

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

CoLaborer

Open Hearts,
Open Doors

Letting Go

CAC Winners

Sept • OCT 2000

VISION

Rhonda McReynolds



Be Still

Five thirty a.m. The alarm blasts in a shrill "beep." Drowsily, my feet touch the floor and somehow scoot the rest of my body into the bathroom. A hazy reality quickly sets in—I'm late!

Then, it begins. The day. The race. The chaos—Life.

I'm finally presentable. Running through the house in a mad dash, I grab my purse in one hand, my bagel in the other hand, my lunch bag gets squeezed between my arm and side—and I'm off! The day has officially begun, and I'm already behind.

Work doesn't offer much solace. As soon as the doors are open, the phones begin to ring, the computer keys click, voices echo in the background, and the copier rattles as it gets jammed with hundreds of sheets of paper. The race speeds up as the day progresses.

Five o'clock traffic—cars stalled, horns blow, road ragers rage. I take a minute to thank God for bringing me home safely.

Now, the pots and pans begin to rattle, the dishes clang, the washing machine beats, while the vacuum cleaner sings in harmony with the rest of the surrounding chaos.

In the midst of it all, no matter if I'm running out the door for work, sprinting through the grocery store or speeding into the car shop, I hear that still small voice, and my chaos turns into a deafening calmness.

"Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

These words alone envelope my life in a peace that can not be understood. In the midst of a storm, or just throughout a regular busy day, these words can halt all speeding bullets shooting right for me.

Sometimes it's easy to forget the Master when I'm running full speed ahead just to keep up with the pace.

But, during the busiest times, He seems to always speak clearly—"Be still." If I can just hear these words, God will always make our time spent together worthwhile.

Then, the winds calm, the waves break, the black clouds roll away and time ceases to exist when I allow myself to be still and invite God to visit with me.

Chaos? Maybe. But it's overshadowed by an incredible peace.

Volume 40

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Deleen Cousineau tells how she adjusts to "letting go" as her daughter prepares to leave for college.

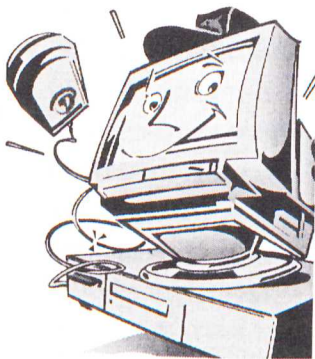
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Letting Go

by Deleen Cousineau

I first began letting go of my oldest daughter Brooke before she was even born.

I was six months pregnant when Mike and I completed language study in France. In August, we

were scheduled to leave France enroute to Africa. We had reservations on a freightliner from Marseilles, France, to Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Week after week the departure date for the ship continued to be delayed. Mike and I both had questions.

Should I fly on to Africa? Did I really want to have a baby without my husband? What if I went into labor on the ship? Would there be a doctor around? Finally, on October 24, the ship left port. I was eight months pregnant and 26 years old. I remember reading Isaiah 40:11 the night before we left port: "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." This passage was a great comfort and assurance to me as I committed our well-being to the Lord. Brooke was born 13 days after we arrived in Abidjan.

Again, in 1984, when Brooke was three years old, she had eye surgery. I remember reading 2 Timothy 1:12 the night before her surgery: ". . . I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." Eleven years later



Deleen Cousineau has been a missionary to Côte d'Ivoire for almost 20 years.

Mike and I left her at boarding school in Bouake, Côte d'Ivoire. She completed her high school years July 1999, at International Christian Acad-

worked hard to keep my focus on worshipping and praising and meditating on who God is. I've prayed for the gift of contentment. I've realized that I

through prayer. I found out all of their teachers, dorm parents, roommates and best friends' names. I prayed weekly for each one by name. Many times

"Letting go reminds me to take advantage of the present . . ."

emy. Each time, I thought I had fully committed her to the Lord only to be reminded at a later time and place that I had even more yielding to do. In August 2000, we had to leave her in the states in college as we returned to Côte d'Ivoire.

So, in a practical sense, what

does letting go entail? It entails making a choice to do so. For me, making a choice with my head enables my heart to follow in time. Many families have the college years (4-5 years) to help make the transition. Often missionaries only have one year (their furlough year) to let go.

Letting go reminds me to take advantage of the present because the present quickly gives way to the past. Letting go reminds me that God's will is never second best. And that God, in His omniscience, placed this particular child in my family.

What have I done to cope with the inevitable? I've

can continue to minister to others, even as I, myself, grieve the loss of a life that will never again be quite the same.



Frances White's article "Separation: balancing the gains and losses" (Evangelical Missions Quarterly, Oct. 1986) states: "As we progress through life we inevitably encounter change, separation and loss. In fact, the three words can be used almost interchangeably. Change is separation from the past; loss occurs as a result of separation." I've chosen to look to the future and to all that God has in store for my child and me.

When my girls were in boarding school and miles of dirt road separated us, I chose to stay connected to them

I would go in my girls' bedroom, kneel by their bedside and pray specifically for each one. Somehow being in their bedroom seemed to make me feel closer to them.

Finally, I chose to count my blessings. One of my missionary friends in Côte d'Ivoire lost her five-year-old daughter to cerebral malaria. The Lord reminded me that seeing my daughters once a month was ten times better than not seeing them at all.

And even this year, as Brooke is in college in Georgia and we are on stateside assignment in Oklahoma, I am reminded of the many missionaries who can't take their furlough the same year their children graduate from high school. They are forced to bring their child home, enroll them in college and fly back to the field within the month. At least this year, we are on the same continent. Perspective is so important. I've realized that if

"I've realized that if you can't change your situation, you can change your perspective."

"We can lose a lot of time and many blessings wishing things were different, rather than making the most of our situation."

you can't change your situation, you can change your perspective. It can make a big difference in how you cope.

I had read 1 Samuel 1 and 2 many times before Brooke and Kristina actually went off to boarding school. And the most amazing part of Hannah's story is the prayer of rejoicing that she offered to the Lord right after she left Samuel with Eli. She prayed, "My heart rejoiceth in the Lord, mine horn (which symbolizes strength) is exalted in the Lord: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation." I contemplated who or what were the enemies that Hannah was speaking of. Could she have been speaking of envy, self-pity, jealousy, or depression? Could she not have been tempted to compare herself with Peninnah, who not only had more children than she did, but who was able to keep her children at home with her? I so wanted

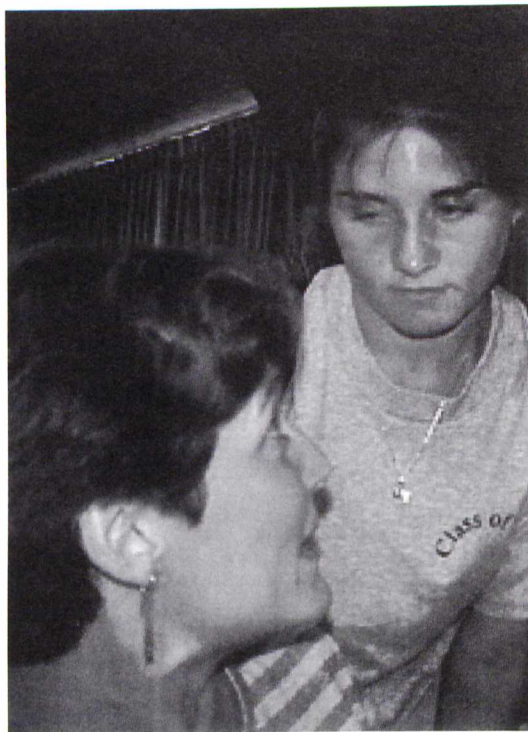
to be like Hannah when I left my girls at school. I wanted to be like Hannah when we left Brooke in the states.

We can lose a lot of time and many blessings wishing things were different, rather than making the most of our situation.

