

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

CoLaborer

Troubled Teens

Serving Christ
in the Golden Years

CAC Winners

Sept • Oct 2001

VISION

Rhonda McReynolds



Life Beyond the Comma

A recent edition of *Bits and Pieces* includes this cheery one-liner: "Never place a period where God has placed a comma." So I won't. Life goes on whether it's a child entering kindergarten, a woman getting married, a student finishing college . . . or an editor waving goodbye to her final deadline.

For the past 18 months, I've had the opportunity to work as your editor. During this time, I learned many things. First, I learned that my fellow office workers—Marjorie Workman, Yvonne Hampton and Martha Harris love the Lord, love their work, and love Free Will Baptist women.

I also learned that after sitting at a desk for eight hours, the lower extremities experience a numbing sensation. I learned that my sidekick down the hall, Jack Williams, editor of *Contact*, loves cats and coffee. (Okay, maybe not cats.) Best of all, I learned that nothing can stop a Free Will Baptist woman with a vision.

The Bible says, "In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths." God is now leading me down a familiar path—back into the classroom. He has given me a heart for teaching, so I must follow His lead.

I ask that you pray for your new editor, Sarah Fletcher, as she steps into this position. I know that you will give her the same prayer and support you have given me. I also ask that you continue to pray for me as I step back into the teaching world where, this fall, 20 seventh and eighth graders will be awaiting me. Whee!

While it has been my privilege to be a part of you, by the time you read these words, I'll be discovering life beyond the comma.

Volume 41

Number 5

SEPT • OCT 2001

4

**Allysa Hampton
explains how to
move out of your
comfort zone.**

23

**In Seoul, Korea,
15 people were
baptized from the
First FWB Church
for all Nations.**

26

**Happy Neewollah!
gives a creative
Christian
alternative to
Halloween.**

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

C O N T E N T S



FEATURES

4

Comfort Zone—Allysa Hampton

7

September Program

Troubled Teens: Flee to be Free—Tim and Phyllis York

11

October Program

Serving Christ in the Golden Years—Maurine Lee

22

Creative Arts Contest Winners

29

Serena Grace—Karen Collier

DEPARTMENTS

15

Springboard: Innovative Ideas for Officers

Springboard Illustrated—Pam Hunter

Lucy & Marge—Dr. Mary R. Wisehart & Yvonne Hampton

19

Communicator—Marjorie Workman

20

Life!/Action—Laura Ham

21

Mother Said There'd Be Days Like This—Debe Taylor

23

Women in Action

24

Letters to WNAC

25

Mission Alert

26

Happy Neewollah!—Sarah Fletcher

31

Words for Women—Marjorie Workman

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Comfort Zone

by Allysa Hampton



Nothing I had heard about this land prepared me for these sights. As I continued to look, though, I began to notice that all the people looked very much alike and that many of the signs were filled with funny looking characters. Although I was still amazed at the many familiar things, I realized that we had made it. I was in China!

This elated feeling would last for several weeks. I was amazed by this country of contrasts. I was in awe of the millions of people crowded into the city of Beijing. I was amazed by the beautiful architecture of the ancient temples and palaces. I was thrilled to be standing on the wall that so many have heard of, but most have seen only in pictures. These feelings continued as we

Walking out of the airport, I couldn't believe my eyes. I thought to myself that surely we had taken the wrong plane. Everywhere I looked I saw cars, buses, fast food restaurants and skyscrapers. This modern city looked so American. This was not at all what I had expected. I had pictured villages, farms and small family-owned businesses.

"As I talked to family and friends back home, I would cry, longing to be where they were—doing what they were doing."

Allysa Hampton served as a teacher with the English Language Institute in China. She now lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

As you may have guessed, these wonderful feelings didn't last forever. It wasn't long before I realized how much I missed family, friends, my church and many of the conveniences of home. I began to feel lost as I slowly realized

I was there in the Lord's courts and it became more wonderful to me than any other place.

■ seemed endless. We were always waiting for dirty, crowded buses. Nothing was on a schedule. And we were constantly asked to do things we never expected. As I talked to family and friends back home I would cry, longing to be

Many of you have never been to a foreign land, but I dare say most of you have experienced many of these same emotions. You may have moved to a new city, changed jobs or bought a new house. Better yet, maybe you began teach-

one how great things were going and how much you enjoyed it. But soon you realized that this new adventure was actually hard work. Not only were you not getting the recognition you thought you deserved, but you were asked to do things you never imagined.

Now you are ready for this adventure to end. You are out of your comfort zone. You are ready to be comfortable again.

Don't give up. My story didn't end on this discouraging note. Yours doesn't have to either. Out of the comfort zone can be a wonderful place for you to learn and to grow. It can and should be a place of joy. In fact, it can become a comfortable place as you meet the challenges and realize you are not alone.

In China I discovered several principles that I believe will help as you leave your comfort zone. First, remember that you have not been forsaken. We have been promised in Hebrews 13:5 that He will never leave us or forsake us. Remember that God is there with you, fighting beside you and helping you succeed.

"Allow those around you to encourage and strengthen you as you face the challenges."

Second, count your challenge as a blessing. In Numbers 16:9, Moses reminds Korah that although he may not have asked for the challenge he received, it is not a small thing that God has called Him to do it. Your challenge is no small thing either. Consider it a blessing to be used by the Lord. Third, lean on others. The Church is a body

and we were meant to help each other. Allow those around you to encourage and strengthen you as you face the challenges. Finally, believe that being in the Lord's will is the safest and most joy-filled place on earth.

The Psalmist tells the Lord, "For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand." I know this doesn't mean that his days were always easy or comfortable, but they were always joyful and safe. He was with the Lord and he was where he needed to be.

As I stayed in China and began to practice these principles, things began to change. I began to learn the language and to enjoy the challenge of discovering the culture. I began to build relationships with the precious people around me. Lesson plans and teaching became one of my greatest joys. I learned many things about the Lord and grew much closer to Him. Most importantly, China became my home. I was there in the Lord's courts, and it became more wonderful to me than any other place. Now it's a place I love and long for and a place where I feel comfortable; however, it's still a place filled with challenges.

This is my hope for you: comfort and joy in the midst of your challenge. Go. Get out of your comfort zone and grow!

Troubled Teens: Flee to Be Free

by Tim and Phyllis York

Saturday night, 11:30 p.m. the phone rings. In great despair, the voice on the other end begins, "Preacher, I know it's late, but could you come to our house tonight?"

This request spun a new dimension into our lives. It opened the communication lines between parent and child,

between siblings, and between our home and a troubled teen.

Just two nights before, we had visited this home. This family first came to our church about a year before. Mom, Dad, and Sis attended sporadically for the next few months. Jon, the teen, had visited only once. He did not like our church.

Thursday night, I found all four family members at home. Our conversation revealed that not only were their relationships with God greatly strained, but their family unit as a whole was under great pressure, due in part to the discontentment of their teenage son. Jon was a stranger in his own home. Before we left that night, all four

Tim and Phyllis York serve the Heritage Temple FWB Church in Ashland, Kentucky, where Tim pastors.

rededicated their lives to the Lord. Everything seemed okay.

