

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

CoLaborer

**My Brother's
Keeper?**

**Emphasis
Packets**

**How to Stretch
Your Money**

JULY • AUG 2000

VISION

Rhonda McReynolds



1-2-3-Drop!

Dangling 100 feet in the air, I hung nervously waiting to hear the attendant shout the dreaded "1-2-3-drop!" I knew that on "drop" my stomach would quickly escalate to my heart as my heart slowly sank into my stomach. The excitement was overwhelming as I plummeted through the air, hanging only by a thread.

Bungee jumping is an adventure that lasts a few seconds. Then, it's over. You walk away with an exciting moment that will be neatly tucked away as a "great memory."

This sport reminds me of the greatest adventure—the one called life. Often, the top of the mountain is very high. The future crystal clear. The air fresh and crisp. Excitement swirls around each peak as the trails of life converge at their highest elevation. "Life can't get any better than this."

Income is great. The children are healthy. The cars haven't broken down lately. A nice vacation is quickly approaching. A job promotion is likely. The day is sunny. The view from this mountain is breathtaking. Isn't God good?

The high peak of the mountain, however, is fragile. With jagged rocks protruding around each corner, it's hard not to trip along the way.

The beautiful view can quickly become dark and stormy. The highest peak can break, sending us plummeting toward the ground.

Within a heartbeat, finances are shaky. A child grows ill. Both vehicles are in the shop. A co-worker is offered the promotion. The day becomes threatening. The free fall from the mountain peak ends in a devastating jolt.

Isn't it good to know that no matter how hard and long the fall seems, we are still attached to an unbreakable cord—God's love. Even when anxiety spreads throughout each pore as we spiral toward the ground, there is no doubt that our permanent bungee cord will always catch us, set us on our feet and point us toward the awaiting mountain.

God is good. He's not only good when the mountain's view overlooks the valley. No, He's still good when the fall lands us in the middle of the valley with Mt. Everest staring down at us.

My favorite scripture comes to mind. "The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night" (Psalm 121:5-6).

How comforting to know that the Prince of Peace will never allow the cord of love to break. Instead, He forever holds His children in the very palm of His hand.

Volume 40

Number 4

JULY • AUG 2000

11

"Why have we lost deep and genuine feelings for others and that urge to help?"

26

Marjorie Workman greets the President of the Mexico WAC.

27

Gail Smith will excite the Christian woman to grow in the key areas of life. The WNAC Retreat will be held at Ridgecrest, North Carolina.

CONTENTS



FEATURES

4

Loving Lesson —Nancy Farrier

7

July Program

How to Stretch Your Money . . .—Lorene Miley

11

August Program

My Brother's Keeper? —June Hersey



DEPARTMENTS

15

Springboard: Innovative Ideas for Officers
Lucy & Marge —Mary R. Wisheart, Yvonne Hampton

19

Communicator —Marjorie Workman

20

Women in Action

22

Life!Action/On the Shelf

24

Letters to WNAC/Convention Schedule

26

Poet's Corner

28

When the Lord Calls —Fran Gist

30

Mission Alert: Evangelism News from Around the World

31

Words for Women —Marjorie Workman



Executive Editor: Marjorie Workman; Editor: Rhonda McReynolds
Circulation: Yvonne Hampton
CoLaborer, (ISSN 0896-0038), is published bimonthly by Women Nationally Active for Christ of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 5233 Mt. View Road, Antioch, TN 37013-2306, (615)•731•6812. Address all correspondence to P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Annual subscription rates: \$8.75 per year, single; \$8.00 per year, 5 or more to one address. Periodical postage paid at Antioch, TN and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *CoLaborer*, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Copyright privileges, reserved © 2000 Member of the Evangelical Press Association.
USPS 0896-0038

Loving Lesson

by Nancy J. Farrier

Dana slammed the cabinet door. "Unconditional love, indeed," she muttered. "How does he expect me to show it to someone like her. I'm not even sure I know what unconditional love is." She sloshed orange juice into three glasses and carried them to the table. Three sets of eyes stared apprehensively at her as she set the glasses on the table.

She paused, noticing the fear in the girls' wide-eyed gaze as they sat frozen in their seats, waiting to see what she would do next. She sighed and sank into a chair at the head of the table. "I'm sorry, girls. I'm not angry with you, and I didn't mean to upset you. Let's pray before you eat."

Waiting until the girls bowed their heads, Dana prayed, "Thank you Lord for this food you have provided and, Lord, please show me a

clear example of unconditional love, so I can learn what it is."

As they ate breakfast, Dana tried not to think about her neighbor Kathy with her four unkempt children and the way she ignored them and only took care of herself. She didn't do a very good job of that either. Her clothes, looking as if she res-

cued them from some bag lady's cart, matched her stringy, oily hair. Even the smell was

authentic. "I'm sorry, Lord, to be so angry with her. I know she's had it rough since her husband left her, but she still needs to take care of those kids. I don't know what Jack thinks I can do to help someone like her."

Dana mentally reviewed her conversation with her husband Jack before he left for work. "Jack, do you think I

"Lord, please show me a clear

should call someone about the way Kathy ignores her kids?" Jack looked at her quizzically.

Nancy Farrier is a freelance writer. She has been published in magazines such as Focus on the Family Clubhouse and Christian Parenting Today. Nancy is the mother of five children and is very active with her women's group.



cally, "Who do you intend to call?"

"Well, there are agencies who will check on the situation." Jack spoke slowly and sternly, "Dana, you know those people would step in and possibly remove Kathy's children from the home. She doesn't need that kind of stress. She needs someone to help her, someone to show her unconditional love. Maybe you should try that first."

Tears sprang to Dana's eyes. Turning away she busied herself wiping down the already clean counters. Jack came over and put his arms around her pulling her close to him. "I know you'll pray about it and do what's right, sweetheart. I love you." Then he kissed her and left for work, leaving her to fume about his lack of understanding and leaving her to make this major decision by herself.

A sudden crack of thunder startled Dana out of her reverie. Rain poured out of the black clouds hovering over their house. "Mom, look at the rain," the girls jumped out of

the heavy rain continued. Water poured off the roof and puddles formed in the yard, which soon resembled a small lake.

"Mommy, can we go swimming in the backyard?"

"No, sweetie," laughed Darla, knowing what a treat it was for her desert born and raised children to see such an unusual rain. "Maybe after the rain is over, you can wade in the puddles, though."

Darla opened the front door and breathed deeply, taking in the clean scent of freshly washed earth. Puzzled, she cocked her head to one side listening. There it was again, a high pitched, tiny mewling sound. Dana opened the front door and leaned out to hear better.

"Mew!" The small squeak came from behind the bush by the front door. Darla looked over and gasped as a pair of frightened yellow eyes stared back at her. "Violet," Dana called to the cat. "What are you doing under there?"

Rainwater poured off the roof and into the back of the bush where Violet lay. Dana

slipped down into the rapidly rising water and another one was barely out of the water.

Darla dashed out into the rain, reached behind the bush and rescued the kittens from the watery trap. She ran through the house and deposited the three kittens on the back step, then rushed back to rescue Violet, carrying her gently to the back step. After setting Violet on the step, Dana quickly found some old rags and with the girls' help, began to rub Violet and the kittens dry. "Okay, girls, let's get back inside and let Violet take care of her kittens."

As the morning progressed, Dana stopped by the back door periodically to glance out at Violet and see how she was doing. Most of the time she sat aloof at the edge of the steps, deaf to the weak cries of her newborn charges. After giving birth to her fourth kitten, Violet moved off the steps completely, turning her head away from the high pitched pleas of hungry babies. Once in a while she would nervously pace around, as if confused about the whole idea of being a mother.

Finally, Dana could stand it no longer. She slipped quietly out the door, gently picked up Violet and laid her down by the hungry kittens. Although the cat's normally clean, soft fur was still matted and dirty from birthing the kittens, they

example of unconditional love. "

their chairs running to the window to watch the deluge.

