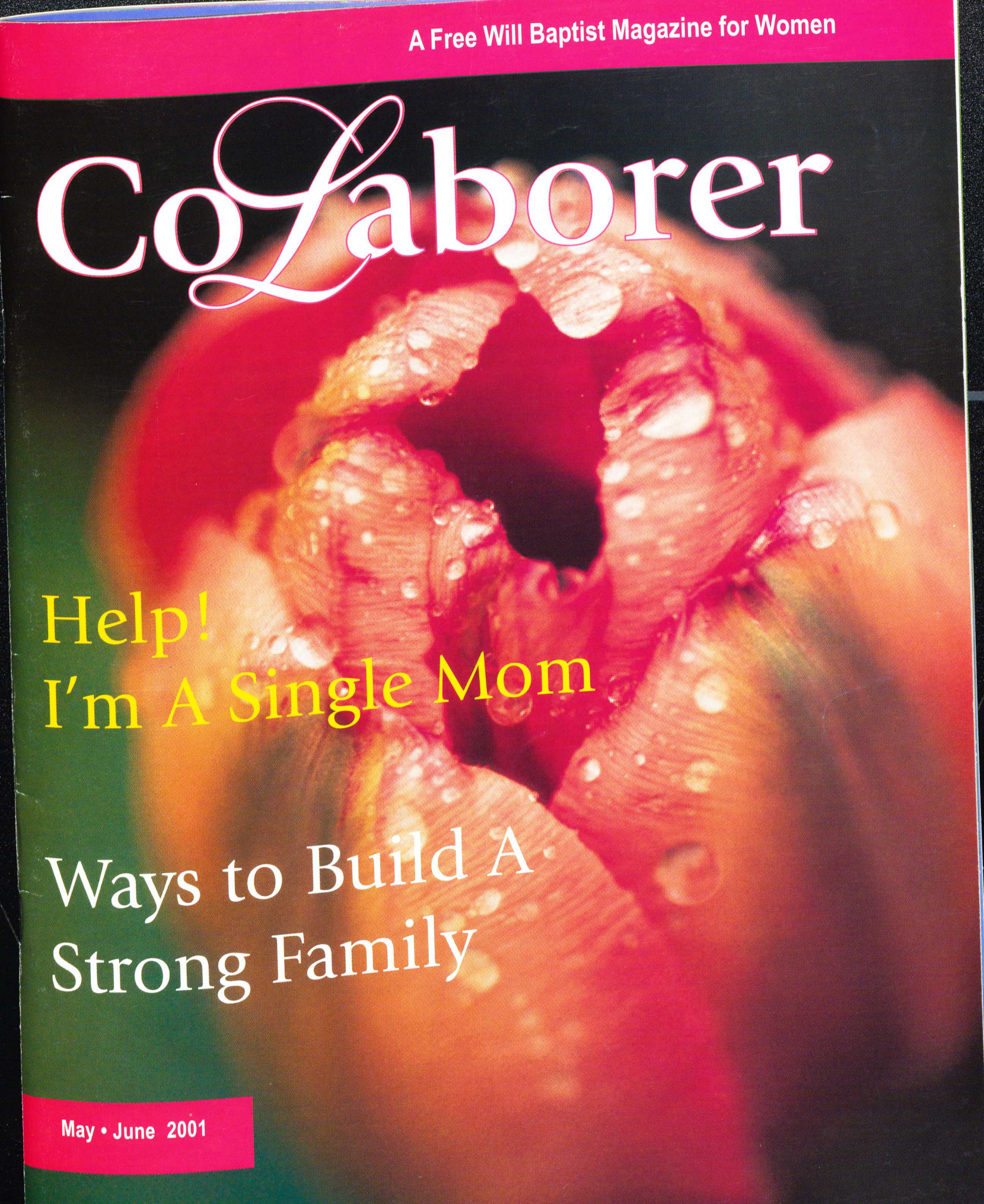


A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

CoLaborer



Help!
I'm A Single Mom

Ways to Build A
Strong Family

May • June 2001

VISION

Rhonda McReynolds



Sunday Mornings

Sleeping soundly, I quickly awakened to the smell of bacon seeping through my bedroom door. I knew, at this moment, what was awaiting me in the kitchen — homemade gravy, biscuits and bacon — yeah! I also knew it was Sunday morning.

Growing up, Sunday mornings held three meanings: a big country breakfast, mom's gospel tapes echoing in the background and church.

Church was a prominent part of my life from my very earliest memory. I always knew that I wanted to be a Christian just like Mom and Dad.

"Mom, how do you know when you're supposed to become a Christian?" Her faithful reply, "You won't have to ask me, you'll know when God speaks to your heart."

She was right. I was a senior in high school when I began my search for a personal relationship with Jesus. I always knew who this man was and what He did, but I began feeling a void forming in my life — an emptiness that couldn't be filled with family or friends. I knew the meaning of the constant pounding in my heart — God was calling my name.

On February 13, 1992, I was sitting in a small church in West Virginia excited to hear the Kingsmen sing. I was having a great time, but by the end of the service, weird things began to happen. The harder I tried to listen to the songs, the harder it was for me to hear anything above the loud thump coming from my chest. My palms were sweating, and my heart was trying to leap from my body. Then, the warm tears began falling uncontrollably. But, in the midst of my personal chaos, a stillness swept over me, and I heard a small comforting voice, "Rhonda, come to me."

Nervously, I stepped one foot out of the pew. Immediately, I felt as though I was carried down the aisle to the altar where I knelt to pray asking Christ to enter my life as my personal Savior and Friend. Immediately, the void in my life was filled.

Three days later, on Sunday morning, the smell of breakfast opened my eyes once more, and I knew this Sunday would be different. I would be sitting in church a new Christian. I knew I would be baptized.

After service, the congregation climbed down the steep bank to stand on the edge of the river. They began singing. My feet stepped into the water, and I waded out waist deep where my dad, my pastor and my Lord awaited me with open arms. I was raised a new creature in Christ. "Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (Corinthians 5:17).

I find it refreshing and new every time I reminisce about the day that I got saved.

I remember my dad asking me, "Does it make you want to shout?"

"Yes."

And it still does.

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Learn the building blocks to rearing a strong family in the May Program.

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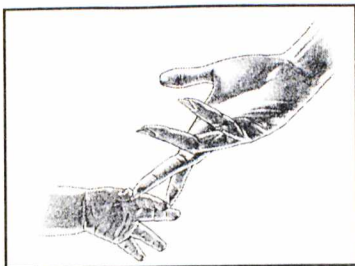
The National Women's Convention of the FWB in Mexico celebrated its 40th year with 117 women in attendance.

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Read a story of healing after a tragedy hits home.

*Except where otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version.

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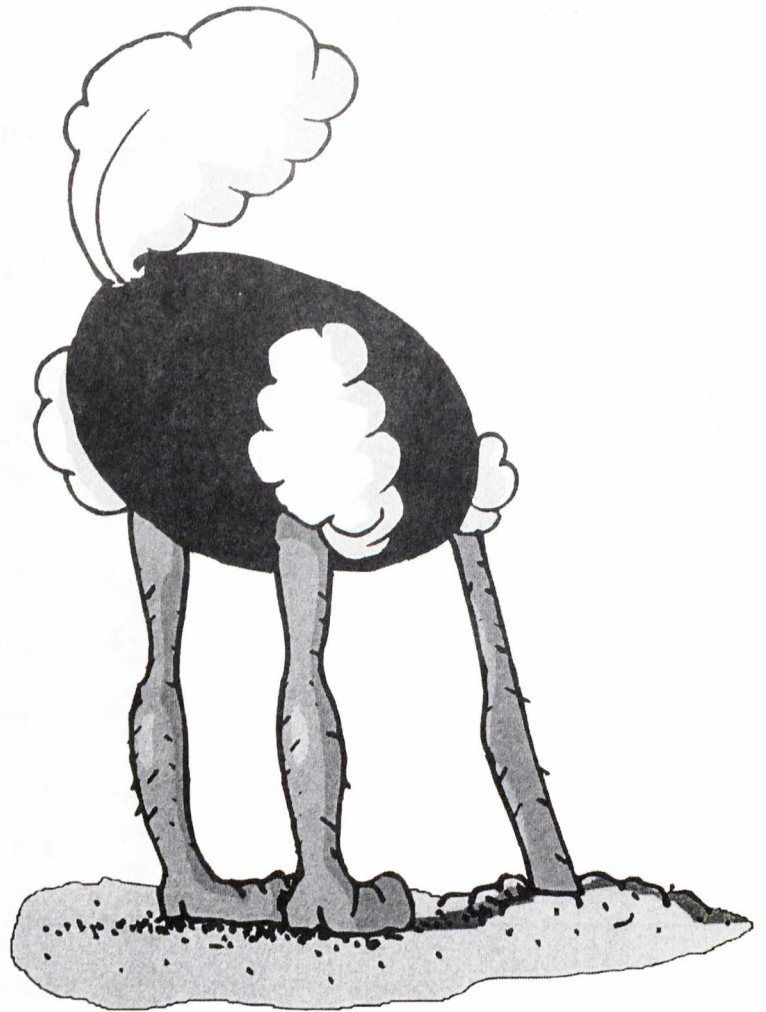
Words for Women—Marjorie Workman

Single Parenting: Not for Cowards

by Diane Sargent

I sat huddled in the dark. No more tears. There were none left. Instead, my mind struggled with the enormity of the task that lay ahead. Disbelief and anger gave place to bitterness and a fear so cold that sheer terror gripped my heart. I hadn't asked for this, nor did I want it. But there was nothing I could do about it. Whatever happened next was my responsibility. Was I up to it? I didn't know, but I knew I had to try. There wasn't much left, just a great big hole where my heart should be. All the feeling and emotion of a wife's heart had slowly seeped away, leaving my soul as dry as summer's grass.

I had never run from anything. Meet life head on had always been my way. Somewhere deep inside a courage I never knew I possessed began to crawl toward the surface. With my back to the wall,



Diane Sargent works at Randall House Publications in Nashville, Tennessee.

**"All the feeling and emotion of a wife's heart
had slowly seeped away, leaving my soul as
dry as summer's grass."**

my feet planted firmly under me, for the first time in my life, alone, I turned to face the world. Was I ready for this? Probably not! Did I have a choice? I doubt it. I didn't know all the answers, and I may never know all I needed to know, but I was going to give it a try. I had children for whom I must plan and provide.

