

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

CoLaborer

**God Called—
They Answered**

**Let the Beauty
of the Lord
Be Upon Us**

**Vitally Connected
A Successful Leader Listens**

July • Aug 1999

VISION

Suzanne Franks



Stay Connected

Granny debuts into the world of email. How many 83-year-old grandmothers do you know who are linked to email? Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren live in two foreign countries and six US states. Each household boasts email. Granny's clan has no excuse for not staying in touch unless some mega-glitch occurs when the calendar hits 01-01-2000.

Fears over the Y2K problem remind us that we cannot always depend on technology. How easily we trust in cellular phones, pagers and burglar alarms. We forget that computers crash, phone lines corrode, electricity dies, satellites malfunction. Every high tech gadget around us will someday fail.

Are you well connected? I'm talking about more than email, cell phones and pagers. The family of God is linked to the Father through a unique communication network that's as old as Adam, yet its parts never grow obsolete. Believers on five continents and every tiny island scattered throughout the seas are touched by this vast network of pray-ers.

Heavy traffic never clogs the heavenly network. Our Webmaster is infinitely smarter and more efficient than AOL's or CompuServe's. Catastrophic events cannot damage our prayer link to God. To the contrary, trials can improve our prayer life. Technological glitches don't delay prayer from zooming to the Father and around the world in a millisecond.

Our heavenly Father is not restricted to the confines of computers, phone lines or power supplies. We have access to the only fail-safe communications system that exists.

Our prayer link requires maintenance—not because of faulty technology—but because of faulty human hearts. The good news is that our service contract lasts until the end of time.

For troubleshooting when communication falters, consult the Manual. According to the Bible, the Father turns a deaf ear to our prayers if we have a prideful or unyielding heart (Job 35:12-13, Zechariah 7:12-13). Sometimes, a wrong motivation causes the failure (James 4:3). Proverbs says that ignoring the poor, God's law or God's call shuts down the connection.

To reconnect, no one has to call a toll-free number and punch 50 numbers only to get a recording. We access the Father through the Son confessing our pride, rebellion, indifference and any other sin our personal troubleshooter—the Holy Spirit—finds.

Maybe the latest gadget in communications doesn't fit your budget. No one can afford the price God requires for restoration of communion with Him either. That's why Jesus paid the full price, so anyone can have full access to the Father. Are you missing out on the only guaranteed communications plan around?❖

P.S. It happened. My computer crashed the day this issue was to go to the printers. We regret any delays this may have caused.

Volume 39

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**“ . . . develop
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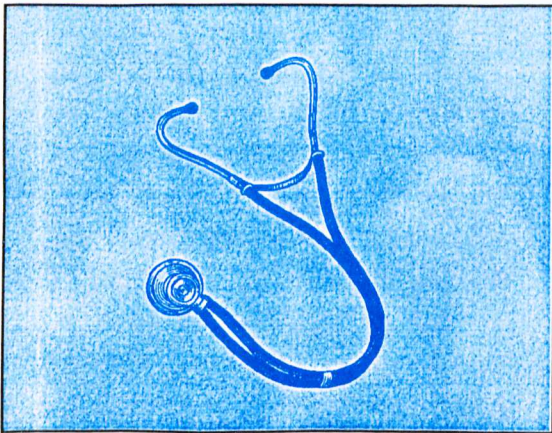
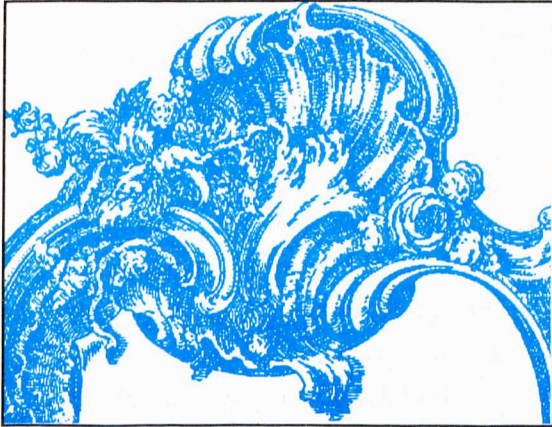
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Feature Article

For Thou hast possessed my reins: Thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are Thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well.

—Psalm 139:13–14

Let the beauty of the Lord be upon us

Made for Him

Our physical bodies, however dumpy or short, skinny or tall, are Christ's tools for doing His work in this world! Perhaps you have heard that we are His feet, lips, and hands to do His work. Will you allow Jesus to touch someone this week with your hands? If He goes anywhere, it will be on your feet. You are the body of Christ on this earth.

God has given us a most gracious gift—our bodies. If we hand over the mainspring of our life to God, He will do His work through us. Satan works through our bodies; but God's Spirit does, too. God gives us His grace and His Spirit. He readjusts our whole life.

Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, the medium for manifesting the marvelous disposition of Jesus Christ.

Through my body, I can do some wonderful things. The touch of my hand can say I care. Each Sunday morning at my church I give lots of hugs. Some people can't lift their arms to give hugs.

I can give a drink of water to a

thirsty person and invite people to my home for food and fellowship. My hands can bake homemade bread to give to friends, neighbors and newcomers to church. I can yell at a ball game or silently speak volumes into my husband's eyes by candlelight.

With my eyes and voice I read to my grandchildren and give them lots of love and encouragement. My grandchildren live a long way from me, so I use the mail, internet email and telephone to say, "I love you."

I can offer a listening ear or a shoulder for someone to lean on. Being a good listener is a blessing. Daily I pray, "Lord, help me encourage at least one person today."

My hands can send inspirational cards to whomever the Holy Spirit directs. The most special cards are the ones that come for no specific reason.

Short or tall, skinny or plump, young or old, your body is much more than a great complexion or a flat stomach. Your particular combination of arms, legs, eyes, hands, feet, heart and mind make your experience of being human unique.

Delois Loveless

Each of you is fearfully and wonderfully made.

On your own: Encourage another woman this week by doing one of the things mentioned in this section.

Unique by design

Part of the miracle of being a woman is that each of us is a completely original experience of womanhood. Each day, we are constantly changing and expressing in a new way who we are.

God created our bodies for a glorious purpose. If we judge our worth solely on how we look, we cheat ourselves. We bind ourselves to one tiny portion of our potential. We are made for so much more!

Society idolizes so-called beautiful people—popular entertainers and models whose youthful faces dominate the pages of magazines. But this attractiveness has nothing to do with the kind of beauty that delights God's heart.

We must look deeper if we are to see the divine design brushed into our lives. If we judge ourselves by the world's standards, we miss the subtle beauty and purpose God has placed within us.

God wants us to place more value on what's in a person's heart than on superficial things. "A gentle and a quiet spirit...is very precious in the sight of God" (1 Peter 3:4).

On your own: Thank God for one unique trait about your inner self.

Beautiful people mirror Christ

As we devote
ourselves
wholeheartedly
to the fulfillment
of the Lord's
purposes
in our lives,
we develop
the kind
of God-honoring beauty
that does not fade.



Too often,
like the children
of Israel
who made
themselves
a golden calf,
we make our own idol—
a golden image of the
ideal woman—
and dedicate
ourselves to the impossible
task
of reflecting
its image
instead of God's.

Beauty is defined as something lovely that invokes a feeling of pleasure within us.

Regardless of our outward appearance, all of us can be beautiful. By God's transforming grace, we can have the beauty of holiness and integrity that mirrors the character of His Son. As we devote ourselves wholeheartedly to the fulfillment of the Lord's purposes in our lives, we develop the kind of God-honoring beauty that does not fade. This is the only way to become one of the truly beautiful people.

"Beauty is God's handwriting—a wayside sacrament. Welcome it in every fair face, in every fair sky, in every fair flower, and thank God for it as a cup of blessing."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Pretty is as pretty does," my grandmother often quoted when I was a little girl.

Blessed is the woman who has godly women in her life who encourage and love her. In my teen years, when I desperately needed godly influences, the women of my church loved me. One such woman was Mrs. Hattie Smith. She lived the great example of the Christian woman. Through the years, other godly women have been my mentors.

On your own: Perhaps you can be a mentor to younger women in your church.

God's representatives

God Himself fashioned our bodies.

We are more elaborate, more special, than all the other creations, because we are tiny models of the Creator.

He gave us intricate brains so that we could feel and develop relationships and love just as He does. He gave us bodies that could nurture, protect, rule, touch, feel and age. In all these experiences we learn to love our Creator, as we come to understand and love ourselves.

Too often, like the children of Israel who made themselves a **golden calf**, we make our own **idol**—a **golden image of the ideal woman**—and dedicate ourselves to the impossible task of reflecting its image instead of God's.

Our struggle to make peace with the realities of our bodies begins when we surrender the distorted standards we set for ourselves. God offers us healing from the pain of feeling we are not good enough, thin enough or pretty enough. Lord, help us to see ourselves through the eyes of the One who made us.

By the redemption of Jesus Christ a time is coming when our bodies will be in the perfect image of God. We are not going to be angels, we will be something better.

On your own: Ask God to replace any distorted standards you are striving to reach with His standard of beauty.

Finding beauty in life's struggles

We want to look always as new and fresh as we did in the beginning. As in the story of the **Velveteen Rabbit** who dreaded the thought of becoming loose in the joints, and shabby, we wish



"Life
is a hard fight,
a struggle,
a wrestling
with the principle
of evil,
hand to hand,
foot to foot.
Every inch
of the way
is disputed.
The night
is given us
to take breath
and to pray,
to drink deep
at the fountain
of power.
The day,
to use the strength
that has been
given us,
to go forth
to work
with it
till the evening."

—Florence Nightingale

we could become real without all those uncomfortable things happening to us. We must surrender our struggle to get through life without it's leaving a mark on us.

If we want a real and fulfilling existence, we must surrender ourselves to the effects of life. The passing of time is inevitable. Resistance is silly.

