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CoLaborer

September • October 2003

A Free Will Baptist Magazine for Women

*Lifting
Our Eyes
to See
Earth's Beauty*

The Hills Are Alive

*Discover the significance
of New Testament hills*

Changing Leaves Changing Lives

How well do you accept the inevitable?

Beauty Spots

WNAC leaders share their picks

STAFF

Executive Editor

Marjorie Workman

Editor

Sarah Fletcher

Circulation

Yvonne Hampton

Executive Committee

Debe Taylor
Hot Springs, Arkansas

Joanne King
Cramerton, North Carolina

Debbie Burden
Antioch, Tennessee

Dawn Sweeney
Church Hill, Tennessee

Yvonne Brown
Fresno, California

Carolyn Hendrix
Madison, Alabama

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*Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the King James Version.

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Sarah Fletcher



Beauty and the Beast

What could be more beautiful than volcanic mountains in the South Pacific? Towering above dense, tropical rainforests, the mountains of Mindanao in the Phillipines could be counted among the beauty spots of Southeast Asia. In early 2002, these peaks provided a respite for two worn missionaries. "Camp Contentment," they called their spot, because that's the lesson God was teaching them. "Relatively peaceful," that's how they described their month there.

Yet this was no tropical vacation. It was terror. Martin and Gracia Burnham spent over a year in captivity, held hostage by the Al Qaeda operative group, Abu Sayyaf. With little food, insufficient clothing, handcuffed and guarded with guns, the two endured while Christians worldwide watched and prayed. Seeking to avoid the military, their captors mobiled them around in circles, through jungles, and up the mountains. Gracia recalls:

"You know," Martin said to me one day, "here in the mountains I've seen hatred; I've seen bitterness; I've seen greed; I've seen covetousness; I've seen wrongdoing." I nodded my head vigorously, thinking back to incidents I had observed as well.

But then he surprised me. He hadn't been talking about the Abu Sayyaf as I had assumed.

"I've seen each of these things in myself. The Lord has been showing me how incredibly sinful I am."*

Beauty and the beast. Often in the midst of beauty, our ugly natural man reveals himself. Was this the same feeling David sensed when he looked into the heavens and declared, "*What is man, that thou art mindful of him?*"

Isaiah also saw rarest beauty. As he lifted his eyes to behold the Lord in the Temple, he cried out, "Woe is me, for I am undone."

One Puritan writer sensed the same conflict when he penned the prayer,

O Changeless God,

Under the conviction of thy changeless Spirit I learn that

the more I do, the worse I am,

the more I know, the less I know

the more holiness I have, the more sinful I am,

the more I love, the more there is to love,

O wretched man that I am!

By God's grace, most of us have never been held hostage. Unlike Martin Burnham, our names will probably not be added to the list of missionary martyrs. Still the lesson Martin learned in the mountains is a lesson for us as well.

**From In The Presence of My Enemies by Gracia Burnham with Dean Merrill. See review, p. 7.*

Lifting Our Eyes to See Earth's Beauty At a Glance

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The Hills are Alive

Mountains in Israel

by Patsy Fleming

Have you ever been captivated by a glorious sunrise or sunset; the vast ocean in its majestic beauty and power; the ancient gigantic redwoods on the northern California coast that have been there since the time of Christ; the serene, unapproachable snow-capped peaks in the Rocky Mountains; a bird soaring on the unseen wind against a bright blue sky? These glorious vistas capture my being; I have entered His cathedral and I respond in praise and worship. God is near. Psalm 121 says, *"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth."* Where or to whom do you look to find your help?

In the Old Testament, the LORD God had many encounters with His people on mountains, and there He revealed Himself to them. God met with Moses and revealed His name and gave His Law on Mt. Sinai. He met with Abraham on Mt. Moriah where He revealed Himself as El Shaddai, our Provider, when He provided a ram to be sacrificed instead of Isaac. Solomon's Temple was constructed

on Mt. Zion. On the mountains of the Old Testament, God progressively revealed Himself to His people, and prepared the way when, in the fullness of time, He revealed Himself through His Son (Hebrews 1:3) in the New Testament. Throughout the Bible, the words hills and mountains are used interchangeably. Together let's lift up our eyes to behold the hills of the New Testament and discover the help our God provides for us there.

Mt. Calvary

"Help, LORD," we cry, "we need someone to redeem us from our sin and broken hearts, from our guilt and shame. We need to be set free from our bondage to Satan and slavery to sin. Our eyes are blind and we cannot find our way."

We will lift up our eyes to Calvary. From whence comes our help? Our help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. On Calvary, Jesus Christ laid down His life in order that we might have life. John 3:16 says, *"For God so loved the world,*

For presentation helps and suggestions, see the 2003 Program and Plan Book, pp. 42-43

that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." He paid the price by giving His life to provide forgiveness for our sin and the sin of the world. The cross was the greatest moment in all of time.

Colossians. 2:13-15 says, "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened (made alive) together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."



Gordon's Calvary

Life from death. He shed His blood that we might be cleansed. He died and rose again that through Him we might have eternal life through Him. He bought us back from our enemy, the devil. The hill of Calvary brought life to those who will lift up their eyes to the Christ of Calvary. But then, we have another problem; how then shall we live?

Sermon on the Mount

"Help LORD," we cry, "we need to learn how to live in relationship with You and with each other."

We will lift our eyes to Jesus and His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Our help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. Here Jesus Christ, God's Son, teaches us God's purposes and ways which are to be our moral foundation.

Jesus tells us that our right standing with Him includes the thoughts, motives and intentions of our hearts, far deeper than outward behaviors. We won't get any prizes for merely an outward show of piety. The Sermon on the Mount gives principles of relationship with God and others which enable believers of every era to experience God's active and sovereign involvement in their lives...

(Revel Bible Dictionary, p.908)

He tells us to love our enemies, and reasons with us about the futility of worry. He gives us an invitation to ask, seek and knock, and promises us answers. He teaches us about wise and foolish builders. None of these principles are possible to put into practice without the enabling power of God in us. He is the hope of glory. We look to Jesus by reading His Word and listening to the Holy Spirit. He teaches and enables us to live our new life, and He develops His character in us. We look to Him to show us how to live in relationship with God and each other. The hills are alive!

Now that we have found so great a salvation and new life in Jesus, we want to tell others about Jesus and His love.

Mars Hill

"Lord, we need your help," we pray. What shall we do and how shall we do it?

We will lift up our eyes to Mars Hill (Acts 17) where the Apostle Paul powerfully shows us a way, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Paul had been preaching about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the synagogue and marketplace of Athens. The Athenian philosophers asked Paul about this new teaching he had been presenting. Paul knew these people and their culture. He had observed them and spent time learning about them before he spoke. He saw their need to be introduced to the Lord of heaven and earth Who gives life and breath to everything. Paul skillfully began at a point the Athenians could relate to, one of their own altars with the inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Let's drop in on Paul's speech in Acts 17:23-28. "For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as



The hills of the New Testament are alive! Yes, they are alive with the life that is ours in Him.

though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also His offspring."

Paul tells the Athenians that there is one God and He is the creator of all things and in Him is life. God wants a relationship with everyone and He is very near to everyone. In Him we live and move and have our being. He proclaims repentance from idolatry, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, and his return one day as judge. The way to life is narrow; there is only one way. Like Paul on Mars Hill, we must tell others of the God of heaven and earth Who sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins. God raised Him from the dead and life is in Him. In order to be heard, we must share—begin where people are, and tell them what we know—the life that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Do you share your faith? Do you invest yourself into the lives of those you want to reach for Christ? Do your motives and behaviors verify or deny the words you say?

The Hill for You

We could view other New Testament hills. We could look to the Mount of Temptation (Luke 4:5) and learn from Jesus how to resist the devil. We could lift our eyes to the Hill of the Transfiguration and behold our glorified Lord. How we need Jesus to reveal Himself to our fearful hearts. Not only did the disciples see Jesus glorified, they also saw Moses and Elijah, giving them a vision of our future. At the

Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) where the garden of Gethsemane is located, we could contemplate Christ's sufferings. How would you have prayed for Jesus that night? How would you have prayed for yourself? The Mount of Olives was also the place where our Lord ascended into heaven and where He is predicted to return (Acts 1). I know the Lord has rich treasures for us there, too. I challenge you to meet with Him there. As you sit at His feet, listen and do whatever He says. Then go and share with others the truths He teaches you. The hills of the New Testament are alive! Yes, they are alive with the life that is ours in Him.

Together we have traveled this adventure tour of New Testament hills. But we must individually apply the truths we have discovered in these hills. Have you ever made a trip to the cross at Calvary and received the forgiveness and eternal life provided there? Do you sit at the feet of the Lord Jesus on the Mount of Olives, the Mount of Transfiguration, or the Sermon on the Mount to learn His ways? Do you share the words of life with the people you encounter in the workplace, in the market, in church and at home? Have you been transfigured beholding the risen Lord?

Psalm 121 tells us that God is our Keeper or Guardian. The woman who trusts God knows where to turn in trouble. With God as her guard, she can come to no harm. We lift our eyes to the Maker of heaven and earth; our help comes from Him.

Patsy Fleming is Women's Prayer Committee Chairman and a Bible study leader at Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, TN. A professional counselor, this California native moved East to be near her three "adorable" grandsons.

