CoLaborer

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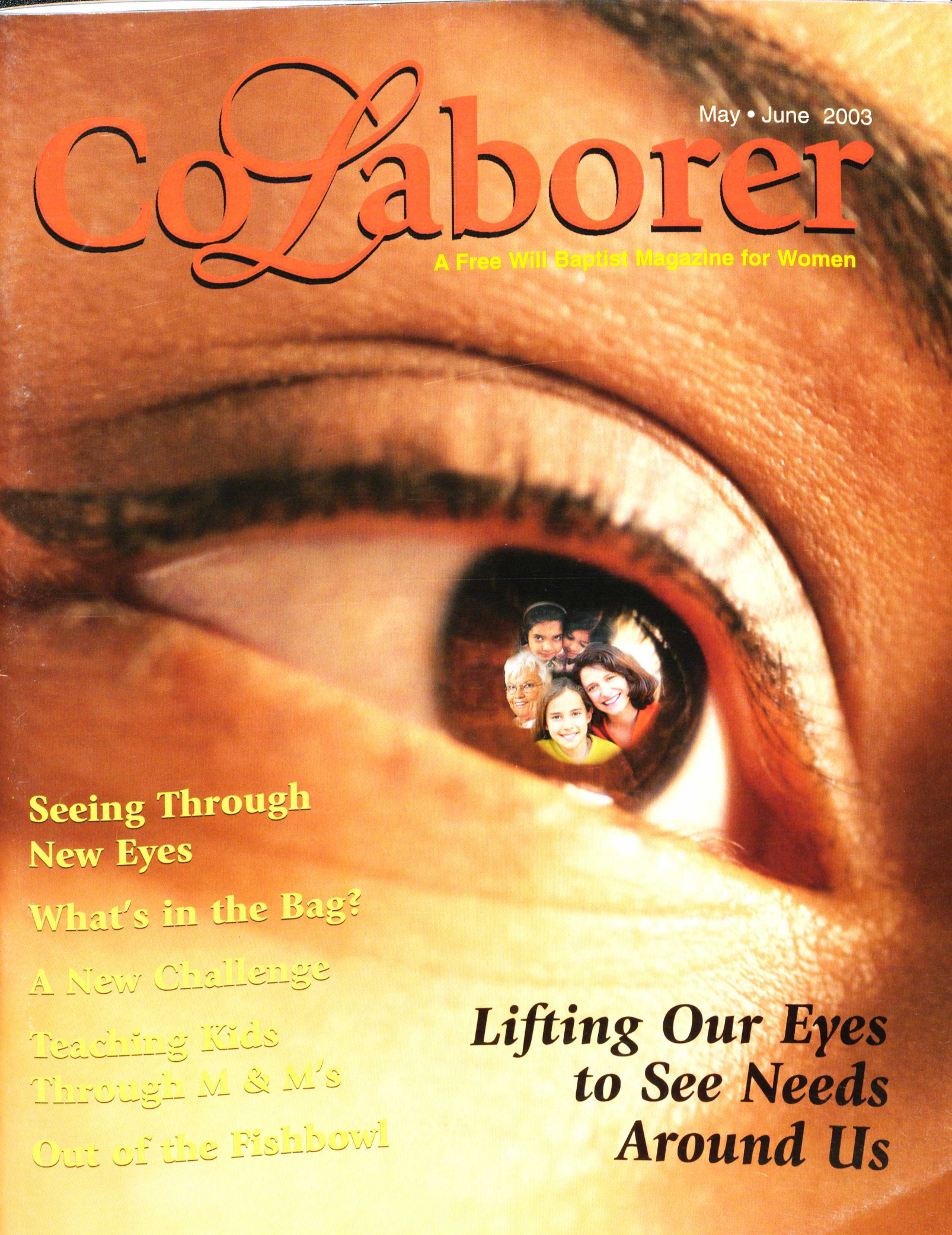
A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women



Seeing Through New Eyes

What's in the Bag?

A New Challenge

Teaching Kids Through M & M's

Out of the Fishbowl

Lifting Our Eyes to See Needs Around Us

CoLaborer

May-June 2003
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Labor of my heart

Sarah Fletcher

Mentor, Me?

Have you ever thought of yourself as a mentor? An internet search of this current buzzword brings up thousands of opportunities and possibilities. Even government recognizes its value. In his 2003 State of the Union Address, President Bush stated, "One mentor, one person can change a life forever. And I urge you to be that one person."

For us as Christian women, mentoring is not just a political urging or an available opportunity; it's a biblical responsibility. Yet for most of us, mentoring is a challenge. At a recent women's ministry luncheon in our city, a nationally-acclaimed speaker noted that mentoring was "*the* struggling area" in almost every church nationwide.

Why? The term itself may be intimidating. Mentoring lends the perception that one person who has it all together is available to assist someone who doesn't. How sad. None of us have arrived. Only by the grace of God can we stand. For this reason, Nancy Otto, author of *Finding a Mentor, Being a Mentor,* prefers the term, "Titus 2 Woman."

Titus 2:3-5 records Paul's instructions for women's relationships in the church. Older women are to teach younger women. They are called to encourage, uplift, and instruct others not only in the ways of the Lord, but also concerning marriages and families.

Who qualifies as an older woman? We all do. (Even twenty-one is "older" to a teen.) Older can apply to spiritual experience as well as chronological age. A woman more mature in faith can teach a new believer. Can singles be mentors? Absolutely. If we are growing in faith, we can and should be involved.

The Bible does not say, "Let the younger women ask for mentors." (Though there is nothing wrong in this request.) It says, "Teach the young women…" How often at WNAC do we hear the comments, "We can't seem to get our younger women involved." "Our young women just aren't interested." This is to *our* shame. *They* may *not* be interested, but we as older women are responsible to take the initiative.

Are younger women in short supply at your church? Is a generation missing? Has someone failed to teach? What about Women Active for Christ? Are your meetings all-age, every-woman friendly? Do you provide childcare or consider singles and teens in your planning? Is the time convenient for those juggling work and family?

The shoulder for the Titus 2 process rests upon us, but how do we engage? We begin by lifting up our eyes. Observe. What are the struggles young women are facing? How can we help fulfill or supply these needs? Pray about whom the Lord would have you mentor. No young women at your church? Then mentor a neighbor, coworker, or family member. Though the Titus passage outlines mentoring methods for believers, sharing these same principles with the unsaved can aid in evangelism.

Maybe you're the young woman who desires a mentor. Pray earnestly; ask God to give you a teachable spirit. Wait patiently and lift up your eyes. Mentoring can often come from unlikely sources or happen unawares. I have found that God has hand-picked my mentors. At different times, for different circumstances, God has placed women in my path who encouraged and taught me by example and by advice. Most of these women would not have been my choices, but God has used them greatly to strengthen and mature my faith.

Lift up your eyes. See the needs around you. Take up your Titus 2 responsibility. Be that one mentor, one person—for the next generation, for the Kingdom.

Lifting Our Eyes to See Needs Around Us

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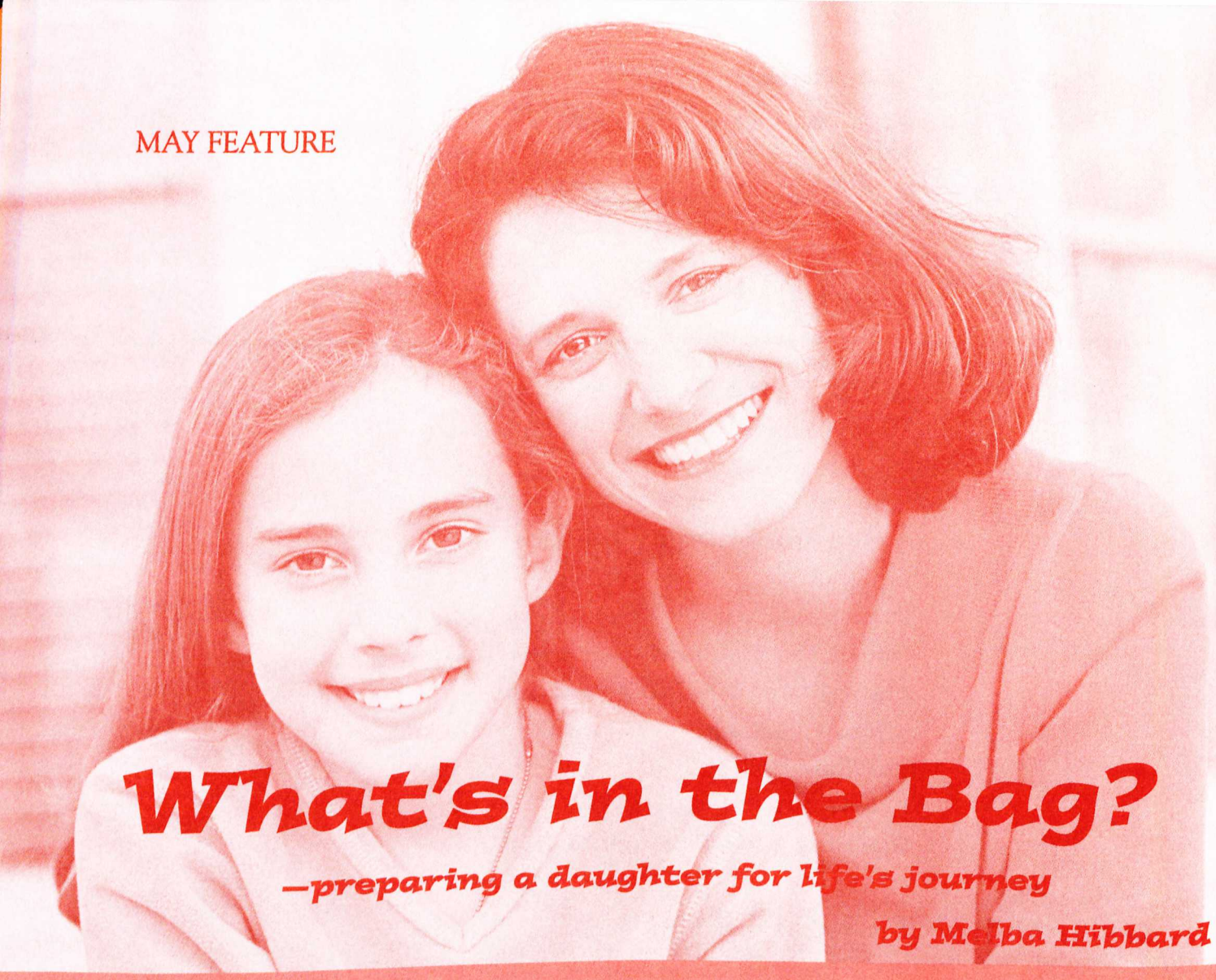


What's in the Bag?

—preparing a daughter for life's journey

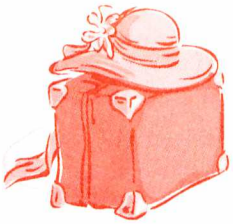
by Melba Hibbard

It's hard to imagine the urgency Hannah must have felt in preparing Samuel for life's journey. She promised the Lord if He would give her a son, she would *"give him to the Lord all the days of his life"* (I Samuel 1:11). In keeping with her promise, she left Samuel in Shiloh to live in the temple as soon as she had weaned him. Hannah had only a few short years to tuck away enough love, guidance and strength to carry Samuel through a lifetime of service.

Every mother is packing a bag for her child's journey through life. Inside each bag we need to pack character, love, hope and strength—enough for a lifetime. A hug here, a smile there, are all stowed inside the suitcase. Although we may have more time than Hannah, one day too soon the lid will snap shut and our packing days will be over. With the click of a lock, childhood will end and the future will beckon. Everything we've packed will be put to the test. Will it be enough to see her through? Is it the right stuff? What do you put in the bag?

For presentation helps and suggestions, see the 2003 Program and Plan Book, pp. 34-35

THE BASICS/FOUNDATION



When I pack for a trip I always pack the basics first. I don't want to get caught away from home without the essentials. Pack the basics first in your child's life suitcase. Everything else hinges on the foundation. Make sure it is solid.

Love God. Be sure of your salvation. *(Article of underclothing)* Our most basic necessity is to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds (Matthew 22:57). Be sure your child knows of God's love. Do all you can to encourage her love for God. Question her about her salvation experience. Before she leaves home, be confident she has had ample opportunity to accept Christ as Savior. If she has been saved, encourage her to nurture her salvation. If she hasn't, assure her that you will continue to pray for her salvation. It's that important.

Take time for prayer. *(Article of underclothing)* Teach your daughter to pray. She will face situations and trials that only prayer will get her through. Instill in her the Biblical principle: Worry about nothing; pray about everything (Philippians 4:6).

Study the Word. *(Article of underclothing)* Her suitcase should be equipped with a love for God's Word. Does she know how to study it on her own? Show her. The Word of God is powerful (Hebrews 4:12) and will keep her from wrong.

Be involved at church. *(Article of underclothing)* Have you, by example, shown her the importance of church attendance? Especially if she moves far away from home, a church family can become her *second* family. Church involvement will provide encouragement and a place of service.

EVERYDAY OUTFIT

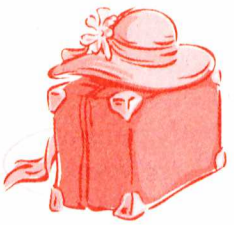
Your daughter's everyday outfit may consist of a T-shirt, jeans or jean skirt, and tennis shoes. These are for times of relaxation or spending time with friends. This is the real test of the strength of her character and daily consistency.

Be content with what you have. *(T-shirt)* (Philippians 4:11) This is a learned response. Your daughter naturally will always want more. She must learn to be content with God's provisions, even if it is just a plain ol' tee.

Be clothed with humility. *(Jeans or jean skirt)* (Romans 12:3). Denim is neither a flimsy nor fancy fabric. It's known for durability and wear-ability. Teach your daughter not to think too highly of herself. She must stay level-headed about who she is. Pride could become her biggest downfall. If she wears pants, she needs to remember that she puts them on one leg at a time, just like everyone else.

