

CoLaborer

4 WNAC Retreat: Order My Steps, Lord
7 He Leads Me

Jan • Feb 1999

VISION

Suzanne Franks

Change!



As I puzzle over the blank pages of my 1999 calendar, one word keeps coming to mind. Change. We live in a world rapidly changing. Like in the Risk © games we used to play as kids, yesterday's world map looks so different from today's. Can we guess how tomorrow's geography textbooks will look? The world will keep changing, perhaps even at a faster rate each day.

Today, I received a letter requesting a donation to provide Thanksgiving meals for the homeless at a local rescue mission. The letter reminds me of how so many people live on the edge of financial disaster. Mothers struggling to provide for children. Nations ravaged by war. An entire global economy delicately linked together by complex structures of supply and demand.

David penned numerous Psalms during times of extreme turmoil. He took some bumpy rides on the roller coaster called life. More than once the political world exploded around him, his family life crumbled. Yet during these times, David penned some of his most eloquent poems expressing complete trust in an unfailing God.

Read Psalm 2 and you will see today's kings and rulers conspire against God, just as they did then. Picture a people held captive in chains and tied up with ropes. They want to break free. Kings and rulers make war, but they can't overthrow God. The ungodly live by their own rules. "Stand up for yourself. Gain wealth and power by whatever means you can. Look out for your own." Chaos corrodes society.

How can we hold on and keep working during turmoil, uncertainty and bumpy rides? Like David, we can point to the God of Psalm 18. He is a Rock, Fortress and Deliverer.

This Rock—more like a large boulder—is hard, solid. Bullets cannot penetrate the solid Rock. Hiding behind the Rock, we are safe.

Our Fortress is built on a solid foundation. Not built necessarily for comfort, a fortress offers protection from outside attackers.

Our Deliverer does more than protect us from our enemies. He heals us and offers us a better way of life. A way of holiness, peace, joy.

I don't pretend to understand all the whys and hows. To do our part as responsible citizens, we need to be more aware of what is going on outside our borders. In our own community we can give our responsible vote, money, time and talents. However, we can offer more than bread and medicine. We point to the One who gives eternal hope. ❖

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7

**"Many people
are trying other things
to quench
their thirst
instead of turning
to God."**

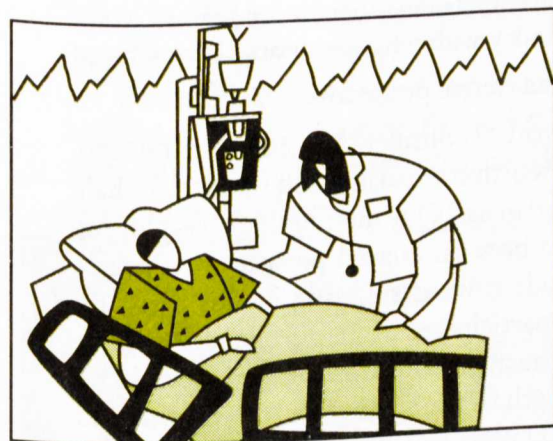
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**Jesus' actions
serve as a model
for His followers
to emulate.**

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**"God
began to speak
to my troubled heart
there
in the early hours
of that morning,
there in that hospital
room . . ."**

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Order My Steps, Lord

WNAC's Tenth National Retreat

Thursday afternoon, the registration area in Pritchell Hall at Ridgecrest Conference Center teamed with women arriving for WNAC's Tenth National Retreat held September 24-26, 1998. The final tally revealed 539 women registered. Attendees left refreshed spiritually, emotionally and physically. Every element of the retreat, especially the worship and messages, incorporated the retreat theme: Order My Steps, Lord.



Alice Smith (foreground), Pam West and Judy Bryan at their displays

Led by Grace

Glenda Revell spoke three times. Though an author, speaker and registered nurse, she stressed that she is, first of all, a wife and mother.

Mrs. Revell told her story of how God drew her to Himself through severe and tender mercies of a loving God. What she calls severe mercies included childhood emotional and physical abuse, anorexia nervosa and other consequences of a broken past.

"As a mother," Glenda explains, "sometimes I have to withhold good so they can receive the best. God never makes a mistake, but He deals with us in the context of a sinful, fallen world. All because He wants to prosper us and give us hope for the future." Her testimony can be summed up in her own words, "God wove together tender mercies and severe mercies because He knew exactly how much I needed of each to form the chord with which He would draw me to Himself."

Through His tender mercies, the Great Physician healed her of anorexia nervosa. Later,

through a gospel tract, He turned around her plan to commit suicide.

In each of her messages, she pointed women to the Savior who knows, cares and heals. After a time of personal testimony, she shared some of the following things God taught her.

1. Trust in the sovereignty of God. Don't go around complaining about second causes. Trust Him today with whatever heartache you have.
2. Keep an eternal perspective.

Paul said, "I consider that our present suffering is not worth comparing to the glory that shall be revealed in us." One memorable object lesson illustrated how an eternal perspective changes our attitude toward suffering in this life. The audience participated by helping her decide how much of the stage would represent 50 years, if the entire length of the stage were to represent 100 years, 1000 years and eternity. Fifty years is but a moment compared to eternity.

3. Focus attention from self to the Savior.
4. Suffering, hope, joy and glory are constant com-

panions. Share in His sufferings in order to share in His glory.

5. Control my thought life through the divine power which is given to me.

This can be accomplished through Scripture memory, singing songs of deliverance, reading spiritual books—especially the Bible, giving thanks, praying, doing something for somebody else, and resolving to stop complaining.

6. Recognize that my feelings have nothing to do with my position in Christ. Make **will** king and **emotions** servants.
7. Offer my suffering to God as a unique sacrifice.
8. Chose forgiveness in order to leave the past behind.

Glenda summarizes many of her remarks with the statement, "In complete self-abandonment, I must trust the results to God."

Many women eagerly purchased her books, *Glenda's Story: Led by Grace* and *With Love from a Mother's Heart*.

Introducing Marjorie Workman WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer

WNAC President Everyl Getz introduced Marjorie Workman, the new Executive Secretary-Treasurer of WNAC. Mrs. Workman gave her testimony of how God has led her steps from Bailey, North Carolina to Antioch, Tennessee. The Lord led her as she surrendered her life to Him each step of the way.

Surrender took her and her husband to a mission church in Glasgow, Kentucky. Then to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College and Free Will Baptist Bible College.



Choir sings at Missions Service

While at FWBBC, Mrs. Workman wrestled with her decision to leave the job she'd had for 20 years. During a Bible Conference service, Jeff Gaskins spoke on finding God's will. He appropriately spoke to the college students. Then he directed his remarks to older people in the audience with whom the Lord might be dealing. He used an example of a couple who had their own business and gave up everything to follow the Lord's leading to Mongolia.

Their example confirmed her decision to follow the Lord's leading to the job of WNAC's Executive Secretary-Treasurer. The Lord also confirmed her decision in other ways.

Mrs. Workman exhorted the women to support her. "The Lord put me here. It's up to you to keep me here. I need your prayers...help...creativity."

Marjorie Workman concluded with the following encouraging words. "No matter what kind of world conditions there are, we can be victorious in Him. I think the women are strong. I think the women are the backbone of our nation. I think mothers are the backbone of our homes."

Missions Service

WNAC member-at-large Debbie Burden prepared and presided over the missions service.



Glenda Revell, keynote speaker



Laura Thigpen (left) visits with Mirial Gainer at her (Mirial's) display



Susan Forlines, music coordinator, chats with Brenda Bunch and LaRhonda Bowerman (background)

She invited everyone to pretend they were peeking into the following missionaries' diaries: Rhoda Snow (Côte d'Ivoire), Susan Wheatly (Kentucky), Tammy Lancaster (Uruguay), Judy Bryan (Côte d'Ivoire), Mirial Gainer (Japan), LaRhonda Bowerman (Panama), Brenda Bunch (Panama), Cathy Corley (Russia), Alice Smith (Côte d'Ivoire).

WNAC President Everyl Getz narrated as each missionary gave testimony of how God directed through circumstances or delivered in danger and sickness.

"God has used all of these unique circumstances that sometimes appear to be attacks of Satan rather than the activity of God," says Debbie Burden. "We serve an infinitely wise and loving Lord who is able to order their steps through danger, disease, delay, dilemmas, doors, difficulties, doubt, and even disruption. This same God is even now at work in our lives."

Under the direction of retreat music coordinator, Susan Forlines, a mass choir of women brought special music during the missions service. They sang, *God Leads Us Along*.

Debbie Mouser played the piano, and Sue Patton, the organ for every service. Beverly Welch wrote a chorus especially for the retreat with the title *Order My Steps*. The chorus is based on Psalm 119:133. Each hymn, chorus, solo and ensemble praised our Father and blessed the hearts of the women.

Fun Time

Though the fun was not limited to one hour on Friday morning, attendees probably laughed harder than they had all year during the planned fun time. WNAC member-at-large, Joanne King, directed the fun time. Many women were good sports and got to take a special t-shirt home. The t-shirts were made especially for the retreat with the theme and dates printed in lavender. The most unique feature on the t-shirt was the date, "September 24-36, 1998." Figure that one out.

Next year, WNAC will have a western retreat at Glorieta, New Mexico. The dates are September 24-26, 1999. Mark your calendars now!❖

Tape Order

1998 WNAC Retreat, Ridgecrest, NC

You may place an order for any of the tapes below:

Please indicate how many you want of each. Make checks payable to WNAC.