"Girls, don't stand by the window during a thunder storm. When the lightning passes, then you can watch closer." For the next half hour

leaned farther out, trying to see better without getting wet. "Oh no," she gasped. Violet lay on a slight rise of ground under the bush. She was in the midst of birthing her kittens. Two of the kittens had already

eagerly rooted around in their mother's soft fur hunting for the food they needed. Soon they were contentedly nursing. "See, Violet," Dana spoke soothingly, gently stroking the cat's head, "this is how you need to take care of your babies. They need you to feed them and clean them."

Violet's large yellow eyes stared imploringly at Darla as if to say, "I'm so confused. I've never been a mother before. This wasn't the way I planned for my kittens to be born."

After a few minutes Dana returned to the house, leaving Violet alone with her kittens. In a matter of minutes, the new mother rose and walked away from her still hungry babies as if she no longer knew what to do. "Please, Lord, help her to learn to care for her kittens. I can't



help them when they're so tiny," Dana prayed silently.

"Mom, come look at Fluffy." Dana came running at her daughter's excited cry. Fluffy, whose kittens were already three weeks old, was pacing back and forth at the bottom of the steps. Obviously, the distress cries of the

newborn kittens were upsetting her. Dana and the girls watched quietly as Fluffy paced back and forth for several minutes. Suddenly, as if

"She didn't ask to raise four kids alone, and she doesn't know what to do."

reaching a decision, she hesitantly climbed the steps and sniffed the mewling kittens. Settling down close to the kittens, Fluffy began a low purring, cleaning the kittens with her rough tongue as they tottered over on unsteady legs.

Soon the kittens were contentedly nursing at this surrogate mother. After the kittens fell asleep with their tummies full and their fur clean, Fluffy looked around at Violet. Fluffy stood and stretched lazily. Casually, she picked up the largest of the kittens and carried it to where her kittens lay sleeping. Dana could almost hear her saying, "Here, I know you've had a rough time, but I'll help you and you'll be okay."

Dana gasped as the Lord spoke to her heart. "Here is your unconditional love. You asked for an example."

"That's right, Lord," Dana silently prayed. "Fluffy could have acted like me, sitting back and criticizing Violet for her

poor mothering skills. Instead, she stepped in and helped. I've never seen anything like it."

Two weeks later Darla and Jack stood watching Violet and her kittens through the back door. "Aren't they sweet, Jack?" Dana leaned against him and he wrapped his arm around her shoulders hugging her close.

"I know who the sweet one is," Jack kissed her on the head. "I appreciate what you're doing with Kathy. I can see an improvement."

"She's so confused, Jack. I hurt for her and wish I could do more to help. She didn't ask to raise four kids alone and she doesn't know what to do. I'm only trying to give her some encouragement."

"Well, you can't fool me, sweetheart. I know you're busy and now you help Kathy with her laundry, house cleaning, and kids. I thought those kids would eat us out of house and home last night when they came for supper." Jack laughed and hugged Dana again. "I don't know what changed you, but I like the change."

Dana blinked back tears. "I simply asked God to show me what unconditional love is. Who would've thought He would use a cat to do it."

How to Stretch Your Money When the Elastic Goes Dead



Purpose: To show our accountability to God in relation to finances

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:10

Hymn: "Take My Life and Let it Be"

Lorene Miley is a former missionary to Côte d'Ivoire. She served as editor for CoLaborer for 13 years. Mrs. Miley attends Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.

Introduction

Mention the word money and it strikes a responsive chord in each of us. The way we manage money reflects who we are.

Money is another pair of legs. It can go where otherwise we never could—bicycling the dusty trails of Africa, sitting with the lepers in India or walking the jungle paths of Panama.

Money is another pair of hands. It can carry burdens that our own fingers can't touch in our community, reach out with hospitality in Spain, conduct cooking classes in Japan or minister to orphans in Brazil.

Money is another pair of vocal chords speaking where our voice could not be heard. We may be untaught, but our money makes us teachers in China and Mongolia, as well as in the Bible institutes on our mission fields. Money makes us preachers to the most remote villages where the name of Christ has not been heard.

Since our money is so important, let's see how we can stretch it to its fullest capacity.

The Stretch Begins with God

God is the sovereign Lord of the universe. All things belong to him, including our money. The first step in managing money wisely is to acknowledge His ownership.

Man is not the owner but rather the manager of God's estate. Remember the song, "He's got the Whole World in His Hands?" It's all His and He appoints us as stewards. The owner has rights. We have responsibilities.

Someone has said we can know a person in her cup, her cash and her wrath. That is, in what she eats and drinks, how she spends money and how she handles anger. Money talks. The thing about stewardship is that you can't fake it. Our checkbook bares our goals, priorities, convictions, relationships and even the use of our time. It expresses what its possessor actually is.

Frances Ridley Havergal, in her book *Kept for the Master's Use*, says, "Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold." We give it to Him. He entrusts it back to us. Stewardship is simply the use of these God-given resources in order to accomplish God-given goals. He holds us so responsible that

one day we'll appear before Him for an accounting.

Financial freedom begins when we understand our role as stewards of God's resources.

"Man is not the owner but rather the manager of God's estate."

Formula for Stretching Money

Ron Blue, in his book *Master Your Money*, tells about a pastor who never made more than \$8,000 a year. Twenty years after retirement, when he had to put his wife in a nursing home, he made a financial accounting. Amazingly, he had managed to accumulate \$1,663,000 in liquid assets. The formula he followed is one we would do well to heed.

What are your goals: Buying a home, a car, starting a business, putting the kids through college, finishing college yourself, changing careers, relocating, supporting a missionary, or tearing up those credit cards and paying off the debt?

Unless we know where we're going, we'll never know when we get there.

When we follow the formula on page 9, we make our money stretch even when the elastic goes dead.

"Financial freedom begins when we understand our role as stewards of God's resources."

Formula for Stretching Money

1. Understand the Biblical principles of stewardship. God wants to guide all our financial affairs. Never make a purchase, large or small, without making it a matter of prayer.
2. Adopt a frugal lifestyle. Reduce living expenses. Spend less than you earn over a long term. In other words, live within your means.
3. Don't go in debt. Like losing weight, it's much easier putting it on than taking it off. Debt is often a symptom of deeper problems that robs us from experiencing God's best. He has promised to supply all our needs (Philippians 4:19) and he hasn't failed yet.
4. Keep an adequate emergency fund available. The car may break down, the roof may leak, the kids may need braces. If the money is tucked away, we won't have to borrow it.
5. Set long-term goals. Setting goals is a Biblical admonition (Proverbs 30:25; 6:6-8). As we follow the example of the ant that prepared ahead, we formulate a plan and make that plan work.

The high cost of living is not our problem. The cost of living high is. If we have problems in this area, we may need to be accountable to someone more spiritually mature who will help us avoid impulse purchases.

Save first and spend later. A ballpark figure for saving is 10% of our income each year in an interest-bearing account.

Conclusion

One of the most startling verses found in the Bible is in 2 Corinthians 5:10. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he has done, whether it be good or bad."

The parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30 and the parable of the rich fool in Luke 12:16-21 also teach our accountability to God in the way we use our money.

May God help us be faithful stewards of that which He has entrusted to us.

Practical Tips:

- Check out yard sales/thrift stores.
- Buy good used automobiles.
- Consider generic brands, clip coupons, compare prices.
- Cut expenses in the home by lowering water temperature, turning off unused lights, timing telephone calls at low-rate hours, purchasing energy-efficient appliances.
- Limit times of eating out. Drink water. Ordering a drink adds a dollar to the bill.
- Make a practice of paying cash for purchases.
- Do not use credit cards unless they're paid off each month. Select cards that have no annual fee and offer a percentage return.
- Instead of subscribing to magazines, read them in the library.

Program Suggestions

The month before your meeting invite the women to share their best money-saving tips. Appoint someone as a personal interviewer to contact the women for their tips. Make it in the form of a contest. (The coordinator or pastor could serve as judge.) The most unique, practical or interesting tip wins a prize. Some suggestions are:

- a piggy bank
- a coupon organizer
- a gift certificate

Compile these tips and give each woman a copy.