The next evening, however, Jon went out with his old friends. He became intoxicated, was arrested, and spent the night in jail. On Saturday, when his parents learned of his arrest, their new-found son was indeed a stranger again. The phone call came and I responded.

When I arrived at the home, I found parents who doubted the realness of this son's decision to follow Christ. I found a troubled teenager who questioned his ability to really become committed to Christ.

I shared with Jon that his Friday arrest could possibly be linked to his Thursday night decision. Might this be God's way of showing Jon that because He loved him, He would not tolerate a return to sin?

For the next several weeks, Jon met with me for Bible study and prayer. He and his family became faithful attendees of our church. A year later, Jon announced his call to preach. He is now attending Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Does this story sound familiar? How many troubled teenagers and their families do you know? Perhaps you and your family fit into the above true scenario? With our culture's emphasis on self-indulgence

and lack of personal responsibility, many teenagers have learned to blame someone else for their wrongs. They have failed to realize their own need for spiritual accountability. This generation of teenagers is the first to be raised by single parents in a "pop culture" society. Whether in our homes or in our churches, we must minister to these troubled teens. 2 Timothy 2:22-26 gives us principles upon which we must base our ministry.

I. Realize the Need to Flee

Paul begins this text with the word, "flee," but ends this passage with the word, "snare." Many troubled teenagers have no desire to run or flee, yet they feel imprisoned by their culture. The word snare means to trick, to tempt or to trap. Satan uses the culture our teens live in to snare them for his benefit. When anyone is trapped against his own will, he becomes rebellious and defiant. Much of the rebellion within this generation stems from our wicked society of no absolutes. Teens are surrounded with so-called liberties, yet these liberties only bring imprisonment. For instance, drugs produce drug dependencies; sexual immorality produces unwanted pregnancies; alcohol produces alcoholism.

Paul commands teenagers to flee youthful lusts before they

become imprisoned in the devil's traps. They are to escape or run away, literally, "to vanish" from youthful lusts. Youthful lusts are actually juvenile longings for that which is forbidden. Ephesians 6:1 states that God forbids rebellion against parental authority. According to Scripture, parents have the right to set guidelines. One Biblical example who fled youthful lusts is Joseph. Genesis 39:7-12 records that Joseph ran from Potiphar's wife and left his coat behind. What a great role model for teenagers who are seeking to flee the devil's traps!

II. Respond to the Necessity of Facts

We often make a tragic mistake when we deal with troubled teens. We fail to hold teenagers to the same spiritual accountability as we do adults. We speak with a double tongue when we allow them to attend worldly places, listen to worldly music, but want them to have a little church in their lives. This philosophy provides the same imprisonment they desire to escape. If a teenager is to escape the snares of the devil, he must have the characteristics described in 2 Timothy 2:22. Remember, it is the Word that converts (1 Peter 1:23); it is the Word that cleanses (Psalms 119:9); it is the Word that commits (Romans 12:1, 2). Jon

would testify that what kept him moving forward in his Christian walk was the pressure to stay in the Word.

Paul tells Timothy not only to flee that which is forbidden, but to follow. We must respond to the facts of the Christian life. The word "follow" is in direct contrast to the word "flee." We are to vanish from that which is prohibited, and pursue—even to the point of suffering and persecution—these godly characteristics in our lives.

Usually our biggest concern in dealing with troubled teens is helping them escape from things we feel will harm them. Yet any time something is removed, the void it creates must be filled. This is why deliverance from a rebellious lifestyle must be a process and not just a one-time procedure. There will be many battles.

"Many troubled teens have no desire to run or flee, yet they feel imprisoned by their culture."

The new life they are to pursue will be in extreme conflict with their old lifestyle. We must work patiently and lovingly with them. Parents sometimes have difficulty in this area. They tend to pressure and push, instead of allowing teens to grow in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

How can they grow? They should first pursue righteousness. Righteousness is a practice of lifestyle. A believer must pattern the Lord Jesus. Jesus said, "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst" after this kind of lifestyle. A true pursuit of righteousness cannot be legislated. It can only grow from a deep desire to be like Christ.

Teens should also pursue faith. Faith is the moral conviction of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God.

This is the precise direction within our philosophy of ministry to troubled teens. Once they have placed their faith in Christ, they must now learn the depth of that commitment.

Our faith can only grow through Scripture. We require anyone we counsel to daily read the Bible.

We assign specific passages. Our reasoning is this. Faith not only deals with the starting point of conversion, but with the continuation of profession.

Another godly characteristic is love. This word encompasses the broad results of the conversion experience. It leads us to love the Lord (Mark 12:20; 1 John 4:19), his people (1 John 4:20&21), and even our enemies (Matthew 5:43, 44). Many troubled teenagers come from homes where love has never been experienced or from a background of abuse. When dealing with abuse, it is important not to use clichés such as "God loves you like a father," or "God cares for you like a mother." Your greatest responsibility to these abused teens is not to describe love, but to display it. Be very honest; they must deal with factors like hatred and bitterness. Explain that the fruit of the Spirit begins with love. First Corinthians 13 is clear; they must live a life of love.

The final characteristic mentioned in this passage is peace. Peace is best illustrated by the word "rest." Romans 1:5 tells us that we can rest because we are no longer at war with God. Philippians chapter 4 assures us that we can rest when the most adverse problems of life creep in to affect us. This is the peace of God.

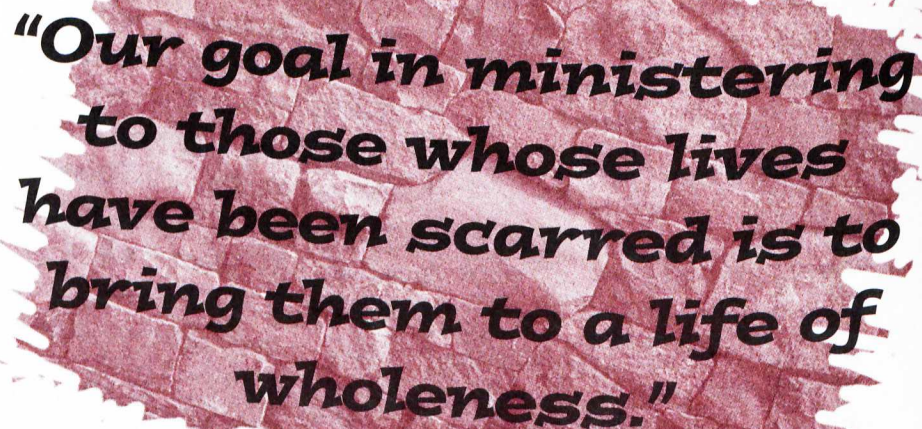
These difficult adolescents come from a life of unrest, frus-

tration, and instability. They must now learn that, in the midst of their uncertainty, no matter how tough the circumstances, God has not forsaken them

III. Rejoice in the Newness of Their Freedom

Recovery is our hope. Verse 26 gives us a clear picture. To recover means "to become sober again, that is, to regain one's senses, to recover self." In light of this passage, Paul's words in Titus 2:12 are insightful. It is the grace of God that teaches us to deny ungodliness and live *soberly* in this present world.

