

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

CoLaborer

May • June 1998

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VISION

Suzanne Franks



Classy houses and holey purses

How contemporary! How true! The words in Haggai jumped out at me. "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house [the house of the Lord] is desolate? . . . You have sown much, but harvest little; . . . and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes" (Haggai 1:4, 6 NASB). Through Haggai, the Lord spoke to those who returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile.

The men and women in Judah may have felt defensive at Haggai's message. What's wrong with building my own house? Don't we have to care for our families? Everyone needs shelter. Surely this is a good cause.

Then, why did God send Haggai to deliver such a message? They didn't seem to be lazy. And, yes, they were doing something good. But because of fear or discouragement, they left their most important job unfinished—untouched for 16 years. Somewhere in the chaos of rebuilding their lives, they forgot why they returned to Judah.

Classy houses and holey purses aren't the only parts of the story that sound familiar. Check out the events leading up to Haggai's ministry.

King Cyrus had decreed that the temple be rebuilt and sent the people on their way with gold, money, food, and even supplied the animals for sacrifice. God had all the details worked out and the Jews simply had to follow through. Even so, when persecution escalated, workers became discouraged.

Though American society is not as receptive to Christianity as in years past, opportunities and resources abound. In Warren Wiersbe's book, *Be Heroic*, he writes, "An affluent generation of Christians that is wasting God's generous gifts on trivia and toys will have much more to answer for when the Lord returns." Do we have holes in our purses because we haven't obeyed Matthew 6:33? In our self-sufficiency, it's easy to forget God's words, "The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine."

We, too, need to be reminded Who is in control. Even King Cyrus recognized God's power in his letter to the leaders in Judah. "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem. . . ."

Instead of fretting over world events, we can take comfort in God Who stirs the hearts of kings, dictators and presidents.

By the way, the book of Haggai ends on a high note. The people obeyed. Before long, God sent them extra encouragement, "I am with you," declares the Lord."❖

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**"EVERYWHERE
SHE SAW
SOMETHING POSITIVE,
SOMETHING
AMAZING,
SOME WONDER
OF GOD'S GRACE."**

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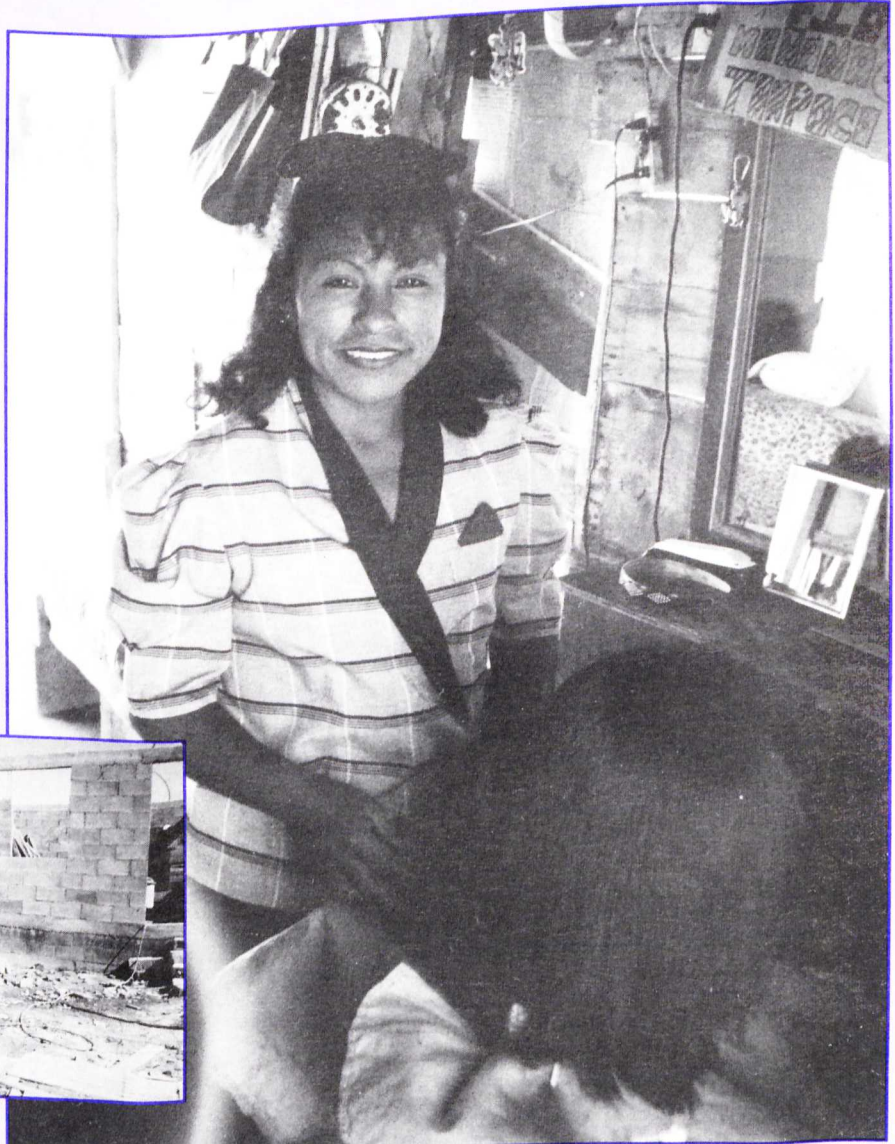
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SABINA FINDS PEACE

by RUTH BIVENS



Sabina in front of her new home



At her beauty shop, Sabina fixes her daughter Anai's hair.

“Go ahead and kill me,” she said. She had been late coming home from church. Her drunken husband suspected other things. “Jesus died for you and me. I can die for Him,” she told him. She faced him in perfect peace, sure of God’s love in her heart.

She remembered how desperate she had once been for someone to love her—someone to accept her just as she was.

She remembered how, in her misery and loneliness, she fell for a smooth line from her husband's friend. She remembered and the brutal beating when her husband found out.

She remembered how she had feared for her life and in utter panic she ran away. She slipped back later and took her only precious things, her two children. They fled to the border hundreds of miles away.

There her sister told her about the forgiving love of Jesus and the total acceptance of the Christians at the Free Will Baptist Church.

In five months her husband, Paco, found her. With pleadings and promises to change, he persuaded her to take him into her little rented home. Within two weeks he was drinking and beating her again. Then, unable to support him and the children, she turned to the streets for easy money. Her sister washed her hands of the whole mess.

Her life went from bad to worse. When her husband wrecked her car and was jailed, she had nowhere to run. Then

she remembered a promise her sister had made: God could help her.

"I don't know how to ask You," she prayed. "I know I have failed You. They have told me You forgive. Forgive me. There is no one else who will help me."

In that moment she trusted God, and her life began to change. People she did not know prayed for Paco. Others, also unknown to her, worked to see her husband freed. From then she realized "Yes, God has power."

"Go ahead," she said, "kill me." But, he saw the peace in her face and he turned away.

Before long he too knelt to pray and deliverance came . . . and new life for both of them. It was a new life with a new companionship, a new understanding of one another, a new hope, a new happiness, a new peace, a new love, even a new baby boy. It is a transformed life.

Since Sabina and Paco found peace in their hearts, over 25 members of their combined families have come to know the Savior who forgives.

Today, Sabina and her husband and children, Omar, Anai, and Cheque, are faithful to the Bethen Free Will Baptist Church

in Reynosa, Mexico. Several members of her extended family are faithful there.

Sabina's family is building a new home. They have a roof over one room of the concrete block structure and the family lives there. Until the room was roofed, they were living in a one-room wooden shack with a dirt floor. In their new home they are dry when it rains.

They continue to praise and thank the Lord for changes in their lives. Recently, Sabina had a birthday party for Cheque, her now three-year-old son. Omar, her oldest son who is 17, just completed his first semester at the Seminary of the Cross, where he is working hard to prepare to serve the Lord more effectively. He is an excellent student. In his testimonies, Omar never fails to thank the Lord for the changes he has seen in his family and his own life.

God is transforming lives in Mexico. ❖



Ruth Bivens and her husband, Bud, are missionaries to Mexico. As part of their ministry they help plant churches and work with the Seminary of the Cross in Reynosa, Mexico.

