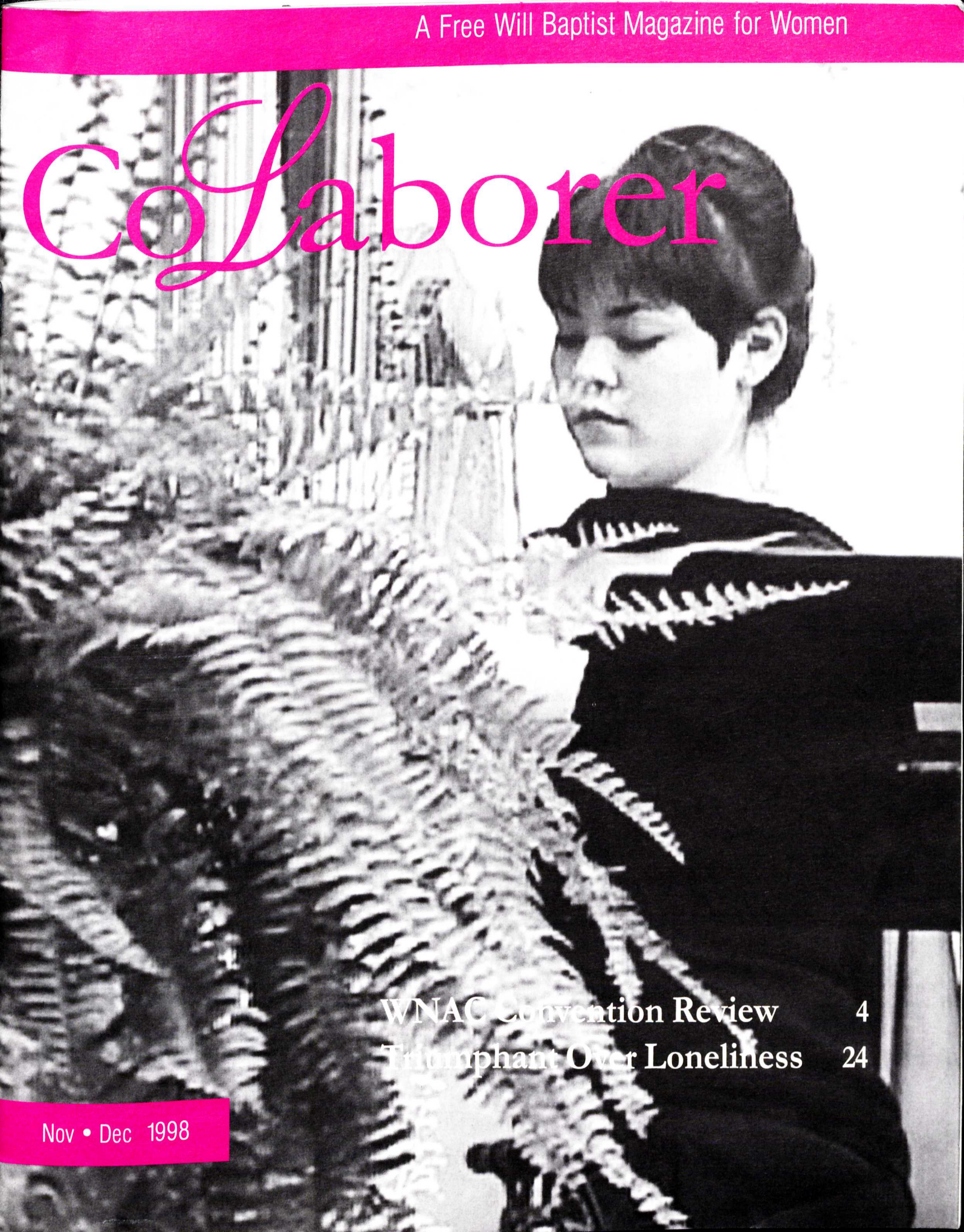


CoLaborer



WNAC Convention Review 4
Triumphant Over Loneliness 24

Nov • Dec 1998

VISION

Suzanne Franks

Gifts in abundance



If we are not careful, we fill our lives with activities and leave little time to enjoy the abundance of God's gifts. Peter, in his first letter, reminds his readers that time is short. "The end of all things is at hand," he says.

1 Peter, written to first century Christians suffering intense persecution, speaks to us today with the same freshness. Peter reminds us of some wonderful gifts we have received from God—new life, communion with God, relationships and spiritual gifts for ministry. In the same passage, we find instructions on how to use these gifts.

When we follow Christ, we receive a wonderful gift called forgiveness which includes a new lease on life. The terms of the new lease include freedom from our former lifestyle and the Holy Spirit as our comforter and guide. We now live for the will of God.

Peter continues with a warning about peer pressure. Those who live according to the flesh will make fun of the Christian's lifestyle. In spite of persecution, we have the gift of new life in Christ and the ability to live a pure life.

Once forgiven, a relationship with the Father is established. We receive the privilege of direct communion with the Father in Jesus' name. What a wonderful gift! Yet sometimes, we leave this gift unopened, collecting dust. In order to lay claim of the blessings God wants to give us, we must stay linked to our Father in Heaven through prayer. Peter recognized the need for serious and watchful prayer. Just as we expect more from a dear friend, as we get to know God better, we will naturally pray with greater expectations.

Peter's instructions about relationships are twofold: love fervently and offer hospitality without grumbling. In my neighborhood, just meeting the woman next door takes deliberate effort. To establish deep relationships, we must invest time and energy. To be good stewards of our relationships, we need to have the right attitude toward others—that is an attitude of love and hospitality.

God also gives spiritual gifts for ministry. Peter mentions two examples, speaking and serving. He delivers special instructions for believers to use these gifts in God's strength, not our own.

Proper stewardship of God's gifts will bring glory to His name—even in times of persecution, or better, **especially** in times of persecution. ❖

—1 Peter 4:1-11

VOLUME 38

NUMBER 6

NOV • DEC 1998

4

**DELEGATES ELECT
MARJORIE WORKMAN
TO SUCCEED
MARY R. WISEHART
AS EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY-TREASURER
OF WNAC.**

17

**KATI
IS A GRAND
LITTLE GIRL
WHO LOVES
A MISSIONARY COUPLE
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**THE ANSWER
FOR OVERCOMING
LONELINESS,
CLOSER THAN YOU
MAY THINK**

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Living Sacrifices

1998 WNAC Convention

Photographs provided courtesy of Eddie Payne, Support Director for the Foreign Missions Department.



Suzann Barker Harris narrates.



Top items on the agenda for July 13-14 included: (1) celebrate new beginnings, (2) worship together with consecrated hearts and minds. Records indicate 963 delegates and visitors registered for the 63rd Annual WNAC Convention which met in the Tulsa Convention Center.



AnnaGee Harris plays the harp.

New Beginnings: Special Service Honoring Dr. Mary R. Wischart

Tuesday morning, the spotlight turned to Dr. Mary R. Wischart to honor her for 13 years of service as WNAC's Executive Secretary-Treasurer. Extraordinary care was taken, down to the smallest detail,

in planning the program. The result: a genuine celebration of thanksgiving to the Lord for giving us this precious servant of God. A tastefully decorated stage provided the backdrop for flowing harp music and sincere words of affection.

Starting with a harp prelude medley of *Like a River Glorious* and

Take my Life and Let it Be, the service flowed from one tribute to another under the direction of the Harris mother-daughter team. Suzann narrated and AnnaGee played the harp.

Uruguay missionary Molly Barker spoke of Mary R. Wischart as her friend. She described her as a caring, thoughtful person.

Colleague and longtime friend, Dr. Robert Picirilli (FWBBC Academic Dean) spoke of her educational contributions to FWBBC. As a full-time faculty member for 30 years, she made a difference by giving herself to her students. "She is the kind of friend who accepts

you for who you are, yet at the same time influences you to become something better without ever diminishing you.”

Dr. Mary R. Wischart is known as a gifted writer, but she also wrote several hymns. Suzann Harris read the words to the hymn she wrote, *Emblems of They Condescension* while Carol Malone mimed footwashing. Lisa McGee sang one of Miss Wischart’s favorite hymns, *His Eye is on the Sparrow*.

Yvonne Hampton, Miss Wischart’s Executive Assistant, spoke of her as a professional enumerating many of her contributions to WNAC.

Jack Williams gave his perspective on her as a unique individual. They have served together as convention planners and on the Historical Commission.

Cross Timber Singers performed an arrangement of *Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners* for the offertory.

WNAC President Everyl Getz presented Dr. Wischart with airline tickets to Uruguay to attend the International Fellowship of FWB and a laptop computer with all the peripherals. And, fulfilling one of Miss Wischart’s longtime dreams, Everyl Getz announced that the balance of monies that came in for her retirement gift would start a fund in her honor for a new organ for Free Will Baptist Bible College. WNAC will continue to receive donations for this project.

Lorrie Carey lead the congregational hymn *To God Be the Glory* and closed in prayer.

WNAC thanks Laura Thigpen, Suzann Harris, Yvonne Hampton, Marjorie Workman and Randy



Mary R. Wischart presents a briefcase to Marjorie Workman, WNAC’s newly elected Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

Fosse who served on the planning committee for the service.

General Session

Devotion

Missionary to Brazil Jean Deeds spoke from the theme passage, Romans 12:1–2.

She contrasted the Old Testament sacrificial system with today’s command to be living sacrifices. “We are asked to offer ourselves to God—not as an offering for sin—but an offering of praise and worship and service.”

