

CoLaborer



May Program
Hoop Shots in a Glass House

A Sweeter Melody
God's Healing of a Widow's Grief

4

May • June 1999

VISION

Suzanne Franks



7 Hannah Principles

Slip your feet into Hannah's dusty sandals. As the custom of the day dictated, she traveled to Shiloh each year to worship God. The yearly ritual was supposed to be a time of feasting and rejoicing. However, she carried a great sadness in her heart, a sadness that she could not hide.

Hannah was childless. To a woman in Israel, bearing a child, especially a son, was considered the greatest achievement. Being childless was the worst imaginable curse.

Adding to her sorrow, domestic conflict overwhelmed any comfort her husband's love might produce. Hannah was one of two wives. Although her kind husband showed his love for her in special ways, the other wife who had several children taunted her constantly. Her rival's brutal words hurt more than a kick in the face.

Let's follow her sandaled footsteps through 7 Hannah principles.

Principle # 1: Seek God's face in times of trouble.

In her grief, Hannah poured her soul out to the Lord. Her sadness was so great, she could not eat, but in her prayer, she asked for a son. The Lord saw her heart and granted her request. He gave her a son.

Principle # 2: Dedicate your child to God even before it is conceived.

In Hannah's petition for a son, she promised, "I will give him to the Lord."

Principle # 3: Recognize blessings that come from God.

Hannah named her firstborn son, Samuel, and explained, "Because I asked the Lord for him."

Principle # 4: Keep your promises.

Unlike many who make promises, Hannah followed through. As soon as she weaned Samuel, she took him to Eli to serve in the temple.

Principle # 5: Worship God in bad as well as in good times.

Her story starts and ends with worship—one of her regular habits.

Principle # 6: Carry a song in your heart.

If I were writing a script for a movie about Hannah and Samuel, I would portray a tearful Hannah reluctantly saying good-bye to her beloved son. Although I believe tears were shed when she left Samuel behind, the Bible records a much different account. Hannah sang a song of praise to the Lord—not a wimpy little tune. Her courageous song might rival the most exhilarating victory march chanted by soldiers returning home after battle.

Principle # 7: Make sacrifices, relinquish self, surrender rights.

Hannah relinquished her right to rear her son and released him to God.

Thank you, Mothers, who learned from Hannah's example. Thank you for your sacrifices and your example of worship. Thank you for rearing godly sons and daughters. Thank you for releasing them to follow God wholeheartedly. Thank you, Mom, for your legacy. ❖

Volume 39

Number 3

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**Trula Cronk
describes the grief
of recent widowhood
and offers hope
for healing**

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**A mother
and two daughters
share some
special memories
and lessons learned.**

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**Her favorite pastime
was fishing,
but her life's goal
was to be
a fisher of men.**

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Words for Women —Marjorie Workman

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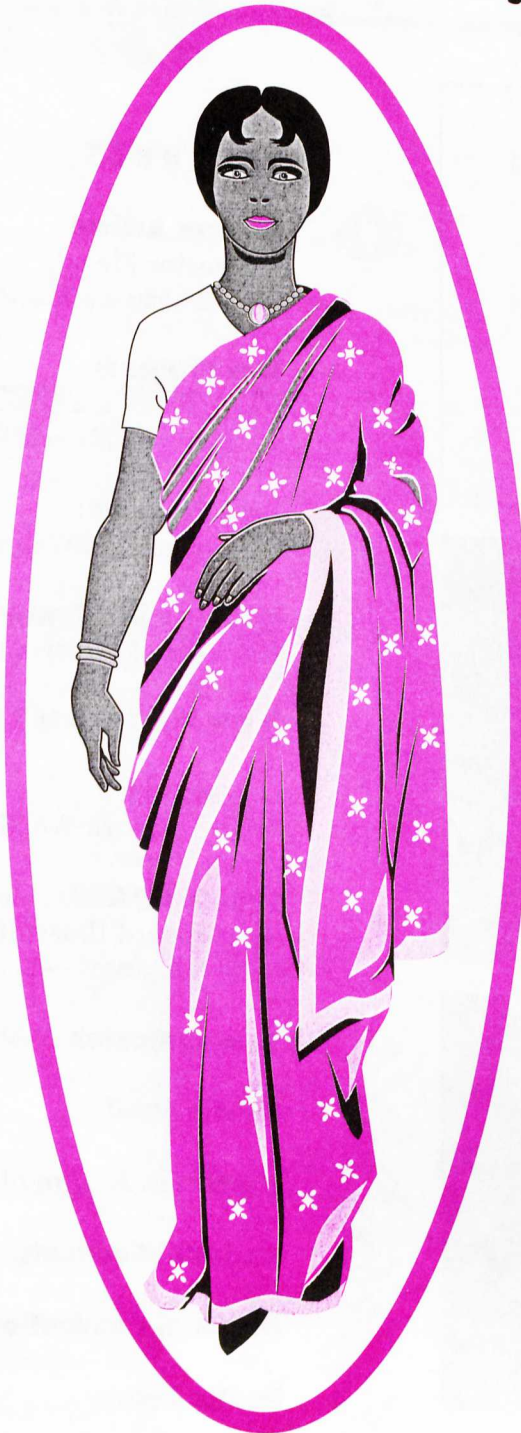
A Sweeter melody

God's healing of a widow's grief

"he lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on the rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God" Psalms 40:2- NIV

I never expected to be a widow. My husband came from long-lived ancestors. His grandmother died at ninety-two, his mother at eighty-nine, and his father died at ninety. An uncle died at ninety-seven and another still lives robust and alert at eighty-eight. An aunt celebrated her one hundredth birthday last year. I expected that Dan would die young in his nineties.

The very word "widow" strikes terror in my mind because I lived so long in a country where being a widow is about the biggest curse that



Trula Cronk

can befall a woman, especially is it true for childless widows and child widows.

Though things are changing slowly, widows in India are still often blamed for the death of their husbands. Some families treat them shamefully. Others are kind but often helpless to alleviate their pain.

Customs die slowly. I knew a woman in India whose head was shaved and her jewelry taken away when her husband died. She could wear only plain white saris without the beautiful colored borders. She was allowed no make up or perfume and was expected to do penance.

She vowed to take no food until she had seen the sun each day. We had long monsoon rains and sometimes the sun would not appear for days,

long days in which she ate no food.

I knew that being a widow in America is a far different story, but I still struggled with the word when applied to me.

After grieving for Dan for ten months while I cared for him and watched him slowly starve to death from his illness, I thought there would be no tears left when the Lord actually told him, "Come on in, Dan. You are home."

But I was wrong. When he drew that last breath while I held one hand and his brother held the other, I was devastated. Deep inside, I guess I had harbored a faith that a miracle would happen and he would be well again. No miracle had happened and now he was gone.

I felt numb. I knew I was very tired. I had been tired before, but had never felt the dead weight of my own body so intensely.

Somehow, with my son Randy at my side, and with Dan's family present, we got through the memorial service. They stayed through Thanksgiving and we talked of Dan constantly so that it seemed almost as if he were still here.

Saturday came too soon and the family all had to go home. I walked out to the parking lot to say good-bye to the last

couple. When I turned back to the house I felt bereft, sad and hopeless.

The first thing I saw when I came in the door was Dan's empty chair in front of the large screen TV his son had

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anymore.*

given him for Christmas. I felt as if the sun had disappeared forever as darkness came over me. I sat down in his chair so I wouldn't have to look at its emptiness. Grief washed over me like great waves from the

sea, each wave reaching a little farther as the torturous thought came to me, "Dan is never coming home again." I cried until I couldn't cry anymore.

I couldn't pray unless the cry of an anguished soul is a prayer. The only thing I wanted was for Dan to come home and even God would not do that. I knew in my rational mind that God could help me, but I just did not want to be helped. It seemed the least I could do was to wallow in my misery and self-pity.

Other widows tried to comfort me. Friends were kind. Some said, "Time will heal your hurt." Others said, "you'll never get over it, but it gets easier in time." I was suffering in time and I didn't want to hear about time. I just wanted to run and catch up with Dan and go on with him right then.

I tried to read the Bible but tears blurred my eyes. I switched to another version hoping that the lack of familiarity would somehow pierce the numbness of my brain. The Bible had been my source of strength in the past and I hoped it would comfort me now, so I kept making my eyes skim over the words.

The days turned into weeks

and then months. When friends asked how I was doing I always answered, "fine." I was not fine and I knew it. I was not living up to the advice I had so often told others widows, "God will give grace as you need it. It is not what has happened to you that will make or break you but how you react to it." I felt like a hypocrite. Suddenly I knew I was hypocrite.