MAY PROGRAM



Mothers

Living Sacrifices

by Wanda Powell

Hymn: "The Woman's Hymn"
Scripture: Romans 12:1-2

Let me introduce myself, my name is Eve, Mother of All Living. Yes, I'm the one who messed up big time. God had made a beautiful world, everything you could imagine and more. It was perfect until I . . . sinned. There I said it! After all, it is in the first book of the Bible for all to read.

God pronounced judgment upon man, woman, nature, the serpent and Satan because of my actions. But because God is love He also promised us a redeemer. Through the seed of woman. He would use me in spite of my sin to bring redemption to all men. And, in the meantime, He showed us a way to have our sins covered by making a blood sacrifice.

Yes, I was the woman to get the first fur coat, much to my sorrow. In making our offerings, our motives had to be pure and our hearts in the right attitude toward God.

Your theme verse mentions that you are to present yourselves as "living sacrifices." That is wonderful! There was no joy in seeing those animals slaughtered on those altars. Since Jesus came into the world as the Sacrificial Lamb of God, you no longer have to make offerings like we did. Just think, all He requires now is that you be "living" sacrifices. That is sure to be a sweet savor offering to present to the Lord. And, as wives and mothers, you have a great influence on how your entire family will respond to God.

Can you imagine what it was like being the **first** mother? It wasn't easy. I had no Dr. Spock

books, or Perfect Mom Seminars, not even Doctor Dobson.

After the fall, God sent us out of the Garden and we were on our own. Adam was more than a little unhappy with me because tilling the garden and keeping the animals had become real work. As you can imagine, he wasn't too eager to help me. God had given us two sons, Cain and Abel.

I must admit I really didn't have any idea what God meant about "pain in child-bearing" until my firstborn. I realized all the more what I had caused. However, it's like John 16:21 says,

A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for the joy that a human being has been born into the world. (NKJV)

Isn't that true? What joy when I held that little one in my arms. I soon forgot the pain.

However, it wasn't long before I was reminded of my sin again as I watched the boys play and fight. I believe you call it, "sibling rivalry." Children don't hide their anger or jealousy but attack one another by arguing, hitting, screaming and accusing. It grieved my heart to watch them.

I am not alone in this. Other Bible mothers saw their children behave this way and perhaps some of you as well. There was Jacob and Esau, Isaac and Ishmael, even Joseph and his brothers.

Many say that a mother's love is like God's love; He loves us not because we are lovable, but

because it is His nature to love, and because we are His children. That is true. But God does correct those He loves. Mothers, it is neither healthy nor necessary to allow children to attack one another and make life miserable for everyone else. Be careful not to contribute to the problem by making comparisons of physical attractiveness, intelligence, or athletic abilities. With proper love, training at home, teaching of God and His Word, your children won't have to have the same end as Cain and Abel.

Let's listen to another Bible mother whose sacrifice made her bitter.

Sacrifice Made Her Bitter

My name is Naomi, although there was a time I changed my name to Mara which means "bitter" in Hebrew. There was a famine in our land so my husband, Elimelech, my two sons and I went to the country of Moab in search of food.

We dwelled in the land for ten years. Ours sons grew up to be handsome young men and married two Moabite women. While there my husband and both my sons died. I came into the land full and went out empty. That is why I grew bitter. God had asked me to sacrifice the ones I loved and it was difficult to see His hand and blessing in my life.

Some of you may have had to give up your loved ones and at the time the grief was almost too much to bear. It is then that we

can fully appreciate God's great sacrifice in giving up His only Son for us. I was a desolate widow but I did trust God and continued in prayer night and day. God had given me two good daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth. I'd like Ruth to tell you the rest of the story.

Sacrifice Made Her Beloved



How on earth did a pagan widow get a book in the Bible named after her? You ask. That is amazing to me as well. It all started with a wonderful and godly mother-in-law, Naomi. She and her family came to our heathen land but she never forgot her God nor her people. After I married her son, she taught me about her God and His Word. I watched her life and heard her prayers. I watched as she gave up her husband and her two sons to death.

When Naomi decided to return to her people and go to Beth-

lehem I begged to go with her. Many use the passage in wedding ceremonies today, "Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." (Ruth 1:16, KJV)

I did leave my own people and renounced the Moabite gods because I had learned to love not only my mother-in-law but also her God and I knew that He would not forsake us. In my sacrifice we were blessed above all expectations.

We returned to Bethlehem and there God in His providence did provide abundantly for us. I went to glean in the wheat fields owned by Boaz, a near relative of Eli-melech's. Naomi learned that it was love at first sight on Boaz's part and she began planning the wedding right away. She sent me to request Boaz to fulfill his responsibility as a kinsman redeemer.

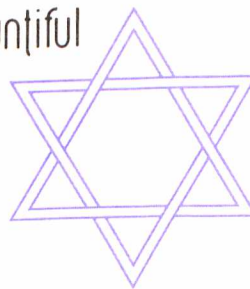
Boaz was thrilled but learned there was another redeemer closer than he. I returned home and we left the matter with God. As you know, the other man stepped aside and allowed Boaz to marry me. In Boaz not only did I get a husband, Naomi got a son. Above that God blessed our union with a little boy which we named, Obed.

(Naomi Interrupts) Yes, I am a grandmother! My friends said to me, "Blessed be the Lord, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. And he shall be

unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him." Through Obed, Ruth became the great-grandmother to King David and in the very lineage to our Kinsman-Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Another Bible mother would like to tell you how her sacrifice made her bountiful.

Sacrifice Made Her Bountiful



My name is Hannah. I've been called, "The Sorrowing, Singing Saint." That sounds contradictory, you say. I tend to agree. But only if you had wanted children the way I had longed for them, and had waited as many years as I had, could you understand my plight. I was barren and ridiculed for it. Even the priest misinterpreted my prayer in the temple. But I believed God could give me the desires of my heart if He chose. I promised God that if He gave me a son I would raise him as a Nazarite and would give him to God for His service.

God heard my prayer and answered it. He gave me the most beautiful baby boy ever, Samuel. After I weaned him, I brought him to Eli the priest, for service in the Temple. There I prayed and it is now called my song. My prayer

was a hymn of praise to God for blessing the poor and humble over the rich and the proud, for keeping the feet of his saints, and rightfully judging the earth.

Some have asked how I could sing when my heart must be breaking when I had to say good-bye to my only child. Some of you know the feeling all too well. You've said good-bye to your child when you sent him off to war not knowing if he would return. Those of you who have shed the tears, waved good-bye at the airport, or ship docks to children and grandchildren leaving for missionary service on some other continent understand.

Many have questioned: What kind of God would give you a family and then ask you to give them up? The answer: the kind of God who did it Himself for you and me. The God who promised, "And Lo, I am with you alway."

Besides, we can't out give God, even when it comes to our children. I later had three more sons and two daughters. Samuel was greatly used of the Lord all the days of his life. And as any mother can attest, that does the heart good.

Listen now to one whose sacrifice made her beautiful.

Sacrifice Made Her Beautiful

Hello, my name is Esther. Can you believe what God did in my life? He took an orphan Jewess girl and made her queen of the greatest empire on earth at the time.

I remember how nervous I was when my cousin Mordecai, who had raised me as his own since my parents had died, told me that I had to go before King Ahaseurus in a beauty contest. I knew Mordecai loved me and would not ask me to do anything against God's will.

I won the beauty contest and became queen. Little did I realize that God would later use me to save not only our little family but also the entire nation of Israel.

I'm sure you've heard my story many times of how Mordecai discovered a plot of the wicked prime minister, Haman, to kill the Jews and how I went in before the king to stop it. I remember Mordecai's words to me, "... who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14, KJV) After fasting and prayer, I believed that God was directing our lives in this. I took courage and interceded with the king on behalf of my people. I succeeded, and Haman and his ten sons were hanged. Mordecai was made prime minister and the Jews were saved.

Some say I am as a mother to the Jews since I risked my life to save the lives of the nation. My sacrifice made me beautiful not only in the eyes of the king but also to my people. To commemorate the event, the Feast of Purim was instituted and it is still celebrated by Jews all over the world.