To become a living sacrifice one must go to the Word for renewal of the mind. Emphasizing the profoundness and extent of renewal needed in the unregenerate mind, Jean Deeds declared, “All our ideas about right and wrong, values that are a part of us from childhood, religious beliefs, even concepts of our culture so subtly ingrained in us must be examined in the light of God’s full revelation.”

“God wants us to savor His will,” noted Jean Deeds. “Who wouldn’t want to experience that which is good and acceptable and perfect?”

Music

Music coordinator Lorrie Carey led congregational singing. Sharon



WNAC President Everyl Getz presides at the General Session



Former missionary to Brazil Jean Deeds delivers the devotional Tuesday morning.



Dawn Sweeney reads the resolutions committee report. She is the newest member of WNAC’s executive committee

Beam accompanied on the organ, and Rita Wilson on the piano. The Rose family sang *I Have a Father Who Can* for the 9 a.m. session. Jan Clay, Tracy Payne and Sherri Sloan provided special music in the afternoon.

Business

WNAC President Everyl Getz presided during the general session which started at 9 a.m. on Tuesday. Oklahoma WAC President Jean Marie Rogers officially welcomed WNAC participants to Tulsa.

New WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Elected

Delegates voted unanimously electing Mrs. Marjorie Workman to succeed Dr. Mary R. Wischart as Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

Reports

Mary R. Wischart gave the Executive Secretary-Treasurer's report. In her report, she thanked all the executive committee members and staff who have served throughout her 13 years as Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

The resolution committee chaired by Dawn Sweeney submitted the following recommendations to the Women Nationally Active for Christ convention:

1. In 1998, to grant Silas N'Guettia in

marriage, and to the teaching and practicing of the truths taught in Ephesians 5:22-23.

4. To go on record as commending the Southern Baptist Convention for their stand on those same Scriptures. All resolutions carried.

Special Feature

Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 WNAC reconvened to experience Amy Carmichael's story, *Gathering Lotus Buds*. Actress Julisa Rowe (Artists in Christian Testimony) delighted and challenged the audience with her performance.

Fellowship Dinner

Each year the host state raises money to help with convention expenses. Oklahoma Women Active for Christ raised a total of \$14,000, half of it went for expenses. WNAC President Everyl Getz acknowledged Oklahoma WAC's decision to give to missions in lieu of decorations and favors at the Fellowship Dinner. As an example of living sacrifices, they gave \$7,000 to Oklahoma's Total Support Program which supports 25

WNAC Seminars

Monday afternoon, a total of about 400 women attended the two concurrent WNAC Seminars.

Stewardship of Life— Living Sacrifices

Debbie Burden, WNAC Executive Committee member, presided at the state leaders' seminar. Erma Williams from Ada, Oklahoma, spoke on total commitment. "Most Christians," remarked Erma Williams, "have not given up their agenda for God's." She emphasized the completeness of the Great Commission through the parable of the sower who spread seed in all directions.

Ministers' Wives Seminar

WNAC Executive Committee member, Joanne King, presided at the Ministers' Wives Seminar. She introduced pastor's wife Pam Flannagan from Shiloh FWB Church in Bratt, FL.

This mother of 5 daughters shared how Romans 8 related to her pain and healing as she dealt with the loss of her 16-month-old daughter. Through her journey, she learned surrender.

Pam Flannagan looked at three people who yielded to God's purpose. Hannah surrendered her mind and plans regarding Samuel. After Lazarus' death, Martha surrendered her heart, love and feelings. At Gethsemane, Jesus surrendered His will to the Father.

Pam affirmed, "God doesn't just want to make us victorious but to reveal Himself to us, that we might learn of Him and grow."

Convention attendees learned anew that true worship comes from surrendered hearts and lives. ❖

**WNAC Special
Feature: Actress
Julisa Rowe plays
Amy Carmichael
in *Gathering
Lotus Buds*
Tuesday
afternoon.**



**Oklahoma State
WAC President
Jean Marie
Rogers presents
Bill Jones with a
check for \$7000
for Oklahoma's
Total Support
Program.**



Côte d'Ivoire \$1,000 from the Foreign Student Scholarship Fund. (Note: This will be the last year he is eligible.)

2. In 1999, to give \$1,000 each to Robert Houessou and Paul Amieze for their studies at the seminary in Abidjan from the Foreign Student Scholarship Fund.
3. To reaffirm our commitment to the Bible as God's Word and as the guidebook for a happy and harmonious

state, home and foreign missionaries with Oklahoma ties.

Actress Julisa Rowe performed a monologue as Francis Ridley Havergal. The monologue consists of a personal testimony of Francis Havergal through the hymn she wrote: *Take My Life and Let it Be*—which is also the hymn chosen for WNAC's 1998 theme.

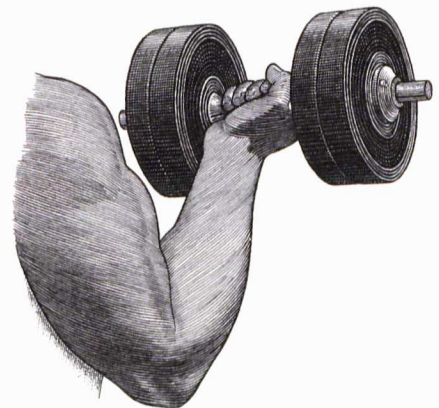
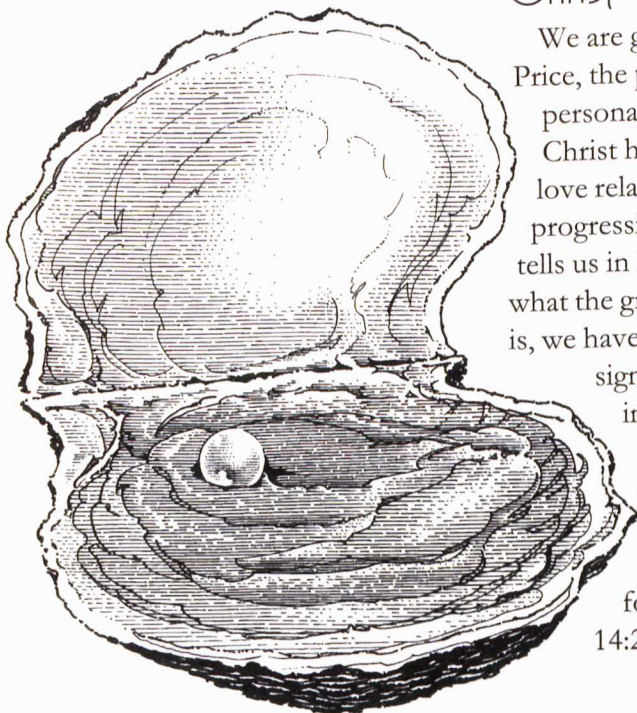
What's in Your Hand?

Cathy Coats

How trusting is the God of the universe in His children here on Earth! The hands of a woman hold many things in her lifetime. Let us view a few of these that God entrusts into our care.

Christ

We are given the Pearl of Great Price, the privilege of having a personal relationship with Christ himself. How is your love relationship with Christ progressing? Although Jesus tells us in Matthew 22:37–38 what the greatest commandment is, we have difficulty grasping the significance of these words in our daily lives. “To obey is better than sacrifice.” If you’re curious about the way God evaluates our love for Him, check out John 14:21, 23 and 1 John 2:4.



Character

Character is defined as a pattern of behavior or personality found in an individual or group; moral strength. Character is built within each of us, one building block at a time. We develop our character with each decision we make. Do I lie or tell the truth? Do I encourage or criticize? Do I gossip or hold my tongue?

Joseph and Daniel are noted for their character in the Bible.

Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and then thrown into prison for a crime he did not commit. But even while he was in

Scripture: Matthew 25:14–30, Luke 16:1–13, 2 Corinthians 8, 9

Purpose: To encourage stewardship with the things that God has placed in our hands.

Song: *Take My Life and Let it Be*

prison, God showed him mercy and he found favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. He was again elevated to a position of leadership within the prison. I think the unbelievers around Joseph took notice of him because of his outstanding character.

In Daniel's life, we see a man who looked to God for his convictions and who stood by them at any cost. Even the unbelieving kings were impressed by his work ethic and character.

If we really want to be a usable vessel for Christ, perhaps we need to spend more time building up our characters, and less time tearing someone else's down. You can't give character to another person, but you can encourage him to develop his own by possessing one yourself (Artemus Calloway). If you would like to be challenged in the area of character, read Genesis 37-45 and Daniel 1, 6.



Contentment

Women are pivotal in determining the atmosphere in the

home. If we are negative and critical of ourselves and others living in our home, we will reap a harvest of negative interaction with our loved ones. How can we show respect toward our husbands and children while we are yelling in their faces? If we want our homes to be filled with peace, we must pray and work toward that end each day. We must also realize that times of failure will come. If we can admit and confess our problem areas to the Lord, He can even use our weaknesses to teach us valuable lessons.

Who are we when the door is shut and only our family sees and hears us? What words come out of our mouths when no one is there to impress? I dare say this is the person we really are. What does the Bible say about peace and contentment in our homes? Read Proverbs 17:1.