I do my best to look as attractive and neat as I can. I wish I didn't have any wrinkles in my face, wore a smaller dress size, and had more energy. I've finally accepted that being over sixty isn't so bad. When my memory fails, I laugh saying, "I'm having a senior moment."

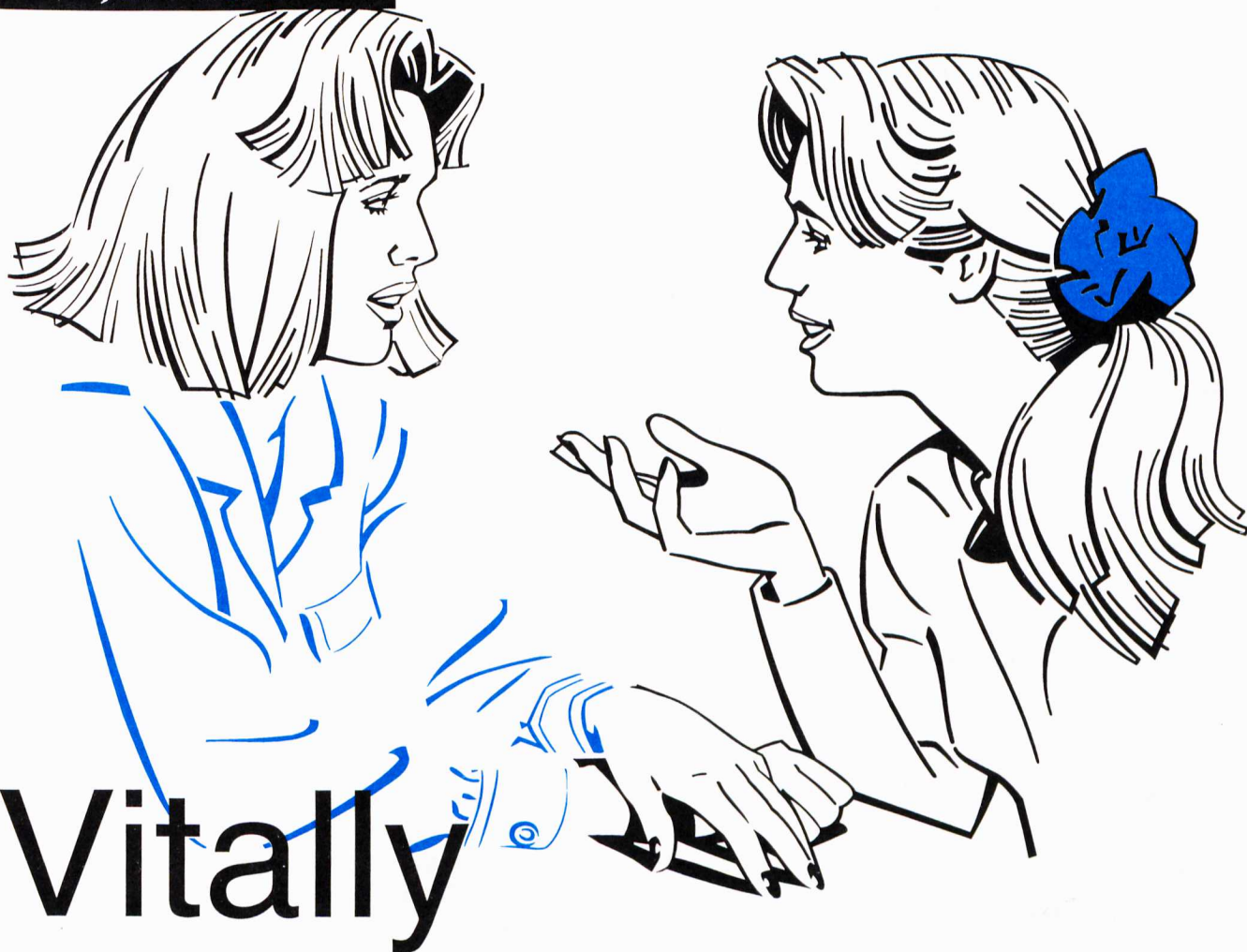
"Help us," Lord, "to embrace what we are becoming, to welcome each age for the new things it will bring us." The wise woman asks God for grace rather than eternal youth.

Only then can we make peace with our bodies: with the nose we inherited from our Father's side; with the hips that all the women in our family have; with the stretch marks that are a reminder of the miracle of childbirth; or the wrinkles that weren't there two years ago; with the limbs that move more slowly and joints that ache more. Make peace with a body that is irreplaceably, for better or worse, uniquely ours!

The nursery song goes, "I'm the only **me God made**; there's nobody quite like me." This thought brings something to celebrate. What wonder! What joy!

My prayer is that you will find peace in your struggle with your body, life

(continued on page 27)



Vitality Connected

A successful leader listens

June R. Critcher

Between Sunday school and morning worship service, Barbara and Kim say "hi" to each other at the entrance to the choir room. Kim's "How are you?" elicits a much longer response than she expected.

In a split second, Barbara cranks out exhausting details of her two-year-old's ear problem which has kept him and his parents awake the past three nights. But before she can continue, Kim interrupts with her own miserable recounting of the week her little Dana kept

her awake crying with a sore throat.

Back and forth. Back and forth. Neither woman listens to the other. Whoever dubbed much communication as "dialogue of the deaf" was right on target.

Do you ever wonder why God gave us two ears and only one mouth? Could it be so we would listen twice as much as we talk? And have you ever wondered why our ears are always open and the mouth is made to close?

Rather than listening twice as much as we talk, many of us prefer talking twice as much as we listen. Letting someone else talk about personal concerns says you genuinely care about what is happening in her life. It also says you value her personhood. Heartfelt listening says "I care about you—right now."

What Is Listening?

Effective leaders always find time to listen. Listening has many values and is one of the first qualifications for successful leadership.

Skillful listening is not a passive activity. It is intense mental and emotional work and requires self-discipline. Good listening is more than hearing words. Words often conceal the emotional pain the person is buried under. Listening requires more than staring silently at someone while occasionally uttering, "Uh-huh."

One of the greatest compliments you can pay another person is to listen.

Good listening requires genuine interest in the other person. It's caring deeply; you are so concerned that you listen to the person's deepest feelings rather than waiting impatiently for your chance to respond. Good listening is touching lives. It's accepting the other person—warts and all. It's celebrating together. It's understanding the other person.

Good listening includes empathy—putting oneself in the other person's place, feeling his experience as he feels it. But we rarely do this. Our first reaction is usually how we feel about what the person is relating. Empathy experiences another's feelings and presence—takes another's hurts or joys into one's heart.

In his helpful book on communication, *Speaking from the Heart*, Ken Durham writes:

Christian listening is an act which communicates to another, "Right now, I am here for you. No one else, just you. I want to hear and understand what you have to say. I'm all yours." Listening allows the other person to set the agenda for the conversation, seeking to clarify his point of view. Ultimately, listening is helping a person to understand himself better.

Why Should We Listen?

We should listen because Father God listens to us and we should follow His example in listening to one another. "... His ears are open to their cry ... the Lord hears ..." (Psalm 34:15, 17). "I love the Lord because He has heard my voice and my supplications" (Psalm 116:1).

We listen because we love one another (John 13:35). Remember, *agape* love is a commitment to seek the other person's highest good no matter what (Proverbs 10:12).

When we set our will to love as Christ commands, we put aside our own desires and take time to focus on the person who needs to talk. When a person finds a listening ear in someone who cares deeply, that person feels accepted and affirmed. One of the greatest compliments you can pay another person is to listen.

Heartfelt listening is a vital part of the healing process. When a person in pain has the privilege of sharing their hurts with a loving, understanding, non-judgmental person, a tremendous amount of healing takes place. By listening, you learn where the person hurts. As you listen, you minister God's healing love to him. Many people cannot experience deep inner healing until they are listened to. As we listen, we help a troubled person release tension.

When you listen, you give someone the freedom to be himself. The person who is not listened to feels cut off, unworthy, imprisoned. Listening to another person allows him to reveal his inner life, with its

Perhaps the number one reason many of us are poor listeners is because we are too self-centered to focus on others.

fears and hurts. My attention affirms the dignity of his being.

In listening we help another person gain insight. Often, the confused or frustrated person arrives at his own solution while sharing with a loving listener—not by being told what to do, but by openly expressing his feelings until he gains perspective and understanding.

Listening is not the only method leaders use to reach out to others, but it is necessary and is often a part of all other approaches. Scripture, prayers and advice become more effective if the leader listens first. At times, listening is all that's needed.

How Can I Become A Better Listener?

Listening is hard work. It is time-consuming and at times exhausting. Most of us think about four times faster than we talk, and most people speak from 150 to 300 words per minute. However, we can hear from 400 to 1,000 words per minute. It's so easy to let our minds wander while others are talking. But we can **learn** to be good listeners. Using our ears is a matter of attention and practice.

Unlike passive hearing, listening is active and dynamic. We get involved in another's feelings. We get under their skin and feel their pain.

Perhaps the number one reason many of us are poor listeners is because we are too self-centered to focus on others.

So, how can we cultivate the art of listening?

1. **First, pray often, "Lord, help me become a caring listener."** The Scriptures tell us we have not because we ask not. (See James 4:2.)
2. **Learn to focus on the person's feelings.** Listen for the feelings behind the words. At first, give the person plenty of time to think, feel and carefully choose his or her words. You may move to information or Scripture later.

Someone has used the expression "listening with your third ear" to describe the process of

hearing joy where it is not stated or feeling pain behind lifeless words. Paul tells us to relate to another's feelings. (See Romans 12:15).