Our goal in ministering to those whose lives have been scarred is to bring them to a life of wholeness. They must recover from the imprisonment, the trap, in which they find themselves. It is not our objective to simplify or justify their sin. But it is our objective to help them clearly see their sin, then deal with it according to God's Word.❖



"Our goal in ministering to those whose lives have been scarred is to bring them to a life of wholeness."

Be reminded of the following guidelines when helping troubled teens.

1. Build personal relationships with them.
2. Show them Scriptural reasons why their sin is wrong.
3. Show them God's plan of repentance.
4. Assure them that God forgives them and He loves them.
5. Encourage them to fill any sin void with godly characteristics.
6. Teach them to live in the peace or restfulness of the Lord.

If you have young children who have not reached the teenage years, build and strengthen them around the Word of God (Deuteronomy 6:6-8).

Serving Christ in the Golden Years

by Maurine Lee

In spite of jogging, diets, vitamins, health care and emphasis on ecology, the body will change. It slows down. "I can't do all I used to" is a common expression. Mankind has always wanted to stay young and live forever. Even a Spanish explorer in the 1500's came to Florida looking for the fountain of youth! In contrast, Solomon said we should live for our Creator while we are young for the days are coming when we will grow old (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

I'm not sure why they call the older years "The Golden Years." It must be because gold is often the colors of fall. What a delight to drive in the open spaces and see all the beautiful colors. In just a short while those leaves will fall to the ground and be gone. Life is like that.

*"From before
birth to the
grave, God
has a purpose
for us."*

Because of the inevitable changes in our bodies, our lifestyles will go through changes, too. When do we get ready? Now! Pop Willey, in a message at a Bible Conference in the late 1940s, said, "Learn everything you can about everything you can, because you never know when you will need it." You don't prepare for the golden years in the golden years. You prepare for fall in the spring and summer. God knew what He wanted of us before we were even born. He said to Jeremiah, "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee, and I ordained thee. . ." (Jer. 1:5). From before birth to the grave, God has a purpose for us.

Which ones are the golden years? No one knows. For some it may be the years beyond 80. For others, golden may come before 40. One thing God did not build into us (and how we can thank

Maurine Lee attends Victory FWB Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Him!) is a computer that lets us know when we have something going amiss. No light flashes, "cancer cells at work," "arteries blocking," "heart weak," "white blood cells taking over," or "disaster on the way." These things are revealed at unexpected moments and at different ages. It is important to serve whom we can, as we can, where we can, because we do not know when God will bring an end to our service.

I. SERVING AS TEACHERS OR MENTORS

Paul wrote Titus a letter of instruction. Among those he told Titus to instruct, were older women. They were to teach the younger ones (Titus 2:3-5). This was not a classroom kind of thing. It was teaching by precept and example in the home, community and church. It was teaching through the events of the day. Paul knew that even as we grow older, we are still targets of Satan's tempta-

tions (gossip or self-indulgence, v. 3). It is important to guard our lives for Christ's sake and especially for the sake of those who know us.

Watch little children play. They mimic what they have seen or heard others (especially parents or family) say and do. What have we taught them? Is our conduct, our dress and manner of life that which glorifies Christ and makes them want to be like us? We might blush with shame.

"It is important to guard our lives for Christ's sake and especially for the sake of those who know us."

"It is important to serve whom we can, as we can, where we can because we do not know when God will bring an end to our service."

Whatever we have taught in words and actions may be what those little ones will become.

We teach by loving those in the home—even when we are tired or weary. Home should be a friendly, happy place.

Anybody can fret and complain. It takes a real trooper to bear up under stress or pain. We are teaching!

We are teaching a special love for God through the time we spend in His Word and in prayer. One of the greatest treasures you could leave your family is a well-worn Bible with margin notes telling of God's work in your life and the prayers He has answered. The greatest portrait you could leave your children is a vivid picture of a praying mother.

II. SERVING AS PRAYER WARRIORS

Time can weigh heavy on the lives of those who are not as active as they used to be. Prayer is agonizing work, but it doesn't require physical strength. It uses a heart filled with love for Christ and this world and a mind devoted to intercession. Prayer is actually healthy because it keeps the brain cells active and invigorated.

We pray for our families, our church, the missionaries and the sick. Sometimes we may think God gets irritated when we take His time repeating the same requests. Should we say (as one person did), "Lord, remember what I prayed for yesterday? Ditto!"? No. We're the ones concerned with time, not God. He always has time to listen. He commands us to pray and expects us to pray—maybe a lifetime—until the answer has come.

If you feel like you need a new challenge for your prayer life, try this. Think of those in your

community for whom few, if anyone, are praying. Gang members. Drug dealers. Prostitutes. Abused children and those who abuse them. The outstanding citizen who gives no evidence of belief in God. See each of these as persons for whom Christ died. Make them the focus of prayer. Pray for them because no one else does! We may never know the results of our prayers, but God does. Eternity will reveal. The greatest service we can give is prayer.

III. SERVING AS COMPANIONS

A companion is someone who goes along as a support and who provides fellowship and encouragement. Within our families, churches and workplaces, are those who need someone to talk to, to pray with or just someone who is there when they need her.

The older we grow, the more we value friendships and the more important it is to let others know we care. Others may be going through times of pain or loneliness. It is not our place to try to solve all the problems, but we can let them know we care. A hug or a smile can go a mile. Wisdom doesn't have to carry a trumpet. It is there to suggest, to guide, and to support. The best tool to use is the Word of God which gives guidance and counsel.

Our families also need our companionship. Husbands need us as best friends throughout our married lives. Our children need us as parents and providers. Once they are on their own, the relationship changes. We begin to treat them as friends, even though they are still our kids. We talk to one another about concerns and activities and often ask for advice or how we should respond to this or that. It is a precious friendship! Brothers and sisters who fuss like cats and dogs grow-

ing up, may defend one another as they grow older. The relationship has become one of companionable friendship.

It is our choice. We can be a companion or a pain. Just because we get older we don't have to get contrary. Our motto should be, "I'm here if you need me."

CONCLUSION

Unless Christ returns or calls for us in younger years, we will inevitably face this golden time.

Preparation comes by daily living for Christ. Should He allow us to live beyond our ability to "do as we used to," learn now to do things that bring a spirit of contentment. A spirit that will shine until He calls us home.

