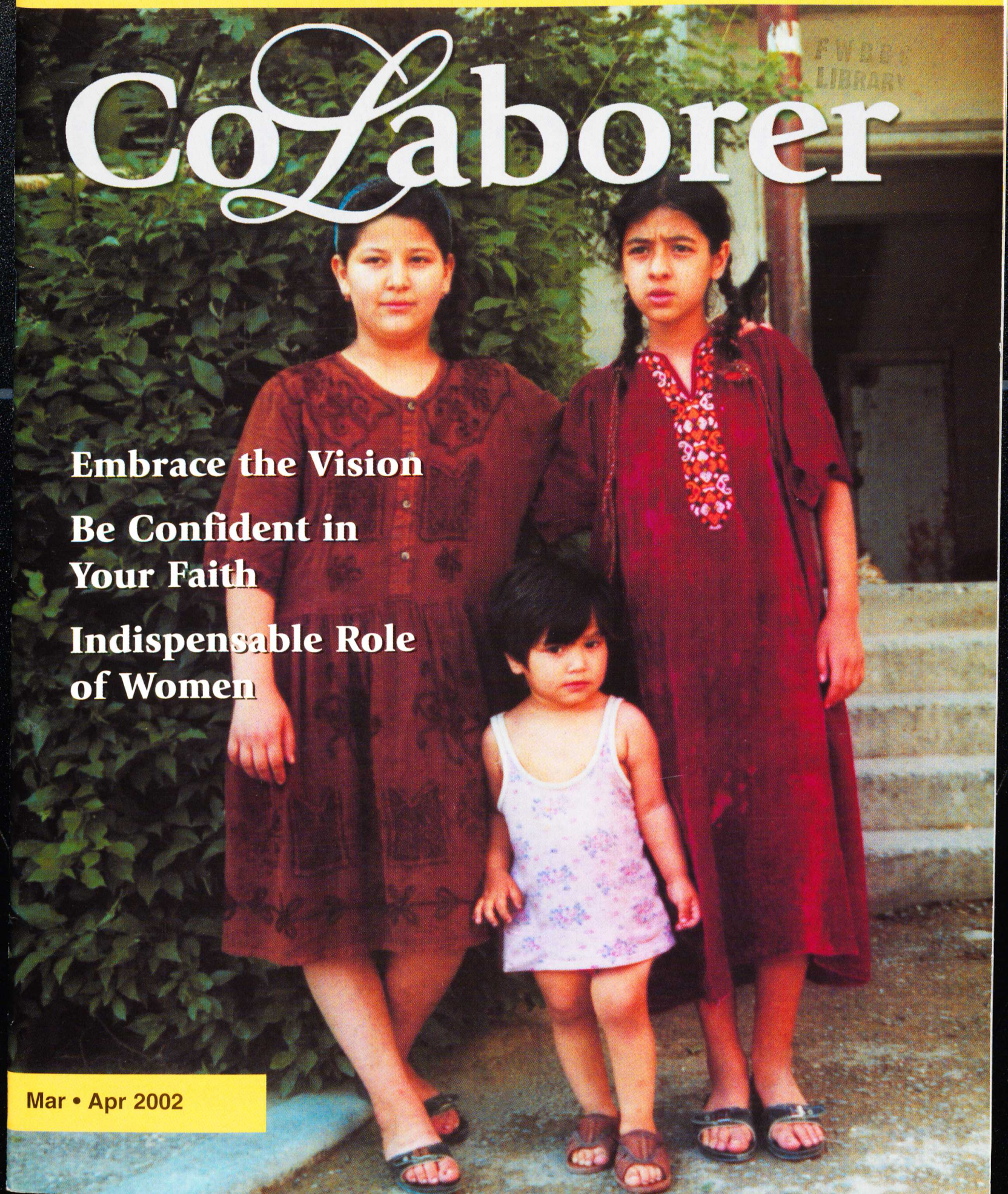
A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

CoLaborer



Embrace the Vision

Be Confident in Your Faith

Indispensable Role of Women

Mar • Apr 2002

Labor of my heart

Sarah Fletcher

"Cancel our subscription."
"Reduce the number of magazines."
"It's just too expensive."
"Our women want to do their own thing."
"We can't get our women to read it anyway."

In recent days, these *CoLaborer* comments have reached my desk. Dismal as it sounds, my heart longs to encourage. Oh, that each of these women and women's groups would glimpse a vision for our magazine!

It's not just a program book. Yes, *CoLaborer* offers monthly features for use at WAC meetings. These features may be the main course, but who wants to eat only meat? Each issue is jam-packed with devotional and other theme-related reading. Even if you never use the featured program material, you can benefit from the magazine. It's also a connector, sharing information about Free Will Baptist women nationally and worldwide.

It's not just for those in WNAC. Yes, *CoLaborer* is a publication of Women Nationally Active for Christ. But anyone can take our magazine. *CoLaborer* is available by single subscription or in bundles for groups. Give a copy to a friend. Encourage every woman in your church to subscribe. Using only one copy for a whole group is a slim potluck! *(And photocopying is illegal—in any publication.)* Find an interest article and share it with an unsaved woman. What a joy if women find Christ through our magazine!

Envision the Possibilities. See CoLaborer as:

An appealing magazine. How refreshing to read an article "made just for you." My prayer is that *CoLaborer* would appeal to a wide audience with a wide range of experiences. From Carolina to California, both career singles and college students could identify. Mothers of toddlers to teens would find wisdom and inspiration. Target groups would include working women, caregivers sandwiched between children and elderly, homemakers and homeschoolers, and of course, those faithful women who have been WNAC since its inception.

An interactive magazine. *CoLaborer* is your magazine. We want to know your needs, your thoughts; we desire your input. The *CoLaborer* link on our website allows easy access and visibility. Email us your original work, your letters, and your words of wisdom. New columns like "Help I'm a Mom" and "How Did You Find Christ" invite you the reader to respond. Whether through postal or email, we welcome your suggestions.

An attractive magazine. Though funds are limited by subscriptions, we're always seeking to make our magazine more attractive through creative layout, art, and design. Our vision is to step up the magazine to two-color enamel (slick paper) and eventually go full-color.

An inexpensive magazine. At $11 for six issues (less than a dollar a month), *CoLaborer* is a great buy. For the cost of eating out once, you can feast on spiritual nourishment and nibble on food for thought for a whole year!

A ministry magazine. Our vision at *CoLaborer* is to embrace God's vision. We desire to be a source, a springboard, a well of ministry resources, tools, and ideas for you. Let us help. Let us minister to you. For we are laborers together with God.

Volume 42 Number 2 MAR • APR 2002

14

One woman's witness in an unlikely place
Cockroach Haven

17

Prepare your heart for the season
Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for World Missions

28

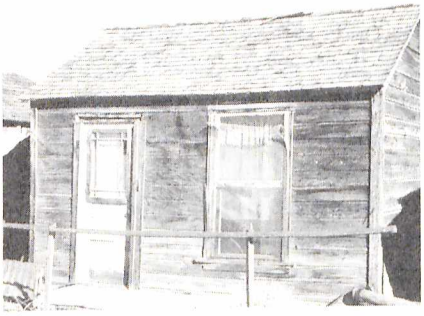
What can we learn, how should we respond. . .
When God Changes Our Plans

Cover: Girls from Central Asia

PHOTO CREDITS—Cover: FWB Foreign Missions. p. 14: WWW.ARTTODAY.COM

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

CONTENTS



FEATURES AND ARTICLES

4 **MARCH FEATURE**
Embrace the Vision—Judy Lytle

8 **The Indispensable Role of Women**—James Forlines

11 **APRIL FEATURE**
Be Confident in Your Faith—Annette Aycock

14 **Cockroach Haven**—Suzan Hutchinson

16 **Meditations at Easter**—Joan Warren

17 **Pre-Easter Week of Prayer Guide**

28 **When God Changes Our Plans**—Dawn Sweeney

30 **Faith and Grandma's Prayers**—Leta Mae Scott

COLUMNS AND DEPARTMENTS

7 **Book Review**—Brenda Evans

19 **Couples Retreat Information**

20 **Springboard: memos for WAC officers**

21 **Insight**—Judy Delong

22 **Labors of Love**

23 **Letters to WNAC**

24 **2002 WNAC Order Form**

25 **Life!/Action**—Grace Ayiga

26 **Share the Wonder**—Debe Taylor

27 **Mission Alert**

30 **Help! I'm a Mom**

31 **Words for Women**—Marjorie Workman

STAFF

Executive Editor: Marjorie Workman
Editor: Sarah Fletcher
Circulation: Yvonne Hampton

CoLaborer, (ISSN 0896-0038), is published bimonthly by Women Nationally Active for Christ of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 5233 Mt.View Road, Antioch, TN 37013-2306, (615)•731•6812. Address all correspondence to P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Annual subscription rates: $11.00 per year, single; $10.00 per year, 5 or more to one address.
Periodical postage paid at Antioch, TN and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CoLaborer, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

Copyright privileges, reserved © 2002 Member of the Evangelical Press Association. USPS 0896-0038

It's Time to

Embrace the Vision

by Judy Lytle

Have you ever believed in something so deeply, so passionately that you would plan your entire life around it? Have you ever known someone who did? We often call these individuals visionaries.

God is the Supreme visionary. His passion? People. As we read the Bible, we see God's vision for the peoples of the world. God desires that everyone, everywhere should know Him through Jesus Christ. He wants worshippers from every corner of the earth, from every language, and from every race. Beginning in Genesis and all the way through Revelation, God reveals His beautiful plan for His redeemed people.

We are blessed so we can bless others. I Kings 8:60 says, "That all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is none else." Isaiah 49:6 declares, "I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth." What a privilege, yet what an awesome responsibility!

While on earth, Jesus gave a last command to his disciples (and ultimately to the church throughout all ages). Go to the entire world and tell others the truth of the gospel (Matt. 28:18-20). At that time in history, this surely seemed an impossible task. The entire world? How could they possibly do it? Who would go?

Acts 1:8 tells us, ". . .and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." WE are God's plan to reach the world. We are His only plan. [He does not have a "plan B."] God chooses to use us—frail, human beings—to accomplish His plan.

Romans 10:13-15 gives us God's vision. *Whoever (anyone, anywhere) calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

The passage also explains the task. *How can they call, if they don't believe? How can they believe, if they have not heard? How can they hear unless someone tells them?*

Verse 15 gives us the plan. *How can someone tell others unless he be sent?*

Quite simply, we are to tell and send. Tell what Christ has done in our lives. Send those who'll share the message that whoever hears, believes, and calls upon the Lord shall be saved. Is the Church accomplishing this task? What have Free Will Baptists done?

Since the birth of our denomination, many have embraced God's vision of reaching the world. Some, however, have desired to limit that vision to a certain area of the world or to a particular race of people. True visionaries have often stood alone.

Where *should* we win souls? The debate has swelled for years. Some say we should evangelize at home (Jerusalem). Others are burdened for a nearby community (Judea), or possibly a distant state (Samaria) with few churches or believers. Still others advocate going to a faraway land (uttermost part of the earth). *Each* area is important and vital. The person with God's true vision doesn't see the world as either "here" or "there." God draws no geographic boundaries. He specifies no dialect or language. He screens neither rich nor poor; black nor white. God sees people. People in need of Him. All people. His potential worshippers.

FWB VISIONARIES

Laura Belle Barnard

In June of 1935, Free Will Baptist churches had not yet organized as a denomination. Missionary vision was basically nonexistent. Most people's "world" stretched only a few miles from home. But deep down in the state of Georgia, a young woman caught a glimpse of regions beyond. She saw a greater world in need of a Savior.

Laura Belle Barnard was young and single but God called her. She obeyed His voice and enrolled at Columbia Bible College to prepare herself for the task at hand. Even without a sending agency, she made plans to go as a missionary. Thanks to the vision of men like I. J. Blackwelder and J. R. Davidson, Free Will Baptists came together and sent Laura Belle Barnard to India.