Each tape is \$4.00, which includes postage and handling.

Quantity

- ☐ Glenda Revell: Thursday Afternoon Session
- ☐ Glenda Revell: Friday Morning Session
- ☐ Glenda Revell: Saturday Morning Session
- ☐ Marjorie Workman, WNAC Executive Secretary
- ☐ Missions Service

Total Order _____ @ \$4.00 = \$ _____

Please print your name and address clearly below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

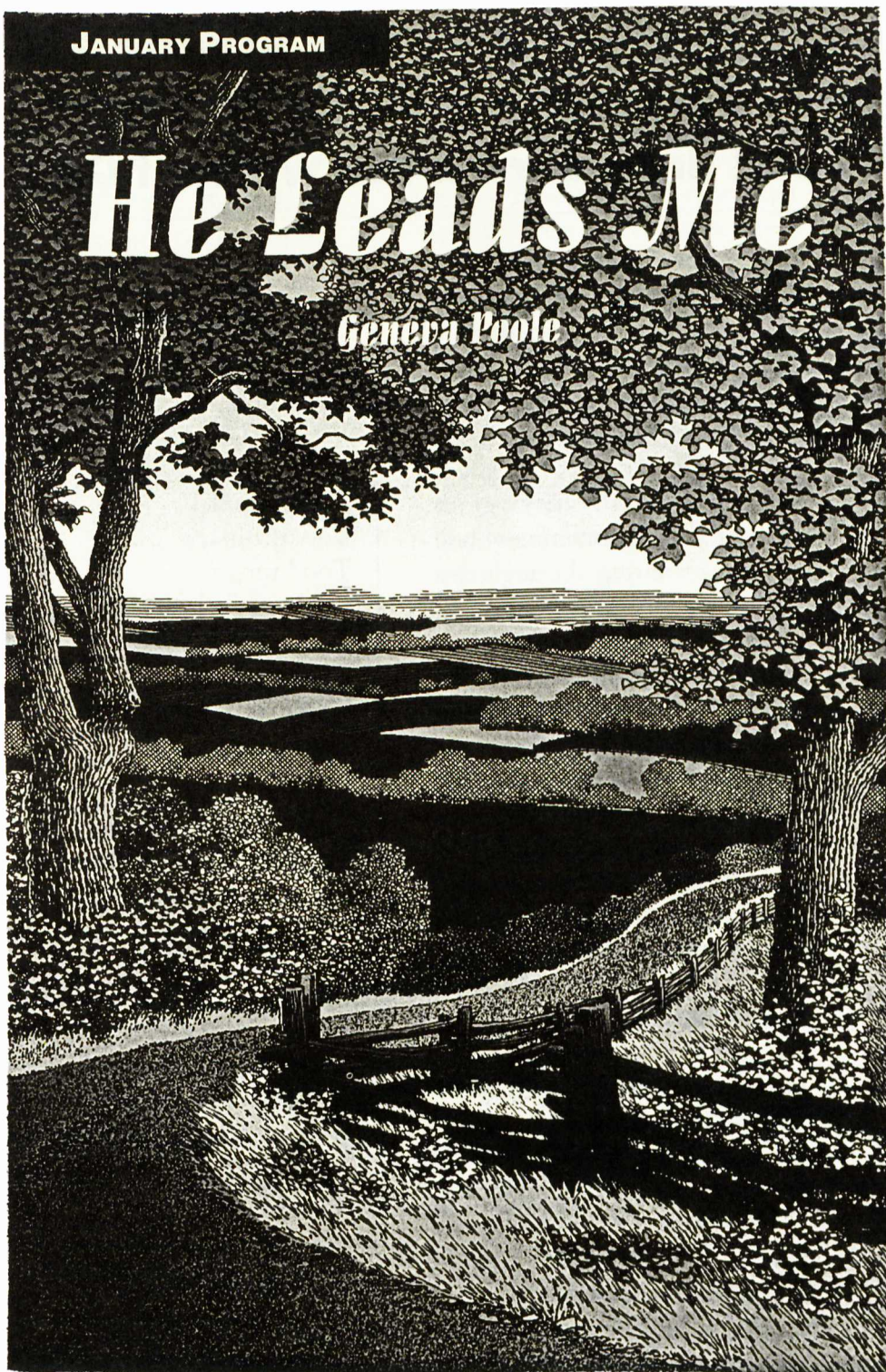
Call 615-731-4950 ext. 211 or mail order to:

WNAC
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

JANUARY PROGRAM

He Leads Me

Genera Poole



Scripture: Psalm 23

Purpose: To show that Jesus the Good Shepherd desires to lead His sheep. To bring each woman to desire with all her heart to follow Him.

Song: *Gentle Shepherd* or *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

An African man, who after he had seen (perhaps for the first time) some girls sewing, prayed: "Dear Lord, Thou art the needle and I am the thread." Evidently, this expressed his desire to follow the Lord each step as the thread follows the needle in each stitch.

To be led by our Shepherd we must first of all be willing. It seems many don't want to follow the Shepherd. Somehow it goes against the grain. Even as we stay busy about the work of the Lord, we prefer to direct our own lives, do what pleases us, instead of waiting for the voice of the Shepherd. Then, when troubles come, we cry out to the Shepherd for help.

It seems some of us are unable to bring about His control over us. To be led by the Shepherd is a simple matter of faith and acceptance. Just as we invited Christ to come into our lives initially, we must by faith give our lives over to Him to be led by Him. Then having done this, we simply proceed to live and act and think as He directs us. "Easier said than done," you say. In fact,

The Christian who is often the most serene and able to cope with perplexities of life is the one who rises early and drinks from the Word of God.

how many of us say we have done this, but still hold back? Are we in dead earnest about letting Christ the good Shepherd lead?

David having been a keeper of sheep, understood both the needs of the sheep and the many cares of a shepherd. In Psalm 23, he compares himself to a sheep—a weak, defenseless creature—and sets forth the Shepherd's great love and care for him. In this Psalm we find in two verses the words "he leadeth me." Let us take a bird's eye view of these two portions of this Psalm to learn more about ourselves as sheep and the Shepherd's leading.

He Leadeth Me Beside the Still Waters

Sheep thrive in dry, semi-arid countries, but they still require water. If a sheep does not get the water needed, dehydration results. The animal becomes weak and may even die. Sheep, as any other animal, are made aware of the need of water by thirst. When sheep get thirsty they become restless and begin a desperate search for water. If they are not led to good, clean water, they will drink from any polluted water hole they can find, thus picking up parasites.

Philip Keller, in his book *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, says that water for sheep generally

comes from dew on grass, deep wells or springs and streams. Sheep can go for long periods of time, especially in cool weather, without actually drinking, if heavy dew rests on the grass each morning.

Sheep normally rise before dawn to feed. Sometimes they will graze during the night by moonlight. Through this early morning grazing, the sheep can take in enough water from the vegetation drenched with dew to keep themselves healthy.

Sheep, by habit, rise early. You may have observed that the Christian who is often the most serene and able to cope with perplexities of life is the one who rises early and drinks from the Word of God. Didn't Jesus say, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink"? Biography after biography of great men and women have attributed the early morning quiet time as the secret to a deep spiritual walk with Christ.

Like water to the thirsty refreshes, so does a time of meditation and communion with Christ refresh the mind and spirit, bringing one under the Shepherd's guidance.

As we look at America today, we find that many people are trying other things to quench their thirst instead of turning to God. Education, career and sports have become a God to some. Many

My Shepherd

My Shepherd is
The Lord!
Who is the Lord?
Is He too small,
Too cramped,
Too ordinary,
Too human
For me to allow Him
To have authority
Control
Ownership of my life?
Indeed not!

The Lord!
Think of who He is!
The person of Christ
His power
His achievements
His love
His care
His concern
Then from the heart
Gladly state
The Lord is my Shepherd!

I am His sheep
He is my Shepherd
The one who gives power
To live an abundant life
Under His leadership
In harmony
With His wishes;
To let Him control,
Manage
And direct
My every decision.
The Lord is my Shepherd.

turn to drugs, alcohol and sex. We live in a sick society. Only the Spirit of God and the life of Christ will satisfy the thirsty soul.

He Leads Me in the Paths of Righteousness

The shepherd always leads the sheep. He never drives them from behind. Rather, he is always in front. Isn't it good to know that the Good Shepherd leads us instead of driving us? We can expect Him to lead us each day as the shepherd leads his sheep to the pasture.

People who know sheep tell us that sheep require careful handling and detailed direction. They are notorious creatures of habit. If left alone, they will follow each other over the same trails until they become ruts. They will graze the same pasture until it turns into wasteland which becomes infested with parasites of all kinds. In a short time the whole flock can become infected with disease.

The good shepherd is aware of all this. He knows he has to keep the sheep constantly under his control and guidance. He knows that the best safeguard is to keep the sheep moving from one pasture to another.

This must be what David had in mind when he spoke of being led in paths of righteousness.

Keller also said that it is no mere whim on God's part to call us sheep since our behavior patterns and life habits are so much like that of sheep. Just as sheep blindly, habitually, stupidly follow one another along the same little trails until they become ruts

that erode into gullies, so do human beings cling to the same habits that ruin lives.