Make these your determined goals:

- If I cannot go, I can pray for those who can.
- If I am not able to give, I will pray for and seek to inspire those who can.
- If I cannot teach, I will support my teacher (or pastor) with faithfulness and prayers.
- If I am unable to plan events, I will pray for those who do and support the plans as I am able.
- Above all, I will receive life as a gift from God and use it to shine as gold for Him. ♦

*"Wisdom
doesn't have
to carry a
trumpet. It
is there to
suggest, to
guide and to
support."*





*1st Place Winner
2001 WNAC Creative Arts Contest*

Choice

Vicki Turner, Missouri

Faded shades of silver light
Upon a dusty shelf
Where once there glowed a brighter light
I used to call myself

Echoes of a lighter song
Lingered in the air
Stagnant, for it sat too long
Without someone to care

Twilight turning shadows dark
Where once the sun had been
Brushstrokes lost within the art
And never seen again

Dreams that used to make me reach
Had somehow turned inside
To hollow out a nest for each
And every tear I cried

Without the will to fight against
Life's ever raging war
I had all but given in
Defeated to the core

When suddenly a still small voice
Sparked my memory
And nudged my heart to make a choice
That changed my destiny

And as the haze was pushed aside
By an omnipotent loving hand
I realized the world had lied—
I can go home again.

*2nd Place Winner
2001 WNAC Creative Arts Contest*

They Know a Girl

Laura Ham, Tennessee

They know a girl who runs away,
She ran twice before and again today.
Is she running to or running from?
They fear the pain has just begun.
She hurts the ones she leaves behind,
but the pain she feels is a different kind.
They feel a hole where she used to be,
The hole in her they cannot see.
There is only one who can heal her pain,
One who knows, who has felt the same.
They pray she will know that He is there,
That she will finally rely on His care.
They wonder, was there something they could have done?
Something to drown out the call to run?
Something they should have said, did they show
enough love?
Now, all they can do is trust the Father above.
A price she must pay for what she has done,
But there is still a chance for the battle to be won.
All they can do now is pray for this,
That her spirit be filled with His.



Springboard:

Innovative Ideas for WAC Officers

Coordinator/Assistant Coordinator

The 2002 *Yearbook* is now here. Take charge and get organized with the Leader's Guide that is jam packed with fresh ideas and suggestions. The yearbook includes an emphasis program, enlistment program, monthly program ideas, along with a list of missionary birthdays and a yearly calendar of events. Buy your copy today for only \$6 plus shipping and handling. Call WNAC toll free at 1-877-767-7662. Or email us at wnac@nafwb.org.

September is the month for the Dr. Mary Ruth Wisehart Student Loan Fund. Remember to tell your women about the loan fund in your meeting. This fund helps students pursuing a Christian education. WNAC provides low interest loans to students attending FWBBC. Call the WNAC office for more information.

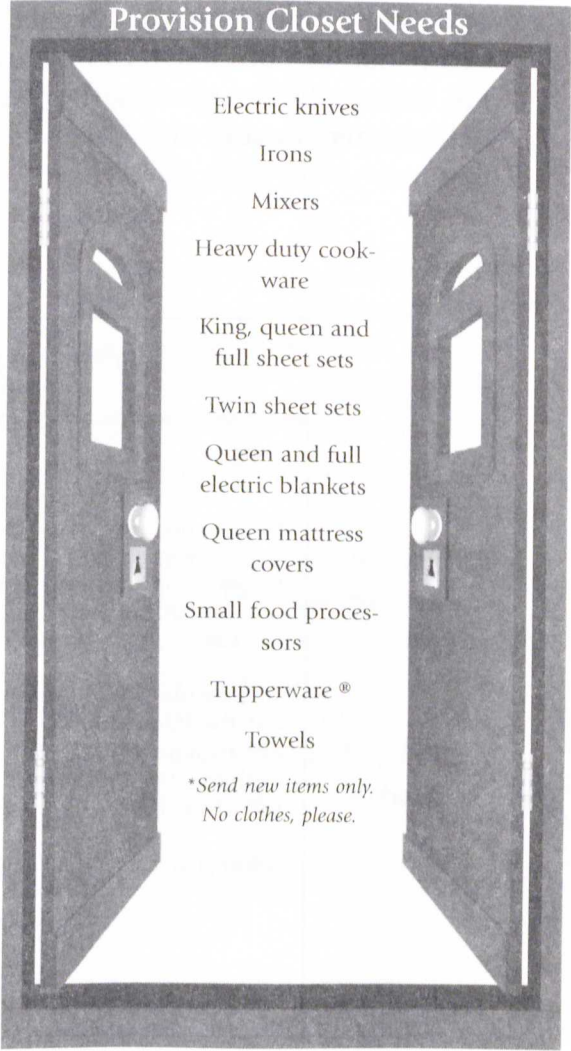
Secretary/Treasurer

September is The Rest of the Family month. This special offering supports many of the FWB ministries. WNAC receives a small percentage. Encourage your local group to participate.

Missions Chairman

September 29, 2001, is set aside for the second annual Operation Saturation sponsored by Master's Men. This could be a great project for your WAC. Plan early so the day will go smoothly and many homes will be reached. Also, your WAC could plan to meet for lunch at the church after the designated homes have been visited.

Provision Closet Needs



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Prayer Chairman

Make a list of various ways you can pray for schools in your community. Distribute the list to the women at your meeting. Visit www.momsintouch.org to find more information on the importance of praying for schools.

Study Chairman

See page 28 for a book review of Frank Peretti's *The Wounded Spirit*. The book discusses the deep scars that some people carry throughout life after being bullied.

Service Chairman

Recruit women from you WAC to volunteer as tutors, monitors or teacher's aides at a Christian or public school in your community. You could also give a gift or send a card to all teachers in your church.

URGENT

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***Beginning January
2002, CoLaborer
magazine will
increase to \$10 per
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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. Needs vary. Check with WNAC for current needs.

Springboard Illustrated *Volume 41/ No. 3*

by Pam Hunter

Many times our lives are so full of confusion and pain that we can't see the light at the end of the tunnel. It could be that we're scared of the future or unsure of God's presence. We could be confused or feel abandoned by our friends or loved ones. It is so easy for us to quote "There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." It is harder to believe it.

Psalm 91 is a constant reminder of God's unfailing presence. He is our dwelling place. Not someplace we can go when we are having problems, but our dwelling place—our home. Home is a place where we live all the time. Not just a place where we come when troubles darken our way. Likewise, God is our home. It's under His wings that we find refuge, even when surrounded by disappointment.

In the midst of trouble we can be confident that we are not alone. God's faithfulness is constant. The promises given in this Psalm are for those of us who choose to put ourselves under the care and protection of God. These promises are for those who dwell within the shelter of the Most High God.

It's natural for us, because we are human, to wander away when we are hurt. How many times have you wanted to run away from home? The Lord says "He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him" (Psalm 91:15 NIV). Are you prepared to accept that? It is a choice.❖

*Pam attends Cofer's Chapel FWB Church
in Nashville, Tennessee.*

Lucy & Marge

Lucy (*sitting with a mirror in hand, moaning, almost crying*)

Marge: (*comes in carrying a Bible*) Lucy, what is it this time?

Lucy: Look at this gray hair and these wrinkles. Some time, while I wasn't looking, I started getting old.

Marge: You're only as old as you feel. . .so they say.

Lucy: Sometimes I feel like I'm 110! But what about you, Marge? Wait a minute. I think I see a gray hair or two (*examining Marge's hair*). Are you putting rinse on your hair?

Marge: Only my hair dresser knows for sure.