Compassion

Who is your neighbor? Look around you tonight and you will find yourself surrounded by neighbors. Sometimes in our churches we are so focused on getting the gospel around the

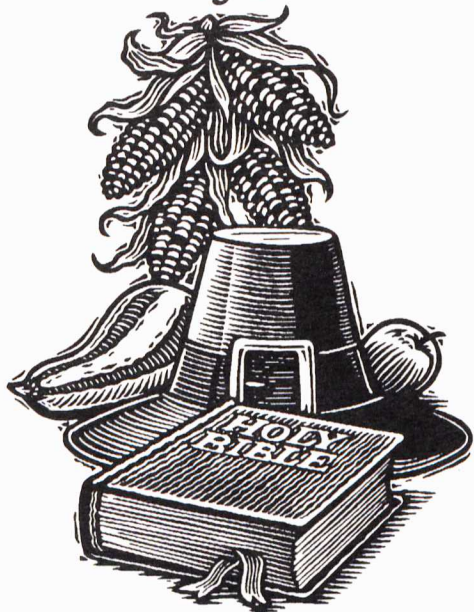
Sometimes in our churches we are so focused on getting the gospel around the world that we don't get it across the street.

world we don't get it across the street. Our neighbor lives next door to us, stands in the line behind us in the grocery store, works a cash register at J.C. Penney's ® and yes, is selling meats and vegetables at an open market in Africa.

How will the world know that we are Christians? Maybe they will know by the crosses around our necks or by the Scripture t-shirts we wear. Surely they will be able to tell that we are Christians by the number of times we attend church each week, or by the number of Christian CDs we possess. No! They will know that we are Christians by our love.

Compassion is love in action. Compassion will drive us to make great sacrifices, to take risks and leave our comfortable surroundings. Compassion becomes a pair of tennis shoes as you help an elderly neighbor run errands, or a home-cooked meal for someone who is sick. Compassion can take the form of a letter or phone call

Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for National Home Missions



November 16-20, 1998

- ♦ Plan ahead
- ♦ Publicize
- ♦ Order materials from Home Missions
- ♦ Pray for the Lizzie McAdams Memorial Offering for National Home Missions

You may duplicate the prayer calendar on pages 29-30 or order multiple copies from the Home Missions Department, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002

containing encouraging words to someone who is in despair.

Let us think on Chuck Swindoll's words in his book *Compassion*. "Others will not care how much you know until they know how much you care." The next time you meet someone who is in a distressing situation, read Matthew 25:40 to see what you should do about it.

Coins

The Lord has placed a certain amount of money into each one of our hands. We must be careful that we do not allow money, or the love of it, to become our master. How are you spending your money? Do you spend time seeking God's guidance before making expenditures? When we come to the realization that all of the money is the Lord's and that



He has just loaned us a portion for a period of time, we will take our job as stewards more seriously.

We can view money with a stinginess when it comes to the Lord's work and be like the man who said, "It's peculiar how a dollar looks so big when it goes to

the church and so small when it goes for groceries." Someone said that plenty of people are willing to give God credit, yet few are willing to give Him cash.

We can also misuse His money if we substitute giving for involvement in God's work. We should have a desire to give to the Lord's work. But sometimes it's far too easy to write a check instead of praying to ask God what He would have us do. If we go to either extreme, we are falling down in our job as stewards.

What has God placed in your hand? Are you laying up treasure here on earth or in eternity?

Use everything as if it belonged to God. It does. ♦

Kathy Coats lives in Rapid City, South Dakota. Her husband, Tim, pastors the Harvest Time FWB Church which was started under the Home Missions Board.

CONSECRATION

WHAT IS IT?

CLEO PURSELL

King David gathered vast stores of materials—gold, silver and precious stones—to be used in building the Temple in Jerusalem. Its worth has been variously estimated at between two and six billion dollars.

The Temple was to be set apart for the worship of Jehovah. David appealed to the people to contribute toward the cost. He reminded them that he had given generously of his own personal wealth, then asked: “Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the

Lord?” (1 Chronicles 29:5b).

Consecration is the act of setting apart a person or thing to the worship or service of God. The words **holy, saint** and **sanctification** also mean “set apart.”

The people followed David’s example and gave generously, bringing joy to his heart.



Song: *I Gave My Life for Thee*

Purpose: To help us realize that all we have and are belong to God and should be used for His glory.

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 29:5b

CONSECRATION MEANS SEPARATION

There is no consecration without **separation** from the secular and sinful, and setting apart for a sacred purpose.

In early Bible times, the Israelites were a holy nation, separated from the heathen, and consecrated to God's service.

The tribe of Levi and the family

personal holiness. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior" (Titus 3:5-6).

Holiness begins at conversion. The very instant one believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, he is set

Jesus said, "These things I have spoken unto you that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" (John 15:10-11). In this statement Jesus links obedience and joy. Joy results from obedience. Only those who are pursuing holiness as a way of life, will know the joy that comes from God—joy unspeakable and full of glory.

CONSECRATION IS DEDICATION

Sometimes in our pursuit of holiness, we focus on only one direction—**separating ourselves from sinful practices**. In Paul's letter to the Romans (12:1-2), he pleads with them to **present their bodies to God**, a living and holy sacrifice.

The bodies of Christians are temples of the Holy Spirit, consecrated to God and to be devoted to His service (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The surrender of the body means the entire self is yielded to

Our consecration of self to Christ is measured by our daily response to His love.

of Aaron were set apart for the service of the sanctuary. Before they could serve, they had to be cleansed and consecrated. This included atoning sacrifices.

In the New Testament, the apostle Peter ascribes to Christians the various privileges which had belonged to the nation of Israel. The whole Christian church is addressed as an elect race, whether Jew or Gentile. "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

God is holy and He calls every Christian to a holy life. One may be a good moral person, yet not be consecrated to God. We are not talking about sinless perfection. The best Christians can never in themselves merit salvation through their

apart from sin unto God. Then the Christian's obligation is to separate himself from sin and the world on a day-to-day basis—not an easy task in an unholy world. Often it is a slow, painful process. Step-by-step we grow as the Holy Spirit

Joy results from obedience.

points out sin in our lives and as confession is made to God. His purpose is to conform us to the image of His Son.

At times, it's hard to submit to the process He uses to accomplish His purpose. It may involve pain, suffering or testing. Our consecration of self to Christ is measured by our daily response to His love.

The idea that holiness is associated with a stern, rigid, unloving disposition is untrue. Despite self-denial, holiness is essentially a happy business!

God. He demands the ultimate surrender.

As we approach a new year, let us briefly summarize what we have studied through the year. Have we been faithful stewards? Have we presented our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable unto God?

OUR TIME

American Christians are always busy. We rush to and fro, but doing what?

We can get involved in many **good** activities, yet we may not be giving God the best stewardship of our time. Because our stewardship of time is limited at most to a few short years, it is important that we be diligent and faithful in the use of each day. The present is a time to pray, to do, to give. It is a time to fill our hours and days with self-sacrificing Christ-like ministries.

OUR FEET

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things" (Romans 10:15). A Christian should share the gospel of Christ wherever he goes. Paul says, "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time" (Colossians 4:5). He means we should make the most of every opportunity to tell others the Good News of the gospel. We should walk in the Spirit, walk in love and walk worthy of the divine calling to which we have been called.

Our feet should also lead us on errands of mercy to minister to those in sick rooms and hospitals. To the cold and hungry, the lonely and discouraged. Find a need and fill it, find a hurt and heal it. If we have not ministered to these, Christ warns us that we have failed to minister to Him.

Footprints of Jesus that make the
pathway glow,
We will follow the steps of Jesus
where'er they go.
If they lead through the temple holy
Preaching the Word,
Or in homes of the poor and lowly,
Serving the Lord
Footprints of Jesus
That make the pathway glow!
We will follow the steps of Jesus
Where'er they go.

—Mary B. C. Slade, 1871

OUR TONGUES

The tongue has been called the world's smallest but largest trouble-maker. James called it an unruly evil, full of deadly poison (James 3:8).

But the tongue can also be beautiful. With it we pray, praise God, teach the Word and encourage others. "The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary" (Isaiah 50:4).

How beautiful is your tongue? You don't look at it very often in the mirror. Neither Avon nor Mary Kay sells cosmetics for it. You do not have to diet to get it back into shape. Yet your tongue, more than the shape of your face or figure, or the beauty of your wardrobe, determines whether or not you are a beautiful person, serving the Lord in the beauty of holiness. A consecrated tongue is a kind tongue, a witnessing tongue and sometimes a silent tongue.

OUR WILLS

To a Christian, one of the most important questions in life is, "What is God's will for me?" Our Heavenly Father has a will for each of our lives. It is our responsibility to respond to that will.

God often reveals His will to us through His Word. However, we have to be careful when opening God's Word at random to find guidance. It can be dangerous.

A man in need of direction closed his eyes, then poked his finger on a text which read, "Judas went out and hanged himself." This shook him up! Not satisfied, he made

another stab, only to read, "Go thou and do likewise." Hoping for better results, he tried a third time and read, "What thou doest, do quickly."

Another man decided to marry a woman named Grace on the basis of the verse, "My grace is sufficient for thee."

Seriously, instead of using the **Lucky Dip** method, we need to read the Word of God regularly. In some places the Bible speaks plainly on a specific subjects or problems. We know without doubt that God has a will for us.

Other times you may feel you have done everything you know to do to ascertain God's will—you have studied the Word, prayed for guidance and sought advice from Christian friends—yet you still feel uncertain what God would have you do. In these cases, you can only step out by faith, confident that God will not allow you to miss His will. "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:6).