Encourage the person to freely express their feelings and provide a non-judgmental atmosphere in which they feel free to share openly and honestly. Acceptance does not mean agreement with the person's attitudes or behavior. Rather, it means you understand that what the person is saying reflects his or her true feelings. Don't try to talk someone out of his or her feelings. Instead, encourage free expression of all feelings.

Listen with your heart. People don't always say what they mean, or what they are feeling. So when we hear only with our ears and fail to listen with our heart, we often miss what they really need to express. The one who listens deeply learns to discern. This kind of listening hears feelings, ideas and attitudes. "Sensitive listening," says Lauren M. Saul, "is discerning what a person wants to talk about and being willing to respond."

Try to acknowledge how painful or frustrating the person's situation must be. Be alert to ways that show you feel something of what the person is struggling with.

"Tell me how you're feeling right now." Or, "You just said . . . (repeat what the person just said)." "Tell me some of the thoughts behind what you said." A statement like: "You must really feel rejected after being betrayed by your best friend," will show that you are hearing feelings. This expression of concern might lead to deeper communication.

As you focus on feelings, you show that you genuinely care.

3. **Learn to listen without your motor running.** "He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him" (Proverbs 18:13). Concentrate your thoughts and energy on the per-

son talking. Resist the urge to interrupt with comments about yourself or someone with a similar experience.

As you listen with love, don't think about what you want to say when the person stops talking. Don't work on your words of wisdom—your unsolicited advice. Concentrate on the person talking! "Sainthood emerges," says Andrew V. Mason, "when you can listen to someone's tale of woe and not respond with a description of your own."

4. **Usually, we express the extent of our listening by our body language.** While we hear with our ears, we indicate with our body whether or not we are involved with another person. Learn to listen with your ears, your eyes and your body. Look at the person's face and don't allow your eyes to wander around the room. You may appear more interested if you lean slightly forward. Folded arms tend to signal a withdrawn attitude.

Your understanding response may be expressed by nodding your head or saying phrases like "I see" or "Please go on" or a sincere "Uh-huh." Do whatever you can to demonstrate genuine love and concern.

5. **Learn to ask appropriate questions** (not questions requiring only yes or no answers). "Can you tell me more about the way you felt when she . . .?" or "What happened then?" or "What are your alternatives?"

Open ended questions (Who? What? Where? How? Why?) encourage people to talk about themselves and what's important to them. By asking "I care" questions, you gain a sense of what's important to others. (See Philippians 2:3.)

If you are not sure you understand the other person, you could ask, "Am I understanding you to say . . .?" Then, in your own words, say what you think he is saying. Appropriate questions help clarify another's feelings.

6. **Crucial to being a good listener is learning to mirror back the person's feelings.** The person who practices reflective listening gives one of the most meaningful gifts a person can ever give.

Every person is worth understanding! And when you convey to another that you understand her, you are giving to that person a priceless gift. Repeat what the person is saying and what you think she is feeling. "You seem quite discour-

aged (annoyed, disappointed, fearful, confused, angry, etc.) at this point."

7. **Learn to appreciate silence.** To become a good listener, much of our time must be characterized by attentive silence. Some people find silence uncomfortable; however, a relaxed approach to conversation includes times of silence.

During periods of silence, instead of focusing on what you want to say, think about the person's feelings and needs. Rethink what he or she has said—and consider your possible response at the appropriate time. No deep listening occurs when you are talking or thinking about what you want to say. Focus mainly on **receiving** information, not **giving** it.

At times, the most loving thing you can do is listen—and instead of asking questions or making comments, just listen. Every person longs to be heard. (See Ecclesiastes 3:7.)

Part of our difficulty is that we think we have to have answers to everything. Frequently, we are so full of what is going on **inside of us** that we get distracted from what is being said. Let's learn to use some discipline and put ourselves aside in order to listen as we focus on the other person and what they are saying.

We can learn to listen. Skillful listening requires lots of practice, patience and compassion. Let's practice good listening skills and then watch a more confident person emerge or new joy bubbling up inside the one who's discouraged.

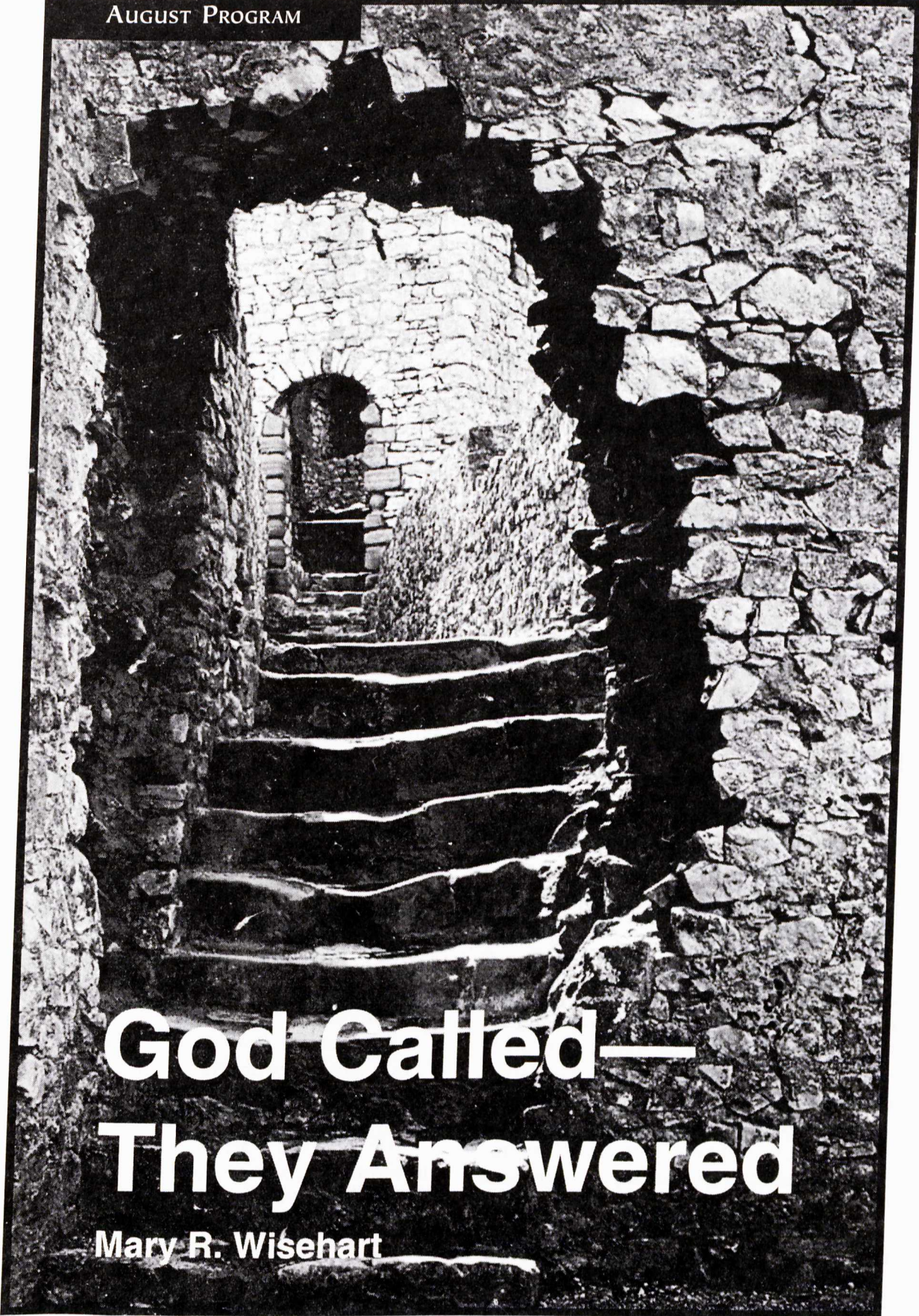
"Let everyone be quick to listen but slow to speak" (James 1:19).❖



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Editor's note: See page 15 for suggested homework listening exercises.

AUGUST PROGRAM



God Called— They Answered

Mary R. Wisheart

Introduction

Surely you don't expect me to be a leader. Hey, I'm only a woman. Who me? Forget it! I can't be a leader.

Have you ever heard, thought or even said these words? Then take another look. Open our minds and hearts. Hear what God has said to women through the ages.

How God needs women
who don't have to be begged,
prodded, urged and cajoled
to do His work.

The scriptures mention many women called by God to a specific service. We will present four of these women. God called; they answered.

Each woman exhibits characteristics helpful to anyone who wishes to serve God.

Listen carefully. Perhaps you will see yourself in one of these character sketches.

Miriam

A Lesson in Humility

Monologue (Refer to pages 39–43 in the 1999 Yearbook for Monologues)

Scripture: Exodus 2:1–9; 15:20–21, Numbers 12:1–15; Deuteronomy 24:9; Micah 6:4

Miriam was quick thinking and a self starter. Our first glimpse of her on the river bank shows her thinking quickly about how to insure her brother's training in the Lord's ways. What would have happened to Moses if she had not been there?

She was creative. She led the women in singing a song of praise after the deliverance from the Red Sea. How quickly she composed that song.

A woman in God's service may sometimes find herself in a situation which demands

quick action. But even as Miriam, we have a source of help. Our Lord promises to hear us and give us the words to speak in any situation where He places us.

The woman who fulfills her place in God's plan should be a self starter. Most of you have cars that are self starters. That is, you turn the key and the car starts. Before self starters, a person had to insert a crank into the engine of the car and give as many turns as it took to start the engine.

How God needs women who don't have to be begged, prodded, urged and cajoled to do His work. God's woman sees what needs to be done and simply does it.

Miriam is a wonderful example of a godly, talented woman who did great things in God's service. God used her help to lead His people out of bondage and into a land of plenty.

Miriam's life also serves as a warning to us. Deuteronomy 24:9 instructs us to remember what God did to Miriam.

God may place us in a prominent place in His service or our place may be a small, humble one. We should be content wherever He places us at any given moment in our lives.