On June 13, 1935, Miss Barnard spoke at a meeting of the General Conference. Nearly 2000 people crowded into the Black Jack Church near Greenville, North Carolina to hear her address the subject, "Challenge of the Lost World to our Church." (Oh, to have been a mouse in that church and heard her speak!) Her words surely made an impact. The Conference voted not only to help send Laura Belle Barnard to India, but also to support both her and an Indian national pastor. That was the beginning. She was faithful and our churches were faithful to pray and financially sustain her.

Laura Belle Barnard pioneered Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions. The years she spent in India were intensely important. Because of her ministry, thousands, possibly millions of Indian believers worship the name of Jesus Christ.

When I think of Laura Belle Barnard, my memory recalls that slim, stately missions professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College. She could transport an entire class of mission students into the holy presence of Jehovah God through a prayer. Health and Hygiene Class facts forgotten, I'll always remember her prayers. She knew God intimately and conversed with Him often. She inspired those around her to see the world through God's eyes.

Mabel Willey

Mabel Willey was another woman whom God used to open Free Will Baptist hearts and minds to His world. Working alongside her husband, Thomas Willey, Sr., "Mom" Willey impacted many. The Willeys' vision led them to the island of Cuba where they began winning souls and immediately founded a training program. The Cedars of Lebanon seminary had proven the key to continued ministry in Cuba long after the

forced exodus of our missionary force. Some 40 years later, the Cuban Free Will Baptist Church is alive and adding to its ranks daily.

Mom Willey was a Bible teacher—one of the best. She taught many Bible classes at the Cuban seminary. During her later years of ministry in Panama she conducted a weekly Bible study with university students. Every Tuesday evening, 20-30 young people crowded into her small apartment to study the Word with "Hermana" (Sister) Mabel.

One of her favorite expressions was, "Get into the Word." She knew the importance of consistent Bible study. For several years before her retirement from Panama, she met weekly with women from society's upper class. As these wives of important business and political figures shared their problems, Mabel Willey faithfully shared the Word. Many lives were changed.

Whether in Cuba, Panama, Miami, or Texas, Mabel Willey's passion was telling others of Christ and His life-changing power. Even beyond age 90, she continued to work tirelessly for her Christ. She embraced God's vision and lived it daily.

Lizzie McAdams

Another Free Will Baptist visionary was Lizzie McAdams. She made an impression upon my young life when she held a revival at my home church, Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church in Fredericktown, Missouri. A woman and a preacher—now that was unusual. What a servant of God! Lizzie McAdams left an unforgettable trail across the midsection of our country. With her husband, Hiram, she held hundreds of revivals and started numerous churches. For a short time, the McAdamses also served as foreign missionaries. Mrs. McAdams garnered support for Free Will Baptist Bible College. She traveled thousands of miles on behalf of WNAC and was an active participant in its founding. Adding to this long list of accomplishments, Lizzie McAdams served as the first Free Will Baptist home missionary. She embraced a vision of the world, starting in her Jerusalem and extending into her Judea, Samaria and beyond. She loved God and people everywhere with an untiring passion. A strong determined woman, Lizzie McAdams broke tradition and followed God's call.

Gail Fender

Gail Underwood Fender also embraced God's vision. A person near to my heart, Gail and I both gave our hearts to the Lord on the same night. Even as a child Gail had a sense of purpose. She also wanted to do "right."

Gail's heart was always close to missions. She involved herself in Foreign Missionary Fellowship at Free Will Baptist Bible College, where she graduated with a Missions minor. But God did not call her to a foreign field. Instead He used her in a local church and in the state of Tennessee. Always active in WNAC, she kept the needs of home and foreign missionaries before her church and the women of her district.

After serving for several years as pastor of Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Whitesburg, Tennessee, Gail's husband, Gerald, felt the Lord calling him to start a church in West Knoxville. Gail worked alongside Gerald in the beginning efforts. She considered her family and this church her mission field; she poured her life

into them. No one fully understands why the Lord called her to heaven at age 47. We only know that His ways are perfect. As time passes, Gail's labors continue to produce fruit. Whether working in the West Knoxville Mission, teaching in the public school, or financially supporting and praying for ministries and missionaries around the world, Gail lived her life with a passion, always glorifying God.

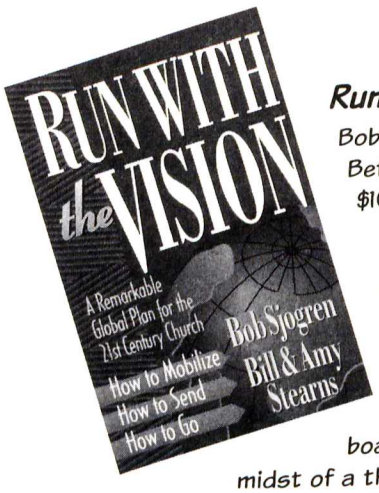
Future Visionaries

These four women were individuals just like you and me. None boasted any special qualities to place them in the elite class. The common denominator among them was vision. They each saw a world in need of Christ and made themselves available for use in God's service.

What about us? If ever the opportunity existed for Free Will Baptists to make a difference, it is now. What would happen if the entire denomination embraced God's vision for the world? Not just an individual here or there, not just a small group, but a massive army of the redeemed. With shared vision, let us begin putting God's plan into action. It's time to embrace the vision.

Judy Lytle, missionary to Panama for 24 years, now serves as Candidate Coordinator for FWB Foreign Missions. She and her husband Steve have three sons and two daughter-in-laws.

You've Embraced the Vision. . . now RUN with it.



Run With the Vision

Bob Sjogren, Bill and Amy Stearns
Bethany House Publishers
$10.99

"Clusters of blossoms hang like grenades in the foliage. The vice-director's daughter has finally died. There were rumors of another robbery on board the Mekong River boat from Phnom Penh. And in the midst of a three-hour downpour that smells of mold and frogs, Christine sits under a tin-roof canopy getting her hair permed. Welcome to Cambodia."

So begins the final section of *Run with the Vision*, a book of stories about God's global plan for the church. But *Run* is not only a book of inspiring stories; it is also a 280-page instruction manual and guidebook on *why* and *how* all the nations of the world can and must be reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

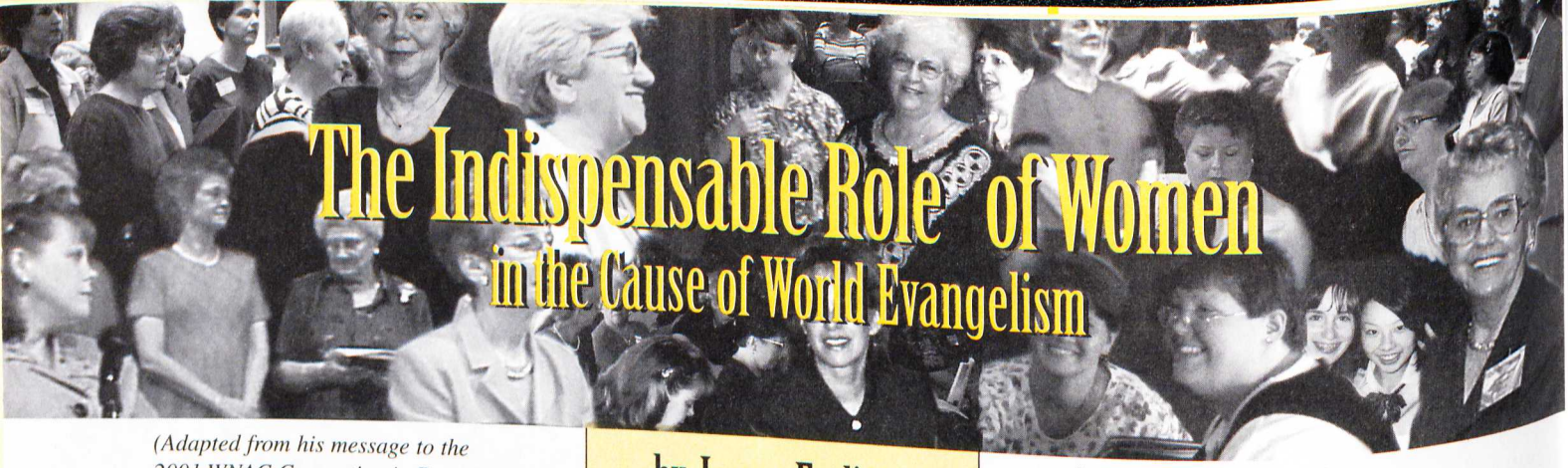
Sjogren and the Stearns believe that God's plan of evangelization includes goers, welcomers, senders, and mobilizers. Furthermore, they outline workable strategies on how each Christian can find her place in that plan. More than half the book is a how-to manual, showing ways God's people can be strategically involved in His work around the corner and around the world.

In addition to practical ideas on how we can find our niches in His work, the authors have included a 14-page list of children's resources, videos, games, recipes, web sites, study courses, publications, and training courses.

Run with the Vision is both theological and practical: it challenges us to take up the vision of God for the world and then provides a map to guide us as we run.

Reviewed by Brenda Evans, a high school English teacher from Nashville, Tennessee.

"Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run." *Habakkuk 2:2 (NIV)*



The Indispensable Role of Women in the Cause of World Evangelism

(Adapted from his message to the 2001 WNAC Convention in Detroit.)

by James Forlines
General Director
FWB Foreign Missions

Millions of people have yet to hear the gospel. In Spain alone, 7,200 towns and villages are without a single evangelical church of any kind. Mission leaders estimate that at the current rate of evangelism, it will be over 100 years before every city in Japan has a viable gospel witness. Unreached people groups exist throughout the world. Believers have been given a tremendous task in which women play an indispensable role.

I firmly believe that women have an essential role in world evangelism. Every believer has a part in the Great Commission. But three specific roles are unique to women. Women are not limited to these roles, but only women can fill these vital positions.

WOMEN AS MOTHERS

Motherhood is an indispensable role of women. In 2 Timothy 1:5, Paul said to Timothy, "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." Truly Timothy's maternal heritage had a great impact on his effectiveness.

Later in 2 Timothy, we find another reminder of the influence of his mother and grandmother. The beginning portion of chapter three describes a culture not unlike ours today. It speaks of coming perilous times and the wickedness that will prevail. Verse 16 reminds us that, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." Paul powerfully declares in chapter four, "Preach the word." But tucked into the same context is 2 Timothy 3:14 which says, "But continue thou, [Timothy,] in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, ***knowing of whom thou hast learned them;***"

How can we attain the biblical foundation necessary to preach the Word in those perilous times? The same way Timothy did. Through mothers and grandmothers.

Transference of values and social mores comes through women. This foundational truth is evidenced not only in our culture, but throughout the world. In his thought-provoking book, *No Place for Truth or Whatever Happened to Evangelical Theology*, David Wells supports this essential belief. He cites the work of Alexis de Tocqueville who came over from France to study the success of the "new democracy." Wells writes:

> "Moralists and campaigners in the 19th Century almost invariably addressed their pleas and admonitions to women, to the hands that rock the cradles.
>
> "Men it seemed were beyond redemption unless their women folk could get to them. Carousing and cavorting were accepted as an inevitable part of being male, but it was felt that if women were in some way to fall, the very fabric of society would be rent. . . The American woman avoided evil, he said, not because she was ignorant of it as her European sisters were, but because she knew what it was."

I appeal to women in general and to your unique ability to maintain social order. Our freedoms are dependent on you. Exert a prime interest and energy toward producing needed values and virtues in your children. Rise up women! We desperately need you!

More applicable to world evangelism, 85% of missionaries recently surveyed said that their initial call for missions came before they left sixth grade. Two major influences? Missions-minded parents and missions-minded churches.

Sometimes we target teenagers with the call to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. Perhaps we are too late. Unknowingly, our children are values-vacuum cleaners, sucking up the principles we live and teach. We need to make sure that we are presenting God's heart for the world to them the entire time they are growing up.

My mother, Fay Forlines, had a tremendous impact on my life. The only woman in our house, Mom took upon herself the goal of teaching us about women. Proverbs says, "Favor is deceitful and beauty is vain, but she who fears the Lord she shall be praised." My mother paraphrased the verse like this: "Beauty is only skin deep, but ugly is to the bone. Once beauty falls off ugly hangs on."

She wanted my brother and me to understand that we would need to look for something more than surface beauty.