In discussing the subject of children leaving home, I asked a fellow missionary, "How do you do it? All three of your children are in the states in college,

the apple of his eye. As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings." These verses encouraged me greatly as I realized that the Lord was using this situation in Brooke's life to teach her how to fly.

Now, when I think about Brooke in the states, so far away from Côte d'Ivoire, I am reminded that once again the Lord will be faithful to us as we entrust our most precious treasure to Him. Second Samuel 22:26a states: "To the faithful you show yourself faithful". ♦



and you are in Côte d'Ivoire. How do you let them go?" She said, "It's a process."

The Lord used Deuteronomy 32:10-11 to comfort me when Brooke first left for boarding school. "He led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as

Showing Christ in Public Schools

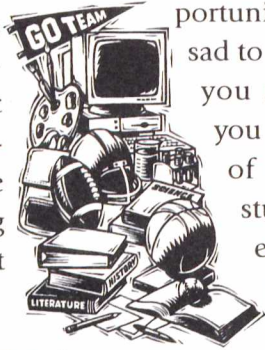
by Jane Hutchison



Y our first thought when you hear the words “public school” is probably not showing Christ but would probably be the opposite. Today our public schools are in a crisis, and many are having a lot of trouble with drugs, violence and gangs. It’s time for Christians to make a difference.

Jane Hutchison attends Donelson FWB church in Nashville, TN. She teaches for Metro schools.

Most public schools do not have any association with anything Christian or Biblical, yet this is where we need it the most. Some middle and high schools have Christian clubs such as FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes), but what about those who have no Christian influence? Our public schools are a mini mission field. And if we don't do something now, they will not get any better.



Many children lack Christian influence in their lives. Children face abuse daily, and school is their haven of peace from the abuse. Some students sit in their desks with hunger pains because there is no food in the home. These students yearn for

Biblical Truths About Witnessing

1. We need to know the Scriptures. "Study to show thyself approved unto God" (2 Timothy 2:15). When we seek to learn all we can, we will be ready for the opportunities God provides. How sad to think if someone asked you for spiritual guidance you didn't know the Word of God. Teachers have to study for their lessons everyday. Why not study the Scriptures as well?

2. We need to know the souls. Ask the Lord to lay someone on your heart. Someone you know is probably searching for answers in their darkened world. Matthew 5:16 says to live your life

should be willing to speak out about Christ. Don't try to hide your faith. You may be the person to lead someone to Christ by talking about Him to others.

4. We need to show selfless love. John 13:35 says they will know we are his disciples if we love one another. If we don't show our love towards others, then how will they see Christ? Love is not talking about others or complaining about your everyday responsibilities. Love is doing what you can to help others, even when they may not show it in return. This is a great testimony for the Lord.

Ways to Show Christ

There are many ways that people can show Christ in public schools. Let's begin with the teachers.

Children face abuse daily, and school is their haven of peace.

someone to care for them.

Other students may come from families who teach strong morals, yet still don't know Christ. Can a Christian teacher show Christ to her students? And what about other teachers? While some teachers in public schools profess to be Christians, most do not. Is it possible to share your faith with your co-workers at school? Let's see what the Bible says about witnessing.

as a light before men. Let everyone, students and teachers alike, know you're a Christian by the example you live. When you're in a tough situation, people will be watching you to see how "Christians" react. Don't fail the test. Shine for all to see Christ in you.

3. We need to show our salvation. Romans 1:16 says not to be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. We

Teachers can take their Bibles or New Testaments to school and place them on a desk, shelf, or table. Teachers may not be able to read it aloud to their students, but it is a witness to have it visible for students and other teachers.

Christian teachers can get together before or after school to pray. (I began a prayer time at my school last year.) What a blessing it is to join together at

school and pray for each other as well as your students. Tell other teachers by putting a note in their mailbox or by verbally inviting them to pray.

Teachers need not be afraid to refer to Jesus, church or religious symbols. An English lesson showing different meanings of a word could be a way to talk about the "cross" mentioned in the Bible. Tell about different crosses, especially the cross that Jesus was crucified on. Surprisingly enough, students will be quick to say they've heard that story in the Bible.

Teachers can also say what they believe about something they're teaching. For example, in social studies or science, creation is always a hot topic. When you're telling what the different beliefs are, take the opportunity to tell what you believe.

Teachers could also decide not to give much homework on Wednesday nights. Tell the stu-

"The main thing a non-teacher can do is get involved."

dents it is to help those who go to church. You'd be surprised how many students do go to church. Their parents will appreciate this also.

Sometimes teachers will have

"Teachers need not be afraid to refer to Jesus, church or religious symbols."

students come up to them and tell them that they are a Christian. (I've even had parents tell me they are Christians!) What a great opportunity to talk to students or parents about spiritual things. Encourage them in their faith, and counsel them when they have a problem.

Teachers can also help other teachers through difficult times. Tell them you'll be praying for them. Send them cards. Take them food when they are sick. Show Christ any way you can.

Now what can others do who aren't teachers? Even though you may not be a teacher there are many ways to share Christ.

The main thing a non-teacher can do is get involved. Volunteer! Here are some suggestions.

Begin by finding a teacher in your church or neighborhood. Make a commitment to be their prayer partner for the entire school year. Nothing is more refreshing than to know someone is praying for you daily.

Help teachers by being available to grade papers, supply goodies for the class, or whatever the teacher needs. Sometimes teachers are weighed

down with work, and this could be a way to lighten their load.

Volunteer in a teacher's classroom. You could read to the class once or twice each grading period. You could even tutor needy students every week or two. Talk to teachers. They will jump at the chance for helpers. You could help with numerous things in the classroom.

Be a buddy to a needy student. Some schools have paired students with adults through the Buddies Program. (Ours in Nashville is called Buddies of Nashville. It may be called by a different name in other cities.) A buddy spends one hour a



week with a student talking, studying, playing games, or eating lunch. During this time, you

can build a relationship that will enable you to show Christ. Sometimes outside privileges are granted, and you can take them to ballgames, shopping, or even to church. What a great way to show Christ!

Our goal as a Christian is to show Christ wherever we are. Our lives should glorify God, and our prayer should be the same as in the words of this chorus:

*Lord, lay some soul upon my heart
And love that soul through me,
And may I humbly do my part
To win that soul for Thee.*

A Christian Teacher Serving God



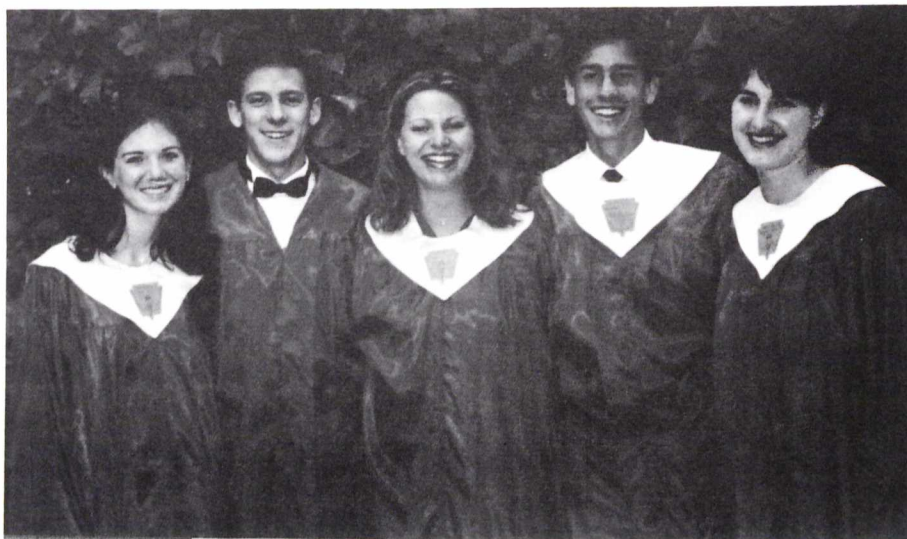
Denise Bowman is a Christian teacher in a public school in Nashville, TN. She teaches in an inner city school, and has taught for ten years. She meets each week at school with other teachers for Bible study and prayer.

