

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

CoLaborer

**The Most Wonderful
Time of the Year**

Triumph Over Stress

Keeping Your Balance

**2002 Convention
Highlights**

Nov Dec
2002



Sarah Fletcher



Ins and Outs

"Pancakes, I just love pancakes," my daughter revealed to her kindergarten teacher. "My mommy always fixes 'em when my daddy gets stressed out."

Pancakes? Now that was new! Unfortunately, the "stressed out" part was not. Both my husband and I fit the "high pressure type" which Diana Bryant so aptly describes in our December feature. Her reassurance that God actually makes some of us this way gives me hope. Yet I willingly admit to the "outs."

I've been stressed out, burned out, and worn out. Not all at the same time, mind you. The "outs" of life have been tempered with countless moments (even seasons) of calm, rest, and joy. Those are the times I cherish. I do not like the "outs."

I am not "out" alone. What woman cannot identify with that draggy, numbing, hard-to-focus feeling! No one is immune. Sometimes "outs" result from uncontrollable circumstances. Yet even circumstance does not automatically seal our demise. We choose our response. Most times, "outs" are simply payment for our preoccupation.

Holidays are prime times for "outs." Play practices, feast preparations, family functions, parties, programs, endless gift lists, cards, cantatas, caroling! An added crisis, car repair, or even a cold can wipe us "out" until the New Year.

How can we avoid these zap traps? Combat the "outs" with "ins."

Insight. Mentally stepping back and surveying the situation helps us understand our predicament. How did we get this way? Is this experience a lesson from God or a device of Satan. The Psalmist (who definitely knew the "outs") prayed, "Search me O God and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts" (Psalm 139:23). When faced with unexplained trials, James 1:5 advises us to ask for wisdom. Realizing God's purpose helps us hold on to hope.

Instinct. Our body knows its limits. When we refuse to heed the signals, we end up "out." Maybe David sensed this when he stated, "I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child ... (Psalm 131:2). Rest. A power nap or a five-minute vacation can give us new perspective. Past experiences should also serve as red-flag reminders. Identifying specific struggles, tedious tasks, or even difficult days can keep us on guard and out of trouble. No one wants to repeat a burnout.

Instruction. Stay in the Word. What a source of strength! God's promise to be with us when we pass through flood and fire (Isaiah 43:2) may rekindle the spark in our souls. Another chapter or verse may offer the healing balm we require for recovery. No matter our need, God's Word speaks. Meditate. Our November feature, "Keep a Quiet Heart" by Elizabeth Hodges details this spiritual discipline.

Worn out, stressed out, burned out? May we find relief and renewal—not in pancakes, but in His presence.

"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms:"

(Deuteronomy 33:27a)

Volume 42

Number 6

NOV • DEC 2002

14

**The Most
Wonderful Time
of the Year
Creative ideas for
sharing Christ
through a holiday
home**

27

**We're All Family,
Honey!
One girl's attempt to
understand her
holiday family**

29

**Pre-Thanksgiving
Prayer Guide
Harvest opportunities
in North America**

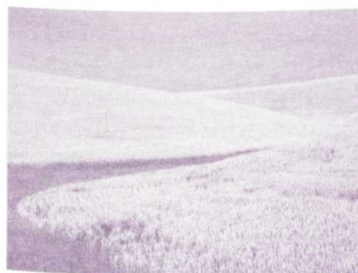
*Except where otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version.

For Such a Time as This BALANCE



CONTENTS

FEATURES AND ARTICLES



- 4 **For Such a Time as This**—2002 Convention
- 7 **NOVEMBER FEATURE**
Triumph Over Stress—Elizabeth Hodges
- 12 **DECEMBER FEATURE**
Keeping Your Balance—Diana Bryant
- 14 **The Most Wonderful Time**—Wanda Powell
- 24 **Living by the Answer**—Sandrah Mashingaidze
- 27 **We're All Family, Honey!**—Tina Tolbert
- 29 **Pre-Thanksgiving Prayer Guide**
Features may be used for WAC programs.

COLUMNS AND DEPARTMENTS

- 11 **Price List for Missionary House**
- 18 **Springboard: memos for WAC officers**
- 19 **Labors of Love**
- 20 **Letters to WNAC/Help I'm a Mom!**
- 21 **2003 Branson Retreat Registration**
- 22 **Life!/Action**
- 23 **Unnecessary Burden Bearing**—Debe Taylor
- 25 **Mission Alert**
- 26 **Holiday Goodies and Gift Ideas**
- 31 **Words for Women**—Marjorie Workman

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66th Annual WNAC Convention

For Such a

Nearly 1000 women met "For Such a Time as This" at the 2002 WNAC Convention in Memphis, July 22-23. And what a time! Awards and presentations, powerful drama, uplifting music, heartfelt teaching, and a missionary challenge helped make the meeting memorable. Themes of grace, forgiveness, and acceptance seemed to echo in every session.

A Time of Sharing

Five unique individuals shared their stories in the Monday afternoon drama, "Is There Hope For Me?" Nearly four hundred persons watched as women from Grifton FWB Church (NC) portrayed Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba and Mary. Aided by soloist Beth Mitchell and narrator Diane Bridgman, the group presented "an object lesson of grace."

President Debe Taylor shared her heart to over 250 pastor's wives. "Having a Difficult Time" included practical advice and scriptural principles concerning cash, church and children. Over thirty women responded to a moving invitation to pray for prodigal children.

A Time of Recognition

Two women received special recognition during the Tuesday morning session. Secretary Debbie Burden received applause, an apron and an autographed cookbook for her many hours of typing, sorting, and compiling recipes for the new

WNAC Cookbook, *The Fruit of Our Hands*. The Convention honored Yvonne Hampton, Executive Assistant, with a gift of antique Heisey glassware for her 16 years of service in the WNAC office. Winners of the annual Creative Arts Contest also received awards. Three women, Ruth Bivens (PR), Judy Delong (KY), and Rachel Sekulich (GA), won in multiple categories.

A Time of Giving

WNAC reported yearly income of over \$550,000. This amount includes over \$350,000 in gifts for missions-related causes. Conventioneers generously gave \$2620 during the worship service. Tennessee officers presented WNAC a check for \$2500, an abundance from funds raised for the Convention.

A Time of Reckoning

Various reports from committees garnered unanimous approval. (Resolutions are on page 6.) Convention registration included, 215 delegates, 27 missionaries, and 699 visitors.

In her annual report, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Marjorie Workman, shared the financial needs of the WNAC office. Though gifts to missions and the Provision Closet have increased, WNAC office funds are deficient. Membership fees and CoLaborer subscriptions (WNAC's main sources of income) accounted for

Bottom left to right: Susan Forlines; Kristi Johnson; President Debe Taylor; praying for prodigals; comforting hug; National YET team; Carol Reid;



Time as This

less than 50% of the budget. Mrs. Workman encouraged all women to subscribe to *CoLaborer* and urged women to consider making a faith promise commitment of \$10 monthly for WNAC.

A Time of Worship

From the first prayer to the last hymn, women sensed the presence of the Lord and responded in worship. Monday's sessions found women praying, singing together, weeping, hugging, and lifting hands before the Lord.

Combining Scripture, hymns, and choruses, Susan Forlines led the congregation in worship. Musicians Debbie Mouser and Carol Reid offered praise through piano and organ. In a devotional presentation, the 2002 National YET team encouraged others to share their faith. Tears surfaced as Carol Reid read Luke 7 and Beverly Riggs sang, "Alabaster Box."

A Time of Opportunity

Laurie Horne (NC) invited women to participate in the Missionary in Residence House project—furnishing this ministry home on the campus of FWBCC. Likening the house to the Shunamite's prophet's chamber, she reminded listeners that givers are recipients of blessings. She asked individuals and groups to send or

bring a special offering to the National Retreat at Ridgecrest.

Karen Pfeiffer, a deaf individual from Johnson City, TN, pleaded with the crowd to become involved in ministries for the deaf. Nearly 95% of the deaf population is unchurched.

Missionary husband and wife team, Tim and Kristi Johnson challenged listeners with the Great Commission. Together they shared their burden and vision for Spain, comparing the Spanish church with saffron. (Prior to the service, each person received a small packet of this most precious spice, native to the region where the Johnsons minister.) Like saffron, spiritual harvest in Spain is difficult, limited, and valuable. Tim remarked, "If we can influence just a handful of people for Christ, we will have done what we were called to do. If you miss the opportunity, the harvest will be lost." The Johnsons requested prayer for this country where "no religion" is popular and Christianity is often considered a cult.

A Time of Hospitality and Fellowship

"Welcome to my Tennessee home," announced Rebecca Pugh, TWAC Vice-President as she offered official greetings. Attendees experienced that same Tennessee down-home hospitality throughout the week as hostesses



women enjoy the booths; TWAC officers Karen Southwell & Mary Walkley; Rebecca Pugh; Grifton dramatist Pamela Cobb; "the real Joanne King."

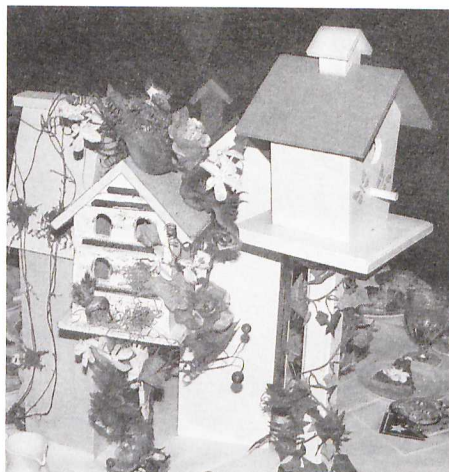


manned information booths. Yet Tennessee women outdid themselves at the WNAC Fellowship Luncheon.

