

CoLaborer



**Blessed are the
Caregivers
CoLaborers in
Missions
Pictures of Service
A Far Greater Tragedy**

**Jul Aug
2002**



Labor of my heart

Sarah Fletcher

A Beautiful Thing

The smell of the perfume wafted through the room. The box was broken, her love and her oil poured out upon the Lord. She had done a beautiful thing. Mary, with her gift, experienced worship in its purest sense. She did what she could, and possibly more than she realized. Her act of worship provided a preview picture of the events that would happen later that Passion week.

It was not the first time Jesus had been anointed with perfume. Earlier in Christ's ministry, another woman, a prostitute, had crashed the pious party of Simon the Pharisee to pour out her love as well. Though this woman's actions were unwelcome and culturally improper, she also did what she could. And Christ accepted her loving worship.

To some looking on, Mary's act of abandon may have stirred memories of that first anointing. Might this mental association place her in the same category with a street woman? What did it matter? Mary's motivation was love. Humility and gratitude surfaced in the smell of the spikenard.

What is your motivation for the things you do? What a haunting question! Do we perform our church and home responsibilities out of routine, out of duty, for the sake of others, or for self-gratification? Can we truly say that our worship is a beautiful thing, lavished on Christ, simply because we love Him?

And what of the alabaster boxes we have stored upon our shelves? Gifts that are valuable, fragrances that are sealed, love offerings that are yet unyielded? This year's theme, "For Such a Time as This" encourages all of us to be, to do, to experience what Christ desires, now!

Anointed worship is not without criticism. In the first anointing, Pharisees raised eyebrows and blinked "scandal." In the second, His own followers perceived dollar signs and decried excess and waste. Your worship may require familiarity with sinners. Rejoice. It is for sinners Christ came. Your service may involve giving your resources, spending money on people who may never reciprocate or contribute to your church's offering plate.

What is your motivation? If it is love, then break the boxes. Spill the perfume. Lavish your labors on the Lord. It's a beautiful thing.

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PHOTO CREDITS: p. 10-13, 29: www.arttoday.com;
pp. 14-15: Tammi Brinkhoff
*Except where otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version.

For Such a Time As This SERVICE



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STAFF

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

TO SUBSCRIBE: CALL 1-877-767-7662

CoLaborer (ISSN 0896-0038) is published bimonthly by Women Nationally Active for Christ of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 5233 Mt.View Road, Antioch, TN 37013-2306, (615)•731•6812. Address all correspondence to P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Annual subscription rates: \$11.00 per year, single; \$10.00 per year, 5 or more to one address. Periodical postage paid at Antioch, TN and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CoLaborer, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Copyright privileges reserved © 2001 Member of the Evangelical Press Association. USPS 0896-0038



Polyester and winged hair have made a comeback, and everyone knows what that means...

Missionaries are back in style!

It *can* be difficult keeping up with fashion while living deep in the jungle surviving on roots and rainwater. **Come On!** If anyone thinks that is how all missionaries live, they are wrong! Missionary life is not "SURVIVOR" without the million dollars; it is **REAL LIFE** with countless rewards and numerous possibilities. Not all missionaries live in the heart of the rain forest, and not all missionaries serve on the field alone. Many missionaries today are choosing to join together as **TEAMS** to further the kingdom of God.

For presentation helps and suggestions, see the 2002 Yearbook, pp. 41-42.

COLLABORERS

in Missions

by Jill Warren

Free Will Baptist missionaries in most countries operate within a council framework. All the missionaries on a given field constitute a Field Council. This council usually meets at least once a year to conduct business, strategize for future ministry, and most importantly, to enjoy fellowship. Missionaries serving in various places come together to share ideas and issues they have encountered. However, each missionary usually maintains a separate work apart from the others within the field.

Team ministry somewhat changes the dynamics of current ministry on our Free Will Baptist foreign fields. In a team ministry setting, all the missionaries within a team concentrate on the same area of work, focusing their time and energy to reach a targeted people group together. Working as a team yields numerous benefits.*

Teams help people cope more effectively with change. Adjusting to a new culture, a new language, and a new ministry can be difficult for the novice missionary. In a team atmosphere, the missionary finds himself surrounded by others undergoing the same circumstances; yet he has the other member's strengths upon which to draw.

Teams enable work and effort to be divided. The life of a missionary is extraordinary in many ways. Missionaries must often take on numerous roles to accomplish the work at hand. Team ministry allows the work to be divided; thus encouraging everyone to develop their spiritual strengths and focus on those areas.

Teams generate more possible solutions to problems. Because of various personalities and spiritual gifts, ideas can be limited if only one or two people are making the decisions. A team offers more possibilities in every situation.

Teams minimize mistakes as members can spot and correct each other's errors. If a team is truly accountable to one another, they will continuously

be searching to exhort and encourage a fellow member when the need arises.

Teams increase motivation. In any job, a person can become discouraged and downtrodden when adversity comes to light. Having team members can only enhance the dynamic of the ministry and allow for greater assurance.

Teams add creativity in bringing together specialties. This is similar to the point made regarding more possible solutions to problems. More people not only enable the team to make better educated decisions, but it also allows for more creative juices to flow when new ideas and strategies are being formed.

Teams increase effectiveness in coordinating decisions. Many times, people will have the wisdom to make a decision, but not the administrative skills to enforce that decision. Team ministry enables others to take over areas where they have more experience.

These reasons are why my husband and I chose team ministry. As we felt God leading us to work among the nearly one billion Muslims around the world, we considered all opportunities for our desired ministry. Because concentrated Muslim outreach is a new endeavor in itself to Free Will Baptists, we felt it wise to bring together a team of people to enhance our future endeavor. Through prayer and counsel, we found others with a similar calling. We are now a team of six people willing to join forces on the field to fulfill the heartbeat of God. The French "M" Team took two years under God's molding to emerge. It was our desire to grow as a team before we ever left for our field of destination. Since our team would be working so closely together on the field, we hoped to create a trust within each other before seeking approval as Free Will Baptist missionaries.

*Team benefits expanded from the Information Manager website.

Trust is not always easily attainable, and the "M" Team has made great strides to accomplish this. We are doing our best to meet at least once or twice a month to discuss not only spiritual issues, but personal issues as well. At this stage of our ministry, nailing down the specific strategic methods of how to reach Muslims in southern France is not always our focus. We spend much of our time determining how our team should operate as one unit or discussing something as simple as our favorite books. Just as a basketball team must practice numerous times a week to function as one, our team must practice thinking and ministering as one.

It is my prayer that team ministry opens the doors for those who may underestimate the power they have through the Father. Not everyone must be a pastor or church planter to be a part of God's work overseas. With today's advanced technology, many

team ministries need computer technicians, Bible translators, teachers, and musicians. We must allow God to use us for His work through the talents he has bestowed upon us.

I have often wondered why I sensed the Lord leading me into the field of missions. I am no great orator or evangelist. I will not be the church pianist or the Sunday school teacher of the year. What I am is a willing woman anxious to open my home with the gift of hospitality, ready to spread the good news among Muslim women, and confident that God will strengthen me in areas where I am weak. I thank the Lord every day for the team he has placed beside me in this work.

Jill and Sean Warren and daughter Sophia plan to depart for France in December 2002.

French "M" Team: (l to r) Tim, Di, and Eli Keener; Micah Derby; Becky Hale; Sean, Jill, and Sophia Warren



"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. . . And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

*A*s missionaries from America to Japan, we find ourselves bouncing back and forth between two of the world's wealthiest countries. And although we try to be conscious of those in need, I often wonder if my children truly "get it."

A few days ago at lunch, I listened as Japan's newest Free Will Baptist minister shared his testimony of God's provision. Since graduation from Bible college last spring, he and his wife have been ministering in one of our small, struggling churches on the northern island of Hokkaido. The church is unable to pay them a salary but provides housing and the opportunity to gain invaluable ministry experience. They have an adorable baby girl and a consistent joyful spirit in serving the Lord.

This young minister related that on a recent, snowy, wintry day, they were faced with quite a choice. They had only 5000 yen (about \$40) and they had run out of *both* fuel to heat their home and food. He looked at me and asked, "Which would YOU buy: rice or kerosene?" I thought about it and humbly admitted that I'd never had to make that choice and didn't know what I would do. He explained that he knew he was scheduled as the guest speaker at another church in the area in a few days, and he expected to receive some kind of offering or honorarium for his services there. After much prayer, they spent the money on kerosene and went for several days without food.

On the following Sunday morning, he preached and enjoyed fellowship with the people of the other church. And just as expected, at the end of the service they handed him an envelope with a cash offering inside. This young family began thanking the Lord that they could now buy rice! But as they headed to their car, one of the church leaders cried, "Wait, Preacher! I almost forgot!" The minister turned to see the man carrying two, 20 pound bags of rice, one on each shoulder. "We wanted to send this home with you too!"



Tears came to his eyes as he related how God had provided more than they had even needed or expected. My eyes filled with tears as well, as I thought about how very much this young couple is sacrificing to follow God's call on their lives.

I returned home and shared this story with our family in evening devotions. I could tell that it touched all of our hearts as we prayed for this precious young minister and his family. I must admit, though, my surprise at what happened a few minutes later.

My daughter Katie (13) disappeared upstairs and came down shortly with her piggy bank—actually, it's a hamburger-shaped bank that contains all her hoarded resources. With tears in her eyes, she said, "Mom, I want you to send all of this to that preacher's family. All I ever spend it on is fingernail polish and other junk and they don't even have food!"

Her contribution was soon followed by similar ones from Evan and Amy who had been moved by the Holy Spirit to voluntarily let go of their money, saved from allowances and gifts. Talk about a freewill offering! I didn't even pass the plate, but my children gave 4,274 yen (*about* \$35) out of hearts of love and compassion.

What a time of learning for us all! My husband Donnie and I thank God for the models of obedience we've been allowed to see — both in the young pastor's family and in the examples of our children who gave joyfully and generously. May we all be so quick to respond when the Holy Spirit nudges us to sacrifice for the sake of His kingdom.