Carefully choose whom you "run" with. *(Tennis shoes)* This can really trip her up because she will become like her friends. The old adage, "If you run with dogs you'll get fleas," is true. Guide your daughter to select friends wisely. They can make a world of difference in her attitude, her direction, and her choices in life.

SPECIAL OCCASION OUTFIT



Special occasions will arise and she needs to be prepared. This is an opportunity for her to shine. These occasions highlight the need for Mom to pack the right stuff.

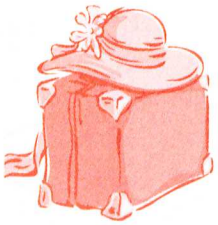
Discover your purpose/God's plan. *(Formal dress)* There is nothing more beautiful than knowing you are in God's plan, doing God's will. This is very becoming. Your daughter will need to discern God's purpose in her life. Help her by packing the skill of *listening* in her suitcase.

Underneath it all, develop a meek and quiet spirit. *(Slip)* (I Peter 3:4). The hidden person of the heart is uncovered in the twin qualities of meekness and quietness. Here it's okay if your slip is showing. A gentle and quiet spirit will sparkle like diamonds. These virtues are precious in God's sight.

Control your tongue. *("Control Top" Pantyhose)* (James 3:8) It's the match for the meek and quiet spirit. Teach your daughter that sometimes silence is golden. Taming the tongue is a lifelong, lifesaving skill.

Follow where God leads. *(Dress shoes)* *"The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day"* (Proverbs 4:18). God wants to lead your daughter's path and direct her footsteps. She needs to know how to follow and accept authority.

NIGHTTIME ATTIRE



Did you ever forget to pack your pajamas for a trip? You have to improvise with something else. There is no room for "make-do" when it comes to this one.

Choose your husband wisely. *(Nightgown/ Pajamas)* A husband that encourages her to grow and develop into God's woman is to be desired. You have eighteen years to show her, by example, what a loving, sweet relationship a marriage can be. Daughters will watch you, Mom, and many times choose a husband like her Dad.

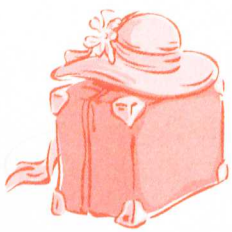
HOT WEATHER

To conform to this world is a huge temptation. Girls especially, have to refrain from the lure of the look found in teen magazines. The hot spots of worth and beauty are sometimes synonymous in her mind. Instruct her to:

Be beautiful on the inside. *(Swimsuit)* "Man looks on the outward appearance but God looks at the heart." (I Samuel 16:7) Her worth does not depend on her outward appearance. Her heart is what's important to God. Like an Oreo cookie, the best stuff is in the middle.

Be content with the outside. *(Modest swimsuit cover-up or oversized beach towel)* She was "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:13-15). Yes, that means big feet, curly hair, crooked nose and all. God does not judge her by her cover. Make the best of God's creation and develop the beautiful attitude of contentment.

COLD WEATHER



She'll need to bundle up against the coldness of the world. Prepare her for the harshness she will encounter.

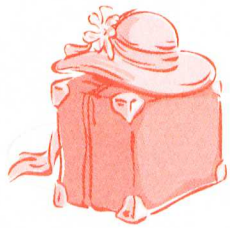
Work hard with your hands. *(One glove)* Work is an honorable thing. Whatever you do, do it as unto God (Colossians 3:23).

Use the labor of your hands wisely. *(Other glove)* Spending money wisely is a hard lesson to be learned. Bargain shopping can keep her within her budget. Tithing is part of God's plan too. Strive to teach your daughter financial accountability while she is young.

Be mindful of others. *(Coat)* The world can be a cold place for your daughter and for others. Model the principle of helping others. If a brother is cold, give him your coat. Develop a Christian worldview, a compassionate spirit and a missionary heart.

Top it off with laughter. *(Hat)* Laughter is good medicine. (Proverbs 17:22) It will warm your daughter and keep her healthy.

ALL THE TIME ESSENTIALS

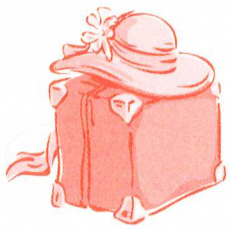


Memories of home and family will sustain her when life gets tough. To know someone "back home" loves her and is praying for her will give your daughter strength. Don't forget these in her bag.

Call home. *(phone card or pocket change)* Hearing Mom's voice can be comforting. Daughters need to know everything will be all right. Mom, keep your words gentle and true.

Mom loves you. *(framed photo of Mom)* A mother's love is unconditional. Remind your daughter that no matter where she's been or what she's done, she is always loved.

READY TO GO



Packing your daughter's bag with all these essentials will help prepare her for whatever life may serve her. She can go to her suitcase any time she needs help, encouragement, strength, or hope. There she'll find something Mom included just to see her through. Then won't you be glad you took the time to pack?

Melba Hibbard is the mother of two daughters and one son. Her husband John pastors the Village Chapel FWB Church in Ceres, California. This district WAC president enjoys music and reading Contact *and* CoLaborer *from cover to cover.*

Companion Book Suggestion

10 Things I Want My Daughter to Know

by Annie Chapman.

See the review on p. 12

A problem, a purse, and

A Man Named Doyle

by Emily White

Sally the Sable is my dearest companion. Okay, maybe not my *dearest* companion, but she's definitely near the top of the list. The poor old thing needs me. After 14 years of country roads, city streets, and Arkansas highways the rusty gal needs tender care and plenty of oil. Without it her arthritis acts up. And woe unto me if I upset her or she will refuse to start.

But normally our relationship is pretty good. I treat her nicely and she takes me where I need to go. I give her gas; she gives me miles. I air her tires; she rolls along. I wash her windows; she provides air in the summer and heat in the winter.

Thus you can imagine my surprise when I found myself stranded. Sitting on the side of the road was not my idea of the perfect end to my Easter break. However that's what happened. Front left tire blown, car wouldn't start, and no cell phone. Not to mention this catastrophe occurred only 100 feet from my exit. I banged my head against the steering wheel and cried, "Lord, why me? I just can't take anymore!"

Sitting in my lopsided, laundry filled car on I-440 was not the place this college girl wanted to be. So Miss Determination locked up ol' Sal and headed up the road. That was the first dumb decision, especially since it was 10:30 p.m. near downtown Nashville. But hey, a girl's gotta do what a girl's gotta do.

"Okay, God I realize I am walking. If you would like to help me out here, that'd be cool, but if not then I am just trusting You to protect me until I make it to the campus." Three steps and a few sobs later . . . "Um, God, I'm kinda afraid. Hello, I could use some help. I really don't want to walk all the way to school. Oh, how did I get myself into this mess? You know, I don't think this is very funny. Could You just send someone to pick me up? A really nice old lady or something?"

Two seconds later a dark green car pulled in front of me. "Whoa," I thought to myself, "That was pretty quick!" The window rolled down and it wasn't exactly who I was expecting. He was in his fifties, with glassess, and wearing slouchy shorts and a polo. I quickly asked him if he had a cell phone, but he insisted I get in the car. Against everything I have ever been taught, against my better judgment, and against my own advice, I took a deep breath, closed my eyes, and got in the car.

Let's just say my fears of rape and kidnapping were not calmed when he rolled up the tinted windows and locked the doors before we even pulled out. "Okay, Lord, I'm in the car. Whatever happens happens." He rambled about his daughter who's around my age and about car woes. I gave him short answers and quick directions. Three minutes tops we were in front of my dorm. Thankfully, I voiced my appreciation and blah, blah, blah. Before I shut the door he wished me well and said, "By the way, my name's Doyle."

"Oh," and I slammed the door. Ah, safety.

But did my troubles end there? Oh no. Sure a few friends changed the tire. Sure my car started after I remembered to put it in park (Can I just say that it's a miracle Sally didn't roll down 440?) Sure I made it back safe and sound to the dorm with Sal safe in her parking spot. Oh, but my world came tumbling down when I realized I couldn't find my purse. Alas, the drama continued.

After a top notch search of my friend's car and scanning a long stretch of 440 with flashlights, I concluded my purse was stolen. When I finally landed in my room, I sobbed and sobbed with one ear glued to the phone talking to my mom and the other ear resting in my best friend's lap.

Honestly it wasn't the car or the purse that sent me into torrents of tears. What was it? One word: stress. The pressures of yearbook deadlines, tuition bills, work, classes, homework, research papers, illness, homesickness, family troubles . . . found a good release in lost credit cards and missing gum. I was so tired of living life, so tired of trying hard to succeed, only to realize rest was

never my reward. When does it end? When is good enough actually good enough?

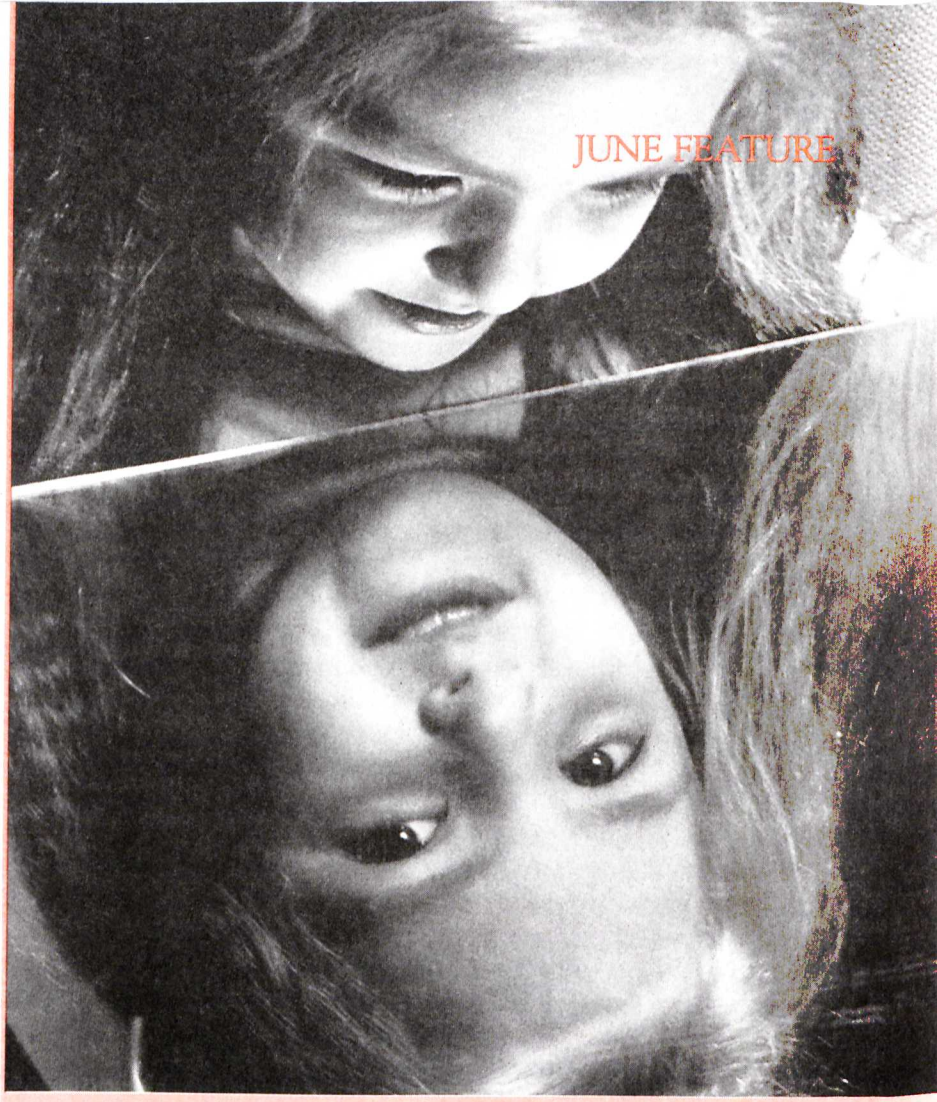
I knew God promised to work every situation to my good and teach me valuable truths with every dilemma, but what could I possibly learn from a man named Doyle and a missing purse?

The next day I found my purse. This guy saw it by the telephone in the dorm lobby and hid it behind the desk so no one would bother it. He called and left a voice mail, but the system wasn't working so I never received the message. Uh, yeah I was a little embarrassed, especially since I practically had a nervous breakdown, cancelled all my credit cards, and related my traumatic eve to the entire student body. My face still turns red when I think about it.

Now I can laugh. Now I joke around. But Doyle and the mystery of the missing handbag taught me a lot about life...about patience...about God's timing. Today the facts may seem overwhelming. The pressures may seem too much. Yet, how often am I stressed over situations which haven't even developed? How often do I try to beat God to the punch. How often do I try to do things my own way, then wonder why they didn't work out? How often am I stressed for nothing?

When it comes to career, decisions, finding Mr. Right, or just everyday life, I've adopted a new phrase. My friends think it's funny; I think it's deep. Yep, when the blues or the worry warts appear, I think about a man named Doyle. Then I look in the mirror, give myself a stern gaze, and say, "Emily, don't worry. Tomorrow you'll find your purse."

Emily White works as an editorial assistant for Randall House Publications. A graduating senior at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Emily plans to pursue a Master of Fine Arts in journalism.



JUNE FEATURE

Seeing Through New Eyes

a look at life relationships

by

Dr. Dale E. Young

For presentation helps and suggestions, see the 2003 Program and Plan Book, pp. 36-37.

It's 1953. A five-year old has surgery for her crossed eyes. The bandages come off and her eyes look *new*. But she has *never* seen correctly. Proper focus comes only with exercise. Today, she doesn't see double. She is truly thankful for those new eyes.

When we get saved, God gives us new eyes. But proper spiritual focus isn't immediate. It takes years of exercise under the Holy Spirit's direction before we can see like He sees. Seeing needs around us and cultivating proper relationships with others requires work. We must exercise seeing things as God sees them. As mere humans, this is not easy, but it's the only way we will become Christlike.

Steps to seeing through God's eyes

(1) Look toward His dwelling place. Solomon, in his dedication of the temple (I Kings 8), told the people to open their eyes toward the temple so God would hear and forgive. God doesn't dwell only in the church, but God's house symbolizes a place of closeness to God. By being there, we associate with Him and His people. The world must associate us with God if we are to help individuals.