Lucy: What do you think? Should I pull out these few gray hairs I see?

Marge: Don't bother, Lucy. We're all aging, you know.

Lucy: Well, you're right. Like my doctor says, it's better than the alternative.

Marge: And the Bible says gray hair is a sign of wisdom.

Lucy: Then I must be really wise, because I'm really gray!

Marge: Of course the wisdom the Bible is talking about is a godly wisdom.

Lucy: Well, you know what James wrote. "If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally."

Marge: Isn't it good to know that even in old age He gives wisdom? And you know the Word also says that we can be fruitful in old age.

Lucy: Where does it say that, Marge?

Marge: Look, right here in Psalm 92:14. "They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourish."

Lucy: How did God know I was going to be fat when I was old?

Marge: Oh, Lucy, I don't think that means physically fat. Maybe it just means filled with the oil of the Holy Spirit.

Lucy: Well, maybe I am fat and old, but I can still do some things for the Lord. Right?

Marge: Absolutely. This month's program for our women's meeting will tell us some ways we can serve.

Lucy: Good, I'll be there with all my gray hairs and wrinkles. When is it?

Marge: (*gives time and place of meeting*)

Lucy: Marge, what else does the Bible say about old age?

Marge: Here's a wonderful verse in Isaiah 46:4. "And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you."

Lucy: That is a wonderful verse. From infancy to old age God will take care of us. What more could we ask?

Marge: Yes, we can depend on Him at any age, and He will help us be fruitful in His service.

Lucy: (*Looking in mirror again*) Now about these wrinkles. Do you think I should have a face lift or try some of that new wrinkle cream?

Marge: Lucy, you just look beautiful the way you are. Why worry about wrinkles and gray hair?

Lucy: How about a blond rinse or maybe an auburn? I always wanted to be a redhead.

Marge: Come on, Lucy. We want to be able to recognize you. Don't change yourself.

Lucy: Let's see, Marge. Maybe you could use a little rinse and hide those few gray hairs. I don't know about those wrinkles. Maybe we can just grow old together and enjoy life.

Marge: I think that's what God intended for us.

Lucy: Okay, race you to the mall to buy some rinse and wrinkle cream. Just kidding!

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

Communicator

by Marjorie Workman

EDUCATION WITH A PURPOSE

September. Schools are in full swing. Teachers are in the classrooms challenging students to stretch mentally. Students are back with friends with a clean slate to begin the new school year. Parents are glad to return to routine schedules. Beginning students, whether kindergartners, high schoolers, or college freshmen, are scared of the unknown.

Education has always played an important role in Women Active for Christ. In the beginning of our organization, the concern was for educating women. Books and study courses were recommended on topics of interest that reflected the current concerns of missions, stewardship, prayer, evangelism, and youth. Manual studies were done to educate women about the work of WNAC. Youth studies helped train women to work with our young people.

The interest grew beyond just educating our women to a desire to educate our young people for Christian ministry. In 1939 the women were serious enough about wanting a school to start raising money. They asked all members to give ten cents each in order to establish a Christian school for Free Will Baptists (*Sparks into Flame*, page 47).

A school did begin in 1942 in Nashville, Tennessee. From those

first ten-cent gifts until the present, WNAC women have supported not only Free Will Baptist Bible College but all of our Free Will Baptist schools.

One of WNAC's first projects for Free Will Baptist Bible College was the purchase of an organ. The project was completed almost by the time it began. Now, nearly fifty years since that first organ was bought, WNAC plans to buy another one. The current organ project has progressed slower than the one in the fifties. The purchase price is considerably higher also. Instead of ten cents per member, we are asking 320 groups or individuals for \$100. Have you made your contribution?

Projects have not been the only means of showing concern for education. Helping students finance their training became equally important. Thus, in 1957, The Student Memorial Loan Fund was established to aid needy students with their tuition. September was designated as the month to encourage giving to this fund. The name of the fund was changed in 1998 to the Dr. Mary Ruth Wisheart Loan Fund in honor of the many educational achievements of Dr. Wisheart, former Executive Secretary-Treasurer of WNAC.

By 1981, a new educational opportunity arose for WNAC women. A special account was established to help train nationals from our foreign fields to prepare for ministry. Originally the fund was called the "National Student Fund." This was often confused with the Memorial Student Loan Fund so the name was changed in 1988 to "Foreign Student Scholarship Fund." The fund was renamed again in 1999 to honor Mrs. Cleo Pursell who orig-



(Seminary students, Pinar del Rio, Cuba.)

inated the fund. It is now known as the "Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship Fund," with February as its designated month.

Three \$1000 scholarships were given this past year from the Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship Fund. Pastor Amiezi Paul, who is attending seminary in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, received \$1000. Pastor Paul is training to assume the leadership of the Bible Institute in the near future, according to Mike Cousineau, Field Treasurer. The second \$1000 scholarship went to Osmir in Campinas, Brazil. He is in his third year of training. He plans to assume the work at Sao Jose when missionary Curt Holland comes home in 2002. The third scholarship went to all eighteen ministerial students studying at Cedars of Lebanon Seminary in Pinar del Rio, Cuba. Steve Lytle, Director of Field Operations for Foreign Mission, says that with the compressed economy in Cuba, this scholarship will go a long way to help these young men.

Education will continue to be vital to the ministry of Women Active for Christ. Thanks to all of you who are investing in lives for the future growth of Free Will Baptists around the world.

Life! Action

a column for teens

ANTICIPATION . . .



Name: Laura Ham

Age: 17

School: Mt. Juliet High School

Hobbies: Hiking, climbing, reading, watching movies, writing

Church: Cofer's Chapel FWB

Recently, I had the miraculous joy of seeing a good friend come to Christ. My friends and I had been praying for him for more than four months, and he accepted Christ after reading one of my older Bibles that I had given to him. The next time I saw my friend, I could tell something had changed. Not just on the outside, but deep inside. This change was so great it could even be seen in the way he walked.

God answers prayer and touches hearts. There are all ready great plans for my friend's new life—great plans that I was a part of. God used me to reach someone else.

This summer I will travel with TEAM ministries to Japan. I eagerly await being an outstretched hand—a vessel that God uses to share His love.

Also, I anticipate growing closer to God and learning more about sharing my faith with others. This trip will be both a learning experience and a chance to see God's hand at work in another country.

There is nothing like feeling the joy as God works through you and all around you. There is nothing more comforting than growing more secure in your ability to share your faith. Now, I wait to see how God will guide my life through this summer mission trip. . .

Mother Said There'd Be Days Like This

"...You do not know what a day will bring forth." Proverbs 27:1

by Debe Taylor

It didn't EVEN begin as a "normal" day. The phone started to ring at 6:15 a.m.

One of our church ladies was not going to be able to attend the Chonda Pierce concert that night. Her phone call was well-meaning—she wanted to know if someone else would like to have the ticket. So in turn, I began to make calls at 6:45 a.m. (hoping everyone I called would be awake) to see if someone knew someone who knew some-

one who would want the ticket. In answer to my inquiries, our phone began to ring every few minutes. With all of this, I knew I would be pushing myself to arrive at work on time at 8 a.m.