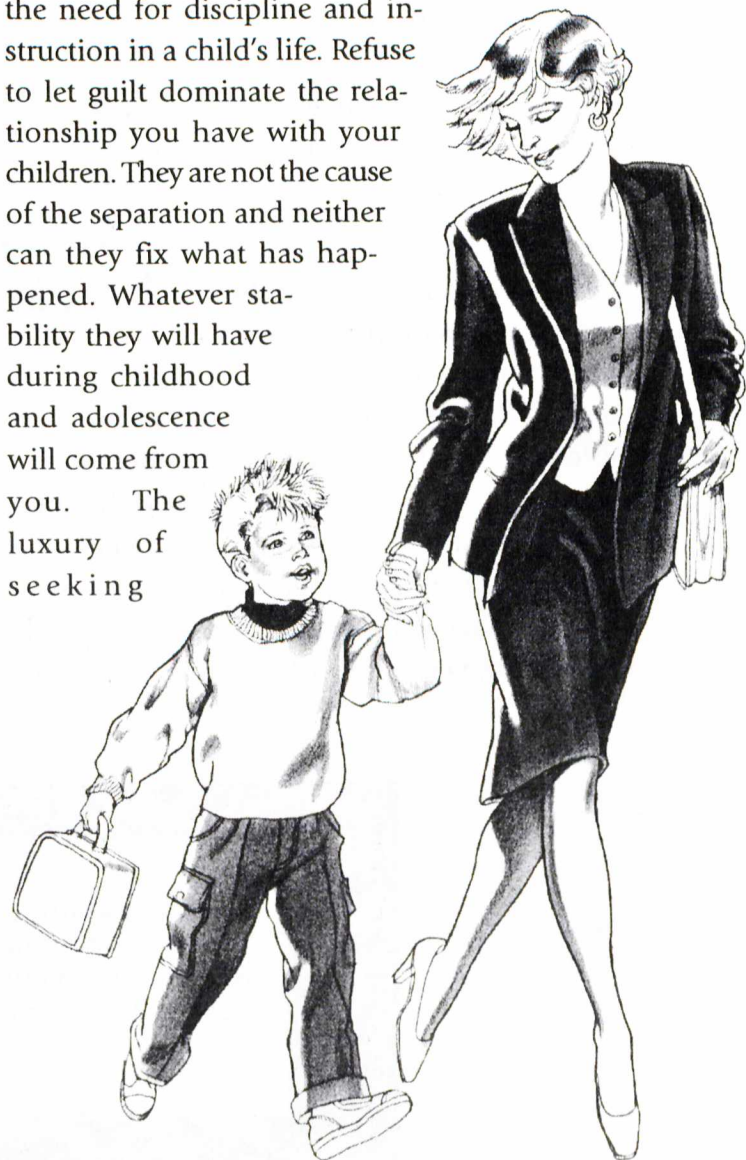
From the very beginning the task of parenting was designed for two people—a father and a mother. It has always been a two-person job. When half of the team is missing, for whatever reason, there will never be a more daunting task

**"With my back
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for the one who is left. Surely there must be "tricks of the trade" that will make the responsibilities less frightening. I offer three.

First, realize that you are still the parent. You must remain in control. Neither divorce nor death does away with

the need for discipline and instruction in a child's life. Refuse to let guilt dominate the relationship you have with your children. They are not the cause of the separation and neither can they fix what has happened. Whatever stability they will have during childhood and adolescence will come from you. The luxury of seeking



your spouse's opinion is forever gone. You must have the courage to say yes or no.

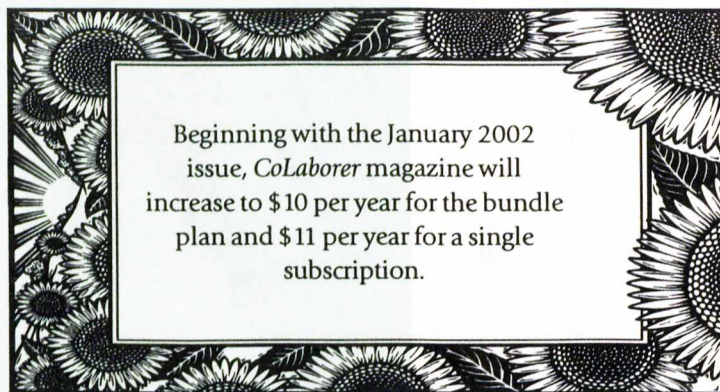
But, if you are a child of God, you do have the luxury of seeking the counsel of an omniscient, omnipotent God. Never be afraid to go to Him with the most trivial matters. He loves you and your children as much as He ever has, and He does have the answers to all your questions. You will be privileged to learn a depth of love and care you did not know existed until now. God responds to the cry of His brokenhearted children. You are not alone; let Him help you. Days, maybe years down the road, you will come to understand how much easier life would have been if you had only let Jesus help you.

You work extra hours to buy needed clothes or just to have the money for haircuts; you deny yourself dinner with friends just so you can spend a few more hours with your son or daughter. But, at some point, you will come face to face with a truth harder to bear than the divorce or death of your spouse. You will realize that you are not able to provide all that your children need. There is only so much one person can do. There is only so much

one person can give. Allow other people to become part of your children's lives. Enjoy time with them and their friends. Encourage your children to make friends with other adults, particularly the men and women in your church family. Don't rob your children of the genuine friendship of godly men and women, people God has placed in your path for the sole purpose of added love, counsel, and support.

The days are filled with work, more work, and precious little time. Somehow the frivolous gets sorted from the essential. The bills get paid; yard sales are a Saturday tradition; you could lecture Harvard Business School on the economics of a one-income household; and somewhere in all of this there is time to take in the Friday night ball game. You have learned to do all the things the other parents do; you just do them by yourself. Yes, you're a parent, a single parent. The children grow up and before long, just like other parents, you are facing an empty house. You take a deep breath, put your back to the wall, and again, you turn to face the world. Are you afraid? Yes! Are you a coward? No way!❖

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Building Strong Families



by Rebecca Pugh

This program is designed to be used as a Reader's Theater. Choose three women who are good readers and who can practice together several times before presenting the program. The readers do not read the Scripture references. They are provided only for reference. Read with clarity, expression and emotion. The Narrator or Program Coordinator should explain what a Reader's Theater is. It is reading the script rather than memorizing it. It is reading with emotion like actors do in a drama, with little moving around if any.

Narrator or Program Coordinator:

Scripture is the Handbook for building strong families. God, who designed the family, has given all resources needed to equip every member of the family to cooperate with one another and live in joy and blessing. God and His wisdom are the difference between the Christian family and any other family.

God must be the center of the home. Fitting Him into the agenda

is NOT the idea here. HE IS THE AGENDA. His Word, His Will, His Way, His Work—everything else is secondary. To pray together as a family—that is the best part of each day. Discipline and diligence are the way to consistently spend time with God personally and as a family. Whatever struggle necessary, the daily family routine should operate with a family being together with God—not just being together. There can be no

substitute. Daily assignments from God are always possible.

Little by little, day by day, energy is generated to meet the demands of each day. The measureless reservoir of God's wisdom, strength and help gives whatever grace supply is needed. God fills in the gaps of our inadequacies in response to our faith and obedience. This is His promise. Listen to the Scriptures as our Readers take us through the Bible to hear what God has to say.

All: Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it (Psalm 127:1).

Reader #1: A wise woman builds her house

Reader #2: But the foolish plucketh it down with her hands (Proverbs 14:1).

Rebecca Pugh is a pastor's wife and mother of six children. She is Vice President of the Tennessee Women Active for Christ.

Reader #3: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10).

All: God is the ONLY WISE GOD (Romans 16:27, I Timothy 1:17, Jude 25).

Reader #1: If any of you lack wisdom,

All: Let her ask of God

Reader #2: That giveth to all women liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given her (James 1:5).

All: Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding (Proverbs 4:7).

Reader #3: Wisdom crieth without;

Reader #2: She uttereth her voice in the streets:

Reader #1: How long ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you (Proverbs 1:20,22,23).

All: For the Lord giveth wisdom:

Reader #1: Out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding

Reader #3: He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous:

Reader #2: He is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.



Whatever struggle necessary,
the daily family routine
should operate with a
family being together with
God—not just being together.

Reader #3: He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

Reader #1: Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path (Proverbs 2:6-9).

Reader #3: Without partiality, and without hypocrisy (James 3:17).

Reader #1: Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me (Matthew 11:28-30).

Reader #2: Without me, ye can do nothing (John 15:5).

Reader #1: Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18).

Reader #2: In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Reader #3: For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him (Colossians 2:3,9,10a).

All: Study to shew thyself approved unto God,

Reader #1: A workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (II Timothy 2:15).

All: Search the scriptures. The wisdom of this world is foolishness



All: The wisdom that is from above

Reader #1: Is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and

Reader #2: Easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits,

to God. The wisdom that is not from above is

Reader #3: Earthly, sensual,

Reader #2: Devilish, envious,

Reader #1: Confusing, and part of every evil work. (1 John 5:39, 1 Corinthians 3:19, James 3:16).

All: Love not the world neither the things that are in the world. . .

Reader #2: For all that is in the world,

Reader #3: The lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world, and the world passeth away and the lust thereof:

Reader #1: But he that doeth the will of God abideth forever (1 John 2:15-17).

All: Jesus said.

Reader #2: "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life" (John 6:63).

Reader #1: Love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Reader #3: And these words, shall be in thine heart:

Reader #2: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children,

Reader #1: And shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house,

Reader #3: And when thou walkest by the way,

Reader #2: And when thou liest down, and when thou risest up (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).

Reader #1: Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein,

All: I am the Lord your God

Reader #2: Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a woman do, she shall live in them (Leviticus 18:4,5).

All: Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day,

Reader #3: Which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law. For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life. . . (Deuteronomy 32:46, 47).

Reader #2: I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a woman do, she shall even live in them.

Reader #1: Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that

All: I am the Lord that sanctify them.

Reader #3: But they rebelled against me:

Reader #2: They walked not in my statutes,

Reader #3: They despised my judgments, which if a woman do, she shall even live in them. . . (Ezekiel 20:11-13, 21).

All: This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth;

Reader #1: But thou shalt meditate therein day and night,

Reader #2: That thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein:

Reader #3: For then thou shalt make thy way prosperous

All: And then thou shalt have good success (Joshua 1:8).

Reader #3: The law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple (Psalm 19:7).

All: Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them

Reader #1: I will liken [her] to a wise woman which built her house upon a rock (Matthew 7:24).

All: Young women:

Reader #3: Be sober, love [your]husband,love [your]children,

Reader #2: Be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to [your] own husbands,



A strong family is built
upon God and His wisdom
revealed in His word.



When a Christian mother
allows a day to pass without
a power plan from God, she
is choosing failure.

Reader #3: That the word of God be not blasphemed (Titus 2:4, 5).

Reader #1: A virtuous woman has strength and honour as her clothing:

Reader #2: She openeth her mouth with wisdom and in her tongue is the law of kindness

Reader #3: She looketh well to the ways of her household and eateth not the bread of idleness (Proverbs 31:10, 25-27).

All: Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33).

Reader #1: I will rise before dawn and cry for help: I have put my hope in your word (Psalm 119:147).

Reader #3: My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth. In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation (Psalm 121:2; 5:3).

Reader #1: Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore (Psalm 16:11).

Reader #2: Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk:

for I lift up my soul unto thee. . . Teach me to do thy will for thou art my God. . . (Psalm 143:8).

All: In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths (Proverbs 3:6).

Reader #3: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path (Psalm 119:105).

All: Shew me thy ways, O Lord;

Reader #1: Teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me. . . (Psalm 25:4, 5).

All: Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path (Psalm 27:11).

Reader #2: Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein, a doer of the work. . . this [woman] shall be blessed (James 1:25).