A sure-fire winner: Invite a financial planner to address your women. Make it a Saturday brunch affair. Invite neighboring groups to meet with you.

This program lends itself to a panel format. Select three or four women who are reputedly good money managers. Plant questions among the women in the audience (see sample questions below). Assign these questions to the women so they can have prepared responses. Allow time for impromptu questions as well.

1. How can we teach our children the value of money? They won't wear anything except expensive name-brand clothing and are embarrassed when we use coupons at the restaurant.
2. I read that 80% of divorced couples between ages 20 and 30 list financial difficulties as the cause of their divorces. That scares me. How can I prevent our marriage from becoming such a statistic?
3. My question is about tithing. If a family is struggling financially and can't even make ends meet, does God expect that family to pay 10% and how do you determine the tithe—before or after deductions?
4. I understand that 40% of American families are in debt each year. How can you not be in debt and buy a house and car?
5. I heard of one lady who had 54 credit cards with over a \$50,000 debt. Finally she had to sell her house to pay off the debt. How do you feel about credit cards and how many is too many?

As an introduction to the program or to topic 1, ask two women to dialogue the following story, "The Pearl." Matthew 13:45-46 records Jesus' fascinating parable of a man who discovered a pearl. In order to obtain it, he had to sell everything he had. It cost him his all. Jesus is the Pearl of great price. You are the merchant. To see Him is to love Him. And to love Him is to want Him. How much does discipleship cost?

The Pearl

What is the price of such a pearl?

Oh, it is too dear, too costly.

But how much?

Well, it is very expensive.

Do you think I could buy it?

Oh, of course; anybody can.

But you say it is too expensive. How much is it?

It costs everything you have, no more, no less. So anybody can buy it.

I'll buy it.

What do you have? Let's write it down.

I have \$10,000 in the bank.

Good . . . \$10,000. What else?

I have nothing more. That is all I have.

Have you nothing more?

Well, I have some dollars here in my pocket.

How many?

I'll see . . . 30, 40, 50, 80, 100, 120 . . . \$120.

That's fine. What else do you own?

I have nothing else. That's all.

Where do you live?

I live in my house.

Good. I'll take the house, too.

But then I'll have to sleep in the garage.

Oh, you have a garage, too. Good, I'll take it.

But then I'd have to sleep in my car?

Oh, you have a car?

Yes, I have two.

Good. Both become mine—both cars. What else?

Well, you have the house, the garage, the cars, the money. . . everything. I have nothing else.

Are you alone in the world?

No, I have a wife and two children.

Your wife and children also.

Also?

Yes, everything you have. What else?

Oh? You, too. Everything. Everything becomes mine — wife, children, house garage, cars, money, everything. And you, too. Now you can use all of these things here, but don't forget they are mine, as you are. When I need any of these things you are using, you must give them to me because I am now the owner.

—source unknown

My Brother's Keeper?

Reclaiming Compassion



*H*ave we lost our compassion for people? Before answering that question, I consulted our trusted friend, Mr. Webster. Compassion means “sorrow for the sufferings or trouble of another or others accompanied by an urge to help; deep sympathy; pity.” Simply, do we care and show our concern for others be they family, friend or foe?

June Hersey is a former missionary to Japan. She now attends First Free Will Baptist Church in Dothan, Alabama.

"Why have we lost deep and genuine feelings for others and that urge to help?"

In observing our society today, I would have to answer this question by saying the majority of people are not compassionate. However, there are some who do have a compassionate heart and act accordingly. That being the case there is another question. Why have we lost deep and genuine feeling for others and that urge to help? My answer is indifference, inconvenience, fear, impatience, selfishness and lack of time.

Indifference

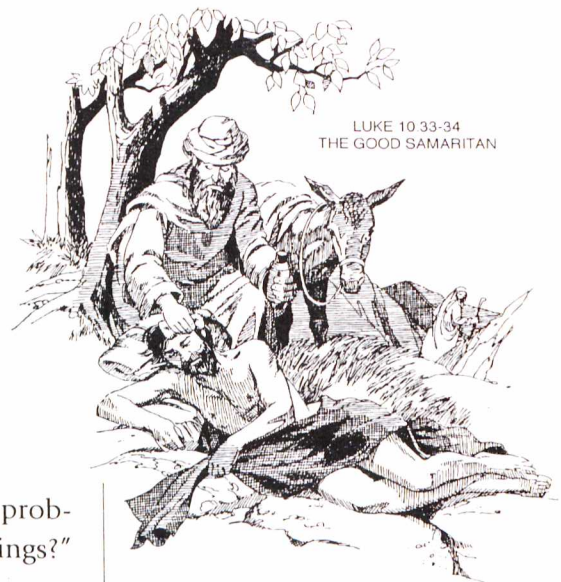
A good example of indifference comes from the very beginning of the human race. In Genesis 4:9, Cain was asked the whereabouts of his brother Abel. His reply is the one often given today, maybe not always in spoken word, but in one's attitude toward others. "Am I my brother's keeper?" In other words, "What is she to me that

I should care about her problems, heartaches or sufferings?"

In Luke 10:25-37 Jesus gave an example of two indifferent people and a compassionate one. It is the story of the Good Samaritan. A modern-day version might read as follows:

"Now it came to pass that a certain man was traveling Lonesome Street, a lonely and dark road from Tom's Tavern to Bill's Bar, and behold liquor got a hold of him and left him destitute and dying on Skid Row. A respected religious leader passed by and decided the man was too drunk to talk about his soul, therefore, the leader continued on his way.

"Soon a social worker, whose training taught him how to care for persons with all kinds of social and personal problems, came by. He saw the man stretched out on the side-



walk. He looked at him but also concluded that the drunk was beyond help. He, too, continued on his way.

"After some time a person of another ethnic group came down Lonesome Street. He was not in 'his neighborhood.' Unliked by many and watched with suspicion by the police, he saw the dying drunk. As he stopped, he spoke soothing words as he lifted the drunk man in his arms and took him to a place where he knew the man would be cared for."

Perhaps Abraham Lincoln identified with the last traveler when he said, "I am sorry for the man who can't feel the whip when it is laid on the other man's back."

Inconvenience

We are often like the man who was telling his wife about passing a woman in a down-pour of rain. She had a flat tire and was standing helplessly by the side of her car. "I thought to myself," he said, "how awful

"I would have stopped if I weren't on my way to work."

it is that people do not help such a poor woman. I would have stopped if I weren't on my way to work."

Fear

In a society with locked doors and barred windows, people live with many apprehensions. Fear of physical harm, rejection and being wrongfully judged grips people's hearts daily. Let's lay

aside our fears to help someone whose anxiety might be greater, more real or more justified than our own.

A story is told of a child who had to walk each evening past a dark, spooky house. Some adults sought to give him courage. One handed him a good luck charm to ward off the ghosts. Another had a light put on the dreaded corner. Still another said earnestly, "It is sinful to be afraid. Trust God and be brave!" The advice was good, but he offered nothing more. Then someone said with compassion, "I know what it is to be afraid. I will walk with you past the house." He did nothing to remove the fear — except to lift it from the child's shoulders and place it on his own.

Seek the Lord's wisdom for those standing in need of a compassionate heart. Deuteronomy 31:8 reassures God's presence as we carry the burden of those hurting around us.

Impatience

Sometimes dealing with people who are suffering or who have many problems can try our patience. We think people are unresponsive or unwilling to do their part to overcome their problems, or they take advantage of our willingness to help. Paul admonishes us in Colossians 3:12 to "put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering. . ."

Selfishness

The present generation has been named the "Me" generation. For the most part it seems we are only concerned with what is good for me or mine.

"Sometimes dealing with people who are suffering or who have many problems can try our patience."

"What is in it for me?" is a prevailing attitude.

The greatest example of unselfishness is Christ's death on the cross. He knew from the beginning of time that His role in God's plan of redemption meant



taking on himself the sin of all people of all time and laying down His life. He could have offered the same excuses we offer for not being obedient to God (1 John 3:16-17). Let us relinquish our selfish attitude and let the prayer of our hearts be "Others, Lord, yes others, let this my motto be. Help me to live for others that I might live for thee."