OUR TALENTS

God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well—sing, play an instrument, teach, write, sew, or organize—to name a few. Some say, "I don't have any talents," when the truth is that person may just not have developed his or her talents. The consecrated Christian develops her talents and uses them to glorify Christ.

OUR MINDS

The command that we should love the Lord with all our hearts, soul and mind, makes us responsible, not only for what we know,

but for what we might know. Our minds should not be cluttered and contaminated by evil knowledge. "... Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

OUR POSSESSIONS

We are constantly warned of the danger in seeking after material things, or selfishness and covetousness. The Christian's attitude toward material resources should be one of stewardship, not ownership. God owns all things. We simply use them or possess them temporarily. We must acknowledge

God's ownership by setting apart our tithes and offerings for the extension of His kingdom next door and around the world.

GOD'S GIFT

Christmas will soon be here with all the joy and happiness of the season. Gifts have been associated with Christmas ever since the wise men painstakingly carried gold, frankincense and myrrh across many weary miles to the infant King.

God's wonderful love to us is demonstrated in the sacrificial Gift of His only Son. The Lord Jesus

was rich yet became poor that we through His poverty might become rich. He gave Himself to die on the cross for our sins. The best Christmas gift we can give to our Heavenly Father is to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto Him. This is our reasonable service.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

—Isaac Watts

Cleo Pursell lives in Nashville, TN. She served as WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer, 1963-1985. She is a member of Laverne FWB Church.



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consequences

by Kara Hoffman

it looks so good, so easy, or full of pleasure. And just this once won't matter anyway. I can make it up next time, next week, tomorrow. And besides, I deserve a break, a reward, something out of life. Why should I do all the work and have no fun? As things go, what I'm doing is really not that bad. Surely not as bad as everyone else does. It's just this once. I'll stop tomorrow.

Only tomorrow never comes. We walk knowingly into the trap of sin and then, once caught, drag it around attached to us, unable to shake it off, like a rabbit in a snare.

Even when we pray, receive God's forgiveness and He removes the trap

from us (or us from the trap), the scar still remains.

Scars are ugly. Sometimes they even hurt. Sometimes scars never go away. Because, you see, there is always a reason, for our own good, that God says, "No. Don't! Stop! It's not worth it, my child."

He didn't give us our instruction book, the Bible, to be bossy, play power games or spoil our fun. He loves us, He knows all things, and He doesn't want us to have to deal with . . .

Consequences.

Kara Hoffman attends the First Free Will Baptist Church of Clovis, California. This piece was originally written for a teenage girl in her church.

A note from the editor: 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. 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 ❖



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator/Assistant Coordinator

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. For \$6.00 you may order the yearbook from WNAC.

Start preparing for the new year and January's Enlistment. In your publicity, emphasize that WNAC has a place for everyone. Every woman can learn and serve through a local women's organization. Other benefits include friendships formed and talents developed.

November is Home Missions month. Plan a season of prayer and take an offering for the Lizzie McAdams Offering for National Home Missions. Your time of prayer may be 15 minutes or longer each day the week before Thanksgiving. If you have women who live in different parts of town, perhaps your group would like to divide up according to where they live. Each group could meet at a home or other convenient place in their neighborhood.

In December WNAC's encourages local groups to support our national college: Free Will Baptist Bible College. The Paul Kettelman Memorial Christmas Fund Drive goes to help the college operate. Your contribution helps train future pastors, missionaries and Christian professionals. Send your special offering through the usual WNAC channels.

Secretary/Treasurer

Because of your job, you know the importance of sending reports, dues and offerings to the proper person every month. Perhaps your members are forgetful and have not paid their dues and you are waiting on a few to pay dues. Find a way to remind your women who haven't paid their dues without singling them out. Some treasurers make out a bill for dues once a year to give to each member.

National dues are \$10 per year and usually a district and state association require a small amount in addition to the \$10. Some may prefer to pay a small amount monthly. Most dues add up to less than \$1 per month. Find a system that works for you and your group.

Provision Closet Needs:

Queen and twin size
sheet sets

Queen and twin size
bedspreads

Queen and full
electric blankets

Bakeware

Corelleware®

Irons

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

Business Meeting Checklist

- ✓ Determine the goal of the meeting.
- ✓ Decide who needs to attend the meeting: all members, officers or committee members.
- ✓ Publicize the time of the meeting and the purpose for the meeting.
- ✓ Prepare a realistic agenda.
- ✓ Give a copy of the agenda to each officer a few days before the meeting.
- ✓ Arrive early to set up room.
- ✓ Start on time.
- ✓ Stick to the agenda.
- ✓ Discourage side discussions. If necessary, say something like this: "We are currently discussing _____. The _____ committee is in charge of _____." or "We will discuss that issue at _____ meeting."
- ✓ Ask questions to facilitate discussion.
- ✓ Keep a supportive attitude. However, you don't have to use every idea that comes up.
- ✓ Follow parliamentary procedure as closely as possible.*
- ✓ End on time.

*Order Parliamentary Procedures from WNAC (\$2.00)

Missions Chairman

A Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for Home Missions packet will be sent to the person who receives your *CoLaborer*. The packet will have a copy of the same prayer calendar on pages 29–30 of this issue and other information from Home Missions. Look over the prayer calendar and decide how many to order. If you prefer, the calendar may be copied and folded into three sections. Also, order prayer cards and directories from Home Missions.

Enlist a different person to lead in a season of prayer each day of the week of November 16–20.

Prayer Chairman

Work with the Missions Chairman to plan a successful Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for Home Missions. As you prepare for the November and December meetings, meditate on 2 Corinthians 10:3–5. Remind your women that prayer is warfare and God has provided us with weapons to fight the spiritual battle.

Service Chairman

Perhaps your women want to plan a special outreach through a Thanksgiving or Christmas meeting/party. This would probably be in addition to your regular monthly meeting because you would not want to have a business meeting at this outreach. If the goal of your get together is to reach out to non-Christians and unchurched, then the meeting should be carefully planned to make newcomers comfortable. Ask yourself, "Would I attend this meeting, if I only knew one person who will be here?"

The following are some suggestions for making newcomers feel welcome:

1. Recruit 1 or 2 people to be in charge of welcoming all guests and regulars.
2. Volunteers should help guests find a place to sit, offer them something to drink, etc.
3. Include a time of worship through music.
4. Have a devotional or program that would be interesting to everyone, especially the unchurched.
5. Avoid using expressions that only church goers would use, such as, born again, accept Jesus, get saved. It may be better to say, "Turn your life over to Jesus" or "Trust in Jesus as Savior." Don't assume everyone speaks "Christianese."
6. If you have a fun time at this meeting, plan a good ice breaker.

Study Chairman

Plan a special study on a Thanksgiving or Christmas topic. Perhaps a 1-hour study about advent. If your group wants a more long-term study, check out Philip Yancey's *Where is God When it Hurts?* (Zondervan, 1990). This book would make a good outreach. It addresses topics that interest Christians and non-Christians alike. Also, check the book review on page 23. This book will especially interest widows. ❖



the rabbit on my fridge

by Ruth Bivens

There is a rabbit on my refrigerator door. He is a big orange rabbit, standing up on his haunches. His front feet are yellow, his ears are two different colors. He has a bright green eye and a strange grin. On the upper corner of this coloring book page is the message "from Kati."

Kati is not my granddaughter. But, she is a grand little girl who loves this missionary couple. She writes us letters, draws pictures for us, and recently her Wednesday night class sent me a big envelope full of handmade get-well cards. Every time we go to the National Convention, Kati looks us up. She gives us hugs and fills us in on her latest news. She is special.

This morning as I looked at the rabbit, I thought of Kati's dad and mother. You see, Kati didn't come to love missionaries all by herself. Someone taught her.

Kati's folks wanted to teach her a love for missions, so they picked us to be her missionaries. They made sure that she met us. At the convention, they seek us out and bring Kati to see us. They tell us how Kati prays for us each night. They taught her to do that.

One day the Fannins will probably have a missionary daughter. If not, they will have done all they could to start her in that direction. She certainly will love missions and support them with her letters and prayers and money as long as she lives—because her folks thought that was an important part of her education.

I have always felt we should start showing children Kati's age the missionary challenge. Give them a love for a world that is lost without Christ. Let them see that they can have a part in reaching that world.

Invite a missionary home with you. Tell them to kick off their shoes and give them a glass of ice tea then listen to their stories. Make sure the children have a front row seat. Let them ask questions and get acquainted. Help them understand that missionaries are not some kind of super Christians. They are just normal people who may even have holes in their socks. But, they love the Lord and happen to serve Him in another city, or country.

Take your children on a mission trip. Visit a mission church or a mission field on a working vacation. Get them involved. Teach them to pray for missionaries and to write to them. And, if you dare, pray for the Lord to call your children into full-time service. What better job could they have?

Who knows, someday someone special might even send them a rabbit for their refrigerator door. ❖

Ruth Bivens is a home missionary serving in San Juan, Puerto Rico alongside her husband, Bud.

MK Provision Closet

The Provision Closet at WNAC has designated some space to store school supplies and other items that missionary kids can use. MK Ministries Coordinator, Tanya Harts, explains that there is a need for items for older (teenage) MKs especially. As needs vary, check with Tanya Hart or WNAC for current needs.



Suggested items:

- ♦ Walkman cassette players
- ♦ Backpacks

URGENT

memo

Call

Missions Hotline

615•731•3839

e-mail:

carole@nafwb.org

Lucy & Marge

(Marge and Lucy are at a table helping to pack Jeff and Sally for missionary service in Japan.)