(2) Allow Him to open our eyes. If you don't believe God opens eyes, read II Kings 6. God opened a servant's eyes to see that those on God's side were more than the enemy's forces.

(3) Ask God to blind the eyes of our enemy. God blinded the eyes of Israel's enemy for the good of His people, as evidenced in II Kings 6. God can blind the eyes of our enemy as well.

(4) Cultivate a heart for Him. God's eyes observe those who are trying to see through His eyes and He strengthens them (II Chronicles 16:9). Woe unto those who act foolishly, ignoring God. Second Chronicles 16 records that King Asa would continually be at war because he had forgotten God.

(5) Exercise our spiritual eyes. Spiritual eyes seek God's viewpoint. When we look through eyes of flesh, we think we have the answers and falsely blame others. That's exactly what Job's *so-called* friends did. They just knew Job had sinned and God was punishing him. Not so!

(6) Confess our unworthiness. Seeing through God's eyes reveals how weak we are. God assures us of His sustaining power and presence in Psalm 121.

"I will lift up mine eyes" (Psalm 121:1a), begins a dialogue, perhaps liturgical, of confession and assurance. This psalm is a pilgrim's song, possibly taking place in a person's mind or between individuals in a caravan. Comforting assurance is equally appropriate for pilgrims going to Jerusalem or for those traveling through life. To what should we lift up our eyes? The psalmist says to the hills. For those who lived in the vicinity of Jerusalem, this included Mount Zion, a place associated with God's presence. In essence, we lift up our eyes to God and strive to see through His eyes. This causes us to see needs around us and to act. Galatians 6:2 admonishes us to carry each other's burdens. This verse speaks of moral burdens or weaknesses. Seeing through God's eyes and carrying burdens for others affects the following relationships.

Parent/Child

Allies, not adversaries

"Spare the rod and spoil the child" is biblical, but that maxim is a small part of what Proverbs teaches on bringing up children. Punishment is a form of love. Proverbs says that parents who won't discipline their children are in danger of ruining them (29:15). The overwhelming emphasis of Proverbs is on verbal encouragement and teaching. A mother's role is important (1:8; 6:20). The parent-child conversation should be a warm one. Proverbs 17:6 bears out a major teaching—that parents and children are not meant to be adversaries, but allies in life. In your upbringing, which had the greatest effect: punishment and discipline or verbal instruction and encouragement? Many principles in Proverbs apply to parent-child relationships, but without application, they are useless. Dr. Walter Fremont stresses training children to have a positive faith attitude. He defines training as helping children recognize and respect boundaries in any situation. You are to speak in *"hymns and spiritual songs, . . . making melody in your heart to the Lord"* (Eph. 5:19). Cooperation in the home fosters an attitude to help others overcome sins and temptations. Accentuate children's successes and minimize their failures. Children who do not get approval from *both* parents are very susceptible to peer influence. Children tend to react to our basic attitudes. Do *you* have a positive faith attitude?

(Dr. Fremont's book, **Formula for Family Unity,** *is available from Bob Jones University Press, Greenville, SC.)*

Older woman/Younger woman

A rich experience

No more beautiful story exists in literature than that of Ruth and Naomi. Naomi served as both pattern and mentor for a young believer who chose to follow a new God in a new land. The relationship was reciprocal. Ruth provided companionship and the joy of a grandchild to Naomi. In guiding Ruth to follow God, Naomi found her long lost joy.

I have been blessed with godly ladies to pattern my life after. With godly grandmothers, aunts and my own mother, example has been an excellent teacher. I've also adopted mothers in Mississippi, South Carolina and North Carolina. Grace Taylor, my North Carolina mom, now in Heaven with the Lord, certainly modeled her name. An intense listener, she always gave sound advice. All these godly ladies were prayer warriors. What would our lives be without those who hold us up daily in prayer?

A good friend does not have to be the same age. One of my dearest friends, Dot Lee, in Florence, South Carolina, is ten years older than I am. Older ladies can share life experiences and help us make right choices. Surely, Ruth found this in her friend and mother-in-love, Naomi.

Husband/Wife

An intoxicating love

God understood our need for a role model in marriage. He infused marriage with meaning through Himself. Portrayed as the husband of Israel in the Old Testament and as married to the church in the New Testament, God shows us that no matter what the circumstance, He desires our earthly marriages to be a reflection of Him and His love. God's marriage portrayal is a passionate one. His love is eloquently expressed in the story of a young maiden whose heart was won by a shepherd. She didn't see him for months and was assailed by doubts. One day, he returned to his beautiful darling as a king. This is the story revealed in the Song of Solomon, a poem about love the way it should be. No wonder 8:7 says, *"Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it."* God's idea of marriage is a "fought-for marriage." When His beloved Israel was unfaithful, God confronted her, exercising tough love. A read through the Old Testament reveals that, at many times, God's love for Israel was one-sided. There certainly isn't any problem in marriage that God doesn't understand. ("The Perfect Model for Marriage" in *Focus on the Family,* February, 2002).

Single/Married

God's solos and duets

And what does marital status have to do with anything? Our society places much emphasis on *togetherness.* Singles often are left out or feel they are. How do I know? I was single until 1998, the year I hit the big 50. (Mrs. Young's story appeared as "Solo Flight" in *Contact,* January, 1997).

How can married women befriend and establish relationships with singles? Include them in activities but please don't patronize singles or make them feel like they're included only out of duty. If we haven't walked in their shoes, our expectations of them may not be reasonable. Shed that *old maid*

GRANDMA'S GLASSES

A little boy said to a playmate: "When I get older I want to wear glasses just like Grandma wears. She must have a special kind because she can see much more than most people.

"She can see when folks are hungry or tired or sorry, and she can even see what'll make them feel better. She can see how to fix a lot of things to have fun with, and she can see what a feller meant to do, even if he didn't do it right. She can see when a feller is about to cry and she can see what to do to make him feel better.

"I asked her one day how she could see so good and she said it was the way she learned to look at things as she got older. So when I get older I want a pair of glasses just like Grandma's so I can see good, too."

--copied

image. Many singles have challenging careers. In the church, a single woman should be expected to do her share of the work, but no more than a married woman. *Single* doesn't equal more time and no responsibilities. Married or single, what we do for the Kingdom should be based on our God-given abilities. Watch remarks that can cut deep. I've been told I "couldn't be sweeter if I were married" and I've heard variations of the "you came by yourself?" numerous times.

Are you single? Realize that married women *must* spend time with their spouses (and children if they are mothers.) But don't isolate yourself. Consider the rewarding possibility of being involved with youth. God uniquely created both single and married women. Treat each as unique creatures.

Siblings

Forever with us

As a young girl, Miriam helped save her baby brother's life (Exodus 2:7). Later as an adult, she and her brother Aaron experienced feelings of sibling rivalry toward that same younger brother, Moses. Irked by Moses' foreign wife, they undercut his leadership by asking whether Moses had a monopoly on God's will. Moses didn't defend himself, but God did so with scathing words and punishment. If sibling rivalry exists, do your part to make amends. As we grow older, we don't need excess baggage in this area.

Seeing through God's eyes helps us acknowledge and appreciate the perspective of others. May we cultivate rich relationships that broaden our horizons as we help meet the needs of all people God created.

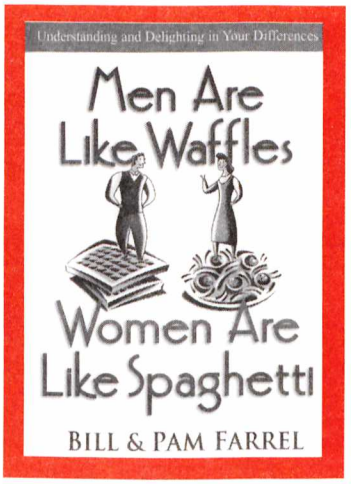
Dale (Edwards) Young, former Christian schoolteacher and principal, is an author and pastor's wife. Her husband, Eddie, pastors the First FWB Church in Tucson, AZ.

ONE NEW LOOK

On the lines below, list the major relationships in your life. Beside each, write one fresh, positive perspective. Ask God to help you see through these new eyes.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

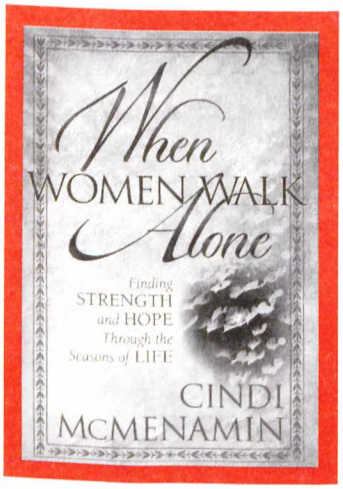
Relationship Resources



Looking for a fun yet informative book on marriage? Whether newlywed or old pro, ***Men are like Waffles, Women are like Spaghetti*** offers insight into the wonderful differences God designed in husbands and wives. Pastor and wife team, Bill and Pam Farrel share many personal experiences from their twenty plus years of marriage as they expand on these strange analogies. The book includes discussion questions suitable for a small group (couples) study. A companion ***Study Guide*** by the same title offers ten weeks of daily Bible meditations, talk topics, and journaling opportunities for individual couples.

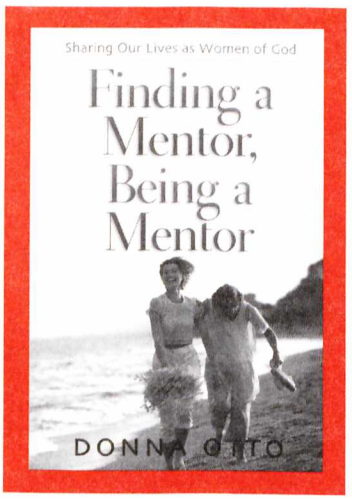
Not married? The Farrels' new book, ***Single Men are like Waffles, Single Women are like Spaghetti*** deals with relationships from the single perspective and offers advice and understanding for those who find themselves single again.

Either book: $9.99 Study Guide: $6.99 ***(plus S&H)***



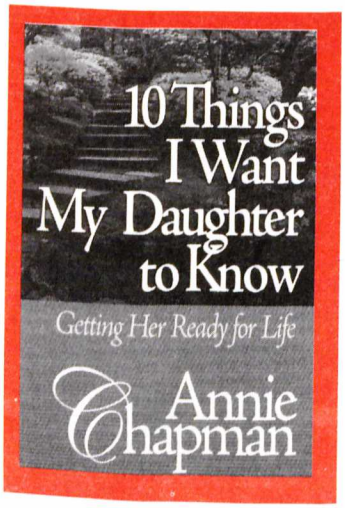
All of us have alone times, says author Cindi McMenamin. The key is turning those desert times into flourishing growth. The book offers biblical hope for situations women face alone. "Read every chapter," the author advises. Even if you are not facing this type of aloneness, someone you know probably is.

When Women Walk Alone is written in an easy reading style. It's a helpful resource for any woman, especially those facing trials or a loss. ***$9.99*** ***(plus S&H)***



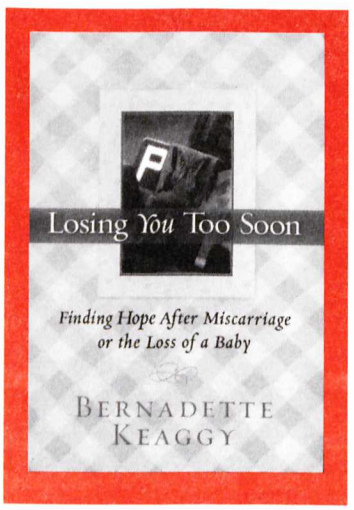
Donna Otto presents the biblical basis for mentoring, offers helps and suggestions for would-be mentors, then provides an actual thirty week mentoring guide. ***Finding a Mentor, Being a Mentor*** is a great resource for groups or individuals wanting to begin a mentoring ministry. Each of the thirty sessions includes a topic, related Bible passages, discussion questions, and ideas for prayer and growth.

$9.99 ***(plus S&H)***



Family advocate Annie Chapman shares ten valuable principles that all daughters should know. Annie teaches as she reminisces about early adult life and shares the joys of her daughter's recent betrothal and marriage. Original poems and lyrics are scattered throughout the book. Written for mothers who desire to leave a godly legacy, ***10 Things I Want My Daughter to Know*** is a perfect gift or award for your mother-daughter event.

$9.99 ***(plus S&H)***



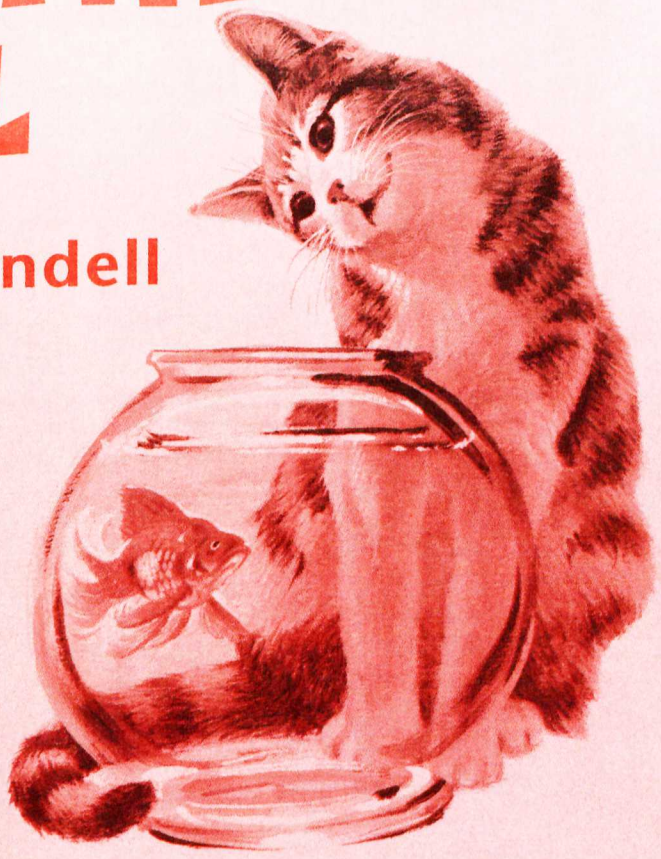
Bernadette Keaggy knows the pain of losing a child. She lost five children to stillbirth or miscarriage. In ***Losing You Too Soon***, she tells her story and offers insight and hope to those facing a similar circumstance. The book includes pages for journaling personal thoughts and offers an index of helpful organizations and resources.

