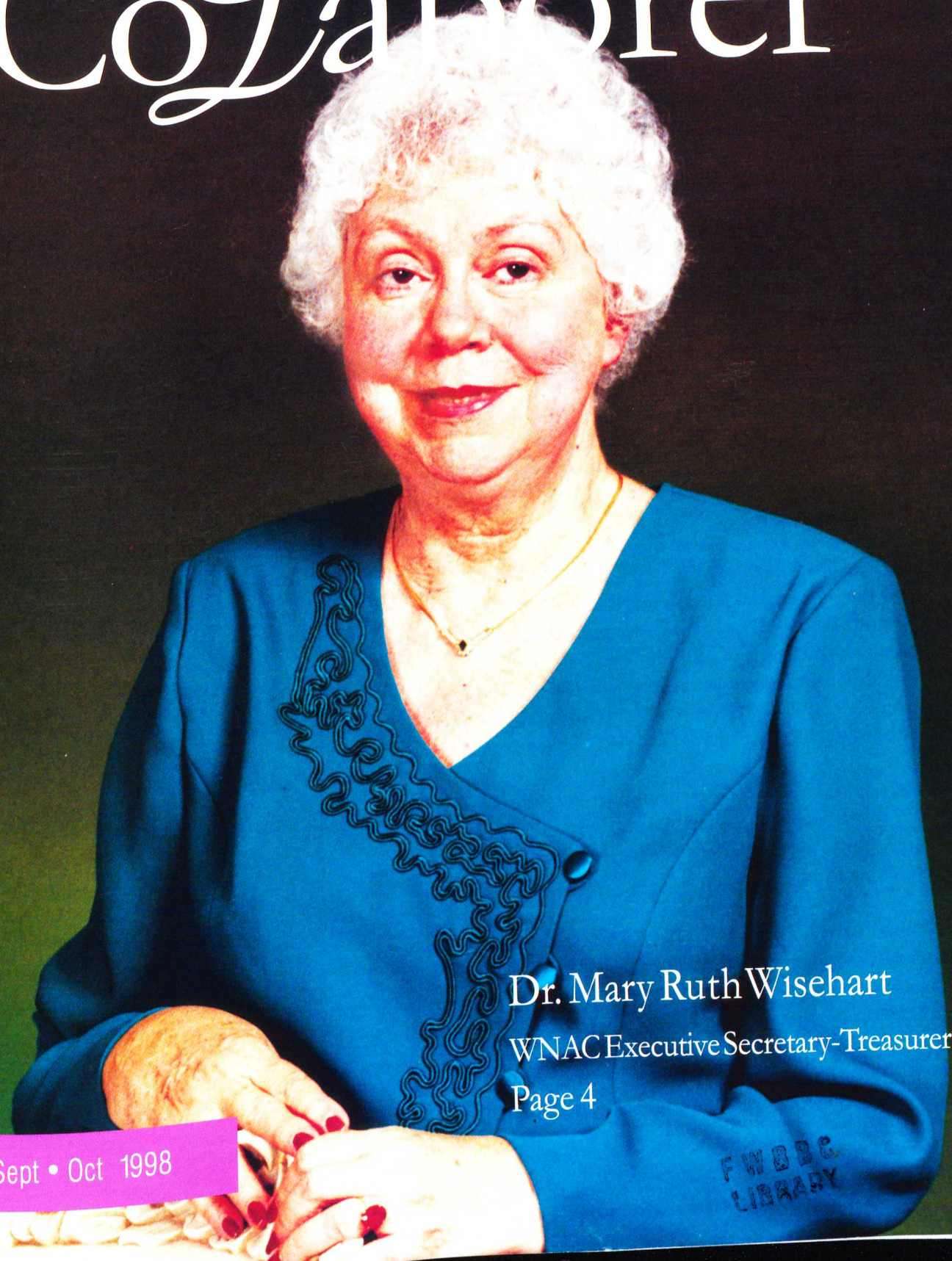


CoLaborer



Dr. Mary Ruth Wischart

WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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Sept • Oct 1998

F W B C C
LIBRARY

VISION

Suzanne Franks

I will miss her



The first time I met Dr. Mary Ruth Wischart, she was a picture in Dad's college yearbook. When asked about the picture, Dad said, "Yeah, back then she was Squirrel. Now she's Dr. Squirrel." He could get away with using her nickname because they were classmates at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

I remember my first day in Freshman English class when an elegant, poised woman walked into our class and introduced herself. She said we could call her Dr. Mary or Miss Wischart. I sat mesmerized at her lectures, until the first test.

Only a week or two into the semester, I failed the first quiz she gave which was also the first quiz I ever took in college. However, by the end of the semester, she showed mercy and threw out everyone's lowest grade.

I never dreamed I would get to work with her for four years and come to love her so much. This boss clearly loves and appreciates her staff.

In our staff prayer time we pray for WNAC, our women, the denomination, missionaries and our personal concerns. This time not only gets the day started, but it creates a closeness. We are family to one another. Thank you, Dr. Mary, for allowing us this time together in communion with the Lord and one another.

You could fill a big house with those who call her Aunt Mary. Whether these are blood relatives or adopted into her family circle, she really is Aunt Mary. She takes her job as Aunt seriously, it's not just a name.

Dr. Mary and I have both had the opportunity to stay single longer than most people. She is a wonderful role model for abundant single life. Her life overflows with family, friends, ministry and hobbies. She never says, "I'm bored." I want her vivaciousness and attitude toward life.

When we arrive at a convention or retreat, she thanks us for our hard work and reminds us to relax and enjoy the event. Everything has been meticulously prepared, so don't worry, she says. Calamities may arise, and we handle them as they come.

Some might be surprised at how down-to-earth she is. I've seen her laugh at silly jokes and cry at the death of loved ones. But I'm most amazed at her unmatched generosity and caring attitude.

I will miss her.❖

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THE POSITIVE
RESULTS WE
HAVE EXPERIENCED
IN WNAC"**

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Eloquent Leader

Dr. Mary Ruth Wischart, Executive Secretary-Treasurer (1985-1998)

*O*ptimistic. Determined. Talented. None of these nor any other adjective sufficiently describes the extraordinary woman.

CoLaborer honors Dr. Mary Ruth Wischart for her 13 years of service as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of WNAC. We can't mention every contribution she has made to WNAC through the years. We do, however, pay tribute to her and thank her for her work while with WNAC.

Even before she took the helm as Executive Secretary-Treasurer, her talents had been put to good use in WNAC. Prior to 1985, Dr. Wischart served as Field Worker for seven years under Mrs. Cleo Pursell.

Director, actress, published writer, poet, playwright, historian, editor, ambassador to women, world traveler, speaker, Bible teacher, editor. These are a few of the hats she wears at WNAC.

As a friend and boss, she is also a leader, mentor and godly woman. Lorene Miley describes her as

a person of sterling character, quiet temperament, strong morals, and deep spiritual convictions. These are firmly ingrained into

every fiber of her being. She is efficient, responsible, professional, courteous, adventurous, and attractively dressed. She moves with careful control. She rarely hurries. She lives up to her name—she has a wise heart.

One of her greatest assets is a sincere love for her Lord and our women. From personal experience and observation, current WNAC President Everyl Getz says, "Much of her behind the scenes work has produced the positive results we have experienced in WNAC."



Mary R. Wischart and WNAC President Everyl Getz confer at the 1997 WNAC Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Leader Behind the Scenes

Administrator/
Meeting Planner

Perhaps as Executive Assistant, Yvonne Hampton knows best what Mary Wischart's daily responsibilities entail. She writes:

Her title of Executive Secretary-Treasurer does not tell the whole story. She represents WNAC at local, district, state, national and international meetings. I know of no one who loves traveling and meeting our women more than Miss Wischart.

She is tireless in her efforts to challenge and encourage others. I have often heard



March 1998, Sonora, California—Mary R. Wischart performs a monologue of Miss Matt Maxie at the California State WAC Meeting. Drama plays a big part in her life.

*Three WNAC
Executive
Secretary-
Treasurers—
Mrs. Eunice
Edwards, Mrs.
Cleo Pursell,
Dr. Mary R.
Wischart at
special service
honoring
Mrs. Eunice
Edwards.*



her say, "WNAC has some of the most beautiful, talented and godly women in the world."

She has worked well with all Executive Committee members and has the uncanny ability to make each one feel special. Her staff is loyal to her, and together we work as a team to carry out our responsibilities.

She is meticulous about financial matters and insists that every detail be attended to properly and accurately.

Planning conventions, retreats, and seminars seem to be more fun than work to this gifted leader.

Fellow meeting planner and convention coordinator, Jack Williams points out that "Mary Ruth is the first and only WNAC



October 1997—All women who attended the second retreat at Glorieta, New Mexico, were honored at the closing graduation ceremony. WNAC held its first retreat at Glorieta, October, 1995.