As I continued to read, these words of the Apostle Paul jumped out at me: "There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares for the things of the Lord: but she that is married careth for the things of the world how she may please her husband." I had not known how much my whole life had revolved around Dan.

I prayed, "Lord, are you giving me this extra time that I may devote it to you? You know I am already past the Biblical three score and ten which suggests a normal life span. Will you let me, in my old age, become your bhakti (devotee) so that I may know You better and serve You with an undivided heart?"

All the answers did not come quickly. The time of the singing of birds came, and I heard the turtle doves singing in our back yard. Still grief and lone-

liness were my daily companions. I had not spoken in public in more than a year and I thought I would never do that again because I felt too unworthy about how I was handling the biggest challenge of my life.

Pastor Robert Morgan called

*But
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me one morning and asked me to be the speaker for their weekend missions emphasis. At first, I thought I couldn't do that, but like a flash a thought came to me, "Trula, this is for you." I said yes immediately.

The occasion did turn out be a major stepping stone in my

recovery. But it was not until I began to give thanks to God and to praise Him for the fifty-five years Dan and I had enjoyed together that I knew healing was taking place.

I thanked God for Dan's devotion. In all those years he never gave me a moment's insecurity. I knew he was mine just as he knew I was his.

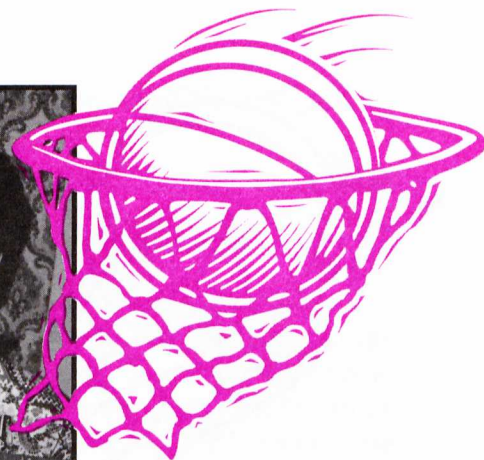
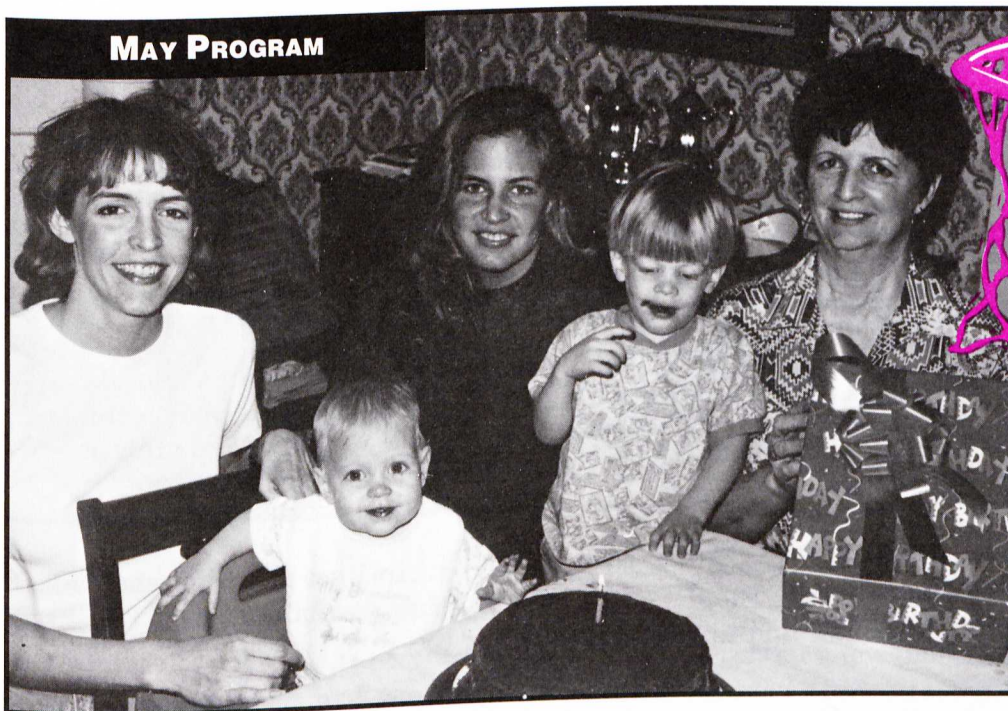
I thanked God for Dan's good mind that had stretched mine over the years even when I didn't want it stretched. Once I became able to thank God and to praise Him from a full heart, healing took place.

When I thought I had come to the end of the tune, God gave me a sweeter melody. Rest did its work of restoration. Quiet did its work for peace of mind. Aloneness let me see myself as a disappointment to my Lord and brought repentance. Giving thanks brought me out of the horrible, slimy pit of self-pity and grief and put a new song in my heart. ❖



Trula Cronk served as a missionary to India for 25 years with her husband Dan. She then worked as a State Disability Examiner for Social Security for 17 years before retiring.

MAY PROGRAM



Pictured: (left to right) Regena, Abigail, Jennifer, Andrew, Marjorie

hoop shots in a glass house

An interview with a mother and two daughters

Four women talk over sandwiches on a sunny Saturday afternoon. Outsiders can tell at a glance that three of the women have a great deal in common. Each is a follower of the Lord, a wife, a vivacious talker and a serious basketball player. They belong to the Workman clan.

Some time ago, before anyone knew that Marjorie Workman would become WNAC's Executive Secretary-Treasurer, the *CoLaborer* staff asked Mrs. Workman and her two daughters for an interview.

CoLaborer: Describe your relationship with your mom.

Regena: We never had a bad relationship. I could always talk to her. We always had good communication.

Jennifer: Of my parents, Mom has the softer heart. I was Mama's girl. It was harder for me to move away. Now that I live in Tampa and they are far away, I pray more for them.

Mrs. Workman: We have been a praying family. We always had family devotions.

Regena: We knelt to pray. One time Mom fell asleep when she was praying out loud!



The mother: Marjorie Workman has been WNAC's Executive Secretary-Treasurer since September 1998. Previously, she served 20 years as Dean of Women at Free Will Baptist Bible College. She has two daughters; her husband Eugene is a realtor and Sunday school teacher.

The daughters: Regena Sizemore, the older sibling, lives in Sneads, Florida, with her husband Tim and two children. Tim is a pastor.

Jennifer Beauchamp lives near Tampa, Florida, with her husband Will. She works for a global customer service outsourcing company. Will is an athletic director/administrator in a Christian school.

Jennifer: We had to take turns because nobody wanted to be left out. One person read the Bible passage, another read the devotional, and another prayed.

Regena: We had creative devotions. Sometimes we played charades as part of family devotions. I'm doing some of the same things with my kids.

CoLaborer: Have you maintained any other traditions?

Jennifer: Mom always made a bunny cake at Easter.

Mrs. Workman: After Jennifer married, the night before Easter, she calls me—at midnight—to ask me how I made the bunny cake. We also had egg hunts at Easter. I thought when the girls went to college they wouldn't want to have egg hunts anymore. They **did** and even brought college students over to hunt eggs.

Regena: We had some fun vacations. On road trips, we interviewed Mom and Dad. Mom was more fun. We made up songs for commercials and sang them.

CoLaborer: Mrs. Workman, you said that both daughters were saved at home. Tell us about it.

Mrs. Workman: I tried to spend time with them in their early years. One day we were on our way to the grocery store, Regena asked me if she could get saved. She was only four years old and I wasn't sure what she understood. So, I told her to wait until we got home. If she brought it up again, I would talk to her. When we got home she

asked me again, so I got the Bible and talked with her. She then prayed and asked Jesus to come into her life.

Jennifer: Someone had just been baptized at church. On the way home I said I wanted to be baptized. Regena jumped in, "You can't be baptized. You're not saved." I told her, "But I want to get saved." After family devotions that night, I brought up the subject again. Regena questioned me about sin and salvation. Dad helped me understand and I prayed the sinner's prayer.

CoLaborer: What did you enjoy doing together growing up?

Jennifer: Mom was the one who played with us. She was more daring. She would swing us really high. I had fun crunching and tumbling in the fall leaves.

Regena: We got our athletic ability from Mom. Dad's a better shopper.

Mrs. Workman: When she still lived at home, Jennifer and I walked together for exercise.

Jennifer: We always played sports. Once, when I was playing high school basketball, I got the wind knocked out of me. Mom came running out of the bleachers yelling, "My baby, my baby." She embarrassed me to death.

Mrs. Workman: Gene and I went to practically all their games. When the girls games fell on the same night, Gene went to one game and I went to the other.

Jennifer: Mom was the one who stayed up to help us finish school projects.