Lucy: *(Starts to pick up plastic container)* Marge, could you help me lift this—Marge, you're crying. Whatever is wrong?

Marge: We're just packing up two of the dearest two people to me, and I—I-I *(bursts into sobs)*.

Lucy: Hey, wait a minute. Aren't you the very one who told me I should welcome change?

Marge: *(through tears)* I know Lucy, I know.

Lucy: And aren't you that person who assured me that God was in all this—for our good?

Marge: Yes, Lucy, I am the very one.

Lucy: Well, then?

Marge: *(drying her tears)* You know I want the Lord's will done. You know that I want Him to call workers, even from among us. But you know, too, that Sally was one of my best friends. We could talk together and enjoy the same crafts and—*(weeping again)*.

Lucy: Sally is one of your best friends. Just because she's going to Japan doesn't mean she won't be your friend anymore.

Marge: I know, but she's so far away, and she won't be coming back for years.

Lucy: Two at the most.

Marge: We can't hold those long telephone conversations and have a cup of tea together.

Lucy: No, I can see that there might be objections to \$100 phone bills added to the normal ones.

Marge: Packing up these personal items and throwing away some of these things she has treasured through the years, well, it just seems as though I'm throwing away part of Sally.

Lucy: Here, let me have those birthday cards. 1990. Dear me, imagine saving these through the years. Here's one from you. "We don't get older. We get wiser." Well, I don't know about that, fatter maybe. Here's mine. "One year follows another, and so do the inches." *(They laugh together.)* Well, that's easy to take care of. *(She makes a display of dropping the cards into the wastebasket.)*

Marge: Oh, Lucy—

Lucy: They're gone. Why save all those old cards? We'll send her some more next year.

Marge: Look, she's saved the little notes I sent her.

Lucy: *(Grabs them from her hand)* More weight for the recycling bin.

Marge: But that's a part of me you're throwing away.

Lucy: I'm not throwing it away. I'm recycling. Now, can we get on with packing this container? It has sheets, towels and washcloths. That's on the list Sally gave us. Look at these beautiful towels, Marge.

Marge: They are lovely, aren't they? I'm sure they came from the WNAC Provision Closet.

Lucy: Yes, I believe these sheets are some we sent just last month. When she sleeps on these, she'll remember that we are here caring and praying.

Marge: You're right . . . and two years will pass quickly.

Lucy: Maybe you can afford one ten-minute call during that time. And, hey, Marge. There's e-mail. Don't you have a computer at home?

Marge: Yes, Lucy, I do. We can keep in close touch that way.

Lucy: You know what? I'd really like to visit Japan, wouldn't you?

Marge: Of course I would. Once Sally and Jeff get there, I'll have even more reason to want to go.

Lucy: Think about it. Maybe we can save up our money and take an extended vacation trip. You could have that cup of tea with Sally. Wouldn't that be fun? Although I really don't think you'd like that green tea much.

Marge: It would be fun, green tea and all. And even more, it would be enlightening to see the work in Japan.

Lucy: When's our next WAC meeting?

Marge: _____ *(date of next meeting)* What's going on in that head of yours?

Lucy: Maybe we could ask the group to send us on a short-term missionary tour. You know, they'd pay the way, we'd bring them a report—and maybe a few souvenirs to decorate the shelves of the church library.

Marge: Lucy, you're impossible.

Lucy: Oh, well, just a thought, but you know me. I might give it a try. Come to the next meeting and see. ♦

Lucy and Marge is written by Mary R. Wisehart and Yvonne Hampton. This vignette can be used to publicize WAC meetings.

COMMUNICATOR

by MARY RUTH WISEHART



A Chosen Vessel

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain" (John 15:16).

When Marjorie was born at home in Bailey, North Carolina to Oscar and Sitha Hinton, they gave her the name of Marjorie Ray. Even then in 1942, God was preparing Marjorie Workman for the office of executive secretary-treasurer.

God claimed her as His own one evening after a church service. Her pastor's daughter urged her to join the church. Marjorie was unsure about going forward since she was only eight years old, but her friend convinced her that she should. Later at home, her father talked with her about her decision, explaining that being a Christian meant asking and accepting forgiveness for sin and committing oneself to Christ. When Marjorie said that was what she wanted, they prayed together and she credits her father with leading her to Christ. As the first person saved in her church under the age of twelve, she led the way for other young people to acknowledge Christ as Savior.

In her educational experience, God was preparing Marjorie. She graduated from Bailey High School in 1960 and headed to Free Will Baptist Bible College. Marjorie earned a B.A. in Bible and Missions from Free Will Baptist Bible in 1964. In 1986 she earned the M.S. in Guidance and Counseling from Tennessee State University.

Her marriage to a minister gave her further experiences in preparation. She met Eugene Workman at FWBBC, and they were married September 4, 1964. As a pastor's wife in Glasgow, Kentucky, 1964-1966, she worked in Sunday school, CTS, and as church clerk, plus all the duties of a pastor's wife.

God sent her to work part-time for Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions, 1975-1978. More preparation to serve in this office.

In 1978 she became dean of women at Free Will Baptist Bible College. For the next 20 years she worked with women students. All along God was preparing her to work in another capacity with women.

While Eugene served as pastor at Glasgow, Kentucky, Marjorie worked for the L. L. Morris Supply Company as bookkeeper, 1964-1966. From 1966-1970, she served at Hillsdale College, wearing many hats as dean of women, teacher, secretary and publications and promotional assistant. She can use all those skills in the WNAC office.

Marjorie Workman is no stranger to the women of WNAC. Having served on the WNAC Executive Committee for five years, she is familiar with the duties of the office. She has also served as state president in Tennessee and has held various offices in local women's groups. Obviously, she loves WNAC and Free Will Baptist women.

Teacher, pastor's wife, dean of women, bookkeeper, assistant to the purchasing agent, mother, wife, counselor—all preparation to serve WNAC. Her wide and various experiences have prepared her for the many hats she must wear at WNAC. The delegates in July voted unanimously to accept her nomination from the WNAC Executive Committee. She assumed her responsibilities September 1.

Get to know Marjorie personally. You will find her a delight.

She enjoys traveling and will have ample opportunities for travel. She always enjoyed sports. Maybe she will start a WNAC team!

Have you been admiring her clothes? I'll tell you a secret about that. Her husband chooses for her, and she always looks great. He has good taste.

The Workmans have two daughters, Regena Raylene Sizemore and Jennifer Janeen Beauchamp. They are enjoying two grandchildren, Andrew Alexander Sizemore, age three and Abigail Alicia Sizemore, one and a half.

Does Marjorie have a sense of humor? Ask her about her wig and you'll see. ♦

A Woman God is Using

Wilma Ankrom



66 Funny, I thought she had always been a Free Will Baptist,” I remember wondering as we chatted in a small Kansas hospital. Sister Wilma was entertaining those of us who had come to visit her during a brief hospitalization.

But, no, she said, “A school bus driver who had been bringing children home to the little Kansas town of Milan got a burden to start a Free Will Baptist Church.” Sister Wilma was working in the post office on a November day in 1971 when she was invited to come to the first service of the church meeting in a vacant church building across the street.

“Well,” she took up her story, “I said I would be glad to come and if I liked their doctrine, I would attend.” Sister Wilma paused, then added, “I liked it right off.”

Though Sister Wilma’s eyes mist over as she remembers how the church later folded. It was not the end of Wilma Ankrom’s loyalty and service to the denomination. She has been a stable and

supportive force among Kansas Free Will Baptists ever since.

Twice-widowed, Mrs. Ankrom has used her retirement time to travel the state and the nation. A severe medical crisis in 1990 caused many of us to think we had lost her. However, after two years, she slowly regained some of her independence. Now in her 80’s and limited in her traveling and frustrated by health that will not always cooperate, Sister Wilma still goes from one side of Kansas to the other any time she can catch a ride. She joys in seeing the business of the Lord carried on.

Her special loves have been WNAC and missions. Only the Lord Himself knows the many ways she has encouraged young people, supported missions at home and abroad, as well as our colleges. For over 15 years, she has held offices in state, district and local auxiliary groups, keeping all involved “straight” with her no nonsense, let’s-get-busy attitude. In 1996 after stepping down as a district officer, she was honored for her years of service.

When our family changed pastorates in 1991 and left Kansas, I thought I would never see Sister Wilma again in this world. Now we are not only back in Kansas, but in her home church in Hutchinson. I am thankful to the Lord that He has left her here for us. Her faithfulness is rock solid as ever, her passion for Free Will Baptists as strong as the Kansas wind. As her Swedish grandparents made Kansas their new land, so did Sister Wilma make Free Will Baptists her own. We are all richer for it.

Patricia Collins lives in Hutchinson, Kansas, where her husband, Larry, pastors the First FWB Church.

Women In Action



LeAnn Carriker (left), Louise Richmond



Cynthia Basham, Bertha Matthews



*Joan Warren (District President),
Leslie Banks (Missionary
Appointee to Panama)*

Oklahoma First Mission District Annual Retreat

The Oklahoma First Mission District met at the Best Western in Stillwater for their annual retreat on August 7-8.

A total of 44 registered with several others coming for the Saturday services. The Cushing Matherly Trio and Alta Tuttle and Sue Morgan from Blue Bell provided special music.

LeAnn Carriker, State Home Missionary to Norman, Oklahoma, spoke on "Stewards of the Walk." She spoke on Bible study and effective prayer.