Old City in Jerusalem



Patsy's Song

*My testimony to my Lord's marvelous grace as I lifted
my eyes to the Creator of heaven and earth:*

**He took a broken, shattered life,
This world had tossed aside.
And tenderly He whispered,
"Come My child—with Me abide."**

**My sin-sick soul responded,
Lord Jesus died for me?
Yes. He purchased my redemption—
With His blood on Calvary.**

**He sealed me with His Spirit.
New life He did impart —
When kneeling in His Presence,
I asked Jesus into my heart.**

**He came to dwell within me.
I walk with Him each day.
He leads me, and He guides me,
As He teaches me His way.**

**The old is gone; the new has come,
Since on that wondrous day—
When I heard my Savior call me,
"Beloved, follow Me. Come away."**

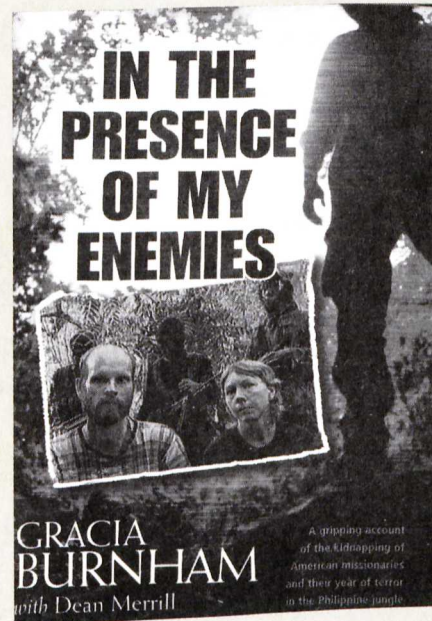
**In following, I lost it all—
The stains of sin and shame.
He raised me from the ashes,
To sing glory to His name!**

**Glory to the Father!
Glory to the Son!
Glory to the Spirit!
Thank You, Three-in-One!**

**The love of God in Jesus—
The old, old story—true.
If you'll sing your song for Jesus,
He'll do as much for you!**

—Patsy Fleming

*"How would you react if you were suddenly snatched
away from the life you knew and the people you
loved?" Would your faith survive ...*



**Honest
Open
Blunt
Real**

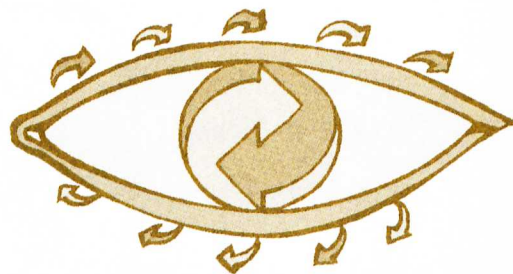
These terms could describe Gracia Burnham's account of their year in captivity. Held by the Abu Sayyaf, an Al Qaeda operative, the Burnhams, American missionaries to the Philippines, experienced hunger, exhaustion, and the overbearing ways of militant Islam.

Gracia Burnham shares her husband's story and retraces their life together from courtship days in Bible college through years in missionary aviation, to that morning in May 2001, when intruders interrupted a romantic anniversary getaway.

In the Presence of My Enemies is a story of faith, love, hope, and courage—a story you'll want to read for yourself.

In the Presence of My Enemies
by Marcia Burnham with Dean Merrill
Tyndale House Publishers
Hardback \$22.99

R educe Reuse Recycle



**IT'S NOT ABOUT WWJ DRIVE OR GREEN PEACE OR EVEN EARTH DAY.
IT'S ABOUT A LIFESTYLE OF GOOD STEWARDSHIP.**

God gave us the responsibility to care for His creation. As Christians we should lead by example. We can all do more to maintain the beauty of God's earth.

Here are a few ideas:

We are not to throw away those things which can benefit our neighbor. Goods are called good because they can be used for good; they are instruments for good, in the hands of those who use them properly.

—Clement of Alexandria
(circa.150-220)

**Use it up,
wear it out,
make it do,
or do without.**

—New England proverb

AROUND THE HOUSE

- Use dryer sheets for dust cloths.
- Save old toothbrushes for cleaning.
- Use vinyl placemats or wallpaper for shelf liner.
- Use nylons to tie up tomato or other vines.
- Keep several trash bins for easy sort and recycle.
- Use scrap paper.
- Line small wastebaskets with plastic grocery bags.
- Save newspaper bags for on-the-go diaper disposal.
- Use newspaper for cleaning mirrors or windows.

FOR GIFTS

- Recycle gift bags and bows.
- Wrap presents with comics or wallpaper scraps.
- Re-gift.
- Share plant cuttings with friends.

AS YOU TRAVEL

- Protect shoes. Slide into old or mismatched socks.
- Freeze water in 2-liters/plastic bowls for coolers.

AT CHURCH

- Recycle flannelgraph and resource materials. Keep a file for easy access.
- Check thermostats and lighting. Consider timers if building is not always in use.
- Do a newspaper or aluminum drive for missions.
- Organize a clothes swap or consignment sale.
- Establish a food co-op or community pantry.
- Send old S. S. quarterlies and literature to a missions agency for use in other countries.

IN THE KITCHEN

- Keep a freezer container of leftover vegetables for soup.
- Simmer lemon and orange peels for potpourri.
- Use leftover chicken or hamburger in casseroles.
- Save bread heels for bread crumbs or croutons.
- Save cracker or chip crumbs for casserole toppings.
- Add one extra can of water to frozen juice.
- Compost organic waste.

IN THE CLOSET

- Fill nylons with cedar shavings for closet sachets.
- When you buy a new outfit, give away one.
- Use scarves, belts, or vests to make "new" outfits.
- Coordinate and mix and match separates.
- Shop at yard sales, thrift stores and consignments.
- Give clothes to rescue missions or charities.

IN THE COMMUNITY

- Give magazines to hospitals or nursing homes.
- Clean up polluted or trashy areas.
- Keep insecticides and pesticides to a minimum.
- Carpool.
- Organize a book swap.

BE AN EXAMPLE OF THE BELIEVERS IN ALL THESE AREAS

In 1997 we gave a collective heave-ho to more than 430 billion lbs. of garbage. That means each man, woman and child tossed out an average of nearly 1,600 lbs. of banana peels, Cheerios boxes, gum wrappers, Coke cans, ratty sofas, TIME magazines, car batteries, disposable diapers, yard trimmings, junk mail, worn-out Nikes—plus whatever else goes into your trash cans. An equivalent weight of water could fill 68,000 Olympic-size pools.

—Ivan Amato, Can We Make Garbage Disappear in Visions of the 21st Century

Running Out of Road?

by Freeda Lucas

Have you ever run out of road?

Recently, while returning from a small shopping center near my home, I came upon one of those troublesome signs: "Lane ends—Merge left." Invariably, when this happens, I have little opportunity to "merge left." Everyone behind me has the same idea at the same time—pass before the road ends. While I muttered angrily to myself, "I'd merge too if I had a chance," a lady in the "pass" procession slowed, stalling the heavy traffic. I gratefully waved my thanks and merged left.

Either she heard my angry rantings (impossible) or read my wicked thoughts (also impossible) or God prompted her (more probable) to make room for me just as I was running out of road.

Isn't that exactly what God does for His children day after day after day? In difficult times, as problems stack, pancake style, one on top of the other—problems we can neither get around nor through—we tend to forget that God is still in control.

A long time ago when cancer destroyed, first, my husband's body and, then, our family finances, I was convinced that all roads were closed for my future and the futures of my young children. Back then, while I was running out of road, God was busy building a new one—several new ones—just for me. Improbable doors kept opening. College and a much-needed teaching position put my life back on a firm financial basis and paved the road to college for my boys. Through the years, when other roads have ended, God's hand has always been there, constructing, opening new ones. After all, He is the Master Builder.

Occasionally, I still find myself locked in, tied up, cut off and, yes, running out of road. That's when I remember David's words in Psalms 24, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof..." That, I've learned, includes all roads.

Freeda Lucas lives in Cromona, Kentucky where she attends the Haymond FWB Church.



Changing Leaves

Changing Lives

by Robyn Osborn

Look around. Are the deep, dark greens of summer gradually becoming vibrant yellows, oranges, reds and violets? Change may be as close as our own back yard.

TREES PROVIDE a technicolor illustration of universal transition. In the fall the leaves change. What a beautiful sight—beautiful, yet necessary. The spectrum of color lends outward proof of an inward change, preparation for winter temperatures. Without this change, the tree would enter the freezing weather unprepared. The plant would die. Change is a necessary and vital part of a tree's life cycle. Change is vital and necessary in our spiritual lives, as well.

Biblical Examples of Change

The Bible speaks often of change. The Psalmist talks about the heavens changing as a garment. (Psalm 102: 26). Daniel blessed the Lord who changes times and seasons (Daniel 2:21). Job declared he would "wait till his change come[s]," (Job 14:14). We could say the Bible is a manual on "How to Change."

Remember Jonah? God told this prophet to go to Nineveh and preach against the wickedness of that city. This seems pretty simple to us in retrospect. But Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh. He

headed out in the opposite direction. It took a little chastisement from God in the form of a fish's belly before Jonah finally came to the realization that he must change. Renewed and ready, Jonah went and did exactly what God had asked him to do in the first place. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jonah's sermon effected a marvelous change in the whole city of Nineveh.

At times are we not just like him? We know what God wants us to do, but for whatever reason, we try to take the EASY way out (which turns out *not* to be EASY at all). Sometimes God uses chastisement or punishment to convict and conform us so we can be used by Him.

Saul is another example of change. This "righteous Pharisee" diligently pursued those who claimed the name of Christ. His extreme hatred of Christianity caused him to take every opportunity to punish believers because of their commitment to Christ. He was on a mission to destroy the Church.

