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winners 23



Sept • Oct 1999

VISION

Suzanne Franks

Fellowship— shattering some myths



Free Will Baptists love food, fun and fellowship. Some jokingly call us Free Meal Baptists. Potlucks, spaghetti suppers, ice cream socials. We love 'em and it's hard to hide when the results show up on our waistlines. Let's take another look at fellowship, maybe shatter some myths.

Fellowship consists of eating together. Yes, it can, but there's so much more to it. Our society revolves around food to a degree that we think we cannot get together without eating. I'm not against eating together and at times food helps bridge gaps. However, in some situations, food gets in the way.

Fellowship is not spiritual. Sometimes. Fellowship is spiritual when rooted in what we share together in Christ. Check out Colossians 3:15-16. The purpose for Christian fellowship is more than social, it's spiritual. According to Hebrews 10:24, believers meet together on a regular basis in order to "stir up love and good deeds" toward one another.

Fellowship is not essential, especially to the super spiritual man or woman. Wrong! The apostle Paul longed to be with his brothers and sisters in Christ who lived in Rome (Romans 1:11-12). Why did Paul long to see them? He writes, "... that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me" (NKJV). No one outgrows the need for solidarity—for the comfort/encouragement of the Scriptures which brings hope (Romans 15:4).

So, what is fellowship? A dictionary defines it as "a mutual sharing of experiences, activity, interest, etc." More than a warm, fuzzy chat, true Christian fellowship must be based on what we share in Christ.

What do we hold in common that makes it possible to have fellowship with one another? While humans share common needs, the redeemed share new life with common goals, common beliefs and common actions based on those common beliefs.

What does fellowship mean to the believer in Christ? Look for some answers on this page in the next issue. ❖

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**"You've told me
about the law,
now
let me tell you
about grace."**

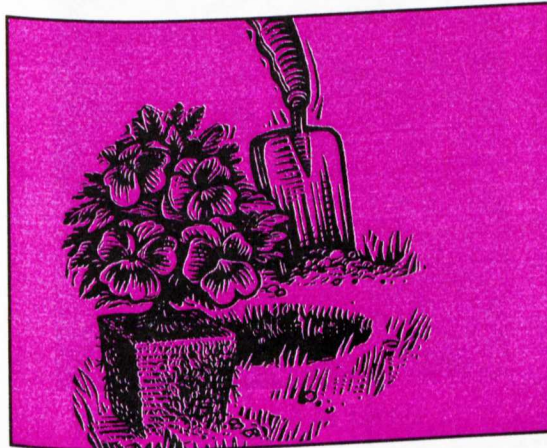
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**Scripture
is to wisdom
what food
is to the body.
We can't grow
without it.**

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**I'm still wearing
my same old black
penny loafers,
but
these shoes
are harder
to fill.**

C O N T E N T S



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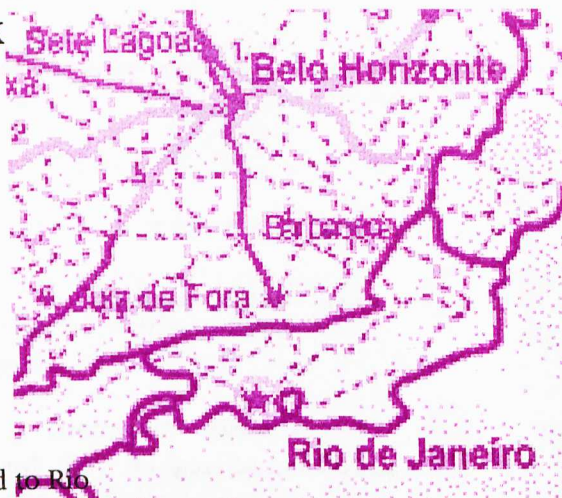
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Let me tell you about grace!

Annette Aycock



May 20, 1999

Hello from Brazil.

Last Saturday, we traveled to Rio to pick up our friends from Tennessee who were coming for a visit. Before they arrived, we prepared them to have the proper mind-set. They were on an adventure and God had many lessons He wanted to teach them.

The adventure didn't take long to kick into full swing. On our way home, we passed a police station. The stations are peppered all along the Brazilian roadsides. Cars are frequently stopped at these stations and documents checked.

About an hour from Rio de Janeiro we approached such a station. This one was busy and we were pulled over. This happens to us frequently without incident. The police at this station were very intimidating, walking up to cars with big guns in their hands! I thought they were overdoing it. But, I thought, perhaps they were looking for someone dangerous.

A police officer approached our van. We will call him Mr. BadCop. He asked for David's papers. He looked them over and then asked for an insurance receipt. David did not have this receipt. From that moment on, the policeman treated David as if he had just robbed a bank and shot his best friend in the process.

He took David into the police station and left us sitting by the road. We could see David through the glass window. He came out to the van to look in vain for the mystery receipt.

He explained that the police officer was going to impound the van, fine us \$350 and leave us standing by the road with our two American guests and all their luggage. We would have to find our way back to Barbacena—2½ hours away—the best way we could! Then David would have to travel back to the station on Monday and try to clear up the matter and retrieve the van.



David went back inside the police station. Time passed. . . . Then David disappeared behind closed doors with Mr. BadCop. More time passed. . . . Our poor friends didn't know what to think. All we could do was pray . . . and we did!

David is an excellent conflict resolution person. He is also a good Brazilian who knows how to interact with officials. More time passed. It was clear that the situation was hopeless. An hour passed and David was not in sight. I felt it was time I made a

move. So, I walked up to the police station.

That's when David and Mr. BadCop came out from behind closed doors. David introduced me and I smiled really big and greeted him (in Portuguese) as if he were a long-time friend. He greeted me coldly and proceeded to show David where to park the impounded vehicle.

I kept smiling . . . then in a flash he mumbled something under his breath. David heard what he said. My husband put one hand on me and the other on the policeman. That's when David said something to us both. I wasn't sure what he said but I got the cue to say, thank you, which I did.

David grabbed me by the hand and started walking quickly back to the van. At that moment I felt like someone fleeing bullets and approaching the border of freedom. We got in the van and drove away cautiously.

All was quiet. About a mile down the road David pulled over to the side of the road. I expected him to turn around and give me

one of those God-always-gives-you-something-to-write-about looks. But, he didn't. Instead, he let out the loudest shout I have ever heard in my entire life (and keep in mind I'm from East Tennessee!) He began praising the Lord and told us the rest of the story. . . .

As soon as David disappeared behind the closed doors, reality hit. Mr. BadCop wanted a bribe. He gave David a hard time. He pressured and pushed him. The fine was to be \$350. He would let us go if we put \$175 in his pocket.

David looked at the officer and said, "This is a really difficult situation. I'm a Christian and I need to talk to my Father about this." He

dropped to his knees and proceeded to call on the Lord!

Mr. BadCop stood frozen. After talking with His Father, the King of Kings and Creator of All, David told the policeman that giving him a bribe would not be pleasing to God and he couldn't do it.

Then David said, "You've told me about the law, now let me tell you about grace." David

had the opportunity to share his testimony with the man and tell him about the amazing plan of salvation. David told the cop that he would pay the fine instead of the bribe—and suffer the other consequences as well.

At this point, they walked out of the office. That's when I walked up with a smile . . . and you know the rest of the story. Our God still reigns and hears our prayers.

The adventure continues. I trust the Lord will continue to teach us valuable lessons. By the way, we will pass by this same police station Saturday when we take our friends back to the airport. We're praying for Mr. BadCop that the Lord will work in his heart. He has heard and the seed is planted.

Who knows? I might bake him some cookies. ❖



Annette Aycock is a missionary in Barbacena, Brazil. She assists David with children and youth ministry, teaches English and homeschools her four children.

I expected him to turn around and give me one of those God-always-gives-you-something-to-write-about looks. But, he

Mr. GoodCop, a hero



Juliano at the Buritus Free Will Baptist Church in Belo Horizonte, Brazil

"Jim and I remember when a young man followed our nephew Dave Jr. into the house with a guitar thrown over his shoulder," missionary Vicki Sturgill comments. "We smiled to ourselves as we were introduced to Juliano Amaro Ribeiro. He was so typical of the King Elvis fans found everywhere. A dove tail hair cut, a flipped up shirt collar, a love for his music and a guitar were the trademark for many young men."