One of Miriam's mistakes was looking at another of God's servants and wanting to have the same recognition that Moses had.

Was it envy and pride that moved her to complain against him? Was it merely that desire for recognition and prominence?

How easy it is to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think. It's easy for us to think we deserve more praise, more recognition. We begin to look at someone else and think, "She isn't doing nearly as much as I am. Yet she is getting all the praise and admiration."

Be careful. Remember Proverbs 16:18, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." Check out Proverbs 27:21 in the NIV and see Luke 6:26.

How do you react to praise? God spoke to Moses face to face. Still, God called him the humblest man on the face of the earth.

Whatever place God has called us to fill, let's do it with gladness and with a humble spirit. Let's not compare ourselves with others (2 Corinthians 10:12–13).

Deborah

A Woman of Wisdom and Courage

Monologue

Scripture: Judges 4–5; Hebrews 11:32–34

Israel needed a leader in a day when the nation had been sold into captivity as punishment for sin. After twenty years of cruel oppression, Israelites began to cry out to God. He heard their cry and gave instructions to His servant. God chose Deborah, called a mother in Israel. She was also a prophetess.

Obviously Deborah was a woman of wisdom and judgment. She held her court under a palm tree near Bethel and Ramah. She settled peoples' disputes and no doubt gave judgments as God gave her wisdom.

Any woman needs that godly wisdom whether she is a homemaker or a career woman. Deborah must have combined her ministry for God and her care for family and home. No children are mentioned, but she did have a husband.

When God spoke, Deborah obeyed. She

One of the marks
of a good leader is the ability
to delegate.

believed God. Such obedience and faith show great wisdom.

One of the marks of a good leader is the ability to delegate. Deborah knew how to do that. If we are to get God's work done, we must be willing to involve as many women as we can. One woman cannot do everything by herself. She shouldn't even try. Others are capable and God wants to use them also.

Now when you delegate work to other people, remember these few suggestions.

First, delegate it and leave the person or persons to do the job. Don't be always checking, suggesting, taking over. Of course you should be available just as Deborah was. She was the symbol of God's presence in Israel and Barak wanted her with him. But you need

to trust the ones you've asked to do the job.

Second, don't expect others to do it your way. They may have new ideas, even better ways of doing the work. Let them do it their way.

Third, accept the work done with thanksgiving. It may not be what you would have done or even what you wanted done. Remember you do not have the last word on how to do everything. Even if the finished work is not what you call perfect, compliment the workers. Be glad and appreciative of the women's efforts.

Deborah was strong and courageous. She must have had a great deal of stamina in order to go with Barak into battle. She was also willing to take risks.

Any work for God demands endurance (Galatians 6:9). God's servant takes care of herself and the body God has given her so that she can do the work He calls her to do. He has given us only one body. We must take care of it while we do His work.

We must work until Jesus comes or until He calls us home. Working with people is sometimes trying. The work may be discouraging. Don't give up; don't give in to discouragement. Keep faithfully working for Him, and you will receive your reward, in this life or in the life to come.

God's woman must be willing to take some risks. Sometimes it may be risking failure. Failures can teach us lessons we'd never learn through success. Any leadership position makes a woman vulnerable to criticism. Taking a position and doing your best at it may cause envy and jealousy on the part of others. Still, with God's help we can take the risks, do the job and keep a sweet, humble spirit.

Remember to depend on God as Deborah did. God gave the command to go to battle. He also gave the assurance of victory.

What a blessing to know that if God puts us in a place of leadership, He will be with us and give us the victory.

Notice the song that Deborah and Barak sang together after the battle.

"When the princes [leaders] of Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves—praise the Lord" (Judges 5:2).

Perhaps the women are just waiting on you to step out and take the lead. Someone must be willing to take the risk. Then others will follow. Is God speaking to you?

Lydia

The Prayer of Faith

Monologue

Scripture: Acts 16:12-15, 40; Philippians 1:1-10; 4:1-3

Lydia was a successful businesswoman. Apparently she had her affairs well in hand. Perhaps she was single or a widow. No mention is made of a husband or children. She exhibits the qualities of a godly leader.

First, she was a woman of prayer. She faithfully gathered with other women to pray and worship God. The Christian leader draws strength from private prayer as well as praying together with other Christians.

Through prayer God opened Lydia's heart to receive the message Paul brought to the women. Is your heart open to God's voice? Perhaps He is calling you to a greater ministry for Him. Ask Him to open your heart as He did Lydia's so that you may hear His voice and obey His command.

Lydia not only opened her heart, but she opened her home to God's servants. Even after Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into jail, she welcomed them into her home. She must have had compassion on those wounded servants of God. She welcomed other believers into her home to meet with Paul and Silas. Playing the hostess is not always easy, but hospitality is a desirable char-

Any leader
is successful only
to the extent that she can involve
other women
in the work.

acteristic of the Christian.

Paul writes thankfully of the Philippians love for him and help in spreading the gos-

pel. In Philippians 4:3 he asks a fellow worker to help those women who labored with him in the gospel. Surely Lydia was one of those.

Lydia had faith that God would answer her prayers, and God was faithful. Any woman who does God's work must believe that God will perform for her and give success in the work He has given her to do (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Phebe

Servant Leader

Monologue

Scripture: Romans 16:1-2

We don't know a lot about Phebe. Paul mentions her only briefly. The words he uses to describe her, however, denote qualities that every Christian woman should exhibit.

Paul gives her the title of servant. Are you willing to serve? So many tasks in the church require a servant attitude. Some may seek the glamorous jobs, but few seek the menial, the dirty, hard work. Yet these are also ministry, a part of working for the Lord. Opportunities exist for any woman who wants to serve.

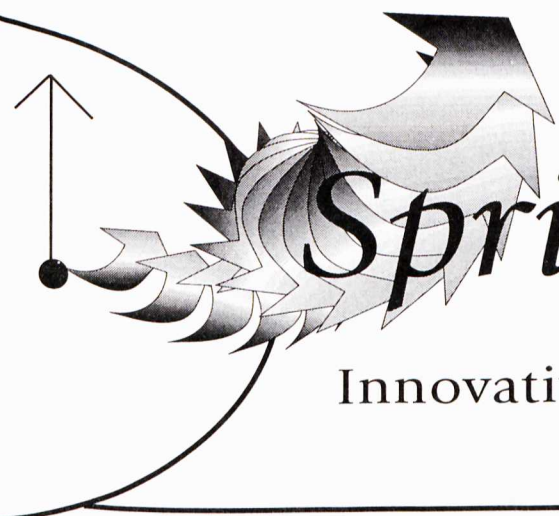
Remember Jesus' words in Luke 22:27. He is our example, and as His disciples we must also serve (Matthew 20:26). This service takes commitment, a commitment to our Lord. Once committed to Him, then we become willing to do whatever He asks.

Paul wrote of Phebe, "She has been a great help to many, including me."

We don't know all the work she did to help Paul and many others. We do know that he trusted Phebe with the important task of carrying the letter to the Roman church.

She must have been an encourager. The woman who succeeds as a leader in God's service must be an encourager of others. Any leader is successful only to the extent that she can involve other women in the work. Our Phebes must seek out the things a woman does well. Compliment her, and help her to see the opportunity that especially fits her ability. Note women's abilities and talents. Then encourage them to use them in the Lord's service.

(continued on page 27)



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator/Assistant Coordinator

The Glorieta Retreat Registration Form appears on page 22 of this issue. See also the advertisement on page 25. Encourage everyone to go. This may be our last retreat at the Glorieta Conference Center.

Ask all the local officers to help in promoting your WNAC state meeting.

July Program: Homework

Many older people are eager for others to listen to them. Suffering people have rich insights to share with those who know how to ask meaningful questions. They can help us understand what truly matters most in life. In asking the right questions, we not only learn, but we also encourage and love the elderly.

We also need to listen to children and teenagers. They know how to simplify things, often with brutal honesty. Children, especially, have colorful stories to tell that enrich the listeners' mind and heart.

Ask the women in your group to listen to one senior citizen and one teenager or child during the next 2 weeks. Instruct them to prepare a few open ended questions beforehand if possible. Remind them to follow June Critcher's advice in the July Program.

August Program Suggestions

Note that the monologues that go with the August Program are printed in the 1999 Yearbook. The yearbook also has sketches to help you make costumes for each character.

Different women may present the monologues from the 1999 Yearbook before each topic. One woman may do the monologue and also the topic.

One woman may do all the monologues, simply changing the headress for each one.

One woman may do all the topics following each monologue. Be creative. Do it your way.

Secretary/Treasurer

Help your Coordinator get the appropriate delegate card signed and send it in with Convention Pre-registration. The delegate card is on page 16.

Missions Chairman

MissionGrams has a new name and look. The Home Missions publication is now called *Advancing in Missions* (AIM). If you do not receive this

Provision Closet Needs

King, queen and
twin size sheet
sets

Queen and twin
size bedspreads

Queen and full
electric blankets

Twin size
mattress covers

Towels

Heavy cookware

Flatware

Food processors

Blenders

Tupperware®
Pitchers

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

magazine, you may call Home Missions at (615)731-6812 and request to be added to their mailing list. This publication as well as the Foreign Missions publication is complimentary. They are important resources for you to help your women stay informed and pray more effectively.

Home Missions has a web page dedicated to prayer requests and praise items. You may access this page by going to www.nafwb.org, then selecting "Home Missions" and then "What's New."

Foreign Missions has a telephone hotline which is updated weekly. The hotline number appears on page 18 of most *CoLaborer* issues.