Executive Secretary-Treasurer to receive the Certified Meeting Planner designation. Those who can put CMP after their names belong to an elite class of highly trained men and women."

Publisher

According to Suzanne Franks, Dr. Mary Wischart—the editor and writer—consistently pours out eloquent editorials, programs, tributes, plays.

I'm grateful for her leadership in making *CoLaborer* a bimonthly magazine and for her support and countless hours she puts into making *CoLaborer* a success. She has a keen eye for mistakes and irons out awkward phrases with grace and ease.

When I started working for WNAC, knowing that my former college English teacher would be my Executive Editor was a comfort. She has not disappointed me.

She assures us that she will continue writing for WNAC. I will miss her in the office, but I look forward to working with her as a writer for many more years.

Few know that for over two years Dr. Mary has co-written *Lucy & Marge* with Yvonne Hampton. Can you guess who Lucy is and who Marge is?

They've had fun working on similar projects together. "I've never known a more interesting, creative writer than Miss Wischart," Yvonne confesses. "A wellspring of thoughts and ideas continually flows from her heart and mind."

Friend/Boss

When it comes to Miss Wischart—friend and boss—

Thirteen Years at a Glance

The following are some WNAC accomplishments under Mary R. Wischart's leadership

Books

Sparks into Flame, by Mary R. Wischart (1985)

Manual, revised by Mary R. Wischart (1995)

Beyond the Gate, Autobiography by Mabel Bailey Willey with Mary R. Wischart (1998)

Firsts

Eunice Edwards Loan Fund for churches abroad (1986-1994)

WNAC Endowment Fund (1990)

First Retreat at Glorieta, New Mexico (1995)

Transitions

CoLaborer became a full-size bimonthly magazine (1987)

Foreign Student Scholarship Fund made permanent (1988)

Move to new office building in Antioch (1992)

New Name: Woman's National Auxiliary Convention became Women Nationally Active for Christ (1993)

Trips to Foreign Countries Representing WNAC

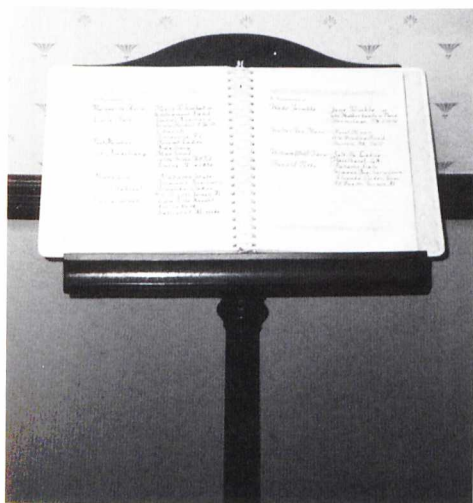
Panama (1990) with Mabel Willey for the Panamanian National Women's Retreat

Cuba (1990) with Lucy Hyman to visit and speak at several Cuban FWB Churches

Uruguay (1995) for dedication of church building/WNAC gave over \$8000 toward renovation

Côte d'Ivoire (1996) for inauguration of new national women's organization

Côte d'Ivoire (1997) participated in the installation of national officers



Paul Palmer District in North Carolina donated the stand that displays the book where Endowment Fund gifts are recorded.

perhaps no one can say it better than Lorene Miley who came on board as WNAC's first full-time editor in 1979. She writes,

Mary Ruth Wischart has been a part of our lives for over 50 years. I say "our" because LaVerne met her at Missouri's first Youth Camp—a very rough, primitive, tick-infested camp that year of 1947—he a teacher and she a camper.

In the office, she created a healthy work environment, treating each with respect and making us feel a part of the team. She made me feel appreciated.

She's a great gift-giver. Gifts are chosen often, carefully, tastefully, and wrapped artistically, usually in paper featuring sea shells with a shell attached to the box. Sea shells are her trademark.

Somewhere between her daily tasks at the office and

the trips she takes, she finds time for outreach in her church and community. She caters to older women in the church, quietly visits them, takes them to dinner and special occasions, surprises them with gifts and flowers. She regularly visits Miss Geneva in the nursing home and manicures her nails.

She reaches out to the down-and-outers, whether as volunteer at the Crisis Pregnancy Center, Decisions partner at the Women's Prison, or teaching underprivileged children to read. Back of her staid demeanor beats a sensitive heart.

Leader Through Change

People who know Mary Ruth well, agree that she likes the excitement of change and new things. June Rolan, former WNAC President (1983–1987), sends a message from Fresno, California.

Mary Ruth was exactly what WNAC needed 13 years ago when her special time came to serve. We needed her ability to adapt to change as the national offices relocated to Antioch.

We needed her creativity when the manual was revised so as to honor yesterday's women, to meet the needs of today's women and to prepare a place for tomorrow's women.

I must say that no one was more appropriately gifted to serve than Mary Wischart. She is my friend. I admire

many of her leadership qualities.

One of the qualities I admire most is her ability to do the unexpected. Maybe that's what makes the last 13 years so exciting.

June Rolan also remembers that when the world became so small that the WNAC Executive-Secretary could travel across the globe to organize international groups, God had prepared Mary Ruth to step out with boldness and a smile.

Everyl Getz recognizes Dr. Mary's ability to lead effectively through change, "WNAC has been blessed to have Dr. Mary at the helm. With her progressive mind and attitude, WNAC has not fallen behind, but advanced to greater heights."

Leader Through Adversity

Everyl Getz sees Dr. Mary as a woman with a desire to move forward with the Lord and His plan for her life. The Lord's work in her life has produced "a woman of the Word. She is a woman concerned about others, undaunted by obstacles, not fearful of change, and challenged even in moments of disappointment and discouragement to keep on keeping on."

In 1985 cancer stared this courageous woman in the face and she survived. "She's an object lesson in how to live with cancer—not somehow, but triumphantly," comments Lorene Miley who worked with her during this time.

Thank You

"Dr. Mary Ruth Wischart has been a positive influence and inspiration to me for many years," writes Everyl Getz. "She is a woman who has helped and encouraged others to serve Him to the best of their ability, whether in her English class or in a seminar speaking to women."

"I count it a privilege to have the opportunity to work with Dr. Wischart. I know even after her retirement from WNAC, we can always count on her being there to help. She's just that kind of person." When I consider Everyl Getz' statements, I know she speaks for all who have worked with Mary Ruth Wischart.

Mary Neal (WNAC President 1987–1995) writes, "Serving on the WNAC board was a joy! Dr. Mary is very special to me. She was always kind, considerate and very helpful to us. She became my good friend and I love her."

"We love you, will miss you, and wish you God's richest blessings on new adventures."

From all of us, "Thank you, Dr. Mary R. Wischart, for all you have given of yourself to make us what we are today. We love you!" ❖

Compiled by Suzanne Franks.



February 1997, Doropo, Côte d'Ivoire—National Women's retreat. Above: Mary R. Wischart installs national officers. Inset: Woman plays musical instrument during worship at the retreat.



September, 1995, Rivera, Uruguay—WNAC gave over \$8000 from the Eunice Edwards Loan Fund for Churches Abroad to help in the renovation of the church building. Mary R. Wischart attended the dedication service.



May, 1990, Jaruco, Cuba—Mary R. Wischart with sister Lucy Hyman. Both spoke at the children's retreat held at the Free Will Baptist Church in Jaruco. In photograph Lucy is translating for Mary R.

HAVING



THE MIND OF CHRIST

BY SUZANN BARKER HARRIS

SCRIPTURES: 1 Corinthians 2:16, Romans 12:2

SONGS: *Open My Eyes That I May See*

The human mind is capable of the most remarkable functions. It can reason, store knowledge, and perceive sensory input. But to have the mind of Christ means that we can go beyond these functions. 1 Corinthians 2:16 states, "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

Women who have the mind of Christ are set apart from the rest of society. As Christians, we think from a different perspective, because we center on the spiritual, rather than the physical. Our perceptions are distinct from that of the women in today's natural world.

PERCEPTION

The term inspiration is a familiar word among Christians. In this context it refers to the Holy Spirit's transmission of God's truth. Believers in Christ have access to the work of the Holy Spirit which enables them to perceive God's truth.

Nonbelievers do not understand the reason we do what we do. They view our lifestyles as foolishness. This is because spiritual things are a mystery to them. Our unsaved friends are blinded by the spirit of this world. Yet we, who are recipients of God's Spirit, have what we need to make sound judgments when dealing with our spouses, our children, and with our fellowmen.

Let us be thankful for the discernment which comes from our heavenly Father.

In 1 Corinthians 2:13–14 Paul contrasts the spiritual man with the natural man. The natural man is not interested in divine truths and wants no part of spiritual solutions. He does not have the ability to understand the ways of God.

On the other hand, the spiritual man receives, from the Holy Spirit, the ability to make spiritually-based decisions. Through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, we understand the Word of God for its importance. Because of the ability to understand divine truth, we view life from a spiritual standpoint.