Reader #3: A woman that feareth the Lord,

Reader #2: She shall be praised.

Reader #1: Her children arise up, and call her blessed;

Reader #2: Her husband also, and he praiseth her.

All: Give her of the fruit of her hands: and let her own works praise her in the gates (Proverbs 31:30b, 28, 31).

Narrator or Program Coordinator:

Understanding God's truth through these scriptures is simple; however, implementing truth is not so easy. Would any mother deliberately tear down her family? Would she try to destroy them? When a Christian mother allows a day to pass without a power plan from God, she is choosing failure. To live independently is serious. She is doomed to set in motion details and/or decisions that could be potentially detrimental to her family. The little fox of neglect will surely spoil the vine.

A strong family is built upon God and His wisdom revealed in His Word. Daily drawing on the storehouse will insure success.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me (Philippians 4:13).

Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might (Ephesians 6:10)

Therefore, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (in building strong families) forasmuch as ye know that your labor is NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD! (I Corinthians 15:58). ♦

Help!

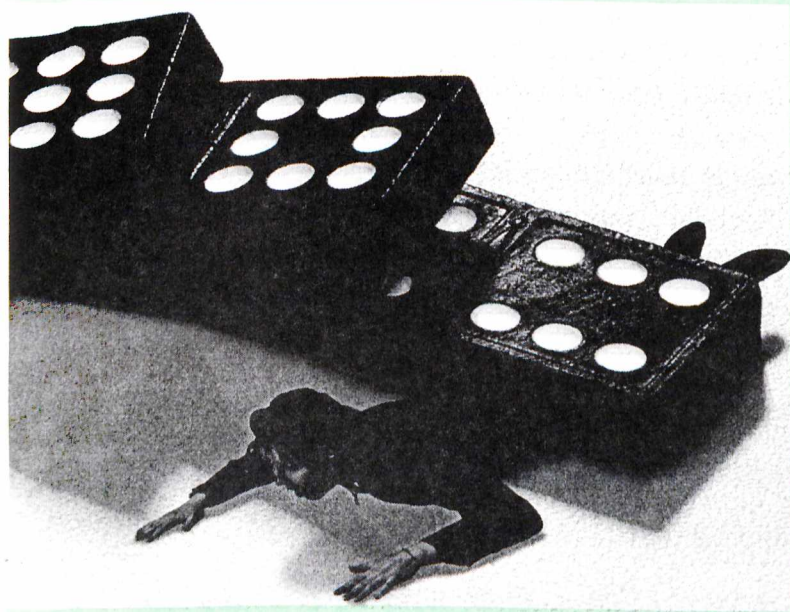
I'm a Single Mom

by Yvonne Hampton

Scripture: James 1:27

Hymn: And He Cares About You (F.W.B. Hymnbook Rejoice Page 574)

Objective: To gain a better understanding of single moms and find ways to help them spiritually, emotionally and physically.



More than half of America's children are expected to spend time in a single-parent home before they reach age eighteen. In 1999 the U.S. Census Bureau reported that single women headed 12.2 million homes in America. Some of them are in your church

and your women's group. Maybe it's you. No matter the circumstances that brought them to that situation, these women need understanding, and they need a helping hand.

Do Free Will Baptist women need a program about single parenting? Absolutely! Take a look around your community, your church, and yes, your own family, and you'll agree.

BECOMING A SINGLE PARENT

First, let's hear from three real-life moms who will share their personal stories of how they became single moms.

Yvonne's story:

"We did everything we could. I'm sorry. Your husband didn't make it." With those words I became a single parent. When my daughter was born in 1972, I never dreamed I would be rearing her alone as she entered her teens. It took two of us to create her, and I assumed that we would both be around to coax, encourage, discipline and love her into adulthood. I was wrong.

Susan's story:

I married a handsome, strong, older man who loved partying and drinking. I thought I knew what I was doing. We quickly had three children.

Yvonne Hampton is the Executive Assistant in the WNAC National Office. She lives in Nashville, Tennessee.



Eventually his drinking became a serious problem, and his abuse became unbearable. When my children's lives were put in danger, I had to leave. I felt my children and I would be better off on our own. I never doubted it was the right decision, but life as a single parent has been far more difficult than I ever imagined.

I am now trying to rear a child who trusts God to be her loving Father.

Every single mom has a story. Most never planned to rear their children alone. Yet, because of unforeseen circumstances, these moms are faced with the mammoth task of rearing children on their own.

WNAC's purpose is to "help the woman find her place in the Great Commission, in the home, the church, the community and around the world." This includes helping single moms find their place too.

Here are some ways you can help.

The situation...

When a parent dies, children often feel they have lost both parents. One parent is no longer in the home. The other sometimes must take a second job to support the family. With neither parent available, children feel lost and alone. This can cause resentment toward both parents. Resentment builds, rebellion quickly follows and mom has no clue where to turn for help. Also, mom feels guilty for having to be away. Guilt can be a hard taskmaster. Increased responsibility coupled with loneliness causes mom to silently slip into depression or anxiety.

"It took two of us to create her, and I assumed that we would both

Karen's story:

I was brought up by godly parents, and I knew what God's word said about sex outside of marriage. But I was in love and thought I couldn't wait.

We were both so young. He chose not to take responsibility for his child. I had three choices—abortion, adoption or keeping my baby. I chose to keep my precious Emily. I've never been sorry. My relationship with God has been restored, and

The ministry opportunity...

- A retired or stay-at-home mom could offer to watch the children after school until mom comes home from work.
- Occasionally help with housework so that mom can spend some quality time with her children in the evening.
- Offer an afternoon of playtime with your children while mom runs errands or shops for groceries.

- The widowed parent needs time alone to grieve the loss of her husband. Be sensitive to the emotional needs of widowed single moms.

The situation...

Surprisingly, 80% of estranged fathers are not involved in the lives of their own children five years after a divorce. They often move away or remarry and have another family. Both sides of the family unit are torn apart. Effort should be made to maintain a good relationship with the ex-husband's parents and other family members. The divorced mom must try to assure her children that the estranged grandparents love them and are still a part of their family.

Feelings of personal rejection or a sense of blame can make it difficult for divorced single moms to allow their children to continue a relationship with their father's family.

The ministry opportunity...

- Sponsor a Grandparents Day and encourage single moms to invite both sets of grandparents to share time with the children.
- At times when moms or children are experiencing feelings of hurt and abandonment,

- Pray with them asking God to heal the hurts and restore their confidence.

- Immediately following the loss of a spouse the single parent is not usually ready to open her heart to God's word. But when the time is right, share Scripture with her. The inspired Word is able to restore and heal in a powerful way.

- There are times when the aid of a Christian counselor is needed. Some emotional and spiritual needs are greater than a friend can provide.

The situation...

The prospect of having a child outside of marriage is daunting. The world offers a quick solution—abortion. Somehow that goes against all she's been taught, and her heart cries "NO!" Then there is the local adoption agency. She wants her child to be reared by two loving parents. But, as she looks down into the face of her precious child, she wonders if she could, just maybe, be a successful parent even if she is young, untrained and alone. Others have, and she determines in her heart that she can too. She takes a deep breath hoping her friends and family will understand and be supportive. She's going to need all the help she can get.

be around to coax, encourage, discipline and love her into adulthood."

nothing takes the place of good solid friendship. Encourage them to talk about their feelings, assuring them that what they say will be kept in confidence. Refrain from saying, "I know how you feel" unless you've experienced the same hurt and pain.

- Encourage the children to make a family album or scrapbook that includes photos and stories from both sides of the family. You may even offer to help with the project. This will help maintain a connection with both sides of the family.

The ministry opportunity....

- Regardless of the circumstances, the unwed mother is still a single parent. Determine to put aside your prejudice and love that scared young woman. You may be the one to lead her back into a right relationship with God.

- Offer training in parenting skills.
- Help arrange babysitting for the new mother when she goes to work or returns to school.

•The unwed mother sometimes does not have the support of the father of the child or her family. Financial pressures may become overwhelming. Be sensitive to those needs and offer any help you can.

•As always, nothing is more helpful than the listening ear of a faithful friend. Reassure the unwed mother that God loves her and that you do too. While you cannot approve of her actions, you can help restore her to the care of the One who gives beauty for ashes.

Other ministry opportunities

Remember that Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40b). All single moms need physical, emotional and spiritual assistance. Here are a few other ways you can help.

•Open your home to single-parent families, and show them a good example of how God intended the family unit to operate.

•Show love to the children as well as to the parent. A hug or pat on the shoulder goes a long way.

•Invite them to go along on outings, picnics or church activities.

•Your husband could take the boys fishing or camping while you take the girls shopping.

Conclusion...

Serving God sometimes requires that we go beyond our comfort zone. Don't be shy about reaching out to single moms God has placed in

Ask God what
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share the load and
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as they struggle
to be both mom
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children.

your path. Ask God what you can do to share the load and help these women as they struggle to be both mom and dad to their children.

Organize a HELP committee to identify the single moms in your church. Target their specific needs and work to fill them. Involve every woman in your church or women's group to do something, great or small, to minister to these single moms.

Your love and acceptance can help these women create a loving family with God as the head of their home. The broken hearts and homes of single moms need the healing touch of the Savior. Christians

are those through whom the healing touch is administered. When the heart is healed, when that woman is made whole again, then, and only then, can she fulfill her place in the church, the community and around the world.❖

Refer to the 2001 WNAC Yearbook, page 41. You will find several suggestions for different ways to present this program. The Yearbook may be purchased from WNAC by calling our toll-free number 1-877-767-7662.



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WAC Officers

Coordinator/Assistant Coordinator

Plan now to attend the National Convention in Detroit, Michigan. Convention dates are set for July 15-19, 2001. You can fill out the pre-registration form found in the enclosed insert of this issue. Or, register on line at www.nafwb.org.

Get involved in coordinating a successful Mother/Daughter banquet. This creates a unique opportunity to get younger women involved in your WAC. A successful banquet is the result of successful planning.

Secretary/Treasurer

Encourage your group to send a delegate to the WNAC Convention. Just fill out the delegate card located in the convention insert. The card must be signed by the local secretary or local coordinator. A \$5 registration fee must be included.

Be sure to send in your annual reports and dues to District officers. Remind your group that National dues are \$10 per person.

Missions Chairman

This time of year can get hectic with Mother's Day and Father's Day and banquets, but don't forget about those who are graduating. This is a good time to let the young people know that someone cares. Present them with a gift from your WAC.

Also, you can get involved with the MK ministry. Some MK's will be entering their first year of college which means, for some, living in a different country than their parents. You can help

Provision Closet Needs

Electric Knives

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Heavy Duty
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King, queen and
full sheet sets

Queen and twin
bedspreads

Queen and full
electric blankets

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**Send new items only.
No clothes, please.
Whenever possible,
leave prices on items
to help the office keep up
with inventory.*

them by purchasing Wal-Mart gift certificates or phone cards. Just send them to WNAC, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. We will send them to the MK's.

Prayer Chairman

Our missionaries, both home and foreign, are in constant need of intercessory prayer. Write the missionaries' names on slips of paper. Your group can then draw names. Each WAC member will be responsible for praying for that name throughout the month. Each month you can have a different drawing.