Not until Saul met, face to face, the very One he persecuted so bitterly, was he changed. He

For presentation helps and suggestions, see the 2003 Program and Plan Book, pp. 44-45.

made a complete about-face—a 180. His enthusiasm for persecuting the Church was magnified and transformed into a passion for spreading the gospel. So great was the change in Saul's life that those who had known him before did not believe him. It took time for the early believers to accept Paul (even his name changed) "for real."

In Matthew 19, a rich, young ruler came to Jesus seeking eternal life. Jesus, in essence, told him to make a change. He must sell all he had and give it to the poor. This man went away sorrowful because he was unable to give up his earthly possessions—unable to change his ways.

Change Necessary for Life

Every one who has accepted Christ as Savior has been changed. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17, *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* Though not always as drastic as those in Paul's life, changes are evident in the life of every new believer. Christ very obviously makes a difference in a person's life.

The Bible speaks clearly. In order for us to please God, change must occur. Our actions do not earn our salvation, but outward change in a believer's life reflects the inward change from "death to life." How futile for a person saved from sin to remain in the same sinful condition as before!

Romans 6 (verses: 1-2, 4, 6, 19) speaks of the definite, obvious change in the life of a believer. While we were once slaves to sin, we are now slaves of righteousness for holiness. Being a Christian does not give us a license to sin, but it frees us from the bondage of sin. What a marvelous change!

Spiritual change is necessary for eternal life. As a tree's changing colors give evidence of continuing life, behavioral changes in our life reveal that we are alive in Christ.

Change that Molds and Strengthens

Spiritual change isn't a one-time event. Salvation is only the beginning of a series of changes—changes that help mold our character and strengthen our faith in God. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the

Spirit of the Lord." We are actually in the process of becoming more like God.

How do we become more like Him? Through change. His will for our lives may require a change in location. It may mean going to a Bible College in a faraway city to train for a particular ministry. Or moving to a city where God has called us to serve Him in another "work" or ministry.

Some changes may be thrust upon us, ready or not—like losing a spouse or loved one. In these times we learn that God will never leave us and that His grace is sufficient.

A handicapped child or a family member with a terminal illness demands change in our lifestyle and daily routine. These allow us opportunity to rely on Him for strength and learn that He will not load us with more than we are able to bear.

Life's disappointments also incur change. Like the disappointment of not getting into our college of choice or missing that promotion we deserved. Sometimes God has better things planned for us. Often he changes our plans.

The change process continues—day after day—year after year—growing closer to God, trusting in Him and growing stronger in our faith, maturing. Just as a healthy baby changes as she grows and matures, we also change as we grow in Christ. In Hebrews 5:12-13, the writer admonished his readers because they were unable to "eat the meat" of the Word. Though they were believers, they were still "babes." He had to keep feeding them milk; he had to keep teaching them the basics. Many current Christian leaders face this same growth dilemma. Churches are filled with Christians who are "old" in the faith, but not "mature." When we close the door to God's change within our lives, we close the door for growth.



Response to Change

How do you respond to the changes in your life? Our response determines our life. We can either allow God to teach us and make us a better vessel, or we can feel sorry for ourselves, convince ourselves that God has forgotten us, and allow ourselves to become cold or bitter toward God, the church, or His Word.

It's up to us. Our response to circumstance seals the outcome. As the cliché affirms, "You can get up in the morning and say, 'Good morning, Lord,' or 'Good Lord, it's morning.'" We determine whether changes in our lives will be positive or negative.

Changed

Louisa Stead allowed God to mold her life through change.

While enjoying a leisurely, oceanside picnic one day, she, her husband and young daughter noticed a boy struggling in the waves.

Louisa's husband quickly jumped in to rescue the boy. Unfortunately, the ter-

rified boy and the strong waves

were too powerful for Mr. Stead. Both he and the boy drowned as Louisa and her young daughter watched from the shore. During the difficult days that followed, the young widow penned the words to a song now known to millions:

Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His word,
Just to rest upon His promise,
Just to know, "thus saith the Lord."

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease,
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest and joy and peace.

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend,
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me till the end.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus
Oh for grace to trust Him more.

Sometimes it's hard to accept these kinds of changes. Yet through her struggles, Louisa Stead learned the sweetness of trusting in Jesus. She spent the next 25 years serving the Lord as a missionary to Africa.

How will we respond to the changes of life? Will we reject them or will we embrace them as we welcome the brilliant color changes of the fall? Will we allow God to change us, do great things through us, and make something beautiful of our lives?

Robyn Osborn lives in Cordova, TN, where her husband pastors the Grace FWB Church (Memphis). Robyn has experienced many changes in her roles as pastor's wife, former home missionary, and mother of five.

Constant and Changeless

The secular world recognizes the difficulty of change. Note the stress ratings of these change events.*

Death of a spouse	100
Divorce	73
Major injury or illness	53
Marriage	50
Retirement	45
Change in finances	38
Change of work field	36
Change in job responsibilities	29
Change in living conditions	25
Change in residence	20
Change to a new school	20
Change in church activities	19
Change in sleeping habits	16
Change in family get-togethers	15
Change in eating habits	15

How wonderful that we as Christians can claim the promises and the help of our unchangeable Lord.

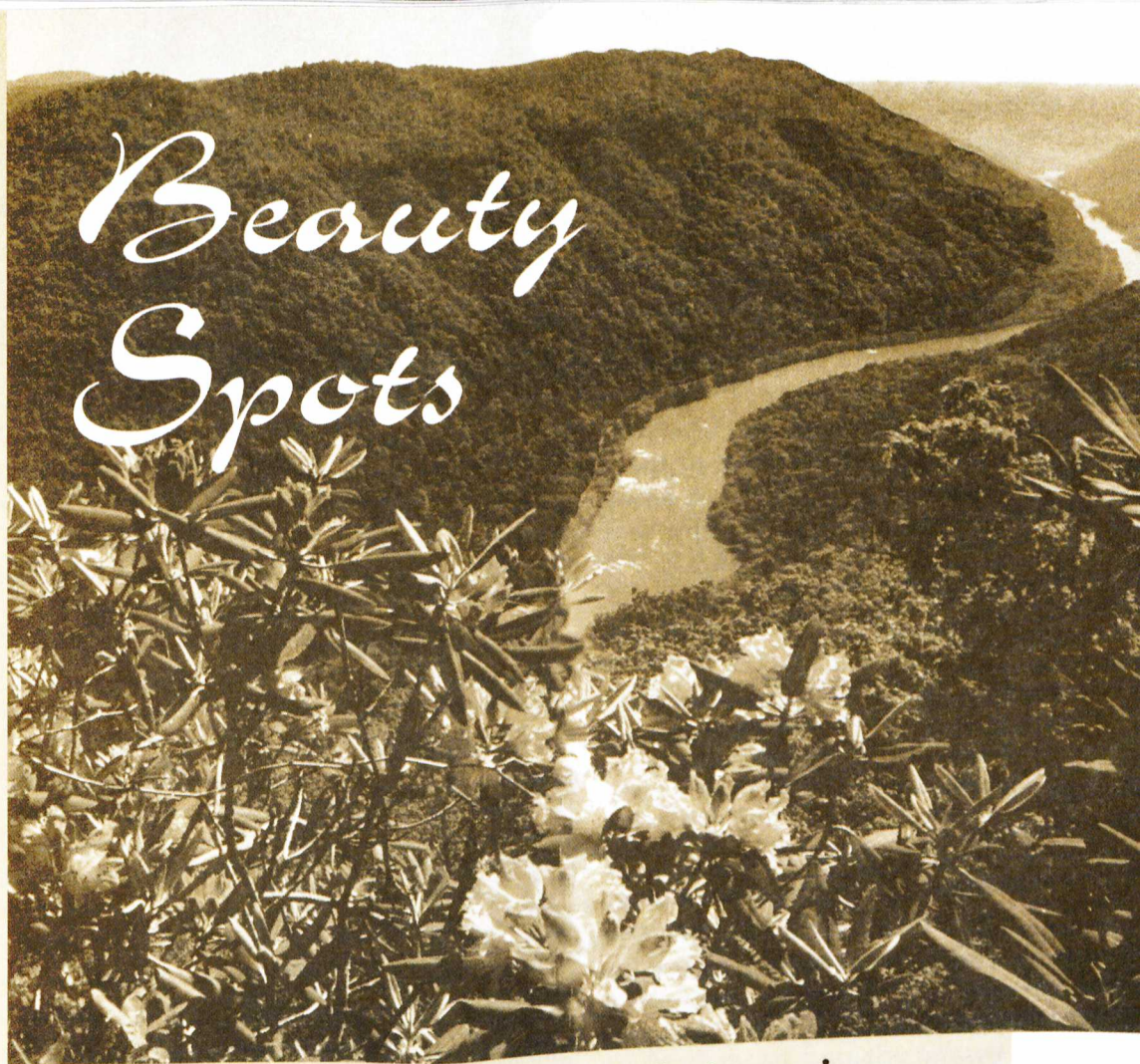
"For I am the Lord, I change not;"—Malachi 3:6a

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever."—Hebrews 13:8

Be still my soul! the Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change He faithful will remain.