Family devotions at Christmas

Regena: Jennifer was competitive in school. Her grades always had to be better than mine.

CoLaborer: Did you feel that you were treated differently?

Regena: Mom and Dad were stricter with me. I was the test child. The second time around going through each stage was easier. Mom got to practice on my wedding. Jennifer got the wedding I wanted. Another example was that I was not allowed to wear hose until the seventh grade. Jennifer got to wear them a lot sooner.

Mrs. Workman: Regena wasn't allowed to get her ears pierced until she was 18 and I remember when she came home after having her ears pierced, she declared, "I mean Jennifer better not get hers done until she's 18." They've always been competitive. But really, my girls didn't have a stage that I didn't enjoy.

CoLaborer: What was it like to grow up on campus at Free Will Baptist Bible College?

Jennifer: We had lots of fun at ball games, attending rush night with all the skits. We hated not having a private yard. But I liked having so many guys around.

CoLaborer: Everybody hits a few bumps along the way. What about hard times?

Regena: Seventh and eighth grade were the hardest. I was very thin and the boys and girls made fun on me. Mom would console me with "sticks and stones may break my bones . . ." or "You'll be looking so young, when they're old."

Jennifer: We hardly had time to date because

we were so involved in sports.

CoLaborer: How has your Mom been a role model?

Jennifer: She taught me to be willing to do things and not get the glory. She always helps clean up at church after a social. She just pitches in washing dishes and cleaning.

Regena: My first Christmas as a pastor's wife, I had an open house like Mom always did. The people in the church had never heard about open house. At the same church, we had several funerals in a few months. The church people were amazed that I just pitched in and helped. I learned from watching Mom.

CoLaborer: What do you appreciate about your mother?

Jennifer: We always had a home-cooked supper with the family even though Mom worked.

Regena: Her servant's heart. She's always doing stuff for everybody. Mom was the go-between for Dad and us kids. Mom and I are more alike. We are more laid back, even-tempered.

CoLaborer: What advice would you give to mothers and daughters?

Mrs. Workman: Keep communication lines open. It is extremely important.

Regena: But it must start at the beginning when kids are young, before the school years.

Editor's note: Mother-daughter relationships are sometimes like mutual admiration societies.

If your mother-daughter relationship is less than perfect, keep in mind that relationships usually improve after daughters grow up and leave home. Meanwhile, show your mother/daughter you love her today.

Interview some mother-daughter pairs in your church? You may learn some surprising lessons. Send some of your interviews to *CoLaborer*.

Interview conducted by Suzanne Franks, CoLaborer editor

What can 1 woman do?

Melinda Pinson

What can one woman do? How we interpret this question reveals much about our personality, our view of reality and the world. Most importantly, our answers will reveal if God has transformed our human way of viewing ourselves, others, and our world.

The simple question is, "What can one woman do for the Lord?" Looking at it objectively, we most likely would spout out a list of common things Christian women do—such as pray, teach Sunday school, sing, tithe, and on and on.

However, if we respond to the question subjectively, on a very personal level, our reactions to the question may not be so simple and similar. As we examine our own lives, schedules and daily struggles, the question, "What can one



woman do?" takes on new meaning and yields either a positive interpretation or a negative one.

Interpretation Number One

Woman Number One understands the question as,

Well, what *can just one* woman do for the Lord? I'm *only* one person, and my schedule and all the weekly tasks I must do prohibit me from doing what I would like to do for the Lord. Now, if I had the free time women who don't work have, or if I didn't have children, I would be able to do a lot more to serve Jesus.

I even thought about starting a youth group, but everyone in our church is either too busy, too lazy, or too apathetic to help me.

I want our church to be more involved, have more social activities, and have a ladies' Bible study, but I can't do everything. There's just one of me, and I'm stretched to my limit.

Interpretation Number Two

On the other hand, Woman Number Two responds to the subjective question, "What can one woman do?" with another question directed toward her Lord:

What would *You* have me do, Lord? Sometimes I feel helpless and discouraged. I must rely on You. Your strength alone can fulfill Your daily plan for my life. I am only **one** woman, Lord, but I **can** encourage others. I cannot accomplish everything, but I can do something.

God's Word provides an appropriate example of two women who clearly illustrate the above responses. Both women sought to serve Jesus and, in so doing, revealed their distinctive personalities and two different interpretations of the question, "What can one woman do?"



Martha and Mary

Read Luke 10:38–42 aloud.

Martha, a servant of Christ, welcomed Jesus into her home with the utmost hospitality. Martha's sister Mary, also a servant of Christ, was there too. Martha became irritated with her sister—in fact, disgruntled enough to confront Jesus and request that He rebuke Mary for not helping with the preparations.

Meanwhile, Mary sat fully relaxed at Jesus's feet, hearing His Word, attentive to all He said.

Martha, who felt overwhelmed by her tasks—tasks she deemed *so necessary*—was caught by surprise when the Lord chastised her. "And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary

hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

From Martha's direct confrontation with Jesus as she expressed her martyr complex, one can easily discern which view of reality Martha held. She was so overcome with self-pity because her sister was not helping, that she became distracted by the very service she intended to render to her Lord.

Jesus knew Martha's heart. He knew her good intentions, but He had to remind her of her first motivation for service. Her narrow-minded focus on her inability to complete the tasks—tasks that she deemed so necessary—became a hinderance. Unable to complete them, she blamed Mary. Martha's attitude resulted from a focus on self rather than on Christ.

Martha viewed herself as an isolated individual who could not do it all—because in her mind, she was the only one doing anything for Jesus. In essence she said, “What can I do? I'm just one person, and no one will help me serve You, Lord.”

Thus, Martha had shut herself off, not allowing Christ to use her to accomplish His plan. She undermined His ability and His authority to use her as an empty vessel for His service.

Mary, on the other hand, offered herself to Jesus openly, putting aside any agendas of her own. By being open to His service, He equipped her with the wisdom to do His will. The Lord blessed Mary because she sat humbly before Him as an empty vessel.

Jesus praised Mary because she identified the worship of Christ as the most necessary service she could render. She was not drawn away,

As Christ's servants, we
can either blame
missed
opportunities on
others and
circumstances,
or we can choose to
avail ourselves
of God's power
to use our
weaknesses to
glorify Him.

as Martha was, by distractions of not-so-necessary external things.

Jesus desires worship. Mary sat in Jesus' presence, and unlike Martha, she did not miss the opportunity to worship Him that day. Martha simply didn't have time. She had too much to do.

Are You a Mary or a Martha?

Do we blame our circumstances, problems or others for our non-service to the Lord? Are we allowing our environment to determine what we do or don't do in Jesus' name?

When asked the question, "What can one woman do?" is our response saturated with negativity? In fact, many (if not most) women are Marthas.

We Marthas need to listen to the Lord's rebuke. We must set aside our less necessary tasks—even those things we are convinced we're doing for Him—and serve Him without distraction or excuse.

The point is not that a life of quiet worship is superior to a life of active service. The crux: we must not allow the burden of our Christian duties to prohibit us from fulfilling our mission to glorify and worship God.

It's Your Choice

We must trust God daily to strengthen us emotionally and physically, so we can seize the service opportunities He supplies. We can either blame missed opportunities on others and circumstances, or we can choose to avail ourselves of God's power to use our weaknesses to glorify Him.

God has made us responsible for our own lives. Responsibility is the *ability* to choose our *response*. He calls us to look upon the weaknesses of others with compassion instead of accusation. The issue is not what our fellow Christian worker is not doing or should be doing. Rather, what is our own chosen response to a given situation?

If we can identify with Martha, we must admit that our response to the question, "What *can* one woman do?" contains a degree of self-pity and anxiety. We, too, have become distracted—distracted by preoccupation with all the preparations, or by frustration with others who don't seem to pull their weight.

Let's resolve to:

1. Take advantage of opportunities for service
2. Keep our eyes focused on Jesus
3. Not worry about what others are doing
4. Prayerfully ask the question, "What can one woman do?"

Reflect on these passages:

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings.

—Philippians 2:13–14

... Christ in you, the hope of glory.

—Colossians 1:27

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

—Philippians 4:13

Melinda Pinson lives in Colquitt, Georgia. She is a member of the Colquitt FWB Church where she teaches the young adult Sunday school class. Her husband Matt is her pastor. During the week she is a loan officer at a bank.

meet Wendy Skelley



How did you get involved in missions?

Through missions prayer band at Free Will Baptist Bible College. I went to prayer band even before I was a missions major.

You made some missions trips recently. Tell me about them.

I went to Japan with TEAM* when I was in High School. A few years ago, I went to Côte d'Ivoire with Go & Be. Last year, I was an overseas apprentice in Brazil.

How did these experience affect your life?