*by
Ruth
McDonald*

*"Which
would
YOU
buy:
rice or
kerosene?"*

*Ruth McDonald
is also involved
in FWB missions
team ministry.
She and her fam-
ily serve on the
Tokyo Team.*

For Such A Time As This

67th WNAC CONVENTION

July 22-23, 2002

Memphis, Tennessee

SESSIONS OPEN TO ALL WOMEN!

MEMPHIS MARRIOTT/COOK CONVENTION CENTER

Monday Morning/July 22

9:00-11:00 Nominating Committee Meeting

Monday Afternoon/July 22

1:30-2:30 **WNAC Drama**

Is There Hope for Me?

Griton FWB Church, North Carolina

3:00-4:00 **WNAC Pastors' Wives Seminar**

Having a Difficult Time?

Speaker: Debe Taylor

Tuesday Morning/July 23

8:30 **WNAC General Session**

Congregational and Special Music

Special Feature: NYC

Creative Arts Awards

Seating of Delegates

Reports

11:00 **MISSIONARY SERVICE**

Speakers: Tim & Kristi Johnson

Tuesday Afternoon/July 23

12:30-2:30 **WNAC FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON**

Program: Teri Peacock as "Viney Mae"

—a unique worship experience

MAKE SURE YOUR GROUP IS REPRESENTED.

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.

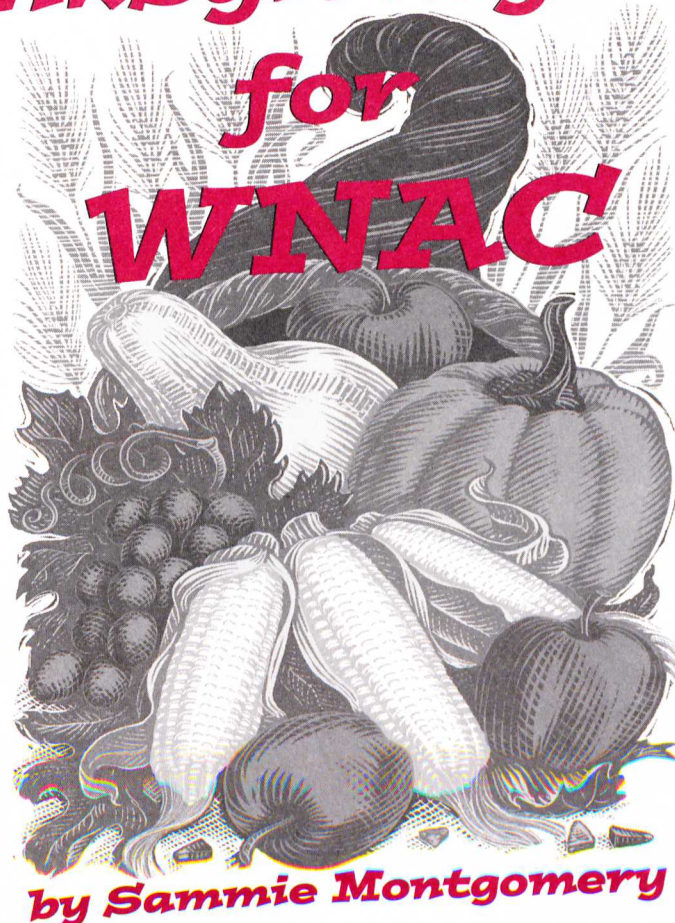
August is Thanksgiving Time

As a child growing up in Ada, Oklahoma, I dreaded WNAC Emphasis month programs. I was not interested in their office or Standard of Achievement Chart. It was enough to know that those ladies were good cooks and provided the "Go Tell Auxiliary" for me.

It was not until 1967 when the Glennville Woman's Auxiliary began teaching me about being an A-1 Auxiliary that I really became excited. I began to learn all about WNAC and the great part that local, district, and state auxiliaries can have in the denomination. We may no longer have the Standard of Achievement Chart (a reason for thanks) or wear the name Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, but we still have the same goals and purpose.

We are now Women Nationally Active for Christ, and today I find our emphasis month programs very enjoyable, probably due to the fact that I usually take a part. WNAC has come to hold a very special place in my heart and life. It offers me the opportunity to develop close friendships and become a colaborer with women from my church, district, state, and nation. It has also allowed me the opportunity to get to know and work with some great Free Will Baptist women who love the Lord and desire to be used by Him.

We've had some truly great women as leaders. It's been a privilege to get to know Mrs. Cleo Purcell,



Dr. Mary Ruth Wisehart, and now Mrs. Marjorie Workman. They, along with their office staff and *CoLaborer* editors have served WNAC well. We have grown from a one-woman office to four full-time women in the office. The services of WNAC have grown and developed into a first class department that Free Will Baptists can be proud of.

Today, WNAC has an attractive office that provides a comfortable setting in which to conduct business. However, progress and ministry come with a price.

There is a cost for running and maintaining a national office and paying the salaries of four very talented women. As we observe WNAC Emphasis month, let us give thanks, for God has blessed and used WNAC.

One way to express thanks is through giving to the WNAC Emphasis offering. This offering is extremely important. It helps defray the cost of WNAC. As of right now, WNAC is in special need of your financial support. As I give my offering this August, I will be asking the Lord to bless you and your church as you strive to place Him first in your life and serve Him.

Sammie Montgomery is a pastor's wife and an avid WNAC supporter from Glennville, GA. She and her husband Larry have two grown children.

Article adapted from the *Georgia Promotional Bulletin*, August 2001.

“It’s time to serve!”

Pictures of Service

by Ruth Mullin

*W*alk with me into the art gallery. Let’s stroll through the corridors. Casually. We’ve got some time.

We’re looking for paintings that portray service. You know, the real thing. What it looks like in everyday life. How it plays out in the hustle and bustle around us. See if there are any good expressions of this lost Christian virtue.

We may have trouble recognizing service when we see it because it’s become so rare. Many want to be served. Few are willing to serve.

Yet Jesus said when He walked this earth that He came “not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28)

*T*he first painting that catches our attention is a familiar scene. We even recognize the main characters. The setting is Biblical times, simple furniture, simple utensils. We see two sisters. One is busy preparing a meal for an important guest. We can tell by the expression on her face that she is really working hard to impress the company. Through an open doorway we see the visitor seated, relaxed, obviously at home. Just over his shoulder and to the left is the other sister, facing us, listening in rapt attention to the Master’s words.

The title, “Troubled About Many Things,” reminds us that Jesus recognized that Martha was



TROUBLED
ABOUT MANY THINGS

hard at work. (Luke 10:38-42) There was much to do to prepare an adequate meal for a family, but when company came, it required much more. “Many things.” If you did it right, that is.

And Martha, being a good woman, was willing to do what it took to be prepared. She wanted to give the Lord a good meal. Her only problem was that her priorities were mixed up. It's not that Jesus didn't want to eat that day. As far as we can tell, he's glad she's cooking. It's just that she's busy to the extreme and has left no time for listening to Him. She's wrapped up in "her" agenda and misses "His" totally.

When we serve, we need to be careful to maintain the proper balance between our service and our Savior. He's happy when we are serving, when we are busy doing His work. He's happier when we are listening, making sure our hearts are in tune with His. Then, and only then, will we be ready to do His work.



FULL OF GOOD WORKS

Walking down the hall, we spot another painting whose subject matter disturbs us at first. We are not very comfortable with death and death is there. This picture, entitled "Full of Good Works," shows us a woman named Dorcas whose hand is placed in that of the Apostle Peter. (Acts 9:36-42) Peter has just prayed over her and raised her from the dead. Some of the mourners are still crying; for others their tears of sadness have just turned to tears of rejoicing. Happy and sad—all mixed together.

Each of them has a garment or coat across their arm or in their hands to show Peter the clothes Dorcas had previously made for them. At her death they bring them as proof to show Peter just how wonderful she was. She touched many in her lifetime with her "good works and almsdeeds."

News of her death and resurrection spread. Notice verse 42, "And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord."

The example of Dorcas demonstrates how to touch the lives of those around us. She did what she knew—sewing, making clothes. God blessed her efforts and gave her some extra time to do more "good works."

Service Survey

How can our women's group best serve?
(Mark on a scale of 1-12. One is highest interest.)

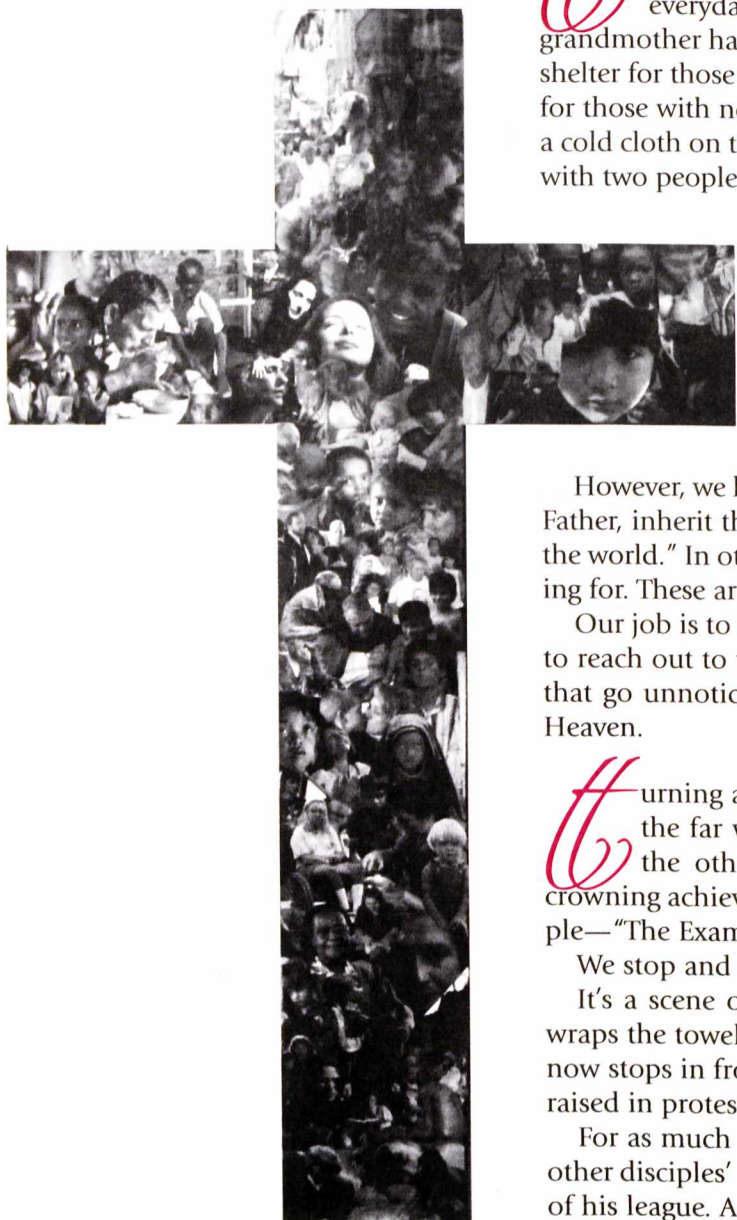
- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Cross-cultural | ☐ Tutoring for children |
| ☐ Troubled teens | ☐ Street people |
| ☐ Illiterates | ☐ Crisis pregnancy center |
| ☐ Special needs individuals | ☐ Elderly or shut-ins |
| ☐ Drug rehabilitation | ☐ College students |
| ☐ Prison ministry | ☐ Other _____ |