Prayer Chairman

WNAC Emphasis Prayer Requests

1. WNAC members and officers (local, district, state)
2. National officers who are elected at the 1999 WNAC National Convention
3. Financial support for the WNAC national office and for a good WNAC Emphasis Offering.
4. Marjorie Workman, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of WNAC.
5. WNAC Staff: Yvonne Hampton, Martha Harris, Suzanne Franks

Study Chairman

Brenda Vaughn, the Fellowship Dinner speaker at the National Convention, wrote a book called *More Precious Than Gold*. Purchase her book at the convention, or order it from Randall Bookstore by calling 1-800-877-7030. Watch for a review of her book in a future issue of *CoLaborer*.

Service Chairman

Perhaps your group would be interested in organizing a visitation group that specialized in listening. Think of a name for the group, such as, Listeners Unincorporated (maybe you can find a more creative name). After the July Program is presented, ask for volunteers to sign up for opportunities to serve through listening. Remind your women that they will be a blessing as well as be blessed from participating in this kind of ministry. ❖

Bible Study

Get into shape

Introduction

Romans 12:1-2

God created our bodies and we should take care of them. But we shouldn't forget that spiritual fitness takes top priority.

Shape up

Romans 2:23; 10:9-10

Before starting a diet or getting in physical shape, a person must decide he or she wants to. To get in spiritual shape, one must make a decision to follow Christ. This is done by confessing sins and asking God for forgiveness.

Lose the weight of sin

1 John 1:9; Hebrews 12:1-2

WNAC Local Delegate Credentials

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

(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 Contact magazine or bring to the WNAC Convention.

the seed of faith

by Bess Trammel

"As a grain of mustard seed..." —Matthew 17:20

When disaster struck my life, a friend asked me how I could still have faith in God after all I'd been through? At that time I didn't feel strong in faith. Pausing for a moment I answered, "It is because of what I've been through." I explained to her that faith is a growing thing like a seed. When it is planted in God, He waters it and it grows. Even in my sorrow and loss, faith had been sown. I told her it had not always been so. There was a time when I had almost no faith at all.

Many years ago, my friend Jean sowed the seed of faith in me by her example.

We had been discussing the coming school year over morning coffee, and our families' needs. Although school was over a month away, we had to consider the cost of school clothes and supplies beforehand. At that time, I had three children, all in school and she had seven, three of which were in school.

As I worried, she gently said to me with a confident smile, "It will be all right. God will provide." What an amazing statement, I thought. Her children also needed shoes and coats as well as clothes. I asked her how she knew God would provide when she needed so much? She chuckled and said, "Because God is faithful and has always provided ours needs."

As school time neared, I watched, worried and bought what I could with what I had. She bought only supplies. Her spirit remained calm.

The last week of August, a huge box arrived at her house. The box contained not only good, usable clothes, coats and shoes, but mittens and boots for winter. It was an abundant supply.

She never said, "I told you so," but just rejoiced in what God had provided. Through her peace and trust, I learned a real and valuable lesson on faith.

Our lives have since parted by distance and she continued a life of faith. I grew in faith in the Lord, and have always found Him faithful!

We may not be aware of what seeds we sow, but we do sow them. God has afforded me many opportunities to extend my faith, and shown me many examples of faith. I am grateful for my friend Jean and the seed of faith she planted in my life.❖

Bess Trammel lives in Harrison, Michigan.

As great as the feeling is to lose physical weight, it's nothing like the joy and peace we feel when we lose the weight and guilt of sin. Don't let Satan constantly weigh you down with the remembrance of sin. Jesus bore the weight of the cross in our place.

Lose the weight of guilt instantly and rejoice in the victory.

Exercise

1 Timothy 4:7-8

Without a daily workout of prayer and Bible study, we will become spiritually flabby. The trials of everyday life will easily weigh us down if we don't stay in shape. The best part is that a daily workout of prayer and Bible study doesn't make muscles sore.

This Bible study outline was adapted from a program by Sara Kilgore from Limestone, Tennessee.



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
- Christian music on CD or cassette

Lucy & Marge

Marge: Hi, Lucy.

Lucy: (Dully and with a sigh.) Oh, hi, Marge.

Marge: Well, you sound very enthusiastic. What's going on?

Lucy: It's a hot dry summer, and I feel just like the weather, as shriveled up as a dried peach.

Marge: Umm. Look at you. I wouldn't say—

Lucy: Don't say it! I know. I haven't lost any weight. It's in my mind and spirit that I feel all dry and shriveled.

Marge: Mind and spirit, is it? Sounds as though you need a refreshing.

Lucy: I guess I need showers of blessings, but right now I'm just in the dry, dusty season of life.

Marge: You know, God's the same in the dry, dusty seasons as He is in the cool, rainy spring-time of life.

Lucy: Oh, Marge, can't you just let me enjoy my misery for awhile?

Marge: Not on your life. If you are all dry, dusty and down in the dumps, who will make us laugh at our next WAC meeting?

Lucy: That's right. Go ahead. Depend on me to be the clown. Why can't someone else play the clown instead of me all the time?

Marge: You're not really a clown, Lucy. Just good for a laugh.

Lucy: Maybe I'm tired of being laughed at. Maybe that's why I feel this way.

Marge: Come on, Lucy. You know we don't laugh at you. We laugh with you, and you just enjoy making us laugh. It's your gift. After all, the Bible says, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

Lucy: Ooo. I'd much rather laugh than swallow those gigantic pills. You're right. I do like to make people laugh.

Marge: Remember that time you broke up the choir when you discovered on Sunday morning that you were wearing one black shoe and one blue shoe?

(They both laugh.)

Lucy: Yes, and that Sally McDougal was laughing so hard that she kept shaking the whole pew. It's a wonder the pastor didn't turn around and dismiss us.

(They laugh again.)

Marge: There now, aren't you feeling better?

Lucy: I do feel better. It helps to have friends like you. (Hugs Marge.)

Marge: Thanks, Lucy. I needed that hug. It's great to know that we have a whole group of friends we can depend on—the women in our WAC.

Lucy: Right. I can't wait for our emphasis program. It will help the whole church see some of the good things the women do for the church and the community, as well as around the world.

Marge: Yes. It's scheduled for

Lucy: Let's see. Could I do something for a laugh?

Marge: You don't have to plan

something. Your humor just comes naturally.

Lucy: Well, maybe I could wear a clown suit. Do you think they'd let me perform at the emphasis program in costume?

Marge: Don't be silly, Lucy. But now that you mention a costume, we are having costumes at our August meeting.

Lucy: How's that?

Marge: Some of our women are presenting characters from the Bible, and they are doing costumes and all.

Lucy: Do you think they'd let me do Jezebel? I could do old Jezeey.

Marge: Lucy, Lucy. Just come to the August meeting (date, time and place) and hear how God called women for special service. Their experiences can help us be better leaders.

Lucy: Don't worry, Marge. I'll be there—with my clown suit on!

(They exit laughing.)

Lucy & Marge in this issue is written by Mary R. Wisehart. She lives in Nashville, Tennessee, and is a member of Cofer's Chapel FWB Church. She served as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of WNAC for 13 years.



Communicator

by Marjorie Workman

Making Known Women Nationally Active for Christ

It's that time again. Time to publicize the ministry of the women to the entire church. WNAC has declared August as Emphasis month since 1965. This is a time to rally for the national office.

Throughout the year WNAC processes thousands of dollars designated to other national ministries. In comparison, few dollars are designated for the WNAC office. For example, yesterday a check came through for \$4,000—every penny designated to various agencies, but none for the WNAC office.

We have taught our women well to support missions. Often we give with a mother's heart—give it all and hold back none for ourselves.

WNAC Emphasis is an opportunity to help underwrite the budget for the remainder of the year. It is a time for the entire church to support the women's work. We ask that each woman's group take a special offering for the general operations of WNAC. Each pastor is asked to give the entire church an opportunity to help through a special offering.

WNAC has regular expenses. Our four employees are not volunteers. Postage is not free. Pub-

lishing a magazine costs. We pay our fair share of rent and utilities. We pay auditors and insurance. The 1999 budget calls for a WNAC Emphasis offering of

WNAC Purpose: 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.

\$14,000. This is less than one month's operating expenses. Last year we received \$12,629.

Publicize WNAC to your church throughout the month. Talk with your pastor. Plan a month of action. Make spot announcements. Have several women give testimonies about WNAC at different church services during the month. Share WNAC's purpose. Prepare a short drama for the entire church. An easy way to give \$5 is to use quarter folders. Materials are free for the asking.

To be successful in reaching the \$14,000 goal, we must pray. Ask the Lord to impress upon your heart what you should give to the

ministry of the national office. Ask the Lord to provide opportunities to share the work.

We are laborers together. Together we can reach our goal.

Need a Project?

One way we can make our needs known is to tell you. Someone may need a tax write off. Perhaps this list is your answer to Uncle Sam. You may want to give out of your abundance. Or, you may just want to give.

WNAC Wish List

- Computers, 300MHz or more
- A scanner, 1200 dpi or more
- A road worthy car (It's okay to dream.)
- A laser printer, 1200 dpi or more
- A camera, at least 100 zoom
- An ergonomic keyboard
- Name tag transport holders
- A volunteer to build WNAC's web page compatible to the other national agencies' web pages❖

Women In Action

Côte d'Ivoire women attend annual retreat

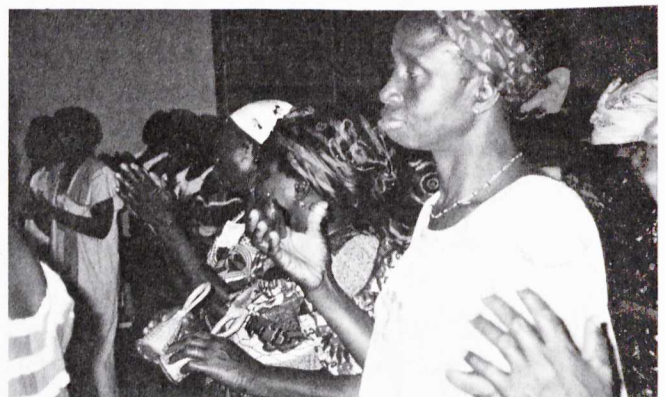
151 women from 25 villages attended the Free Will Baptist Women's Camp (retreat) in Côte d'Ivoire in February.