Service Chairman

Kids are getting out of school, and many single moms may need your help. See how your group can meet the needs of your single moms through the summer months.

URGENT

memo

Call
Missions Hotline

615-731-3839

e-mail:
carole@nafwb.org

CoLaborer

PO Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011

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Subscription rates: \$8.75 single

- \$8.00 in bundles of 5 or more to the same address
- ❖ price includes postage and handling
- ❖ price is based on one year subscription (6 issues)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Church _____

Phone () _____

☐ New

☐ Renewal

☐ Payment Enclosed

☐ Please Bill

65th Annual

National Association of Free Will Baptists



July 15-19, 2001
Detroit, Michigan

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*"...waiting for
the coming of
our Lord Jesus
Christ" 1 Cor.
1:7*

From the Beginning to Now



The Treatise Committee pictured at Cofer's Chapel FWB Church in Nashville, TN. The picture was taken at the first Free Will Baptist National Convention in 1935. Pictured from left: J.C. Griffin, C.B. Thompson, Ralph Staten, E.B. Joyner, E.E. Morris, Winford Davis, W.B. Davenport, M.L. Morse, M.T. Van Hoose.

William F. Davidson called the time from 1935 to the present "the modern period" for Free Will Baptists. The periods before 1935 were rocky at best. When times began looking good, they somehow turned grim. However, in 1935 members of the Eastern and Western Associations joined together at Cofer's Chapel Church in Nashville, Tennessee, to host the first-ever National Association of Free Will Baptists.

The years since that first meeting have seen exponential growth. The Free Will Baptist denomination has drawn its members together to fellowship and see where God is leading them for the future.

That future is now. The growth seen now is a harvest of the seeds sown in the past. Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington expects 7,000 delegates and visitors to attend the 2001 convention at Cobo Center in Detroit, Michigan. There will be 40 states represented compared to the six in 1935.

This year's convention will offer a variety of choices for attendees. The Women Nationally Active for Christ will conduct their yearly meeting with special guests and speakers. The National Youth Conference will host their yearly event and expect this to be the best year ever. The evenings will offer services for children, students and adults.

Are you "...waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:7b, KJV)? This year's theme is *While We Wait*. Join your fellow Free Will Baptists this summer in Detroit and prepare for the future God has for us.

Pop Quiz

Can you name the first year the National Association met in the state of Michigan?

Can you name the first moderator of the National Association?

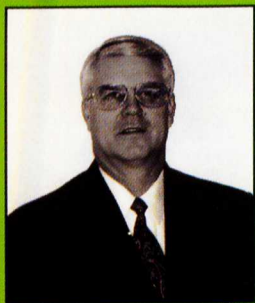
8,340 people attended the 1985 convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Can you name the second largest convention?

Since the National Association first met in 1935, it seems the 2001 convention would be the 67th convention. Can you name the years the convention did not meet and why?

How many times has the National Association met in Detroit, Michigan? Can you name the year(s)?

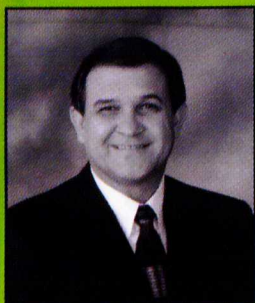
For answers to these questions, visit our web site at: www.nafwb.org

The 2001 Convention Speakers



David Bishop *Sunday Morning • July 15, 2001*

David pastors the Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Atkins, Arkansas, where he has been since 1986. He serves as moderator of the Arkansas State Association and as moderator of Fellowship Association. David and Patsy Bishop have one daughter.



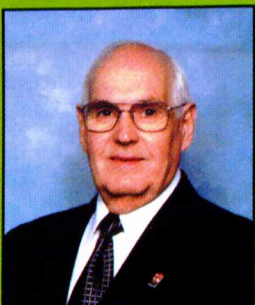
Danny Dwyer *Sunday Evening • July 15, 2001*

Danny pastors the First Free Will Baptist Church in Florence, Alabama. Prior to serving in Alabama, he was the Dean of Students and Vice-President of Southeastern Free Will Baptist College. Danny and Carolyn Dwyer have three children.



Leonard Pirtle *Monday Evening • July 16, 2001*

Leonard pastors the First Free Will Baptist Church in Owasso, Oklahoma, where he has been since 1973. While in Owasso, Leonard has helped his community by serving on several boards and committees. Leonard and Carolyn Pirtle have three children.



Gene Norris *Tuesday Evening • July 17, 2001*

Gene pastors the Riverside Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Clinton Township, Michigan, where he has been since 1983. He is Promotional Secretary for Michigan State Association and chairs the 2001 Convention Steering Committee. Gene and Jane Norris have two sons.



Carlisle Hanna *Wednesday Evening • July 18, 2001*

Carlisle has served as a Free Will Baptist missionary to India since 1951. The State of South Carolina presented him with the Order of the Palmetto award in November 2000. The Order of the Palmetto is the highest civilian honor a South Carolinian can receive.

COLOR CODED CHART

NAFWB EVENTS

WNAC EVENTS

NYC EVENTS

OTHER FWB EVENTS

CONVENTION AT A GLANCE

July 15-19, 2001

Detroit, Michigan

SUNDAY JULY 15, 2001

Adult Worship
Cobo Arena
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Children & Student Worship
Cobo Center
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Early Registration
Pre-Registered Only
Cobo Center
1:00 - 3:00 pm

Registration
Cobo Center
3:00 - 6:30 pm
8:30 - 10:00 pm

Exhibit Area Open
Cobo Center
3:00 - 6:30 pm
8:30 - 10:00 pm

Pastors/Laymen Conference
Cobo Arena
3:00 - 5:00 pm

Adult Worship
Cobo Arena
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Children & Student Worship
Cobo Center
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Exhibit Area Open
Cobo Center
10:00 am - 10:00 pm

Hillsdale College Luncheon
Hotel Pontchartrain
12:30 - 1:30 pm

WNAC Fellowship Luncheon
Cobo Center
12:30 - 2:30 pm

Master's Men Seminar
Cobo Center
2:00 - 4:00 pm

RTG Service Projects
Cobo Center
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Convention Business Session
Cobo Arena
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Exhibit Area Open
Cobo Center
10:00 am - 10:00 pm

NYC Seminars
Cobo Center
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
1:00 - 4:00 pm

MONDAY JULY 16, 2001

General Board Convenes
Detroit Marriott
8:00 am - 2:30 pm

NYC Competitive Activities
Cobo Center
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

RTG Service Projects
Cobo Center
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

NYC Seminars
Cobo Center
1:00 - 4:00 pm

WNAC Seminars
Cobo Center
1:30 - 2:30 pm

TUESDAY JULY 17, 2001

NYC Competitive Activities
Cobo Center
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

RTG Service Projects
Cobo Center
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Foreign/Home Missions Rally
Cobo Center
8:30 - 10:30 am

WNAC Convention
Cobo Arena
8:30 am - 12:30 pm

NYC Seminars
Cobo Center
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
1:00 - 4:00 pm

Theological Trends Seminar
Cobo Center
3:00 - 4:30 pm

Sunday School Workshop
Cobo Center
3:00 - 4:30 pm

Adult Worship
Cobo Arena
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Children & Student Worship
Cobo Center
7:00 - 8:30 pm

WEDNESDAY JULY 18, 2001

NYC Competitive Finals
Cobo Center
8:00 - 11:00 am

FWBBC Luncheon
Cobo Center
12:00 - 1:15 pm

Music Commission Seminar
Cobo Center
1:30 - 3:00 pm

Combined Worship
Cobo Arena
7:00 - 9:00 pm

NYC Awards Ceremony
Cobo Arena
9:00 pm

THURSDAY JULY 19, 2001

Concluding Business Session
Cobo Arena
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sharing Hope and Healing



"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory"
Colossians 1:27 KJV

Seminars and Events

Monday July 16, 2001

Anne Worthington 1:30-2:30
You Have A Speck In Your Eye

Debbie Burden &
Diana Bryant 1:30-2:30
Just The Facts, Ma'am

Tuesday July 17, 2001

Carol Pinkerton 8:30
Morning Devotion

James Forlines 11:00
Missionary Service

Susan Turnbough 12:30
Fellowship Luncheon



Anne Worthington

You Have A Speck In Your Eye

Anne Worthington's 30-year leadership in WNAC and life as a pastor's wife for 20 years give her a unique perspective on dealing with criticism. Anne has been there up-close and personal with the critics, and she knows ways to handle the critics in your life.

Debbie Burden & Diana Bryant

Just The Facts, Ma'am

Same initials, same calling—one is an Okie, the other lives in Dodgertown. Pastors' wives, mothers, music teachers, church pianists, WNAC board members. This dynamic duo juggles impossible schedules and both understand the art of good record keeping. Come and see how they do it!



Carol Pinkerton

Carol Pinkerton, missionary to Cote d'Ivoire, loves living in a place she once dreaded. "God convinced her" that He enjoys using a variety of personalities in His work. And 28 years later, Carol's vibrant personality is still touching lives.

James Forlines

James Forlines, energetic general director of Foreign Missions, focuses attention on spreading his vision of an entire denomination mobilized and actively involved in world evangelism. He's a road runner with his eye on tomorrow.



Susan Turnbough

Susan Turnbough's day job is a missionary in Spain—"the best country," she says. Susan brings zip and passion wherever God places her—on stateside assignment or in Spain. She helped create the successful evangelistic outreach Cafe y Algo Mas. Interpretation: Coffee and Something More.