She also shows Christ by volunteering in her own school once a week by helping with Kid's Cafe. This is a program sponsored by Second Harvest Food Bank and feeds students and their families for supper. She has even involved the youth in her church in volunteering to help serve the meal at Kid's Cafe. At times, she has given needy students soap, toothpaste and personal items. Denise is truly a Christian teacher who is making a difference.

Your Own Bible Study

If you desire to learn more about what the Bible says about witnessing, ask your pastor or your Christian bookstore for the following resources:

How To Give Away Your Faith, by Paul Little; I Hate Witnessing, by Dick Innes; Living Proof. Sharing the Gospel Naturally, by Jim Petersen; Out of the Salt-shaker and Into the World, by Rebecca Manley Pippert; The Master Plan of Evangelism, by Robert E. Coleman; The Art of Soul-Winning, by Murray W. Downey.



MK's Suzanne McVay (pictured 1st person from left) and Melissa Turnbough (center) recently graduated from Evangelical Christian Academy. Both girls are now attending FWBBC in Nashville, Tennessee.

Open Hearts, Open Doors

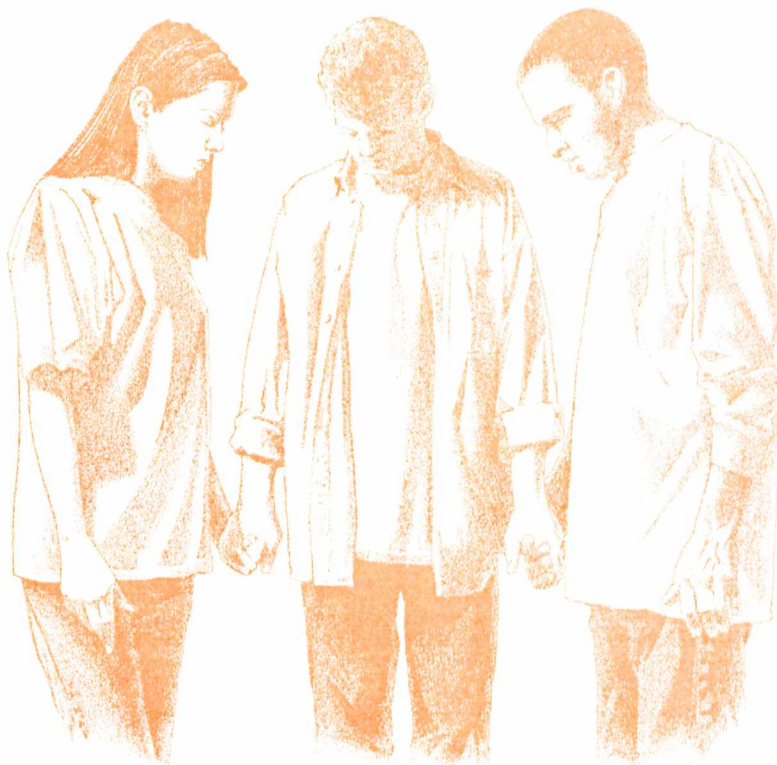
by Cleo Pursell

Prayer plays a vital part in God's work around the world. The pray-er is as important as the go-er.

Both are essential to the work, but there are limits to the opportunities and possibilities of all work except in prayer. Prayer knows no limitations of geography but can cross the oceans and climb mountains. Prayer can overcome weakness, poverty, danger and the powers of evil. The only limit on what might be accomplished through prayer is the limit of our faith. "According to your faith be it unto you" (Matthew 9:29). Intercession with the prayer of faith is one of the greatest ministries of a Christian. It ranks with teaching or preaching and is a work we all can do. Prayer is omnipotent; it can do anything God can do.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

An intercessor is a "go between" who pleads the cause of someone else. To intercede is to be a mediator. Prayer is often difficult because we are a self-cen-



tered people. The intercessor identifies with another person's hurts. If we care enough about other people to identify with them in their pain, we will pray for them. An intercessor identifies with Christ in His love and compassion for a lost world. We have to be totally unselfish to pray for those whom we have never seen and probably will never see on earth.

Christ is an intercessor. He prayed for His disciples and those who would believe on Him through their word (John 17:5-20). That included us. Today He sits at the right hand of God making intercession for all who come to Him (Romans 8:34).

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us. "We know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh interces-

sion for us with groanings which cannot be uttered, and he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession

the man who had guests late one night and went to his friend's house for bread. His friend was in bed and at first would not respond to his requests, but through persistent knocking and pleading the friend finally gave in and provided him with the needed bread.

Jesus didn't mean to infer that God was like either of these men and had to be forced into doing things for His children.

The point was that if these men would respond to persistency, how much more would our Heavenly Father hear and answer the persistent prayers of His children? We don't have to beg a reluctant God, but He wants us to come boldly to the throne of grace and find help in time of need.

A legend says that Alexander the Great boasted that his subjects could approach him at any time with a request. A beggar came one day and brazenly asked for a farm for himself, a dowry for his daughter, and an education for his son. Alexander's aides were astonished that he granted all three

requests immediately. When asked why he did this, he said, "I get tired of people coming to me in fear and timidity asking for small gifts. That beggar treated me like I was a king. He asked big!" Our God is able to give abundantly above all that we ask or even think. The greatest problem of the church today is not unanswered prayer but unoffered prayer. "We have not because we ask not" (James 4:2).

We should be specific. Intercessory prayer is prayer with names on it. It's as if someone prayed: "God bless the missionaries," and God gently asked, "Which ones?" We can learn specific needs by reading Heartbeat, Aim, and missionary letters or calling Missions Hotline.

FOR WHOM SHOULD WE PRAY?

We are encouraged to pray for all men (1 Timothy 2:1-2). This means we should pray for the saved and the unsaved, for enemies as well as friends. For people near us and for those far away. Paul exhorted us to pray especially for those in authority. We should pray for all men and women because it is God's will that all people come to the

"The greatest problem of the church today is not unanswered prayer but unoffered prayer."

for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26—27).

HOW ARE WE TO PRAY?

We are to "Pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Ephesians 6:18). We are to pray always even though we are at work, at home or on our jobs. One woman placed a sign above her kitchen sink: "Divine services held here three times daily." As she washed dishes, she prayed for the needs of others.

We should persevere (Luke 11:5-10). Christ told the story of

"An intercessor identifies with Christ in His love and compassion for a lost world."

knowledge of salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Prayer is an important part of God's plan for reaching a lost world. We pray for all because He died for all.

Pray for laborers

Jesus was moved with compassion on the multitudes scattered abroad as sheep without a Shepherd. He said to His disciples: "The harvest truly is plentiful but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37). Prayer is God's method for recruiting laborers. The harvest is greater today than ever before. Each generation faces a new generation of unsaved people for whom it is responsible.

The key to all missionary success is prayer. That key is in the hands of the home churches. Prayer can break down heathen walls, open effectual doors and win hurting hearts to God. God sends laborers into His harvest fields in answer to the prayers of His church.

Intercession produces fruit on the mission fields. "Ask of me and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost part of the world for thy possession" (Psalm 2:8). Notice the emphasis here is on the praying, not the going.

Dr. Milton Fields, Academic Dean, FWBBC, recently asked denominational leaders to commit to join him in praying for young people who show promise for Christian service as preachers, youth directors and missionaries. "Our denomination's future depends on young people yielding to the call of God to service," he said.

Pray for open doors

Our home and foreign missions departments have recently



had doors open wide to new mission fields in Russia, Mongolia, China and Central Asia. An expanding Hispanic ministry is already in place. We rejoice for opening doors to these new ministries. We must remember the need for prayer is not only for our missionaries, but mission directors and boards as we enter enemy territory to win souls for Christ.