Too busy

"I'm just too busy" or "I just don't want to get involved" are common responses when a person is asked to perform benevolent activities or participate in compassionate ministries. God gave 168 hours in a week. Surely some time could be found for a look, a smile, a touch, a kind word or act of compassion. Matthew 9:36 says, "But when He saw the multitude, He was moved with compassion..."

Keith Miller, in his book, "A Second Touch," tells of a businessman who one night turned his life over to Jesus Christ. The next morning he was late for his train. In a hurry, he bumped into a small boy with a puzzle in his hand, scattering the puzzle pieces everywhere. Instead of rushing on, he stopped, stooped down and helped pick up the pieces while the train moved out of the station. After he had finished, the little lad looked up into his face and asked, "Mister, are you Jesus?" Then said the man, "I realized that at least in some small way, Christ truly was in my heart."

Does your compassion reflect Christ's compassion?

Conclusion

The following story shows human answers to the question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" This, my friend, is true compassion.

The Pit

A man fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out.

A SUBJECTIVE person came along and said, "I FEEL for you down there."

An OBJECTIVE person came along and said, "It's logical that someone would fall down there."

A PHARISEE said, "Only BAD people fall into a pit."

A MATHEMATICIAN calculated HOW the man fell into the pit.

A NEWS REPORTER wanted the exclusive story on the man's pit.

CONFUCIUS said, "If you would have listened to me, you would not be in that pit."

BUDDHA said, "Your pit is only a state of mind."

A SCIENTIST calculated the pressure necessary (lbs./sq.in) to get the man out of the pit.

A GEOLOGIST told him to appreciate the rock strata in the pit.

AN EVOLUTIONIST said, "You are a rejected mutant destined to be removed from the evolutionary cycle." In other words, the man is going to DIE in the pit, so he cannot produce any "pit-falling offspring."

The COUNTY INSPECTOR asked if he had a permit to dig a pit.

A PROFESSOR gave him a lecture on "The Elementary Principles of the Pit."

A SELF-PITYING person said, "You haven't seen anything until you've seen MY PIT!!"

An OPTIMIST said, "Things COULD be worse."

A PESSIMIST said, "Things WILL get worse!"

JESUS, seeing the man, took him by the hand and LIFTED HIM OUT of the pit. (Psalm 40:1-3)

— source unknown



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator/Assistant Coordinator

The WNAC National Convention is just about here. Take an active role in the 2000 convention held in Anaheim, California. Encourage your women to attend, and for those who can't attend, encourage them to pray for the leaders of our denomination.

August is WNAC Emphasis month. Look in the Communicator on page 19 for all the information you need about Emphasis. Remember, packets will not be mailed this year. The order form can be found on page 17 of this issue of *CoLaborer*.

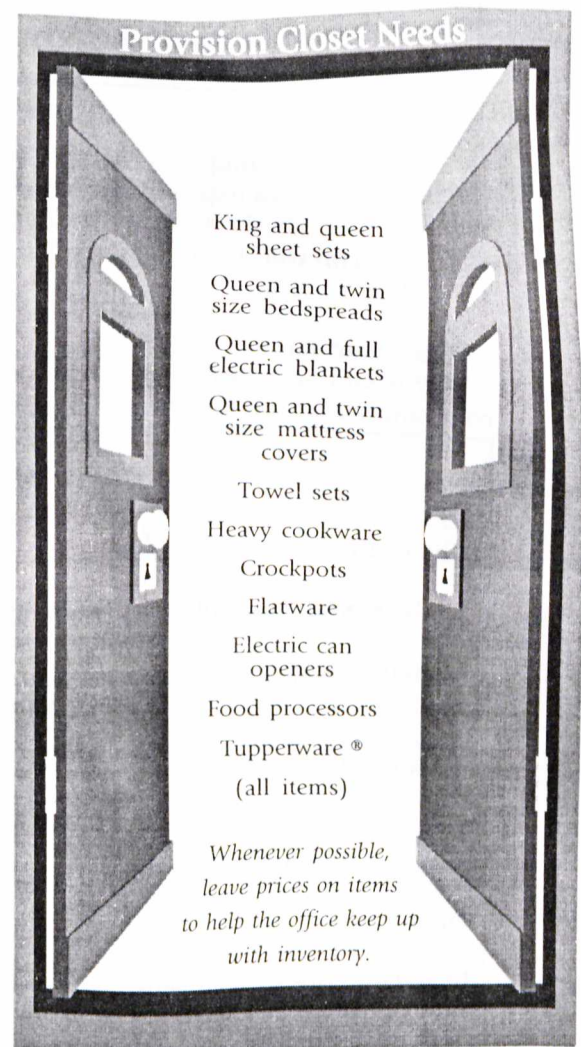
Emphasis month is a crucial time for WNAC. Begin your plans now to showcase your organization to the women in your church who are not active in your local group. Here are some suggestions to make your Emphasis month successful. Display pictures on a table or a bulletin board of your women along with information about your activities. Socials are also good ways to recruit women to take part in your organization. Ask each woman in your church to bring a place setting of her china to a luncheon. Display the china and enjoy great fellowship and food while getting to know one another.

Don't forget the 2000 WNAC Retreat at Ridgecrest, NC, September 14-16. Make plans now for a wonderful weekend full of growth and enrichment.

Secretary/Treasurer

Remember to fill out the delegate form for the WNAC National Convention. Each local church may elect one delegate to register for voting privileges in the WNAC Convention. The form must be completed and a \$5 registration fee is required.

Local Treasurers should send a report to the District Treasurer every month. Even if an offering is small, the money is combined with other local reports which makes a big difference for WNAC.



Missions Chairman

Missionaries' kids will begin school soon. Plan now to help buy new school supplies or clothes. Your group can choose the missionary you want to support, contact the family for school supply needs, then collect the items in mid-August to mail to the missionary, or send school supplies to the MK Provision Closet.

Prayer Chairman

For August, copy the prayer reminder below to hand out to the women in your group. Since this is emphasis month, these requests focus on the women of WNAC around the world.

August Emphasis Prayer Requests:

- California State officers as they prepare for the 2000 convention
- National Officers
- WNAC members and officers (local, district, state)
- Marjorie Workman, WNAC Executive Secretary
- Women in FWB churches who are uninvolved in WNAC that they would see WNAC as an opportunity for spiritual growth, fellowship, and ministry in their lives
- WNAC Staff
- Financial support for a solid base of operation that meets current and future financial needs

Study Chairman

Be sure that your group is receiving *Women's Beat*. If you're not receiving this publication, you can request it free of charge through Foreign Missions. This publication will help keep you and your group up to date with women missionaries around the world. Subscribe by calling Foreign Missions toll free at 1-877-767-7736.

Service Chairman

July would be a great time to remember the veterans in your church or community. Plan to honor them with a special luncheon or dedication service.



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 WNAC for current needs.

Suggested items:

- Walkman cassette players
- Christian music on CD or cassette

WNAC local Delegate Form

This certifies that _____ is an authorized delegate

to the WNAC Convention of Free Will Baptists from the _____
(Group Name)

women's group of _____ Free Will Baptist Church,
(Church Name)

(Church Address)

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

Date _____

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

Clip and attach to Convention Pre-Registration in Contact magazine or bring to the WNAC Convention.