Colorful programs, heart-shaped favors, and birdhouses of every shape, size and form adorned the tables. Long lines waited for a bountiful buffet of baked catfish and fried chicken. Fellowship was limited, though, to the 350 who obtained tickets through pre-registration. The event sold out as the convention began.

A Time of Laughter

Luncheon fellowship turned to fun when Viney Mae from Fruithill, Kentucky appeared. Some chuckled, some shook, others laughed themselves to tears as Viney Mae, dressed in work boots, bonnet, and a



From top: Viney Mae; some of the many TN birdhouses; Fellowship Luncheon buffet line; a time of prayer.

pieced-quilt skirt, shared her stories, songs, and antics. She lifted spirits; she touched hearts. The program ended with a powerful gospel presentation. Dramatist Teri Peacock, who portrays this backwoods character, and her husband minister to Jewish people within the Memphis area.

A Time of Reflection

For most, Memphis is miles away and memory. Maybe a cookbook or a 2003 Plan Book now graces your shelf. Perhaps a birdhouse hangs invitingly in your yard. Yet the most valuable things are not "things" but truths, learned, experienced, waiting to be shared. "God has a purpose for your being here," said Susan Forlines.

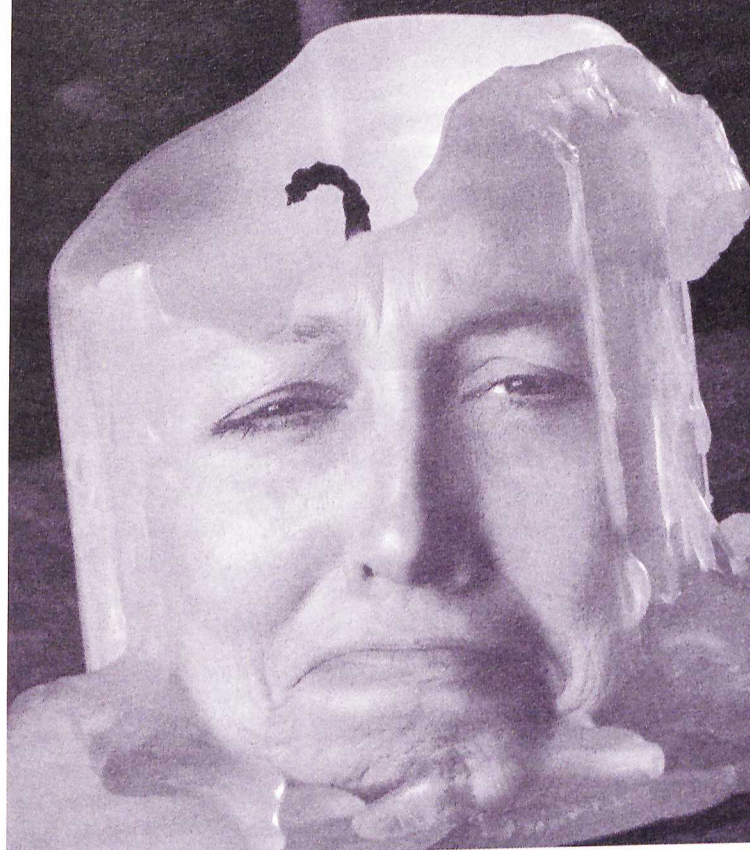
Who knows whether you came to the "city of the king" to honor the King of Kings "for such a time as this."

Resolutions of the 66th WNAC Convention

1. We recommend that scholarships be given from the Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship Fund as follows: \$1000 to be divided between two Ivorian students, Pastor Paul Amiezi and Robert Housessou (as recommended by Jerry Pinkerton); \$1000 for Osmir, a Brazilian seminary student who is preparing for the ministry (as recommended by Curt Holland); \$1000 to be divided among the 18 seminary students at the Cedars of Lebanon Seminary in Pinar del Rio, Cuba (as recommended by Steve Lytle).
2. Be it resolved that we, as Free Will Baptist women go on record in opposition to same sex marriages and encourage our ladies to contact our legislature to encourage family values.
3. Be it resolved that we, the Women Nationally Active for Christ, be committed to pray for our youth that they may come to a saving knowledge of Christ at an early age so that they may continue to carry the torch of the gospel to future generations.



NOVEMBER FEATURE



TRIUMPH OVER STRESS: KEEP A QUIET HEART

BY ELIZABETH HODGES

DO YOU DEAL WITH THE ROOT OF YOUR STRESS OR ONLY THE SYMPTOMS? DO YOU ALLEVIATE STRESS OR MERELY DELAY IT UNTIL A LATER DATE? We are not self-sufficient. As believers we are dependent on God, His Word, and His strength. We must admit to weakness and vulnerability. And we must recognize that Satan often seeks to keep us defeated through stress.

Are you familiar with these cartoon captions?

*"When I woke up this morning I had ONE nerve left....
and NOW you are on IT!"*

"I SAID, 'I'M WORKING ON IT!'"

*"God put me on this earth to accomplish a certain number
of things. Right now I am so far behind, I will NEVER die!"*

Ever been there? All of us may reach that place at some point in our lives. Some of us are there now. God promises to help. John 15:9-14 challenges us to abide in God's Word and obey His commands.

As we abide in His love, we will be able to help others. Psalm 23 reminds us that God is always there, meeting our every need. He leads, guides, directs and protects even in times of darkness.

Matthew 28:19-20 promises that He is with us

"always." How much is always? All the way! 2

Corinthians 12:9-10 reminds us that His grace is sufficient. His power is made perfect in weakness.

In light of these truths, let's develop an acronym for stress—something easy to remember, quick to review, but challenging to apply and practice.

SIT AT JESUS' FEET: STUDY THE WORD

Psalm 46:10a says, "Be still and know that I am God." Does being still seem difficult or almost impossible? If God commands us to "be still," will He not enable us to obey?

When my children were little, quiet time was a challenge. My firstborn Samuel has always been an early riser. Whenever my feet hit the floor, he was awake and ready for his day. Then came Stephen and Sarah. Did they all take naps at the same time? Not on your life, no matter how diligently I tried to attain this small luxury!

At home with my children during their preschool years, I was privileged to attend Bible Study Fellowship. This proved such an oasis for my spiritual life. In order to accomplish my studies, my children "studied" at the table with me. Each had a notebook, Bible and pen just like Mom. The plan worked!

In BSF I was challenged to establish a "quiet corner" for my daily meeting with God. Come visit me today and you will readily discover my "spot." My rocker/recliner is surrounded by Bibles, books, notebooks, journals, pens/pencils, kleenex, etc. My husband Eddie's "spot" is nearby. Our children now respect this time when we are quiet before the Lord.

Warren Wiersbe says, "We wait before the Lord, so that we can

unknowingly impact another life by your devotion?"

Susanna Wesley, mother of 17, would throw her apron over her head when she needed time with her Lord. Her children knew not to disturb her at those moments.

In the account of Mary and Martha from Luke 10:38-42, Jesus said, "but only one thing is needed." Do you find yourself "cumbered about with much serving"? While teaching this passage in Sunday school, a friend of mine commented, "If I must be a Martha, Lord, give me a Mary heart." This is a frequent request of mine. I am busy like Martha, but I want to know when to be quiet ...to sit at my Savior's feet...to know Him so I can be molded into His image.

a "full mind" is required. There must be *content* for meditation. Meditation produces sustenance for living as God's Word feeds our souls and enables us to grow.

"Meditate" is an active verb meaning to ponder, contemplate and think upon. However, we cannot meditate on something we have not read nor studied. What aids (Bible reading guides, word studies, inductive studies, devotional books, etc.) do you use in your study of God's Word?

Personalize your study. What ministers to your heart or encourages your spirit? What speaks to you, giving you something to share with others? Realize God made us individual, unique creations. Swindoll affirms, "God did not make us 'cookie-cutter' Christians."

IF I MUST BE A MARTHA, LORD, GIVE ME A MARY HEART.

work for the Lord." Do we neglect this necessary component?

Chuck Swindoll tells of his friend Bob, who worked for the Navigators in the Philippines. Approaching Bob's office one day he heard the melody of "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing." Peering through the window, he saw Bob on his knees before an open Bible. A single candle radiated from a nearby table. Swindoll said he felt as though he were on "holy ground." He realized where Bob's power with God originated. The experience made an indelible

impression on this young Christian. Not many people know Bob, but what an impact Chuck Swindoll has made on the Christian community! Could someone be observing you? Might you

Acts 9:43 refers to Peter "tarrying many days in Joppa with one Simon, a tanner." In our busyness, "tarrying" often seems less than spiritual. However, it takes time to be holy. We cannot know God if we maintain a "drive-thru" mentality. We must spend time with Him.

A breakdown often occurs between what we hear from God's Word and what we practice. Is the power of God active and recognizable in our daily lives? Can He be seen in the decisions and choices we make? Puritan preacher Thomas Manton said, "What is the reason there is so much preaching and so little practice? For want of meditation."

Meditation is to our soul what digestion is to our body. Wiersbe says: "The bridge between learning and living is meditating—praying over the Word, pondering it, applying it to our own lives." Dr. Erwin Lutzer stresses that meditation must not occur through an "empty mind," as New Agers believe. Rather

Develop a Bible study plan that works for you, one that meets your personal needs.