The Psalmist says in Psalm 119:18, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Thy law." The Holy Spirit illuminates spiritual truths. We need this guidance in order to understand the Scriptures.

If we have the mind of Christ, we have that distinctive understanding. The Bible makes sense when we read it. Let us be sensitive to the Holy Spirit so that we may continue to perceive all things in the light of God's truth.

PROCESS

A fully-functioning mind has the intellectual ability to observe and reason. The mind decides whether we present ourselves as "Christ-like" or permit the flesh to behave unrighteously.

In Romans 12:2, Paul speaks of being "Transformed by the renewing of your mind . . ." Our character and personality must be transformed. This transformation is outwardly evident and duplicates that which we are on the inside (Matthew 17:2).

How can we be transformed? There are three steps involved in being re-modeled or changed.

First, we must accept Jesus Christ. By accepting Christ, we receive His mind (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Second, we must study God's Word. The believer must know the Scriptures and implement them daily (Colossians 1:28, 3:16). The renewed mind is filled with and governed by the Word of

God (Colossians 3:2).

Finally, as expressed in 2 Corinthians 3:18 and Titus 3:5, we will be transformed as the Holy Spirit molds us into the image of Christ.

Why should we be transformed? Paul finishes Romans 12:2 with, "that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." We will not only find the will of God, but we will develop an ability to understand His will for our lives.

Let us not be afraid of the will of God. His will is good—generous and just; it is acceptable—pleasing and satisfactory; and God's will is perfect—complete and flawless. The will of God is not something from which we run, but something to which we run.

*God's will is . . .
good—generous and just
acceptable—pleasing and satisfactory
perfect—complete and flawless*

PRACTICE

The pressures of life make it difficult to focus on the things of God. The lures of immorality tempt us on a daily basis. Magazines, television and even friends test our strength in Christ. We live in a corrupted world that offers artificial pleasure, happiness and satisfaction (1 Corinthians 7:31, 2 Corinthians 4:18, and 1 John 2:17).

According to Romans 12:2, we must not seek to be a part of this world. Let us not pretend to be that which we are not, but rather, let us focus on that which we are—godly women who belong to Christ (2 Corinthians 6:17–18).

Let us be challenged to read God's Word and commune with Him daily, and to keep our minds on those things which are true, honest, just, pure and lovely (Phillipians 4:8).

PRIZE

All of the pleasure, happiness, and satisfaction the world can offer will be overshadowed by our eternal home. The completeness of God's will gives us much more than mere existence; it means living to the utmost (John 10:10). It denotes an endless life in Jesus Christ.

We have either one of two minds: spiritual or carnal. We can't have both. Romans 8:6 states, "For to be carnally minded is death . . ." Paul finishes with "... but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." The prize of eternal

peace is ours as we become conformed to the mind of Christ.

If we love the Lord Jesus with all of our minds (Matthew 22:37), we will not be conformed to this world (Ephesians 4:17). Rather, as our minds are focused on eternal matters (Romans 8:5–6), we are renewed daily by the spirit of God, and we are able to truly say that we have the mind of Christ (Ephesians 4:23, Philippians 2:5, 4:8, and 1 Peter 4:1). ❖

Suzann Barker Harris lives in Nashville, TN. She teaches education at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Her interests center around the home and teaching.

In *Pilgrim's Progress*, the classic of John Bunyan, Evangelist appears three times. Each time Christian was at a crossroads facing an important decision. The third appearance is just outside Vanity Fair. Evangelist's admonition to Christian and Faithful is to pass through the city unscathed. He challenges the weary travelers to remember the supreme example of Jesus' sojourn on this earth.

Pure Religion

James lists the characteristics of pure religion in chapter one and verse 27. The last one of those is "... keeping oneself unspotted from the world" (KJV). The New International Version translates that same phrase as "... to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." "Keeping yourself free from the world's evil influence" is the New Century Version's translation.

The idea is one of conscious action. One must decide not to be spotted, polluted, or influenced by the world. That raises the question: "How?" If we must live in this world, how can we avoid its pollution?

In God's perfect plan, we are placed in the world to live for Him. Paul admonishes us in Philippians

2:5 that we should have the same mind/attitude as Christ. Remember His sojourn on this earth. He was the Friend of sinners (Matthew 11:19). Yet He was sinless and obedient to the Father while fulfilling His mission on this earth.

We will never achieve that level of perfection until we reach the celestial shores. We can seek to follow in His steps.

"God specializes in using forgiven sinners still moving toward a more godly life in order to spread His love" (Greg Johnson and Susie Shellenberger, *Keeping Your Cool While Sharing Your Faith*).

Each of us has relationships with both Christians and non-Christians. Many work situations allow the believer to witness by example when words cannot be shared. We give at the least an honest hour of labor for the hourly wage. We work diligently whether the supervisor is watching over our shoulders or not. We treat coworkers with respect, love and kindness regardless of how we are treated. We can share forgiveness and acceptance, even when bypassed for the promotion.

We need to remember that our lives are being closely watched by those who do not believe. We are the only Bible some people will ever read.

"In" or "of" the world?

by
Elizabeth Hodges

Purpose:

To challenge women to be godly in an ungodly world.

Scripture:

James 1:27, John 17:15-21

Songs:

Footsteps of Jesus

Philippians 2:3 reminds us as believers to esteem others better than ourselves. Are we known as selfish, pursuing our own desires, or as encouragers, seeking to build others up?

Power Source

Is it possible then to live in this world and yet not be of it? John 17:15–18 records Jesus' prayer on our behalf. He did not petition the Father to remove us from this world. Rather, He prayed for our protection from the evil one.

Therein lies the answer. Power for this task is God-given. It will be possible because God is at work in us. He desires for our lives to bring glory to Him. As others see our lives and good works, they should glorify the Father (Matthew 5:16). But the world should also believe that God sent Jesus to be the Savior as they see Him at work in our lives (John 17:20–21).

Practical Applications

If God is truly at work in our lives, the world will see the difference. Our daily lives will reflect the work of God in practical areas.

Speech

Our words often condemn us. Peter was recognized as one of Jesus' disciples by his speech (Matthew 26:73). Jesus warned "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34). Solomon reminds us to "above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life" (Proverbs 4:23, NIV).

Paul challenges us to "let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may

**"Wisdom
often comes
without
great
fanfare.
It comes
to those
who wait
with
open heart and
mind."
(Dan Dick)**

know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:6, NIV). Paul further instructs us to encourage and build each other up with our words (1 Thessalonians 4:18, 5:11, NIV).

Who in your life is a kindred spirit, or as Ivory Coast missionary Tammy Gentuso says, a "heart-friend"? That person who allows you to spill your guts and yet loves you the same.

God sent Rose* into my life many years ago. She has been my heart-friend. Time goes by between our visits, yet each time we pick up where we left off. She prays for me, holds me accountable, and challenges me in my walk with God. It seems as though God uses her to share insights with me at just the right moment. I am so grateful for her influence on me.

However, my gratitude raises a question. To whom am I a heart-friend? Who do I pray for, hold accountable, and challenge to maturity in Christ? May God use each

of us in His kingdom's work as encouragers.

Consider James' admonition to be "swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger" (1:19). Are we developing the art of silence? Do we listen well? Jesus answered not a word in His time of deep distress (Matthew 26:63). Sometimes the best witness of God at work in us is our ability not to be chatty.

In Psalm 141:3 David expresses a simple yet profound petition. "Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord: keep watch over the door of my lips" (NIV).

If we ask three simple questions, we will know if our words pass the test of encouraging and building others up.

1. Is it true?
2. Is it necessary?
3. Is it kind?

Many things are true. Others are necessary. But are they kind? Oh God, help us to tame our tongues that we might be mature women (James 3:2).

Actions

Out of laziness, we often rely on an unwritten list of do's and don't's. We kid ourselves when we think following such a list determines anyone's spirituality. Instead, if each activity were judged by the following three questions, we could quickly determine if God is pleased.

1. What would Jesus do?
2. Would it become a stumbling block to another believer?
3. Do I have a deep abiding peace in my heart that it is God's will?

The focus is on Jesus, not on others. He is the one with whom we should compare ourselves.

Outward Appearance

Our appearance will make positive or negative first impressions and perhaps lasting impressions, too. 1 Peter 3:3-4 reminds us that our beauty should not be the “putting on of apparel” but it should be that of one’s “inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit” (NIV).

Do our clothes enhance our facial features? Is the joy of the Lord evident on our faces?

Dress that emphasizes inner beauty will be modest, not overdone, nor prudish. Others will not be offended because we will seek to dress in a manner that brings glory to God.

Paul often reminds his readers to put off the old man and to put on the new. Colossians 3:12-17 tells us what we as believers need to put on: tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, forgiveness, and love. When we follow this pattern, peace will rule in our hearts. “What a fashion statement given to us by God!” says missionary to Uruguay Trena Owen.