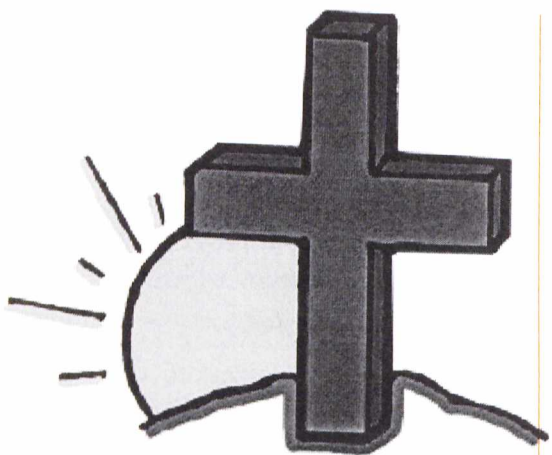
The foes that Christians face are spiritual. "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but

against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). There are also physical and social needs which can only be met through interceding prayers.

The apostle Paul asked the Colossian church to pray that the Lord would open unto Him a door of utterance to speak the mystery of Christ. He requested that the gospel might go forth without hindrance and that souls might be saved. Missionaries today face similar situations. There are closed doors represented by resistant groups of people in every country where missionaries labor. They need our prayers that God will provide opportunities to preach the gospel boldly.

The story is told of a young missionary who went to the Far East. His home church supported him financially and promised to pray for him. He had a difficult time learning the language. He had great

"Prayer can break down heathen walls, open effectual doors and win hurting hearts to God."



opposition from the government and non-Christian forces in his area. Then his wife died with blackwater fever leaving him with three young children.

He finished his first term of service, looking forward to the day he would return to his home church, to be accepted and comforted by those who loved and cared for him. When the time finally came, he walked into the midweek prayer meeting without prior announcement. He saw only strangers, and since he had arrived just in time for the service to start, he sat on one of the back pews. No one welcomed him. He smiled at the pastor, but there was no response. During the prayer period there was concern for the Sunday school picnic, the new building program, and the women's trip to a district meeting. There was no mention of missionaries, no pleading for souls, no apparent concern for a lost world.

Following the service the brokenhearted missionary stood at

the back of the church. Most people did not recognize him. As the pastor approached him, the missionary cried out, "Now I understand. This is the reason." "What do you mean?" questioned the pastor. "Those years on the field. The difficulties. The pain.

"Why is prayer, which is one of the greatest blessings in the Christian life, so neglected?"

The lack of results. This is the reason." He went on to confess his great disappointment that he had been forgotten, but most of all that he had not been prayed for. How many missionaries have discovered this type of response even in their home churches?

There are spiritual needs on every mission field that must be met with spiritual power.

Strongholds of spiritual darkness often engulf a missionary or pastor as he strives to witness. These must be met with the interceding praying of those who be-



lieve that God will bring about spiritual victory.

THE NEED FOR INTERCESSORS

There is a great need today for true intercessors. They were scarce in Isaiah's day. This was his complaint: "And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor." Why is prayer,

which is one of the greatest blessings in the Christian life, so neglected? The believer has access to the very throne of God. There he can open his heart and express his needs with confidence. Prayer is the key that opens doors to the mission fields, to effective service and unlocks heaven's door.

Everyone can participate in this ministry. Even those who are confined to the home can be intercessors. They may be shut-in, but not shut-out!

Prayer is like an intercontinental ballistic missile. It can be aimed anywhere on earth, traveling at the speed of thought. At times it may have a delayed detonation in that it may be answered years after it was launched.

As we open our hearts to the open doors God is giving us today, we become laborers together with Him. What a glorious privilege.❖



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WNAC Officers

Coordinator/Assistant Coordinator

Don't miss out on the fun! Remember to send in your registration for the Ridgecrest Retreat. You can find a reservation form in July/August issue of *CoLaborer*. See you there.

September is the month set aside for the Dr. Mary Ruth Wisheart Student Loan fund. This loan fund helps out those students pursuing a Christian education. WNAC provides low interest and offers loans to students attending FWBBC.

Act now and receive your own copy of the 2001 Yearbook. This leader's guide will help you to plan and organize your WAC meetings. The Yearbook offers ready made posters for each monthly program, an updated list of missionaries' birthdays, plan sheets and much more. Planning will be much easier with the Yearbook as your own personal meeting consultant. Buy it now for only \$6.

Secretary/Treasurer

The Rest of the Family offering is scheduled for September. Encourage your women to take part in this special offering which supports many of the Free Will Baptist ministries, including WNAC.

Missions Chairman

This is a good time to update your missionary cards. New foreign missionaries as well as home missionaries have been approved by the board. Introduce these new missionaries to your WAC and remind the women to pray for these families as they begin their ministry for the Lord.

Provision Closet Needs

King, queen and
full sheet sets

Queen and twin
bedspreads

Queen and full
electric blankets

Queen and twin
mattress covers

Towel sets

Heavy cookware

Electric can
openers

Food processors

Tupperware®
(all items)

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

Prayer Chairman

September 30, 2000, is set aside for Operation Saturation. The goal is to reach at least 100,000 homes in one day. To reach this goal, much prayer is needed. Pray for three things: (1) Pray that God will work with people across the country to commit themselves for the task ahead. (2) Pray for safety of travel for those assisting the home missionaries. (3) Pray that seeds will be sown in many hearts by the labor of this day.

The fall retreat at Ridgecrest also needs to be remembered in prayer. Gail Smith, Rebecca Pugh and Joanne King are working hard to make sure this retreat will be a spiritual uplift to all who attend. Also, remember those working behind the scenes to make sure the weekend goes smoothly.

Study Chairman

Be sure to read the book review by Dr. Wisheart on page 27. This book on Esther will be a great study opportunity as well as a great book to add to your church library.

Service Chairman

Cold weather is quickly approaching. This is a good opportunity to take care of the elderly in your church and community. Many of the elderly are not able to get out during the cold months—so you can go to them. Designate teams to visit with those who are shut-in. You can take books, fruit baskets, cassettes and stay and visit for a while. They would appreciate your time and concern.

WNAC ELEVENTH NATIONAL RETREAT RIDGECREST, NORTH CAROLINA SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2000

Theme: Keys To Growth

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:18

Music Coordinator: Susan Forlines

Pianist: Debbie Mouser

Organist: Carol Reid

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

3:00-7:00 REGISTRATION and
CHECK-IN

5:30-6:30 SUPPER

7:30 p.m. GENERAL SESSION

Gail Smith: *Keys to
Christian Growth*

Fun Time: Joanne King

11:30 QUIET TIME

FRIDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 15

7:15-8:15 BREAKFAST

8:30 GENERAL SESSION

Gail Smith:

From Greenland's Icy Mountains



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 Hart, explains that there is a need for items for older (teenage) MKs especially. As needs vary, check with WNAC for current needs.

	Missionary Service: Joanne King, Laurie Horne and Missionaries
10:15	BREAK
10:45	GENERAL SESSION Gail Smith: <i>Women Hymn Writers</i>
12:00-1:00	LUNCH
FRIDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 15	
1:00	YOUR CHOICE *Missionary Displays and WNAC literature room
5:30-6:30	SUPPER
FRIDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 15	
7:00	GENERAL SESSION <i>Women Like You</i> Gail Smith: <i>The Lost Chord</i>
11:30	QUIET TIME
SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 16	
7:30-8:15	BREAKFAST
8:30	GENERAL SESSION Rebecca Pugh: <i>Ending on a Grace Note</i>

Correction

In the July/August 2000 issue of CoLaborer, a mistake appeared in the article "Loving Lesson" by Nancy J. Farrier. The character's name should have read "Darla," not "Dana." CoLaborer regrets the error.

Choices

by Cindy Gay

Choice is a fact or instance of choosing; thing chosen; superior in quality.