Second Timothy 2:15 tells us to "study to shew thyself approved unto God." God will bless our faithfulness to study His Word. He will meet us where we are. He will minister His balm to our hurried, frazzled spirits.

Is your quiet time a priority? Whether you are an early-bird or a night-owl, spend time daily with the Savior. May the aroma of His presence linger with us all day, allowing us to touch others' lives by our mere presence in their worlds.

TRUST IN THE LORD

Proverbs 3:5-6 challenges us to "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 path." Isaiah 26:3 promises,





"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee." Isaiah 30:15 affirms that "in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength."

Often God calms the child, not the storm. We can rest, like the sparrow perched above a raging river, because our God is in control.

Do we come boldly to the throne of God with our problems, only to pick up those burdens and walk away? If God clothes the lilies of the field and numbers the hairs of our head, is He not concerned about any problem, crisis, or illness that might trouble one of His children? Are we not of more value than flowers and birds?

"Take no thought...for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things" (Matthew 6:31-32). However we must fulfill *our* part. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

REST, RELAX, RECREATE

REST. Sleep is a gift from God! How often do we thank Him for this priceless treasure? Sleep does for our bodies what nothing else can. Hence, when we are sick, we sleep. After surgery, we sleep. If major trauma occurs, we sleep. However, under stress and in trouble, we fret more often than we sleep. It was Amy Carmichael who said, "In acceptance lieth peace."

RELAX. What brings you relief, enjoyment, or pleasure? How many hours do you devote to these pursuits. Arts/crafts, sports, painting, sewing, knitting, reading, baking, playing a musical instru-

ment—what are your outlets? Remember you are unique!

RECREATE. Recreation is different from routine. Time to re-create is time to refocus priorities. Swindoll reminds us, "The test of life lies in its daily-ness." Recreation does not necessarily mean spending money. Would you choose to walk in the woods, attend a retreat, visit family, picnic in the living room floor with the children, enjoy the sunset on the porch with the family, read a novel as a family, or participate in a sports event?

The key is **BALANCE**. Work hard when it is time to work and then enjoy your relaxation and recre-

ation times. Often we feel guilty because something else needs attention. Dishes, laundry, ironing, and housework will never be done.

ENCOURAGE OTHERS

Paul wrote that Philemon ministered to him and refreshed the hearts of the saints. Who could say that about us? David befriended the disadvantaged Mephibosheth. Is there someone in our path waiting for our kindness? The book, *Silver Boxes*, by Florence Littauer offers many tangible ways to encourage family members, friends, and others.

DO I PUMP SPIRITUAL IRON?

People "pump iron" (lift weights) for increased strength and health. In the same way, spiritual exercise keeps a Christian spiritually strong and healthy. Consider these four forms of pumping spiritual iron:

1. **SILENCE AND SOLITUDE.** Jesus knew the value of being alone (Matthew 14:23). Solitude and silence make it easier to hear the voice of God, and such times reenergize us to fulfill our calling.

2. **MEDITATION.** To "meditate" is to contemplate something, to think deeply and reflectively about it. Meditating on the Word and will of God increases our understanding (Psalm 119:99), makes us fruitful (Psalm 1:2,3), and leads to success (Joshua 1:8).

3. **CONSISTENT PRAYER.** Prayer, like weight lifting, is hard work! But consistency is the key to its effectiveness.

4. **KEEPING A SPIRITUAL JOURNAL.** Many Christians have found it valuable to keep a brief written record of their thoughts, observations, personal needs, answers to prayer, and other items of significance in their relationship with God on a daily basis. Writing clarifies ideas and thoughts and also provides a written record of God's faithfulness.

We all admire people of great faith and sweet spirit. But getting there means getting in the spiritual gym and breaking a sweat again and again and again. There are no shortcuts to spiritual growth.

JONATHAN YANDELL
Reprinted from *Focus*

Word Study

Stressed? Remember the acrostic. Keep the following verses close at hand.

S _____

Psalm 46:10; Luke 38-42;
Acts 9:43

T _____

Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 26:3;
30:15; Matthew 6:28-34; 10:30

R _____

Psalm 4:8; 37:7;
Matthew 11:28-30

E _____

Philemon 1:7; Hebrews 10:24;
Romans 16:1-2; Galatians 5:13;
Acts 20:35

S _____

Ephesians 3:16-20; James 5:8;
Philippians 4:8; Deuteronomy
33:27; Lamentations 3:22-23

S _____

Proverbs 11:25; 17:17; 27:6,9;
Philemon 1:7

Romans 16:1-2 briefly mentions Phoebe. Writer Carol Reid aptly described this woman as a sister, a servant and a succourer. Would anyone consider us a "succourer" (a great help)? May Phoebe's legacy become a reality in our lives!

Contrary to public opinion, "it is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35) Max Lucado's perception is simply:

"Maybe that's why God brings hurting people into your world. All solitude and no service equals selfishness. Some solitude and some service, however, equal perspective" (from In the Eye of the Storm).

STRENGTHEN THE "INNER WOMAN"

Paul tells the Ephesian believers he is praying that God will strengthen them with power through His Spirit in their inner being (3:16-20). He also admonishes Philippian believers to think about things that are just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, or praiseworthy (4:8). What things consume our thought processes? Do we choose to think on things that meet these criteria?

Have a plan for your quiet time. Will you read through the Bible in a year? Or will you "camp out" in a particular passage and dig the nuggets of truth? Will you do word studies for deeper understanding?

What is your plan for memorizing Scripture? Do you journal, recording those thoughts that minister to you on a particular day? Will you write out your prayers to God, and watch Him work? Will you then record your praise and thanksgiving?

As He ministered on earth, Jesus often withdrew himself to spend time with His Father. If He, being God, needed to be refreshed, how much more do we!

Zephaniah tells us that God will "quiet us with His love" (3:17). In

my mind's eye, I see the crying baby in the church nursery that no one can satisfy. In walks Mom and her mere touch and voice transform the frantic cries to sobs then coos. She quiets the baby with her love!

Taped to my kitchen window are cards containing spiritual truths and memory verses. As I cook, wash dishes, and iron, I can meditate on those truths. Many times God has strengthened my inner being through those thoughts. Though my kitchen would not make the pages of Southern Living magazine, I continue to utilize my small window.

Consider an inspirational perpetual calendar. Each date reveals a concise, poignant truth. Topics include prayer, motherhood, and even quotes from favorite Christian authors. Many blessings await you!

Choose good reading materials on topics of interest—hope, encouragement, child rearing, husband-wife relationships, service—that are needful for your situation. Remember Paul's admonition in Philippians 4:8. How much of our thinking time is *worry* related and *not* related to the categories Paul listed! Reportedly, 92 percent of what we worry about either never happens or is beyond our control.

James reminds us to "stand firm" while we wait for Christ's return, because our hearts are established. Only then can we truly be joyful in the times of trial as we wait for God to work. What a sign of maturity!

We must rest knowing God is in control and does all things well. Deuteronomy 33:27 says, "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." No matter how heavy the load, there is always room underneath for the everlasting arms of God. What a precious promise!

One of my favorite passages is Lamentations 3:22-23. "It is of the

Lord's mercies that we are not consumed because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning, great is thy faithfulness." Every single morning...new mercies for the stresses of that day.

SHARE SERVE OTHERS

Share what God is teaching you. Others may desperately need what you have learned. Acquire an accountability partner or friend. One who loves you regardless. One who sees your circumstances more clearly than you. One who keeps a confidence. Are we such a friend ourselves? Are we reliable? Can we keep a confidence? Do we refresh the hearts of others?

Selfishness and service cannot occupy the same "heart space." If

we serve others, we cannot be self-centered. As we model the servant heart of Christ, we will develop a sensitive spirit. We will listen and not always talk. We will be available when needed.

Each of us ministers differently. Some send encouraging notes and cards. Others bake goodies. Some clean house or baby-sit. Some provide "meals on wheels." When we are "others-focused," our own problems do not seem quite so overwhelming.

Peace prevails where stress is not prevalent (Isaiah 26:3). Because he cares, we can cast all our care upon him (1 Peter 5:7).

Many times we are not triumphant over stress because we worry or we pick up the burdens we cast down. Max Lucado says, "God wants you to put your anxi-

eties on Him. Let *Him* do your worrying for you because He is faithful..."

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31) God's promise is for each of us.

How can we triumph over stress? We must pursue and develop a quiet heart—a heart stayed on God, a heart housed in a vessel fit for the Master's use.

Elizabeth Hodges, Hendersonville FWB Church, TN, is a pastor's wife, mother, and elementary Christian school principal. She serves as local missions study and prayer coordinator and as Cumberland District WAC president.

