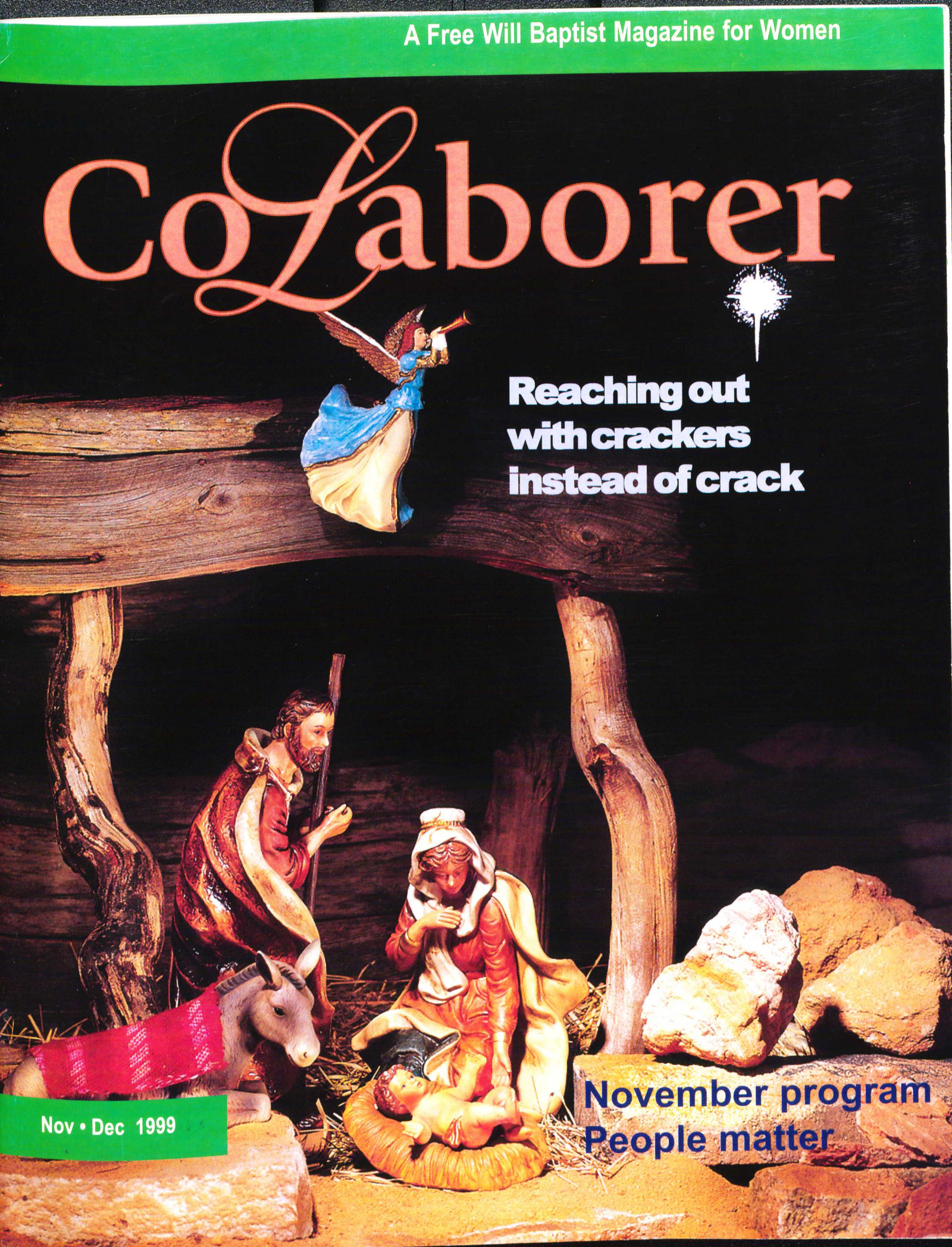


A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

CoLaborer



**Reaching out
with crackers
instead of crack**

Nov • Dec 1999

**November program
People matter**

VISION

Suzanne Franks

Fellowship—

What is it?



After shattering some myths about fellowship in the previous issue, I want to point out some things fellowship means to the believer in Christ.

Fellowship worships together. Romans 15 begins with an exhortation to bear one another's weaknesses and to build up our neighbor. This chapter reminds us that God gives endurance, encouragement and unity among Christian brothers. The goal of this fellowship, writes Paul, is "That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Fellowship prays together in agreement (Matthew 18:19-20).

Fellowship cares for others. It's calling to check on someone who has been through hard times. It's giving more importance to a neighbor's well being than to my own.

Fellowship offers hope through the sharing of Scripture. "We then that are strong ought to bear with the infirmities of the weak . . . for whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." (Romans 15:1, 4)

Fellowship encourages holy living. "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 19:24).

Fellowship admonishes and submits. (Matthew 18:15-17, Ephesians 5:21). When a sister (or brother) errs, a fellow believer is instructed to admonish her in love. For fellowship to remain intact, members of the body of Christ must submit to one another and ultimately to God.

Fellowship shares in suffering. Paul wanted to be identified with Christ in every aspect of His life, even in His suffering on the cross. When we are misunderstood and mocked because of Christ, we experience what Christ lived through on this earth. Paul considered this a privilege (Philippians 3:10).

Jesus Christ suffered on our behalf and we share in His suffering. Since we are members of one body, the Church, when a brother or sister suffers, the entire body hurts.

Fellowship runs deeper than just socializing. When the connection among believers grows stronger, the body functions in harmony. When this kind of fellowship occurs, Christians become more effective Kingdom builders. ♦

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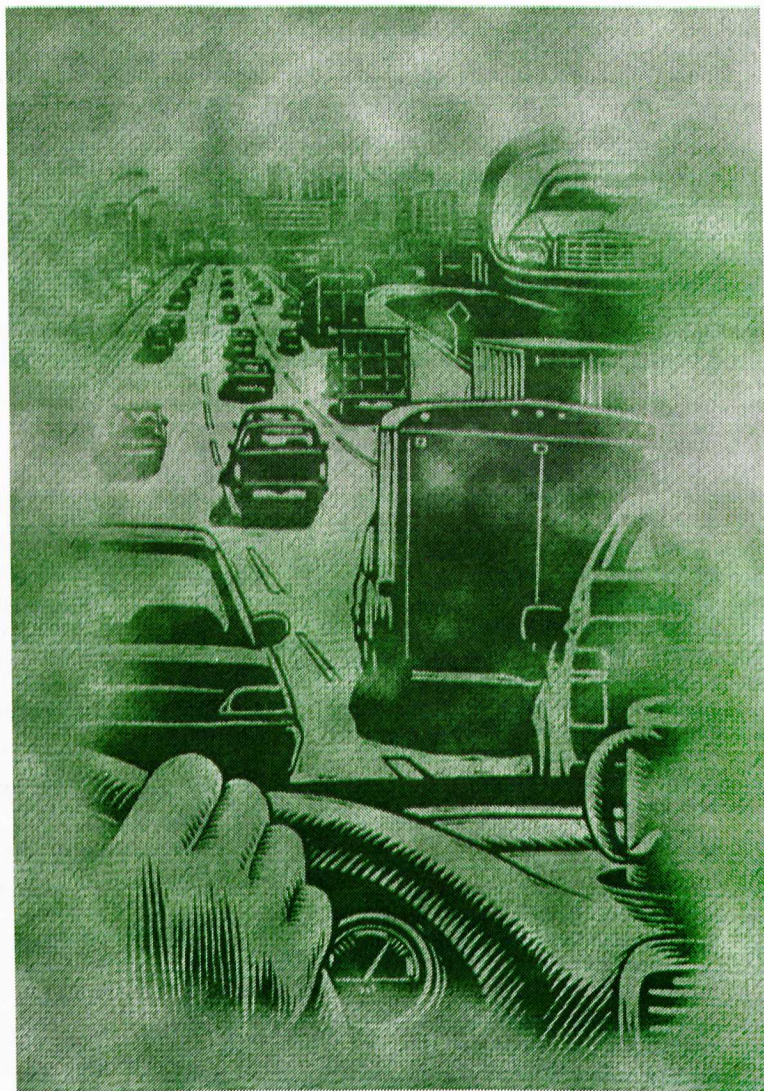
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Words for Women —Marjorie Workman

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Reaching out with crackers instead of crack

Ruth Bivens



As lay missionaries in Puerto Rico, we are constantly confronted with situations that are not covered in the missions handbook. I doubt if some of these puzzling problems are covered in anybody's handbook.

For example, what can you do for a drug addict whom you dearly love? There are so many we wish we could help. Let me tell you about one.

We first noticed "Maria" soon after we moved to Puerto Rico in April 1998. She is a petite, dark skinned girl who works one side of a major intersection we pass frequently. Each time we pass her on the street, she approaches our car and shakes a McDonald's cup and with a pitiful expression asks for money.

At first I tried not to look into her eyes nor listen to what she said. I certainly couldn't give her money. I knew she wanted it for drugs. My heart

broke to see this little girl begging for just enough money to buy one more fix.

As we saw her day after day, in the heat, and in the rain, I wondered about her family. Who is this girl? How old is she? Some days she looked 15.

I felt such a need to reach out to her and to the others. How can we help them? What can we do that won't contribute to their addiction, but show them that some people are genuinely concerned. I cried and prayed asking the Lord, "What can we do?"

Then I had an idea. We started buying boxes of peanut butter and crackers. I wrap a couple of gospel tracts around each little package of crackers and at each red light, when a beggar approaches the car, we hand them something to eat and something to read.

Many of them appreciate the food. I have seen young men throw down their empty cup and im-

mediately tear into the crackers. I remember one woman who smiled and said, "Oh good, crackers and something to read too." One young man, in disgust, shoved the crackers back at Bud and said, "I don't want your crackers. I can't buy anything with that."

Maria really appreciated the gesture. She smiled warmly and said, "Thank you." One day as we stopped at her corner, she ran over and leaned down where she could see past Bud and said, "There is my friend."