In John 10:10 the Good Shepherd says, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." How can we have that abundant life? It takes a desire to follow. It takes turning from our own ways to His way.

Many times we persist on going down the old path and grazing in the old polluted pastures. Our world and even the church family is full of such people. Broken homes, broken hearts, worthless lives and warped personalities provide constant reminders of the way men and women have gone their own way.

Our lives do not have to be that way. Jesus said, "If any man will follow me, let him deny himself daily and take up his cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34). Relatively few "Christians" are diligent disciples who forsake all to follow the Master.

Jesus never said that it would be easy to follow Him. Let's make Romans 6:13 a reality in our lives, "Yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

Conclusion

Do you remember the story about a great actor and a simple servant of God? In a meeting where a sizable group was present, the actor was asked to recite the 23rd Psalm. He said he would if the preacher would also recite the same Psalm after he had finished. The preacher agreed.

The actor was a great orator who had a clear voice and convincing gestures. The people heard him with much attention and enthusiasm. When he had finished, everyone clapped and clapped and clapped acknowledging that he really was a great orator.

When his beautiful voice was silent, the pastor, already an old man, stood up and began to recite the Psalm. His voice trembled; he did not use any gestures. Sometimes he even hesitated as if he were thinking about the marvels of the Psalm.

The Lord seemed to speak to the people using this servant, for when the pastor finished, no one clapped. Instead, most were crying. Many heads were bowed. While the old pastor spoke, the Good Shepherd became real to them.

The actor got up again. Putting his hand on the shoulder of the preacher of the Gospel, he said, "Friends, I spoke to your eyes and ears, but this man spoke to your hearts. The difference between the two of us is this: I know Psalm 23, but this man knows the Shepherd of Psalm 23." ❖



Geneva Poole and her husband, Bobby, have served as missionaries in Brazil for 38 years. Among various other tasks, Geneva has taught Bible college classes, has developed vacation Bible school materials and illustrates gospel truths with chalk drawings.

Loving the unlovable

Joan Warren

Jesus cares about human needs. Though He is Savior and Redeemer of the world, part of His designed mission is to meet the physical needs of people—people who are society's shunned, people who are unlovable.

Jesus cared

Read Luke 4:18–19.

While in the synagogue, Jesus read Isaiah 61:1–2. Then he told His hearers, “This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears.”

This ministry was verified in the words He spoke to erase the doubt of John the Baptist, who had been imprisoned. John's messengers were told, “Go and shew John again these things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor

have the gospel preached to them” (Matthew 11:4–5).

Jesus' actions were not just a sign to demonstrate His Messiahship. They serve as a model for His followers to emulate. Compassionate service to the “unlovable” has been passed on to us, and will receive a commendation from Jesus Himself. Following are only a few areas of ministry today.

Brutal businessman

Read Luke 19:1–5.

Jesus passed through Jericho on the way to His last Passover. No

doubt His nearing death was uppermost in His mind. Yet He still had time to seek out one of His “unlovables!”

Zaccheus cared more for money than for honor or duty.

He was chief publican (tax collector) over a large area and over other publicans. A Jewish publican was classed with thieves, for most of the tax money collected for Rome went into his own pocket. Zaccheus likely received a

Song: I Will Serve Thee

Purpose: To show that if we follow the leadership of Jesus Christ, we will love and minister to others, especially those who are “unlovable.”

Scripture: 1 John 4:7–10

portion of the others' collections as well as his own.

He sought Jesus, even to the point of forgetting his pride to climb a sycamore tree. Jesus sought him too; called him by name. Jesus changed a heart that was full of greed, unscrupulousness and bitterness.

God loves the unlovable businessman. The arena of business is one of the most difficult for Christian ministry. Many people in the workplace have no desire to find Jesus, and may be antagonistic. They may create unpleasant situations, conflict, stress.

We can best minister by imitating Christ's attitude and behavior. Jesus presented Himself and His ideas in a positive way. When He disagreed with His enemies, He explained His position thoroughly. Sometimes His explanations resulted in a personal attack. They said He had a devil.

The same thing can happen in the business world today. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can meet conflict without impairing our Christian witness.

Our bosses should be able to expect loyalty and an honest day's work. But we should not be expected to carry out assignments that are illegal or immoral. If this should happen, we have the right to explain our point of view.

In some cases, a Christian stand against conflicting values in the workplace has resulted in a change of work practices. Other times, the Christian employee decides he must look for another job.

Jesus' example of compassion on the brutal businessman is our example to love and minister to the "unlovable."

Woeful widows

Read Luke 7:11-15.

As Jesus approached the city of Nain, He met a funeral procession. The only son of a widow had died.

Jesus saw her grief and had compassion on the widow. She would be reduced to utter loneliness and poverty by the death of her only breadwinner and object of love. Jesus raised her son from the dead.

The religious leaders who were commanded in the Scriptures to provide for the widows, instead, considered them easy prey, and had taken away their homes and livelihood (see Matthew 23:14). Perhaps they extorted large sums of money from them or took over their estates.

Pretenders to holiness still target women, particularly elderly widows who are easily taken in. Unscrupulous ministers maintain their extravagant programs because of the sacrificial giving of widows.

Too often the Christian church inadvertently treats the widows as unlovely or unlovable through neglect. According to James 1:27, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction..." "Visiting" here means to see to their needs.

Many widows are without family to see to minor things, and are lonely and needy. These widows are appreciative of the slightest good deed done for them. While social programs are established nationwide, they do not take the place of genuine personal interest, compassion and sharing of oneself.

Ministry to widows

- ♦ Provide a Bible study in or out of the home
- ♦ Schedule a trip to a local place of interest
- ♦ Volunteer to deliver meals through a senior citizen organization
- ♦ Pay a friendly visit
- ♦ Invite her to dinner
- ♦ Help interpret Medicare or Medicaid requirements

Aiding adults

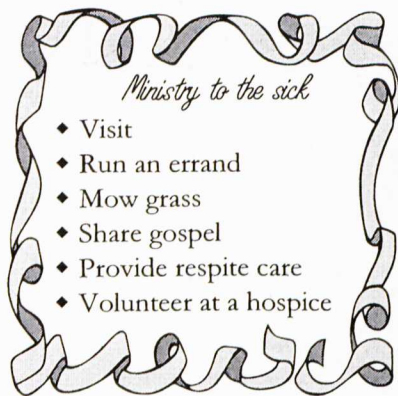
Read Matthew 8:2-3.

Jesus had just delivered His great "Sermon on the Mount." As Jesus came down from the mountain, a leper met Him outside the city as required by Levitical Law. A leper had to live apart from others, wear clothes that were torn, bear his head, and put a covering upon his upper lip. He had to cry, "unclean, unclean," when anyone came near.

Leprosy was an abhorred and loathsome disease. This vile, unclean person had the temerity to approach Jesus, saying, "Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean." Jesus deliberately reached out and touched him, saying, "I will, be thou clean."

Leprosy was feared in Bible times. It ravaged and mutilated the body in some cases, like cancer and other debilitating diseases do.

Those who have loathsome or terminal diseases are part of the unlovely and unlovable to whom the Christian can minister. We can offer hope for eternal life to those who are closest to eternity by visiting and ministering to them.



Ministry to the sick

- ♦ Visit
- ♦ Run an errand
- ♦ Mow grass
- ♦ Share gospel
- ♦ Provide respite care
- ♦ Volunteer at a hospice

When a patient's time on earth is short, many are prepared for death. But families in denial make it more difficult for them. Hospice helps prepare them for the trying days to come.

Volunteers are always needed to provide respite to the family members who must devote so much of their time to the loved one. A visit brightens the life of both patient and family.

These "unlovables" need the touch of love, the ministry of hope, the gospel of salvation, the fellowship of the Christian. A few hours a month could make the difference of eternity.

Condemned criminals

Read Luke 23:39-43.

When it was time for Jesus to die, He was suspended on a cross between two thieves—perhaps as a deliberate plan to further humiliate Him. Both men were equally guilty. But one sank deeper into his iniquity, jeering at Jesus, sarcastically adjuring Him, "If thou be Christ, save thyself and us."

The other thief rebuked his fellow criminal, knowing that they both deserved to be punished according to the law of the land, while Jesus was guiltless. This man seemed to feel some remorse for his sins, and had faith that Jesus

could stand up for him in eternity as he was standing up for Him now.