$9.99 ***(plus S&H)***

Titles available through WNAC 1-877-767-7662

OUT OF THE FISHBOWL

by Diana Yandell



What happens to fish out of water? They flounder around, then eventually die.

When our daughter Cassie was just a toddler, we kept a ten-gallon aquarium with fancy fish. Cassie *just* wanted to pet them, so she took them out of the water. Soon we had no more fish. They were completely out of their comfort zone.

We, as Christian women, sometimes flounder outside our comfort zone. However, unlike fancy fish from a tank, we don't have to curl up and die on the floor of uncomfortable. We can give the anxiety over to the "giver of all good things," Jesus Christ.

Have you ever ventured out of your comfort zone only to discover that you could become comfortable? I am now experiencing just such a circumstance. For many years, my comfort zone has been the role of pastor's wife, mother, controller of all around me—not necessarily in that order all the time. However, this past August I was forced out of my comfortable position as pastor's wife by a cross-country move from Southern California to Nashville, Tennessee. Talk about uncomfortable! I hate to move. That's surely why the Lord allowed us to stay at the Garden Grove FWB Church in Southern California for over 15 years! Okay, that's probably not the *only* reason, but it works for me.

In June, my husband announced we were going to Nashville to talk with the folks at Randall House Publications about an editor's position they had offered him several times. I agreed to attend these meetings and see Nashville, just for a look-see, you understand. I had no intention of leaving California for any reason. I was very comfortable in my roles. I enjoyed just about everything in Southern California—especially the ocean—and there wasn't any ocean in Nashville. Throughout our few days in Nashville, as we were given a tour of the facilities at Randall House and the National Offices, I was impressed by the friendliness of each one we met. I also felt pressure from all avenues to accept the position here. I remember telling someone that I hadn't seen anything impressive enough to move *me* across the country. There was no ocean.

As we began our journey home to California, I remember looking over at Jonathan. The look on his face told me we were moving to Nashville, Tennessee, and soon. I was not nearly as excited or convinced that this was God's will for us. After all, I hadn't received any postcards from Heaven telling *me* to move completely out of my comfortable existence into a foreign land. (Yes, Nashville is certainly foreign to me.)

Arriving home, we immediately unpacked and got ready for an annual teen event, one of my favorite activities of the year. That night, I was suffering inside with hidden knowledge that soon we would be leaving these precious teens and their families. We avoided mentioning the trip and our decision, saying only that we "were praying about God's will." Doesn't that sound spiritual? (That's what Christians do when they are scared that God is really calling them to relocate—they *pray!*) My prayers were very different from Jonathan's.

EVERYTHING IN MY COMFORT ZONE WAS STAYING A

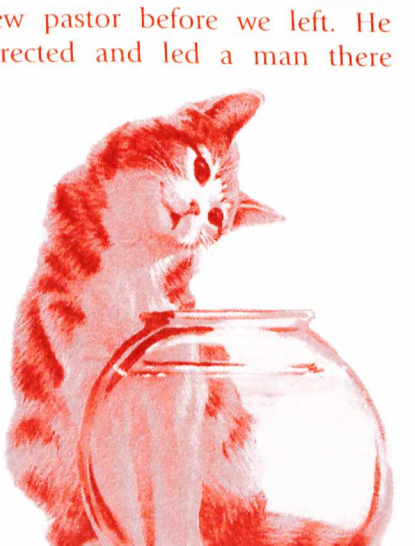
He sincerely prayed for God to direct us and show us clearly that a move was truly His guidance for us. I, on the other hand, reminded God of all the comforts of Garden Grove and of the fact that I was perfectly content to stay there forever. Just a small reminder to my Father about my comfort zones, as if He wasn't aware of my emotional upheaval.

We had planned to celebrate our Silver Wedding Anniversary on the 29th of June with a huge service at church for our families and friends. Both our children were home for the occasion, each toting their significant others for the time. We were so excited, having just learned that our daughter would marry her boyfriend. Wow! What a whirlwind of activity. The celebration was bittersweet. We had agreed not to say anything about our decision to move until after the event. We waited for an opportunity to share the news with our family first. After the service at church, we went out to eat.

Our family dinner soon turned into a question and answer session. Both Cassie and Taylor were very supportive of our decision, though a little stunned that we were actually leaving them.

In July we flew back to Nashville to house hunt, praying every step of the way for God's direction. I still felt that direction would be *West*. However, He opened every door. God was obviously directing this move and that was beginning to frighten me. Didn't He understand? Why was this happening? Why now? As we looked at one house after another, reality started to sink in. We *were* moving to Nashville. Not a year from now, but in August.

We settled on the house we wanted; other things fell into place. I landed a great job with Metro Nashville Schools in a newly created braillist position. Unheard-of happenings were happening on all fronts. We prayed diligently that the Lord would help the church secure a new pastor before we left. He directed and led a man there almost immediately. We prayed for a home to buy; we found one. We prayed for a smooth transition; He ironed out every detail. I am still amazed at the way God moves when He brings about changes in our lives.



The next hurdle out of my comfort zone was the actual packing of our possessions. Some hadn't been *out* of a box in fifteen years. As we packed, we kept asking, "Do we really need all this junk?" "Yes," I responded. Precious mementos of childhood, drawings, baseball photos, trophies, my treasures of times

ND I WAS LEAVING.

oy. . . Yes, we *needed* all this By the time we loaded the g truck, even I had doubts ether we really *needed* all ank in Nashville. We loaded netheless. Everything we d was ready to go—every- that is, except my emo- Though I was enthralled God's incredible leadership, nd myself a little over- med at the reality of leaving uch behind. Treasures like son who would stay in ornia, our wonderful fami- hey too would remain. Many dships with church people the unchurched would be left nd. So many losses at once! I 't really think God would e us *East*. In my heart, I still ed for a last-minute miracle lation from God Himself, ng, "No, it was all just a test. 've passed, now unpack and comfortable again." That did- happen. We said our tearful d-byes and with the car hed on the back, the dog gged in the front, and shville as our final destination, pulled away from every securi- had known. I told my moth- n-love(law) that I didn't quite ow how this was going to work t. In just a matter of months, I d lost my job, my home, my urch, and my title. Everything *my* comfort zone was staying d *I* was leaving.

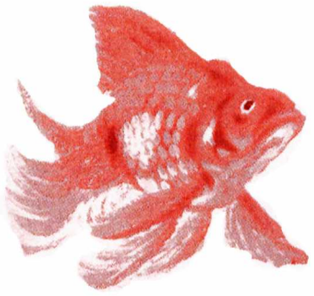
The trip itself? I don't want to peat it any time soon. Ever trav- ed across country with a hyper g? Thank God for vets and nquilizers. We took a week to avel. In Oklahoma City, we joyed some time with our aughter at Hillsdale FWB College. Only a few more days and we'd be *home*. After enduring some of the worst roads I've ever traveled, (Nothing runs north and south or east and west. Everything is around something else with no straight shot to anywhere.) we finally made it to Nashville.

We arrived late on Saturday and unpacked only what we thought we would need. We would live in an extended stay motel until our house closed. Oh, what joy—a hyperactive dog, a closed-in space, and two bone-weary travelers. But this would only be a short stay. Wrong! It turned out to be a very long, very cramped six weeks. I asked the Lord again if He was sure about this move. He kept assuring me that yes, this was His direction. Have patience and He would work everything out. I was now totally out of *anything* comfortable.

We are now in our home, almost totally unpacked, loving our jobs and the beautiful Tennessee seasons. But there are still days when I find myself wishing for the comfortable of California. I'm learning that wherever God directs, He makes available a new zone of comfort. I am anticipating the adventure. Now my prayer is that He will continue to lead and direct us as we continue to follow Him.

If you're stuck in your comfort zone and unwilling to get out, beware. God truly moves in mysterious ways.

Out of the fishbowl? Yes. Out of His sight? Never. I may flounder, but I will not curl up and die. I place complete confidence in God's Word. He will never leave me nor forsake me, not even in Nashville.



Diana Yandell lives in Antioch, Tennessee with her husband Jonathan and her hyper dog, Lola. Her new comfort zone includes the roles of braille transcriptionist, first grade Sunday school teacher, and team leader for teen worship at her church.

Thoughts of a Soldier

The cold wind blows on hearts of stone in this place where no love is shown.

As I look up into a dark sky, I just can't help but wonder why all the things I love and hold dear have suddenly just disappeared.

I'd like to tell mother what she means to me and hold my baby upon my knee.

I know all this anguish is not God's plan. This is something that only comes from man.

As the night falls, I hear loud thunder; the sky glows bright way over yonder. I think of home.

Tears dim my eyes. I'm also thinking of sad goodbyes. I cry for peace.

I dare not speak; what will they think—that I am weak? My heart grows weary and I bow my head.

I can almost see Jesus and how he bled. I know He is here and His heart is breaking because of the things men are undertaking.

Dear Lord hear my prayer. Take my hand and lead me home, Lord, if I can't stand.

—Wilda Richardson

A new challenge

by Bessie Richards

Have you ever wanted to welcome new Spanish-speaking neighbors or communicate with those from other nations whom you encounter when shopping, eating at a restaurant, or maybe even worshipping at your church? You've probably felt frustrated because you could not speak their language. They may understand only a few phrases in English.

ESL classes held at your church, taught by Christian volunteers, could help you bridge the cultural gap, build friendships, and open the door for sharing Christ with these "strangers within our gates."

You may be asking, "What is ESL?" ESL**, the abbreviation for *English as a Second Language*, is a literacy program being used effectively to reach non-English speaking individuals living in the U.S. and in countries otherwise closed to evangelical missionaries.

Would you accept the challenge of organizing an ESL ministry at your church? This new challenge is different from the usual daily challenges of family, jobs, or the million other things vying for our time and attention. ESL takes us out of our comfort zone and into the international community around us. Sound intimidating? No, it's exciting!

You don't have to be a professional teacher or have experience teaching a literacy class. (However, these qualities are helpful.) It's not even necessary to understand or speak a foreign language. The most important criterion is knowing that God wants you to be a part of this cross-cultural outreach. As you seek His direction, He will guide your ESL team through the steps of organization and give you the love and sensitivity needed to minister.

Ready to get started? Wonderful! Let the adventure begin!

First, enlist Christian volunteers. Seek out teachers, assistants, and childcare workers. If possible, obtain permission to observe other English literacy programs operating in your area. This will provide your team with a general idea and feel of methods and procedures.

Decide on a curriculum. You'll find lots of ESL materials on the market. Even more are available via the internet. To select the appropriate material for your classes, you may want to compare and purchase from Christian publishers or bookstores in your local area. Give your students the option of purchasing their own personal textbooks from you or using the books only during class time.

Begin advertising. Print handouts/fliers with essential information concerning the English class. Place these in apartment complexes, ethnic businesses, laundromats, restaurants, or other locale frequented by internationals. Consider posting a sign in front of the church or building where the classes will be held.

Above all, pray. Commit your endeavor to the Lord. Enlist prayer partners. Be prepared for advances and setbacks, blessings and spiritual battles as you establish relationships with those of other cultures and religions. Always remember your purpose—to make disciples of all nations.

Yes, the challenge before us is awesome when we look about us and see the steadily increasing international population. How exciting to realize that we may be the first Christians in someone's life. ESL provides a non-threatening opportunity to introduce internationals to our beloved America, and best of all, to the One who can give them eternal, abundant life.

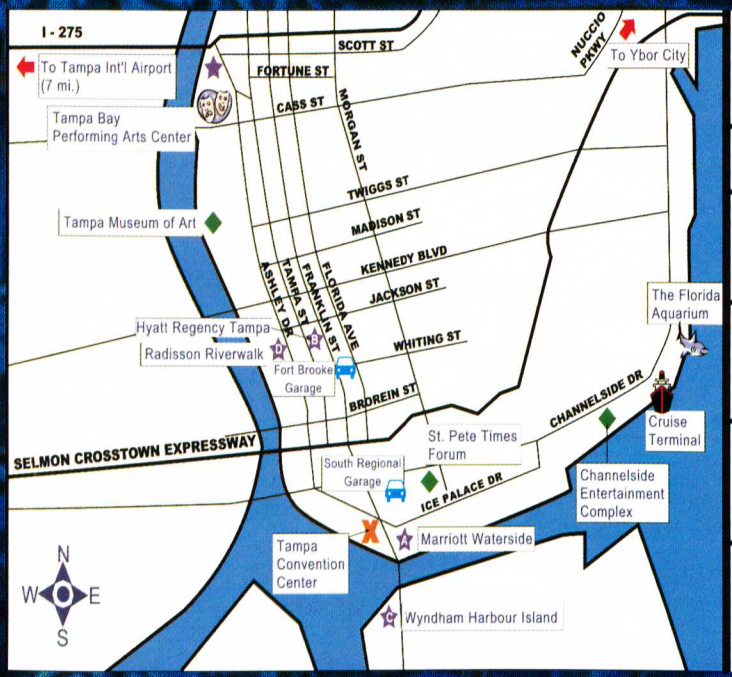
For more information on this new challenge, contact Bessie Richards, ph: (615) 889-5745, email: NRich1107@juno.com

Former missionaries to Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa, and New Orleans, LA, Bessie Richards and her husband Norman head up the ESL program at their church in Nashville, TN.