ESTIMATED PRICE LIST FOR ROOM FURNISHINGS

Missionary in Residence House at Free Will Baptist Bible College

DOWNSTAIRS			
Living Room		6 chairs	\$251 each
1 sofa	\$1200	1 sideboard	\$800
2 chairs	\$600 each	Kitchen	
2 end tables	\$450 each	1 table	\$400
1 accent chair	\$200	6 chairs	\$150 each
3 lamps	\$100 each	Bedroom—downstairs	
1 TV Cabinet	\$800	1 queen iron bed	\$359
1 coffee table	\$349	1 bedside table	\$300
2 pictures		1 small club chair	\$600
1 mirror		2 lamps	\$100 each
Study—downstairs		UPSTAIRS	
1 hideabed sofa	\$1125	Master Bedroom	
1 chair	\$600	1 queen poster bed	\$1000
1 desk	\$399	2 club chairs	\$500 each
1 floor lamp	\$100	2 bedside tables	\$300
1 desk lamp	\$100	1 dresser or chest	\$899
Dining Room		3 lamps	\$150 each
1 Chippendale table	\$1200	Guest Bedroom	
2 arm chairs	\$258 each	1 queen sleigh bed	\$1000
		1 chest or dresser	\$600
		Bedroom	
		2 twin beds	\$258 each
		1 bedside table	\$300
		1 chest	\$400
		1 chair	\$250
		2 lamps	\$100 each
		Study—upstairs	
		1 desk	
		1 desk lamp	
		1 club chair	
		WHOLE HOUSE	
		3 sets queen mattresses	
		2 sets twin mattresses	
		2 floral arrangements	

Keeping Your Balance

by Diana Bryant



THE WAITRESS hurried back and forth from table to kitchen to drink station to cash register. Carrying several large orders at a time, she amazed the tired woman watching from a small table near the kitchen door. When the waitress arrived by her side to take her order, the woman commented on this young lady's ability to carry so many plates, platters, and glasses without dropping anything. "It's not how many plates you have," she stated. "It's all in the balance."

How many "plates" do you have? Some women carry many responsibilities and manage to balance them all. Others with very few commit-

ments have a hard time keeping it all together. What makes the difference? The waitress said it right; it's the balance.

For presentation helps, see the 2002 Yearbook, pp. 52-53.

different personalities

Think about the people in our lives. In knowing just one other person we experience the truth that God makes each one different. How boring the world would be if this were not the case! To achieve balance, a woman first needs to understand her own personality.

Some women work better and accomplish much more under pressure. Others fall apart at the least hint of deadlines and "too much to do." Each bent has value; God made them both. "High pressure" types accomplish a lot, but often tend to overdo and burn out. "Low achievers" may not produce as much or do it with as much pizzazz, but they generally outlast the task. They're often dubbed "Old Faithfuls."

How important to recognize our type and act accordingly! If God made us high energy people, channel that energy into the projects He sends our way. If "drive" is not in our makeup, know that God created us to do the quieter

jobs. We'll be miserable serving on three committees, leading a Bible study, and teaching the primary Sunday school class. Choose to concentrate on one or two jobs that fit, then do them well.

different talents and gifts

God also gives each of us different gifts and talents. Does it seem logical that He would give a beautiful solo voice or the gift of teaching to the shy person who breaks out in hives at the thought of being in front of a crowd? Maybe in some exceptional cases, but not usually. On the other hand, creativity and a high energy level are necessities for teaching junior boys! These may seem elementary

truths, but struggling against our personality bent or acting in capacities that require gifts or talents we wish we had—or know our best friend has—can completely throw our balance.

different seasons

Understanding priorities affects our level of balance. Realizing that priorities change with the seasons of life also helps keep us in balance. When children are young, staying home with them may be our highest priority. Perhaps major purchases, travel, and even church responsibilities we desire to fulfill must take a backseat. Almost overnight, children entering college may necessitate our working full-time. Suddenly the "balance" in our life is upset. Earning that paycheck to pay tuition takes a more prominent place in our list of priorities. Later in life, the balance shifts again as we experience an empty nest or retirement. Now we must decide how to use our abundance of time.

Like spring and fall, "seasons" in our lives come and go. In every season our choices should be guided by stewardship. (Remember, this principle applies to time as well as money.) Change and stewardship. Both are necessary components of a balanced life.

same conclusions

Scripture holds the ultimate key for living a balanced life. God loves each of us and made us just as He desired. He knows our situation. The Book of Jeremiah tells us that the plans He has for us are good, plans to give us a hope and a future. If our lives are unbalanced, if we are heavy in one area and lightweight in another, we are not following the Holy Spirit's

Scripture holds the
ultimate key for living
a balanced life.

direction. That's a hard saying—one that places the blame squarely on our shoulders. When we find ourselves chaffing under schedules that seem impossible, how much easier if we could blame someone else! The truth is, we choose to say "yes" or "no" to each commitment, and we choose how we spend our time. The adage, "People do what they really want to do," may seem hard and coldhearted, but it is true!

basic choices

At its basic, balance is about choices. If we don't manage our time, it will manage us. To achieve any type of balance in our life—not letting any one area get out of proportion—we must make conscious choices. Accepting our personality type, knowing our gifts and talents, and taking conscious stock of our priorities should help us make time management decisions.

Some priorities are non-negotiable. The Lord must be first in our life. However for this truth to become reality, we must make deliberate choices. If our personality allows, we may choose to pray as we take a morning walk. Or we may need the absolute quiet and privacy of our bedroom, spending time in the Word and in prayer before the rest of our family awakens.

Families come next in the priority line. Recognizing life stages will help determine the choices we must make to keep this part of our life in balance. Church responsibilities (making the best use of our gifts for the Kingdom) will fall into place if they are assumed under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and not taken on for other reasons.

Balance does not only apply to those whose schedules are crammed, but also to those whose calendars are clean. Too much time on our hands may mean we are choosing not to use our gifts. We could be neglecting important areas of our lives. Balance insures that each area of our life—spiritual growth, family, church responsibilities, work, play, and rest—gets proper emphasis, no more and no less. If we fail to plan, allowing things to "just happen," others will spend our time as they see fit. And their priorities and goals may be different. Satan provides many diversions and distractions. God-honoring priorities must be deliberately pursued.

our ultimate purpose

In all of our time decisions, we must consider our ultimate purpose. We are to glorify God in everything we do. Let us make those hard choices carefully and prayerfully, determining to master our schedule, choosing not to let our schedule master us.

Diana Bryant attends Ryanwood Fellowship FWB Church, Vero Beach, FL, where her husband, Randy is pastor. This balanced mother of two Bible College students will steer the 2003 Convention in Tampa.



"It's the most wonderful time of the year with the kids jingle belling and everyone telling you, 'Be of good cheer,' it's the most wonderful time of the year."

So goes the popular Christmas song written by Eddie Paola and George Wyle. And, it is the most wonderful time of the year when we know the real reason for the season, the birth of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

by Wanda Powell

What fun to open Christmas boxes filled with tinsel, lights and ornaments, carefully packed away. I can hardly wait to get them out and start decorating the tree, the house, and even outside. There's no other season quite like it. Come, open the boxes with me.

"Look at this pretty angel; I'd forgotten that. And my daughter gave this one to me. Oh, these are the ornaments the children made some years ago in grammar school. Here are things from my childhood. They bring back such cherished memories of my parents and grandparents. And this one was a gift from a special friend.

I remember our first Christmas on the mission field. The children and I made these worn and tattered ornaments out of construction paper, glitter and scraps of fabric. We had so little money, no real tree and no ornaments—just these handmade ones. Yet that was one of our best Christmases ever.

Oh, look at these. A dear WAC lady in the States made these jeweled satin ornaments for our second Christmas in the Virgin Islands. Thank you, Lord for these special memories of Christmases past."

"It's the hap—happiest season of all, with those holiday greetings and gay happy meetings when friends come to call. It's the hap—happiest season of all. There'll be parties for hosting, marshmallows for toasting and caroling out in the snow...and hearts will be glowing when love ones are near, it's the most wonderful time of the year.

God's Word tells us to be "given to hospitality." Perhaps at no other time of the year does opening our homes bring more pleasure. It's easy to invite close friends and family members. We can

reminisce together on Christmases past and make more memories for the future. And after all, what a shame to go to all that trouble, getting the house all dressed up, and not share it with the ones who mean the most.

But what about the world? Most of us would love to give a meaningful gift to Jesus. What better gift could we offer than our homes? We must look beyond our circle of Christian friends and open our homes and hearts to the lost around us. Remember Jesus' words to His disciples in Matthew 25:35-40. "For I was an hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me... verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

How can we share the Christ of Christmas with unsaved neighbors, friends, family members and co-workers? Here are a few ideas to get you jumpstarted.

Just For Women

Treat guests to an **Open House**. Invite as many as your home and budget can accommodate. Serve simple finger foods, Christmas cookies, candies, nuts, chips, sandwiches, punch and coffee. If you are crafty, consider making a take home gift (an angel, a decorated candy cane with its legend, a small ornament) with the Christmas message attached. Christian bookstores offer many inexpensive tracts and other items to pass along. Set up a nativity scene. Encourage someone in your family to read or recite the Christmas story or a poem. Tell what Christmas means to you.

Host a **Tea Party**. Most ladies love to go to tea. You might be surprised how much elderly ladies would enjoy an invitation. Perhaps you could provide transportation to the event. Many times holiday activities are planned with the younger generation in mind. Christmas can be an especially lonely time for many.

Go all out or keep it simple. For ideas, check out the many "tea" books on the market or in the library or use your own creativity. Share the story, *A Cup of Christmas Tea* by Tom Hegg. Beforehand, ask some of your guests to share a special Christmas memory. Invite women to bring a teacup for a Christmas exchange.

Most children love to go **Caroling**. Take your Sunday school class to area nursing homes and hospitals. Be sure and make arrangements with these facilities well in advance. Children could make favors for the residents. Suggestions include bags of homemade cookies (always check for dietary restrictions), nuts, or fruits, with a tract or scripture verse inside.

Just for Men

Let's not overlook the men in the family and church. A friend of mine cooks breakfast for the Master's Men group in her church. What great fellowship over those hot biscuits and gravy!

Do you have a hunter or fisherman in the family? Maybe a **Game Supper** or **Christmas Fish Fry** is in order. Encourage your men to invite unsaved and unchurched friends. You can still decorate your table for the occasion and include the Christmas story as well.