I grew as a Christian and understood a little bit about how big God is. I also saw that God rules over everything.

My trip to Africa reinforced my desire to work as missionary.

Being in Japan opened my eyes to how much the world needs Christ. I would like to encouraged teens to be involved in TEAM.

In Brazil, I realized that Christians around the world love God as much as I do, often more. They understand as

much or more than we do. At times, their love for God is greater.

You are the President of Global Missions Fellowship. What is GMF?

We are a student-based missions organization that serves students. Our purpose is to get college students involved in missions and help the student body understand what mission is.

Our main avenue of reaching students is through prayer band. Students and college personnel meet for prayer band throughout the week. We pray for missions and provide information about what is happening in the world.

GMF also sponsors retreats and a yearly missions project.

How can involvement in GMF help a college student?

Every Christian has a place in global evangelization. GMF can help us be involved.

Who has had an influence on your life? Why?

Mr. McCullough (missions professor at FWBBC) cares about all the students. He

Age: 22

Classification at Free Will Baptist Bible College: Graduating Senior

Major: Mission/Bible

Hometown: Decatur, Illinois

Favorite Food: Oriental

Current Missions

Involvement: President of Global Missions Fellowship

Future plans: Work as a missionary with Free Will Baptists, where and how are undecided

takes a lot of personal time to make sure the students understand what God desires for them.

What kind of advice would you give young people?

Learn to follow God with all your heart. Realize the importance of missions. Get involved. ♦

**For more information about TEAM and other missions trips contact Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions at P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002*



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator/Assistant Coordinator

Let's go to Atlanta! You can register for the National Convention using the Pre-Registration Form printed on page 24 of this issue. To reserve a hotel room, fill out the Housing Form on page 25. Please note that the Pre-Registration Form and the Housing Form need to be mailed to different addresses.

Remind your women that the Glorieta Retreat Registration Form is in the March/April issue. You may request additional copies of the form from WNAC.

Refer to the 1999 Yearbook for some neat Mother-Daughter Banquet ideas. If you follow the wedding theme suggested in the Yearbook, you can decorate the tables inexpensively with potpourri pouches. Use round pieces of white netting or lace. Put a small amount of potpourri in each piece of netting and tie with a piece of ribbon.

At the banquet, you may want to interview a few Mother/Daughter pairs or groups. The interview in the May Program can help you get started. You could honor the family with the most generations present or some other creative category. If you want to include drama as part of the program, order the play book *Volume 13: Mother's Day Medley*.

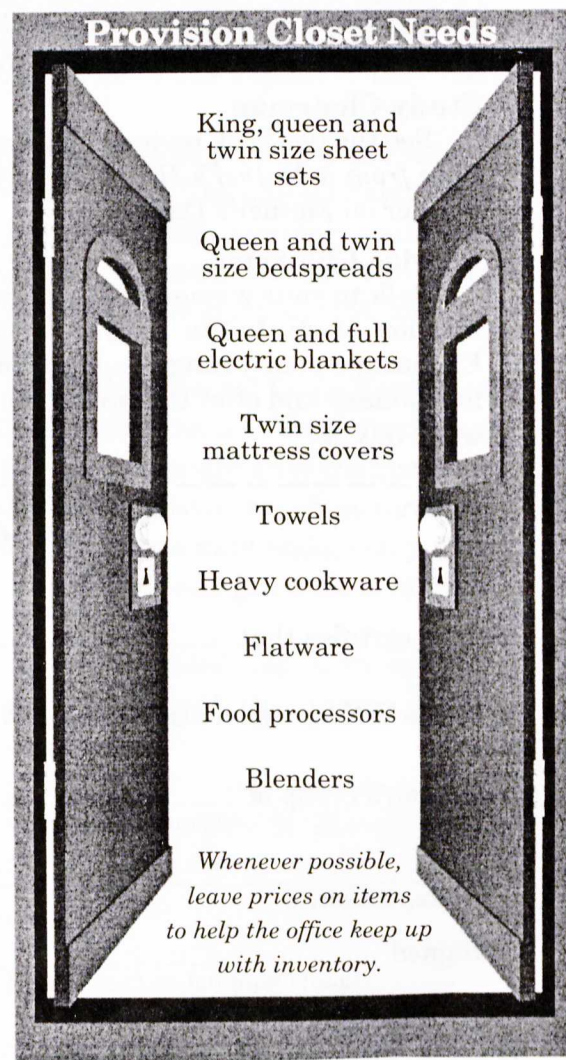
Secretary/Treasurer

Encourage your group to send a delegate to the WNAC Convention. The delegate card, which is on page 16, must be signed by the local secretary or local coordinator. Why not pay for their Fellowship Dinner ticket?

Missions Chairman

If your state has a home missions board, inform your women about the state work and encourage them to support the state home missionaries through prayer and finances. Many states plan a special emphasis for state home missions in June. Your state promotional office can provide you with information about your particular state.

One way to support our young people who have answered



the call to Christian service is to pray for and support those going on summer missions trips. The following are the names of some young people who are serving this year.

Overseas Apprentices

Adam and Darla Davis	Japan
Susan Pattengill	Japan
Terry and Deloris Vandivort	Unreached Peoples
Micah Derby (not confirmed)	Unreached Peoples
Anna Beck	Unreached Peoples
Jonathan Turnbough	Russia
Walter Lee (not confirmed)	Russia

Team Renaissance (France)

Matt and Katie Markins, K. C. and Liz Kohn, Timothy Crowson, Kim Douglas, Jackie Rasar, Shane Davison, Sara Watson, Matt McAfee, Kathy Britton, Jeremy Riggs

Prayer Chairman

Pray for the three conventions going on, July 19–20. Hundreds of people are working behind the scenes to make the WNAC, NYC and National Association of FWB Convention happen. Remember to pray for the speakers, musicians, ushers, etc.

Study Chairman

See the two book reviews on pages 20–21. Glenda Revell's *With Love from a Mother's Heart* would make a great gift for a young mother on Mother's Day.

Service Chairman

Talk to your women about sponsoring a trip to a state home mission work. Invite anyone in the church who wants to go. Encourage your young people to go. Get in touch with the home missionary and offer to provide the volunteers for a visitation or work day. ❖

Bible Study

Got wisdom?

Comments on Proverbs 3:5–6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart!

Isaiah 26:4

Give examples of women who trusted God:

- Hannah (1 Samuel 1),
- The widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17)
- Deborah (Judges 4–5)

Lean not unto your own understanding.

1 Kings 3:9

Our own understanding causes selfish thoughts that lead us away from God. God's understanding gives us the ability to discern between good and bad.

WNAC Local Delegate Credentials

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

(Church Address)

Signed _____ or _____
(Local Coordinator) (Local Secretary)

Date _____

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

Clip and attach to Convention Pre-Registration in the next CoLaborer issue or bring to the WNAC Convention.

Proverbs 3:13

God's understanding gives
peace, righteousness, kindness,
love.

*In all your ways acknowledge
Him.*

Isaiah 55:7-9

We are better off when we
turn everything over to God,
because His ways are superior
to ours. Acknowledging God in
all of our ways means giving
our entire being over to the Holy
Spirit's control.

And He shall direct our paths.

Psalms 119:105

Is God in total control of my
life, my path, my dreams and
my plans?

Romans 12:1-2

God has a perfect plan for my
life.

*Adapted from a program by Janet
Baxley of Cedar Springs, Georgia.*



**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 (teen-
age) MKs especially. As needs
vary, check with Tanya Hart or
WNAC for current needs.

Suggested items:

- ♦ Walkman cassette players
- ♦ Christian music on CD or cassette

Who overcomes

by Gertrude Cantrell

Even though the storms of life rage, the sunshine of God's love and grace still shines to brighten our path. This thought came to mind one day as I looked outside and saw the sun shining brightly through the vicious rain. When the trials and tribulations and temptations of the world surround us, if we shield ourselves with faith in Christ, we can weather the storms.

The earth needs the rains to water and nourish the grass, trees and flowers; the winds to prune the trees of their broken branches and blow away the dead leaves. Even lightning puts a substance in the earth that is vital to its existence, so I am told. Of course, the noise of the thunder is just a report of the explosion that has already taken place.

Even so, our lives sometimes need to be pruned of the things that are unfruitful and weighing us down. The useless habits and actions need to be blown away or cleaned from our daily walk. The fiery trials temper and strengthen our faith, causing it to grow stronger after each victory. Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us . . .

Have you ever observed nature after a storm? The sky emerges so blue after the haze has blown away. The air smells fresh and pure. The leaves and flowers are twice as bright after the dust and dirt have washed away allowing their true beauty to shine through.