One Saturday, we pulled off the road and she came to the car. I told her who we were and asked her name. She told me. "I'll be coming by tomorrow on our way to church," I said. "Would you like to go with us?" She said yes. I promised I would pick her up right there the next day. She seemed glad, and said she would be waiting for me.

Sunday morning, she was not at the corner. I went back and looked for her after Bud left on his bus route, but I couldn't find her.

A few days later she was there again, and we handed her crackers. We never mentioned the Sunday morning and she didn't either, but I knew her name. Now, each time we see her we call her name, give her something to eat, and ask how she is.

Sometimes several days go by and we don't see her on the corner. We always wonder if the police have made another sweep arresting addicts and picked her up, or if some worse fate has fallen on her. Police reports frequently list unidentified bodies found on street corners and alleys. I'm always relieved when she shows up again.

One Sunday in January we stopped at the McDonald's on her corner to have lunch. There sat Maria at the table counting out coins and eating a 99 cent ice cream cone. The cashier came over, raked up \$10.00 worth of change and gave her a \$10 bill. I knew she could get a hit for \$10. I guess her pusher would not accept small change. She'd worked the corner until she had just enough for a shot and a bite to eat. I sat down and talked with her.

We noticed how her face has hardened and aged. Even on her best days the "girl" in her face is gone. That day I saw something more than the lines on her face. I saw the weariness of someone who feels their life is not worth living.

It surprised me when she spoke to me in perfect English. She had always spoken to us in Spanish. Maria is from New York, a university graduate. Before coming to Puerto Rico, she taught English. She is 35 years of age and has three children who live with their grandmother in another city. She has been on the island for two years and on the street almost as long.

She carries all her possessions in a little backpack. During the day, after she has her money, she tries to find a place to sleep where she will be safe. For a while, she slept behind a business across the street from McDonald's and the owner sort of looked out for her. Then he fenced the place and put a dog inside. When she changes clothes, we know she has found a place to sleep that has a shower.

She cried as we talked. Her life is hard. She's so tired of her way of life and would like to be "clean."

I asked if she would consider a treatment program. She said she tried once, but had no one to help her, so she quit. The residents in local treatment programs need someone to help them with clothes and supplies.

"If only my family would help me, or come check on me," she cried. "I don't have anybody except my friends on the street. We look out for one another."

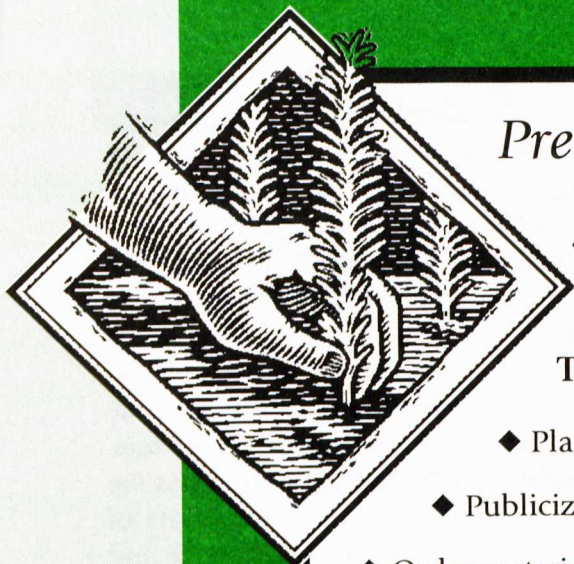
I asked her to think about trying again. I would be her family. I would help her. I gave her our phone number and told her how I worry when we don't find her.

"Don't worry about me," she smiled. "I'll be okay."

Since that day, we have shared lots of McDonald's meals, lots of hugs, and not a few tears. Maria smiles so big when we come. We stop and check on her. Sometimes she needs a cold drink or a hamburger and we get it for her.

One Sunday recently, she promised to go to church with us, but when we stopped she was "sick." I could see her pained expression and feel her clammy arms. She needed a fix "bad." "I can't go to church," she apologized. "I have to work." Before we left, she asked for a dollar.

It just tore me up. "I can't give you money," I said. "That's okay," she answered. I kissed her and



Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for National Home Missions

November 15–19, 1999

Tips for a Successful Home Missions Emphasis

- ◆ Plan ahead
- ◆ Publicize
- ◆ Order materials from Home Missions
 - new full-color prayer cards
 - new FWB World Prayer Guide
- ◆ Pray for the Lizzie McAdams Offering for National Home Missions

You may duplicate the prayer calendar on pages 27–28 or order multiple copies from the Home Missions Department, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002

we drove away. When we returned that afternoon, she was gone. She made enough money to get what she needed.

This past week, Maria told my husband she's ready to enter a treatment program. She's cutting down on the amount of drugs she takes so her withdrawal will be easier. We are going this week to see if we can make arrangements for her.

Yesterday, she looked as if she'd reached the end of herself. I keep promising her there is hope. We are here for her, and the Lord Jesus can give her the strength she needs to break free.

Maria is not my friend's real name. One day, I expect to see her recovered, gainfully employed, changed and free.

We'll continue reaching out to her. Healing is available. The day she reaches her hand out, I'll be there. I will not give up on her.

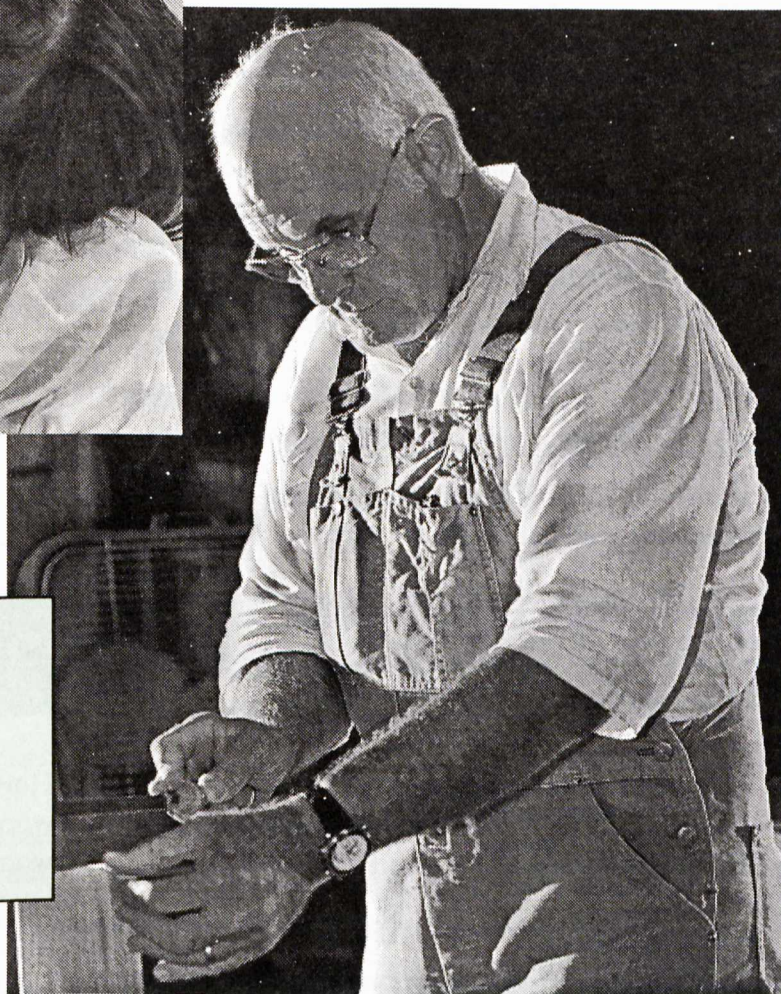
I know that reaching out to help someone occasionally backfires. People sometimes take advantage! That has happened to us in the past and probably will again. But one cannot become cautious and pass up an opportunity to help someone in need just because it's risky. After all, Jesus reached out His hand and men drove a nail through it. Yet, He still reaches out to us today. How can we do less?❖

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

An earlier version of this article appeared in *The Mayes County Banner*, Pryor, Oklahoma. Used by permission.



*For 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*



People Matter

Sarah Rubio

Wow! People do matter! They matter so much that Christ died on the cross for their sins. And as children of God and imitators of Christ, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (1 John 4:11). This is a fundamental truth, but we may not focus on it clearly when our days go something like this:

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! 6:00 alarm—Snooooozzzzzz. Buzz!
Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! 6:15 alarm—Snooooozzzzzz. Buzz!
Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! 6:30 alarm—**and we're off!**

Get dressed. Call the children to get up. Curl hair. Put on make-up. Gather everything the children will need for the day. Pack lunches. Toast Poptarts. Pour milk. Have the children eat while you gather

everything you need for the day. Eat a Poptart with milk while driving each of the children to their schools. Arrive at work one minute late to begin a time-efficient day to meet company quotas. Use your thirty-minute lunch break to return library books and pay the light bill.

After work, pick up the children. Take them to after-school programs. Buy groceries. Go back to pick up the children. Return home to cook supper. Put up groceries. Help with school work. Straighten the house. Set out clothes for the next day. Take a bath. Wash a load of clothes. Study Sunday school lesson. Set the alarm and fall into bed.

Whew! We all believe people matter, but in our activity-filled days little time remains to put that belief into practice.

Ministering Cross-Culturally, points out that a task-oriented person easily isolates herself from others in order to reach her goals. If someone tries to talk to her, she starts thinking of tasks that need to be done rather than actively participating in the conversation.

Generally Americans are task-oriented because our culture awards us for achievement.

Jesus' Example

Jesus is the best example of how we should treat people. Jesus was often interrupted from His task at hand to meet the needs of people. Among many examples Lingenfelter cites, I believe the best example is recorded in Luke 5:16–28.

Pharisees and teachers of the law—important men—had come from all over to hear Jesus teach. Perhaps Jesus intended to spend the day teaching.

Christ's sacrifice for our sins compels us to sacrifice

Person or Task?