Resource Sheet for WNAC Emphasis

Order by calling Toll Free: 1-877-767-7662 * Order by e-mail: WNAC@NAFWB.ORG

	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
CoLaborer Magazine July/August: Single Copy		\$1.50 (includes shipping & handling).	
Manual: Includes officers' guides		\$10	
Study Guide		\$3	
Books: Beyond the Gate, autobiography of Mabel Bailey Willey, Wischart		\$19.95	
Parliamentary Procedures		\$2	
Sparks into Flame: A History of WNAC, Wischart, (with study guide)		\$5	
The Free Will Baptist Woman's Missionary Society (1780-1920)		\$1	
First Fruits: Answered Prayer on the Mission Field, Miley		\$5	
2001 Yearbook: Emphasis Program		\$6	
Enlistment Program			
Suggestions for Programs			
Sale			
2000 Yearbook		\$3	
Quarter Folders:		free	
Brochures: Emphasis		free	
A Door Ajar		free	
shipping and handling Amount Enclosed:			

Shipping and Handling

Charges:

\$3 for 1 Manual + \$1 for each additional Manual

All other materials unless otherwise specified:

\$1 to \$5 .50 per dollar

\$6 to \$10 .40 per dollar

\$11 to \$20 .35 per dollar

\$21 to up .30 per dollar

Please fill out and mail entire form to : WNAC

P.O. Box 5002

Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Please send payment with order and include shipping and handling (see box to the left for shipping and handling charges)

Name:

Church:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Telephone:

Lucy & Marge

MARGE: Do you know what our program is this month, Lucy?

LUCY: (Sarcastically) No, but I'm sure you do, Marge. Tell me.

MARGE: It's "How to Stretch Your Money When the Elastic Goes Dead."

LUCY: I know about dead elastic. I've got some clothes that just won't stretch any farther. The elastic is dead!

MARGE: I think this program is designed to help us learn to stretch our dollars, not our waistbands, Lucy.

LUCY: I could use some help there, too. Do you ever run out of money before the end of the month?

MARGE: Sure, most of us do. But, the program is designed to help us make better choices about how to spend our money.

LUCY: Do you get as many offers for credit cards as I do (have a hand full to display). Look, these came in the mail today! And they all make such great offers.

MARGE: But Lucy, they still charge high interest, don't they.

LUCY: Well yes, but the monthly payments are so low! Look at all the shopping I could do if I had several different cards. The payment on each card wouldn't be much at all.

MARGE: But if you paid the minimum payment, it would take 20 years to pay them back, Lucy!

LUCY: Oh well, maybe before 20 years the Lord will come back, or I'll die.

MARGE: Lucy, you're not being sensible.

LUCY: But if I don't use credit cards, I can't have all the things I want.

MARGE: The question is, do you have all the things you need?

LUCY: Well, of course none of us is hungry, and all of us have clothes.

MARGE: And you have a nice home, and cars, and a boat, and a camper, and ...

LUCY: Stop! Stop! Okay, so we do have plenty and abundance. So tell me, Marge, what should we be doing with our money?

MARGE: That's just what the July program is all about. Come to (place and date) and you'll hear someone who knows how to make your money stretch.

LUCY: That sounds good, Marge. I'd like to bring my oldest daughter, and my next door neighbor.

MARGE: Invite as many as you can. We'll be glad to have them.

LUCY: Well, I know one thing, one way to save money is to cut up all these credit cards and throw them in the trash.

MARGE: Now you're making sense, Lucy!

LUCY: I can be sensible at times!

Lucy & Marge in this issue is written by Mary R. Wisehart and Yvonne Hampton of Nashville, TN.





Communicator

by Marjorie Workman

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WNAC EMPHASIS MONTH

August is the designated month for WNAC emphasis.

Purpose: To present your local Women Active for Christ ministry before the church. Ask your pastor for a special service or several spot moments during the month to showcase your group's ministry.

Give an opportunity for your church to partner with the women to receive an offering for WNAC operations.

Expenses exceed the income from dues and magazine subscriptions, so the Emphasis Offering is extremely important for the successful operation of the WNAC office. Your offering will help maintain the Missionary Provision Closet, provide free promotional materials for missions, receipt and disburse missions' income, pay rent and utilities, and support a staff of four dedicated women who are serving you.

All Women Active for Christ Groups, along with their churches, should participate in this once-a-year opportunity for emphasizing the purpose and activities of WNAC.

Check out the Emphasis Order Form on page 17, and order materials that will assist you in having a successful Emphasis Month.

A special emphasis skit, "A Door Ajar for the Dream Team," is in the 2000 Yearbook. Order your copy while supplies last. **ON SALE NOW** for \$3.00. Regular price is \$6.00.

Emphasis Packets have been discontinued. Necessary information for a successful Emphasis Month can be found in this issue of CoLaborer and in the 2000 Yearbook.

Women In Action

The Blue Bell FWB WAC in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, hosted a special Missionary service.

Sherry Hanna, home missionary to Edmond, Oklahoma, was the guest speaker. She shared a personal testimony and song.



Gustavo and Norma Zuniga were welcomed to Memphis, Tennessee by women's groups from the churches in the West Tennessee District Association. The Zunigas are working to establish Hope Iglesia Hispana Bautista de Livre Albedrio as an outreach to the Spanish-speaking population in the area.

Grace and Liberty WAC's have participated in Saturday outreach days at the Hope Church. Fellow Free Will Baptists show through food, supplies and fellowship that the Hispanic community is welcome.

Marjorie Workman, Executive Secretary of WNAC, greets Elvia Escobar on her visit to the National Offices. Elvia is the President of WAC in Mexico.



Reservation Form

Free Will Baptist WNAC National Retreat

Ridgecrest Conference Center
Ridgecrest, North Carolina

Theme: Keys to Growth
September 14-16, 2000

ACCOMMODATIONS

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

Please indicate the # of rooms requested:

- ☐ 1 per room: \$172
☐ 2 per room: \$124
☐ 3 per room: \$112
☐ 4 per room: \$106

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

Your Name: _____

Group/Church Name (if applicable): _____

Home Telephone: _____

Work Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Special Needs: ☐ Disabled access ☐ First floor

GROUP RESERVATIONS:

Total number of rooms needed _____

Number of persons in group _____

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

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

Arrival date: _____

First meal: _____

Departure date: _____

Last meal: _____

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

SEND TO: Ridgecrest Conference Center, P.O. Box 128,
Ridgecrest, NC 28770. Fax (828) 669-9721;
Telephone 1-800-588-7222.

NO REFUNDS after August 31, 2000.

Daytime only participants: \$35.00 per adult plus meal costs. Breakfast: \$5.75; Lunch: \$7.00; Dinner: \$8.00.

Transportation:

Ridgecrest is located 17 miles east of Asheville, NC, on Interstate, 40, exit 66. At the top of the ramp, turn left. At the first junction, turn right onto Old U.S. 70. The Ridgecrest entrance is on the left.

The Asheville Regional Airport is serviced by the following airlines: Delta, American, US Air and United.

A Few Ridgecrest Guidelines:

Ridgecrest is a Christian conference center. Guests are expected to dress reflecting a Christian example.

Ridgecrest facilities and grounds are designated as a tobacco-free environment.

No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are permitted on the conference center campus.

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

☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Discover

Signature: _____

Cardholder's Name (print clearly): _____

Card Acct #: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Life!Action

a column for teens

Grateful Hearts

We thank God for our food and for this day. We thank Him for a good night's rest and a chance to be in His house. We have so many thankful cliches. Most of our thanks is a short introduction to a long list of requests. True gratefulness, however, is much more than simple "thank you's." During the summer of 1993 I learned three important lessons about true gratefulness.

True gratefulness starts with remembering

I was a member of the Truth and Peace Leadership conference that summer. It was a Tuesday night and I was sitting in the Student Center at Free Will Baptist Bible College waiting for the service to start. I was in a thoughtful mood. I began to think how cool it was that I was a part of this seventy-two member conference. I thought of all the circumstances that had brought me to this point in my life. I thought about my parents, who were not only Christians, but actively lived out their faith in front of me. I thought about the fact that I had been born in America and all the blessings that come from it. Finally my thoughts took me to God's marvelous, infinite grace. His grace had saved me, changed me, and was sanctifying me. As I sat and considered all these things I was overwhelmed. To be honest, I felt like I was going to throw up. Instead, I wept and thanked God as I never had before. In that moment, I became truly grateful.

The twenty-third Psalm is a song of gratefulness. As the Psalmist writes, he is taken back to his shepherding days and the "green pastures" and the "still waters." He remembers how God's "rod and staff" comforted him while standing before a menacing giant. As David remembered, he

became grateful. What has God done for you? Take a moment to consider how God has blessed. Recall the blessings that have brought you to where you are today and thank God.