—Katherina von Schlegel 1752

*From Holmes and Rahe Schedule of Recent Events, in manuscript by Elizabeth D. Hutchinson: www.sagepub.com



Beauty Spots

**WE ASKED
WNAC state
presidents
and area**

**leaders to name a beautiful nature spot in their region.
Here are their picks.**

West Virginia *New River Gorge*

*"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence
cometh my help" (Psalm 121:1).*

West Virginia, the Mountain State, is a wonderful example of God's handiwork. One of the most beautiful sights in West Virginia is the New River Gorge. Nestled high in the mountains, the view from this overlook gives the sightseer a breath-taking view of the New River and the surrounding mountains. The cool, refreshing river meanders its way through the mountains.

This location is beautiful in the spring when the red bud trees pop open and the new, green leaves of other trees burst forth telling the world that winter has passed. Wild rhododendron blooms add a special beauty to the sight. The most breathtaking beauty, however, is found in the fall. The firestorm

combination of red, scarlet, yellow, orange, and few remaining green leaves could not be painted more beautifully by any artist.

From this sight I am reminded that the God of the mountain is also the God of the valley: Jesus is the Lily of the Valley and the Bright and Morning Star. We can know peace and comfort looking at the handiwork of God.

—Jody Sullivan

California *Monterey Bay*

Winter, spring, summer or fall, Monterey Bay is one of the most beautiful places in California. Growing up just 20 miles east of it in Salinas (Yes, that's Steinbeck country!), I made many trips there. Sometimes to walk on the pier at Fisherman's Wharf, sometimes to shop on Cannery Row, and sometimes to drive past the quaint,

gabled houses along the coast. But most often I drive until I find a nice spot to get out and walk along the beach.

Here you'll find Monterey Cypress dotting the coast, and here you can see some of the most beautiful sunsets in the world. God's love of beauty and His awesome power are so evident and ever present. Take the time to drive up the coast to Monterey and experience one of the most beautiful spots in California.

You might also want to make a detour 20 miles east and visit Frances' house (my mother's place) for some of the best coconut cream pie around. That's another beautiful spot in California.

—Donna Van Horn

Virginia

Mount Rogers and Whitetop

You can only get there by foot, but the popular Massie Gap nine-mile (round trip) hiking trail to Virginia's tallest peak is certainly an opportunity to see Earth's beauty. Located within the Jefferson National Forest, the trail begins in an open area of Virginia high country and passes through Rhododendron Gap, with its magnificent pinks in full bloom during mid-June. The journey upward then extends into a dense spruce and fir forest that finally emerges into the rocky summit. From 5,729 feet, the view is awesome.

If you're not into hiking, take a car trip up Whitetop, Virginia's second highest peak. From its high meadow summit you can see the mountains of both North Carolina and Virginia.

—Ann Edmisten



Florida

Indian River Bridge

"The glassy sea"...that's a phrase in several gospel songs written about a body of water existing long before Florida was a state, but I know just what it means. My

favorite stretch of drive in our hometown of Vero Beach, Florida, is the new bridge spanning the Indian River a mere mile from the Atlantic Ocean. As you top the bridge, you are treated to the sight of the sparkling waters of the river surrounded by tropical trees, shrubs, flowers, an occasional dolphin or two, sailboats, and a huge American flag flying over Memorial Island, connected to Riverside Park at the foot of the bridge. You get all of this in one glance!

The sunlight hitting the water looks like a thousand diamonds scattered over the water's surface. As if that weren't enough, before you lies the Atlantic Ocean, looking long and wide and as blue as a picture on a tourist postcard. I never cross the bridge without being thankful for the creativity of God. What beauty He created for His pleasure, I'm sure, but for mine as well.

Thank you, Father, for the splendor and color and majesty of Your creation. You are an awesome God!

—Diana Bryant



New Brunswick, Canada

Saint John Valley Bible Camp

Nestled along the western bank of the Saint John River, across from the town of Hartland, the Free Will Baptist Conference Grounds are a setting of natural beauty. Since development began in 1948, the Camp and Conference Grounds have seen regular use. Home to Saint John Valley Bible Camp, the grounds include a tabernacle, kitchen/dining hall, washrooms, staff and camper cabins, recreation building, craft building, sports fields, pool, walking and paint ball trails, as well as many other





saints can "come aside...and rest awhile" (Mark 5:31).

—Laverne Hanson

Arkansas *Petit Jean State Park*

Arkansas, known as the Natural State, has many scenic places. One of my favorites is Petit Jean State Park. Its tranquil atmosphere, gorgeous waterfall, and breathtaking view inspired the creation of the Arkansas State Park system.

The popular Cedar Falls can be heard outside the rustic lodge above. Tourists who walk the trail to the base of the falls find a pool of cool water surrounded by beautiful trees. The beauty of God's creation is certainly evident on Petit Jean Mountain.

—Lisa Bowden

Arizona *Grand Canyon*

Lift up your eyes and see Earth's beauty from God in Arizona.

One of North America's most popular attractions, the Grand Canyon offers spectacular colors and awesome panoramas. So many shades of purple are beautifully visible when the sun shines on each point. At almost all points, you can

features. Picturesque and quiet, the site is a place of serenity, where the presence of God is real and where the

view the Colorado River, deep, deep below. I sincerely love all the shades in the canyon, not only the purples, but also the oranges and brown earth tones.

Another Arizona site, Sedona, also provides a God-given display of beautiful red rocks and mountains. Every state has a beauty all its own. Isn't God so good to us?

Linda Harvey

Oklahoma *Natural Springs Park*

Choosing one beautiful place is difficult since Oklahoma is so versatile. Sand, red dirt, and rich black soil—we have it all. You'll find plains, prairies, a desert, mountains, many lakes and rivers, caves, springs, and waterfalls. All are beautiful in different ways. God was good to give us a variety.

Tucked away in the northeast corner of Oklahoma is a place called Natural Springs Park. It's a very peaceful place in a secluded area. A spring of water comes forth out of rock then cascades 77 feet, forming a pool which flows into a stream, that forms a small lake, which flows into a creek, then on into the Illinois River where the water is used for many purposes and by many people.

When I view the flow of water from the rock, I'm reminded of Jesus' side that was pierced as He hung on the cross. John 7:38 says, "out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." Just a small stream from His side, yet it flows as a river down through





the ages, benefiting whoever believes with its Living Water.

The foliage and bushes look unusual as they hang upside down from the rock. Sometimes it may seem that our lives are turned upside down, yet God can make something beautiful of us if we let him have control and hang on to the Rock.

—Jean Marie Rogers

New Mexico *Sitting Bull Falls*

Hidden away at the end of a box canyon thirty miles south of Carlsbad is Sitting Bull Falls, with its 130 feet waterfall. Fed by several underground springs as well as rain and snow melt, this amazing sight surely was a welcome oasis in the desert for the Indians and early travelers.

No, Sitting Bull Falls isn't named for the Sioux chief of Custer fame, but rather for a Mescalero Apache who was one of 3,000 Apache, Kiowa, and



other Indians who gathered at the site to preform the Ghost Dance. Believing they'd be protected from the white man's bullets, they performed the dance for two weeks.

Yes, God's world is full of beautiful sights, but this high desert, dry and barren landscape makes Sitting Bull Falls all the more wonderful and amazing to behold.

—Gwen Dismukes



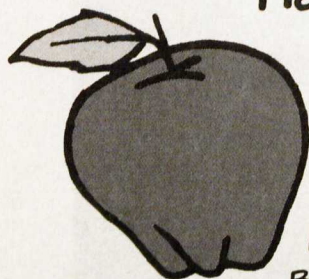
Washington *Columbia River*

The Columbia River is enormously wide—wide enough for the National Hydro-Places held here each July, where boats hit speeds in excess of 200 miles an hour. This desert area of Washington State really needs the Columbia as well as the Snake River.

Both the Cable Bridge and the Blue Bridge span the wideness of the Columbia. We pray that we might also bridge the gap and bring much-needed Living Water to the peoples of the Northwest.

—Tri Cities Ladies Group, Kennewick

Have you been touched by a teacher?



Maybe it was that devoted saint in Sunday school. Perhaps it was someone who taught in your elementary school or junior high. Or was there a college professor whose influence still guides you today? **COLABORER IS LOOKING FOR STORIES** of teachers who touched your life. Send your teacher tribute (500 words or less) to CoLaborer P. O. Box 5002 Antioch, TN 37011-5002 or email to sarah@nafwb.org.