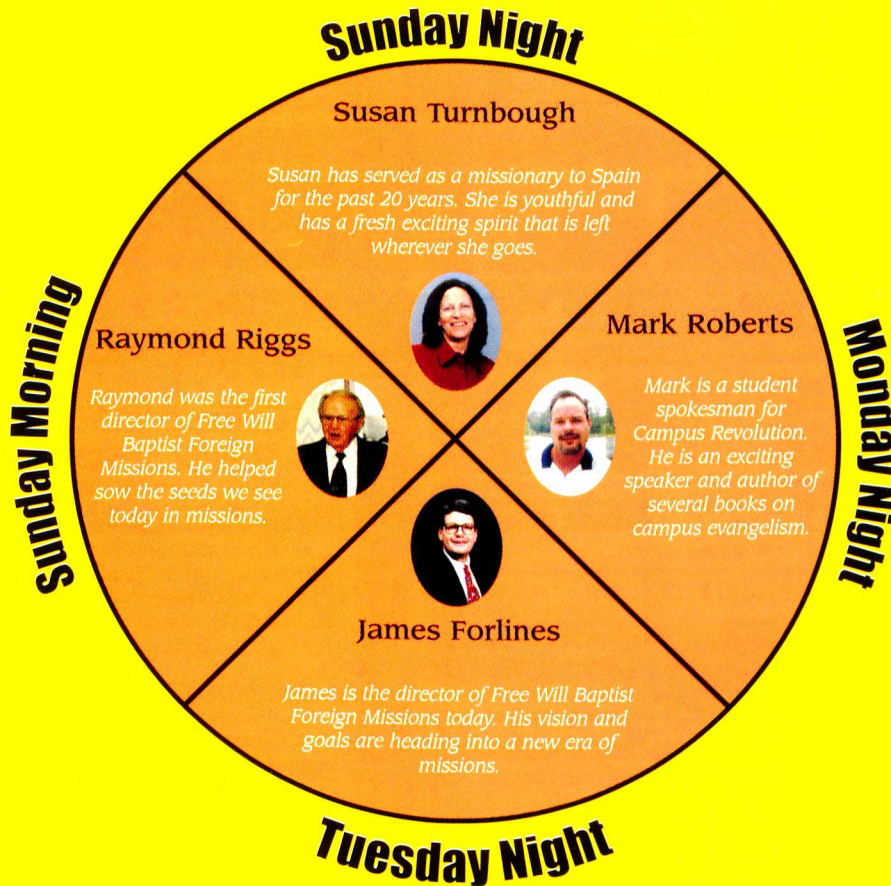
DON'T FORGET

**YOU MUST PURCHASE A
TICKET TO ATTEND THE
FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON AT
12:30 ON TUESDAY. TICKETS
ARE \$25 PER PERSON.**

**TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED
IN ADVANCE WHEN YOU
PRE-REGISTER. SEE PAGE 8
FOR THE PRE-REGISTRATION
FORM.**

National Youth Conference

STUDENT SERVICES



NO RESERVES NO RETREATS NO REGRETS

Youth Blast

Join us for a new and improved version of the youth banquet. This year you'll find an exciting option filled with food and fun. At Youth Blast 2001, you'll find side-splitting comedy and a fantasy-world filled with chocolate. Purchase your tickets for either the 5:00 pm or 9:00 pm show. The 90-minute program features comedy and a scrumptious chocolate dessert reception. Tickets are only \$15.



This year, Reach That Guy has several exciting service projects lined up just for you. We will be working in a large food bank and several soup kitchens, conducting inner city Bible schools and helping out in a **HUGE** community service project in downtown Detroit!



You'll find exciting programming, workshops, worship services and service opportunities for all ages.



Pre-Registration Form

National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Detroit, Michigan / July 15-19, 2001

Personal Information *Please Print*

Name Desired On Badge (First) _____ (Last) _____
Home Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (_____) _____ Email _____
Church You Are Representing _____
Church Location (City) _____ (State) _____

BADGE REQUIRED

For Attendance

At All

Convention Events

One Person Per Form



National Association

All voting delegates must be members in good standing of a FWB Church.

Voting Delegates:

- ☐ National Board/Commission Member
- ☐ Local Church Delegate—\$50
- ☐ Foreign Missionary
- ☐ Home Missionary
- ☐ Ordained Deacon
- ☐ Ordained Minister

Non-Voting Attendees:

- ☐ Licensed Minister
- ☐ Visitor

Tickets & Fees

Youth Workers' Reception---Qty. ____ x \$15=____

WNAC Luncheon-----Qty. ____ x \$25=____

FWBBC Luncheon-----Qty. ____ x \$20=____

Hillsdale Luncheon-----Qty. ____ x \$20=____

Youth Blast ☐ 5:00 pm---Qty. ____ x \$15=____

☐ 9:00 pm---Qty. ____ x \$15=____

Local WNAC Delegate
Signed Delegate Card + \$5=____

Local Church Delegate
Signed Delegate Card + \$50=____

NYC Pre-Registration Fee \$22=____

Total = \$____

☐ I will be paying by check.
Make check payable to FWB Convention.

☐ Charge my credit card.
☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Mailing & Other Info.

Mail Pre-Registration Form To:

Convention Registration
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

You may register online at: www.nafwb.org
For questions call toll free 1-877-767-7659

WNAC Women Nationally Active for Christ

Voting Delegates:

- ☐ National Officer
- ☐ State President
- ☐ State Field Worker
- ☐ Local WNAC Delegate—\$5

Non-Voting Attendees:

- ☐ Visitor
- ☐ Missionary



National Youth Conference

☐ Grades 1-12—\$22*

Required to attend NYC Events or Competition.

☐ Ages 3-6—\$22*

Required for ages 3-6 attending Pre-School Worship.

Birthdate: _____ Age: _____

Grade Completed Spring 2001: _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Youth Leader _____

*On-Site
Registration
is \$25

For Office
Use Only

Date Rcv'd
CK/MO#
Amount
From

Deadline: June 8, 2001
No Refunds After June 8, 2001

Confirmation letters
will be mailed



Housing Form

National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Detroit, Michigan / July 15-19, 2001

Instructions

STEP 1

Fill out the *Personal Information* section. The contact name is the person you want the confirmation mailed to. This section must be filled out completely including all of the room-mates.

STEP 2

Fill out the *Hotel Information* section. Fill in the circle under the description that corresponds to the appropriate hotel.

Ex. If you want a room with two beds for two people, and you want to stay in the Marriott, you would do as follows:

You fill in the circle under the DBL/DBL that is in the same row as the Marriott.

	DBL/DBL 2 BEDS/ 2 PERSONS
Marriott	● \$115
Pontchartrain	○ \$109

Complete this section by indicating any special requests, and fill in your arrival and departure dates. The address for the hotel of your choice is located in the bottom right hand side of the *Hotel Information* box.

STEP 3

Fill out the *Payment Options* section appropriately. The required deposit is \$135 per room. You may pay by check or credit card. The hotels prefer you pay by credit card. If you choose to pay by check, make it payable to the hotel of your choice. Forms sent in without complete credit card information or a check for the deposit will be returned without reservations being made.

Any changes or cancellations should be made directly to the hotel. Check your hotel confirmation regarding hotel cancellation policies and check-in times.

***Print or type all information requested and phone, mail, or FAX form to the hotel of your choice by June 15, 2001. Reservations received after June 15, 2001 (or once block is full) will be on a space and rate available basis. If your form is faxed, keep your transaction report as proof of transmittal. You will receive confirmation from the hotel two weeks after they receive your form.

**Send only one
form per room.**

Personal Information

Confirmation will be mailed to this person and this person only.

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Roommates: (List all occupants of room.)

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

Hotel Information

Fill in the circle that corresponds to the hotel and room you desire.

	SINGLE 1 BED/ 1 PERSON	DOUBLE 1 BED/ 2 PERSONS	DBL/DBL 2 BEDS/ 2 PERSONS	TRIPLE 2 BEDS/ 3 PERSONS	QUAD 2 BEDS/ 4 PERSONS
Marriott Headquarters Hotel	○ \$115	○ \$115	○ \$115	○ \$115	○ \$115
Pontchartrain Crowne Plaza	○ \$109	○ \$109	○ \$109	○ \$109	○ \$109

Rates do not include tax which is currently 15% in Michigan and other applicable taxes.

SPECIAL REQUESTS	
☐ Wheelchair Accessible	☐ Non-Smoking
☐ Rollaway (Upon availability at an extra charge)	
☐ Crib	☐ Other _____

Arrival Date _____

Departure Date _____

Hotel Pontchartrain
Crowne Plaza
Two Washington Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226
Tel (313) 965-0200
Fax (313) 965-9464
ATTN: Reservations

Marriott Renaissance Center
Renaissance Center
Detroit, MI 48243
Tel 1-800-228-9290
Fax (313) 568-8666
ATTN: Reservations
Internet:
www.marriott.com
Group code: FWBFWBA

Payment Options

Apply Deposit To: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

☐ Check Enclosed. Check # _____

Make check payable to the hotel of your choice.

Important Reminders

Parking Cost
Marriott is \$18.50 a day for valet
and \$9-\$14 a day for self. There are
no IN/OUT privileges with self-parking.

Pontchartrain
is \$14 valet.

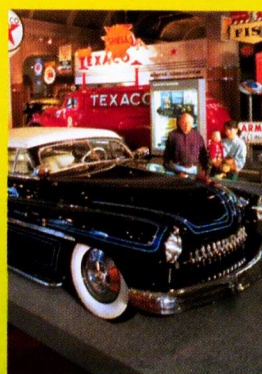
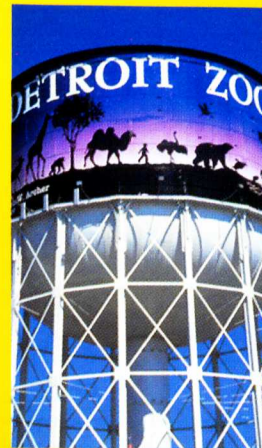
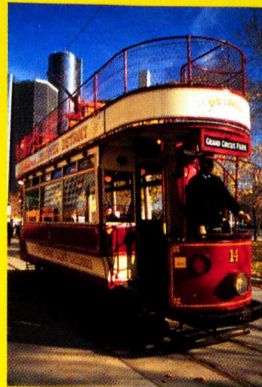
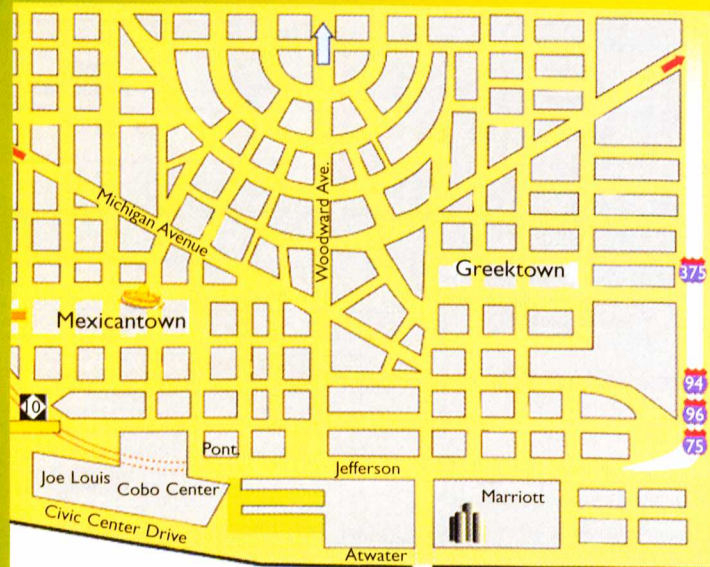
An advance deposit of \$135 is required. Without proper credit card information or check information, your reservation will not be processed.

Detroit!

MOTOR CITY, HOCKEYTOWN AND MUCH MORE

Detroit has much to offer during your visit this summer. You can pack the kids and head for the Detroit Zoo, Dad can spend the day at Henry Ford Museum, or the whole family can take the tunnel to Windsor, Canada. Whatever your choice may be, Detroit is ready for you!

Downtown Detroit



Detroit Hot Spots!

Here are a few of the places you may want to visit.