The evening session ended with a Christian video, refreshments and game time. Afterwards the women broke up in groups for evening devotions.

Louise Richmond, Bertha Mathews and Cynthia Basham were on the retreat committee.

Dear WNAC,

I wanted to let you know how much our WNAC group enjoys the Lucy & Marge skits in our magazine. Thanks for putting them in our *CoLaborer*.

Patty Hennecke, Brunswick, GA

Dear WNAC,

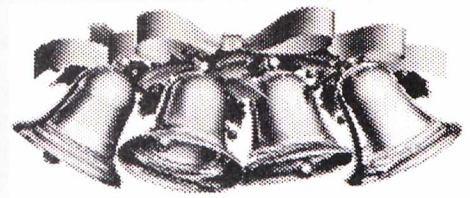
Thank you for all that you do to reach out to the world—for encouraging others to get involved in reaching out in so many ways. Thanks for the Provision Closet that helps so many people. Thank you for the support you give to us here in Mongolia. Your hard work is making a difference.

*Terry and JeNelda Walker
South Gobi, Mongolia*

Dear WNAC,

Just a note to say thank your for the support you sent to my account. I appreciate your faithfulness in supporting missions. Thanks also for the strong foundation you gave me in learning about missions.

Kim Zegilien, Bouake, Côte d'Ivoire



Christmas!

Mary R. Wisehart, Nashville, TN

Poet's Corner

Someone Needs Your Prayers

Louisa Godissart McQuillen, Philipsburg, PA

She peeked her head into my office door,
but time was rushing by. 'Twas after four
and I must soon be leaving for the day.
I beckoned her to enter anyway.
She came to tell me she'd be gone a while.
"I need to have some surgery," she smiled.
She didn't seem upset or cry or pout
and so I wished her well as she walked out.

But afterward my spirit sensed a need
that all of my good wishes couldn't ease.
I should have prayed before she left for home,
to let her know she wasn't all alone.
She needed comfort from the Master's touch,
for nothing else would help her very much.
Although she hadn't indicated fright,
she really needed Christian prayers this night!

And so I headed for her office door
in hopes that I might talk with her some more.
"I wonder, could we share a word of prayer!"
"O yes!" she said. We bowed our heads right there . . .

God always touches people in their need
if they will simply trust Him and believe.
When we just take the time to share a prayer,
it helps a soul to know that Jesus cares.

Christmas!

Just mention the word
And memories start
Like a warm tender flood
Through the mind and the heart.
How much we have shared
In our laughter and tears,
How dear you have grown
To me through the years.

Christmas!

Our thoughts turn to One
That first Christmas gift,
The gift of God's Son.
Announced by angels,
By shepherds adored,
Just a tiny newborn
Yet He was the Lord.

Christmas!

And still He's Lord of our lives,
Though no angels sing
And no star lights the skies,
Though sometimes the world
Seems darker than night

And we wonder alone
And long for the Light,
He's living in you
And He's living in me.
Fling out the banner
A dark world may see.
And now in this season
Our hearts lift and sing
For Mary's wee baby
Shall return as the King.

© 1995 Louisa Godissart McQuillen

—Isaiah 10:2

**Fourth Place
in the 1998 WNAC
Creative Arts Contest**

The Answer

Sue Crain, Skiatook, OK

I just can't think of the words
To make it clear to you,
How "let down" people make you
feel
When you've tried to live so true.

If you are like me
And I reckon that you are,
You get "let down" most every day
By people near and far.

Though you have done your level
best
To help make the world sunny and
bright,
There are always those who will
criticize
And somehow find a blight.

The world is so unfair my dear
It does not seem to care,
If by sharp words or deeds
It has crushed some blossom fair.

What can we do to right this wrong?
How can this be justified?
My friend, this will never be
'Til all on earth, have Christ inside! ❖



ON THE SHELF

***Loving Again
Advice on Dating
& Remarriage for
the Widowed***

by Joseph A. Ryan

Zondervan, 1991

***Reviewed by
June Wilkinson Hersey***

Much has been written on the subject of remarriage but most of it has been for the divorced. There is very little available that addresses this issue for the widowed. Ryan states that

during thirty-five years in Christian service, I have observed and supported many remarriages among the widowed, but I have not found much written to help them. This book was written to address that need. *Loving Again* is intended for men and women who are experiencing the stirrings of love after being widowed. It is also for those who are already remarried and need reassurance or insight.

The author interviewed many widowed ranging from age thirty-three to nearly eighty and related

some of the interviews. It is not a theological work but assumes a Christian world view with the belief "that a God who loves us, cares about what happens to us and has made provision for all our needs in the person of Jesus Christ."

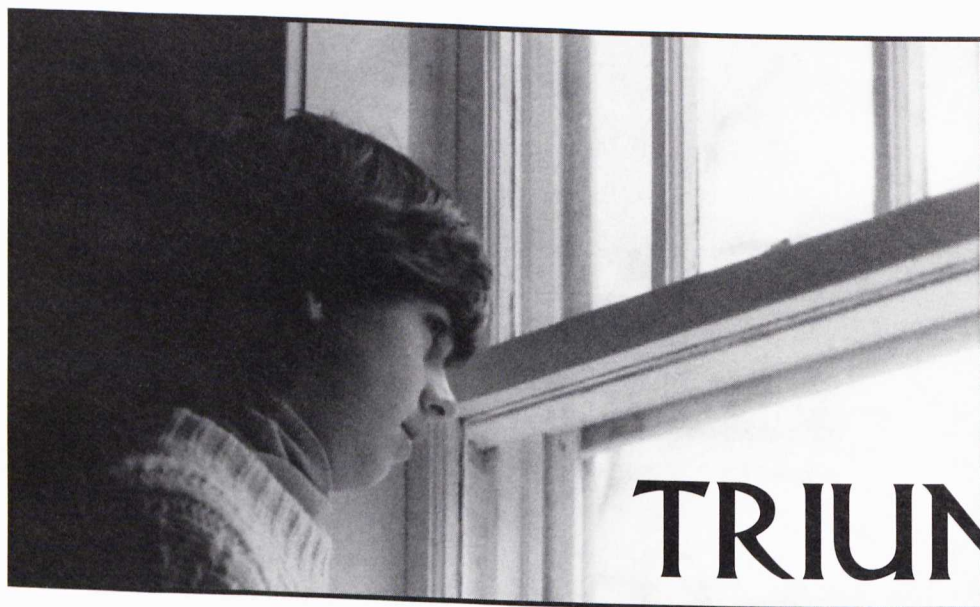
Here are some of the chapter titles: Coming Alive Again; The Dating Game, Me?; See a Counselor; Money, Money, Money; What Will the Children Say?; Busting Ghosts and Merging Lives; When It's Time to Say I Do; The Church and the Widowed.

I personally can testify to the help this book was to me when I was considering "loving again." I read it and gave it to my future mate to read also. We feel that we definitely benefited from its contents.

I think each pastor, Christian counselor, friend and adult child of the widowed would greatly profit from the wisdom on the pages of this book. It qualifies as a must for each church library.

At the end of the book one will find an interesting appendix, helpful notes and an extensive bibliography of other helpful resources. This book would make a good study course book for women's groups especially if you have a goodly number of widowed or for a senior citizens' workshop.

Studies show that by 2025, Americans over sixty-five will outnumber teenagers by two to one. Future and present pastors need to be prepared to minister to seniors, including the increasing number who will remarry after widowhood. This is a good book to begin with. ❖



YVONNE HAMPTON

TRIUMPHANT OVER LONELINESS

A recent psychological survey showed that 94 percent of people surveyed say they are lonely at times. One in four said they felt lonely some time during the preceding week. Pastor David Jeremiah calls loneliness the disease of our time.

WHAT IS LONELINESS

Loneliness nearly always involves hurt and pain. It's characterized by an empty feeling in the pit of your stomach. It's a craving or longing that needs to be filled.

In America today there are more people living than in all the years combined before the turn of the century. Yet more people than ever talk about loneliness.

No matter who we are, young, old, married or single there are times of loneliness in all of our lives. No one is exempt.

WHO IS LONELY

The mother . . . whose son leaves for college, or whose daughter just got married. The empty nest can be a lonely place.

The wife . . . whose husband travels. I work with several of them. You may not realize the sacrifice the wives' of our denominational leaders make as they live alone and rear their children alone. At times loneliness covers them like a blanket and they nearly smother under it.

The widow . . . Job describes death as the **king of terrors**. There's no time in our lives when we need friends more than when we're grieving.

The divorcee . . . When a husband dies, everyone rallies around, comforting, bringing food, sending flowers. But when there's a divorce (even if it isn't your fault) folks turn their heads and pretend they don't see the hurt. No one ever brought a casserole to the courthouse.

The single . . . They struggle to fit into a couples' oriented society. When I was single I found Sundays one of my loneliest times. Families went home for Sunday dinner and I ate alone. A single woman told about being lonely when her friends got married because they assumed she no longer had anything in common with them.

A friend described her feelings during a time of extreme loneliness in her life.

LONELINESS

Loneliness is such a hollow feeling. It's not something that can be shared with another. Joy can be shared. Even sadness. But loneliness . . .

Loneliness stands alone. Silently screaming. Tearing my heart. Squeezing out the tears. It stands staring at me, persistent, constant, unrelenting.

It leaves me wondering why. Why is an otherwise mature adult succumbing to this silent tyrant? Why is one who cherishes solitude and quiet feeling the sudden pain of loneliness?