Perhaps, you say you are not great queens with the deliverance of a nation in your hands, but you all have your own circle set round

you by God, and out of your own circle there are other far-reaching opportunities. Some of you may be single, some childless, or widowed but there is much you can do for other children in your church, neighborhood, mission stations, orphanages, or even the unborn through the counseling you might give to expectant single women.

Believe that God has put you here for such a time as this and offer unto Him a living sacrifice. ❖



Wanda Powell lives in Glennville, GA and is a member of Ebenezer Free Will Baptist Church. Her husband, Larry, is her pastor.

Bite your tongue!



by Maurine Lee

have you ever considered the fact that the tongue is one of the most important parts of the body? It has to work hard to keep up with all the tasks assigned to it. It helps us taste, chew, and swallow our food. Without the tongue we could not speak or sing for it helps us form sounds. While most muscles of the body work involuntarily, this one can be controlled. In

fact, God put our tongues in a cavity, surrounded it with teeth and jaw bones, put the nose over it and our chin under it and anchored it deep in the throat and told us to guard it! Sound easy, doesn't it?

The tongue still seems to have a mind of its own. That behavior comes from contact with the brain or "heart" of every individual. Jesus said, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34b). That's sobering. It means my words are revealing what I truly am on the inside! (Psalm 19:14)

Purpose: To identify the tongue as a vital part of the body that is to be a living sacrifice for the service of God.

Scripture: James 3:2, Psalm 19:14

Wise use of the tongue

It's not wrong to talk. God made every bird, fish, and animal with the ability to communicate by sounds. Human beings use speech.

A mother chatters to her baby. By this she demonstrates her love. The baby soon begins to smile and make sounds in return.

We reach out to others by using our tongue to shape words. Let's not underestimate the importance of choosing the right thing to say.

"I'm sorry." "I love you." "I feel your hurt." "Let me help." "What can I do to help?" These are all words that rush out in love or in readiness of service.

Lonely people need someone to talk with. Do you call the widows or widowers to say, "I was thinking of you and just called to say hello"?

When someone is hurting it is always right to say, "You have been in my prayers." Your words might just help them get through their bad times. Many situations are here for brief moments and they are God-given opportunities.

When a young person achieves in school or participates in church or in a sporting event, your words of congratulations or encouragement to them are like heaping frosting on a cake.

Sometimes the expression on a child's face is begging for attention. They want you to talk to them or give them praise. Will you be like Jesus and draw them to yourself?

In trying circumstances, what a blessing to have someone step forward who can say the right thing to melt the tension. When we go to someone for advice, we want to hear words of knowledge filled with wisdom. These words might be just what we need to help us make a right decision or keep us from doing something we will regret all our lives.

Every church or community has someone with the ability to give wise instruction. Your personal experience may be just what someone needs to hear. We especially need to know the plan of salvation and what the Scriptures teach

on matters of daily living. By hearing the Word of God true wisdom is found.

Group participation: Relate a conversation when someone said to you just what was needed at that moment. Did the words comfort? Praise? Motivate you? Show love? Encourage? Is there someone you can always go to and expect to receive the counsel you need? Pray for that person.

The wrong use of the tongue

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me!" Have you ever said that when someone called you names or made fun of you?

Words don't leave bruises on the skin and they can't break bones. But words **can** and often do hurt just like broken bones or bruises. What is said between spouses, parents and children, family members, or friends or even strangers can hurt so much that love is killed. Ambitions are shattered. All self-esteem is lost. The tongue can wound so deeply that a whole lifetime is not enough to heal the soul. We cannot use medical supplies to heal these wounds. Even after forgiving the offender, the pain still returns each time the words are remembered.

Because they are tired, impatient or irritated, parents or teachers throw daggers—words that bruise self-worth and kill self-esteem. "You'll never amount to anything!" "You're just stupid!" "Why can't you be like _____?"

Some kids take on an armor that says, "You can't hurt me." However, every armor has holes and these words are printed in permanent ink on the brain. Satan will later use these words as tools to seek to defeat, discourage or destroy that person. Bite your tongue before you lash out!

Perhaps we are most turned off by cursing or trashy words. Such expressions have become so much a part of our world we never know who will say them or when they will be heard. At one time we might have expected

respect for women. Not anymore. Shamefully, women are guilty themselves.

While some would never allow cursing or trash to come from their mouths, they easily use hateful, gossipy, lying, criticizing, angry, boastful, or accusing words. God's Word tells us that these are sin and ought not be a part of our thinking and certainly not our speech (Ephesians 4:25, 29–31).

Unkind words kill the spirit, defeat the workers and discourage those who seek to follow Christ. Some have turned back into the world and returned to a life of sin because instead of being encouraged to follow Christ they were made to feel a failure or just in the way. James said hurting others with our words is actually a defilement to our own bodies (James 3:6).

Some things just ought not be said. If we are guilty of saying, "This is the way I am. I've got to say what I think," then we need to learn to say it only to God in our closet.

Group participation: Recall words that hurt you or caused you not to do something for the church or for others. Pray for the one who said them. Recall words you said at some time that still cause you pain.

bringeth forth evil things" (Matthew 12:35).

"Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (James 3:10).

James went on to say that we do not get both good water and bitter out of the same fountain. A fruit tree does not bear berries and one does not get figs from grape vines.

Each of these passages tells us that what we are **inside** is revealed by what we say. The tongue is the member of the body used for speech and we can control it! One writer said, "What you are filled with spills out when you get bumped."

Our brain stores up what we read, what we listen to, and what we see and hear in everyday life. Then, like a cow that chews its cud, our minds meditate on these things. Some things are not fit to think about, so they need to be treated like garbage. Don't give them space. If thoughts are sinful or sin provoking we need to pause and confess them to God and ask Him to remove them. Replace that which is not good with good things.

Turn critical thoughts to positive ones. Paul said, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thessalonians 5:21). Our brain is much like a garden and if we want good and

Our brain is much like a garden and if we want good and wise words to come from the mouth, we must take care what is put into our thought process.

The Source of Our Words

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart," wrote the Psalmist, "be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).

Jesus said, "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure

wise words to come from the mouth, we must take care what is put into our thought process.

A heart filled with love for Christ and others will control the tongue and bring help to those about.

Solomon has much to say about using the right words. "He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction" (Proverbs 13:3). "A

soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (Proverbs 15:1). "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Proverbs 25:11).

In the early years of our country, settlers went to claim land and they would look for a water supply. Sometimes this was a spring, bubbling or trickling out of the ground. The settler had to clean all the debris away from the water source continually to keep the water from being contaminated.

Controlling our tongue is much the same task. If our tongue is to be controlled and to say the right things, we must keep our hearts and minds on that which is good, holy and righteous.

We are judged by the words we speak. They will either justify us or they will condemn us. Will our conversation stand to condemn us in judgment? Bite your tongue before you speak! (Romans 12:1-2)

Groups participation: Relate some things that have affected what you did or did not say. Relate times when you spoke before considering the consequences. ❖



Maurine Lee lives in Goldsboro, North Carolina. She and her husband George C., are members of Victory Free Will Baptist Church.

Order My Steps, Lord
Free Will Baptist
WNAC
Retreat
at
Ridgecrest, NC

September 24-26, 1998

See the March/April issue
for Reservation Form
or request one from WNAC.



Tribute to Mabel Bailey Willey

Read at the Celebration of Her Home Going

Maimi, FL, January 24, 1998

by Mary R. Wisehart

“Why don’t you write down your stories?”

People everywhere kept asking Mrs. Willey that question. That question reveals that her stories delighted, blessed and challenged our faith. How frequently she ministered to people everywhere.

Mrs. Willey motivated young and old with her messages.

She promoted spiritual growth with her Bible studies. She enthralled us with her stories of God’s grace and wonders in her life and ministry. She glorified God among us and caused us to praise Him for His answers to prayer and His miraculous work on the mission fields.

Mrs. Willey’s life was an example to us of that commitment Mabel Bailey made at an all-night prayer meeting in her home when she was a teenager.