Mothers, I challenge you not only to raise your children for God but to raise them for world evangelism. Make the necessity of world evangelism a part of the warp and woof of the fabric of your children. Teach them to train their children. Mothers, only YOU can do these things.

WOMEN AS PARTNERS

In Romans 16:3, 4, Paul says, "Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: who have for my life laid down their own necks . . . not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles." Though we do not know their specific roles, I think it is not by accident that Priscilla's name is mentioned first. Hers was an indispensable role. She was a partner. Here we see Aquila and Priscilla as partners sharing the load with Paul. Sometimes the load will be heavy. Ease and evangelism do not go hand in hand.

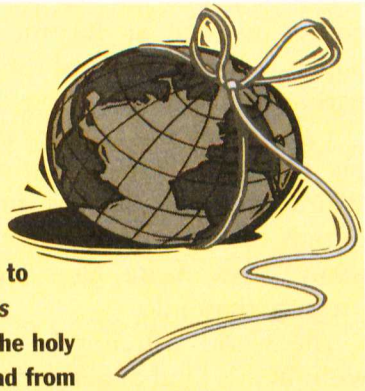
One wife remarked that in 45 years of marriage, she and her husband had never spent a night apart. Maybe this was good for them, but the world will not be won without the sacrifice that occurs in partnership. Many times this involves separation for the cause of extending the Gospel.

The children of Carlisle and Marie Hanna attended school almost a thousand miles west of their mission station in North India. When Marie would go visit the children, she would sometimes be gone for months. Carlisle was often away from home, traveling into villages for evangelism.

Winford and Bea Davis spent their honeymoon on the mission field in Cuba. Our first secretary/treasurer of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions left his bride and went off with Pop Willey on horseback into the mountains for a week. Bea, who had never been out of Missouri, now found herself alone, in a foreign country, not even able to speak the language.

WHAT A MOTHER CAN DO

FOR THE CAUSE OF WORLD EVANGELISM



† MAKE SURE CHILDREN LEARN ANOTHER LANGUAGE. **We enroll our children in music lessons or sports training. Why not include a second language while they are young and best able to become bilingual?**

† EXPOSE CHILDREN TO THE UNREACHED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD. **Generally, children exposed to the needs of unreached people, grow up to be "world Christians." Incorporate the *30 Days Muslim Prayer Focus Just for Kids* (WorldChristian News: wcnnews@aol.com) into your family devotion time during the holy month of Ramadan. Each day focuses on a different unreached people group. Read from *You Can Change the World* (Johnstone: Zondervan), a two-volume children's book containing profiles of unreached children.**

† PRAY SPECIFICALLY FOR MISSIONS EFFORTS. **Investigate people groups; locate them on a world map. Encourage children to complete school projects (even in public school) about that people or country.**

† READ MISSIONARY STORIES AND BIOGRAPHIES TO YOUR CHILDREN. **The book, *I Heard Good News Today* contains short vignettes of missionary greats. The Trailblazer Series (Bethany House) also features exciting biographies of missionary heroes (ages 9-12; read-aloud from age 6.)**

† INVOLVE CHILDREN IN EVANGELISM AND SERVICE PROJECTS THAT FORCE THEM OUTSIDE THEIR INNATE SELFISHNESS. **Whether it's in your local church's evangelism program, a cross-cultural ministry, a homeless shelter, a crisis pregnancy center. . .Get involved!**

† INVITE MISSIONARIES INTO YOUR HOME. **Show interest in their ministry. Develop a friend relationship. What you value will be valued by your children.**

During his nine years as Foreign Missions Director, Raymond Riggs spent three weeks a month on the road, trying to mobilize a denomination who didn't believe in missions. Was this a sacrifice for his wife Winona and their small children? Certainly.

I know from personal experience the high cost of separation. Because of my ministry position, many people recognize me. They pray for me and encourage me. But not many people know my wife Anita. While I am out speaking or enjoying fellowship after a service, she is often in Nashville, sitting in her chair by the television, alone.

The shingles blew off our roof while I was in Africa; our car broke down. She's had to fill out financial papers for our son in college as well as income tax papers. I thank the Lord for her partnership with me.

I also thank the Lord for people like Debe Taylor, National WNAC president. She has vowed to pray for my wife by name. In many ways, Anita faces more pressure than I do.

The world will not be won without this kind of partnership. Only Heaven will reveal the load that many wives carry.

WOMEN AS SINGLE MISSIONARIES

Women can also go with missionary zeal. First Corinthians 12:14, 21 says, "For the body is not one member, but many. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you." We are all the body of Christ.

In 1792, William Carey went to India. In 1810, Adoniram Judson went to Burma. Their children died. (Incidentally, three Mrs. Judsons died.) What a sacrifice!

God has always used women in missions, but their role had always been that of wives and mothers. In 1800, this began to change. Only eight years after William Carey departed for India, the Boston Female Society for Missionary Purposes was organized.

In India, women in Hindu and Muslim cultures were cloistered away in places called Zenanas. Isolated from everyone except immediate family and female family members, these women could not leave their homes. They were not allowed contact with other men. Only women could reach them with the gospel—women without the responsibilities of husband and children—women who would go and get involved.

Reverend David Abeel came to the United States pleading for women to come to the aid of their heathen sisters. Single women responded. Later, it was a single woman, Laura Belle Barnard, who led the way for Free Will Baptist missions.

The need for single women in missions remains. Women in Muslim cultures will never be reached by men. If we are to evangelize this huge portion of our world, women must respond with the same measure of sacrifice as their sisters before them. Rise up, Oh women of God! Your heathen sisters have no hope in Christ but through you!

I thank the Lord for my mother. I thank the Lord for my wife. And I thank the Lord for one woman in my church who also said, "I'll go." During my last Sunday as pastor at Allen Chapel, Fern Phillips told me, "Brother James, I can retire from teaching at Southside school anytime. If you can tell me anywhere in the world I can be used of God, just let me know."

My first trip for the Missions Department took me to Brazil. When I met with Dave and Pat Franks, missionaries in Belo Horizonte, Pat asked me to pray about their need for a church helper and teacher for the local American school.

I said I would pray, then I sent an e-mail: "Fern, I think I found the place for you. I think it is Brazil." Before I returned to the States, she had already submitted her retirement plans. I questioned, "Fern, you don't know that you've got the job." She responded in faith, "If it is not Brazil, it will be somewhere."

Fern Phillips spent two years in Brazil as a single missionary. Because of her teaching role, her tenure cost Free Will Baptists absolutely nothing! May she serve as an inspiration and example to a whole generation of younger women.

Yes, women have an indispensable role in the task of world evangelism. Rise up, Oh women of God and do something for His namesake.

Rise up, Oh women of God! Your heathen sisters have no hope in Christ but through you.

Rev. James Forlines,his wife Anita, and their three children live in Nashville, Tennessee, where they attend Cofer's Chapel FWB Church.

Be Confident in Your Faith

A Bible study based on 2 Kings 4:8-37; 8:1-6

by Annette Aycock

A few weeks ago our eight-year-old son Andrew asked, "How do we know that our God is the right one?" We knew this time would come for each of our children and we knew what he meant by this question. When children are very small they believe what their parents tell them; they have faith in the word of their parents. But a time comes when children must develop and become confident in their own faith.

Even as adults, many times we are like a small child in the area of faith. When we are faced with difficulties and struggles, we begin to doubt and question. Being confident in our faith means trusting in the object of our faith—which is God. He is worthy of this confidence because He is the Creator, Sustainer, and Savior of the world!

The Shunammite woman is an example of a woman who was confident in her faith (2 Kings 4:9). Because of her relationship with God she was able to perceive that Elisha was God's servant. She did not doubt this; she was convinced. As her story progresses we can see evidences of her confidence in God. These evidences demonstrate the godly confidence we also need in our lives.

Confidence in Hospitality (4:8)

The Shunammite woman made a commitment to provide food and lodging for Elisha when he was in town. She even went a step further and built a special room for his comfort onto her home—a sort of missionary guesthouse (4:10). Because we are confident in God, we can be confident in His promises and His commands. Showing hospitality is one of those commands (Romans 12:13). People who probably *would* not come to your church *will* come to your home if invited. Your home is one of your most powerful tools of evangelism! Everything God has placed in your hands is for the purpose of furthering His Kingdom—including your home. When a missionary or evangelist visits your church, extend the invitation. Your home is one of your most powerful tools for encouragement!

Confidence in Her Marriage (4:9, 10, 22)

Though creative and innovative, the Shunammite woman realized God's plan and position of marriage (Ephesians. 5:22,23). She recognized her husband as the head of the home. She talked things over with him. This revealed both good communication skills and a submissive spirit.

Confidence Through Financial Giving (4:10)

The Shunammite woman used her material possessions for the well being of others. God rewards this obedience (Luke 6:38). She spent extra money to feed the man of God. Even in Bible days a room addition was not cheap! A quick look at your bank statement may indicate the confidence you place in your faith. If we put God first in our lives, He will also be first in our finances. Everything we have is really His.

My husband David and I have lived on a budget since day one of our marriage. We looked at our income and determined our tithe. Next we decided how much we would give monthly to missions. From there we covered the rest of our needs (Matthew 6:33). To this day, we've continued this practice; God has honored our confidence in this faith.

Confidence in Regard to Modesty (4:15)

Elisha was so blessed by the Shunammite woman's act of kindness, he wanted to do something kind for her. He called for her, desiring her input on this matter. Interestingly, when she came to his room–she stood in the doorway.

(When you stand in the doorway—you can't shut the door!) In this act, she was demonstrating modesty, building a hedge around her marriage. Because we are confident in God and His Word, we can be modest in our dress, behavior and speech. God's Word determines modesty, not the latest magazine or TV program.

Confidence in Contentment (4:13)

The Shunammite woman had many things, but she did not have a child. Her childlessness could have left her drowning in a sea of sadness, living a life without purpose. But notice her attitude when Elisha asked what he could do for her. She simply responded, "I dwell among my own people." Elisha might have handed her a blank check and told her to fill it in. Yet she responded that she had all she needed. What does our attitude tell others about our confidence in God? When we complain, in essence we are telling God we deserve better. This woman knew grace in the midst of disgrace.

Confidence Through Worship (4:23)

When the Shunammite woman did not offer a request, Elisha asked the advice of his servant, Gehazi. Gehazi pointed out that she did not have a child and her husband was old. Elisha told the Shunammite woman that she would have a son. The little boy grew and one day went to the field where his father was working. When the little boy's head began to hurt, the father sent him back to his mother. Within a few hours the little boy died. His mother placed him in Elisha's bed and shut the door. Next she told her husband that she was going to see Elisha. This husband assumed his wife was going to the temple, but found this strange since it was not the day of worship. We can assume that this woman was faithful in worship attendance.

Never once have our children knocked on our bedroom door on Sunday morning and asked, "Are we going to church today?" They simply get up and get dressed because they know.

Confidence Through Determination (4:30)

With confidence firmly planted in our hearts, we should be "strong-willed" for Jesus! We must determine to run the race and finish the fight, no matter what! The Shunammite woman determined to go to Elisha. He was the man of God who had promised her a son. She believed that this same God who gave life could now restore that life. Notice that she did not tell her husband that their son had died. She had to get to Elisha. When Gehazi ran to greet her, she did not mention the death to him, either. She had to get to Elisha! When she finally told Elisha, he planned to send Gehazi back to evaluate the situation. This was not acceptable. She responded, (paraphrase) "I am not leaving this place without you!"

Seeing her determination, Elisha agreed to go with her. When they reached her home, Elisha approached the child, lying lifeless on the very bed once prepared for the prophet. He prayed and placed himself on the boy. The boy's flesh became warm, he sneezed and opened his eyes! A mother's determination had paid off. Her confident faith in the power of God reaped a great harvest.

Confidence Through a Willingness to Go (8:1, 2)

Some time later Elisha returned to the Shunammite woman and told her that God was sending a seven-year famine. She and her family left their home and dwelt in the land of the Philistines. She didn't argue or try to reason her way out. Being confident in God, she simply obeyed. We need to be confident in the place of service God has chosen for us. He may ask us to go to a foreign land.

