A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

CoLaborer

Marriage 101

The Teen Scene

Nest Empty, Heart Full

May • June
2002

Labor of my heart

Sarah Fletcher

"You ought to be an expert," a colleague remarked when I mentioned the topics for this issue—marriage and teenagers. Though these words vividly describe my present life (22 wonderful years of marriage and three talented, diverse teenagers), I'm too much in the thick of things to claim expertise. Maybe in another twenty years . . . Right now the Lord is still teaching me. And I'm learning the parental paradox of clinging to and letting go.

Letting go. It's the challenge every parent faces. Letting go of money. Letting go of car keys. Letting go of time. *(How can teens who declare their independence, still require so much of your time?)* Yet letting go is not just a matter of giving teens space. It's also a mindset. For some parents, it means letting go of a dream, an expectation. For others it might involve letting go of a preference, a life pursuit, a college choice, or a reputation. We must let go. Ours has not been the only hand holding them. Now they are free to follow the One who has held them in the palm of His hand from eternity. Knowing our children are in His grip gives peace and assurance.

Clinging to. The last thing teens want is overprotective parents. We cannot cling to their person, their possessions, or their life, but we can cling to memories and laughter. We can cling to the positive qualities we see in our children. We can cling to hope. We must cling to prayer. As our children mature, how much more vital our prayers! Often it's our only means of "connectedness."

The same paradox exists in marriage. Let go. As our June feature so aptly stresses, marriage is not a fairytale existence. Our husbands may not be the Hollywood hunk or even the holy hero we desire. We must accept them for who they are. Let go of unrealistic expectations. Let go of bitterness and old wounds. "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath" (Ephesians 4:26b). This means talking things out—daily. Let go of your private world. Marriage is a union. The wider the intersection, the stronger the union. Let go. Love in abandon.

Cling. Both the Old and New Testaments define marriage as a man "leaving his father and mother and cleaving (clinging) to his wife." With marriages falling apart all around us, we must "stick like glue" to the one God has given us. Often couples forget this as children (and teens) consume their lives. Unless a couple has cultivated a friendship/love relationship, an impending empty nest holds no anticipation. As our children grow older, my husband and I now make a conscious effort to date often and get away every now and then. We enjoy each other's presence. We want our love to grow so that when the last child leaves the nest, the tree will remain rooted and strong.

Letting go and clinging to. It's a paradox God wants to teach us all. Letting go of our will. Letting go of the sin that so easily besets us. Letting go of the past and pressing toward the mark for the prize.

Then, clinging to Him. Clinging to the cross, to the hope that is within us, to our faith. Clinging to His Word. Seven times in the Bible the word "cleave" refers to our relationship with God. Deuteronomy 10:20,21 commands, "Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name. He *is* thy praise, and he *is* thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen." Deuteronomy 30:20 says, "That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, *and* that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he *is* thy life, and the length of thy days."

Is He your life? Your praise? Will you "let go and let God have His way?"

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

For Such a Time As This

FAMILY

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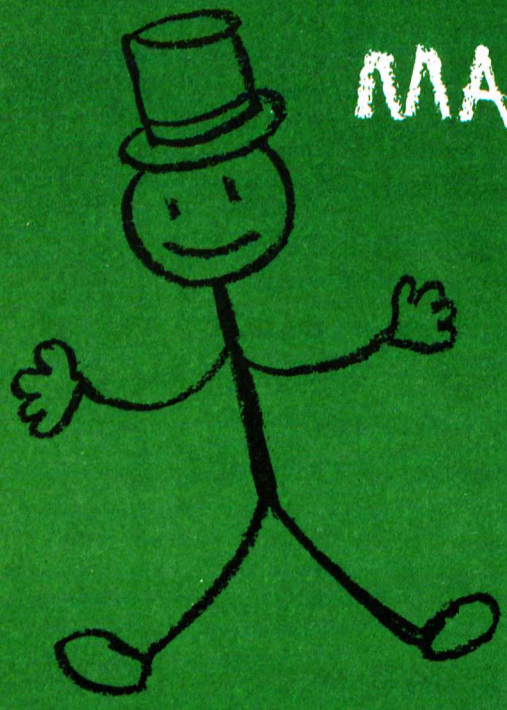
MARRIAGE 101

BY
BECKY GWARTNEY



"Marriage is what brings us together today. Love, true love, will follow you forever."

This statement from *The Princess Bride,** (one of my family's favorite videos) implies that, along with marriage, comes a love that lasts forever. Being the film buff that I am (and a woman), I love a good romantic flick. But, as we all know, life is not a romantic movie! Life is not a fairy tale! Life has ups and downs, as does marriage. It takes work—lots of work—and perseverance to blend two lives together. Every couple enters the marriage relationship with baggage from past experiences, hurts, and various family backgrounds. What a tough job lies ahead for newlyweds!

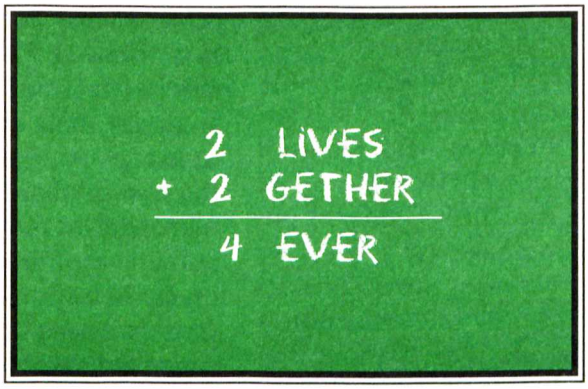
Don't be discouraged. Help is available! Enroll today in Marriage 101. Whether you've just tied the knot or you're tied in knots, you'll find lessons designed to help you have a successful marriage. First things first. Let's begin . . . in the beginning.

**WNAC neither endorses or approves this video.*

A LESSON FROM ADAM AND EVE

In Genesis 2:18, God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." God knew that Adam was lonely and incomplete. Adam needed someone who could help him. Yahweh Elohim (God the Creator) made from Adam's own side a companion designed to respond to Adam. Eve would enable Adam to become all God had created him to be.

The same is true for each man and woman in marriage. God, in His divine wisdom, chooses for each man a "helper" who will complete him in life. God's plan is that "man shall leave his father and mother, and the two shall become one flesh; so they are no longer two, but one flesh" (Mark 10:7-8 NASB). Some men would never admit to *needing* a woman, but it's true. God made us with physical, spiritual, and emotional needs that can only be filled by a marriage partner. Have you ever noticed that, after a marriage partner dies, the remaining partner seldom feels whole? Why? Because the "two became one."



We must seek to be the "helper" God has designed. He has placed in woman the ability to fulfill a husband's needs. Fulfillment requires personal sacrifice, considering the needs of our husband above our own. It means spending time in prayer for our spouse. It means relinquishing our own desires, unselfishly giving to our husbands. It involves quiet submission. Resolve to be the encourager your husband needs. Determine to become the wife that satisfies her husband so that "he will have no lack of gain" (Proverbs 31:11b).

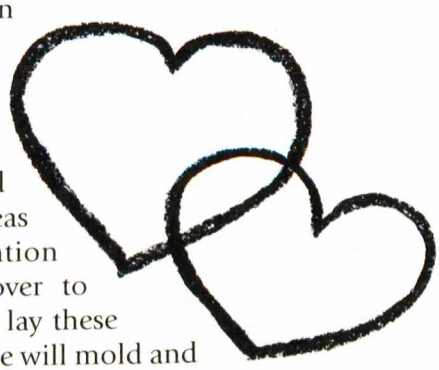
A LESSON FROM JOSEPH AND MARY

Most everyone likes surprises. But when you're a bride-to-be with wedding plans in place, the last thing you want is surprise! That's just what happened to Joseph and Mary, a betrothed couple. (Betrothal was more binding and legal than engagement. The first stage of marriage in Jewish culture, betrothal usually commenced a year before the actual wedding night.)

No doubt Joseph and Mary were excited about their life together; they had probably made many plans for their future. As happens many times in life, God chose to change *their* plans to make them *His*. They would not be wed, consummate the marriage, anticipate the coming birth of a first child, and then "live happily ever after." Their surprise was the immaculate conception of the Son of God. Was this couple ready for childbirth? Probably not. But God had prepared their hearts and they were willing to accept God's will for them.

The "surprise" came too early, or so it must have seemed. Joseph could have left Mary without accepting this Gift from God. He could have resigned to let her raise the baby on her own. But Joseph accepted this possible disappointment as God's appointment. He did not seek to change Mary or their circumstances, but stayed true to his commitment.

While dating, couples often become aware of things about the other person they don't like. "I can change them," they may say. How foolish to think or try that! The examples of Joseph and Mary teach us to accept what God gives us in the other person. We must not try to change who or what our spouse is. This is a lesson I struggle to learn. If I see a weakness, I want to correct it. If I see an area that could be improved, I want to help speed up the process.



If we have been careful and prayerful in choosing our life's mate, then we should accept him for who he is and what he is. Any areas that need attention should be turned over to God in prayer. As we lay these requests at His feet, He will mold and transform our husbands according to His desires.

A LESSON FROM JACOB AND RACHEL

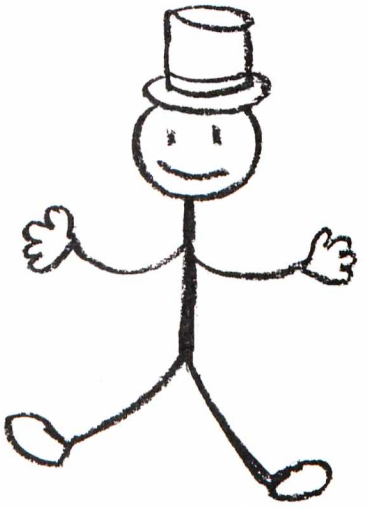
Commitment, agreement, covenant, pledge, promise. These words are seldom taken seriously nowadays. In previous years, a man's word was as good as a contract. Now, even with a contract, we sometimes must secure a lawyer to make sure both parties adhere to their part of the agreement.

In our society, commitment in marriage is also taken lightly. As two of God's creations join together in covenant (a binding agreement), they begin building a permanent relationship. We must view it as just that—a permanent, binding agreement! The wedding vows state, "'til death do us part." We vow, before God and men, to be the marriage partners God intends. We also vow to be faithful.

Do Christians also take this commitment lightly? Unfortunately, many do! Christians should view divorce as an *enemy* —not an *option*! (See Matthew 19:3-9.) Even when we don't feel "in love," or we aren't getting along, or the romance is gone, or our picture-perfect dream of marriage isn't what we woke up to this morning, we must never consider divorce! Matthew 19:9 gives only one exception—"immorality"—(when one marriage partner has committed adultery.) Even in this situation, divorce is only an option, *not* a requirement or a recommendation.

Genesis 29 records the heart-warming story of Jacob and Rachel—one man's unrelenting devotion and commitment to one woman. Rachel was the love of his life. Upon their first meeting, she captured Jacob's heart. He made an agreement with Rachel's father (and his uncle) Laban to work seven years for Rachel (29:18). The years seemed to him as a few days because he loved her so much (v. 20). No doubt, Rachel was constantly in his thoughts as he anxiously awaited the day when she would become his beautiful bride. Finally, his seven years of service ended, Jacob prepared for the wedding.

What happened next was a nightmare! The morning after his wedding, Jacob awoke to the realization that he had been tricked. Laban had given him not Rachel, but Leah, her sister. Jacob confronted Laban about the deceit. His uncle agreed to also give him Rachel if Jacob would agree to work another seven years. Jacob's love and commitment to Rachel were so strong, he once again entered into agreement with his uncle. Laban upheld the agreement and within a week, gave Rachel to Jacob. Finally, Jacob's commitment paid off.

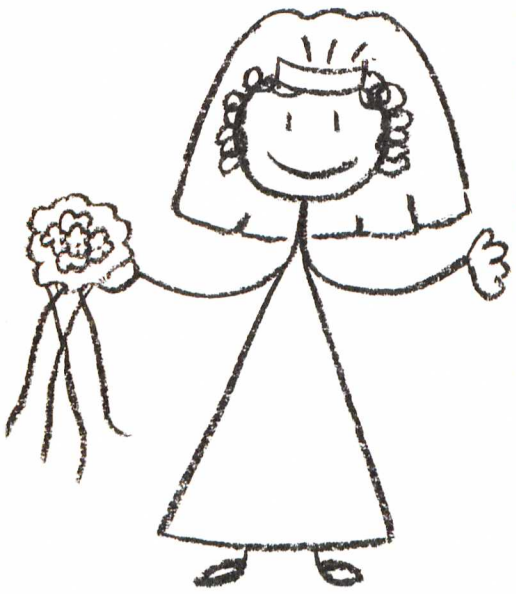


CHRISTIANS SHOULD VIEW DIVORCE AS AN ENEMY— NOT AN OPTION!

The union of Jacob and Rachel was not picture-perfect. Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah, but Rachel was barren. Leah gave birth to six sons; Rachel could not conceive. This surely put added stress on their relationship! Further reading in Genesis 30 uncovers the turmoil caused by Rachel's infertility and Jacob's marriage to more than one woman. Did Jacob remain committed to Rachel? Yes! Did he give up on her? No! In fact, "God remembered Rachel, and God gave heed to her and opened her womb. So she conceived and bore a son..." (30:22, 23 NASB). Oh, that marriages today would mirror this kind of commitment!