As the American wife of a Mexican preacher, I find myself in a unique situation that causes me to evaluate how and why I do things. Carlos, my husband, is person-oriented while I am more task-oriented. He can stop in the middle of a job and decide he has done all he can for the day and maybe not return to the job for two or three weeks. I, on the other hand, am not satisfied until the job is complete. This means I work as fast as I can, maybe skip meals, and try to limit interruptions until the job is done.

Often when I'm hurrying back and forth through the house trying to complete what I feel is necessary, my husband will ask me to stop and rest. I try to impress on him the urgency of my task. He counterattacks reminding me that some things can wait until the next day.

What! Procrastinate? Perhaps. Or maybe at least take a few minutes to sit down and reconsider our priorities. Sherwood Lingenfelter in his book,

However, a paralyzed man had some bold friends who climbed on the roof and lowered him so he would rest in front of Jesus.

Perhaps task-oriented people like me would resent the interruption. After all, couldn't the man wait until Jesus finished teaching before asking to be healed? However, Jesus promptly healed the man. The healing appears to have caused a commotion that disrupted the entire teaching session!

A Matter of Priorities

God's will for my life is perfect. If I commit each day to Him and ask God to help me prioritize my activities, I'll meet the needs of people everyday and still complete the most crucial tasks.

Christ's sacrifice for our sins compels us to sacrifice our goals and ambitions to meet the needs of others. United States' demographics are visibly changing. People of different cultures and beliefs live next door. They all have physical and spiritual needs, many due to their displacement. They have left their home, family, customs, language and

religion with the hope of providing a better life for their families. The great sacrifice they have made provides us with a wonderful opportunity to share God's love with them.

Brother Marvin Hughes, a deacon at Mt. Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, is responsible for establishing the Spanish outreach even though he doesn't speak Spanish. He simply invited the migrant workers in his community to church (in English), passed out tracts (in Spanish), and arranged for a separate church van to pick them up. When they arrived at the church, he played a Spanish sermon on tape.

Brother Hughes worked as a liaison for the Spanish-speaking community. He made the host congregation aware of specific needs and obtained needed assistance. The foundation had been laid when

took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."

Perhaps we need to reconsider our goals and ask God to help us focus more time and energy on people. Consider the following practical ways to accomplish this.

1. Develop a friendship with someone who is more people-oriented than you. Make a conscious effort to adopt some of your friend's ways.
2. Decrease your spending or scale down plans for a dream home so you can have more financial resources available for people in need.
3. Cut back on personal commitments so you will have more time in your schedule to help people.

Jesus' words in Matthew 6:20-21 teach us to "lay up

our goals and ambitions to meet the needs of others.

Carlos and I moved to Hookerton, North Carolina, to work with the Spanish-speaking ministry at Mt. Calvary Church. Soon we were busy helping people communicate their needs to their bosses, fill out applications for work, housing, phone, electricity and medical care.

People started coming to our home to use our telephone to call their families back home. Often we had six to ten men in our home at the same time to use the phone. While they waited their turn on the phone, Carlos talked with the men about Christ and the church. The Spanish outreach at Mt. Calvary averaged over 60 in attendance during the summer. Sometimes more than 100 people came because they knew the church was a place to go to have their needs met. Praise God, they also heard the Gospel of Christ!

What we can do?

Philippians 2:3 says "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." Paul goes on to say Christ "made himself of no reputation, and

for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Can we give up some personal goals so that our lives demonstrate that people matter? How many people will we lead to Christ if we live as though people matter? What a beautiful offering to present souls to Christ!❖

Suggested assignments:

1. Think of other ways to become more people-oriented.
2. Pray privately and write down ways you can make more time in your schedules for people.
3. Think of one person who needs help and purpose in your heart to assist this person during the next month.

Sarah Rubio lives in Nashville, Tennessee, where she works as a registered nurse. Her ministry includes playing the piano at Spanish-speaking Gethsemani FWB Church where husband Carlos pastors. Carlos is a joint project worker under the Tennessee State Home Missions Board and FWB National Home Missions Board.

He walked among us



JOHN 13:3-17
JESUS WASHES APOSTLES' FEET

Example of the Servant Leader

Lorene Miley

Scripture: Matthew 20:26

Purpose: To present servanthood from a leadership position

Song: *More Like the Master*

Introduction

(Prepare a large circle and design like a coin. On one side print "leader," on the other, "servant.")

"Servant" and "leader"—on the surface, a most unlikely combination. But Jesus tells us that the way to greatness is servanthood. The woman who carries the torch into the 21st century will be both a servant and a leader.

The art of unselfish living is practiced by few and mastered by even fewer. Our culture is not geared to servanthood. Browse through any bookstore and note the number of books devoted to self-help and development of I, me, myself and mine. In itself, improvement of self is not all bad. A servant leader thrives on healthy doses of self-

esteem. It's the selfishness we have to look out for.

Jesus walked among us and showed us how to balance the roles of leader and servant. Let's see how.

A Servant Leader is Made

Philippians 2:7

Incarnate Word. God in the flesh. God with us. Christmas.

The babe in the manger was not Jesus' beginning. He has always been deity, one with the Father. The wealth of heaven was at His disposal, yet he emptied Himself of it and stripped Himself of His glory to become man.

This He did willingly. The Philippians passage describes authentic servanthood—"He made Him-

self." The words are in the active voice which means He was the One who initiated the process.

Then—He was made. Other people did the making. Having taken the first step of making Himself, He was then subject to other people for the rest of His earthly life. The formula for effective servanthood.

Thinking right always precedes acting right. "Being made" is the first step to serving others. It means taking hands off of our lives and becoming clay in the potter's hands. Why are so few of us willing to make that commitment? Because it hurts, it costs, it humbles, it denies self, it isn't natural. But it promises eternal rewards.

A Servant Leader Serves Other—in Love

Mark 10:45

The gentle and humble life-style of the Savior is nowhere more evident than when He washed His disciples' feet. He demonstrated the full extent of His love. Sometimes we fail because we fail to love.

It's easy to love the lovely, but what about the unlovely? The pathetic creature wallowing in his own waste, the crazed murderer attacking a helpless child, the refuse of life, soiled, helpless and weary? Loving them does not come naturally. Yet God so loved the world, including the unlovely.

We don't learn servanthood from a correspondence course, or even a casual reading of the Sermon on the Mount. Servanthood calls for personal involvement. Going. Touching. Feeling. Hurting.

To be one's servant doesn't mean we are at the beck and call of one and all. We learn from Christ's example. He came to be a servant, but He had only one Master. Keeping this truth in focus helps bring balance to servanthood. We serve Christ first and then serve others.

Characteristics of a Servant Leader

John 13:34–35

In the Beatitudes we see a picture of the servant leader in eight distinct poses:

“**poor in spirit**—she acknowledges her spiritual poverty and hungers for a closer walk with her

Lord. Ministering to others is an outgrowth of this intimate relationship.

“**mournful**—she has a sensitive, compassionate heart. She cares intensively for the hurts and needs of others. Caring Christians serve one another.

“**meek**—she is kind and gentle, yet possessing a strong will tamed by the indwelling Holy Spirit. She makes herself available, yet she's nobody's doormat.

“**hungry for righteousness**—her heart grieves over the sin and moral decay that abound. She looks about for what her hand can do to correct it and she does it with all her might.

“**merciful**—showing kindness and forgiveness to the undeserving. She has the ability to get inside the skin of another. She practices Ephesians 4:32.

“**pure in heart**—her life marked by integrity and singleness of heart. Instead of focusing on the work required, she concentrates on the person to be served.

“**peacemaker**—she is not only peaceable, but works for peace among others. Peacemakers help both parties see the other side.

“**persecuted**—she may be viciously mistreated. Ouch! Yet the servant leader maintains a good testimony in pain, suffering and persecution. She knows that everything that happens to her has first passed through the hand of her loving Lord.

There we have it. Eight qualities of the servant leader. How do you measure up?

Rewards of a Servant Leader

Revelations 22:12

Jesus came to earth to show us God. He also came to save us from sin and fit us for heaven.

**Servanthood
calls for
personal
involvement
Going
Touching
Feeling
Hurting**



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Before He left, He said, "Occupy until I come." One day we'll stand before Him to be tested. And like any good teacher, He promises rewards for correct behavior.

A crown is a symbol of reward or victory—a token of public honor. Scriptures teach that five specific crowns will be awarded the believer on judgement day.

Incorruptible Crown (Victor's Crown)

This crown is promised to those who victoriously run the race of life, who are consistently "being made," and keep the flesh under the Holy Spirit's control (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

Crown of Rejoicing (Soul Winner's Crown)

The crown is awarded to those who are faithful to declare the gospel, witnessing by word and deed, leading souls to Christ, and discipling them in the faith (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20).

Crown of Righteousness (Watcher's Crown)

This reward is given to those who live each day in eager anticipation of our Lord's return (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Crown of Glory (Servant's Crown)

This crown is awarded to those who follow our Lord's example as servant leader, those who willingly and faithfully devote their lives in sacrificial service (1 Peter 5:2-4).

Crown of Life (Martyr's Crown)

God has a wonderful reward for those who count not their lives dear, but suffer martyrdom for the cause of Christ (Revelation 2:10).

Crowns in heaven? In the presence of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, why would we need crowns?