True gratefulness causes us to fall in love with Jesus

Thinking of all my blessings, I realized they were products of Jesus' sacrificial gift on the cross. When we fall in love, we stand in awe of another person. We consider who they are, not just what they do for us. When Jesus healed the possessed man in Mark 5, the man begged to go with Jesus into the boat. When Jesus healed people they immediately fell in love with Him out of gratefulness.

Romans 2:4 clearly states that "the goodness of God leads to repentance." When we are grateful for God's healing, we can't help but immediately fall in love with Him.

True gratefulness causes us to take action

Why me? Of all the people in the world, why was I given so much? Then Luke 12:48 came to mind, "To whom much is given, much is required." It was awesome what God had done for me, but now I had a responsibility. Someday we will all stand before God and give an account for what we have done with all he has given us. God made Abraham a great nation and through Jesus, one of his descendants, blessed the entire world. God wants to immeasurably bless you and me, and through us, He wants to change the world.

Are you willing to do anything for God? Are you truly grateful?

Kristie Baker

Age: 24 years old

*Church: Trinity Free Will Baptist,
Greeneville, N.C.*

*Occupation: Director's assistant at Sylvan
Learning Center*

Pet: Dog, Violet

A Promise Kept

The Story of an Unforgettable love

reviewed by YVONNE HAMPTON—WNAC Executive Assistant

A PROMISE KEPT by Robertson McQuilkin is the true story of a husband's unforgettable love for his "precious" Murial. The author shares his innermost feelings. The book begins with Murial's journey into the twilight of forgetfulness and confusion caused by Alzheimer's. After asking himself the question, "Would anyone love and care for her as I do?" he made a firm decision to care for his beloved at home. This decision led to his surprising resignation as President of Columbia Bible College to become his wife's primary caregiver. To him this was no sacrifice, but in his words, "a joy to care for and love someone who is altogether lovable." He takes

the reader on an emotional journey, sharing victory and defeat, hope and despair, joy and sorrow. He opens his heart and gives a glimpse of one of the most touching love stories I have ever read.

The story, written with honesty and candor, shares the good times and the bad. He allows the reader to grasp the beauty of tender moments and deeper love. He also shows the despair of trying to dress someone who won't cooperate, feed someone who refuses to eat, and the frustration of "cleaning up the messes" of daily life.

A love story?

Indeed it is. But this well-written, beautifully illustrated book is much more. The book is about integrity. McQuilkin challenges us to keep our promise to love "in sickness

and in health, till death do us part." He encourages us to follow through with commitments. The reader also understands the power of God's love to liberate in the very bondage imposed by unwanted circumstances.

"McQuilkin challenges us to keep our promise to love in sickness and in health, till death do us part."



A Promise Kept
Robertson McQuilkin
Tyldale House Publishers, Inc.
85 pages

This book may be purchased for \$9.99 plus \$2 postage and handling through WNAC. Order toll free (1-877-767-7662, by e-mail (wnac@nafwb.org) or U.S. Mail (P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002).



Dear WNAC,

Thank you very much for letting me write the guest editorial for your March/April issue of *CoLaborer*.

Thank you also for featuring so many of our missionaries and articles in your magazine. I trust the Lord will use this material to speak to the ladies to have a greater vision for the lost around the world.

I commend you, WNAC, for the outstanding ministry you have with the Free Will Baptist Women across the world.

A fellow Laborer,

James Forlines, General Director, Foreign Missions

To all my friends at CoLaborer,

I enjoy our magazine very much. All of you work so very hard to see that we have a magazine to aid in our spiritual growth, and I am thankful to God for each of you. May God bless and keep each of you.

Love in Christ,

Amy Tyson, Grifton FWB, Grifton, NC

WNAC,

We enjoy the *CoLaborer* so much. Keep up the good work, and may God bless all of you.

Pansy Cravens, Princeton FWB, Pomona, CA

Dear WNAC,

We just wanted you to know that we appreciate so much your part in our missionary work.

According to our records, you gave \$1,517 for our missionary work during 1999. Of course, you may have given to other missionaries as well during this time. We just wanted to give you a "hand."

Thank You,

Dave Jr. & Becky Franks, missionaries to Uruguay

Women Nationally Active for Christ

National Convention

65th Annual Session

Anaheim, California

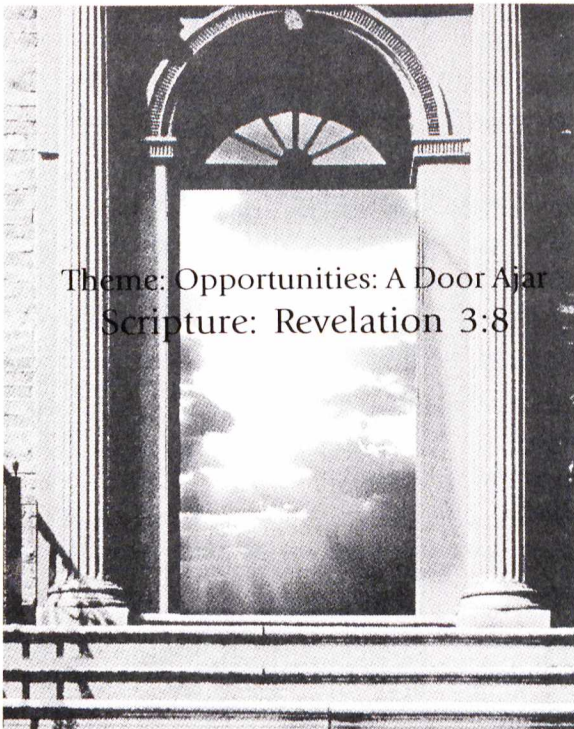
July 17-18

MONDAY AFTERNOON July 17

WNAC SEMINARS

Hilton Anaheim: California Pavilion C

- 1:30 Theme: When Cancer Comes to Your House
Presiding: Dawn Sweeney
Speaker: Joanna Felts
- 3:00 STATE LEADERS MEETING
Topic: Treat Yourself To A Retreat
Presiding: Marjorie Workman



Theme: Opportunities: A Door Ajar
Scripture: Revelation 3:8

TUESDAY MORNING July 18

Convention Center Arena

- 8:30 Presiding: Debe Taylor
Congregational Singing
Special Music: Sue Myers
Devotional: Elaine Holland
Welcome: Melba Hibbard
Creative Arts Awards: Rhonda McReynolds
Credentials Committee Report/Seating of Delegates
Executive Secretary-Treasurer's Report:
Marjorie Workman
Resolutions Committee Report
Appreciation Committee Report
Partial Registration Report
- 11:00 MISSIONARY SERVICE
Congregational Singing
Offering
Special Music: The Sunrise Quartet
Message: Annette Aycock

TUESDAY AFTERNOON July 18

Convention Center Arena

- 12:30 WNAC FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON
Hilton Anaheim Pacific-A
Invocation: Yvonne Brown
Speaker: Pat Clary
Benediction: Diana Bryant

Poet's Corner

Mamie

Kathleen Thomas, Albany, GA

Mamie lies on her back in bed,
Her once lively brown eyes now focused on the ceiling.
No words form from her frail, dry lips
From which her frowns and smiles have gone.

Her limbs, oh so still, as I knelt by her side.
I whispered into her ear a song,
"Jesus loves me this I know,
for the Bible tells me so."

The tears that streaked down her face,
With love were gently wiped away.
I breathed a prayer and called her name.
Her lower lip quivers with each refrain.

"The time is late, I must go my friend."
I whispered as our visit neared its end.
I was glad I had come, the visit was dear,
And I recalled as I left . . . I called Mamie my friend.

Prayer

Published in 1872, by a FWB woman

Overwhelmed amid the billows,
On the dark and stormy sea,
Drifting helpless, in our anguish,
Lord, we look to Thee!

In this hour of need extremest,
When all other hope is fled,
Speak, as thou didst speak to Peter,
Say, "Be not afraid."