A LESSON FROM AQUILA AND PRISCILLA

Imagine the apostle Paul commending you as, "fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who for my life risked their own necks..." (Romans 16:3, 4a NASB). For me, that would be a dream come true. Oh, to be known as a person of integrity, a worker for the Lord, an unselfish and compassionate follower of God. This was the legacy of the married couple, Aquila and Priscilla. Not much is mentioned about them in Scripture, but what *is* mentioned should challenge each of us. Aquila and Priscilla worked together with Paul as tentmakers (Acts 18:2,3) and coworkers in the Lord (18:18). They encouraged other believers. Priscilla and Aquila knew the Word of God and were not ashamed to correct those who wrongly interpreted



the Scriptures (18:26). The account of this amazing couple teaches us the importance of striving together for one goal. Their goal was to uphold the Word of God and do whatever they could to promote the cause of Christ. What a testimony!

Having served many years in ministry together with my husband, I realize the importance of such a goal. Couples need to devote their lives to common purposes. My husband and I have purposed to build a Christian home, raise a godly family, reach students for the Lord, witness to the lost, encourage the hurting, follow God no matter what the cost, share His love with all those we come in contact with, and serve God faithfully.

What goals do you and your husband share? As you strive together toward a common goal, your hearts will become intertwined. Sit down with your spouse and define your goals this week. It will make an enormous difference in your relationship!

A LESSON FROM CURT AND BECKY

Can't find these two in your concordance? True, Curt and Becky are not examples from Scripture. But please allow me the liberty to share some important truths I've discovered after twenty-two years of marriage. Though these principles may not have specific Bible references, they are time-honored and God-honoring.

Three vitally important elements of a thriving marriage include enjoyment, laughter, and communication. Don't always be serious adults! With so many responsibilities in the work world, the church, the community, and the family, we all need some time to relax. Rent that convertible and take a Saturday drive with the top down. Go on fun dates with your spouse. Do something you both enjoy (i.e., bowling, fishing, hiking, biking, miniature golf.) Laugh a lot! Recall and share memories of your childhood, funny experiences, or the silly things you've done, Sing together! Listen to each other! Pay that penny for your spouse's thoughts. Just have fun!

Nothing could be more beautiful than a life spent with a person you *enjoy*. Even Hollywood cannot improve on that.

Becky Gwartney resides in Locust Grove, Oklahoma, with her youth pastor husband and two teenagers. She is active in both her local and district WAC.

MARRIAGE 101

LESSON REVIEW:

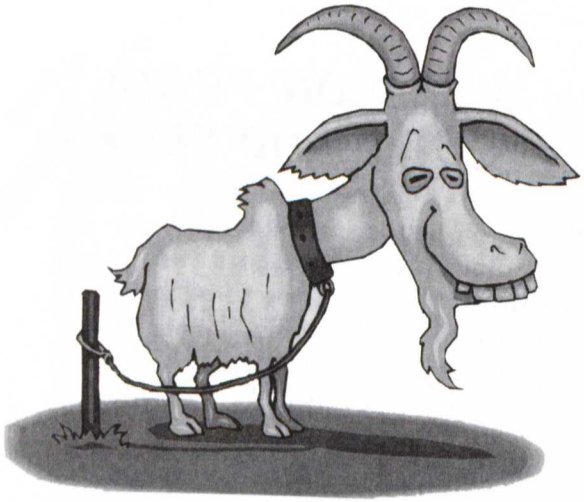
SEEK TO BE THE HELPER GOD HAS DESIGNED

ACCEPT WHAT GOD GIVES YOU IN THE OTHER PERSON

REMAIN FAITHFUL TO YOUR MARRIAGE VOWS

STRIVE TOGETHER TOWARD COMMON GOALS

LAUGH, COMMUNICATE, ENJOY!



Got Your Goat. . .

by Shirley Turner

"You can take the boy out of the country but you can't take the country out of the boy" must surely have been spoken by a city-farmer's wife. After wishing for a long time, my city-farmer husband David finally got a little goat. He named the goat Simile (S– for Shirley, –imile for our daughter Emily). I suppose this namesake idea was an effort to produce acceptance.

We soon discovered that goats are social animals. Our lone Simile was very unhappy. What to do? How complicated is that problem? Just get another goat! What would we name this one? Only Metaphor would go with Simile. Soon we would have our very own living and breathing figures of speech.

Off we went to southern Illinois to the goat man to buy a Nubian milk goat. David spotted our Metaphor immediately; black and white with long floppy ears, a perfect Nubian specimen. The goat man praised this particular animal to the high heavens. He said she was wonderfully gentle.

I don't know what David had in mind about transporting her home. He didn't take a cage of any kind in his pickup. Maybe he thought "Mr. Goatman" dispensed cages along with the animals. While we deliberated about our travel dilemma, the goat man piped up and said, "Why this goat is so gentle, she would ride right up there in your wife's lap if you wanted her to." What? Had my ears served me right? This couldn't be happening! Mind you, we're talking about a full-grown goat!

To David this sounded like a grand idea. The next 150 miles found me sitting very alert with Metaphor's hind legs firmly planted on the floor board, her front legs kneeling on my lap, and her eyes brightly taking in all the new sights. The goat man's words rang true; she *was* very gentle. Unbelievably, she remained in that position, contentedly, for the whole three-hour trip.

While I endured the miles, David relished them! Never had he worked so hard to suppress laughter. He knew that too much enjoyment at my expense would mean a payback down the road! Oh the stares of passers-by! And the expressions on the faces of all those truck drivers were priceless. After 50 miles, David could suppress no longer. He gave up all effort at hiding the hilarity of the whole thing and laughed until he was in tears. We hee-hawed all the way home.

Let it be known, however, that I am not a wimpy wife. When he wanted to go through the drive-up window at Hardees and order a salad for the goat, I put my foot down. There is a limit to how much humiliation I'm willing to endure.

When a couple marries, they cannot know how far they will have to go in efforts to make each other happy. It's probably just as well. Someone has said that people seldom arrive at a contented marriage smoothly; more often it's a succession of jerks! My ride with the goat was truly a memorable jerk.

Shirley Turner is a pastor's wife from Tallula, Illinois (Tallula FWB Church). She and her husband David have raised three children, three foster children, and of course, two goats.

It's okay to be SINGLE

by Christy Britton

"SO WHEN ARE YOU GETTING MARRIED?"

"DON'T BE SO PICKY."

"YOU AREN'T GETTING ANY YOUNGER."

THESE are constant comments in the life of a single adult. At least my life anyway.

Until recently I would have told you that being single was the worst thing that could happen. However, I have begun to realize that being single is not a curse, but a blessing. People assume that because you are single, you have no life. This is not the case. I have my family, friends, work, and church to keep me busy. All of these things are my blessings. . . and my curses. Let me explain.

Families can be both a blessing and a curse. I come from a big family (six children) that's getting bigger all the time. With five girls, my parents are always looking and praying for future husbands. Twice now, their efforts have been successful. Only once have they tried to play matchmaker for me, (not with good results) but it is always in the back of their minds. My family is also my biggest support. They are the ones I turn to when life gets crazy.

Whenever I feel down about being single, I think of my Aunt Mary Helen. She lived to age 86, and although she would have liked to marry, she never did. Aunt Mary Helen was the most giving and loving person I have known. She was always doing things for others—things that made them feel special—things she might not have done had she been married. This is how I choose to look at my singleness.

Are you single? You can have a ministry in your church. The opportunities are unlimited. But you have to be willing to look beyond what you feel are your limitations, and take action. There's always a nursery to keep, a class to teach, a Women Active for Christ group looking for a new member with fresh ideas.

Now I am not saying everything is always right in my world. There are times when being single isn't such a blessing. For instance, when my younger sister got married. I wanted to push her out of the way, and tell my future brother-in-law that he could marry *Rachel...* after *Leah.* But I have chosen to look beyond what I considered my limitation, which for me was being single. I trust that in God's time and in His will, I will someday be married. If not, I can accept this because I know it *is* okay to be single.

Christy Britton attends Woodbine FWB Church in Nashville,TN, where she does keep the nursery, teach a class, and serve as a WAC officer. She is also a member of the "Ain't My Job" Gang, a group of singles who volunteer their labor for the church's Primetimers.

The Teen Scene

Teens pictured were participants of TEAM 2001.

Who will guide today's teenagers? Where will they turn?

• TEENAGE VIOLENCE is on the increase. Youth homicide increased 168% from the mid-1980's to the mid-1990's. In 1999, The Gallup organization reported that roughly 80% of surveyed teens "do not have a problem watching violent movies or television programs."

• Today's teens are facing a breakdown in morals. 91% of teenagers agree with the statement "what is right for one person in a given situation might not be right for another person in a similar situation." *(Generation Next* by George Barna)

• Computers have opened a whole new world to teens, much of it harmful.

• Many teenagers have grown up without sexual rules. The media equates sex with love and sees it as an expected part of a meaningful relationship. In his book, *The Battle for a Generation,* Ron Hutchcraft reports that 70 - 80% of teens have had sex by the end of their high school years.

• More and more teens are living in a fragmented society. According to a Gallup survey, four out of every ten American teens live with only one parent.

• Teens are uncertain of their future.

• Teens are searching for self-identity and independence.

Today's teenagers face challenges and problems. Knowing how to parent them or how to reach out to them can be difficult. Teens are living in a different world than that of their parents. Many adults are turned off by the weird clothes, the odd-colored hair, the earrings, or the tattoos. Behind that exterior, today's teens are vulnerable young people desperately wanting to love and to be loved.

How Can We Minister to the Teen Scene?

Look for ways to be involved with them.

Janet felt intimidated by the group of teenagers that hung out on the corner in her neighborhood. On her daily walk she always crossed the street to avoid them. One day she decided to walk right by them. She smiled and said, "Hi." To her surprise, one of the boys returned her greeting. Over the weeks she began to make small talk. She learned their names, and slowly they became acquainted.

Many teens think adults don't really care about them. Many adults think teens don't want anything to do with them. There's not a teenager alive who would not respond to genuine caring. It may take time for teens to trust adults, especially if teens have been hurt, but they need and desire love. Someone has to take the first step and reach out. Smile at them. Learn their names and the names of their friends. Ask them questions. Pray for them. Chaperone a youth event. Volunteer to drive a group to a theme park or outing. Bake them cookies. Buy them a soda. Pat them on the back.

Give them responsibility.

Teens need responsibility to help them become mature, confident adults. True self-worth comes from being entrusted with a job and then doing it well. According to a teen survey, less than 25% of teens volunteer on their own, but over 90% will do a task if asked. At home and at church, many jobs arise that teens could be doing. Teach a teen to cook and clean. (A future mate will be delighted you did.) Invite a teen to help you teach a Sunday School class or a Bible club for younger children. A teen choir or band can bless a whole church. Ask teens what they like to do, then find a way to help them do it.

Listen to them.

Teens sometimes protest that no one really listens to them. Both parents and teens are so busy. It's hard to find the time to effectively communicate. Around the table is one of the best places to connect with teens. (What teen doesn't like to eat?) 71% of teens indicated they eat at least one meal a day with family. Sadly, half of all teens surveyed watched television during their most recent dinner with parents. In addition, one in four said they listened to the radio, while 15% either read a book, magazine, or newspaper while dining." (*YOUTHviews* 5, October, 1997)

Gary Chapman in his book, *The Five Love Languages of Teenagers*, shares these listening tips.

Maintain eye contact when your teenager is talking.

Don't listen to your teenager and do something else at the same time.

Listen for feelings.

Observe body language.

Refuse to interrupt.

Ask reflexive questions. (What I hear you saying is . . . Is that correct?)

Express understanding.

Ask permission to share your perspective.

Love them.

It seems almost redundant to suggest that teens need love. Teens are crying out for love! Most parents really do love their children, but sometimes parents do not know how to express it. Methods that worked when their teens were small children just don't seem to work anymore.

One common contention among teens is criticism—all they hear from their parents is negative. Teens need positive words. "I love you." "I am proud of you." "I love it when you are around." Specific words of praise and thanks assure teens of your love. Teenagers still need hugs and kisses–but not in front of their peers. Gifts, kindnesses, appreciation, attention, and time all show teens that they are loved.

Susan tried different ways to show love to her daughter, but every day a new fight ensued. So she started writing notes and leaving them under Beth's pillow. This began a way for the two of them to express their love. When Beth left home, she took every one of the letters with her as a reminder of her mother's deep love.

Pray for them.

Lamentations 2:19 says, "Pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward Him for the life of thy young children."

The ministry of prayer is one of the highest callings of a Christian. Be faithful to pray every day. Join with other moms to pray for teenagers, their friends, their teachers, and their schools.

PRAY

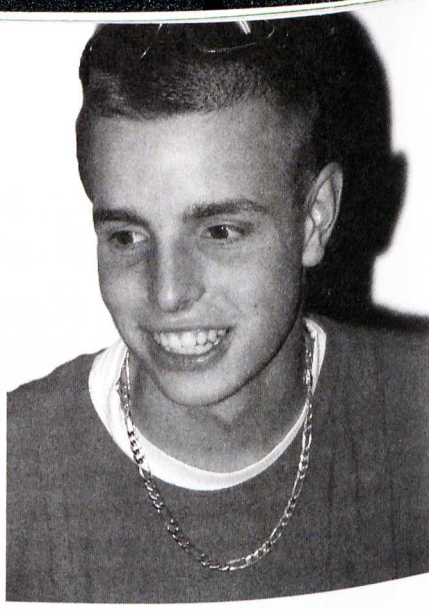
For their relationships with God:

- *That they will accept Jesus as Savior and love Him with all their heart. (II Timothy 3:15)*
- *That they will respect authority. (I Samuel 15:23)*
- *That they will exhibit the fruit of the Spirit in their lives. (Galatians 5:22)*
- *That they will obey their parents. (Colossians 3:20)*
- *That they will choose godly friends. (Proverbs 1:10)*

For protection from the evil one

- *from drugs, alcohol, and premarital sex. (John 17:15; Proverbs 20:1; I Corinthians 6:18-20)*

For their future.