In a recent visit to the Franks home, Juliano tells his story. "My mother was and still is a practicing Alan Kardec Spiritist. My dad drank too much and beat her," remembers Juliano. "My brother and I would lie in bed and listen to the fights. We couldn't do anything about it. I thought, there must be more to life than this. My only brother became involved with drugs and alcohol."

As a teenager, Juliano lived next to a storefront Free Will Baptist mission church. Each Sunday morning he passed the mission on his way to Mass. But he says he always left the Catholic church empty.

The missionary pastor invited him to attend the services at the little mission. After several invitations, he told Dave Franks Sr., "Next Sunday, I'll go." Through the Free Will Baptist ministry in Belo Horizonte, Juliano found a new King to follow and imitate—King Jesus. He was baptized in November 1978.

Later the Franks had to leave Belo to work in another church because of a missionary shortage. Juliano visited many churches seeking one in which he could feel comfortable. He didn't find a church that preached the gospel with the same simplicity and power as in the little mission.

While searching for a church where he could grow spiritually, he faced other challenges. "My Mom called me a fanatic and my Dad is an atheist," Juliano adds. "I almost married a girl who was not a Christian. In spite of my mistakes, the hand of the Holy Spirit on my life kept me faithful."

Every time he saw Pastor Dave, he asked him when he would return to reopen the Free Will Baptist church. Six years later the Franks returned. God paved the way giving Juliano a home near the location of the present church.

God has allowed Juliano to occupy a position which is dangerous at times. For most of the 18 years that he has been a policeman, he has worked in traffic patrol. The traffic is intense in this city of more than 3 million people.

As a policeman Juliano has been a witness on the job. He says, "As we are debriefed each day, we are allowed to say something about God."

For many years he was stationed as a school crossing guard, helping the students safely arrive and leave the school. He was reassigned to this beat over and over because school officials requested him every year. He had the love and respect of children and parents alike.

While on vacation Juliano missed the children, so he decided to visit the school. The po

continued on page 10

I dream of hearing...

Ridgecrest ... Glorieta ...
State Retreats ... Mis-
sions Conferences ...

We listen to women speak who thrill and inspire us, women whose lives count for God, women who have suffered for

must wake up to the reality of a lost world and to our responsibilities.

Big dream

I dream of ... hearing my Savior say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, thou

Well done, you have taught others

Christ's sake. Great faith emanates from their countenances. We listen and leave with a dream to do something great for the Lord.

But are our dreams fantasies for self glory, or are they visions from God? The Word of God speaks to us about dreams—

about visions. "Where there is no vision the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). So we dream on. But there's more to dreaming. We

have been faithful over a few things.... enter thou into the joys of the Lord."

With this accolade from the Lord comes the command of faithfulness in passing on the vision. We must pass the torch containing the burden and the vision. If we don't, who will? The Lord commands it. Survival depends on it.

Limbs become trunks

Let me illustrate. Near the life-sustaining trunk of the great American redwood, other limbs stand at attention ready to take over the function of the trunk if necessary. Some limbs become



Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:2

Song: *I Would Be True*

Special Music: *Find us Faithful*

*If something
happens
to the trunk,
the limbs
pointing
upward will
take over.*

new trees. If something happens to the trunk, the limbs take over.

God designed the American redwood trunk to pass on life-sustaining ability to a nearby branch. When wind or lightning destroys the upper portion of this great trunk, the sister branch begins to move into position. It becomes the trunk, taking over the responsibilities of the one that can no longer function.

If the trunk is blown down, the upright branches will grow into new trees and become clones of the original, bearing the same responsibilities.

A limb never becomes the trunk unless the original trunk fails. When that happens, the duty of upholding the majesty of the redwood tree passes to a branch.

As Free Will Baptist women, each day brings us nearer to the time when our dream must be passed on. Have you noticed a strong branch nearby capable of taking over your dream? Do you see a branch pointing upward to Jesus ready to carry on the work?

The apostle Paul tells us to train the younger women to be godly and upright (Titus 2:3-5). To cultivate future torch bearers, we must unselfishly obey this command.

When the Old Testament records a king doing something great or not so great, the account ends with, "And his mother's name was ..." Statements like these reveal the importance of a mother's dream. Apparently, the responsibility for this child's behavior is contingent on the training of the mother. Here we see the importance of "training up a child in the way he should go."

Paul records in his second letter to Timothy a succession of generational torch passing. Grandmother Eunice passes to daughter Lois who passes to son Timothy.

Remember, as women we can pass the torch not only to the women in our lives, but also to the men. Many great preachers, missionaries and men of God give testimony of the influence on their lives by godly women. Dwight Pentecost's Sunday school teacher was Grace Livingstone Hill.

Free Will Baptist missionary to India, Nelle Woolsey, had no children of her own, but she inspired all who knew her, including many young preachers and missionaries. Her account is still open in Heaven. Though her days on this earth are over, rewards are added daily because she passed the torch. Her works follow her.

She dreamed of seeing Free Will Baptist young people spreading the gospel all over the world. Many limbs have become trunks. She has heard, "Well Done ..."

*Nelle Woolsey
had a dream
of seeing
Free Will
Baptist
young people
spreading
the gospel
all over
the world.*

Deborah's dream fulfilled

In his book, *Involved or Uninvolved*, the late G. Christian Weiss of "Back to the Bible Broadcast," gives four characteristics of Deborah as she fulfilled

her dream of leading her people out of bondage to the Canaanite king, Jabin. (Judges 4)

1. **She had a deep concern** because the work of God was dying. She heard her people crying. Deborah had a mother's heart. Thus began her burden. Our dream, our vision must begin with a burden.
2. **Deborah was utterly consecrated to God and to her people.** She laid herself on the altar and renewed her mind. In the transformation that followed, her will and God's will merged. She yielded.
3. **Deborah had confidence in her God.** He was her shield going before her into battle. Winning the battle meant fulfilling the dream of delivering her people. She knew the God within her was greater than she was. God sought availability not capability. God was capable, she was available.
4. **She had courage.** God's strength replaced her weakness. And the victory was hers before she went into battle.

Given these characteristics, Deborah fulfilled her dream and saved her people.

Dreams with legs

What makes women like Deborah great in the eyes of God and of others? They fulfill the commandments of God.

"And the things thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, [and women] who shall be able to teach others" (2 Timothy 2:2).

This verse is another way of saying:

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo I am with you alway, even to the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19-20).

Many years ago at a missionary conference, the late Archie Mayhew spoke on these verses. His statement, "No go ... no lo," has been like a bell ringing in darkness announcing that the torch has been lit by the fire of the Holy Spirit. The torch leads us through the darkness. Yet we cannot claim this "lo," this promise, unless we "go"—unless we "Dream."

The act of "going" is simply putting legs on our dreams, for we do not dream the impossible

dream. With God all things are possible. He empowers us for the job.

We, as a nation, a denomination, a church, a family and as WNAC, are always only one generation away from extinction. If the next generation does not catch the vision, we have failed. If we do not pass along values, morals and Biblical truth, future generations will reap what we sow. In fact, we are already reaping what has been sown.

Passing on the dream

We must pass on our dreams. Then we will hear, "Well done, enter into the joys of the Lord." We will have treasures laid up in heaven. What we have passed on to another will follow us.

If we have dreamed the possible dreams and committed them to faithful women who can teach others, many branches-in-waiting will slip into the center of nourishment and raise their lofty branches heavenward. ♦



Eleanor Grindstaff wrote Stones of Remembrance, a fictional narrative of the life of Benjamin Randall. She and husband, Bob, live in Erwin, Tennessee, and belong to the First Free Will Baptist Church of Erwin.

Mr. GoodCop, a hero

continued from page 6

liceman on duty became distracted as a speeding car headed toward a ten-year-old girl. Juliano jumped in front of the car, snatching the girl to safety. A district attorney witnessed the scene and recommended him for a promotion and a decoration.

The Lord has given Juliano a wonderful wife, Silvana, and two children. In their community they witness for the Lord. Several of the church members first heard the gospel through midweek Bible studies conducted in the Ribeiro home. The gospel has reached 20 homes in a two-block radius of Juliano's home as a result of contacts made by the couple. Many from these homes have accepted the Lord.