**Related terms include *ELL—English Language Learners* and *TESOL—Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages.*

Free Will Baptist
National Convention
FOUNDED
ON THE ROCK
FOCUSED
ON THE FUTURE
Tampa, Florida
July 20-24, 2003

TAMPA INFORMATION



Hotel Information

Hotel	Map Location	Room Rate	Distance From Convention Center	Parking
Tampa Marriott Waterside	A	$124	1 Block	$12 Self or Valet
Hyatt Regency Tampa	B	$118	3 Blocks	$7-Self $12-Valet
Wyndham Harbour Island	C	$126	2 Blocks	$10 Self or Valet
Radisson Riverwalk	D	$109	4 Blocks	$5 Self or Valet

Location

Tampa Bay is located on Florida's West Coast. The convenient location makes it easy to get to all of the attractions in central Florida. Orlando is just 84 miles east of Tampa.

Climate

Through the summer, visitors to Tampa will experience mostly sunny days that are often cooled by quick afternoon showers. Don't forget to pack the sunscreen if you are likely to spend time outdoors.

TAMPA TRAVEL TIPS

HARTline is Tampa's public transportation system, and operates a free uptown/downtown connector trolley service in downtown Tampa. For HARTline route info, call 813-254-4278.

For the latest information about Tampa, please go to *www.visittampabay.com.*

The main interstates that run throughout Tampa are I-75, I-275 and I-4.

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Tampa Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau
1-800-44-TAMPA
Travelers Aid
813-273-5936
Tampa General Hospital Emergency Room
813-251-7100
Local Weather
813-645-2323
General Police Information
813-276-3200
Emergency
911

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

NAFWB

FREE WILL BAPTIST CONVENTION
WNAC CONVENTION
NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

HOUSING FORM

National Association of Free WIll Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Tampa, Florida - July 20-24, 2003

INSTRUCTIONS

Personal Information

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

Hotel Information

Mark the box on the grid to the right, indicating the ***hotel*** in which you would like to reserve a room, and the ***room configuration*** you want.

Don't forget to include your arrival and departure dates. Please see ***page 2*** for more information about the hotels.

Payment Options

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

Reserving a Room

Reserve your room via phone, mail, fax or internet. If mailing or faxing, please print or type all information requested on this form and ***send it directly to the hotel*** no later than Friday, June 20, 2003. Reservations received after this date are subject to availability and may be at a higher rate.

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

SEND ONLY ONE FORM PER ROOM REQUEST.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Confirmations will be mailed to this person only.

Contact name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____

Room Occupants
(List each person.)

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

SPECIAL REQUESTS

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

HOTEL INFORMATION

The rates below do not include the current hotel tax of 12%.	SINGLE 1 BED / 1 PERSON	DOUBLE 1 BED/ 2 PERSONS	DBL/DBL 2 BEDS/ 2 PERSONS	TRIPLE 2 BEDS/ 3 PERSONS	QUAD 2 BEDS/ 4 PERSONS	ROLL-AWAY BED	PARKING RATES
Tampa Marriott Waterside *Headquarters Hotel*	❑ $124	❑ $124	❑ $124	❑ $124	❑ $124	$15/day Single or Double rooms only	$12-Self $12-Valet
Hyatt Regency Tampa	❑ $118	❑ $118	❑ $118	❑ $118	❑ $118		$7-Self $12-Valet
Wyndham Harbour Island	❑ $126	❑ $126	❑ $126	❑ $126	❑ $126		$10-Self $10-Valet
Radisson Riverwalk	❑ $109	❑ $109	❑ $109	❑ $109	❑ $109	$15/day All rooms	$5-Self $5 Valet In/Out

ARRIVAL DATE ___/___/___ **DEPARTURE DATE** ___/___/___

TAMPA MARRIOTT WATERSIDE
700 South Florida Avenue
Tampa, FL 33602
Tel 888-268-1616
Fax 813-204-6349
www.tampawaterside.com
Group Code: FWBFWBA

HYATT REGENCY TAMPA
Two Tampa City Center
Tampa, FL 33602
Tel 800-233-1234
Fax 813-222-4964
www.nafwb.org/convention
click on Hyatt link

WYNDHAM HARBOUR ISLAND
725 S. Harbour Island Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33602
Tel 813-229-5000
Fax 813-229-5322
www.wyndham.com
Group Code: 030718

RADISSON RIVERWALK HOTEL
200 N. Ashley Drive
Tampa, FL 33602
Tel 813-223-2222
Fax 813-273-0839
www.radisson.com
Promotional Code: FREE

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Credit Card # _____ Exp _____

Name on Card _____

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

An advance deposit of $140 is required. Without complete credit card or check information, your reservation will not be processed.

DON'T DELAY!
RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY JUNE 20, 2003.

Schedule

Saturday, July 19

Registration Opens
3:00 pm-7:00 pm
Tampa Convention Center

Sunday, July 20

Sunday School
10:00 am-10:45 am
Tampa Convention Center
Morning Worship
11:00 am-12:00 Noon
Tampa Convention Center
Evening Worship
7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Tampa Convention Center
NYC Worship Services
7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Tampa Convention Center

Monday, July 21

General Board Meeting
8:00 am-2:30 pm
Tampa Marriott Waterside
NYC Competitive Activities
8:30 am-4:30 pm
Tampa Convention Center
NYC Seminars
1:00 pm-4:00 pm
Tampa Convention Center
WNAC Seminar
1:30 pm-2:30 pm
Tampa Convention Center
WNAC Seminar
3:00 pm- 4:00 pm
Tampa Convention Center
Exhibit Area Open
3:00 pm-10:00 pm
Tampa Convention Center

Monday, July 21

Pastors/Laymen Conference
3:00 pm-5:00 pm
Tampa Convention Center
Children's Banquet
5:00 pm
Wyndham Harbour Island
Tweener Banquet
5:00 pm
Wyndham Harbour Island
Evening Worship
7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Tampa Convention Center
NYC Worship Services
7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Tampa Convention Center
Truth & Peace Alumni Reunion
9:00 pm-11:00 pm
Tampa Convention Center
Youth Worker Reception
9:00 pm-10:30 pm
Tampa Convention Center

Tuesday, July 22

NYC Competitive Activities
8:30 am-4:30 pm
Tampa Convention Center
WNAC Convention
8:30 am-10:50 am
Tampa Convention Center
Exhibit Area Open
10:00 am-10:00 pm
Tampa Convention Center
NYC Seminars
10:00 am-4:00 pm
Tampa Convention Center

Tuesday, July 2

Theological Trends Seminar
11:00 am-12:30 pm
Tampa Convention Center
WNAC Missionary Service
11:00 am
Tampa Convention Center
Hillsdale College Luncheon
12:00 noon
Tampa Marriott Waterside
WNAC Luncheon
12:30 pm-2:30 pm
Wyndham Harbour Island
Evening Worship
7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Tampa Convention Center
NYC Worship
7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Tampa Convention Center
Youth Banquet
9:00 pm-11:00 pm
Wyndham Harbour Island

Wednesday, July

NYC Competitive Finals
8:00 am-11:00 am
Tampa Convention Center
Convention Business Session
9:00 am-4:00 pm
Tampa Convention Center
NYC Seminars
10:00 am-4:00 pm
Tampa Convention Center
Exhibit Area Open
10:00 am-10:00 pm
Tampa Convention Center

# of Events

22

Wednesday, July 23

FWBBC Luncheon
12:00 noon-1:15 pm
Tampa Convention Center

Evening Worship
7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Tampa Convention Center

NYC Awards Ceremony
9:00 pm
Tampa Convention Center

Thursday, July 24

Exhibit Area Open
9:00 am-12:30 pm
Tampa Convention Center

Concluding Business Session
9:00 am-adjournment
Tampa Convention Center

Worship Service Information

23

Adult worship is scheduled Sunday morning and each evening Sunday through Wednesday.

Student worship (grades 7-12) is scheduled Sunday morning and each evening Sunday through Tuesday.

Tweener worship (grades 4-6) is scheduled Sunday morning and each evening Sunday through Tuesday.

Children's worship (grades 1-3) is scheduled Sunday morning and each evening Sunday through Tuesday

Preschool worship (ages 3-6) is scheduled Sunday morning and each evening Sunday through Wednesday.

Convention Speakers

Ron Hunter, Director
Randall House
Sunday Morning

Larry Powell, Director
Home Missions
Sunday Evening

Keith Burden,
Executive Secretary
Monday Evening

Matt Pinson, President
Free Will Baptist
Bible College
Tuesday Evening

James Forlines, Director
Foreign Missions
Wednesday Evening

Ted S. Rendall
Pastors/Laymen
Conference

Deleen Cousineau
Cote d'Ivoire
WNAC Convention

John Weaver
Shelter Now
NYC-Sunday

Barry St. Clair
Reach Out Ministries
NYC-Monday/Tuesday

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

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

STOP!

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Did you know that you could Pre-Register online?
Visit www.NAFWB.org today!

National Association of Free WIll Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Tampa, Florida July 20-24, 2003

One Person Per Form

Name Desired On Badge: First_____ Last_____
Home Address_____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____
Phone (____)_____ Email_____
Church You Attend_____
Church Location: City_____ State_____

Badges Required At All Convention Events
Lost Badge Fee
$5

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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

Voting Delegates:

- ❑ National Board/Commission Member
- ❑ State Delegate
- ❑ Local Church Delegate* → $50
- ❑ Foreign Missionary
- ❑ Home Missionary
- ❑ Ordained Deacon
- ❑ Ordained Minister

*DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

Non-Voting Attendees:

- ❑ Licensed Minister
- ❑ Visitor

Fee $ _____

WNAC CONVENTION

Voting Delegates:

- ❑ National Officer
- ❑ State President
- ❑ State Field Worker
- ❑ State Delegate
- ❑ Local WNAC Delegate* → $5

*DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

Non-Voting Attendees:

- ❑ Missionary
- ❑ Visitor

Fee $ _____

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

- ❑ ***Grades 1-12**** → $25
  Required to attend NYC Events or Competition
- ❑ ***Preschool Worship**** → $25
  For children ages 3-6 who have not started 1st grade
- ❑ ***Visitor-Adult***
- ❑ ***Visitor-Ages 3-6*** not attending **Preschool Worship**

*ON-SITE REGISTRATION
$35

Fee $ _____

EVENT TICKETS

Children's Banquet → **Qty.**_____ **x $10=**_____
Monday, July 21, 5:00 pm

Tweener Banquet → **Qty.**_____ **x $10=**_____
Monday, July 21, 5:00 pm

Youth Worker Reception → **Qty.**_____ **x $20=**_____
Monday, July 21, 9:00 pm

WNAC Luncheon → **Qty.**_____ **x $25=**_____
Tuesday, July 22, 12:30 pm

Hillsdale Luncheon → **Qty.**_____ **x $20=**_____
Tuesday, July 22, 12:00 noon

Youth Banquet → **Qty.**_____ **x $22=**_____
Tuesday, July 22, 9:00 pm

FWBBC Luncheon → **Qty.**_____ **x $27=**_____
Wednesday, July 23, 12:00 noon

DEADLINE JUNE 16
NO REFUNDS AFTER
JUNE 16

Ticket(s) $_____

Grand Total $_____

- ❑ Paying by check (Payable to FWB Convention)
- ❑ Paying by credit card (Discover, MC, Visa only)

Card #_____ Exp___/___

Name on card _____

Return Form & Fees to:
Convention Registration
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002
Fax: 615-731-0771

Questions?
877-767-7659
exoff@nafwb.org

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

For Office Use Only		**Date Rcvd**
		CK/MO#
		Amount
		From

Confirmation Letters Will Be Mailed.

Music Notes

The Free Will Baptist Music Commission has released the rehearsal and performance schedule for the Convention Choir and Men's Chorale for this year's National Convention, July 20–24 in Tampa, Florida.

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

Sunday 4:00 pm & 8:30 pm
Monday 5:30 pm
Tuesday 6:00 pm & 8:30 pm
Wednesday 5:30 pm

The **Men's Chorale** will be featured during the Tuesday evening service. They will rehearse Monday, 8:30 pm and Tuesday, 5:15 pm.

The 2003 National Convention will feature an orchestra comprised of volunteers from across the denomination. For more information, call or write by June 1:

Bethel Free Will Baptist Church
Attn. Chris Truett
1936 Banks School Rd.
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 522-2451 ext. 229
Orchestra Rehearsals At 4:00 PM Daily

SECURITY NOTICE

In light of security concerns, official convention name badges will be required for all convention events.

Please be diligent in this area for yourself and those for whom you are responsible.

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

All photos courtesy of Tampa Bay CVB.

2003 Local Church Delegate Card

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

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

2003 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.

Stand Still

PSALM 46:10

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

Second Annual FWB Classic

The 2003 National Youth Conference

Reach That Guy
Serving Christ by Serving Others

Make an impact on the city of Tampa!

Call 1-800-877-7030 For information or to register

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
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WNAC CONVENTION
NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

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

The Law

by Leslie Ray

IT HAD BEEN A GOOD DAY, A PEACEFUL DAY. One of those relaxing, refreshing, "don't-have-a-care-in-the-world" kind of days that we all need occasionally. And now she was resting quietly in the darkness and safety of her room. She was young and strong, and had great plans for her future. Never in her wildest dreams could she imagine the horror that was coming her way… or why.

The masked intruder jerked her roughly out of her still, calm slumber. "What are you doing here?" she cried! "You have no right to be here!" He looked at her sternly and said "1 have *every* right to be here!" Then he pulled out a knife.

She froze in fear. "What are you going to do?" she whispered. He looked rather surprised. "Don't you know? I've been sent here to kill you!" She drew back in shock. "Kill me? For what reason?" she cried. "I've done nothing wrong! I've harmed no one!"

"Yes," he said, "but your father has! Or didn't you know he's a rapist?"

"I hardly know my father," she said. And besides, just because he's a criminal doesn't mean I am. I'm innocent! Do you hear me? Innocent!"

"Not according to the law," he said. "The law says *you* must pay for your *father's* sin!"

It was then that she realized he was not alone. There were others with him. Maybe *they* could stop this madness! "Won't you help me?" she screamed. "How can you just stand there and let this man kill an innocent person? It's murder! Don't you understand? MURDER!" But they only blinked and remained in their places, ready to assist in the slaughter. They were wearing masks too.

She tried appealing to the man once more. "You say the *law* gives you the right to kill an innocent person. Well, who signed the consent form for *you* to kill *me*? Tell me that. WHO?