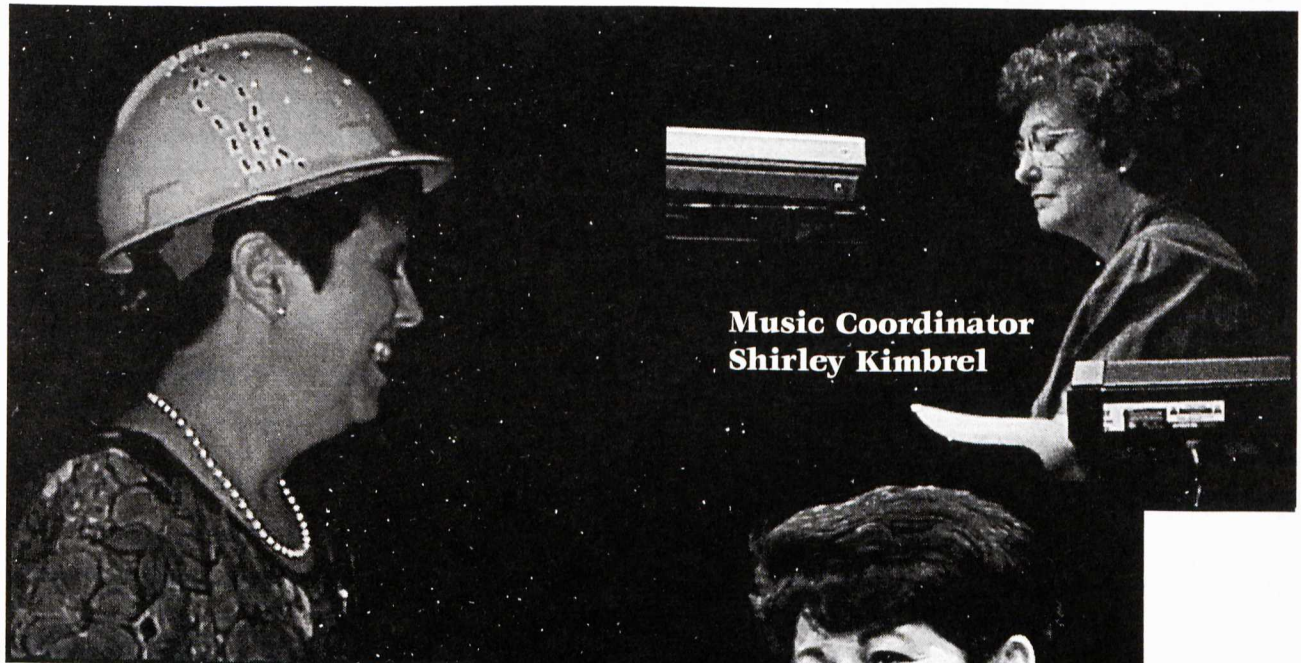
Revelation 4:9-11 describes an awesome scene in the future with all God's servants gathered around the throne. Bowing low before their Lord, they ascribe Him honor with the only thing they possess—their crowns.

Oh, Lord, our hearts cry out, may we not stand before You empty-handed.❖

Lorene Miley is a member of Cofer's Chapel FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee. She served as editor of CoLaborer 1979-1992.

Passing the Torch

1999 WNAC Convention Review



**Music Coordinator
Shirley Kimbrel**

WNAC President-Elect Debe Taylor Wears a Hardhat

Hot Atlanta welcomed the 64th WNAC Convention held July 19-20. Some 870 women who registered experienced famous Georgia hospitality. They came from around the globe to worship Jesus Christ, conduct business and celebrate the passing of the torch.

WNAC Seminar

Monday afternoon women and men packed the Marriott Marquis Imperial Ballroom-A to attend the WNAC Seminar titled "How to Handle Depression." WNAC President elect Debe Taylor introduced speaker Genny Waddell. This one-hour seminar

Georgia WAC President Gail Smith



fit enough Biblical information on depression to fill an encyclopedia. Attendees left with 40 plus pages of handouts. The Nashville-based writer spoke on the topic from personal experience, extensive research and years of Bible study. She is writing a book on the same topic.

WNAC State Leaders Meeting
WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Marjorie Workman presided at the WNAC State Leaders Meet-

ing. The seminar called "Show and Tell" brought together five women who shared creative ways to involve women in WNAC.

Mary Neal (IN) presented the "Christmas in July" idea which her local WAC uses for a provision closet shower each year. Nellie Cunningham (TN) explained how her local church uses theme basket auctions to



WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Marjorie Workman

raise funds for WNAC projects. Gwen Hendrix (SC) shared exciting retreat theme ideas. Debe Taylor (AR) demonstrated an unstylish hat program (see photograph on previous page). Laurie Horne (NC) took the audience on the "Heart for Missions" airship tour which had been used to launch a state missions project.

General Session

Tuesday morning women trekked across the bridge over Interstate 75/85 to reach the Civic Center Auditorium to attend WNAC's general session. WNAC Vice President Debe Taylor presided in President Everyl Getz's absence. Susan Forlines lead the congregation in *He Keeps Me Singing*.

Missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, Lynette Morgan, brought the devotional. Lynette and fellow missionary Deleen Cousineau are passing the torch to seminary students' wives in Bouna. They teach classes to help future pastors wives develop intellectually, physically and spiritually.

Following a solo by Henrietta Brown, Georgia WAC President Gail Smith officially welcome attendees to WNAC's 64th Annual Session.

Dr. Mary R. Wisehart assisted *CoLaborer* editor, Suzanne Franks, in presenting awards for WNAC's Creative Arts Contest. First place winners in four categories are:

Plays: WNAC Enlistment Skit, Jackie L. Uitley, Broken Arrow, OK

Programs: "The Priorities of a Career Woman," Joan Warren, Oilton, OK

Articles: "The Pastora," Ruth Bivens, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

Poetry: Today, Lori Marshall, Surprise, AZ

The awards ceremony ended with Dr. Wisehart's reading of the first place poem.

Marjorie Workman gave the Executive Secretary-Treasurer's report. Applause demonstrated agreement with the Appreciation Committee report read by Linda Biggers. Delois Loveless presented four items submitted by the Resolutions Committee. All resolutions passed. They are as follows.



Missionary Speaker Shirley Combs

1. Be it resolved that we grant \$1,000 scholarships to Robert Houessou and Paul Amiezi for their studies at the Free Will Baptist seminary in Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa, for the year 2000, from the Foreign Student Scholarship Fund.

2. We recommend that the Foreign Student Scholarship Fund be named the "Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship Fund" in honor of the woman who started the fund.

3. We recommend that the Memorial Student Loan Fund be named the "Dr. Mary Ruth Wisehart Loan Fund" in honor of her many educational achievements.

4. We recommend that local, district and state WAC groups consider increasing their monthly gifts to the WNAC office for the General Fund.

Peggy Outland read the Nominating



Devotional Speaker Lynette Morgan

Committee report, and delegates elected the following officers.

President—Debe Taylor (AR)
Vice President—Joanne King (NC)
Secretary—Diana Bryant (FL)
Members at Large—
 Yvonne Brown (CA)
 Debbie Burden (OK)
 Dawn Sweeney (TN)

(continued on page 24)



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Dear WNAC officers,

Please announce the following in your next meeting. We believe this will encourage and motivate your women.

Congratulations! January through August 1999 you (Women Nationally Active for Christ) have topped last year's noncash gifts to the Missionary Provision Closet by \$3871.47. In 1998 you gave \$34,589.88 in noncash gifts plus 6,871.55 in cash. **Cash and noncash gifts to the Provision Closet in the first eight months of this year total \$43,527.99. Keep up the great work and thank you for your faithful support!**

Sincerely,

Marjorie Workman, WNAC Executive Secretary/Treasurer

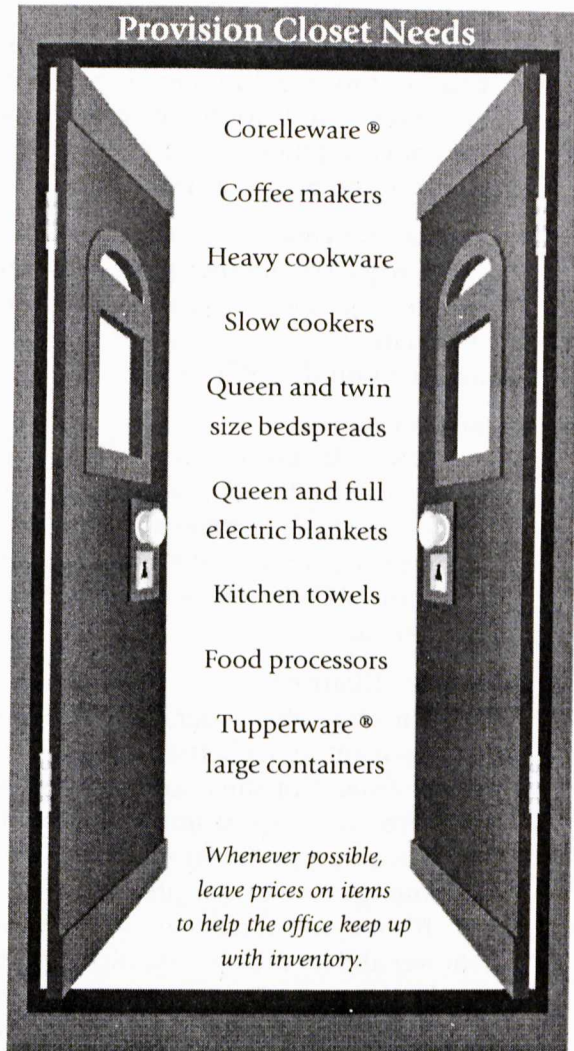
Coordinator/Assistant Coordinator

Meet with all of your officers to plan the Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer for National Home Missions. You will receive a packet to help you plan this concentrated time of prayer. Delegate responsibilities (such as gathering the necessary materials) to the various officers. Encourage everyone to give sacrificially to the Lizzie McAdams Offering. See the prayer calendar on pages 27-28 of this issue. The calendar may be reproduced or ordered in quantities from Home Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011. The telephone number for orders is (615)731-6812 ext. 223.

At the November meeting, make sure everyone in your group gets a copy of AIM, the Home Missions Department's magazine. If your women don't already receive AIM, order extra copies and encourage them to sign up to get it at home. Reading about what God is doing around North American through Home Missions will bless the women and it will cost them nothing.

The 1999 Yearbook contains a short play with two angels (pp58-60). Each of the four scenes corresponds to the four parts in the December program. If you do not have the 1999 Yearbook, you can still purchase one from WNAC for \$3.