Detroit Historical Museum

5401 Woodward, Detroit, MI 48202
Open Tues-Fri, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm ~ Sat & Sun, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Admission: \$4.50 adults, \$2.25 seniors & children 12-18, 12 & under free
Tel. (313) 833-1805 Internet: www.detroithistorical.org

Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village

20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, MI 48124-4088
Open 9:00 am - 5:00 pm daily
Admission: \$12.50 adults, \$11.50 seniors, \$7.50 youth 5-12, 4 & under free
Tel. (313) 271-1620 Internet: www.hfmvgv.org

Detroit Zoo

Open 10:00 am - 5:00 pm daily
Admission: \$7.50 adult, \$5.50 senior (62+), \$5.50 child (2-18), under 2 free
Group Rates: (248) 399-7001 Zoo Information: (248) 398-0900
Internet: www.detroitzoo.org

Belle Isle Aquarium

Open 10:00 am - 5:00 pm daily
Admission: \$2 ages 13 and up, \$1 ages 2-12, under 2 free
Group Rates: (248) 399-7001 Aquarium Information (248) 398-0900
Internet: www.detroitzoo.org

Automotive Hall of Fame

21400 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn, MI 48124
Admission: \$6.00 adults 13-61, \$5.50 62 & up, \$3.00 5-12
Open 10:00 am - 5:00 pm daily
Call toll free 1-800-29VISIT

The Detroit Institute of Arts

5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202
Admission: \$4.00 adults, \$1.00 children
Open Wed - Fri 11:00 am - 4:00 pm, Sat & Sun 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Tel. (313) 833-7900

Detroit Tigers Baseball

For information call (313) 471-BALL
Internet: www.detroittigers.com

it's a great time in
detroit™

For more information on attractions and events in Detroit, check out the official tourism website for metro Detroit at:

www.visitdetroit.com

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Remember: If you pre-register, you will get a nice color name tag. If you do not pre-register, you will get a plain black and white name tag.



This year there will be eight different backgrounds for the name tags. Each one is colorful, attractive and features a car made in Detroit.

The color name tags also come with a quality vinyl holder and clip or pin. The black and white name tags have no pictures and come with a simple plastic cover.

Discount Airfare Discount Airfare

Discount Airfare Discount Airfare

Discount Airfare Discount Airfare

Navigant International has been selected as the official travel agency for the National Convention. Discounts for air travel have been secured on Northwest Airlines. The airline offers a 5% discount on excursion rates (10% if booked 60 days in advance) and 10% discount on full coach fares. These are contracted group airfares and cannot be purchased through another agency.

Navigant International has contracted for travel dates July 9-22 for the convention. To book air-space at the offered discounted rates, call Janice Jakobik at 1-800-489-2004. Identify yourself with the FWB Convention.

Discount Airfare Discount Airfare

For more pre-registration forms, housing forms and delegate cards visit our website at: www.nafwb.org

Local Church Delegate Card 2001

This certifies that _____

(name)

is a duly authorized delegate to the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Church Name _____

Church City State _____

Pastor's or Church Clerk's signature

Important: This card properly signed and accompanied by a **\$50 registration fee** entitles a local FWB Church delegate to register for voting privileges. **Only one delegate** allowed per church.

Local WNAC Delegate Card 2001

This certifies that _____

(Name)

is a duly authorized delegate to the Women Nationally Active for Christ Convention. (Only one delegate per church.)

Church Name _____

Church City State _____

Local Coordinator's or Local Secretary's Signature

Important: This card is properly signed and accompanied by a \$5 registration fee entitles a local delegate to register for voting privileges in the WNAC convention.

National Association of Free Will Baptists

July 15-19, 2001 Detroit, Michigan

DON'T MISS IT!



www.visitdetroit.com



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 (teen-age) MKs especially. Needs vary. Check with WNAC for current needs.

URGENT FEEDBACK NEEDED

Some of our subscribers have brought to our attention that they are receiving their *CoLaborers* torn and crinkled or separated from the bundle. We are trying to remedy this problem and appreciate your patience.

This issue, May/June 2001, was wrapped in plastic. If your magazines still arrived damaged or separated from the bundle, please call us toll free at 1-877-767-7662.

This notice only applies to subscribers receiving the bundle plan.

Be Still

by Susan Henderson

When we begin our circle of prayer in my Sunday school class each Sunday, I always keep one eye opened. My current class roster includes six squirmy boys. They haven't made it through a prayer without a wiggle yet. They start out reverent. Each one takes a turn talking to God, so the process is often quite lengthy. Sometimes it's hard for an eight year-old mind to think up things to say to the Almighty. Sometimes it's hard for a 26 year-old mind, too. Usually, the feet begin moving by the third prayer. They slide in their seats, they drum their fingers, they poke their neighbors. I glare at them out of my one eye and whisper, "Shhh! Be still. We're praying."

Each night I fall to my knees in prayer. I tell God about my day, even though He's watched me live it. I complain, I beg, I request until I'm blue in the face. Sometimes the thoughts come faster than the words, and I end up rattling off prayers at the speed of light. Often I'm out of breath by the time I squeak out, "amen." It's sort of frightening to realize that Jesus keeps both eyes open while I pray. What does He see? I'm sure I've done my share of squirming as I relate the sins and failures of the day to a just and perfect God. My fingers probably drum as I count off requests by the dozens.

"Lord, I need this and I need that. Lord, please forgive me for that sin which so easily besets me, again. Lord, I'm facing a huge mountain. I really need Your help. Lord, we need revival in our church. Lord, I need new ideas for my youth group. Lord, please heal the sick. Lord, please save the lost. Lord, please give me a greater burden. Lord, please take my burden. Lord. . ."

"Susan."

"Yes, Lord?"

"Shhh. Be still. Know that I am God. I am in My holy temple. I am in your heart. Keep silent and enjoy My presence."

Copyright by Randall House Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Susan Henderson is the author of the devotional book, *"And A Little Child Shall Lead Them."* You can order this book through WNAC for \$13.99.

Lucy & Marge

LUCY: (sitting with a magazine in her hands) Oh, no. Oh, no!

MARGE: (just coming in) Now what's wrong, Lucy?

LUCY: Look what it says. Look right here. It says that values are more likely caught than taught.

MARGE: I think that's true, don't you?

LUCY: Oh yes. That's what I'm oh noo-ing about.

MARGE: Whatever do you mean, Lucy?

LUCY: I'm just wondering what my children have caught from me.

MARGE: (laughing) Something good, I'm sure.

LUCY: I don't know. You know what they say. One of these days you'll look in the mirror and see your mother there.

MARGE: Yes, the older I get, the more I see myself doing things that my mother did.

LUCY: Me too. Like turning the toilet tissue so that it comes over the roll instead of under.

MARGE: Putting my right foot on the floor first when I get out of bed in the morning.

LUCY: Why the right foot?

MARGE: Just something she did. I guess she thought it helped get the day off on the right foot. (Both laugh.)

LUCY: Keeping clothes by the bed at night in case of a storm.

MARGE: Why by the bed?

LUCY: She said if we were going to be blown away, it would not be in our night clothes.

(more laughter)

(Here the women may substitute or add some of their own foibles "caught" from their parents.)

MARGE: I feel sure that we've both caught more important things from our parents.

LUCY: Like what, Marge?

MARGE: Well, for one thing the importance of knowing God.

LUCY: You're right there. They didn't have to teach me that in lessons. I saw it in their lives every day.

MARGE: I knew my parents valued and loved the church, and that made me value and love it too.

LUCY: I can still see my dad sitting in his favorite chair reading the Bible—every day.

MARGE: And so you learned how important it is to read the Bible daily.

LUCY: That's right.

MARGE: Now, Lucy, what are you worried about?

LUCY: I just don't know whether my example has been strong enough to be catching.

MARGE: You know our WAC theme this year includes bringing hope and healing to our families.

LUCY: I need to get in on all the programs.

MARGE: The magazine has some good articles too. And you know, there's another thing we caught from our mothers—love and loyalty for our women's organization.

LUCY: Yes, and I'm going to encourage my girls to feel the same. In fact, let's make a special effort to get all the young women to come to the next meeting, (date) (time) (place).

MARGE: Good idea. The theme is _____.

LUCY: I'll be there and bring someone with me.

MARGE: But it is a sobering thought.

LUCY: What is?

MARGE: That some day our children will see in themselves a reflection of their parents.

LUCY: Hey, I'd say, if your daughter looks in the mirror and sees you, that would be scary. Just kidding, Marge. ❖

Lucy and Marge was written by Dr. Mary R. Wisheart.

Communicator

by Marjorie Workman

It's a Great Time to be in Detroit!

Are you making plans to attend the Free Will Baptist National Association convening in Detroit, Michigan, July 15-19, 2001? Good planning will make the convention more enjoyable.

•**Reservations.** Make sure you have a place to stay in Detroit with special convention room rates by making your hotel reservations now. You can choose the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center with its soaring 73 floors above the Detroit River or the newly renovated Pontchartrain Crowne Plaza just across the street from Cobo Convention Center. Both hotels have rooms blocked for Free Will Baptists through June 15, 2001.

•**Pre-registration.** Do you want a nice attractive badge to wear during the convention? Pre-register. Pre-registering also removes the need to stand in long lines at the convention—so be kind to your feet.

•**Tickets.** When you pre-register, purchase your tickets to the WNAC luncheon. You will want to hear our own compassionate, energetic missionary Susan Turnbough. She will challenge your heart as she speaks from her heart. For the first time, you can order tickets online. Go to www.nafwb.org. Tickets are \$25 each. By purchasing your tickets now, you can spread the cost of attending the convention over several months. And, you will be assured of a ticket. We cannot promise that tickets will be available at the last minute. The Michigan Women Active for Christ are working hard to make the Fellowship Luncheon pretty and enjoyable.

•**Delegates.** WAC State presidents should make sure all appointed delegates have registered. State presidents can authorize on site attendees to be delegates should the elected ones be unable to attend. Check with registration officials in order to keep tabs on your state delegation.

•**Local Delegates.** Each local WAC group can register one person as a delegate by paying the \$5 registration fee.

A Gift That Keeps On Giving

Give a gift that lasts all year and keeps on going and going even longer than Energizer's pink bunny rabbit. That

is how a gift to the WNAC's Endowment Fund works. The actual gift is never spent, but it continually earns interest that can be spent. This interest is used to help with operational expenses in the office.

You can quickly calculate that an endowment must be large in order to generate a sizable sum of interest. WNAC's current endowment totals \$13,600. This is a very, very small endowment. As the total increases so does the amount of interest earned. Already, WNAC has benefited from this small beginning. In 2000, we received \$1,332.92. We have received a total of \$5,739.63 since the endowment began in 1995. The good news is that we still have every penny that has been given to the Endowment Fund. As long as WNAC exists, the endowment will never decrease. However, how rapidly it grows depends on YOU!

You can do something now and in the future to help grow the endowment.

- Personally give a gift now.
- Ask your local WAC group to give a gift.
- Have a fund-raiser for the Endowment Fund.
- Give a gift in honor or in memory of someone important to you. These gifts are recorded in the book *In Remembrance* in the WNAC office.
- Put WNAC's Endowment Fund in your will. This allows you to have a part in WNAC's ministry for as long as it exists.

Red Alert

WNAC is experiencing an income shortage to meet operational expenses. The notion that it isn't necessary to pay dues unless you want voting privileges at the conventions is a myth. Membership is vital to any organization. In fact, membership alone is not sufficient to meet the expenses. Last year at the convention, WNAC reported a membership of 6,564 each paying \$10 dues for a total of \$65,640.