But while the storm raged, the sky was dark and gloomy. The trees swayed back and forth. The flowers and grass stooped from the weight of moisture.

All seemed lost, but the storm subsided and calm reigned again. The weak ones didn't make it through the storm, but the strong survived and grew stronger.

And after the storm, arrives the rainbow—God's promise that the storm is over and the earth will not again be destroyed by water. Even so, God's Word promises that we will not be tempted above what we are able to bear, that with every burden there lies a way of escape. This **way** is Christ. And as He has overcome, even so with His help we can overcome, too!

—Matthew 8:26

Gertrude Cantrell is from Santa Fe, California. She belongs to Garden Grove FWB Church.

Lucy & Marge

Marge is standing beside a table stacked with clothes, shoes, and purses. Lucy enters.

Lucy: What are you doing Marge?

Marge: I'm trying to decide which of these items I want to keep and which ones to send to the local rescue mission.

Lucy: Goodness, Marge, those clothes are too nice to give to the mission. And besides, you might want to wear them again some time.

Marge: Lucy, I have plenty more clothes left.

Lucy: I say you can never have too many clothes or shoes.

Marge: Well, yes, you did recently build a huge walk-in closet for more clothes and other "things."

Lucy: Can I help it if I needed more room for all the pretty things God blessed me with last year?

Marge: Maybe He gave you at least some of them to share with others.

Lucy: Marge, are you trying to make me feel guilty?

Marge: Don't you remember, this month's Woman Active for Christ project is for the rescue mission. And the pastor's sermon last Sunday on sharing with others made me realize how selfish I've been.

Lucy: Okay, okay, I get your point.

Marge: Oh, come on Lucy, help me decide which ones to give away. *(Holds up an outfit)* Can't you just see the face of the woman who gets this pretty outfit?

Lucy: Look at this one. Now that's a nice outfit... too nice to give away. But if you're determined you don't want it, maybe I could wear it.

Marge: Lucy, you're hopeless. But really, isn't it great that we have so many opportunities through WNAC to share with others in our community and around the world?

Lucy: You're right, we can share with Free Will Baptist missionaries by giving to the provision closet—hey, maybe they would like some of these used clothes you're giving to the rescue mission.

Marge: Don't you know, Lucy? The Provision Closet doesn't take clothes or shoes, except for baby things. And everything must be new. By the way, when you buy a gift for the provision closet, don't take the price tag off. WNAC has to keep an inventory of everything they receive.

Lucy: But I'd be embarrassed for them to see the sale price.

Marge: Don't be, Lucy. They will just think you're a good steward.

Lucy: Are there other ways we

can help through WNAC?

Marge: Sure, our women's group nearly always has a project going in our church, our community or somewhere around the world. In fact, we support four children's homes, four colleges, 60 foreign missionary families and 70 home missionary families.

Lucy: Sounds like Free Will Baptist women are really generous.

Marge: They surely are. In the past 10 years Women Active For Christ gave over \$300,000 in items to the provision closet including \$35,000 just last year.

Lucy: Wow! I never realized how much our women do for others. Marge, can we hurry up and finish this project? I need to get home and start going through my closets. That could take a long, long time!❖

Lucy & Marge in this issue is written by Yvonne Hampton who is on the WNAC staff. Among other jobs, she is the Circulation Manager for CoLaborer Magazine.

URGENT

memo

Call

Missions Hotline

615•731•3839

e-mail:

carole@nafwb.org

COMMUNICATOR

by MARJORIE WORKMAN

Get the most out of the convention

Participate

Be a participant and not a spectator. It takes more effort to participate than to spectate. It is easier to be passive than active. Attend all worship services with an eagerness to be involved. Sing from the heart and don't just sing words. Pay attention to the meaning of songs. Listen to the prayers that are prayed and join in the spirit of the prayer.

During service, don't plan your next move. Be a good listener. Pay attention to the content of the messages. Often we rate a speaker on his delivery style and give very little value to the content.

Participate in the business of the convention. Volunteer to be a delegate from your state or local church. Don't assume that everything is going to be business as usual. Your input may be just what is needed. Think for yourself. Vote your conscience and not someone else's. The convention does not belong to someone else, it is your convention and mine.

Pre-register

Plan ahead. Pre-register. It will save you time. Your registration packet will be waiting for you at the convention. Your name badge will be ready and will look much nicer than those prepared on site. No paper work to be done

Brenda Vaughn, WNAC Fellowship Dinner Speaker

Brenda Vaughn and her husband John co-authored the book *More Precious than Gold*. The book is the story of the tragic fire that destroyed their home and left Brenda and their two-year-old-daughter Becky severely burned.

The Vaughns have been featured on James Dobson's *Focus on the Family* radio program.

They also founded Hidden Treasure Christian School for children with physical, mental and learning disabilities.

while standing in line—in fact, chances are you will not have to tackle a line. Your ticket to the WNAC Fellowship Dinner will be in your packet (assuming, of course, you ordered one). Since a limited number of tickets are available, ordering your ticket with your pre-registration is the best way to guarantee that you will get a ticket before they sell out.

Pray

Pray for the convention. Speakers need your prayers. Pray for them as they prepare. Pray that God will direct their thoughts to prepare what the attendees need to hear.

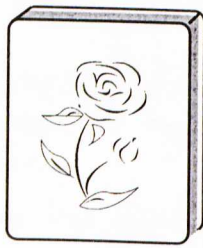
Pray for the attendees that each person's heart will be ready to receive the messages. Singing is very important to worship, so those directing, singing or playing instruments merit prayer support.

Many people work behind the scenes to make sure the convention runs smoothly. They also need prayer. Pray for the ushers, the various board members and the special guests.

Purchase WNAC Fellowship Dinner tickets in advance

Hear Brenda Vaughn share her heart at the WNAC Fellowship Dinner on Tuesday evening at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$28.00 each. Hers is a true story of triumph over tragedy.

Order your tickets in advance so you won't miss Brenda Vaughn's inspirational message. Men may purchase tickets also. The WNAC dinner during this year's National Convention is the only catered event for which you can purchase tickets.❖



ON THE SHELF

With Love From a Mother's Heart

*Creating
an Extraordinary Home*

Glenda Revell

*Reviewed by
Vicki Sturgill*

*Back to the Bible
Lincoln, Nebraska, 199?
\$12.00*

After reading Glenda Revell's first book, *Glenda's Story: Led By Grace*, I wondered: Are there children who suffer like she did in today's society? My answer came as I picked up the morning newspaper. Court cases of four

abused children were mentioned in the small hometown newspaper that day.

My second question was: How can those who have suffered so much understand God's love and build Christian homes? *With Love from a Mother's Heart* answers the question.

Glenda Revell uses Biblical teachings and sound principles to show how to build the Christian home. The principles apply not only to those who have suffered from childhood abuse, but to each woman entering matrimony. She not only gives the Bible basis and sound principles, but also gives practical tips in putting the principles to work in every day life.

Glenda offers the abused woman the secret of living a happy life as she encourages her to

- build upon a solid foundation (Christ)
- focus attention on Christ
- control thought life
- accept God's healing
- forgive the abusers.

She also points out that those who have been violated, abused, reviled and maligned in the past are not responsible for what happened. Often the abused feels dirty, demeaned or devalued, but actually the victim should carry no guilt.

She reminds us that it is the perpetrator who sinned against the victim and against God. The abuser, not the vic-

tim, must answer to God.

Many abused women have low self-esteem. Revell reminds the Christian that God sees her as His child. Leaving self-pity behind and having faith in God, she can be victorious.

The chapters on peace teach valuable lessons to the Christian woman today. The author gives many helpful tips on how to make the home more peaceful, more orderly and quieter.

The damage of selfishness and an unwillingness to sacrifice in the marriage relationship is discussed. Most pastors and counselors will agree that if couples are willing to sacrifice what they call "their rights" and surrender themselves totally to do God's will, most marital problems would be solved.

Glenda sums up her recipe for a "heavenly home for yourself and your family" by encouraging us to

- make sure our foundation is on a solid Rock
- build relationships through changed attitudes
- leave the past behind
- take responsibility for our own behavior
- lay down our life for the good of our husbands and children.

The recipe can work for all women, abused or not.

This book should help women who have been abused or those who counsel victims of abuse.

12 "Christian" Beliefs That Can Drive You Crazy

*Relief from
False Assumptions*

*Dr. Henry Cloud
and Dr. John Townsend*

*Reviewed by
Mary R. Wisehart*

*Zondervan Publishing House
Grand Rapids, Michigan 1995
\$10.99 US/ \$14.99 Canada*

Are you plagued by guilt? Do you try to do what you should, but find yourself failing? Are you reading your Bible more, but enjoying it less?