I put on my make up—everything okay so far. I got dressed—still okay. The mistake came when I decided to eat breakfast.

As I perused the refrigerator, leftover potato soup caught my eye. I warmed it on the stove and began to eat. Yuck! It was like eating pure salt. Something had gone wrong. Not to be stopped, I decided on a bowl of cereal. One taste of that let me know the milk had soured. Well, there were tortillas and cheese. Out came the skillet and the cooking oil and I proceeded to fix two cheese tacos. Just as I was taking the last tortilla from the skillet, it happened. The taco fell back into the grease and splattered oil all over my dress. Yes, my mom taught me not to cook in my good clothes, but some lessons in life have to be experienced.

No doubt about it, I needed to change clothes. I chose a dress that had just come from the cleaners a day or so before. Guess what? The spot on the front of the dress had not come out when it was cleaned. So, I set up the ironing board and pressed another outfit. My only thought was, "Now, I am getting somewhere."

I called my boss to let her know the day was not going according to

plan. No two ways about it. I was going to be late. Getting into my car was my last obstacle. If I could make it out the driveway, I could still salvage the day. With both hands full, I managed to open the car door. Just as I was getting in, the door swung back toward me, hitting my mug of Diet Coke® and sending it streaming down the front of my WHITE top. I felt a lot like the Psalmist David, "They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my support" (Psalm 18:18 NKJV).

As I stood in our garage, trying to decide if I should laugh or cry, a Bible verse came to my mind. Jesus Himself told us that there would be bad days, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof" (Matthew 6:34 NKJV). Isn't that the truth?

I decided right then and there that I wasn't going to let this day get the best of me. I determined to echo the words of David, "This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24 NKJV). ♦

"Just as I was getting in, the car door swung back toward me, hitting my mug of Diet Coke® and sending it streaming down the front of my white top."



2001 WNAAC

Creative Arts Contest Winners

1st Place: Choice
2nd Place: They Know a Girl
3rd Place: Mother's Responsibility
4th Place: Comfort

Poetry

Vickie Turner	Carterville, Missouri
Laura Ham	Nashville, Tennessee
Mildred Collingsworth	Dayton, Ohio
Charlcie Boyd	Ashland City, Tennessee

Articles

1st Place: Wind of the Spirit
2nd Place: Beyond My Comprehension
3rd Place: First Easter Morning
4th Place: Counted Blessing

Judy Delong
Wendi Howell
Beverly Brantley
Janie Ackerson

Hager Hill, Kentucky
Ontario, California
Plant City, Florida
Ashland, Kentucky

Programs

1st Place: Living on a Spiritual Plane
2nd Place: Meet Me at the Orchard
3rd Place: Installation Program
4th Place: Operation Link-Up

Judy Delong
Betty Reeves
Jane Shelton
Pam Hackett

Hager Hill, Kentucky
Farmington, Missouri
Little Rock, Arkansas
Boiling Springs, South Carolina

Plays

1st Place: The Incompetency Hearing
2nd Place: God's Quilt Pieces
3rd Place: The Harvest
4th Place: Searching for the Key

Lee Ann Wilfong
Barbara Hall
Lavern Clark
Sue Winchester

Park Hills, Missouri
Lexington, Kentucky
Thayer, Missouri
St. Louis, Missouri

Art

1st Place:
2nd Place:
3rd Place:
4th Place:

Janis Williams
Janis Williams
Janice Jones
Janis Williams

Nashville, Tennessee
Nashville, Tennessee
Smithfield, North Carolina
Nashville, Tennessee

Women In Action



The First Free Will Baptist Church for All Nations was established last year in Seoul. Presently about 100 believers are members. Fifteen believers were baptized in April. Pictured to the left is a baptismal ceremony.

The Vernon District WAC meeting met in March at the First FWB Church in Vernon, AL. Twenty-eight ladies were present. Janie Aldridge, retired missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, was the guest speaker. Jimmy Aldridge was the special guest for the fellowship time.

Pictured left to right: Elwanda Oaks, outgoing President; Joyce Gibson, President; Janie Aldridge, Jimmy Aldridge.



The South Grand River WAC held their district meeting March 15 at the Locust Grove Church. The theme was "Sow and Grow."

Pictured left to right: Debbie Burden, district President; Jean Marie Rogers, local WAC President; Elaine Holland, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire.



Dear Ladies:

Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministry in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Your gifts are an encouragement to us and a necessary part of this work. I know that the Lord will continue to bless your efforts on his behalf.

Though we cannot all do the same thing, we can all work together to turn this world to Christ.

Please keep us in your prayers. Your intercession is worth souls.

Sincerely,

Jeff Crabtree, missionary to New Brunswick

Dear FWB Sisters in Christ:

As your missionaries in Korea for all countries in Asia, we thank you for your great concern for Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions. We appreciate your support with prayer and offerings. With gratitude we send greetings from Seoul, Korea, the land of morning calm.

Your continuing prayers and strong support for our mission are very much needed and deeply appreciated. We thank you again for your partnership in our Free Will Baptist ministries in Korea.

May our Lord bless you abundantly,

Dr. and Mrs. Jon Chang, missionaries to Korea

Dear WNAC,

As I was putting those green sheets on my bed this weekend, I tried to remember if I had written to say thanks. I really appreciate your help in getting these items together to be sent to Atlanta with Rebecca. The backpack is being carried to school each day. The notebooks will come in so handy in August and the sheets are so welcomed—they are so expensive here! So, thanks again for going the extra mile—and for your help as always.

Annette Aycock, missionary to Brazil

Dear WNAC,

Thank you very much for the graduation card and the \$20 gift card. I'll certainly be able to put it to good use soon! I'm looking forward to attending Southeastern Free Will Baptist College this fall, though I'll miss working in our church here.

Thank you again for all your prayers and support.

Becky Lloyd, Wisconsin

Mission Alert

Evangelism News from Around the World



Brazil

The congregation at Sao Jose church voted to license Osmir to preach and to pay him part-time to work with Curt as assistant pastor for the next six months. The church hopes to call Osmir as full-time pastor in December. This young man was saved early in the Hollands' ministry at Sao Jose and has been attending seminary in preparation for the pastorate. Pray for him and his wife as they follow the Lord's leading.

France

Pray for Ali who was saved on May 27, 2001. Ali, an engineering student, met Micah Derby who is studying French at the university in Rennes. They developed a friendship, and Ali went to St. Nazaire over



the weekend to visit Micah and Jerry and Barbara Gibbs. During the weekend, Ali heard the gospel, asked many questions, and came to saving faith in Christ. He is from a Muslim background, so pray that he will become firmly established in his faith and not become discouraged.

Côte d'Ivoire

The Lord provided Verlin Anderson a unique opportunity to lead a man to the Lord. Verlin was asked by a policeman to give a man a ride to Abidjan. Ordinarily the missionaries don't take passengers because of safety precautions and insurance regulations. But Verlin sensed a leading from the Lord and took the passenger. The passenger turned out to be the supervisor of public health nurses in the country. Verlin seized the opportunity to talk to him about the community health program and to share the



gospel with him. The passenger, Jacques, received Christ there in the car. The Andersons are praising the Lord for this divine appointment.