We have many choices to make each day. Such as the friends we make, the material we read, the entertainment we watch and our attitudes.

We have the choice to follow Satan or to follow Christ. Joshua 24:15 says, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve."

Genesis 2:16-17: "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

Eve sinned. She chose to eat the fruit from that tree. Then she gave it to Adam to eat. Since Adam and Eve made that choice, there are three important consequences that you and I live with today.

1. Adam and Eve realized what they had done. They realized it was wrong.
2. Adam and Eve's fellowship with God was destroyed.
3. It also destroyed the agreement connection God had created between nature and Adam and Eve.

An independent spirit breaks all our relationships to God, one another and to the created world around us.

But you won't lose if you'll choose Christ as your personal Savior. When you choose God's way you'll be a winner!

As Christians we must learn to make choices that show our connection with our Father in heaven, and not Satan. God wants us to be more like Him. He created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them (Genesis 1:27). That's something we can't do for ourselves by making good choices. We need a change by the work of the Holy Spirit. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Second Corinthians 3:17 says, "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

You have that choice. ❖

Cindy Gay is a member of Greenbrier FWB church in Oklahoma.

Lucy & Marge

LUCY: Guess what, Marge.

MARGE: What is it, Lucy?

LUCY: My doctor has put me on heart medicine.

MARGE:(Alarmed) Oh, my goodness, Lucy. Are you having serious heart problems?

LUCY: It's just an irregular heart beat. I told the doctor, what I really need is medicine to give me a warm, loving heart.

MARGE: Lucy, only God can do that. Did the doctor put any restrictions on your activities?

LUCY: Just the usual—eat more broccoli, more kiwi, stay away from steak and ham. You know. Things like that. Eat healthy.

MARGE: Well, we all need a healthy heart. And we could do with hearts that are loving and warm, too.

LUCY: I agree, Marge, but the doctor said he didn't have medicine for that kind of heart.

MARGE: Like I said, Lucy, only God can give us that kind of heart. And I believe that comes

through prayer and studying the Word.

LUCY: I always pray first thing when I get up in the morning—and when there are tornado warnings!

MARGE: Come on, Lucy, prayer is more than just a safety net for emergencies. Prayer involves praise, confession and intercession.

LUCY: It does? Intercession? Exactly who am I interceding for?

MARGE: For your family, your friends and enemies, your unsaved neighbors, your church, and missionaries—

LUCY: (Interrupting) Okay, okay. I get the point, but do I really have to pray for my enemies?

MARGE: That's what the Bible says, not me.

LUCY: Well, I think that kind of praying will take some heart changing.

MARGE: Right. You know we are emphasizing that kind of praying at our next WAC meeting, (date, time and place).

LUCY: I really want to be there.

Maybe I can get a heart change. Really though, Marge, I think it would be easier if I could just take a pill, don't you.

MARGE: Lucy, you're hopeless!

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



Communicator

by Marjorie Workman

It is countdown time for Operation Saturation. WNAC women are encouraged to participate in this nationwide effort of the denomination to put literature in 100,000 homes in one day. Listed are the missionary churches participating in this project. Pick a location, call the missionary, fill out the participation card on page 20, and mail the card to WNAC.

Sloan Canyon FWB Church
Missionary Keith Bartlett
Castaic, CA 91384
Phone No.: 661/295-8164

First FWB Church of Luquillo, PR
Missionaries Bud Bivens, Chris Fannin,
David Roy
Puerto Rico 00745
Phone No.: 787/648-8992 or 809/761-5347

Southern Hills FWB Church
Missionary Mark Braisher
Overland Park, KS 66223
Phone No.: 913/814-0712 or 913/685-2855

Carthage First FWB Mission
Missionary Frank Bratcher
Carthage, TN 37030
Phone No.: 615/774-3599

Artesia FWB Church
Missionary Tim Byers
Artesia, NM 88210
Phone No.: 505/748-9893

Paducah FWB Church
Missionary David Carlson
Paducah, KY 42003
Phone No.: 502/442-8850

Peace FWB Church
Missionary Chris Clay
Indianapolis, IN 46237
Phone No.: 317/859-8599 or 317/862-0533

Harrisonburg FWB Church
Missionary Paul Collins
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Phone No.: 540/434-5734

West Fredericton FWB Church
Missionary Jeff Crabtree
New Brunswick CN E3E 1A1
Phone No.: 506/455-1525

Woodland FWB Church
Missionary Dwain Crosby
The Woodlands, TX 77381
Phone No.: 281/367-5108

Heritage FWB Church
Missionary Ken Doggett
Springfield, IL 62703
Phone No.: 217/585-8111

Priest Lake FWB Church
Missionary Cliff Donoho
Antioch, TN 37013
Phone No.: 615/365-8000

Harvest FWB Church
Missionary Gary Elder
Ridgeland, MS 39157
Phone No.: 601/853-3936

West Knoxville FWB Church
Missionary Gerald Fender
Knoxville, TN 37932-3102
Phone No.: 865/675-4598

Faith FWB Church
Missionary Terry Hardison
Waukesha, WI 53186
Phone No.: 262/513-1829

First FWB Church
Missionary Russell Johnson
Cheyenne, WY 82009-2436
Phone No.: 307/637-2802

Prattville FWB Church
Missionary Fred Jones
Prattville, AL 36066
Phone No.: 334/361-2990

Westgate FWB Church
Missionary Bob Lewis
Grand Junction, CO 81503
Phone No.: 970/263-0300

Summit Chapel FWB Church
Missionary Tim Lewis
Ogden, UT 84403
Phone No.: 801/627-2219

West Madison FWB Church
Missionary Carlie Lloyd
Madison, WI 53719-2122
Phone No.: 608/274-4201

Mile High FWB Church
Missionary Charles Lotz
Westminster, CO 80021
Phone NO.: 720/887-0543

FWB Church Alive
Missionary Rick Morris
Chandler, AZ 85225
Phone No.: 480/888-9355

Heritage FWB Church
Missionary Joel Nason
Sanbornton, NH 03269-2108
Phone No.: 603/934-1038

Grace FWB Church (Memphis)
Missionary Tim Osborn
Cordova, TN 38018
Phone No.: 901/758-0418

Heritage FWB Church
Missionary Ron Parker
Shreveport, LA 71118-3521
Phone No.: 318/688-8751 or 318/687-8637

Valley FWB Church
Missionary Bill Phillips
West Jordan, UT 84088
Phone No.: 801/352-8515

Northwest FWB Church
Missionary David Potete
Chicago, IL 60634-4910
Phone No.: 773/385-9530 or 773/385-9100

Eagle Heights FWB Church
Missionary Randy Puckett
Sugar Land, TX 77478
Phone No.: 281/565-5883

New Hope FWB Church
Missionary Norman Richards
Slidell, LA 70458-3007
Phone No.: 504/649-5768

Inglesia Bautista Libre Getsemani
Missionary Carlos Rubio
Nashville, TN 37210
Phone No.: 615/832-2742

Harvest FWB Church
Missionary Jeff Sloan
Ft. Wayne, IN 46825
Phone No.: 219/483-3811

Oregon Trail FWB Church
Missionary Darrel Smith
Oregon City, OR 97045
Phone No.: 503/657-9745 or 503/557-8559

Los Ranchos FWB Church
Missionary John Smith
Escondido, CA 92026
Phone No.: 760/752-1006

Monroe FWB Church
Missionary Rue Dell Smith
Monroe, LA 71203
Phone No.: 318/ 345-1188

Southside FWB Church
Missionary Todd Smith
Aiken, SC 29803
Phone No.: 803/ 644-3771

Berea FWB Church
Missionary Robert Trimble
Battle Creek, MI 49015
Phone No.: 616/968-3072

Northern Lights FWB Church
Missionary Ron Wallace
Fairbanks, AK 99711
Phone No.: 907/490-0022

Abundant Grace FWB Church
Missionary Mark Wheatley
Louisville, KY 40241
Phone No.: 502/412-4171 or 502/426-5530

Victory FWB Church
Missionary Russell Wright
Kearneysville, WV 25430-0819
Phone No.: 304/728-4767

Hispanic FWB Ministry
Missionary Ramon Zuniga
Springdale, AR 72764
Phone No.: 501/872-1176❖

Yes, I will be a participant in Operation Saturation

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Local Church _____

Age: ☐ Under 9 ☐ 9-12 ☐ 13-17 ☐ 18-25 ☐ 26-35 ☐ 36-45
☐ 46-55 ☐ 56-65 ☐ 66-75 ☐ 75 and above

Please check all that applies:

☐ I will pray for Operation Saturation

☐ I plan to go to _____ to participate in Operation Saturation

☐ I will bring an offering to the Operation Saturation event.