How can I best serve?
(Mark on a scale of 1-12. One is highest interest.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Children | ☐ College students |
| ☐ Teens | ☐ Homeless shelters |
| ☐ Senior citizens | ☐ Crisis counseling |
| ☐ Special needs individuals | ☐ Evangelistic visitation |
| ☐ Hospital ministry | ☐ Bible study |
| ☐ Prison ministry | ☐ Other _____ |

What gifts can I use in service?
(Mark any that apply.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ Speaking | ☐ Crafts |
| ☐ Encouraging | ☐ Computer skills |
| ☐ Teaching | ☐ Financial skills |
| ☐ Music | ☐ Writing |
| ☐ Cooking | ☐ Organization |
| ☐ Drama | ☐ Other _____ |



UNTO THE LEAST OF THESE

His next one is interesting. It's a collage in the shape of a cross. Several pictures. Snapshots. Modern scenes from everyday life. A mother handing her son a cup of water. A grandmother handing out sandwiches in a soup kitchen. A homeless shelter for those with no place to sleep. A clothing distribution center for those with nothing to wear. A hospital bed with someone placing a cold cloth on the fevered brow of the patient. A prison holding area, with two people conversing through a glass window.

The title catches your eye: "Unto the Least of These" (Matthew 25:34-40). In the moments that we stand and look at this collage, we notice something. In each case the giving person expects nothing in return. There's nothing in it for them personally. They probably won't win the Nobel Peace Prize or even the Citizen of the Year Award. At least that's how the world would look at this.

However, we know that God sees and says: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." In other words, "This is what I want. This is what I'm looking for. These are the things that matter to Me."

Our job is to look around us and "see" the least ones. Then we are to reach out to them in Jesus' name doing the small tasks. The ones that go unnoticed here on earth but are recorded by our Father in Heaven.

Turning a corner we see the highlight of this next display. On the far wall facing us is the largest painting of all. It dwarfs the others by its sheer size. Here is the masterpiece, the crowning achievement of the artist. It's his best work. The title is simple—"The Example."

We stop and study it, knowing there is a message for us here.

It's a scene of the Last Passover. Supper being ended, Jesus rises, wraps the towel around His waist, and stoops to wash their feet. He now stops in front of Peter. This disciple doesn't get the idea. Hands raised in protest, his facial expression is one of disbelief.

For as much as he felt it was beneath him personally to wash the other disciples' feet, Peter realizes Jesus, as the Son of God, is way out of his league. And he objects.

From John's account (John 13:3-17) we know the rest of the story. Jesus not only washed Peter's feet, but those belonging to all of his disciples. Then he makes these profound statements:

"Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."



THE EXAMPLE

In these words lie our instructions. . . we are to serve others as Jesus our Example did. No matter how lowly the task may seem. No matter how difficult those we serve may be. We are to serve. We have our example. It's a big painting—so we won't forget—the image of the Son of God who stooped to wash the feet of Peter.

Well, that was a pleasant way to spend an afternoon. . .strolling through a museum.

Now what? What does God expect from us? Let's review the paintings:

"TROUBLED ABOUT MANY THINGS"

Martha needed to keep her busyness balanced with listening.

"FULL OF GOOD WORKS"

Dorcas translated her skills and talents into ministry.

"UNTO THE LEAST OF THESE"

Nothing is too small to count for the Kingdom.

"THE EXAMPLE"

Jesus gave the example; we should follow "in His steps."

Not too hard.

Yet harder than you'd think.

IT'S TIME TO SERVE!

Daughter of a FWB minister and wife of a FWB minister, Ruth Mullin is no stranger to service. She and her husband, Jim, reside in New Castle, IN. The Mullins have two children, Laura and Luke.

AND THOUGH I BESTOW ALL...

by Tammi Brinkhoff



I've always had a heart for the needy. Many might say it was bred in me. I can remember several times when my dad gave a needy person some food or gas. He even provided one man a place to stay. He would rarely give money since he didn't want to support a sinful habit, but he would always help in other ways if he could. I feel the same way.

It's because of this desire to give that I got involved in a food and clothing ministry five years ago. I wanted to make a difference in people's lives. I wanted to be able to go to bed with the satisfaction of knowing that a hungry family found another meal.

I believe God puts that desire in most of our hearts. Some of us suppress it. But is the act of giving enough? If we give all our money or spend all our time helping others, have we really done everything?

The apostle Paul addressed the topic of giving in I Corinthians 13:3, "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor...and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

Wow! A person could give until she has no more to give, and still not profit spiritually from it. What a waste of potential for the Christian! Giving without loving will forfeit the blessings we think we're laying up in Heaven.

Remember the reason we're here? We're to be an extension of the Christ who lives in us. Would Jesus be working in a pantry if He were here on earth today? Consider His life. He was born in the lowliest of states, spent most of His time around the sick and outcast, fed the multitudes, healed the diseased, and died a robber's death. Yes, His heart is definitely with those who are in need.

Jesus met the physical needs of those around Him, yet He also

Would
Jesus be
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In the
past five
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found a way to minister to them at the same time. That is the basis of our ministry. We conduct a 40 minute service before we hand out food. If we send the hungry away with food for their body, but nothing for their starving soul, what good have we done? If we give them a sermon and some food, but never get to know them, pray for them, and visit them, are we following Jesus' example? When we really love

someone, we spend time with them and care for them. That's the kind of love Jesus gave. That's the love we try to show.

In the past five years, we have seen over 100 people come to know Christ. Many of them have hang-ups such as drugs, alcohol, and spousal abuse that keep them from growing as they should. We have sown the seeds; we trust God to provide the increase. Several of those who've accepted Christ have remained and are now helping in our ministry.

How do you know if a pantry is right for your church? If your local church just can't envision a pantry in your building, explore the possibility of helping another local pantry. Several sister churches have done wonderful things for us—bringing extra food and gifts at Christmas time, donating money to the pantry, and enlisting their youth groups to help divide and hand out food. One group even came to help us enclose our kitchen and do some much needed remodeling.

How do you begin? Where do you start? If a ministry for the needy is something your church is interested in, the first step is to gather potential suppliers. We are blessed with a man who goes to several area factories and picks up food about to be dumped. (It is rarely outdated when we get it). He distributes to about 75 ministries such as ours. We have also arranged pick-ups of "outdated" vegetables, fruits, and breads from area grocers. At one time, we collected from the day-old bakery store. We've received donations from poultry, cheese, and cookie/cracker factories. When you discuss donating perishable items with a company, it is helpful

to know the "Good Samaritan Law." This protects you both from lawsuits. Getting started takes a lot of commitment and effort, but it gets easier.

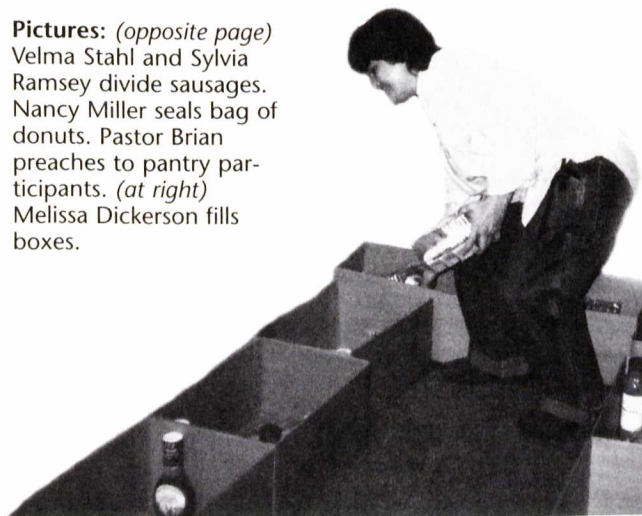
Once a plentiful food source is established, advertising is the next step. In our pantry, we really put a lot of money into this—about \$5.00 in paint and cardboard. We hung these painted "FREE FOOD" signs everywhere, stating our kick-off day, the church's location, and the time of the giveaway. Beware of using this method . . . we were swamped! Several who came to this first service still attend our pantry. We simply got basic information from the people, then handed out the food. It's a good idea to hand out fliers explaining your future plans.

The most important thing to remember is that these recipients are people. They may not dress like us, talk like us, or even smell like us, but they are God's created ones and He loves them and wants to see them in Heaven. Approach the whole project with much prayer. Pray that God will provide for your pantry. Pray that He'll send the individuals who need you the most. Pray that He'll soften their hearts and let the message of the Gospel speak to them. Pray that you will have the right attitude even in the most stressful situation. Pray!

For more information about starting or maintaining a ministry such as this, contact the writer at 15311 County Road 55, Jasper, MO 64755 or (417) 537-8588.

Tammi Brinkhoff is a minister's wife and mother of five. Her husband Brian pastors the Cornerstone FWB Mission in Joplin, MO. Besides involvement in the pantry ministry, she also homeschools, writing much of her own curriculum.