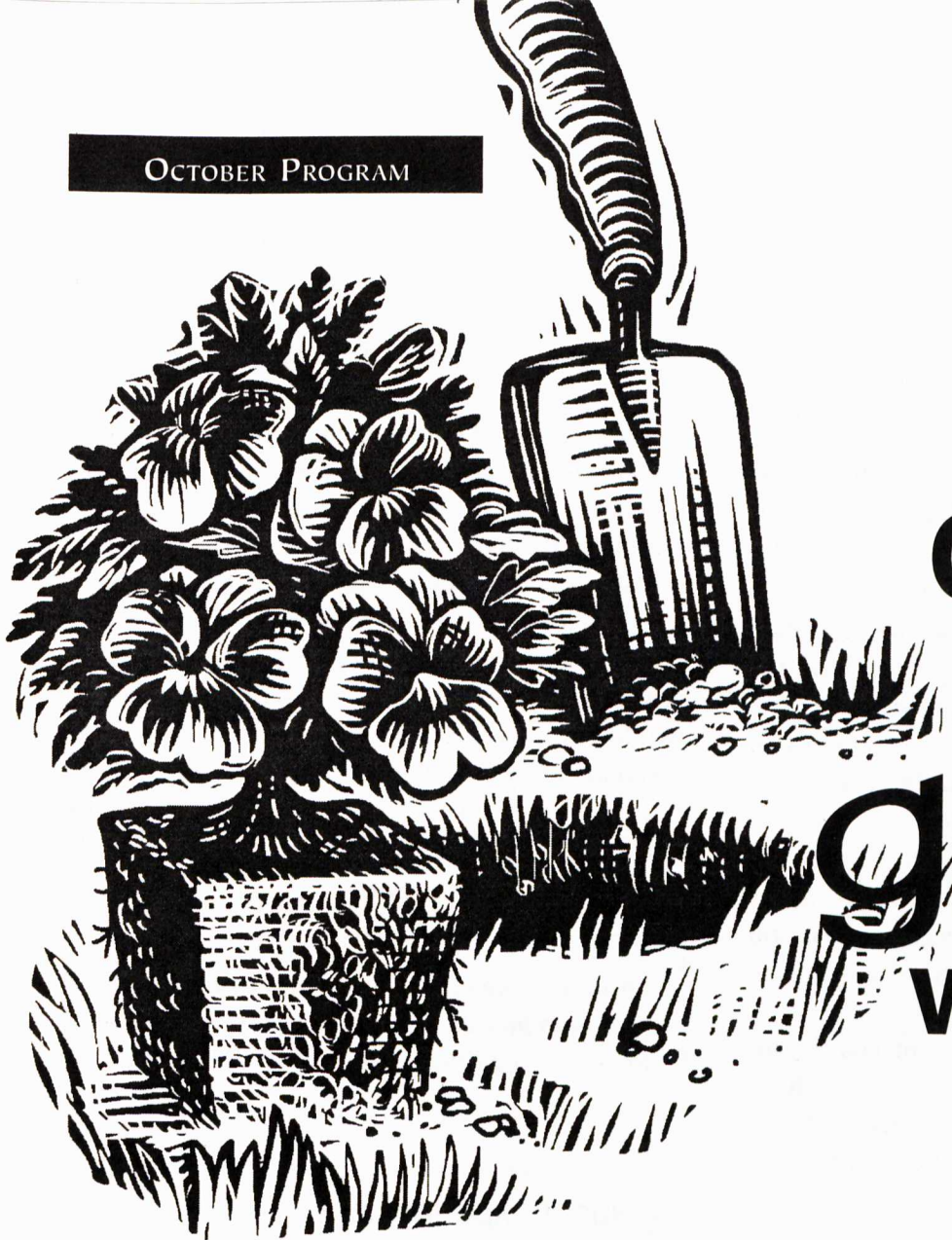
Juliano is still very young at heart. You will often see him counseling teens who are involved in drugs or alcohol warning them of the dangers of continuing in this life style. More importantly, he presents them the gospel.

Juliano is highly respected by the Belo congregation. Doctors, lawyers, teens and children in the congregation often express how much this faithful cop has served as an example to them. He feels God's leadership to serve as a deacon and lay preacher.

When asked about the temptation to be dishonest, he answers, "How can I be unjust when I'm supposed to be an instrument of God's justice? I've never accepted a bribe or tortured a prisoner."

Being a Christian policeman is not an easy task, but Juliano proves good cops exist. ♦

Missionaries Jim and Vicki Sturgill and Dave and Pat Franks contributed to this article. The Sturgills are currently on stateside assignment and the Franks are holding down the fort in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.



Come grow with me

Yvonne Hampton

“It’s hard being a little girl, Mom,” my daughter used to say, to which I always replied, “just wait until you become a big girl. It’s much harder!” Growing up isn’t easy, is it? It involves discipline, self-sacrifice and consideration for others. Growing in the Lord isn’t easy either.

“Growing older is inevitable, growing up is optional,” says author Barbara Johnson.

Ephesians 4:15 tells us to “. . . grow up into Him in all things.” What things was Paul talking about? Here are a few examples.

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:18

Song: *More About Jesus*

grow in faith

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren ... because your faith has grown exceedingly . . .

—2 Thessalonians 1:3

Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please him [God]. " If pleasing God is so important, why is faith such an illusive thing? It isn't tangible. It can't be measured. Our actions don't always indicate whether or not we have it.

Faith is "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). You can't see, hear or touch it. So how do you know if someone has faith? More importantly, how do we know we have it. And if we do, how can we continue to grow in faith?

"By grace are ye saved through faith" (Ephesians 2:8). None of us receives salvation unless we have at least the faith of a grain of mustard seed.

By faith we believe that God sent His Son to make the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. By faith we believe that God forgives our sins. By faith we believe that He has the power to help us live the Christian life.

At the moment of salvation, the seed of faith is planted in our hearts. The process of growing in faith begins. Steady growth must follow. Faith, one of the fruits of the spirit, continues to grow in our hearts.

As new Christians we long to please the one who brought us to new life. But how do we continue this growing process?

Have the women share their favorite scriptures pertaining to faith. You may ask someone ahead of time.

Prayer

As we experience answered prayers, we grow in faith. Eddie and Sandra Paynes and their daughters prayed for safety during a violent storm over the Bermuda triangle on their way to Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast). God kept them safe and their faith grew.

Nine-year-old Randy prayed daily that he could be with his parents, Dan and Trula Cronk, rather than go back to boarding school 1,000 miles away. His faith grew tremendously when God made it possible for them to be together. God provided a teaching job for Randy's mother at his school.

Tom and Nancy Hughes prayed that their 18-year-old son, Tom Jr., who was 6,000 miles away, wouldn't lose his leg as a result of a bad motorcycle accident. They had faith in their loving Father's healing power. Answered prayer increased the Hughes' faith that God would protect their family during times of separation.

Encourage the some women in the audience to give examples of answered prayers and how these increased their faith.

Personal experiences

When we emerge victorious through difficult times, we grow in faith. As a widow, I learned to trust God in hard times. He brought me through financial difficulties and my faith increased. When He was there to calm my fears, my faith continued to grow stronger. As I felt His presence on lonely nights, I learned to trust Him and my faith grew even more. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

Growing in faith is a continual process until that day when our faith becomes sight. "For now we see through a glass darkly, then face to face." The final reward for a life of faith is eternal life.

Have the women share personal experiences when they felt God's presence during times of trouble and how this increased their faith.

grow in wisdom

As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.

—1 Peter 2:2 (NKJV)

The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

—Job 28:28

Do you ever feel that others seem to know and understand things from God's Word that are a mystery to you? After 35 years of studying God's word, I still learn new things. Even Scriptures that we've memorized can take on new meaning at different stages of our lives.

The Holy Spirit enlightens our minds through the Word so that we can grow to be more like Him. We must not only read His Word, but study and meditate on it. If we hide God's Word in our hearts, He brings these Scriptures to mind in times of doubt and discouragement.

Scripture is to wisdom what food is to the body. We can't grow without it. A desire to grow in the Lord is as natural for the Christian as craving milk is to a newborn baby. As we digest the word, we grow in wisdom and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18).

Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." As we read and study God's Word, we grow in wisdom. We would certainly worry about our children if they never learned anything new. In the same way, God is concerned that we grow in wisdom.

Faith comes by **hearing** the Word. Wisdom comes by **hiding** the Word in our hearts. Growth comes by **heeding** the Word.