☐ Please contact me about a mission church near my home.

☐ I can't go to a mission site on September 30, 2000 but I will send a gift to help with the cost of materials.

Please mail you Operation Saturation Commitment Form to:

WNAC
Operation Saturation
PO Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011

Women In Action



The Alabama Free Will Baptist WAC officers put on their smiles at the annual convention held in Jasper, Alabama on May 6, 2000.

Pictured (Front Row, left to right): President, Elwanda Oakes; Vice President, Carolyn Hendrix; Secretary, Ann Kennedy; Treasurer, Landy Plymon.

Pictured (Back Row, left to right): Members at large, Allecia Phinicie and Virginia Tatum; Field Worker, Dot Reeves; Member-at-Large, Brenda Purser.



Don't Forget!

We need pictures of our Free Will Baptist women in action. Let *CoLaborer* know what you're up to!

We like to show off our women. Be sure to send the photos along with a short write up describing the event and listing the names of those women in the picture.

Send all pictures to: *CoLaborer*, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011.

Mount Moriah held their WAC Convention on April 8, 2000. Janie Aldridge, retired missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, was the guest speaker.

Pictured (left to right): Landy Plymon, Sue Plymon, Vaudine Lancaster, Barbara Smith and Janie Aldridge.



Dear Ladies,

My name is Daniel Clouser. My parents are missionaries in the economic capital of Ivory Coast, Abidjan. I am a student at ICA and stay here in the FWB dorm.

I would first like to thank you for your interest in our dorm and your consideration of providing for our needs.

As you may be aware, our dorm already has one borrowed computer which is very helpful. However, our dorm has up to 20 occupants at any given time, and often, one computer is not enough. Few teachers allow students to turn in papers that have not been prepared on a computer; therefore, students often find themselves in a bind, unable to find a vacant computer to be used.

It would be more helpful than I can adequately express in written words for you to provide us with two new computers. Even in Africa, computers have become a daily necessity. Our school computer lab is packed with students every day, working on homework and corresponding with friends and relatives through e-mail. The dorm computer is constantly in use at every hour of the day.

Thank you again for your concern for the children of God's missionaries. We are all very grateful for any help you can give us.

Sincerely,
Daniel Clouser

Dear Ladies,

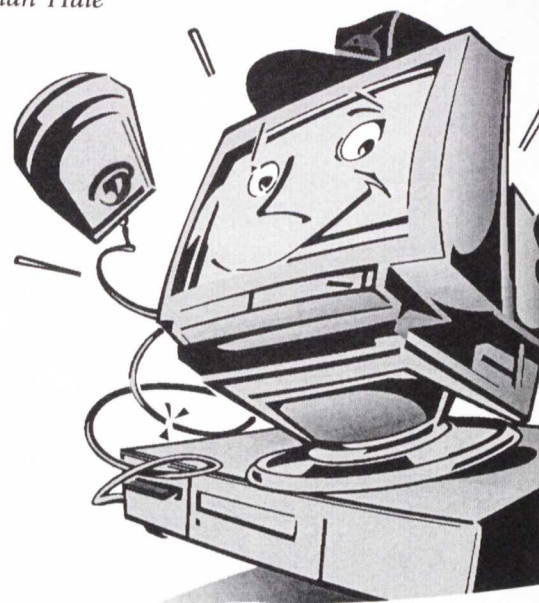
My name is Nathan Hale. I have lived in Benin, West Africa since I was six. I am now in the 10th grade at ICA. I have lived in the FWB dorm for almost two years now, and those have been some of the best ever.

Thank you very much for your interest in buying two more computers for our dorm. We do have one computer that was loaned to us from another mission. It has been a great blessing. It has helped all of us finish homework, projects, and papers as well as being a great source of recreation.

More computers in the dorm would help very much. Even though the school does provide a computer lab, it is often filled to capacity or closed. Extra computers in the dorm would help all 18 guys get their work completed more efficiently. They would also help us keep in contact with friends and family through e-mail.

Thank you for your generosity, interest, and willingness to help.

Sincerely,
Nathan Hale



- The FWB dorm is the only dorm at ICA without access to computers for the students living in the dorm.
- ICA is going through a re-accrediting process to retain their excellent rating status.
- Presently our FWB dorm has received the lowest ratings of all the 8 dorms on campus. This is due to the lack of computer access.

In honor of...

Creative Arts Contest Winners, 2000

Poetry

1st place:	Clutter	Freedra Lucas	Cromona, Kentucky
2nd place:	Reaching	Beulah Morlan	Monett, Missouri
3rd place:	Missionary Traveling Song	V.G. Bucchold	Osteen, Florida
4th place:	Sunday Afternoon Prayer	Ruth Bivens	Puerto Rico

Articles

1st place:	The Chef	Alice Grant	Lancaster, Ohio
2nd place:	Ready Set Go	Cheryl Akers	Jacksonville, Florida
3rd place:	Tropical Depression	Carla Fannin	Puerto Rico
4th place:	Serena Grace	Karen Collier	Fair Grove, Missouri

Programs

1st place:	Five Nobodies Who were Somebodies for the Lord	Cheryl Akers	Jacksonville, Florida
2nd place:	Getting Out those Tough Stains	Ruth Bivens	Puerto Rico
3rd place:	Woman Evangelist	Joan Warren	Oilton, Oklahoma
4th place:	Reflections of God's Grace	Pamela Hackett	Boiling Springs, South Carolina

Plays

1st place:	A Friend Like no Other	Sara Kilgore	Limestone, Tennessee
2nd place:	Gossip Zone	Lori Marshall	Glendale, Arizona
3rd place:	Salvation to the World	Lori Marshall	Glendale, Arizona
4th place:	Naomi's God	Rachel Sekulich	Brunswick, Georgia

Most Precious Possession

by Debe Taylor, WNAC President

“Keepest my commandments, and live;
And my law as the apple of thine eye.
Bind them upon thy fingers; write
them upon the table of thine heart”
(Proverbs 7:2-3). A friend once
shared with me that she thought that meant to
“keep God’s Word as your most precious possession.” I think she was on to something!

Thinking about those treasures which I call my prized possessions, I realize there are parallels between them and God’s Word.

First, precious possessions should be shared. Many Christmases ago, my sister, Verla, gave me a copy of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. The story captivated me! Every Christmas after that, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* was a reading MUST! However, I didn’t keep it to myself. Not one Christmas has passed without me buying a copy for a friend. I must share this precious possession.

The same should be true concerning the Word of God. David wrote, “I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.”

Moses commanded the children of Israel to share with generations to come. “And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.” God’s Word was meant to be shared!



Precious possessions should be stored. My husband has a coin collection which he highly treasures. He loves to get it out and show it to others, but he usually keeps it in a safe place. He wants to know that it’s secure.

Psalm 119:11 says, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” Just as our possessions must be stored, God’s Word must also be stored in a secure, safe place. Even the mother of Christ knew to store it away, “But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart” (Luke 2:19). God’s Word was meant to be stored!