She was an example to us of loyalty. Although her ministry extended far beyond Free Will Baptists, she loved “my people,” as she



called us. When the Willey’s started to Cuba for the first time, the director of Foreign Missions for Free Will Baptists said, “I wouldn’t go if I were you. I don’t think our people will support you.” Discouraging, to say the least. She said to her husband, “Maybe we shouldn’t go.” She would never forget his answer. “I am sure of two things,” he said. “God will not leave us and our people will

not let us down.” Mrs. Willey says, “And they never have.”

Her last years were spent in ministry in the USA, speaking in churches and colleges, but especially at women’s meetings, conventions and retreats. She won the hearts of Free Will Baptist women with her attractive personality and her dedication to God. She was not only a speaker, Bible teacher, and pioneer missionary to be admired. She became for us a friend, a counselor. We knew she cared. And we showered her with attention, admiration and love.

She accepted this attention gracefully. Everywhere she saw something positive, something amazing, some wonder of God’s grace.

Even at an advanced age she kept a strenuous schedule. When someone requested her presence, she felt she must go. One of the last requests she made of me was this. “My people in Australia want me to come. They say I could have such a great ministry there. Will you go with me?” What do you think I said? Of course I said, “Yes, if you go, I will go with you.” I knew in my heart that she would never be able to go.

We went together to the women’s retreat in Panama in 1989. Someone asked, “Aren’t you afraid to go on such a trip with an 83-year-old woman?” “Yes,” I said, “I’m afraid I can’t keep up with her.”

One last thing she did for us. She saw that her stories are written down and soon to be published in English and Spanish. ♦

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

Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator/Assistant Coordinator

Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations, weddings, preparation for National Convention and Ridgecrest Retreat. Wow! May and June are busy months. Plan, prioritize and delegate so things will happen like they are supposed to. Meet with your officers at least once a month so your business meetings will run more smoothly. As a general rule more time should be spent in prayer, study, and fellowship in your regular monthly meetings and less time conducting business. Your women will be eager to attend your meetings if you have something to offer they find important.

If you plan to have a Mother/Daughter banquet, you can order the play book *Volume 13: Mother's Day Medley*. This volume contains four plays designed to honor mothers. Volunteers can read tributes to their mothers or grandmothers. If no one volunteers, ask a few women to write tributes and then read them at the banquet. Another possibility for the banquet is one or more Mother/Daughter interviews. The interviewer can ask questions such as, "What do you admire most about your mother?" "What characteristic of your mother would you like to imitate above all else?" "What funny experience do you remember about your mother/daughter?" Make your own questions and let the person being interviewed see them ahead of time. Of course, let her know you may ask follow-up questions. One WAC group interviewed three generations of missionaries and MKs. I wish I had been there!

Secretary/Treasurer

Instead of reading the treasurer's report at your business meeting, you can prepare a financial report to hand out to your members and open the floor for questions. This saves valuable time and is probably easier to understand. Keep the report simple. Besides the regular debit/credit activity, the report should include details of your group's project goals and how close you are to meeting those goals. You may also include the value of non-cash gifts given to Provision Closet, new project ideas up for consideration, other financial needs, and ways to help your women be better stewards.

Provision Closet Needs:

Bath towel sets

Wash cloths

Queen and twin size sheet sets

Queen and twin size bedspreads

Pillows

Electric blankets

Electric skillets

Irons

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

Avoid Deception Colossians 2:1-10

1. Walk in Christ, verse 6
 - a. Walk in faith.
 - b. Be directed by the Bible.
2. Grow up in Christ, verse 7
 - a. Gain a knowledge of the Word.
 - b. Always pray.
3. Make Christ first, verse 8
 - a. Don't follow religion that does not make Christ first.
 - b. Don't be enticed by the logic of worldliness.
4. Draw on Christ's strength, verses 9-10
 - a. He has all power.
 - b. Without Him we can do nothing.

Missions Chairman

June is designated as state home missions month in some states. Contact your state WAC or state promotional office to find out what you can do for the missionaries planting churches in your state. Some of these missionaries may be under the National Home Missions Board and others may be under your State Missions Board. WNAC encourages local groups to take an offering (Alice Lupton Offering for State Home Missions) in June. Each new church that is built has the potential of reaching people that possibly no other church would reach.

Prayer Chairman

During this summer, encourage each woman to find a prayer partner. You should pray daily for each other, determine one or more missionaries you will pray for daily for a specific time period, and keep each other accountable for doing this each day. The following are some specific ways to pray for your prayer partner and missionary.

personal relationship with God
 maturity
 prayer life
 strength against Satan
 emotional, physical, financial needs
 family and children
 relationships with those she/he ministers to
 ability to communicate effectively
 ability to understand people
 witness and opportunities for ministry
 relationships with coworkers

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 on page 29 or bring to the WNAC Convention.

Mission Call on page 4 makes a good story for a missions emphasis. Remind your women to pray for new converts at home and on our mission fields.

Study Chairman

Mabel Bailey Willey with Mary R. Wischart have finished writing *Beyond the Gate* about Mrs. Willey's life. The book should be ready for sale at the National Convention. See pages 22–23 for the book review. This book is definitely a must-read!

Service Chairman

Don't know what to do for Father's Day? What about giving *Contact* magazine subscriptions to some of the fathers in the church? The subscription price is \$12 for 12 issues. There is no better way to keep up with what is going on in our denomination. If your group can't afford to buy several subscriptions, perhaps you could buy one for your church library in honor of all the fathers in your church. For a subscription write *Contact*, National Association of Free Will Baptists, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. ❖

A penny for your thoughts!

Share your experience and wisdom with our readers. From time to time, *CoLaborer* will ask for your feedback on a particular topic. Your response should be 100 words or less. We will print one or more responses in Springboard. You may also submit questions.

Question for this issue: A new family moved next door. Both mom and dad seem very busy. How can I make friends and witness to my new neighbors? Tell us about your experiences.

Send your contribution to:

Editor
WNAC
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002
E-mail: CoLaborer@nafwb.org

Lucy & Marge

Promises, Promises

Lucy: The year isn't even half over and already I've forgotten promises I made in January. I may as well stop trying to change.

Marge: What sort of promises did you make, Lucy?

Lucy: Well, I wanted to lose weight this year. I've lost only half a pound. And I promised to be a better housekeeper, but teenage boys make it so hard. I resolved to spend less on groceries. Have you seen food prices lately?

Marge: Don't give up just because you haven't reached your goals. You still have several months left this year.

Lucy: It's no use, Marge, I'm a failure.

Marge: The only failures are those who don't even try to change.

Lucy: I guess you're right, Marge. Say, did you make any New Year's resolutions?

Marge: I made some promises to the Lord about things I need to change.

Lucy: Like what?

Marge: Well, I promised to be more faithful in praying for unsaved neighbors. And I told the Lord I was willing to make friends with them and witness.

Lucy: Didn't I see your next door neighbors the Smiths at church last Sunday?

Marge: You did. Helen was saved in Sunday school class.

Lucy: That's great.

Marge: And I told the Lord I would pray more often for our missionaries, especially those with deficit accounts. By the way, I have set aside a part of my income to give toward those accounts.

Lucy: Sounds like you're serious about your promises. No wonder you're having more success than I am.

Marge: Why do you say that, Lucy?

Lucy: Well, my resolutions seemed to be more like wishful thinking. But you're making things happen.

Marge: That reminds me. Lucy, are you going to the women's meeting this month?

Lucy: I promised the Lord I would be more faithful in attendance. But I'm so busy with other things that . . .

Marge: Lucy, maybe it's time you decided whether you're really serious about your promises. If you are, then act on them.

Lucy: You're right of course. If I really want to lose weight, I'll have to stop eating all those Girl Scout cookies.

Marge: Now you're talking.

Lucy: I could get up 45 minutes earlier each morning and do some housework before I leave. That would help. If I make a menu and keep a list of groceries I need, I can cut down on food costs.

Marge: I think you're on the right track now. And what about your promise to be more faithful to the women's meetings? Are you going to keep that promise too?

Lucy: I sure am, Marge. Give me more of the details about the meeting so I can make plans. If I plan, I'll be more likely to keep my promise.

Marge: (gives the date, time and location for the meeting) Will I see you there, Marge?