Rest assured, He will go with us (Matthew 28:20). Where does God want you to serve today? Has He impressed upon your heart to pick up the phone and call someone? Has He spoken to you about taking food or a gift to greet a new neighbor? He is not willing that anyone should perish. With this confidence, we share our faith.

Conclusion

God rewards our efforts of faithfulness. The Shunammite's rewards included a son, the son's restoration to life, and material possessions. When she returned home after the years of famine and found her home occupied by someone else, she appealed to the king. He ruled that her home be returned to her and any profits made from the land during her seven years of absence be given to her as well! God is good and He is faithful to do far more than we ever imagine! (4:17, 35; 8:6)

Every area of our lives must reflect our confidence in God. The Shunammite remains an example of one woman who lived every moment with confident faith in God. We can also embrace that faith and demonstrate it with confidence.

Annette Aycock and her husband David serve as missionaries in Barbacena, Brazil. The Aycocks have four children.

Match The Moment/Check your Commitment

Read the scenario. Choose a matching commitment from the Bible study. Think about/discuss what God would want you to do in each of these situations.

1. A new missionary is coming to your church to raise support.

   _____

2. Your car broke down, again! The only thing left to drive is your husband's clunker.

   _____

3. Your Pastor announces a revival in two weeks. The evangelist will be coming from out of state.

   _____

4. You feel God speaking to your heart about missionary service.

   _____

5. Your husband informs you that there's not enough money in your Vacation Fund for your planned "week in Florida." He suggests a weekend trip to nearby mountains this year; continue saving for Florida next year. You have enough money for Florida now if you take it out of your Emergency Fund. Your husband advises that this is not wise.

   _____

6. Someone says they saw your teenage son with friends you had forbidden him to hang around.

   _____

7. You have searched for a new dress for weeks. You finally find one in your color and your price range, but it is low-cut.

   _____

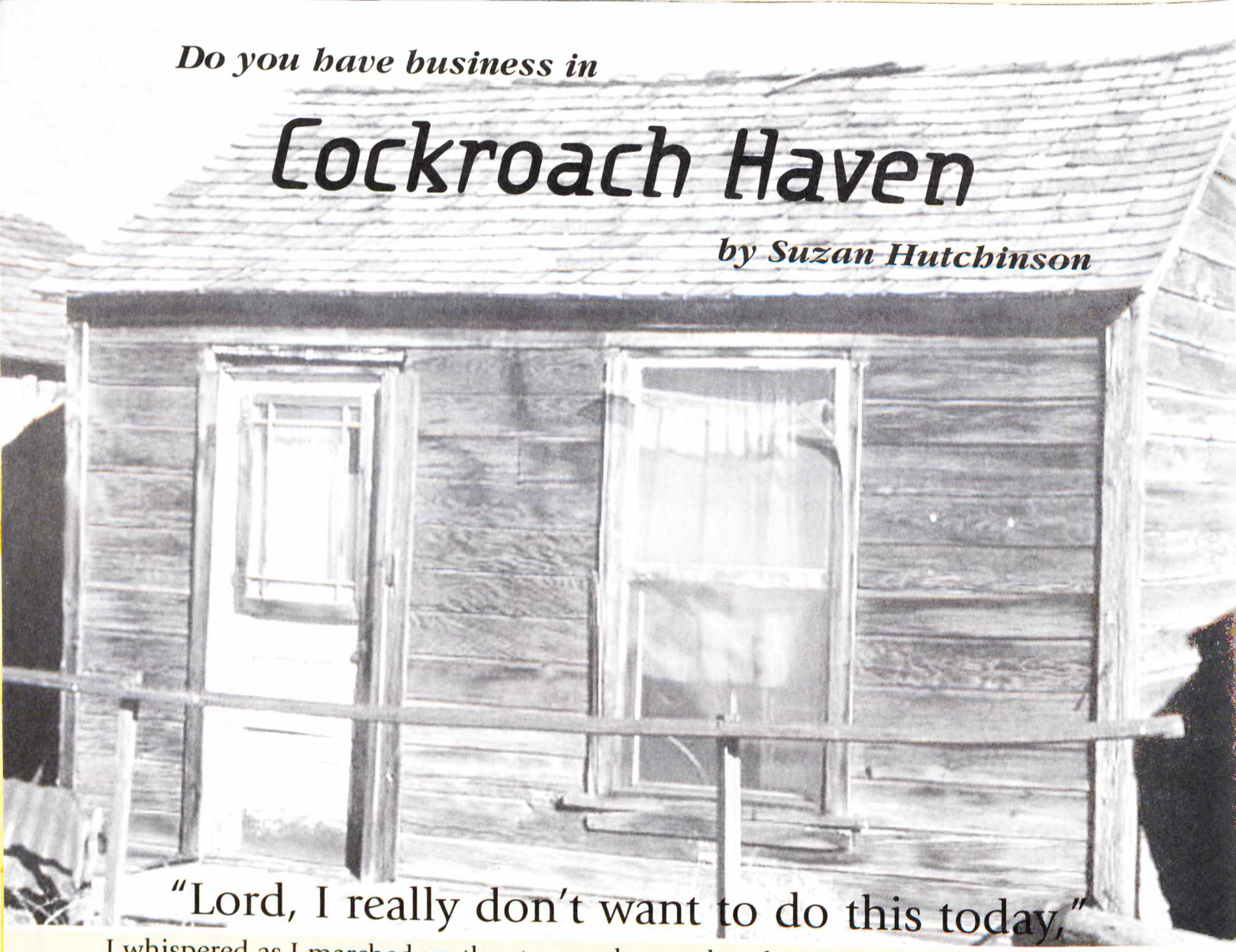
8. It's Sunday morning. It's raining. You have a headache—you've had it since Friday morning. True, you went on to work. And you did shopping, cleaning, and laundry on Saturday. Your daughter peeks into your bedroom, "Mom, do we have to go to church today?"

   _____

Do you have business in

Cockroach Haven

by Suzan Hutchinson



"Lord, I really don't want to do this today," I whispered as I marched up the steps and rapped on her door.

My job takes me to a variety of places, including the home of this little old woman. I try to make the monthly visit a quick one. The odor inside the house is enough to gag a daycare worker. This day was no exception.

"It's your insurance lady!" I said.

"Come in!" she yelled from the sofa. The wooden door was open, but it was dark inside. I couldn't see her through the storm door. I opened the door and glanced in, surveying the situation.

"How ya doin'?" I asked.

"Oh, I'm a doin' okay, but I ain't got no money. My son's got it, and he ain't here right now."

This threw an unexpected and unwanted kink in my plans. I walked into the room. "Well, is he coming to see you today?" I asked.

"Here, take this envelope and call the number on it. It's my son's number. Iffen he's home, he'll answer and you can tell him to get over here with my money," she instructed.

I walked across the living room to the table at the end of the sofa. The phone was a large, white, cordless model that sat in a large cradle. I took the envelope and picked up the receiver. Immediately, a multitude of large and small cockroaches scattered, on the cradle, on the receiver, on. . . .

I took a deep breath and breathed a quick prayer. "Lord, keep me calm. And, please, don't let any of those cockroaches get in my hair."

She smiled as she watched me punch in the numbers. Instantly, I heard a man's voice on the phone. "Hi, is this J.W.?" I asked.

"Yeah, this is J.C.," he replied.

"Hi *again*, J.C.! Your momma told me to call you and tell you to get on over to her house with

her insurance money 'cause I need to collect it."

He chuckled and said he would be right over. He's a very large man who doesn't do anything quickly, so I knew I was in for a long wait. And I also knew that I wasn't going to do my waiting there, in that house. No way.

I handed the phone to the woman so she could turn it off. In my hands once again, I set the receiver down in the cradle—hard! I figured I could at least kill some of the dozen varmints that remained.

"Well, I'll tell you what, " I began. "I think I'm going to go ahead and collect at some other houses down the street and I'll come back in a few minutes and get your money. Whatcha think of that?"

She thought it over and seemed to like the idea. If I stayed, she would feel she had to entertain me with conversation. And I had just about exhausted her imagination.

I departed with a sigh of relief.

Two hours later, I returned. The son had brought the money and left. A friend of hers was visiting. They both sat in the living room—the woman, still in the same place on the sofa, and her friend, near her on a loveseat. The odor of unwashed bodies, cockroaches, and trash curled through my nostrils and into my brain.

Determined to make a quick collection and departure, I accepted the offered premium, printed the receipt and turned to leave with a "thanks so much, take care of yourself, see you next month, call if you need me."

But the visitor on the loveseat spoke to me.

I stopped. Her voice was soft and I didn't quite catch what she said. Her accent was thick and hard to understand. A step closer put me at the woman's knee. I bent over. "What did you say, Ma'am?"

"They put me on dialysis."

"Oh, I'm truly sorry to hear that," I consoled. I looked to my client for help. She just sat there, watching, waiting.

"My momma was on dialysis before she died," the visitor continued.

I looked closer. Beyond her bad wig and dirty stocking cap. Beyond the dirty clothes. There, in the corner of her eye, tracing a wet track down her coal black face . . .a tear.

She was scared.

I stepped closer and took her hands. "Would you mind if I prayed for you?"

"Oh, that would be nice. Do you think you could?"

"Yes, Ma'am, I would like to very much." And so I did. I prayed for her health, for her fears, for her doctors, for her salvation and peace of mind.

As I said "Amen," I did what I always do when I pray for someone. I leaned over, took her in my arms, and hugged her close. I whispered that I would continue to pray for her.

Humbled, I walked out the door. "Thank you Lord," I breathed, "but please don't let me get lice."

Gone to the Dogs

On one of my country routes I stopped in at a trailer. The grandmother opened the door and I stepped into the presence of two precious granddaughters, 18 months and three years old.

She smiled and cocked her head toward the giggling girls. "Them's my heart. Ain't nutten I wooden do fur them childrens."

My business conducted, I took a smile from each of them and stuck it into my pocket for later. Turning to exit, I noticed a dog on the porch that I hadn't seen before. The hair on the back of my neck prickled.

"That your dog?" I asked. "Ain't seen that cur before."

"Oh, he my puppy. He stay outside an don' come round when folk is out."

"Don't bite do he?" I quizzed.

"Aw, naw. He wouldn' bite bread, Ma'am."

I stuck that promise in my hip pocket as well and out the door I went. The dog trotted off and disappeared around the trailer true to her words. I dug around in the trunk of my car and came up with some Alpo Variety Snaps crackers. Back up onto the porch I went and pecked on the door once more. When she appeared, I poked the doggie crackers in the door and said, "I thought the puppy might enjoy a snack."

She thanked me. Walking back to the car I heard, "Look a here at what the insurance lady done gone and give you chillens. They's too pretty to give dat ole dog. You babies can eat them."

Yet the dogs...eat of the children's crumbs." Mark 7:28

Suzan Hutchinson is a pastor's wife from Dublin, Georgia. She and her husband Tim have a teenage son and daughter.

MEDITATIONS AT EASTER

Daily Verse for Holy Week

by

Joan Warren
Oilton, OK

MONDAY: BEHOLD THE SERVANT

Such tender love He did bestow,
That Passover night so long ago,
When, knowing that His time had come
To do the will of the Holy One,
He took a towel and wrapped it 'round,
With a basin of water He knelt right down
And forgetting the trauma He must meet
Calmly washed His disciples' feet.

As I look back upon that deed
The wonder of it all to me
Is that betrayer Judas still was there
And was treated with tender, loving care.
E'en though He knew what was in his heart,
There was no difference on Jesus' part.
Oh that such humility
Might one day be a part of me!

TUESDAY: BEHOLD THE MAN

In Pilate's presence Jesus came,
The Jews quite vocal with their blame.
Pontius Pilate could not find
A single sin or terrible crime.
"I find no fault in Him," he said.
Then why the thorns upon His head?
The soldiers smote Him with their hand,
And Pilate said, "Behold the Man."

And such a Man, this Nazarene!
In spite of turmoil, quite serene.
The crowing of the cock grew nigh,
He turned, as Peter then did cry,
"I tell you I don't know the Man!"
Not a tremor touched His hand.
Such calmness I would never see
If my good friend would deny me!