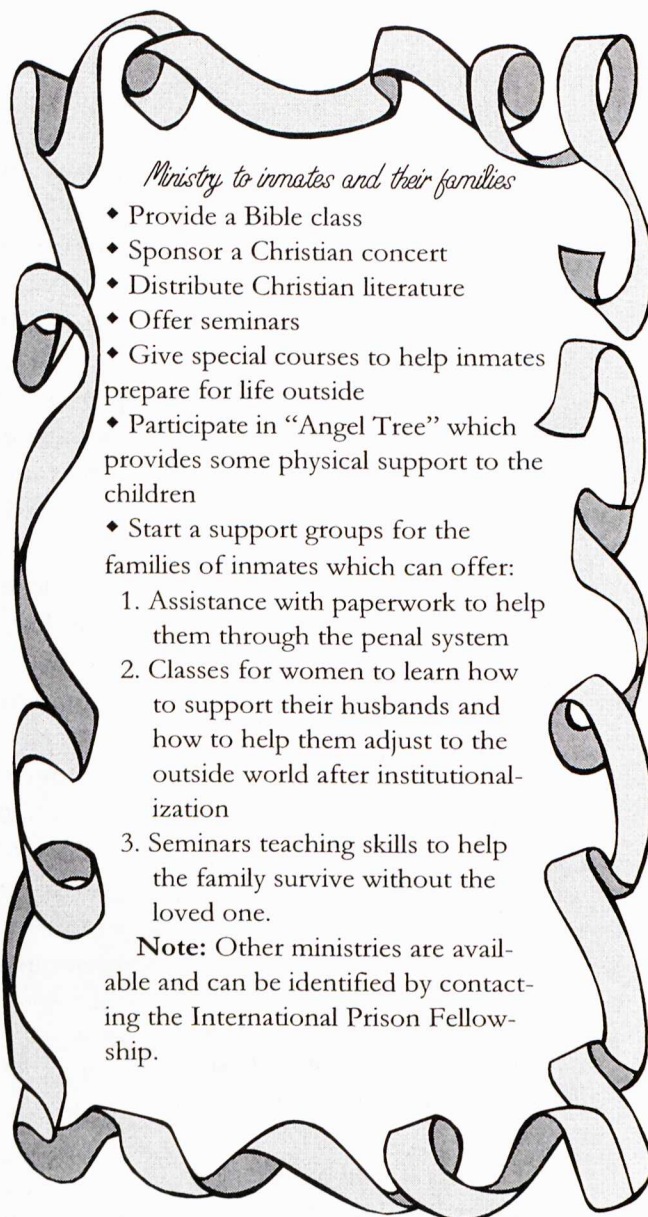
One criminal said, "Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Jesus immediately responded, "To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise." The man came to Jesus in faith. Jesus identified with sinners, lived with them, had compassion on them, and gave His life for them.

We can see why Jesus talks about visiting in prison. He loved both thieves. The condemned criminals, some of society's unlovables, also need the Lord.

Today's prisons overflow with men and women who need to hear the gospel. Outside are their families who need spiritual solace, the gospel and social and financial support.

The innocent children suffer most because of the absent parent. They lack support from society.

According to society, the prisoners are paying a debt owed. But Jesus sees them as needy people who, if repentant, can join Him and that other "penitent thief" in Paradise. The field is large and will become larger. Laborers are few. More compassionate concern is needed for these "unlovables."



Ministry to inmates and their families

- ♦ Provide a Bible class
- ♦ Sponsor a Christian concert
- ♦ Distribute Christian literature
- ♦ Offer seminars
- ♦ Give special courses to help inmates prepare for life outside
- ♦ Participate in "Angel Tree" which provides some physical support to the children
- ♦ Start a support groups for the families of inmates which can offer:
 1. Assistance with paperwork to help them through the penal system
 2. Classes for women to learn how to support their husbands and how to help them adjust to the outside world after institutionalization
 3. Seminars teaching skills to help the family survive without the loved one.

Note: Other ministries are available and can be identified by contacting the International Prison Fellowship.

Jesus' concern for children. Little children were brought to Him, so that He might place his hands on them and pray. The disciples felt that their Master should not be bothered with these "little liabilities," so they scolded those who had brought them to Jesus and did not let them near Him. But Jesus insisted they be brought to Him. He laid hands on every one.

Children are perfect candidates for the kingdom of heaven—teachable and moldable, affectionate and loving, tenderhearted and giving.

But often they are considered nothing but liabilities. In Brazil, missionary Shirley Combs has begun a ministry for street children who might otherwise be executed. What a worthy ministry!

We would like to think that all who are treated as "little liabilities" abide in foreign countries. Not true. The news media frequently reports stories of child abuse, infants abandoned shortly after birth. Children are part of the homeless across the country, and if not reached may become the street gangs of the future. Our country's attitude toward abortion stands as sad proofs that these "little ones" are part of the unlovables.

We can reach "latch-key" children through neighborhood Bible clubs. Children are eager to fellowship and this makes them available to hear the Word of God through Vacation Bible Schools. Are we letting opportunities pass? Have we ignored these "little liabilities" as unlovables? They are dear to the Lord.

Conclusion

Read Matthew 25:34-46.

All nations are gathered before the throne of the Son of Man. He divides the group, some on the right hand, some on the left.

He tells those on the right hand to inherit the kingdom prepared for them because they ministered to Him when He was hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, in prison. They were surprised, for they had never seen Him in these conditions. He said to them, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Those on the left hand were sent away, cursed to everlasting fire because they did not minister to Him. They also were surprised, for they had never seen Him in these conditions. He told them sadly, "inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me."

Our opportunity for ministry is now. We serve our Lord through service to our fellowman. We cannot do it all by ourselves, but we can make a difference—a difference that may impact eternity. ♦



Joan Warren belongs to the FWB

Church in Oilton, OK, where she teaches a young adult Sunday school class. She also conducts two weekly Bible studies: one at a Senior Citizen Center and one in her home. She is a retired Regional Administrator for Adult Social Programs. She was a pastor's wife for several years.

Ministry to children

In your church

- ♦ Teach Sunday school
- ♦ Work in children's church
- ♦ Help with Vacation Bible School

In your community

- ♦ Start a Bible clubs
- ♦ Adopt a niece/nephew/grandchild
- ♦ Serve on committees that work with children's agencies
- ♦ Man crisis lines
- ♦ Work with crisis pregnancy groups

Around the world

- ♦ Support the FWB Children's Homes
- ♦ Minister through World Vision or Compassion International (See Springboard for agency addresses.)

I would like to subscribe to *CoLaborer* magazine.

A year's subscription is \$8.75 (8.00 in bundles of 5 or more).

Six issues per year. I understand *CoLaborer* operates on a continuous service plan, but that I may cancel at anytime.

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life questions

by Diedra Holland

as I lie gazing at the stars up in the heavens, many thoughts run through my head. I often wonder what life will be like for me down the road.

Who will I meet?

What will I do?

Will I be important?

How will I know?

Will I have friends?

Who will they be?

Will I be as important to them
as they are to me?

Will life treat me well?

Or be lonely and cruel,
and make me lose my mind?

Can I make something out of my life?

But there are no easy answers to these mysterious questions but a solemn piece of advice.

The future lies ahead with no way to know what each day will hold. It's yours to make, depending on which road you choose to follow, and the decisions that you make.

So always try to choose the direction that is right. Be courteous and honest and kind, and things will somehow work out all right.

Diedra Holland lives in Springdale, Arkansas. She is a member of Victory FWB Church.

10 tips

for making friends at a new school

advice from a veteran

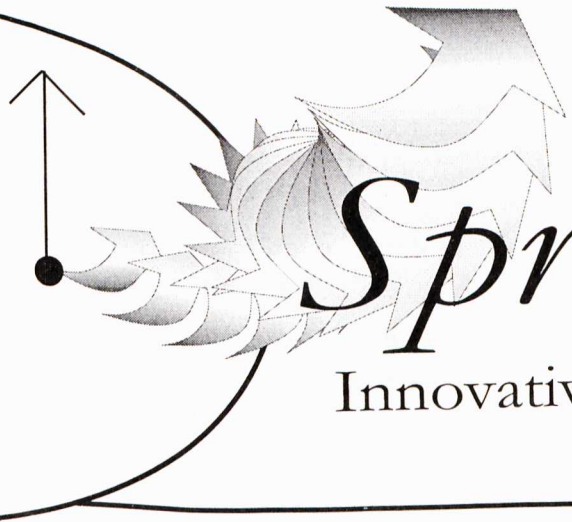
If you have moved recently, you may feel lonely sometimes, but you are not alone. Other people are in the same boat as you. According to current statistics, the average American family moves every three years.

1. Pray and ask God to send you someone who will be a true friend. Ask God to help you be a true friend to the person He sends.
2. Be patient. Making friends can take time.
3. Be friendly even to those who aren't friendly or ignore you. But don't force yourself on one person constantly. As much as possible, be friendly to everybody.
4. Observe how people act, and try to fit in, within reason. But still be yourself. Always act like a Christian.
5. Get to know people. Pay attention to what people talk about and what they are interested in.
6. Be helpful and don't be bossy.
7. Don't brag. People will think you are more interesting if you don't blow your own horn.
8. If your parents don't mind, ask someone to spend the night at your house.
9. Remember, if you have Jesus in your life, you have other things to give you joy and happiness. Others will be drawn to you if you have a positive attitude.
10. Jesus is your best friend but sometimes you need a friend with skin on. Stay in touch with friends from your old school and church.

Take heart. If this year is tough, keep in mind that next year will most likely be totally different, and probably better. ❖

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

Do you have someone in your church who is good with a computer? Ask her to help you make an Enlistment brochure or church bulletin insert. Include in the brochure the purpose of your group, dates and times of meetings, the ministries you're involved in in the church, community, and around the world. The brochure should invite all the women of the church to get involved because there is a place for everyone in WAC. You may also order the brochure called "Living Sacrifice" from WNAC. See the order form on pages 21-22.