Lucy: I'll be there, **I promise.** And wait till you see my new figure!❖

Springboard Illustrated Stories to Grow By

Volume 38/ No. 3

the rambling rose by Glenna Price

Sin: any thought, word, action, omission, or desire contrary to the law of God

Known to some as a multiflora rose, rosarians call them ramblers or climbing roses. They will smother a tree or climb to the top of a 20-foot fence if given a chance! Sin is a lot like this hardy rose. Let's look at the comparison.

1. It is everywhere! We can't escape it! We're always running into it.
2. It can be seen from afar and recognized for what it is. You don't have to get close to it to determine what it is, indeed if we do, the thorns will surely grab us.
3. It is invasive. It can be found where we would not expect it to be and where we don't want it to be, even in our own well-tended backyard.
4. It is sometimes appealing and nearly always deceptive. The multiflora rose blooms and is beautiful to look upon and even smells good. But remember, the devil strives daily to counterfeit all good things of God. Appearances are deceptive; this is no hybrid rose we are dealing with.
5. It was originally sold for the purpose of building a "living fence." Sin, too, will fence us in tightly and strangle our will power; choke away our joy and freedom.
6. It is obstinate. Once it is there, it's sometimes hard to get rid of. One look at country roadsides and farmers' pastures will attest to this pest's tenacity.
7. It is an evil we've grown so accustomed to that we choose to live with it instead of fighting against it. It is easier to ignore it than to deal with it. God **will** deal with it! What we shrug off, God will put on trial.
8. God holds the life of the rose bush in His hands—one blight can wipe it out of existence. He holds our lives in His balance, also. His measurements are exact and without error. To dabble in sin is to pay the cost.
9. The rose bush has roots that run deep and so does sin. Unless we grub it out by the root, it may spring back to haunt us.
10. If left unchecked, it grows to enormous size and spreads rapidly. It smothers everything around it. Sin can spread its disease into our hearts and cripple our ability to think clearly. It can snuff out our life for all eternity.

It is easy to focus on someone else's faults and failures. That does not bring healing. We must learn to confess our sins (admit to ourselves and to God that we have sinned). Then we must depart from sin (walk away from it, or the very appearance of it). And finally, we must assume an attitude of prayer, for prayer will settle our minds and sweeten our thoughts. Now, healing can begin. ❖

Glenna Price and her husband, John, live in Leroy, West Virginia. They are members of Evergreen Free Will Baptist Church in Cottageville.

COMMUNICATOR

by MARY RUTH WISEHART

Report Time

Reports for the annual report are due by July 1. States, districts without state conventions, and local groups without district or state conventions should have their reports to the WNAC office by July 1.

Secretaries are responsible for sending in the reports. Treasurers are responsible for seeing that the right amount of dues gets to the national office. But presidents are responsible for both.

The reports reflect the status of the women's organizations for the year. We preserve the record for those who follow us. The 1998 report will be published in the 1999 Free Will Baptist Yearbook.

Select Your Delegates

In Tulsa, July 14 WNAC delegates will vote on the Executive Committee's nominee for Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

Much prayer has gone up, but we still need to pray about this important business. Be sure your group is represented at the meeting. Each state has the privilege of sending 15 delegates to the convention. The president and field worker are standing delegates. Each district representing directly to the convention may send five delegates. The district president is a standing delegate. Local groups representing directly to the national convention may send three delegates. Dues of \$10 per member is a requirement for delegates from these organizations to be seated at the convention.

Each local group may send a delegate with a \$5 fee. Help with the delegate's expenses. See that she has a ticket for the Fellowship Dinner. Encourage her to attend the seminars and all sessions of WNAC. Remind her that you will expect her to report to your group when she returns.

WNAC should have over 1,000 voting delegates. Sometimes when we have counted votes, we have only a little more than 300 voting.

Let's make this a record year with 1,000 voting delegates.

Leadership Meeting

Monday afternoon, July 13, from 3-4 o'clock leaders and potential leaders for women's groups will meet in Conference Hall C at the Tulsa Convention Center.

Learn about some exciting plans for leadership seminars to be held in different areas.

Receive a gift packet and pick up ideas you can use in local, district, and state meetings. Packets include copies of the 1998 annual report.

Every state president at the convention should plan to attend this meeting. What a disappointment in 1997 to learn that only six state presidents attended.

Get the Abidjan Guest House Furnishings to the Provision Closet

Last year in Cincinnati at least 18 women pledged to furnish a room at the Abidjan guest house in Côte d'Ivoire. These furnishings were to go with the Go & Be Team this summer. The team is leaving in May.

Please get your room furnished and to the Closet by May 10.

Don't Miss Julisa Rowe

To celebrate (At least I'm celebrating.) my retirement this year, the executive committee agreed to bring special presentations from Artists in Christian Testimony to the convention.

Julisa Rowe seems the perfect one to carry out our theme, Living Sacrifices: the Stewardship of Life. She says, "Growing up as a missionary kid in Africa has given me a life long sensitivity to the spiritual needs around the world."

Tuesday afternoon, she will present a dramatic interpretation of Amy Carmichael's work in India, emphasizing reaching the lost and showing Christ's love. Videos of this presentation will be available at the WNAC booth. Tuesday evening she will present a message built around Frances Ridley Havergal's hymn, "Take My Life," a call for consecration.

WNAC has kept the price of the tickets at \$15 again this year. Remember, part of this amount will help to pay the speaker's fee.

Preregister and get your tickets early. We must have a count for guarantee by Saturday, July 11. ♦

Women In Action



Alabama Prayer Retreat

According to Elwanda Oakes, 114 women attended the Alabama Free Will Baptist Women Active for Christ Prayer Retreat, September 19–20, 1997 at Shocco Springs Conference Center near Talladega, AL. The retreat was a time of fellowship, worship and prayer.

Former missionary Lois Miller spoke on the Word of God. Carolyn Hendrix and other women from the Madison WAC coordinated the retreat. Music coordinator Kim Smith provided special music. Several women from Ozark WAC were in charge of the fun time.

Missionary to Russia Cathy Corley told of her plans to go to Russia with her husband, Mike. Missionaries Tammy Lancaster and Becky Franks spoke on the work in Uruguay.

Pictured on left: (left to right) Karen Brasher, Lois Miller, Vaudine Lancaster, Tammy Lancaster



Manual Study Challenges New Officers

The Bristow FWB Auxiliary hosted a Manual Study/Christmas Luncheon on December 2, 1997. Nadine Hood and Vinita Tuttle presented the study challenging the new officers to be faithful and to fulfill their responsibilities.

Pictured above: (left to right) Vinita Tuttle, Sue Jenkins, Mary Green, Nadine Hood



Gingerbread Men Help Send Nurse to Africa

Ginger Harrison left for French language study in Quebec on January 5. Her commissioning service was held at Fellowship FWB Church, Park Hills, MO, on November 23, 1997. Pastor Wayne Phillips delivered the message.

The Fellowship church family rejoiced with Ginger as she took one more step toward service with the medical team in Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa. Ginger grew up at Fellowship church, gave her life to the Lord and later dedicated herself to be His servant to spread the gospel in the regions beyond.

Ginger's home church has supported her in many ways. The

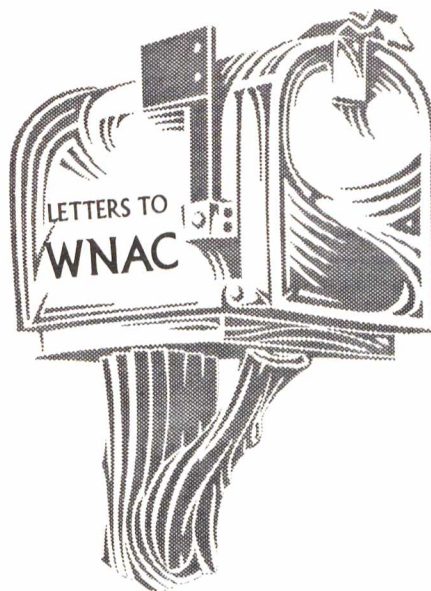
women's group painted gingerbread man ornaments to help raise money for the Ginger "bread" (money) Fund. Actually, Gary Kernan made the ornaments and the women painted them. Each ornament was dated and signed by Ginger. An ornament was given for a \$5 donation to the Gingerbread Fund. According to WAC member Betty Reeves, they still have ornaments available for a \$5 donation to Ginger Harrison's account.