Bottom left: Missionary wives, ordained pastors' wives and Bible Institute wives gathered to share praises and prayer requests.

Top right: Madame Amiezi Paul spoke on the Second Return of Christ and Elaine Holland spoke on Growing as a Christian. Elaine is holding Pastor Samuel's girl, Jacobed.

Middle right: They sang. They had a keyboard, a drum, rattlers and a metal bell and ring.

Bottom right: Pastor Samuel officiated the Lord's Supper followed by a feet washing service.



Bowermans given permission to study Kuna language and culture



Above: Brianna held by Kuna woman. Left: Kuna woman cooking on an open fire

Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman praise God for answered prayer. The Kuna chief in Aguas Claras has given them permission to visit as long as they send word in advance that they are coming.

This chief is the same one who earlier thwarted attempts to get permission to start a work. During the March meeting, the chief was not only open to the possibility, but even receptive. After questioning Eddie about his car accident, the chief was impressed that they had returned after facing such hardships. He knew they were serious about bringing God's Word to the Kuna people.

The chief gave them permission to stay in the village a week at a time to learn the Kuna language and culture. The chief pointed out that he would use the visits as a way to gauge the Bowerman's faithfulness to the work. He wants to watch the missionaries' lives to make sure they are living what they preach.

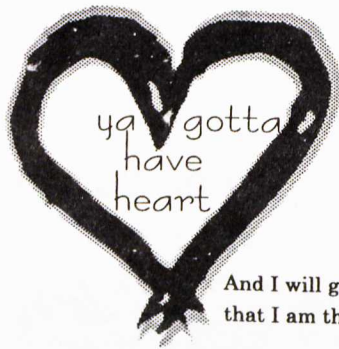
God used something that seemed like a setback to convince the Kuna to allow the Bowermans to present the Gospel.

A trip to Aguas Claras means going by truck as far as Buenos Aires and then taking a dugout the rest of the way. While at the village, the Bowermans bathe in the river and eat with the Kunas.

Women support MK Provision Closet



The Women of Northwest FWB Church of Shawnee, Oklahoma, raised a total of \$150 for the Missionary Children's Provision Closet. At the Christmas Banquet, they exchanged gifts and each woman brought \$5 for the MK Provision Closet. The WAC also sponsored a bean supper with donations going to the MK Provision Closet.



RESERVATION FORM

Free Will Baptist WNAC National Retreat

September 24–26, 1999

Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, New Mexico

And I will give them a heart to know me,
that I am the Lord. —Jeremiah 24:7a

ACCOMMODATIONS

(per person for 2 nights plus 5 meals, including program fee):

Please indicate the # of rooms requested:

CHAPARRAL INN (hotel): Large room with private bath, two queen-size beds

- ☐ 1 per room: \$204.00
☐ 2 per room: \$144.00
☐ 3 per room: \$130.00
☐ 4 per room: \$120.00

THUNDERBIRD (motel): Large room with private bath, two queen-size beds

- ☐ 1 per room: \$178.00
☐ 2 per room: \$130.00
☐ 3 per room: \$120.00
☐ 4 per room: \$112.00

FIRST CLASS (hotel): Standard size room with private bath, two beds

- ☐ 1 per room: \$164.00
☐ 2 per room: \$128.00
☐ 3 per room: \$114.00

HOW TO PAY: Enclose deposit of \$40.00 per person. Reservations will not be processed without deposit. Deposit will be credited to your account at check-in.

SEND TO: Glorieta Conference Center, Box 8, Glorieta, NM 87535. Fax. (505) 757-6149 Tel. (800) 797-4222

NO REFUNDS after August 20, 1999.

DAYTIME ONLY Participants: \$40.50 per adult plus meal costs. Breakfast: \$4.75; Lunch or dinner: \$7.75.

We accept personal checks, Visa, MC, and Discover cards. If using a credit card, please complete the following information (credit card users may FAX or phone in reservations):

☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Discover Signature: _____

Cardholder's Name (print clearly): _____

Card Acct #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Please list all names and addresses of those staying in your room. (Make additional copies if needed):

Your Name: _____

Group/Church Name (if applicable): _____

Home Telephone: _____

Work Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Special Needs: ☐ Disabled access ☐ First floor required

GROUP RESERVATIONS:

Total number of rooms needed _____

Number of persons in group _____

Attach list of participants, grouped by roommates. Indicate special needs for each room (disabled access; first floor required). Group should plan to pay with one check, if possible; if not, please notify Glorieta in advance.

If planning to arrive or depart early, please indicate below:

Arrival date: _____ First meal: _____

Departure date: _____ Last meal: _____

Use of Glorieta for this conference does not imply alignment with or endorsement by the Southern Baptists.

make an impact

Suzanne Franks



The gruesome school shooting in Littleton, Colorado, shocked an entire country in April. Experts can't explain why the perpetrators went on their killing rampage. We can be sure of only one thing: the lack of God in their lives was the reason for the hopelessness that caused them to carry out such vicious plans.

I wonder, if I'd been one of the classmates in that school, would I have reached out to these boys before hopelessness took over their lives? Would I have had the courage, the compassion to witness about the hope of eternal life?

Many kids are doing something to make a difference.

Ten-year-old Autumn and 8-year-old Breanna are leading a Bible study as part of a "girls club" they formed with two

friends. They are teaching the Gospel of John and praying that their friends will come to a relationship with the Lord. By the way, Autumn and Breanna Aycok live in Barbacena, Brazil.

The Actionettes from the Woodward FWB Church in Oklahoma had a bake sale to raise money to buy supplies for the MK provision closet. With the money, they bought eight backpacks and five walkman cassette players.

This group of 8 to 16-year-old girls has three goals: learn how to be more like Jesus, help missionaries and MK's, and have fun.

Ask yourself, "What can I do this summer to make an impact for God?"

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Read a book that will help you defend your faith when you are

confronted with hard questions. Here are a few suggestions: *Don't Check Your Brains at the Door* by Josh McDowell & Bob Hostetler, *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis.

2. Go on a missions trip in another country, state or across town.
3. Start a Bible study club. Ask someone in your church to help you pick out appropriate literature.
4. Go to the Free Will Baptist Convention in Atlanta. Take part in the National Youth Convention activities.
5. Learn a new hobby that can be used to reach out to the unsaved. Some examples are baking cookies to give to neighbor kids when you invite them to church, making "wordless book" bracelets.
6. Write a letter to a Senator or State Representative about freedom of religion.
7. Reach out to someone who needs a friend. Be friendly.

... or come up with your own project. Before you decide, ask for God's leadership. Then, write *CoLaborer* and tell us what happened. Maybe we can put your name on this page. But, most importantly, God's name will be lifted up. ♦

Women Nationally Active for Christ National Convention

64th Annual Session

Atlanta, Georgia

July 19-20, 1999

Theme: Passing the Torch

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:2

Monday Afternoon / July 19

WNAC Seminars

Atlanta Marriott Marquis: Imperial Ballroom A

1:30 **Topic:** Passing the Torch Haphazardly

A Seminar on Depression

Presiding: Debe Taylor

Speaker: Genevieve Waddell

3:00 **State Leaders Meeting**

Topic: Show and Tell

Presiding: Marjorie Workman



Tuesday Morning / July 20

9:00

Presiding : Everyl Getz

Congregational Singing

Devotional: Lynette Morgan

Special Music: Henrietta Brown

Welcome: Gail Smith

Georgia State President

Creative Arts Awards: Suzanne Franks

Credentials Committee Report/Seating of Delegates

Executive Secretary-Treasurer's Report:

Marjorie Workman

Resolutions Committee Report

Appreciation Committee Report

Nominating Committee Report

11:10

Missionary Service

Congregational Singing

Offering

Offertory: Paige Goodman

Music: Danny and Bobbie Thomas

Message: Shirley Combs

Tuesday Afternoon / July 20

1:30

Congregational Singing

Special Music: Jeremy, Joni, Justin Thomas

Registration Committee Report

Special Feature: "Passing the Torch"

Diana Bryant

5:00

WNAC Fellowship Dinner

Atlanta Marriott Marquis

Imperial Ballroom B

Speaker: Brenda Vaughn

Tribute to Mrs. Essie Collins

Read by Mrs. Wilma Davis at the Alabama State Auxiliary Meeting

May 2, 1998



A very special person. That's what Miss Essie has always been to me. I've known her since I started school. She was my fourth grade teacher. A great teacher, she not only taught us reading, writing and arithmetic, she taught us Bible verses. She taught school for 44 years.

Miss Essie loved children and wanted to see them come to know Christ. She was also my teacher at church. I remember she encouraged me the day I got saved.

As far back as I remember, Miss Essie worked with the Ladies Aide and the Woman's Auxiliary. She has been a member for

70 years. Always willing to help any way she could, she hosted the local auxiliary at age 90. Serving many years as program chairman, she didn't read the program, she taught it.

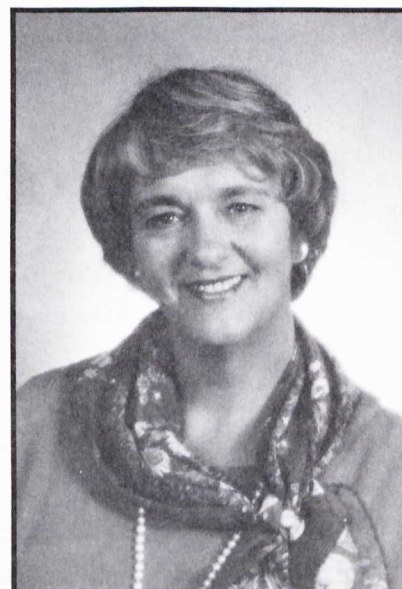
Not only was Miss Essie a children's teacher and an auxiliary member, she was willing to do whatever was needed. She led the music and choir at the Northport Free Will Baptist Church for many years. A few months ago, she taught the Ladies' Sunday school class.