Guest Speaker: *Gail Smith*

WNAC National Retreat

Theme: Keys to Growth
Ridgecrest Conference Center
September 14-16, 2000

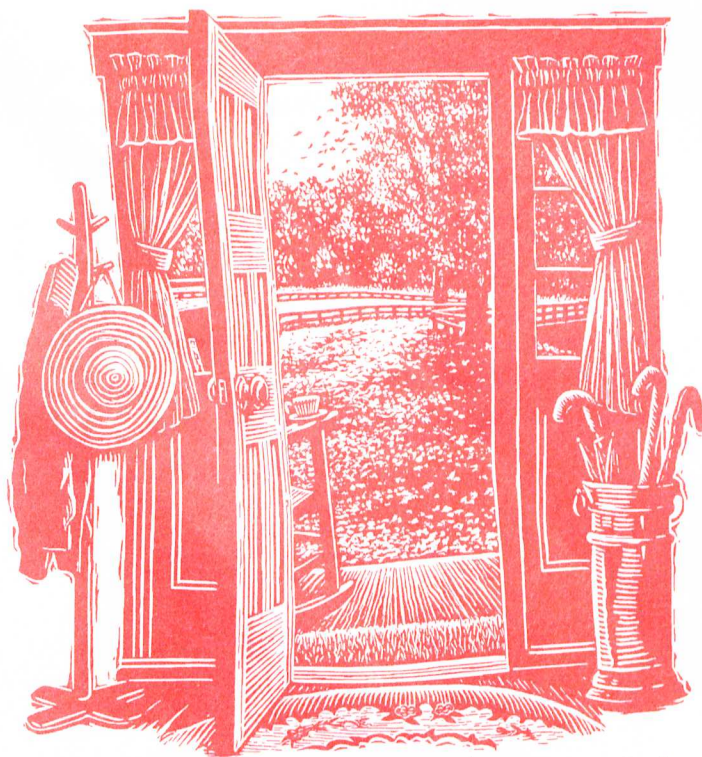
Gail Smith, the first lady of piano, will excite the Christian woman to grow in the key areas of life. She is one of the foremost composer/arrangers in the field of sacred piano music and a highly respected music educator.

"The piano lady" has taught students from the age of 3 up to age 99. She has given concerts in churches and workshops on improvisation throughout the USA, Germany and Japan.

See page 21 for retreat reservation form.

A Door Still Open

by Debe Taylor, WNAC President



Sixty-five years ago God opened a door of ministry to Free Will Baptist women. Taking a step of faith, they organized WNAC.

From its inception, WNAC's heartbeat has been missions. As stated in the Manual for Free Will Baptist Women's Organizations, the purpose of the organization was: "to lead the women of the Free Will Baptist church into a larger share in the winning of the world to Christ."

For years WNAC was known as "THE mission arm of the church." Numerous mission projects began as a result the mission fervor of Free Will Baptist women.

The past six decades have brought many changes in Free Will Baptists. More churches see the need and urgency of a world-wide mission program. More individuals are surrendering to the call to full time service in missions. More fields have opened to allow the sharing of the gospel.

Do these changes lessen the responsibility of or diminish the

"...Behold, I have set before thee an open door..." (Revelation 3:8)

need for WNAC? Most certainly not! More than ever WNAC is needed to continue to keep missions in the forefront.

Addressing the same issue among the Southern Baptists, Dellanne O'Brien, retired Executive Director of Women's Missionary Union, wrote, "We should rejoice that, because of WMU's faithfulness to the missions cause, today the local church, and indeed the entire Convention, recognizes the importance of missions education, support, and involvement. We must remember, however, that without an advocate for missions in the local church, this fervor will soon wane. It is up to us as members of WMU to keep the flame of missions alive." The same can be echoed for WNAC!

A new century looms promisingly before us. God's command still rings out, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel..." (Matthew 28:20a) WNAC's purpose is firm: "To provide opportunities for women to understand and fulfill the Great Commission through their responsibilities in the family, in the church, in the community, and around the world."

More than ever, Free Will Baptist women must be "Laborers together with God" (1 Corinthians 3:9). We must conceive new ideas, adopt new methods, and implement new programs as we continue to share the ageless gospel. Will you be a part of WNAC's future? The door opened by the Lord in 1935 must remain open!

When the Lord Calls

by Fran Gist



"Nor am I unique in that many before me have had a heart transplant through our Lord's mercy and grace."

With most opportunities beyond the realm of experience, there's a tendency to become anxious. I felt blinded about what I should expect or what would be expected of me when I was called to the jail and prison ministry. I am happy to report that anxiety has been replaced by anticipation.

My greatest concern lay in being able to relate. How would I be able to relate to the men and women I was to send letters and studies to? I've learned we share many common areas. These men and women are either our brothers and sisters in Christ or they are being called by God. Many times those who have "ulterior" motives don't know that they are under the conviction of the Lord.

God presented the opportunity to attend church with the ladies at our county jail. Again, I faced anxiety.

I had made Gloria's acquaintance over the phone. When she asked me about my testimony, I shared willingly. The subject of actually going into the jail

Fran Gist serves as renewal services coordinator with Hands of Liberty Ministry. Hands of Liberty is an outreach of Liberty Free Will Baptist Church in Cottonwood, California. The ministry focuses on prison and jail evangelism.

quickly came up and so did the fear. I was there to observe on the initial visit but found myself, instead, giving my testimony to the ladies. I'm sure everyone has heard of "love at first sight." That is where I found myself when I least expected it.

"... I threw up my hands, spun on my heels and walked away."

Slowly and beautifully, realization dawned. I attended a meeting between the two ministries that serve the ladies in our county. I was the only one there who didn't have an immediate family member incarcerated, past or present.

I am confident that I am not unique from the standpoint that I am unfamiliar with being incarcerated. Nor am I unique in that many before me have had a heart transplant through our Lord's mercy and grace. Many will come beside me in the future. Perhaps I will come beside another brother or sister from similar circumstances.

You see, my testimony, at least in part, involves forgiving my younger brother's murderer.

Years after this tragedy, my older brother was ministering to me about separation of the sin and sinner. Convicted, I tried to do this and managed the logic but could go no further. "Hate the sin and love the sinner." Picking up a foreign text and fluently reading it would have been easier. Finally, in complete frustration, I spoke heavenward through clenched teeth. "I'm sorry. I—don't—know—how."

That was when I threw up my hands, spun on my heels and walked away.

Months later the scenario returned to my mind's eye. The scene that the Lord presented was as vivid as it had been in the past. God opened my eyes to see two deaths that day. My brother's death was one. The boy that was sentenced 15 years to life in prison was the other.

"The blessings are greater than I thought possible because when the Lord called, I walked through the door."

He fell dead to the life he had known and to the innocence that should have been his to claim at the age of 17.

Heartbreak for the tragedy in his life left me in a state of wonder. I no longer hated him. I loved him.

Where once I faced anxiety regarding expectations, I've learned to anticipate future transformations with an open heart.



I received a spiritual "get out of jail free card." I offer this to anyone that is even remotely interested in experiencing miracles in her life. The blessings are greater than I thought possible. It all came about because when the Lord called, I walked through the door—just as Christ walked through my heart's door three years ago.

Mission Alert

Evangelism News from Around the World

sentation of the gospel was given, so pray that the seeds sown will take root in the hearts of these people.

Korea

Three milestones were reached in March: The Free Will Baptist Church for All Nations organized in Seoul, the Asia Free Will Baptist Theological Seminary started with 17 students enrolled and the Free Will Baptist Association of Korea officially organized with 32 ministers attending. Pray for Dr. John Chang, coordinator for the ministry in Korea.

New Mexico

Tim Byers continues to experience some physical problems. Please remember him in prayer. His wife Lori is expecting their second child. She needs our prayer as she takes care of Tim.

United States

Operation Saturation is scheduled for September 30, 2000. Pray for volunteers to assist the Home Missions churches around the country. Pray that seeds will be sown in the hearts of many.