Here are some reason we need godly wisdom:

- To live the Christian life successfully.
- To have good relationships with believers and unbelievers.
- To make good decisions.
- To discern God's will for our lives.

grow in love

Read Romans 5:5 and 2 Thessalonians 1:3b.

The more we know about someone, the more we grow to love them. My first husband and I announced our engagement and he quickly went off to Bible college. We wrote almost daily during the year we were apart. I read each letter over and over. Through them I learned to

know him better and love him more.

Eleven years after my husband's death, I fell in love again. My new love said many comforting things in letters when we were dating. Again, I learned to love and trust him because of his written words.

His Word tells us

God has written letters to his bride, the Church, declaring His eternal love. Over and over He declares His love for us.

Romans 8:35 tells us "Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ."

Scripture is
to wisdom what
food is to the
body. We can't
grow without
it.

1 John 3:1 says, "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us."

Jeremiah 31:3 exclaims, "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

Our love for Christ grows when we remember that His love is unconditional. We didn't earn it and we don't deserve it. How do we know He loves us?

His actions show us

He left the glory of heaven because He loved us when we were unlovable. "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

He took our punishment on the cross. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him" (1 John 4:9). What more could anyone do to show His love than to lay down His life for us?

His Spirit encourages us

"The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16).

Jesus said in John 14:18, "I will not leave you comfortless." In the wee hours of the morning His Spirit whispers, "I love you and I will be with you today." When others have turned their backs on us, the Spirit reminds us He will **never** leave us. When we are suffering physically or emotionally the Spirit comes along side to comfort us.

Loving others

If our love for Christ is growing, we also love others more. Christ set the loving example. Mature love always puts the welfare of others before our own. 1 Corinthians 13 explains love in detail.

Read 1 Corinthians 13, verses 4-8 and insert your name in place of the word charity/love. Does it describe the kind of person you are striving to be? If so, we can see ourselves in these verses. If we can't, perhaps we need to grow in love.

"For ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren . . . but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase (your love) more and more" (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10).

When
others have
turned their backs
on us, the Spirit
reminds us He
will never
leave us.

grow
with me

"Grow up into Him in all things." I'm still growing, are you? Growing up in the Lord simply means I'm trying to becoming more like Him. No matter how far along we are in the Christian walk, we must always be growing in faith,

wisdom and love. Come, join me as I endeavor to grow in the Lord.❖



Yvonne Hampton lives in Antioch, Tennessee, and is a member of Woodbine Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville. She is Circulation Manager for CoLaborer.



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator/Assistant Coordinator

A reservation form for the WNAC National Retreat at Glorieta is in the July/August issue. If you hurry, you may still get in on a great retreat. The deadline for pre-registration is August 20. See page 24 in this issue for a retreat program.

The 2000 Yearbook is for sale. Every officer should have one. This year's book has a WNAC Enlistment program and a WNAC Emphasis program. Every yearbook has ideas, helps, mini posters to advertise monthly meetings, a missionary birthday list, a calendar of WNAC events, plan sheets, supplies order form, etc. It's well worth the \$6.

In September, you may invite someone from your local school district to speak. This guest may or may not be the main speaker for your meeting. Get your women to take a school as a project. Tell the speaker that your group is praying for the school(s) and wants to do volunteer work. Of course, make sure your group is serious about this before promising anything.

Secretary/Treasurer

Does your church have any young men or women studying at a Bible college? As part of a back-to-school emphasis, recommend that your women send an offering to the student(s). In this issue's Life!Action (page 24), Jan Banks conducts an interview with a Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College student who is receiving a scholarship through her local WAC.

Missions Chairman

The following missionaries are in language school and would appreciate your prayers and encouragement.

Côte d'Ivoire	Verlin and Debbie Anderson (language school in Quebec, Canada)
Japan	Nathan and Linda Snow
Uruguay	Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster
Spain	Sam and June McVay
	Anthony and Lea Edgmon
	Tim and Kristi Johnson

Provision Closet Needs

King, queen and
twin size sheet
sets

Queen and twin
size bedspreads

Queen and full
electric blankets

Kitchen towels

Heavy cookware

Flatware

Food processors

Blenders

Coffee makers

Tupperware®
pitchers

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

Prayer Chairman

Before the September meeting, compile a list of all the names of students and teachers (and other educators) from your church. Make a separate note card for each name on the list with the person's name, name of school, grade level, etc. At the September meeting, ask each woman to take several note cards until all the cards are gone. During your prayer time, ask each woman to voice a short prayer for the student(s)/teacher(s) whose note cards they picked. Then ask each woman to pray for the people on their cards throughout the month.

Service Chairman

Think of how many students in our schools need some good role models. Look into a volunteer program in your local school system. Helping the schools in your community will not only give your church a reputation for caring, but this type of community service may open up many doors for ministry.

Study Chairman

The book reviewed on page 22 of this issue was written by our WNAC Fellowship Dinner speaker Brenda Vaughn and her husband John. You may order the book through WNAC, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011. Calling (615)731-6812 or send an email message to [WNAC@nafwb.org]. ♦



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

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A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

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Name: _____ Church: _____

Address: _____

Priscilla and Aquila

How to be a faithful church member

1. Identify with Christ

- Sell out to Him.
- Make your own desires secondary.
- Be prepared for sell out to be costly (Acts 18:2). Priscilla and Aquila sacrificed.

2. Be industrious

- Don't be lazy.
- Priscilla and Aquila were industrious workers making tents and working for the Lord.
- In most cases, a small percentage of people do most of the work in the church. If we served our employers like we serve our Lord, many of us would be fired.

3. Get involved

- Don't wait for someone else to do the things that need to be done, get involved locally and beyond the local church.
- When Paul left Corinth for Syria, Priscilla and Aquila went with him (Acts 18:18). They got involved beyond their own group.

4. Allow the Holy Spirit to impress you to continue working

- When Paul left Ephesus, Aquila and Priscilla remained there to help carry on the work (Acts 18:19).
- How well would the church do if it were left to us to continue the ministry?

5. Be instructors of the truth

- There is a time when we need instruction, but we should grow so we can instruct others.

- " We must know the Word and understand spiritual truths.
- " Aquila and Priscilla instructed Apollos (Acts 18:26).

6. **Inspire** fellowship and thanksgiving

- " Others will appreciate you if you show them you care.
- " Priscilla and Aquila risked their necks for Paul, and he was thankful.
- " What have we risked for Christ? Others? Have we inspired thankfulness?

7. Be **interested** in other ministries

- " Aquila and Priscilla left Corinth with Paul, and got involved in the work in Ephesus. They remained interested in the Corinthian work. We should be interested in ministry outside our own church walls.
- " Aquila and Priscilla sent greetings through Paul's letter to Corinth (1 Corinthians 16:19).

8. Be **immovable**

- " We need to persist despite setbacks, feelings of discouragement, or when we think we are no longer needed.
- " Priscilla and Aquila were still spreading the gospel when Paul faced death (2 Timothy 4:19).
- " We need to work wherever God plants us, for as long as we can. There is no retirement from serving God.
- " We are called to be "steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord . . ." (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Joan Warren from Oilton, Oklahoma, prepared this outline.

our mission . . . love the unlovable

by Jeannie M. Barrick

How many times have we seen the advertisements to adopt or sponsor a foreign child? You know the ones with the big eyes, little clothing, matted hair, pitiful surroundings. They break our hearts—which is what the producers hope for. They know everyone is touched by children, especially those in trouble. But, are we touched by what touched Jesus?

- " What about the child who glares in your face, breaks the crayons and throws tantrums?
- " What about the kid who picks the fights and blames everyone around him?
- " What about the teenager with the nose ring or navel ring—the one who looks at you defiantly under scowling eyebrows?
- " What about the man who surgically became a woman?
- " What about the man who likes being with men rather than women, and the women who prefer other women?
- " What about the man who lives in a bottle or race track?
- " Or the woman who found herself without family, job or home and pushes around all she owns in a cart?

Everyone of these is an example of a seeker. People searching for significance. They search for a reason to be all they can be, to be more than they are. The kids' expressions of rebellion are usually a test to see if we really mean what we say or if we are just going through the motions of caring. These are men and women who would rather be someone else. They search for reason in an unreasoning world.