Spain

Pray for Sam and June McVay who returned to Spain on June 5, 2001, for their second term of service. Ask the Lord to help them readjust quickly to the culture and language. Pray that God will give them wisdom as they minister in Spain.

Panama

According to Eddie Bowerman, the doors have closed for ministry to the Kuna Indians in Panama. Eddie learned that another evangelical group was trying to get into the village. But in the end, the chiefs decided that no one could come in for at least a year. Eddie expressed gratitude for prayers on their behalf and the Kuna during the two years he and LaRhonda have been working with them. The Bowermans have seen the Lord work to soften hearts that were once completely closed to the gospel. Pray that eventually an evangelical group will be allowed to take the gospel to that village.

Happy Neewollah!

by Sarah Fletcher



Instead of trick-or-treat, it's simply treat-and-greet.

Crazy costumes. Lots of laughter. Aromas of fresh baked goods. Neighbors. It's Neewollah time!

What's Neewollah (nee-WALL-uh)? It's Halloween backward. Instead of trick-or-treat, it's simply treat-and-greet.

The idea came one brainstormy night almost twelve years ago as my husband and I were seeking to accomplish two goals—minister to the eld-

erly in our church and provide a Halloween alternative for our teens. The youth group would meet at the church to bake and package goodies, then go in costume to deliver the treats to our shut-ins. The teens loved it; the shut-ins loved it. Our own children loved it and begged to do it again the next year. And the next, and the next. Soon, Neewollah became our family tradition.

Neewollah provided both a teaching and a sharing opportunity. As parents we were not

Sarah Fletcher is the new editor for CoLaborer. She attends Donelson FWB Church.

thrilled with the "gimme-gimme" attitude displayed in so many of those who "trick-or-treated" our home each year. We wanted our children to experience and follow the Biblical principle that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." We also wanted to reach out and share the love of Christ with our neighbors.

We established tradition guidelines. We would bake and package homemade treats. Our children would dress up in "Neewollah" costumes (non-offensive, closet-cast-off and toy box creations). They would only Neewollah in the daylight when other trick-or-treaters would not be making the rounds; they would go together in a group. At each house they would say, "Happy Neewollah" as they handed out the home-baked treats. They could NOT accept anything in return. Our youngest daughter recalls, "That was the hardest part. I used to whine and complain about that. Now I know it would have gone against our family principle."

Neewollah involves our whole family. Mom supervises the baking. Dad prints a computer label with our special Neewollah message. The kids help wrap and deliver.

Each year it's a little different. Over the years, we've "Neewollah-ed" in five different neighborhoods in three different states. We've given out homemade cinnamon rolls, dinner rolls, breads, cookies and popcorn balls. The response has been different also. One neighbor began to let her child play at our house after we "Neewollah-ed" their home.

Later, I was able to share the gospel with the mother.

Another neighbor who had seemed distant showed up on our doorstep one Christmas with a gift for my daughter—"because she brings us treats at Halloween." Only once has a neighbor refused to take our gift.

One elderly neighbor graciously took the baked goods

and thanked the children. Later, she called with an invitation. "I know what you're doing," she said, "and I agree. But since the children didn't get any candy, may I have them over for ice cream next week?" That was one "sweet" Neewollah memory!

As our children have reached teenage years, the costumes are now "out," but the chance to share with neighbors (and test taste the goods) still brings them "in" the kitchen to help. All have said they will probably continue the tradition in their own homes. Besides the lessons and the memories, Neewollah has other benefits. There's no extra cavities and no leftover candy.❖

Another neighbor who had seemed distant showed up on our doorstep one Christmas with a gift for my daughter "because she brings us treats at Halloween."

We wanted our children to experience and follow the Biblical principle that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

***The Lord has treated
us so kindly
We're convinced
it's true.
So here's a treat
and not a trick
We'd like to share
with you.
Happy Neewollah!
(That's Halloween backward.)***

The Wounded Spirit

by Dr. Mary Ruth Wischart

"We can't blame circumstances or others for the consequences of our choices."

Perhaps you read Peretti's fiction *This Present Darkness* or *The Visitation*. But unless you heard his broadcast on Focus on the Family in late 1999, you probably did not know about Peretti's troubled childhood.

He never made it a public display, but the incident at Columbine High School made him think his time had come.

Peretti writes that he is convinced that what happened at that school is the result of a wounded spirit. His book suggests that children may be wounded in spirit and carry the wounds right over into adulthood.

How did Peretti live through his wounding and become a productive adult?

He gives credit to his parents and siblings. "I will have to say that, all things considered, kids having a loving mom and dad has always been a great idea."

A teacher helped by speaking an encouraging word. Writing how he felt and giving it to a teacher helped.

But most important to Peretti is knowing God, recognizing that "we matter to Almighty God." Since God created us and put us here for a purpose, "every human being has intrinsic value, preciousness, meaning and dignity."

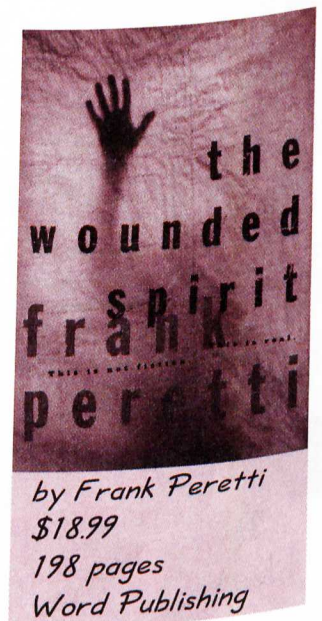
He writes, "He [Christ] is the Answer for every broken heart, the one Answer we cannot live without—He is the Healer of the wounded spirit."

Peretti quotes the suicide note allegedly left by one of the Columbine shooters. The implication is that the young man is not responsible; the teachers and students are. Lest this creates the impression that he thinks these young men are not responsible for their actions, note his quote by a student from the school. "I'm not saying what they did was OK, but I know what's it like to be cornered, pushed day after day." Peretti also knows what it is like to be pushed and cornered.

We may wish that Peretti had been more specific about his overcoming the wounds and becoming a productive adult. At what point did he consciously make a choice for God?

We all suffer at times, and we all must make choices. We can't blame circumstances or others for the consequences of our choices. Peretti made a choice just as the two young men did at Columbine that day.