Proper Perspective

The awesome task of being in the world but not of the world will require the proper perspective. Our eyes must be on Jesus, the Author of our faith (Hebrews 12:1-3). We must not look at others. Jesus endured, so can we with His help. We need not quit nor grow faint (Galatians 6:9).

We must “keep in step with the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25, NIV). Not running ahead nor lagging behind, we are better off when walk beside our Guide.

Many teens today wear the “WWJD” bracelets. These initials stand for “What would Jesus do?” or “Walk with Jesus daily.” That should be our motto as well, just as Charles Sheldon challenged in his book, *In His Steps*.

One of my first adult education classes met at a local office furniture plant. The workers were required to pursue a GED if they had not graduated from high school. The classes met at the factory.

One night Beth* came up after class and told me that she had discussed me with her pastor. (She attended a church that taught only its members would go to heaven.) Beth said, “Mrs. Hodges, I told Brother Jones* that you were going to heaven, that you did love God, and that you were a Christian even though you were a Free Will Baptist.” I responded by telling her I would enjoy meeting her pastor and yes I would meet them in heaven.

We had never discussed religion during the class. I had answered specific questions during breaks or after class. I had tried to exemplify God’s love to these hurting adults during a difficult period of change or challenge. To Him be the glory!

We must seek to develop the mind of Christ so that we think, act and react as He would. Then others can see God at work in us and will be drawn to the Father.

Conclusion

This conscious action of being godly in an ungodly world will be accomplished as we daily spend time in our Father’s presence (James 4:7-8). We must know His Word to obey Him (John 15:12-14).

Do others sense that we have spent time with God? Do we cause them to hunger and thirst to know Him (Matthew 5:6, 1 Peter 2:12)? Who will be preserved because we have walked with God (Matthew 5:13)? Are our actions and daily lives radically different because the Holy Spirit controls us?

God tells us to ask Him for wisdom (James 1:5). Solomon asked and God granted his request (1 Kings 3). But we must realize this “wisdom often comes without great fanfare. It comes to those who wait with open heart and mind.” (Dan Dick)

I have decided to follow Jesus. The cross is before me . . . the world is behind. Will you join me?

* Names have been changed to protect the identity of the persons.

Elizabeth Hodges lives in Hendersonville, TN. The mother of three, she is Academic Coordinator at College Heights Academy. Her husband, Eddie, pastors Hendersonville FWB Church.

September 27

Support FWB ministries through

The

Rest of the Family

Offering

which is part of

The

Together

Way

Life!Action

a column for teens

no tears

by Keesha Parker



Mom, you brought me here
Why would I want to go?
And leave you all alone, Mom,
That's what I want to know.

Today I wiggled
Every finger and toe;
Why do you not want me, Mom,
Am I that low?

Today I blinked my eyes, Mom,
Didn't you see?
I felt your hand
Gently passing over me.

Mom, do I have
To really say goodbye?
Why do I have to go, Mom
Please tell me why!

Who will you talk to, Mom?
The doctor said I was just a
fetus.
I'm a special human being
To my Daddy, Jesus.

Just one thing, Mom,
I'm afraid of the pain
But just to make you happy
I'd do it all over again.

I'm sorry if I burdened you,
Mom,
It's not something I meant to
do;

Actually, I was sent
here on a special
errand, Mom,
To comfort and delight
you!

You'll never get to
hear my first
word, Mom,
Or see my first step
or two;
And if I had fallen, who
would've lifted me up?
Mom, that would've been you.

But since I have to go
I have something very special to
say;
Listen very closely, Mom,
Because today might be my last
day.

Don't you be sad, Mom,
Or cry a single tear
I'll always be in your heart,
Mom,
And always be your little dear.

And don't you worry, Mom,
When I am gone;
I'll have a sweet angel
Sing me a song.

I won't be lonely, Mom,
Jesus will hold me tight;

I'm
getting
really sleepy
now, Mom,
It's time to shut my eyes.

But if I die
Before I wake;
I pray the Lord
My soul to take

When I see you in Heaven
You'll see what you gave up all
those years;
It'll be just you and me, Mom,
And this time—NO TEARS!

Keesha Parker is a 15-year-old who lives in Woodward, OK. She is active in youth group and Actionettes at the Woodward Free Will Baptist Church. She asked Jesus to be her Savior when she was 3½ years old and has taught a preschool class for 5 years.

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 graphic of a springboard with a coiled spring and a diving board. A small tag with the word "Service" is attached to the spring.

Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator/Assistant Coordinator

Encourage your women to attend the 1998 retreat at Ridgecrest, North Carolina. The dates are September 24–26. A reservation form is on page 24 in the March/April issue or you may contact WNAC. At this year's retreat we will hear from the new WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer. No doubt your women will receive a blessing from the services, speaker, music and wonderful fellowship. Check the next issue for a retreat tape order form.

The *1999 Yearbook* is for sale. Get a head start on next year's planning. The yearbook has ways to get new women involved, posters for each monthly program, innovative ways to present dynamic programs, and other useful tools.

Take a special offering for the Memorial Student Loan Fund during your September meeting. This loan, which is administered by WNAC, provides low interest loans for students at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Secretary/Treasurer

When you renew your group's *CoLaborer* subscription, remember the price increase to \$8.75 for single subscriptions and \$8.00 for bundles of 5 or more. Printing and mailing costs never stop going up. Our goal is to provide quality material to nourish our women at an affordable price.

Each one of the following agencies serves our people and deserve our support. The Rest of the Family Offering on September 27 will be divided proportionately among the following ten agencies according to their budgets.

Executive Office
Women Nationally Active for Christ
Retirement and Insurance
FWB Foundation
Master's Men
National Youth Conference
Music Commission
Media Commission
Historical Commission
Theological Integrity Commission

Provision Closet Needs:

Dish towels

Bath towel sets

Queen and twin size
sheet sets

Queen and twin size
bedspreads

Pillows

Corelleware®

Irons

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

Quantity



Helps for Officers

☐

MI9

Parliamentary Procedures
\$2.00

☐

NM1

*Manual for Free Will Baptist
Women's Organizations*
The guidebook for organizing
and operating Women's Groups.
\$10.00

☐

NM2

Manual Study Guide
Includes teaching aids and posters
that can be used to make transparencies.
\$3.00

☐

YB4

1999 Yearbook
Calendar of events, program suggestions,
WNAC goals, plan sheets, and other
helpful information for officers.
\$6.00

☐

EN4

Enlistment Ideas
\$1.50

☐

RF1

Local Treasurer's Report Forms
12/\$1.00

☐

RF2

District Treasurer's Report Forms
12/\$1.00

☐

RF3

State Treasurer's Report Forms
12/\$1.00

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☐

RB2

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disbursements.
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additional Manual
All other materials:
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Send all orders to:

WNAC

P.O. Box 5002

Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Telephone: (615)731-6812

(615)731-4950 ext. 211

E-mail: WNAC@nafwb.org

Missions Chairman

Your job is to help women stay involved with missionary support through prayer, giving, letters, adoption, missions conferences and other ways. Another aspect of your job is to stay informed and pass the information on to your group.

Remind your women to support newly appointed missionaries. The following missionaries have been appointed and are at various stages of preparation for service.

Central Asia:	Charity VanWinkle Kevin Stacy
Côte d'Ivoire :	Ginger Harrison* Verlin and Debbie Anderson
Japan:	Nathan and Linda Snow*
Panama:	Justin and Leslie Banks
Russia:	Mike and Cathy Corley
Spain:	Anthony and Lea Edgmon Tim and Kristi Johnson
Uruguay:	Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster
Arizona:	Steve and Susie Robinson
California:	Keith and Janet Bartlett Paul and Velina Park
Tennessee:	Tim and Robyn Osborn
Virginia:	Paul and Patricia Collins
Wisconsin:	Terry and Margaret Hardison

*In language school

Prayer Chairman

In October, have everyone draw names and pray for the person she gets until the next meeting. (If you already have secret pals, you won't need to draw names.) Make prayer reminders along the program theme of "In the world but not of the world." List ways that we can pray for one another throughout October. Make your requests personal. The following are some examples of how to pray for your secret prayer partner:

1. Pray that she will not be influenced by worldly thinking.
2. Pray that her mind will be filled with godly thoughts.
3. Pray for her emotional well being.
4. Pray that she will be careful to guard her speech and that her words will be honest, kind and wholesome.

5. Ask for godly wisdom in difficult situations.
6. Pray for her closest relationships, such as, husband and children.
7. Ask for inner joy that will show when she is at work and with her neighbors.
8. Pray for her as she deals with and witnesses to the unsaved in her family.
9. Pray for her health and that she will glorify God in her body.

Start early making plans for the Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for Home Missions.

Service Chairman

The Manual has a Survey for Service Opportunities on pages 116–120. This survey is quite thorough and will help recruit and stir interest in your WAC group.