Why is so much importance placed on what we have and not on the One who has us? Jesus asked, "what good is it to have all the world and lose our own soul?" (Mark 8:36). What good is it to go through the empty motions? Jesus provides a full and rewarding existence—one of service to others, not to ourselves.

Love is not love until it is given away. We have a responsibility not only to share His gospel in word and deed, but to be what He meant for us to be—His hands extended.

Our missions: To love the unlovable. To open ourselves to sharing the bounty only received from Christ. To look beyond the expressed anger, defiance, overconfident mask and see the longing, confused, empty souls that Jesus died to save. ❖

Jeannie Barrick lives in Alma, Arkansas.

Lucy & Marge

Marge on stage. Lucy enters looking like a traveler, camera around her neck and carrying an oversized suitcase with travel stickers all over it.

Lucy and Marge greet each other with hellos and hugs.

Lucy: It's so good to be home!

Marge: I'm so glad to see you, Lucy.

Lucy: Oh, Marge, I'm so excited.

Marge: Calm Down, Lucy, and tell me about your trip.

Lucy: I hardly know where to begin. You really must visit our missionaries sometime and see for yourself.

Marge: I'd love to, but it costs so much, and I can't get time off from my job.

Lucy: Well, just plan your vacation some time to make a short trip to at least one of our mission fields.

Marge: Maybe I'll do that some time. But in the meantime, tell me about your trip.

Lucy: The missionaries were there to greet us and they seemed so glad to have somebody visit them from the United States.

Marge: Aren't visitors somewhat of a burden to the missionaries?

Lucy: Oh, Marge, you know I'm not a burden to anybody. At least that's the way I see it. Anyway, I put some money in their account before I went to help pay for food and transportation.

Marge: Hey, that's a good idea.

Lucy: But to the missionaries, it doesn't seem to be a burden. They just delight in showing you the work and introducing you to the Christians.

Marge: What about the food?

Lucy: Oh, the food! Well, I always like to try new things, don't you?

Marge: Not particularly, especially not new food.

Lucy: The food is always good. I was warned to always eat it when it's hot. And of course you have to be careful about the water. In some places you can't even brush your teeth with the water.

Marge: Really, what do you do? How do you manage?

Lucy: I carry bottled water and the missionaries have it available when it's needed.

Marge: Tell me about the work, Lucy.

Lucy: You would be thrilled to see the Christians. They're so eager to learn. They welcomed me with open arms. In fact, I made some life-long friends.

Marge: Are their churches different from ours?

Lucy: There's a difference. They sing some of the same hymns in their own language, of course. But, the music is different. They sing with such joy and enthusiasm. Time doesn't seem to bother them like it does Americans. They can sit on the hard benches and listen for hours.

Marge: Oh, and we have to have padded pews and be out exactly at 12:00.

Lucy: Well, I've been thinking about speaking to the pastor about that. He must think he's on the mission field!

Marge: Lucy, Lucy, he rarely holds us more than 5 or 10 minutes over.

Lucy: You're right, Marge. I was only kidding.

Marge: Tell me more about your trip.

Lucy: Just come to the next WAC meeting (insert time and place). I'm going to tell the women all about it and show slides.

Marge: Even if we can't go in person, we can still share the burden and pray and give.

Lucy: Believe me that's what the missionaries need more than anything else. They depend on our prayers and our support. Hey, Marge, I have an idea. Why don't you ask the women to send you to one of our mission fields. I'll vote for it!

Marge: Sure, Lucy, sure. *(Both laugh.)*

Lucy & Marge in this issue is written by Mary R. Wisheart and Yvonne Hampton.



Communicator

by Marjorie Workman

Preparing for the future

Short summer. Back to school. Back to a routine. Broke from paying tuition, buying school clothes and supplies. Homework, busy schedules, parent-teacher conferences. Rush, rush, rush. Why all the fuss? The future is at stake. Education is important whether you're a first grader or a college freshman. Learning is a life-long pursuit, or should be. Searching out truth is rewarding and fascinating.

Education has always been at the forefront of the ministry of Women Active for Christ. Even before the doors of Free Will Baptist Bible College opened, women were recommending books and study courses for educating women. These pioneer women also saw the need for a college to educate and train our young people. They put their plan in action and collected ten cents from all members to help start a Christian school. The school began in 1942. (From *Sparks into Flame*)

In 1957 the women established the Student Memorial Loan Fund. The purpose of the fund was to help students who could not afford to pay tuition. This fund is still available to students at Free Will Baptist Bible College. A student is eligible to apply for a loan after the completion of the first year of college.

Each September, Women Active for Christ groups across our denomination send contributions to this fund. Last year the North Carolina women led the way in giving to the Memorial Student Loan Fund. They gave \$495. WNAC groups collectively gave \$2,359 in 1998.

Tell students about this fund. It is available to both men and women students. They may obtain applications from the WNAC office or the Financial Aid Office at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Rest of the family

Most of you are familiar with Paul Harvey's famous quote, "... now for the rest of the story." But are you aware of the phrase, "rest of the family?" September is the month to think about the rest of the family.

In November the emphasis is on the Lizzie McAdams or Benjamin Randall Day Offering for National Home Missions. In December we respond to the Paul Kettelman Memorial Christmas Offering for Free Will Baptist Bible College. The Laura Belle Barnard World Mission Offering for Foreign Missions is received in April or during the Pre-Easter Week of Prayer. However, September is for "The Rest of the Family"—WNAC, Executive Office, Master's Men, National Youth Conference, Commissions, Board of Retirement and Foundation.

Last year WNAC received \$1,406. Obviously, this wasn't enough to meet the budget, but we are thankful to be part of the family. Send your "Rest of the Family Offering" through regular WNAC channels.

It's not too late!

This is the final call to join us at Glorieta, New Mexico, for the WNAC National (Western) Retreat which takes place September 24-26. If you think you would like to go to Glorieta but keep waiting for a better time, you need to join us this year. This could be the last retreat for WNAC at Glorieta. We plan to have a good time with Barbara Thompkins as she shares with us about "A Heart for Friends, A Heart for Family and A Heart for God." We will hold a special "Mom's Meet" Saturday afternoon.

It's always a delight to hear from our own women. So, don't miss Debe Taylor's "A Heart for Prayer" Saturday morning. Breakout groups led by several of our women will give special emphasis to prayer.

The weather should be pleasant at this time of the year. Join us for a great time of fellowship, worship, prayer, and fun.❖

Women In Action



Local President Honored for 20 Years of Service

The Faith FWB Woman's Auxiliary of Darlington, South Carolina, held their annual Christmas Party at BJ's. Thirty-one people attended the dinner.

The women honored Mary T. Byrd (in white dress) for service as Auxiliary President for over 20 years. Assistant Coordinator Margaret Gainey writes, "Through her leadership, she shared with each of us Christian love, words of encouragement and true friendship. Mary, we thank you for your years of service as President and for continued service in our Auxiliary."



Mary Wisheart, Special Speaker at Watauga Spring Retreat

The Second Annual Ladies Spring Retreat, hosted by the Watauga Valley Free Will Baptist Ladies Auxiliary, was held April 24 in Elizabethton, Tennessee. Dr. Mary R. Wisheart spoke on the retreat theme, "Living for Jesus" based on Psalm 19:14. They received a special offering in Mary R. Wisheart's honor for the Free Will Baptist Bible College Organ Fund.

When you support

The Together Way

you support us all

The Rest of the Family Offering

September 1999

Includes:

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

**Ten ministries that provide
resources and services
for us all.**

The Together Way Plan
P.O. Box 502
Antioch, Tn 37011-5002



Dear WNAC,

We appreciate and thank all of you for your faithful support for our missions work here in Louisville, Kentucky. Keep praying for our work. People who haven't met the Lord raise hands for prayer every Sunday.

*Billy and Freddie Maynard
Louisville Kentucky*

Dear WNAC,

I am writing today (April 29) to thank you for your warmth. As you look forward to summer, we are preparing for winter. We get some cold weather in the little mountain city where we live and with no heat in the homes, you really feel the cold. So, as I unpacked my flannel sheets and electric blankets this week, I once again thanked God for these provisions of warmth provided by you.

You share the warmth of God's love through your prayers, giving and encouragement. I feel toasty already.

Also, thank you so much for the dictionary that was sent for the kids from the MK fund. We appreciate this ministry.