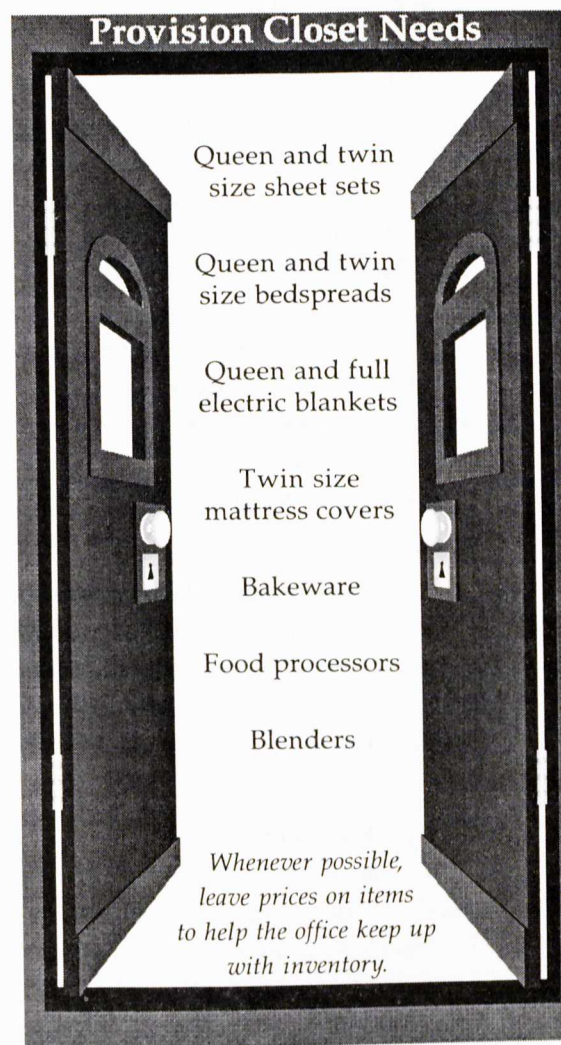
Enlistment means recruiting uninvolved women to do jobs where their talents lie. Judy Hamlin writes in her book, *Groups Building Skills*, "Within the healthy group all members use the gifts they have been given, and none are called on to use gifts they do not have." She also states that, "People who were enlisted because they are important as individuals will form healthy groups."

The January Program introduces the 1999 emphasis on leadership. In order to be effective leaders, we need to first follow the leadership of the Shepherd.

The February Program encourages us to love the "unlovables" unconditionally. If the February program is too long for your meeting, instead of reading every passage in the program, have a different woman summarize each passage listed at the beginning of each section in one or two sentences. Each section can also be summarized. Prepare a hand out with a list of local ministries, phone numbers and addresses. If you have groups or individuals in your church who work through any of these agencies, ask for a 5 minute report on their work and the agencies needs. The goal of the February program is to get women involved in a ministry as the Holy Spirit leads.

Secretary/Treasurer

One of your responsibilities as Treasurer is to guide the other officers as you plan your yearly budget. Money is not any less spiritual than any other area of WAC. Your financial plans as a group should be bathed in prayer and mapped out in faith. Challenge your officers and the entire group to dream big. Support ministry in and through the church and give to outside causes such as the WNAC national office, missions and Bible Colleges. If you were



not present at the district or state meeting, ask your district or state treasurer for a list of the projects that have been approved. We can accomplish more when we work together.

Missions Chairman

Encourage your women to support and pray for newly appointed missionaries. The following home missionaries have recently been appointed to start churches and are raising funds. Many other missionaries, home and foreign, are at various stages of preparation. To stay current, order updated directories from the Home and Foreign Missions Departments. If we don't know who they are and what they are doing, how can we support and pray for them?

Arkansas: Ramon and Edi Zuniga

Louisiana: Rue Dell and Ozella Smith

Tennessee: Frank and Brenda Bratcher

Texas: Randy and Shelly Puckett

Prayer Chairman

To go along with the 1999 theme and the January program, prepare a prayer reminder to help your women pray for your leaders. List the names of the officers in your local WAC, district, state, etc. Pray for your pastor, church staff, deacons, trustees, Sunday school teacher, children's church leaders, musicians. You may add others to your list, such as local school and government officials. Challenge your women to pray for each of the names on the list every day, at least during the month of January.

In February, encourage your women to pray for the "unlovables" mentioned in the program. Also, pray for the persecuted Christians around the world. A Christian in Russia once said, "Don't pray for the persecution to go away, but that we will stay faithful to the Lord in spite of persecution." If you have access to e-mail, you can visit the following websites: [www.persecution.com] and [www.worldevangelical.org].

Service Chairman

Prayerfully study the February program before the meeting. Along with the person giving the program and the Prayer Chairman, study ways to serve the needy around you. Winter is the hardest time of year for the elderly or sick. Although we ought to take care of those with needs throughout the year, it's important to do something extra in the winter. See James 1:27 and Galatians 6:10.

Study Chairman

Check out the review of *Glenda's Story: Led by Grace*. The author, Glenda Revell was the keynote speaker at Ridgecrest Retreat.

Michigan women have a used book exchange as a fund raiser. You or someone in your group who is an avid reader may want to try this idea. Women can bring their used Christian books to display at a table during a local, district or state women's meeting. Price the books from \$1 and up. All proceeds would go to your WNAC project. The one in charge may need to check out the books to make sure they are appropriate. This is why the one in charge should be an avid reader. ❖

Bible Study

Holy Coverings From God's Provision Closet

(Take the outline and build your own program or use it for a personal Bible study)

Covering of the Comforter

Read John 14:15-18

Take a comforter and demonstrate the wrapping, warmth and comfort given by the Comforter.

Covering for Sins

Read Romans 4:7-8

Once our sins have been covered, we are commanded to share the covering with a neighbor. By doing this we are fulfilling the second great commandment.

Read Matthew 22:37-40

A friendship quilt would be a great example, but any quilt will work.

Covering of Salvation

Read Psalm 139:13

We are created to worship God.

Read Isaiah 61:10-11

Place a brightly colored quilt over a chair. Sit down and wrap it around you to demonstrate God's robe of righteousness given to the redeemed.

Covering of Strength

Read Psalm 140:7

God covers us from our
enemies and gives us
strength to fight the battle.

Read Joshua 24:7

*An airline or army green
blanket would send a mes-
sage of deliverance in battle.*

Covering for Needs

Read Luke 12:6-7 and
Ezekiel 16:8-14

If God cares for the spar-
row, how much more will
He provide for His chil-
dren.

Refer to Exodus 16:10-15

*Spread a bird quilt on the
floor or a table. If you don't
have a bird quilt, bring a
figurine or picture of a bird.*

Covering for Leadership

Read Psalm 91:4

God's Word leads us just as
He led the Children of
Israel with the cloud by
day and fire by night.

Read one or all of the
following passages: Exodus
13:21-22, Psalm 105:38-39,
Isaiah 51:15-16

*Show a flower garden quilt
for absolute provision.*

*Adapted from Wanda Kellett's
program "Holy Coverings." Her
program won 4th place in the 1998
WNAC Creative Arts Contest. Mrs.
Kellett lives in Lawton, Oklahoma.
Her husband, Myrl, pastors the First
FWB Church in Lawton.*

beautiful, but treacherous

by Kathy Thebeau

We finally got some measurable snow! I love it! People say I love it so much because I don't go to work every day in it. Not so. I loved it when I did. Everyone would have to agree that a snow-covered landscape is beautiful. It just begs kids to come out and play. Although it is fun—there are dangers. Some kids have tunneled into snowdrifts only to have them cave in and suffocate them. Recently in St. Louis, a 4-year-old girl was sledding down a hill, having a ball, until she ended up in a freezing pond.

Snow can be treacherous for adults, too. We may admire the scenery as we drive along, but if we don't pay strict attention to our driving, we may unexpectedly end up in a ditch or have a wreck.

Many adults have suffered fatal heart attacks trying to shovel their sidewalks or drives.

Then, a few days after it snows, it is no longer beautiful. Only dirty, ugly sludge. So, as I said, snow can be beautiful and inviting, but oh so treacherous.

I see a parallel with sin. Sin can be beautiful and inviting. Sin invites us to come and play. Sinners fail to see the end of the road they are traveling. It's not so beautiful there. Broken lives, broken homes, heart-aches and hopelessness. Often, newborn Christians may be lured back to their old ways. It's sad when Christians allow sin to lure them to partake. Just like the accidents I spoke of above, calamity seems to strike all of a sudden.

After Jesus saved us and washed us white as snow, why should we ever want to go back to the treacherous dirty sludge? Think about it! ♦

Kathy Thebeau lives in De Soto, MO and she is a member of the De Soto First FWB Church. Her husband, Bob, is her pastor.

This piece appeared in their church newsletter in February 1997. Used by permission.



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

Lucy & Marge

Marge: What are you doing, Lucy?

Lucy: Look, I just wrote 1999 for the first time!

Marge: It's been 1999 for weeks now.

Lucy: I know, Marge. But what I mean is I just wrote it for the first time without having to mark over 1998.

Marge: It is hard to change, isn't it?

Lucy: Yes, it is, and just think, it'll be even harder next year.

Marge: 2000—the 21st century. You're right.

Lucy: You know, when I was a kid, I thought I'd never live to see the end of a century.

Marge: Me, too, Lucy. But here we are and in just 12 short months, we'll be entering a new century.

Lucy: What do you mean short months?

Marge: I just mean, time goes by so quickly. Before we know it, 1999 will be history.

Lucy: History. We'll be history too some day soon. Does that make you feel old?

Marge: Well, actually, you don't have to be old to think about becoming history. We're writing history every day.

Lucy: Just think about it, Marge. Maybe one day you and

I will be in a book like that one, uh, "Flaming...what is it?"