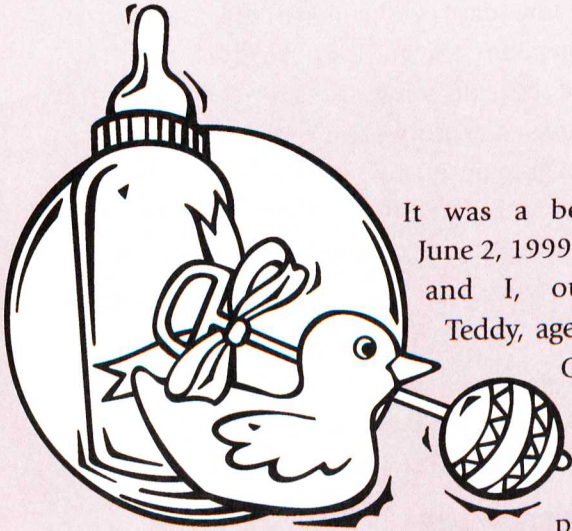
We can all agree with his conclusion: "God will use what you and I have gone through to help others find healing and deliverance from the wounds that still bring pain to their souls. Whether you are the wounded, the wounder or both, Peretti has a word for you in this book. As he says, "It's never too late to start doing the right thing; it's never too late to change for the better."



Dr. Wischart served as Executive-Secretary of WNAC for 13 years. She is now an adjunct professor at FWBCC in Nashville, Tennessee.

Serena Grace

by Karen Collier



It was a beautiful day, June 2, 1999. My husband and I, our daughter Teddy, age 12, and son Clayton, age 4, were going to see the ultrasound picture of our new baby, and we were excited. I was exactly five months along and the morning sickness (all day and night) had finally subsided. For the past week or so, I hadn't felt pregnant. My strength and energy returned and I was back to my gardening, installing light fixtures and repairing all those little things around the house that I hadn't felt like tackling.

My children loved to talk to their new unborn baby. Clayton would run up to me and give it a kiss. He was hoping for a boy to share his bedroom. He had already got rid of a lot of his toys in order to make room for the new baby.

I too was excited, but also worried. The baby had only moved a few times in these five months. I prayed each night for

God to protect this baby and to fashion each part according to His purpose. Even though I placed this child in the Father's hands, I still determined to question the doctor as to what might be wrong. Not that it would matter—my feelings wouldn't change—but I wanted to know and prepare. I thought I was ready for whatever I might be told. I wasn't.

We all crowded in a small dark room as the technician brought up the picture of our baby on the screen. She turned off the screen and asked if we would have the children go to the waiting room. My daughter took her little brother by the hand and led him out. The young technician then

began explaining that the baby was no longer alive and had been deceased for one or two weeks. She again turned on the screen and showed us that the heart was not pumping. The baby was a girl. The technician was crying, my husband was sobbing and I was just numb. When I had thought something was wrong, the idea of my baby being dead had never entered my mind.

"Even though I placed this child in the Father's hands, I still determined to question the doctor..."

Karen Collier lives in Fair Grove, Missouri. "Serena Grace" won 4th place in the 2000 WNAC Creative Arts Contest.

We were left alone. All I could think was, "Thank you, Jesus, for I know you are working in this situation. You will help us through this. But how will I ever tell my children that their baby sister has died?"

I brought the kids into a small meeting room apparently designed just for this type of situation and did my best to explain. Teddy tried to handle herself with silent crying, but Clayton sobbed in utter sorrow. I've never seen a child cry in such honest despair. All his many plans for this baby had come to an abrupt end. He kept trying to question me in hopes that he had misunderstood. "Once the doctor takes her out of your belly, she'll be okay, right Mom? Then she'll crawl around on the floor." His eyes were pleading with me for assurance. But I couldn't give him any false hopes about this. "No, sweetheart, she is not alive and will not be alive when she comes out of me. She is in Heaven with Jesus and your grandpas."

We went immediately to the hospital. My labor was induced and our daughter was born the next morning. She was a perfectly-made little girl. Her entire body could easily fit into the palm of my hand. She was so precious. Our doctor informed us that her death had been caused by an umbilical cord accident. The cord was crimped near her abdomen cutting off her life source of blood and oxygen.

At the hospital, Teddy had written down some possible names she remembered from a list we had made at home. Next to the name Serena, she wrote, "means calm." I knew that would be her name. All along I had said she was such a calm baby. We would need extra grace to get through this, so Serena Grace was the perfect name for her. I sensed such a peace.

I thought I was doing well until some of the medication wore off during the night. I awoke before dawn, aching for my baby and crying uncontrollably. My body that had once carried a life was so empty; I had never felt so hollow.

The next few days we cried many tears. Making arrangements for graveside services and her burial were difficult, but it also brought healing, knowing we were doing the best we could with what God gave us. As my husband Ted and I took the shovel and placed the dirt over her little casket, I knew a feeling of completeness.

One night I lay awake crying because I never had been able to nurse, dress or care for Serena. God spoke to my heart, "Why are you so sad (as one who has no hope)? I gave her to you for five months. You held and rocked her with your body.

You fed her when you ate. You dressed her with the covering of your womb, sang to her, slept with her cuddled inside you—she was with you constantly. Be

happy. I'll take care of her then give her back to you forever when you come home. Are not all your children mine? You say they are—that I can freely take them whenever I like. And you will understand. Yet I have taken one and you are upset because you no longer have her. Be careful. It is all right to mourn your loss. But do not dwell on what you've missed; instead, be happy for what I've given you. Rejoice!"

God is so good; He is a balm for my soul. In the six months that followed, the Lord performed many miracles in our lives, miracles that never would have occurred without Serena. I can honestly say, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

"Thank you, Jesus, for the gift of Serena Grace."

*"I awoke before dawn,
aching for my baby and crying
uncontrollably."*



Words for Women

*Marjorie H.
Workman*

You Touched Us

She was definitely the answer to our prayer, "Come over and help us." We were looking for someone with English skills, computer knowledge, editorial experience and someone young. God gave us all that we asked and more. She readily came. And for eighteen months she has charmed us, traveled with us and written and edited for us. But now she is leaving. Rhonda McReynolds, *CoLaborer* editor, is returning to the call of the classroom. With this issue we say goodbye.

Rhonda, you will be missed. Your warm smile, quiet personality, wit and "cooking" will leave an empty spot in the WNAC office. Your youthfulness brought fresh, new ideas to our planning strategies. Your perspective, welcomed and helpful.

As seen in your editorials, you love your roots—your family, the West Virginia hills, your little church nestled on the hillside. They molded you into the outstanding Christian young woman you are today.

You love life. Whether bungee jumping or running from an oncoming electrical storm during a hike—one of your

favorite outdoor activities, you brighten the way for those around you. Your cheerfulness makes even the most disgruntled person smile.

You love peace when chaos surrounds you. Deadlines don't rattle you. Interruptions don't irritate you. Extra tasks don't discourage you. You always manage to stay focused. Truly, it has been a joy working with you.

Your deep abiding faith gives you strength when suffering, sickness, and even death brushes by you. Rhonda, the great characteristics you have modeled before us, we challenge you to instill in the lives of the young students you will be teaching. Pour into them what you have learned from your life experiences so they, too, will serve faithfully.

Even though our paths will part in the WNAC Office, they will not separate from WNAC involvement. You are active in your local WAC group, so we look forward to seeing you at future activities. God bless you and thank you for serving Women Nationally Active for Christ.



*Dr. Mary
Ruth Wischart
Loan Fund*

September 2001

*Investing in the
Future!*

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