The doctor quietly replied, "Your mother." Then he lowered the knife and proceeded with the abortion.

Leslie Ray lives in Jenks, Oklahoma. This wife and mother of three teens serves as church secretary and drama ministry director at Faith FWB Church in Glenpool.

"at current rates, 43% of all women will experience abortion at least once by the time they are 45 years of age"
—Planned Parenthood

HOW WILL WE RESPOND?

Resources and Helps

For those who may consider abortion

www.fwbfm.org
Hope Center
1-(423) 638-LIFE

www.abortionfacts.com

www.family.org/pregnancy
1 (800) A FAMILY

www.pregnancycenters.org
1 (888) 4-OPTIONS

for teens:
www.standupgirl.com

For those who have experienced abortion

www.fwbfm.org
Hope Center
1-(423) 638-LIFE

www.ramahinternational.org
1 (941) 473-2188
This organization also offers a beautiful tract, **Steps to Healing** *for those who have experienced abortion.*

www.afterabortion.org
1-(217) 525-8202

www.pregnancycenters.org
/postabort.html

Beauty for Ashes Ministries
1 (704) 462-4498

Join the crowd.

Enjoy a quiet moment together.

Laugh Learn Love

WNAC/ Master's Men

National Marriage Enrichment Conference

September 19-21, 2003

Smoky Shadows Conference Center, Pigeon Forge, TN

Guest speakers:
Don and Jan Harvey
marriage and family therapists

REGISTRATION

Husband's Name _____

Wife's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone ( ) _____ Email _____

MAIL FULL PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION TO:

Master's Men P.O. Box 5002 Antioch, TN 37011-5002

For information or questions call toll free: 1-877-767-8039

SPACIOUS KING ROOMS WITH JACUZZI TUBS

❑ **$225 per couple**
(includes two nights lodging with continental breakfasts, banquet, and all conference sessions)

❑ **$125 per couple** *OFFSITE*
(includes banquet and all conference sessions)

HURRY! REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 1.

SPRINGBOARD
memos for WAC officers

Prayer Chairman:

Brainstorm together the question, "What are some needs around us?" List these on a board or poster. Give women opportunity to copy, then commit to pray for these needs. See other ideas in the *Program and Plan Book*, pp.35, 37.

How is your own prayer life? Are you daily praying for the ministry of WNAC? Begin praying for WNAC's Convention, July 21-22, in Tampa, FL.

WNAC/Master's Men

National Marriage Enrichment Conference

Smoky Shadows Conference Center
Pigeon Forge, TN

September 19-21, 2003

(see p. 18 for more information)

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

Study Chairman:

This issue reviews several new books for women. Encourage women to find one that fits their need. Consider a weekly Bible study. WNAC offers *Intimacy with God* a study from Psalms

If your group is mainly older women, conduct an indepth Bible study of Titus 2. For younger women, conduct a survey of things they would most want to know. Use this as a starting point for mentoring and for meeting needs around you.

Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator:

Consider planning a mother/daughter event and using the May feature for the program. Promote this with the commercial in the *Program and Plan Book*, p.34)

For June, consider focusing on a different relationship each week at your church. Highlight the relationship (honors, gifts, etc.) and encourage others to look this week through these eyes.

Make plans to attend the National Convention, July 21-22 in Tampa, FL.

Missions/Service Chairman:

Read the FOCUS article on pp. 26-27. Consider a gift to Lar Nova Vida or a children's home in your area. Fill a bag with items for the home. See other ideas in the *Program and Plan Book*.

If your group has participated in a service project recently, include a time for testimonies.

Going to Tampa? Plan to attend the

WNAC Fellowship Luncheon

Tuesday July 22

with guest, Rosalie Ranquist, missionary to New Guinea and International Literacy Consultant for New Tribes Missions.

It's an opportunity you won't want to miss.

Tickets are limited. Order yours today.

Provision Closet Needs:

Tupperware glasses
Baking pans
Corelle ware (service for 8)
Sheet sets (king/queen)

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." I Thessalonians 1:2,3

PICTURED: *1. District Women's Meeting, Miharashidai Chapel, Sapporo, Japan. 2. President Judy Smith and Vice President Jenny Shaw of Greater Tulsa District, OK. 3. TN State FWB Treasurer Ray Lewis presents checks to Gladys Gragg, TWAC, and Marjorie Workman, WNAC. 4. Elwanda Oakes awards Bradley McDaniel.*

❁ About thirty women from four Sapporo, Japan churches attended the Women's Meeting at Miharashidai Chapel FWB Church on November 6, 2002. Former missionary Judy Smith and partner K. C. shared the love of Jesus through ventriloquism as Debbie Griffin interpreted. Pastor's wife, Sachiko Kimura, read "The Father's Love Letter." The event included a fellowhsip luncheon. Several unsaved women also attended.

❁ Greater Tulsa Women Active for Christ collected 129 care bags containing items from shoestrings and safety pins to various toiletries. The district presented the bags to the Women's and Children's Shelter in Tulsa, OK.

Is your group involved in a
Labor of Love?
Send us your news
and photos today.

❁ WNAC and Tennessee Women Active for Christ recently received their first support checks from the new Tennessee Unified Giving Plan. This plan includes all state and national ministries.

❁ Bradley McDaniel, junior at FWBBC, from Vernon, AL, was awarded the AFWBWAC 2002 Jimmy and Janie Aldridge Scholarship worth $600. Elwanda Oakes, state president, made the presentation at his home church, First FWB Church in Vernon.

HELP! I'M A MOM

bright ideas for mothers from mothers

Q A

Long distance grandparenting. What can moms (and grandmoms) do to help make it work?

A mom writes:

Moving the grandkids 500 miles away was hard, but we were only a day's drive from home, and we made our share of visits. Now, being 2000 miles away, things are a bit different. "Home" is either a very expensive flight for a family of five, or a long four-day, one-way drive. So what have we done to make sure family is not forgotten?

Pictures

We've put up lots of pictures, some of them current, but some old favorites. The kids have their own mini albums. Keeping an ongoing scrapbook that children can look at often is a great idea.

Cards and Computers

Another idea that works great (and it's cheap) is e-mail. Instant messaging is wonderful. Even my three-year-old loves to do things on the computer. However, you just can't beat a homemade card sent snail mail simply to say I love you and miss you—along with all the pictures you've taken lately. Kids enjoy making and sending these as well as receiving things in the mail.

Cell phones

One more thing we have found indispensable is a cell phone for long distance calling. Of course, when you're clear across the country, nationwide coverage costs a wee bit more, but it's worth it when you get unlimited nights and weekends. The kids can talk as long as they want, not just with grandparents, but with cousins, too. Hearing a familiar voice on the other end warms the heart like no e-mail or card can. But, it can also make you homesick...

I feel blessed to be only 2000 miles away, unlike some of our missionaries, who are halfway around the world.

Rebekah Bragan
Cheyenne, WY

A grandmom writes:

I'm a happy grandmother, just not so happy as a long-distance grandmother. Our first grandchild Briley arrived as our oldest son Andy and his wife Heather finished their third year of training with New Tribes Missions. The only problem? They "temporarily" located in southern California near her family. A year and a half later, a second grandchild was born—in California. I pressured, just short of asking them to "forget what God wants, I want you here!" But God's timing was right. They're still in California (due to Heather's mother's illness, unknown to any of us at the time.) We've made several trips there and they've been here also. But seeing a grandchild every six months makes us pray he will remember us and appreciate the significant role we wish to play in his life.

Cuddles and Care

When we first met Briley, our son and daughter-in-law generously allowed us to hold and interact with their new infant. We changed diapers, rocked, bathed, and generally tried to get in our "spoiling." The night before we left, we volunteered to get up and feed him a bottle, giving us "cuddling time" and one more opportunity to bond, providing the new parents with an uninterrupted night's rest.

Videos

We spent a week's vacation with our grandson at 16 months. Our second son Tony and his wife Jenn went with us. We made a videotape with each of us interacting with Briley so after we left, his parents could play the video and he would remember us.

Family Pictures

We've taken lots of family pictures. We want our grandchildren to see the special connection these people have with them. My son and daughter-in-law keep pictures of Grammy and Grandpa on the refrigerator at eye-level, as well as on the wall.

Phones

As soon as Briley showed any interest in the phone, I started talking to him. At first, I wasn't sure anyone was on the other end. But after a while, I began to hear grunts, then goos. Now I can actually carry on a conversation with our 33-month-old grandson. When we visited last September, at the airport, Briley sort of hid behind his mother like he wasn't sure who we were. He didn't respond when I spoke to him, so I whipped out my cell phone and began to talk with him. He emerged with a huge grin; we became fast buddies.

Special Activities

Each time we see Briley, we plan activities just for him—no parents along. We go out for a meal, to the park, and maybe shopping. (What's a trip without Wal-Mart included?) We want him to know we take an interest in him personally. Briley 's new little sister Jillian means even more fun for those California trips. Someday, we'd love to have them close, to interact with them daily. But even this may be only for a season. Andy and Heather have a heart for missions, and our grandchildren will follow.

God has given us another grandson right here in Oklahoma City, so we get to be "regular" grandparents as well. And we are loving it! We are so thankful that Jace lives nearby. Since his father is an associate pastor, this may not always be the case.

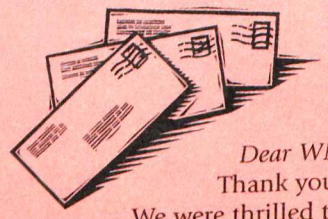
Our two youngest sons are FWBBC students—each with a heart leading them away from home. (Mitchell in missions, Russell in music ministry.) Looks like I'd better get good at this "long distance grandma" thing.

Linda Cooper
Oklahoma City, OK

NEXT ISSUE: Tragedy. How do you break the news to your child? How do you answer children's questions? Should you share or discuss tragic world events?

Send us your input. We welcome your questions, too.

Email: sarah@nafwb.org or *CoLaborer* P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.



Letters to WNAC

Dear WNAC,

Thank you for the great offering. We were thrilled to see the large amount for the building fund. We have almost 1/3 of what we need. God has been blessing both the school and the church. Last week we saw a total of six saved.

Ken and Paula Dodson
Christiansted, VI

Dear WNAC,

We wanted to write you personally and thank you for your financial support this past year. According to our records, WNAC contributions to our account totaled $11,606.81, approximately 10% of our 2002 budget.

We realize that this represents many different WAC groups across the denomination. From the bottom of our hearts, we say to each one, "Thank you." Without your support we would not be able to labor for our Lord in Japan, a country where 199 out of every 200 people have not had the opportunity to hear the gospel even for the very first time.

We also want to thank you for the Provision Closet ministry. Last year, we stepped off the airplane with nothing more than we carried in our hands. Through the love and faithfulness of our FWB ladies, we were able to go to the Provision Closet and set up housekeeping for our family of six without a lot of difficulty. Thank you for being such a blessing to us.

Nathan and Linda Snow
Japan

Dear WNAC,

Thank you for your labors for the Lord and toward your sisters in Christ here in the state of Washington for this past year.

Ladies Group at TriCities FWB Church
Kennewick, WA

Dear WNAC,

Thank you for all the hard work each of you do for God's people. We hope these (Provision Closet gifts) will help some missionary family as they return to the field.

Women's Ministry at First FWB Church
Ada, OK

Dear WNAC,

I sure do enjoy my *CoLaborer.* You are doing a wonderful job.

Betty Hall
Knoxville, TN

LOOK WHAT HE'S DONE FOR ME

✝ NAME WITHHELD ✝

Jesus has brought me a long way in life. I was raised in an abusive home. Throughout my life I have suffered physical and emotionally abuse. My mother is a drug addict. She tried to raise me as best she could and in some ways I admire her. But being bounced from school to school, state to state, dad to dad (mom's been married six times), and drug to drug was very hard on me. I finally moved away at the age of sixteen. Even then, my life was unstable.

I was saved as a child. When I was around eight, I went to my grandmother's church one summer on vacation. That's when I found Christ. Every night I would pray to God for safety and for deliverance from my situation. I thought about running away several times, but something always told me there was more in store for my life.

At seventeen, I met my husband and started faithfully attending his church. We were soon married. Yes, I was young. But all I ever wanted was a happy stable life. I am blessed. The Lord has given me just that—great husband, wonderful children, loving church family. My husband's mom and dad have become the Christian parents I never had. I daily give Him thanks, praise, and glory.

I could be bitter toward my mother or drown in the sorrows of my past. Instead, I am devoted to God. I have forgiven my mother. I've given Jesus my painful past. My heart still hurts for my mom and longs for her salvation. I know that the Lord is ready and able to forgive, heal, and fulfill her.

God can do anything. Just ask and believe. Look what He's done for me.

Last year 25 women made a faith promise commitment to WNAC. The gifts of these women helped with utilities, rent, and supplies, enabling the WNAC office to help women like you.

Will you take the $10 challenge?

Complete and mail your Faith Promise commitment card today.

Because I desire to help women know Christ and make Him known in the HOME, *the* CHURCH, *the* COMMUNITY, *and the* WORLD,

BY FAITH I MAKE THIS COMMITMENT.

Trusting God to provide, I will give
$10 each month
to support the office ministries of
Women Nationally Active for Christ.

Today's Date_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State**____ **Zip**_____

E-mail address _____

"For God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work:" 2 Corinthians 9:7b-8

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: WNAC • P. O. Box 5002 • Antioch, TN 37011

On the Lighter Side

Death in the Pot

by Sarah Fletcher

When the servants of Elisha cried "O thou man of God, there is death in the pot," it surely was a slowcooker.

Slowcookers have been my nemesis since the day I said "I do" to cooking (and many other wonderful things). Actually, my first brush with death came before our marriage. I'd earned a pot as a hostess gift from a Tupperware® party. Not your normal ordinary glass pot in a metal case, this model consisted of a non-stick pan with a glass casserole lid that rested on a non-stick griddle. How perfect can you get!

Not with our imperfect tendencies. By the time my husband lifted me over the threshold of our first apartment, he had batched with that griddle for two months and botched its non-stick quality.