Finally, some prized possessions may even be studied. Once again, a family treasure comes to mind. There is a picture, which is very special to us, in my husband’s church office. It is the picture of a little girl and her even smaller brother. They are dressed in Sunday clothes — she is standing with a protective arm around the shoulders of the brother. He is allowing the protection — standing ever so still. Those two small children are adults now and have left the nest. Yet, often times, I find my husband just sitting at his desk studying that picture.

“...his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night” (Psalm 1:2). To share God’s Word and to store God’s Word, we must study God’s Word. “O how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day” (Psalm 119:97). God’s Word was meant to be studied.

“Keep...my law as the apple of your eye.” God’s Word—is it your most precious possession?❖



Poet's Corner

1st Place Winner
2000 WNAC Creative Arts Contest

Clutter
Freedra Lucas

I warn them to be quiet once more
And get that clutter off the floor.
A long, long day has left me short on cool.
The leaky pipe was bad enough
Without the added noise and stuff.
I grab a doll that hides beneath a stool.

Now that they're tucked away in bed,
I shake the clutter from my head
And gaze around at what God's given me.
My Imps have changed to Angels now
With halos glowing on each brow.
Their constant clutter fades in memory.

I pick the toys and clothing up,
Retrieve somebody's Monster Cup,
I kiss each cheek and linger by the door.
I vow again to hold my tongue,
But when a new day has begun
My patience will sink past the basement floor.

They're only kids; they can't act grown.
A few short years and they'll be gone.
Too soon I'll be released from all this strife.
They're mine for just a precious while.
I place the doll beside my child
And thank God for this clutter in my life.

2nd Place Winner
2000 WNAC Creative Arts Contest

Reaching
Beulah Morlan

From the day of our birth
This life seems to teach
Some things like butterflies
Are just out of reach

It starts in the crib
The mobile hangs so high
But try as you may
It seems attached to the sky

Then comes the first steps
The pretty things on the table
You tip toe and stretch
But still you're not able

Things kept from us
That we can not attain
Could have been a loss
Instead of a gain

Matters not if we stand
Straight and tall
Or if in our reaching
We maybe should fall

If we trust in Jesus
His blessings beseech
We'll find that his hand
Is always in reach

Life!Action

a column for teens

Me

My sister plays basketball.
My brother loves little league.
They're both very good at things,
But what kind of hands are these?

My sister plays the piano.
My brother is mighty tough.
They're both good at lots of things,
But I just can't do stuff.

Over the years I came to realize
God gave me talent too.
I can do all sorts of things,
Although right now there's only a few.

God has given us talents;
That you will surely find,
And if you stop and ask Him
You'll receive all kinds.



Kasey Lundquist

Age: 13

*Church: Victory Free Will Baptist,
Goldsboro, N.C.*

Sports: Volley ball, basketball, softball, swimming

Favorite People: Grand-daddy and Memama

Hobbies: Computer, writing, entertaining

A Special Friend

I'd like to tell you in this poem
About a very special friend.
Who shed his blood at Calvary
And whose friendship never ends.

For far away in Bethlehem
Jesus Christ was born.
And even though He's King of Kings
A thorny crown was worn.

Three days in a tomb
And finally he rose again.
He's Alpha, Omega, King of Kings
Alas O' Lord amen.

I write this poem about Jesus;
Because he's my special friend.
And he has told me many times
That our friendship will never end.

ESTHER

A Woman of Strength & Dignity

by Dr. Mary Ruth Wischart

"The Bible is full of great women. So is history," writes Charles Swindoll in his book, *Esther*, the second book in his studies of Bible characters.

The book treats the story of Esther with a great deal of humor, freedom and imaginative details. He interrupts the story line to give some advice, lessons and principles that apply to all of life. These lessons, principles and advice are serious and helpful to all believers, whether men or women.

For example, in Chapter 2, he gives three timeless lessons. These lessons have to do with God's plan, God's purpose and God's people.

Are women special and different from men? Definitely different. You may not agree with all Swindoll says about women in this book, but look at the four qualities he believes God has given especially to



Charles Swindoll
Word Publishing
203 pages

women: special intuition, endurance to pain, a unique responsiveness and vulnerability. He uses other scripture references to show women of strength and dignity throughout the Bible.

In Chapter 6, "Esther's Finest Hour," Swindoll gives four principles for dealing with difficult situations. Even though we may know these principles, it is helpful to see how they worked in Esther's situation and review them for our own use.

My favorite principles are in Chapter 7, "What Goes Around

Comes Around."

"First: When all seems lost, it isn't."

"Second: When no one seems to notice, they do."

"Third: When everything seems great, it's not."

"Fourth: When nothing seems just, it is."

Swindoll begins Chapter 8 with a series of questions. They vary from "Have you ever lost your temper?" and "Ever driven faster than the speed limit?" (Wow! He really is meddling!) to "Ever worried so much that you felt sick inside?" He uses all these to point out the temptation to go too far. Esther's story teaches a lesson in self-restraint applicable to modern day Esthers in difficult situations.

This book can make a good study for women's groups, one session for each of the twelve chapters. ♦

Dr. Mary Ruth Wischart served as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of WNAC for 13 years. She currently works as an adjunct professor at FWBNC in Nashville, TN.

A Charge to the Pastor's Wife

by Willa Johnson

It has been my privilege to serve as a pastor's wife for thirty years. Therefore, this charge comes from a lifetime of personal experience.

Your husband is being ordained to the work of the Gospel ministry. He has received his marching orders from the Lord. You, as his wife, will probably be the one to frame his ordination certificate and hang it on the wall of your home.

But let me remind you of another certificate that you both signed and publicly took vows to carry out: your marriage certificate. In that, you pledged your hearts and lives to each other.

You will need to remind yourself of that certificate much more often than of this ordination certificate. You, as the pastor's wife, are to be a "helpmeet" to the pastor. To a very great extent, the success of your husband's ministry will depend on your help and assistance.

How can you be a good, loving and loyal wife to your minister-husband? How can you be a

caring mother to your children? How can you be the example leader to all the women in the various churches your husband will pastor? In response to these questions, I make the following suggestions:

I. You must learn to share

This is something most of us learned in kindergarten. You will need to share your time, your talents, your resources, your blessings, your children and your home with the people of your church. But—and this is the hardest of all—you must share your husband, the one to whom you have given your whole

heart, with all of those to whom he ministers.

II. You must learn to be a keeper of your body

Take good care of your body, in no way abuse your temple and keep it presentable. In order to keep your soul healthy, read God's Word daily and claim His promises. Renew your mind in private devotions and prayer. You are the primary keeper of the home; do not be slothful in

"To a very great extent, the success of your husband's ministry will depend on your help and assistance."

Willa Johnson is a pastor's wife at Good Springs FWB Church, Pleasant View, TN.



“You are the keeper of your children—train them to be sons and daughters of the King.”

its care. You are the keeper of your children; train them to be sons and daughters of the King. Train them to respect their father’s position in the home and in the church. Train them to love the people who you help to shepherd. Speak well of your leaders. Never criticize their dad or any church people in their presence. Your husband’s effectiveness will be determined by how well these are carried out.

III. *You must learn to give*

Some of your happiest memories will be those of loving people and of having them in your home. You can win hearts and souls over the three popular “P’s”: pizzas, pretzels and popcorn. No price can be placed on hospitality. Give faithfully of your time and substance to the Lord and His work. Lead the women in your church to support the total ministry of the church, both within and without. Most of your church women will follow your example.

Even though you and your husband gave your hearts to each other, there will still be times when this commitment will be tested. Here are some of those times:

- When he goes to see members who may really be emotionally and physically better off than you.
- When your pastor-husband is called out at all hours of the night, especially when you are home with a sick child. This is when many of the “what if” questions arise in your mind.
- When you must stay up with a sick child and let your husband sleep, for he must be able

to preach two sermons the next day.