Just for Kids

Let children invite their friends, classmates or neighborhood kids over for hot cocoa and a **Cookie Baking Party**. Help them bake several kinds of cookies. Make extras to send home. Or bake ahead and let children decorate the cookies. Provide materials for making Christmas take-home bags for goodies. Tuck inside an attractive children's tract or other small item containing the Christmas message.

If children have their own tree, suggest they invite friends over for a **Tree Trimming Party**. Plan to set up a nativity scene as part of the trimming, allowing your children an opportunity to share the Christmas story. Serve light refreshments.

Children's Homes

Do you live near a children's home or shelter facility? Arrange to bring a child home for the holidays. Or invite a whole dorm over for a Christmas party. If they cannot visit you, take a party to them. Try a **Theme Party** (ie. "Christmas Around the World," character party, "Frosty the Snowman," sports party "Skating," etc.). Always share the Christmas story through flannelgraph, pictures, Bible reading, or in your own words. Children will get the message when it's given from a heart of love. If your budget allows, present a small wrapped gift to each child.

Military and Prison Ministries

Maybe you live near a military base or a prison. Don't forget these precious souls during the holidays. Inquire as to what is permissible. Remember their families as well. Obtain addresses; send cards or e-mails. Participate in an angel tree. Invite home for dinner any soldiers who may attend your church. Be creative.

Internationals

Consider sharing your Christmas home with an international. Whether it be a migrant farm worker, a neighborhood family, or a university student, seize the opportunity to share the Christ of

Christmas with these individuals eager to experience an American custom. Make sure your Christmas menu will not be offensive. (Hindus, Muslims and Jews have dietary restrictions.)

When the shepherds heard the message the angels sang, they came with haste to see Mary, Joseph and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. Let us, with the shepherds, make known abroad that this truly is "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year." Jesus, our Savior, was born!

Wanda Powell, Antioch, TN, is the wife of Home Missions Director, Larry Powell. The Powells have three grown children and five grandchildren.



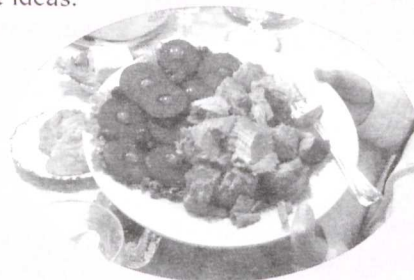
Open Home

This past season, Wanda Powell opened her home to the WNAC staff. We enjoyed a delicious Christmas meal. Wanda's love for the Lord and her vision for the world are evident throughout her home.

A gracious hostess, this missionary/pastor's wife adds flair to simple fare. Here are just a few of her great ideas.



Cranberries, a few sprigs of evergreen, a glass globe and candle make an exquisite yet simple centerpiece.



The main dish of roast pork is "Christmas trimmed" with spiced apple rings and green marachino cherries.

Antlers aglow!



Take-home favors constructed from gold doilies, artificial greenery, gold ribbon, and hand-crocheted cones make wonderful Christmas tree ornaments.



Family photos create a cozy Christmas corner.

Wanda's tree (also pictured on the cover) is decorated with everything from teacups to her children's baby shoes



A warm welcoming window.



SPRINGBOARD

memos for WAC officers

Prayer Chairman:

Observe the International Day for the Persecuted Church on November 10. For more information call 1-800-747-0085.

Make a Holiday prayer calendar, listing a home and foreign missionary family on each Nov/Dec date. Encourage women to pray for stresses these servants may face.

Pray for the financial needs of WNAC.

Change of Address

Lucy and Marge have moved.

Visit them at their new address:

The 2003 Program and Plan Book

Lifting Up Our Eyes

Study Chairman:

Provide Scripture verse cards for meditation. (See November feature) Encourage women to post these in a kitchen window, on a dashboard, or on a mirror. Challenge women to meditate and memorize.

Are your women hungry for the Word?

Explore the possibility of a weekly Bible study. Many different types of workbooks and programs are available. These studies can enhance your monthly WAC meeting.

Treasurers:

Since this is the season for giving, present these WNAC opportunities: Lizzie McAdams offering, Paul J. Ketteman offering, and the missionary house project. Be sure to *earmark* all funds for the Missionary in Residence house!

Don't miss the 2003 National WNAC Retreat

March 27-29

Chateau on the Lake,

Branson, MO

See registration form on page 21

Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators:

Start the new year right.

Order the 2003 Program and Plan Book, *Lifting Up Our Eyes*, (\$6.00 plus S&H).

Is your schedule too hectic to observe a week of prayer? Arrange for your group to meet 30 minutes to an hour before or after church services during the month. Spend this concentrated time in prayer.

For the December meeting, arrange a cookie swap. Encourage each woman to bring three dozen cookies. Furnish holiday plates and let women swap and fill, providing a variety of Christmas goodies for their family or a nice gift for someone.

Provision Closet Needs:

Mattress covers (twin and full)

Bath towel sets

Queen Sheet sets

Blankets (all sizes)

Gift cards

Missions Hotline is no longer available by phone.

To receive weekly information and missions prayer requests:

**subscribe
online**

carole@nafwb.org

or check the wnac website:

www.nafwb.org/wnac

Missions/Service Chairman:

Organize a Christmas Card exchange in your congregation. Set a "postal fee" for each card. Make family mailboxes or arrange for personal deliveries. Designate the money for a missions project.

Challenge women to give someone a most valuable holiday gift—time. Brainstorm opportunities (babysitting for young or single mothers, time with elderly, time for a church child or teen). Make gift cards; let women fill in the gift they will give and to whom.

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

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



✿ The August meeting of Woodbine WAC, Nashville, TN, highlighted the new WNAC Cookbook, *The Fruit of Our Hands*. Table decorations, plates and cups followed a grapevine theme. Myra Austin and Norma McAllister hosted. Women sampled eight dishes prepared from cookbook recipes.



Pictured:

1. Myra Austin and Norma McAllister;
2. Alveta Hancock
3. Lavonne Kirby, Robin Haskins, and Donna Kinsey enjoy retreat.
4. District president Joan Warren, missionary Elaine Holland, and retreat chairman Louise Richmond.
5. Part of the crowd at the Bluegrass Bonvoyage for the French M Team.



✿ Fifty-four women from the First Mission District OK met to "Consider One Another" at their annual August retreat in Stillwater. The event included worship, food, skits and door prizes. Speaker Elaine Holland presented Jesus as the focus of worship and teaching and offered ways for women to consider others.



✿ Barbecue, bluegrass, and bids highlighted an August 17, Bluegrass Bonvoyage at Donelson FWB Church, Nashville, TN. Local groups provided live music. Silent and live auction items included everything from homebaked goods to timeshare vacations—even a car! Over 300 attended the event which netted over \$18,000 for the French M Team and WNAC.

What are your labors of love? Send us news of your group. Pictures are always welcomed.



Letters to WNAC

Dear WNAC,

CoLaborer magazine gets better and better with each issue. There is always an article or program that meets my needs.

I was especially blessed and encouraged by the article on caregiving by Beverly Brantley. It came at a most needed time. I was encouraged to find that I wasn't the only one who put her life on hold to care for an elderly parent-in-law. I could relate to many of her feelings.

I want to express my thanks to Beverly and all those who find themselves in caregiving situations. The benefits far outweigh the sacrifices. I can truly say I would do it again.

Anne Worthington
Ayden, NC

Dear Friends,

I returned to Spain six weeks ago for a fifth term, after eleven months on stateside assignment. Visiting churches in Idaho, Kansas, and Oklahoma, I saw many old friends and made several new ones.

I couldn't visit every partner in ministry but that doesn't mean I don't think about and thank the Lord for you often. Without ministry partners like you who support the work through your prayers and financial gifts, it would not be possible for me to be here once again. Thank you.

Lynn Midgett
Spain

Dear Friends,

We just wanted to thank you for the prayers and support for this work that comes from your ministry. We also want to thank you for your effort in supplying the Provision Closet. It has been a help to us. God bless you all!

Eric Thompson family
Bend, OR

Dear WNAC,

I just want to take a moment to tell you how much I have enjoyed the Sep/Oct issue of the CoLaborer. I especially enjoyed the fitness articles... physical and spiritual, not to mention "You Are What You Eat." I think I have enjoyed this particular issue more than any other. Thank you, your staff, and the wonderful ladies who take the time to contribute for our benefit.

Lisa Ball
Liberty FWB, Millington, TN

Dear WNAC,

We do appreciate the excellent work of all of you on staff at CoLaborer. Our thanks for all the very good articles and spiritual uplift we receive each month as we use CoLaborer as a study guide.

First Bible FWB Church WAC,
New Castle, IN

HELP! I'M A MOM

bright ideas for mothers from mothers

How do you share your faith with your child?

It's never too early to begin sharing faith with a child. Sing hymns and choruses as you rock or hold your infant. Make Bible stories a daily reading adventure for your toddler. Play Christian tapes and music CD's for children. Saturate their early lives with songs and Scripture. Pray with them and for them.

Above all, live your faith before your children. Pattern Deuteronomy 6:7-9.

Seize every teachable moment. Let your children observe faith as a natural response in all areas of your life.

Enroll children in a good Sunday school and midweek program. Then reinforce those lessons by talking about them through the week.

You may sense the Holy Spirit is dealing with your child when he begins to ask questions or brings up salvation. Always be ready to lead a child to

Christ, but do not push. Always be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading.

Older children may be more difficult to reach. Talk openly about salvation. Share what God is doing in your life. Even when children seem resistant, they are often listening and God is speaking. Bathe every effort in prayer. Prayer is the most effective tool a parent has for bringing children to faith in Christ.