Next went the lid, dropped on a concrete fellowship hall floor the day we served hot dogs to the children's church. We replaced that. Then it was the cord. The removeable plug on the griddle no longer came out. It was burnt or wedged in place forever. By that time, the griddle was far too small for our growing family anyway.

Slowly it cooked, enduring year after year, a little less non-stick with each delicious entrée. Who knows how much teflon poison we have consumed from this death pot?

Meanwhile, other appliances that doubled as slowcookers came and went. The completely immersible steamer wasn't, the temp gauge on the fryer didn't register causing overheating and burnout. Maybe it was sabotage. Slow cooking and our fast-paced life just seemed to run aground.

Then came the day when in the presence of company, our trusty now non non-stick pot refused to cooperate. The time had come for its entry into the lower cabinet appliance graveyard.

Next birthday, I received a beautiful stainless steel pot with removeable crock. This one affirmed the terminal tendencies of the pot. Within a month, this state of the art model was overheating. Customer service assured me this was the nature of the model. (In other words, the company wasn't going to do anything.) The Low setting expired first, then the Auto. The week after its year anniversary and the extent of any warranty, it silently gave up the ghost.

I determinedly retrieved the original, twenty-year-old model from the graveyard and tried to coax new life into it. Those next few slow meals redefined death in the pot for the family. Chili stuck, cheese crusted. Another day, beans didn't boil.

With sympathy or maybe delusions of grandeur, my husband bought me a new slowcooker for this year's birthday. (No marital conflict—I love gifts for the kitchen.) This one is Corning Ware®—microwavable, ovenproof—the whole nine yards. I could hardly wait to get my sinister hands on it. Its maiden voyage of crockpot enchiladas produced a hearty meal and a new method of advertising. One of my children left a bread wrapper within inches of the new appliance. Its gleaming white enamel just sucked up the words—Buttered Split Top Wheat Bread—and seered them to the side of my brand new gift.

Slowcookers. Given our hectic schedule, we can't live without them. But we can't keep them alive. One bright spot—my husband will never be without gift ideas for special occasions. We'll be doing death in the pot til death do us part.

Life!Action

a column for teens

Picture yourself...

Every summer, students just like you live out a dream and a holy adventure on an E-TEAM. Through music, drama, sports, speech, and smiles, they communicate God's love. It might be on a soccer field in Nashville, in an airport in Tokyo, or at a park in Brazil.

Who will experience the E-TEAM dream this summer? Is there someone you know? Will you pray daily for at least one name on this list?

Jesus' Great Commission to go into all the world can come alive for you as well. Why not apply for E-TEAM 2004? For more information call 1-877-767-7736.

E-TEAM Uruguay
Sarah Aldridge, FL
Drew Bigley, IL
Rachel Dennis, AR
Miriam Haas, MO
Jinan Hassan, TN
Katie Hicks, IL
Dani Loucks, IL
James McNeal, FL
Kerrie Morgan, MO
Matthew Riley, IL
Ashley Turner, MO

E-TEAM Cuba
Michael Byrd, Jr., SC
Hollie Charlton, MO
Ana Coker, TN
Beth Dennis, AR
David Gibson, SC
Misty Hayden, IN
Kasey Lundquist, NC
Timothy McNeal, FL
Kelly Meagher, IL
Aaron Montee, KS

E-TEAM France
Krista Anderson, TN
Shelly Bracey, TN
Shane Brown, AR
Leah Holland, OK
James Polston, TN
Jacqueline Prosser, CA
Christopher Riley, IL
Samantha Tibbs, IL

E-TEAM Hokkaido
Amanda Bunch, MO
Tom Carabajal, CA
Teddie Collier, MO
Heather Helton, AR
Jarrod Lauthern, TN
Jonathon Lawrence, TN
Amanda Rees, AL
Heather Watkins, AR
Hannah Williams, MO

E-TEAM Panama
Amanda Baker, IN
Rhonda Cantley, SC
Ashleigh Duplex, TN
Morgan Eichler, AR
Amanda Fretter, CA
Kristina Scott, IL
Jared Singletary, SC
Jeremy Skiles, AL
Brittinay Staller, IN
Tabatha Wolf, OK

E-TEAM Tokyo
Melissa Armes, IL
Carla Cook, AL
Nancy Coward, SC
Nicholas Darnell, TN
Tasha Foster, AR
David Gray, OK
Amanda James, CA
Daniel Judkins, AR
Ashley Ridgway, OK
Katelynne Sherman, OK

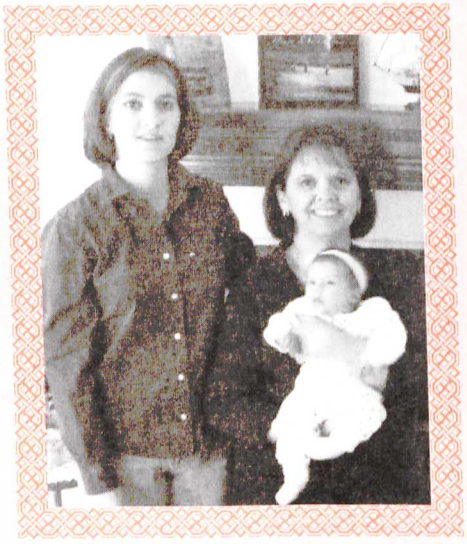
E-TEAM Mexico
Jennifer Bishop, Japan
Holly Blott, IN
Heather Couch, TN
Celeste Davis, TN
Joshua Detheridge, VA
Alan Dooley, OH
Benjamin Edgmon, TN
Sarah Hodges, TN
Phillip Kennedy, IL
Chelsi Mentink, NC
Jason Shaw, CA
Jenny Williams, AR

E-TEAM Brazil
Jennifer Angus, IL
Malisa Barnett, AR
Kendra Blasingame, AR
Jason Bradley, AR
Megan Brown, IN
Lauren Cameron, MI
Rachel Caudill, TN
Desirae Clark, VA
Rachel Elliott, LA
Mahalie Garrison, SC
Joshua Green, MI

E-TEAM Soccer Nashville
Kyle Adams, CA
Alice Caudill, IN
Mark Kaake, CA
Adam Keeling, AR
William Lindsey, CA
Bethany Warner, TN

on an E-Team Adventure.

An example... for Amy...for Emilie



by
Debe Taylor
WNAC President

Debe Taylor is a FWB pastor's wife and retreat speaker from Hot Springs, Arkansas. She is pictured above with her daughter Amy and granddaughter Emilie.

"She's a beautiful little girl." Those were the nurse's words as she laid our first grandchild in our daughter's arms. Amy looked down into her daughter's face and began to cry. As I watched that tender moment, I asked myself, "As her mother, have I been a good example?"

Love. I did my best to love Amy no matter what she did. Plenty of times I was unhappy with her, but I made sure she always knew that I loved her. Children need to know that love is constant. Even if they can not find it anywhere else, they must be assured they can find it at home. *"That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children"* (Titus 2:4).

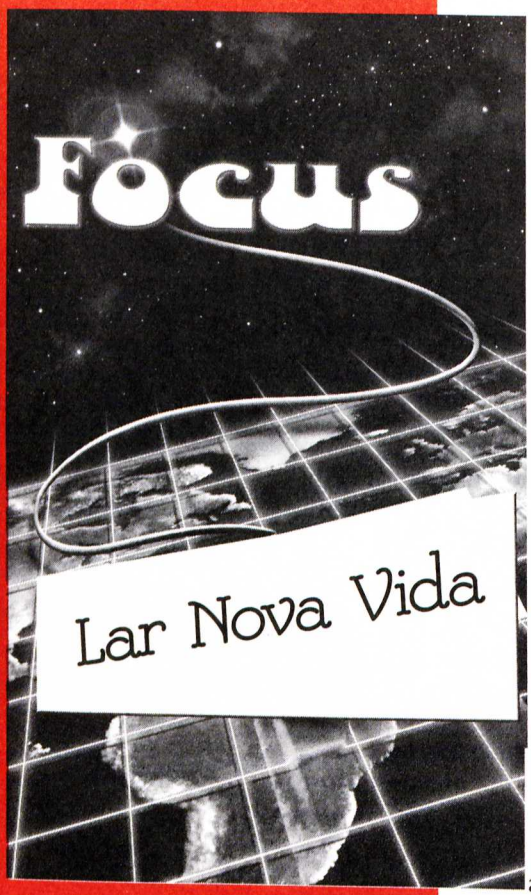
Patience. This was probably the hardest. Those who know me well know that at one time my tolerance level was very low. After Amy was born, I asked God for patience. Unless you are really serious, I can tell you, this is not the thing to do. Romans 5:3,4 says, *"And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; And experience, hope."* Tribulations came from every direction, but God proved the Scripture true in my life. I do my best now to hold my tongue, my temper, and my judgment.

Loyalty. I taught Amy to be true to herself and to her friends. Never betray a trust. If a secret is shared with you, keep the secret. Be a friend on whom your friends can depend. One of my favorite stories in the Bible is the friendship between David and Jonathan. *"And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul"* (I Samuel 18:1). I've encouraged Amy to make such friendships in the many churches where we've served.

Faith. I have never lacked faith. I've never had a problem applying Hebrews 4:16, *"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."* Whenever we were out of food or money, facing a difficult situation or just discouraged, Amy heard me go to God in prayer. I was never afraid to ask for whatever was needed. *"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:"* (Matthew 7:7). During her lifetime, Amy has seen this Scripture applied in our home.

Was I a good example? I did my best to be all that God wanted. Now, every day I ask God to make Amy an even better example than her mother. You see, I think Emilie Elizabeth Head deserves the best!

The words of Paul to Timothy should be the heart cry of every mother to her daughter. *"...but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity"* (I Timothy 4:12).



Pray:

—for Jim and Shirley Combs as they oversee the ministry of Lar Nova Vida (New Life Children's Home) in Araras, Brazil

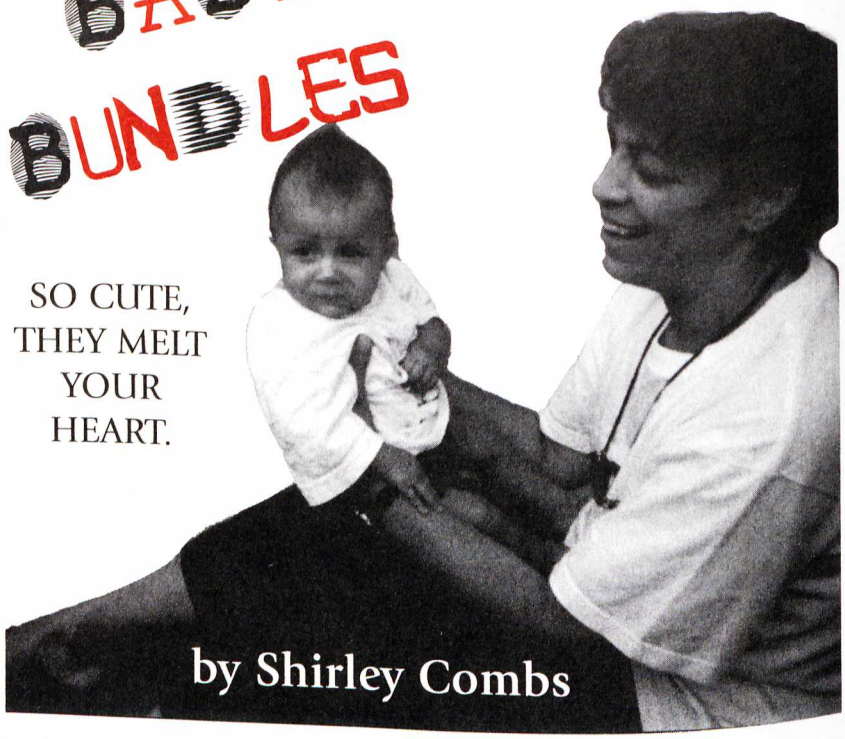
—for Kimberly Johnson and the other housemothers who care for the children

—for the many baby bundles who've passed through the home

—for daily financial and spiritual needs at Lar Nova Vida.

BABY BUNDLES

SO CUTE, THEY MELT YOUR HEART.



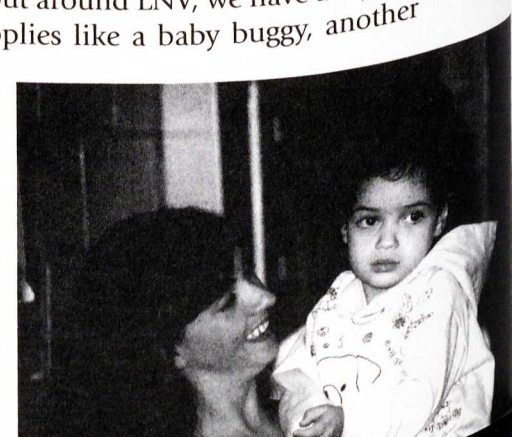
by Shirley Combs

During the years since Lar Nova Vida was founded in 1991, we've taken care of many babes in diapers, from newborns to toddlers. Some came with brothers or sisters; others came alone. A few came smooth and clean, but more came sickly, with sores or cigarette burns, convulsive, paralyzed, needing treatments for allergies and breathing problems, with head lice and worms.

They came for several reasons, but all were sent by the juvenile judge. Frequently, neighbors had anonymously called authorities to report some suspicion. A baby crying all day and night with all doors locked. A five-year-old alone with an infant for days. Physical and verbal abuse in and out of the house.

Policemen found others. Children in the cold with no adequate clothing, waiting for mothers who were begging in the streets. An adult caught stealing, pushing drugs, or fighting with a weapon while holding an infant in arm (A safe home would be needed immediately for the child.) A mother placed in a rehabilitation house for drug users or AIDS victims with no one to care for her babies.Some baby bundles were quickly passed into the hands of surprised strangers or found in secluded corners only hours after birth.