- When you are packed and ready for a much needed vacation and a member of the church passes away. All plans have to be changed and you lose two or three days of your time together (as well as deal with disappointed and unhappy children).

To further emphasize this matter of conflicting schedules, a man in our church was scheduled to have surgery on the same day as my own surgery, but in a different hospital. I asked my husband to go and be with this member and his family. A friend took me to the hospital for my surgery.

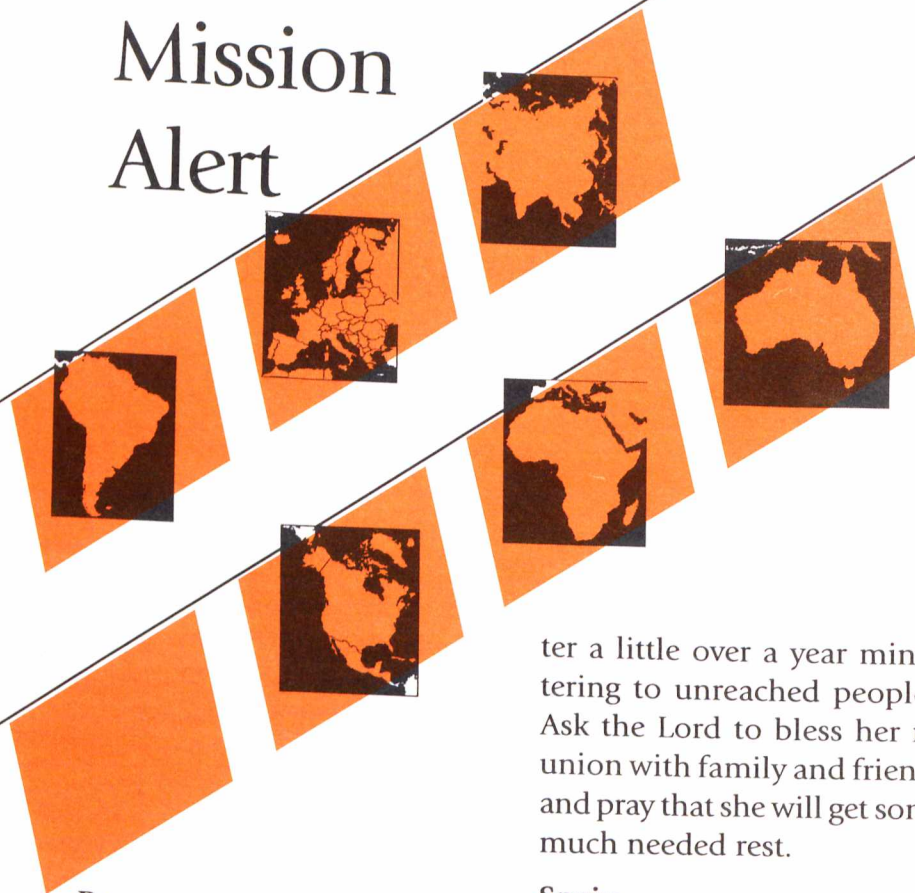
His surgery was scheduled earlier than mine. My husband-pastor got to the hospital where I was (actually in a holding room) and prayed with me just moments before they took me into the operating room. Except for God’s providence, I could have been taken into surgery while my husband was helping others!

But I know that I have something that my husband has never given to another, and that sustains me. I have his heart, and that keeps me. The day we pledged our love to each other and “exchanged hearts” was the day we gave ourselves to God and to each other as husband and wife.

To pastors and their wives I say, keep your hearts for each other, keep them warm and tender, keep them loving and forgiving.❖

Mission Alert

Evangelism News from Around the World



Panama

Pray for Justin and Leslie Banks in Panama. Justin's health is of great concern as he suffers debilitating pain from Reiter's syndrome, an arthritic condition. Recently his rheumatologist prescribed a more aggressive medication, which is given through weekly injections, and physical therapy. The Banks request prayer for God's help and guidance.

Continue to remember the Bowermans as they work with the Kuna Indians. Pray that God will guide them in how best to reach Kuna for Christ.

Unreached Peoples

Pray for Charity Van Winkle who returned to the States af-

ter a little over a year ministering to unreached peoples. Ask the Lord to bless her reunion with family and friends and pray that she will get some much needed rest.

Spain

Pray for the Turnbough and McVay families while they are on stateside assignment. Pray also for the Spain team members who will continue ministering in their absence: Anthony and Lea Edgmon, Tim and Kristie Johnson and Lynn Midgett.

Brazil

Curt Holland in Campinas has begun a special weekly visitation to families in the Sao Jose area. He is using a special Bible study focussed on strengthening the home. Please pray for this ministry to the church families.

Russia

Mike and Cathy Corley as they minister in Russia. Mike is responsible for developing the Sunday school ministry of the Good News church in Chelyabinsk. Cathy has started teaching a Sunday school class for children who are learning English in school. Pray for the Corleys as they continue to adapt to Russian culture.

Puerto Rico

David and Connie Roy have recently started their work in San Juan. They will need our prayers as they go through the many adjustments that are sure to come.

In Transition

Pray for foreign missionaries who are arriving in the U.S. on stateside assignment as well as those going back to the field. This is a time of transition for many of them.❖



Words for Women

*Marjorie H.
Workman*

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

Have WNAC women picked up on the Generation-X's value system? From the phone calls and questions I receive, I believe many have. The questions most often asked are, "Why should I pay dues? What do I get for my ten dollars? I don't go to the National Convention, I never vote, so what's in it for me?" Being a good consumer, I think a woman has a right to know what she's getting for her money.

For starters, she's getting membership in an elite group of Free Will Baptist women. A group with one common goal — to know Christ and to make Him known. To accomplish this goal, she joins hands with thousands of women in Free Will Baptist churches around the globe. And, thousands of women don't join together without someone coordinating the effort. Her WNAC National Office does just that.

In the beginning, the work was done through volunteers who sacrificed their own time and money to birth WNAC. But the work grew. Soon it outgrew the volunteers. Postage, travel and printing of literature caused a deficit. So began the paying of dues to help with the operational expenses and the employment of a part-time executive-secretary/treasurer. Today the work has grown into a full time operational office with four full-time employees to handle the workload.

In those four full-time employees, she is getting a bookkeeper, a receptionist, a circulation manager, an editor, a promotional executive, a treasurer, an office manager, a meeting planner, a speaker, and a public relations representative who travels extensively to serve the entire organization. In other words, she has four employees available to serve and help her in her local, district or state group in any way possible. She is only a toll-free phone call away from service—another asset of her dues.

She belongs to a nonprofit charitable organization that handles thousands of dollars of donations every month. Yet, her organization does not charge an administrative fee or keep a per-

centage of the donations. She is guaranteed that every penny she gives goes to the designated ministry.

She pays for an audit to see that her organization is run properly and that funds are handled according to acceptable accounting principles. She has access to this audit to see for herself the accountability of the organization.

She is blessed to be a part of a compassionate group of women who enjoy praying, giving and participating in . . .

- A scholarship program for foreign students studying for a ministry among Free Will Baptists outside of the United States
- A student loan program for young people studying at Free Will Baptist Bible College
- The ministries of Free Will Baptist Foreign and Home Missions
- The educational ministries of our national and state colleges
- The four Free Will Baptist homes for children
- The missionary provision closet (a unique service to provide household items to our missionaries)

Do you, as a consumer, think she's getting a good return for her ten dollars? I think so. In fact, she is also getting a subsidy because there are not enough members paying dues to cover all the above services. So her membership fee has to be subsidized with special offerings, magazine subscriptions, and literature sales to cover the shortage.

Finally, there is another value far more important than the consumer value she is receiving. Jesus said it best in Matthew 16:26, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Women Active for Christ are laborers together for the purpose of making a difference in a world that is lost without Christ. Ten dollars is hardly a consideration in exchange for a soul. So, what's in it for me? You be the judge.❖



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