Halls in Beulah Land

June 2, 1997, the Jerry Hall family moved to Beulah FWB Church in Pamplico, SC. The women's group welcomed them with an old fashioned pounding for the Hall family. They received a variety of groceries and paper products. According to Secretary-Treasurer Pansy Bazer, everyone enjoyed the refreshments and the "get to know you" time.

Pictured above: Allison, Amy, Jerry and Joseph Hall ❖



Enjoys CoLaborer Programs

We enjoy the programs in the *CoLaborer*. They give each woman an opportunity to participate and learn more about what being a missionary for Christ means. Opportunities to reach out and help others are abundant in our own communities.

Learning about missions monthly gives us opportunities to evaluate if we are doing all we can for Christ.

Patricia Ramsey, Albany, GA

Thank you for the many good programs we had the past year.

Ruby Montgomery, Cabool, MO

Appreciates WNAC Staff

We appreciate all the hard work the WNAC staff does.

Karen Cross, Jasper, AL

Missionaries Appreciate Provision Closet

Thank you for the things you place in the missionary provision closet. We visited the national

offices while we were home for Christmas and I got a few needed items while there. It is a big help to all of us on the field. Thank you does not seem adequate.

Donna Crabtree, Missionary to New Brunswick, Canada

What a pleasant experience to be in the national offices and see many of you who work there. I'm thankful for what you do to help Free Will Baptists serve our Lord around the globe.

For over 35 years you have so graciously invited us to visit the provision closet provided by WNAC women. Once again as we plan to retire as foreign missionaries, we were given that privilege. After a five-year term in Brazil, and after having left almost everything there, we were able to select many items for our home in the United States. This is a tremendous help and we are very grateful to all who give so generously and, no doubt, lovingly. If a cup of cold water will be rewarded by our Lord, how much more these valuable gifts!

Please pray for us as we "retire." We want to serve God and His people as long as He gives us life.

Jean Deeds, Missionary to Brazil ❖



ON THE SHELF

Beyond the Gate *Autobiography of Mabel Bailey Willey with Mary R. Wischart* *Randall House Publishers*

Reviewed by Mary R. Wischart

To be released July, 1998.

Mabel Bailey Willey loved adventure and found wonder and delight along all her paths. As a three-year-old, she ventured beyond the gate of the picket fence surrounding the house in Alabama. From that time her life became an adventure. She relates some childhood adventures. Then as an adult, she became an adventurer with God.

From Canada to Miami from Panama to Cuba and back to Panama, her life is a series of

adventures, always showing God's loving care.

After several of us urged Mrs. Willey to write down her stories, she finally asked me to work with her and get those stories down for publication.

The stories come from her diaries, journals, letters and interviews. The book attempts to tell the stories in her own words and from her own perspective.

Mabel Bailey's parents dedicated her to the Lord even before she was born. The knowledge of that dedication motivated her to stay in God's way.

She was saved in the Methodist church her family attended in Huntsville, Alabama, but when her father died and the family moved to Atlanta, Georgia, she attended the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. The missions emphasis, Bible preaching and visiting missionaries had their effect on Mabel. As young people met for prayer in her home, Mabel surrendered to God's will, giving up the young man she thought was the love of her life.

Preparation for missionary service led her to Toccoa Falls Institute and then to Nyack College. At Nyack she fell in love with India and applied to the Christian and Missionary Alliance Mission Board for service. They planned to send her as a single missionary to the Philippines. God had other plans.

One of her favorite sayings is "Isn't it amazing how God puts

His child in just the right place at just the right time to meet the right people and receive His direction or provision for life."

Her marriage was surely arranged by God. Tom Willey's abrupt announcement that she was going to marry him, called forth the exclamation, "I-I-I can't marry you. I don't love you."

Describing the long honeymoon in Miami, she says, "After all, Thomas and I were not really friends or even close acquaintances before we married." She adds, "I certainly would not advise this arrangement for anyone else . . . but we were very sure of God's leading."

Together she and her husband served Christian and Missionary Alliance churches in Miami, High Point and Durham, North Carolina.

In Durham they became acquainted with Free Will Baptists. Henry Melvin motivated the Willeys with his statement, "My people are like a great sleeping giant as far as missions is concerned. I would so love to see you come and stir my people for missions."

When they left for the mission field in 1936 they went, not under the Christian and Missionary Alliance Board, but as Free Will Baptist missionaries.

Their first mission field was in El Valle in Panama. There she met God at an old stump as she complained about living among the Indians in a thatched roof, mud hut. Kneeling there, she gave up her children, husband, the hope for a beautiful home

and, yes, even her own life in dedication to the One who had done so much for her.

From 1942–1960 the Willeys labored in Cuba, building a school that trained Cuban young men and women for God's service. In Cuba son Tommy barely escaped with his life after a fall onto the spikes of the iron gate. The school needed water and it was miraculously supplied with the help of a windmill. Revolution came to Cuba and once out of the country, they could not return.

After her husband's death from cancer, Mrs. Willey went through a time of grieving which she shares in the book along with some advice for those who grieve.

Mrs. Willey experienced two terms of missionary service in Panama, the second quite different from the first. In 1970 she returned to Panama as a single missionary. For the next ten years she ministered to women and university students in Panama City.

Mrs. Willey died January 16, 1998, but her radiant testimony glows from every page as she tells of the challenges and miracles throughout her journey with God.

The book does not cover the whole range of experiences. My hope is that some day soon a biographer will write the official biography of Thomas H. and Mabel Bailey Willey. ❖

Poet's Corner

My Friend

Jennye Lee Hickman, Haywood, OK

My friend, though you've gone and your life here is done,
You've passed from this lifetime, your race now is run;
And though I will miss you and see you no more
Until we're in Heaven and walk on that shore . . .
My tears are not for you, no, they are for me,
For I know you are home now, heaven's beauties you see.
I don't want to hurry my race to the end,
But I could almost feel envy for you, my dear friend.
Your tears are all gone, your miles are all past,
Your work is all done—you've reached Home at last.

My Vessel of Honor

Joan Warren, Oilton, OK

I was just a big lump of unfinished clay,
With visions of grandeur in my mind that day:
To become a sleek vessel, with beauty and grace
Well-known and exalted all over the place.

"A fine, polished finish is what I deserve
To express to the world my own special verve."
I believed that the Potter would surely agree,
And make something stupendous out of me.

"Vessels of honor" He has said He can make,
And I thought I had just what it would take
To become something quite splendid and fine,
And then all that honor would surely be mine.

But a still small voice spoke gently to me:
"A vessel of honor you surely can be.
With a little refining to remove all your dross,
You just might be able to pick up your cross.

As you empty yourself from your prideful intent,
You may learn that a vessel of honor is meant
To be one of mercy and service. You see:
The honor you wear should be given to ME." ❖

love, honor, obey . . . today?

by Patty McCullough

Life!Action

a column for teens

have you ever dreamed of one day being a bride? Or maybe you imagined the day when you will walk down the church

aisle as all heads turn to see you coming. Maybe you've been a flower girl or bridesmaid in a wedding.



Think about it. How many girls and young women will spend as much time preparing for a good marriage as they will dreaming of their wedding day?

I think I've found a divine key in scripture that will help young people get ready for marriage.

The Bible is full of advice to sons and daughters about their relationship with their parents. The opening verses of Ephesians 6 remind children to obey their parents "in the Lord," tacking on the reason, "for this is right." In addition to obeying their parents, children are told to "honor your father and mother—

which is the first commandment with a promise—that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Though you are not told to love your parents, it's obvious: if you love your parents, you will obey and respect them. On the other side, when you obey and honor your parents, you can't help but love them.

While reading the first verses of Ephesians 6, I was struck with the similarity of these instructions and the marriage vows I spoke 21 years ago. On that day in March I promised "before God and these witnesses, to love, honor, and obey" my husband.