Miss Essie has contributed more than her time and talents over the years. She has always been a financial supporter of Home and Foreign Missions. A few years ago she donated \$100,000 to Free Will Baptist Bible College. She donated a steeple to Sulphur Springs Free Will Baptist Church, her home church where she was saved 79 years ago.

In 1996, Miss Essie celebrated her 90th birthday. A host of dignitaries, former students, friends and family came to honor her and celebrate her many accomplishments.

Don't we wish we had more Miss Essies?❖

Editor's Note: Mrs. Essie Collins died on January 11, 1999. Her brother is Reverend Robert Crawford.



Special Speaker
Barbara Tompkins

WNAC National Retreat

Theme: Ya Gotta Have Heart
Glorieta Conference Center
September 24-26, 1999

Barbara Tompkins has taught the **Mom's Class** every Tuesday morning during the school year for 17 years. She has established a **Titus Tutelage** mentoring program based on Titus 2:2-4 where the older women guide the younger women.

She co-hosts a weekly radio program *Woman to Woman* on KVOI. Barbara has the ability to present deep spiritual truth in encouraging and practical ways.

◆ See page 22 for retreat reservation form

Poet's Corner

Christmas in July

Pat Wright, New Castle, IN

Father, as You look down on us from above,
You will find a party just filled with love.
It's hot—it's July, it's not Christmas at all.
But Lord help us to always answer Your call.
In no time at all that provision closet we can fill,
With towels, sheets, blankets and such.
For the ones who are willing to sacrifice so much.
Prepare our hearts, dear Lord, with compassion and love.
Help us to follow the example You sent from above.
Bless the ones who from the closet will take,
Spreading the gospel for Your sake.
And help each of us in some small way to be
Missionaries at home for the lost to see.
You as a Savior, a compassionate friend,
Who will always be with us to the very end.

The women of First Bible Free Will Baptist Church write:

Pat Wright wrote this poem for our program "Christmas in July." Everyone brought a wrapped gift to the party. The hostess decorated her home just as if it were Christmas. Each person opened a gift and then we sent all the gifts to the Provision Closet.

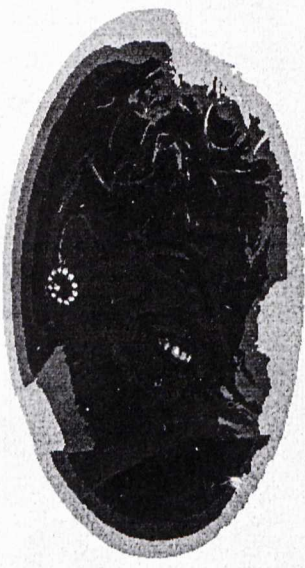
Attend the "Show and Tell" session at the WNAC Convention to learn more about "Christmas in July."

Every leader is a work in progress . . .

How many of these qualities does your life display?

Encourager
Faithful
Fervent
Enthusiastic
Communicator
Time manager
Innovator
Visionary
Emotionally stable

Loyalty
Endurance
Availability
Delegator
Energetic
Risk taker
Servant's heart
Handle criticism
Initiative
Perseverance



Feature Article

Let the Beauty of the
Lord be Upon Us
continued from page 6

problems, or pain. The Lord will help you. I have been in severe pain in my hip and back for over two years. The Lord is my help in time of need. I'm struggling to lose the weight I put on while sitting in a

chair unable to exercise. I know how some of you are hurting.

Helen Keller had a great outline for living. She said "I have four things to learn in life:

- To think clearly without hurry or confusion;
- To love everybody sincerely;
- To act in everything with the highest motives;
- To trust in God unhesitatingly.

On your own: Read Psalm 139:13-14 again and claim it for yourself. Continue with verse 15, "My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee."

As our lives reflect God's thoughts, may the beauty of the Lord be upon us.❖



Delois Loveless is a member of Woodbine FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee. She works for Master's Men.



August Program: God Called—They Answered

continued from page 14

Seek out opportunities for women to serve. These may be in the church, in the community, among the members of the local congregation. Most communities need volunteers to help in different charitable organizations.

Our Phebes must be an example of one who is willing to serve in any capacity. She must be an encourager. She must be willing to lead the way as a servant of Christ.

Conclusion

Where are the Miriams, the Phebes, the Lydias, the Deborahs among the believers today? Perhaps God is calling you to a position of service. Perhaps He wants you as a leader, strong, courageous and willing to take risks. If God's work is to continue into the next century and beyond, He must have willing servants.

I challenge you to offer yourself willingly, to commit yourself to Him and follow His direction for your life. God is calling. Will you answer, "Here am I. I will serve"?❖

Close with a prayer of dedication.



Mary R. Wisheart retired in 1998 after 13 years as WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer. She is a member of Cofer's Chapel FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee. Among other projects, she is writing a book.

From Mud to Executive

Interview with Gwen Hendrix conducted by Mary R. Wisheart

You may know her as the South Carolina State WNAC President or the President of the Inman Chamber of Commerce. Others know her as Brother Earl Hendrix's wife. But few people know that Gwen Hendrix scrubbed a mobile home every week when she first moved to Inman.

If you were to visit the Inman First Free Will Baptist Church on Sunday, you might find her at the piano or her husband at the pulpit.

The following interview took place when Mary R. Wisheart was in South Carolina for the state meeting.

Tell me about your conversion experience.

Some friends invited us to the Sunrise Easter service at the First FWB Church of Spartanburg. We didn't go. But later they invited us to "Pack a Pew Sunday." We went to help them out and I enjoyed the services.

I was saved about a month after I started going to church. Even though I'd been raised in church and had probably gone to the altar as a young girl, I didn't know what it meant to be saved until then.

Earl was saved a year later.

Did he answer the call to preach immediately?

No. It happened gradually. Some time after Earl was saved, he started leading the choir. Then he started teaching a Sunday school class. Eventually he was put on the deacon board. He announced his call to preach about a week before Easter. Our pastor let him preach the Easter Sunrise service. From that Sunday, until we moved to Inman, he preached in somebody's church every Sunday.

How were you led to Inman?

Someone from the Home Missions Department approached Earl about leading the work here. When we moved here 30 years ago, the congregation was meeting in a mobile home that had been specifically designed to be used as a church.

How many people were attending when you came?

We had about 10 people—only 2 or 3 families.

Was it easy to adjust to a small work?

No, I loved my church in Spartanburg and didn't want to leave. The Inman church was so different. It was hard for me to adjust. But I came to love the people.



As a pastor's wife, how did you help out in those early years?

I scrubbed the building every week. The mobile home sat in the middle of a mud field. Every time it rained hard, the mud would be everywhere inside the church.

And you didn't have a janitor?

Earl and I were the janitors.

How many members do you have today?

I don't know exactly, but about 250 to 300 people attend each week.

You have a Christian school. When did it start?

About 1967. We started with a 4-year-old kindergarten. Today we have about 300 students, kindergarten through twelfth grade. About 105 of those are in the day care.

What do you do at the school?

I'm the day care director.

Besides your involvement in church, you are active in the community. When did you become the president of the Inman Chamber of Commerce?

I became a member of the Chamber of Commerce in 1991. A member usually serves for a 3-year term, but I was asked to stay on. In 1993, I was elected president.

And you're still President. What have you done as President of the chamber?

One of our projects was to make parking on Main Street. We also bought house numbers for residents to put on their homes.

What about the craft show?

The craft station was established before I became President. In September, we have Harvest Day. Hundreds of craftsmen come from all over. We have a big day with a craft show, school bands, brownies, boy scouts. The event has grown year after year. Several thousand people attend every year.

Do you feel your position on the Chamber of Commerce is an outreach of the church?

When I first went on, I wondered about that. Although the others on the board were Christians, I still had opportunities to witness. The work put me in touch with many dignitaries in South Carolina. My involvement has helped the relationship of the church with the town.

What would you say to other women about service in their communities?

The work on the Chamber of Commerce is rewarding. Not everyone has the same ideas about service. My gift is service. That's what I love to do, anywhere I can. Through community work, you can witness to many who don't go to church.

When did you become active in the South Carolina WNAC?

We had an active Auxiliary in Spartanburg. When we came to Inman, we started a group with three members. Now, we have about 40 members.

Besides your local involvement, you've been president of the Beaver Creek District. When did you become the SC President?

Six years ago.

Since then, you've planned state meetings, retreats . . .

And fund raisers for our missionaries.

How do you encourage the women?

By setting goals. I love goals. A goal gives us something to work toward.

And you almost always reach them. You've been creative in planning some of your retreats. Tell me about some of these.

I like variety and I think the women get more out of the meetings when they are interesting.

When I started planning retreats, I asked you to send me some ideas and you sent me a bear. I used that idea and started a trend of animal themes. The first year, we made the program relate to bears. For example, we used hibernate to refer to sleep. "Home to the cubs" meant time to go home.

Each retreat we pick an animal and make the program to fit it. We've gone through a lot of animals. We either need to change or think of some more animals.

How many women attend your retreat?

We had over 300 at the last one.

You also served on the national board. You were on the Executive Committee. I like your sense of humor. From whom did you get it?

Probably from Dad. I believe you can have a good time and still serve the Lord. I like the Bible verse, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." ♦

Want to soak in some of Mrs. Hendrix's creativity? She will be demonstrating one of the South Carolina animal retreat themes at the Monday afternoon "Show & Tell" seminar.