Believe in them and never give up on them.

We need to see teens as God sees—through the eyes of mercy and grace. The angel of the Lord once called a young man named Gideon a "mighty man of valour" though at the time he was threshing wheat by a winepress, hiding from the enemy. Jesus called Simon Peter a "rock" while he was still unstable and weak. God loved all of us while we were yet sinners.

Some parents have faced so many disappointments; faith and dreams have crumbled. They want to believe that God is going to complete the work He began in their teen (Phil. 1:6), but their experiences have caused them to doubt.

Jim Cymbala, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Church in New York, tells of his family's own struggle with their daughter, Chrissy. In the April 2001 issue of *Focus on the Family* Magazine,* Jim says, "We tried teaching, talking, yelling, screaming, crying—you name it, but Chrissy walked away from us." A two and a half year odyssey began.

Faced with a dilemma, Pastor Cymbala chose to be proactive. "Some people give up and accept the fact that a child has left. They say, 'I did the best I could with my child, but now I guess she's just chosen to go another way.' But you have to draw a line in the sand and say, 'Over my dead body am I going to just accept that the child I dedicated and raised for the Lord is not going to live for Him.'"

"We started praying for Chrissy, but she didn't get better, she got worse," Pastor Cymbala recalls. "It was as if the Lord was saying to me, 'Are you really going to believe My promise, or are you going to go by what your eyes see? Are you going to put your eyes on Me and My faithfulness, or are you going to go by every up and down your daughter goes through?'"

Jim's wife, Carol, says, "I was heartbroken. I wanted to flee the city. I said, 'the devil's got my first child. I don't want him to get the other two.'"

The Cymbalas prayed incessantly, year after year. And after a late-night, church-wide intercessory prayer meeting for Chrissy, Jim returned home and told Carol, "It's over with Chrissy."

Two mornings later, while Jim was shaving, Carol called up to him. Chrissy was home. She was on the kitchen floor, rocking on her hands and knees, sobbing and asking for repentance. Within a year Chrissy started Bible college, and today she is a pastor's wife with three children.

Keep praying for teens; keep loving them. Help them up when they fall. Support and guide them. Make the effort to reach out and become involved. Never stop believing that all things are possible with God (Matthew 19:26).

Sandra Atwood, minister's wife and mother of four teenagers, lives in Antioch, Tennessee, where she attends Priest Lake FWB Church.

You might be the parent of a teen if you can remember:

-Paying over $1000 for car insurance, when everyone's driving records are clean.
-Adjusting your decibel tolerance level for stereo sound
-Spending over $100 dollars at the grocery store, and thinking, "What is there to eat?"
-Going to the pantry just days after you spent over $100 at the grocery store and discovering all chips, sodas, crackers, bread, and even ramen noodles have disappeared.
-Finding cans, wrappers, and crumbs (from those disappearing food items) throughout the house.
-Learning of phone messages you never received.
-Knowing "in" phrases and catchy bywords, but never letting them slip from your tongue.
-Identifying the smells from a mix of dirty socks, hormones, two-day-old pizza, body spray, microwave popcorn, and fingernail polish remover.
-Seeing your high school wardrobe reappear in your child's closet.
-Selecting "all you can eat" restaurants instead of the "kids eat free" variety.
-Reminiscing the days when everyone went to bed P. M. and awoke A.M.
-Learning to choose battles wisely—hopefully winning a few.
-Experiencing joy and fulfillment seeing God at work in your son or daughter's life.

Helpful Resources for the Family

Parenting Today's Adolescent: Helping Your Child Avoid the Traps of the Pre-Teen and Early Teen Years by Dennis & Barbara Rainey $19.99

Adolescence Isn't Terminal: It Just Feels Like it! by Kevin Leman $19.99

Josh McDowell's Handbook on Counseling Youth: A Comprehensive Guide to the Issues Youth Face: For Youth Workers, Pastors, Teachers, and Parents by Josh McDowell $18.99

Homebuilders Couples Series by Group Publishing: *(several different titles)* $10.99 each

- *Overcoming Stress*
- *Building Your Mate's Self Esteem*
- *Mastering Money In Your Marriage*
- *Building Your Marriage*
- *Communication in Your Marriage*
- *Raising Children of Faith*

Dropping Your Guard: The Value of Open Relationships by Charles R.Swindoll $16.99

Love Must Be Tough: New Hope for Families in Crisis by Dr. James C. Dobson $21.99

Making Love Last Forever by Gary Smalley $21.99

ALL TITLES AVAILABLE
FROM RANDALL BOOKSTORE
1-800-877-7030

*From *Focus on the Family* magazine, Pastor's Family Edition, April 2001, Vol. 25, No. 4, published by Focus on the Family. Copyright (c) 2001 Focus on the Family. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

ORIGINAL ART BY SUZANNE THOMPSON

Apron Strings Around the Heart . . .

When Grown Children Disappoint Us

by Lorene Miley

Columnists Ann Landers and Dear Abby give an ongoing, tragic commentary on moral issues facing our generation. A recent letter read:

> Our 21 year-old, extremely bright daughter dropped out of college with one year to go before graduation. She took a job as a waitress and fell in love with "Ralph" a 37-year-old divorced bartender.
>
> When she began coming home in the wee-hours of the morning, I told her she must pay rent and obey the house curfew or move out. Of course, she moved out—right into Ralph's apartment

When children reach adulthood, the years of our parenting are packed up alongside their belongings. Whether they view it as excess baggage or a necessary carry-on, the teachings, tears, and time we have invested in our children will shadow them. Yet they will live their own lives, not ours. And we will experience disappointment.

Disappointments. There are disappointments (lowercase d's) and there are DISAPPOINTMENTS (capital D's). Probably a series of minor d's preceded the major D's in the scenario above. Big D's could include divorce, sexual abnormalities, alcohol or drug involvement, arrests, attempted suicide, expulsion from college—you name your own. At times these border on devastation.

And the little d's? Skipping church or dropping out altogether, marital problems, poor parenting, unwise financial transactions, poor food choices, or bad business deals.

The big D's usually require parental involvement. They're like a triangle with God, parents, and child at each point. Little d's could be represented by a straight line with God in the middle, parents at one end, and the child at the other. Parents talk to God directly about the problem and only to the child when asked.

Disappointments are sure to come in the life of every parent. We untie the apron strings, but what happens when they wrap around our heart?

We set ourselves up for disappointment by expecting more from our children than they're capable of giving. A true understanding of their temperaments

We untie the apron strings, but what happens when they wrap around our heart?

keeps us from judging wrongly or jumping to conclusions.

As a teenager in Ivory Coast, our son Larry attended boarding school, a two-day journey from our mission station. He wrote that he had memorized "The Highwayman" and was to present it in a special program. Visiting between terms was almost unheard of in those days, but we closed the clinic and rushed off to see our son perform—only to learn that he wasn't going to do it! No amount of cajoling, shaming, or encouraging would budge him. I went to his room before the program and found him lying on the bed. After a time of silence, he spoke; "Mother," he said, "I've been away from home so long that you don't even know me. If you knew me, you'd know why I can't get up before those people and give that poem."

He was right. I was wrong. I had tried to wedge him into a mold that didn't fit his personality. Perhaps his older brother could, but he couldn't.

God's Word can lift us out of the pit of disappointment. I'm eternally grateful for Brother Barrow at Free Will Baptist Bible College who required his students to memorize scripture. Those I know best today are those I learned under his teaching. If you don't have them in your heart, write them on index cards and strew them around the house, above the sink, on the mirror, beside the lamp, or wherever your eyes might fall. Watch and see if they don't lessen both the d's and the D's.

Don't just quote the verse, pray the words. "Lord, You tell me that in quietness and in confidence will be my strength (Isaiah 30:15). I need You to flood my heart with quietness today because my spirit is so disquieted within me. . . "

When disappointments come, I've found journaling can be great therapy. Something as simple as putting pen to paper begins to diffuse stress. It clarifies the situation and helps us see ways to cope. But most importantly, transferring our thoughts to the written page frees our mind to focus on other things. It's like formally releasing responsibility and giving it to God.

One 92-year-old saint agonized over her son who was going through his third divorce. "I know I'm supposed to commit it to the Lord," she said, "—and I do—but it keeps popping up."

We lay it on the altar and then go back and pick it up. It clouds our days, slows our steps, and saps our joy. Journaling is one way to take it to the Lord and leave it there.

We cope with disappointment better when we're not too close to the situation. I'm not recommending you move to Africa—although it's not a bad idea—but it is easier to let God handle a problem if you're across the ocean instead of across the street.

One coworker in Cortez, Arizona, had an alcoholic son who was in and out of prison. Each day she prayed, "Thank You for what You're going to do." She didn't see Sam the way he was; she saw him as he'd be when Calvary was finished with him. In this way she dismissed the D's and walked in victory.

We can handle disappointment in our children the same way we should handle it with our husbands. None of us is perfect, so we must look for the positive and eliminate the negative. When your husband's glaring fault blinds you, try this. Take pencil and paper and list all the things that concern you. Next take a match and burn the paper, a symbol of blotting all the d's from your memory.

Then make another list— of his good points. You'd be surprised how many there are. Major on these and hide them in your heart. It may not change him, but it will change you and make you a nicer person. The same exercise is effective with our children.

My dad was a firm disciplinarian who raised six children. He ruled with a firm hand as long as we were under his roof—I was 15 when he spanked me for sassing Mother—but when we left the nest, he dropped the reins. I'm sure that over the years we disappointed Daddy many times, but he never showed it. He loved us unconditionally, approved of us, applauded us, and longed to be near us. Oh to be like him!

Lorene Miley is a retired missionary and former editor of ***CoLaborer.*** *She and her husband, Dr. LaVerne, attend Cofer's Chapel FWB Church in Nashville, TN.*

missions–PARTNERSHIP–master's men–fwbbc–redecoration renovation–wnac–foreign

—MISSIONARY IN RESIDENCE—

The purpose:

- To provide opportunities for interaction between students and missionary.
- To provide a missions professor at no expense to the college. (The missionary will continue on salary with the Foreign Missions Department.)
- To provide housing for a missionary while on stateside assignment.

The partnership:

- Master's Men will provide labor and materials.
- Foreign Missions will finance the project (through a designated gift).
- Women Nationally Active for Christ will redecorate and furnish the house. (Furnishings will be moved to the new campus upon relocation.)
- Free Will Baptist Bible College will oversee renovation project.

The plan:

Refurbish the "Boyce" house on the present FWBBC campus. Move in for the missionary is scheduled for September 2002.

The possibilities:

VOLUNTEER YOUR LABOR.

- Skilled carpenters, electricians, plumbers, heating and air-conditioning technicians, and general laborers are needed.
- Call Master's Men Director Kenneth Akers at 1-877-767-8039 for details and scheduling

HELP WNAC WITH THE FURNISHINGS.

- Select one or two pieces or decorate an entire room.
- All purchasing will be done through an interior decorator in order to coordinate colors and furniture throughout the house.
- All furnishings will be itemized and priced to assist you in determining your goal.

PARTNER WITH US

Call WNAC at 1-877-767-7662 or view our web site: *www.nafwb.org/wnac.*

Free Will Baptist National Convention

OBEDIENCE Our Obligation

Memphis, TN
July 21-25, 2002

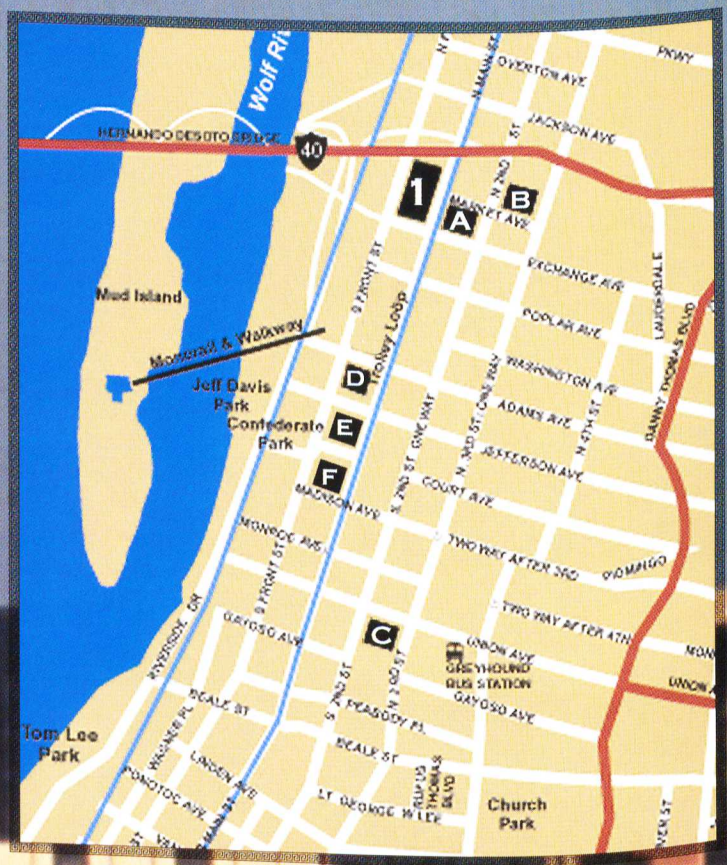
Confere

City Information

Memphis is:

- The largest city in the state of Tennessee.
- The nation's 18th largest city with a metro population of over 1 million people.
- Located atop one trillion gallons of the world's best artesian well water.
- The third largest rail center in the U.S.
- 10th in the ranking of the most mannerly cities in America according to the book, *Common Sense Etiquette.*
- One of the top 20 destinations for people traveling to see or participate in a sporting event.
- Ranked the fourth most efficiently operated U.S. city for the past five years.
- Economically larger than 12 U.S. states and 123 sovereign nations.