Next issue: Children and money: how can we teach responsible spending and saving?
Send us your input on this subject. We welcome your questions, too. Email: sarah@nafwb.org

SPECIAL Ronda Sturgill



Ronda is the wife of FWB US Air Force Chaplain, Tim Sturgill. A gifted communicator, Ronda is a sought after Bible study leader and seminar speaker. Ronda has been a paraplegic since a horseback riding accident in

1972. A mother, world class archer, and writer, Ronda motivates and encourages others to apply Biblical principles to their lives. Ronda will help you lift up your eyes and discover God's truths from His Word as she speaks in the main sessions.

FACILITIES Chateau on the Lake



Chateau on the Lake is the premier resort hotel of the Branson area. Located atop Table Rock Lake, this European-style hotel offers excellent meeting facilities and comfortable, luxurious accommodations with breathtaking views of the hills or the lake. This facility is known for its excellent

RETREAT WNAC Registration Form

Name _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Address _____

Church (or WAC group) _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 27

RETREAT REGISTRATION FEE MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM.

GROUPS ARE WELCOME TO SEND IN FORMS TOGETHER AND PAY WITH ONE CHECK,

BUT EACH PERSON MUST FILL OUT A FORM.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO WNAC.

Registration Fee

\$25 FOR CHATEAU HOTEL

GUESTS

\$50 FOR ALL OTHERS

MAIL TO: WNAC

P. O. BOX 5002

ANTIOCH, TN 37011-5002

FEE IS FOR RETREAT REGISTRATION ONLY. ACCOMMODATIONS MUST BE SECURED DIRECTLY THROUGH THE HOTEL.

OFFICE USE ONLY

ROOM RATES

Includes two nights lodging, resort fees and taxes.

Traditional Deluxe—either doubles or king

(1-4 persons) —\$232.90

(\$58.22 a person with four in a room)

Chateau King—more spacious room with comfortable sitting area

(1-4 persons) —\$297.40

(\$74.35 a person with four in a room)

Ambassador Suite—spacious room with sitting and kitchen areas. Complete with microwave and mini-fridge.

(1-4 persons) —\$370.82

(\$92.71 a person with four in a room)

Rates good only until registration deadline. Payable directly to the hotel. Taxes figured @ current Missouri rate of 11.225%. Taxes and fees subject to change without notice.

Life! Action

a column for teens

Home
is
Where
the
Heart
is

by
Amber Holland

For the past ten years Brazil has been my home. The first four years were rough. I was never in the same school for more than a year. I said a lot of good-byes during those years, made a lot of friends and at the same times lost a lot of friends. When it was time to move back to the U.S.A. for furlough, I was more than ready. We spent a year in Missouri and during that time I got tremendously close to my family, my friends and our home church. As it always had been, saying good-bye was difficult. I dreaded returning to Brazil and never having anywhere permanent to call home.

We began our second term in Brazil in July of 1997. I started attending the American School of Campinas. I was going to be in the 6th grade. I hadn't really made many friends at school. I longed for my friends and family back home. At the same time, I was still trying to make my way and figure out who I was. Even though school was tough, at least some things were familiar.

In 1999, for the first time, I had been in the same school and church for two years. It was not until the beginning of the 8th grade that I realized my purpose in Brazil. I realized I was also a part of my parents' ministry. I began to see what God had been doing in the new church we had started and what He was doing in my own life. I began to make many friends at school and at church. For the first time in a long time, I was happy. I loved my school, my church and I loved the fact that I was becoming more Brazilian than American. Life was good, according to my standards.

Of course, everything has not been a "bed of roses." However, I have always felt like I've had support. I was happy and to me that was the most important thing. At the beginning of my sophomore year, 2001, I realized this would be my last year in Brazil. We would be returning to the U.S.A. the following summer after living in Campinas for five years. I would be leaving "my world" again, all that was familiar to me.

To say the least, I was devastated and became very unhappy. I did not want to leave my friends, my school and my church. I was comfortable, happy and I felt like I finally had a home. As the months went by and our day of departure approached, mixed feelings filled my heart. I know that I am older. Yet I still struggle with, "Where is my home?" "How do I choose?"

I still cry when I hear the American national anthem. My heart still melts when I see Brazilian people and their need for the Lord. I have come to the realization that *home is where the heart is*. My home is in two places because my heart lies both in the United States and Brazil. I know that this will always be the case and for this I should be grateful. One day I won't have to say any more good-byes. One day, my heart will be in only one place, in the presence of the Lord and that will be enough. Until that day, my heart will remain divided. Home for my heart rests in two places! The place where I'm proud to have been born and the place where I have spent my childhood!

Amber Holland is currently a junior at Hillsboro High School, Nashville, TN. She attends the Donelson FWB Church.



Burden unnecessary! Bearing

by Debe Taylor

Honey, I didn't know you were home from the grocery store. Why didn't you let me help you with the groceries?"

"No one told us you were moving yesterday. We would have been so glad to have helped."

"Why did you move that heavy box all by yourself? If you had just asked, someone would have helped."

Unnecessary burden bearing! That's what I call it. This phenomenon happens all too often in my life. Some times I just don't want to bother anyone else. Other times I am just exercising my independence. My sisters say I suffer from the "Joan of Arc" syndrome—I like to take care of everything by myself so I can later be the martyr. No matter what the reason, I am often afflicted with unnecessary burden bearing.

God offers me rest from the load I carry. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) Why do I refuse His call to rest and continue to overexert myself? Unnecessary burden bearing!

God offers to carry the load when it is too much for me. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (1 Peter 5:7) No one is more concerned about the burdens I carry than God, but still I ignore His gentle plead to let Him help. I deafly go

on falling beneath the load. I struggle in my Christian life because I cannot get "out from under" the heavy burdens.

God offers to strengthen me when the burden is heavy. "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee; he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved" (Psalm 55:22). There's absolutely no reason for the cares of life to get me down. God has offered strength and encouragement.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6,7) How unnecessary for me to worry about the cares of this life! Everything can be shared with God in prayer. When I employ this wondrous avenue, God's peace floods my soul and guards my heart and mind. No more unnecessary burden bearing!

*Take it to God in prayer,
Take it and leave it there;
There's no need to carry
more than you can bear,
When you can take it
to God in prayer."*

—Frank Mills & Shannon Childress

Debe Taylor serves as President of WNAC. She resides in Hot Springs, AR, where her husband David pastors the Lake Hills FWB Church..



LIVING BY THE ANSWER

† SANDRAH MASHINGAIDZE †

I'm grateful and thankful to the Lord for this opportunity to share my testimony for I have something to tell you. I have overcome different problems in my life because the anointing of the Lord was with me and is still with me. Jesus is alive. His power has been made available to me, and it can also be available to you.

My testimony may be different from most testimonies you read. It is a testimony of answers. A testimony of positive things. I do not want to glorify the devil by repeating what he did to make me miserable. I want to praise God. Whatever we go through, we need to talk the answer, the solution to that problem. That solution is found in the Word of God. As we share our testimony of answers, others will know what to do when they face difficult times.

I, Sandrah Mashingaidze, have experienced many difficult times in my life, but I have conquered through the blood of Christ. I know what it means

spiritually. The Book of Romans tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Pain and suffering have purpose.

How good is faith if it has never been tested? Nobody encouraged me to develop my God-given gifts—only God himself.

I had to stretch and grow to meet my call, becoming what I am today.

Now I feel more confidence in myself and more independence through trusting in the Lord. I urge women to be prayer warriors in order to overcome any problem. Remember God's promises given in the Bible. Maintain a good relationship with the heavenly Father.

Through all the tests of my life, God's Spirit was busy, trying to create Christlike character in me. God's Word is true. I have experienced it. I was once a sinner, and God saved me. I was blind, but now I can see spiritual things.

God has given me so many blessings. Ernest, my husband from the Lord, is born again and goes to church with me. My three kids, Virginia (10), Ernest Jr. (7), and Sarah (5) are growing in our Christian home. I am now a junior at Free Will Baptist Bible College. I am happy every day of my life, no matter how life is. May the Lord be blessed.

Sandrah Mashingaidze is a native of Zimbabwe. She wanted to study at a Bible college in the USA. Though there are no Free Will Baptists in her country, God led her to choose FWBCC. Sandrah has a heart for women. She would love to one day return to Zimbabwe and minister to women, guiding them to become Women Active for Christ.

I know what it means to be hungry, but **GOD** fed me.

to be hungry, but God fed me. I know what it means to not be accepted by other people—people who just hate you for no apparent reason—because people treated me this way. But God comforted me and accepted me. I know what it means to be jobless. I've been through this, but God intervened. I also know what it means to have financial problems. God, the owner of silver and gold supplied, and he will always supply for those who love Him.

I know what it means to be a foreigner because I now live in a foreign land, but God has protected and provided for me and my family. I know what it means to be lonely, but I have learned that God is always with me.

Difficult times in my life just left bruises, but they did not kill me. The suffering and pain I have experienced these past years have been the ingredients that have shaped my life and helped me grow

Mission Alert



Evangelism News from Around the World

FWB AROUND THE WORLD

WORLDWIDE CONCERNS

Pray for the ministry of a new girl's home in Romania. The home will keep teen orphan girls off the streets, averting them from a life of prostitution. Workers will teach basic skills such as sewing and cooking, and share the gospel.