Provision Closet Needs



- Corelleware®
- Coffee makers
- Heavy cookware
- Slow cookers
- Queen and twin size bedspreads
- Queen and full electric blankets
- Kitchen towels
- Food processors
- Tupperware® large containers

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

Be sure to order the 2000 Yearbook which is a leader's planning guide. The yearbook contains an enlistment program and emphasis play, and only costs \$6.

Secretary/Treasurer

This is the last issue of *CoLaborer* before the new millennium. Perhaps your women would like to do a time capsule for the next generation. Write down your group's goals and dreams. Place copies of your minutes and other significant memorabilia in the capsule. Seal it and write on the outside the date it was sealed and the date on which it should be opened. Store it in a safe place.

Another way to preserve your records is to make a scrapbook each year. The secretary or historian would be responsible for taking pictures at each meeting, writing captions and preserving a copy of the minutes for the scrapbook. If your church has a library, keep scrapbooks there or in another safe place.

Missions Chairman

Either you or the Prayer Chairman will probably be asked to contact Home Missions about ordering materials for the Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer. Order the necessary materials as soon as possible to allow time for shipping. Home Missions has printed new full-color slick prayer cards for many of the missionaries. Your women will enjoy collecting these as prayer reminders. The prayer cards are also designed to be mailed as postcards.

Prayer Chairman

If you have internet access, you can read current Home Missions prayer requests and praise items every week. Go to the National Association's Home page www.nafwb.org, click on "Home Missions" and then on the "What's New" icon.

Study Chairman

WNAC Board member Yvonne Brown reviews the book *Betrayal's Baby—Turning the Bitter to Sweet* on page 22 in this issue. Depending on the needs and interests of your women, this book may be a good choice for a book study. Check out the book, and see for yourself. P. Bunny Wilson also wrote *Liberated Through Submission—The Ultimate Paradox*.

Service Chairman

The December program addresses the importance of a leader being a servant. What better time to practice servanthood than at Christmas? At your Christmas gathering, encourage your women to give funds to a Free Will Baptist ministry in someone's honor in the place of a gift. Most nonprofit organizations will send a gift card notifying the honored person of the gift.

If your group really wants to unwrap gifts, throw a provision closet shower and let each person pick a gift to open. Then, send all the gifts to the Provision Closet. Items needed most are listed on page 15.

Start a list of ways that you and your women can be servants to others. Keep an ongoing list of new ideas. Perhaps make comments of which ideas worked best. ♦

Purpose: To help others understand why obedience is so important in everyday life.

Theme Verse: John 13:17

Suggested Songs: *Let the Lord Have His Way, They That Wait Upon the Lord*

Why Should We Obey?

If we obey God, we will be wise.

Proverbs 8:32-33

God promises blessing if we obey Him.

Deuteronomy 30:15-16; 29:9

Philippians 4:9

Our obedience determines our testimony to the world.

Proverbs 20:11

Only by obeying can we reach our ultimate goal of hearing "Well Done!"

Matthew 7:21

Passing the Torch

We are responsible to teach children to obey

Deuteronomy 11:19-21

Proverbs 22:6

Obedience brings peace and happiness to children

Isaiah 54:13

Ephesians 6:1-3

Your Response

You must answer the question for yourselves, obey or disobey? Ask God to help you in your obedience to Him.

Study

Obedience Club

Note: *Welcome to Obedience Club* can be used at a women's meeting or retreat. To add some interest, this study can be presented as if the women were children at a Bible Club. If you choose to do this, follow these steps.

1. Quote the Theme verse.
(Have this printed on a poster or handout.)
2. Read the 3 rules for the club.
(These can be put on a poster or a chalk board.)
 - a. Bring your Bible and a smile.
 - b. Participate in all activities.
 - c. All who obey will receive a special treat at the end of the lesson.
3. Say the pledges to the American flag, Christian flag and Bible. (Make a poster of the pledges.)
4. Sing one or both of the suggested songs.
5. Present the Bible Study.
(Verses may be printed on a handout or women may look them up in their Bibles.)
6. Serve refreshments, such as cookies.

Teresa Johnson from Troy, Michigan, wrote *Welcome to the Obedience Club* and program suggestions.

Springboard Illustrated Stories to Grow By

Volume 39/ No. 6

on jordan's west bank

by Floyd Wolfenbarger

What if it happened today? A baby is born in a refugee camp on Jordan's West Bank. The cry of a new child in such crowded huddles of poverty barely could raise an eyebrow.

The tale of Bedouin shepherds about a strange light in the sky and the angel's song would be dismissed by the reality of artillery tracers and whistling rockets. After all, what's so hard about demythologizing a Bedouin fable?

A half-dozen or so astrologers might suggest that a significant birth occurred. But who would pay attention? The only interest most people have in astrology is whether an Aquarius should marry a Virgo.

In our cynical humanistic society, Christ would not be rejected so much as ignored. Humanism hasn't declared war on Christ; it simply claims to have outgrown any need for Him.

The birth of Christ amid such obscurity nearly 2000 years ago gives new significance to all life. Jesus wasn't born last night, but thousands of babies were. Many of them into the same kind of obscurity.

Humanism means that mankind can now ignore God. Christianity means that God will not ignore mankind.

Because Christ was born in the anonymity of human squalor, He sees every birth of every child no matter how obscure, and gives to it value, meaning and purpose. The Son of God was born a common man so that common men might be born the sons of God.

All this in the obscurity of a stable on Jordan's West Bank!

Floyd Wolfenbarger served the Lord as a Free Will Baptist preacher and pastor until he went to be with the Lord in 1985.



MK Provision Closet

The MK Provision Closet is currently well stocked with school supplies. MK Ministries Coordinator, Tanya Hart, explains that there is a greater need for items for older (teen-age/college-age) MKs. Check with Tanya Hart or WNAC for specific needs.

Suggested items:

- Discount store gift certificates
- Walkman cassette or CD players

Lucy & Marge

Lucy: (*Holding her hands up and screaming as though she is drowning*) Help! Help! Help! Help! . . .

Marge: Lucy, Lucy, calm down.

Lucy: (*Continues to yell*) Help! Help!

Marge: (*Grabs hold of her and shakes her*) How can I help you if I don't know what's wrong?

Lucy: Oh, Marge, Y2K is coming! Do you realize it's just around the corner? I was just reading this magazine (*holds up a news magazine*) telling about all of these things that we ought to have done! I haven't done a one of them.

Marge: What things are you talking about, Lucy?

Lucy: Well, for example, getting one of those fancy radios that you wind up instead of having to have batteries or electricity. And I haven't stored up any food or water? What will we do, Marge?

Marge: Lucy, if you want to do some of those things, there's still time to do them.

Lucy: Marge, do you think we should move out to the country where we can grow our own food and raise goats for milk and dig our own well so we can be sure to have water?

Marge: Oh, I don't think it's that desperate a situation, Lucy.

Lucy: But . . . but, Marge, it says right here that we may not be able to get our money out of the banks and we may not have electricity. And if we don't have electricity, think how many things we won't be able to do. We could freeze or starve. And what about my hair style? I need my curling iron!!!

Marge: (*laughing*) I think there are more important things than curling irons, Lucy. Anyway, I don't think there's any reason to panic.

Lucy: Oh, Marge, you're always so in control!

Marge: No, not really. But I know that God's in control and that nothing can happen without His permission.

Lucy: I know you're right, Marge, there's really no need to panic as long as He's in control. I just wonder what's really going to happen?

Marge: No one can be sure, Lucy, but I'm sure whatever it is, we'll handle it. I think the best thing is to take the advise of some of the experts who say, "be prepared for an emergency situation just as you would any time."

Lucy: You mean, just have a supply of water and food and a battery radio in case we need it?

Marge: That's right. Even though

we depend on the Lord, He expects us to use our common sense. Right?

Lucy: Of course, Marge, do you think our women's meetings will continue right on into 2000?

Marge: Absolutely! Why, just come to our next meeting (*insert time, place and date*). Lorene Miley wrote the program and it's about Jesus' example as a servant. The year 2000 will give us lots of opportunities to serve.

Lucy: Well, I'll be there—if I can still use my curling iron, that is! Or maybe you could come over and help me do my hair without it.

Marge: (*laughing*) Oh, come on, Lucy. Remember, our meeting's in December!

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



Communicator

by Marjorie Workman

WNAC President Debe Taylor



Meet your newly elected president Deborah Jean Jernigan Taylor. We call her "Debe." Debe was born in Purcell, Oklahoma, January 8, 1953, to parents Wade and Nettie Lou Jernigan. She is the third of five daughters in the Jernigan clan.

She is married to David Glenn Taylor and they have two children. Amy Elizabeth resides in Springfield, Tennessee, with her husband Ben Head. Bradley Philip is a student at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, Oklahoma.

Growing up in a pastor's home makes Debe very knowledgeable for her role as a pastor's wife. She and her husband are currently ministering to the Lake Hills Free Will Baptist congregation in Hot Springs, Arkansas. They came to Lake Hills after an eight and one-half year pastorate at First Free Will Baptist Church, Tucson, Arizona. Their pastoral journey began at First Free Will Baptist Church, Wilburton, Oklahoma.

Debe is a 1975 graduate of California Christian College earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Theology. She says her best theology teacher was Larry Hampton, current adult editor at Randall House, and her favorite professor was Jack Williams, editor of *Contact* magazine.

Speaking of her conversion experience of 1961 under the preaching of Rev. Bob Duncan, Debe not only remembers the sermon, "Be Sure Your Sins Will Find You Out," but she remembers what clothes she wore and who she was sitting beside that Monday

night. Wow! What a memory! Her father baptized her in the baptistery at Capitol Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Fulfilling her role as WNAC president should come easy for Debe. She has been working and serving faithfully in several different capacities since age 16. On the local, district, state and national level, she has served as president, vice president, treasurer, program chairman, missions action chairman, and member at large.