Lar Nova Vida tries to keep donated supplies on hand for babies who may appear without warning, but around LNV, we have a saying. When God starts sending fresh supplies like a baby buggy, another baby bed, small clothes, and diapers—get prepared. A baby will soon arrive. It happened a while back. Our three housemothers discussed among themselves who would take care of the expected bundle. Our newest single mission-



ary, Kimberly Johnson, declared that she and the teen-age girls in her house wanted the baby. She got her wish—a ten-month-old baby boy, whose mother had "disappeared" was sent to her house. I warned her, "Kimberly, this baby has been well cared for and someone is going to turn up soon to claim him." When I saw tears in her eyes I thought, "Uh, oh. Our new missionary is just beginning her baby bundle adventure."

For the days following, he was the best dressed, sweetest smelling, happiest baby we'd had around in a while. Then one day, authorities called and said the mother had reappeared; they were going to give her another chance. Kimberly tenderly brought the baby onto the porch of the main house. On the day a child leaves LNV, we conduct a closure ceremony on that porch. Workers, children, and relatives form a circle. Children and adults share testimonies and give instructions to those who will take responsibility for the child. We sing, have prayer, take pictures, hug and cry. Well, this baby's mother was crying. Kimberly, still holding the baby, was also crying. She walked over, hugged the mother, and handed the baby into her arms. Our photos captured the teary eyes of both "mothers."

Kimberly said, "Sister Shirley, you have done this so many times. But this is my first time, and it is so difficult." Yes, by the grace of God we collect experiences, but it is always difficult.

"Parting is such sweet sorrow," a famous writer declared. It is *sweet* to know that after our care, a child can sometimes be returned to a mother. That is why Lar Nova Vida exists. It is *sorrowful* when we realize a child may be returning to the same neglect, abuse, and sadness. How much Gospel exposure was our ten-month-old little bundle able to absorb in those few days? And the Gospel we shared with that young mother…how much will she heed? This may depend on the prayers we send to follow our little baby bundle.

Other Prayer Concerns

—Pray for believers in war-torn Côte d'Ivoire and for guidance concerning our mission presence there.

—Pray for FWB chaplains in all branches of military service as they minister to soldiers and their families during these times of world conflict and crisis.

—Pray that doors will open for missionary Bill Phillips to teach a Bible class at the Utah State Penitentiary where 4,000 inmates have almost no gospel witness.

—Pray for the Nehemiah Project, the construction of a church in Villalba, Spain.

—Pray for the French Muslim team as they prepare to leave in the fall.

—Pray for newly appointed missionaries. ***Career:*** **K.C. and Liz Kohn, Darren and Dana Portell, Matthew and Christina Price., Shane and Joy Davidson** *(preliminary),* **Shannon Little** *(preliminary);* ***Short term:*** **Jonathan and Teresa Snow, Joshua and Christy Smith, Matthew and Brooke Turnbough, Natalie Crowson,** ***Overseas Apprentice:*** **Chuck Stewart**

TWO CHURCHES: one rural, one urban
TWO PROGRAMS: same time, similar focus
TWO WOMEN: finding their place in the Great Commission...

teaching kids

M & M Club

Pastor's wife Angie Outlaw saw the need for a Wednesday night children's program at her church. She went to work, recruiting volunteers and developing a curriculum that would be fun, fundamental, and "Free Will Baptist." Heads Church began its M & M Club in July of 2002.

At Heads FWB Church, M & M Clubbers concentrate on four M's: missions, memorization, music, and ministry. The club is open to all children preschool through elementary and meets simultaneously with adult prayer meeting. Each family enrolled in M & M Club gets a notebook. Clear photo sheets hold FWB missionary cards. A missionary map, directory, hymn lyrics, and memory verse sheets are also included.

Missions/Music. The program begins each week with a fifteen-minute assembly which includes prayer for current missionary requests. Children sing, learning one classic hymn each month. The assembly continues with missions study and review. Students focus on specific FWB mission fields—learning about the country, its peoples, flag, and the names of FWB missionaries. When possible, visiting missionaries or local persons from these countries come and share. The session climaxes with a missionary story.

Memorization. After the missions assembly, children go to age-graded classrooms to memorize Scripture. Leaders use CTS Bible memorization materials. Each child memorizes at his own pace and is rewarded accordingly with stickers. (One sticker for each verse.) These stickers represent M & M Bucks, redeemable for prizes at the M & M Store once a quarter.

Ministry. Sometimes it's cleaning the church, other times it's loading up everyone in vans to go see a shut-in. Regularly, M & M Clubbers participate in ministry projects.

The hour concludes with games and crafts. Games reinforce missionary information and help children recognize FWB missionaries. Crafts might include making a flag of the focus country, or creating a card for a missionary.

Each child leaves the church with (what else?) a pack of "M & M's"® gathered by generous church members who scour after-holiday sale bins and stock up on the colored candies.

At the end of each quarter, students present a program for the church. Children march in carrying the flags they have made. Students share information and recite verses for the congregation.

through M & M's

M & M Kids

When Tammy Gentuso came back from Africa nearly five years ago, she realized her church, Donelson FWB, offered no structured Wednesday night program for her boys. She and another mother began to dream and plan for a program whose primary aims would be missions education and Scripture memory; M & M Kids was born. At first, they used a denominational club program, but this was not ideal. Leaders did their best to combine club lessons, CTS Bible Memorization, and classic missionary stories. Still Tammy dreamed of a program that would be characteristically their own.

About a year ago, God placed a similar burden on a man in the church. A song writer, he wanted to develop an alphabetical Bible memory program involving Scripture songs. Working together, the group developed "Total Recall," a three-year curriculum for use in both M & M Kids and children's worship each Sunday.

Missions and memorization comprise the M's in M & M Kids. Each student receives a quarterly Total Recall Journal which contains Scripture memory assignments and a dated devotional for the student's PD's (personal devotions). Kids bring these each week.

Missions. M & M Kids begins with an assembly as children sing together the featured scripture song. Each week, eighty plus students, Kindergarten through sixth grade sit spellbound as leaders use original-crafted marionettes, other puppets or drama to present accounts of missionary greats—from Mary Slessor to Laura Belle Barnard. These stories are hand-picked to correlate with the Scripture memory theme.

Memorization. Students then go to graded classrooms for Total Recall. Year one takes kids from A-Z in Theology and Bible doctrines. Year two focuses on Christian living, while year three concentrates on virtues and godly character qualities. Leaders use creative methods for teaching the Bible passages. Games, activities, worksheets, recitations, all serve as learning aids

(Continued on the next page.)

Consider the possibilities...

M & M Kids (continued)

Memory work is also graduated. For example, in year one, for letter A, *Armor of God*, Kindergartners learn Ephesians 6:10-11, while sixth graders memorize Ephesians 6:10-20. Special needs children are given consideration. One student "signs" his passages. The Scripture song is always based on the kindergarten assignment, allowing all ages to benefit.

After the classes, students return in groups to talk informally and participate in various games designed to reinforce the evening's missionary story.

A Recognition Night at the end of each quarter highlights the program. Enlisted adult volunteers listen as students recall their assigned passages for the past three months. Students attempt to achieve status by reciting the passages correctly. (Bronze-1/2 of all passages, Silver- 3/4 of all passages, and Gold-total recall.) Children then choose a prize from gold, silver or bronze treasure chests. This past Recognition Night, these M & M Kids recalled and recited almost 1000 verses of Scripture.

M & M Scoop

The cost? In both programs, much is donated. M & M Club notebooks average about $7.00 per family. M & M Kids Journals involve church copier and printing supply costs.

The workers? Four regular leaders share responsibilities for M & M Club. More children call for more workers at M & M Kids. But, "God always supplies the people we need," says Tammy. Either program is "do-able," even in a small church.

The benefits? A prize, a sticker? How about a lifetime love of God's Word? Long after the toys and candy, God's Word remains. Tammy Gentuso firmly believes that one day, years from now, as these individuals face temptations and difficult life issues, those Scriptures will come to mind. And the missions education? Missionaries have become real and personal for Angie Outlaw's students. When they heard the news that French missionaries Micah Derby and Becky Hale were getting married, students cheered.

Imagine the palate and potential of a generation who've been spoon-fed God's Word and Great Commission... spoon-fed with M & M's.

Words for Women

GLAUCOMA

Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Marjorie H. Workman

The doctor's words stung. Tears welled up in my eyes. "I can't cry," I said to myself, "at least not here. I must stay calm." But I couldn't help it. What began as a normal routine visit to my ophthalmologist was turning into disbelief. "This can't be happening to me." I gathered my belongings, said my farewells, and exited to the hallway.

Blindness. That thought riveted through my brain as I made my way to the parking lot. Memory took me back to my aunt's house when I was in junior high school. Vividly I could see her groping around. I didn't understand the disease that caused her blindness, but I knew the name—glaucoma—the exact word my doctor had just spoken. "You have glaucoma." "No," I screamed silently as I sat in my car desperately trying to gain my composure.

In the days that followed, I learned everything I could about glaucoma. There are four types. All four are characterized by increased pressure within the eyeball which can cause progressive damage to the optic nerve. This pressure reduces the blood supply to the optic nerve that carries vision from the eye to the brain. The loss of blood supply causes the nerve cells to progressively die. Over time, the fluid outlet channels within the wall of the eye gradually narrow. If not detected and treated, blindness can result. The disease usually affects both eyes. I have open angle or chronic glaucoma.

What are the symptoms of open angle glaucoma? None. No early warning signs. No pain. Just an insidious gradual loss of peripheral vision unnoticed until damage reaches a substantial level. Early diagnosis and treatment can successfully preserve vision. But vision loss cannot be regained. Only through routine eye examinations can glaucoma be diagnosed early enough to stop or slow the disease.

Spiritual eyesight also demands routine care. Have you had a spiritual eye check lately? Are there blind spots in your Christian walk? Could you unknowingly be losing your peripheral vision? Take the test.

When a person of different culture or color comes to your church, how do you react? Do you greet them? Sit with them? Invite them back? Befriend them? Or do you shun them? Hope they never return? Sometimes our own agenda, family, and friends blind us. We fail to see the neighbor who is not "like us." And, what about our enemies? Do we love, pray, and do kind things for them as Jesus commanded us (Matthew 5:44, 45)?

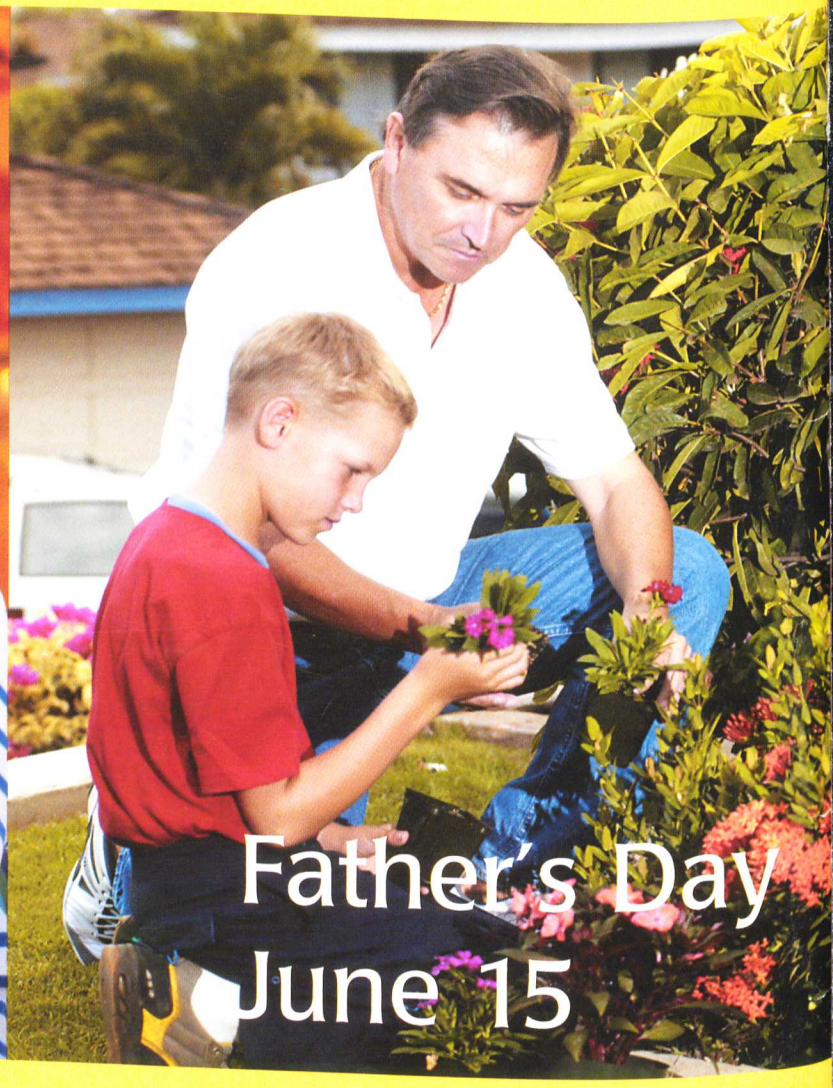
Sometimes our vision fails because we refuse to get close to missionaries who can broaden our vision of the world. We don't pray for, write, call, or support those who have gone from us. If the old adage, "out of sight, out of mind," applies, blindness is not far away.

Willingness to get out of our comfort zone stretches our vision. Opportunities are all around us if only we will lift up our eyes. Go, visit someone you know in a nursing home or prison. Send a card or an encouraging word to a single parent. Don't let these individuals slip from your peripheral vision.

A woman with vision *"...stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy"* (Proverbs 31:20). Vision fails when we try to hold on to our possessions for personal gain rather than using our resources to lay up treasures in heaven (I Timothy 6:17-19). We can be blindsided by the world's perspective.

My open angle glaucoma can be treated with beta-adrenergic blocking agents in the form of eye drops. For the drops to be effective, I must be consistent and faithful in using them. There is no room for "when I feel like it" or "maybe, tomorrow." Bible study and prayer are to spiritual eyesight what eye drops are to glaucoma patients. Jesus said, *"Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see:"* (Luke 10:23b).

For the special people in your life



Remember your mother or grandmother with a gift to WNAC through your church or WAC.
(Earmark gifts in honor or remembrance of ...)

Honor your father through the Master's Men Father's Day offering at your church.
(Earmark funds in honor or remembrance of...)

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