Muslims are turning to Christ in the country of Nigeria. Bibles are in demand for one-on-one discipleship programs. Pray that this hunger for the Word would continue. (Source: The Bible League)

Pray for 500+ Christian families who were exposed and expelled from Bhutan, where open practice of Christianity is illegal. School children were told to raise their hands if they were Christians and they would get a chocolate. Officials took names and followed these children home. (Source: VOM)

FWB IN NORTH AMERICA

Missionary Bud Bivens, Puerto Rico reports putting the finishing touches on the church building there. Pray for Ruth's parents who are facing health difficulties.

Another building quickly going up is the Serenity FWB Church in Frederickton, NB. Missionary Jeff Crabtree is excited about soon occupying this new facility.

A young man in Milwaukee, WI, recently answered the call to preach. According to Missionary Terry Hardison, his decision has made a positive impact on this mission church. Pray for this young man as he prepares to attend a Christian college.

Gerardo and Maria Rodriguez could be labeled both foreign and home missionaries. Natives of Uruguay, both Gerardo and Maria were saved in Free Will Baptist works there. Now this couple has come to the USA as missionaries to Hispanics in Spartanburg, SC.

David and Pam Potete, Chicago, IL, recently adopted a 13 yr.-old girl and gained guardianship of her 2 yr.-old brother.

Pray for these MK's who are attending colleges and universities. Doug Bishop, Ryan Gibbs, Suzanne McVay, and Melissa Turnbough are students at FWBBC. Sarah Nichols is enrolled at *Hillsdale*. Other students and schools include: Kevin Bishop: *Valdosta State College, GA*; Alicia Bunch: *John Brown University, AR*; Brooke Cousineau, *Athens Technical College, GA*; Ruben Eagleton, *Middle Tennessee State University, TN*; Rebekah Nichols, *Southern Nazarene University, OK*; Jered Teague, *Nashville Tech, TN*.

Pray that Carlisle Hanna will be able to renew his five-year visa for India and obtain a Residential Permit with no problems.

Pray for the safety of missionaries in Côte d'Ivoire, and especially for students at the Ivory Coast Academy in Bouake.

David Aycock, Brazil, requests prayer as he tries to synchronize ministry areas. The Aycock's ministry involves church planting, teaching in the local Bible Institute, directing youth camp, and raising a family. David plans to soon take on a Radio Ministry.

Holiday Goodies and Gift Ideas

Sample these selections from the WNAC Cookbook, *The Fruit of Our Hands*.

Pumpkin Ice Cream Pie

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1/2 gal. vanilla ice cream | 1 c. canned pumpkin |
| 1/2 c. brown sugar, packed | 1 T. orange juice |
| 1/2 t. ginger | 1/4 t. cinnamon |
| 1/4 t. nutmeg | 9-inch graham cracker crust |
| Whipped cream and cinnamon sticks for garnish | |

Place ice cream in a large bowl; cut up and allow to soften. Mix pumpkin, brown sugar, orange juice, ginger, cinnamon, and nutmeg using electric mixer. Add to the softened ice cream and mix well. Spoon into crust. Freeze until firm. Garnish with whipped cream and cinnamon sticks. Serves 8.

Judy Smith
Folsom FWB Church
Coleman, OK

Potpourri Gel Jar Scent

- 2 c. simmering potpourri
4 pkgs. Knox gelatin

Heat one cup potpourri and the Knox gelatin in saucepan. When dissolved, remove from heat and add second cup of potpourri. Pour into jars and let set overnight. When not in use, keep lid on, as this does evaporate.

Kathy Yokley
Hannon FWB Church
Liberal, MO

Martha Washington Chocolate Balls

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 boxes powdered sugar | 2 c. (or more if you like) pecans |
| 1 can Eagle Brand milk | 3 c. (or more if you like) coconut |
| 2 sticks margarine | 1 bar paraffin |
| 1 tsp. vanilla | 1 lg. pkg. chocolate chips |

Mix first six items. Chill in refrigerator at least 2 hours or overnight. Take mixture from refrigerator, pinch off and make small balls. Put balls on cookie sheet covered with wax paper. Put balls in refrigerator and chill at least 2 hours or overnight. Make Chocolate Dip: In double broiler, melt paraffin and chocolate chips. Keep dip hot. Take balls from refrigerator and insert toothpick in each ball. Dip balls in chocolate. Lay balls on wax paper and remove toothpicks. Put balls back in refrigerator to chill. Makes about 100 balls.

Marjorie Workman
WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Brownies in a Jar

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2/3 tsp. salt | 2/3 c. brown sugar |
| 1 cup plus 2T. flour | 1/2 c. white chocolate chips |
| 1/3 c. cocoa | 1/2 c. semi-sweet chocolate chips |
| 2/3 c. sugar | 1/2 c. walnuts |

Layer above ingredients in a one quart jar. Seal with lid. To prepare: combine mix with 3 eggs, 1 t. vanilla, and 2/3 c. oil. Pour into greased 9 x 9 inch pan and bake for approximately 30 minutes in a 350 oven.

When given as a gift or stored, include recipe.

Brenda Witcher
Bear Point FWB Church
Sesser, IL



We're All Family, Honey!

Lesson from a twelve-year-old girl

by Tina Tolbert

ALL MY LIFE, MY FAMILY HAS SHARED CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER TOGETHER. I'VE OFTEN WONDERED WHY.

You see, there are family members we don't claim any other time of the year.



For instance, Uncle Bill. Once when he showed up, all of us kids had to sit quiet and still and breathe as lightly as possible in order to make him believe no one was home. Dad pretended we were playing the "quiet game," but we knew better. We just went along because he promised the most quiet one a chance to sit in his lap and drive the next time we went to town.

Another time when Mom and I were at Piggly-Wiggly, we had to hurry around the corner to the next aisle when we saw Aunt Eloise—so she wouldn't embarrass us in public again. You see, Aunt Eloise can't read. That time, she was at the store looking for lowfat items for her most recent diet. She wanted my mother to look at the labels on a can of "beanie-weanies" and a can of "Spam" to see which one had

the lowest number of fat grams. When my mother read the numbers, Aunt Eloise dropped the box of Twinkies she was clutching and hollered, "Law, law, no wonder your poor cousin Russell is as big as the side of a barn. I've been poisoning his body with these high-fat meals all his life!" My mother was nearly mortified by all her commotion.



Then there's my Uncle Dwayne. We don't ever really avoid him because he's too busy avoiding us. He's what you would call "high society." He has lots of money and lots of power in our town. He is on the city council, and if you're not in his political circle of friends, he doesn't want to be bothered by you. Once, when the city was debating over tearing down a poor section of town to build a mini-mall, my dad showed us in the paper where Uncle Dwayne said, "If these people are standing in the way of progress, then they are standing in the way of the agenda. Therefore, they need to go!" Dad wondered whose progress he was referring to—the city's or his own.



Last year, some months after Christmas, I asked my mother just why we invited these relatives on Christmas Eve when we avoided them the rest of the year. She simply answered, "Because they're family, honey." That made absolutely no sense. I know I was only 11, but I thought for sure Mom would realize I was old enough to understand the truth.

I decided I would not accept her answer. At dinner the next night I asked again, only this time, from a different angle. "Why don't we have our family over or visit with them at any time other than Christmas?" I questioned.

Dad looked at Mom, and Mom looked at Dad. Then Dad said, "Honey, do you really want to spend more time with them than it takes to gobble up a 20-pound turkey, four pans of stuffing, five pounds of sweet potatoes, and six pumpkin pies?" He was sort of laughing but I was not. I guess he realized I needed a serious answer. He feebly tried to explain his and Mom's actions. He said, "Think about Uncle Bill. He arrives uninvited, unannounced, unconcerned about our plans, just to satisfy himself. That's just plain rude. Aunt Eloise is always invasive and loud. Sometimes it's just too much to take. And, Uncle Dwayne...well,...we're common folks; he's better than that. Whatever our plan may be, he has a better one." My mom nodded in agreement as if to say, "I couldn't have said it better myself." I looked at Dad blankly. Attempting to justify his first statements, he said, "They're just bad examples, honey. You kids don't need to learn from them." A long pause followed; it lasted pretty much through the rest of dinner.

Our pastor always starts his "Christmas sermons" the first Sunday in December and this year was no different—no different until he presented his second Christmas sermon entitled, "Invaders of the Christmas Kind."

He told of the angel's message to Mary and Joseph and of the family's travels to Bethlehem. To this point, it was what you might call a typical Christmas message. But then, the story became personal—personal to me and the rest of my family. He described the angel's appearance to the shepherds. The way he put it, the angels were the last thing on the shepherd's mind as they focused on their sheep responsibilities—not at all what they expected or probably desired at that point. He actually said their appearance was "loud and invasive." I thought of Aunt Eloise. Next, he detailed the entrance of the shepherds in the stable. Mary and Joseph were tired and probably concerned and confused when in walked some uninvited shepherds looking for something they desperately needed. I thought of Uncle Bill. Then the pastor introduced King Herod. This guy had better plans than everyone else—even God. His way of thinking was better because it was better for himself. I thought of Uncle Dwayne.

The preacher finished his sermon, saying, "Jesus may have been the only One who eagerly accepted the intrusive visitors because He already loved them. He knew what parts they would play and how valuable their roles."

On the way home, everyone seemed lost in their own thoughts. I wondered if they were busy thinking about Christmas hoopla, or if they had understood the message. When we gathered around the table for lunch, I learned the answer. Dad began, "I believe the Lord used this morning's message to open my eyes to some inappropriate ways I have been treating people He has placed in my life. I am sorry. I'm sorry for the people I have harmed, and for the poor example I have set before my family." Mom looked at him as if to say, "I couldn't have said it better myself."