Pictures: (opposite page) Velma Stahl and Sylvia Ramsey divide sausages. Nancy Miller seals bag of donuts. Pastor Brian preaches to pantry participants. (at right) Melissa Dickerson fills boxes.



Blessed

are

the

Caregivers

Most mornings, my day begins at 5:30—my time with the Lord—before my time becomes someone else's and not mine to control. My life has changed drastically and brutally fast; almost overnight I have gone from busy wife and nurse to stay-at-home woman. I am a midlife caregiver.

by Beverly Brantley

"Blessed are the caregivers . . ." It's not one of the Beatitudes, but maybe Jesus words, "Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy," apply.

You know us. Many of you live next door to us or maybe you are one of us. Grown children with children (sometimes even grandchildren) who now care for an aging parent.

In my case, it was a parent-in-law. My father-in-law, "Jaybird," had Alzheimer's. Jaybird got his nickname when he was a boy. It's what I'd always called him. But toward the end he became my "Little Bird." Drastic changes were not mine alone. He made some pretty dramatic ones himself. He went from "in charge" to "helpless at large." From a knowledgeable, capable, functioning adult to little more than a five-year-old child.

Beyond the adjustments of schedules and lifestyle are the added pains of loss. The loss of a friend, confidante, counselor, and parent. The pain of watching someone you love begin to deteriorate, gradually losing the personality that makes them who they are.

Nothing in life prepares you for this change. Nothing allows you the opportunity to peer into the future and visualize yourself as a parent to your parents. How do you make the switch from taking orders to giving them? How do you cope with their pain as well as your own? By the help of God. Through Him alone, you can cope and persevere. This may seem a pat answer, yet it is *THE* answer.

Find hope in the fact that these things happen gradually and not all at once. As you begin to alter the role between you and your care recipient, it takes on a life of its own, almost before you realize.

When my Little Bird was most difficult, I gripped God's hand the tightest. These were also the days when I hugged Bird the most. In my heart I sensed that on those days he was most conscious of his losses and needed more of my hugs.

Was it hard to hug the one who took his false teeth out of his mouth and flung them at me because I was trying to get him to eat? I can't even find words to express the anger I felt or the pity party that occurred in my heart afterward. But through God's touch, His Word to my spirit, and my obedience to His Word, I picked up the teeth and hugged my Little Bird. He hugged me back. No words passed between us (though there were many I would liked to have said), but our hearts connected.

Other days I was unable to react in such a positive way. There were times when a bag of chips, a 2-liter Pepsi, and the rocking chair on my front porch were the only things between the men in the white coats and me.

Jaybird lost his wife of 57 years only two years before he died. He grieved but then seemed to move on. I have since lost my mother. Seeing my own dad pine away for her everyday is much harder than

watching Jaybird forget and move on. I guess some points about a forgetful disease are helpful. Thankfully, Jaybird also forgot the times I was not the patient person I wanted to be. He loved me anyway.

Don't beat yourself up if you can't be everything to everybody. You can only do so much. The most valuable advice I could give is, "Ask for help." DO NOT try to do it alone.

GOD WILL GIVE YOU NEEDED STRENGTH AND GRACE FOR EACH DAY'S STRUGGLES.

I made the mistake of thinking that only I could care for my father-in-law. For 18 months, I allowed no one else to stay with him or to let him leave my side.

Part of the reason for my refusal was because I did not want anyone to see one of my favorite people in this condition. The other was the feeling that no one could do this as well as I. Maybe no one else could. But after a few months of 24/7, my care for him was also lacking.

If you are struggling with this situation today, and you feel torn between your husband, children, grandchildren, job and your aging, needy parent, please get help.

About a year into my situation, I began to notice others in the same condition. Some in our church were trying to cope just as I was. I started a group called *Servant's Heart Ministries*. People signed up to help. We rotated with each other and with volunteers to get the help we needed. Some were able to sit with others so a caregiver could have a much-needed day off. Others would run errands or a bus route of doctor visits for shut-ins without transportation.

Some of our young people volunteered to do yard work or house work. As everyone pitched in and helped, the love multiplied. Friendships that grew out of this program also helped our church.

Respite care centers are also available in most cities. These places will keep a loved one for a weekend or even up to a week so caregivers can get some much needed R&R. Believe it or not, most counties even have daycare for the elderly. Amazed? So was I.

Of course, my Little Bird was so bad that he got expelled from daycare. How embarrassing was that!

Jesus spoke of resting on the Sabbath to renew the strength and spirit of His children. How much more do you, caregiver, need to have that renewing rest! Don't be ashamed or discouraged that you need help. Even Jesus needed renewal when He lived on this earth, and His Father was God.

Don't fear that you'll be stretched too thin to meet all the demands upon you. God will give you needed strength and

grace for each day's struggles. Most importantly, don't be afraid to express your feelings to God. He can handle your confusion, disillusionment, anger, and frustration. You can tell Him. He will comfort your soul.

My husband and I learned to laugh instead of cry. Seeing Jaybird ready to go to Walmart without a stitch of clothing, except for belt and shoes, could either crack us up mentally or bring on a good case of the giggles. We chose the giggles. We'd try to make him see how he was dressed. We'd ask him if he was trying to give the ladies in the store a heart attack or if he was cruising for a girlfriend. Jaybird would usually look at us like we were the silly ones, then head back to the bedroom to try again.

There will be good days and bad days for both of you. Rejoice in the good days, persevere through the bad ones, and when it is all over, you will have no regrets. You can know, as I did, that you did your best, loved all you could, and filled someone's last days with love.

When Jaybird died, we buried him in his red coat. Some thought this improper for a funeral. But what they didn't realize was, in that red coat, he thought he was the "cat's pajamas." I did what was best for him, not for me or anyone else. I know he would have been proud of me for that.

It's all about living with yourself later. What you do or don't determines the peace that remains long after your loved one.



"My Little Bird"

My Little Bird was once a great eagle.
He could juggle many tasks with ease.
He could build a garage, den, run electrical plugs,
and wire a fan with no effort.
He managed his affairs and ran his life as he saw fit.
But then a terrible thing happened to that eagle—
A disease that robs a person of who he is,
a disease called Alzheimer's.
He was one day whole, and it seemed
the next day he was gone.
The spirit that made him who he was, was changed.
The light that brightened every smile was dimmed.
The heart that carried that eagle to the heavens was marred.
He lost who he was.
Through it all he became more dependent on others.
He had to rely on someone else's strength.
As I held his hand in mine and led him through each day,
that mighty eagle became my Little Bird.
As he struggled each day to do the simple tasks of living,
I tried to be patient and long suffering with him.
As he put on his clothes backwards or his shoes before his clothes, I
tried not to laugh at the comical appearance he sometimes made.
After all he was my Little Bird.
I sometimes lost sight of what he once was,
and could only see the man he had become.
My heart ached when I remembered how he used to be,
in charge, taking control of every situation.
Now he looked to me for guidance and I felt so inadequate.
My Little Bird is home now.
He is whole, his personality restored.
He walks with Jesus on a peaceful shore.
Perhaps he still holds a hand to lead him,
but now he walks again with strength and purpose.
Rest gently my Little Bird, and know that you are missed.

—Beverly Brantley

Beverly Brantley lives in Plant City, FL and attends the First FWB Church in Seffner. She and her husband Charlie currently volunteer in the church's food pantry ministry.



SPRINGBOARD

memos for WAC officers

Prayer Chairman:

Assemble prayer teams to intercede for the "M" Team, the Tokyo Team, and the Spain Team. Pray for the WNAC Convention, July 22-23, in Memphis. Pray for the financial needs of the WNAC office.

If CoLaborers arrive ripped or torn, please call 1-877-767-7662. We will gladly replace them.

Study Chairman:

Encourage women to read a Christian book about Islam. The two selections on p. 26 are excellent resources.

A *Promise Kept*, is a perfect companion to the article "Blessed are the Caregivers" on p. 16. This book is available from WNAC. For a review of the book, see the July/Aug 2000 issue, p. 23, or request a review by email (sarah@nafwb.org) or by phone (1-877-767-7662.)

Treasurers:

Offering idea: Having trouble collecting dues or money for CoLaborers? Suggest that women bring a set amount to each meeting. (CoLaborer costs only 92 cents a month.) Remember to send gifts through the proper WAC channels.

REGISTER NOW FOR RIDGECREST NATIONAL WNAC RETREAT SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2002

www.lifeway.com/ridgecrest
1-800-588-7222

Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators:

Make sure your group is represented at the National Convention in Memphis, July 22-23. A local delegate form is found on p. 8.

Plan a special joint August program with your Master's Men or church's men's organization. Have individuals pose as the pictures, using classrooms as the Art Gallery. Conclude with a special communion and footwashing service.

Prepare for August WNAC Emphasis. Present the special emphasis program (see Yearbook, p. 19). The WNAC office needs your support.

Order copies of the new WNAC cookbook and sample a few recipes at your August meeting.

Provision Closet Needs:

Twin sheet sets
Bath towels

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

**Call
Missions
Hotline
(615) 731-3839**

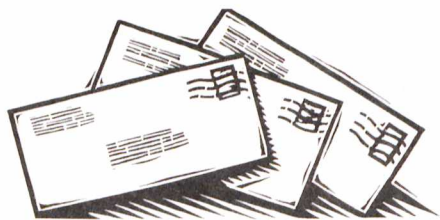
or
subscribe
online
carole@nafwb.org

Missions Chairman:

Use the Service Survey form on p. 11. Then brainstorm ideas for service within your group. Plan a service project for early fall.

Ask women to guess the world's most popular male first name-(Muhammad). Share the statistic found on page 26. Challenge women to explore ways to reach muslims who live within your community.

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



Letters to WNAC

Dear WNAC,

Greetings from Mississippi! Recently, after a Women's Auxiliary meeting at our church, I was shown the March/April 2002 *CoLaborer* magazine article by Judy Lytle entitled "Embrace the Vision." The article concluded one section with the statement "A strong determined woman, Lizzie McAdams broke tradition and followed God's call." This statement raised several questions. Does God "call" women to a pulpit ministry? Is it Biblical, or just tradition, to limit preaching to qualified men?