Downtown Memphis



Hotel Information

Hotel	Room Rate	Parking	Distance From Convention Center*	Restaurant On-Site?	Continental Breakfast?	Map Location
Memphis Marriott *Headquarters Hotel*	$115	$6-self $12-valet	Across Street	YES	NO	A
Wyndham Garden	$109	$5-self	1 block	YES	NO	B
Radisson Hotel Memphis	$109	$5-self	8 blocks	YES	NO	C
Comfort Inn Downtown	$85 or $110**	Free Parking	3 blocks	NO	YES	D
Sleep Inn at Court Square	$85	Free Parking	3.5 blocks	NO	YES	E
Spring Hill Suites Downtown	$109	Free Parking	4 blocks	YES	YES	F

* Convention Center is marked #1 on the map above.
** The higher rate is for an Executive Suite.

nce Info

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
NAFWB
FREE WILL BAPTIST CONVENTION
WNAC CONVENTION
NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

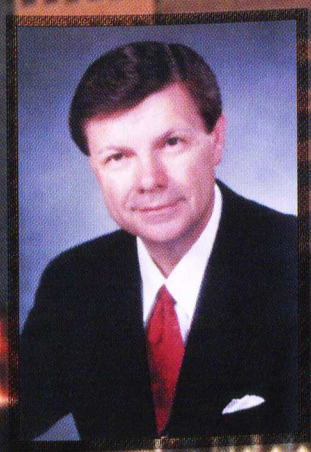
Special Events

Women Nationally Active for Christ will host the annual WNAC Fellowship Luncheon on Tuesday, July 23, at 12:30 p.m. Teri Peacock of Bell-Peacock Ministries will speak. Tickets to the luncheon buffet are $25.

The **National Youth Conference** will host the Youth Workers Reception. The reception is Monday, July 22, at Memphis Marriott in the Concierge Lounge. Tickets for this event are $20.

Arrangements have been made for two Mississippi River cruises on authentic paddle wheel riverboats: a Student Cruise on Tuesday, July 23, at 9:00 p.m. and a Family Cruise on Wednesday afternoon at 4:00. Cruise tickets are $15.

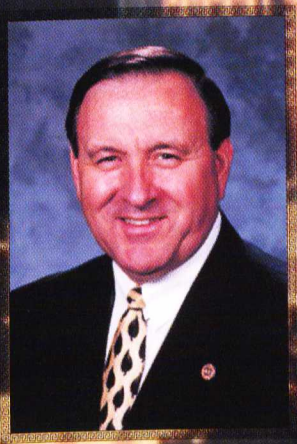
MEMPHIS



Dr. Stan Toler

Stan Toler is senior pastor at Trinity Church of the Nazarene in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and host of the television program, "Mission Today." For the past 10 years he has taught seminars for the INJOY Group, a leadership development institute. Toler has written over 45 books, including best sellers, *God Has Never Failed Me, But He's Sure Scared Me to Death a Few Times; The Five Star Church* and his latest book, *The Buzzards Are Circling, But God's Not Finished With Me Yet.*

Stan Toler will speak Monday afternoon during the **Pastors/Laymen Conference**. The conference convenes 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Memphis Convention Center's East Hall.



Dr. Richard H. Harris

Richard H. Harris is vice president of the Church Planting Group, North American Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention. Under his leadership the Church Planting Group is developing and implementing a strategy throughout North America to plant and develop healthy, culturally relevant, reproducing churches with an evangelistic passion. His office provides leadership for church planting readiness, recruitment, mentoring and church multiplication.

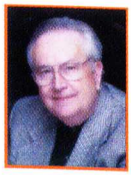
Richard H. Harris will speak at the **Foreign/Home Missions Rally** Tuesday, July 23, 1:30-3:00 p.m. in Memphis Convention Center's East Hall.

Schedule

Sunday July 21

Sunday School
10:00-10:45 a.m.
Memphis Convention Center
East Hall
(consult NYC Directory for schedule)
Teacher: Gary Head
Deacon, Head's FWB Church
Cedar Hill, Tennessee

Sunday Morning Worship
11:00-12:00 noon
Speaker: Alton Loveless
Dr. Loveless, general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department and Randall House Publications, is retiring after more than 45 years of ministry.
(for NYC Worship information, see page 8)



Early Registration
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center Lobby
(Pre-Registered persons only)

Registration Opens
3:00-6:30 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center Lobby

Reach That Guy Orientation
Service Project Ministry
4:00 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
Room L-14

Sunday Evening Worship
Free Will Baptist Singing!
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
East Hall
Speaker: Carl Cheshier

Join us for an evening of uplifting music presented by the Free Will Baptist Music Commission.

NYC Judges Reception
9:00-10:00 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
Room L-2

NYC Afterservice Activities
9:00-10:00 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
(check NYC Directory for locations)

Monday July 22

General Board
8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Memphis Marriott
Heritage Ballroom

Registration Continues
8:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center Lobby

NYC Art Gallery Opens
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily
Memphis Convention Center
Room L-1

NYC Competitive Activities
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
(check NYC Directory for locations)

NYC Seminars
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
(check NYC Directory for more information)

WNAC Seminar
1:30-2:30 p.m.
Memphis Marriott
Heritage Ballroom
Drama: Is There Hope For Me?
Grifton (NC) FWB Church

WNAC Pastors' Wives Seminar
3:00-4:00 p.m.
Memphis Marriott
Heritage Ballroom
Speaker: Debe Taylor
Having a Difficult Time

# of Events

Pastors/Laymens Conference
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
East Hall
Speaker: Stan Toler

Monday Evening Worship
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
East Hall
Speaker: Colonel Kerry Steedley
Col. Steedley is the MDW Command Chaplain at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C. His 25 years of service include tours of duty in Vietnam and Germany.

Alton Loveless Retirement Reception
8:30-10:00 p.m.
Memphis Marriott
Heritage Ballroom

Youth Workers Reception
9:00-10:30 p.m.
Memphis Marriott
Concierge Lounge

Tuesday July 23

NYC Competitive Activities
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
(check NYC Directory for locations)

Registration Continues
8:00 a.m.- 6:30 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center Lobby

WNAC Convention
8:30-10:50 a.m
Memphis Convention Center
East Hall

MEMPHIS

Theological Trends Seminar
8:30-10:00 a.m.
Memphis Marriott
Heritage Ballroom
Speaker: Ron Callaway

What Do You Mean: God Does Not Know the Future?
Ron Callaway, veteran missionary, will address the latest intrusion into the evangelical community, open theism, a teaching that denies God's sovereign knowledge of some future events.

NYC Seminars
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
(check NYC Directory for more information)

WNAC Missionary Service
11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Memphis Convention Center
East Hall
Speakers: Tim & Kristi Johnson

Tim and Kristi have just completed their first missionary term in Spain and are on stateside assignment.

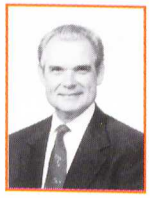
WNAC Fellowship Luncheon Buffet
12:30-2:30 p.m.
Memphis Marriott
Heritage Ballroom
Speaker: Teri Peacock

Foreign/Home Missions Rally
1:30-3:00 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
East Hall
Speaker: Richard H. Harris

Master's Men Seminar
3:00-4:30 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
Room L-14

Sunday School Workshop
3:00-4:00 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
Room L-12
Teacher: Randall House Staff
40 Years of Serving You

Tuesday Evening Worship
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
East Hall
Speaker: Melvin Worthington
Dr. Worthington has served as executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists since 1979.



NYC Afterservice Activities
9:00-10:00 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
(consult NYC Directory for locations)

Mississippi River Student Cruise
9:00-11:00 p.m.
Memphis River Queen Riverboat
(see page 9 for ticket information)

Melvin Worthington Retirement Reception
8:30-10:00 p.m.
Memphis Marriott
Heritage Ballroom

Wednesday, July 24

NYC Bible Competition Finals
8:00-11:00 a.m.
Memphis Convention Center
(check NYC Directory for more information)

Registration Continues
8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Memphis Convention Center Lobby

Convention Business Session
9:00-11:45 a.m.
Memphis Convention Center
East Hall

NYC Seminars
10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Memphis Convention Center
(check NYC Directory for more information)

FWBBC Luncheon
12:00-1:15 p.m.
Memphis Marriott
Heritage Ballroom

Registration Closes
12:00 noon

NYC Seminars
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
(check NYC Directory for more information)

Convention Business Session
1:30-4:00 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
East Hall

Music Commission Seminar
1:30-4:00 p.m
Memphis Convention Center
Room L-11

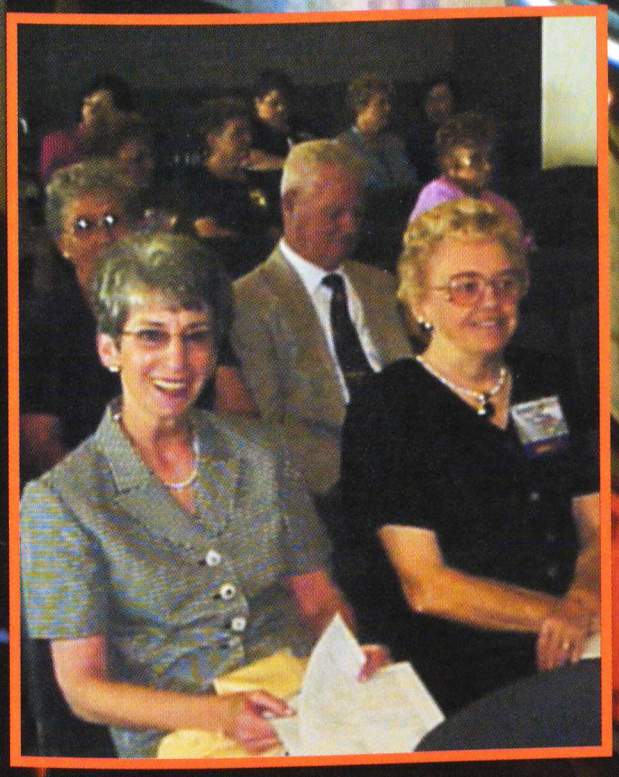
Mississippi River Family Cruise
4:00-6:00 p.m.
Memphis River Queen Riverboat
(see page 9 for ticket information)

Wednesday Evening Worship
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
East Hall
Speaker: Curtis Linton
Dr. Linton is senior pastor at Cornerstone FWB Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he has served since 1986.

NYC Awards Ceremony
9:00-11:00 p.m.
Memphis Convention Center
East Hall

Women Nationally Active For Christ

For Such a Time as This . . .



Join nearly 1,000 FWB women nationwide in praise, prayer and worship at WNAC's annual convention.

The two-day event will include:

- Helpful seminars to expand and revitalize women's ministries in your local church
- Missionary speakers to help you glimpse a vision of what God is doing throughout the world
- Innovative ideas how you as a woman can join Him in the work
- Testimonies
- Uplifting music
- Fellowship
- Session of praise for the works God has accomplished through FWB women in the past year
- Luncheon with dramatist Teri Peacock
- Opportunities to purchase helpful resources and materials

Come join us—for an hour, a morning or afternoon or for the whole event. Sessions are open to all women. Even if you've never attended WNAC, now is your time. Make time in your schedule—"For Such a Time as This."

The annual WNAC Fellowship Luncheon will meet in the Memphis Marriott's Heritage Ballroom. The Luncheon Buffet is at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23. Tickets to the Luncheon are $25. See page nine of this brochure for ticket information and ordering instructions.

"..and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"
Esther 4:14b

ALL HIS WAYS
24
JESUS
7
ALL MY DAYS

Reach That Guy
Serving Christ by Serving Others

1000
OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE!

Children's Worship

Dean and Lisa Stone

Dean and Lisa Stone serve as co-children's pastors in Oklahoma. Dean is Children's Ministry Consultant with Cook Communications Ministries in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Dean and Lisa have one daughter, Janelle, age 11. They operate Cornerstone Kid's Ranch, a working cattle and horse ranch near Ada, Oklahoma, offering area children an outdoor environment to explore and learn about God.

Tweener Worship

The Denton Brothers

The Denton Brothers, from San Jose, California, have recorded a number of albums that present their musical ability. They are also great ministers to the kids and will be speaking to Tweeners again this year! They did such a wonderful job last year that we asked them to return.

The Denton Brothers have a deep desire to honor the Lord with their music and to share about His work in their lives.

Teen Worship

Mark Roberts

The National Youth Conference is no stranger to this year's keynote speaker, Mark Roberts. Mark spoke at NYC last year in Detroit on Monday night. Mark is a trainer/coach for the campus ministry plan known as FISH!, as well as a dedicated youth minister.