Besides her service to Women Active for Christ, Debe has been active in her local church. Her responsibilities have included church pianist, organist, advisory board member, and youth camp counselor and worker.

She loves music and loves to sing. She sings solo, in a duet, a trio and when the family is together, a quartet. She is also a retreat speaker, Sunday school and CTS teacher.

When asked, what lessons she has learned from all her experiences in ministry, she gives the following:

1. Be yourself.
2. Criticism kills.
3. Always include those who aren't out front.
4. Don't get so caught up in those not coming that you forget those who are.

In her leisure time, she plays golf, reads and watches old black and white movies.

Her passion for Women Active for Christ is to see the needs of people and have a caring heart for missions. She would like to see more older women mentoring younger women to be involved in missions. She is looking for women who are willing to take the torch of the 20th Century woman and carry that same passion for missions into the 21st Century.

What does Debe want from us? Our love, prayers and support.❖

Women In Action



Local President Bonita Hanes, Pastor Herman Wood, Secretary/Treasurer Kaye Raper

9-Member Auxiliary Raises \$3000

In June 1998, the Collinsville Women's Auxiliary set a goal to raise \$1,000 for the church building fund. These Oklahoma women planned fund raisers for each month from June to October—garage sale, pancake breakfast, chili supper and dinner theater. The dinner theater featured the play *The New Minister's Wife* and was so popular that it was presented twice.

The Collinsville Women presented Pastor Herman Wood with a \$3,000 check. The women attribute their success to God's blessings and church members who are generous not only with their money, but with their love and support. God blessed their labors, and they had fun and fellowship while working together.



Donna Kinsey, Blue Bell President, Missionary Shirley Combs, Louise Richmond, Retreat Chairman

Shirley Combs Speaker at District Retreat

The Oklahoma First Mission WNAC met for their annual District Retreat on August 6, 1999, at the Holiday Inn in Stillwater. The retreat theme was "Proof of Leadership."

Missionary Shirley Combs spoke and a love offering of \$800 was given to the Combs' ministry.

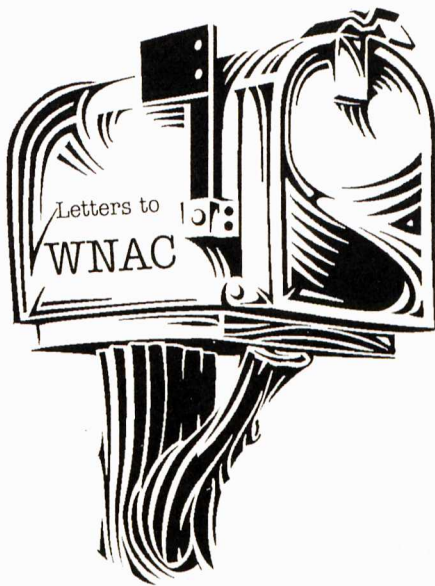
Missionary Leslie Banks gave a report on their plans to minister to the Kuna Indians in Panama. Leslie and Justin Banks are currently enrolled in "jungle school" with New Tribes Linguistic Institute.

Oklahoma State President, Jean Marie Rogers, brought greetings and District President, Joan Warren, presided in the business meeting. The retreat committee consisted of Louise Richmond, Bertha Mathews and Cynthia Bashaam.

Kentucky State Project a Jamming Success

The Kentucky Women Active for Christ completed a state project called JAM Jars. JAM stands for Joyfully Assisting Missions. The ladies prepared jam jars with covers and were asked to fill the jars with loose change. Several ladies filled their jars more than once.

The project resulted in a \$5289.60 offering. Kentucky women voted to divide the money equally among foreign missionaries Nathan Snow and Darrell Nichols and home missionaries Mark Wheatley and David Carlson. Not bad for loose change.



Dear WNAC,

I want to thank you for the wonderful programs at this year's WNAC Convention. All the speakers were outstanding and they touched my life in a special way. The Fellowship Dinner was the best ever. Brenda Vaughn is a shining light through all her trials. And her daughter is a true witness of what Christ can do in our lives if we yield to Him.

Joyce Taylor, Brunswick, GA

Dear WNAC,

I thoroughly enjoyed Tuesday at the WNAC Convention. The music and speakers were outstanding. Shirley Combs' message spoke to me. I bought her book, *They Deserve a Second Chance*, and can hardly put it down. It touched my heart deeply. We all need the challenge to pray for the New Life Home for Children as they rescue street children in Brazil.

I enjoy the *CoLaborer*. Many of the programs speak right to the heart. Our auxiliary especially enjoyed the August Program.

I pray for WNAC that God will bless the staff and supply every need.

Odessa Ledlow, Sylacauga, AL

Dear WNAC,

Thank you so much for allowing us the opportunity to visit the Provision Closet while we were at the national office in May. The items from the closet will be a big help as we make the transition to our

new home. We look forward to the day when our own women's group can send supplies and be a part of what you are doing. May God bless you for your wonderful work for missions.

The Rick Morris family, Missionaries to Chandler, Arizona

Dear WNAC,

A special thank you to all of the women who participate in the Provision Closet. As I explained the whole process to my daughter Kristina, she said, "That's a ministry!" and truly it is. Thank you so much for all the nice things.

We're home for a year. I hope to see and visit with many of our WNAC ladies.

Deleen Cousineau, Missionary to Côte d'Ivoire

Dear WNAC,

Please accept our sincere thanks for the gifts you gave us upon our graduation at the Free Will Baptist Bible Institute in Bouna.

Please pray for us. May the Lord pour out His blessing on you in the name of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

K. Adu K. for the 1997-1999 student body, Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire

Note: Each of the six 1999 institute graduates received a backpack from WNAC. Since they go from village to village on mopeds, they will use the backpacks extensively.❖



ON THE SHELF

Betrayal's Baby

Turning the Bitter to Sweet

Expanded Second Edition

P. Bunny Wilson

Reviewed by Yvonne Brown

*New Dawn Publishing Co.
Pasadena, CA, 1992, \$8.95*

At one time or another, just about everyone has faced betrayal. When someone you trusted intimately betrays you, it hurts.

When betrayed, you may have made a silent promise that you would never leave yourself vulnerable again. Perhaps because the betrayal you faced was personal, you made a mental note of "the date, time and the guilty parties."

In the first chapter, Wilson writes, "Betrayal has a baby. And the baby's name is Bitterness." If

you have not confronted the consequences of betrayal, this book is a must read.

In *Betrayal's Baby*, Bunny Wilson shares her story of how she found peace with the unwelcome child of bitterness. She shares her personal encounters with different types of betrayals.

Also in Chapter 1, she lays the foundation as she tells of coming face to face with the reality of Christ in her life.

"On the surface we may appear to have conquered all of life's common foes. But underneath the skin, behind the smiles of contentment are seething, simmering memories of betrayal." As Wilson says, "we camouflage the hidden rooms in our hearts in order not to be hurt again." This is where the suffering comes in.

When we harbor bitterness in our hearts, we may be able to tolerate the presence of the person who betrayed us, but we secretly hope that one day he or she will be paid back.

The first step in ridding ourselves of bitterness is the most difficult. In Chapter 7, Wilson describes the confrontation with her mother. "You're the reason your father and I got a divorce!" her mother announced.

The reader can learn from how the author deals with this bitterness. The author shows an understanding of what Jesus meant when He said His disciples would betray Him but He forgave them.

This book provides practical teaching on forgiveness and unconditional love. Its purpose is to take the reader, by example, through a process so she can realistically see her bitterness. Bitterness feeds on anger, revenge and hate.

In choosing to forgive people who have betrayed us, we surrender our right to judge them. To live out this kind of forgiveness is to experience one of the most liberating feelings imaginable.❖

*This book may be ordered through
Randall Bookstore by calling 1-800-
877-7030.*

Poet's Corner

3rd Place Winner
1999 WNAC Creative Arts Contest

The Promise

Ruth Bivens, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

We served the Lord with gladness when when trouble came.
Our ministry attacked, strength drained away.
Sadness fell over us like a heavy cloak
Tears came easily and laughter could not be heard.

I sat by the window alone and questioned Him,
With grief that could not form words.

Suddenly, as often happens here, the sky grew dark.
Clouds rolled down the mountain.
A tropical storm beat against the house.
Rain assaulted the windows and wind bent the trees.

The blackness of the storm matched the depths of sorrow in my heart.

Then, just as suddenly, the storm passed.
The wind and rain stopped and bright sunshine broke through the clouds.

All at once I saw it.
Reaching from high in the heavens to the depth of the valley below the house.
A rainbow sparkled in the mist.
My heart leaned back with a sweet calm.
I remembered.
God's promises have never failed.
This storm too will pass.

4th Place Winner
1999 WNAC Creative Arts Contest

The Verdict

Freeda Lucas, Cromona, Kentucky

I stood convicted of my crimes,
None but myself to blame.
The charge of breaking Heaven's Laws
Brought sorrow, tears, and shame.

I tried to justify my sin,
Though guilt would stain my face.
My work, my friends, my lifestyle took
Me farther from His grace.

The endless days dragged on and on
And filled my soul with fright.

Good deeds could not the record fix;
What if He came tonight?

I begged for mercy once again
And prayed this pain would cease.
Then light exploded everywhere,
I felt a gentle peace.

I heard the cheering from the crowd,
My burden turned to bliss.
The Judge's verdict cleansed my soul:
"All charges are dismissed!"



Fellowship Dinner Speaker Brenda Vaughn

(continued from page 14)

Page Goodman played a flute solo for the offertory, immediately followed by special music by Danny and Bobby Thomas.

Missionary to Brazil Shirley Combs directed hearts to consider the greatness and power of God. God is miraculously building the home for street children which Shirley Combs directs. Only about ten percent of donations for construction of the home came from outside of Brazil as Christians and Non-Christians alike sacrifice to build Lar Nova Vida.