Perhaps you are applying principles that sound good, even Christian, but you are not applying them based on what God says in His word.

If so, then Dr. Cloud and Dr. Townsend may be able to help you sort out what is true and what is false about the assumptions you are making.

These men have done their share of counseling. They have met Christians overwhelmed by some of the misconceptions they write about in this book. The doctors discuss these 12

assumptions, using clinical cases seen in their practices.

- It's selfish to have my needs met.
- If I'm spiritual enough, I will have no pain or sinfulness.
- If I have God, I don't need people.
- Guilt and shame are good for me.

We can certainly understand some of these false assumptions.

One word of caution, however. At some points there may be a fine line between what is a false assumption and what is good and right. For example, in the chapter "Shoulds are Good" they distinguish between "shoulds" and "want tos." You may find it hard to distinguish between the two. The doctors are attempting to get to the real problems, the problem of motivation and "separation from God and each other."

"Shoulds are good in that they are standards by which we see how we are doing. God's shoulds guide us on the way of life everlasting. They are the light on our path."

If our motivation for obeying the shoulds is so that someone will love us or like us, then our motivation is wrong.

Is guilt ever good? The writers answer that question: "One good thing about guilt feelings. They can be a sign of spiritual growth. Read the chapter

"Guilt and Shame Are Good for Me" to see why they think this answer is true. Probably not the reason you think, but give it some thought.

The book includes discussion questions for each of the 12 assumptions and some suggestions for the discussion leader.

"We wanted to do more than simply react and refute these crazy-making assumptions. We wanted to tell the truth about God's principles of spiritual growth." The book is liberally sprinkled with scripture throughout.

The authors end with this prayer, "that you will dig underneath every false assumption to the truth—and, in the truth, find Jesus."❖

Both of the above books may be ordered from Randall Bookstore by calling 1-800-877-7030.

Women In Action

Alabama WAC Banquet held at Home Mission Church



Honored guests at banquet: (standing, left to right) Dr. John Chang, Trymon Messer, Kevin Stacey, Jaimie Lancaster, Mike Corley, Fred Jones, Roger Raper, Dennis Haygood, (seated) Tammy Lancaster, Barbara Jones, Sandra Raper, Judy Haygood

The Alabama FWB Women Active for Christ Banquet was held at the Madison FWB Church. Carolyn Hendrix, Vice President of Alabama FWB Women Active for Christ, and the members of the Madison FWB Church provided the meal and decorations for the banquet.

Actionettes Support the MK Provision Closet

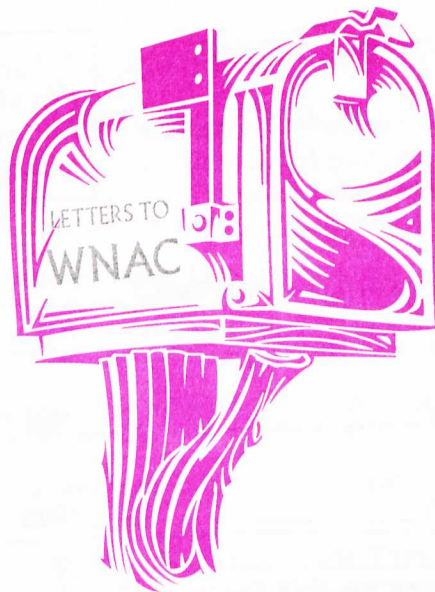


The Kibler FWB Actionettes in Alma, Arkansas, held a school supply drive for the MK Provision Closet.

Pictured: (left to right) Aubrey Clark, Randa Turner, Ericka Davis, Lacy France (President)



Pictured: (left to right) Elwanda Oakes (State Treasurer), William Evans (Guest Speaker), Paulette Scott (Former Alabama WAC President)



Dear WNAC,

Thank you for taking care of our Free Will Baptist missionaries. Being new missionaries, we have just begun to experience the generosity of our FWB women everywhere.

Thank you for helping us accomplish the task He has put before us.

*Justin & Leslie Banks
Missionary Appointees to the
Kuna Indians in Panama*

Dear WNAC,

Thank you seems inadequate, but it is all I know to say. I was able to visit the Missionary Provision Closet while in Nashville. It was just like going shopping at a super store. Thanks for being there for us and for your special gift of generosity. God is so good! May He richly bless all of you for your efforts.

*Donna Crabtree,
Missionary to New Brunswick,
Canada*

Dear WNAC,

Thank you for working with me on getting the *CoLaborer*

again! I really missed reading it and staying caught up with what's going on. I don't have the privilege of having WNAC at my church. I look forward to getting my issues.

*Rebekah Bragan
Nashville, Tennessee*

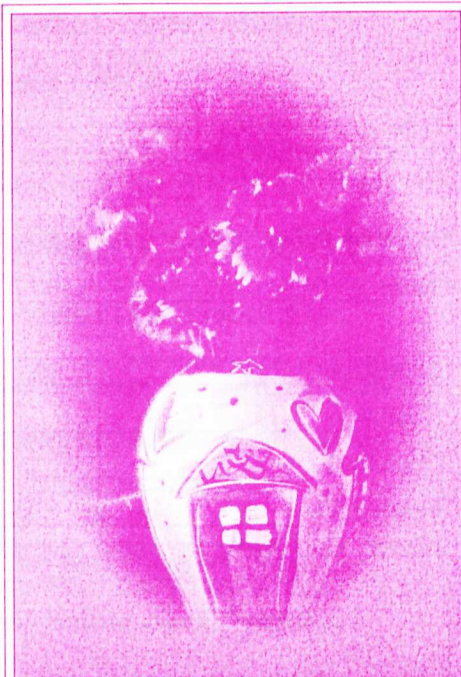
Dear WNAC,

Our Randall District manual study went well. We met on February 13 at the Garner Free Will Baptist Church in Garner, North Carolina.

District officers lead by Shirley Lee (Coordinator) and the Garner ladies under the direction of Annette Waters (Local President) prepared for the meeting. Their warm hospitality and friendly atmosphere provided for good study sessions.

The women went home spiritually encouraged and more WNAC informed.

*Frances D. Stancill
Durham, North Carolina
NC Study Chairman*



HONOR YOUR MOTHER WITH A GIFT TO THE WNAC ENDOWMENT FUND

Clip this coupon and send to address below.

My gift is in

☐ honor ☐ memory of

From _____

Address _____

The names of the person honored and the donor will be entered in the Book of Remembrance permanently displayed in the WNAC office.

For information call 615-731-6812

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

Pre-Registration Form

for
National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Atlanta, Georgia / July 18-22, 1999

DEADLINE:
Must be **postmarked**
on or before
June 18, 1999

Please Print: (Only one person per form—make copies if needed.)

Name: _____
First or Name desired on badge _____ Last _____

Home Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone #: (____) _____ - _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

Church Name: _____ City _____ State _____
Pastor's Name: _____

Note: You may register for all three conventions on this form.

National Association Registration

Voting Delegates:

All voting delegates must be members in good standing of a Free Will Baptist church.

- ☐ National Officer
- ☐ National Board Member
- ☐ State Delegate
- ☐ Local Church Delegate (\$25)
- ☐ Foreign Missionary
- ☐ Home Missionary
- ☐ Ordained Deacon
- ☐ Ordained Minister

Non-Voting Attendees:

- ☐ Licensed Minister
- ☐ Visitor

WNAC Registration

Voting Delegates:

- ☐ National Officer
- ☐ State President
- ☐ State Field Worker
- ☐ State Delegate
- ☐ Local WAC Delegate (\$5)

Non-Voting Attendees:

- ☐ Visitor

National Youth Conference Registration

Pre-Registration Fee: \$20*

- ♦ Grades 1-12 must register to attend NYC events.
- ♦ Ages 2-6 must register if attending Pre-school Worship.

Birthdate: ____/____/____ Age: ____

Grade completed Spring 1999: ____

Parent/Guardian name: _____

Youth Leader's name: _____

Payment must accompany this form for:

Tickets:

Youth Workers Reception (\$15)

WNAC Fellowship Dinner (\$28)

Delegate Fees:

Local Church Delegate (\$25)

Local WAC Delegate (\$5)

Youth Registration Fee:

Pre-Registration Fee (\$20)

*On-Site Registration Fee: \$25

Quantity _____	x \$15		\$ _____
Quantity _____	x \$28		\$ _____
(Must enclose a signed delegate card; see Contact, page 12.)**			\$ _____
(Must enclose a signed WNAC delegate card; see Contact, page 12.)**			\$ _____
.....			\$ _____
Total			\$ _____

Send one check for total amount — payable to FWB Convention.

**Delegate cards available on website: www.nafwb.org

Mail to:

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

Confirmation letter will be mailed to
all those pre-registering.