... Throughout my ministry I have maintained that men and women are equal in Christ (Gal. 3:28), but have distinctive roles and areas of service (1 Cor. 14:34-35; 1 Tim. 2:12; 1 Tim. 3:2).

If this is only opinion or tradition, I want to quickly abandon an unbiblical position. If however, as I believe, this position is grounded in Scripture, I would hope the WNAC would reinforce that position, not contradict it. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Steve Corbett, Pastor, New Lebanon FWB Church
Tishomingo, MS

ED. NOTE: WNAC does not believe in nor promote the ordination of women. This was not the intent of the writer, the article, or CoLaborer magazine. We regret any confusion or misunderstanding.

Dear Staff and Ladies of WNAC,

Your prayers and support helped keep our account in the black in February. It is such a blessing to be included in Home Missions work. God bless as we labor together for Christ.

Bro. Jerry Rayburn and family
Sierra Vista, AZ

Dear WNAC,

We enjoy the *CoLaborer* so much. We use the lessons each month for our devotional at our meetings.

Doris Lane
Bristol, TN

Dear WNAC,

CoLaborer gets better and better! I love the articles and programs. Our ladies have really enjoyed the programs and using the suggested discussion ideas. Keep up the good work.

Barbara Dunbar
Georgetown, SC

Dear Ladies,

I have composed many letters for you but you have never read any of them! The reason being that all of them were only written in my head—not on paper! I think of you and appreciate you EVERY DAY. When I get up in the morning, shower or just wash my face and even when drying my hands throughout the day, I use towels and washcloths that came from you. I make my bed with sheets, pillowcases and blankets given by you.

We eat generally three times a day, and each time we use tableware from you. I cook in pans from you and have a wonderful pressure cooker thanks to you. Down to the leftovers I'm thinking of you because they are stored in Tupperware containers that you bought. My list could go on and on and include many miscellaneous items you generous and loving ladies put in the Provision Closet. We have such a good time going through the cabinets and containers and freely taking what we can use.

Please forgive me for not writing sooner to let you know how much I and my family appreciate you everyday of our lives. It is really overwhelming to think of how much you give to your missionary families. I cannot express my appreciation enough, but I hope you get the idea that my heart is full of gratitude and thanksgiving. May God richly bless each one of you.

Carol Teague
France

Dear WNAC,

Thank you so much for the towels and especially the calling card. You will never know the eternal value of your generosity to missions and the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom. Thanks again.

Brenda Y. Wendlandt
Japan

Dear WNAC,

Your website home page is very attractive. Compliments to the designer.

Elaine Pierce
Bonifay, FL

Dear WNAC,

I appreciate the good work all of you are doing. The *CoLaborer* is always enjoyed—it looks great! God bless! We appreciate all the help the WNAC and Provision Closet were to us through the years.

Glenda Fulcher
New Bern, NC

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:" 1 Thessalonians 1:2,3



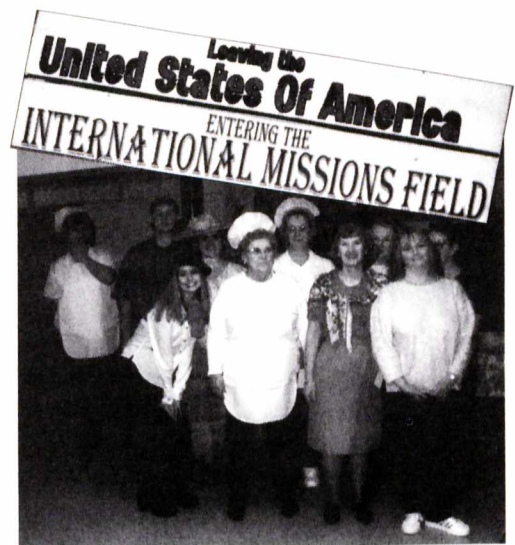
✿ First Arizona District Women Active for Christ held their annual meeting, February 9, 2002, at the First FWB Church in Tucson. The theme was "For Such a Time as This" from Esther 4:14. Pam Burk, from Tucson, painted a backdrop of pillars, flowers, and a fountain (shown at left). The Tucson ladies also provided a luncheon decorated and served with Persian flare. Linda Harvey leads the group.



✿ Rebekah Bragan and Judy Allen of Lebanon WAC, Effingham, SC, recently brought \$890 of household goods to the Provision Closet. Rebekah wrote, "The joy we know

our missionaries will receive and have already received...made all the work to raise the money worth every minute." The group sponsored yard sales to fund this project.

Send us news of your group. Pictures are always welcomed.



✿ Loyal Chapel WAC, Columbia, TN, hosted an International Banquet, March 9, 2002. Women cooked authentic recipes from each of the FWB foreign mission fields. Youth of the church made displays, dressed in costume, and served as docents for the evening. The group raised about \$500 for world missions.

Life! Action

a column for teens



Ready

I had a wondrous dream,
a fantasy in itself.
To follow the footsteps of our Lord and King,
and witness to everyone else.
But I tried to turn from the awful sight
of the ones who didn't know Christ,
As I tossed and turned and thought each night:
"What if everyone had been
too scared to show me the light?"

One night as I felt Him knocking,
patiently waiting for me to listen,
I opened my ears and let the Lord slip in
that maybe I have a heart for missions.
My compassion for the Lord changed that night,
as He molded me as such.
My heart was set and ready to fight,
and show the lost God's gift of life.
I'm on my way to Mexico,
as you all can see,
I'll share the message with everyone.
I'll be the best that I can be!

Jennifer Angus used this piece in her E-Team presentation at various churches. A rising senior, she attends Mt. Vernon First Free Will Baptist Church in Illinois.

Pray for all these E-Team members who are ministering this summer.

Malisa Barnett	Alicia Blackman
Rachel Caudill	Celeste Davis
Teddie Collier	Joshua Detherage
Devon Coward	Phillip Kennedy
Stephen Hodges	Janah Pool
Ashley Jefferson	Jessica Thielemier
Danielle Jones	Anna Walker
Daniel Judkins	Tara Ziliox
Rebekah Player	Justin Atwood
Alan Skiles	Lori Bowers
Christa St. Lawrence	Cassie Daniels
Ashley Turner	Rachel Elliott
Krista Anderson	Rebekah Forlines
Jonathan Brown	Jill McAlister
Andrew Chamberlin	Aaron Montee
Jessica Klug	Kerrie Morgan
Jonathan Locklear	Rachel Nicholson
Kasey Lundquist	Becky Roberts
Jerod McNeal	Cherith Taylor
Julie Potete	Courtney White
Charis St. Lawrence	Lance Williams
Lauren Cameron	Bethany Williams
Lindy Candler	Toni Alejandria
Susan Eastridge	Melissa Armes
Ryan Fowler	Karen Bennett
Sara Govreau	David Gray
Melody Highsmith	Cynthia Grimes
Amy Lawrence	Karissa Harrell
James Lewis	James Hettel
Bethany Parks	Juli McAdams
Daniel Radley	Danielle Slade
Amanda Russell	Lynsey Stripling
Kyle Adams	Jennifer Angus

A PAINFUL PATH TO SALVATION

† JUDY DAVIS †

I was never happy as a child. Our home was a constant battleground. My mother was mentally and physically abusive. My father, an alcoholic, was an abusive husband. When I came home from school, I never knew if I would get a kiss, a slap, a kind word, or a good "cussing out."

Yet, we always attended Sunday school and church. We played the role of "happy family" and "just pretend." I learned Bible stories and memorized Bible verses. These I shared with my maternal grandmother. She was so proud of my Bible knowledge. I spent all my free time with her.

When I was eleven, my grandmother died. I just could not believe that God would let the only person who ever loved me die. I did not know that prayers are not always answered our way. All I knew was, I had prayed for her day and night, and she died.

As a teenager I began searching for something to believe in. I visited churches of every major denomination. Since my ancestors had been Irish Catholic, I studied Catholicism. I stopped attending mass due to major changes in church doctrine.

I rushed through high school, graduating a year early, and left home two days later. In 1965, I married a person with behaviors identical to my parents. The marriage was a disaster, abusive in every way. The fault was as much mine as his. Everyone in my family—parents, siblings, relatives—had experienced divorce. Although I believed strongly in the vows I took, I just didn't want to make it 100%.

We were blessed with two wonderful sons. Both Dennis and Jeff attended a Free Will Baptist church until their early teen years. At that time, I allowed them to make their own decisions about church and their beliefs. I will forever regret that choice I made as a "modern mom." Things might have been so different if we'd walked with the Lord.

On December 4, 1996, our beloved son Dennis killed himself. He was only 28 years old. Our lives were shattered. The shock, disbelief, anger, and pain were unbearable. I asked "why?" but there were no answers, only more questions. I turned my back on God and blamed Him. I cursed Him and refused to believe in His existence.

Just two months before Dennis' suicide, a couple we'd known for years, providentially reentered our lives. We wanted to sell some land; Betty was a real estate agent. She and her husband Bradley, a truly Christian couple, stood beside us and walked with us through all our pain and darkness. My anger and refusal to believe in Jesus Christ didn't deter them. They remained loyal friends.

Soon our bad marriage turned to worse. We sold more land, divided personal property, and my husband built a house down the road. Showing no respect for me, his wife of thirty-six years, he began an adulterous relationship.

I had contemplated suicide many times, but, now full of hate and bitterness, I was determined to kill my husband. When I was at my lowest point, a nurse practitioner "just happened to call." She put me in touch

with a psychiatric counselor. I also called Betty and my younger sister Cathy, a born again Christian. These people helped me calm down and see things more rationally.

Betty had invited me several times to attend church. This time I accepted. I needed to make changes in my life. I knew I still believed in God. (A person doesn't blame, yell at, or curse someone who doesn't exist.) I started attending Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church. The entire congregation made me feel loved and welcomed.

On February 12, 2001, I went with Betty and Bradley to a local church to hear David Ring. As he shared his testimony, I sensed his trust, faith, and love for the Lord. Although I didn't go forward, I prayed the prayer of salvation and asked Jesus into my heart. I felt a peace and joy I had never known.