Marge: You mean *Sparks into Flame*, the history of WNAC?

Lucy: That's it, *Sparks into Flame*. You think we'll make it into a book, Marge?

Marge: Oh, I don't think so, Lucy.

Lucy: Why not? After all, we've been a part of WNAC for years.

Marge: I know, but our group is small and we're just one of many.

Lucy: So what? We're an important part of the many. And didn't _____ win the Creative Arts contest last year?

Marge: Of course, but—

Lucy: And didn't we contribute the most money of any local group to that organ fund?

Marge: Yes, but—

Lucy: Oh, don't be so humble, Marge. I can't stand it. You know our women's group is special.

Marge: I agree, our women's group is special.

Lucy: What would they do without us?

Marge: Our church does depend on us for a lot of things, doesn't it?

Lucy: Certainly does.

Marge: Our women have a closer fellowship and a greater challenge for service because our WAC exists.

Lucy: Didn't we have fun at the Christmas party?

Marge: Everyone seemed to enjoy that.

Lucy: Aren't you looking forward to our next meeting?

Marge: I surely am. It's _____ (date) at _____ (place) and _____ (program).

Lucy: Then maybe we'd better write this all down so the next historian of WNAC will remember that _____ (women's group) at _____ (church) was a part of that big group of women in the 20th century.

Marge: I hope our secretary keeps a good record.

Lucy: And it wouldn't hurt to sneak in a few pictures of us now and then.

Marge: Oh, Lucy, you think big.

Lucy: Who knows? If I keep on working in WNAC, my picture may be right up there with Marjorie Workman's. ❖

by Mary R. Wisehart and Yvonne Hampton

URGENT

memo

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carole@nafwb.org

COMMUNICATOR

by MARJORIE WORKMAN

Enlistment

The beginning of a new year is the best time to commit to ministry. The old year is past. You can't go back. You can make new commitments or renew old ones. January is enlistment month for WNAC. Every woman in the church should be involved in ministry. WNAC's purpose is "to provide opportunities for women to understand and fulfill the Great Commission through their responsibilities in the family, in the church, in the community, and around the world." (*Manual*, 1995, p. 12).

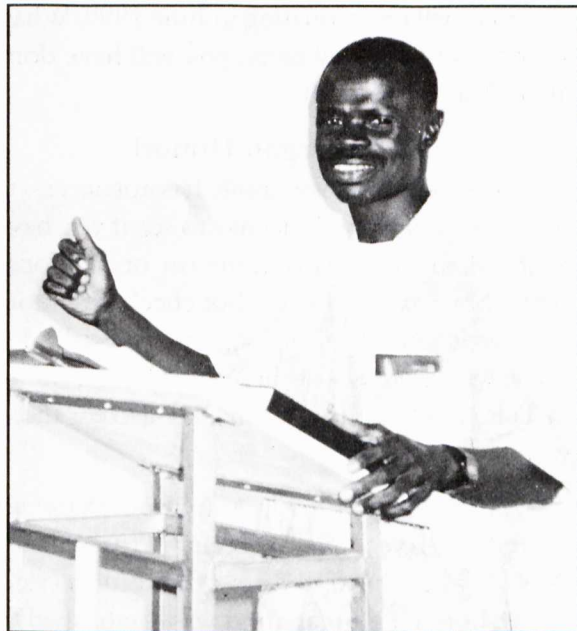
WNAC is not just for YOUR mother, it is for YOU—every woman in the church. Mothers and daughters can bind together to reach the world and, at the same time, enjoy fellowship together as equals serving Christ and His Church. Perhaps we have been separated long enough through primary church, junior church, teen groups—now, as adults, (young and old) we need to be reunited. Forget generation gaps and unite to learn about each other and to work together. WNAC is a good **reunion** place. Encourage one another this year.

If you know a lady in your church who is not involved in WAC, give her a gift subscription to *CoLaborer* magazine for 1999. Take her to a WNAC retreat. Invite her again and again to your local meetings. It takes work to get people committed. Be kind and gentle, but be persistent.

Foreign Student Scholarship

February is Foreign Student Scholarship month. One WAC group may feel their gift does not make much of an impact when it comes to helping pay tuition for a student to get the Bible training he needs. However, when groups across the country unite and put their gifts together, it makes a difference.

It is making a difference for one student in Côte d'Ivoire with his training at the CMA Bible Institute in Yamassukro. Read his letter.



Silas with wife, Francois, and daughter, Love.

We are happy to send you this letter as a sign of our thanksgiving to our God and to you as well as all the Association of women that you lead.

We do not have enough words to express our thanks, but please understand the small word "thanks" from the grateful hearts of our family.

We rejoice for the third time that you have participated in our training. We have received the different gifts you have sent. Thank you for this contribution, your affection and love for our family. We ask you to communicate our sincere thanks to all the women of WNAC. God bless each one of the women.

Our brotherly greetings in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Yao Kouassi N'Guetton Silas

BP 27, Yamoussoukro, Institut Biblique

(continued on next page)

Silas will be graduating in June 1999. Whatever Silas does in ministry, you will have done also. (Matthew 25:40).

Be an Organ Donor!

This is not what you think. It is not necessary to check your driver's license to see if you have checked the various options on organ donations. No boxes to check, but checks are more than welcome. This message is especially for those who were not at the WNAC Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma last July, but also for those who were.

As you are aware, Dr. Mary Ruth Wischart retired as Executive-Secretary Treasurer of WNAC after thirteen years of faithful service. In her honor, an organ fund was established to purchase a Wicks pipe electronic organ for Free Will Baptist Bible College. Our goal is \$32,000.00.

Impossible! No, not really. All we need is 320 individuals or groups to give \$100 each. From a membership of over 7,000 individuals representing more than 600 groups, this is a reasonable expectation. Will you accept the challenge? As an individual? Or as a group? Henry Ford said, "Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small jobs."

Why a project of this magnitude? WNAC purchased the first organ for our denominational school back in 1952. That organ has "played" out. According to Mr. Thomas Vozzella, Director of Choral Activities at the College, "the organ is being held together with, well no one seems to know with what."

Mrs. J. E. Frazier, treasurer at the time of the first organ purchase, wrote in the *Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary News Sheet*, "Some auxiliaries were so anxious to have a share in this wonderful project that even before they could be contacted by their state or district treasurer, they were sending in offerings. None have wanted to be left out." Do we have that same spirit of generosity in the '90s? Send contributions through regular WNAC channels. Be sure to earmark for "organ fund." ♦

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1999

WNAC+ Order Form

Quantity

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Poetry

SALE: Compiled from entries in WNAC's Creative Arts Contest.

- ☐ PO8 *So Send I You (Missions)*
\$1.00

Total this page \$ _____



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Quantity

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The guidebook for organizing and operating Women's Groups.
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Total this page \$ _____



Plays for Women

Quantity

☐ PB14

New collection!

God's Bouquet (Volume 14) \$4.00 Includes:

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Defeat Became Victory (Easter) by Joan Warren
Thanksgiving Prayer by LaCrecia McFadden
Kat's Question (Christmas) by Sharon Langston and Tina Tolbert
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Tell Me About Missions by Patricia Sanders
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What Shall We Do About Grandma? by Dorothy Hamilton
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Pay tribute
to one of our great
denominational leaders
Dr. Mary Wischart
on her
retirement

see page 20 in this issue for details

Poet's Corner

Thank you for Praying

Ruth Bivens, Saint Just, Puerto Rico

Because you prayed
We traveled safely
throughout the hours of
night.

Because you prayed
The Spirit moved and
hearts took hold of light.

We can not see
The Lord at work when
lives are quietly led;
Nor understand
When anxious minds find
peace when hearts are
fed.

We'll never know
The harm we missed, nor
dangers all unseen;
We did not see
The angels sent to guide a
weary hand.

We only know
We labor on without a
dread or fear;
Because, somewhere,
On bended knee, you call
our name in prayer.



ON THE SHELF

Glenda's Story Led by Grace

by Glenda Revell

Gateway to Joy, 1994

Price: \$8.00

*Reviewed by
Suzanne Franks*

Had Glenda been conceived today instead of in the 1950's, she probably would not have lived to tell her story. An unwanted child of an alcoholic mother, Glenda survived abuse and neglect at the hands of both her mother and step-father.

In *Glenda's Story: Led by Grace*, which is an autobiography, the writer attributes her survival to the protection she received under the shadow of God's wings. God cared for her even in

those early days when she didn't know much about God. But He had a purpose for her life.

The book gives a glimpse into some of the pain and loneliness Glenda lived with as a child, teenager and young adult. However, from the first chapter and throughout the book, the reader is confronted with an overwhelming sense of God's presence in every stage of her life.

Glenda tells her story simply, yet powerfully. I was most impressed by her attitude of faith and total lack of bitterness as she recounts some of the cruel details. Each chapter is appropriately sprinkled with Scripture verses, quotes and poems which add insight to her narration.

Chapter 3 recounts the dark nights of sexual abuse at the hands of her step-father. At the end of this chapter, she quotes Psalm 119:71, "It is good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees." The reader will gain some insight into the question of suffering. Though God did not cause the suffering in her life, her life experi-

ences caused her to search for something. As a child, she knew God existed and that He was powerful and good. But she did not know He loved her. She thought no one could love her.