For Office Use Only

Date Rcv'd _____
Ck/MO # _____ Amt _____
From _____

Housing Form

National Association of Free Will Baptists / National Convention

Atlanta, Georgia • July 18-22, 1999

Print or type all information requested and phone, mail or FAX form to the hotel of your choice by **June 18, 1999**. If form is faxed, keep your transaction report as proof of transmittal. You will receive acknowledgment of your hotel assignment by mail within two weeks of the time the form is received by the hotel. All reservations, changes and cancellations should be made directly with the hotels.

DEPOSIT REQUIRED: An advance deposit of **\$135 per room** is required. Your deposit will be charged to your credit card by providing the information requested below. Deposits being made by check should be for **\$135 per room** payable to the hotel of your choice and mailed to the address below. Forms received without credit card information or a check for the deposit will be returned and reservations will not be processed. Hotel refund policies vary. The hotels *prefer* credit cards rather than checks.

Changes or cancellations should be made directly with the hotel. Check your hotel confirmation for instructions regarding cancellation policies and check-in times. Reservations received after June 18, 1999, (or once block is full) will be on a space and rate available basis.

If you mail or FAX the housing form, number hotels in numerical order of preference. If your preferred hotel is sold out, your form will be sent to the other hotel listed on this form.

◆ ◆ CIRCLE ROOM TYPE REQUESTED BELOW ◆ ◆

(Rooms with two beds are limited. Please utilize rooms with one bed whenever possible.)

Number Hotel choices in order of preference ↓	HOTELS	SINGLE 1 bed / 1 person	DOUBLE 1 bed / 2 persons	DBL/DBL 2 beds / 2 persons	TRIPLE 2 beds / 3 persons	QUAD 2 beds / 4 persons	PARKING
	Marriott Marquis (Headquarters)	\$109	\$109	\$109	\$119	\$119	\$10/day valet
	Hilton Atlanta & Towers (Overflow)	N/A	N/A	\$119	\$119	\$119	\$12/day valet

Rates do not include **tax** which is currently 14% in Georgia.

Indicate Special Requests:

- ☐ Wheelchair Accessible ☐ Non-Smoking ☐ Crib Other _____
☐ Rollaway (Upon availability at an additional charge.)
 [By Fire Marshall Law, a rollaway cannot be placed in a room with 2 beds.]

Three ways to make hotel reservations:	By Phone	By FAX	By Mail
<i>Marriott Marquis: (Headquarters)</i>	404/521-0000	404/586-6247	Attn: Reservations 265 Peachtree Center Ave. Atlanta, GA 30303
<i>Hilton Atlanta and Towers (Overflow)</i>	404/221-6300	404/221-6301	Attn: Reservations 255 Courtland Street N.E. Atlanta, GA 30303

ARRIVAL DATE / / TIME DEPARTURE DATE / /

APPLY DEPOSIT TO: MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMEx ☐
CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____
NAME ON CARD: _____ SIGNATURE _____

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED. CHECK # _____

ROOMMATES: (LIST ALL OCCUPANTS OF ROOM)

(1) _____	(3) _____
(2) _____	(4) _____

PERSON TO WHOM CONFIRMATION SHOULD BE MAILED. (Please Print or Type Clearly.)

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
 PHONE (____) _____ FAX (____) _____

**Send only
one (1)
form per room.**

Poet's Corner

Looking for Sunrise

Ruth Bivens, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

Yesterday was not a good day, Lord,
The weather changed and my old bones
ached.

It was cloudy all morning.
Things did not go smoothly.
And I need some sunlight.

Then, the phone rang.

There was disturbing news
From loved ones far away.

All we could do was weep and pray.

Now, the night drags on and sleep won't
come.

Funny, how at this age,
I feel like a little child a long way from
home.

That's really who I am, isn't it Lord—
Your little child, a long way from Home.

Hold me in your arms tonight, Lord.
Hold me close and rock me and tell me
That everything will be all right
in the Morning.

Free Will Baptist Family Ministries

*provides an
avenue for
women
to choose
life*



Free confidential counseling about abortion alternatives and **hope**. That's what the crisis pregnancy center, known as **The Hope Center** offers to women with unplanned, crisis pregnancies.

Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, Greeneville, Tennessee, opened the center November 1998 because of their commitment to life, children and families. Knowing that a pre-born child dies every 22 seconds in this country fueled the decision to open the center.

The Hope Center also offers the following services:

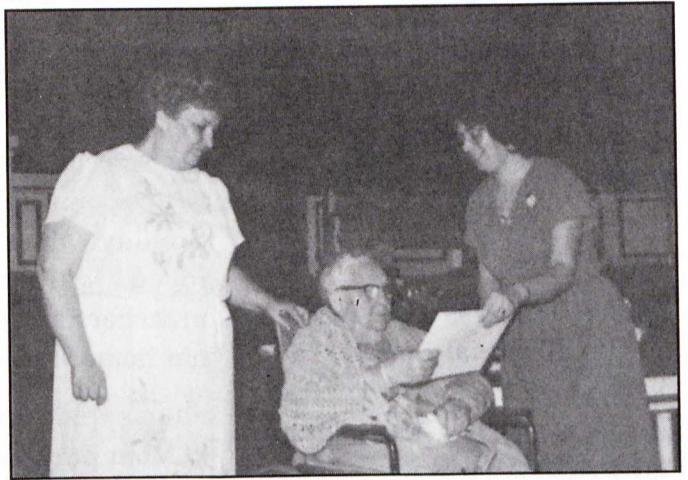
- a 24-hour telephone help-line
- free pregnancy tests
- education about fetal development
- adoption information and referral to a licensed adoption agency
- referrals to maternity homes
- maternity clothes
- baby clothes and equipment
- post-abortion counseling

The Hope Center seeks to demonstrate the forgiveness, love and compassion of Jesus Christ through all these services. Wanting to preserve the lives of pre-born children is just part of the overall goal of the crisis pregnancy center. We also seek to minister to the mothers, striving to meet their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

For information on how you can help, contact:

The Hope Center
Suite 316
1104 Tusculum Blvd.
Greeneville, TN 37743
423-638-LIFE

Lassie Hale Bryant



Lassie Hale Bryant receiving the mother of the year award in 1982. Barbara Chaffin pictured on left.

100 years of positive influence

Barbara Chaffin

Lassie Hale Bryant was born July 6, 1899 to a loving family who lived simple lives on a farm in Kentucky. She attended a one-room schoolhouse that only went to the sixth grade; however, she continued to go to the sixth grade class for three or four years and eventually became a teacher.

Her social life was limited to family, school and church. She attended the local Missionary Baptist Church where she was saved on May 29, 1917. She was saved while singing *Heaven Seems Not Far Away, Since I Found My Savior*. She loved music, sang in the church choir and occasionally sang a solo.

On March 6, 1919, she mar-

ried William McKinley Bryant. She met him at the local train station when he returned from the war. She gave him a horseback ride home since that was their mode of transportation.

After 20 years of marriage, Dad was saved. They attended the United Baptist Church until Dad was dismissed for participating in feet washing with the Free Will Baptists in the area. In the 1940's, Mom and Dad became members of Welcomeland Free Will Baptist Church at Nolan, West Virginia.

Mom gained the love and respect of the people in that small town. The children called her Ma Bryant, and the adults regarded her as the perfect example of a Christian. The town

drunks turned and went the other way when they saw her coming, because they knew she would witness about her wonderful Lord.

She lived her faith

Mom gave birth to twelve children. Three of the children died at a young age. Her loss revealed a vigorous faith. This trial was, however, only the beginning of a series of tests.

Within a three-month period, one son was wounded in action and another killed in the same war. A week later a coal mining accident claimed her husband's life. And last, she gave birth to me on October 1, 1944. This three-month nightmare would be enough to make anyone give up and say, "Why me, Lord? I quit!"

But the story does not end there.

Mom's faith increased as she met the challenge of rearing eight children alone. A strict disciplinarian, she said what she meant and meant what she said.

She fed and clothed us with the small Social Security and Veteran's check she received. Insurance or pension from my father's death was nonexistent.

To make ends meet, she did people's laundry and cleaned houses. Yet she built a beautiful two-story house with the help of her children and friends.

Through all her heartache,

love to her is still evident today when we talk about her. Thoughts of her always bring a smile.

Even with eight kids around, we frequently had visitors on Sunday. Mom especially enjoyed welcoming visiting preachers and evangelists into her home.

She shared her faith

Mom purposed in her life to serve God and witness for Him wherever she went. Her favorite pastime was fishing, but her life's goal was to be a fisher of men.

Her life's goal was most obvious when she explained to

ing those women to become teachers as well.