I wonder from room to room wondering what it is I'm lonely for. Quietly, with certainty, it seeps in; I long for the confidence of a special friend, the understanding, the communion, the love. And I ache. I long for wholeness.

The Lord of the universe once felt what I'm feeling—**pain, alienation, loneliness.** He knows where I am. And He loves me through my hollowness, in my pain. He can bring peace—the peace of One who has overcome the world, including loneliness. He can fill this hollowness with His love. After all, He is love.

—Anonymous

The married . . . Women often think marriage is a cure for loneliness. Some soon find a gulf between them and their mate and they can't communicate at all. That can feel even more isolated and lonely than being alone.

The elderly . . . These folks feel unneeded, in the way, useless, forgotten. Surprisingly, elderly men comprise the largest group of those expressing extreme loneliness.

The newcomer . . . to church or community. When I first started attending my church, I sat in the pew alone for over a year. A single friend said that sometimes she goes to church services and not one person talks to her. Transition is very difficult without folks who smile and extend a friendly hand.

The sick . . . 80 percent of adult Americans will experience illness this year. Whether it's a tonsillectomy or a terminal illness, it can make us feel very lonely.

The student . . . College freshmen are listed as the second largest group of lonely people. For the first time they are away from home, parents, siblings, church, all familiar surroundings.

Those in ministry . . . These folks have a hard time letting others see them as real people with real feelings (including loneliness).

The missionary's child . . . They feel isolated because they're different. Often they don't know their relatives very well because of long separations.

The forgotten . . . Visit the rescue mission, jail, battered women's shelter, juvenile detention center if you want to see lonely people.

Any servant of God, missionary, preacher's wife or national offices employee (even WNAC employees) knows something about what the missionary described in the box below.

We all know lonely people. They're everywhere. Perhaps it's your pastor's wife, or your parents. Maybe it's you.

A single missionary described her feelings

In my 20 years of service, I could never get close to anybody at home to really call them a friend. People would pray for me when my prayer card came up but they couldn't pray for me as someone they really knew. On deputation I never confessed an honest human weakness to anyone. Nobody would listen to that. It was embarrassing to them. A life of faith has no human frailties, so they assume, and to admit them would destroy their ideal image of God dominating the human spirit, so they kept me above all that. They would not allow me to come down where they were and I had to be up on some pedestal in order to maintain their trust in me as their missionary.

Deputation was often a time of tears for me. I desperately wanted people to accept me into their inner circles as a person, not as a super human frontier warrior. I wanted to cry with them, laugh with them. I wanted to have them do the same things with me. Instead, we met, we talked, we passed each other, I did my act, they applauded, and that was that.

OVERCOMING IT

Ultimately only God can help us be triumphant over loneliness . . . but he always asks us to first help ourselves.

Let's think about some things we can do.

Admit you're lonely. We're afraid to let others see us as we really are. We wear masks. Admitting we're lonely doesn't make us weak or unspiritual. Admit it to yourself. Share it with a friend. They may be surprised to hear us say it. We may find it's the beginning of overcoming it.

Be a friend to others. "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly" (Proverbs 18:24). God is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. But sometimes we need a friend with skin on.

We all have **contact friends**, (neighbors, co-workers, fellow church members) and **casual friends** (Those with common interest, they sit in our pew, attend our Sunday school class or PTA, or they're parents of our child's friends). But what we need most is **close friends** (those with whom we share common goals: someone from work or church, a sister, a husband). And **committed friends**: They know what you're like and love you anyway (warts and all). Folks without close friends and committed friends are the loneliest of all.

Cultivate the art of listening.

One of the best ways to make friends is to learn to listen. If we learn the skill of asking questions and listening attentively, we will have friends galore. Everyone likes to have someone around who listens well.

Take care of unfinished business. Some women are lonely because of unresolved family problems or broken relationships. Rather than confront the problem, we withdraw or avoid being around the person. We refuse to forgive. Resolving problems can be sticky and awkward but it's far better than being isolated from your family or friends.

Make the most of lonely times. Though you may be alone, you don't have to be lonely.

You can . . .

- ☺ Read the Bible, Christian literature, newspaper. Become an interesting person that others enjoy being with.
- ☺ Run or walk. Exercise is a great way to lift your spirit.
- ☺ Write. Keep a diary, write to family, friends, and missionaries.
- ☺ Make audio and video tapes for family members.
- ☺ Avoid depressing music, TV shows, and depressing people.
- ☺ Decorate your home at holidays.
- ☺ Take up a hobby.

"Perhaps loneliness is factory installed by God to remind us of our need for Him," says Jack Williams. God wants us to depend on Him. Only He can help us to ultimately be triumphant over loneliness.

TRIUMPHANT IN CHRIST

Some Bible heroes experienced loneliness at times.

From the sound of some of King David's Psalms, he did. He was separated from his best friend, Jonathan, and pursued by King Saul who wanted him dead.

Joseph's brothers hated him. He was taken to a strange country with people who didn't know him. He missed his father.

Jonah was lonely. You would be too if you were in a whale's belly.

Poor Elijah thought he was the only one left who hadn't bowed a knee to Baal.

"Loneliness is one of the terms of our humanness," says David Jeremiah.

In order to allow God to help us be triumphant over it, we must first accept our loneliness as a pathway to knowing God, a highway to holiness, a doorway to patience, and a gateway to service.

Pathway to knowing God

The way we really learn to know God is by being alone with him. Silence is very uncomfortable in our society. If we aren't with people we turn on the radio or the TV and use them as audible wallpaper. It's just there, filling the void. Remember, only in quietness can

**WE ALL KNOW
LONELY PEOPLE . . .
THEY'RE EVERYWHERE.
PERHAPS
IT'S YOUR PASTOR'S WIFE
OR YOUR PARENTS
MAYBE IT'S YOU.**

God speak to our hearts about our deepest needs, build character and give peace. "In quietness . . . shall be your strength" (Isaiah 30:15).

Highway to holiness

Elizabeth Elliot says there is a sure way to be triumphant over loneliness, and that's to make our loneliness an offering to God who can transform it into something good.

In those hours when we think we can't stand being lonely, we can pour out our loneliness to God. When she was grieving over her husband's death, Mrs. Willey told God, "I'm giving this loneliness to you as offering, Lord. Make of it what you want for me." If we learn to do this, God will make us triumphant.

Doorway to patience

Most of us are very impatient. You know the prayer, "Give me patience, Lord, but hurry." Waiting is almost impossible unless we are learning at the same time to find joy in the Lord, to commit everything to Him, and to be quiet before Him.

Missionary Amy Carmichael tells about a time when she learned to be patient before the Lord. She fretted and worried as she and an older missionary couple waited many days for a boat to take them to an appointment. She finally turned it over to God when the older couple calmly said, "Be patient, **God knows about the boat.**" He knows about your boats too, and about that special friend you're waiting for, and your critical financial situation, and everything else that causes you to be impatient. Isaiah 40:31 says, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles."

Gateway of service

God's choicest servants are those who have suffered greatly. When we experience loneliness ourselves, we can feel deeply for fellow sufferers in a way others can't. Your own feelings of loneliness can lead you to the door of others who are lonely. According to 2 Corinthians 1:4, "[God] comforts us in all our tribulation that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted."

**LONELINESS
IS ONE
OF THE TERMS
OF OUR HUMANNESS.
—DAVID JEREMIAH**

CONCLUSION

God has the **only** real cure for loneliness. He offers friendship, family, a sense of belonging and peace that passes understanding.

A friend writes: "The Lord of the universe once felt what I'm feeling—**pain, alienation, loneliness.** He knows where I am. And he loves me through my hollowness, in my pain. He can bring peace—the peace of One who has overcome the world, including loneliness. He can fill this hollowness with His love. After all, He is love. He can help me to be triumphant over loneliness."

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:14).

Yvonne Hampton is WNAC Executive Assistant and Circulation Manager for CoLaborer.

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MISSION ALERT:

Evangelism News from Around the World

Fairbanks, Alaska

Ron and Janice Wallace arrived in Alaska this spring to encourage a small group of believers in Fairbanks and build a church. They write, "The most common question we hear is, 'Have you spent a winter here yet?' We are visitors until we survive the first winter, only then are we thought of as residents." The Wallaces also report that new people visit services almost every Sunday.

San Diego, California

John and Donna Smith with the help of two other families are busy planting a church in the San Diego area. They have seen several saved through Bible studies. In June they started a Wednesday morning Bible study in the legal offices where Donna works. The Smith's daughter and son-in-law, Ewa and Todd, work with the children and youth in this budding work.

Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

Jeff Crabtree reports on Vacation Bible School. They had twelve workers and a record of thirty-seven children attend on Thursday and Friday. Forty-six children from thirty-three families attended at least once during the week. The plan of salvation was given every day in almost every class.

Twenty-three attended worship service Sunday morning following VBS. Included was a family of five who visited as a result of VBS.

Tokyo, Japan

Ken and Judy Bailey praise the Lord for providing a Japanese pastor for the Iriso church. Rev. Seiji Sabuta who recently graduated from seminary assumed the pastorate in June. Rev. Sabuta has a wife, Yoshiko, and 4-year-old daughter, Mayu chan. They have started several new ministries, including an outreach to the unsaved English class members and their families. Sunday school attendance has also increased.

Nine American high school and college students held special evangelistic meetings at the Iriso church and several churches in Hokkaido. Many unsaved heard the Gospel, some for the first time. Fred and June Hersey traveled with the group—translating and handling travel plans.