2003 WINNERS

CREATIVE ARTS CONTEST



ART

FIRST:	<i>Wherever God Leads</i>	Janis Williams	Antioch, TN
SECOND:	<i>When Friends Pray</i>	Janis Williams	Antioch, TN
THIRD:	<i>When I Grow Up</i>	Janis Williams	Antioch, TN

ARTICLES

FIRST:	<i>The Sunday School Present</i>	Cheryl Akers	Jacksonville, FL
SECOND:	<i>Do Something that Doesn't Make Sense</i>	Darla Trimble	Greeneville, TN
THIRD:	<i>The Desert Flower</i>	Ruth Bivens	Monett, MO

DEVOTIONAL

FIRST:	<i>The Toys of Life</i>	Monica Bryan	Garner, NC
SECOND:	<i>The Birthday Party</i>	Denice White	Dardanelle, AR
THIRD:	<i>Childlike Faith</i>	Denice White	Dardanelle, AR

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST:	<i>Finishing Touches</i>	Nadine Hood	Sapulpa, OK
SECOND:	<i>Untitled</i>	Sarah Reel	Carrollton, VA
THIRD:	<i>Untitled</i>	Sarah Reel	Carrollton, VA

PLAYS

FIRST:	<i>Angels in Charge of Food Service</i>	Lee Ann Wilfong	Park Hills, MO
SECOND:	<i>It's a Wonderful Christmas</i>	Deniece Hammons	Conway, AR
THIRD:	<i>Listen to the Story</i>	Elaine Ferguson	Boswell, OK

POETRY

FIRST:	<i>The Hedge</i>	Brenda Shores,	Alma, AR
SECOND:	<i>Out on a Limb</i>	Vicki Turner,	Cartersville, MO
THIRD:	<i>The Candles</i>	Ruth Bivens,	Monett, MO

PROGRAMS

FIRST:	<i>Picture Perfect</i>	Cheryl Akers	Jacksonville, FL
SECOND:	<i>Let Us Be a Candle</i>	Ruth Bivens	Monett, MO
THIRD:	<i>Builders Together</i>	Pam Hackett	Boiling Springs, SC

SKITS

FIRST:	<i>Sharing Cookies and Good News</i>	Ruth Bivens	Monett, MO
SECOND:	<i>Do You See Yourself in Me</i>	Lisa Miller	Daisy, AR
THIRD:	<i>What Will I Leave Behind</i>	Bettye Kellum	Monticello, AR

SPRINGBOARD

memos for WAC officers

Prayer Chairman:

Pray for missionaries in hilly or mountainous regions. (See reminder idea in the *PROGRAM AND PLAN BOOK*, p. 43.) Pray for Operation Saturation, September 27. Pray for ministries of FWB children's homes. Begin preparation for the PreThanksgiving Week of Prayer.

Pray for couples attending the WNAC/Master's Men Marriage Enrichment Conference, September 19-21.

Study Chairman:

Choose a modern missionary biography to read and review. Two recent selections include *In the Presence of My Enemies* (Martin Burnham) by Gracia Burnham and *If God Should Choose* (Jim and Roni Bowers) by Kristen Stagg. Both of these concern missionaries who were killed in political crossfire.

Research and discuss the sudden rise in martyrdom among Christian missionaries. How can Christians lend support?

Looking for a Cookbook?

WNAC is considering a reprint of its *Fruit of Our Hands* cookbook. If you would like a copy, please complete and mail the form on p. 30 or contact the office by phone (1-877-767-7662) or email wnac@nafwb.org to reserve yours. WNAC must have a guaranteed number of sales in order to cover reprint costs.

WNAC/Master's Men's

*National
Marriage Enrichment Conference*

Smoky Shadows Conference Center

Pigeon Forge, TN

September 19-21, 2003

Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators:

September typically is time to gear up for church ministries. Make sure all women in your church are welcomed and informed concerning WAC. Promote your September meeting with the humorous *Lucy and Marge* skit in the *PROGRAM AND PLAN BOOK*, p. 54.

Think ahead. Plan now for your group to attend the 2004 National Retreat at Ridgecrest, NC, next October 28-30.

Are there changes you'd like to see at WNAC? We'd appreciate your input. Contact us by mail, phone or email.

**Provision Closet
Needs:**

Sheet sets (all sizes)
Gift or phone cards

Missions/Service Chairman:

Autumn is a wonderful time for service projects. In response to the October program, consider raking leaves for elderly persons in your community.

Read the FOCUS article on pp. 24-25. Would your group be willing to help purchase books for this new ministry? Be sure to earmark any gifts: French Bookstore.

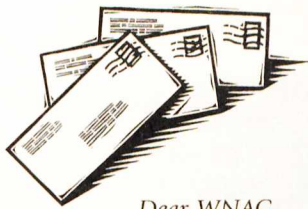
It's back to school time? Acquaint women with FWB schools, seminars, and Bible Institutes on our various mission fields.

**Have you taken a good
look at the WNAC
Family Album?**

It's not too late to support your sisters in ministry at the WNAC office with a generous
Emphasis Offering

*Check out the website for
pictures and information.*

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



Letters to WNAC

Dear WNAC,

Thank you for the recent gifts of financial support to our account. WNAC does so much for us that there are simply no words to say thank you adequately. May our God bless and keep you.

Darren and Dana Portell
France

Dear WNAC,

God bless you as we serve the Lord together. We are thankful for your prayers and gifts on our behalf. Greetings from the Arizona desert.

Jerry Rayburn family
Arizona

Dear WNAC,

Just a note to say thank you so very much for all that you do for the women of our denomination as well as for us missionary women. You are a blessing beyond words and I wanted you to know how much you're appreciated.

Becky Derby
France

Dear WNAC,

I am the president of the Women Active for Christ of the First Church, Greenville, SC. This year for the Mother/Daughter banquet, I wanted something different. I ordered the book *Mother's Day Medley*, Volume

Thirteen and I found "different." Thanks so much for the wonderful materials available through the WNAC office.

Jackie Bowers
Greenville, SC

Dear WNAC,

We enjoy the *CoLaborer* so much. The programs seem to be the exact thing that our women need. Pray for us that we can present ourselves in such a way [that] our younger women will join us. We appreciate you [Mrs. Workman], your staff, and the Women Active for Christ.

Margie O. Wilson
Summerton, SC

Dear WNAC,

Just a note to tell you thank you so very much for the [monies] you gave our mission account in 2002. We really appreciate *all* you do for our family.

Jeff and Susan Turnbough
Spain

Dear WNAC,

We enjoy your magazine very much and use it in our monthly meetings. Keep up the good work and may God richly bless your efforts.

East Elkhorn FWB WAC
Elkhorn City, KY

HELP! I'M A MOM

bright ideas for mothers from mothers

Travel tips. Ideas for peace and pleasure without "Are we there yet?"

Q
A

Travel with children can be a fun and learning experience. Here are some tried and tested tips:

Before: Choose your route. Find interesting sites along the way. Plan stops. Do an internet search for children's travel games. Make a list of all possibilities so you are never caught without an idea.

Make a special trip book for each child. Include a route map. Create a word search of city names on your route. Let children draw things they see, and keep memora-

bilia. Take along washable markers, glue stick, and stickers for this project.

Predict. Have children predict how many of certain things they will see. Let them keep a tally throughout the trip.

Pack a treat bag for each child. Include favorite non-messy snacks and age appropriate books or toys. Let smaller children pack a favorite stuffed animal or pillow.

Check out children's music, adventure series, or classic books on tape from public or church libraries. These make even

long trips enjoyable for the whole family.

Play "Firedrill." Choose an object, mile marker, or clock time signaling when all children will trade places in the car.

Give each child a set amount of coins. Label a "Gripe Bag." Each time a child complains, he must place a coin in the gripe bag. Any unclaimed coins become children's spending money.

Sing. Choose a "Trip Scrip." Plan to memorize a Bible passage together.

Enjoy this special time with your child.

NEXT ISSUE: How can you celebrate Christ in a Santa Claus world?

Send us your input and questions. sarah@nafwb.org or P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

LABORS OF LOVE

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



1. First Church WAC, Greenville, SC, participated in a Hats Off Style Show at this year's Mother/Daughter Banquet. The program was such a hit, they did an encore performance for the men on Sunday evening. Jackie Bowers serves as president of this group.

West Tulsa WAC, OK, sponsored their third annual Dessert Delight. Entries were judged in several categories then served at a church fellowship. The event netted \$400 for Have-a-Heart for Hillsdale FWB College.



PICTURED: 1. Hats worn by Greenville First FWB women. 2. Shirley Bender receives measuring spoons from West Tulsa WAC President, Lois Westbrook. Inset: Her winning cake. 3. Liberty WAC wearing glasses at March meeting. 4. East Elkhorn WAC with some of their handiwork.



Hillcrest WAC, Wagoner, OK, hosted the South Grand River District meeting, March 13. "Changing Spaces" served as the meeting theme. Guest Ruth Bivens spoke on "Walking in Someone Else's Shoes." Men of the Hillcrest church served lunch. Over 100 attended.

Women from the Liberty WAC, Manning, SC, had fun with the March program, "Twenty-twenty Spiritual Vision." Some wore their husbands' old glasses. Others donned their own specs. Margie Wilson leads this group.

The women of East Elkhorn WAC, Elkhorn City, KY, worked together last year, making 220+ lap robes. Residents of two nursing homes as well as other senior citizens in their community received these as Christmas presents.



Is your group involved in a
Labor of Love?

Send us your news and photos today.



✿ Nearly 100 women attended the annual AFWBWAC Convention at Mt. Zion FWB Church in Pell City, Alabama, May 3. WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Marjorie Workman served as the keynote speaker. WNAC Bookkeeper Martha Harris provided special music. Bradley McDaniel, FWBBC student and E-Team worker, was awarded the Jimmy and Janie Aldridge Scholarship. Women brought gifts for the Provision Closet. The 2004 Shirley Kennedy LAMP (Local Auxiliary Missions Project) will be the Alabama Acts 1:8 Plan and WNAC's General Fund. Elwanda Oakes was reelected as President.

✿ Cuban Pastors' Wives met together for Bible study and encouragement at a Pastoral Retreat in February. Missionary Linda Calloway shared with this group.



✿ Florida State Line District (AL) WAC honored its pastors with a Pastor Appreciation Program and Supper, February 16, at the Goodwater FWB Church. The group presented a plaque to Rev. John Edwards (now deceased) for his 23 years as district moderator.

This group also contributed over \$1000 dollars to buy winter outerwear for friends of ELI teacher Jeff Lunsford. The coats will enable these men to go and share in farming/country areas of their restricted access country. Annette Tomlinson and Cynthia Knowles headed the effort.