I can't wait for our Christmas Eve dinner this year. I look forward to spending more time with our family throughout the years ahead.

I think we all learned a life lesson that Sunday. It's not always easy allowing people to be a part of our lives, but it's always right. Some persons are easy to love; others are not. But we're to love them just the same. God places people—with all their annoyances, inconveniences, and difficulties—in our lives to teach us to love as Jesus did. After all, we're family, honey.



Tina Tolbert teaches speech and drama at Free Will Baptist Bible College. This Michigan native serves as Director of College Ministries at Cofer's Chapel FWB Church in Nashville, TN.

Looking for a Christmas gift for family members?
Order the WNAC Cookbook, "The Fruit of Our Hands." \$20 each
(plus \$3 shipping and handling)



Friday

All Home Missionaries and Chaplains

Pre-Thanksgiving

Week of Prayer

for

Home Missions

November 16-20,

2002

*"... Behold I say unto you,
Lift up your eyes, and look on
the fields; for they are white
already to harvest."*

John 4:35

Strong missionary families are vital to the Home Missions Department. Church planting requires much hard work and dedication from each family member.

Our nine Free Will Baptist military chaplains in the Army, Air Force, and Navy, interact with a tremendous range of people worldwide. What an asset to the Lord's work, shining light in this wide-open field! Ministers everywhere are becoming involved in local chaplaincy programs for hospitals, prisons, and other organizations. Please remember these workers in your prayers. All chaplaincy programs require "24/7" involvement.

Pray for all Home Missionary families as they plant new Free Will Baptist churches.

Pray for chaplains as they travel and counsel others. Ask God to guide them and give them confidence to speak boldly. Pray that family members would also represent Christ.

Duty often sends chaplains abroad. Chaplain Major Terry Austin is currently on his second tour in Afghanistan with more trips planned as part of "Operation Enduring Freedom." Chaplain (CPT) John Carey has served in Kuwait, Chaplain (CPT) Steven Simpson has served in Macedonia, and Chaplain (CPT) David Trogdon is currently in Kuwait, awaiting further trips to unspecified areas. Remember these men and their families.

Thursday

Home Missions On The Move

The fields are white unto harvest; workers called of God are needed. Home Missions seeks God's guidance concerning new missionaries. Pray for Rev. Larry A. Powell, General Director, as he oversees the various departmental ministries.

Most missionaries go—having no facility, knowing no one—to begin a Free Will Baptist work. What a blessing to finally purchase property and begin building a permanent worship facility. These missionaries will soon be building or making improvements on newly purchased land: Roger Raper, Ft. Collins, CO; Rue Dell Smith, Monroe, LA; Joel Nason, Laconia, NH; Don Bailey, San Antonio, TX; Ron Wallace, Fairbanks, AK; Jeff Crabtree, Frederickton NB, CN; and Bud Bivens, Luquillo, PR.

Pray for evangelism efforts as Free Will Baptist laity take the gospel to the streets and into homes during the coming months. Pray for continued response from Operation Saturation. Prayerfully consider joining this annual event when hundreds converge on home missions churches, helping them place the gospel in as many homes as possible on this designated day.

Pray for new Free Will Baptist mission churches beginning this year.

Monday

Lizzie McAdams Offering for Home Missions

WNAC honored our first pioneer home missionary by naming the Pre-Thanksgiving offering after Lizzie McAdams. She was an ardent supporter of missions, a prayer warrior, and a charter member of the National Home Missions Board.

The Home Missions Department is committed to the work of church planting, evangelism and church growth, the C.E.L.F./Build My Church program, the chaplaincy and cross-cultural ministry. Opportunities for reaching the lost are unlimited. The Lizzie McAdams Offering becomes a part of the Benjamin Randall Offering, November 24, 2002. This offering helps underwrite the various ministries of the National Home Missions Department.

Pray that everyone will give with a joyful heart to further the many ministries that are a part of the National Home Missions Department.

Pray about your part in this year's Lizzie McAdams Offering for Home Missions.

Pray for Home Missions works in your own state.

Tuesday

Free Will Baptist Hispanic Ministry USA

Hispanic ministry efforts are increasing. Churches everywhere are starting and supporting Hispanic works within their communities. Missionary Fred Jones (Cullman, AL) is beginning a ministry in Vinemont, AL and is working statewide encouraging FWB churches to begin Hispanic ministries. Home Missions welcomes: Gerardo and Maria Rodriguez—Una Community, Spartanburg, SC; (Both were saved through Free Will Baptist works in Uruguay.) Shane and Lupita Wilson and children—Johnson City, TN; Rufo and Maria Gomez—Ashland/Lexington, KY. Hispanic ministries among the Cuban population in Florida and works in Puerto Rico continue to thrive.

Remember Rev. Rick Bowling as he coordinates U. S. Hispanic Ministries.

Pray specifically for: Omar Alfaro, FL; Ramon Zuniga, AR; Fred Jones, AL; Gerardo Rodriguez, SC; Shane Wilson, TN; Rufo Gomez, KY; Bud Bivens, Chris Fannin, and David Roy, PR.

Pray for local pastors and home missionaries as they begin Hispanic ministries.

Pray for opportunities to reach newcomers (especially Hispanics) in your community.

Wednesday

Advancing in Missions

This past year, the Department appointed seven missionary couples and saw six works go self-supporting. Please pray for new missionaries: Jeff and Charissa Isaacs, Battle Creek, MI; Paul and Stephanie McKissick, Fredericksburg, VA; Jarvis and Kelly Reed, The Woodlands, TX; John and Cheryl Reed, Green Bay, WI; Gerardo and Maria Rodriguez, Spartanburg, SC; Shane and Lupita Wilson, Johnson City, TN; Wayne and Jeanette Wilson, Prattville, AL.

Continue to remember these missionaries whose churches are now self-supporting: Kerry and Janet Gandy, Maumelle, AR; Jon and Debbie Cannon, Mascoutah, IL; Jeff and Sherri Sloan, Fort Wayne, IN; Darrell and Sandy Smith, Portland, OR; Tim and Robyn Osborn, Memphis, TN; Russell and Vonda Johnson, Cheyenne, WY. Pray for Robert and Nancy Trimble who are retiring.

Remember Home Missions Board members and the office staff as they work together, defining the different ministries connected with the department.

Pray that all will be according to His will.



Words FOR WOMEN

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

*Marjorie H.
Workman*

Obedience: Prophecy Fulfilled

Darkness engulfed the cavern surrounding the fairytale city. Signs everywhere read, "Don't touch the display." But there were two problems: the word, "Don't" and the absence of barriers between tourists and the display. No glassed cases, no bars. Nothing but a roped pathway and a trench for catching water running down the hill of the make-believe village. Trees, flowers, rocks—everything looked so real. Could they be?

"No one would see if I quickly reached over and touched a little leaf. What harm could it do?" I rationalized. I waited until a tree branch extended almost in front of my face. Quickly I reached to perform my reality check. Instantly, a booming voice blared, "Don't touch the display!" Startled, I jumped back, half expecting a spotlight to reveal the guilty party. It didn't happen, but I certainly learned a lesson that day at Rock City, Tennessee. *Obedience is difficult.* It means relinquishing my will to follow the will of another.

How important is obedience? The Christmas story capsulizes this quality in the lives of Joseph and the wise men (Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-23). Imagine if they had chosen their own way rather than the way of the Lord?

Joseph was planning to marry his virgin bride when he learned she was pregnant. Knowing he wasn't the father of the child, he contemplated his choices—two unpleasant alternatives. He could divorce her privately, hoping to protect her reputation, or he could follow Jewish law and have her stoned. What a dilemma!

A just and kind man, Joseph wasn't interested in humiliating (or killing) the woman he loved. His thinking was good, even commendable. The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and told him to take Mary as his wife, without fear, for her conception was of the Holy Ghost. *Obedience does not question.* Joseph arose from his sleep, obeyed his dream, assuring the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14, "...a virgin

shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

The wise men embodied obedience. They followed a star all the way from the East to Jerusalem. When they inquired concerning the whereabouts of the newborn King of the Jews, no one seemed to know, not even King Herod. He was troubled along with all Jerusalem. Apparently Herod was no stranger to Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah. He summoned religious leaders and demanded they tell him where Christ should be born. Herod met secretly with the wise men. Under pretense that he, too, wanted to worship the new King, he sent them to Bethlehem to diligently search for the child. The wise men, like all who earnestly seek Him, found the child, fell down, and worshiped Him. After presenting Him gifts, they prepared to return and share the good news of their find with King Herod. However, God warned them in a dream to go home another way. What if the wise men had obeyed the king rather than God? *Obedience is not blind.* Obedience allowed the fulfillment of Jeremiah 31:15.

Once again, the focus turns to Joseph as he consistently obeys, moving whenever and wherever prompted by the angel of God. The flight to Egypt fulfilled the prophecy of Hosea 11:1, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." And the settling of the family in Nazareth verified the prophets' words that He would be called a Nazarene. Joseph's obedience was crucial to the plan of God. What if he had refused?

How's our obedience? What is God through His Holy Spirit nudging us to do? Take a meal to a shut-in? Speak to a lost friend or neighbor? Mentor someone? "The real test of our Christianity," according to local pastor Rob Morgan, "isn't seen in our work or activity...It's found in this: when we have an opportunity to wander away, to disobey, to leave His presence, do we choose instead to stay close to Him, to abide in Christ, to obey?"

REMEMBER FWBBC IN DECEMBER

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have this
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