10/40 Window

Pray for workers in restricted access areas. Ask God to give them spiritual strength and discernment as they have opportunities to witness for Him. Pray for fruit to come from their labors among unreached peoples.

Côte d'Ivoire

According to Ernest Holland, the Bible study with a group of people from Ghana is going well. Recently, 12 people attended, and they are beginning to ask a lot of questions. Among the group is a Muslim fellow who has a Bible in his tribal language which he reads faithfully. Pray that this young man and others will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Spain

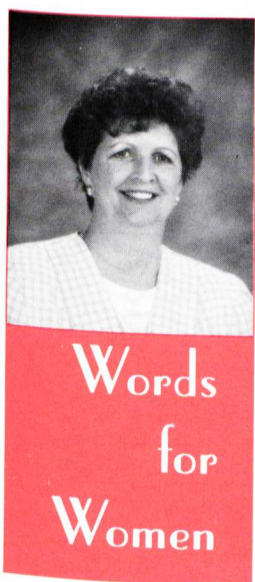
Cafe y Algo Mas (Coffee and Something More) hosted by the Villalba church in Spain was attended by 78 people, and at least 15 of these were unsaved family members or friends. A clear pre-

Brazil

The congregation at Belo Horizonte, Brazil held a special service in honor of Dave and Pat Franks on Sunday evening, April 2, 2000. The Franks will be retiring in a few months after almost 43 years of service. They left Brazil on April 4 to return to the States. Pray that God will give them direction as they make this transition.

India

Foreign Missions board member Sherwood Lee has returned to the States after attending the annual conference in India. He indicated the churches in India are growing, which was evident by the attendance of over 3,000 people at the conference. Pray for Carlisle Hanna and the national pastors as they continue to spread God's Word in India.



*Marjorie H.
Workman*

HANDS ON

*M*y heart's desire is to be used of God. To be "a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (2 Timothy 2:21b). I'm not a spectator. I want in on the action. I'm a participator.

Neither do I want to be a "hearer" only. I want to be a "doer." Doing is harder than sitting, listening, and leaving unmoved by a sermon or lesson. Hearing a great challenge is easier than participating in the challenge. If you choose to do nothing, life goes on routinely week after week. I do not want to become hardened to the people around me who are lost without Christ.

What stirs you? Is it an all-star baseball game? A murder mystery movie or book? A little league tournament involving your child? All of us have passions that motivate us. But, are we discerning between the "pleasures for a season" and those that last for eternity? These events are fine providing we don't allow them to rob us of the eternal. Here's a challenge for you.

Saturday, September 30, 2000 is an opportunity for action. It is one of the greatest challenges ever offered by Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Women, laymen, ministers, and youth are invited to partner together in Operation Saturation. The objective is to involve Free Will Baptists across the country to assist our Home Missionaries in contacting as many families as possible and plant the seed of the gospel. This will be a united effort to reach at least 100,000 homes in one day.

This is a "hands on" opportunity to get the gospel out. WNAC is missions,

not just about missions. We are partnering with Master's Men, Home Missions, and Randall House Publications to put literature in as many homes as possible on this date. What can you do?

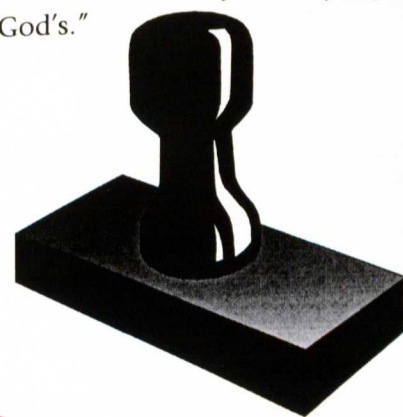
Plan. Organize your women to go as a group to a mission work in your state or to an isolated mission in another state.

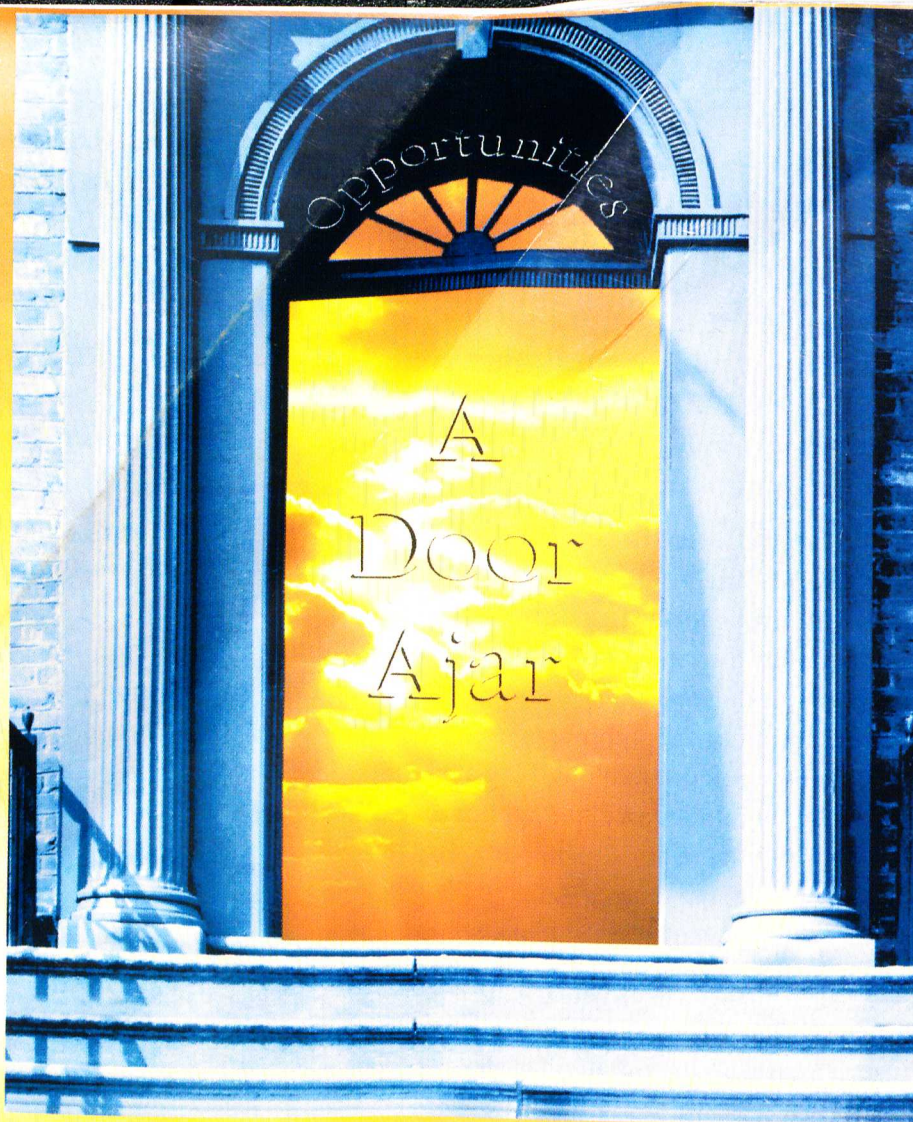
Contact the missionary. Let him know you have chosen to help him. He will coordinate the work you will do.

Work. Your tasks may be stuffing the bags that will be placed in the homes, helping with the food to feed those participating, or praying. You may want to be one of those going door-to-door making contacts.

Give. Money is needed to purchase the gospel presentation booklets, name tags and other supplies.

Pray. Pray before you go. Pray even if you can't go. Pray while you're going. When you arrive, pray. Pray for results in the days following Operation Saturation. You probably will not see many results on the big day. What you may see is hostility, rejection, and rudeness. But go under God's power and not your own. John Quincy Adams said, "The duty is ours, the results are God's."





Women Nationally Active for Christ 2000 Emphasis

CoLaborer Magazine

P.O. Box 5002

Antioch, TN 37011-5002

*Periodical postage paid at Antioch, Tennessee
and additional mailing offices*

Postmaster: Send address changes to above
address.



*****3-DIGIT 372

FWBBC LIBRARY
3606 W End Ave
Nashville TN 37205 2403