God washed away the hatred and bitterness. I now can treat my husband like a friend and neighbor. Though I will always grieve for Dennis, God holds me as I cry. My large church family shares my pain. Our pastor, Rick Chapman, and his family are recent and wonderful additions to our church.

Jeff now attends church and Sunday school with me. I pray that someday he will walk with the Lord. Mine was a painful and long path to this point, but through the grace of Jesus Christ, I am saved. Praise God for all His blessings!

Judy Lewis lives in Kirksville, Missouri, and attends the Hazel Creek FWB Church.



JESUS AIN'T THE BOSS OF ME!

by Debe Taylor
WNAC president

He was adamant about it on the way home from preschool. He did not like a certain little boy in his class. He was angry and hurt. This boy had been mean to him and he was never going to like him. Trying to explain this was not a right attitude, his mother told him that Jesus wanted us to like everybody. But his mom just did not "get it." This little boy was mean to him and he did not *want* to like him. In a final attempt to make her son understand, the mother said, "We do not have a choice. Jesus says we *HAVE* to like everybody." Pondering this for just a moment, he looked at his mom and replied, "Well, Jesus ain't the boss of me."

When my friend shared this incident in her little boy's life, I smiled and thought the story was cute. But as the days went by, God began to speak to my heart about Dustin's response to his mother's admonition. Is my attitude sometimes like his? Maybe I don't verbally say, "Jesus ain't the boss of me," but my actions and attitude scream it.

My natural tendency is to stiffen any time someone tries to tell me what to do. Don't believe me? Ask my mom, my dad, my sisters, my husband, my children—ask anyone who really knows me. I don't like to be bossed because I would rather *be* the boss. I just like to know I am in charge of my own life; I have control. On a regular basis, God has to remind me that it cannot be this way if I am to enjoy what He has planned for my life.

"All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give." Do I? How often have I told Jesus He was the Lord of my life and then tried to make all my own decisions—be my own boss. During my college years, I claimed the verses in Proverbs 3:5,6: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Yet over the years I have found myself saying, "Lord, I would rather go this way" or "Lord, are You sure You know what You are doing?" I question the path He sets before me and the way He leads my life. In other words I say, "Jesus ain't the boss of me."

I am trying each day to follow the advice of the Psalmist David, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him:" (Psalm 37:5,7a) During his flight from King Saul, surely David wanted to take matters into his own hands. Yet he trusted in the Lord. He allowed God to lead and he followed.

For Jesus to take control, I must acknowledge Him as "boss" of my life and trust Him to do what is best for me. "*Trust and obey for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*"

Debe Taylor lives in Hot Springs, Arkansas. She is a much requested seminar and retreat speaker. Debe will lead a seminar for pastor's wives at the 2002 WNAC convention in Memphis. (see p. 8 for schedule).

Eighty-four couples representing more than a millenium of marriage met to improve and enhance their relationships. Speakers Richard and Rebekah Land shared biblical insight and offered valuable information on communication, conflicts, and a variety of other marriage-related topics. Dramatists David and Angie Outlaw provided humorous yet realistic sketches. The weekend included a candlelight banquet on Saturday evening and a worship service on Sunday morning.

See more: <http://homepage.mac.com/kefletcher> or www.nafwb.org/mm

National Marriage Enrichment Conference

April 5-7, 2002

Pigeon Forge, TN



DON'T MISS THE NEXT RETREAT EVENT!

WNAC National Retreat September 19-21, 2002 Ridgcrest, North Carolina

ASHLEY HARTLEY, gifted young woman and mother of three boys, will touch your heart with her bubbly personality and Scripture-filled presentations.

RONDA FREEMAN, her lifelong friend, will minister in song. With three professional recordings, Ronda has been singing since age 13.

Register Today

ONLINE: www.lifeway.com/ridgcrest

BY PHONE: 1-800-588-7222

BY MAIL: use form, p. 17, May/June issue.

HELP! I'M A MOM

bright ideas for mothers from mothers

Q A Bedtimes. What times are best? How do you enforce them?

Bedtimes vary from household to household depending on the children's ages and the family's schedule. Babies may need to be fed before going to sleep. Rocking or patting infants help them relax. A pacifier or favorite blanket can bring comfort and security.

Preschoolers need plenty of sleep in order to be healthy and happy. Establishing a routine early on is very important. As bedtime approaches, activities should be more calm so the child can wind down. Make sure all physical needs—bathroom, drink—are met before starting your nightly routine. If little Anna knows that bedtime includes prayer, a favorite book, story, or special song, she will be more cooperative. Some kids love having their backs rubbed or patted. A glass of milk or a protein snack (i. e. peanut butter and crackers) may

enhance sleep. Stay away from chocolate or other sugary snacks. Soft music can be helpful. Some children have a harder time falling asleep than others. You can't make children sleep, but you can insist that they lie quietly in bed.

To insure proper mental and physical development, some pediatricians recommend at least 10 hours sleep for school-aged children. Reminding children of planned activities may encourage them to go to sleep. Giving rewards for exemplary bedtime behavior is another option.

Reading a nightly Bible story or a passage of Scripture reminds children of God's love and protection through the night. It also helps to establish a routine which will hopefully be continued throughout their lives.

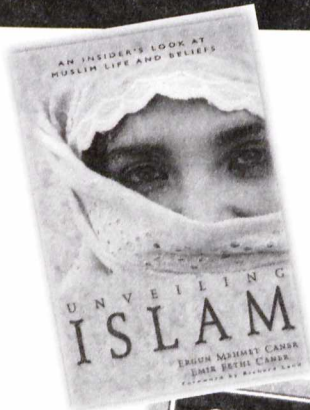
Contributor: Yvonne Hampton, Antioch, TN

Next issue: How do you teach children respect?

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

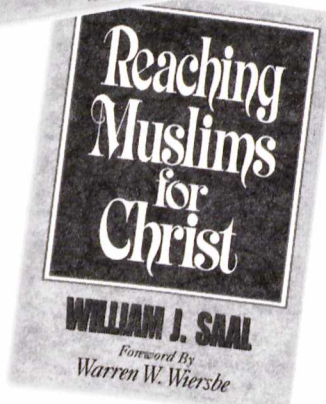
In the next 24 hours, 37,000 Muslims will die without Christ.

Get ready to change the statistic.



Unveiling Islam includes the testimony of the Caner brothers who grew up Muslim in America. As teens, the brothers heard the gospel and accepted Christ. They were disowned by their father. Today they are Baptist seminary professors.

Because of their background, the Caners bring fresh insight and understanding into the beliefs and practices of Islam. This book gives a detailed history of the Muslim faith and explains its many customs and traditions. *Unveiling Islam* is a valuable tool for probing the Muslim mind and for clearing up common misconceptions about this rapidly growing religion. (\$12.99)



Reaching Muslims for Christ is an excellent resource for beginners in Muslim evangelism. The book includes an overview of Muslim beliefs and presents problem areas and roadblocks from both Islamic and Christian perspectives. The book offers methods, helpful Scriptures, and conversation topics for witnessing. One chapter is devoted to Muslim evangelism resources. This book is a must have for anyone who wants to share the gospel with Muslims. (\$12.99)

Both titles are available from WNAC. 1-877-767-7662

Mission Alert



Evangelism News from Around the World

FWB AROUND THE WORLD

WORLDWIDE CONCERNS

Pray for Christians and missionaries ministering in the Middle East, especially those caught in the midst of Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Siberians north of the Arctic Circle are hearing and accepting the gospel. The need for Bibles is great, but delivery is difficult to cities only accessible by plane or by boats in the summer.

"When you can put your Church on the back of my camel, then I will think that Christianity is for us Somalis." (*People on the Move*). Nomadic people number over 20 million worldwide. Most live in Muslim-controlled North Africa. Pray for open doors to this greatly neglected mission field.

FWB IN NORTH AMERICA

Praise the Lord for four mission works that have now become self-supporting. Missionaries leading these congregations are: Russell and Vonda Johnson, Cheyenne, WY; Darrell and Sandy Smith, Portland OR; Jeff and Sherri Sloan, Fort Wayne, IN; and Tim and Robyn Osborn, Memphis, TN.

John and Cheryl Reed have recently been appointed as missionaries to Green Bay, WI.

Shane Wilson has been appointed to work in Hispanic ministries, in Tennessee.

Pray for the David Carlson family in Paducah, KY. Wanda's trial is set to begin July 15.

Missionary Bud Bivens, Puerto Rico gives praise to God that construction has finally begun on their new building.