WEDNESDAY: BEHOLD THE KING

Pilate's heart began to fail.
He wasn't sure he knew the tale.
The Jews kept up their hungry cry
Of "Crucify, Crucify!"
"You'd crucify your King?" said he.
The Jews said, "He's no king to me,
To let Him go will be your end—
Caesar will cease to be your friend!"

What a choice for man to make!
He knew by the way which Jesus spake
That He was guiltless, yet said he,
"I choose Caesar my King to be.
Take Him away, the guilt's not mine,
You take the blame, it must be thine!"
Oh, heart, deplore the man's mistake—
Christ is the King for me to take!

THURSDAY: BEHOLD THE SAVIOR

The angry crowd took Him away
To slay Him on that awful day.
He staggered up Golgotha's hill
To culminate the Father's will.
With a common thief on either side,
God's only Son was crucified.
He died in shame and agony;
Thanks be to God, He died for me!

My sins helped nail Him to the tree,
The shameful death is my victory.
Because He paid the price for sin,
Salvation came to sinful men.
When the hour came for Him to die,
"It is finished" was a victor's cry!
Oh would that I might fully see
The magnitude of His love for me!

FRIDAY: BEHOLD THE LORD

The Jews sang out a vict'ry song,
But the Lord of Lord's wasn't dead for long
He rose again, just as He said,
No force could keep the Savior dead!
He would have no power to save
Had He not conquered the cold dark grave.
But the tomb is empty - He lives today!
The sting of death is taken away!

He walked again by Galilee's shore,
Encouraged His disciples more.
He invited them to come and dine
And fed them fish and bread so fine.
Then His last instructions came to be:
"Tarry in Jerusalem; witness of me."
And a cloud received Him from their sight.
Yet He's coming again with power and might.

SATURDAY: EPILOGUE

What kind of person should I be
As I await His return for Me?
Free of blemish; without sin—
A person patterned after Him,
Serving God and others, too.
Doing all that I can do
To win the lost, and teach His Word
That others may come to know the Lord.

Know Him and His mighty power
That saves and satisfies each hour.
Meanwhile, wait and watch for Him,
He's coming back—we know not when,
To take His own to mansions fair,
Where we'll not age, nor have a care.
Oh heart, make praises gladly ring!
He is my Lord, my Friend, my King!

THURSDAY

Darrel and Lila Nichols in Ivory Coast work with churches in the Gouméré area. Darrel has assisted in construction of two churches and preaches in area churches and villages. Pray for him as **he develops a much-needed Sunday school program.** The Nichols are scheduled for stateside assignment in July. Pray for Darrel as he prepares the regional churches for a year without a missionary presence.

Steve Lytle, director of field operations, oversees the missionaries and their field ministries. **Ask God to give wisdom** as he works with the missionaries to develop field strategies.

Robert and Judy Bryan are currently helping the church in St. Nazaire, France, while Jerry and Barbara Gibbs are on stateside assignment. **Pray for the Bryans' ministry in France** and for their deputational ministry when they return to the States.

Pray for Dennis and Trena Owen, Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster, and Molly Barker in Uruguay. They are **working with the national leaders to refine church-planting efforts.** Ask God for guidance and a spirit of unity as they work together.

Pray that the "Embracing the Vision II" video series will be used in many churches. Ask God to use the message to encourage and challenge people to personal involvement in carrying the gospel to their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

FRIDAY

Pray for **Mike and Cathy Corley** as they help **coordinate classes for the Bible institute** in Chelyabinsk, Russia. During March and April Dr. Paul Harrison of Nashville, Tenn., and missionary Ron Callaway will teach courses **in pastoral training, missions, and Sunday school teacher training**. Pray for safety of travel for students and professors, and accuracy and clarity for the translators.

General Director **James Forlines** oversees the work of the Foreign Missions department. **Pray for vision, wisdom and discernment** as he labors to enable the denomination to respond to Christ's mandate to reach the world.

Pray for **Jeff and Susan Turnbough** and **Sam and June McVay** in Spain as they prepare for short-term missions personnel. They will host five overseas apprentices and help a short-term missionary family get settled. Three church groups will also help with literature distribution in pueblos surrounding Villalba.

Ask God to give wisdom to Rob Conley, director of financial operations, as he makes financial recommendations and decisions.

Pray for **Jim and Vicki Sturgill** and the church at Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Pray for **discipleship of those who have made salvation decisions** recently. Also **pray that believers will share their faith** with family members and friends. Ask God to give the Sturgills strength for their ministry.

WNAC

Pre-Easter Week of Prayer

Embrace the Vision!

March 25-29, 2002

MONDAY

Pray for the Tokyo Team—Ken and Judy Bailey, Don and Ruth McDonald, Mirial Gainer, and Brenda Wendlandt. New ministries planned for March and April include worship services in two locations and English classes in multiple areas of the city. Ask God to give guidance for effective avenues of outreach.

Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman are preparing to return to Panama in June. Pray for good prices on airfare and shipping costs and affordable housing in Panama. Ask God to give guidance in efforts to minister to the Kuna Indians.

Drs. John and Esther Chang minister at the Asia Free Will Baptist Seminary and FWB Garden Church for All Nations outside Seoul, South Korea. **Pray for effectiveness in spreading the gospel in Southeast Asia** and for outreach efforts in North Korea and China.

The **World Missions Offering**—which undergirds the Foreign Missions' Support Services account—will be received on Sunday, April 28. The **goal for 2002 is $200,000**. Pray that people will give generously with thankful hearts for the opportunity to be a part of God's work around the world.

Eddie Payne, director of mobilization and recruitment, **and his staff, Judy Lytle and Matt Markins**, handle all inquiries concerning overseas service. Ask God to give strength and wisdom as they process applications and work with short-term and career candidates.

TUESDAY

Clint and Lynette Morgan plan to return to the States April 11. They have been working with the Bible institute students and wives in Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire. While stateside they will examine how Free Will Baptists can serve in restricted access countries. **Ask God to direct** their research **and give wisdom** for a recommendation to the Foreign Missions board. Their daughter, Autumn, will remain in Ivory Coast to complete her senior year of high school. Pray for the family during this time apart.

Pray for Patsy Vanhook in France as she works with the St. Sebastien church. **Patsy is looking at the possibility of opening a bookstore or book depository/reading room** in a small building adjacent to the Nantes church. Ask God to give her guidance about this and other outreach opportunities.

The **60th anniversary** of the National Association of **Cuban Free Will Baptists** will be celebrated May 24-25 in conjunction with the graduation of the senior class at the seminary. Representatives from the U.S. plan to attend, including General Director James Forlines and missionaries Ron and Linda Callaway. **Pray that God will bless this special celebration.** Thank Him for the endurance and growth of the Cuban church.

Pray for Neil Gilliland, director of member care. Ask God to give him wisdom and guidance as he works with MKs and prospective, current, and retired missionaries.

WEDNESDAY

Pray for the two national pastors in Campinas, Brazil. Osmir, who was saved under the ministry of Curt and Mary Holland, pastors the São Jose FWB Church, **and Lucas** pastors the First FWB Church. Ask God to give these young pastors spiritual wisdom.

In many countries the week before Easter is a time of festivals and processions celebrating the death of Jesus rather than His resurrection. **Pray that** missionaries and Christians can help **people understand** the importance of **Christ's resurrection** and the hope this provides.

The church at Nantes, France, is having a **"Family Life" weekend for married couples** in March. Pray that unsaved husbands will attend. Ask God to strengthen Christian couples' love and commitment. In April the three French Free Will Baptist churches will hold a **joint youth retreat**. Pray for unsaved teens to be receptive to the gospel and for Christian teens to grow in their commitment to Christ.

Pray for Don Robirds, director of public relations, and his staff, Deborah St. Lawrence and Mark Cowart. **Ask God to use the literature and audiovisual presentations** they develop to inform, encourage and challenge the denomination to involvement in world evangelization.

Pray for workers in Central Asian countries to have spiritual wisdom and sensitivity as the Lord provides opportunities to witness. Pray also for their physical and mental well-being.

Make a memory together . . .

Three days and two nights of springtime in the Smokies

Conference Agenda

Friday
4:00 Check In
7:00 1st Session—Dr. Richard Land

Saturday
8:00 Continental Breakfast
9:00 2nd Session
Men Only—Dr. Richard Land
Women Only—Dr. Rebekah Land
10:45 3rd Session—Dr. Richard Land
7:00 4th Session/ Banquet for Couples
Dr. Richard Land

Sunday
8:00 Continental Breakfast
9:00 5th Session/ Worship Service
Dr. Richard Land

National Marriage Enrichment Conference Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City_____ State_____

Zip_____ Phone_____

❑ *$175 Couples Conference Registration*
❑ *$ 65 Sessions only*

Spacious Rooms with King Beds and Jacuzzi Tubs
Smokey Shadows Conference Center
4215 Parkway • Pigeon Forge, TN 37863

Mail to:
Master's Men
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011

Questions or information:
1-877-767-8039

HURRY! REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 1.

SPRINGBOARD

memos for WAC officers

Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators:

Encourage women to submit last minute entries in the Creative Arts Contest. Deadline is March 1.

Have you received your Pre-Easter Week of Prayer packet by mail? Begin planning for a successful week, March 25-29.

Missions Chairman:

Give an international family in your community an Easter basket filled with small gifts to share the true meaning of Easter. If possible, include a Bible or the *Jesus* video in their language.

View the *Embracing the Vision* video if your women have not seen this. Call Foreign Missions to reserve your copy.

Consider an Easter gift for the FWBBC Missionary House project (see page 21).

Treasurers:

Promote the Laura Belle Barnard offering for Foreign Missions.

Encourage all women to pay WNAC membership fees. This money supports WNAC ministries and helps maintain the national office.

We're on the Web!!
Check us out @
www.nafwb.org/wnac

Plan now to attend the
NATIONAL WNAC RETREAT
RIDGECREST, NORTH CAROLINA
SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2002

Prayer Chairman:

Help women "embrace" the vision: attach names of missionaries to candy Hugs. Give women extra candy and let them attach the name of someone who needs Christ. Pray that God would grant each woman confidence to share her faith.

A Pre-Easter Week of Prayer Guide appears on pp. 17-18 of this issue. You may reproduce it or request free copies from FWB Foreign Missions (1-877-767-7736) or P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Allow two weeks for delivery.

For up-to-date information and current missions prayer requests

Call Missions Hotline (615) 731-3839

or subscribe online

carole@nafwb.org

Study Chairman:

The book *Run With the Vision* offers many opportunities for ministry. Have a few women give summaries of different sections during the April meeting. Copies are available for purchase through WNAC.

Use "Meditations at Easter" (p. 16) to compliment your Pre-Easter Week of Prayer.

Encourage women to read God's Word, focusing on His vision for the world. Keep a notebook or journal of these missionary verses.

Please do not send postage stamps to WNAC. We no longer have a buyer.

INSIGHT

THE WIND OF THE SPIRIT

by Judy Delong

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." John 3:8

The wind blows. But what proof have I that it does? I can't predict when it will blow. I can't watch it leave or tell where it is going. I don't see the wind The only evidence I have is in what I see the wind doing. The trees may bend and sway, papers may sweep across my lawn, the windows may rattle, the hanging chimes may tinkle, my hair may be blown awry . . . then I know. Though I can't see the wind, I can feel it.

Neither can I prove the existence of the Holy Spirit except by the evidence He leaves as He passes by. I can't predict exactly when He will pass my way . . . or yours. But I can often detect His presence by what I see happening. Like trees moved by the wind, people are also moved by the Spirit. Someone may be moved to testify or to sing a particular song in a worship service. Like the paper across my lawn, the Spirit also moves things out of our lives. Minds and hearts get rattled, a song bubbles up inside, attitudes are different, personal appearance changes as the Holy Spirit moves upon an individual or upon a congregation.