Mission Alert

Evangelism News from Around the World



Bondoukou, Cote d'Ivoire

Missionaries Ernest and Elaine Holland led an evangelistic campaign with the help of teens from several Ivorian FWB churches. On April 6 and 7, the team visited door to door and conducted open air meetings featuring preaching and a film.

Seoul & Pusan, South Korea

Dr. John Chang and his wife Esther have been appointed as Coordinator-Consultant to South Korea and the Pacific Rim. Two FWB churches have been established—one in Seoul and one in Pusan, South Korea. Four men have been ordained as FWB ministers and seven others have been licensed to preach.

Barbacena, Brazil

Missionaries David and Annette Aycock have started a Wednesday night children's ministry. The ministry reaches children ages 4 through 10. Seventeen children attended the first night. "Some

families have become faithful to Wednesday night services because the kids do not want to miss 'Friends of Jesus Club,'" writes Annette. Through this ministry, seeds are being planted in the lives of many unsaved children.

March 27, the youth led a special service and 75 attended. Twenty high school and college age youth had parts in the service.

Kopeysk, Russia

This spring, Mike and Cathy Corley taught English to some teachers in a technical school. They met twice a week until the end of the school year in June. The Corleys are encouraging local believers and seeking out opportunities to witness through English classes.

Portland, Oregon

As of March, the Oregon Trail FWB Church had seen people saved in every Sunday morning service since the beginning of 1999. Missionary Darrell Smith reports that the church is growing and has a wonderful spirit. Each month, this mission church carries more of the financial load as it moves toward becoming self-supporting.

Louisville, Kentucky

The FWB church in Louisville started a women's group last fall. They have five active members. Missionary Susan Wheatley is most excited about the spiritual growth she has seen in the members.

San Jaun, Puerto Rico

Lillian Rodriguez is a faithful member of the FWB church in San Juan. In January, she went to work for the Department of the Family. Her job sent her into one of the worst government housing projects to mentor a young mother called Delores.

Lillian saw that Dolores needed the Lord. When her oldest son suffered a ruptured appendix, missionaries Bud and Ruth Bivens visited him in the hospital.

Dolores started attending the FWB church with her seven children and invited a neighbor, Nancy. Nancy went to the altar and asked for a Bible. Nancy started taking her five children to church. Dolores and Nancy took Magdalena and her five children to church. Dolores and Magdalena asked for Bibles, too.

God has provided a wide open mission field for the church in San Juan. Almost 1,000 families live in Covadonga, where Dolores, Nancy and Magdalena live. ♦



Words for Women

*Marjorie H.
Workman*

What's in a name? Recently, I encountered the e-mail name 6746829. Dear 6746829, how are you doing today? Sound odd to you? Unlike 6746829, most names mean something. Do you know the meaning of your name? Some parents go nine months, yet end up at the hospital with no name for their newborn. Choosing a good name is difficult. We like to take pride in our name.

Have you ever been told to live up to your name? That could be a problem if your name is Outlaw. It's fun watching people's reaction when I tell them my pastor's name is Outlaw. I told one man whom I was inviting to church that I had an Outlaw for a pastor, and he said, "I used to be an outlaw, too, but not anymore." When you hear a name, generally good or bad thoughts come to your mind depending on the experiences you've had with the person.

Names carried importance in Biblical days. Frequently, a person's name changed. What if your name were changed as circumstances fluctuate? Naomi changed her name to Mara indicating that God had dealt bitterly with her. God changed some names. Jacob got a name change in Genesis 32:28 "thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel . . ." To Peter, Jesus said, "Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas" (John 1:42).

If you were new parents, would you appreciate someone telling you what to name your child? Cousins and neighbors bombarded Elisabeth and Zacharias to name their newborn son Zacharias. Elisabeth refused. Elisabeth submitted to the angel Gabriel and said they would name him John although cousins insisted on naming him after kindred. Those insistent cousins refused to accept Elisabeth's chosen name.

Thinking they could override a mother's wish, they made signs to Zacharias hoping he would see their point of a family name. Speechless for several months, Zacharias asked for a writing table on which he wrote the name John. What happened next sent fear and gossip throughout the country. Speechless Zacharias had his tongue loosed

and started speaking and praising God.

Angel Gabriel had an even greater opportunity for naming a child. He found a virgin engaged to be married to a carpenter in the city of Nazareth. To Mary he announced she had found favor with God and would give birth to a son whose name they would call Jesus. This name is above all names.

Names are important. Proverbs 22:1 tells us, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." WNAC has had some good names. As early as 1841, one group called themselves Freewill Baptist Woman's Missionary Society. A group called the New Hampshire Yearly Meeting Benevolent Association formed in 1847.

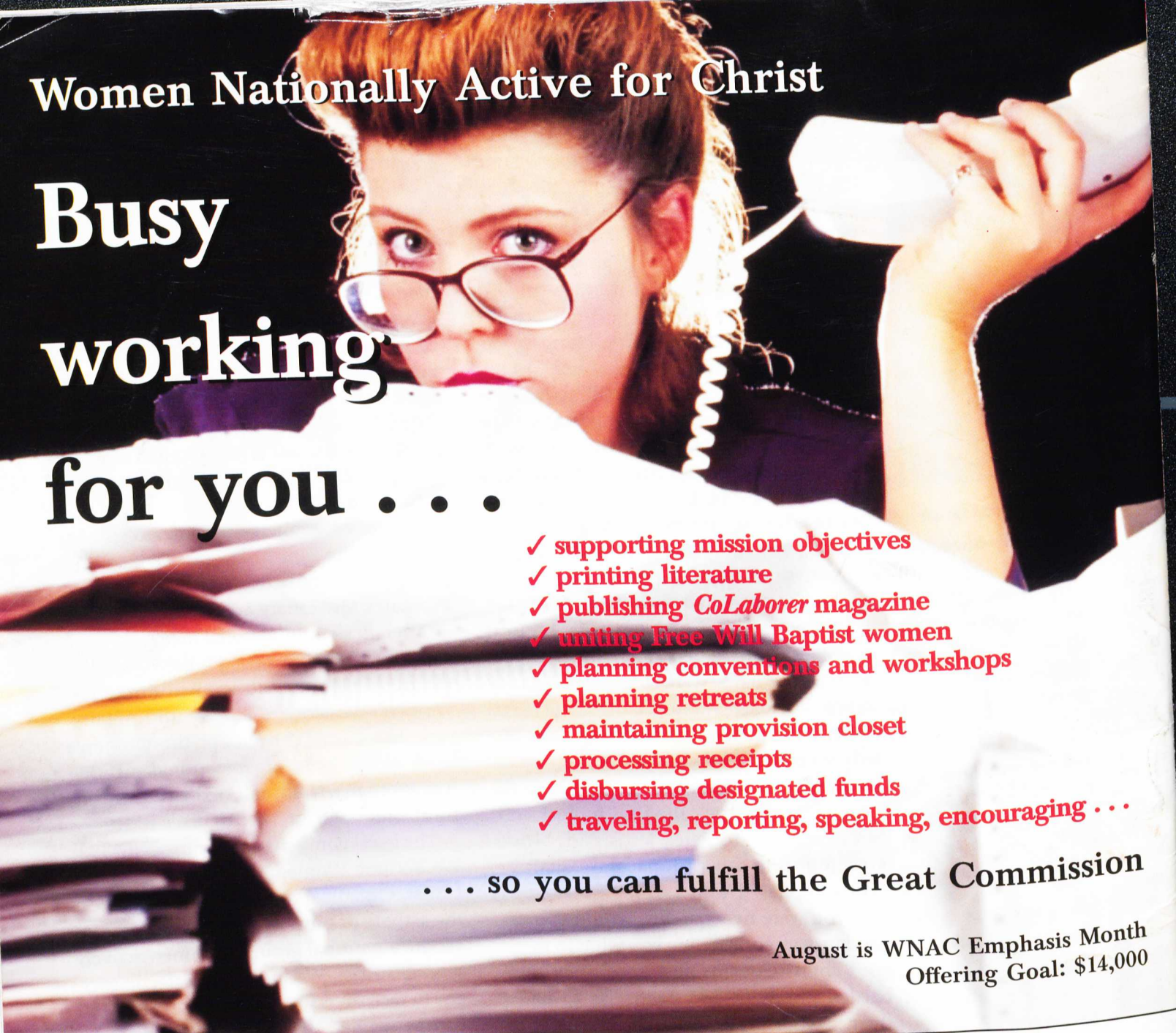
Names of women's organizations also changed. The Freewill Baptist Female Missionary Society became the Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society in 1873.

After the denominational merger of 1910, some of the names used were Women's Home Missions, Ladies' Aid Societies, Women's Missionary Society and Auxiliaries. The name chosen for the women's work at the 1935 organizational meeting was Woman's National Auxiliary Convention.

The latest name change occurred in 1993. We became Women Nationally Active for Christ. Organizational names try to reflect the activity or purpose of the organization. We are a national group of women actively serving Christ. We live in an eclectic society. In fact, diversity characterizes Free Will Baptist women. If you do not wish to be called WAC or WNAC, choose a name that fits your local group. WNAC is an umbrella name for all groups. We encourage your group, no matter what name you go by, to be a part of the national organization. ♦

*For information about starting a local WAC group call 615/731-6812. Ask for a starter packet.

*Historical data from *Sparks into Flame* which is available through WNAC.



Women Nationally Active for Christ

**Busy
working
for you . . .**

- ✓ supporting mission objectives
- ✓ printing literature
- ✓ publishing *CoLaborer* magazine
- ✓ uniting Free Will Baptist women
- ✓ planning conventions and workshops
- ✓ planning retreats
- ✓ maintaining provision closet
- ✓ processing receipts
- ✓ disbursing designated funds
- ✓ traveling, reporting, speaking, encouraging . . .

. . . so you can fulfill the Great Commission

August is WNAC Emphasis Month
Offering Goal: \$14,000

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