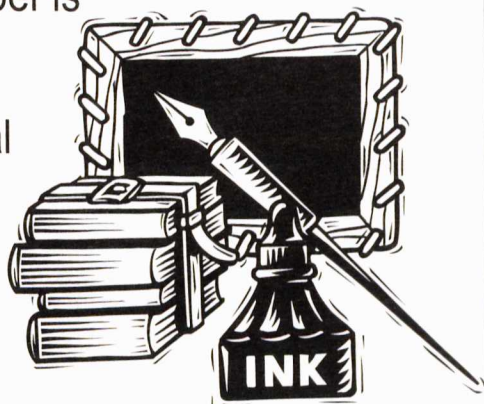
Study Chairman

Check out the book review on *The Power of Prayer* on page 22. Plan a study on prayer based on this book. A study on prayer would be good preparation for November's emphasis on Home Missions.

Purchase a copy of *Beyond the Gate: An Autobiography* by Mabel Bailey Willey. This is a book you should have in your church library and would make a great pastor appreciation gift. Review the book at one of your meetings, too. ❖

September is

Memorial
Student
Loan
Month



Send your offering through regular WNAC channels.

Springboard Illustrated Stories to Grow By

Volume 38/ No. 5

God gave the burden, I prayed by Tammy Lancaster

Don't miss an opportunity to thank someone for what they've done to help you grow as a Christian. That person might be a Sunday school teacher, a pastor or a sister in Christ. I want to thank Yvonne Hampton for writing an article for *CoLaborer* called "Early Morning Friend" (July/August 1997, p. 18). Reading the article changed my life.

In her article she wrote, "The next time I wake up early, I'll know it's You nudging me, seeking my attention before others do. I'll listen closely . . ."

Since I read this article, whenever I've felt a burden to pray, I've been faithful to pray immediately, usually not even knowing my prayers were needed.

March 11, 1998 was no different . . . except that it involved my children. My two boys, Jonathan (age 7) and John William (age 4) had just left for town with their grandparents. At 5:15 p.m., as I was stepping out of the shower anticipating a few moments of silence, I realized that in the rush to get them out the door I had forgotten to kiss them good-bye. At that moment, I felt a burden to pray for them. I prayed desperately for God to keep them safe until I could see them again. I felt a little silly that I was near tears and praying so earnestly. Even though I reasoned that I would see them in only four hours, I prayed.

While I was praying at home, my boys and their grandparents were somewhere in traffic. At 5:15 p.m. an elderly gentleman pulled into traffic without looking and ran into the rear passenger side door—the side the boys were on. Miraculously no one was hurt! Their grandmother marveled at how calm the children were during the whole situation. They weren't scared or excited. They acted so grown-up.

I can't help but recognize and thank God for this answer to my prayer. I prayed because of the article that impressed me to pray at any moment I felt a burden. If God places a burden on your heart, He does so for a reason—so PRAY!

Thank you, Yvonne, for that insight! You have passed along your knowledge of prayer to me, and I want to pass it along to my children and others. I know it works! ❖

Tammy Lancaster and her husband Jaimie have been appointed as missionaries to Uruguay. Tammy appreciates the faithfulness and guidance of many other Free Will Baptist women as she follows God's hand to Uruguay.

Lucy & Marge

(Marge comes upon Lucy seated in the church foyer.)

Marge: Why so glum, Lucy?

Lucy: Oh, hi, Marge. I was just reviewing the church directory.

Marge: And that makes you sad?

Lucy: Well, my picture is enough to make anyone sad, but I was just thinking about the changes. Sometimes I wish things wouldn't change.

Marge: Why, Lucy, you surprise me. You are the one who is always for change.

Lucy: I know, but look at all the young people we've lost.

Marge: What do mean, Lucy?

Lucy: Here's Sally. She was just great on our organ. We'll never have another like her. Now she's gone off to help our missionaries in Japan.

Marge: That's right. She and her husband Jeff. And there's Brent and Tina. They've gone to work in Utah. Is it Salt Lake City?

Lucy: I believe so. And now Cecily and her husband are planning to go to—some country I didn't even know existed. She was such a great one for promoting WAC.

Marge: You're right. She had all those creative ideas for enlisting new women and promoting attendance.

Lucy: Jennifer has decided the Lord wants her to work in Appalachia with the children. She was a great worker with the Actionettes and children's ministries.

Marge: Oh, that's right. We're having a special service for her at our next meeting.

Lucy: I could just cry. What are we supposed to do without these workers? And I hate saying good-bye. The church plans a farewell party for Cecily and Brad. I'd better go buy more tissues.

Marge: They're on sale at the grocery store. You know, WNAC is saying good-bye to the executive secretary, too.

Lucy: See, Marge, there are just some things you like to keep going and going and going—

Marge: I know, Lucy, but like you have always said, the only constant is change and we should welcome it.

Lucy: Just how do we welcome these changes, I'd like to know?

Marge: Of course, we hate to see these young people go, but what have we been teaching them through the years?

Lucy: Get on with the great commission.

Marge: Exactly. From the time these young people were in our groups, we emphasized service and witnessing.

Lucy: Yeah, we even encouraged going to places like that country I never heard of where the gospel has yet to be preached.

Marge: You're right. We should be rejoicing. Haven't we been praying for years that the Lord would send laborers into the harvest?

Lucy: Well, yes, but I didn't necessarily mean our workers.

Marge: If they were not working here, then we couldn't expect them to work anywhere else. You know, changing places won't change uninvolved Christians into great workers.

Lucy: You're right there. We'll never be able to get some of these church members involved. I certainly wouldn't want to send them to Timbuktu or wherever.

Marge: You know, new people have stepped in to take the places of these who are leaving. Stella is playing the organ.

Lucy: Yes, she isn't quite as good as Sally and sometimes she's so loud I want to cover my ears.

Marge: Give her time, Lucy. Martin and Maryfran have taken over the Actionette group and children's ministries.

Lucy: I was hoping they would get involved in those ministries.

Marge: We're looking for someone to be as creative as Cecily. How about you, Lucy? You have a lot of good ideas.

Lucy: I've been satisfied to let someone else do it. Maybe I should get involved.

Marge: You see, Lucy. These who are leaving give us more opportunities for service.

Lucy: Yes, we may discover some new gifts we didn't know about before.

Marge: Right, Lucy. Besides, we need to rejoice that God has answered prayer. And having these church members scattered around the world motivates us to pray more.

Lucy: We're always motivated to pray more for those we know and depend on us. What about the change at the WNAC national office? I've been satisfied with the way things were going. Now we'll probably see all those things changed.

Marge: Welcome change, Lucy. Isn't that your motto? The new executive secretary will be different, of course, but I believe she will keep us true to our purpose, don't you?

Lucy: Of course, Marge. If she gets off course, we can just pull her back on track.

Marge: *(laughing)* I'm sure you will, Lucy. So, can you begin to rejoice?

Lucy: Answers to prayer, new workers, new opportunities for service and prayer—a lot of things to rejoice about, Marge. I'm ready for some changes.

Marge: Ah, that sounds like the Lucy I know.

Lucy: But I'd still better run out and get those extra tissues before the next meeting. ♦

COMMUNICATOR

by MARY RUTH WISEHART

My Memories of a Living Sacrifice

A Living Sacrifice—Marie Wright Hanna was an example of WNAC'S 1998 theme.

Marie served in India with her husband, Carlisle, from October 1952 until her death April 23, 1998.

Although Marie was born in Platteville, Wisconsin, she spent her growing up years in St. Louis, Missouri. She graduated from Roosevelt High School there and attended Harris Teachers' College before going to Nashville, Tennessee to enroll in Free Will Baptist College. She graduated in 1951 as the first woman graduate of FWBBC.

At the Bible College she met Carlisle Hanna from South Carolina. They were married May 30, 1949.

When they sailed for India October 1952, they took with them three-month-old Sheila Marie. I remember sitting with them in St. Louis the summer before they left. As I held Sheila Marie on my lap, Carlisle said, "Tell Mary Ruth that in about 17 years, you'll be coming to Bible College." That was not to be. While they were still in language school, Sheila Marie became very sick and died March 17, 1953. Although this mother mourned the death of her first born, she never considered leaving the field. Her place was on the mission field where God had placed her.

"I have decided to follow Jesus; No turning back." Marie had dedicated her life to God as a teenager. She never wavered from her commitment. She was an only child, and her mother suffered terribly at the thought of this daughter and this granddaughter going off so far away. But Marie's life was on the altar. She had to go.

I remember Marie at the Free Will Baptist Youth Camp near Niangua, Missouri. She was in charge of my cabin. We thought of her as a very sober "old" woman. I suppose she was just a

teenager, but she was serious about her service and she was serious about our commitment to the Lord. I remember vividly how she would get that twinkle in her eye and the corners of her mouth would turn up. We knew she was going to crack a joke or she had played a prank on us. Her laugh was mostly internal, but her body would shake in delight as she enjoyed the fun.

"Bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar." Her mother and father both died while Marie was in India. She couldn't make it home for those funerals. She left them in the hands of her Father. Her life was on the altar, bound by the cords of love, love that went beyond love for mother, father, children, and even husband—her love for God.

"Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

"Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." Marie was dead to this world and alive in Christ. As a result, her life produced fruit in India and in the USA.

Marie Hanna has left us an example of a living sacrifice. Dare we follow?

A Reminder

It's not too late. You can still register for the 1998 WNAC retreat at Ridgecrest, September 24–26.

Glenda Revell, author of *Glenda's Story: Led by Grace and With Love from A Mother's Heart* is the featured speaker. She will be autographing her books at her table in the exhibit hall.

You want to meet the newly installed Executive Secretary-Treasurer and hear something of her plans and goals for WNAC. ♦

Women In Action



Care Packages for Missionary Kids at ICA WAC at Peace FWB Church in Florence, South Carolina, chose the missionary children at International Christian Academy at Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire, as a project. Each member adopted a child and stuffed a gallon-sized freezer bag full of goodies and practical items.

Tom McCullough and the Go and Be Team took the care bags to Africa for them.

Pictured (left to right): Tina Salyer, Ada Miles (Coordinator), Gail Phillips, Dawn Elliott, Rachel Rogers, June Bonnett, Frances Pattillo, Pam Strawn, Mae Powell, Eva Mae Sims, Bridget Bonnett, Trudy Miles (pastor's wife).



Oakwood Women Give to Crisis Pregnancy Center

The women of Oakwood FWB Church in Woodlawn, Tennessee, along with their congregation, adopted the Clarksville Crisis Pregnancy Support Center as one of their monthly projects. They gave donations based on a needs list provided by the center. WAC members wanted to help women who have decided to cherish their babies.



Annual Craft Sale Raises Over \$700

The Blue Bell FWB Auxiliary in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, held its annual Craft Sale in November 1997. The sale raised over \$700. The money went to state and other projects designed to allow more women to be a part of the auxiliary. Blue Bell women are active on the local, community, district and state levels.

Pictured: Merrilly Robinson, Vinita Tuttle (Missions Chairman), Nadine Hood



Alabama WAC Convention Held at Tabernacle
Over 125 attended the Alabama FWB Women Active for Christ Convention on May 2, at Tabernacle FWB Church. The Shirley Kennedy Memorial LAMP offering was \$2654 which went to the Dave Franks, Sr. account.

Home Missionaries Dennis and Judy Haygood spoke. A love offering and the "Bucket Money" project were designated to the Haygoods. They received a total of \$1086.81 from these. The Haygoods minister in South Huntsville through the South Park FWB Church.

Mrs. Essie Collins was honored for her years of service in the Northport FWB church. WAC State President Ann Kennedy presented a plaque to Wilma Davis since Mrs. Collins was unable to attend.

Pictured (left to right): Barbara Smith (host church pastor's wife), Ann Kennedy, Dennis Haygood



Dear WNAC,

The rest of my life will not be long enough to thank the Lord for all His goodness and for the fact that He has made me a member of His family.

I wish also to thank you for your precious care and help in my training for the work of Christ.

I have received, for the second consecutive time, your gift of generosity that is helping pay for our last year of studies at the Bible Institute.

My family and I are very thankful for this demonstration of love from you. We request that you continue to uphold us in prayer.

May the Lord bless the work of WNAC among all of our churches.

*Silas N'Guettia, Bible Institute,
Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire*

Dear WNAC,

As my first year at International Christian Academy comes to a close, I would like to send a special thank you to WNAC. FWB women have helped train and supported me throughout the years to get me where I am today. Thanks especially for the prayers and support that have helped me come to Africa and serve Him here.

Traci Epps, Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire



ON THE SHELF

The Power of Prayer

by Herbert Lockyer

Thomas Nelson, 1982

Price: \$5.95

Reviewed by Mary R. Wischart

"It is as sensible for a jet pilot to say he has no time to take on fuel, as for the Christian to say he has no time for prayer."

With this statement Herbert Lockyer invites all of us to pray for all things.

Have you ever asked, "Is it all right to pray for _____?" In Chapter 10, the author treats this question with a list from the Word. He treats the personal, social, material, natural, spiritual, ecclesiastical and national scope of prayer.

Have you ever wondered why some prayers seem unanswered? Lockyer considers this and other prayer problems in Chapter 13, "The Problems of Prayer." He makes two lists in this section: prayers God must answer and

prayers God cannot answer. The Scripture references in these lists will furnish a good study in themselves.

Under the personal realm, Lockyer asks the following questions.

Are you in trouble?

Do you have a financial problem?

Are you in peril and need protection?

Are you in doubt about a choice and need direction?

Is your conscience disturbed by personal sin?

Following each question, he gives scriptures a person may claim in prayer for these circumstances.

"Prayer is as old as the human race."

"Prayer is heaven's telephone line which is free to all, always available, never out of order."

Lockyer warns, however, that the line must be used with reverence and godly fear.

The writer recognizes God for who He is. His study of prayer is Bible based.

He divides his book conveniently into fifteen brief chapters. Each one could be used in one study period, or two or three could be combined.

We might wish for a bit more material on some of the topics. Still the Bible references give scope for further study.

His quotations from other writers motivate the reader to find and read those books on prayer.

He gives a brief list of books for further reading at the end of the book. Sorry to say, most of the books are out of print.

He also gives five simple suggestions for using this book. The book will make an excellent prayer study. ❖

Poet's Corner

First Place

Storm

Vicki Turner, Cartersville, MO

I watch the clouds press against the sky,
as if to wring the life from within it

And I marvel at the controlled anger lurking on the edge,
emitting small spasm-like gasps

Lighter colors bruise to black and hang like threatening bullies

As the wind begins to sculpt the mood and rub emotions raw.

Crackling shards electrify like warning shots above the head

And slowly, softly build to an exhilarating crescendo

Silver droplets drum like tinkling bells, and dance upon the window

As momentum drives the music to create uneven rhythms

I stare in trance-like wonder at the calm within the storm

Because I see the magic of the Conductor of the song



*Featuring Three Winners in the
1998 Creative Arts Contest*

Second Place

The Perfect Valentine

Freedra Lucas, Cromona, KY

When I was young, we used to make
Our own red valentines.
But I made icky, scraggly hearts;
Nobody wanted mine.

I hid the ugly pieces in
A place I set apart.
Then I met somebody special,
A mender of bad hearts.

When He found my hidden pieces,
He touched them with His hand;
Broken fragments flew together.
I can't really understand

How a heart that no one wanted
Beats with royal blood divine;
How a lowly, sinful creature
Got the Perfect Valentine.

He loved me long before we met,
How marvelous to see,
In spite of all my earthly faults:
A King's in love with me!

Never think that things are hopeless;
There's no better place nor time.
If you're looking for a pure love,
He's the Perfect Valentine.

Third Place

He Stands in the Gap

M. Gail Hyden, College Station, TX

A Christian lay dying, her body
racked with pain.
A man began to speak, invoking
the Savior's name.
The harsh breathing eased, replaced
with a gentle sigh. One could
feel the angels draw nigh.
The furrowed brow, it now was
clear, God's love held her near.

The man, he stood in the gap, but
he wasn't alone, the Savior's love
around him shone.

Puzzled children wanted to know,
"Why did God let His only Son
die so?

Cut, bleeding, nailed between two
sinners on a cross, why would a
father suffer this loss?"

A man reached out and drew two
lines—a bridge between this
world and the one divine.

The puzzled children now under-
stand—He gave His only Son to
save all man.

The man, he stood in the gap, but
he wasn't alone, the Savior's love
around him shown.

The church was filled with joy and
smiles; roses were placed up and
down the aisles.

The room grew quiet, as the music
charmed.

To meet her life-mate, a beautiful
bride walked with her father
arm-in-arm.

A man stepped up, Bible in hand,
he spoke the words, sealed them
with a golden band.

Once more his words of prayer, he
lends: then he presents the
newly married couple to their
family & friends.

The man, he stood in the gap, but
he wasn't alone, the Savior's
love around him shown.

The small class of Christians
looked to the man with the
worn Bible in his hand.

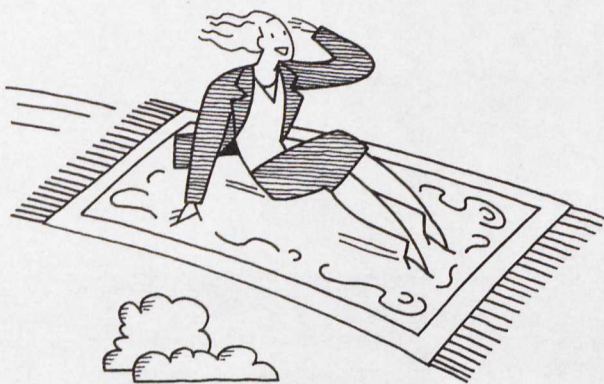
Once more, he worked to help
them understand.