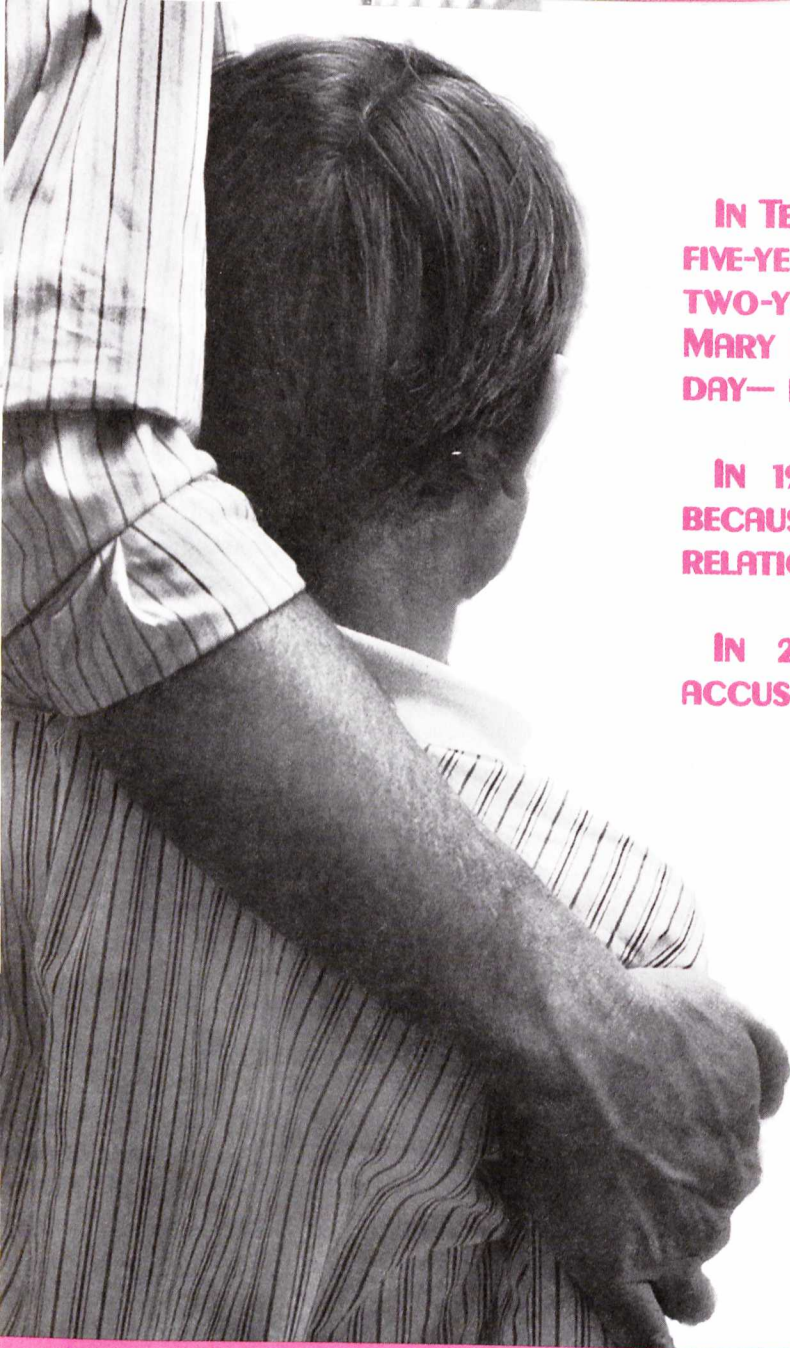
Jerry Barron, Mexico, requests prayer for a young minister, Jose Santamaria, who is undergoing chemotherapy treatments for recurring cancer. Pray also for his new bride and his ministry.

Missionary Kenneth Eagleton, Cote d'Ivoire, reports that Doropo hospital needs a second operating room, X-ray facilities and a surgical ward. Necessary medical equipment is being donated through Project CURE, but funds are needed for postage. Any gifts should be earmarked Doropo Hospital.

Alice Smith is excited about her upcoming ministry opportunity in Community Health Evangelism. She will be assisting Dr. Eagleton and Verlin Anderson in two scheduled seminars and will join the CHE team in January 2003. She is presently helping the Agnibilekrou and Abengourou churches.

Missionary Bobby Poole, Brazil, requests prayer for several men struggling with alcohol addictions. Drug and alcohol abuse is rampant among both youth and adults. The church now holds a youth meeting every Saturday night.

How can FWB effectively minister in Restricted Access Countries? Clint Morgan is now stateside, exploring possibilities and determining future strategies for this type of ministry.



IN TEXAS, ON JUNE 20, 2001, 7-YEAR-OLD NOAH, FIVE-YEAR-OLD JOHN, THREE-YEAR-OLD PAUL, TWO-YEAR-OLD LUKE, AND SIX-MONTH-OLD MARY AWOKED TO THE WONDERMENT OF A NEW DAY— NEVER KNOWING IT WOULD BE THEIR LAST.

IN 1994, TWO YOUNG BROTHERS DROWNED BECAUSE THEY INTERFERED WITH THEIR MOTHER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HER BOYFRIEND.

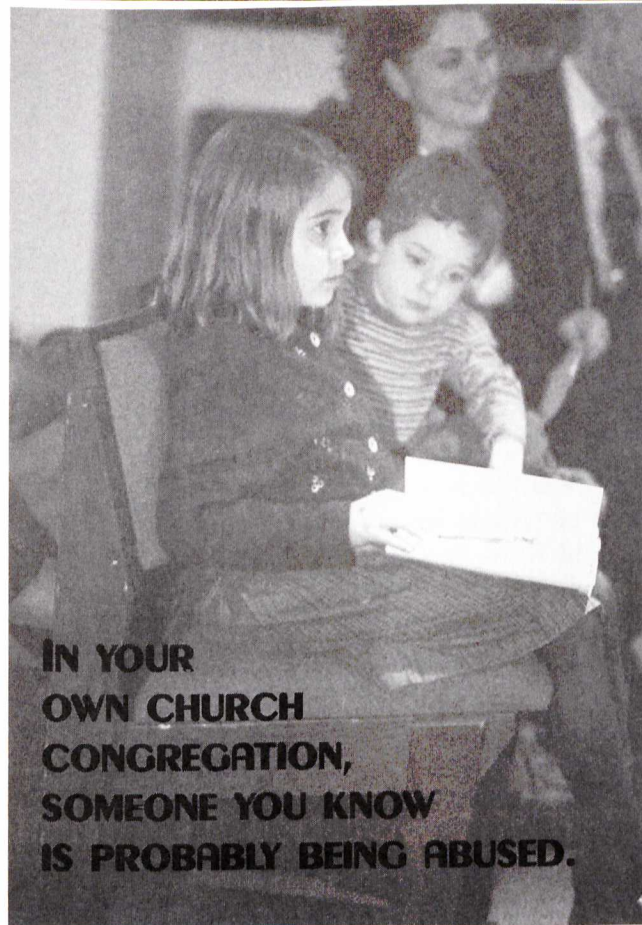
IN 2002, DOZENS OF PRIESTS ARE BEING ACCUSED OF ABUSING THEIR PARISHIONERS.

On September 11, 2001, I sat unaware of the tragic events unfolding in America. I was listening to a far greater tragedy—a tragedy that happens every year, every month, every week, every day, every minute, every second. A tragedy that kills and maims more people than the one-time tragedy of September 11, 2001. Sadly, the victims of this tragedy are too young to tell until it is too late—or they may not live to tell at all.

Several years ago I met a young boy, blond hair, blue eyes. He sat across from my desk, and we exchanged the pleasantries of two people meeting for the first time. To me he seemed like any typical twelve-year-old. Later I would find out that this young boy had seen more tragedy in his few years than most people see in a lifetime. At age five his parents decided he was old enough to participate in their "adult" parties. Children's Services found out and removed him to his grandparents' home, not knowing that grandpa had been abusing and molesting his own children for many years. When the boy was removed from this home, he spent seven years moving from foster home to foster home. Now at age twelve, he was being adopted by a retired military couple. Later he would be removed from this home because, in spite of all their military training, this couple was not prepared to handle the anger in this young man. He was

A FAR GREATER TRAGEDY

BY ALICE GRANT



**IN YOUR
OWN CHURCH
CONGREGATION,
SOMEONE YOU KNOW
IS PROBABLY BEING ABUSED.**

placed in yet another home, that of a single school administrator with two adopted sons. This too was short-lived when it was found that this man had a fantasy for young boys. My young blond-haired, blue-eyed friend would now grow to adulthood in yet another foster home, unable to form a normal relationship or to trust another human being. And the school administrator? He lost his teaching certificate and had to close his school—his “Christian” school.

Over the years I have seen many abused and neglected children pass through the doors of the mental health agency where I work. I do not deal with them directly, but part of my job is to send written reports of abuse to the local law enforcement agencies. My heart breaks every time I report a child who has been beaten by an angry parent, molested by mom’s boyfriend, left to fend for himself because mom and dad are too drunk to care.

I remember the two young sisters who were sold to men to support their mother’s drug habit—they were three and four at the time. The five-year-old girl who was left in a department store while her mother went home, packed a bag and moved a thousand miles away. The young boy who will only remember his baby brother in a coma, hooked up to machines before God mercifully took him home, the victim of shaken baby syndrome. The

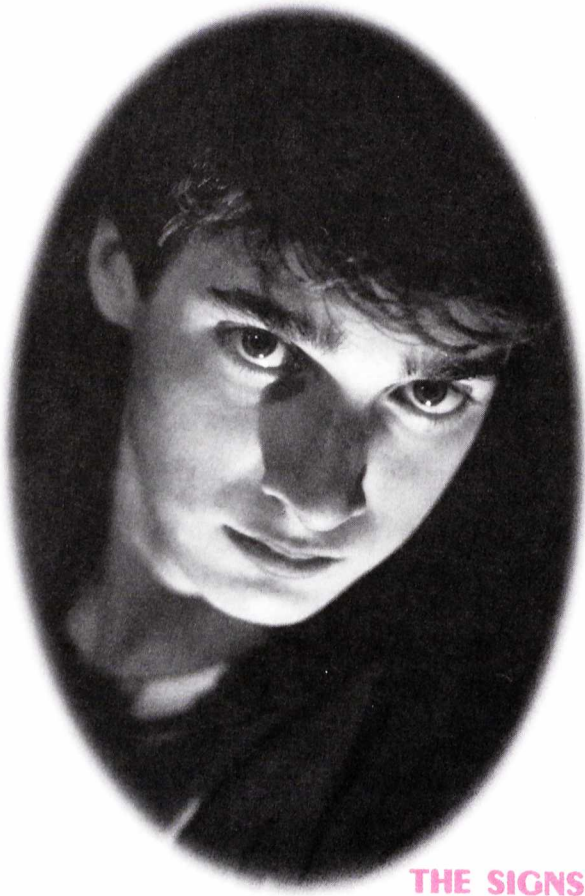
eighteen-month-old who died after drinking what was left of a night’s party, before mom and dad could rouse themselves out of bed.

The stories continue. A teen is beaten because she takes her blouse off wrong. Her stepmother in the next room hears her shake out the shirt; she knows it has been taken off wrong; the child has to be taught a lesson. A young boy steals cat food because he has not been given enough to eat. Another is beaten sixty times in an hour because he cannot “learn” a high school math problem—he is in the third grade. An eight-year-old is warned not to tell that her uncle has pulled up her shirt. Her uncle is a Baptist preacher.