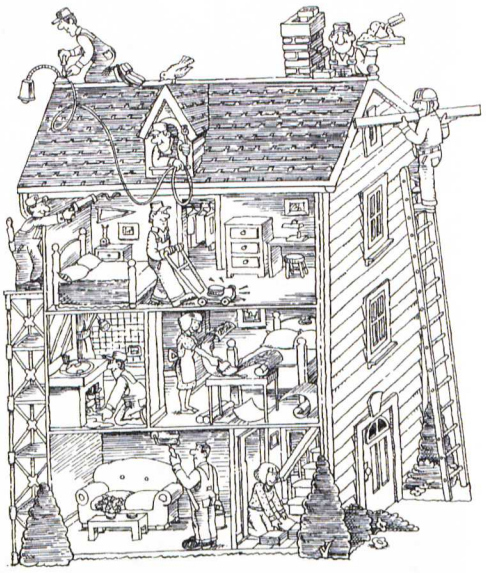
Sometimes the wind is gentle like a summer breeze. Other times the wind is strong like a hurricane. Often, the Holy Spirit moves only in a still, small voice, whispering like a breeze upon my heart, urging me to speak a kind word or do a good deed. The Spirit may, with the force of a hurricane, disrupt my life, insist on moving me, changing me, turning me around, never to be the same.

If a person claims to be born again, yet she is never moved to change her attitude, her appearance, her priorities, how can she be sure of eternal life? "Now, faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Others will see evidences of faith in a born-again believer.

When I am where the wind can touch me, I will feel it. When I am where I should be spiritually, I will feel the Holy Spirit's touch upon my life. Hebrews 11:27 says that Moses "endured, as seeing Him who is invisible." Moses was able to accomplish what God had called him to do because he, through the eyes of faith, could see evidence that God was with him. I, too, can endure as I see evidence of the Holy Spirit's movement in my life.

BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD, TILL I AM WHOLLY THINE,
UNTIL THIS EARTHLY PART OF ME, GLOWS WITH THY FIRE DIVINE.
BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD, UNTIL MY HEART IS PURE,
UNTIL WITH THEE I WILL ONE WILL, TO DO AND TO ENDURE.

Judy Delong hails from Hager Hill, Kentucky. She is a WAC member at Tom's Creek FWB Church.



ACTION TIME!

It's time to take action. At the WNAC Convention in Anaheim, California, delegates voted to decorate and furnish the mission house to be built by Foreign Missions and Master's Men on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Due to the rollback of the timeline for relocation to the new campus, plans have changed in location, but not in intent. Foreign Missions Director James Forlines has proposed to refurbish one of the existing houses on the current campus for the mission house.

WNAC's agreement in the partnership was to purchase all the furniture, appliances, window treatments, and decorations. All furnishings will be moved to the new house on the new campus when it is built.

Put the project in your plans. Watch for more details on how you can help.

LABORS OF LOVE

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father." I Thessalonians 1:2,3

BACK:(l-r) Sarah Brewer, Nadine Hood, sponsor; MIDDLE:Elizabeth Sherwood; FRONT:(l-r) Corey Pickering, Kristen Davis, Jessie Smoot, Stevie Honeycutt (not pictured: Alta Stockton, sponsor).

❁ Blue Bell Actionettes, Sapulpa, Oklahoma, enjoyed plenty of food, games, fellowship and prayer, but little sleep at their annual lock-in. Each year these girls send at least two Christmas Child boxes and take small gifts to residents of a local nursing home.

Korean missionary, Dr. John Chang, accepts a Provision Closet gift from pastor's wife, Lucy Cox, Belk, Alabama. This local WAC group hand- delivered nearly $1000 worth of Tupperware products in early fall.

FRONT: (l-r) Christian, Sherri, Joshua, Jeff and Caleb Sloan. BACK: (l-r) Naomi Nabors, Sandra Nabors, Betty Ashby, Laura Nabors, Betty Dixon, Diane Pridmore, Mary Webb.

❁ First Dayton FWB Church and WAC hosted a "Christmas in October Celebration" and luncheon honoring the Jeff Sloan family, missionaries in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The event included a money tree and many gifts for Christmas. What a joy to observe this family so dedicated and united in the work of the Lord.

❁ One hundred and thirty women met at Shocco Springs near Talladega, Alabama for the AFWBWAC prayer retreat. Susan Forlines served as guest speaker. Special guest, WNAC Executive Secretary Marjorie Workman, led in fun time. The program included a moving tribute to God and our nation, skits, singing, special music, and prayer. Local groups furnished door prizes. The retreat concluded with a time of sharing testimonies, prayer requests.

Three generations from the Leeds church enjoy the AFWBWAC Retreat: (L-R) Florence McLauphin, Rosalee Harris, Ophelia Phillips.

Letters to WNAC

Dear ladies of WNAC
David just arrived back home from his trip to Nashville. I was so blessed because he made a trip to the Provision Closet. Again my heart was touched by the giving of all our ladies around the country. When we see these items around our house we are reminded of how people are constantly praying for us. I especially like it when each individual group labels their gifts so we can thank them personally. We really appreciate the constant giving of our ladies.

Pam Potete
Chicago, IL

Dear WNAC,
Only four women regularly attend our auxiliary. Others enjoy the *CoLaborer* so we get extra. The December article about the cross instead of Baby Jesus is so heartwarming and thought rendering.

Pearl Coughran
Countryside WAC, Visalia, CA

Dear WNAC,
Thank you for the *CoLaborer* magazine. I really enjoy the wonderful articles. I pray for God's blessings for all you ladies, the missionaries, and all works that you are involved in. I appreciate your hard work and dedication.

Love and prayers,
Judith Goble
Pikeville, KY

Dear WNAC,
The Nov/Dec issue of *CoLaborer* is the best one I have seen in some time. The programs and articles are superb. The entire issue is to be praised. The article, "Broken for You" really touched my heart. How can we do less than give Him our best?

Sincerely,
Odessa Ledlow
Sylacauga, AL

Dear WNAC,
We love the *CoLaborer* magazine and all the supplies we can order. Your true Christian character shows through everything you do in the office, even in talking so sweet to us over the phone.Thank you for being so prompt with our order.

Love in Christ,
Joyce E. Taylor
First Brunswick WAC, Brunswick, GA

Ladies of the WNAC,
We appreciate so much all you do for us. The abundance of the Provision Closet made our stateside moving-in process so much easier and less costly. I wish I could thank each ladies group individually. We are surrounded by reminders of your care.

God bless you all,
Jerry and Barbara Gibbs
France (stateside assignment)

CoLaborer

❒ YES! Please enter my subscription for ____ magazine(s). I understand *CoLaborer* operates on a continuous service plan, but I may cancel at any time.

Subscription rates:
$11.00–single
$10.00–5 or more to same address
❖ price includes postage and handling
❖ price is based on one year (6 issues)

Mail to:
WNAC
PO Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Church _____
Phone ( ) _____

❒ New ❒ Renewal ❒ Payment Enclosed ❒ Please Bill

2002 Order Form

BOOKS

QUANTITY:

_____ GE17 *Beyond the Gate* autobiography of Mabel Bailey Willey with Mary R. Wisehart. $19.95 Hardback

_____ GE16 *They Deserve A Second Chance* by Shirley Roberts Combs. Unforgettable story--rescuing Brazil's street children. 127 pp./$ 6.50

_____ GE15 *First Fruits: Answered Prayer on the Mission Field* by Lorene Miley. 80 pp./$5.00

_____ SB7 *Touching the Untouchables* by Laura Belle Barnard with Georgia B. Hill. $4.00

_____ GE5 *Sparks Into Flame: A History of WNAC from 1935—1985* by Mary Ruth Wisehart. 154 pp./$4.00

_____ GE12 Study Guide for *Sparks Into Flame.* $1.00

_____ GE26 *How to Be a World Class Christian* by Paul Borthwick. 171 pp./$10.00

_____ SB17 *Esther: A Woman of Strength and Dignity* by Chuck Swindoll. 226 pp./$19.95

_____ SB16 *Esther, A Woman of Strength and Dignity: A Bible Study Guide* by Chuck Swindoll. 102 pp./$6.95

_____ SB12 *And a Little Child Shall Lead Them* by Susan Henderson 248 pp./$13.99

_____ SB3 *Run With the Vision* by Bob Sjogren and Bill & Amy Stearns 288 pp./$10.99

_____ GE27 *The Shoe Box* (Christmas) by Francine Rivers 112 pp./ $9.99

BOOKLETS

_____ GE20 *A Covenant of Abstinence: What the Bible Says about Premarital Sex* by Joy Jacobs and Deborah Strubel. $2.00

_____ GE22 *Hope for Hurting Parents: When Grown Children Make Bad Choices* by Tom Allen. $2.00

_____ GE24 *Medicine for Depression* by Donald A. Miller. $2.00

HELPS

_____ M19 *Parliamentary Procedures.* A guide to help you conduct your business properly and in a hurry. $2.00

_____ NM1 Updated *Manual for Free Will Baptist Women's Organizations.* Guidebook for organizing and operating women's groups. $12.00

_____ NM2 *Manual Study Guide.* Includes teaching aids and posters for transparency masters. $3.00

_____ YB7 *2002 Yearbook.* A must for WAC officers. Includes calendar of events, program suggestions, WNAC goals, plan sheets, and other helpful information. $6.00

_____ AC1 *Enjoying the Ride.* Student workbook for YWAC groups. Includes twelve programs. $6.00.

_____ AC5 *Enjoying the Ride Leader's Guide.* Offers helps, craft ideas, and guidelines for local YWAC groups. $1.50

_____ EN4 *Enlistment Ideas.* Guide for increasing participation among Free Will Baptist women. $1.50

_____ RF1 Local Treasurer's Report Forms. 12/$1.00

_____ RF2 District Treasurer's Report Forms. 12/$1.00

_____ RF3 State Treasurer's Report Forms. 12/$1.00

_____ RB1 *Secretary's Record and Report Book.* Space for membership roll and minutes. $1.50

_____ RB2 *Treasurer's Record and Report Book.* Space to record receipts and disbursements for a year. $1.50

PLAYS FOR WOMEN

QUANTITY:

_____ PN14 *God's Bouquet* (Volume 14) $4.00
Includes: *I Only Wish* (Missions) by Ruth Bivens; *Defeat Became Victory* (Easter) by Joan Warren; *Thanksgiving Prayer* by LaCrecia McFadden; *Kati's Question* (Christmas) by Sharon Langston and Tina Tolbert; *God's Bouquet* (Installation of Officers) by Mary R. Wisehart

_____ PB13 *Mother's Day Medley* (Volume 13) $3:00
Includes: *Precious Moments* by Henrietta Elliott; *The Virtuous Woman* by Carol Reid; *Hats off Style Show* by Carolyn Lane; *You Be the Judge* by Joy Price and Linda Coffman

_____ PB11 *A Piece that Fits* (Volume 11) $3.00
Includes: *A New Heart* by Sara Kilgore; *Mary and Martha Today* by Ordealia Martin; *That Girl* by Rhonda Stewart; *Songs of My Mother* by Melissa Riddle; *Enthusiasm* by Barbara Otwell; *A Tear in Your Eye* by Annette Aycock

_____ PB10 *Fresh Air* (Volume 10) $3.00
Includes: *The Eye of the Needle* by Lorene Miley; *The Very First Time* by Patricia Richards; *Catch the Dream* by Annette Dake; *The Talents* by Lee Ann Wilfong; *The Thanksgiving Scrooge* by Anne Worthington; *Debt Free Living* by Debbie Payne Anderson; *R-U OK?* by Linda Coffman and Joy Price

MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS

_____ Annual Report Blanks (free) *circle type needed*

LOCAL DISTRICT STATE

_____ Missions Pray-ers for Shut-ins [first 10 free; .10 each additional]

_____ WNAC Quarter Folders (free)

_____ WNAC Promotional Folder (*includes all WNAC brochures listed below in a pocket folder*) [first 10 free; .10 each additional.]