*Annette Aycock for the family,
Missionary to Barbacena, Brazil*

Dear WNAC,

Thank you for editing such a quality magazine.

Pastor Dennis Wiggs, New Bern, North Carolina

Poet's Corner

1st Place Winner
1999 WNAC Creative Arts Contest

Today

Lori Marshall, Surprise, Arizona

Today, I choose the truth,
and on it I will stand.
I'll tell the world of Jesus,
when and where I can!

Today, I choose the courage,
that comes only from my Lord,
to fight my earthly battles
with God's Word . . . my Sword!

Today, I choose compassion,
for the lost ones I will see.
And give them hope through Jesus,
that hope He's given me!

Today, I choose to live,
and do my very best.
For, if I lived tomorrow,
Today . . . I'd find no rest!

2nd Place Winner
1999 WNAC Creative Arts Contest

Children

Vicki Turner, Carterville, Missouri

Laughing eyes and mischief smiles
Candy crusted cheeks
God created every child
Different and unique

Like snowflakes on a winter day
They sparkle like the sun
Each one has a different way
Of touching every one

Little arms that wrap around
To hold you close and tight
There is nothing else I've found
That makes you feel so right

Children are a blessing sent
Down from God above
To give us all a little hint
What heaven is made of



ON THE SHELF

More Precious than Gold

*The Fiery Trial
of a Family's Faith*

John and Brenda Vaughn

*Reviewed by
Marjorie Workman*

*Fleming H. Revell
Grand Rapids, Michigan
1994*

227 pages

More Precious Than Gold is the heart-rending story of a young couple who nearly lost their two-year-old daughter, Becky, in a tragic fire. It's a story of faith on

trial. Separation, suffering, ministries, family—could they survive? A husband and wife team coauthor the book—each telling the story from their own experiences.

Brenda, who also sustained severe burns, shares her lonely days in the hospital, the pain of the treatments and the fear of rejection by her husband and family. She takes the reader through many valleys but brings them to the mountain top through God's refining Word.

John shares his heavy load of caring for the family and church, financial worries and physical exhaustion. He deals with pride and confronts the true meaning of love and responsibility.

Both authors give equal attention to God's sovereign control in the affairs of men.

The reader has to stay alert to catch the transitions back and forth from husband to wife. However, it's easy reading.

They divide the book into four parts to correspond with the refining process of gold. Part

One—the smelting process. Part Two—hidden treasure or the ore. Part Three—the dross. Part IV—the gold. Throughout the book, Scriptures support principles and lessons learned.

The book includes eight pages of family pictures taken before and after the fire. After reading over 200 pages written by the mother and father, the reader naturally wonders what Becky thinks. So, she writes some of her own thoughts in the epilogue.

Discover how this tragedy gave birth to a unique ministry. "This really isn't the story of tragedy; it's the story of a treasure—a treasure that might never have been found except through the purging fires of this experience," writes John Vaughn.



Ways to order this book:

WNAC@nafwb.org

(615)731-6812

WNAC
PO Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

1999 Creative Arts Contest Winners

Poetry

1 st place:	<i>Today</i>	Lori Marshall	Surprise, Arizona
2 nd place:	<i>Children</i>	Vicki Turner	Cartersville, Missouri
3 rd place:	<i>The Promise</i>	Ruth Bivens	Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
4 th place:	<i>The Verdict</i>	Freda Lucas	Cromona, Kentucky

Articles

1 st place:	"The Pastora"	Ruth Bivens	Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
2 nd place:	"While Eating a Scrambled Egg Sandwich"	Sabrina Runyon	Lenore, West Virginia
3 rd place:	"The Tale of the Gingerbread Man"	Betty M. Reeves	Farmington, Missouri
4 th place:	"Tragedy or Triumph"	Teresa Johnson	Troy, Michigan

Programs

1 st place:	"The Priorities of a Career Woman"	Joan Warren	Oilton, Oklahoma
2 nd place:	"Wanted: Dead and Alive"	Judy Delong	Hager Hill, Kentucky
3 rd place:	"Preparing, Sowing, and Harvest"	Sonja Music	Wittensville, Kentucky
4 th place:	"Changing Leaves and Changing Lives"	Robyn Osborn	Cordova, Tennessee

Plays

1 st place:	<i>WNAC Enlistment Skit</i>	Jackie L. Utley	Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
2 nd place:	<i>Right There Where You Left Him</i>	Ruth Bivens	Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
3 rd place:	<i>Clean Blood</i>	Sara Kilgore	Limestone, Tennessee

Life!Action

a column for teens

meet
Amanda
Thompson



Interview by Jan Banks

Age: 20

Major: Missions at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College

Hometown: Tahlequah, OK

Home church: Lowery Free Will Baptist

Favorite food: Fried chicken

Current missions involvement: Missions studies, Member Student Missions Fellowship

Other interests: Student leadership, drama (member of Hillsdale's "Players")

Future plans: Finish school and pursue full-time missions involvement, but unsure of details

How did you get involved in missions?

I transferred from a secular school to Hillsdale, but I did not have a major at that time. God had been talking to me about missions and over time I just knew that it was His plan for me to be involved. This past spring during Missions Emphasis Week, He confirmed that call for me.

What would you like to say to WNAC women?

I really appreciate the WNAC ministry, especially my local church chapter. They give me a scholarship and I'm very grateful for their involvement in my education.

Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Retreat
Glorieta, New Mexico
September 24-26, 1999

Theme: Ya Gotta Have Heart

Scripture: Jeremiah 24:7a

Friday Afternoon / September 24

- 2:00 Registration and check-in
- 5:30 Supper
- 7:00 **Opening Session**
Congregational Singing
Welcome and Introductions
"A Heart for Friends: Part 1" Barbara Tompkins

Saturday Morning / September 25

- 7:00 Breakfast
- 8:30 **Worship Service**
Congregational Singing
"A Heart for Prayer" Debe Taylor
Breakout Groups
- 9:45 "A Heart for Friends: Part 2" Barbara Tompkins
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 **Worship Service**
Congregational Singing
"A Heart for Your Family"
Barbara Tompkins
- 12:00 Lunch

Saturday Afternoon / September 25

- Options:**
- "Mom's Meet" Question and Answer Time
(Encouragement for you to be the mom
God wants you to be)
 - Missionary Displays
 - WNAC literature
 - Recreation
 - Sightseeing

Saturday Evening / September 25

- 5:30 Supper
- 7:00 **Worship Service**
Fun Time
Congregational Singing
"A Disciplined Heart" Barbara Tompkins

Sunday Morning / September 26

- 7:00 Breakfast
- 8:30 **Worship Service**
Congregational Singing
"A Heart for God" Barbara Tompkins

A Woman God Has Used

Tribute to Melba McLain

by LaRee Findley



The end of the front right pew where Mrs. Melba McLain sat for over 50 years is now empty. However, her spirit is still felt in Marietta FWB Church. It's been two years since she went to be with her Lord and she is greatly missed.

Melba McLain was one of the cornerstone members at Marietta. A dedicated Christian lady who always put Jesus first in her life, she was at church every service. **Her presence is missed.**

Over the years, she held several offices and was always ready

to be used as a back up pianist. She served as church clerk and treasurer for 35 years. She was teaching the older adult Sunday school class and serving as WAC Study Chairman when she died suddenly in January 1997. **Her service is missed.**

She had a place for everything in her house (shoes behind the chair). She was an outstanding cook (you should taste her lemon freeze) and she was ready with a listening ear and an encouraging word whenever needed.

If Mrs. Melba thought you needed correcting, she would do that too. While speaking at an auxiliary meeting, I was clicking a ball point pen. Mrs. Melba politely interrupted me and removed the offending pen from my hand and replaced it with one that did not click. **Her guidance is missed.**

A loving mother and grandmother, Mrs. Melba raised two daughters, Amelia McCombs and Brenda Walton. Her family grew to include two sons-in-law, four grandchildren and two great-grandsons. To her family and to everyone in the church she was

simply Ma Ma. **Her love is missed.**

We have seen the influence of her life in many ways since her passing. Our auxiliary has grown and part of that is a direct result of a skit she did shortly before her death. Our church has grown as well. We've had former members return because they were drawn to us after her death. She witnessed to my brother-in-law just two weeks before she died. He and his family are now back in church and living a life pleasing to the Lord. **Her influence is still felt.**

Yes, Mrs. Melba is missed by all at Marietta FWB Church and in the Blue Ridge community, but we can be sure that she is now in the presence of our Savior. We thank God for allowing her to bless our lives.❖

The Pastora

Ruth Bivens

My father pastored a couple of small churches while I grew up. As a PK (preacher's kid) I made some definite plans about my life. I decided to serve the Lord with all of my heart; to serve faithfully in a Free Will Baptist Church; to raise my own children to know our faith and doctrine; to take an active part in the ladies' group; probably teach children in Sunday school; and NOT to marry a preacher. Sometimes, long after our words have grown stale and hard, we have to eat them.