The National Clearing House on Child Abuse and Neglect reports that in 1999, only about sixty percent of the 2,974,000 child abuse referrals were even investigated. Fifty-eight percent of these referrals were due to neglect, 21 percent were physical abuse, and 11 percent were sexual abuse reports. Thirty-eight percent of these children suffered multiple types of abuse. Most of these children were abused by a parent, most often the mother. We are shocked when the news reports tell us that a depressed mother has drowned her five children, but over a thousand children a year die from child abuse and neglect. The rest are left with physical scars that may heal and emotional scars that won’t.

On September 11, 2001, while the terrorists were attacking America, I sat listening to Dave Pelser relate the memories of his childhood. Mr. Pelser is the author of a series of books including *A Child Called It*. He was abused by a mentally ill, alcoholic mother, a mother who would not even call him by name. She called him “It.” At the time, his abuse case was the third worst in California history—the other two victims were dead.

Child abuse is an international tragedy. It happens in all walks of life. It happens in homes of the rich and the poor. It happens in daycare centers, in hospitals, in school rooms, in dark alleys, and it happens in churches. In America today, the headlines are filled with one denomination’s disgrace. We find that disgusting. But in your own church congregation, someone you know is probably being abused. It could be the little girl in the dirty dress on the bus each Sunday morning. It could be the little boy with the bruise under his eye from “falling off the bike.” It could be the child of the Sunday school teacher. It could even be



**THE SIGNS
ARE THERE.**

your own child. Either you just don't see or you choose to look the other way. The signs are there.

The American Academy of Pediatrics states that among other signs, abused children may have or have had many unusual injuries or injuries that can't be explained. They seem sad or cry a lot. They may fight with classmates or act out in class. They destroy things, throw toys across the room, or abuse animals. They seem tired, can't sleep, and often have nightmares. They are afraid of a parent or other adults. They may hesitate to go home, as if they are afraid of something there.

Abusive parents often stay away from other parents in the neighborhood, and they don't take part in school or church activities. They may have an addiction problem. They do not want to talk about their child's injuries or seem nervous when they do. Parents who abuse their children have often been abused as children themselves. Child abuse is a vicious circle.

Abuse in church settings is becoming alarmingly prevalent. Other denominations may have hidden what they have suspected for a long time. They may be the ones who choose not to see. I pray that our denomination does not look the other way. May we choose to see. Let the hurting children we come in contact with find us to be the help they need. I have often heard that physical needs must be met before a spiritual need can be filled. An abused child finds it very hard to believe in a loving Heavenly Father when he sees no love in an earthly father.

Child abuse is everybody's problem. You may be the only person who can save a child from being a victim of this tragedy. If you suspect a child is being abused, you must do something about it. You must call the police, the local child protection agency, or the National Child Abuse Hotline, Childhelp USA at 1-800-4-A-CHILD. It is better to report something that may prove false than not report something that could prove fatal. Child abuse escalates; a slap on the face today may become a blow to the head tomorrow. Children abused today often become the abusers tomorrow. A child you know may be counting on you to be her voice and to lead her out of the darkness. A child yet to be born may owe his life to you.

The tragedy of September 11, 2001, called America to arms. Our children deserve the same. Children like Noah, John, Paul, Luke, and Mary are counting on you. Please help.

**IT IS BETTER TO REPORT
SOMETHING THAT MAY
PROVE FALSE THAN NOT
REPORT SOMETHING THAT
COULD PROVE FATAL.**

1-800-4-A-CHILD

Alice Grant is a pastor's wife from Ohio (New Lexington FWB Church.) She and her husband, Jim, have four married children and ten grandchildren.



Words for Women

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

*Marjorie H.
Workman*

Baseball vs Cooking

Without fail, every pretty Sunday from early spring to late fall, my parent's house was the gathering place for neighborhood kids. Most walked, some came on bicycles, and a few drove. Often they were arriving as my family returned home from church. They came with gloves, bats and baseballs. The pasture beside my house was the playing field. I loved it. I love baseball. I was a tomboy. My dad told me so quite frequently. My goal was to be as good at baseball as the best of the boys. Goal setting is a good thing, isn't it? At least you have a standard to measure by. Did I achieve my goal? Rarely. Older guys, even dads, played. However, I was always the first girl chosen by a team captain. Often I was picked before some of the guys.

My older brother's goal was to play professional baseball. A high school baseball team was the closest he ever came. He wanted to play shortstop, so he had me throwing grounders and batting line drives to help him practice fielding. He would yell, "Throw the ball harder." "Hit it harder." "Do it again." This went on for days and over the years. The workouts weren't nearly as fun as the Sunday afternoon games.

On most Sundays, my Dad had a different goal. He would walk out on the front porch, cup his hands to his mouth and yell toward the pasture, "Marjorie Ray, come to the house right now!" As I walked past, he would say, "Go to the kitchen and help your Mother. If you can't do anything, observe." I hated it. I wanted to play ball. It took forever to cook dinner, eat, and wash the dishes. I'm sure Mother enjoyed having a sulking, mad, disgruntled daughter as her helper. Maybe that's why Dad didn't make me come in every Sunday.

As I reflect over those childhood Sundays, I realize that Dad's goal was far

more noble than mine. Helping Mother was certainly part of it, but it was more. He was preparing me for the future when I would become a wife and mother. He was making sure I had the opportunity to learn cooking—something I now enjoy. He was teaching me how to serve.

Our Women Nationally Active for Christ office also has this same goal—to serve. As a service organization, we assist new women's groups, encourage existing ones, and promote support for our various Free Will Baptist ministries.

We accomplish our goal by:

GIVING new groups free promotional brochures, complimentary magazines and a step-by-step organizational manual.

PROVIDING existing groups with

—Enlistment folders to help them gain new members

—Materials to assist in the promotion of the special prayer weeks.

SPONSORING an annual Creative Arts Contest to encourage women to develop their talents in art and journalism.

PUBLISHING *CoLaborer*, an appealing, helpful, and inexpensive magazine for Free Will Baptists women.

ORGANIZING conventions and retreats for fellowship, encouragement, and worship.

COORDINATING AND MAINTAINING projects that support other Free Will Baptist ministries.

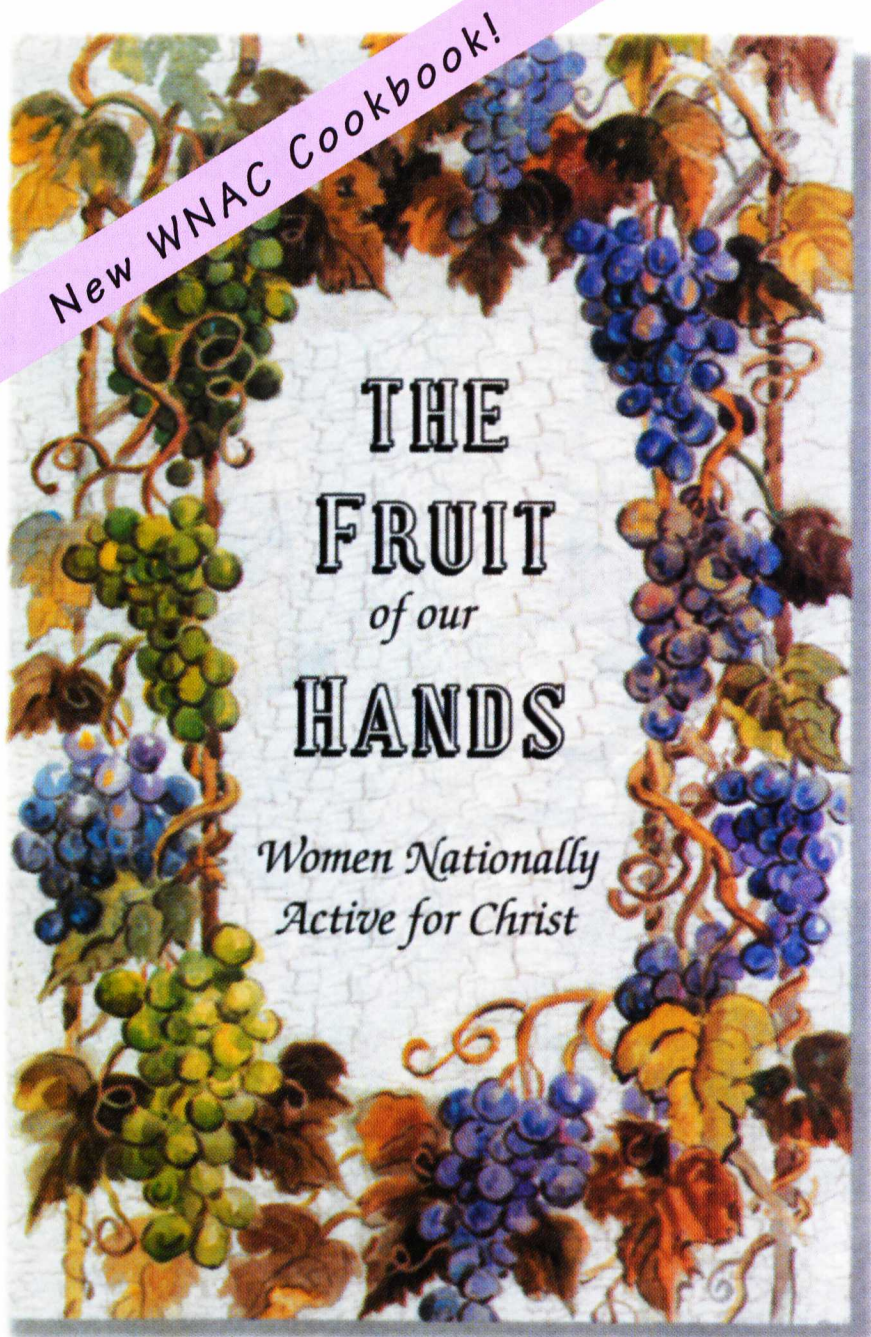
—A provision closet to assist our missionaries in setting up housekeeping

—A scholarship fund for internationals studying to minister in Free Will Baptist churches within their own country

—A loan fund for students studying at Free Will Baptist Bible College

—Special projects such as the organ fund and the missionary-in-residence house.

What are your goals? Will you help us reach ours? Continue the work of the WNAC office. Participate in the August Emphasis Month offering.



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