✿ Alabama women are mourning the loss of long-time WAC supporter, Clytee Pitts. Mrs. Pitts was a charter member and former president of the AFWBWAC. She also organized several local WAC groups. This pastor's wife, mother and grandmother was a godly influence for many.

✿ East Nashville WAC (TN) sponsored its annual Twilight Supper for Foreign Missions, April 13. Guest speakers, Dr. and Mrs. LaVerne Miley presented an adaptation of the book, *The Divine Romance*. Supper proceeds and gifts totaled over \$1000 for the Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering.

PICTURED: 1. Scholarship recipient, Bradley McDaniel with AL treasurer Rosa Lee Harris and WNAC's Marjorie Workman. 2. Alabama gifts to the Provision Closet. 3. Pastors honored at AL State Line District Appreciation Dinner. 4. Pastors' wives share at Cuban Pastoral Retreat. 5. Former missionaries, Dr. and Mrs. LaVerne Miley speak at East Nashville's Twilight Supper.





LESSONS FROM A CAVERN

"Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:"

Jeremiah 32:17

DEBE'S DELIGHTS

*"thy commandments
are my delights."*

Psalm 119:143b

by
Debe Taylor

WNAC President

AS WE WALKED the path descending into the cave, the tour guide began to talk with David and me about War Eagle Cavern. Was this our first time to visit the cavern? We said yes. Had we ever been in a cavern before? Yes, but not in recent years. What did we do for a living? David told him I worked for a real estate company and that he was a minister. The guide was thrilled to know we were Christians, too. After giving the required tour spiel, he turned to us and said, "Now let me tell you my opinion. God created and formed it all. End of story."

During our stay, I was amazed at how God had seen to every little detail in the cavern. The colors of the cavern walls were stunning—sparkling every time the light touched upon them. It seemed like the perfect place for a secret, but God knows and sees all. *"Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord"* (Jeremiah 23:24).

As we explored all the wonders, the tour guide told us that the water in the cavern comes from an unknown source. I pondered that statement for a little while, then a verse from God's Word came to mind. *"He brought*

streams also out of the rocks, and caused waters to run down like rivers" (Psalm 78:16). God is the Source. The cavern water was quite cool to the touch. Our guide called it "very refreshing." Oh, the Living Water is also refreshing. *"...whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life"* (John 4:14).

Toward the end of the tour, our guide instructed us to stop and stand still. He would turn off the lights so we could experience the "total" darkness. Out went the lights. We could see nothing, not even our guide. Usually I am terrified by darkness, but that day standing there I heard the words of Jesus, *"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life"* (John 8:12). How comforting to know that the Light of the World was standing right there with me!

The lessons I learned that day in War Eagle Cavern will remain. God so vividly taught them to me. He knows my every secret; He is the Source of the refreshing in my soul; He dispels the darkness that would surround me. *"...there is NOTHING too hard for thee."*

Life! Action

a column for teens

What if others make fun of my faith?

YOU CAN EXPECT RIDICULE AS A REACTION TO YOUR FAITH. It is difficult to find examples of men or women of faith in the Bible who were *not* ridiculed or reviled in some way for their convictions. Who do we think we are not to expect and accept a little ridicule?...Second Timothy 3:12 states it quite frankly: [*"Yea, and all who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."*] This is definitely not one of my favorite verses!

Some of your friends (and even some family members) will not understand that your faith requires obedience to the principles in God's Word. They may not appreciate that you refuse to attend certain events or choose to participate in activities they don't consider fun. They may not comprehend why you insist on being honest and want to stay away from things that

Don't ever let go of God in order to hold on to your friends. Instead, let go of your friends and hold on to God.

are impure. Their lack of understanding may lead them to ridicule your choices and make fun of your actions. It's a human tendency to scoff at the things we can't explain and to belittle and try to bully those whose actions cause ours to come into question.

But ridicule does not have to result in discouragement or defeat. Instead it can cause your faith to deepen and your relationship with God to grow stronger. YOU CAN RELY ON GOD TO GET YOU THROUGH THE RIDICULE

When you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to

live inside of you. His power and personality are hard to contain inside a human container, and the evidence of His presence becomes obvious as you grow in your faith. It is like a light that begins to glow inside of you, and soon it is shining right through you. People cannot help but be attracted to it. But unfortunately, light not only attracts those who are seeking warmth and companionship, it also attracts *bugs*, and they can be a pain!

First Peter 4:14 says [that] if you are insulted [for] Christ, you are blessed...You see, the ridicule and snubbing you receive as a result of your faith in God and your obedience to Him are evidences that the glory of His Holy Spirit is shining through you.

But if you reread 2 Timothy 3:12 carefully you will see that there is a way to avoid the ridicule that we have been talking about. You could choose to live a less than godly life. Then you would never experience a snicker or a snort from friends belittling your beliefs. But, of course, you also would have to abandon the peace and joy that Jesus promises to those who put their faith into practice. You could go "underground" with your beliefs and hope that no one will ever recognize you as a child of God. That would be like covering the Holy Spirit's glow with a blanket so that no one could see it shine. But then you would miss out on all the blessings God has promised for you while you are here on earth and all the rewards that He has waiting for you in heaven. In Matthew 5:11-12, Jesus says, [*"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven:..."*]

Wouldn't it be wonderful if, when we accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior, we were immediately zapped straight to heaven for the rest of eternity? Wouldn't it be nice not to have to put up with any of the pain or suffering or teasing or torment that inevitably seem to accompany our faith? But think about it. If that happened, who would tell our friends and neighbors about Jesus Christ and how He died for them so that they, too, can enjoy the magnificence

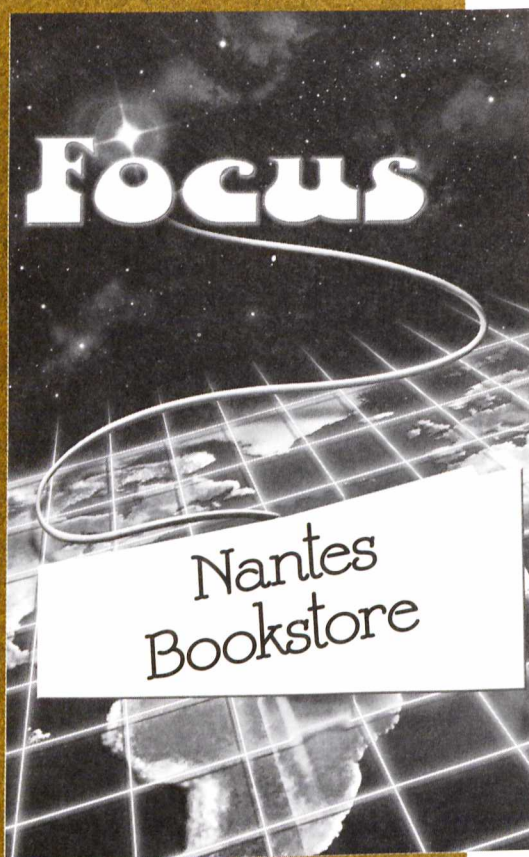
**Stand for your faith!
See You at the Pole
September 17, 2003
Check out the website: syatp.com**

of heaven? Who would be left here on earth to provide eternal comfort and compassion for the helpless and homeless in our society? Who would be able to offer a real source of hope when devastating tragedies occur? Who would be on their knees praying for the leadership of our nation and pleading for their devotion to God's standards and principles?

God has left us here for a purpose. We have definite tasks and responsibilities that He wants us to fulfill before we can enjoy the pleasures of paradise that He has created for us. We are commissioned by God to tell everyone we meet on our journey through life how they, too, can live in heaven for all of eternity (see Matthew 28:19-20). The route we have to take will sometimes be difficult. At times it might even be treacherous. But believe me, when we stand in heaven next to those whose lives we've touched, we will gladly admit that our final destination is worth any hardship we had to endure!

—Gwendolyn Mitchell Diaz

Excerpted from the book, **Sticking Up for Who I Am** by Gwendolyn Mitchell Diaz, available from NavPress.



Pray:

- for finances to cover the initial shipment of books.
- for interested customers (especially the unsaved) who will enter the bookstore.
- for physical strength and spiritual wisdom to manage the store.
- for the Nantes congregation.
- for balance between the bookstore ministry and other missionary responsibilities.



One of my memories of my Dad is a yell from the neighboring bedroom, "Patsy, it's 3 a.m. Close that book and turn out the light!" I've always been a reader. Alas, my bookshelves are filled and spilling over. I sometimes find a book I've never got around to reading. But others are worn and tattered from reading and rereading.

I suppose that's one of the reasons for my interest in opening a Christian bookstore here in Nantes, (*pronounced NAUNT*) France. It's been a dream in the back of my mind for many years. When I first made tentative inquiries about the possibility, the timing did not seem right and the doors weren't open. Then in early 2001, things began to fall into place. Our church at Nantes was considering using an annex of their new building as a bookstore and they contacted me about the possibility of running it.

After consulting with the leaders of several churches in the region and hearing a number of testimonies of people who had been praying for a Christian bookstore in Nantes, I felt the Lord was definitely leading in that direction. With the help of a committee of friends from most of those churches, we began the process of finding a place and the means to accomplish what we had become convinced was of the Lord.

As it turned out, we didn't use the annex. In February, we rented a locale in a really nice spot on the small Erdre River that runs through the city. I have the pleasure of a river view, watching small boats that pass from time to time, and the occasional visit of a couple of gray herons. I also contend with the noise of the city tram that passes right in front of our door. But that is actually a blessing. People can easily get to our bookstore by public transportation. Stops on both sides are only about 50 meters from the store.