The Word of God, His love, His
fury.

And why to Him belongs the glory.

The man, he stood in the gap, but
he wasn't alone, the Savior's
love around him shown.

—Ezekiel 22:30❖



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1998 Creative Arts Contest Winners

Programs



1st place
"How to Live
a Holy Life"
Ruth Bivens
St. Just,
Puerto Rico



2nd place
"The New Day"
Carolyn Franks
Mantachie, MS

3rd place
"What's in the Bag?"
Melba Hibbard
Modesto, CA



4th place
"Holy
Coverings"
Wanda O. Kellett
Lawton, OK



Articles



1st place
"How Can
There be
Hope . . .
When There is
None?"
Judy Delong
Hager Hill, KY



2nd place
"Mandy's
Prayer Garden"
Clemasue Elder
Volk
Pocola, OK

3rd place
"My Longtime Friend"
Sabrina Runyon
Lenore, WV



4th place
"A Remedy for
Rest"
Darla Jacks
Trimble
Greeneville, TN



Poetry



1st place
The Storm
Vicki Turner
Carterville, MO

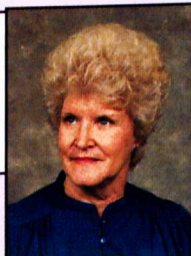


2nd place
The Perfect Valentine
Freeda Lucas
Cromona, KY

3rd place
He Stands in the Gap
M. Gail Hyden
College Station, TX



4th place
The Answer
Sue Crain
Skiatook, OK



Plays



1st place
*Miss Proverbial
Woman Contest*

Kristin Nettles
O'Fallen, MO

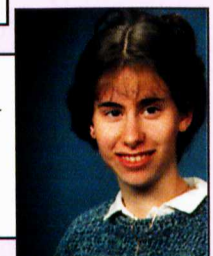


Kimberly Roderique
O'Fallen, MO

2nd place
Time to Check your Thermostat
Sue Winchester
St. Louis, MO



3rd place
Now and Later
Teri L. Cahoon
Columbia, NC/
Houlton, ME





MISSION ALERT:

Evangelism News from Around the World

Ekaterinburg, Russia

"The church in Ekaterinburg has started two daughters churches and is sponsoring various Bible studies in this city of 1.5 million people" report missionary appointees to Russia, Mike and Cathy Corley. Each of the five works sponsored by Free Will Baptists is growing. A sixth work was started this spring in the city of Troitsk in Siberia.

The Corleys are scheduled to depart for Russia in the fall after taking special TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) training in June.

Ribeirão Preto, Brazil

John Poole, pastor of the First church in Ribeirão Preto, underwent iodine treatments for hyperthyroidism. Missionaries Bobby and Geneva Poole (John's parents) request prayer for the salvation of two doctors. Dr. Nassim is treating John and Dr. Angela teaches at the medical college.

Chitré, Panama

The Stan Bunch family are currently on stateside assignment. The church at Parita is making the transition from being a mission to being a church. While missionaries Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman wait for doors to open to work with the Cunas, they are ministering at Parita. One of the ways they are involved at the Parita church is through Friday night youth meetings.

Salt Lake City, Utah

Missionary Bill Phillips reports they had 18 new converts within five weeks and he ran out of Bibles

to give to new Christians. Because of growth, they moved to a bigger room in the new building. They started four new classes in one month and divided the children's church into two classes.

God is maturing the people of this new congregation. They have begun to take responsibilities for this ministry. They are teaching classes, driving the van, weeding the flower beds and mowing grass. Some have hit garage sales to gather up the needed equipment for the new building. God is building His church in the heart of the Mormon kingdom of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Kearneysville, West Virginia

At the West Virginia State Meeting in June, the Heritage Free Will Baptist Church organized with 97 charter members. Missionary Russell Wright praises God for the 253 people who attended on Roll Call Sunday in March. Now that the church has organized, the Wrights are entering Phase 2 of the home missions project. The Heritage Church will serve as a springboard for the State Mission Board's efforts in establishing additional churches in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Attendance has doubled! A family of four came to Christ on Easter Sunday! Other people are turning their lives over to Christ! Offerings are increasing. Missionary Tommy Jones reveals his excitement about the ministry in the Pittsburgh area. The Three Rivers Free Will Baptist Church has a diverse group of people. About 50 people attend services, though it's difficult for all to be present at the same service. ❖

THE WAY OUT

Part 2 of a 2-part series on depression

by Genny Waddell

Remember that I suggested to you in the first part of this article that “Christians can suffer from depression.” Yes we do, although no one knows exactly why one person becomes depressed and another does not. We do know that we live in the flesh for now and are a part of the “groaning creation” because of the Fall.

Therefore, if you, a Christian woman, are depressed, do not feel ashamed. If you have chest pains, how quickly would you get to a hospital? Would you be embarrassed because you had a physical problem?

THE ROOT

Martin Luther endured pitch-black depression, as did Charles Spurgeon, and many people in the Bible. Naomi, one of the leading ladies of the Book of Ruth, is a woman who overcame severe depression by the grace of God. When we first meet her, she has already prematurely aged into a bitter old bat! She said so herself when she changed her name from “the beautiful, blessed one” to “bitterness.” Yes, she had great losses, three deaths and her way of life, but her sorrow went far beyond grieving over her losses.

Why are you wallowing in the Den of Bitterness? Perhaps it's the raise your husband did not get, or the team your daughter didn't make. Or was it a passerby's remark at a church dinner? Hebrews 12:15 tells us that when you “fail of the grace of

God,” you end up with a “root of bitterness springing up to trouble you.”

Keeping all the arrows that have been shot at you can only result in bitter depression (Ephesians 4:26). I challenge you to make a list of all the people you feel have ever wronged you. Place that list on your Bible and pray, “Lord, some of these people are dead. I can't talk to them, but I forgive each one.” Be specific. Then, burn the list.

I wish one of us could have been there to say to Naomi as we met her beside the well in Bethlehem, “Let go of the past. Don't expect things to be like they used to be. And don't focus on what might have been.”

Instead, most of us would have told her to pray more, offered her new make-up samples and talked behind her back about how nothing could erase those wrinkles!

WHAT IF

You have no way of knowing what your life would have been like had you taken a different road, married that other guy, or gotten a bigger church. A depressed Christian can be almost as confused as an Alzheimer's patient who thinks she is back in her old home one minute and at a stranger's house the next. The depressed person cannot thank God for the present because she compares every moment with the glorious past, or she dreams of her future lottery winnings.

ACCEPT AND TRUST

Accept the fact that you are a Christian who may be suffering from some form or degree of depression. But remember that no emotional pit bulls inside are more powerful than God's grace and love! He will direct you to the right people who can help you find a baby's smile, spring violets, and fat-free, cholesterol-free chocolate!

CONFESS SIN

Let me add, however, that if any unconfessed sin in your life is contributing to your depression, go to 1 John 1:9 and deal with it immediately. Then, if thoughts of your past sins, continue to hound you, get professional help in laying them to rest. You should not tell everything you know about yourself or your family to anyone but your counselor or doctor, unless the sin that led to your depression was one that should be confessed before your church.

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

"My depression just hit me out of nowhere!" That may be true if you experience a death or divorce or flood or fire or a disease—especially certain kinds of viruses. My personal sieges stole upon me so insidiously that I cannot precisely pinpoint its origin.

You may not ever be able to pinpoint an exact event or time, either, but you will understand yourself more fully if you keep some kind of journal, as the Puritans often did. A journal will help you trace how you got to where you are. The Lord will help you examine your past so that your future self is far more useful to Him. Learn to put the unpleasant and unchangeable parts behind you. Claim the reality of Philippians 3:14 for the present.

DIG DEEPER

In looking at my own past, I have been able to understand why my adult life has been so full of non-specific, often-unreasonable

fears. All of my early years were spent in a house shadowed by war, separation and death.

I was born July 4, 1941, the baby of nine children. Within 6 months, my father had died, Pearl Harbor was bombed, and two brothers were shipped off to war. The first time a blimp came over our house, I became hysterical, sure that it was a bomb!

Then another brother went to Korea just as that war ended and later to Vietnam. And as poor people often did, we moved a lot. We were always saying "good-bye." Our lives were changed forever with my father's death. But we were also strong people who learned how to laugh and to love one another!

It has helped me, as it will help you, to understand that all of these environmental factors contributed to my insecurities and led to some of my depression. Dr. Frank Minirth's book, *The Power of Memories*, has been a good, Bible-centered guide-book.