In her message, Shirley Combs compares passing the torch with the way the mother eagle teaches its young to fly. "I'm glad you sent us not just to rescue these little ones," she says, "but to put Jesus in their hearts. That one day they can soar with Him on the strength of His wings, on the strength of His power."

Special Feature

After a quick lunch, men and women reassembled in the At-

lanta Civic Center for the WNAC special feature. Under the direction of Diana Bryant, the audience got to hear the stories of three families who are passing the torch. Emily Dempsey Malone passed the torch to her son Wallace and daughter-in-law Eunice. They had a son Tommy who is president of Free Will Baptist Bible College. Four out of five of his daughters and niece Sarah participated in the program. Their flames shine brightly from

Nashville, Tennessee, to China.

Lorene Miley passed the torch to daughter Lynette Morgan and grandson Adam. Each of these are or have spread the flame of evangelism in Côte d'Ivoire.

Janice Banks is passing the torch to missions students at Hillsdale FWB College. Her son and daughter-in-law Justin and Leslie Banks are carrying the torch to the Kunas in Panama.

At the conclusion, Pam Flannagan sang "Find Us Faithful" and women passed torches all over the auditorium symbolizing those who pass the torch as teachers, mothers, neighbors, senior citizens and etc.

WNAC Fellowship Dinner

Back at the Marriott Marquis, about 440 men and women gathered for a feast of food, fellowship and listening.

One person at each table got to take home the centerpiece which was provided by Georgia WAC. Each centerpiece was a numbered

and signed piece of Georgia pottery. GWAC also put together jars of pecans, peanuts or homemade jelly for each person who attended.

Brenda Vaughn gave her testimony of how God managed to do His work through a seemingly tragic house fire. Sixty to 65 percent of her body had 2nd and 3rd degree burns. Her two-year-old daughter, Becky, suffered burns on 92 to 95 percent of her body.

Through long months of hospitalization, God taught her that He loved her, He would never leave her or forget her in any circumstance.

Becky is a 23-years-old college student. Her body carries scars and she is in a wheel chair. She was saved at age 6 and asked her Dad to write a gospel tract for her because she wanted to tell people what happened to her. The Vaughns receive letters from people from all over the country who have been saved or been encouraged by the tract.

She says of her daughter, "When I feel sorry for her, I think of all the thousands of people who will be there because of her. When we are able to share in His glory, our suffering won't even be worthy of being compared with the glory we will see there. I wonder who I'll feel sorry for."

Brenda Vaughn co-wrote with John, her pastor husband, their story in the book *More Precious than Gold: The Fiery Trial of a Family's Faith*.

Conclusion

FWB women are passing the torch to the next generation. Praise God for igniting the flame of passion for God's work. ❖



South Carolina
Free Will Baptist
Children's Home

To Mend a Broken Heart

James and Carolyn Wilhide

Tommy Barron recently returned to his childhood home. Through the halls, rooms and yards he remembered the good times. He saw photos of himself, a grinning child, hanging in the hallway. He recalled daily chores and responsibilities. He remembered holidays filled with laughter, sharing and joy. And he remembered his last days there—graduating from high school, packing and weeping over leaving the only home he'd ever known.

"Home" was the Free Will Baptist Home for Children in Turbeville. When he was six years old, Tommy's mother left him and his three siblings there, saying she would return for them after the weekend.

That "weekend" lasted 14 years. With a smile that gleams almost as brightly as his spirit, Tommy boasts that the Children's Home gave him the proper start in life—a start he wouldn't have had in an unstable home. Today, Tommy is a successful detective with the Sumter County Police Depart-

ment, a devout Christian and devoted husband, a father to two beautiful children, and a strong advocate of the Free Will Baptist Home for Children.

Founded in 1949, the Home was the result of nearly 30 years of prayer and fundraising through Free Will Baptist churches. The Home has grown from a single two-story building to a campus featuring two large dormitories on either side of a colonial-style administration building. The building houses the kitchen, dining and laundry facilities, as well as, the apartment of the Home's executive director, James Wilhide and wife Carolyn.

Support constantly pours in for the Home. We are grateful since volunteer and financial assistance is a constant need. Because of its private status, the Home receives no government funding, so every operating dollar must be raised.

Most of the young people who come to the Home have no one to cover the financial costs of their education, food, clothing, doctor bills and

Fact sheet

Name: Free Will Baptist Children's Home

Executive Director: James D. Wilhide

Founded: 1949

Current Capacity: 24 children

Address: P.O. Box 245, Turbeville, SC 29162

Website: www.homeforchildren.org

many other needs. The children are usually placed in the Home by a parent or parents who are suffering financially and emotionally. Many come from broken homes, and some have suffered abuse, but no child at the Home is available for adoption. Sometimes parents return for their children, while others, like Tommy Barron's, leave them at the Home for years.

*The Home
seeks to provide
a stable,
loving environment—
a haven
for children
in need.*

The Home seeks to provide a stable, loving environment—a haven for children in need. The loving part comes easily, evidenced by the fact that the kids call us "Mama" and "Papa" and bestow hugs on us liberally. The stability comes from being founded on Scriptural principles.

Additionally, the Home provides an opportunity for a college education at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. Annual tuition costs put a crimp in the already tight budget, but the board firmly believes in offering the kids the best opportunities possible.

Projects are constantly underway to maintain a balanced budget. One example is a sponsorship program which solicits monthly support to help provide for a child assigned specifically to a volunteer sponsor.

Another project is underway to locate the hundreds of children who have been touched by the Children's Home over the years. Barron is assisting us in encouraging Children's Home "alumni" to attend a reunion.

We travel each Sunday and sometimes the entire weekend to churches all over South and North Carolina. Our children present a wonderful singing program and they feel this is their ministry. They are special children, dedicated to living a life pleasing to God.

We can house 24 children at this time and we've had to turn many away. It hurts so much to have to say no. The Home is in a building program to double this capacity. We feel it's God's time and plan for FWBCH in Turbeville to build two more dorms. The first of the two dorms is scheduled to be ready by January 2000. The new boy's dorm will bump our capacity to 36 children.

Phase 2 of our building program is a Christian school on campus. Pray with us that God will supply our needs that we will soon have the facilities to make a difference in the lives of more children.❖

For more information on the South Carolina Free Will Baptist Children's Home, contact Rev. James Wilhide at (843)659-2880 or jwilhide@homeforchildren.org. Visit their website at www.homeforchildren.org.

(United States, Territories, Canada and Mexico) and the uttermost parts of the earth. The prayer guide clearly indicates how many Free Will Baptist churches each state or area contains. Sadly, one may also locate the areas which contain little or no Free Will Baptist witness.

The information in this prayer guide should burden many hearts for the lost and help pray-ers better focus their prayers. This booklet contains plenty of material as well as a day-by-day guide with specific prayer requests.

Pray that this prayer guide booklet will be used to inform our people, guide their prayers and burden hearts. Ask God to use this prayer guide to spur an outreach program in your personal life, as well as, in your church.

For more information on this prayer guide booklet, contact the Home Missions Department or the Foreign Missions Department at P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002, or at (615)731-6812.

Friday—All Home Missionsaries and Chaplains/Staff

The Home Missions Department's ministry includes many integral areas, but without missionaries, there would be no church planters. Home Missions currently sponsors 76 missionaries. This figure does not include the growing number of Tentmakers and Aquila/Priscilla workers.

Tentmakers are men who pastor churches while working another job. The Aquila/Priscilla workers refer to those who have left their comfort zones and moved to another area to help home missionaries start churches. Planting a church from the beginning requires a lot of hard work and dedication from each family member.

Home Missions has eight chaplains serving in the Army, Air Force and Navy. Free Will Baptist military chaplains are a shining light for the Lord.

Many ministers throughout the denomination are getting involved in local chaplaincy programs. The chaplaincy program, whether local or in the armed forces of our country, requires serious commitment. These chaplains need our prayers, too.

Thank the Lord that participation in the Aquila/Priscilla Program is on the rise, and more families are considering this area of ministry.

Pray for the families of home missionaries, tentmakers, Aquila/Priscilla workers as they labor daily for the Lord.

Pray for more churches to be planted as fields are white unto harvest.

Pray for the chaplains and their families as they deal with people from various backgrounds and walks of life. Ask the Lord to guide them and give them confidence to speak boldly.

Pre-Thanksgiving Week of Prayer

for
Home Missions

November 15–19, 1999



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

Monday—Lizzie McAdams Offering for Home Missions

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

The Home Missions Department is committed to the work of the *missionaries* and *chaplains*, *church planting* and *church growth*, *C.E.L.F./Build My Church*, *missionary builder*, and the *cross-cultural ministry*. Opportunities for reaching the lost are unlimited.

The Lizzie McAdams Offering becomes part of the Benjamin Randall Offering. This offering goes to underwrite the various ministries of the National Home Missions Department.

- Pray that people will give with joyful hearts to further all the National Home Missions Department ministries.
- Pray about your part in this year's Lizzie McAdams Offering for Home Missions.
- Pray for the Home Missions staff and board members.

Tuesday—Cross-Cultural Ministry

The National Home Missions Department is responsible for implementing, directing and supervising the Free Will Baptist Cross-Cultural Ministry. This ministry is growing quickly, especially among the Hispanic, Hmong, Korean and Slavic peoples. Pray for the individual ministries of the following cross-cultural missionaries.