I've been very fortunate to have the help and counsel of the Christian Literature Crusade here in France. They graciously granted us a special arrangement for supplying the initial stock of books, Bibles, teaching materials and CD's. I also spent four weeks in one of their largest bookstores learning first-hand about running a store. Since then I've learned how much I still don't know, but I continue to make progress.

We opened the bookstore on April 15, with a lot of prayer and not knowing exactly how the situation would evolve. At our last meeting of the guiding committee, one of the ladies commented, "I'm really surprised at the sales you have had." I, who am, unfortunately, pessimistic by nature, worry that we still have a long way to go before we can be satisfied with our level of sales. But I'm always reminded by the Lord, or one of His

servants, that this is His ministry and not mine and that He will provide. And I have had several reasons to be encouraged of this certainty: a young man who came in off the street to buy a book which explains why we can have confidence in the Bible; a lady with a master's degree in psychology who bought a manual on counseling because she had nothing from a Christian perspective; a turbaned couple, probably originating from the Middle East somewhere, who asked for three Bibles; a lady who lives in the building where we rent who has stopped in several times to talk and bought a book on the Holy lands.

God is using this point of light in our city of a half-million people, mostly indifferent to or ignorant of biblical truth. We need your prayers that it will have a mighty impact for the Lord. And I would be very appreciative of any gifts you could give to help pay for the initial stock we received in April. The Word of God and good books are excellent means of opening people's hearts to their spiritual needs. Thank you for remembering this ministry and the great needs of the people who stroll by our door in this lovely area of Nantes.

—Patsy Vanhook



Other Prayer Concerns



—Pray for ministries currently hampered by the SARS epidemic throughout Asia, especially China.

—Pray for Operation Saturation on September 27.

—Pray for political stability in Cote d'Ivoire. Pray that more of our missionary families will soon be able to return. Pray for neighboring African nations who are also experiencing political unrest.

—Pray for the Divorce Care ministry recently started by Texas home missionaries, Jarvis and Kelly Reed.

—Pray for FWB chaplains as they continue to minister to troops and their families.

—Pray for missionaries now enrolled in language studies.

—Pray for growing Hispanic ministries in the US and for the development of the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute, Inman, SC.

—Pray for MK's who are attending colleges and universities in the US.



*They planned a
dream vacation.
They lived a
family's nightmare.*

His Grace is Sufficient

by Delphia Kelso

My husband George and I headed to our favorite barbeque spot for Saturday night supper. We planned to eat, then go by the travel agency at the mall to book our dream vacation to Hawaii.

With the help of the Lord, we had prospered. The kids were still living at home, but old enough so we could enjoy life for ourselves. Rhonda, 19, was attending a vo-tech school and working part time at a nearby mall. Renee was a sophomore in high school. For the most part, our family had experienced a normal, ordinary life. My husband George and I now had time to do things we would enjoy. Hawaii was definitely one of those things.

We finished our meal. George had gone into the men's room when a police officer walked into the restaurant and asked if there was "a George Kelso here." I stood and told him that my husband had stepped outside. I asked if I could help. He told me that our daughter Rhonda had been in an accident. He said, "She will be okay, but you are needed

there." My first thought was, "Bad things happen to other people, not us. She's probably just had her first fender bender and she's panicked."

As we headed in the direction of the accident, we noticed that the road was closed and traffic was being detoured. An officer told us there had been a bad accident on down the highway and emergency equipment was there. We thought there'd been another accident. After all, the officer at the restaurant hadn't given any details and we still believed that nothing bad like that would happen to us.

Closer to the accident, we realized we were about to experience some of the hard facts of life. When I saw the Life-flight helicopter leave, I never realized that this picture would be replayed in my mind many times.

As we reached the scene, Rhonda came running to me crying. A well-dressed lady walked right behind her. The lady said that she and her husband were in the car behind Rhonda and had witnessed the accident. Rhonda had hit another car head-on.

They thought the sun had blinded her and caused her to cross the center line. The husband had helped remove the passengers, two girls, from the other vehicle. The couple had stayed with Rhonda throughout the ordeal.

We asked the police for the names of the girls. We were told that information couldn't be given until the next of kin had been notified. We knew that one girl was dead, but one was still alive. We were devastated.

A paramedic told us to take Rhonda to the emergency room for treatment. We were in the emergency room for what seemed an eternity. The cartilage in Rhonda's chest was bruised; she would have swelling and black eyes. We were to see our family doctor on Monday.

That night, we watched the late news for a report of the accident. The reporter gave only the name of the hospital where the girls had been taken. We still did not know their identities. I kept insisting that we needed to know their names so we could go and tell the family we were so sorry this had happened. Our pastor counseled us, "I know you mean well, but they might not accept you." He offered to go with us, making it easier on both families.

On Sunday afternoon, Rhonda's Sunday school teacher and his wife came by. They knew someone who knew the girls. Finally we learned their names. We also learned that both had died. They were sisters, ages 19 and 15, the same ages as my girls. Oh, how my heart ached. I could not stop crying. I kept saying, "I hurt for that mother. She's lost two girls. If that had been me, I wouldn't have any kids left."

The next morning, George and our pastor went to the hospital. I stayed home with Rhonda. The reception they received at the hospital was God-sent. The family of the girls had been as concerned about us as we had been for them. The mother attributed the accident to road conditions—this spot had been the site of several accidents. She said, "There's been two lives already lost. We don't want to lose another one." They were praying for Rhonda and wanted to meet her.

The mother called the day of the memorial service and asked us to "please come and sit with the family." She had other children, a girl about twelve, a married daughter, and a son in college. At her request, this mother walked in together with Rhonda and the youngest girl, holding their arms until they took their seats. The other children walked behind them. This special woman drew her

strength from the Lord. What a load she carried, yet what compassion she held in her heart.

Rhonda was handling things really well, but I wasn't. I kept thinking that something tragic would happen to my girls. I would actually get sick to my stomach if they were five minutes late getting home. I would wake up in the night with Life-flight helicopters spinning around me. I asked God to help me. I could feel His presence, but I couldn't shake my worries. This struggle continued for some time. I kept praying, "Lord, don't let me have a nervous breakdown." My pastor's wife kept telling me, "Give it to God." Somehow, I couldn't turn loose.

One evening in the shower, the helicopters returned and started spinning around me. I raised my arms high and cried out loud, "Lord, take this away from me. I can't stand it any longer." Maybe my cry was desperate. Maybe I had come to the end of my strength. His grace found me in my weakness. Immediately, the weight of it all was lifted.

I still think of this family quite often, but thoughts about the accident no longer control me. My favorite verse has always been, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." His promise has proven true.

Looking back, I see the many ways God led us through this tragedy. Rhonda was wearing her seat-belt. Renee was home and knew where to locate us when the police called. The eyewitnesses who stayed with Rhonda were Christian counselors who assured her that God had spared her life for a reason. The victims' family were Christians. They did not wish to seek revenge. The incident made us stronger in our faith.

None of us knows when we will be a victim. As long as we are in this world, bad things can happen. But we don't have to face these times alone. I have learned, His grace is sufficient.

That dream vacation in Hawaii? Yes, we went the following year. And we didn't worry about the girls while we were gone. We knew they would be well taken care of... they were in good hands.

Delphia Kelso lives in Parkville, MO where she teaches children's Sunday school at the Harmony FWB Church.

**"Lord,
take this
away
from me.
I can't
stand it
any
longer."**

**HER CHILDREN ARISE UP,
AND CALL HER**

B L E S S E D



BY ROSE HENDERSON KIMMIG

4:53 IN THE MORNING. I'm startled out of a light sleep by the sound of Nany's slippers scuffing across the tile floor. Throwing the covers aside, I roll off the bed and meet her as she maneuvers through Mama's bedroom door.

"Nany, are you all right?" I sleepily ask.

"Yeah, I just couldn't sleep," she speaks softly.

Mama, awake now from our chatter, asks Nany if she hurts anywhere.

"No, I'm not in pain, I just can't sleep. I thought I'd ride around a while."

"Riding around" means Nany sitting hunched over in her wheelchair with her elbows lightly resting on the arms with her long, work-worn hands entwined in front of her. Slowly, but surely, she extends her legs determinedly and pulls herself around the house. This bit of exercise seems to tire her out pretty quickly and she's ready to go back to sleep for a little while longer. I follow her back to the room that was my brother's when the four of us

children were at home. Nany carefully positions her chair between the potty chair and her bed. Very careful to lock the wheels, she musters all her strength and pushes herself up out of her wheelchair, checks the stability of her knees (the only thing on her body that she says won't work anymore) and then lowers herself onto the side of the bed. As Nany slowly lays her head down onto the satin pillowcase, I carefully lift her legs and tuck her in.

"I'm just gonna scrooch up next to you until I have to go," I whisper in her ear as I lean over to give her a kiss.

Memories flood my mind as I cuddle up to Nany's back. Every time we would visit her at her farm in Alma, Georgia, my siblings and I (and any other cousins present) would fight over who was going to sleep with her. That was the biggest treat of all. Papa died when I was almost eight, so she loved having a "bed fella." How can it be that she's over 100 years old? Where has the time gone? How blessed we are that she is still with us!

My Nany is Ocie Ella Cauley, born June 6, 1902, to Jim and Ella Medders of Appling County, Baxley, Georgia. Nany, the second born, was there to help with the next 10 siblings that came along. She has outlived all but two sisters. Every time Aunt Letha, the baby of the bunch, and her daughter drive down from Baxley to visit, the obvious joy of seeing her little sister shows in Nany's eyes. Her sincere love and concern, not just for her family but for people in general, never ceases to amaze me.