Just as I had planned, I married a layman. My husband is a fine man. Also raised in a Free Will Baptist home, he's a deacon's son. He too loves the Lord and we made the Free Will Baptist Church an integral part of our lives. For a couple of years we drove 30 miles one-way to attend a Free Will Baptist Church. We hosted people in our home; worked in Sunday school; spent over 15 years working in Children's Church. We both sang in the choir; worked in church visitation; and I enjoyed everything about WAC.

Then in 1974 my husband was set aside as a deacon. He talked it over with me. I felt I could handle the role of a deacon's wife and agreed to support him in his new responsibility. At his ordination service on December 7, 1975, our four parents knelt with us. They were proud and happy.

My life changed little as a deacon's wife. I continued with essentially the same responsibilities and burden for the lost as before. However, I did notice that people were more critical of me.

Riding the church bus on the way to a softball game one day, a young lady looked at my practical



sun bonnet and long sleeved shirt. "You sure don't look much like a deacon's wife," she said.

"Just exactly how is a deacon's wife supposed to look?" I asked her. She couldn't nail it down. She just knew that I was not dressed for the role. Frankly, that did not bother me one bit. I was the one who did not get a sun burn that afternoon. I did not throw away my sun bonnet and shirt.

In 1995 my deacon husband took early retirement and we headed for the mission field. The National Home Missions Board urged us to go to

Mexico as lay missionaries. We talked it over and I felt that I could handle that role.

My life did not change much. I hosted more people in my home, taught lots of children and women, sang special music, traveled more. I met hundreds of wonderful people whom I loved and who loved me in return. We saw some people accept the Lord. But, in this new job, most of what I did each day was in Spanish. God blessed and I felt comfortable with my life as a missionary's wife.

Then in March of 1998 our missions director asked us to go to Puerto Rico. My husband would serve as interim pastor, "until we can get a pastor down there." The church had been without a pastor for six months and not much was left of the 30-year-old work.

So, we came to Puerto Rico. To a new job, a new role, a new title. Here not only am I the missionary's wife, now I'm the pastor's wife. The people call me *Pastora*.

I'm still wearing my same old black penny loafers, but these shoes are harder to fill. I still host people in my home, teach children and adults, sing special music, and travel. In addition to those jobs, at times, I sweep the church, dust the seats, check the bathroom for toilet paper and water, help pick up folks for service, direct the music, play the piano, dismiss the service in prayer, go on church visitation with my husband, visit the sick and visit the drug treatment centers. I help with phone calls, a large volume of mail, teach English classes and prepare for my Sunday school class.

People are slow in responding, and growth is slow and painful. By the time we get through two services on Sunday and one visit to a treatment center I am painfully aware of how old I am. Mondays, we get up and start again.

The criticism on this job is greater. I always feel that I am under inspection. "Oh, you've gained weight," "You cut your hair. I liked it better the other way." "There's a run in your nylon." "I've talked to everyone and we all agree that . . ." words too pain-

ful to repeat. Everyone seems to have an opinion of what the Pastor and *Pastora* should be like.

The word *Pastora* catches in my throat. Sister Ruth is okay, but *Pastora*, no please, not that. A certain few are ready with hugs and support. Others we watch out for.

I sometimes find myself saying, "Now wait a minute Lord, this is not what I had in mind. I never wanted to be married to a pastor. Couldn't we somehow go back to serving You without all this stress? Couldn't I just go back to teaching the children and working with the WAC, singing in the choir and sitting in a pew? Could we retire again? I would get more writing done. This job is really taking its toll on me. I need a *pastora* myself once in a while." That's about the time I'm tempted to call my Mother.

Then I wonder, "Lord, am I being rebellious to Your will in my life? That's not what I want to be either. Please give me strength to do this wonderful, hard job You have given me."

So, what's my point in putting these thoughts on paper? Do you have a *Pastora*? She needs you. She needs your acceptance and support. Give her a hug. Give her a compliment. Give her a flower. Take her a casserole. Send her a letter. Treat her to lunch. But, most importantly, pray for her. She and her family live in a fishbowl. It is not a job for the faint of heart.

While you are praying, please pray for the Lord to hurry and make a way for our new Pastor Chris Fannin to get to Puerto Rico ASAP. And pray for our new *Pastora*. I'll be here to help her, but she's going to need all the help she can get. ♦



Ruth Bivens and her husband Bud are missionary to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Kids, Our Only Priority

Martha Stone

A four-part series on the US
Free Will Baptist Homes for Children

At the door stood a police officer with a ten-year-old boy in tow. Johnny wept uncontrollably as he was ushered into the family room. You could see his swollen eye and the bruises on his upper body. Previously, the mom's boyfriend had walked into the house and witnessed Johnny being sexually abused by his mother. He then beat Johnny and kicked him in the face with his cowboy boots.

Harvest Free Will Baptist Child Care Ministries was there to take care of Johnny and many others like him. Nestled in the vast Appalachian mountain chain, this children's home is a haven for abused, abandoned and neglected children. Harvest was birthed from a dream in the hearts of a few motivated people—a dream of reaching out to victimized young people.

Harvest's philosophy is that a wholesome family life, healthy Christian home environment and caring parents are fundamental necessities, if not



Harvest Free Will Baptist Child Care Ministries

rights, for every child. Since its inception in August 1993, 226 young people, ranging from age 5 to 18 have benefited from the services offered by Harvest. Located on Highway 23 in Duffield, Virginia, Harvest is licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services and is a member of the Virginia Association of Children's Homes.

Harvest provides daily care and nurturing, medical services, Christian counseling, recreation, transportation and spiritual guidance. Children receive psychiatric and psychological evaluations when needed. An educational trust fund was established in 1997 and is available to offer higher education opportunities for the children.

Fact sheet

Name: Harvest Free Will Baptist Child Care Ministries

Director: Newl Dotson

Founded: 1993

Current capacity: 24 children

Address: P. O. Box 259, Duffield, Virginia

Website: www.harvestccm.org

The Board of Directors consists of 12 business men and women who reside in the southwest Virginia area. Local quarterly conferences elect board members who represent member churches.

Newl Dotson, cofounder, serves the home as Executive Director and is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the home. Harvest cofounder and Director of Children's Services, Teresa Tilson, oversees the children's daily care. Advancement Director Martha Stone is responsible for raising financial support.

*Harvest records indicate
that after successful
family intervention,
52 percent
of the children
return to their homes.*

Harvest presently has two cottages. The Jasper boy's cottage is home to 12 boys and the Stickleyville cottage houses 12 girls. Two sets of residential counselors care for the children, working a five-day-on/five-day-off schedule.

Local departments of social services, court service units, parents and pastors make referrals to Har-

vest Child Care Ministries. A local probation officer noted, "The children feel that Harvest is their second home. They feel secure and cared for during their placement." "They go the extra mile with the kids," comments a local social worker. Harvest records indicate that after successful family intervention, 52 percent of the children return to their homes.

Harvest is a growing ministry. Within the next year, Harvest plans to construct an emergency shelter that will care for 24 children. While there, each child will receive a needs assessment which is vital to compile a complete history of the child. Then, a placement recommendation will be made in the best interest of the child.

Harvest depends on Free Will Baptist churches, individuals and businesses for support. Your gifts make it possible for children to know a better way of life.

Most of the children who come to us have never lived in a clean house, worn nice clothes, had good food to eat or heard the good news of the gospel.

Kids are our only priority.❖

For more information on the home, contact the Advancement Office at (540)523-2315 or email Harvest at harvest@mounet.com. Visit their web sight www.harvestccm.org. They have staff available to make presentations in your church, conduct seminars or speak on behalf of Harvest Ministries.