Mark possesses an unusual gift of communication to students and adults, and we feel fortunate to present him again. Mark is from Cumming, Georgia.

Don't forget the kids!

If you have children ages 3-6 who have not started the 1st grade, remember to register them for our Preschool Worship program. See page 9 for more information.

Pre-Registration Form

National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Memphis, Tennessee • July 21-25, 2002

Personal Information *Please print*

Name Desired On Badge (First)_____(Last)_____
Home Address_____
City_____ State_____Zip_____
Phone (____)_____ Email_____
Church You Attend_____
Church Location: City_____ State_____

Badges Required For Attendance At All Convention Events

***** One Person Per Form*****

National Association

All voting delegates must be members in good standing of a Free Will Baptist church.

Voting Delegates:
- ❑ National Board/Commission Member
- ❑ State Delegate*

Authorization from state clerk* **must *accompany this form.*
- ❑ Local Church Delegate $50
- ❑ Foreign Missionary
- ❑ Home Missionary
- ❑ Ordained Deacon
- ❑ Ordained Minister

Non-Voting Attendees:
- ❑ Licensed Minister
- ❑ Visitor

WNAC Convention

Voting Delegates:
- ❑ National Officer
- ❑ State President
- ❑ State Field Worker
- ❑ State Delegate
- ❑ Local WNAC Delegate $5

Non-Voting Attendees:
- ❑ Visitor
- ❑ Missionary

SCM National Youth Conference

- ❑ ***Grades 1-12 —— $25****
  Required to attend NYC Events or Competition
- ❑ ***Preschool Worship —— $20****
  For children ages 3-6 who have not started 1st grade
- ❑ ***Visitor (Adults)***

Birthdate_____Age_____
Grade Completed Spring 2002_____
Parent/Guardian_____
Youth Leader_____

***On Site Registration is $30**

	Date Rcv'd
	CK/MO#
	Amount
	From

For Office Use Only

Tickets

Youth Workers Reception...Qty._____ x $20=_____
Monday — July 22, 9:00 pm

WNAC Luncheon.....Qty._____ x $25=_____
Tuesday — July 23, 12:30 pm

Hillsdale Luncheon.....Qty._____ x $20=_____
Tuesday — July 23, 12:00 noon

FWBBC Luncheon.....Qty._____ x $23=_____
Wednesday — July 24, 12:00 noon

Mississippi River Cruises
- ❑ ***Student Cruise.....Qty._____ x $15=_____***
  Tuesday — July 23, 9:00 pm
- ❑ ***Family Cruise.....Qty._____ x $15=_____***
  Wednesday — July 24, 4:00 pm

Ticket Total $_____

Convention Fees

Local Church Delegate *(Send signed delegate card)* + $50 = _____
Local WNAC Delegate *(Send signed delegate card)* + $5 = _____
NYC Pre-Registration Fee..... + $25 = _____
NYC Preschool Worship Fee..... + $20 = _____

Deadline June 14
No refunds after June 14

Fee Total $ _____
GRAND TOTAL $_____
(Ticket total + Fee total)

- ❑ Paying by check (Payable to FWB Convention)
- ❑ Paying by credit card

Card #_____Exp. Date___/___
Name on card _____
Signature _____

Mail Pre-Registration Form to:

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

Questions? Call us toll-free:
877-767-7659

Beginning April 1: Pre-Register Online! www.nafwb.org

Confirmation Letters Will Be Mailed.

Housing Form

National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Memphis, Tennessee • July 21-25, 2002

Instructions

Personal Information

Complete the ***Personal Information*** box. The contact name is the person to whom you want the confirmation sent. List each person who will be staying in this room. Don't forget the ***Special Requests*** box to the right. All special requests will be noted but *cannot* be guaranteed.

Hotel Information

The next step is to complete the ***Hotel Information*** section. Mark the box on the grid to the right, indicating the ***hotel*** in which you would like to reserve a room, and the ***room configuration*** you want.

Don't forget to include your arrival and departure dates. Please see ***page 2*** for more information about the hotel choices available in Memphis.

Payment Options

Complete the ***Payment Options*** section by indicating how you will be paying for your room. You may pay by credit card or check. If you choose to pay by check, make the check payable to the hotel of your choice.

Reserving a Room

You may phone, mail or fax your housing form. If mailing or faxing, please write or type all information requested on this form and ***send it directly to the hotel of your choice*** no later than Friday, June 21, 2002. Reservations received after this date are subject to availability and may be at a higher rate.

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

Send only one form per room request.

Personal Information

Confirmations will be mailed to this person only.

Contact name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____

Email Address _____

Special Requests

- ❑ Wheelchair Accessible Room
- ❑ Rollaway Bed (see chart below)
- ❑ Crib ❑ Non-Smoking Room
- ❑ Other _____

Room Occupants
(List each person.)

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

Hotel Information

Mark the box that corresponds to the hotel and room you want.	Single 1 bed / 1 person	Double 1 bed/ 2 persons	Dbl/Dbl 2 beds/ 2 persons	Triple 2 beds/ 3 persons	Quad 2 beds/ 4 persons	Roll-Away bed	Parking Rates
Memphis Marriott *Headquarters Hotel*	❑ $115	❑ $115	❑ $115	❑ $115	❑ $115	$15 day	$6/$12 Valet
Wyndham Garden	❑ $109	❑ $109	❑ $109	❑ $109	❑ $109	$10 day	$5
Radisson Hotel–Memphis	❑ $109	❑ $109	❑ $109	❑ $109	❑ $109	Free	$5 valet
Comfort Inn–Downtown	❑ $85	❑ $85	❑ $85	❑ $85	❑ $85	$10 day	Free
Sleep Inn–Court Square	❑ $85	❑ $85	❑ $85	❑ $85	❑ $85	N/A	Free
Spring Hill Suites	❑ $109	❑ $109	❑ $109	❑ $109	❑ $109	N/A	Free

Arrival Date ___/___/___ **Departure Date** ___/___/___

Memphis Marriott
250 N. Main Street
Memphis, TN 38103
Tel (901)527-7300
Fax (901)526-1561
www.marriott.com
Group Code: FWBFWBA

Wyndham Garden Hotel
300 N. 2nd Street
Memphis, TN 38105
Tel (901)525-1800
Fax (901)524-1859
www.wyndham.com
Group Code: 07764NO

Radisson Hotel Memphis
185 Union Avenue
Memphis, TN 38103
Tel (800)333-3333
Fax (901)525-8509

Comfort Inn Downtown
100 N. Front Street
Memphis, TN 38103
Tel (901)526-0583
Fax (901)525-7512

Sleep Inn at Court Square
40 N. Front Street
Memphis, TN 38103
Tel (901)522-9700
Fax (901)527-8931

Spring Hill Suites-Downtown
21 N. Main Street
Memphis, TN 38103
Tel (901)522-2100
Fax (901)522-2110

Payment Options

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

❑ Check Enclosed. Check # _____
Make check payable to the hotel of your choice.

Don't Delay!
Reservations must be made prior to June 21, 2002

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

Music Notes

The Free Will Baptist Music Commission has released the rehearsal and performance schedule for the Convention Choir and Men's Chorale for this year's National Convention, July 21–25 in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Convention Choir will be singing in the Sunday evening, Monday and Wednesday services. The rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Sunday 4:00 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.
Monday 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

The Men's Chorale will be featured during the Tuesday evening service. They will rehearse Monday, 8:30 p.m. and Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.

Convention Orchestra Planned

The 2002 National Convention will feature an orchestra comprised of volunteers from across the denomination. For more information call or write:

Bethel Free Will Baptist Church
Attn. Chris Truett
1936 Banks School Rd.
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 522-2451 ext. 229

Security Notice

In light of security concerns, official convention name badges will be required for all convention events. Please be diligent in this area for yourself and those for whom you are responsible.

Important Reminders

Pre-Registration for the National Convention must be completed prior to **JUNE 14, 2002.** Those who pre-register will receive a special commemorative name badge depicting the spirit of the city of Memphis.

National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, Tennessee 37011-5002
877-767-7659
www.nafwb.org

2002 Local Church Delegate Card

This certifies that _____
(Name)
is a duly authorized delegate to the National Association of Free Will Baptists.
Church Name _____
Church City State _____

_____
Pastor's or Church Clerk's signature

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

2002 Local WNAC Delegate Card

This certifies that _____
(Name)
is a duly authorized delegate to the Women Nationally Active for Christ Convention.
Church Name _____
Church City State _____

_____
Local Coordinator's or Local Secretary's signature

Important: This card properly signed and accompanied by a **$5 registration fee** entitles a local delegate to register for voting privileges.
Only one delegate per church.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

NAFWB

FREE WILL BAPTIST CONVENTION
WNAC CONVENTION
NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

Check out the web page today!

www.nafwb.org

National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, Tennessee 37011-5002

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Free Will Baptist WNAC National Retreat

September 19-21, 2002 ✻ Lifeway Ridgecrest Conference Center ✻ Ridgecrest, North Carolina

Conference Package

Package includes conference fees, two nights lodging, and five meals (Thurs. dinner-Sat. breakfast).

Per Person Rate:

(Indicate type and number of rooms requested.)

_____ **1 in room ($191 each)**
_____ **2 in room ($137 each)**
_____ **3 in room ($124 each)**
_____ **4 in room ($117 each)**

List names and addresses of all persons staying in each room. *(Make additional copies as needed.)*

Group/ Church name: *(If applicable)*

_____

Your name: _____

Phone: (H) (___)_____ (W) (___) _____

Address: _____

_____

E-mail: _____

Name 2: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone:(___)_____ E-mail: _____

Name 3: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone:(___)_____ E-mail: _____

Name 4: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone:(___)_____ E-mail: _____

Special Needs: *(Indicate number of rooms)*

_____ **Handicapped access** _____ **First floor**

Group Reservations:

_____**Total number of rooms needed**
_____**Number of persons in group**

Attach list of all participants, grouped by roommates.

GROUPS SHOULD PAY WITH ONE CHECK.

Daytime only participants
conference cost is $50.00 plus meals
B—$7.50 L—$8.75 D—$10.50

Early Arrival or Departure:

Arrival date _____ **First meal** _____
Departure date_____ **Last meal** _____

Payment

- **$50 per person deposit must accompany registration**
- **Deposits credited to account at check-in**
- **no refunds after September 3, 2002**

By Credit Card

____Visa ____MasterCard ____ Discover

SIGNATURE:_____

CARDHOLDER NAME: *(Print clearly.)*

_____

ACCOUNT NUMBER:_____

EXPIRATION DATE: _____

Credit card registrations may also be phoned or faxed.

Ph: 1-800-588-7222 Fax: (828) 669-9721

By Check

Make check payable to:

Lifeway Ridgecrest Conference Center
P. O. Box 128
Ridgecrest, NC 28770

Directions:

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

Transportation:

Asheville Regional Airport is serviced by Delta, American, US Air, and United Airlines.

Guidelines:

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

Ridgecrest facilities and grounds are designated a smoke-free environment.

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

Register online at www.lifeway.com/ridgecrest

SPRINGBOARD
memos for WAC officers

Prayer Chairman:

Set aside a special day of prayer and fasting for marriages and homes within your church. Pray also for missionary homes–that God would strengthen these marriages. Use prayer cards to pray specifically for teen MK's and their parents. Compile and distribute a prayer calendar listing all teens in your church.

REGISTER NOW FOR RIDGECREST NATIONAL WNAC RETREAT SEPTEMBER 19-21,2002
(SEE PAGE 17)

For up-to-date information and current missions prayer requests
Call Missions Hotline (615) 731-3839
or
subscribe online
carole@nafwb.org

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

Missions Chairman:

E-TEAM, Truth and Peace, YET–all of these provide summer ministries for teens. Assist a local or state participant.

Fund a teen's way to a summer church camp.

Consider attending the Global Focus Seminar, May 1-3. (Call 770-592-7011 x213 for info.)

Study Chairman:

Scan the resource list on p. 13. If individuals in your group have read any of these titles, encourage them to give short book talks at your meeting.

Looking for a Bible study? WNAC has available *Esther: A Woman of Strength and Dignity* by Charles Swindoll. This study will help prepare your women "For Such a Time as This."Order today (1-877-767-7662).

Provision Closet Needs:
King or queen sheet sets
Bath towels

Treasurers:

Be sure to send in your local delegate form and fee for the 2002 Convention in Memphis.

If you have not mailed your Laura Belle Barnard offering, now is the time. Remember to send it through the proper WAC channels.

Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators:

For the May program, have women (especially older women) share a valuable lesson for marriage. Serve wedding punch and cake for refreshments. Be sensitive to singles in your group.

Involve teen girls in the June program. Give them time to share what God is doing in their lives.

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

THE FINISHED PRODUCT

BY DARLA TRIMBLE

"In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:21-22).

A friend is completely remodeling her house—inside and out. She has been so discouraged at times. They've experienced stops and starts, rain delays, contractor problems, money drawbacks—not to mention the big messes they've had to walk across and live in everyday.

One day as she related her situation, I felt God urging me to encourage her. God always knows what we need, when we need it. At the time, my Bible study group was doing an intense study of Ephesians. From that study, He gave me an amazing truth to share and a truth He wanted me to learn as well.

I encouraged my friend to dwell on the thought of what the finished product would look like. She was going to have a new bathroom, a new bedroom, new carpeting, new siding and windows. It was going to be absolutely glorious when they were finished with the repairs! It would be beautiful, and "even better." It would be "exactly like they wanted."