Omar Alfaro, Miami, FL	Chang-Hyo Choo, Los Angeles, CA
Alexandre Drozdov, Rockford, IL	Jean Guerrier, Delray, FL
Ki Sun Hwang, Los Angeles, CA	John Joo, San Jose, CA
Chul Soo Kim, Glendale, CA	Eun Ki Kim, Diamond Bar, CA
James S. Kim, Corona, CA	Sang Ki Kim, Virginia Beach, VA
Vladimir Lopuga, West Sacramento, CA	Leonid Morgun, Fresno, CA
Vitali Rozhko, Santa Barbara, CA	Carlos Rubio, Nashville, TN
Ramon Zuniga, Springdale, AR	Soon Young Lee, Glen Burnie, MD
Sun Gug Kim, Los Angeles, CA	Gustavo Jasso, Memphis, TN

Dr. Paul Park, Representative for Korean emphasis
 Leonid Morgun, Representative for Slavic movement
 James Munsey, Representative for Hispanic Development

In Mexico, the torch has been passed and Dr. Thomas Marberry assumed the post of President of the Seminary of the Cross this year. Intercede for Dr. Marberry and wife, Wilma, as they begin their educational ministry in Reynosa, Mexico. This is another important milestone in Mexico's ministry.

- Pray for all the home missionaries as they minister to ethnic groups within their areas of service.
- Pray for opportunities to reach the newcomers and internationals in your hometown.

Wednesday—Advancing in Missions

Much has happened within this last year in the Home Missions Department. For the first time in Home Missions' history, **76 Home Missionaries** are on the field serving the Lord. Pray for the following newly appointed missionaries as they work in their individual areas of service.

Tim Lewis, Ogden, UT	Rick Morris, Chandler, AZ
David Roy, San Juan, Puerto Rico	Todd Smith, Aiken, SC
Tim Byers, Artesia, NM	Chris Fannin, San Juan, Puerto Rico
Chuck Lotz, North Glenn, CO	Jon Cannon, Mascoutah, IL
Clayton Hampton, Clarksville, TN	

- Pray for the missionaries who have gone self-supporting as they reach the lost for Christ in their individual areas.
- In January 1999 Home Missions launched a new magazine entitled AIM. Please pray that this periodical's emphasis will mirror God's will, be an informative magazine, and be used as an outreach tool for the Lord.

- Pray for the Home Missions Board members and office staff as they move into the twenty-first century.

- Pray for unity as the department works together in defining ongoing and new ministries.

Thursday—Joint Prayer Project

The National Home and Foreign Missions Departments have come together to establish a joint prayer emphasis for our denomination. A beautiful world prayer guide has been designed and printed for the benefit of all who would like to use it in their church or personal prayer time.

Startling information on the world today will help you see the kind of world in which we live and guide you in praying for your Judea and Samaria

Life!Action

a column for teens

what my sister taught me

by Laura Munsey

*h*ave you ever experienced a fear so great that your stomach rumbled and your knees knocked? Satan uses fear to weaken us and cause our spiritual lives to crumble. I have felt fear many times in my life but one occasion stands out.

In May 1998 Rachel, my 7-year-old sister, was having her diseased kidneys removed to prepare for dialysis. Rachel's illness had been a part of our lives since her birth, but, for the most part, she's like a normal kid sister. We have fought like sisters and we have loved like sisters. We have always shared a bedroom and are very close in spite of our age difference.

The fear really did not hit me until the day before the surgery. I remember thinking, "What if something goes wrong, and I lose her?"

Waves of nausea swept over me so quickly that I had to sit down and calm my nerves. Rachel was going into surgery at six the next morning, so Mom, Dad and I spent the night at the hospital with her. We prayed and tried to get some rest. Believe me, the hospital room was no Hampton Inn and beds were in short supply.

I ended up sleeping on the hospital bed with Rachel. I hugged her close, but I was so scared. I kept waking up during the night, and Rachel was very restless. About 2 a.m. I woke up and heard Rachel talking to thin air. I listened quietly to her, careful not to let her know I was awake. It only took me a few seconds to realize that she was praying.

She was praying for God to watch over her during the operation and for us not to worry too much. She was crying, too. I knew Mom was also listening, be-

cause I could hear her in the reclining chair sniffing.

From our point of view, Rachel was coping amazingly well with her illness. Just that night she had been chasing the nurses down the hall and enjoying the hospital playroom. She never acted like she was even aware she was sick. To her, she just happened to take a lot of medicine and see lots of doctors. It was no big deal. But, now we realized, she was just as scared as we were.

That night, God used my little sister to show me what I should have done with all my fears from the beginning. I should have taken them to Him. He is the only one upon whom we can cast all our fears. When I look back on that night, I think of what has since become my favorite Bible verse. Isaiah 41:10, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Rachel has taught me a lot. She truly has a pray-without-ceasing spirit. It comes so easily for her. She prays all the time and for everything. The Bible says that God uses trials and tribulations to strengthen us, I can say from experience that this is true.

Rachel is doing great. She was on dialysis for 3 months and in August 1998 she had the kidney transplant. My Dad gave her one of his kidneys, but that's a

whole other story.❖

Laura Munsey lives with her family in Weslaco, TX. She is 17 years old, her brother Matt is 15 and Rachel is 8. Her parents, James and Mitzi, serve Free Will Baptists under Home Missions as Representatives for Hispanic Development.



Mission Alert

Evangelism News from Around the World



Castaic, California

A new mission work was born on May 2, 1999. The Sloan Canyon FWB Church began a Bible study called *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*, which offers evidence for the truth of Christianity. Missionary Keith Bartlett and other team members invited neighbors and people they have come to know through business relationships. The first session of the study met at three different times. Besides the missionary families, 15 people attended. God is building His kingdom in Castaic.

Sugar Land, Texas

Eagle Heights FWB Church held its first public worship service on May 23. According to missionary Randy Puckett, God moved in the service which had 58 people present. Nine people made commitment decisions and two asked for a call from the pastor.

Anaheim, California

Korean missionary representative Dr. Paul Park has traveled thousands of miles helping and encouraging FWB Korean church planters. In June, he was in three California churches—Los Angeles, Glendale and Ontario. This summer, Dr. Park attended the ordination of five Korean pastors.

By the end of 1999, Free Will Baptists will have 15 Korean mission churches in the US. Currently, the Korean churches are concentrated in Southern California, however, Free Will Baptists are planting one Korean church in each of the following states: Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and Georgia.

Quebec, Canada

According to missionaries Verlin and Debbie Anderson, 11 people from three Kosovar Muslim families accepted invitations to watch the Jesus film in the Anderson's home. The film was shown in the Kosovar native tongue. Although no decisions were made, the people received the film well. One young woman was especially open

to the gospel. The Andersons have been studying French while in Quebec in preparation for their ministry in Côte d'Ivoire.

St. Sebastien, France

Missionary Patsy Vanhook praises God for the 10-member Renaissance France Team who spent one month in France studying missions and French culture. She asks that we pray for God's leadership in the lives of these students. One couple is in the process of applying to the Foreign Missions Board to go to France as career missionaries and another couple is considering France as a place of service. Ask the Lord to send laborers to France.

Agnibilekrou, Côte d'Ivoire

The Agnibilekrou FWB Church shows evidence of genuine love for one another and a spirit of revival. Missionary Alice Smith believes this is a result of special days of fasting and prayer. Church members are growing spiritually under Pastor Jerome Kambou's leadership. During Alice Smith's one-year stateside assignment, four people were baptized and twelve started new-convert and baptism classes in Agnibilekrou.

Pastor Jerome carries a heavy load with his many responsibilities as pastor and denominational leader in Côte d'Ivoire. ♦



Words for Women

*Marjorie H.
Workman*

*G*uilty! Guilty! I confess. I try, but it happens repeatedly. Every time I make a promise that it's not going to happen, I fail.

Why is it so hard to express thanks? My intentions are always good; however, time escapes me and the notes go unwritten. I'm embarrassed. I tell myself, it's too late to send a note after several weeks have passed. Is it?

Recently, a thank you note arrived for a wedding gift. I can't remember when the wedding took place. Maybe it was a year ago, or six months at least. Nevertheless, I was glad to get it. The note was personal and the new bride described the gift adequately, so I knew she hadn't forgotten the gift. She probably had written many notes and was struggling to get all of them mailed. I'll bet she was feeling guilty. But it's never too late to say thanks.

Generally, a gift calls for a thank you. However, we should offer thanks for more things than just store purchased gifts. "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Thanking God for the privilege of living is appropriate. We breathe His air. We're alive in the midst of the beauty of His creation. He gives us eyes to see, a mind to learn, and a voice to speak.

We can learn to be thankful for the unpleasant. Corrie ten Boom shares in her book *The Hiding Place* about keeping a thankful attitude in bad times. The bunkhouse in the concentration camp where she was held prisoner became infested with fleas. She had difficulty giving thanks for the bites and misery. She noticed, however, that the guards refused to come inside the bunkhouse for the nightly inspections because of the fleas. The guards' absence made it possible for

the women to gather around a smuggled Bible for refreshment and strength.

Thanks should be voiced all year, not just around Thanksgiving. For instance, April 15 is a good time. Be thankful for enough income to pay taxes and for a government that provides services with your tax money. Be thankful you have a job and health to work.

Make it a practice to give thanks for the little things. A few of my favorites are a parking space close to the door, a good hair day, clothes that don't wrinkle when I travel, a coupon in my purse when I need it, a pantry stocked with all the ingredients for a recipe, and rain that holds off until I get home.

Cultivate an attitude of gratitude. This is the will of God "in everything." In the first chapter of Romans, Paul describes the downward spiral of wicked men. One of the first steps is ceasing to be thankful. We live in a day of griping and complaining and an it's-my-right mentality. The Chinese have a saying for those who complain. They say, "His stomach is too full." To the starving, the kind of food doesn't matter as long as they have something to eat.

After being robbed of his billfold, the famed exegete Matthew Henry expressed thankfulness quite well in his diary. He wrote, "I am thankful because I was never robbed before. Although they took my purse, they did not take my life. Although they took all I had, it was not much. I am thankful, too, because it was I who was robbed, and not I who robbed." (From Walter B. Knight's *More of Knight's Timely Illustrations*)

What a positive attitude in light of negative circumstances!❖

**Paul J. Kettelman Memorial Christmas Drive
for Free Will Baptist Bible College**

**December is
Free Will Baptist Bible
College month.
Send your gifts through
the usual
WNAC channels
designated to the
Paul J. Kettelman
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