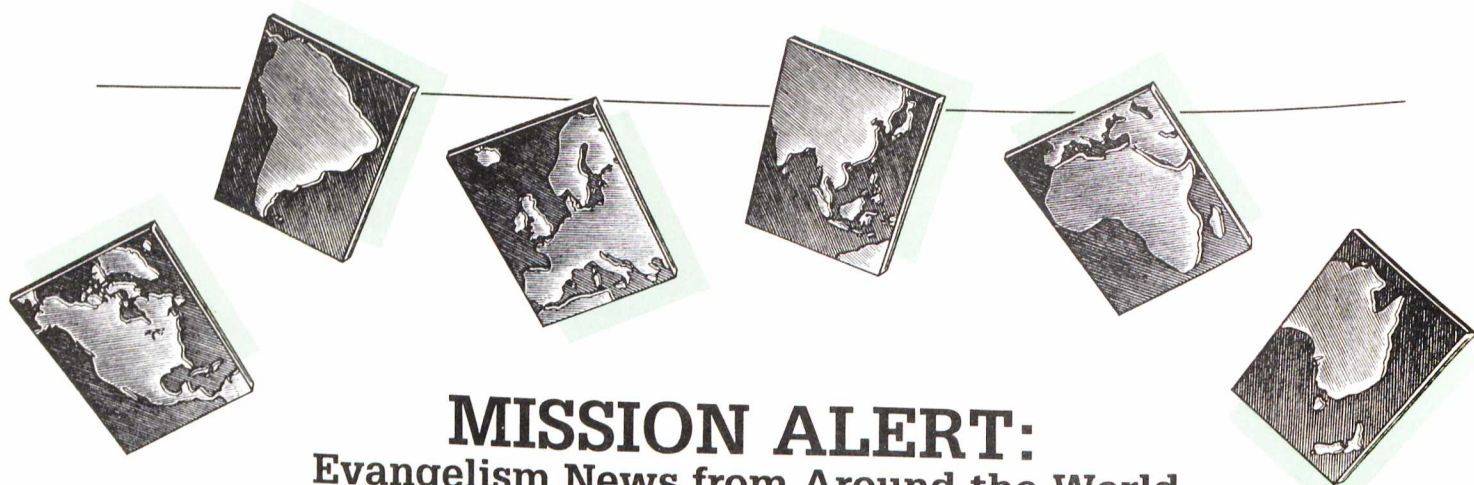
This was the second time I had the opportunity to go through the missionary provision closet. I have no words to express my gratitude to all of you for this special privilege.

Thank you for allowing me to partake of the fruit of your work.

This reminds me of the story of Ruth and Boaz. As Ruth I say, "You know I come from another country, why are you so good to me?"

The Lord bless all the Boazes (WNAC) in the United States. May our God give you what you need.

*Ramon and Ede Zuniga
President, Seminary La Cruz, Reynosa, Mexico ❖*



MISSION ALERT: Evangelism News from Around the World

Campinas, Brazil

Missionaries Curt and Mary Holland are working in conjunction with the First Free Will Baptist church of Campinas to start a new congregation in a Campinas neighborhood called São José. September 1997, the Hollands started having Bible studies in the home of Bill and Claudia. December 7, Magal and Rita, who had been attending the Bible studies, made decisions to follow Christ.

Pray for this outreach and the new believers in São José. Campinas has a population of almost 1 million and is one of the fastest growing cities in the state of São Paulo.

San Miguelito, Panama

The Panamanian National Convention met January 9–11 according to missionary Ron Callaway. The Callaways also attended the Cuban National Convention February 26–March 1.

Doropo, Côte d'Ivoire

Dr. Kenneth Eagleton reports that 19 men and women completed a training seminar in Doropo given by a representative from Medical Ambassadors International (MAI). MAI is a Christian organization which has developed a program to address health issues and share the Good News of the coming Savior.

Many of the 19 who went through the training committed to starting the program in surrounding villages. They work as volunteers to teach basic disease prevention, nutrition, hygiene, water protection and treatment techniques and gardening principles. These volunteers will also have opportunities to evangelize.

Dr. Eagleton writes, "It is not easy to convince people of the truth or to change their habits and beliefs. It will take the Holy Spirit working in the lives of those people to bring this about."

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Missionary Tommy Jones reports that forty-five people attended the second anniversary service at Three Rivers Free Will Baptist Church.

The Joneses and church members are praying about the purchase of property for a church building in the future.

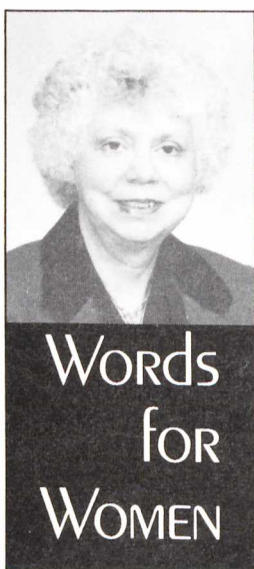
Madison, Wisconsin

The Free Will Baptist church in Madison held its first service in a new location on November 16, 1997. The new location, Lindbergh Elementary School, is within walking distance from Kennedy Heights Apartment Complex where a number of kids had already been riding the church van to services and Vacation Bible School. Kennedy Heights Apartment Complex has been the most receptive area in Madison.

Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

According to reports from missionaries Jeff and Donna Crabtree, the West Fredericton Free Will Baptist Church is growing. Services moved from a rented conference room to a renovated former Catholic church building. The move opens up many new possibilities for evangelism.

November 6, 1997, missionary Donna Crabtree spoke at the Virginia Ladies Retreat in Williamsburg. Approximately 140 women attended. ❖



*Mary Ruth
Wischart*

Spring is coming again to places where winter has frozen the plants and chilled the people.

Isn't it great that you can depend on spring following winter? God said, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." God said it, and we can depend on it.

I do like change. That's one reason I like the changing seasons. I am not like my friend who buys clothes that are seasonless. I like to take out the heavy, warm, winter clothes, that I'll not have to wash or clean after every wearing. I look forward to putting them away and taking out the light, airy, spring and summer clothes—even if I do have to wash or clean them more often.

Some things, however, you do not want to change. I want spring to continue following winter. The ocean should keep in its place, even though the waves rise high once in awhile.

The sun continues to come up in the East. It's a comforting thought that each morning I can depend on its rising, though it may be earlier than I wish at times.

Darkness falls, and the resting time that God has provided for us begins, every day. Now it's up to us take advantage of the dark and rest, but God still provides it.

Babies. The delight at the birth of a baby, a baby's smile, the first laugh, and that first step. Mothers and fathers who love and delight in the baby. May we always have those.

Friends. Oh, I know. They do change through the years. Some alter their view

of life and their philosophies, but they remain friends. Friendship does not change. It always needs loving care, patience and understanding.

The Word of God. Aren't you glad God doesn't change His mind and say, "Let's see now. These people probably need an update. For the next century we need something different, something more modern. I'll write a new Bible." "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." It will never change. Thank God, we can depend on it.

Free Will Baptist women. Women who love God, want to serve Him and see that the gospel gets out to the world. Oh, of course, grow, mature, learn and keep getting to know God better. But don't change your love for and dedication to God. Keep loving God's servants at home and abroad and ministering to them. Keep praying and giving. Love those young people and keep on training and encouraging them. Reach out to one another in fellowship and give an encouraging hand to your sisters in Christ. Identify yourself with a woman's group and be ready to serve wherever God opens a door. ❖





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April 6-10, 1998

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

See pages 27-28 for prayer calendar

CoLaborer Magazine

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