God is also working, doing remodeling and repairs on us. Each day He has to walk across the messes we've made. Sometimes I know He looks at me and thinks, "Oh, what a mess! She really needs to work on her words and her attitude. She really needs to be more submissive to her husband and more understanding of her daughter." Everyday He has to live in a heart that isn't completely cleaned up.

But the great truth of this principle is that He *is* working on me! He hasn't thrown up his hands or given up because of the mess! Sometimes there are delays when I don't spend enough time with Him on my knees or in His Word. Problems arise when I build up bitterness in my heart. Holdups come when He hits a certain area of my pride that needs work.

Still, I know God sees the finished product. He knows how beautiful I will be one day when He is finished. That day will be in Heaven, but I want to believe I will be almost completed by the time He calls me home. Ephesians 1:4 states, "He hath chosen (ME) before the foundation of the world that (I) should be holy, and without blame before Him in love." He knows the messes of my life are worth walking through because someday I will be a beautiful finished product.

You will be, too. God is remodeling you today so you can be that beautiful, finished product He already sees. When he is done with the process, you will be "even better" and "exactly as God wants you to be."

THINK ABOUT IT:

WHAT SORT OF MESS MUST GOD WALK ACROSS IN YOUR LIFE?

WHAT REMODELING PROJECT HAS GOD DONE IN YOUR LIFE THIS WEEK, THIS MONTH, OR THIS YEAR?

WHO DO YOU NEED TO FORGIVE, SO A LITTLE CORNER OF BITTERNESS CAN BE SWEPT UP COMPLETELY?

IN WHAT AREAS ARE YOU ALLOWING GOD TO WORK?

ARE THERE ATTITUDES YOU ARE INTENT ON LEAVING "AS IS"?

Darla Trimble lives in Greeneville, TN, where her husband Kevin pastors the Oak Grove FWB Church. The mother of two, she is actively involved in her church and with Bible Study Fellowship International.

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$11.00 single
$10.00 each (5 or more to the same address)
❖ price includes postage and handling
❖ price is based on one year subscription (6 issues)

Mail to: WNAC PO Box 5002 Antioch, TN 37011

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

❒ New ❒ Renewal ❒ Payment Enclosed ❒ Please Bill

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*

PICTURED (L-R)
1ST ROW:
Kaysi Sullivent, Haley Bigger, Marianne Brake, Jennifer Witzkoske, Rachel Lamb.
2ND ROW:
Stephanie Johnson, Yum Edwards, Vanessa Whitely, Nora Witzkoske, Debbie Wood, Jenny Shaw.
3RD ROW:
Stephanie Smith, Carol Lamb, Ammie Sullivent, Sondra Brake, Kim Bigger, Mitzi Stone.

❁ Seventeen Women (and Young Women) Active for Christ from Southeast FWB Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, participated in the *Race for the Cure* on September 15, 2001. They walked the 5K race in honor of Charla Martin, Sue Hancock, and Wilma Walker. All three are ladies from their church who have survived breast cancer.

Jamie Cofelt and Jana Watkins at the piano.

❁ Oklahoma First Mission held their district meeting December 8, 2001, at the First Mission Campground in Drumright, Oklahoma. Twenty-four attended and heard speaker Judy Puckett expand the theme: "His Sheep." Sue Watkins presented "Sunday after Sunday—Just Plain Ole Me" during a "Let Us Laugh" time. Jamie Cofelt and Jana Watkins from Cushing, Oklahoma provided special music. Special honorariums were given to Joan Warren, Nadine Hood, and Linda Bigger for their years of service.

Share your
LABORS OF LOVE

Send us information about your local, district, or state Women Active for Christ endeavors. Pictures are always welcomed.

Mail to:
***CoLaborer* Magazine**
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

HELP! I'M A MOM

bright ideas for mothers from mothers

Q A Television. How much should you allow? What guidelines should you set?

"Television viewing should be a family activity. It provides excellent opportunities for teaching values and promoting family communication. Viewing time should be limited but may vary from one household to another because of ages and lifestyle. Parents really need to understand the objectives of programs they view. These should be considered when making viewing decisions. Resources are readily available to inform parents about programming objectives. Parents must openly communicate these program objectives and values so children have an understanding of why some programs should be avoided. Television is a powerful mode of communication. It should never be used as a baby-sitter. It is far from "a mindless activity;" it can be dangerous. Moderation and supervision will serve to make television viewing a profitable activity."

Other comments: It's not audio wallpaper. Set a weekly time limit. Preview a viewing guide and circle approved programs. Let children make choices from these selections. Viewing should be interactive—evaluate and discuss each show. All TV should be PG. Never put a TV in a child's bedroom.

Contributors: Angela Dooley, Austintown,OH; Cheri Ham, Mt. Juliet, TN

Next issue: *Bedtimes. What times are best? How do you enforce them?*

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

BENEDICTION

✝ LINDA KROPP ✝

Dear Lord, I want to thank you for the blessings you have so generously laid on my family and me. I was no better than the thief that hung alongside your precious son, Jesus, on Mt. Calvary. Yet you saw my value before I did and watched over me. Lord, I did not like who I was, so I tried things to make me what I thought I needed to be. Through the years I felt despair, loneliness and excruciating, depressing fear. I knew if I did not make a change, I would perish —not a physical death but an emotional death. I spoke of spirituality and a "higher power" yet still felt a longing for substance. In the forty-three years of my journey to salvation, You waited so patiently; You are so forgiving, so loving.

Lord, you have blessed me with a husband who is a Christian, not in words only, but in his walk and testimony. You have given us beautiful, unique, and intelligent children who acknowledge You in their hearts. You led us to a wonderful church filled with loving, Christian people who welcome us warmly. You spoke to me one Sunday morning and said, "The children need to be going to school here (Seffner Christian Academy)." You have provided the income to meet all our needs. The children are happily learning about you each day, being taught your word by teachers who want to be in a Christian setting, not only teaching but also ministering.

Lord, I have done nothing that merits your grace, yet you so lovingly bestow it upon me. I continue to seek You so I might develop a faith that truly fills me, so I may be a witness.

Do I sin? Yes. Do I take matters into my own hands? Yes. And are you there—not judging, yet waiting for my plea of forgiveness? Yes. You once again forgive the sin.

Lord, as I have begun a career journey that encourages my creative gift from You, I believe You will provide all I need.

Lord God, keep me ever mindful to ask for Your will and not seek my own. You sent your son, Jesus, to die for me. I praise You in word and deed!

Linda Kropp attends Seffner FWB Church, Seffner, FL. The mother of twelve-year-old triplets (one girl, two boys), she and her husband Gary celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary in February.

HOW DID YOU FIND CHRIST?

Send us your testimony.
(1000 words or less)
Email: sarah@nafwb.org
Mail: P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011

Life! Action

a column for teens

Here's to Our Moms!

We asked teens to write about their mothers. Here's what they said:

What is a mother? My mother is a teacher, a role model, a pastor's wife, a homemaker, and one of my best friends. I have learned so much from my mother. She has taught me to bake a cake, how to do those impossible math problems, and where to find the best clothing sales. Most importantly she has taught me how important it is to be a godly mother and wife. I am so thankful God has blessed me with a wonderful mother. I love you Mom!

Sarah Hampton, Clarksville, TN

For my entire life, all seventeen years of it, one woman has impacted my life more than any other. She has taught me so many important life lessons; from the simple ones we learn in our early childhood like, "Always be nice to everyone," and, "Don't lie," to the harder ones we learn through trials like, "Every choice has consequences," and, "Just because something is true, doesn't mean it has to be said aloud"(that one took me awhile). By far the most important lesson she has taught me, though, would be about Jesus, and how He is our Heavenly Father. This woman, who happens to be my mom, has taught me this important lesson not only through her words, but also so much by her actions and her daily life. My mom is a wonderful, kind, and compassionate friend. She has always been there for me through everything, and I know she will always be. She has helped me through my life by talking and listening to me, but also she helps by praying for me. My mom is one of the most godly women I know. I thank God everyday that he blessed me by allowing me to have her as my mom. When I grow up, I want to be just like my momma.

Rachel Bryant, Vero Beach, FL

Of all the blessings the Lord has given me, the friendship with my mother is treasured most. I have never once doubted her love for my father, brother, and me. She has been an anchor during dark days, and a listening ear during times of joy. It is a compliment when someone says, "Oh, you're just like your mother!" She loves our Lord Jesus and it is obvious because she has the fruit of the Spirit. I love my mother dearly. It is truly an honor to be the daughter of Martha Carter.

Ashley Carter, Nashville, TN

I love my mother. She grew up the same way I am so she understands me more (most likely more) than anybody else. She also cooks for us which is a lot harder than in the States, believe me. She homeschools all three of us (my big brother, my little brother and me), and is there when we need her. Cleaning house in Africa is a big job. In dry season you have to dust things everyday to look clean. Then in rainy season you need to sweep up dead bugs every morning. But my mom is able to deal with it, if she has some help around the house. I really appreciate when she keeps me up to date, like if something happened to my uncle or grandma she always tells me. I've only listed a few of the things she does for me and for my family. So again I will say: I LOVE MY MOM!

Cara Anderson, Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire

My mother is Rebecca Pugh. Her life is an example of what a godly Christian mother is. I can't even start to tell you how much she means to me. Not only is she my mother, she is my teacher. She is an encourager. Whenever I need a word of encouragement she is always there to give it. She is a woman of extraordinary faith. She has been through a lot in her life but has come through believing that God will take care of everything, and He has. My family teases her about her running the "Pugh Corporation." In the morning she gets ready, gets her little briefcase, goes through the kitchen to her 6'x8' office in the garage. She is so funny. On a more serious note (she teaches 25 music students), she always puts God first in everything she does. Her main objective in life is to spend time alone with God every day and to grow more in Him. I think she is achieving that goal. She is a wonderful mother to me. I am proud to be her daughter. The Lord definitely knew what he was doing when He designed my family.

Khristi Pugh, Millington, TN

When the word mother comes to mind, I think of the person who helped bring me into this world. The person who has always been the first to encourage me when no one else does, the first to cheer me on when the going gets tough and the first to lend her shoulder to cry on. She has been my constant pillar of support, and it would not seem like life without

her. She is my role model, my hero and the one that I look up to spiritually and emotionally. She has never failed to give me advice or to come and just sit and listen to my problems. Most of the happy times in my life have been spent with her. She always knows what to say, and always knows how to put a smile on my face. She reminds me always of God's love and provision. Sometimes I wonder how God could love me so much to give me a mother like the one he has given me. She didn't have to be all these things; knowing her past, no one would expect her to be. But she is a reminder of how God can turn bad situations into good ones. She will always be my mother, but most of all, she will always be my best friend.

Amber Holland, Campinas, Brazil

To say that my mom is a strong woman would be an understatement. As a little girl, I was not fully aware of the amazing woman my mother was. Not only was she taking care of my two sisters and me, she was also working a full-time job and fulfilling her duties as a pastor's wife. On top of all this, she was teaching me about the love and mercy of God. As I grew into womanhood I realized that my mom had taken on a new role. She had become my best friend. I had a new appreciation for the love she gave, the work she performed and the testimony that was so evident in her life. My mom has taught me a great deal about myself and the kind of person I want to be. I remember one particular day, while sitting in church, I looked at my mom as we sang a congregational song. She had tears rolling down her cheeks and it was so obvious that she was singing to Jesus from the bottom of her heart. I do not remember the song, but I remember thinking, "I want my love for God to be that evident." I have watched my mom's life and I have learned that putting God first and foremost is the most important lesson I could learn. I am still learning to this day. I pray that someday I will be like the strong and loving woman I have come to admire so much.

Jenna Jones, Pittsburgh, PA

Write a special note to your mother.