MORE MISCONCEPTIONS

"Everybody's depressed." I disagree with that misconception! And some authors utterly depress me by sanctimoniously declaring that every person is depressed. Everyone who wanders into a depressed room occasionally, especially when she has suffered a loss, does not live in a House of Depression. Never try to work up a depression because it seems the "faddish" thing to do, or because of habit.

For example, I hate flying more than anyone who ever lived—who still flies, that is. Last year I flew to Amsterdam to meet my husband who had to spend a night there on his way to Africa. I wrote in my journal: "Lord, I hate to fly, so why did I agree to this trip because I had free miles? I am so stupid!" A few minutes later, I wrote, "Lord, I just realized something. I'm enjoying this flight. Do I psyche myself out before every flight to feel fear because something's missing if I don't???"

Once the Lord gives you victory in an area, don't pick up the old emotional baggage. I have met Christian women who think they are abnormal because they aren't depressed! If you are not, be

thankful and use this information to help someone who is.

“Depression is all in the head.” True depression is not imaginary. It is as real as cancer. Left untreated, it can affect sleep patterns, the ability to work or enjoy the pleasures of life, the stomach, the jaws, the back, and relationships. It can be as deadly as cancer, sometimes

destroying your body and life one part at the time. Or sometimes it kills you quickly by your own hand.

Depression is very real! If you can buy a new hat or cry through a love story or have a good laugh and feel normal again, you have probably just had a case of the blues. True depression doesn’t usually go away without your taking positive action to dispel it.

If you think you are depressed, then find a doctor who will diagnose your condition. If you believe that depression is just your imagination, you might believe the next myth, also.

“I can’t help the way I feel” My mother would say, “You can’t help getting lice, but you can help keeping them.” We cannot just snap out of depression on command, but we can focus on what the Word of God says and what the Lord promises to do for us. Then we can take positive action to change thought patterns long engrained in us, as I am learning to do about flying.

I’ve learned to dwell on the truth of what I actually know about a situation, because I have a lifelong history of thinking the worst is going to happen. Most likely, this is because of the insecurity of my childhood. Also, creative people’s imagination goes wild when they are unsure what’s going to happen next!

One day, I hope I can deal with situations without noting them on paper, but for now I do that. The scenario. I get an e-mail at bedtime. “Mom. Tried to call you. Can’t believe what’s happened. Don’t know what we’ll do. Love you.” I actually had that to happen via a phone call to London several years ago, a night I remember because I did not sleep at all.

Now I would print out the e-mail, write the word “entrust” on it and get in touch with the sender in the morning. “Entrust” is a trigger word that reminds me that our lives and our times are with the Lord. Besides, our children would call day or night if something were really wrong.

I am also learning that I can pray; but I

cannot be responsible for the happiness of everybody on earth, especially those in my family.

I can change my

reaction in various stressful situations. Gradually, my feelings calm down as I try to wait on the Lord to “lighten my darkness” (2 Samuel 22:29).

I know for a fact that I can help how I behave towards my husband, for example. When I behave with love towards him, I have a greater feeling of love for him. When I fold his clothes haphazardly and hope the wrinkles annoy him, I am setting myself up for a real bout of depression. When I deliberately make the choice to neatly fold his undershirts, something happens inside my heart. Even if he has highly annoyed me that morning, I find myself hugging the shirt to my face and thinking about how much I love him!

Good, healthy feelings will follow your actions. Yes, feelings that please the Lord and help you rid yourself of the variety of ramifications of depression. Make tiny choices, one at a time, and you will end up with a pile of changed thought patterns.

“Nobody wants to stay depressed.” Not so! Why do some people rather enjoy poor emotional health? Shedding one’s frazzled state of nerves means becoming a more spiritually and practically responsible person. Over the long haul, depression becomes a comfortable extension, just as a wheelchair begins to feel like a part of one’s body.

Make tiny choices, one at a time, and you will end up with a pile of changed thought patterns.

Remember Mayberry's town drunk? Carefree, funny Otis was totally without responsibility. He did not have to take care of his family or contribute to the decency of the town; he just had to keep himself in liquor and make it to his cozy cell for the night. Some forms of depression make you like yourself the way you are!

For example, if I am angry with someone, I can excuse myself for not forgiving that person because she has wounded me—a concept that is totally unbiblical in principle. It feels far better to carry a grudge than to lay it down at the feet of Jesus and say, "Lord, You forgave those who wronged You. I forgive." In doing that, however, you are now responsible for a new relationship towards that person.

You, too, can make changes, one little step at the time.

"I've tried it before; it won't work." Just your own efforts will not work, but God's grace never fails. So my next question is a simple one. Are you really sick of being depressed, literally and figuratively? I was. I never again want to dwell in despondency, bitterness, sadness and fear. That is not God's plan for me or you. Are you seriously willing to let God lead you out of your valley and into the land of the living?

We are not to live in a state of constant anxiety, but in a mode that is nurtured by prayer and thanksgiving to God; then, His peace will be the guardian of our lives and we can learn to think in a different way and enjoy His peace (Philippians 4:6-9). But you must want to move on before God can work with you.

A TOKEN FOR GOOD

I think that Naomi began to come out of her state of depression when the Lord sent her just a small sign that He had not forgotten her!

"Shew me a token for good" (Psalm 86:17). I pray that so often. In past years, I would look at almost everything and see only the horrific end of it all, which shows how depression dampens faith. Gradually, I have learned to ask for even the tiniest hint that God is making progress in my faith or attitude or in someone's life. One simple encouragement was a postcard from my prodigal brother. "Guess what? I went to church yesterday."

Can you see that "token for good" written upon Naomi's lined face when Ruth came home that evening with barley she had gleaned from the very field of Naomi's kinsman redeemer? No wonder she said, "Blessed be he of the Lord, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead" (Ruth 2:20).

I share a journal entry, not with any boasting, but to show you how the Lord has so marvelously worked in my life and enabled me to work through my own depression in recent years. I close with it and with the prayer that you will ask the Holy Spirit to work in and through your life, too. Right now, ask God to help you to desire a greater faith and make the changes you need to in order to be an effective light-bearer for Jesus, the Light of the world (Mark 9:24).

LORD, today, I'm thinking. What goes on in my mind when I am totally alone?

1. *I think about You most all the time in one way or another.*
2. *I listen to Christian music and messages by choice most of the time, sometimes 24 hours a day when Gene is gone.*
3. *I think about the Word more than ever.*
4. *I am concerned spiritually for my family all the time.*
5. *I think of Scripture a lot.*
6. *I pray all during the day no matter what I'm doing.*

Thank You, LORD, for reminding me of this today for Thy honor and glory.

Thank You, Lord, for always delivering people from their FEARS. You always say,

'Peace. Be still.' Thank You, LORD!❖

Feel free to share your feedback about her story with Genny Waddell at gwaddell@compuserve.com or at (615) 361-5137.



Words for Women

*Mary Ruth
Wischart*

*W*hat are you going to do now? People keep asking me that question. It has even become, “You haven’t decided what you’re going to do yet?” When I said clean out my closet, garage and attic, some pessimist suggested that may take the rest of my life!

“It is time to be old,/To take in sail!” Emerson wrote in his declining years. “Contract thy firmament/To compass of a tent.”

Now, I can relate to some of that when I look at all my “stuff.” Things. They tend to collect, especially when you’ve lived in one place for almost thirty years. I’d like to “contract” that stuff, get rid of some things. Even that is hard. What to get rid of, what to keep. What to give away, what to throw in the trash. Decisions, decisions.

True, I am older than I have ever been. I can relate to what John L Welch said when one of his church members called to wish him happy 85th birthday. “This is the strangest, most unusual birthday I have ever had,” he said. “Why, what has happened?” she asked. “I’ve never been 85 before,” was his reply.

Come November, I’ll have one of those birthdays. I’ve never been 66 before. The years go by and the world changes and I have changed. Of course we have to realize that we change. We have to adjust to change.

But for living, I rather prefer to Emerson’s poem Tennyson’s words from “Ulysses”: “Though much is taken, much abides; and though/We are not now that strength which in old days/Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are.” As he says earlier in the poem, “I am a part of all that I have met.” The years at

WNAC have been wonderful years for me. Every experience, every person has contributed something to my life and helped to make me what I am now. I am thankful to God for all that He has brought across my paths through the years.

Tennyson adds, “Yet all experience is an arch wherethrough/Gleams that untraveled world whose margin fades/For ever and for ever when I move.”

Whatever is left of life, I want to live to the fullest possible. Who knows what may be done in these next years? I remember one of my Spanish professors who at 105 was doing something new for him—writing poetry.

Today I face an untraveled path. I’ve never experienced retirement. I’ve never had to deal with social security, Medicare and whatever else lies along that path.

Ah, but I know the One who knows the path. God promises in Psalm 92:14, “They shall still bring forth fruit in old age.”

I claim my verse for 1998, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (marginal reading, “an end and expectation”) (Jeremiah 29:11). ♦



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