_____ WNAC Enlistment Brochure (free)

_____ Prayer Fellowship Card (free)

_____ Calendar Key (free)

_____ WNAC Emphasis (free)

_____ Creative Arts Contest (free)

_____ Missionary Provision Closet (free)

_____ Magazine Subscription Card (free)

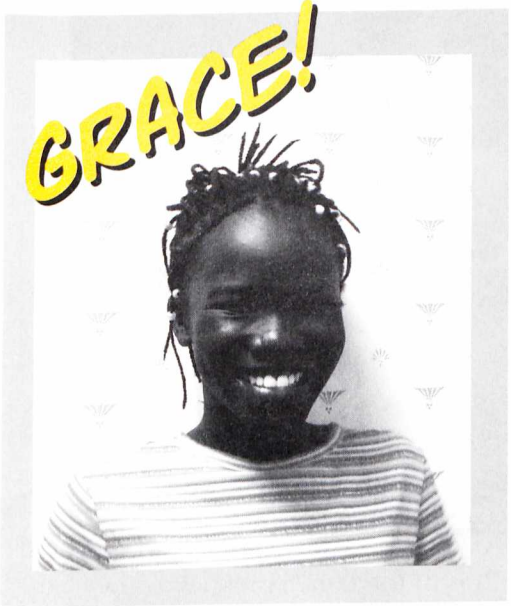
Send all orders to:
WNAC
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002
E-mail: WNAC@nafwb.org
Phone: 1-877-767-7662

SHIPPING AND HANDLING CHARGES:
$3 for one manual;
$1 for each additional manual
All other materials:
$1-$5----------.50 per dollar
$6-$10----------.40 per dollar
$11-$20----------.35 per dollar
$21-up----------.30 per dollar

Church_____
Name_____
Address_____
City, State, Zip_____
Phone ( )_____

Total: $ _____
Shipping and Handling: $_____
Total Amount enclosed: $_____

Comments:_____
Please complete and enclose entire form when ordering. A new form will be sent with your order.



Life! Action

a column for teens

GRACE AYIGA, *12, is from Sudan, a hot spot for persecution of Christians. Grace's parents were tortured; her father was jailed; her uncle was martyred. Grace fled the country with her mother and younger sister. Her family was finally reunited this past fall when her father, grandmother, and older adopted sister arrived in the US. She lives in Nashville, Tennessee and attends Donelson FWB Church. In an interview, Grace tells her story.*

What was life like in Sudan? It was good. I lived in a little town, with many buildings in the south part of Sudan. There were 12 people in my house, so my big sister had to cook a lot. We never had lots of food because we had so many people. We ate lots of green vegetables. We ate only fresh cow meat. If we ate chicken, someone had to catch and kill it.

What are your favorite foods? I like American food better than African. My favorite foods are pizza and hamburgers.

Tell me about your family. My mother was a nurse. My father helped build and repair houses. I have three sisters. My little brother died from malaria when he was four.

How are women and girls treated? Laws are very strict. Women are not supposed to wear pants. Women cannot get a good job unless they graduate from college. Many women do not have money for school. Girls must live with parents until they are 18 or 19. If a girl gets married, the husband has to give the bride's family money. Girls in Africa are not like here. They get to cook, clean up, get their brother's bath—do lots of stuff for the family. When they come home from school, they clean up and prepare food. They wash the family's clothes, but not in a washing machine. They just fill a big bowl with water and wash the clothes by hand.

What about school? You have to pay to go to school. No one skips school and you are never late. All girls get their hair cut and wear uniforms and hats so people know they are in school. If you are bad you get whippings.

What languages do you speak? I know seven languages. At home we speak Madi, a tribal language. In school we spoke English and Arabic, the official language.

How is life different in the US? Here every child tries to get her own way. Children do not respect their teachers. There, everyone is the same color and looks the same. Here you wear any clothes you want. There, you must wear good clothes. There is no winter in Sudan, only rain and wind. There are no cars, only buses. My mom rode a motorcycle to work.

How did you come to America? Our president said that all Christians would be killed. My mom was at work; they asked her if she was a Christian. When she said yes, they took her. She did not come home for three days. She had cuts all over and she was about to die but she survived. My dad had to hide in another place. We did not know where he was. That's when we left. It took us two weeks to get out of Sudan. After three days by train, four days by boat, we came to Egypt. My baby sister was born while we were in Egypt. We had to be interviewed. Finally after two years in a refugee camp, we were approved to come to America.

What was life like without your father? It was very sad, but I got over it. My mom said I had to get over it since I might never see him again. It's good that he's here now.

What were your first feelings in America? I was excited. My mom joked that I would smell the fresh air and be able to speak English. When I came, I smelled the fresh air, but I still could not speak good English.

Do you feel Americans have been kind to you? Some Americans, our sponsors and the people who know us, are good. But not all Americans are nice. Sometimes, I want to get out of America and go back to Africa.

Did the church help? Yes. People at our church are nice. People give us food, money, and Bibles. The children there are very nice. I wish all Americans were that nice.

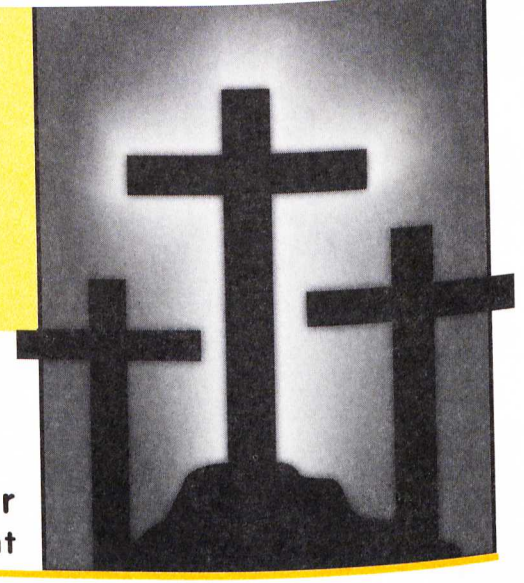
What about your faith in Christ? Are you a Christian? Yes. I asked Jesus into my heart last summer. I went forward at the Billy Graham Crusade. All my family have been Christians since my grandmother. Before, I believed in Jesus, but now, I really know Him.

How can Christians make internationals feel welcome? Stop making fun of children, their color and their stuff. Some children make fun. They hurt others feelings. Accept my color. No one can change my color.

What is your greatest concern? Some of my relatives are still there in my country. If they are killed, it would make my mother very sad.

What are your plans for the future? If the war stops (Muslim/Christian conflict), I will have to return to my country. But if I stay in America, someday I would like to be a Christian case worker. When African children come here, I can help them learn the language, give them money, and help them find food and a good place to live.

Share the Wonder



by Debe Taylor
WNAC President

Recently, while my husband was flipping through the television channels, the announcer caught my attention. "PAX TV—Share the Wonder."

Share the wonder! As a Christian, that is *exactly* what I should be doing. "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children" (Deuteronomy 6:7a). Share the wonder! "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). Share the wonder! ". . . Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Share the wonder!

After the truth that I definitely *should* share the wonder had penetrated my heart, I began to contemplate exactly what message I was to convey to others. I believe that God just wants you and me to share what He has done for us.

Although I was only eight years old when I asked Jesus into my heart, I still remember experiencing the wonder of God's charity—His love. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). It finally sunk in. No matter how bad I was—and believe me, at the age of eight I was pretty bad—God still loved me. I knew I needed and wanted His forgiveness and His love. Over the years I have come to treasure Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth (demonstrated) His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." He knew me—I mean, really knew me—and still He chose to love me. He loves you, too. Share the wonder of His charity!

I'm thankful for every new day that dawns. For with each new day, I experience God's compassion—His mercy. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22, 23). Someone has said that justice is getting what we deserve; mercy is not getting what we deserve. Although I deserve justice, it is through the mercy of God that I receive a pardon. I love the expression of the Psalmist David, "Hear me, O Lord, for Thy lovingkindness is good; turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies" (Psalm 69:16). Over and over, I know His mercy. Share the wonder of His compassion!

Throughout my life I have enjoyed the benefits of the wonder of God's care—His provision. "I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not see the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" Psalm 37:25. This Scripture has proven true time and time again. Always God has provided. The Apostle Paul wrote, "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). Sometimes it has been a little money in the mailbox; sometimes a box full of hand-me-downs; sometimes an invitation to dinner; sometimes a sack of groceries. No matter what the need, God always comes through. I am not really sure why I am often surprised at His provision because Jesus told us, ". . . for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before you ask Him" (Matthew 6:8). Even when I am not yet aware of my need, God knows and is already making provision. Share the wonder of His care—His provision!

Sharing the wonder of God's charity, compassion and care should be my joy as well as my duty. Revealing what God has done in my life also encourages others. Will you share the wonder this Easter season?

Mission Alert

Evangelism News from Around the World

WORLDWIDE CONCERNS

Pray for the safety of all missionaries worldwide.

Praise the Lord for the miraculous release of relief workers Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer. Pray for other Christian workers who are still held captive by terrorists groups.

Pray for FWB military deployed throughout Central Asia and the Middle East. Pray not only for safety, but also for missionary opportunities. Pray for their families as they make adjustments.

After the September 11 attack, Kazakstan's President ordered a special commission to read and study the Bible and report back to him. In Tajikistan, officials registered more churches in four weeks than in the past year.

FWB IN NORTH AMERICA

Missionary Paul Park's vision is to see 50 Korean FWB churches established within the next ten years. Korean missionaries are now Associate Missionaries and only receive designated funds.

Pray for Carolyn Adams, wife of Dr. Richard Adams (Home Missions Director of Development) as she continues treatment for cancer.

Sunday morning attendance has climbed nearly 50%, midweek has increased by almost 60% at the Mile High FWB Church in Northglenn, CO, reports Missionary Scott Cheatham.

Bill and Christy Reynolds request prayer as they begin the Beacon FWB Church in Rhode Island.

Daycare ministry has been a vital link for missionary Bill Phillips in Salt lake City, UT. This effort accounts for ninety percent of the congregation of Valley FWB Church. Pray that God would allow this ministry to thrive and continue.

FWB AROUND THE WORLD

Dr. Kenneth Eagleton reports that 17 people (15 for salvation) came forward in a recent Sunday service at the Bouna church in Côte d'Ivoire. He also baptized 12 believers from a remote village. Eagleton led them in communion and feet washing—a first for this village.

After three years, the FWB Church in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire finally received a government document acknowledging that their land belongs to Free Will Baptists. Pastor Silas and this growing congregation are now seeking a rental room to begin another church.

Patsy Vanhook requests prayer concerning a possible reading room or bookstore in Nantes, France. The Nantes Church is currently remodeling its facility. The book room would be housed in an attached small building.

Missionary Dennis Owen reports gains in Uruguay. In the past four years, believers have completed three building projects with no standing debt. More importantly, four people recently prayed to receive Christ.

WHEN GOD CHANGES OUR PLANS

by Dawn Sweeney

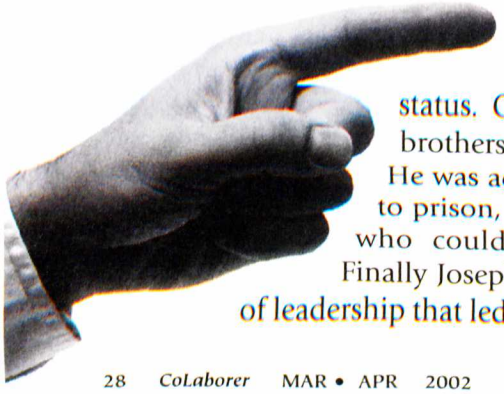
I remember as a young teenager singing, "Whatever it Takes." I sang it loudly and with all the meaning I could muster. One verse I'll never forget: "Take my houses and lands, change my dreams and my plans, . . ."

Of course, at that age, I thought God was telling me to be a missionary; and I wanted to be a missionary! I knew He was calling me to a foreign field and this song just sealed my willingness to go. I knew it then and I know it now. I served ten weeks as a summer missionary in Côte d'Ivoire, and later almost three years in France. It's easy to tell the Lord, "I'll follow your plan," when it's something you want to do anyway. I was so positive that I would be a "career missionary" on a foreign field. But God changed my plans.

Since then, I've come to believe that God's plans for our lives are revealed to us in phases, even for (or should I say) *especially for* the Christian who is wholeheartedly seeking to follow in the footsteps of Christ. One step at a time requires a real trust as God leads from one phase to another to yet another.

God led Moses in this way. A Hebrew "basket baby," he was adopted and trained in an Egyptian palace. Plans changed; Moses fled. He then spent forty years tending sheep in the desert in spiritual preparation to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. Whew! Talk about a long phase.