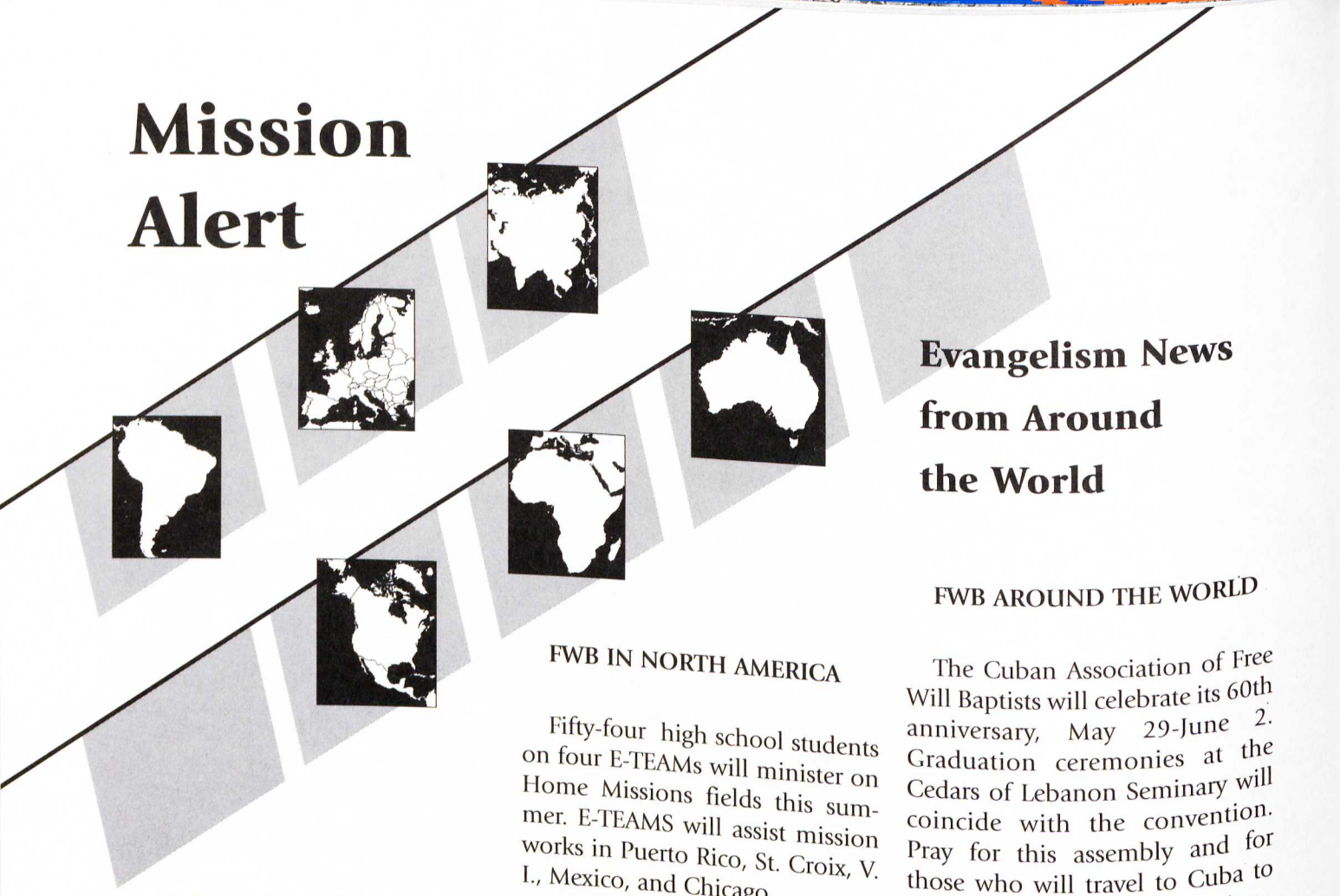
MOTHER'S DAY
is May 12

Lucy and Marge

a skit for WAC promotion

LUCY: Hey Marge, do you know what the next two WAC meetings are about?
MARGE: No I don't Lucy. Tell me.
LUCY: Marriage and teenagers.
MARGE: Well, what about them?
LUCY: Listen, at this stage in my life I feel like I know enough to be a marriage counselor.
MARGE: There's always room for improvement, even in the most "perfect" marriages.
Lucy: I didn't say my marriage was perfect, Marge. You can't tell people how to handle problems unless you've had some of your own. I should be an expert, right!
MARGE: Well, come to the meeting and share some of your wisdom. Several young, married women in our group will probably be very excited about this topic.
LUCY: Of course you're right, Marge. I can probably learn something too. And I do want to encourage younger women.
MARGE: What about your teenagers, Lucy? Couldn't you use some help there?
LUCY: Teenagers, now THAT I know. . .bored, tired, hungry, and sullen. At least that's how mine are.
MARGE: Yes, they're all those things, but there's much more beneath the surface. Teens have problems dealing with us, just like we have problems dealing with them.
LUCY: Maybe I ought to drag my teenagers to the meeting so they can learn how to deal with me.
MARGE: Oh, Lucy, don't be ridiculous. I'm sure there will be some good basic principles that will help us all.
LUCY: You know I'll be at the meetings. I surely do want to point my teenagers in the right direction. We could use some help with learning to talk to one another.
MARGE: *(picks up the magazine and looks at the program)*. Look, the writer of this feature is Sandra Atwood. She has four teens of her own! She should be able to give us some good advice.
LUCY: Well, that's what we need. Someone who is there, now, and knows what she's talking about.
MARGE: The women who present the program will no doubt also have something to share. A number of our women have already raised their teenagers. Some are still in the process, like you.
LUCY: I'll be listening for good advice from those older women and sharing some of my own experiences with the younger ones.
MARGE: I expect to see you there with notebook in hand.
LUCY: I'll be there. When and where are the meetings?
MARGE *(gives dates, times, and locations)* Be sure to invite your friends.
LUCY: Okay, Marge, I will. Hey, anybody out there need marriage counseling? I'm available.

Mission Alert



Evangelism News from Around the World

WORLDWIDE CONCERNS

Government sources estimate more than 50 million Chinese Christians who do not have a Bible. The church in China continues to grow daily by the thousands.

Pray for Christian workers who are still held captive by terrorists groups.

Remember our 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.

According to *Missions Frontiers* Magazine, in the past 25 years, more than 100 times as many American Christians have gone to the Middle East for military purposes than for evangelism.

FWB IN NORTH AMERICA

Fifty-four high school students on four E-TEAMs will minister on Home Missions fields this summer. E-TEAMS will assist mission works in Puerto Rico, St. Croix, V. I., Mexico, and Chicago.

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

Several missionaries have family members or parents who are suffering from cancer or other long-term illnesses.

The new Slavic Free Will Baptist Church meets on Sunday afternoons at the Matthews FWB Church near Charlotte, NC. Missionary Victor Nafatyuks requests prayer for this beginning church.

Two Rivers FWB Church in Clarksville, TN, also has a new meeting place. The group now meets in a store-front building on the main thoroughfare between the interstate and the local mall. Clayton Hampton is the missionary pastor.

FWB AROUND THE WORLD

The Cuban Association of Free Will Baptists will celebrate its 60th anniversary, May 29-June 2. Graduation ceremonies at the Cedars of Lebanon Seminary will coincide with the convention. Pray for this assembly and for those who will travel to Cuba to attend this momentous occasion.

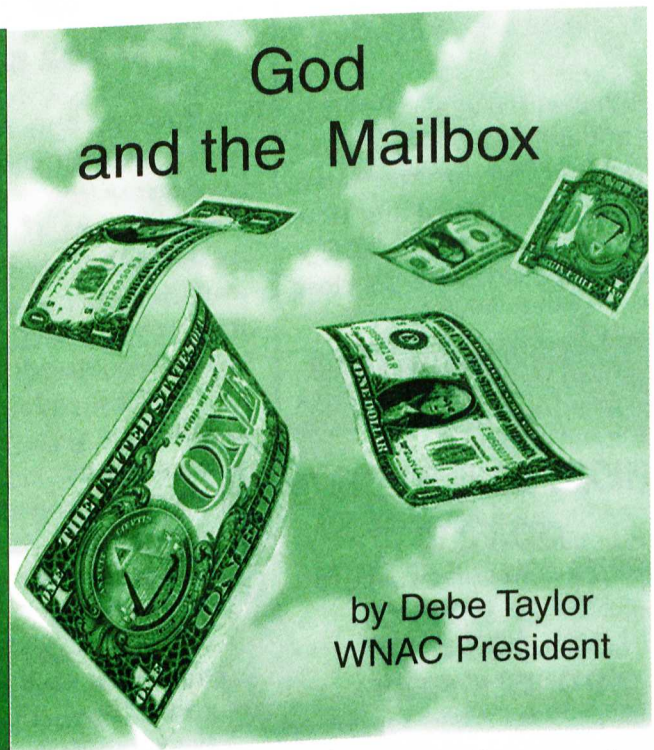
Jerry and Carol Pinkerton arrived safely back in Côte d'Ivoire but discovered a problem concerning the newly acquired church land in Abidjan. A woman is claiming rights to part of it. Pray that the church will be able to fence the entire property and end this dispute.

Missionary Dennis Owen in Uruguay is gaining strength after his recent heart surgery. The mounting medical bills have caused his account to plummet. Pray that God would supply both strength and funds for ministry.

Pray for the eighteen students who will participate in World Cup 2002, in Sapporo, Japan, May 31-June 30. This group which includes six MK's will conduct street evangelism during the soccer events.

God and the Mailbox

by Debe Taylor
WNAC President



"Father, if You are really in charge of this whole situation and we are in Your will, please let there be a little money in the mailbox when we get home."

Being raised in a Free Will Baptist preacher's home, I was taught to live by faith and that God would always supply our needs. Maybe not our wants, but always our needs. It would be many years after I left home before I understood this teaching.

In March 1990, my husband, David, assumed the pastorate of First Free Will Baptist Church in Tucson, Arizona. With much excitement, we loaded a U-Haul truck and moved from Oklahoma to Arizona.

We knew there would be some adjustments to make. This would be David's first full-time pastorate. Our children, Amy and Brad, would be attending schools which were three times the size of their previous schools.

After much prayer, we decided that I would remain at home for the first time in David's ministry and provide support for Amy and Brad.

To ease the financial burden, we discussed ways I could help while not working outside the home. The idea of using manufacturer's coupons and mail-in rebates was a time-consuming idea, but it could also be a big money-saver. Living in a large city provided an abundance of competitive supermarkets.

I shopped around to find which ones offered the best prices and honored double coupons. I began to clip, save, and use coupons, finding that I could save as much as $33 a week. I also became the rebate queen, mailing in every rebate on which I could get my hands.

When the time came to register our vehicles in Arizona, the first one passed inspection and was registered with no problems. We were not so fortunate with our second vehicle.

When David took it to the station for the emission test, the attendant discovered that there was no catalytic converter, a definite requirement in Arizona. So down to the muffler shop we went where we were informed that the muffler and tail pipe were bad and needed to be replaced.

I was so discouraged. This car was going to eat up what little money I had been able to save over the first few months.

My first reaction was to get angry. But after venting my anger, I was still frustrated. My next course of action was to cry. Right there in the Fry's Supermarket parking lot, I let go the flood of tears that was bottled up inside of me.

Finally, I came to my senses and decided to consult the Lord. Unknown to David, on the way home, I prayed, "Father, if you are really in charge of this whole situation and we are in Your will, please let there be a little money in the mailbox when we get home."

Arriving home, I went straight to the mailbox only half believing that God would answer my prayer. I took out the bundle of mail and went through it. At a glance I could tell there was nothing out of the ordinary.

As I turned from the mailbox and started up the driveway to the house, a postcard floated to the ground. When I picked it up, I discovered that it was a rebate check from the O'Cedar Company. The amount? $1.50.

I had asked God to provide a little money and that is exactly what He did. He had answered in spite of my faith being weak.

I confessed the whole story to David, the ever-optimist, who said he knew the Lord could and would provide. Later that day, I shared the story with Amy and Brad. I could tell they were amazed at how God worked and I felt convicted for my unbelief. These children accepted the whole ordeal at face value—I had asked and God had provided.

That evening one of the deacons came by the house to see how things were going and if we needed anything. David had gone to the hospital to visit, so I talked with him for a few minutes.

Suddenly, Brad said, "Mom, why don't you tell Walt about God and the mailbox?" Immediately, the truth of the whole story came home to me because of my son's excitement at how God works in our lives.

Oh, yes, God and the mailbox. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." I had asked for just a little money but received an abundance of assurance.

Reprinted from ***Contact,*** *February 1992.*

NEST EMPTY, HEART FULL

BY MONA BURRIS DUKES

I never thought I would say it, but an empty nest is not as bad as I thought.

Actually, it's pretty cool. Last night, for example, I ate a nice salad for dinner, watched a few moments of the news, loaded dishes in the dishwasher, put a small load of clothes in the dryer, fed the cats, and was in bed asleep by 8 p.m.

The dream of every young mother is to live to see just one night like that. I can certainly remember when such an evening seemed a million miles away. Those were the years when joining the circus looked pretty enticing.

Funny how we're never really satisfied with our plight. When we're kids we want to be older. When we're old we try to be younger. When we have small children we wish they would grow up so we could breathe a little easier, and then when they grow up it takes our breath away altogether! That's why it's so important to pay attention to where we are, right when we're there, so we can hold those moments close forever.

Most of my fond memories are filled with laughter and fun, but not all moments held close are joyful. One of the clearest memories was when my boys both donned their first little t-ball uniforms. Being so close in age, baby Zach was allowed to play on "big" brother Josh's team. (He was large for his age and they needed another player to even out the team numbers.) The boys were so excited about their new adventure of playing ball, even if it *was* just hitting a ball on a plastic pipe and throwing sand into the air while standing in the outfield.

As I dressed them for their first game, I told them how my mother—their "Gaga"—had loved baseball and had even lived across from a baseball field when she was a little girl. My mother had passed away several months before baseball season that year, so telling this little tale to my boys brought a tear to my eye. I told them she would certainly be proud of them in their uniforms if she could see them, and then I turned away so they wouldn't see me crying. As I scurried about, gathering the millions of things mothers of small children must take when they go somewhere, I forcefully encouraged the boys to get their hats and get the show on the road.

Josh was standing beside the kitchen counter holding on while appearing to do a back bend, and little Zach was, of course, imitating him. In a fussy tone, I demanded to know what in the world they were doing wasting precious time just standing around. Josh's reply: "Well, I'm showing Gaga up in heaven how I look in my uniform." Zach nodded agreement and leaned even farther back. The game that day was anticlimactic,

MOM'S PHONE COUNSELING

OFFERED TO HARRIED COLLEGE STUDENTS SEEKING ADVISE ON LOVE, LEARNING, LIFE, AND OTHER MYSTERIES

I can assure you.

Now my boys are both in college. I've had a tough time getting use to this thing called "empty nest." Our moments together are now framed with whirlwind entrances, college buddies and girlfriends, a month's worth of dirty laundry dumped from a large bag, furiously-cooked food favorites prepared and served before they must leave, and tight hugs and farewell kisses as they drive off into the world on Sunday afternoons.