Mission Alert

Evangelism News from Around the World



Miami, Florida

Missionary Omar Alfaro, pastor of Encuentro Con Dios FWB Church, writes that in April the congregation received nine new members. He rejoices that they all have a good testimony and are thrilled to be part of their church.

Recently, missionary appointees to Puerto Rico Chris Fannin preached and 42 people attended. The Fannins' three children and the Alfaros' two children sang together in English and Spanish.

Battle Creek, Michigan

Missionaries Bob and Nancy Trimble report that 83 people attended on Roll Call Sunday. They are praying that God will send more laborers. The church needs a music leader, musicians, and workers and teachers for children and teens.

The Trimbles also write in their May newsletter that they are in the final stages of preparations to open a Child Care Center and Preschool as part of the church's ministry.

Shreveport, Louisiana

In two months, Heritage FWB Church witnessed six professions of faith and five baptisms. They have visitors every Sunday. As a result of growth in their Youth Church, they started a Children's Church this spring.

Villalba (Madrid), Spain

About 50 people attend Villalba's second *Cafe y Algo Mas* (Coffee and Something More). A saxophone player provided special music and a clear presentation of the Gospel was given. The missionary team in Spain requests prayer for the unsaved who attended.

Panama City, Panama

The Women Nationally Active for Christ of Panama and the Betania FWB Church sponsored a special outreach on Saturday, June 12. The outreach consisted of a tea and a conference entitled

"Eight Keys to Success with Your Spouse" with Steve Lytle as featured speaker. Workers distributed over 500 invitations. Approximately 156 people attended. Of those who attended, 42 said they received Christ as Savior.

The four Panamanian churches that participated in the conference followed up by sending out special invitations for Sunday service on June 27 to all who attended the conference. Each pastor devoted the message to a family theme in the morning services.

Montevideo, Uruguay

Dennis and Trena Owen are on stateside assignment. They request prayer for two men, George and Octavian, who are helping with the Nueva Vida FWB Church during their absence. Pray that the men will be faithful to the task and that this will be a time of spiritual growth for them.

The Malvin Alto FWB Church is praying for three people who will be willing to be apprentices in leading weekly home evangelistic meetings.

Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster are praising God for the peace He has given them as they adjust to life in Uruguay. Pray for them as they study the Spanish language.





Words for Women

*Marjorie H.
Workman*

Seventeen wasted years! Gone forever with nothing to show for them. What could you do with seventeen years? Children are born, grow up, and leave home within seventeen years. Imagine retiring at age 65, then sitting for the next 17 years. Could you do it? Or think of the horror of an illness that lasted 17 years. Ask anyone who has lost a loved one what they would give to have 17 more years with their beloved.

In 17 years, one could graduate from high school, get a college degree and even get a postgraduate degree. Think how many books one could read in 17 years. For students, all the homework ever assigned could be successfully completed in minute detail.

From age two to 72, according to the 1990 *Nielsen Report on Television*, the average American spends 100,000 hours viewing television. That's equivalent to 17 years of time.

Sleep is the only other activity that exceeds watching television. Both take about the same amount of energy. Stop the waste. Your time is in your control. Quit being a couch potato. Translate some of that waste into productivity.

What could someone substitute? Try reading the Bible as many hours as you watch TV. If only we had the passion David had in Psalm 42 as he cried out, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God." Shouldn't truth be more important than fiction? Yet, we sit mesmerized by TV. One danger in watching so much television is the difficulty of discerning the real world from the fictional. This is especially true for children, though adults are not immune.

Family life takes on a new meaning without the television. Eat a meal together

at the table with the TV in the "off" position?

With both parents working and children involved in sports or work, it's extremely important to make time for family. Watching television together is not the same as doing an activity together. Nevertheless, when the TV is on, parents should watch with the children. Consider the content. Don't underestimate the high risk of allowing young people to have a television or computer in their room behind closed doors.

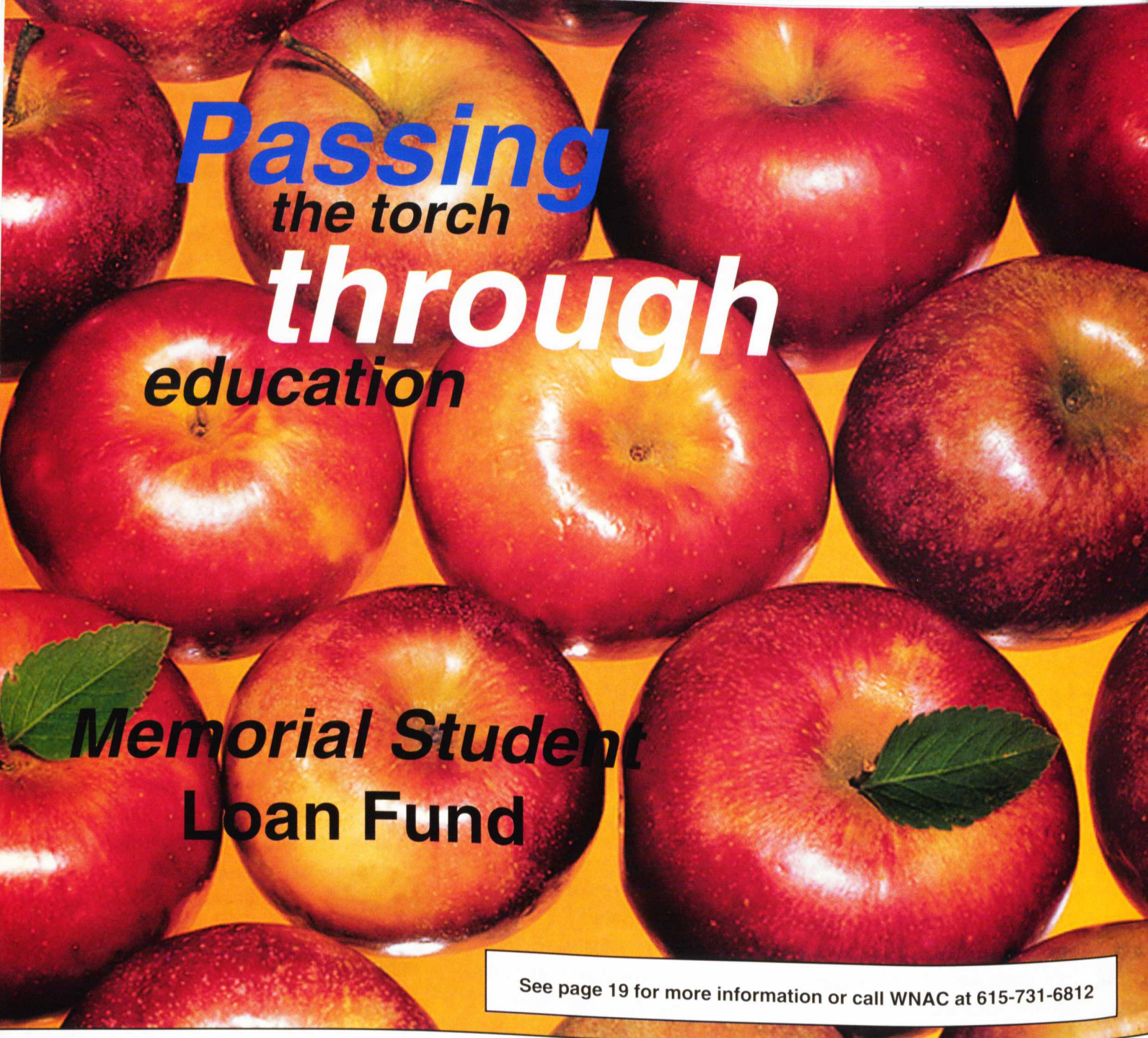
Another way to chisel at the 17 years of TV viewing is to explore God's creation. Go walking in the yard, park or countryside and listen to the crunching of the fallen leaves underfoot. Plan a picnic or camping trip. Travel cross country. Watch a sunset or sunrise. Listen to a rippling brook or a bird singing.

This is the last fall of the century. Don't waste it sitting in front of a television. **Go! Make Memories!** ♦

preview

November/December
1999

- .. People matter
- .. He walked among us:
example of the Servant
Leader
- .. Reaching out with crackers
instead of crack



Passing ***the torch*** ***through*** ***education***

Memorial Student Loan Fund

See page 19 for more information or call WNAC at 615-731-6812

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