She was chosen Mother of the Year in 1982. Although she was in the hospital at the time, her doctor said she would be at the banquet if he had to take her himself. After the banquet, she went back to the hospital, but was soon released.

She gave advice

"You go with your husband or someone else will," she often told her daughters-in-law. They never let one of them get away.

She reminded preachers to guard their reputation and not lose their testimony. "Keep your coat buttoned!" she would say,

Her favorite pastime was fishing, but her life's goal was to be a fisher of men.

she never ceased to give God the glory for meeting the daily needs of the family.

Although we never had a lot of things, but we had a loving mother and good food to go home to. She cooked simple country meals. My mouth waters just thinking about the chicken and dumplin's and fried apple pies.

She never made the cover of *Better Homes and Gardens*, but she was far more special than anything in a magazine. The respect and love her children de-

neighbors, friends and strangers that the problems in her life were the perfect reason to serve God.

She testified in church of her thankfulness for all God's special blessings. My son said "her testimonies were sometimes better than the sermon!"

In 1962, we moved to Columbus, Ohio, and attended Welch Avenue Free Will Baptist Church (now Heritage Temple). Mom taught the ladies Bible class for many years, challeng-

reminding them of Joseph who lost his coat to Potiphar's wife's entrapment.

She gave friendship and gifts

She was a friend to many and generously gave gifts to the needy. Everyone knew she was on a first-name basis with her Heavenly Father.

This July, makes one hundred years since Mother was born. She experience lots of happiness and lots of trouble, yet she passed on to her children and grandchildren unyielding faith.

At the time of her death in January 1998, Mother was a member of the Inez Free Will Baptist Church.

Her legacy: three sons and one son-in-law were ministers. Her other children and grandchildren are currently active in Free Will Baptist churches.

These first 100 years are merely the beginning of her life in eternity.

Her life and incredible influence reminds me of the story of Lois and Eunice in 2 Timothy 1:5-9. "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

Mom was and is an example of unfeigned (genuine) faith like Lois' and Eunice's. I treasure her memory with the greatest love and honor a daughter can have. Her faith inspires me and many others to live for God and serve others along the way. ❖



Barbara Chaffin is the pianist at Canaan Land Free Will Baptist Church in Grove City, Ohio.

WNAC

NATIONAL CONVENTION

HIGHLIGHTS

64TH ANNUAL SESSION

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

JULY 19-20, 1999

Theme: Passing the Torch

MONDAY AFTERNOON

WNAC Seminar

Speaker: Genevieve Waddell

State Leaders Meeting

Presiding: Marjorie Workman

TUESDAY MORNING

Devotional: Lynette Morgan

Missionary Message: Shirley Combs

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Special Feature: *Passing the Torch*

Diana Bryant

TUESDAY EVENING

Fellowship Dinner Speaker:

Brenda Vaughn

(see Communicator for more information)

Mission Alert

Evangelism News from Around the World



Salt Lake City, Utah

Missionary Bill Phillips is rejoicing at the salvation of Troy, Shanna (Troy's wife) and Spencer. Troy owns the building where Valley FWB Church meets.

Tentmakers Chris and Stacey Bern moved to Salt Lake City in January. Chris, who is a veterinarian by trade, is helping Kevin Payne with the teens. Stacey is in charge of the church's music program.

Cecil and Barbara Willis and their three children have also moved to Salt Lake City from Tennessee to help in the work.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Jerry Esser is a member of Three Rivers Free Will Baptist Church. He had surgery for tonsil cancer and underwent radiation therapy. As of January, he was cancer free. During a time of testimonies at his church, one would expect him to praise God for his recovery.

Instead, he declared, "I thank the Lord that we are in a Bible preaching church!"

God is using Don and Cathy Draughn in the Pittsburgh area. They are another example of a couple who took up roots and moved in order to help build a home mission church. "Don recently lost his job, but God gave him another one right away," reports missionary Tommy Jones.

Springdale, Arkansas

Although cross-cultural missionaries Ramon and Ede Zuniga still travel on weekends to raise support to plant a Spanish-speaking church in the Springdale area, they already keep a busy schedule during the week. They hold English-Spanish devotions on Thursday nights at the Westside church. Ede teaches English three nights a week.

The Zunigas have also made contacts through visits, hospitality and other means.

Madrid, Spain

José Manuel, the pastor of the Alcala de Henares church, is having to work long hours on his new job. "The long hours

make time for family and ministry difficult. He is praying for a new job, which will pay enough to support his family, yet give time to spend with them and time to fulfill his church ministry responsibilities," writes missionary Jeff Turnbough.

Sixteen-year-old Javier is studying the Bible with Jeff Turnbough. Javier may be an answer to prayer for God to raise up spiritual leaders in the church. His parents and sister also belong to the Villalba church.

St. Sebastien, France

According to missionary Dennis Teague, the St. Sebastien church hosted a gospel concert on February 6. The featured guest was Foreign Missions Board member Doug Little. Brother Little pastors the First FWB Church in Russellville, Arkansas. Of the 120 people who attended over half were first-time visitors.

Tokyo, Japan

Missionaries Ken and Judy Bailey are rejoicing that Mr. Takaso and Mrs. Sagara accepted Christ as his Savior in February. Mr. Takaso is the husband of the woman who was baptized Christmas week.

Piñar del Rio, Cuba

Dr. Thomas Marberry of Hillsdale FWB College conducted a Pastor's Conference in Cuba, January 9-16. ❖



Words for Women

*Marjorie H.
Workman*

The phone rang. The voice on the other end said, "She's gone. She went quietly and peacefully about thirty minutes ago." I stood stunned though not surprised. I smiled inside though tears were spilling from my eyes. Her suffering is over. She is home at last. She fought a courageous fight. The fight is over. The machines are silent.

Somehow I knew. I knew just twenty-four hours before when I leaned over the hospital bed and kissed her forehead that I was saying good-bye. She seemed to understand. I think she acknowledged my good-bye with an ever so slight head movement.

I walked out of the hospital, caught a flight home to Nashville to greet my two daughters who were coming home for Labor Day weekend. I had been at the hospital a little over three weeks watching my friend—my Mom—slip away. I had hopes she might last another few weeks or months or perhaps beat the odds altogether. My plans had no impact on hers whatsoever.

Mother, I miss you. I long to talk with you, to share what is happening in my world still. Hardly a day or week goes by but there's something I need to say. Subconsciously, I reach for the phone to make that important call, but quickly my senses tell me you are beyond the phone's reach. I glance upward to the sky and wonder how much you see and know of earth's happenings. My hope is that you don't see the disappointments, the failures. But that you do see the good things.

You were faithful, Mom. Faithful to the church. You taught a Sunday school class for more years than I've lived. You pulled your time as youth leader when youth leaders were volunteers within the church. Your pay was seeing youth surrender to Christ.

Those youth paid tribute to you at Homecoming following your passing. More than one shared how you led them to Christ. I was so proud of you, Mom. Their decisions as youth have been lasting decisions. They are serving faithfully. You passed your faith to another generation.

You fulfilled your time in the Woman's Auxiliary. You served as officer, hosted meetings, worked Vacation Bible School year after year. You attended district meet-

ings. You didn't run from responsibility or leave it to someone else to do.

You even helped write my first devotional that I gave at a district women's meeting. I was only an eighth grader. You were my strength.

You were faithful in hospitality. I wonder if God has a record of all the dishes you prepared for the sick or bereaved? You sure knew how to fry chicken.

I met my first real "live" missionary at your table. Many preachers and evangelists made their acquaintance at that same table.

Your home was always open even on the spur of the moment. It didn't seem to bother you that our home wasn't the finest in the community. You knew that people, not possessions, make the home. You made anticipating company exciting.

You got the best out of us kids. Our friends were always welcome for Sunday dinner, too. You never knew how many were coming. It didn't really matter. You always had plenty of food.

You were faithful to your family. In those growing up years, the thought never entered my mind that you and Dad would ever think of getting a divorce. Can you imagine how much security that gave us children? You were not able to give material things, but you gave better gifts than money could ever buy. You modeled character, integrity, purity, godliness, longsuffering, patience, love.

You were a prayer warrior. You didn't just say we should pray—you did it. Daily, faithfully, in our presence. We often found you reading the Bible or praying rather than watching television.

I once commented to a colleague that I was really going to miss your prayers when you left this world. I knew and felt your prayers daily and how I needed them. The colleague responded, "Do you think your Mother will have less impact in heaven than she does down here?" Those words comforted me then and even more so now. You are in His very Presence, Mom, so please keep asking on my behalf.

Mother, you were a fine example of the Proverbs 31 woman. You were a virtuous woman. Truly your price was far above rubies. You feared the Lord and your works praise you. ❖



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