Madrid, Spain

The Turnbough and McVay team write about their current ministry with the Villalba church. Their goal is to strengthen the local church through "evangelistic outreach, discipleship training and further on-the-job training for believers in the church." Two new homes have opened up for Bible studies.

Agnibilekrou, Côte d'Ivoire

Elaine Holland reports that 120 people attended youth camp August 10–14 in Agnibilekrou. Pray that the young people will remain steadfast in their commitments. Ask the Lord to bless Ernest Holland and the other workers as they minister to the youth. ❖

19—Thursday

Free Will Baptist Helping Hands Team

Brother Howard "Hap" Gwartney is a full-time church builder under the umbrella of National Home Missions. *Helping Hands* is a group of Free Will Baptists who have chosen, during their retirement years, to participate in this ministry on a purely voluntary basis. This team travels throughout the United States to help build churches for the home missionaries and to work on other churches as needed. These workers come from all walks of life, but they have one common bond—that of making their lives count for God. At a time when many sit back and rest, these precious saints have chosen to travel and work for the Lord. Many have volunteered over the years and had the thrill of being part of this special work for the Lord.

- **Pray for traveling mercies and good health for these workers.**
- **Pray that more volunteers will answer God's call to this ministry and become a vital part of this unique group.**
- **Pray that many more will continue to see the witness of God's love through the labor of these faithful servants of God.**

20—Friday

All Home Missionaries and Chaplains

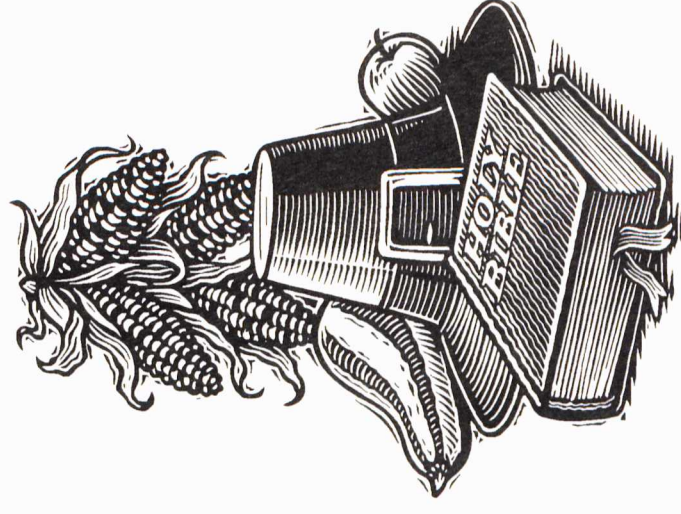
Among all the integral areas that make up the Home Missions Department, the missionaries are of prime importance. Without missionaries there would be very few church planters. At present there are 59 Home Missionaries and the Lord is calling more to come. This figure does not include the growing number of Tentmakers and Aquila and Priscilla workers. Tentmakers pastor churches while working another job. The Aquila and Priscilla workers are those who leave their comfort zones and move to various areas to work with home missionaries in helping them start churches. Planting a church from the very beginning requires a lot of hard work and dedication in every way from each member of the families.

A total of 8 chaplains are serving in the Army, Air Force and Navy. These men come in contact with a wide range of people from all over the world. A shining light for the Lord is extremely important in this wide-open field.

- **Pray for all our Home Missionaries, Tentmakers, Aquila and Priscilla workers and their families as they labor in many ways daily for the Lord. The fields are white unto harvest and we need to plant as many Free Will Baptist churches as possible to aid in spreading the gospel.**
- **Pray for our chaplains and their families as they travel and as they deal with those from various backgrounds and walks of life. Ask the Lord to guide them and give them confidence to speak boldly to those in need.**

Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for Home Missions

November 16–20, 1998



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

16—Monday

Lizzie McAdams

Offering for Home Missions

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

The Home Missions Department is committed to the work of the *missionaries* and *chaplains*, *church planting* and *church growth*, *Church Extension Loan Fund/Build My Church*, *missionary builder*, and the *cross-cultural ministry*. The opportunities for reaching the lost are unlimited. The Lizzie McAdams Offering becomes a part of the Benjamin Randall Offering for November 22, 1998. This offering goes to underwrite the various ministries of the National Home Missions Department.

- **Pray that everyone will give with a joyful heart to further the many ministries that are a part of the National Home Missions Department.**
- **Pray about your part in this year's Lizzie McAdams Offering for Home Missions.**
- **Pray for the Home Missions staff and board members.**

17—Tuesday

Cross-Cultural Ministry

The National Home Missions Department is responsible for implementing, directing and supervising the Free Will Baptist Cross-Cultural Ministry.

Dr. Paul Park, Free Will Baptists' first Korean minister, is one of the newest additions to this ministry. Brother Park has conducted evangelistic meetings, and labored on military bases, in schools and churches in South Korea and throughout America for many years. Because of his excellent reputation, he is in constant demand as an interpreter for evangelists and missionaries both in America and Korea.

He is presently pastoring a Korean Free Will Baptist church in Southern California. Approximately 500,000 South Korean immigrants live in California, with 70,000 in Orange County alone. Dr. Park will be a key figure in planting Korean Free Will Baptist churches across America and South Korea.

- **Pray for Dr. Paul Park and wife, Velina, as they work together to further the gospel among the Korean people.**
- **Pray for all the home missionaries as they minister to many ethnic groups in their individual areas of service.**
- **Pray for opportunities to reach the newcomers and internationals in your own hometown.**

18—Wednesday

A New Concept in Church Planting

National Home Missions, California State Mission Board and the West Coast Association Church Planting Board joined together to sponsor a "Seedling Project." As a result, Keith Bartlett and family have been approved to go as home missionaries to Castaic, California. Brother Keith plans to plant a church with an associate pastor who will also be training in the church planting process. Once the initial church is firmly planted, the associate will plant another Free Will Baptist church and the process will begin again. Several Aquila and Priscilla workers will accompany the Bartletts to work in this mission church.

Terry Hardison and wife, Margaret, have been approved by the board to plant a Free Will Baptist church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They plan to concentrate their work in the western part of the city where the growth is greatest. Two of their daughters and their husbands are joining them. Michael and Christie Ray and Mitchell and Lori Strickland are going as Aquila and Priscilla workers. Michael and Mitchell are Free Will Baptist preachers. This presents yet another opportunity to establish a solid church from which others can be established within the next few years.

- **Pray that this new concept in church planting will be a positive and an aggressive one to combat the constant efforts of the devil.**
- **Pray for each of these families and those who are going with them to help in the work, that their efforts will be rewarded with souls for Christ and new Free Will Baptist churches taking root in various areas.**



Words for WOMEN

*Mary Ruth
Wischart*

*W*ell, here it is. My last column as executive secretary-treasurer for WNAC. I'm looking toward the future, anticipating what God will do among Free Will Baptist women in the next century.

If I could wish and make it come true for WNAC, what would I wish? I hope that WNAC will always be true to its purpose and always be concerned about ministering to women. I can make a wish list that goes on and on, but here are only a few wishes for WNAC and Free Will Baptist women.

First some short term goals.

\$32,000 by 2000 for the organ at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

\$100,000 in the WNAC Endowment Fund by 2000 and a continuous growth that assures the national work of funds to pay expenses.

Workshops or seminars training young women for future women's work among us.

A strong contingent of women actively praying.

Some goals may take a few more years.

An active woman's group in every Free Will Baptist church and mission involving all the women in the group.

Women's groups in the five countries where we do not now have women's groups.

Groups as warm centers for welcoming, encouraging and helping women grow in the knowledge of the Lord.

Women advisors to at least 1,000 Young Women Active for Christ groups and a 1,000 more for Actionette groups in our churches. I wish for publications, including a magazine for each age group.

Women concerned about supporting Free Will Baptist higher education so that we can train these young women for the careers they choose.

WNAC involved in working with and encouraging single women missionaries with visits to the field and special helps.

WNAC sponsoring short-term missions workers at home and abroad.

Women's groups reaching out in their communities, especially to the strangers among us.

Organized, professional care for elderly women—help with health concerns, finances, living conditions.

Ministries to women in jails and prisons, whole segments of women sometimes ignored.

You say I am wishing for the impossible. I don't think so. We have a good start on the organ fund. Let's get that money in quickly.

The endowment fund now has a little more than \$10,000. Just ninety women or groups giving \$1,000 would make it \$100,000. The interest would help take care of expenses for the national office.

Can we help single women get to the field and encourage them in their work? Let's get concerned about them, listen to them and assure them that we value their ministries and we value them as persons.

Can WNAC begin sponsoring short term mission work for women? Why not? If the funds come in for support, we can concentrate on doing some exciting ministries.

What areas of service and ministry are we missing in our own communities? Jesus commissioned all of us to be witnesses wherever we are.

What are we doing to train and encourage our young women? Remember the 1999 theme is Passing the Torch. I hope to see district, state, and regional leadership training conferences.

I've seen what God can do through women when they depend on Him and follow His leadership. Of course these jobs are too big for us to do as a small group of women. But if God says do it, we can accomplish whatever, no matter how big the task.

My last wish is that we would realize the potential that is ours through prayer and dependence on God. When the work seems too big, impossible, remember that we serve a great God who has promised to lead us, supply our needs and help us accomplish His work in our world.

"Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you" (Joshua 3:5). ❖



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