Had God been preparing me all my life for the day when I would make that vow to my mate? Sometimes I irked at God's instructions to honor and obey my parents. Was He, through those experiences, getting me ready for the day when I would willingly make that promise to a man?

I was twenty-four years old when I got married, and if I could live my life over again, I might wait longer to marry. (I was "swept-off-my-feet" by my handsome, loving, polite, etc., etc., husband!) So, though I do encourage you to start early preparing for marriage, you can plainly see I am

not encouraging you to get married while still very young. I **am** suggesting that God's plan to prepare you for the possibility of marriage lies in your present relationship with your parents.

Do you want, one day, to pledge to "love, honor, and obey" your husband? Then start planning right now for that day by promising to love, honor and obey your parents. ♦

(Scripture references in this column are taken from the NIV Bible.)

Attention High Schoolers!

What?	Stewardship Essay Contest
Sponsor?	<i>The Together Way Plan</i>
Who?	The contest is open to all Free Will Baptist students in grades 9–12.
Subject?	The subject of the essay must be on some aspect of Christian stewardship.
Length?	Must be 400–600 words.
Judged?	Essays will be judged on the development of the theme and its practical application. Punctuation and grammar will also be considered.
Awards?	1st place \$100 2nd place 50 3rd place 25 The first place essay will be printed in <i>Contact</i> .
When?	All entries must be postmarked before July 1, 1998.
Address?	Must be mailed to: Essay Contest The Together Way Plan P.O. Box 5002 Antioch, TN 37011-5002

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 ♦



MISSION ALERT:

Evangelism News from Around the World

Ebetsu Shi, Japan

Foreign Missions director Gene Waddell challenged Pastor Sugitani of Japan to help the Free Will Baptist churches in India because they are also part of Asia. Pastor Sugitani took the challenge back to the Japanese churches and they responded. Since 1995 several Japanese church and women's organizations pray regularly and have given almost \$9000 for the India relief fund. Praise God for Asian Free Will Baptists who are pulling together.

The Lord added four new members to the church in Ebetsu Shi according to missionary Dale Bishop. Others have made professions of faith and need to gather the courage to take a public stand for Christ and follow the Lord in baptism. The Bishops request prayers for these new believers and for the unsaved father of a church member who had finished reading the New Testament for the first time.

Sonapurhat, India

Missionaries Carlisle and Marie Hanna returned to India January 13 to begin their 46th year in India. The Annual Free Will Baptist Conference met March 5-8. The conference is a time of fellowship, Bible study, children's meetings, business and village outreach. At publication time they were expecting around 1800 to attend the conference.

Madrid, Spain

Café y algo mas is an evangelistic outreach for lost women. Missionaries Susan Turnbough and June McVay request prayer for this ministry. They also ask

prayer for Cristina, Ana and Maricela who are a few of the ladies studying the Bible as a result of this ministry.

Pray for Sam and June McVay as they are studying Spanish through July, 1999.

Indianapolis, Indiana

The home mission church in Indianapolis has had visitors about every week. Missionary Chris Clay praises God for His faithfulness in providing for the needs of their family and the increase of income at the church.

Antioch, Tennessee

Home Missions General Director Trymon Messer announced the names of three pastors who are doing cross-cultural work under the Home Missions Board. Carlos Rubio pastors a Hispanic mission church in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Paul Parks from South Korea is starting a work for Koreans in Anaheim, California. Cuban pastor Omar Alfaro labors in Miami, Florida. God is calling others to do this type of work among the many non-English speaking people groups inside the United States.

Ft. Collins, Colorado

Missionary Roger Raper announced that the mission church in Ft. Collins put up a new church sign on December 31, 1997. The sign is 4' by 8', lighted, and has three rows of changeable letters. It is encased in a brick monument to accent the sign. The Rapers wish to say a huge thanks to each one who helped them obtain the sign. ❖

The purple bedspread

A missionary daughter relates
some of her impressions of life as an MK.



While rummaging through my closet the other day looking for a blanket for one of my kids, I came across a purple cotton bedspread. It's old and faded, with a rip the size of Texas. My first thought was to throw it away (it's at least 23 years old), but somehow I couldn't.

Years ago, on my way to Bible College, I stopped by the National Offices for a visit. A kind lady there offered to let me go through the provision closet to get some stuff for my room at college. The bedspread was one of those items.

When I saw it, I was instantly reminded of a quilt my mom has at home, made by an auxiliary somewhere. Each square of the quilt has someone's name carefully embroidered on it. What a gift of love and concern!

I recently joined the auxiliary at my church. My group is on fire and enthusiastic in their support and interest in missionaries as well as each other. Now, thanks to some well-intentioned soul, they know that I am an MK. A "walking commercial," if you will.

A pastor once told me that he could spot an MK from a long way off because they are weird. I think

our "weirdness" comes from the experience of having no roots. I tried to explain to my husband recently why someone like me has no roots; I think it was a foreign concept to him. His family lived and still does in the same county where they all grew up. They have a common experience together; none of the children left home until college. I, on the other hand, left home lots of times.

Think of a life or career where you are always packing up and leaving everyone you know. You unpack and stay awhile somewhere, then leave those friends who move a lot, too. The relatives you know and love have gone on with their lives during the four or five years you've been gone and when you return, you are no longer the cute toddler they knew.

While your parents study a foreign language in a strange place, you go to public school where you are the only child speaking English. You are going to have to pick up a second language rather quickly.

When you reach the foreign field, you are again a stranger. People never stop staring at strangers, you know.

One aspect of missionary life that doesn't get much publicity is the gaps in family life. I had a



friend who wished for one thing with all her heart—a complete family. Her brother had left to continue high school in the United States and she was away from her parents at school. Holidays were really tough for her.

Some missionary parents are faced with a difficult decision. Should they send their children to a boarding school far away, or keep them at home and home school?

At boarding school, you are once again a stranger. My roommate made fun of my southern accent. I guess you could say I taught the entire student body how to say “I reckon.”

My commercial for missionary life would not be very glamorous. Perhaps I would tell my auxiliary members of the difficulty of living in two cultures. Constant separations make it difficult to keep friendships going.

Boarding school is extremely difficult for parents and young children. Think of attending church camp for four months at a time instead of a week. I had a teacher in boarding school who came expecting “little missionaries” complete with halos. Sorry, we were just kids.

MK Corner

For the sake of the call and the children

Each mission field represents a different picture. Each family and each child have different needs which are met in different ways.

Some of our Free Will Baptist missionaries consider themselves blessed to have an American or International school located in the city where they work.

Other missionary families find that homeschooling is their best option for part or all of their children’s secondary education.

Sometimes missionary families find it necessary to send their children to boarding school,
(continued on next page)

My commercial would mention that a life involving travel enables you to learn more than one language and helps you appreciate the freedom we have in the United States.

What about the joy of seeing a man reverently thumb through his first copy of the Bible translated into his native tongue? He promptly looked up his favorite verse and smiled.

I would mention seeing the Statue of Liberty after a long flight from Brussels, where security guards walk around with machine guns.

I would say the life of an MK helps you learn independence and self-reliance and an appreciation of a church service in English.

And, finally, I would close with a mention of a quilt in my mother’s closet with names on it, and a worn-out purple bedspread. These are tangible examples of the prayers, sacrifices and fellowship of the women who went before me. Their faithfulness to the cause of missions is reflected in every stitch. I hope we can make a difference in the life of some missionary family in our women’s group, too.

Name withheld by author’s request.

especially when they reach high school age.

The following excerpt from a newsletter from the Morgans in Côte d'Ivoire will give you an idea of some of the feelings parents have when they leave their children at boarding school.

The quotes in the letter are from missionary parents who were gathered to share words of encouragement.

The night before, we had all committed our precious children into the care of dorm parents and the faculty and staff of the missionary boarding school. Now we needed the understanding and comfort that we could offer each other.

"When do you miss your child most?"

The spokesman of the group asked.

Parents sat silent for a moment and then, one by one, began responding.

"When I drive away from that campus and head home."

"When they're going through a problem and I can't be there."

"When I get their letters 2 weeks later and the crisis is passed."

"When I come home tired and exhausted and have no one to play with!"