Joseph also experienced step-by-step guidance. Possibly no greater example of life's changing phases exists. Born into a wealthy family, Joseph enjoyed a "favored son" status. Out of jealousy, his own brothers sold him into slavery. He was accused of rape, sentenced to prison, then forgotten by a man who could've gained his release. Finally Joseph was given a great place of leadership that led to saving a whole nation from starvation. The ultimate plan required uncomfortable phases.



On his missionary journeys, Paul wanted to go to Bithynia. The Holy Spirit flatly told him no. Then God showed him a new direction—a direction that allowed the evangelization of Europe and ultimately North America.

In modern times, Amy Carmichael experienced God's life changing phases. She served as a missionary in at least two other countries before she went to India. There she built orphanages and cared for hundreds of children until the time of her death.

One of my missionary heroes is Elisabeth Elliot. She began her missionary career in South America as a single woman. She later married and had a child. The Elliots ministered together until

Elizabeth's husband, Jim was slain by the Auca Indians he was trying to evangelize. Elisabeth didn't run and hide. She remained, a single mother with a young daughter, and won many of those same Indians to Christ. Since then, she has returned to the US. She has also remarried. Today Elisabeth Elliot is a nationally recognized speaker on Christian radio and at Christian events.

Why does God change our plans? In some instances, we may never know His reasons. Our Father may not intend for us to understand His long-range plan. If we knew everything, it might scare us to death. I'm positive that I wouldn't have wanted to know that, beginning at age 37, I would battle cancer four times. (I'm 43 now.) We may see only a tenth of what God has in store for us. The unseen nine-tenths may be things we just don't need to know.

God may change our plans to teach us something—something about Him, about ourselves, or even about others. God allowed Satan to turn Job's world upside down because He wanted Job to see Him in a new and different way. Job 42:5 says, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee." God never really explained why Job went through such terrible suffering. That wasn't the point. Through the whole process God was training Job to lift his eyes heavenward. Could Job have learned this lesson another way? Apparently not. Sometimes the difficult phases are designed to teach us things unique to that experience.

WE CAN FIND COMFORT IN GREAT WORDS SPOKEN BY CHRISTIANS THROUGH THE AGES

The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you.

God is with us even on unfamiliar roads.

There is no pit that God's love is not deeper still.

It is always possible to do God's will.

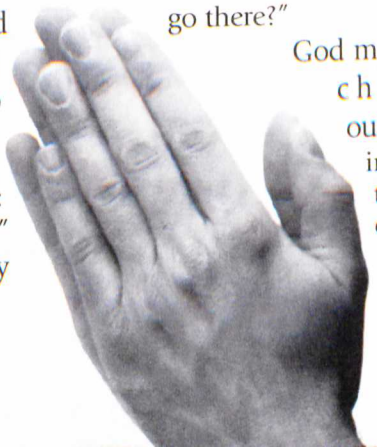
If you take care of the things that are important to God, He will take care of the things that are important to you.

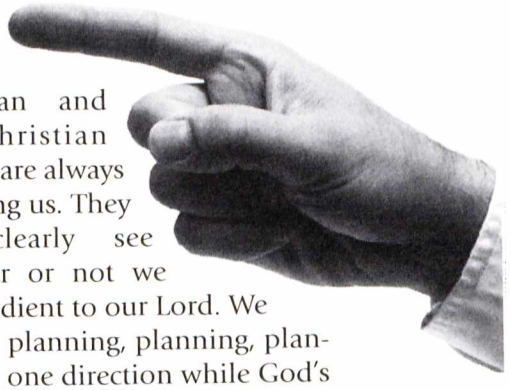
Delays are not necessarily denials.

In every change, He constant will remain.

God often changes our plans because He wants to use us in a different way or in a different place. Maybe you have ministered at a rescue mission for months, but now God needs you to fill a void in ministering to the elderly in nursing homes. I did not know when God moved me from one city to another in France that He had already prepared someone's heart to hear the gospel. Her name was Marie and she was a prostitute. Not long after we established a friendship, she accepted Christ. We began a new convert Bible study together. What if I had rebelled about this new phase and said, "God, I don't want to go there?"

God may also change our plans in order to teach others something.





Christian and non-Christian people are always watching us. They can clearly see whether or not we are obedient to our Lord. We may be planning, planning, planning in one direction while God's will is in another. He might say, "Hold everything; turn around and go this way. My will for you is here." We must be obedient. He knows His purposes; He does not need to discuss them with us. He simply expects obedience. We do not always know God's purpose, but we can know His path. For His sake and for the sake of those who are looking to see if our Christianity is real, ask yourself, "Does my obedience cause others to see God?" Jesus should have an unhindered way in our lives.

No matter how difficult or how pleasant the change phases are, we must remember that God's Holy Word is our guidebook. We must feed our souls on the Bible. We must memorize and keep its words close to our hearts. Recently I discovered the verse, "cause me to know the way wherein I should walk," God's Word will guide us through each phase of life if we only allow it.

We can take heart and find courage knowing God is with us every step of the way. He may lead us through several phases in our lifetimes. But in the end, these changes will serve to empower and purify us, so we may glorify Him.

Dawn Sweeney is a member of Fellowship FWB Church, Kingsport, Tennessee. She serves as president of Tennessee Women Active for Christ.

HELP! I'M A MOM

bright ideas for mothers from mothers

Q A

How do you handle profanity, especially when children do not understand the terms?

First and foremost, instruct with the Word. Good verses include Ephesians 4:29; Psalm 19:14; Exodus 20:7; Colossians 4:6. Set the example by using good speech. Always, pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance. But when profanity happens . . .

Communicate. Talk about the importance of good words. Explain that there are some words they may hear that we don't use. With older children, share that profanity may take two forms—the use of God's name or crude expletives. The use of God's name is always wrong. Crudeness may not be a question of right, but of better. Is it the best choice of words? Do Christian people they respect use these words? Explain that many people throw profanity around to impress people, to create fear, or show power or maturity. Yet it accomplishes none of these. Stress the importance of using words to express themselves, not their frustrations. Discuss the dangers of creating bywords not just curse words.

Correct. For small children who do not understand, do not punish, just correct. If there is intent to disobey, take away a privilege. In older children, one option would be to cut off the source (friends, TV, videos, etc.) until the profanity stops.

Contributors: Angie Williams, Gladys Gragg, Geneva Walker, Yvonne Hampton

Next issue: ***Television. How much should you allow? What guidelines should you set?***

Send us your input on this subject. We welcome your questions, too.
WNAC: Moms, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch TN 37011-5002 or sarah@nafwb.org

Faith and Grandma's Prayers

✝ LETA MAE SCOTT ✝

In the one-room schoolhouse in Shady Grove, Arkansas, where our church also met, Reverend Horace Knox held a revival meeting. After one week and no conversions, there was talk of closing the meeting. One woman, Martha (Baker) Bland, my Grandmother Mattie, said "NO." She told my father Arthur Bland that she did not want the meeting to close. She had some grandchildren who needed salvation and she was praying for them. My father spoke to Reverend Knox who agreed to continue the revival. The Lord answered her prayers. When, after three weeks, the meeting finally ended, thirty-two people had been saved. I was one of them.

It happened one evening during the altar invitation. Reverend Knox's wife, Mary Bell, came and asked me if I wanted to go to the altar and receive Jesus as my Savior. She was the first person who had ever talked to me about how important it was to invite Jesus into my heart for salvation. I was almost thirteen years old and had attended church and Sunday school most of my life. Although I knew about Jesus, I had never realized that I needed to accept Him as my Lord and Savior. Mary Bell explained this to me, then asked again if I wanted to go to the altar. I now understood that I needed to ask Jesus to forgive my sins. I would give my life to Him. Both my sister Neva and I were born again that evening. I know without a doubt that our salvation resulted from faith and Grandma's prayers.

At the end of each nightly meeting, the congregation would pass by and greet those who had come forward. Everyone would shake hands and tell these individuals how happy they were that each had been saved. During one of these times, one man just fell on his knees at the altar. Many people had been praying for him throughout the revival.

What a blessing! All thirty-two people who received salvation were later baptized in the White River at Allred Ford. Today, three are still living. Two of them are Granny Mattie's grandchildren. Praise the Lord for our Grandma's prayers.

Leta Mae (Bland) Scott attends the Rogers Free Will Baptist Church in Rogers, Arkansas, where her husband, Clyde, serves as deacon. The Scotts have three married daughters, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Words for Women

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Marjorie H. Workman

POWER FAILURE

I could hear the popping, snapping, and breaking of the tree limbs as I stood shivering in the darkness on the porch. I watched the blue balls of fire and listened to the sizzling power lines as one by one they crashed to the ground under the weight of the icy buildup. It was eerie, almost frightening. A little freezing rain or snow mixed with sleet was not uncommon in our area, but this was different. It was ominous. A terrible ice storm was sweeping through our city.

In a matter of minutes, the entire city and surrounding communities were paralyzed. Thousands of homes and businesses were without electrical power—including mine. People were stranded trying to drive through a maze of streets looking for an open path home through the tangled jungle of tree limbs and electrical wires. Emergency crews responded to hundreds of calls but could not match forces with "Old Man Winter" who made one last icy blast to push back spring's appearance.

What was it like to be without power for ten days? Not bad—for the first twelve hours. The house maintained a bearable temperature, and the water ran warm enough for a shower. But then it became frigid. My husband and I realized we wouldn't make good pioneers. We moved out. Hospitable friends took us in for the next nine days.

Being without electrical power is traumatic, but a greater tragedy is being without prayer power. Not that God needs us, but we need Him. He can do anything at any time without any help from us. He can calm the sea during a storm as He did for the disciples in Mark 4. He can protect His followers as He did for the Apostle Paul when he was snake bitten on the island of Melita. Yet, He invites us to be a part of His great work through prayer. We are invited to intercede for one another. Without intercession, we miss opportunities to witness His deliverances.

Believers in Acts 12 would have missed it had they not been praying without ceasing for Peter during his imprisonment. I love this account of Peter's supernatural deliverance. The angel of the Lord woke Peter up, told him to put on his clothes and follow him. Peter walked through two checkpoints, an iron gate that opened on its own accord and down a city street before realizing he wasn't dreaming. He said, "The Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod. . . . " He thought for a moment about what to do next and headed to Mary's house.

There he interrupted the prayer meeting being held on his behalf. Those praying couldn't believe their prayers were being answered. They thought little excited Rhoda had lost her mind as she repeatedly tried to tell them Peter was at the gate. Finally, she got through to them and someone opened the gate for Peter. Intercession turned into astonishment, rejoicing, and blessing.

When we pray for one another, we also share the blessings when the answers come. Beth Moore calls this "God's Profit Sharing Plan." The entire country shared in God's deliverance of relief workers Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer in Afghanistan. But none experienced greater joy and excitement than those faithful church members in Texas who had been praying 24/7 for the girls since mid-August, 2001.

Prayer puts us in touch with God. Prayer helps us see God's faithfulness. In these days of uncertainty and (for many) fear, perhaps God has given you a strategic opportunity to pray for another. Let's rededicate ourselves as consistent, effective "pray-ers" for Christ. Stay connected to the Power!

Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions presents

Embracing the Vision II*

A Second 4-part Video Series

Featuring a short film—"The Harvest"—plus clips of churches involved in Acts 1:8 evangelism and one church group's exciting overseas experience.

Encourage your pastor and church to take this second step in the Harvest with this new video series addressing these important areas:

1. ***Our United Potential***
2. ***Our Status***
3. ***Our Preparation***
4. ***Our Involvement***

Laura Belle Barnard embraced the vision when she saw the potential harvest in India. Women today are also embracing the vision through personal outreach.

Laura Belle Barnard
World Missions Offering
April 28, 2002

Order from Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002, call toll free 1-877-767-7736, or see the website (www.nafwb.org/fm).

*Note: If your church has not seen the original "Embracing the Vision" series, order and view it prior to showing the new series.

CoLaborer Magazine
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002
wnac@nafwb.org • www.nafwb.org/wnac
Periodical postage paid at Antioch, Tennessee and additional mailing offices
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to above address.

**********3-DIGIT 372
FWBBC LIBRARY
3606 W END AVE
NASHVILLE TN 37205-2403

106
12