She candidly shares her feelings of worthlessness and guilt, and what her self-hate drove her to do in her teen years. Read the book and find out how she came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

This story will cause you to meditate on Jesus' suffering on the cross and how no one, including Glenda, has ever suffered the kind of torment He did for us. You will stand in awe at the wonderful forgiving and healing power of God's hands on her life. ❖

Glenda's Story and Glenda Revell's second book, *With Love from a Mother's Heart*, may be ordered directly from the author by calling (757) 357-2794. You may also order through Randall Bookstore by calling 1-800 877-7030

A Woman God Has Used

Christine Trent Frisbee

It's not easy to say good-bye. Often our hearts are heavy and we hurt inside because our lives are lessened by the death of a dear friend. Members of the Rocky Pass Woman's Auxiliary will miss seeing the face, hearing the voice, experiencing the laugh, and having those special sharing times with our sister in Christ, Christine Frisbee.

Although she left us in November to spend the 1997 holidays and an endless eternity in Heaven with her Lord, her memory will always be with us. We will always have a void in our church family that only she could fill.

In the Rocky Pass Church, the Woman's Auxiliary and her Sunday school class she was not just a member, she was a participant, contributor and encourager. Faithful in her commitments, she gave generously of her time and talents with untiring devotion. She gave herself wholeheartedly to her work.

Christine loved the Woman's Auxiliary and participated in all its activities. She especially liked Lucy & Marge and was always ready to be Lucy. She wrote a note to *CoLaborer* asking that Lucy & Marge continue. Her letter was printed in the issue after her death. Only a few of us actually knew that she had written the letter.

Over \$400 in missions contributions have been given in her memory. These funds have been disbursed to foreign missions, which was a real love of hers.

As secretary and treasurer of her Sunday school class she was on top of things. She kept the class informed of needs in the church and community. Hers was a ministry of sending cards and seeing that flowers, food or sunshine

baskets made it to those who were hospitalized or bereaved.

Following the death of her sister on Mother's Day, 1996, Christine volunteered to take over her sister's duties as treasurer of the Rocky Pass Benevolent Fund. She took pride in this job.

Besides taking care of her husband, son and grandson, she became mother and grandmother to her sister's children. Nieces and nephews everywhere could always depend on "Tine" to pray, be there and support them. She rejoiced with them in all their victories.

Always in the front row of the choir, she was especially fond of the cantatas. When everyone else was discouraged with the music, Christine was there to laugh them through, always encouraging the choir director and musicians.

Once when I needed a "bag lady" for the Christmas play she volunteered and had more fun than anyone in the play. She loved her pastor and supported him, as well as the church and the youth of the church. She had the ability to disagree yet agree and always kept the faith.

On the job as cashier, she always had a kind word and time to visit with customers who often waited in her line just to talk with her. She was always inviting people to church. And when they came, she took a special interest in them. She boosted everyone's morale at work.

People like Christine only come along once in a lifetime. I feel privileged to have known her, worshipped with her, laughed with her and cried with her. She was truly a woman who embraced life and greeted the world with a smile on her face. ♦

Ms. Charlie Mae Holland is president of the WAC at Rocky Pass FWB Church in Nebo, North Carolina.

Women In Action

Three Showers and a Hat Parade



Hat Parade Winners (left to right): Susan Tolbert (most creative), Mary Shiver (tackiest), Joyce Carter (honorable mention), Elizabeth Smith (most elegant)

The State Line WNAC District sponsored three showers in 1998. One shower was for the Provision Closet, another for the Missionary Kids Provision Closet, and a third one for the Alabama Children's Home.

The Goodwater FWB Church women hosted the Children's Home shower featuring a hat parade. The women were asked to wear their funniest, tackiest, most elegant, ugliest, or just whatever kind of hat they wanted to wear.

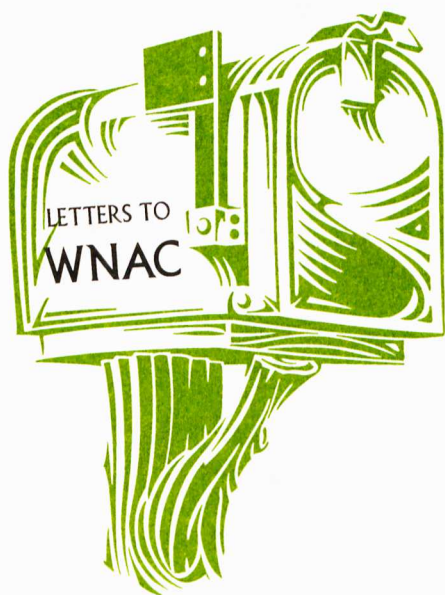
The idea behind the hat parade was to bring gifts associated with the head: combs, brushes, hair spray, shampoo, cream rinse, barrettes, etc. Shower gifts totaled approximately \$375.

West Virginia WNAC State Retreat



In front of lodge

Thirteen women from the Cornerstone FWB Church in Crab Orchard attended the 1998 West Virginia WNAC Retreat. All but two women were first-time attendees. According to Loraine Tolliver, the pastor's wife, the church is just five years old and they are excited about their involvement in WNAC.



Dear WNAC,

Just last week, I was visiting my mother in Harrison, Arkansas. We were cleaning out her work room, and came across a copy of the 1998 November/December *CoLaborer*. You can imagine my surprise when she showed me the **Poet's Corner** and there was the poem she had written—*God Wants Our Days to Go Well*. Her poem had won fourth place in the Creative Arts Contest. I don't remember her ever telling me of this.

My mother's name is Ruby June Pickering and she is 73 years old. She just recently had bypass surgery. When she found out she would need surgery, she had a real peace.

I appreciate your publication, and want to let you know the joy you brought by printing her poem. I'm glad she was able to share some of her inspirations through you. She is a precious person who receives her blessings by giving.

Terri Miller, Valrico, FL

Dear WNAC,

The *CoLaborer* magazine is always such a blessing to receive.

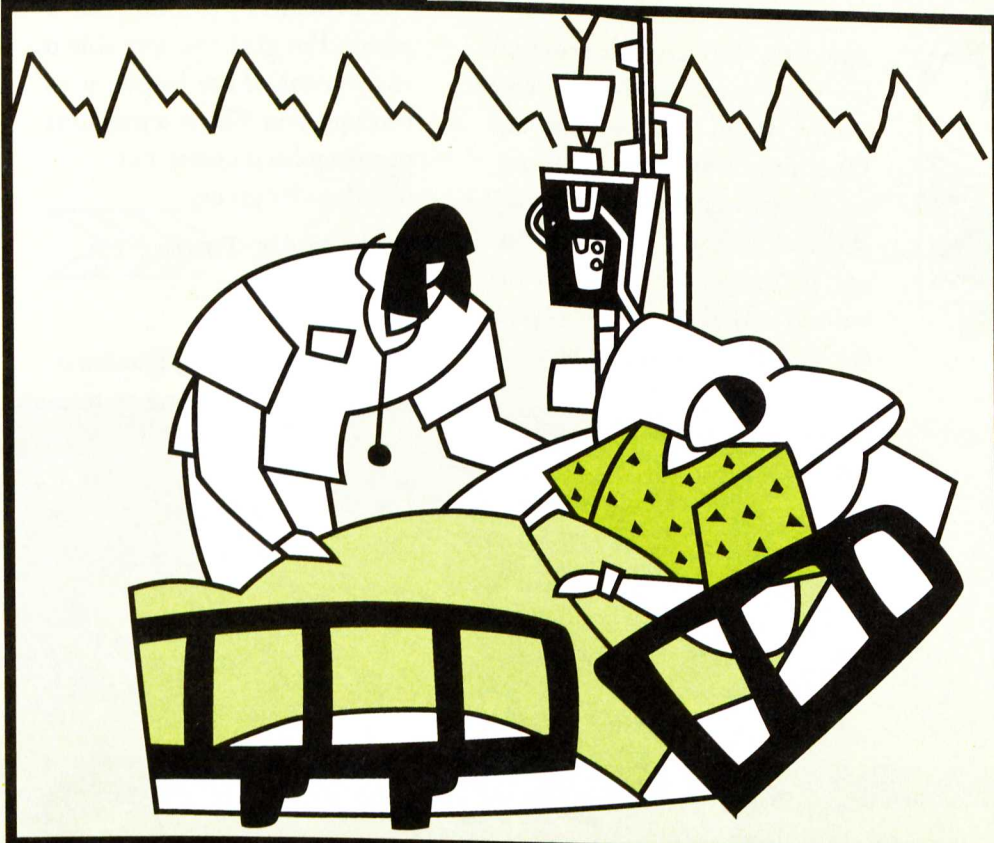
I especially enjoyed the retreat at Ridgecrest this year. I always come away with joy in my heart, a song on my lips, and the presence of God's touch in my life.

Judy Goble, Pikeville, KY

When you support the
Foreign Student
Scholarship Fund,
you help spread
the gospel in the
regions beyond.

See page 19 for photographs and information on the current Foreign Student Scholarship recipient.

FEATURE ARTICLE



First place winner in the 1998 Creative Arts Contest, article category.

HOW CAN THERE BE HOPE ♦ ♦ ♦ WHEN THERE IS NONE?