"When we come for the weekend and they beg us to stay two more days."

"When I go past their empty bedrooms."

"When I leave them in the States and wish they were back here at boarding school."

The Morgans also mention in their letter that though they didn't know many of the parents, they were most impressed by the peace that radiated from each one's face.

The letter concludes with a reminder that God sent His Son far away. "It was not an easy choice. It tore at His heart to put His Son through the separation and pain He knew would come. But it was because of love. And He knew everything would work out, for it was His plan."

Remember to pray for parents and children who are going through physical separation for the sake of the ministry and education. ❖



A note from Tanya Hart

Coordinator of MK Ministries

The MK Ministry is a multifaceted program designed to meet the various needs of our MKs. We have enlarged the scope of this ministry to a twelve-phase ministry and with the intent to grow as we seek God's direction.

You may have heard of a program by Olan Mills® Photography called "watch me grow." Parents enjoy charting the growth of their children through the "watch me grow" program. Observing the growth of the MK Ministry will be just as exciting.

One of the phases of this ministry is to raise money for ongoing MK Scholarships. Other phases include consistent contact with MKs, newsletters, pre-field orientation and reentry programs, and more.

Do not miss out on the beginning stages of this ministry. For more information about this ministry and the 1998 MK project to refurbish the International Christian Academy library, contact Tanya Hart at the following address:

801 North Hills Drive

Ayden, NC 28513

Telephone: (919) 746-7322 or (919) 746-2144

E-mail: thartmkm@Greenvillenc.com

(Donations should be sent through regular WNAC channels with the designation, MK account.)

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

Pre-Registration Form

for

National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Tulsa, Oklahoma / July 12 - 16, 1998

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

Please Print

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

Mail completed form(s) and fees to:

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

Must be postmarked on or before **June 12, 1998.**

You may register for all three conventions on this form.

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

District Association: _____

Minister: ☐ Ordained ☐ Licensed ☐ Pastor

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

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

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

VISITOR: ☐ [Visitors can not vote]

Meal Tickets:

Quantity

Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____

Youth Workers Reception _____ x \$10.00 = \$ _____

Hillsdale FWB College Lunch _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____

FWBBC Alumni Luncheon _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____

If Local Church Delegate $\longrightarrow$ \$25.00 = \$ _____

Signed credentials card enclosed Yes! ☐

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

(Check only one of the following:)

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

VISITOR: ☐ [Visitors can not vote]

Meal Tickets:

Quantity

WNAC Fellowship Dinner _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____

If Local WNAC Delegate $\longrightarrow$ \$5.00 = \$ _____

(with signed local delegate form)

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

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

Are you a youth worker? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, are you over 24? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grade completed Spring 1997: _____ Age: _____

Birthdate: _____ / _____ / _____

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

Youth Leader's name: _____

Registration Fee

Pre-Registration Fee \$18.00 = \$ _____

On-site registration fee is \$20.

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

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

Meal Tickets:

Quantity

Children's Banquet (grades 1-3) _____ x \$7.50 = \$ _____

Tweeners' Banquet (grades 4-6) _____ x \$7.50 = \$ _____

Youth Banquet (must be in grade 7 to age 24 or an accompanying youth worker) _____ x \$25.00 = \$ _____

For Office Use Only

Rec. _____ Ck/MO # _____ AMT \$ _____

CK

Make ALL checks payable
to FWB Convention.
**No refunds mailed after
June 12, 1998.**

TOTAL \$ _____

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

Pre-Register by June 12 and Pick up Your Convention Packet on Saturday!

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

Saturday, July 11
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 12
1:00 p.m.

Pre-Registration ends June 12, 1998

Meal Information

Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner \$20.00
Monday, July 13/ 4:45 - 6:30 p.m.
Convention Center / Exhibit Hall - B

Children's Banquet \$7.50
Monday, July 13 / 5:00 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel / Manchester-Geneva Ballroom

Tweeners' Banquet \$7.50
Monday, July 13 / 5:00 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel / Buckingham-Windsor Ballroom

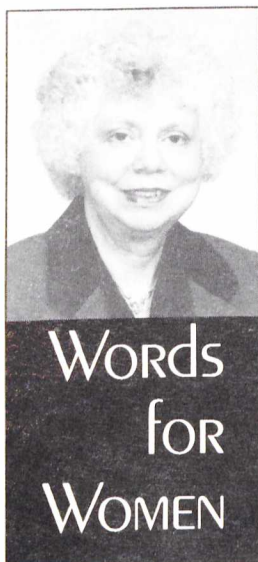
Hillsdale FWB College Lunch \$15.00
Tuesday, July 14 / 12:00 noon
Doubletree Hotel / Buckingham-Windsor Ballroom

Youth Banquet \$25.00
Tuesday, July 14 / 9:00 p.m.
Discoveryland

Youth Workers Reception \$10.00
Monday, July 13 / 9:00 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel / Woodward Room

WNAC Fellowship Dinner \$15.00
Tuesday, July 14 / 5:00 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel / International Ballroom

FWBBC Alumni Luncheon \$15.00
Wednesday, July 15 / 12:00 Noon
Doubletree Hotel / Buckingham-Windsor Ballroom



Words for Women

*Mary Ruth
Wischart*

Think about it! Within a year I have lost four people important to me and three more important to friends. They moved in my world and were just a part of my life. I wanted them to go on forever. How could they just go and leave me to face this dark world alone? And this morning I weep for the family and the child who died just before he was delivered.

Yes, I do feel like that about death sometimes. I know. They are all rejoicing in the presence of the Lord they loved and served. But, Lord, I am here in the midst of aging and physical disabilities and hard decisions and Saddam Husseins and Bill Clintons and—everything else anyone has to face in this world.

Let's accept it. Some of us go early, some in midlife and some in old age. The baby didn't have even one day in this world. My oldest friend lived over 33,000 days. Why? Who knows? God alone. David wrote, "My times are in thy hand." God holds the key to our past, present and future.

At Christmas time, I received the gift of a journal. I delight in journaling and was glad to get a new one for 1998. The bookmark and the Bible verse attached to it attracted me most. At this time of my life, I especially need that promise.

The verse is Jeremiah 29:11. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

In this world someone sometimes has evil in mind for us. Still, God is in control. The future is bright since it is in His hands. Isn't it great that we can know Him as an intimate friend?

As a friend, yes, it's true. In Isaiah God Himself speaks of Abraham as "my friend." James says that Abraham believed and acted and therefore he was called "the Friend of God."

Jesus said, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." (John 15:14) If we do the will of the Father, He also

claims us as brothers, sisters, and mothers. We can enter that intimate relationship with Him, when we meet His conditions.

Someday. Someday, the deaths, the hurts, the Saddam Husseins—all the sin and evil will be left behind. We will enter the glorious end—or is it just a beginning?—He has planned. Whether He has in mind a long life or short one for us, Psalm 144:4 describes this life. "Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away."

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

What is wisdom? Job answered that question and his answer is recorded in a beautiful poem in chapter 28. "The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding."

Have you taken time to know Him, seek out His will and obey His commands?

Not that we will ever come to that perfect knowledge of Him in this life. Paul, who could write, "For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve," could also write, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus." With Paul we stretch ourselves toward the mark and aim for the prize.

One day we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ❖



missions update

**Missions
Hotline**

615•731•3839

e-mail:

carole@nafwb.org



Hurry! Time is running out. Send in your convention pre-registration.
Tulsa, Oklahoma
July 13-14, 1998

WNAC Convention Highlights

Theme
Living Sacrifices

Monday Afternoon

- ♦WNAC Seminar
- ♦WNAC Ministers' Wives Workshop
- ♦State Leaders Meeting

**Women
Nationally
Active for
Christ**

Tuesday Morning

- ♦Devotion: **Jean Deeds**
- ♦Special Service
Honoring **Mary R. Wischart**

Tuesday Afternoon

- ♦Special Feature
"Gathering Lotus Buds" **Julisa Rowe**

Tuesday Evening

- ♦WNAC Fellowship Dinner
"Take My Life" **Julisa Rowe**

63rd Annual Session

See pages 29-30 for pre-registration.

CoLaborer Magazine

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