WNAC's budget for 2001 is \$242,900. Our other main source of income is *CoLaborer* magazine subscriptions. In January 2001, we mailed 9,000 magazine at \$8.00 per subscription for a total income of \$72,000. Membership dues and magazine subscriptions together provide about 57% of the total budget. This means that over \$104,000 must come through special offerings, gifts, and literature sales. Your input and help in solving this financial crisis is welcomed. ♦

It

Anonymous

It's

a curse; that's all it can be. Yet, people strive to attain it all their lives. Parents push their children to become it. Society promises

great rewards for anyone who successfully captures it. No one wants to be considered any other way but as it. What is it? It's the curse of being the smart one, the strong one, the responsible one, the successful one or the one everybody goes to for answers.

There's no way to escape. It's what's expected. You owe your parents, schoolteachers, friends, yourself and especially God, to make good. You have every intention of doing just that. Well, you always have, so why shouldn't you do so again? But, what if you don't? Just suppose you mess up. What if one day, faced with something unlike anything you have ever encountered before, you make the wrong decision? Ahhhh! Now you're just like everybody else. You don't have all the answers. You can no longer be it.

But, that's not fair! You have been it all your life. One mistake shouldn't be held against you. You can always make a comeback. And that's right—you can. I did.

My family and friends didn't want to face my failures anymore than I. So, we just pretended

they never happened. I was born it; I grew up as it; and people were content to let me still be it. I was smart, responsible and even successful at whatever job I had. However, deep inside of me a hollow spot was gradually forming. As the years passed, it nagged at me.

"No one would ever guess that the curse of being it had just about eaten away the very foundation of my being."

Forced to make decisions that would affect the lives of my children as well as my own, I

watched helplessly as they struggled to cope with being raised in a fatherless home. I sometimes cried myself to sleep at night because I didn't have the money for them to go places with their friends. Then, when suddenly shoes were too small or pants too short, I could only hang my head in desperation. But, I must not let them

see me cry. I must never show any sign of weakness. I was the only stability they had, and if I couldn't give them anything else, I would teach them how to be strong and face life.

Put on a smile, hold your head up and go on about business as usual. There's that pretending thing again. As the years passed, I got so good at pretending that I even convinced myself. I didn't need anyone else in my life. No one had stepped up to help me when I was at my lowest point, and I had a grip on life now. The hard part was behind me. Life had to be easier from here on out. I forgot about that hollow spot that was gnawing inside of me. The bigger it got, the more I turned inside myself and away from family, friends and God. No one would ever guess that the curse of being it had just about eaten away the very foundation of my being.

And then the children grew up, went off to college and eventually got married. I sat in a daze—confused. Now, what was I to do? Where was I to go? A person can't be it by oneself. That's no fun! My kingdom had fallen.

Slowly, through the darkness, God began to speak. He said, "I'm IT. You never have really been it. You are only one of millions that I died for; only one of many that I have called to represent Me in this world. Isn't it about time you laid aside your pride and let Me make you into what I designed you to be in the first place? If you don't, that hollow spot inside will totally consume you, and you will no longer exist. You will be nothing."

Now, having thought I was it for so many years made it difficult to just give Someone else the right to tell me what to do, what to think and where to go. This was not going to be easy, but if

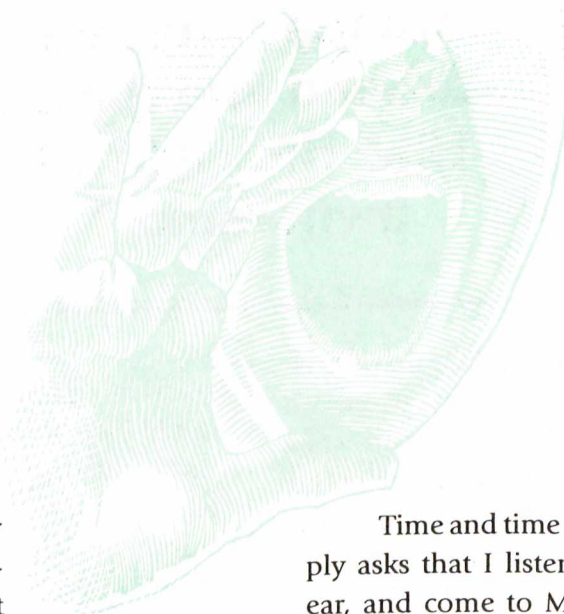
"He was right there when I finally stopped, turned around and gave Him His right of ownership."

anyone could do it, I could. I've had years of experience making hard decisions, of being the one people looked to . . . Oh, I see what He's saying. It doesn't depend on me; it never has. All the years of work, plans, schemes, more work and more plans were for nothing. God had His own personal plan for me. He always has. He was

just waiting for me to get tired of running so I would listen to what He had to say. A deep peace and contentment began to flood my entire being. What a marvelous thought! The Creator of the universe patiently waited and looked on as I stumbled through life, but He never left me. He was right there when I finally stopped, turned around and gave Him His right of ownership. And oh, the things He had in store for me! As I opened my heart to Him and allowed His love to flow through me, God has brought into my life people who really care about me. There are no demands, no keeping score; just love and trust based upon the love of God. Now, I'm really it. No more do I worry about tomorrow. He walks beside me, guiding and directing every step I take. And did I mention those precious friends He allowed in my life? He must love me very much. Is being it a curse? Not any more! ♦

Can You Hear Me?

by Debe Taylor



Recently my mother was diagnosed as being deaf in her left ear. Upon thorough examination, an ear specialist discovered the hearing loss was the result of her blood pressure. Evidently, her constant high blood pressure had caused a blood clot to form. On its way to her brain, a nerve in her left ear intercepted the clot. The result was destruction of her ear. My mother is thankful the clot did not go to her brain, but is having to adjust to loss of hearing.

Through this situation, the Lord has made me aware that although we should be concerned about physical deafness, spiritual deafness is far more dangerous, damaging and common. Solomon gave clear warning as to what will happen when we do not listen to God. "Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge." (Proverbs 19:27NKJ).

Have I let the high pressures of life cause spiritual deafness? Am I attune to what God has to say to me each and every day? Am I like the people in Jeremiah's day? "To whom shall I speak and give warning that they may hear? Indeed their ear is uncircumcised and they cannot give heed" (Jeremiah 6:10NKJ).

Time and time again God calls to me and simply asks that I listen to His voice. "Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live..." (Jeremiah 55:3a&bNKJ).

I must keep my listening skills sharp so I will not only hear the voice of the Lord, but also be able to distinguish the voice of the enemy. In John 10:1-5, Jesus shares a story of the sheep that heard the voice of the Shepherd and followed Him because they recognized His voice. They would NOT follow the voice of the stranger – no recognition there. This calls for acute listening skills.

There is safety, security and serenity in listening to God. "But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil" (Proverbs 1:33NKJ).

On numerous occasions Jesus said, "He who has ears, let him hear." Several of those who were present at such times heard the voice of Jesus, but yet did not hear.

Is the same true of us today? God admonishes us to "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). Are you quietly listening for God's voice? Or is He competing with the noise in your life? Is God asking, "Can you hear Me?" ❖



The Love of a Mother's Hands
by Clinton Nobles, Corbin, KY

The hands of a mother do many loving acts.
They help the wound or bruise to heal,
They pat us on the back.
They reach down to hold our hands and comfort
with their care.
They give us love and kindness too, when no one
else is there.
Over all the many years, through heartaches great
and small,
The loving touch of a mother's hands has been
there through them all.
Yet in all their many acts of love none do quite
compare,
To when her hands do clasp as one and she bows
her head in prayer.

Listen

Lori Marshall, Glendale, AZ

Listen. . .He will meet you,
In a place no man can trod.
And quietly assure you,
"Be still for I am God."

Listen. . .Do you hear Him?
He whispers soft and low.
He moves upon your Spirit,
How?. . .you do not know.

Listen. . .Will you follow?
As He beckons you aside,
To share in His communion
And in His peace abide.

Listen. . .Won't you listen,
For the still, small voice of God?
He longs to move upon you,
In a place no man can trod.

Women In Action



The WAC of Madison Free Will Baptist Church, Madison, AL, has been doing a weekly ministry to a local nursing home since October, 1999. They play games, furnish prizes and refreshments and sing old time Gospel hymns.

(Pictured back row—left to right) Charissa Carter, Carolyn Hendrix, Barbara Carter, Shirley Clark, Linda Kincer, Myrna Montgomery, Geven McCoffrey.



Rachel Bryant volunteered her time to the WNAC National Office during a visit to Nashville, Tennessee. Rachel is a high school junior in Vero Beach, Florida. She was selected to travel with Team Belo Horizonte Brazil in the summer of 2000.



The Fifth National Women's Retreat was held in November in Reynosa, Mexico, at the Seminary of the Cross.

(Pictured left to right): WNAC Executive Secretary, Marjorie Workman, presents a Spanish copy of *Beyond the Gate* to Rosalina Flores de Perez, librarian and to Dr. Thomas Marberry, President of the Seminary.



The West Tulsa FWB Women's group in Oklahoma, sponsored their 2nd Annual Men's Chili Cookoff. Thirteen men competed for the championship title. All participants received a wooden spoon, and the winner received a plaque and a silver ladle. All donations went to the state project, "Hillsdale Big Book Buy."

(Pictured left to right) Bill Crouch, winner; Lois Westbrook, President.



The ladies of White Oaks WNAC in Macon, Georgia, adopted Tim and Lori Byers as their missionaries for a year. The Byers were guests during a morning service. Tim shared about their new mission field in Ohio.

(Front row) Tim and Lori Byers, Gloria Johnson, Doris Evans, Edith Willis, Nadine Amos.

(Back row) Pastor Charles Barnard, Sandra Little, Inez Parks, Rhoda Creech, Jackie Barnard, Glenda Davidson, Margie Collins, Lula Holt, Donna Taylor, Lisa Davidson, and Kathy Douglas.



The Mexican FWB WNAC celebrated their 40th National Women's Convention in Altamira, Tamaulipas. One hundred seventeen women were in attendance. Ruth Bivens was the conference speaker.

(Pictured left to right): Rosario Orta de Perez, Secretary; Felicitas Polanco de Pacheco, Treasurer; Rosa Maria Ibarra de Gallegos; Eva Lopez de la Rosa; Ruth Bivens, Puerto Rico, Speaker; Judy Lytle, guest; Elvia Martinez de Escobar, President; Lidia Ruiz de Munoz, Assistant.

Bible Lessons

When we are young,
Children's songs were sung
About Noah and the ark:

Just a little older still,
And our minds begin to fill
With Moses and his part;

Somewhere around the age of ten,
Serious memorization begins:
And we begin to fill our hearts.

During those early teenage years,
So often filled with tears,
We find a word from a friend.

Then the rebellion comes,
And to sins we do succumb;
We think our faith has met its end.

Then, just like a flashing spark,
Those words passed light within our hearts.
Oh, what we reap from time well spent!