It was four a.m. I had been awakened by the beeping of the IV machine that had run out. I looked at my Mother who still was sleeping peacefully. She was scheduled for surgery that day to remove a tumor that was blocking her liver. She had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in April, it was now June 9, 1992. When given her diagnosis, she had made the decision she would not have surgery or treatments of any kind. But, now due to the blockage of her liver, she was going to have to have surgery.

I was amazed at how we had both slept through the night, knowing we both had fears of what awaited us that day. But, before I was awakened that morning, I had been dreaming. I don't know what the dream was about, but I do know that in that dream, I was singing

...

The chimes of time ring out the news;

...

*You may have longed for added strength,
your courage to renew.*

*Do not be disheartened,
for I bring hope to you.*

It is no secret what God can do.

*What He's done for others,
He'll do for you. . . .**

In my dream, as I sang, other people had joined in singing with me.

As I looked at Mother, the words of that song kept going over and over in my mind. Our family doctor, when discussing Mother's diagnosis, had given us little encouragement. He had said there were three things about the type of cancer Mother had. One, there are

no survivors. Two, it included terrible pain. And three, the time was short.

The words in the song, *I Bring Hope to You*, came into focus in my mind. And I questioned God, "How can there be hope when there is none?" God began to speak to my troubled heart there in the early hours of that morning, there in that hospital room, and He began to answer some of my questions.

God said I could have hope, first of all, because of His **promise**. He said He would never leave nor forsake us. In that dark hour, How wonderful it was to have that promise.

Then, He said I could have hope because of His **provision**. Many times in the Old Testament, God provided for His people a way of escape or of caring—the parting of the Red Sea, the manna in the wilderness, the blood on the door posts.

In the New Testament, He fed the five thousand. He sent an angel to open the prison doors for Peter. He provided prayer as a way of our communicating with him.

God made the greatest provision when He appointed His Son as a Sacrifice to bear our sins, bringing us forgiveness and eternal life. He gave us His Spirit to guide and direct us . . . to walk with us, to dwell in us. He has made provision for us when this life is over—a home in Heaven that He has built for us.

Then, God said I could have hope because of His **peace**. What if everything goes wrong for Mother and for us in all of this? "Tho He slay me," said Job, "yet will I trust Him." Furthermore Paul affirmed, "To depart this life and be with Christ is far better" and "to die is gain." Paul also made that great statement, "His grace is sufficient!"

Also, God said I could have hope because of His **power**. Many times God, through His mighty power, has changed circumstances. By His Word, the heavens and the earth were created.

When Esther faced the threat of her people being destroyed, God turned it all around.

In the scriptures, the blind were made to see, the deaf made to hear, the lame made to walk, and the dead were raised to life. Many lives have been miraculously change—alcoholics have been made sober, drug addicts have been released from the stronghold of pills, love has been restored in broken marriages. And so, if God

decides to change our circumstances, He can. He has the power.

I was glad that morning for my Mother's precious Christian testimony. In my heart, I truly believed God was going to do something for us. But, if things went another way, I knew Mother would be all right.

We are told to be always ready to give a reason for the hope that lies within us. My reasons were at least four that morning. I could have hope, even when there seemed to be none, because of God's **promise**, because of His **peace**, His **provision**, and His **power**. I thought then of one other reason—His **presence**—which had been so real to me that morning.

Post Note: I truly thought God was going to give us a miracle and heal Mother. But, on July 26, 1992, my life as I had known it for 48 years came to an end, as I watched her exit this life.

I came to the realization during those almost two months since God had spoken to me that all He had told me was true. But, the miracle He gave was not for Mother, but for me. I found strength I didn't know existed as I cared for her during those days. I found faith I didn't know I possessed as I faced life without her.

She had been my dearest friend as well as my Mother. I found the hope that I was searching for as I knew this was not the end of her life, but truly the beginning. And hope now grows stronger each day as I continue to live my life in His **promise**. His **peace**, His **provision**, and His **power**, surrounded by His **presence**. Yes, faith is the substance of things **hoped** for, but it is evidenced in the things we can't really see.

Judy Delong lives in Hager Hill, Kentucky, and she is a member of Tom's Creek FWB Church.

**It is no Secret by Stuart Hamblen, © 1950.*

**When
Esther
faced
the threat
of her
people
being
destroyed,
God
turned it
all**

Mission Alert

Evangelism News from Around the World



Madrid, Spain

According to missionary Jeff Turnbough, the Alcala de Henares church celebrated 22 years as a church on October 25, 1998. Pastor José Manuel asked the entire missionary team to help with the special service.

October brought another reason for celebration in Spain. After much prayer and preparation, all nine members of the missionary team are living in the Madrid area. Anthony and Lea Edgmon and Tim and Kristi Johnson are currently in language school. Pray for the team that they will function well together and for these who are learning to communicate in a foreign language.

St. Sebastien, France

Missionary Patsy Vanhook praises the Lord for the salvation of Mr. Gromer. He came into contact with the gospel as a result of collaboration between the Free Will Baptist work and Operation Mobilization. Patsy Vanhook is having weekly Bible studies with Mr. Gromer. He desires prayer for his spiritual growth and for the

Lord to work in the life of his family. Miss Vanhook also mentions Bible studies with Chantal and a women's group. She is counting on your prayers for these Bible studies and for other opportunities to open up.

Montevideo, Uruguay

The New Life church is experiencing growth through home outreach cell meetings. Missionary Dennis Owen reports two adult, one youth and two children's cell groups meeting each week. The Lord has given the work eight new contacts and five decisions to receive Christ. Perla and Sabrina, who were baptized during a retreat last year, are assisting in the children's cell groups.

The Malvin Norte church is renting a room at an athletic club for Sunday worship. When the landlords found out they were a church and they wouldn't be eating in the facilities, they reduced the rent. According to missionary Dave Franks Jr., this is a miracle from God and a great step towards the church becoming indigenous since their own offerings are able to pay for the rent. The Franks are excited about the growth the church has experienced through the three small groups that are meeting in homes.

Indianapolis, Indiana

Missionary Chris Clay reports that the Wednesday evening services have been a great success due to the Kids For Christ and Teens For Christ Clubs. Almost as many people attend on Wednesday as do on Sunday morning. The Clay's son, Cody, recently led a neighbor friend to the Lord. They were playing in the back yard on a Wednesday afternoon when Cody's Mom called him in to get ready for church. She told Cody he could invite his friend to church. Ten minutes later Cody came in and announced that his friend had been saved! Cody's friend has been attending Kids For Christ Club faithfully. The parents have expressed interest also.

Chicago, Illinois

The Northwest FWB Church had over 150 people attend an outreach event last summer. According to missionary David Potete, they have also started an English and a Second Language class as a means of outreach. They see new faces every Sunday and several who need Christ attend services. Pray that the core people will not be discouraged. Church attendance averages about 50.

Battle Creek, Michigan

Berea FWB Church had a *Kids Crusade* July 22-29, 1998. Tim Trimble, from Pehlam, Alabama, brought several teens and four chaperones to help with the crusade. Sixty people attended the concluding Sunday morning service and four people were baptized the same day. ❖



Words for Women

*Marjorie H.
Workman*

I'm new at this job! Bear with me. Help me! I'm off on a new adventure, traveling where I've never been before. I'm excited. I'm also very much afraid. Why am I here? Because I believe this is where God wants me. William Cowper's poem says it best

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

You fearful saints, fresh courage take:
The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings o'er your head.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour.
The bud may have a bitter taste
But sweet will be the flower.

Events in life prepare us for the next step. Usually we are not aware where today's step will lead tomorrow. True in my case. Little did I realize as I left the farm in North Carolina to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College that I was beginning a journey of preparation for today's ministry to women.

God's will. Searching, praying, seeking, asking. That is my constant desire.

While a college student, Proverbs 3:5-6 quickly became one of my favorite passages. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Trusting is often hard.

Paying college bills is hard. I arrived on campus not knowing if I had a job, a loan or money enough to complete my first semester. I tried hard to trust and not worry. God saw me through four years. Just as He provided for me then, He'll provide now for the financial needs of WNAC. He always has. He led in the past, He'll lead now, step by step.

He has a plan. I often struggle with His plan. As a youth I had a pastor who loved young people. He challenged us to

surrender to full-time Christian service. Interpretation: go to Bible College. I did.

At college the struggle was missions. I fought it. God prevailed. I yielded.

Yielding meant going alone—single—unmarried, or so I thought. Once God got my attention and surrender, he gave me a husband. Now, we seek God's will together.

Coming to WNAC wasn't easy for me. I was settled. I'd lived in the same house for twenty years. It was home. I loved the historic neighborhood, the sidewalks, the huge maple trees. I liked the predictable yearly cycle—the beginning of a new school year, Christmas vacation with my family. Spring break, the ending of the college year. Summers free to travel, relax, recoup for the next school term.

But God said He had a new path for me. Could I walk this new path? I had questions. Speaking? Writing? Could I do it? Speaking, according to the *Book of Lists*, is most people's number one fear.

God answered my questions through Moses in Exodus 3:11. "And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Those were my words exactly! Who am I? But look, at the next verse. "I will be with thee; . . ." Again Moses said, ". . . I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue." The Lord's answer: "Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say" (Exodus 4:10-12). Thank you, God. God will help me.

Will you help me also? Pray. Get involved. Make suggestions. Give me feedback. We have a good organization. Together let's make it even better! ❖



Take the plunge

**Enter your work in
WNAC's
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Deadline: March 1

**Ask for more information
or send entries to:**

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