I sometimes feel the need to advertise: "Mom's phone counseling offered to harried college students seeking advise on love, learning, life, and other mysteries." Just this week Josh called to lament the woes of professorial pomposity and Zach phoned to question the lifelong usefulness of chemistry. I answered as best I could and assured them that a good meal, a sound night's sleep, and serious prayers would make everything better. Then I told them how proud I was of them and how much I loved them.

They are such fine human beings, those Dukes boys. As I hung up the phone, I thanked God for who they are and what they will become. I begged for His protection over them and asked that He continue to hold them close in His arms since my arms are so far away from them now. It was almost as though I could see those handsome college-aged boys of mine lean back, and say, "Look, Gaga, we've grown up pretty well."

Though my nest is empty, my heart will always be full.

Mona Dukes hails from Johnsonville, SC, where she attends the Westside FWB Church.

My Special Son

NICOLAS REID MCCRAW
SEPTEMBER 2, 1999-MARCH 25, 2001

Why do You give legs that work
to some and not to others?
Why are some children
blessed with health,
while others continually suffer?
Why would You allow
a child to survive birth,
only to face a life of pain?
Why do You grant others
requests for healing,
while my prayers
seem unanswered echoes?

These are the issues
I used to raise about my son.
I still question, but I have learned.

I now see
A beautiful baby boy
A living testimony for you, Lord
A pure and sinless life, so unlike others.
Though often in pain, he wears the most joyous smile.
Though every breath is a struggle, he never complains.
Though his handicaps are vast, his life has touched others.

He has taught me
So much about unconditional love.
How to kiss and hug,
Though his body doesn't respond to my touches, his eyes do.
That smile!

When I look at other children…
I sometimes feel the pain of lost dreams for my child.
Then I stop.
I thank You, God
For my special son, fearfully and wonderfully made for me.
For showing me that Your grace really is sufficient.
For teaching me what is really important in life—
(Help me never lose perspective.)
For showing me it's okay to question
as long as I trust in You.
You have all the answers.

Jamie Leigh McCraw

Jamie Leigh McCraw entered this poem in the 2001 Creative Arts Contest, not knowing that within a few days, her special son would be with the Lord. She and her husband Todd attend the Fairview FWB Church in Spartanburg, SC, where she serves as Sunday school teacher, youth worker, and prayer chairman for WAC.

Life as the Mother of Three

by Joan Ferguson

ATTENTION, EVERYONE:
THE BATHROOM DOOR IS CLOSED!

Please do not stand there and talk, whine,
or ask questions. Wait until I get out.
Yes, it is locked. I want it that way.
It is not broken; I am not trapped.
I know I have left it unlocked,
and even open at times, since you were born,
because I was afraid some horrible tragedy
might occur while I was in there.
But it's been ten years, and I want some privacy.
Do not ask me how long I will be.
I will come out when I am done.
Do not bring the phone to the bathroom door.
Do not go running back to the phone yelling,
"She's in the bathroom!"
Do not begin to fight as soon as I go in.
Do not stick your little fingers under
the door and wiggle them.
This was funny only when you were two.
Do not slide pennies, Legos, or notes under the door.
Even when you were two, this got a little tiresome.
If you have followed me down the hall, talking,
and are still talking as you face this closed door,
please turn around, walk away, and wait for me in
another room.
I will be glad to listen to you when I am done.
Oh... and yes, I still love you.
Mom

–Author Unknown

Do you identify with this poem? Do you find it humorous? If so, you must be a mother.

At this point in life my bathroom door cannot always be closed. I longingly look forward to that day. But for now I am mother to three young children.

Motherhood. How do you describe the period of life when young children are in the home? Several words come to mind.

Busy! Life with children is busy. Some days you feel as though there is hardly time to breathe and then wonder at the end of the day if you've actually accomplished anything. Errands take so much longer. How much time is consumed getting kids in and out of car seats, boosters, and shopping carts!

Messy! Life with children is messy! I like my house nice and neat, but it doesn't stay that way long. One day, I complained to my husband that I had just cleaned the house from top to bottom a few days before, and now it was a

I never realized my Bible knowledge would be used to answer deep questions from young children.

mess all over again. He wisely reminded me to think of the altemative–the empty nest—which is really not that far away. (Life flies by as you get older.)

Stressful! Life with children is stressful. Have you ever wished children came with a step-by-step instruction manual? The Bible gives us principles and guidelines. And there are many good parenting books available. But I would really like step-by-step instructions. I'm a person who conscientiously follows a recipe. I don't add to or take away. I always do as directed! Children, however, are not that simple. Even if they came with instructions, the manual for each child would be different. What works for one doesn't work for another. Do you ever wonder if you are doing the right thing?

Someone has to drop the ball. . .

Unsettled! Life with children is unsettled. Rarely, if ever, does the day go as planned. I like lists. A mental list or a written list, it doesn't matter. I begin my day enumerating the things I need to get done. Most days, everything on that list does not get checked off. A sick child, an unexpected phone call, or some other situation takes precedence. I just keep making that "to do" list and hope for the best.

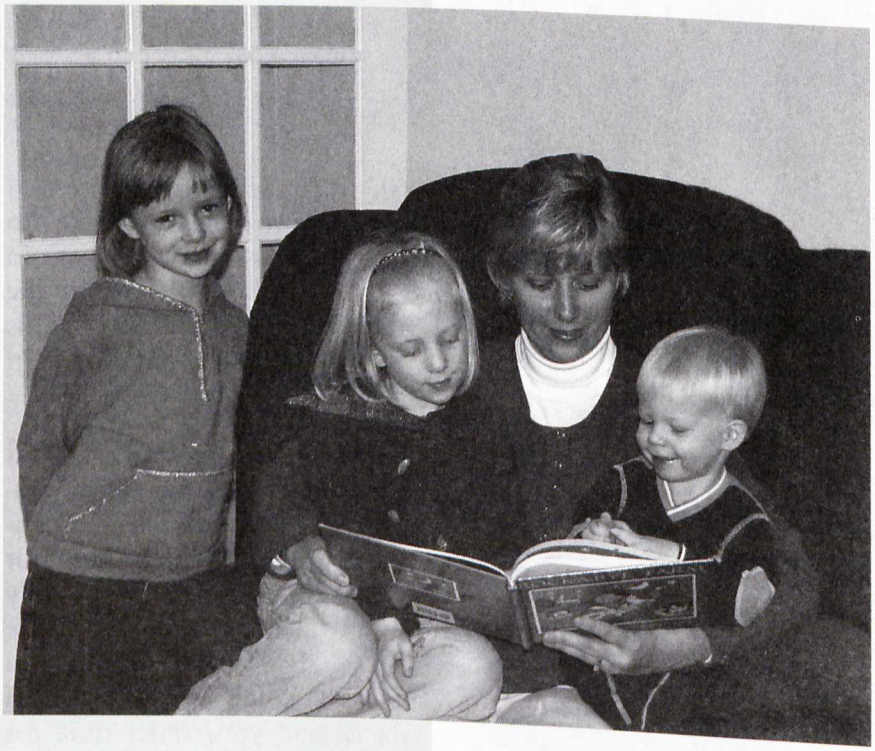
Challenging! Life with children is challenging. When I was required to take Bible as a student at FWBBC, I never realized my Bible knowledge would be used to answer deep questions from young children. On the night of September 11, as I was explaining to my children that Jesus was with us and would take care of us, my five-year-old responded. "Was Jesus with those people in the buildings that were hit by the planes?" This led to a discussion about evil in the world.

Motivating and Convicting! Life with children can both motivate and convict! We are working to help our seven-year-old develop a daily quiet time. Nothing is more motivating or convicting than to have a seven-year-old ask if *you've* had your quiet time for the day. (And to children, busyness does not qualify as a worthy excuse.)

My girls were arguing about something one day. Using an idea from a parenting book, I called them aside and had them toss a ball back and forth. I then asked one of the girls to stop. The other child could not play ball anymore. I explained that arguments are the same. It takes two. Someone has to drop the ball. Someone has to be willing to let it go. I wasn't sure the lesson had sunk in until one day when my husband and I experienced a disagreement. My girls quickly reminded me that "someone has to drop the ball." Life with children is convicting.

Rewarding! Life with children is rewarding! I can think of no higher pay than hugs and kisses and an "I love you, mommy."

No sounds are more beautiful than those of my two-year-old giggling and my girls playing happily with each other.



I need to remember that "in a minute" my children will be grown and gone.

A recent email stated that the current cost of raising a child is $160,140. (Broken down, that's roughly $24.50 a day.)

For that price you receive:

—Naming rights. First, middle and last!

—Glimpses of God every day.

—Giggles under the covers at night.

—More love than your heart can hold.

—Butterfly kisses and Velcro hugs.

—Endless wonder over rocks, ants, clouds, and warm cookies.

—A hand to hold, usually covered with jam.

—A partner for blowing bubbles, flying kites, building sand castles, and skipping down sidewalks in the pouring rain.

—Someone to laugh yourself silly with no matter how your day went.

Plus,

—You never have to grow up.

—You get to finger-paint, play hide-and-seek, catch lightning bugs, etc.

—You get to frame rainbows, hearts, and flowers under refrigerator magnets

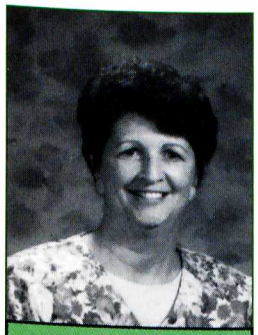
—You get an education in psychology, nursing, criminal justice, communications, etc.

—In the eyes of a child you are powerful. You have the power to heal a boo-boo, scare away the monsters under the bed, patch a broken heart, police a slumber party, ground them forever, and love them without limits, so one day they will, like you, love without counting the cost.

What a reminder! I often become a Martha rather than a Mary with my children. Housework, meals to cook, bills to pay, clothes to wash, homework to help with, diapers to change, baths to give. . . the list goes on. So busy with the everyday chores of life, I often forget to relax and actually enjoy my children. I cannot count the times my children have asked me to watch them do something and I have peered with one eye, continuing with my task. Numerous times when they have wanted something, my response has been "Wait, just a minute." I can't always drop what I'm doing to fulfill their wishes. But I do need to remember that "in a minute" my children will be grown and gone.

For as long as I can remember, I have wanted to be a mother. I can honestly say the job is much harder than I ever dreamed. I can gladly say I wouldn't trade it for anything. Motherhood is a privilege and an honor.

Joan Ferguson is a homemaker and a homeschooling mom. She also helps her husband Brian in their home-based business in Antioch, TN. The Fergusons attend Donelson FWB Church.



Words for Women

Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Marjorie H. Workman

Family Choices

Eagerly we open the envelope. By its size, we know it is an invitation or an announcement. We read: "Randy and Connie are the proud parents of a baby boy born January 24, 2002. Elijah Sherman weighed in at 6 lb. 13 oz. and is 18 inches long." We oooh and ahhhh at the picture of the newborn and feel excitement for the new parents.

As for Elijah Sherman, he has just been born into a family—a family of which he had no control. Nationality, environment, or date-of-birth were not his choices. He doesn't know if his family is functional or dysfunctional, Christian or Muslim, rich or poor, educated or illiterate—he is not responsible for his birth into the human race.

Thankfully, Eli was born into a Christian family. What a blessing! His life will be shaped by strong family values consistent with Biblical teaching. He will grow up in a church and family where character and integrity are fundamental to Christian living. He will be exposed to the love of God and the need for a personal salvation experience. Opportunities will abound to interact with his extended Christian family.

Through his birth family, Eli will develop his own unique personality. From infant to adulthood he will confront many choices. These choices will determine the person he is and will be.

Twenty years or so later, Elijah Sherman will confront one of the most important choices of his life. Hopefully, he will not take it lightly. He will choose a bride. A marriage partner. A companion. Ideally, this will be a binding commitment that lasts "until death do us part." In leaving his parents and cleaving to his wife (who also leaves her parents), a new family begins (Matthew 18:4-6).

Unlike his birth, this time he is very much involved in the outcome. He chooses the strategies for growing a healthy marriage and family. Now he is provider, protector, and spiritual leader. An awesome responsibility according to I Timothy 5:8, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel (*unbeliever*)."

In addition to his birth family and marriage family, Elijah Sherman has one other family to consider—God's family. He may enter God's family through adoption (Romans 8:14-16). This adoption occurs when he personally accepts or puts his trust in God's Son Jesus. The choice is his. He has a free will with which to make his decision. The invitation of salvation is extended through the Holy Spirit, but it will be up to Eli to accept the offer. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:12). When and if Eli chooses to receive Christ, he will immediately become a son of God and God will become his Father (2 Corinthians 6:18). He does not have to wait in a long legal process. He must, according to Romans 8:23, wait to receive his full rights, which include a new body.

Family is important. God uses the marriage relationship to illustrate his love for the Church. He designed the family from the beginning to demonstrate how we should live together and care for one another. These same family patterns are seen in God's family—the Church.

How is your family doing? As women, we have the wonderful privilege of passing on our family values and our Christian faith through our children. The challenges are great. Though incomplete, we are in process. We will face failures and imperfections but up ahead lies "the hope of righteousness" (Galatians 5:5). One day we'll see His face and we'll be like Him. For now, our Christian family is merely a dim reflection of what it will be. Make good choices—for the Eli's—for the future—for the Kingdom.

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