Papa (William Grady Cauley) served in World War I, then married Nany on March 12, 1922. In January of 1933, the Cauley family, now with three children, moved to Alma, a community close to the Pine Level Free Will Baptist Church. A fourth child, my mother, Betty Jean, arrived that June. This farm would be "home" to Nany for the next 40 years. In 1935, Nany joined Pine Level Church and began her long and fruitful life in that community.

At that time, the local WAC was called the "Ladies' Aide." There Nany sought to fulfill her role as a woman of faith who loved her Lord and ALL those HE created. She was an active member who could be counted on for anything yet one not always in the limelight. Nany remembers this early auxiliary supporting missionaries like Laura Belle Barnard, Pop and Mabel Willey, and Dan and Trula Cronk. Nany recalls that when she first joined Pine Level, Linton Johnson (Dr. L. C.) was just a young man still at home. She was so proud that he became such a man of God and the president of FWB Bible College. Many children from the Pine Level community grew up and went to the Bible College. For a tiny farming community, this congregation supported the denomination in many ways.

If I could just have a nickel for every person who's put his feet under Nany's table to eat one of her scrumptious meals, I'd be a millionaire! Never mind that you came unannounced, she would go to the freezer, the garden, the fridge, or the fruit house and set a six course meal on the table almost before you could get through your pleasantries. "Just let me hot the biscuits and we'll be ready to eat," she'd declare, which meant, "Get the younguns in to wash their hands, the food is almost ready." Many an evangelist, preacher, missionary, Bible College professor, quartet, choir, and drama member, have

been blessed by her true Southern hospitality. When you left her home, you felt like you were leaving your own Nany.

With an incredible gift for sewing, Nany was the "Dorcas" of the community. Ladies would bring her the material they liked. Nany would look at catalogs to get ideas, then sew from her patterns or from whatever was in her mind. Quilting was a precious winter pastime. She and Mrs. Debra Johnson could put out the quilts. All of us grandchildren were blessed with a quilt as a wedding present. (The great and great-greats will miss this.) I still have a couple dresses Nany made for my daughters when they were little. My girls were so thrilled to have a dress from Nany. One Christmas they asked her for "Little House on the Prairie" bonnets. I cherish the photo of their sweet faces framed by their bonnets, all scrooched in by Nany.

Nany loves Jesus with all her heart. I know because every morning she reads His Word and talks to Him about everything, especially all those in our family who aren't living for Him. As a child, I could never understand why she would cook the big pot of grits, fry all that yummy bacon and freshly gathered eggs (you know, the ones with the real yellow yolks), "hot the biscuits," have us all sit down, *then* take down her worn Bible with the Daily Bread devotional inside and begin to read. Maybe she was teaching us patience and self-control. Whatever, I knew that Nany loved Jesus. To this day, she is grateful to Him for all His mercies, thanks Him that she can still get out of bed, and praises Him for big things as well as small.

Since Papa died in 1963, Nany has lived on a very limited income. However, many Free Will Baptist ministries—FWBBC, the children's homes, missions, WNAC, to name a few—have received and continue to receive a tithe or offering from her. She has always been a generous giver.

To date, Nany has been blessed with four children, 13 grandchildren, 38 great-grands, and eight great-great grands (three more expected this year). What a heritage! She's rejoiced over each one. What a precious sight to see her face light up when we would hand our newborns to her. You would have thought it was her first.

**"JUST LET
ME HOT THE
BISCUITS AND
WE'LL BE
READY TO
EAT."**

In 1974, Nany moved from the farm into a little house just down the road. Although it was small, that didn't stop the flow of hospitality. And she never missed a church meeting, much less auxiliary meeting. One of her group's traditions was having Nany host the December meeting. Grace Douglas recalled, "You looked forward to 'Nany Cauley's fruitcake!'" Even after she moved in with Mama, that first December, Nany insisted on cooking. Grace's daughter, Lisa, opened her home and Nany, Mama and my Aunt Vera brought the food. That was the last December meeting she attended.

In August of 1998, the family decided that Nany should come live with my Mama and Aunt Vera. At age 96, she'd had an incredibly healthy life, but health problems that summer made us all realize that Nany's days of living by herself were over. Giving up her car keys was almost more than Nany could bear. For all those years she had driven herself to church, to her sister's house over in the next county, to town on Fridays to buy groceries, have her hair done, and most importantly, visit the old folks in the nursing home. Suddenly, her independence was taken and it was hard. However, no one could have been sweeter through all the adjustments as her home and belongings of many years were liquidated. She graciously accepted one season's end and embraced the next.

Nany's sweetness is what I can't get over. I've observed "seasoned saints" whose personalities change. With little control over their thoughts and behavior, they become belligerent, rude and just mean. (Could it be that this season of life allows

the *real YOU* to come forth, I wonder?) Anyway, the *real NANY* is beautiful. She is grateful for her children's care. She never complains. She thanks God that she doesn't have pain and says that if her knees would just work, she would be fine. Naturally, Nany is weak and it's a real effort to talk much anymore. When her time comes to graduate to the next season of her life, I am certain she will receive her just reward and God will truly say, "*Well done thou good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.*"

Last year, we celebrated Nany's 100th birthday, fittingly, back in Alma. Lots of family and friends joined us to release 100 balloons (with a message and Nany's address attached). Several family members and local dignitaries spoke; grandchildren sang. Nany's favorite part was the fellowship, making sure she knew each person who greeted her. What a privilege to honor her that day.

Undoubtedly, Nany is one of the oldest living Free Will Baptists. At 101, she is still concerned about others and their welfare. As visitors flow through the home she shares with my Mama, they ask how she's doing. Nany lifts her head, smiles her sweet smirky smile, and greets them with a sincere, "I'm doin' purty good today, thank ya, and how about you?"

Rose Henderson Kimmig, is Nany's sixth grandchild, and the daughter of Betty, Nany's youngest child. Married for almost 29 years, Rose and her husband Chuck have ten children. She lives in Sanford, FL.

DID YOU MISS OUT? ***WOULD YOU STILL LIKE TO PURCHASE A COOKBOOK?***

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Words For Women



Executive Secretary-Treasurer
*Marjorie H.
Workman*

Heaven's Paint Box

The road, like a waving ribbon, stretched as far as the eyes could see, one rolling hill after another, each, seemingly, a little taller than the one before. Everywhere—to the East, West, North and even in the sky—the beauty was breathtaking. Driving on US Highway 54, in the middle of nowhere, through western Missouri toward Kansas, my eyes were beholding God's creation. My heart sang with the Psalmist, "...let the whole earth be filled with His glory."

The cliché "beauty is in the eyes of the beholder" would certainly apply to US 54. There are no cascading or towering waterfalls like you find in Yellowstone National Park. Nor are there any scenic overlooks to snap that perfect postcard picture of lush, stunning, scenic gorges and majestic mountains like those along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Just miles and miles of colorful countryside.

I almost smirk at the term "earthtones" used to describe the latest craze for decorating. Colors like dull beiges, browns, and at best, terracottas. Although these colors are abundant, they are merely a start on God's palette. Check out the shades of green in the greenest field of corn. Look at the yellows in a waving wheat field or the vibrant blues in a summer sky.

Along US 54, I saw blues, purples, reds, yellows, oranges, whites, and pinks in a variety of wildflowers dotting the roadside, pastures, and hills. Are these not earth's colors, too? Beauty is everywhere we lift our eyes to see. Jesus said in Matthew 6:28-29, "*Consider the lilies of the field, ... even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*"

The lily was common and grew among the fields like wildflowers. Jesus gave us a glimpse into the minute details of creation. God intricately designed the common lily, although it is here today and gone tomorrow, to be more beautiful than the dress of Solomon in all his glory.

Even in the ordinary, God is there. So, stop. Come away from the frenzied rat race, the hurried lifestyle, and the restless distress. Quit worrying. Take time to be renewed and refreshed in the presence of nature's beautiful things. Take a drive in the country and feast on beauty. Unbelievable, but there are over eight hundred different wild flowers and grasses in Kansas alone. Marsha Maurer said, "Creation demonstrates how vital variety is to the functioning of our complex universe." May we see beauty in the diversity of nature, as well as in people.

Creation also leaves mankind without an excuse for not knowing God (Romans 1:19-20). Martin Luther said, "God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees and flowers, and clouds, and stars." Not only is the earth his canvas, but all the galaxies beyond. "...Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary," said the Psalmist. Awake, awake, to see Him; worship and praise Him.

Cathedrals

God the Creator, the Holy Designer
Is worthy of worship.
With love He has tarried
In this sanctuary we call the earth.
God the Artist, the Author of Nature,
Is deserving of praise.
In love He has toiled on this worldly soil
With hands of grace.
So we give him glory wherever we go
His wish for our praise He's made known
For He's built all around us
Like a skillful mason
Cathedrals of our own
There is stained glass
in the prisms of morning mist,
Soft lights in the northern night sky.
Communion in the vineyards
around the world
And stones carved in detail
On a million mountain sides.
There are cathedrals in the arcs of the trees.
Cathedrals beneath falling streams.
There are cathedrals in the spires of the clouds
So beautifully placed in the air.
There are cathedrals everywhere.

—Lowell Alexander

From the CD, *This Could Be the Day*, c. 1994 Amerson Music Min.



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