Lessons From Nature

What could we learn from a leaf?
To fall away from dead trees.
What could we learn from a growing blade of grass?
Watch it for patience as the time ticks past.
What could we learn from a bird soaring in the sky?
To trust that God has equipped us for His will in
our lives.
What could we learn from the cold pounding rain?
That sometimes God cleans us through pain.
What can we learn from nature's grand design?
That it was created by the Master of space and time.

Rachel Sekulich

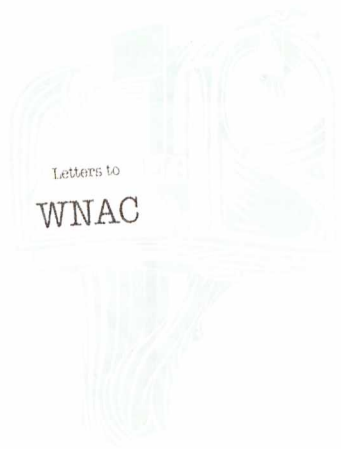
Town: Brunswick, Georgia

Church: First Free Will Baptist

Hobbies: Writing, Singing

Age: 20 years old

Future plans: To be a writer



Dear WNAC,

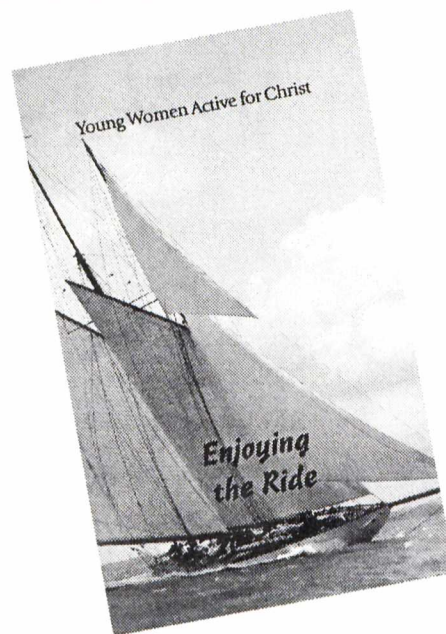
We just wanted to drop you a note and thank you for heading up and making available the missionary provision closet.

We are thankful for the much needed supplies that our family received from all of the precious saints of God who donated to the closet. We are praying for God's blessings on those who have donated and on WNAC.

Our love, prayers and thanks,

The Mark Shores Family, Johnston City, IL

Send your letters to the editor to be published in *CoLaborer*. Send all correspondence to WNAC, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN, 37011-5002. We look forward to hearing from you!



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When the Bough Breaks



Life is like an oak tree. Original simile, huh? Strong. Steady. Firm. Breakable, yet unmovable. However, sometimes the winds of circumstance jostle your leaves. Other times it bends and stretches branches, often launching a twig or two back in your face. And then, there are those unexpected moments when the earth rumbles, the wind howls and the boughs begin bouncing—breaking.

On February 17, 1998 my mother received a phone call from my 29-year-old sister, Tina. Her news was simple; the baby she had been carrying for nine months was dead. His heart had stopped beating. No reasons, no explanations, no crying...just the truth.

Dazed, confused and a little battered, my family hurried down to Red Bay, Alabama, to be with my sister and her husband in the hospital. The

doctors had immediately induced her labor. They said actual birth would be better for her if she planned to have future children. So, my sister, the one I had looked up to all my life, was lying in a hospital bed in labor giving birth to a dead baby. The wind blew. My heart ripped. "I thought this could never happen to my family."

What do you say? How do you feel? I don't know.

Emily White is a sophomore at Free Will Baptist Bible College from Tucson, Arizona. She works as an editorial assistant at Randall House Publications.

After a sleepless night, Kyler Bradford Williams was born on February 18, 1998. Even though it may sound silly, crazy, morbid or whatever you may wish to call it, we were proud...heartbroken, but very proud. He was beautiful. Our emotions were rampant. Tears flowed. Hands clasped. Eyes closed. And God moved.

Later in the evening my dad, brother, brother-in-law and I traveled back to my sister's house. Because of the stress, the visitors, the phone calls and the numbness, I was unable to really be alone during our 3 a.m. until 10 p.m. stay at the hospital. True, I had done an enormous amount of crying, yet I was not able to really "release" or meditate with God. I had a lot on my mind.

I remember that night in the shower. I cried and screamed so loud there was no sound to hear. I don't remember what I said. I don't remember what I thought. I don't remember what I felt. It was all ramble. It was grief and it was hard. Truly, I was broken before the Lord.

Three years later I have entered a new millennium, embarked on an unforgettable college

experience and still consider Kyler's death as one of the most distinct turning points in my life. You see, not only is Kyler's memory with me, but also the precious testimony of God's awesomeness. As I look back, I realize that not one time did I pray for Jesus to comfort me...to soothe me...to be my everything. Yes, I understand the power of other's prayers, but I also know He came and wrapped me in His arms. There are no words to describe His closeness. It was awesome—more than awesome.

It is amazing to me how God held my family in His hands and cared for us. Honestly, I can say at that time I never felt angry, bitter or even questioned why. He gave peace

beyond belief. In Isaiah 43:2, my Lord promised He would comfort and be there for me through fire, flood, and frenzy. He did. He keeps His promises. He is faithful. Why should I expect anything less?

Perhaps, the rough wind will blow again. Little breezes certainly tug at my limbs every day, but I am confident no

"Her news was simple; the baby she had been carrying for nine months was dead."

matter what I have to face, my Creator and Sustainer will be there for me.

Circumstances...heartache may have visited your life with tornado-like effects as well. Unfortunately, I do not know the reasons or have the answers why we face devastation. But I do know this; God takes care of His children, often when they don't even realize it. As I watched several of my unsaved family members pass by the casket, I listened to their bitterness and felt the emptiness in their tears. It is not that God didn't want to be their Prince of Peace; they simply refused Him.

Although it may take hindsight or incredible courage mingled with immense pain, a child of God can rest assured that when the wind blows, the bough breaks and the cradle falls, their Heavenly Father will catch them. He was there for me and He will be there for you—guaranteed.❖

"Tears flowed.
Hands clasped.
Eyes closed.
And God
moved."

Mission Alert

Evangelism News from Around the World



Brazil

Pray for Kelly, a single mother in the Sao Jose church in Campinas, Brazil. According to Curt Holland, Kelly may have some type of stomach cancer. Pray that God will direct her to the right doctor to treat her condition.

According to Jim and Shirley Combs in Araras, Brazil, an 81-year-old deacon from the Candida church had asked that he and his wife be sent to the city of Brotas as missionaries. After six months, he has rented a house and has regular weekly services. About 35 people are attending Sunday school. Praise the Lord for Joaquim and his wife. Pray that God will bless their ministry.



Korea

Dr. John Chang requests prayer for the recruitment of new students for the Asia FWB Theological Seminary. Pray that God will lead students to the seminary who want to prepare for missions outreach in Southeast Asia. Ask the Lord to give Dr. Chang and the staff wisdom as they work at this important task.

Côte d'Ivoire

Traci Epps in Côte d'Ivoire requests prayer for students at International Christian Academy in Bouake. Several of the younger children are experiencing homesickness. All of the students have had to face mental and emotional stress because of the instability of the country during the past year. Pray that God will comfort them and help them with any fears they may have.

Mike Cousineau in Côte d'Ivoire requests prayer for Pastor George and the church leaders at



Bouake as they begin to search for land for a church building. Pray that God will make the location evident and the purchase price affordable. Bouake is the second largest urban center in Côte d'Ivoire, so pray that the church can locate in a visible place.

According to Shane Davison, teacher at the school for MKs in Côte d'Ivoire, groups of students go out to witness on Sunday afternoons. One Sunday, one group led three young men to the Lord and another team led one person to Christ. Pray for follow-up with these new believers to help establish them in their new-found faith. Pray that God will continue to bless the student outreach.

Japan

Ken and Judy Bailey returned to Japan earlier this year. They are working with the McDonald family and Mirial Gainer in a church-planting effort in the Tokyo area. Pray for Ken and Judy as they get settled. They have asked a seminary student, Kojima, to consider helping with the new work, so pray that he will be willing to work with them. ❖





Words for Women

*Marjorie H.
Workman*

The North Wind Will Not Blow Forever

"He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold? He sendeth out his word, and melteth them: he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow" (Psalm 147:17-18).

I'm a weather watcher. I guess I take after my Mom. She didn't like television—too noisy. Neither did she like the radio—too loud. But, oh, don't mess with her weatherman. He's the only person in the world that could stop Mother dead in her tracks. Meals were planned so as not to interfere with the weather report. She could talk your head off while you tried to watch your favorite murder mystery on TV, but don't you dare try to get her attention during the weather report. I chuckle when I think what she would have done had she had cable TV and the weather channel. She might not have been the terrific cook or the avid reader that she was. Nor would I have had her handmade doilies, afghans, baby blankets, and snowflake Christmas ornaments.

Life is like the weather. It has its bitter cold winds of winter and its cool refreshing breezes of spring. Life is stormy, sometimes terribly so. But weather changes and storms pass. In life it is not a question of whether we will encounter storms, but rather how we will face them. I well remember my first real encounter with the storm of death.

It was Thanksgiving Day. We were at my mother-in-law's just sitting down for dinner. The phone rang. "Hello." The voice from the other end said, "Your sister has been in a terrible car accident. She is in the hospital unconscious with serious head injuries." One week later, she died. Stunned and shocked, I began asking questions. Why my sister? She wasn't supposed to die. I had faith. I had prayed. My father even fasted and prayed. My sister was a graduating senior at Free Will Baptist Bible College—the entire student body was praying. Where was my faith to believe that God could pull her through?

I remember the helpless, even guilty feelings I experienced. Why had I eaten when my Dad refused to eat? Why hadn't I prayed harder? My faith became very fragile. Oh, I still attended church, prayed regularly, even offered comfort to my Mother and Father. But the loss of such an innocent life left me probing about God's love and mercy toward His children. I had not yet encountered or understood The Song of Solomon 5:16 "Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south...." The scriptures tell us that the north wind soon becomes the soft gentle breeze of the south wind. The wind is always moving whirling about continually on the circuit that God decreed. Life has those cycles too. Take comfort in the fact that the north winds will not blow forever. God's north wind was blowing across my life. It was a very bitter cold winter season in my life.

I recall another winter season only a few years later. Again, it was a phone call. The trembling voice from the other end said, "Your brother is dead. Murdered." Silence. My heart jumped into my throat. Finally, through the sobs, tears, and the sick feeling in my stomach, I asked the questions, "When? Where? Who? Why?" Some of those questions were not and have never been answered. Nevertheless, that did not change the fact that my brother was dead.

I have learned from these north winds that neither our loving God, nor His loving us shields us from trouble. The story of Mary, Martha and Lazarus in John eleven bears this out. Mary said, "Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick" (vs. 3). Love did not stop the tragedy. Also, Mary was unaware of Jesus' comment in verse four, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God." We may never know the why of our suffering, but we can know and trust God in it. Every difficult situation carries with it the possibility of an equal or greater benefit. Trust Him.

No one escapes the frigid north wind of life. But, remember, the north wind will not blow forever, it is just for a winter season. ♦



WNAC Endowment Fund

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remembrance.*

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